

Chapter 50

In Chapter Fifty, Nina recounts the finality of her escape from an abusive relationship with Andy. She reflects on his past controlling and demeaning actions, including his attempts to proclaim her insane and her confinement. Despite being ousted by Andy, she remains wary until their divorce is finalized, fearing any indication of her own desire for separation could ruin her plans. Lying in a hotel bed, Nina plans to collect her daughter, Cecelia, from camp the following day, contemplating a new start away from Andy, especially grateful that Andy has no legal rights over Cecelia. Her contemplations are interrupted by a knock at the door, fearing Andy's return, but instead, she finds Enzo, a man who has apparently been aiding her escape.

Enzo's arrival sparks a surprising turn of events. The acknowledgment of Nina's freedom from Andy leads to a passionate encounter between her and Enzo, highlighting a rediscovery of desire and emotion she believed was long dead inside her. This moment with Enzo, marked by mutual consent and shared effort, contrasts sharply with her experiences with Andy. The interaction with Enzo signifies not just a physical connection but an emotional awakening for Nina, who had spent years in survival mode, devoid of genuine affection.

The aftermath of their intimate encounter leaves Nina contemplating her feelings for Enzo, who confesses his affection for her was immediate upon their first meeting. However, the reality of Nina's plans to leave town casts a shadow over the newfound connection. Despite their evident feelings, Nina is determined not to let her relationship with Enzo deter her from her plans to start anew, emphasizing her need to be alone after years of abuse and control. The chapter closes on an ambiguous note, leaving Nina's path forward and the potential for a future with Enzo uncertain.