

Earlier that day: Jules: The Bride

The Bride wakes up on her wedding day, her heart weighed down by an inexplicable sense of unease. The remnants of the previous night's festivities still linger in her mind, mingling with the unsettling fragments of a vivid dream that disturbs her morning. Even though her fiancé, Will, has adhered to the traditional custom of sleeping separately before their wedding, The Bride feels a deep longing for his presence. She wishes she could share the excitement, the nerves, and the anticipation of the day with him, but instead, she is left to grapple with the solitude of the morning, feeling a growing sense of separation between them. As she prepares for the big day, her wedding dress—a delicate balance of tradition and sensuality—sits ready, waiting for her to slip into it. The dress, like her, embodies duality, a mix of innocence and allure, signifying the conflicting elements of her character that she is about to present to the world in her vows.

Through the window, Jules observes Olivia standing near the water's edge, the sea dangerously close beneath her feet. For a fleeting moment, concern for her friend's safety rises within Jules, but she quickly redirects her focus back to her preparations. As she watches Olivia, she feels a sharp pang of anxiety, only to push it away with determination. Choosing to embrace her independence, Jules decides to apply her makeup without assistance, emulating the calm grace of Kate Middleton, who applied her makeup alone on her own wedding day. This choice becomes an important act of self-reliance, an attempt to take control of this defining moment without leaning on anyone else for emotional support, even though the weight of the wedding day's expectations continues to press on her.

However, in the midst of this personal ritual, an unexpected disturbance interrupts Jules's focus—a spill reveals a hidden note among her things. As she retrieves the note, a cold shiver runs through her. It's the same note she had previously tried to dismiss—a warning about Will's supposed deceitful nature. The note stirs up deep-rooted fears she thought had been buried long ago. Its resurfacing feels like a betrayal, an unwelcome reminder of the doubts that have hovered over her relationship with Will, doubts that have been fueled by his semi-public persona and the anonymous criticisms they have faced together in the past. As the note threatens to cloud her thoughts, Jules feels a rush of conflicting emotions, ranging from disbelief to betrayal, yet she can't help but linger on the words.

The note's ominous tone feels personal, as though it was crafted by someone who knows her intimately, someone within her circle who has chosen to expose these doubts at the most inopportune time. The recognition that it could be someone close to her causes a surge of anxiety, and Jules is torn between wanting to preserve the note as a reminder and needing to rid herself of the unsettling thoughts it brings. Initially, she considers keeping it—perhaps to examine its implications further—but then, in a sudden moment of clarity, she decides to destroy it. By tearing the note into pieces, Jules symbolically rids herself of the doubts and fears it has ignited within her. In that moment, she feels a fleeting sense of relief as she watches the paper disintegrate, hoping that this small act will restore some semblance of peace to her mind as the wedding draws nearer.

Despite her efforts to dismiss the impact of the note, its warning continues to linger in the back of Jules's mind, like an ever-present shadow. Though she attempts to push the thoughts away and focus on the joyful occasion ahead, they remain, unsettling her at every turn. The presence of the note, even in its destruction, represents something deeper within her—an unresolved tension in her relationship with Will, and the unspoken fears about their future. She is not only grappling with external pressures—the expectations of the wedding, the eyes of their guests—but also with the weight of her own internal doubts. These feelings of uncertainty and distrust continue to echo in her thoughts, forcing her to confront the complexity of her emotions on the day she should feel most assured.

Jules's struggle is more than just about dealing with a piece of paper—it's about coming to terms with the conflict between her public role as a bride and the private doubts she harbors about the man she is about to

marry. As she moves forward with her preparations, the remnants of the note's message echo within her, a constant reminder of the unresolved tensions she has tried to ignore. The act of destroying it may have given her a momentary sense of control, but the lingering feelings of doubt and unease suggest that this is just the beginning of her internal battle. The journey she is about to embark on, from the altar to the unknowns of marriage, carries with it the weight of unanswered questions, and Jules realizes that the trust she has in Will is something that must be built, not just assumed.