

Several hours later: Olivia: The Bridesmaid

In the aftermath of a tumultuous event, Olivia finds herself surrounded by the eerie silence of a marquee, filled with one hundred and fifty people reeling from the shock administered by the Irish police. The officers have briefed everyone on the grim discovery they've made and the ensuing arrest, leaving the attendees wrapped in a cloak of uncertainty and speculation. Amidst this congregation, the sound of foil blankets rustling as people shift gives the only real indication of life, overshadowing the subdued whispers that float through the air.

Olivia herself is ensnared in a tumultuous mix of shock and introspection. Having been fixated on him for months, the revelation of his death leaves her grappling with a complex web of emotions—shock being the most dominant, tinged with a reluctance to feel pleased by the news. The narrative takes a darker turn as Olivia recalls the last moment they shared, disrupted by a fleeting thought of violence during a seemingly innocuous cake-cutting ceremony with Jules. This fleeting dalliance with the idea of harm has rooted itself in her psyche, casting a shadow of doubt over her own innocence. Plagued by the fear that this thought might manifest into an unexpected reality, Olivia finds herself unable to meet the gazes of those around her, haunted by the possibility that her transient impulse could be mirrored in her expression.

This chapter plunges the reader into a solemn reflection on the nature of thought and action, underscored by a haunting sense of guilt and the questioning of one's own morality in the face of tragedy. Olivia's internal struggle with the unrealized potential for violence within her underscores the fine line between thought and deed, inviting the reader to ponder the weight of their unspoken impulses.