

# Epilogue

Epilogue: In this pivotal moment of Millie's journey, the narrative draws the reader into a scene where she stands at the crossroads of a potential new beginning, yet still burdened by the weight of her past mistakes and regrets. It's a moment of intense reflection and possibility for her. Millie finds herself in a pristine kitchen, surrounded by the luxury and opulence of a house that seems worlds apart from the life she's known. With the windows bathed in the soft glow of the late afternoon, she has a conversation with Lisa Killeffer about a housekeeping job that might offer her a way out of her financial struggles. The job is a chance to start over, to make amends for a past she's worked hard to leave behind, but it's also fraught with the uncertainty of her unresolved issues and the long-lasting consequences of her former life. This conversation is more than just an exchange about employment; it is the beginning of a delicate and unpredictable new chapter in Millie's life, offering the promise of stability but also triggering her inner fears and insecurities.

Lisa, despite offering the job, presents a situation that forces Millie to confront the issues that have defined her existence for so long. As they discuss the position, Millie's past as a domestic worker, something she's tried to move beyond, resurfaces. Although she's had experience in a range of jobs, including nannying, her growing affection for children, and her solid history of domestic work, the job still carries emotional baggage for her. The grandeur of the house, with its high-tech appliances and sleek modern design, is something she never imagined herself becoming a part of. This juxtaposition of the life she wishes for and the job she is reluctantly drawn into forces Millie to question whether she is truly ready to step into this new world or if she is merely pretending, still shackled by her earlier decisions. In this moment, she sees the contrast between the present luxury and her past hardships. The job seems like a step forward, but her hesitation makes her question whether she's escaping one type

of trap only to walk into another, this time involving her self-worth and her unresolved legal troubles.

What unsettles Millie even further is Lisa's unexpected interest in her, given that it was Lisa who initially reached out to her after seeing an advertisement Millie had posted for domestic work and nanny services. The simplicity of the position offered—cleaning, laundry, light cooking—appears perfect on the surface. However, Millie's unease grows, not only because of the job's proximity to her past, but also because of the history she shares with Nina Winchester. Nina had been the one who helped Millie survive the worst of her financial struggles and gave her a chance to rebuild after her difficult past. Nina's unexpected endorsement of Millie to Lisa is unsettling to Millie, as she wonders about the genuine intentions behind it. The revelation that Nina had quietly left for California and has since maintained minimal contact doesn't help alleviate Millie's confusion, nor does the casual reference to a beachside picture. Millie, ever perceptive, picks up on Lisa's behavior, particularly her nonchalant actions with a knife, which only heighten her discomfort. Lisa's seemingly calm demeanor contrasts with the growing tension in Millie's mind, and she can't shake the feeling that something doesn't add up.

As the conversation winds down, the tension reaches its peak. Lisa's calmness becomes almost sinister as Millie notices the shift in her posture, her nonchalant manipulation of the knife sending ripples of unease through her. This small gesture becomes a symbol of the larger, more ominous undertones of the situation. Despite Lisa's welcoming offer and Nina's glowing recommendation, Millie feels herself slipping deeper into a state of anxiety. The potential for this job to be the fresh start she's been hoping for is now overshadowed by her internal turmoil, leaving her on edge. The epilogue ends in a state of ambiguity, with Millie questioning her next steps, unsure of what lies ahead. Will she take the leap into this new life, or will her past, once again, rise to claim her future? The uncertainty of this decision leaves the reader hanging on the edge, unsure whether Millie will emerge from her past's grip or remain ensnared by it.