

Chapter 57

Chapter Fifty-Seven provides a glimpse into Millie's psychological turmoil and her complex relationship with Andrew. The chapter opens with Millie waking up anxiously in the guest bedroom, immediately checking on Andrew through a camera feed set up in the attic where he is confined. Initially believing him to have escaped, she experiences a mixture of relief and dread upon discovering he is still there, albeit hidden under covers.

Millie reflects on the ordeal Andrew has undergone for the past five hours, trapped under heavy books. Feeling obligated to honor their agreement, she plans to release him but not without taking her time and indulging in a moment of self-care with a long shower. Dressed and prepared, she secures Andrew's phone and a mysterious object from the garage in her pockets before heading to the attic.

Upon reaching the attic, Millie's cautious interaction with Andrew, who is visibly weakened and desperate, underscores the power dynamics between them. Andrew's attempts to negotiate his release only lead to Millie revealing her final, cruel demand: for Andrew to extricate one of his own teeth with pliers she slides under the door. His vehement refusal and subsequent, futile attempts to break free expose his vulnerability and Millie's cold manipulation.

Throughout the chapter, the detailed depiction of the psychological and physical standoff between Millie and Andrew, the stark setting of the attic, and the intense emotional states convey a chilling narrative of control, desperation, and the dark facets of human relationships.