



Emotionally Unstable

By Selina A. Fenech

Complete summary including spoilers.

Dean has come to live with Olivia and her parents in Bellscroft. When Olivia's mother learns that Dean had dropped out of school to work, she enrolls him at Olivia's school so that they can graduate together.

On their first day of school, Olivia worries about being overwhelmed by the colorful clouds of teenage emotions that she can now see thanks to absorbing the powers of Jake, Jamie, and Donny.

Dean isn't the only new kid at school: an incredibly cheerful boy named Ash seems particularly interested in Olivia and pesters her with questions. Meanwhile, Olivia gives her best friend, Nati, a fake version of her story—the same one she had told the police, just to stay consistent.

After school, Ash finds Olivia at the bus stop and tries to chat her up, which makes her miss her bus. It pulls away, taking Dean with it—but Olivia knows she can't be too far away from him without breaking down and risking a seizure.

Beginning to become overwhelmed by the emotions and colors around her without Dean there to temper it, Olivia uses her powers to race after the bus, riding the rest of the way home on top of it. They make it home safely, without anyone noticing, but Olivia can't help but question Ash's motives.

At home, Olivia and Dean have a heart-to-heart, wondering if they can ever feel normal again after what they went through. Dean admits that she has given him something to care about again. They share an intimate moment, but intense emotions overtake Olivia and she is forced to push him away.

Dean says he can't control his blocking power because of how much he cares for her. They realize they might not be able to kiss each other until they figure out a solution to Olivia's amplified powers.

Ash tries to sit next to Olivia at school again. Still annoyed at him about putting her in a precarious situation the day before, Olivia tries not to assume the worst. He tells her she is very strong. Olivia panics because she can't have anyone know about her powers—but then the whole ceiling suddenly begins to collapse on them in the classroom.

Olivia uses her powers to push others out of harm's way, then speeds herself and Dean to safety. Terry, the detective, shows up to talk to her. She seems to recall someone else moving really fast in the room, and notices one of her classmates, Roxy, pointing at Ash.

She and Dean discuss that Ash might be an empath—but what does he want?

Later, Olivia and Dean attend their first therapy sessions at The Bellscroft Mental Healthcare Facility, which her parents have arranged for them to help process their trauma. When they arrive, Olivia feels a sense of cold like she used to feel around Dean. After her session, Olivia is distracted by a commotion

while waiting for Dean. She observes a nurse attempting to subdue a petite younger teen, and Olivia is overcome with the child's angry emotions. The child is injected with something and dragged away.

Olivia tells Dean that she is pretty sure the kid, like Ash, was also an empath, and they ponder how they might be able to help others like them who are struggling because they don't know what they are.

Ash doesn't return to school after the incident with the ceiling collapsing, so they're unable to confirm their suspicions about him. Meanwhile, Olivia believes that counseling is helping Dean because he has begun to hold her hand in public, a display of affection he didn't previously do.

While talking to Nati and Dean on the street after school, a gray van suddenly pulls up and grabs Olivia out of the blue. The assailants are strong—too strong. She is unable to fight them off and she is thrown into the van, which speeds off. As soon as she is too far away from Dean, a seizure hits.

When she awakes, Olivia finds herself in a strange room. Ash is there, watching her. Somehow, Olivia feels better, which makes her think that Dean might be nearby. Ash talks to her about her powers, and seems confused by her lack of knowledge about empaths. He speaks into a recording camera, saying he doesn't think they've "got the right one."

A girl called Rayni, who turns out to be Ash's sister, and an older couple enter the room. The couple introduce themselves as Dr. Crossman and Mr. Crossman. Olivia recognizes them as the two she'd seen at the hospital with Jake, Jamie, and Donny.

They admit that they placed Ash in her class to observe her because they are hunting an empath who has been stealing powers from others. Olivia tells them she never meant to steal powers from Jake, Jamie, and Donny. Rayni's presence seems to keep her calm, and Olivia learns that Rayni is a type of empath known as an emogen. Her abilities allow her to keep Olivia's emotions at bay in Dean's absence.

Mr. Crossman shows Olivia footage of the warehouse fire, the bank robbery, and the incident in the park, explaining that they made sure the police never saw it. Olivia realizes this has all been a cover-up.

The Crossmans bring Olivia to an intensive care ward that includes several patients—including Jake, Jamie, and Donny—who have all been drained of their powers and are now in comas. They explain that this other "leech" is actively hunting empaths, and more have disappeared. They ask Olivia for help, and she reluctantly agrees—but only if they can convince her parents.

The Crossmans and Rayni accompany Olivia home to her very relieved parents and Dean. Dr. and Mr. Crossman explain to Olivia's parents about their empath organization, Limbus, and how they are seeking a rogue threat within the empath community. They clarify that they mistakenly thought Olivia might be the leech. Limbus works as a freelance spy agency for the government, and as far as the government knows, that's all they do; they've been a secret empath organization for decades.

Later, Olivia, Dean, and Olivia's parents head to her mom's shop to work on repairs from the earthquake. Olivia admits to them that the Crossmans want her to revive Jake, Jamie, and Donny. Alone, Dean and Olivia wonder if they can have a normal relationship if she were able to get rid of the excess powers inside of her and return them to the boys.

