



Emotionally Powerful

By Selina A. Fenech

Complete summary including spoilers.

Olivia visits Dean in the Limbus ward as often as she can, where he lies comatose from being drained by the leech. She can't help but feel that the leech was familiar somehow, and wonders if it could be someone they know, since Dean hadn't pressed the panic button on his Limbus wristband. She blames herself for what happened, and vows to restore all the leeched victims, one way or another.

Dean hadn't managed to restore the Crossman's blocked powers before he was drained, and they grow more and more nervous about the threat of the leech.

Empath training is ramped up at Limbus, and so is security. Olivia is almost always accompanied by at least one agent, and she stops attending school for her safety.

One day at training, Felix hands out protective suits to the younger empaths like the ones the adult Limbus agents wear. Meanwhile, Emma is no longer on "house arrest" at Limbus and Olivia struggles to accept her as part of the team. Bastian and Sway try to convince her that Emma isn't that bad, but Olivia is still hesitant to trust her after previous experiences.

Olivia struggles as her hatred for the leech threatens to consume her. One night while having dinner with her parents, their detective friend, Terry, drops in for a visit. Having been recently promoted to captain of the police department, Terry asks Olivia if she's ever considered joining the force after high school.

Then Terry drops a bombshell: he's an empath, too.

Olivia and her parents listen with horror as Terry admits to setting up the incident with the ceiling collapse at school to force something out of her—but ended up getting Ash, instead.

Olivia comes to the terrible realization: Terry, a lifelong family friend and pillar of the community, is the leech.

She launches an attack against Terry, but he's too strong and threatens to harm her mother if she uses her Limbus panic button. Terry tells Olivia to consider joining forces with him—and takes her parents hostage when he leaves.

Fearing what Terry might do to her parents if she enlists Limbus for aid, Olivia is forced to take matters into her own hands, and she begins her own operation of tailing Terry. On the third day of tailing his movements, Olivia follows him home to his mansion, where his wife and kids seem to be enslaved by his emotional control.

She heads back to the police station to try to break out her parents while Terry is occupied with his family dinner. There, she pulls the fire alarm to distract the guards. But when she goes to break her

parents out, they seem confused, and they claim they're perfectly happy here and don't want to leave. Olivia knows she isn't strong enough to break Terry's compulsion, so she is forced to retreat—but not before spotting an envelope labeled "Limbus," which makes her fear that Terry already knows about the secret organization.

Olivia fights the urge to head to Limbus, fearing that she'll lead Terry to their headquarters. At home, she gets a surprise visit from Dean's father, who is drunkenly looking for his son. She angrily sends him on his way. Her friend Nati is also being persistent in checking on her, and desperate for company, Olivia agrees to meet. She sneaks out to avoid being followed, and when she meets Nati, she breaks down and tells her everything. Nati takes it all in stride and Olivia is relieved to know she's not alone.

Renewed by her conversation with Nati, Olivia begins to tail Terry again. She follows him downtown where she recognizes the emotions of two people she knows: Bastian and Emma. They come out of a restaurant together, and Olivia realizes that Terry was probably tracking them. She spots him stalking them into the park, so she quickly rushes to their aid as Terry begins to sap Emma's powers. Olivia interrupts him by crashing into him with her motorbike. Emma and Bastian flee while Olivia fruitlessly tries to fight Terry off. He offers her one last chance to consider his offer of joining forces, then knocks her out.

Olivia wakes up to find herself inside the Limbus ward, wearing a cast where Terry broke her arm, though it's healing quickly due to her proesthian powers. Olivia is forced to confess to Dr. Crossman, Felix, and the others that the leech has her parents and that she has been following him for some time.

Dr. Crossman worries that if he is as powerful as Olivia says, they may need to consider taking him out entirely—but if he dies, they won't be able to wake up Dean or the others. With that, Olivia refuses to betray Terry's identity, fearing for her parents and for Dean.

Once she is feeling better, Olivia resumes training, where Emma thanks her for saving her life. Bastian admits that he and Emma recorded the incident because his elucidist power—an ability to anticipate or sense future events—made it seem important somehow. Bastian, Emma, Sway, and Rayni assure Olivia that they're in this with her and that they'll keep the secret of who the leech really is from the rest of Limbus because they want to be able to wake up Dean, Ash, and the others.

Just as Bastian suggests that Terry will probably come to Limbus next, alarms begin to blare throughout the headquarters, and the crew hears gunshots outside in the hallway.

Dr. Crossman arrives carrying a gun and commands everyone to get out; the police are attacking the building. In the hall, Mr. Crossman lies dead on the floor.

Unable to keep the secret at this point, Olivia informs Dr. Crossman that the leech is the police captain in Bellscroft, and that he must have decided to come after Limbus, using his powers of influence to control the other cops.

Dr. Crossman tasks Bastian with evacuating the kids, including younger trainees, Max, Cam, and Ada. Dr. Crossman stays behind to face Terry and buy them time. Bastian goes to arrange transport while the rest go to evacuate the drained victims in the ward. Together they evacuate the patients, and along with Felix, they escape in the two vans waiting for them.

