# We Solve Murders

**We Solve Murders** is the inaugural novel in a new mystery series by **Richard Osman**, published on **September 12, 2024**.

The story introduces readers to **Amy Wheeler**, a private security officer, and her father-in-law, **Steve Wheeler**, a retired police officer. Amy is assigned to protect **Rosie D'Antonio**, a world-famous author, on a secluded island. However, their assignment takes a perilous turn when they discover a dead body and a bag of money, thrusting them into a complex web of intrigue and danger. In need of assistance, Amy reaches out to Steve, and together they embark on a high-stakes adventure across the globe, aiming to outwit a relentless killer.

Osman's signature blend of humor and intricate plotting is evident throughout the novel. The narrative balances thrilling action with moments of warmth and wit, characteristic of his writing style. The dynamic between Amy and Steve offers a fresh take on the detective duo archetype, combining generational perspectives and contrasting approaches to crime-solving.

Critics have noted that while the plot is engaging and fast-paced, some elements may stretch plausibility. Nonetheless, the novel has been praised for its entertaining characters and the engaging dynamic between the protagonists.

*We Solve Murders* marks a departure from Osman's previous *Thursday Murder Club* series, introducing readers to a new set of characters and settings. Fans of his earlier work will find familiar elements of charm and cleverness, while also experiencing a fresh narrative direction.

Overall, *We Solve Murders* offers a delightful blend of mystery, humor, and adventure, setting the stage for an exciting new series from Richard Osman.

# Chapter 101

Chapter 101 unfolds in the quiet village of Axley under the dim glow of a pale moon at three a.m., where Steve Wheeler finds himself seated on a familiar bench, deep in thought. The night air is cool and still, a fitting backdrop for his quiet reminiscence about his late wife, Debbie. As he sits there, reflecting on the twists and turns of his life, Amy, a close friend and trusted companion, leans her head on his shoulder, expressing a quiet sense of pride in him. Their conversation is warm yet tinged with unspoken emotions, as both take comfort in each other's presence. Rosie D’Antonio, ever the playful and outspoken one, breaks the moment of sentimentality with her signature humor, teasing them about their sudden burst of affection. She lightheartedly remarks on her "mentoring" relationship with a younger man named Eddie, her words carrying a mix of amusement and self-awareness.

The conversation shifts toward Amy's future, particularly her plans now that key suspects Mickey Moody and Susan Knox are in custody. Steve, ever the thoughtful observer, senses an air of uncertainty around her as she reveals that she is considering stepping away from her current work. Jeff and Henk had encouraged her to take time off, believing she needed a break after everything they had been through. Rosie, always quick with a quip, suggests a dramatic career shift—perhaps becoming an assassin—but Amy, unfazed, shares something more meaningful. She expresses her ambition to establish a detective agency focused on solving cold cases, particularly those that have been ignored or dismissed by law enforcement. Steve listens intently, though his practical nature compels him to raise some concerns, particularly about the financial logistics of such a venture. He points out that starting an agency requires more than just skill; it needs resources, office space, and proper advertising to attract clients.

Amy, undeterred by Steve's skepticism, assures him that she has already secured the financial backing of a wealthy friend who believes in her vision. Rosie, never one to be left out of an opportunity, playfully offers to invest in Amy’s agency but demands a bigger stake in return. Amy, however, remains firm in her decision, preferring to stick with her original investor. Steve watches the exchange with amusement, though he cannot help but think about how much his own life has changed. He has grown comfortable in his current lifestyle—enjoying simple routines, small-town comforts, and his cherished memories of Debbie. While he admires Amy’s ambition, he wonders if he is ready to dive into another whirlwind adventure. Yet, deep down, he knows that life has a way of pulling people into unexpected journeys, whether they seek them out or not.

The conversation gradually shifts to the prospect of their first case. They joke about investigating the suspicious death of a news presenter, though there is an unspoken understanding that their future cases will be much more serious. Rosie, always eager for excitement, is the first to suggest diving headfirst into the new venture. Steve, still hesitant, remains grounded in his pragmatism, questioning whether they are truly ready. The discussion flows naturally, a mixture of lightheartedness and serious contemplation, reflecting the depth of their friendship and shared history. As they mull over their options, a sense of anticipation begins to build.

The chapter reaches its turning point when Steve proposes a name for their agency: "We Solve Murders." Amy, at first resistant, chuckles at its simplicity, realizing that it carries a certain charm. The group shares a moment of laughter, a much-needed release after all the heavy discussions of the night. As the moonlight bathes the village in a soft glow, owls hoot in the distance, their calls punctuating the quiet serenity of the moment. The night is peaceful, yet there is an undeniable feeling that change is on the horizon. Their conversation has laid the groundwork for something bigger, something that will shape the course of their lives in unexpected ways. As the chapter closes, the trio sits together in comfortable silence, aware that the journey ahead will be filled with mystery, challenge, and perhaps, a new sense of purpose.

# Chapter 100

Chapter 100 of *We Solve Murders* reveals the lives of Mickey Moody and Susan Knox through a series of letters exchanged between the two as they serve time in prison. Mickey writes from his cell with a tone that is both reflective and somewhat defiant. His words convey a sense of acceptance of his situation, as he acknowledges the poor choices that landed him behind bars but doesn't dwell on them for long. Instead, he expresses a certain camaraderie with Susan, another inmate, sharing with her that he is incarcerated at Downview, a place he associates with positive stories his aunt once shared. This sense of nostalgia, despite the prison's grim reality, reflects Mickey's complex approach to his circumstances, combining both resignation and a strange sort of comfort in his environment.

In his letter, Mickey offers a glimpse into his mindset, presenting his life with a candidness that suggests he harbors no regrets about his past decisions. He encourages Susan not to focus on the mistakes they've made, but rather to embrace the present. Mickey seems determined to make the best of his situation, presenting the prison as something they can both adapt to rather than something they must endure with bitterness. His invitation to Susan to share her own story is more than just a request for information; it is a desire for human connection in a place where isolation and despair are often dominant. His message, though casual, underscores the importance of forging bonds with others in the midst of such an unforgiving environment.

However, Susan's response stands in stark contrast to Mickey's optimistic tone. She begins by acknowledging her own accountability for being in prison, recognizing that her actions led her to this point. She speaks of her history with Jeff Nolan, the man Mickey tried to kill, revealing how she had been involved in embezzling money from him over a number of years. Susan expresses regret over the financial opportunities

she squandered, as her poor investment decisions and irresponsible behavior only worsened her situation. Her reflection on the role money played in her downfall paints a sobering picture of how easily financial temptation can lead one astray, especially when greed takes hold.

As Susan’s letter progresses, she delves deeper into her feelings of remorse for having contributed to a murder. The weight of her actions is clear in her writing, as she acknowledges that the corrupting power of money has left her in a place of deep moral conflict. While Mickey’s letter suggests a sense of peace with his past choices, Susan’s tone is filled with self-reflection and regret. She is not as willing to embrace her situation as Mickey is, and her closing words make it clear that she does not wish to maintain any further communication with him. Susan’s final admission reveals a resigned acceptance of her fate, as she contemplates the consequences of her actions and the emotional toll of her past decisions.

Her letter serves as a stark contrast to Mickey’s, emphasizing the difference in their approaches to their prison sentences. While Mickey is eager to move forward and find solace in his present life, Susan is burdened by her guilt and the weight of her past mistakes. This chapter explores the intricate emotions surrounding accountability, guilt, and the consequences of one’s actions. The narrative highlights how money, often viewed as a solution to many of life’s problems, can also serve as a corrupting force that leads individuals down dangerous paths. In the end, this chapter reflects on the themes of redemption, personal responsibility, and the struggles people face when they are forced to confront the dark aspects of their past.

# Chapter 99

Chapter 99 of *We Solve Murders* begins with a jovial exchange between Jeff and Henk, who find themselves debating the ideal wine pairing for monkfish at The Wilberforce restaurant. Jeff advocates for a light red wine, confident that it would complement the dish perfectly, while Henk is just as certain that a rich white would be a better match. Their friendly rivalry continues to unfold with playful back-and-forth banter, as Jeff stubbornly sticks to his red wine preferences, even as Henk persists with his opposing stance. This humorous exchange highlights their camaraderie, illustrating the bond between the two friends, and sets the stage for a more complex discussion that will follow. The brief diversion into wine choices showcases their personalities: Jeff's determination and Henk's preference for sophistication, creating a dynamic that adds charm and warmth to the narrative.

The conversation shifts abruptly when Max enters, drawing attention to his new calfskin shoes and prompting the porter to comment on his impeccable taste. Max's entrance steers the group's focus to the status of their partnership, as he remarks on how past suspicions may have caused unnecessary distance between the friends. Henk, acknowledging their past misunderstandings, admits that these misgivings led to some separation, but there is a sense of reconciliation and mutual respect as they work to move beyond the tension. The group delves deeper into their shared experiences, and a conversation emerges about Susan Knox. They discuss how Knox attempted to use Max's name to divert attention from her own misdeeds, which causes Jeff to wrinkle his nose in disapproval. Despite the disapproval, Max maintains a confident tone, recounting his encounter with Knox in a way that suggests he's grown accustomed to handling such situations. Henk chimes in, stating that Max deserves recognition for his efforts, despite the challenges that had initially caused friction between them.

The conversation takes an intriguing turn when Max reveals that he will be featured in an upcoming movie about money-smuggling, an area that, coincidentally, mirrors their own recent experiences. This news piques the interest of both Henk and Jeff, who are drawn to the eerie parallels between the fictional portrayal and their own real-life involvement in similar events. As the mood shifts, the conversation takes a darker turn when Max shares that he has been receiving death threats, which introduces an element of danger into the otherwise light-hearted gathering. Jeff, always quick with a joke, alludes to Henk’s past habit of using fear tactics to extract financial gain from new clients. Max, with a hint of humor, suggests that the mystery surrounding these threats is far from over, but there have been no new developments. This brief shift in tone from playful banter to more serious matters shows the dynamic of the group, where humor and camaraderie can coexist alongside underlying tensions.

Despite the sudden seriousness, the porter’s return with a bottle of rosé wine restores the upbeat atmosphere, and both Jeff and Henk express their delight. The change in mood is palpable, as their earlier concerns seem to melt away with the arrival of the wine. The chapter ends on a cheerful note, signaling that their camaraderie has been fully restored. This shift in tone, from the lighthearted to the serious and back again, reinforces the strong, resilient bond between the three friends. It also highlights the ongoing dynamic between them, showing that while they face real dangers and challenges, their unity and shared sense of humor keep them grounded. The chapter ultimately serves as a reminder of the complexities of friendship, as well as the delicate balance between personal conflict and the collective strength that emerges from mutual respect.

# Chapter 98

In Chapter 98 of "We Solve Murders," Bonnie finds herself back at her mother's home after an unexpected cancellation of a job that she had been counting on. Her mother's reaction is far from warm, casting a shadow over Bonnie’s return. She can sense the disappointment in her mother’s expression as she breaks the news, which leaves Bonnie contemplating her own life choices. Three days later, Bonnie sits in Felicity's office, accompanied by Tony, and the two of them are staring at a large holdall filled with over a million pounds, a discovery that neither of them had anticipated when they cut the bag open. Felicity, ever the pragmatist, considers handing the money over to the police but is torn by the idea. Meanwhile, Tony, seeing an opportunity, argues that such an amount of money could change Bonnie's life and secure the futures of her children, giving them a chance at a better life. Bonnie, on the other hand, is firm in her belief that the money is tainted and, although it is physically clean, it doesn't belong to her, and taking it would feel wrong. She insists that it represents illicit gains, something she can't accept, despite the tempting idea of what it could bring.

As the conversation continues, Tony and Felicity challenge Bonnie's assumptions, suggesting that the money is not inherently criminal, as it doesn't involve drugs or anything illegal on the surface. Felicity then reveals that the money belongs to Mickey Moody, a man currently arrested for murder, which adds an interesting twist to the situation. Felicity believes that Bonnie should keep it, as there's no indication or note asking for its return. Bonnie, however, struggles with the ethical dilemma, as she has always prided herself on earning an honest living and not relying on wealth gained from dubious sources. Felicity, sensing Bonnie's hesitation, suggests that she could act as her agent, helping her navigate this morally complex situation. The idea is to transform the money into a legitimate business venture that could, in turn, help others, offering a new and more positive purpose for the money.

