

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 begins with Monique waking up ahead of her alarm, the quiet stillness of the early morning providing a brief moment of solitude before the rush of the day begins. She checks her emails, quickly scanning through messages until one from her boss, Frankie, demands her attention. The subject line, "KEEP ME UPDATED," in bold caps, feels like a command, reminding Monique of the pressure she's under. As she prepares for the day ahead, Monique finds herself balancing a mix of emotions—confidence, uncertainty, and the weight of expectations from both her job and the assignment she's about to undertake.

Monique's morning routine is simple but deliberate. She dresses carefully, choosing an outfit that reflects a sense of professionalism while still being comfortable enough for a long day ahead. Looking at her reflection in the mirror, she notices the subtle changes in her appearance since her relationship with David ended. While always slender, Monique has shed a few extra pounds, particularly around her face, a side effect of the emotional toll of her past relationship. She feels a sense of empowerment as she recognizes her renewed confidence—physically and mentally. It's as if this new phase of her life has finally begun, and she's ready to embrace it fully.

After making herself breakfast and having a brief moment of reflection, Monique picks up her phone to call Frankie. She carefully crafts her response to her boss, maintaining a calm and even tone despite the tension running beneath the surface. She knows that Frankie expects results, but Monique isn't ready to share the complexities of her situation with Evelyn just yet. The truth is, Monique is still figuring out how to navigate this assignment, and the more she interacts with Evelyn, the more she realizes just how complicated and fascinating the woman really is. But she puts on a facade for Frankie, promising that everything is going smoothly, even if it's not quite the reality.

As Monique makes her way to Evelyn's luxurious apartment, she's once again reminded of the vast divide between their worlds. Evelyn's building—an architectural marvel overlooking Central Park—is a statement of both elegance and power. The doorman, a warm and gracious presence, greets Monique as if she's a long-awaited guest, leading her to the elevator without a second thought. As Monique enters the apartment, she's struck by the richness of the space—every detail carefully curated to reflect Evelyn's wealth and status. She's about to step into the life of one of the most iconic figures in Hollywood history, and despite her nerves, Monique is determined to rise to the occasion.

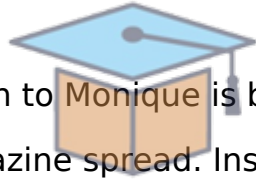


Summaryer

Inside, Monique meets Grace, Evelyn's assistant, who immediately puts her at ease with her friendly and approachable demeanor. Grace, who seems genuinely delighted to meet Monique, offers her a warm welcome despite the formality of the situation. Monique is keenly aware of her own insecurities, but Grace's warmth helps her shake off some of the nervousness that's been building up. As Grace leads her to Evelyn's study, Monique is struck by the beauty and tranquility of the space—so different from her own modest apartment. It's a reminder that she's about to engage with someone who has lived a life of immense privilege and glamour, yet Monique is determined to remain focused on the task at hand.

Evelyn enters the room with all the poise and confidence of a woman who knows her worth. Her presence is magnetic—her beauty timeless, and her aura one of quiet strength. Monique watches as Evelyn moves with grace, her every action seemingly deliberate and controlled. The casual elegance Evelyn exudes is both disarming and empowering, and Monique can't help but feel a sense of awe as they sit down to talk. Evelyn, however, doesn't waste any time before surprising Monique with a bold declaration—she's not here to discuss the gowns she's auctioning off; instead, she wants to tell Monique her life story. This revelation catches Monique off guard, but as Evelyn begins to outline the terms of their conversation, it's clear that this will be far more than just a simple interview. Evelyn wants to share the truth behind her marriages, her career, and her image—a story of both triumphs and regrets.

Monique's initial shock gives way to intrigue as Evelyn sets the stage for what promises to be an unforgettable journey. The weight of what Evelyn is offering Monique—the chance to tell the full, unvarnished truth of her life—becomes clear. This isn't just another celebrity profile. It's an opportunity for Monique to capture the essence of a woman who has been at the center of Hollywood's most glamorous and scandalous moments. Monique realizes that she's not just interviewing Evelyn; she's being entrusted with a part of history, and this is a chance that could shape her entire career.



Summary

Evelyn's proposition to Monique is bold—she wants to tell her life story, but not for the typical glossy magazine spread. Instead, she's offering a deeper, more intimate account, one that will reveal the raw truths of her life behind the fame and beauty. Monique is hesitant, uncertain about the consequences of accepting such an offer, but the allure of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is too great to ignore. Evelyn's confidence and control over the situation are palpable, and Monique knows that from this moment forward, her life will never be the same. The decision to take Evelyn's offer isn't an easy one, but Monique is starting to understand the power that lies in the story Evelyn is about to unfold.