She decides that she's going to help Limbus, but for now, they decide to keep Dean's blocking powers a secret, considering what happened last time a group of empaths discovered his abilities.

After school the next day, Ash and Rayni pick up Olivia and her dad and bring them to the Limbus headquarters. There, they learn surprising information: Jake and Jamie are the Crossmans' sons. Dr. and Mr. Crossman explain that they used to be a family of con artists, until they stumbled across a blocker who shut down their powers. Jake and Jamie abandoned their parents then, thinking they were "lesser" without their powers intact.

Dr. Crossman shares with Olivia that they've tracked down Emma, and asks Olivia to talk to Emma and convince her to join Limbus for a second chance.

Olivia tentatively agrees, but privately she doesn't believe that Emma deserves a second chance. In her mind, Emma is a villain.

At home, Olivia tells Dean about her task to track down Emma, and decides she doesn't want to do it because she believes that Emma should have to face the consequences of her previous actions as a criminal, especially since she had many opportunities to do the right thing and chose not to. Instead, Olivia lies to Dr. Crossman, claiming that she spoke to Emma but that Emma doesn't want to come to Limbus. During the phone call, though, Olivia hears something about "neutralizing" Emma in the background. She panics, fearing that they mean to assassinate the girl for not complying.

Then Dr. Crossman tells Olivia bad news: Ash is missing.

Dr. Crossman commands Olivia not to approach Emma again, and Olivia can't help but wonder what they would have done to *her* if she had refused to join them.

Concerned that the empath organization means to harm Emma because of Olivia's lie, Olivia and Dean track Emma down and try to warn her that Limbus is coming after her. Olivia and Emma fight, but soon they find themselves surrounded by Limbus agents who appear to have every intention of killing Emma.

In attempt to save Emma's life, Olivia admits that she lied to Dr. Crossman, and Dean reveals himself as a blocker, meaning they don't need to worry about Emma acting out because he can keep her under control.

The Crossmans come to collect Dean and Olivia by helicopter, shocked that Olivia ever thought they planned to kill Emma. Instead, they simply intended to bring her into protective custody, by force if necessary, but they want to keep empaths safe, not kill them.

When Olivia and Dean get home from the ordeal, Dr. Crossman calls again to tell them they've found Ash. He is in a coma, drained by the leech.

Olivia and Dean are brought to Limbus the next morning for their own safety. After all, Ash was found in Bellscroft, which means the leech was in Olivia's own town.

At Limbus, Dr. Felix Slate, a research and development guy for the organization, attaches tracking devices to their wrists as a precaution. Olivia begins training sessions with the other empaths: a boy named Bastian, Rayni, and much to her displeasure, Emma.

When she goes to the mental health facility for her next counseling session, Olivia overhears the nurses talking about a man who seems to have gone into an unexplained coma. She remembers seeing that name tag on a man who made her feel cold: a blocker. The leech must have gotten to him.

She and Dean decide to investigate, and they meet a kid that she had seen here before—the one getting dragged away by the nurses. They confirm that the kid, Sway, is an empath, along with the older woman she's sitting with, Marigold.

Concerned that the leech might be targeting the mental health facility because there are empaths there, Olivia immediately contacts Dr. Crossman. But then a fire erupts in the building, and chaos ensues. Everyone seems to be evacuating, but Olivia doesn't see Sway or Marigold, so she sets off to find them, only to find Marigold in the hands of the leech himself.

The leech drains Marigold, then goes after Sway next. Olivia fights him off and yells at Sway to run. The leech is far stronger than Olivia, and she struggles to defend herself. Instead, she carries Sway to safety, but unfortunately, Marigold is lost to the fire. What's more, now the leech has seen her face and knows who she is, but she was unable to get a good look at him.

Back at Limbus, Olivia gets to know Sway, who laments the loss of Marigold's beautiful, golden light. The conversation helps Olivia come up with a plan to help put the drained empaths back into their bodies.

With the help of Rayni's emogen abilities, Olivia successfully expels Jake, Jamie, and Donny's powers out of her mind and back into theirs, and the Crossmans ask Dean to block the boys' powers permanently to prevent them from committing more crimes.

Olivia is now free to be separate from Dean, so he stays behind to try to unblock Dr. and Mr. Crossman's lost powers while she goes to meet her parents. When they part ways, Dean says he finally wants to let himself feel, and love. They share a kiss without any issues now that she's free from the excess energy.

Olivia tells her parents the good news: she can be on her own now, and doesn't need Dean to be nearby to help temper her powers anymore.

On top of that, Olivia is excited about the possibility of having a normal relationship with Dean now.

When she wakes up from nightmares about being drained by the leech, Olivia finds that Dean still hasn't arrived home. Her parents tell her the bad news: Dean is missing.

Despite Dr. Crossman's pleas to stay home where it's safe, Olivia heads out to find Dean, using information from his tracker. She finds him at Bellscroft Station, lying on the train tracks in the way of an oncoming train. She quickly rescues him, but he is lifeless in her arms with only a faint heartbeat.

The leech has drained him.



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