Bonnie, although still unsure, is reassured by Felicity’s argument that they can find a way to channel the money through legal means, committing a portion of it to help the families of victims who have suffered from violence. This offers a sense of redemption for what would otherwise be considered blood money. Despite her worries about how to explain the situation to her family, Felicity convinces her that hard work, determination, and integrity will be the keys to success, even without the support of rich parents or conventional resources. They engage in a discussion about the importance of self-belief and how luck plays a role in success. Felicity emphasizes that Bonnie has already demonstrated self-belief by coming to see her and asking for guidance, which marks the beginning of her journey towards something better. The chapter explores the complexities of morality, the allure of financial freedom, and the constant battle between doing what is right and seizing opportunities that seem too good to pass up.

Bonnie slowly begins to realize that the decision she is facing is not simply about the money—it’s about her own journey toward self-reliance and finding a way to move forward in life, even when things seem uncertain. She appreciates Felicity and Tony’s support, as they lay out a plan to turn the questionable sum into something positive. The moral gray areas presented in this chapter speak to the challenges individuals face when confronted with decisions that offer both rewards and consequences. Bonnie acknowledges the potential to turn the situation into a life-changing opportunity, despite its dubious origins, understanding that it's possible to rewrite her future with the right guidance. This chapter, through its exploration of morality, wealth, and identity, underscores the complex nature of decisions and the power of taking control of one’s destiny, even in the face of uncertainty.

# Chapter 96

Chapter 96 of *We Solve Murders* opens with a gripping and tense conversation between Steve and Mickey at a pub, setting the stage for a heated exchange that reveals deeper layers of intrigue. Steve directly confronts Mickey, accusing him of being François Loubet, a well-known money smuggler, questioning the absurdity of Mickey’s claim that he is merely a scrap-metal dealer. Mickey laughs off the accusation, seemingly unfazed, and implies that he has been able to stay one step ahead of the law and avoid any incriminating evidence for years. The conversation takes on an air of mystery, hinting at a darker and more complicated past that Mickey is desperate to keep hidden, while Steve becomes increasingly determined to probe deeper. The suggestion that Mickey could be involved in the recent murder of Rob Kenna raises the stakes, adding an ominous tone to their discussion and fueling a sense of suspicion.

As they continue to talk, Mickey begins to reminisce about his childhood, recalling small, harmless thefts like stealing milk from a local shop. This brief nostalgic moment offers a glimpse into Mickey’s early days and his long history of bending the rules. Despite his long list of minor crimes, Mickey insists that he has never been arrested for anything serious, except for one minor caution. This casual dismissal of his past transgressions contrasts with the more sinister implications in Steve’s questions, suggesting that the lighter moments of their conversation mask a much darker undercurrent. The dialogue between them moves between humor and suspicion, with Steve clearly pushing Mickey to reveal more than he is willing to share. Their interaction becomes a complex game of cat and mouse, as Steve seeks to uncover the truth behind Mickey's actions.

The conversation shifts when Steve boldly claims that their families are interconnected, particularly pointing to the influential role of Mickey’s grandmothers,

Lou and Bet. Mickey initially brushes off the comment, but as Steve presses on, the mood grows tense, and Mickey's irritation becomes evident. The discussion touches on family loyalty and the violent undertones that seem to surround Mickey's actions, particularly his business dealings. Mickey tries to downplay the seriousness of his actions, brushing them off as simply part of the "business," but there is a chilling implication that the line between legitimate business and criminal enterprise has long been blurred for him. His defensive stance and growing discomfort hint at a much darker side to his character, one that he is reluctant to fully reveal. The conversation serves as a subtle yet powerful exploration of family dynamics, trust, and the moral ambiguities of Mickey's life.

The intensity of their discussion escalates when Steve introduces the evidence he claims to have against Mickey. He reveals that he has video footage that supposedly ties Mickey directly to the murder of Rob Kenna, a serious accusation that Mickey denies vehemently. He challenges the authenticity of the footage, questioning how it could possibly have been obtained and casting doubt on its legitimacy. The increasing tension between the two suggests that their encounter is far from just a casual confrontation, as Steve's persistence and Mickey's denial create an atmosphere charged with mistrust and suspicion. Just when it seems like the situation may reach a breaking point, Steve drops a cryptic remark about Mickey's doorbell, leaving the conversation hanging in the air. This final question raises more questions than answers, adding another layer of intrigue and suggesting that there is a key piece of information that could link Mickey to the crime.

Throughout this chapter, the dynamic between Steve and Mickey is one of manipulation and counter-manipulation, with each trying to gain the upper hand over the other. Steve's probing questions serve to peel back the layers of Mickey's carefully constructed persona, revealing glimpses of the man beneath, while Mickey's defenses reveal a man who is not as in control of his past and present as he would like others to believe. The chapter deftly navigates the complexities of guilt, family loyalty, and moral conflict, creating a tense atmosphere that leaves readers questioning the true nature of Mickey's involvement in the murder. As the conversation ends on a

cliffhanger, with the mysterious doorbell question lingering, readers are left with a sense of uncertainty and suspense, eager to uncover the truth behind Mickey’s facade. The chapter masterfully builds tension, layering intrigue and psychological drama as it delves deeper into the complexities of its characters and their entangled pasts.

# Chapter 97

Chapter 97 of *We Solve Murders* opens with an intensely dramatic moment as Archer, a man on the brink of death, lies on the cold, wet pavement, feeling the life slowly draining from him. The foggy darkness of Soho surrounds him, where the weak glow from the gas lamps seems unable to penetrate the thick, oppressive blackness that cloaks the streets. Archer’s thoughts flicker back to a lifetime spent chasing a shadow, the figure he’s been pursuing for years—an elusive man, seen by many but understood by none. Known for his distinctive electric-blue suit and a collection of women who follow him, this figure has remained a mystery, one that Archer has been desperate to solve. Despite other sightings of the man, it is only in this final, fleeting moment that Archer truly recognizes him, and with that recognition comes a pivotal realization, one that ties together years of pursuit.

As Archer’s body grows weaker, his thoughts are interrupted by a woman in a red dress who approaches, offering him help. Her voice, calm and soothing, stands in stark contrast to the distant wail of sirens signaling the approaching emergency response. Her presence is almost surreal, offering a fleeting moment of solace in the midst of Archer’s agonizing decline. As he struggles to stay conscious, Archer’s eyes catch one last glimpse of the mysterious man, who walks away from the scene, a knife slipping from his grip and clattering to the ground. In that moment, Archer notices something crucial—a detail that had eluded him until now: the sole of the killer's left shoe. This observation, seemingly trivial, encapsulates the reason why the killer had always remained one step ahead of the authorities, out of reach despite all efforts to capture him. The realization stirs a sense of finality in Archer’s mind as he faces the painful truth that this ghostly figure had always been just beyond his grasp. As his life slips away, Archer’s thoughts turn to his son, Eric Junior, who is now two years into his career with the Metropolitan Police. The young officer is still unaware of the inevitable

reckoning that awaits him—the truth about his father's knowledge and the long-hidden mysteries that will one day unfold before him.

The narrative then shifts to a quieter moment, moving to Eddie, a writer who is grappling with his own insecurities about his literary career. As Eddie seeks validation from Rosie D’Antonio, who lounges across from him, their conversation takes on a light, yet introspective tone. Eddie opens up about his struggles with writing, admitting that while his romantic stories may be well-crafted, they lack the ability to truly captivate and draw readers in. Rosie, with her sharp wit, encourages him to hook her into the story, acknowledging his talent but suggesting that he could do more to make his writing truly compelling. Their exchange, though light-hearted, underscores Eddie’s deeper uncertainties about his work and the pressure to create something more engaging. As the conversation progresses, Eddie begins to consider the possibility of naming his book after the mysterious man with the shoe, a reference to the elusive figure who has haunted Archer’s thoughts and now looms in Eddie’s own narrative. Rosie, recognizing the potential for a captivating story, proposes the title *A Cat Called Trouble*, a suggestion that immediately intrigues Eddie. The title not only evokes the dangerous and elusive figure from Archer’s past but also hints at the intrigue and suspense that could draw readers into the story. It presents an intriguing parallel between the story Eddie is trying to tell and the haunting mystery that has shaped so many lives. This suggestion by Rosie sparks Eddie’s imagination, hinting that perhaps he can find a way to weave the dark and complex themes of Archer’s pursuit into his own work, making it something truly worth reading.

The two characters’ dialogue highlights the delicate balance between personal struggles and professional challenges. Eddie’s concerns about his writing mirror Archer’s deeper, more complex fight against his own fate, blending themes of creation, recognition, and the search for truth. It also hints at the broader connections between the personal and the societal, as Eddie and Rosie unknowingly echo the tensions of Archer’s own life and death struggle. As Eddie begins to consider the title and the direction of his book, there’s a sense that his narrative might intertwine with the larger, unresolved mysteries surrounding Archer, the elusive killer, and the dangerous

games of power and deception. The chapter thus not only advances the plot but deepens the emotional and thematic layers of the story, blending suspense with introspection and offering a glimpse into the ways in which lives and stories intersect. The mix of personal ambition, literary uncertainty, and dark secrets creates a multifaceted narrative that invites readers to look deeper, reflecting on the complex interplay of identity, fate, and the pursuit of truth.

# Chapter 95

Chapter 95 of *We Solve Murders* begins in a tense and unnerving atmosphere, with Amy finding herself in a precarious situation with Jeff, whom she has restrained after a violent altercation. She has quickly fashioned a lemon-colored sweatshirt into a makeshift tourniquet, wrapping it tightly around his thigh to stop the bleeding. Although Jeff is undoubtedly in excruciating pain, he remains silent, his composure driven not only by a strong sense of self-respect but also by the dangerous threat posed by Amy's gun, which is pressed firmly against his temple. They are not being transported in a car, as one might expect, but are instead hidden away in Henk's private den, suggesting that there is more at play in this interaction than mere violence. This concealed location adds to the tension, hinting at a more elaborate manipulation that is taking place behind the scenes.

The conversation takes an unexpected turn when Jeff observes Susan Knox, situated in the nearby boardroom, not just reviewing files, but actively erasing them. His suspicion grows as he realizes that Susan is not merely going over paperwork, but is intentionally deleting vital records, further complicating the situation. Amy, aware of Jeff's increasing curiosity, carefully addresses him, asking him to promise to stay quiet if she lowers the gun. Their conversation intensifies as she tightens the tourniquet around Jeff's leg, and their ears catch snippets of Susan's phone conversation. It becomes evident that Susan is reaching out to someone, discussing Jeff's current predicament, which signals that a deeper conspiracy is at play, making Jeff's earlier assumptions seem naive and incomplete.

As Amy and Jeff continue their discussion, Amy reveals the shocking reason behind her decision to shoot him—it was all part of a test to assess Susan's loyalty. This revelation adds a layer of complexity to the situation, as Amy and Jeff begin to discuss Susan's long tenure at the company, her impressive salary, and her seemingly suspicious living

arrangement in Hampstead. Through this analysis, they begin to unravel a potential betrayal, suggesting that Susan may have been manipulating Jeff financially for some time. Initially, Jeff dismisses these accusations, unable to believe that Susan would have taken such extreme measures. However, as Amy lays out the mounting evidence, Jeff is forced to face the unsettling possibility that Susan’s influence on his financial dealings was far more significant than he realized.

The situation escalates when Amy receives a phone call from Susan, who confirms Jeff’s involvement in financial misconduct. Susan, in a tone of disbelief, expresses regret at not noticing his schemes earlier, now suggesting that Amy’s only recourse is to eliminate Jeff to prevent him from continuing his deceptive activities. This revelation shocks Jeff, forcing him to confront the bitter reality that he has not only allowed his actions to harm others, but he has also neglected Susan, making her feel justified in resorting to such drastic measures. His mind races as he processes the gravity of the situation, grappling with the weight of betrayal and regret that has now clouded his judgment.

Despite the rising tension and the dark revelations, the chapter concludes with a surprising moment of camaraderie between Amy and Jeff. In a rare instance of vulnerability, they share a brief hug, signaling a temporary but meaningful resolution in their complex and fraught relationship. This unexpected moment offers a stark contrast to the tension that has built up throughout the chapter, suggesting that, despite everything that has transpired, some part of their bond still remains intact. Amy’s parting words emphasize the delicate nature of trust and appreciation in relationships, highlighting how these fragile elements can be so easily broken when manipulation and deceit come into play. The chapter not only explores the intricacies of loyalty and betrayal but also serves as a poignant reminder of how easily relationships can become entangled in moral gray areas. It underscores the importance of self-reflection, honesty, and the need to carefully navigate professional and personal boundaries in a world full of manipulation and mistrust.

