

Chapter 6.

In this chapter of "The Last One at the Wedding," Frank Szatowski arrives at Beacon Tower to visit his daughter, Maggie. Packing only an overnight bag in hopes of a warm reunion, his expectations feel misguided. As he enters the lobby, he is greeted pleasantly by Olivia, the receptionist, and he moves to the penthouse where Maggie awaits, dazzling in a new gown. However, he immediately senses a change in the atmosphere, perceiving that friends like Errol Gardner and Gerry Levinson have gathered for a more pressurized conversation than he anticipated.

Maggie introduces Frank to her guests, presenting a facade of normalcy, despite evident tensions running beneath the surface. The group hints at complicated, unsettling matters regarding a map Frank had found and brought with him; it seems the map holds secrets that could impact their lives. Conversation turns and confirms suspicions that Frank's family ties bind them all in a shared dilemma centered on a young girl named Abigail Grimm—who was incidentally the one to discover the map. The adults express concern about her safety, revealing that the discovery of this information could have serious consequences.

As tensions rise among the group, Frank attempts to protect Abigail, asserting the need for her safety, but grappling with his inadequacy as a father to Maggie. Amidst the increasing pressure, Frank realizes he has inadvertently become entangled in dangerous dynamics, as Maggie seems resigned to the necessity of a harsh decision regarding Abigail's fate.

In a desperate move, Frank communicates with his sister Tammy to warn her, urging her to evacuate Abigail from their home. While the situation spirals, Frank's emotions surge, confronted by regret and the rapid unfolding danger around him. He recalls Maggie's childhood innocence, amplifying the painful recognition of their strained relationship. Ultimately, when conflict erupts during a high-stakes moment, Frank seizes an opportunity to escape, tearing through the building's stairwell amidst chaos.

As Frank pushes outside, he experiences an array of overwhelming feelings—the sirens and confusion envelop him. The chapter culminates with Frank evading capture, leaving him both physically separated from his daughter and emotionally distanced from the family structure he desperately wishes to protect.