

PHOTOGRAPHS

by

Bailey Dustin



CHARACTERS

ELLEN JAMES

Woman in her early 20's. She just recently finished her classes to become a makeup artists and has a big interview the next day. If she gets the job, she'll get to work in Hollywood.

BILLY JAMES

Ellen's little brother. He is in high school and needs gas money. He's very opposite of Ellen and hates Hollywood and pop culture.

SETTING

The James's home. The scene takes place in a small bathroom with a vanity, toilet, and bathtub. There is makeup strewn about the room and empty makeup bags on the countertop.

(Billy is slouched on the closed toilet, looking annoyed. Ellen is hovering over him with a large eyeshadow pallet and a brush, putting blue shadow on his closed eyes.)

ELLEN JAMES

Would you hold still Billy!

BILLY JAMES

Why? Not like it'll make this look any better.
 Couldn't you find someone else to be your model?

(Ellen scoffs and bops him on the head with the handle of the brush she is holding.)

ELLEN JAMES

I'm paying you nicely, so cooperate! Mother said you have no choice.

BILLY JAMES

I'm nearly 18, she's not the boss of me.

ELLEN JAMES

Don't be like that, Billy.

(Billy rolls his eyes and looks up at Ellen. She gives him a pleading smile and packs another color onto the brush.)

ELLEN JAMES

Come on! My interview is tomorrow and if I get this gig I can-

BILLY JAMES

(In a voice dripping with sarcasm)
 Move to Hollywood and live among the stars? Yeah, yeah, you've mentioned it.

ELLEN JAMES

And what's so bad about that, Billy? I have dreams! Aspirations!

BILLY JAMES

That's all you aspire to be? The handmaid of the stars? Yikes.

(They sit in in silence for a while. Ellen continues putting makeup on her brother, but she is frowning. Billy looks up at her after a while and sighs.)

BILLY JAMES

Alright, lady, don't get all sad on me.

(Ellen sniffs quietly but doesn't respond. Billy begins speaking in a poor imitation of an old woman's voice.)

BILLY JAMES

Hey, does my makeup look alright? Got a hot date tonight.

(Billy winks and shimmies his shoulders suggestively. Ellen cracks a smile.)

ELLEN JAMES

Oh, you look lovely. I am a handmaid to the stars after all.

BILLY JAMES

If I remember right, I think someone said you were the best in town?

ELLEN JAMES

You heard that right! I'm the best this town has ever seen! EVER!

BILLY JAMES

Well with a steady hand like that you could be a sharp shooter young lady!

ELLEN JAMES

For the good od US Army? You flatter me, ma'am!

(Ellen throws a hand over her heart theatrically and the siblings burst into laughter.)

BILLY JAMES

Seriously, though, does this look nice?

ELLEN JAMES

Of course it does, I know my way around a shadow pallet! I belong in Hollywood!

BILLY JAMES

If you tell anyone I said this I'll kill you, but I think you're really good at this stuff.

(Billy looks down, blushing slightly.
Ellen grins widely and throws her arms
around him.)

ELLEN JAMES

Billy! That's the sweetest thing you've ever said to me!

BILLY JAMES

Do not tell mom!

ELLEN JAMES

Wouldn't dream of it. This is our little secret. I wouldn't want you complimenting everyone's skills, might give you a heart attack.

(Billy rolls his eyes and laughs)

BILLY JAMES

So... how much are you paying' me for this. I'm fresh out of gasoline and cash.

ELLEN JAMES

All about the money, aren't you? We'll see when I'm through.

BILLY JAMES

I want a full tank.

ELLEN JAMES

Whatever!

BILLY JAMES

I'll tell mom you jipped me!

ELLEN JAMES

No way!