# Chapter 94

Chapter 94 of *We Solve Murders* opens with Steve walking through the Dubai Marina, a place far from the comforts and routine of his home. As he moves through the bustling city, he can’t shake the deep sense of dislocation that has taken hold of him. The distance, 3,000 miles from the familiar sights and sounds of his everyday life, only amplifies the emotions swirling inside him. His thoughts frequently drift back to Debbie, his late partner, whose absence still casts a long shadow over his existence. The memories of their life together, the laughter, the quiet evenings at home, and the shared moments of love, all come flooding back in vivid detail. He can’t help but feel the void left by her, especially as he wanders through a place that feels like nothing more than a blur of unfamiliar faces and foreign surroundings.

As Steve nears an Irish Pub, he holds a brief hope that perhaps this place, with its atmosphere of camaraderie and British sports culture, might offer him the slightest hint of familiarity. He imagines that the pub might provide the kind of community feeling he once enjoyed with his old friends back home—Tony, Jyoti, and John. But as he steps inside, the reality hits him hard: this is not home. The lively environment, full of the sounds of clinking glasses, bright neon signs, and televisions blaring sports from all directions, does little to soothe his sense of displacement. Instead, the noise and flashing lights only add to his discomfort, making him feel more alone and isolated than ever. The realization slowly sets in that no matter how many pubs he visits or how much he tries to replicate the familiar, nothing can fill the emptiness left by Debbie’s absence. The atmosphere, though meant to offer comfort, only serves as a reminder of what he’s lost, deepening the feeling of alienation that has been growing within him.

Despite the overwhelming sense of discomfort, Steve is unable to shake the thought that perhaps he hasn’t truly enjoyed life since Debbie’s death. The concept of

enjoyment itself feels distant, like a word that has lost its meaning. The very idea of feeling joy, of finding pleasure in something as simple as a conversation or a game, has become almost foreign to him. It’s not that he doesn’t try to find happiness, but each attempt feels hollow, as though the spark that once made life vibrant has been extinguished. Even as he stands in this new, vibrant setting, Steve is confronted with the fact that he can no longer experience life the way he once did. The loss of Debbie has stolen more than just her physical presence; it has taken away his ability to find contentment in the world around him.

As Steve continues to reflect on his life, he turns his thoughts to his daughter-in-law, Amy, who has brought some moments of light back into his life. While he has found some joy in protecting her and being a supportive figure, the relief it brings is fleeting. The connection he shares with Amy is real, and he is grateful for it, but it’s not enough to fill the void that Debbie’s death has left. Similarly, Rosie, another person who has entered Steve’s life during this challenging time, offers him some comfort and connection. Yet even these positive relationships can’t replace the deep sense of emptiness that follows him everywhere. Despite his desire for companionship and emotional support, Steve finds it increasingly difficult to escape the shadow of loss that seems to define his existence. These relationships, though meaningful, are not the answer to his grief; they are simply moments of reprieve from the overwhelming sorrow that consumes him.

As Steve contemplates his return to Axley, he is filled with conflicting emotions. There is part of him that longs for the comfort of home, for the familiar routines and the sense of stability it once offered. But alongside this longing is the inescapable truth that the memories of Debbie will always be tied to that place, turning it into a reminder of everything that’s been lost. Even the most comforting places—like the sofa in his living room, which used to cradle him in relaxation and peace—now seem tainted by absence. It is as though the very fabric of his life has been permanently altered, the spaces he once occupied now filled with echoes of a past that can never be recreated. The sofa, once a simple piece of furniture, has become a symbol of everything he can never return to. This realization hits him hard, as he understands

that no matter where he goes, no matter how far from home he may travel, Debbie’s presence will always be with him. It is not just her memories that linger, but a part of her that has become ingrained in the way he moves through life. Even as he joins François Loubet at the pub, he feels her spirit beside him, a quiet but constant companion on his journey. Through the tumultuous emotions and the many miles between them, Debbie’s influence remains ever-present, guiding Steve through the complexities of grief, memory, and loss.

# Chapter 93

Chapter 93 of *We Solve Murders* opens with Rosie hearing a knock at her hotel door. She assumes it's a room service boy, especially after the playful flirting that took place between them earlier in the day. However, as the knock lingers, a sense of unease begins to settle in. What initially seemed like a harmless visit soon takes on a more ominous tone as Rosie begins to realize that this knock might not just signal a simple delivery, but the potential arrival of someone far more dangerous. She comes to the sudden and chilling understanding that this could very well be the beginning of a situation far more perilous than she anticipated, with the possibility of encountering an assassin lurking behind the door. The atmosphere shifts, and her pulse quickens as she steels herself for whatever may come next, bracing for the worst.

When Eddie Flood enters the room, his demeanor is apologetic, offering a stark contrast to the tension that is building between them. He begins by stating that he wanted to be properly prepared before meeting with Rosie, but his behavior and the situation's gravity quickly dispel any semblance of politeness. Rosie watches closely as Eddie reaches into his bag, and the brief moment of calm quickly gives way to rising panic. Could he be reaching for a weapon? Could he be the very threat she feared? The uncertainty rattles Rosie's nerves as she contemplates her next move. With a calm that betrays her growing anxiety, she bravely confronts him, asking point-blank, "Who hired you to kill me?" The question is direct, leaving no room for ambiguity, and to her surprise, Eddie seems taken aback. He denies being a hitman, and though his admission about taking money from Rob Kenna raises more questions, it also offers a brief glimmer of clarity about the situation. Rosie begins to piece together that Eddie's true involvement is far more convoluted than she initially suspected.

Their conversation delves deeper as Eddie opens up about his past, admitting that he has killed before, though he adds a sense of justification to his actions, claiming that

he “used to” work as a hitman. Rosie is left trying to make sense of his words, her mind racing to understand his role in all this. She had suspected, at first, that Eddie might be a dangerous fan, someone whose admiration had spiraled into obsession. But as Eddie explains that he is, in fact, a writer, Rosie’s perception of him shifts drastically. Eddie shares that he has been traveling, working on a book, and had hoped that Rosie might read it. The revelation that he is a writer, someone with personal aspirations rather than sinister motives, catches Rosie off guard. In her surprise, she humorously remarks that discovering Eddie’s true intentions is “so much worse” than facing a hitman, and the comment, while lighthearted, underscores the absurdity of the situation. What she thought would be a deadly encounter now feels more like a strange twist of fate, and it leaves her reevaluating everything about their interaction.

The chapter builds on themes of danger, misunderstanding, and the unpredictable nature of life. Rosie’s fear of being threatened with violence is replaced by the unexpected realization that Eddie’s true goal was simply to connect with her about his book, adding a layer of complexity to the story. Their exchange, filled with tension and humor, serves as a reminder of how life can take unpredictable turns, especially when the motivations of those around us are not what they initially seem. This twist also reflects the complexities of human interactions and aspirations, as Eddie’s intentions, though nonviolent, bring him into Rosie’s life in a way she never could have imagined. Their interaction leaves readers intrigued by the strange convergence of business, personal ambition, and mistaken perceptions, heightening the suspense while also adding depth to the characters and their stories. As the chapter unfolds, readers are left wondering how Eddie’s book and his encounter with Rosie will play into the larger narrative, making it a compelling moment that weaves together the threads of mystery and unexpected revelations.

# Chapter 92

Chapter 92 of *We Solve Murders* begins with Rob Kenna at the ninth tee, preparing for a round of golf that holds more than just leisure for him. He tells his caddy about his specific preference for isotonic water, citing his aversion to regular water due to its estrogen content. Rob's careful attention to his needs reflects a deep sense of control he maintains in his life, even in moments meant for relaxation. After receiving the isotonic water, Rob focuses intently on his shot, feeling the tension in the air as he readies himself to take it. He swings, narrowly avoiding the thick rough and the trees that surround the hole. Despite his usual preference for sharing these moments with others, Rob is anticipating tomorrow's game with Nelson Nunez, a man who not only shares his love for the sport but will also engage in important discussions of business during their time together. This dual purpose adds a layer of anticipation to the moment, showing Rob's ability to mix personal and professional matters seamlessly.

As Rob continues to play, his thoughts shift toward his business dealings, particularly the growing realization that severing ties with François Loubet might be necessary. Rob has come to understand the importance of transparency in relationships, especially in those that involve business transactions. The realization weighs heavily on him, as Loubet's shady dealings have started to cloud their partnership. Aiming for precision in his shot, Rob requests a nine-iron, visualizing how he will land the ball gently on the green. However, his caddy's behavior disrupts his focus. The caddy begins to whistle, a strange and unexpected sound in such a tense moment. Though Rob knows her well, her whistling betrays a sense of boredom and restlessness that contrasts sharply with the high-stakes game they are playing. Her role, however, goes beyond merely assisting him on the course. Under Rob's direction, she has become involved in his business operations, acting as a trusted aide in numerous matters and demonstrating a level of loyalty that runs deeper than just being his caddy. This

loyalty, however, is not without complexity, as the stakes in their world continue to rise.

As Rob prepares for his next shot, a sudden rustling in the trees nearby catches his attention, drawing his focus away from the task at hand. Before he can adjust his aim, a gunshot rings out, striking him directly in the chest. The impact is immediate and overwhelming; he instinctively drops his club as panic floods his senses. His mind races, but his body feels heavy with shock and pain. In the midst of the chaos, Rob spots his caddy fleeing the scene, a figure disappearing into the distance, abandoning him in his most vulnerable moment. The sense of betrayal and isolation is palpable as he grapples with his injury, realizing that the danger he faces is now far more immediate than any business concern. Just as Rob struggles to regain control, another round of gunfire erupts, further intensifying the peril of his situation. A figure steps out from behind the trees, holding a shotgun aimed directly at him. It is in this critical moment of near-certain death that Rob meets the eyes of François Loubet, the man he has been entangled with for so long. The chilling encounter marks the chapter’s tense climax, as Rob's life hangs in the balance. The reality of his impending fate, and the realization that Loubet may have orchestrated this moment, casts a dark shadow over everything Rob has worked for. With the final shot still to come, the story leaves readers in suspense, wondering how this deadly encounter will unfold and what the consequences will be for Rob Kenna in the end.

# Chapter 91

Chapter 91 of *We Solve Murders* intensifies as Susan informs Jeff that she may need to involve the police, giving him a choice to handle the situation himself. Her question about whether he would prefer to deal with things in his own way amplifies the already strained tension in the room. In a dramatic moment, Amy, wishing for safety, finds herself in an unexpected standoff, mirroring Jeff's actions when he pulls a gun on her. The room becomes charged with danger as both of them stand facing each other with weapons drawn, while Susan, the voice of reason, insists on calling the authorities. Her plea is firmly rejected by both Jeff and Amy, each refusing to involve the police despite the escalating conflict. The situation has reached a boiling point, with emotions running high and every move being calculated for survival, highlighting the dire circumstances in which they find themselves trapped.

Amidst the confrontation, Amy's thoughts briefly turn inward, wondering how Steve would navigate such a critical moment. She recalls his training and past experiences, and finds herself unconsciously aligning with Jeff's methods, realizing that she must rely on her own decisions rather than depending on Steve's guidance. The mounting pressure from Jeff's accusations, especially his claim that she is tied to Max Highfield, causes Amy to pause. However, instead of accepting the blame, Amy shifts the focus, placing responsibility squarely on Jeff's shoulders. She argues that it was within his power to stop the suspicious payments to Highfield but that he failed to take any action. The shift in their dynamic becomes apparent as Amy begins to take charge, no longer looking to others for guidance but instead adopting a more assertive role in the conflict.

