

Chapter 61

Chapter 61 follows Evelyn as she navigates the intense grief that accompanies the loss of her close friend Celia. The funeral takes place in the quiet confines of Forest Lawn in Los Angeles, a location that holds a multitude of memories for Evelyn and those who were closest to Celia. The ceremony is private, away from the prying eyes of the public, but despite the desire for intimacy, word gets out that Evelyn is there. The weight of Celia's passing is palpable, and Evelyn, though surrounded by Robert and Connor, feels a deep sense of isolation as the reality of the situation begins to sink in. She cannot hide her emotions; the grief is overwhelming, and it's clear that she is not only mourning Celia's death but also the end of an era in her own life.

As Celia's casket is lowered into the ground, Evelyn's heart feels heavy, and she cannot hold back her tears any longer. The gleaming wood of the casket, the image of Celia being buried, hits her like a wave, and the need to retreat becomes immediate. She steps away from the crowd, leaving Robert and Connor behind, and begins to walk up the winding cemetery roads, trying to find a moment of solitude to process the grief she's holding inside. It's during this walk that she finds herself at the grave of her long-lost friend Harry Cameron. Harry, the man who had been a constant presence in her life and had supported her in more ways than she could count, became the place where Evelyn could let her emotions spill out. She sits by his tombstone, feeling as if the years of pain and loss she has accumulated are finally being released. She doesn't speak, for words seem inadequate after all the silent conversations she's shared with him in her heart over the years. Her grief doesn't need articulation; it only needs an outlet, and Harry's grave offers her that moment of solace. In the solitude of his resting place, Evelyn feels both comforted and empty, as though she is momentarily healed but also reminded of the deep void left by Celia's passing.

As she stands up from Harry's grave, Evelyn brushes off her skirt, ready to rejoin the world she left behind. However, as she stands, she notices the two paparazzi photographers who have been hiding in the trees, snapping photos of her moment of vulnerability. But Evelyn feels no rage, no sense of humiliation. Instead, she feels indifferent. The media's obsession with her life, with every private moment she tries to keep to herself, no longer holds any power over her. At this point in her life, she understands that the media's gaze is relentless, and it takes too much energy to care about it. She walks away, her mind more focused on what she needs to process personally than on what others think or say. The photographers may have captured a fleeting moment of her sorrow, but Evelyn knows that her pain is hers alone to carry, and no photo can truly capture the depth of what she's experiencing.

Two weeks later, Evelyn is back at her home in Aldiz with Robert, trying to recover from the emotional weight of the funeral and the loss of Celia. But then, a magazine arrives in the mail. It's an issue featuring a photograph of Evelyn at Harry's grave, a candid image that had been taken without her consent. Along with the magazine, her daughter Connor has included a note. The note, brief but deeply meaningful, simply reads, "I love you." The words are simple, yet they carry so much weight for Evelyn. In the midst of the overwhelming grief and the noise of the world, it is this gesture from her daughter that stands out. The paparazzi may have captured her grief on film, but it is her daughter's quiet love and understanding that truly provides Evelyn with the comfort she needs. Connor's note, though small, is a reminder that, no matter what the outside world sees, the true love and support that Evelyn needs is within her family. And that is the love that will carry her through the hardest of times.