

# THE FIRST LIE...

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I woke up in a hospital bed surrounded by members of my family. When I opened my eyes, they were all staring at me, and it seemed as if they were holding their breaths. I didn't say a word. I wanted someone to say something, so I'd know what was going on, because something was definitely going on.

The doctor entered the room, and the quiet was loud. My parents were there and looked as though they'd been crying for days. My Aunt Janet was wearing her favorite green dress. *She has such great style.* And she was wearing that "natural" deodorant again. I could smell her from across the room. *Gosh. Maybe that's why my parents were crying.* On my right, almost on his knees, my husband was leaning on the side of my bed. In the far-right corner of the room was my best friend, Elly. She looked distraught.

The doctor asked me if I recognized anyone in the room. I shook my head "no." My mom began to cry, and my dad consoled her. My husband dropped his head in his hands. It was weird, but I felt relieved. I could still smell my aunt, though.

I wasn't sure what had happened to me. I tried to ask, but I just ended up coughing. The doctor asked everyone to leave the room, and then she waved in a few more doctors. My husband touched my hand then kissed my forehead before leaving. I took a deep breath and wished I could be a fly on the other side of the wall to listen in on my family.

I stayed in the hospital for a few more days and, during that time, I learned that a car accident put me there. After the ambulance got me to the hospital, I fell into a coma for about a week and, due to a slight head trauma, the doctor warned my family of a slim chance that I'd suffer retrograde amnesia when I woke up.

When I did wake up from the coma, everyone was glad but on edge, wondering if I'd remember any of them—remember anything really. So, when the doctor asked if I recognized anyone in the room, and I shook my head, their fear that I'd have amnesia became a reality—except for the fact that I didn't actually have amnesia.

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