As the confrontation deepens, Amy accuses Jeff of orchestrating a cover-up, accusing him of manipulating events to avoid facing the consequences of their actions. Her voice cuts through the tension, suggesting that Jeff was more involved than he initially

let on. She demands clarity on the legality of the payments made to Highfield, questioning whether they were lawful and implicating Jeff further. In response, Susan offers to double-check the files for confirmation, but the clock is ticking, and Amy knows they cannot afford to wait any longer. In an unexpected and drastic move, Amy shoots Jeff in the leg, the sound of the gunshot reverberating in the tense silence. His protests fall on deaf ears as Amy swiftly binds his hands, asserting that they will leave together, and warns Susan of the severe consequences if she contacts the authorities. The pain from the gunshot causes Jeff to struggle, but his denial of Amy's accusations does nothing to sway her resolve. With Jeff incapacitated, Amy has firmly taken control of the situation, embodying the decisive action Jeff himself would have taken, had the roles been reversed.

The unfolding events set the stage for a series of explosive revelations and confrontations. Amy's shift from a passive participant to an active force in the situation marks a turning point in the narrative. With Jeff at her mercy, the power dynamics have shifted, and it is now Amy who holds the upper hand. As she continues to lead the charge, it's clear that further secrets and truths are waiting to be unearthed, promising a tumultuous and high-stakes continuation of their journey. The narrative leaves readers on edge, eager to see what other revelations Amy's actions will bring to light, and how the tangled web of betrayal, lies, and power plays will unravel in the chapters to come. The stakes are now higher than ever, and the characters are all inextricably bound to the consequences of their decisions, with no clear way out.

# Chapter 90

Chapter 90 of *We Solve Murders* begins with Steve stepping into an unfamiliar world as he enters a sauna for the first time. He has chosen this setting for investigative purposes, a necessary sacrifice that often accompanies his work. Sitting across from Mickey Moody, a balding Cockney who had golfed with Rob Kenna the previous day, Steve attempts to break the ice by starting a conversation. He casually mentions his limited experience with saunas, admitting with a sense of humor that he’s not a golfer, hoping to keep the conversation light. Despite his attempt at casualness, he’s keen to learn more about Mickey’s connections to Rob Kenna and the world he inhabits. The sauna, an unlikely but strategic location for this encounter, serves as a setting for Steve’s subtle probing, mixing both humor and investigation in a delicate balance.

Mickey, however, doesn’t seem entirely comfortable with Steve’s approach. He questions Steve’s ties to Rob Kenna, sensing that Steve is trying to dig deeper into Kenna’s world while maintaining a facade of nonchalance. In response, Mickey claims to know little about Kenna, hinting that it’s wiser not to ask too many questions in their circle. Their conversation takes a turn as Steve, seeking to blend in, fabricates a backstory involving his supposed expertise in scented candles. This fabricated narrative is a clever attempt to appear inconspicuous, but it also reflects Steve’s knack for fitting into uncomfortable situations while hiding his true intentions. His attempt at creating a common bond, while humorous, underscores the tension that Steve must constantly navigate as he seeks the information he needs without raising suspicion.

As the dialogue continues, Mickey shares insights into his past, revealing his time spent in the scrap business. He talks about the unusual characters he encountered, providing a stark contrast to the seemingly more mundane world of candle-making that Steve describes. Mickey’s anecdotes hint at the rough, unpredictable nature of his former business, which, while grounded in physical labor, was filled with its own

dangers and complications. His cautious approach to life becomes clear as he talks about avoiding trouble even during the toughest moments, a mindset that resonates deeply with Steve. Having also faced significant losses and challenges in his own life, Steve can relate to Mickey's approach to navigating a world filled with uncertainty. Their conversation, balancing humor with a reflection on hardship, offers both men a chance to share their personal coping mechanisms, despite the differences in their backgrounds.

As the conversation shifts, Mickey begins to offer his opinion on Rob Kenna, calling him a "wide boy," and advising Steve to keep his distance from him. This comment makes Steve pause, as he starts to reflect on his own life, particularly his connection to his late wife, Debbie. He finds solace in the shared experiences of loss, understanding how grief shapes a person's choices and interactions. The dialogue between Steve and Mickey, though filled with humor and light banter, also carries an undercurrent of melancholy. It is in these moments of vulnerability and shared understanding that Steve begins to make connections not only in his investigation but in his own personal journey of healing and acceptance. The realization that both men are shaped by their pasts provides a deeper layer of connection, even if unspoken, between them.

The chapter reaches its pivotal moment when Steve experiences an epiphany regarding his investigation. The pieces of the puzzle start to fall into place, and he recognizes the significance of François Loubet and the critical evidence he needs to gather to move forward. In an act of physical acceptance, Steve kicks off his shoes and removes his socks, symbolizing a newfound clarity and commitment to the task at hand. This small, yet profound gesture marks a turning point for Steve, a moment where he sheds the weight of his past and embraces the challenges of his investigation. Mickey, observing Steve's actions, encourages this small act of liberation, offering an unspoken acknowledgment of the significance of the moment. In the context of the sauna, this simple yet powerful act encapsulates the dual themes of personal reflection and relentless pursuit of the truth, setting the stage for what's to come in the investigation. The scene leaves readers with a sense of anticipation, as Steve's clarity now drives him toward the next chapter of his journey, both

professionally and personally.

# Chapter 89

Chapter 89 of *We Solve Murders* unfolds in the sleek, glass-walled boardroom of a high-rise in the City of London, where Amy, Jeff Nolan, and Susan Knox, Jeff’s HR head, gather to review an important and ominous file. The early morning light begins to seep into the room, illuminating the dust motes that float in the air, symbolizing the weight of the revelations that will soon surface. As Amy leads the conversation, she highlights that the file contains details of thirty-five clients, each of whom has connections to Vivid Viral, and was introduced to Maximum Impact by Max Highfield. In a chilling discovery, the file also reveals evidence of payments, each worth ten thousand dollars, made to Max's account for every client. This finding raises immediate suspicions, as it becomes clear that Max’s dealings might be far more extensive and problematic than anyone had initially imagined, adding another layer of complexity to an already intricate investigation. The connections between these clients and Max point toward something far darker, and Amy and Jeff are now more determined than ever to uncover the truth, no matter the cost.

As Susan delves into the details of the investigation, she explains that the inquiry has spanned over two years, uncovering a web of names, with Courtney Lewis emerging as a central figure in the case. Jeff, seeking further clarity, asks about the type of work these clients have been involved with, but Susan explains that these clients are low-value and would not have required much assistance. Their travels didn’t seem to indicate any need for the services Max or his associates might have provided. The lack of meaningful data and actionable leads is frustrating, as the file is comprised only of names, numbers, and addresses, leaving them with no concrete evidence to pursue. It becomes evident that any valuable information must have been filtered through Vivid Viral, but unfortunately, there is little to connect the dots. This realization serves to increase the tension in the room, with Amy, Jeff, and Susan all feeling the frustration of

working with such limited resources. The situation starts to feel like a puzzle with missing pieces, and the more they try to solve it, the more elusive the answers become.

In a sudden shift of thought, Jeff begins to wonder aloud if Max might have had some kind of help, prompting Amy to ask who could possibly assist someone as reckless and unpredictable as Max Highfield. Jeff suggests that the key to understanding this may lie in the first name listed in the file, which he connects to Max's activities. He reveals that the person tied to this name was introduced to him shortly after Max returned from San Francisco, a place where Amy Wheeler had been employed as a close-protection officer. The moment this connection is made, Amy feels a sharp sense of realization, as she begins to understand how her past work for François Loubet could be intricately tied to the case they are currently investigating. The timing of Max's return and the introduction of the individuals in the file line up with her previous work, something that she hadn't initially realized was so closely connected to her present circumstances. As this realization settles in, Amy is forced to reckon with the unsettling truth that her past actions have led her directly into the heart of the complex case they are working to solve.

The tension in the room rises sharply as the implications of these connections become more apparent. Jeff and Susan both acknowledge the gravity of the situation as the puzzle pieces begin to fit together in a way they hadn't anticipated. Amy, meanwhile, is left to grapple with the realization that she has been unwittingly involved in multiple facets of the investigation, both from her personal history and her current role in the case. She understands that her past actions and associations with François Loubet have been far more significant than she ever thought, and they have deeply impacted the investigation. The discovery that her professional history is now interwoven with the complex web of the case adds another layer of complexity to the situation. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, leaving readers with a sense of foreboding and suspense. As the connections between Max Highfield, Vivid Viral, and the clients unfold, the larger conspiracy begins to take shape, hinting at even darker revelations to come. The suspense builds as Amy, Jeff, and Susan are now on the brink of

uncovering a truth that will shake the foundations of everything they thought they knew. The intricate web of deceit, betrayal, and long-hidden connections draws closer to being fully exposed, and the characters are left to confront the dangerous truths that have been buried beneath layers of secrecy.

# Chapter 88

Chapter 88 of *We Solve Murders* begins with Max Highfield striking a dramatic pose on a sheepskin rug, his chest adorned with diamonds. A photographer directs him through various expressions, from stern and mean to flirtatiously sexy, capturing the essence of his role. Meanwhile, Rosie sits on a yoga ball, adding a laid-back vibe to the atmosphere as she smokes a joint and assists with the creative process. Max, preparing for his role as Blake Scott, seeks Rosie's input on his character, asking for name suggestions and how Blake should be portrayed. Rosie suggests that Blake should resemble Max, leading them to discuss potential features like a mustache to enhance the character's persona. The collaborative spirit in the room continues to grow, as both Rosie and Max brainstorm ways to bring the character to life, furthering the creative tension between their personal and professional exchanges.

As Max prepares for the next scene, he and Abby, his bodyguard, discuss the artistic aspects of the project, as well as Max's passion for writing. Max expresses his disdain for traditional literature, instead favoring stream-of-consciousness poetry, which reflects his unique approach to creative expression. Despite his usual rejection of conventional storytelling, Max is intrigued by the plot of Blake Scott's story, although he remains hesitant about portraying a villain. Rosie pitches the concept: a syndicate that pays influencers to smuggle money, with Blake Scott positioned as the mastermind behind the operation. Max reacts with skepticism, questioning the legality of such actions, prompting light-hearted banter between him, Rosie, and the producer, Steve. Their playful exchange highlights the blend of professional tension and casual humor as they prepare for the unfolding scenes, while also revealing the underlying complexities of the project.

The dynamics shift unexpectedly when Abby surprises Max by providing live footage of his dogs at a residential facility, evoking a deep emotional reaction from him. This

moment of vulnerability contrasts sharply with Max's otherwise composed demeanor, offering a glimpse into his personal side. As the conversation drifts back to the plot of the movie, it is revealed that the influencers involved in the syndicate’s operations begin to meet deadly fates. Max shares a story about a friend who experienced something similar, tying the fictional events to his own life in a poignant way. This connection between his personal experiences and the narrative adds an emotional layer to the unfolding drama, blurring the lines between Max’s real and fictional lives. The casual, almost detached atmosphere is replaced with a deeper reflection on the consequences of the characters’ actions, marking a shift in the tone of the discussion.

Max’s excitement about the logistical aspects of the filming process leads him to confirm his participation in the project, but with one condition: his character must retain a heroic aspect. He insists that Blake Scott cannot be purely a villain, suggesting that another character be assigned that role. In a moment of enthusiasm, Max proposes involving his friend, Timothée Chalamet, in the project, further adding to the sense of collaboration. As he heads to the stage, Rosie and Steve exchange thoughts on Max’s true level of involvement in the plot, speculating on how much he is actually invested in the project beyond his role as an actor. The chapter ends with an air of ambiguity surrounding the moral compass of the characters, particularly as they listen to Max deliver his speech, leaving the reader eager to explore how the moral complexities of the characters will play out in future chapters. The intricate mix of personal motivations and professional ambitions creates a layered narrative, one that continues to challenge the characters’ integrity and sets the stage for the next dramatic developments.

# Chapter 87

Chapter 87 begins with Eddie Flood waking up after a full, restful nine hours of sleep, feeling the effects of a solid rest as he prepares himself mentally for the day. He understands the value of good sleep, especially on the eve of such an important moment in his life. Today is a day that requires all of his focus and determination, and despite the challenges and obstacles stacked in his path, Eddie feels ready. His experience with difficult situations gives him confidence, yet there’s still a small trace of nervousness that lingers, reminding him of the high stakes at hand. But this nervousness is not enough to overshadow his readiness and commitment to what needs to be done. He knows this day could change everything, and his focus on the task ahead overshadows any fleeting doubts he might feel.

