

## YourEssence

### Chapter 16 - Inspector Olivia



Olivia was swift as Diana (really David) left the apartment. She needed to search the apartment for signs of trouble. She was tremendously worried about her daughter's marriage, given the fact that they were seeing a marriage counselor. Olivia would never have let a stranger into the most intimate details of her marriage. Diana's doing so felt like an obvious sign that her marriage was on the verge of collapse, and Olivia was not about to let that happen.

Olivia knew she couldn't go through David's phone; he would have that with him, but she knew the kinds of places men liked to hide things. So, under the bed, under piles of socks in dresser drawers, and behind or between shirts in closets, Olivia went rummaging through David's things. She had noticed that David didn't linger in the morning before he left for work. He didn't even say hello, good morning, or goodbye. That was not very husbandly behavior. Olivia was chagrined

that she had warmly welcomed David into her family, and it seemed that David was ready to throw all of this away.

Olivia was a master of covert searching. She took quick notes of things like object order and placement while working through her son-in-law's possessions. Each failed search was just a new potential challenge to overcome against her adversary. Whatever David was hiding would be uncovered, and Olivia and David would privately address it. She may have it out for David, but Diana's happiness was essential in her mind. David would repent for his sins, and Diana would remain happy and married. Then, once the dust had settled, Diana would have babies, and Olivia would once again have a purpose to serve her grandchildren like she had served her children before. She was destined to be the best and most loving abuela.

Two hours passed, and Olivia found nothing out of order. She didn't find a telling secret scrap of paper with a phone number and the distinctive Xs and Os. No lipstick stain on a shirt collar, no restaurant receipts for a night out wining and dining a secret lover. Olivia was starting to wonder if she had been wrong all this time. It had only been a few weeks since they had started therapy, but Diana had been upset for much longer. Indeed, with that discontent, David would have left some clues about his sins.

Searching her daughter's en-suite, she stumbled on their respective bottles of YourEssence. "Ugh, jóvenes idiotas, putting this filth in their bodies," Olivia said aloud, making her thoughts on the UniGlobal product known to the empty apartment. She inspected the bottles and noticed they were labeled for David and Diana separately. They both looked identical to each other except for their labels. Olivia lingered here momentarily before replacing the bottles in their prior spots. She had a double take as she noticed that David's bottle was currently positioned on the left-hand side of the vanity. She knew that Diana had a predilection for choosing the left-hand side of rooms, beds, dressers, and such. Her bed had always been positioned so she would sleep on her left side. It was 'her' thing.

"All of David's things are on the left side. His comb, his razor, his pills. Qué extraño..."

Ever the master of stealth, Olivia replaced the pills and repositioned the disturbed items expertly to avoid any potential for detection. "Diana had said she cleaned the showers last week. Let's take a look..." Olivia turned her attention to the shower and checked for signs of dirt or degradation.

"Not bad... I guess she remembers how to clean."

Looking at her watch, Olivia felt frustrated that her only clue was a misalignment of

bathroom toiletries and pills. This was not enough to go on to fix David. She needed more. She needed to find the cause of her daughter's marital troubles. For a split second, Olivia considered the unthinkable. *Could it be Diana who is being unfaithful?* Olivia started to search her daughter's possessions but stopped herself. "No. She would have told me already. If she had a new amorcito, I would know by now."

"Still, Diana has been a bit off since I arrived. Maybe I should keep my eye out."

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Olivia spent the rest of her day doing as she had informed Diana. She read her novella and cleaned the oven. While taxing, the work was made easier by having the right cleaners. Again, Olivia felt proud that Diana kept these essentials in her home. While it might not have been a glamorous upbringing, Olivia was proud of the practical work skills and ethics she had instilled in her children.

As it turned from noon to mid-afternoon, Olivia took the initiative to reorganize the living space. This set of obvious and brazen changes to the couple's things would cover any mistakes she made in replacing items as she searched. It would be too many things out of place, so David and Diana would not have the mental energy to process tiny discrepancies.

Olivia finished organizing the living space when she heard keys shake at the apartment door. *That should be Diana. I hope she likes what I did with her living area.*

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Diana and Olivia returned from the grocery store with more food than the couple would eat in two weeks, but Olivia had insisted that it all be acquired now. She would certainly keep her family fed, especially if she couldn't solve their marital problems as she had hoped. Olivia had Diana help put the extra food away while preparing a simple fajita dinner. While Olivia did this, Diana (really David) searched for David (really Diana).