

# Rebirth

by

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Story by

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**Sides for LINA**

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Character Description:

EVANGELINE CHANDLER, mid 20s, called LINA (LEE-nuh) since birth, is just about as impulsive and talkative as she was around that age. She has the brilliance and fierceness of a wolverine, and channels it about as well as a mosquito near a bug zapper.

INT. LINA'S HOUSE - LATER

RENEE has so many bags that getting in the front door is a debacle. The noise awakens LINA, who is on the living room couch with a bucket next to it. She lifts her head, squinting, and looks around, confused and grumpy.

RENEE

Why are you sleeping in here every night?

LINA

Where are my clothes?

RENEE

Does that bucket have puke in it?!

LINA

It was the middle of the night.

RENEE

All right, first thing you're going to do is clean that out.

LINA

That'd be a total exercise in fertility! Did you steal my clothes?!

RENEE

Going to make me sick with that sitting there with bugs drowning in the acid like--

RENEE (cont'd)

No! They were strewn all around the house so I put them in the laundry for you. But you were out of detergent so I just went and bought some. You're also out of cleaning products so I got some of those too. You're welcome. In exchange, you can wash your own dishes. Then after you're done with that, you can--

LINA vomits into the bucket. RENEE fights to keep herself from gagging. LINA's still leaning over when...

RENEE (cont'd)  
After you're done with the dishes,  
then you can--

LINA pukes some more. RENEE removes her glasses and rubs her eyes. LINA lifts her head like a zombie.

LINA  
I missed something. What comes after  
the dishes?

RENEE  
How about we take one thing at a  
time. Tell you what,

LINA  
Ugh. Not again.

RENEE  
I'll clean out the fridge,  
then we can talk about--

LINA has stood in discomfort and now walks awkwardly.

LINA  
I already had to wake up to pee at  
least 3 times. This is ridiculous.  
Were you decorating last night?

RENEE  
No, I found out most of your lights  
don't work, so I was going to get  
some at the store. But I wasn't sure  
if I should get colored or clear.

LINA  
So you got both?

RENEE  
No, I didn't get *both*; they don't *mix*  
well. I couldn't figure out which one  
was best so I didn't get *either* yet.

LINA stops and stands in a holding position, in great distress. She catches herself off guard by how upset she is.

LINA  
Wha-- You're telling me that we have  
no Christmas lights, and it's almost  
December, and I have a bare naked  
pine tree sitting in my living room  
as if there's no hope in this world,  
all because you can't make up your  
mind?!

RENEE  
I went to the store for YOU!

LINA

And you brought me nothing! Now by the time those dishes are dry, you better be back with some colored lights!

RENEE

Why should I get the colored?!

LINA

Because I *like* them better!

RENEE

Well, do you want a *single* color, or do want the *variety*?!

LINA

Why would I want a single color?!

RENEE

I don't know! Would you just go pee already?!

LINA

(turns for bathroom)  
Ugh! What's happening to me.

---

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

LINA listens to everything over the phone.

COLE wraps the seat belt around RENEE's neck and chokes her.

LINA inhales as her hand reflexively jolts to her face.

LINA

No, God, please!

Already yanked back, RENEE wriggles further so she can get her feet on the passenger door. She kicks, sending her head slamming into COLE and scrunching him into the driver door.

DISPATCHER 1 (V.O.)

Ma'am, what's the next turn?

LINA tries to find her voice.

DISPATCHER 1 (V.O.) (cont'd)

Ma'am, are you still there?!

BLYDE  
2nd left! 2nd street on the left!

COLE & RENEE go back and forth; COLE getting her in a chokehold, then RENEE squirming her head slightly aside, battling for a little breath. In the B.G., the bonfire grows. RENEE's voice is strained.

RENEE  
LINA!  
(struggles)  
LINA, CAN YOU HEAR ME!

*MUSIC: The severity is superseded by an unexpected calm.*

This completely undoes LINA. She has stepped away from BLYDE, and now collapses to her knees.

**INTERCUT:** BLYDE gives directions, and looks at LINA.

In the midst of the melee, RENEE can barely yelp the words.

RENEE (cont'd)  
I LOVE YOU!

And with all she has left before being unable to speak:

RENEE (cont'd)  
I LOVE YOU, SIS!

Absolutely overcome with emotion, LINA finally unmutes.

LINA  
I CAN HEAR YOU, WREN!  
(pause)  
I CAN HEAR YOU!

LINA listens to the utterly gutwrenching sound. She has to work almost just as hard to speak. (Stay in LINA's POV.)

LINA (cont'd)  
YOU'RE SUCH A FIGHTER.  
(beat)  
YOU NEVER GIVE UP.  
(beat)  
I LOVE THAT ABOUT YOU, WREN.  
(beat)  
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.

As she listens to COLE's hard breathing and intense effort, she buries her head in her hands.