Eddie begins his morning ritual with the methodical process of packing his bag, carefully organizing each item he plans to take with him. The act of packing feels almost meditative, as he works his way through each task with deliberate precision. When he finishes, he takes a moment to pause and pats the bag for reassurance, a small gesture that reminds him of the importance of his mission. His plan for the day is straightforward yet fraught with tension: follow Rosie carefully throughout the day, keeping his distance until the moment arrives when she is alone in her room. That is when Eddie will make his move. The careful buildup of his day—his every movement and thought—centers around this one, defining moment. He knows that once he acts, there’s no turning back.

As Eddie stands at the window, his gaze lands on the sight before him—aluminum air-conditioning ducts twisting and turning against a decaying stone wall. The urban view, while mundane and unremarkable, serves as a reminder of the fleeting nature of wealth, of the fifteen thousand dollars Rob Kenna generously handed him. The money, which once seemed like a small fortune, now feels insignificant, almost as if it is

slipping through his fingers, reminding him that time is running out. That realization strikes him hard, amplifying his determination to act. Eddie knows that today is the day he must seize control of his fate, and the urgency of the moment becomes clearer with each passing minute. It’s a critical turning point for him, one that he cannot afford to let pass by. The weight of the decision is undeniable, and with it, his resolve strengthens.

As the minutes pass and Eddie prepares to take action, his thoughts become sharper and more focused on the mission at hand. There is no room for distraction now—he is fully immersed in the gravity of the situation. His inner dialogue fluctuates between excitement and tension, and the anticipation of what he’s about to do fills him with a sense of purpose. Every small detail, every step taken toward this inevitable moment, reinforces his belief that this is the right course of action. Eddie is keenly aware that today is not just any ordinary day; it is the day that will alter the course of his life. It’s a day where his choices will have lasting consequences, and the uncertainty of what comes next only adds to the intensity of the moment. With each breath, Eddie becomes more certain that this pivotal moment must be seized—there’s no turning back from here. The pressure mounts, but so does his readiness, and as he moves toward his goal, the stakes have never been higher. Today, Eddie will face what he’s been preparing for, and the outcome will shape everything that follows.

# Chapter 86

Chapter 86 of *We Solve Murders* opens with Rosie enjoying a peaceful breakfast on a sunlit terrace in Dubai, preparing for a meeting with Max Highfield before the Diamond Conference. She hopes to extract useful information from him, presenting her interest under the guise of discussing a proposal for him to star in a movie based on her book, with Steve cast as a fictional movie producer. Despite the calm setting, Rosie feels a sense of anxiety, knowing that until Max is located, Amy remains in grave danger. This realization raises the stakes of her mission, as every moment spent waiting increases the pressure to act. The tension in her mind heightens as she plans her next steps, balancing her personal concerns with the urgency of her investigation.

Suddenly, Rosie’s moment of calm is disrupted by the presence of a large figure entering her space. It’s Vasiliy Karpin, a well-known and imposing man, his wealth and presence unmistakable. He approaches in swimwear, and Rosie immediately feels vulnerable in his presence, especially without Amy's protection. She recognizes Karpin, a man who has been closely pursuing her, and instinctively begins to assess the situation. Cautiously, Rosie decides to engage with him, making it clear with a firm stance that she has one breakfast rule—she refuses to dine with anyone who wishes her harm. Karpin, seemingly unfazed by her declaration, responds with indifference, introducing himself without apology, which only adds to Rosie’s wariness.

As the interaction continues, Rosie prepares for a confrontation that could turn dangerous. She sarcastically asks Karpin if he’s there to offer an apology or if there’s a more sinister reason for his presence. In a surprising twist, Karpin jokes about his appearance, referencing a previous unflattering comparison of him being a “bulldog chewing a nettle,” a comment that Rosie quickly deflects by claiming it was a mistranslation. The light-hearted exchange momentarily breaks the tension, but beneath the humor lies an undercurrent of distrust. Just as Rosie feels herself gaining

control over the conversation, Karpin pulls out a copy of her book, *Dead Men & Diamonds*, asking her to sign it for his sister-in-law, Yevdokiya-Ivanovna. This unexpected turn shifts the atmosphere once again, and Karpin's casual demeanor only adds to the confusion surrounding his true intentions.

The conversation takes an even more surprising turn when Karpin shares a humorous anecdote about jokingly suggesting a hit on Rosie, only to assure her that he no longer intends to harm her. The mix of humor and seriousness adds layers to his character, leaving Rosie unsure of whether to believe his words. As the conversation progresses, Rosie's suspicion grows, and she directly asks if Karpin has hired someone named Eddie Flood to carry out the hit on her. Karpin, appearing genuinely surprised, denies any knowledge of Eddie Flood, further clouding the situation. Rosie, though relieved by the lack of an immediate threat from Karpin, is left with an unsettling feeling of confusion. The encounter ends with Karpin jokingly suggesting that he's ready to carry out any future "hits" Rosie might need, an absurd remark that leaves Rosie both amused and perturbed.

Once Karpin departs, Rosie is left alone with her thoughts, her mind racing as she processes the strange encounter. Her focus shifts to Eddie Flood, the suspicious figure she believes may not pose an immediate threat, but whose true motivations remain unclear. This brief but intense exchange leaves Rosie with more questions than answers, fueling her suspicions about the true nature of the threats she faces. What seemed like a moment of levity turns into a web of confusion, as Rosie is forced to reconsider the alliances and threats that surround her. With a new layer of uncertainty added to the case, she braces herself for the next steps in her investigation, knowing that the situation is far from resolved. The chapter ends with a sense of foreboding, as the complexities of the case deepen, and Rosie's next move becomes more critical than ever.

# Chapter 85

Chapter 85 of *We Solve Murders* begins with Bonnie Gregor spending over three hours at Costa Coffee, a quiet yet contemplative setting where she initially considers leaving after ninety minutes. She feels the uncomfortable weight of judgment from an Albanian barista, which makes her question whether staying longer is worth it. However, when a new employee arrives and starts reading attentively while not serving customers, Bonnie is somewhat reassured by the calming presence. She opts to stay a bit longer, reflecting on her business and the challenges of her day-to-day life. She buys a lemon-and-poppy-seed muffin, acknowledging that running a business in the current climate isn't easy, but it remains her passion. As she contemplates her next steps, she decides to send an email to Felicity, thinking it’s better to maintain caution and uphold good manners, even when times are tough. This careful approach to communication helps her navigate the unpredictable nature of her business dealings, a decision that seems increasingly important as her day unfolds.

Bonnie's thoughts shift as she heads to the airport, and the check-in process begins. Although her work with established brands like Forest Paints has been rewarding, Bonnie is eager to create her own business venture. She dreams of developing her own brand, one that reflects her values and brings positive change to the world. She imagines investing the twenty thousand she has saved into new equipment and stock, hoping to build something that can offer real value to her customers. When she reaches the check-in desk, the staff jokingly comments about her prolonged stay at Costa Coffee, lightening the atmosphere just a bit. Despite the tension from earlier, this playful exchange reminds Bonnie of the smaller, more human moments that can still be found amidst the chaos of her professional life. The seemingly trivial interaction serves as a brief break from the more pressing matters on her mind, offering a small moment of connection with the staff.

As Bonnie continues her check-in, the process is interrupted when a man in his fifties attempts to skip ahead in the queue, creating a sense of unease among the waiting passengers. The situation becomes even more complicated when the man snatches Bonnie's leather holdall from the belt, which she instinctively protests. Just as she's about to speak up, she notices Felicity Woollaston pushing through the crowd. Felicity quickly apologizes for the misunderstanding, explaining that there’s been a mix-up with Bonnie’s flight and introduces a man named Tony, who is there to retrieve her luggage. The sudden shift in the situation leaves Bonnie a little confused, unsure of what exactly is happening, but Felicity’s calm demeanor reassures her that things will be sorted out. This unexpected moment of tension underscores the unpredictable nature of travel, but Felicity’s quick intervention restores a sense of order and helps alleviate some of the discomfort Bonnie initially felt.

After the brief disruption, the check-in clerk reassures Bonnie that everything is fine, and Felicity clarifies that the confusion was simply a misunderstanding. Once the situation is under control, Tony leads Bonnie and Felicity away from the check-in area, offering them a bit of peace after the commotion. As they walk, they discuss Bonnie’s timely email, and Felicity expresses relief that they’ve managed to avoid any major delays. She also mentions the roadworks that caused their late arrival at the airport, a reminder of how travel can be disrupted by the smallest of factors. In a rare moment of calm amidst the hustle, Felicity offers to buy Bonnie a coffee, signaling a shift from the chaos of the day to a small, human moment of connection. This offer, while simple, highlights the importance of taking time to relax and reflect, even during a busy and stressful day. Bonnie, feeling the weight of the situation lift slightly, agrees to the gesture, and the two women take a brief moment to share in a more personal connection, creating a sense of camaraderie in an otherwise hectic environment.

# Chapter 84

Chapter 84 of *We Solve Murders* opens with a rare and poignant moment between Adam and Steve, where the two are seated in quiet reflection, attempting to bridge the emotional gap that has grown between them. In their younger years, their conversations were filled with shared interests, particularly their fascination with dinosaurs, but now, these discussions have devolved into uncomfortable silences. As the chapter begins, they start by discussing Adam's recent flight and Steve's discomfort with the house's bathroom location, a seemingly trivial topic that highlights the strain in their communication. These mundane exchanges further underscore the change in their relationship, from the ease of past conversations to the awkwardness of the present. Despite their proximity, they both struggle to find a way back to the bond they once shared, and the tension in the room is palpable as they attempt, unsuccessfully, to connect on any meaningful level.

Adam, sensing the need to shift the conversation to something more pressing, brings up the topic of the recent murders that have been disturbing their lives. Steve, in turn, shares troubling news with Adam, revealing that Amy is in immediate danger due to a man named Rob Kenna, whom François Loubet has hired to intimidate her. This revelation serves to further entangle Adam, as the implications of the threat against Amy become clear. Steve recounts a bizarre encounter with Rob Kenna at a golf club, where he was taken aback by the man's profession as a DJ—an incongruity that Adam finds hard to believe at first. The absurdity of the situation provides a dark comedic element as both men try to grapple with the gravity of the danger that has suddenly entered their lives. In this moment, they are forced to confront the harsh reality of their circumstances, even as they struggle to comprehend the events unfolding around them. The seriousness of the conversation contrasts with the absurdities of their perceptions, highlighting the complexity of their situation.

As the conversation continues, both Adam and Steve try to move past the discomfort that has settled between them. They touch on more personal topics, such as the memory of Steve’s late partner, Debbie, but neither man can fully open up to the other. This inability to discuss their shared history adds to the emotional distance between them, making it clear that, although they are physically close, they remain emotionally worlds apart. After a while, Adam decides that he needs to rest, signaling an end to the tense conversation. The lack of any comforting physical gestures, like a hug or even a handshake, leaves an awkwardness hanging in the air, making it evident that the connection they once had is still broken. The chapter subtly captures the pain of father and son trying to reconnect, but finding themselves unable to bridge the emotional gap that has widened over time.

In a surprising turn, just as Adam is about to leave, Steve unexpectedly recalls Adam's childhood love for dinosaurs, a moment of warmth in the otherwise chilly exchange. This mention, although brief, evokes a flicker of the closeness they once shared, bringing them back to a time when their bond was strong and uncomplicated. They briefly reminisce about their favorite dinosaurs, marking a small but significant moment of connection in the midst of the tension. Steve’s attempt to rekindle their relationship, though clumsy, reveals his desire to re-establish some form of connection with his son. Before Adam departs, Steve asks a seemingly trivial question about sauna etiquette, signaling his ongoing effort to find common ground, despite his awkward approach. Adam, though perhaps not fully understanding the motive behind the question, responds affirmatively, affirming the routine of their home life. This final exchange, while seemingly insignificant, underscores the emotional complexity of their relationship, highlighting the ongoing struggle between physical proximity and the emotional distance that still remains. The chapter concludes on a note of uncertainty, leaving readers reflecting on the fragility of familial connections, the weight of past loss, and the difficulty of navigating emotional waters.

# Chapter 83

Chapter 83 begins with Amy hiding in the boot of Gary Gough’s Land Rover, as he drives her towards London. Gary is on his way to a lunch meeting with an amphetamine dealer from Liverpool, which provides a convenient excuse for the detour. Amy remains hidden, aware that the police are actively searching for her in Axley and nearby areas. The previous night, an officer had knocked on Gary’s door, and he managed to redirect the inquiry by using the name of his house, "No Comment," an intricately carved log that Amy had never noticed before. This tactic helps him avoid drawing attention and gives Amy the breathing room she needs to remain out of sight. As they drive along the M3, Amy stays hidden, feeling a mix of discomfort and surprising calmness in the confines of the boot.

