

Lily's Garden Chapter 7: New Adventures in Gardening (not the official title)

General themes: family, home, belonging, community
Visual themes: lavish decorations, botanical gardens, water, film

New Characters

- *Melissa*
- *Naima*
- *Caleb*
- *Kath*
- *Marco*

Returning Characters (not part of the core gang)

- *Santi*
- *Will*

Additional Characters

- *Old characters attending the book launch and trying to rent Luke's house (Philip, Kintaro, Larry, Samir, Dirk, Justin, Blaine, Rachel)*
- *New 'anything' characters trying to rent Luke's house and on the filmset*

Melissa

(first appearance: Storyday 171, release date 15/6)

Melissa is an excellent but slightly ditzy baker who has recently won the nation's biggest tv baking show and is now opening her own bakery (with the prize money). She is mid 30's, has an extremely high energy and is also incredibly unfocused when it comes to what she wants with the bakery in terms of building. This contrasts with her very focused baking process.

Naima

(first appearance: Storyday 176, release date 20/7*summer holiday)

She is a 50-something woman of Syrian descent who came to the USA as a refugee and



then married an American man. They conceived a child, Caleb, but then her husband died when Caleb was around 16. Naima inherited some of the wealth of her husband to live comfortably in L.A., and has always been into volunteer work and helping the community. She tells Lily that this is also how she met

Dara, just before he passed away, but we will later find out that she actually never knew him but befriended across his adopted daughter, Kath, who then asked her to help with her scheme to rebuild the gardens.

(additional background info:)

Naima came to the US with her parents in the late 70's. Syria wasn't in war back then as it has been recently, but there was a stream of immigrants to the US since 1965 that also included people that were repressed for being too political in their own country. Her parents were activistic as well so left before they got into trouble and also wanted to give their only daughter a good life. Naima was able to study and got a job in pharmacy. She met her husband, who was also working in medicine, in the 80's and they had a happy life together. She stopped working when she got pregnant but got into volunteering work when Caleb was a bit older and upped her charity organization after her husband died. She definitely has enough money and is new rich for sure, but she also knows fortune can dry up just like that which is why she is frugal as well.

Caleb

(first appearance: Storyday 183, release date 7/9)



Caleb is mid-twenties and works as a falconer. He cares for and trains all kinds of birds of prey, does shows with them but also gets hired to use the birds on film sets every now and then. This is how he knows Kath and how Kath and Naima got acquainted. He doesn't know anything about their scheme, however.

Caleb is a friendly guy who sometimes struggles with the weird area that is L.A.; lots of nature but also artificial, lots of friends but also lonely.

The relationship between Caleb and his mother is very strong, which has partly to do with his father dying when he was younger. Naima is quite dominant but their relationship is not unhealthy per se. However, Caleb is struggling with 'fleeing the nest'. As many twentysomethings he is thinking about his future and career and wondering what he should do with his life and career. The falconering is something he got into by accident, when he found a baby falcon and nursed it back to health. This falcon has been with him ever since, he always came back to him (which is a nice metaphor for Caleb's own life).

Kath

(first appearance: Storyday 177, release date 27/7*summer holiday)



Kath is mid 40's and a fairly successful film producer. She has fought hard to get where she is now and was devastated when her last production turned out to be a disaster, but she has decided to make the flop into a personal success; by making the movie but not releasing it, she will keep her reputation intact but also earn money to fix up the botanical garden. She has a cutthroat side to her that she needs to be a successful producer, but is also warm and kind deep inside.

Storywise, we get to know Kath's 'secret' and why the production she is running is so strange, during the 4th part of the full chapter. It turns out that Kath, the producer of Luke's film, is actually the 'adopted' daughter of Dara, the man who originally founded the Botanical Garden that Lily has been working on. He took Kath in when she was 10; her (single) mother was a friend of Dara who couldn't take care of her any more and Dara, a single (gay) man, took her in and cared for her for the rest of his life.

Kath has put a large insurance on the movie and will get a payout when the movie flops. This payout is needed to pay for the redo of the botanical gardens. So essentially Tools and Tulips will get money from the failure of their friends... Kath has already been feeling bad about everything. Cast and crew have been working so hard and there is so much talent that she doesn't want to hurt them.

Marco

(first appearance: Storyday 182, release date 31/8)



Marco is Luke's father. He is now almost 70, of Italian descent and used to be the manager of a comedy club in San Francisco.

He's loud and unsophisticated, a bit intolerant at times but at the same time he means well. He has a hard time expressing his feelings, which has

caused a rift between him and his wife, and also makes it hard for him to reconnect with Luke now - but they will, eventually.

'Anything' characters trying to rent Luke's house

(Storyday 173, release date 29/6)

A couple of random characters come in for an interview to rent Luke's place. We should have about 5 of them in 3D who are sitting down, facing Luke. Ideally, each one needs to have a different facial expression (but just one). They don't need to talk and we don't need 2D expressions for them so we can (hopefully) use existing models and tweak them a bit so they look like a new character.

'Anything' characters on the film set

(From Storyday 178 on, release date 3/8*summer holiday)

To make sure we don't have an empty film set, it would be good to have some additional 3D characters walking around. They do not need to speak, no 2D expressions needed. They can be dressed weirdly (extras) or normal (crew). We can cover up faces of existing characters with outfits, so no new models will need to be made.