

Chapter 16: eo 4

The chapter opens with Leo observing Sage at her grandmother Minka's funeral, noting her exhaustion and emotional state. He tries to comfort her, but tension arises when Sage asks about Adam, her married boyfriend, creating an awkward distance between them. Leo reveals he came to the funeral because he wanted to support Sage, emphasizing how family was central to Minka's life. Sage's tears and Leo's reassurance dissolve the tension, as she leans on him for comfort, questioning whether their investigation into Minka's past contributed to her death. Leo reassures her that Minka likely died at peace, finally feeling secure.

During the funeral service, Leo scans the room for Reiner Hartmann, a figure from their investigation, but he doesn't appear. Instead, Leo notices Adam's discomfort as Sage clings to him, which gives Leo a sense of satisfaction. Reflecting on his mother's advice about "geeks inheriting the earth," Leo feels a quiet triumph. The service proceeds with traditional Jewish customs, including the throwing of dirt into the grave, and Sage continues to seek solace in Leo's presence, holding his hand as they navigate the emotional weight of the day.

After the funeral, Sage's home is filled with mourners, and she feels overwhelmed by the condolences. Leo stays by her side, offering steady support as guests share memories of Minka. A conversation with Pepper's husband, Andy, turns awkward when he misinterprets Sage and Leo's relationship and makes a lighthearted comment about Minka's language mix-up, which Sage finds insensitive. Leo diffuses the situation by guiding Sage away, highlighting her raw emotional state and the strain of the day.

The chapter captures the complexity of grief and human connection, as Leo and Sage navigate their evolving relationship amid the funeral's emotional turmoil. Leo's presence provides Sage with stability, while her reactions reveal her deep attachment to Minka and her struggle to reconcile her grandmother's past with her peaceful death.

The interactions with family and guests underscore the tension between public mourning and private pain, leaving Sage and Leo leaning on each other for strength.

