

Now: The wedding night

On the wedding night, with the wind howling around them, Duncan, Femi, and Angus find themselves outside, torches in hand, searching the darkness for something unknown but undeniably unsettling. The mention of a body by a waitress has set the stage for their uneasy mission, turning the already grim atmosphere into a breeding ground for suspicion and fear. Every strange noise and irregularity in the terrain now feels like a potential discovery, heightening their anxiety as they move through the night. Duncan attempts to lighten the mood by joking about their school days and a game they used to play called "Survival," hoping to ease the tension, but his attempts fall flat. Femi and Angus, clearly not in the mood for nostalgia, are frustrated by his levity, given the seriousness of what they believe they are about to encounter.

The conversation quickly takes a darker turn as the three friends delve into their shared past, with unresolved grievances surfacing about a particular school activity that ended tragically. Duncan defends the school tradition, brushing off the death as an accident, while Angus vehemently condemns it as reckless and dangerous, suggesting that Duncan's penchant for intimidation played a role in the incident. The tension between them becomes palpable, the long-suppressed animosities rising to the surface as they confront their past actions. Their differing views highlight the deep divide in their friendship, with Duncan's dismissive attitude and Angus's serious condemnation pulling them further apart. As the wind intensifies, their uneasy banter grows more charged, mirroring the darkening environment around them.

Despite their growing isolation, they push forward, trying to focus on the task at hand. The cold, relentless wind and the eerie, unsettling silence of the night only add to the strangeness of their situation, creating an atmosphere that feels almost surreal. The juxtaposition of this nightmarish search with the previous day's joyful wedding celebrations is not lost on them. The stark contrast between the warmth of the

ceremony and the chilling, uncertain atmosphere they now find themselves in emphasizes the absurdity of their predicament. The search for something as vague as "a body" feels absurd in this context, underscoring the strange shift from celebration to grim reality.

Duncan, ever the skeptic, dismisses the alarms they've heard as nothing more than drunken exaggerations from the wedding party, a result of the revelry and chaos that surrounded them earlier. But Femi, sensing there may be more to the situation, suggests that the celebratory atmosphere might have inadvertently led to an unfortunate incident, one that they now have to face. Duncan, however, focuses on Charlie, a particular guest from the wedding, suggesting that his intoxicated state might be a lead worth pursuing. This theory, while speculative, adds a layer of intrigue to the mystery they are trying to unravel, shifting their focus to one of the wedding's attendees rather than the vague notion of a body.

The chapter encapsulates a poignant moment where youthful recklessness meets the harsh realities of adulthood. The men, once bound by the carefree bonds of their youth, are now forced to confront the consequences of their actions, past and present. What began as a fun, light-hearted game now feels like a haunting reminder of the darker aspects of their shared history. In the midst of a wedding celebration, a potential tragedy unfolds, pulling them into a situation that forces them to confront not only their fears but the weight of their past decisions. The atmosphere is charged with tension, the wind echoing the turmoil within them as they are thrust into a nightmarish reality that will test the limits of their friendship and their ability to reconcile their past with the present.