

The Responsible

Your parents had always been a problem, having the kinds of public screaming matches that caused neighbors to call the police. It wasn't until you were a teen that you realized how much of it was caused by their on-again, off-again meth habits and you got out as soon as you could, winning a scholarship to a university on the other side of the country and taking off at 18. Only a year later, your parents were arrested in a squat being used as a meth lab and sent to prison for... a long time. Your aunts and uncles infected you with guilt that your siblings would be sent to foster care and so you reluctantly put your studies on hold to go back home for a few months.

At least, so you told yourself. Eventually, the university refused to continue extending your scholarship and the money your relatives had promised stopped coming. Instead, they told you to "just deal with it" and that it was time to grow up. You worked at a diner and plummeted into debt until a colleague told you about the tips she used to get dancing at a topless bar before she got married. You gave it a try, biting your tongue at the jeers because you were almost able to make minimum loan payments. At some point, you moved to a brothel and finally started to feel like you had things under control. You weren't quite financially secure, but you were stable.

Your younger siblings, 10, 14, and 16, have no idea what you really do for a living, although you think the 16-year-old is probably starting to figure it out. You tell them you work in catering and would be mortified if they knew the truth. Even worse, if child services found out, they would all be put into foster care and everything you'd sacrificed would have been for nothing. You can't tell anyone about your fears so you just keep quiet and make sure everyone is fed and safe.

You're not sure if it matters what kind of Madam replaces this one, although some of your colleagues – not the nicer ones – are talking about trying to buy the Lily and run it themselves. In that case, they could probably fire you and you might end up having to turn tricks on the street, a very dangerous (and more public) prospect. You absolutely do not want that to happen.

You're mostly on good terms with everyone at work but feel a real bond with **The Miserable Wretch**, even though they haven't been at the Lily for very long. You both have a lot weighing on you, responsibility for your families, debt, and the fear that anyone, especially child protective services, might ever find out about your job. You also admire **The Practical's** no-nonsense approach to their work and are pretty friendly with **The Apple Doesn't Fall Far** to the point that you both request the same shifts.

The Happy Hooker can sometimes be a little sanctimonious but **The Girlfriend** is much more sympathetic; they've even babysat for you on occasion when you were desperate (as "a friend from work") and can be relied upon to do you a favor if need be. Nonetheless, **The Investor** and their crony, **The Brown-noser** seem keen to find any chink in your armor and point out minute failings. You're also not close with "the power couple" (as they annoyingly like to call themselves) **The Sweetheart** and **The Flamboyant**: the former is all smugness and the latter always agrees with their partner rather than having their own opinion, something you find irritating.