Although she could technically get out of the boot at any point, Amy finds it surprisingly comfortable. Gary, ever the considerate driver, sends her a text from the front seat, checking on her well-being. She responds with a thumbs-up and a “Zzz,” signaling that she’s fine and preferring to remain undisturbed. Despite her unconventional position, Amy feels a sense of guilt for sending Steve and Rosie to Dubai without her. She knows it’s necessary to stay out of sight, though, especially since any new evidence related to the crimes could put her at risk. The more she thinks about it, the more her fear grows about being implicated in the crimes. Her only hope now lies in finding out the identity of François Loubet and bringing an end to his involvement in everything that has gone wrong.

Amy’s thoughts also turn to Steve and Rosie, who are in Dubai together. She feels uneasy about their time apart from her, unsure how they will manage without her calming presence. Gary plans to drop Amy off at the underground parking of Maximum Impact, where she’ll stay for the night. Tomorrow, she and Jeff will go over the François Loubet files together, though Amy feels apprehensive. Neither she nor Jeff is

particularly skilled at dealing with such complex files, and the task ahead looms heavy on her mind. As the drive continues, Amy’s concern grows about what might happen next, especially as she tries to stay ahead of any potential dangers.

While still hidden in the boot, Amy discovers a metal case containing two handguns, which gives her a sense of both power and caution. She texts Gary, asking if she can take one for protection, and he quickly responds with a thumbs-up and a gun emoji, giving her permission. With both guns now in her possession, Amy feels a little more secure, knowing that she has some form of protection in case the situation turns dire. Her mind continues to race, considering all the angles and risks of her current situation. The immediate concern is not only escaping the police but also staying ahead of whatever François Loubet might do next.

In addition to her personal concerns, Amy is also worried about Steve and his stay with Adam at the villa. The two seemed somewhat uncomfortable when they realized it would be just the two of them, and this left Amy wondering about what might happen in their private time together. Although Rosie had offered Steve a room at her hotel, Amy had insisted that he spend time with Adam, believing it would be beneficial for father and son to reconnect. Even so, she finds herself wondering what kind of conversations will unfold between them, particularly regarding Debbie, a subject they always seem to avoid when together. As the Land Rover nears London, Amy hopes that Steve and Adam have finally begun to talk about her, sensing that this unresolved topic has been lingering between them for far too long.

# Chapter 82

Chapter 82 of *We Solve Murders* begins with Bonnie’s journey to Heathrow Airport, a trip that, despite its initial smoothness, brings a blend of relief and apprehension. As she navigates the early morning rush, Bonnie is thankful for her neighbor’s husband, who helps her carry her leather holdall while she manages her rolling suitcase. Arriving early gives her a sense of preparedness, even though the daunting check-in lines and security procedures still lie ahead. The emotional weight of the goodbyes from her family is still fresh in her mind, particularly her mother’s tearful farewell and her plea for Bonnie to return safely. This mixture of excitement and sadness makes Bonnie reflect on the emotional connections she's leaving behind, while also feeling the thrill of venturing off into the unknown. As she approaches the terminal, there’s a sense of nervous anticipation, amplified by the uncertainty of what awaits her in São Paulo, but also the sense of hope that this trip will bring new opportunities.

While waiting in line for check-in, Bonnie’s thoughts become more focused on the weight of the bag she’s carrying. What initially felt like a manageable load now seems unexpectedly heavy, and her mind starts to spiral with concerns about what might be inside. For a brief moment, the worst-case scenario crosses her mind—what if there’s something dangerous hidden in the bag, perhaps even a bomb? The thought sends a shiver down her spine, though she quickly dismisses it as an overreaction. Despite calming herself, Bonnie can’t shake the anxiety, leading her to consider emailing Felicity about her situation to ease her mind. She drafts the message, describing the mysterious locked bag and her thoughts about it, but then hesitates. The fear of sounding overly dramatic or embarrassing herself in front of Felicity and the team holds her back, leaving her to wrestle with the thoughts alone, without sharing them with anyone else. This internal struggle highlights her reluctance to burden others with her anxieties, even if they’re entirely unwarranted.

Upon reaching the check-in counter, Bonnie is greeted by a friendly clerk, who politely inquires about her travel plans. With newfound confidence, Bonnie responds proudly that she is traveling to São Paulo on business, a statement that brings a brief sense of accomplishment. However, her momentary pride is interrupted when the clerk informs her that she’s arrived too early and that her check-in time isn’t until the afternoon. Embarrassed by her eagerness, Bonnie decides to make the most of the situation by waiting at the airport café. Although it’s an unnecessary expense, she reminds herself that it’s better to be overly prepared than caught off guard. The brief inconvenience gives her time to reflect on the importance of managing her emotions and expectations in unfamiliar settings. Even though she feels a little foolish for arriving too early, Bonnie maintains an optimistic outlook and recognizes that the experience, though frustrating, is an inevitable part of traveling. Her ability to roll with the minor setbacks reflects her resilience and determination to continue moving forward, despite the uncertainties.

The chapter concludes with Bonnie’s internal monologue, a mix of humorous self-doubt and anticipation for the future. As she reflects on her actions, Bonnie reveals her personality—a blend of ambition and anxiety, where small setbacks take on outsized significance, yet they never deter her from pursuing her goals. The narrative offers a deep dive into her thoughts, showcasing how she handles the mundane moments of life while trying to navigate the larger challenges ahead. In the moments leading up to her departure, Bonnie’s fears and doubts mirror the experiences of anyone stepping into the unknown, balancing the excitement of new opportunities with the natural nervousness of the journey. The light-hearted nature of her reflections offers a sense of relatability, as readers are given insight into her character, which is complex and multifaceted. Her aspirations and worries are universally human, showing how even the smallest interactions, like waiting in line or dealing with unexpected situations, shape the path of one’s journey. This chapter illustrates not only the logistical challenges of travel but also the emotional and mental hurdles that accompany big life changes.

# Chapter 81

Chapter 81 of *We Solve Murders* unfolds with Steve's growing skepticism toward Max Highfield as they travel from St. Lucia to Dublin. His doubts begin to surface when he reads an interview where Max claims that *The Rose of Sarasota* is his best work yet. Disappointed by the film’s lack of acclaim, Steve finds himself unable to endure more than eight minutes of the movie, humorously pointing out that Max's character is an army explosives expert called "Joe Blow." Steve’s frustration with Max only intensifies as he reflects on how the film’s underwhelming plot and characters fail to live up to Max’s lofty self-assessment. As the flight continues, Steve’s thoughts shift from the film to more personal memories, including his cat Trouble, whom he used to spoil with leftovers from his neighbor’s roast chicken. Trouble, spoiled by this indulgence, had grown accustomed to high-quality food, refusing to settle for anything less, much like Steve’s own discomfort in the luxurious private Learjet he now finds himself in. Although the jet is undeniably fancy, its cramped space and lack of certain comforts remind Steve that even the most lavish things can fall short of expectations.

Despite the Learjet’s luxury, Steve continues to feel a sense of dissatisfaction, noting that it feels smaller compared to the larger private jets he has flown in before. His craving for a bacon sandwich, which remains unfulfilled due to the lack of a private chef, adds to his growing discontent. This moment of discomfort leads him to resolve that once he and Rosie confront Max and uncover the truth about François Loubet, he will avoid flying in private jets again. Sitting with Rosie, Steve reflects on their investigation, acknowledging that they have confirmed Max's identity as Joe Blow, thanks to the network of influencers connected to him. In a rare moment of levity, Rosie teases Steve about the jet’s size, and the two engage in lighthearted banter about their encounters with celebrities. These fleeting moments of humor provide a temporary escape from the seriousness of their mission, reminding them of the

importance of staying grounded amid the tension and challenges that come with their investigation.

As their conversation shifts to the more pressing concerns of their investigation, Rosie voices her concerns about the potential threats posed by Eddie Flood or Vasiliy Karpin, two men deeply tied to the criminal elements they're investigating. These individuals represent a dangerous aspect of the world they've ventured into, and both Steve and Rosie understand the stakes have grown higher. However, the conversation takes an unexpected turn as they momentarily discuss a quiz competition, offering a brief respite from the dark realities of their work. This light diversion highlights the contrasts in their lives—Rosie now living on a private island, while Steve finds solace in the companionship of his cat, Trouble. As they reflect on their lives and the inevitability of aging and loss, the conversation takes on a bittersweet tone. Despite the heaviness of their investigation, there's an undercurrent of humor that helps them cope with the weight of their circumstances. Steve then suggests that Rosie might leverage her status as the second-biggest author to meet with Max, proposing a potential collaboration to advance their investigation. They both acknowledge their trust in their colleague Jeff, though they are still wary of Max's involvement with Loubet. Rosie, not convinced of Max's intellectual abilities, recalls his cluelessness in a *Vanity Fair* interview, which further solidifies her skepticism. The chapter ends with Steve contemplating the small inconveniences of flying privately, marking a moment of quiet reflection. This casual thought contrasts with the complexity of their investigation, signaling that even amid the chaos, small, human moments continue to shape their experience. The realization that relationships, even those forged through shared challenges, bring a sense of meaning amidst the turmoil, leaving Steve with a bittersweet understanding of what truly matters in the end.

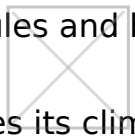
# Chapter 80

Chapter 80 of *We Solve Murders* delves into the protagonist's growing sense of urgency as the pressure to maintain his disguise as François Loubet becomes overwhelming. It becomes clear that the character can no longer continue living under this false identity due to the mounting scrutiny and the constant danger of being discovered. This change is depicted as inevitable, almost routine, in a life that has long been defined by evasion, deception, and the need to stay ahead of those pursuing him. The protagonist’s realization that he must abandon this persona reflects the deep weariness of living in a constant state of flux, where survival requires constant reinvention. As the narrative progresses, the necessity of this transformation becomes more apparent, illustrating the psychological burden of living under such pressure.

The protagonist reflects on the effectiveness of the François Loubet persona and the realization that it was nothing more than an illusion. Despite his efforts to maintain the identity and evade law enforcement agencies across the globe, he acknowledges that this carefully constructed persona never truly existed in any meaningful way. The chapter emphasizes the fleeting nature of certain aspects of life, such as false identities, yet hints that some elements remain unchanged, represented by the protagonist’s constant ability to adapt. The duality of the situation is emphasized through the repeated observation that while things change, they also remain the same, highlighting the cyclical nature of his life. His ability to continuously reinvent himself while staying one step ahead of his pursuers speaks to the complexity and fragility of the life he’s built, where survival and deception are the driving forces.

As he contemplates his next steps, the protagonist envisions what his future identity might look like, considering various possibilities such as adopting Colombian or Turkish roots. These thoughts are accompanied by the realization that in order to fully embrace a new persona, everything associated with his old identity must be

abandoned. This includes changing crucial details like phone numbers and email addresses, which represent the careful crafting of a life that is no longer his own. The ongoing tension between maintaining a false identity and adapting to new circumstances illustrates the protagonist’s life of constant vigilance and fluidity. The necessity for an ever-shifting identity speaks to the toll that such a life takes, where every new beginning is marked by the need to erase the past and embrace an entirely different set of rules and behaviors.



The scene reaches its climax as the protagonist pours himself a glass of whisky, a rare moment of leisure amidst the chaos that constantly surrounds him. This quiet act symbolizes a brief respite in his otherwise tumultuous existence, marking a moment of closure before he takes the next step. As he sits with his drink in hand, he senses that this email check will be the final one under his current identity, signaling an end to a chapter of his life. The act of logging into his emails, while seemingly mundane, serves as a transition point for the character—closing one door while preparing to open another. This act of closure sets the stage for the next phase of his life, one that will require him to fully embrace the ever-changing world of deception, danger, and reinvention that has come to define him. In this moment, the protagonist acknowledges the psychological toll that living a life of disguise and constant evasion has taken, yet he understands that this is the cost of survival in his world. The chapter encapsulates the complexity of his experiences, as he continues to navigate a world filled with threats and the necessity for reinvention.

