



Finding My Sunshine

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Valerie sat hunched on the soft, plush rug, a small, rounded figure lost in a sea of muted colors. She watched the empty doorway where Stiles had just vanished, a heavy, fuzzy cloud of defeat settling around her shoulders.



Her phone, a soft, glowing rectangle, vibrated gently on the cushion beside her. Derek's name shimmered on the screen, a beacon of uncertain hope in the dim, quiet room. She hesitated, her fingers hovering.



Holding the phone to her ear, Valerie's voice was a soft, shaky whisper. Her rounded cheeks were flushed, and her large, plush eyes welled with unshed tears as she tried to explain the tangled mess of her feelings.



The words tumbled out, a cascade of worries and frustrations, each emotion a soft, swirling pastel hue around her. Tears finally spilled, tracing gentle paths down her face, a testament to her overwhelming distress.



With a sharp, regretful gasp, she hung up, the phone landing softly on the rug. Her hands, small and trembling, flew to cover her face, the silence in the room suddenly deafening and heavy.



A moment later, a wave of panic washed over her. She snatched the phone back, her soft, rounded fingers fumbling to redial. Each ring echoed with a desperate, silent plea for him to answer.



The call went to voicemail, a gentle, digital beep. Valerie's whispered words, 'Come on, Derek, pick up, I need you here...' cracked with raw emotion, her whole body shaking like a leaf.



She curled into a tight, plush ball on the floor, feeling utterly alone in the vast, quiet space. A single, soft spotlight seemed to shine only on her, highlighting her profound sadness.



Suddenly, a warm, deep voice, 'I'm already here, sunshine,' broke the stillness. Valerie's head, with its soft, fluffy hair, whipped around, her eyes wide with a mix of shock and dawning hope.



Standing behind her, a comforting, plush silhouette, was Derek. His expression was etched with worry, yet his presence radiated a gentle warmth, ready to envelop her in a much-needed, soft embrace.