

# Olivia 3

The chapter opens with Olivia trapped in a nightmare where she hides from her husband Braden, who aggressively accuses her of infidelity and abandonment. Despite her reassurances, Braden's paranoia escalates as he bangs on the door, claiming her absence proves her disloyalty. Olivia questions whether her decision to stay overnight at her parents' house was subconsciously motivated by fear of returning home to his outbursts. The tension peaks when Braden collapses emotionally, blaming his behavior on his overwhelming love for her, leaving Olivia physically comforting him while internally unsettled.

Olivia abruptly wakes to the sound of knocking at her door in the middle of the night. To her shock, Detective Mike and two officers stand outside, presenting an arrest warrant for her son, Asher, for the murder of Lily Campanello. Asher, disoriented and barely awake, is read his rights as Olivia desperately tries to intervene, insisting there's been a mistake. The officers ignore her protests, handcuffing Asher and confiscating his phone and laptop as evidence. Olivia's attempts to reason with Mike are dismissed, leaving her powerless as the situation spirals out of control.

Asher cooperates meekly, claiming he has nothing to hide, while Olivia frantically tries to protect him. In a poignant moment, she kneels to tie his shoes, a gesture reminiscent of his childhood, underscoring her maternal helplessness. The officers lead Asher to a police car, his lack of a coat symbolizing his vulnerability. Olivia's internal turmoil is palpable as she watches her son being driven away, her mind flashing back to Mike's past advice about the "front seat" of a police car—a stark contrast to Asher's current predicament.

The chapter ends with Mike instructing Olivia to stay behind, denying her the chance to follow Asher to the station. Her desperation mounts as she realizes the gravity of the situation: her son is being taken into custody for murder, and she is left with no

immediate recourse. The scene underscores the themes of maternal fear, systemic injustice, and the haunting echoes of past relationships colliding with present crises. Olivia's nightmare and reality blur, leaving her trapped in a waking horror.