# Chapter 79

Chapter 79 of *We Solve Murders* delves into the restless minds of various characters, each dealing with insomnia for different reasons, which leads to reflections on their personal struggles and the upcoming events. Steve Wheeler lies awake in bed, unable to sleep because his cat, Trouble, insists on lying across his chest. The cat's presence is a small comfort after being away, but Steve's mind is preoccupied with the ongoing investigation. He connects Max Highfield to Felicity Woollaston, recognizing the potential danger in their ties, especially with his upcoming trip to Dubai. While Steve is accompanied by Rosie for the journey, Jeff stays behind, fearful of being discovered. This contrast between Steve's need for comfort and his anxiety about the investigation paints a vivid picture of the emotional weight he carries as he prepares for what’s to come.

Meanwhile, Rosie D’Antonio struggles with her own inner conflict as she lies awake in Steve’s spare room. She anxiously waits for Jeff’s knock, knowing they share a mutual attraction, yet grappling with the boundaries she has set for herself. Her thoughts drift to past relationships and a conversation with her therapist, who had pointed out her lack of boundaries, which now fills Rosie with doubt about pursuing anything further. The uncertainty of whether to act on her feelings for Jeff or maintain her distance adds complexity to her character, as she navigates the desire for connection while protecting herself emotionally. Her internal turmoil underscores her need for reassurance and stability in the midst of her complicated feelings, especially as she contemplates what her actions might mean in the long run.

Elsewhere, Jeff Nolan struggles with his own insecurities as he lies on the sofa, unable to find comfort. His mind races as he reflects on his relationship with Steve and the tensions between them, considering returning to London and warning François Loubet about their knowledge of Max Highfield. He debates sending an email but ultimately

questions its usefulness, feeling uncertain about his ability to make a meaningful impact. Jeff’s jealousy toward Trouble’s bond with Steve surfaces, revealing his complex emotions and vulnerability. This small but significant moment highlights the deep-seated feelings he has, not only toward Steve but also regarding his role in the investigation. It adds an emotional layer to Jeff's character, showing the challenges he faces in balancing his personal feelings with the professional pressures he is under.

As the night stretches on, Henk van Veen lies awake, lost in his own thoughts, reflecting on his family and the issues of trust that have surfaced with Jeff. These concerns continue to weigh heavily on him, adding to his mental strain as he lies in bed. Bonnie Gregor also finds herself awake, thinking about the logistics of packing her bags and the notion of safety and autonomy in the decisions she’s making. Meanwhile, Eddie Flood struggles with sleep deprivation, obsessively checking his alarm settings as he prepares for the next day. His compulsive behavior reveals his deep-seated anxieties about the upcoming challenges, highlighting his need for control in an uncertain world.

In contrast, across the globe in Dubai, Max Highfield is indulging in a hedonistic night out, surrounded by influential figures who affirm his place in the world of power and influence. He relishes the vices that come with his newfound status, embracing the risky lifestyle that now defines him. The chapter contrasts Max’s excessive, carefree attitude with the tense and anxious moments experienced by the other characters, emphasizing the stark differences in their current situations. At the same time, Amy Wheeler enjoys a peaceful sleep, confident in the knowledge that her safety rests in the hands of her trusted allies. As the night unfolds, each character faces their own set of challenges, anxieties, and uncertainties, setting the stage for the complicated events that are bound to occur in the near future. The chapter beautifully intertwines their lives, showcasing the fragile nature of their emotional states as the uncertainty of tomorrow looms large over them.

# Chapter 78

Chapter 78 of *We Solve Murders* begins with increasing tension as Felicity passionately defends Max's character, arguing that he couldn't have acted maliciously. She dismisses any suspicions about him, only to be interrupted by a knock at the door, which immediately changes the mood in the room. Amy, Jeff, and Henk quickly react, each of them instinctively reaching for their weapons, while Steve moves to open the door, preparing for whatever might come next. Standing on the other side are two Hampshire Police officers who inquire about Amy Wheeler’s whereabouts. Steve, remembering the advice Amy had given him earlier about preparing for potential danger, denies Amy’s presence, suggesting instead that she might have returned to London. The officers are persistent in their questioning, but Steve manages to keep his composure, assuming this is just a standard police inquiry. His nerves, however, remain tightly wound as he waits to see how the situation unfolds.

The police officers, despite Steve’s attempt to brush them off, ask for permission to check inside the house, a request that momentarily catches him off guard. Steve hesitates, but his concerns are eased when he realizes that the officers are indeed legitimate, not just random individuals pretending to be cops. He invites them inside, and as they step into the living room, the group quickly tries to return to their usual activities, maintaining an air of normalcy. There’s a sense of calculated calm in the room as they attempt to conceal their anxiety, but the knowledge of hidden firearms in the vicinity adds an edge to the tension. Bonnie’s earlier request for caution plays through Steve’s mind, making him even more aware of the potential consequences if the officers decide to search too thoroughly. Despite their best efforts to appear unfazed, a palpable air of secrecy hangs over them, each person aware of the stakes at hand.

The tension reaches a boiling point when the older detective, after assessing the room and the situation, informs the group that they have a warrant for Amy Wheeler’s arrest. The accusation, involving multiple murder charges, shocks everyone in the room. Rosie, still incredulous, remarks on Amy’s sterling reputation, which makes the charge seem even more implausible. In a moment of swift thinking, Jeff covers for Amy, claiming that she had left earlier in the day, but the officers, undeterred, press for further clarification, sensing that not all is as it seems. The younger officer continues to ask probing questions, trying to piece together the missing details, while the older detective remains vigilant. Amidst the growing tension, Jeff and Henk try to lighten the mood by joking with the younger officer, suggesting that he might find a role within their circle, trying to ease the discomfort of the situation. Their attempt to inject humor into the exchange briefly lightens the mood, but the gravity of the situation lingers.

The older detective then requests Steve’s cooperation should Amy attempt to contact him, a request that is both direct and unsettling. Steve reassures the detective that he will comply, but the weight of the investigation becomes clearer as the detective mentions that their probe involves three separate murders. The mention of these murders sends a chill through the group, and their attention sharpens. Everyone, now fully aware of the serious nature of the investigation, starts to realize that they could all be tied into something far larger than they had anticipated. As the exchange continues, the younger officer seems to recognize Rosie, a moment that adds another layer of suspicion to the unfolding situation. This recognition is unexpected and brings an added layer of mystery to the room, making everyone feel more exposed than before. The chapter ends with the older detective instructing everyone to remain in the country, a demand that emphasizes the ongoing investigation. The group is left on edge, fully aware that the stakes have risen dramatically, and the chapter concludes with them contemplating what this unexpected encounter will mean for their futures. The uncertainty of their situation looms, and it is clear that their involvement in the investigation is far from over.

# Chapter 77

Chapter 77 of *We Solve Murders* opens in the vibrant, bustling heart of Dubai, where the gleaming city lights sparkle through the floor-to-ceiling windows of a luxurious high-rise apartment. The sharp contrast between the city's modernity and the tension brewing within the suite forms an intriguing backdrop for Rob Kenna’s actions. As he sits on the bed, three guns are meticulously displayed before him, each of different sizes, symbolizing his readiness for whatever comes next. Rob’s demeanor is one of controlled chaos; his confidence brims as he picks up the smallest weapon, a handgun, and holds it aloft in a manner that could easily be mistaken for a performance. "This one’s for you, Amy Wheeler," he mutters, his tone a mix of mockery and menace. With a deliberate, exaggerated blow across the barrel, he mimics the sound of a gunshot, as if trying to assert dominance over the imaginary opponent. This playful act, though amusing at first glance, hints at a deeper, more unsettling side to Rob, someone who uses theatrics to mask a cold, calculating mind beneath.

The atmosphere thickens as Rob shifts his attention to the next weapon, a compact machine pistol, which he grabs with an air of purpose. The room seems to shrink with the mounting tension as Rob, now fully embracing his role, declares, “You defeated the rest, Amy Wheeler, but you just met the best.” His words hang in the air like a challenge, as he spins and mimics spraying bullets around the room with reckless abandon. The noise of his playful imitation echoes off the walls, adding to the absurdity of the situation, but there is something undeniably menacing in the way he holds the gun, as though ready to turn his performance into reality. The thrill of the moment is palpable, and Rob appears more invested in his theatrics than the actual consequences of his actions. Finally, he grabs the largest weapon—a sawn-off shotgun—and with a flourish, announces, “Welcome to Dubai, Amy. It’ll blow you away.” The echo of “Kablammo!” follows his words, the gun hitting the bed with a

sharp thud. The entire scene becomes a performance of power and control, yet beneath it all, Rob is not merely playing; he’s preparing for something inevitable.

As the scene progresses, the line between mockery and intent begins to blur, with Rob’s final words signaling a shift in his mindset: “You need a job done properly, sometimes you gotta do it yourself.” This line reveals a sense of personal responsibility and determination that had not been fully present before. What began as playful roleplay morphs into a serious proclamation of intent—Rob is preparing for a confrontation, and he will not leave it to others. There’s no longer any pretense; Rob is done watching from the sidelines. His mind races as he imagines Amy Wheeler’s inevitable resistance and the ways in which she will challenge him. Rob knows he will need to handle this encounter himself if he wants it to go according to plan. The playful bravado he displayed with the guns now feels like a cover for something darker, a steely resolve to face whatever comes his way head-on. His earlier antics have served their purpose—to lull both himself and others into a false sense of comfort, before the real action begins.

The chapter concludes with Rob’s reflection on the situation and his readiness for what lies ahead. The weapons that were once part of his playful mockery now symbolize the tools he will use to assert his dominance. The room, the city outside, and the entire narrative have been set in motion for the conflict that is to come. Rob’s antics, filled with exaggerated bravado, have acted as both a warning and a distraction, but the gravity of his words at the end of the scene makes it clear: the time for games is over. Readers are left with an unsettling sense of anticipation, as they are made acutely aware of Rob’s true nature—one that combines theatrical flair with a chilling ability to turn the performance into a deadly reality.

# Chapter 76

Chapter 76 of *We Solve Murders* begins with the group gathered in Steve’s living room, still processing their near-victory at the local quiz night. They had come so close, finishing in second place—just a single point short of claiming the top spot. Despite the disappointment, the evening had been an enjoyable distraction, offering brief relief from the chaos that had consumed their lives. Steve, always one to find humor in the moment, teases Felicity and Tony about their growing closeness, observing how inseparable they have become. Their budding relationship is a rare bright spot in the midst of uncertainty, though Steve knows their circumstances leave little room for romance. Even with the lighthearted atmosphere, a lingering sense of unease settles over him as he checks his phone, aware that he has been waiting for an important message.

The shift in mood is immediate when Jeff Nolan opens his laptop and reads an encrypted email aloud, instantly grabbing everyone's attention. The sender is François, a name that carries weight among them, and the message is cryptic yet unmistakably threatening. François claims he understands their need for self-preservation but warns them that Amy Wheeler is in far greater danger than they realize. His words imply that she has been under surveillance, and the accumulating evidence against her is enough to put her in serious legal trouble. As the weight of the message settles over the room, tension builds between Jeff and Henk, who begin to argue over the possibility of a security breach involving their clients at Maximum Impact. The exchange grows heated, with accusations flying back and forth as Steve watches, knowing that if trust begins to fracture among them, their chances of survival will dwindle.

In an attempt to bring some normalcy to the moment, Felix heads to the kitchen to prepare tea, though the simple act does little to calm the group. The conversation takes a darker turn as they discuss a man named Kevin, someone Jeff had risked a

great deal to save, only for him to meet an untimely end after his release. The circumstances surrounding his death raise red flags, and Steve connects it to their ongoing investigation, suggesting that it might tie back to Rob Kenna in Dubai. Kenna has been making dangerous moves, seemingly orchestrating threats against Amy, and the timing of his actions feels too precise to be coincidental. Rosie, still shaken by her own brushes with danger, voices her suspicions about Eddie Flood, wondering whether he has been sent after her or if his involvement is merely another piece of a much larger puzzle. As they exchange theories, it becomes increasingly evident that the tangled web of conspiracies they are unraveling is far more complex than they had originally thought.

