

# Earlier: Will: The Groom

In this chapter, Will, referred to as "The Groom," finds himself navigating through a power outage on a stormy night, prompted to assist Aoife, a character with whom he shares a tense exchange. Initially disrupted by weather-induced inconvenience, the situation quickly escalates into a confrontation loaded with personal vendetta and revelations of a dark past. Will, perturbed by the fierce gale messing up his hair—yet unwilling to admit such vanity—sets out with his phone's torch lit, only to encounter Aoife beckoning in the darkness.

Aoife, seeking help with the failing generator, covertly draws Will away, only to confront him with a barrage of accusations linked to his past, particularly centered around a distressing event involving a boy named Darcey at Trevellyan's. Through the guise of fixing a power cut, Aoife reveals her true intent was to confront Will about his involvement in the bullying and eventual tragedy of Darcey, who is implied to have met a fatal end due to the actions of Will and another individual named Jonathan Briggs.

Aoife, leveraging the stormy setting for a private reckoning, exploits Will's fame from his show "Survive the Night" to lure him to the island for her confrontation. She discloses her connection to Darcey, indicating a personal vendetta fueled by unresolved grief and unanswered questions surrounding the circumstances of Darcey's death. Aoife's meticulous planning culminates in an eerie confrontation on the edge of a bog, symbolically chosen for its proximity to Darcey's grave—a poignant reminder of the innocence lost and the haunting consequences of Will's past actions.

Throughout the dialogue, the chapter unravels themes of guilt, retribution, and the inescapable shadows of the past. Will's confrontation with Aoife serves as a stark revelation of the lasting impacts of bullying and the complex web of emotions surrounding the untimely death of a young, innocent life. The power cut, initially a minor inconvenience, transforms into a metaphorical darkness that reflects the moral and ethical turmoil engulfing the characters, culminating in a tense, unsettling encounter filled with implications of judgment and the quest for closure.