Chapter 51

Chapter Fifty-One of the book presents a disturbing turn of events for Millie, who finds herself locked in a room by her boyfriend, Andrew. The chapter starts with Millie realizing she is locked in after Andrew left the room. Initially, she thinks it might have been an unintentional mistake, possibly made in a half-asleep state. Her situation becomes alarming when she discovers she cannot find her phone to call for help, raising the stakes of her predicament.

As Millie tries to rationalize Andrew's actions, she spots three particularly unsettling textbooks on the floor, which she does not remember placing there, dealing with topics such as U.S. prisons and torture. This discovery, coupled with the missing phone, significantly heightens the tension and confusion surrounding her circumstances.

When Andrew finally communicates with Millie, the narrative takes a darker twist. He reveals a manipulative and controlling side, accusing Millie of disrespecting his belongings and imposing a bizarre and humiliating punishment: to balance the textbooks on her stomach for three hours. His behavior is completely out of character from the Andrew Millie thought she knew, suggesting a sinister change in his demeanor or revealing his true nature.

The situation escalates when Millie refuses to comply with Andrew's demands, leading to a tense standoff marked by Andrew's cold insistence on control and Millie's growing desperation and fear. The revelation that Andrew has been watching her through a hidden camera further amplifies the sense of violation and betrayal, turning the chapter into a chilling narrative of manipulation, surveillance, and the unraveling of trust within a seemingly loving relationship.

Andrew's final promise to let Millie out, after a terrifying display of control, leaves the chapter on an ambiguous note, blending relief with the lingering dread of what his actions signify for their relationship and Millie's safety. This chapter deftly mixes elements of psychological thriller and horror, creating an intensely unsettling atmosphere that challenges perceptions of intimacy and trust.