

# Olivia 9

The chapter opens with Olivia's tense courtroom testimony, which fails to convincingly support her son Asher's innocence. Her lawyer, Jordan, is furious, accusing her of undermining the defense by revealing unnecessary details about her past relationship with Braden. Olivia admits to withholding information, but Jordan's anger escalates as he blames her for damaging the case. The situation worsens when Asher, visibly distressed, interrupts to demand he be allowed to testify, believing the jury needs to hear his side of the story directly. Jordan vehemently opposes this, warning it could backfire, but Asher insists, threatening to fire Jordan if he refuses.

Asher's frustration extends to Olivia, whom he accuses of not trusting him, comparing her skepticism to her past treatment of his father. He coldly excludes her from further legal discussions, leaving her stunned in the hallway. The scene highlights the fractured relationship between mother and son, with Asher's outburst revealing his deep resentment. Olivia reflects on the painful parallel between Asher's words and those once spoken by Braden, underscoring her guilt and fear that history is repeating itself. The emotional confrontation leaves Olivia isolated, grappling with her mistakes and Asher's rejection.

When court resumes, Jordan formally notifies the judge that Asher will testify against legal advice, emphasizing his client's insistence. The judge confirms Asher's decision, and the jury watches curiously as he takes the stand. Olivia, though excluded, silently prays for his protection, a rare moment of vulnerability. Jordan begins Asher's testimony by asking about his relationship with Lily, the deceased. Asher's demeanor softens as he describes her, hinting at genuine affection, but the tension remains high as the court prepares to hear his account—a risky move that could either salvage or sink his defense.

The chapter captures the high-stakes drama of the trial, focusing on the clash between legal strategy and personal conviction. Asher's defiance and Olivia's helplessness underscore the emotional toll of the case. Jordan's professional frustration contrasts with Asher's desperate need to reclaim his narrative, while Olivia's exclusion marks a low point in her relationship with her son. The chapter sets the stage for Asher's testimony, leaving readers uncertain whether his gamble will redeem him or seal his fate.