In the van, the group mourns the loss of Mr. Crossman, and laments not being able to find the Limbus building's pet, Kimmy the cat. They go to a Limbus safehouse which is stocked with food, gear, cash, and beds. However, Felix worries that if the leech gains control of Limbus, he'll also be able to track down all the safehouses, as well as every known empath on record. They pack up the vans, ready to flee at a moment's notice—and when a cop car drives by outside, they realize their worst fears may have come true. Limbus has fallen, and they know this is a safehouse.

The team quickly deactivates their trackers, and they head to the now-abandoned Bellscroft Mental Healthcare facility, hoping to track down medical supplies for the patients they're transporting. There, they find enough equipment for Felix to stabilize the drained victims.

The crew formulates a plan and heads back to Limbus to conduct a surprise attack on Terry and the cops that he's controlling. They sneak through Limbus to Dr. Crossman's office where Olivia can sense Terry is holed up. Ada, Max, and Cam distract the officers on guard and lead them away, and the rest of the group commences their attack. But despite Rayni's emogen abilities, Terry is still too strong, and easily fends off Olivia, Sway, and Emma. He begins to drain Olivia right then and there. Bastian interrupts Terry by shooting him in his bullet-proof vest, and yells at the rest of the group to run. Emma, Rayni, Olivia, and Sway retreat and re-group with the younger kids outside, crushed by their failure and the loss of Bastian.

Reunited with Felix at the mental healthcare facility, the group mourns. Meanwhile, Olivia grapples with strange sensations brought on from being almost drained, and finds that she is sometimes looking out through others' eyes while experiencing a feeling of being outside of herself.

She experiments to see if she can control another person this way, testing it on Rayni, who doesn't seem to notice other than being a bit confused. Olivia realizes she might be able to stop Terry this way.

Terry is strong—but could her love for Dean be stronger?

As Olivia is saying goodbye to an unconscious Dean, Rayni comes in and shows her the video of Terry beating her up, which Emma has posted online. The video, labeled "Bad Cop Beats Up Girl," has already received thousands of views.

Rayni explains that as a proesthian, Terry's ability to influence and control others comes from his likeability—but what if everyone hates him?

To Olivia's surprise, Rayni gives her permission to drain her, if that's what Olivia needs to save everyone. Olivia drains Rayni's powers and absorbs them into herself, ready to put her plan into action.

When she returns to Limbus, she finds it in even rougher shape than it was last time—it seems the video that Emma posted allowed the cops under Terry's control to break free, leading to some infighting as they left. The path is clear. Olivia confronts Terry and offers to let him drain her as long as he frees her parents.

He does it, and she watches through his eyes as her own body hits the ground, empty. Just as she hoped, Terry finds the clues she planted in her pockets relaying the location of the rest of the empaths. She struggles to remain herself inside of him as he makes his way to the mental healthcare institution.

From inside Terry, Olivia urges him to go to Dean, focusing on her love for him as her strength. Once there, she slams all the powers Terry had stolen out of him from the inside, and into Dean. Terry falls, and Olivia lands inside Dean's body.

Dean awakens, confused and disoriented. His last memory is being at the train station and realizing too late that Terry was the leech—and now Terry is here, in the room with him. Terry orders Dean to give the powers back, and indeed, Dean feels very powerful, like he's not alone.

He blocks Terry's powers for good, and when Terry refuses to tell Dean where Olivia is, Dean unleashes his anger for the first time and beats the man, but his own anger horrifies him. He can feel Olivia, and realizes she is with him somehow.

Having spent so much of his life suppressing his emotions, Dean is overwhelmed by the intensity of all these extra feelings as he finds and reads Olivia's note, which contains instructions on what to do next.

Following her instructions—and feeling her support from within—he wakes up Rayni, Ash, and others from their comas.

As a storm worsens outside, the team returns to Limbus to search for Olivia's body. When they hear a cat meowing, they find Kimmy, who leads them to a dumpster full of leeches victims—some of whom are still alive. Unfortunately, Olivia nor Bastian are among them.

Dean spots a body being washed away in a storm channel, and the team works together to rescue it. It turns out to be Bastian, who is still alive. Soon after, he rescues Olivia's body from the current and rushes her to Dr. Crossman, who commences resuscitation efforts, yelling at Dean to put her back into her own body.

Olivia wakes up in the Limbus ward, surrounded by people: Dean, Dr. Crossman, Bastian, Sway, Rayni, Ash, Emma, and her parents are all there.

She discovers that Dean was able to unblock Dr. Crossman, so she has her own powers back. Olivia asks Dr. Crossman to have someone go check on Terry's wife and kids, who seemed to be his prisoners.

She basks in the fact that she was always right about Dean: his heart was big enough to save them all.

Things start to settle down, and Olivia works with her parents to repair their damaged house. With the assistance of Limbus, Dean gets his own apartment in Bellscroft, and Dr. Crossman helps him track down the rest of the leeches victims so that he can return the excess energies that don't belong to him.

One night, Olivia and Dean are having dinner with her parents when Dean's father shows up. He's sober and wants to make amends for past harms. Dean invites him to move into his apartment, and Mr. Lasslow accepts.

Olivia and the Limbus crew reunite for the official re-opening of the repaired Limbus headquarters. Olivia reflects on how she used to dream about adventure, action, romance, and heroes. Now she ponders her future as an empath and all the possibilities.

She confesses her love to Dean—it seems that all her dreams have come true after all.



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