

CHAPTER 37: GRAYSON

Grayson becomes increasingly certain that Eve has someone surveilling his family, a realization that unsettles him as he recalls a tense encounter with her. The memory of their meeting by the pool haunts him—Eve's resemblance to Emily and her sharp, self-deprecating remarks about being an "affair baby" stir conflicting emotions. Noticing her injury, Grayson feels a protective rage, vowing that whoever harmed her will pay. This memory reinforces his determination to address the threat posed by Eve's watcher, whom he now suspects is monitoring him as well.

Upon returning to his hotel, Grayson meticulously checks for surveillance devices, confirming the room is secure before focusing on his tasks. He ignores multiple messages from Gigi, who is desperate for a photo of Trowbridge's passwords. Despite his growing fondness for her, Grayson alters the password image to mislead her, ensuring her efforts will fail. He prints duplicate keys—one real, one decoy—and sends them to Zabrowski, along with a demand for information on the mysterious blond watcher. Grayson's actions reveal his calculated, strategic mindset, even as he grapples with guilt over manipulating Gigi.

Grayson shifts his attention to two cryptic items: a fake USB drive and an index card with unexplained notches. Frustrated by his inability to decode their significance, he questions whether he's overanalyzing them. His thoughts drift to Savannah and the unfair treatment she endures, though he dismisses it as irrelevant. After sending the keys to the front desk, he retreats to the bathroom, turning the shower to its hottest setting. The physical exertion of holding himself in a doorway push-up position becomes a meditative act, allowing him to temporarily clear his mind of distractions.

As steam fills the room, Grayson's reflection fades from the mirror, symbolizing his desire to escape his thoughts. The chapter closes with fragmented memories of past conversations, hinting at unresolved tensions and emotional wounds. Grayson's

disciplined routine and meticulous actions contrast with his inner turmoil, painting a portrait of a man struggling to maintain control amid mounting pressures. The chapter underscores his complex relationships and the moral ambiguities of his choices, leaving his next steps uncertain.