The tension in the room reaches its peak when Steve unveils a critical piece of information—Max Highfield, a seemingly harmless media personality, is directly connected to several of their clients. The revelation is met with stunned silence, particularly from Jeff, who struggles to grasp how deep the connections run. For years, Max has presented himself as a self-absorbed influencer, more focused on personal branding than anything truly nefarious, but now, his involvement appears far more significant than anyone had anticipated. The pieces of the puzzle are beginning to align, yet the bigger picture remains elusive. Just when they think they have reached the crux of the matter, Felicity drops a bombshell of her own—she was once Max Highfield’s first agent. Her admission adds another unexpected twist, leaving the group to question whether Felicity has been withholding valuable knowledge that could change everything.

As the chapter comes to a close, the weight of their discoveries hangs heavy in the air. Each revelation has pulled them deeper into a labyrinth of deception, one where every answer leads to more unsettling questions. The personal and professional lines between them are becoming increasingly blurred, making it harder to discern who can truly be trusted. With Amy’s safety on the line, François watching their every move, and Max Highfield now at the center of their investigation, the urgency to act has never been greater. As they sit in silence, processing the gravity of the situation, one thing becomes clear—whatever happens next will change everything.

# Chapter 75

Chapter 75 of *We Solve Murders* follows Bonnie Gregor as she lies in her childhood bed, staring at the ceiling painted to resemble a starry night sky. The delicate brushstrokes of constellations, once a source of childhood wonder, now evoke bittersweet memories of her father, who had meticulously created this celestial scene when she was young. She remembers the nights she spent marveling at the luminous stars above her, feeling as though she could reach out and touch the universe. Her father’s steady hands had painted each detail with care, wanting to give her something magical to fall asleep to. But after his passing, the painted sky became something more—a reminder of absence, of time slipping away, and of the love that still lingered despite the loss. Tonight, as she lies in that same bed, preparing for a journey that will take her far from home, she allows herself a few moments to revel in nostalgia before facing the excitement and uncertainties of the next day.

Her flight from Heathrow is set for early morning, and Bonnie, never one to leave things to chance, has meticulously planned every detail of her departure. She has made arrangements with her neighbor, who has generously agreed to drive her to the airport in exchange for petrol money. The two had shared a brief but enthusiastic conversation about her upcoming trip, with her neighbor expressing genuine excitement on her behalf. Though Bonnie appreciates the encouragement, her mind remains fixed on her checklist, running through each step to ensure she is fully prepared. There is something both thrilling and unnerving about stepping into the unknown, and she finds comfort in having control over the small details. As the rest of the house sleeps soundly, she takes a moment to rehearse her lines for an upcoming performance, fine-tuning the way she delivers each phrase. Experimenting with different words, she lingers on the idea that “a tin of paint is a tin of happiness,” amused by how such a simple thought can encapsulate so much meaning.

Bonnie finds herself invigorated by the thought of creating something new, of bringing vibrancy and joy into the world, just as her father had done for her as a child. A partial payment from Vivid Viral Media has already been processed, adding another layer of excitement and curiosity about how the company operates. She still has questions about the structure of the payments and the nature of the agreement, but for now, she allows herself to bask in the feeling of progress. Nearby, the "Good Luck" cards from her loved ones sit stacked neatly, a reminder of the support system cheering her on from afar. Before she departs, she intends to rise early, prepare breakfast for her family, and soak in these last few quiet moments before embarking on what she hopes will be a life-changing experience. The thought of flying above the stars her father had once painted brings a poetic symmetry to the moment, almost as if he will be watching over her journey. With this comforting thought in mind, she exhales deeply, feeling the weight of anticipation settle as she drifts toward sleep.

Just as she begins to fade into dreams, Bonnie’s mind lingers on the mysterious leather holdall she packed earlier in the day. It feels heavier than she remembers, and the thought briefly unsettles her, though she quickly reassures herself that it’s nothing more than travel essentials. She considers double-checking its contents but ultimately decides against it, trusting her original packing process. Instead, she allows her imagination to take over, picturing herself stepping into the bustling streets of a new city, surrounded by unfamiliar faces and endless possibilities. She envisions the thrill of meeting new people, of immersing herself in a world that is both foreign and exhilarating. The mixture of nervousness and excitement lulls her into a deep slumber, where dreams of adventure intertwine with memories of her father’s gentle presence. Tomorrow, she will step into the unknown, armed with determination, the encouragement of those who believe in her, and the unwavering hope that the path ahead holds something truly extraordinary.

# Chapter 74

Chapter 74 of *We Solve Murders* sets the stage with Amy and Steve standing outside The Brass Monkey, a lively pub surrounded by vibrant flowers. The pub offers a stark contrast to the warm summer evening filled with the sound of laughter and casual conversations. As they wait for Rosie to join them, the pair exchanges light-hearted comments about returning to familiar settings and the idea of participating in the pub quiz scheduled for the night. Amy enjoys the simplicity of these discussions, particularly about their life in the New Forest, but she confesses that while she finds comfort in observing, she prefers not to fully immerse herself in the routine life that others seem to embrace. Her perspective hints at a deeper sense of detachment, revealing the complexity of her character as someone who remains an outsider in the midst of seemingly ordinary surroundings.

As the conversation continues, Rosie arrives with an overnight bag, sharing her mixed feelings about The Pig, her accommodation for the night. While she’s pleased with the place, she expresses unease about the ongoing threat of Eddie, a hitman still targeting her. This prompts a more serious discussion between the three as Rosie voices her concerns about Vasiliy Karpin, another dangerous figure who could be lurking in the background. The group, aware of the looming danger, talks about their vulnerabilities and the safety measures they must consider moving forward. The tone shifts from casual to cautious, with each person acknowledging that the dangers they face are very real, even if they are momentarily distracted by the seemingly innocent quiz night ahead. Their collective concern begins to set the stage for more revelations, reminding them that their normal interactions are often overshadowed by the threats they face in their line of work.

Once inside The Brass Monkey, the group is welcomed by a lively crowd gearing up for the weekly quiz. As Amy scans the room, she spots familiar faces like Jyoti and John,

but the moment takes a startling turn when Martin, who had supposedly been killed, reveals himself. It turns out that Martin is actually Jeff Nolan, and his death had been fabricated as a means to escape the clutches of François Loubet, who had been trying to kill him. Jeff’s elaborate ruse had allowed him to hide at Steve's house, and he made his unexpected reappearance just in time for the quiz. His entrance, while surprising, serves as a reminder of the complex and dangerous web the group has been navigating, as they uncover layers of deception within their own circle. This moment sets a tense tone as they begin to probe the depth of their troubles, realizing that the danger they face is not just external but deeply entwined with their own relationships and alliances.

The conversation takes a darker turn when Jeff reveals the true extent of the danger surrounding them. Both he and Amy are still very much in jeopardy, with Loubet’s ties creating an even more complicated situation. It becomes evident that Henk, one of their own, is also involved in the mess they’ve found themselves in, which complicates their trust and strategy moving forward. Amid the revelation of these stakes, the atmosphere lightens for a brief moment when Jeff and Henk engage in a playful exchange about a soap opera star. Amy, exhausted by their back-and-forth, steps in to provide the correct answer, adding a touch of humor to the tense situation. Yet, even in this lighthearted moment, the undercurrent of danger remains, as the group knows that their personal relationships and the threat of Loubet’s reach are far from resolved.

The chapter ends on a bittersweet note as the group, despite the heavy tension, attempts to enjoy what should have been a simple night out. As the quiz continues, Amy finds herself wondering if they will ever fully understand the complexities of the danger surrounding them. The night, meant to offer a brief respite, instead serves as a reminder of the constant uncertainty they face, with new threats and hidden alliances waiting to be uncovered. Their camaraderie provides some comfort, but it also highlights the precariousness of their situation. As they move forward, Amy’s curiosity about how the pieces of this puzzle will fit together only deepens, leaving readers anticipating the twists and turns yet to come.

# Chapter 73

Chapter 73 of *We Solve Murders* delves into a deeply engaging dinner conversation between Rosie and Derek Charters, blending personal anecdotes with the weight of an investigation that has been inching closer to dangerous territory. The pair, who initially engage in light banter over their attire, soon find the conversation veering into darker, more pressing matters. Derek, using his background in investment banking, remarks on the scale of financial transactions tied to Vivid Viral Media, a social media agency that has been linked to significant payments to influencers. He highlights the sum of £150,000 paid to Mark Gooch and £200,000 to Jackson Lynch, amounts that point to larger, more shadowy dealings behind the scenes. The size of these figures raises red flags about the agency's role in potential money laundering, and Derek expresses his concern that the legitimacy of these transactions is highly questionable. Rosie, catching the drift of his suspicion, probes deeper into the situation by asking whether any connections exist between the agency's prominent figurehead, Felicity Woollaston, and the clients whose financial ties have now come under scrutiny.

As the conversation develops, Derek lightens the mood by shifting to personal anecdotes. He casually mentions Carol, who now lives in Jamaica with a ski instructor, adding a humorous twist to the evening. Rosie, in a bid to continue the lighthearted theme, humorously compares their differing life experiences. However, the mood quickly shifts back to the grim nature of the investigation at hand as they discuss the recent murders linked to Rosie's close friend. Derek, sensing Rosie's growing tension, voices his concerns for her safety, but Rosie brushes it off with a joke, referencing a past threat from a Russian billionaire who had once posed a danger to her. Her casual approach hides an underlying reality—she's no stranger to the risks she faces, but the constant threats have taken their toll, and her ability to manage the pressure is beginning to show. Even as she deflects with humor, the weight of the situation

continues to hover over her, making her more acutely aware of the dangers lurking around every corner.

As Rosie’s focus shifts, her attention is caught by a figure sneaking up the stairs—Eddie Flood, a man with deep connections to her past and present troubles. His presence immediately raises alarms, as Eddie’s association with dangerous individuals, particularly Vasiliy Karpin, adds layers of uncertainty to the situation. She begins to wonder whether Eddie is now targeting her instead of Amy, questioning his true motives and whether his arrival signals the next phase in an ever-worsening series of events. The discomfort she feels in his presence only grows, as Rosie contemplates her next move. Is confronting Eddie the right decision, or does it risk escalating an already volatile situation? The mental gears turn rapidly in her mind as she prepares for whatever comes next, knowing that every choice could have significant consequences.

Derek, seemingly unaware of the shift in Rosie’s thoughts, offers her more wine, attempting to lighten the mood with casual conversation. However, Rosie, now fully alert and focused on the threat she feels in Eddie’s presence, opts for water instead, signaling a shift in her mindset from relaxation to readiness. The decision is subtle but revealing—Rosie is no longer willing to indulge in distractions or relax. She knows she needs to stay sharp, especially with the unknown threat looming large in the form of Eddie. Derek, ever the lighthearted one, makes a joke about her newfound sobriety, but Rosie barely reacts, her mind consumed with the potential danger that Eddie represents. This decision marks a clear turning point for her—what should have been a relaxing evening is now a stark reminder of the perilous world she’s navigating. The chapter closes with a lingering sense of unease, highlighting the fragility of the situation and the ever-present danger surrounding Rosie as she prepares for what may come next.

# Chapter 72

In Chapter 72 of *We Solve Murders*, Eddie Flood finds himself at a crossroads, mentally preparing for the next phase of his mission. After successfully bribing someone at the airfield, he confirms that Amy, Rosie, and Steve have landed in England and are making their way toward the New Forest. With their movements now traceable, Eddie studies a detailed map, taking note of the thickly wooded terrain that surrounds their destination. The vastness of the landscape offers both an opportunity and a challenge—perfect for evasion, but also for ambush. Instead of immediately following them, he decides to exercise caution, knowing that patience is often the key to success. He also resolves not to inform Rob Kenna about Amy's presence; after all, that is someone else's problem. His focus remains locked on his primary objective, one that he knows will require precision and careful execution.

After pocketing the majority of the £15,000 Rob had given him, Eddie chooses to settle into an upscale country hotel known as The Pig. Tucked away in an idyllic countryside setting, the hotel is renowned for its fresh, locally-sourced cuisine, impeccable service, and a charming yet discreet atmosphere—a perfect place to regroup while keeping a close watch on events. His room overlooks a picturesque view of rolling green fields, where red deer can be seen grazing just beyond the tree line. To an ordinary guest, this peaceful scene would inspire relaxation, but for Eddie, it serves as a stark contrast to the turmoil brewing in his mind. The hotel's cozy decor, rustic elegance, and scent of freshly baked bread make it almost impossible to believe he is here to orchestrate something far more sinister. Yet, despite the serenity of the setting, his mind remains tangled in calculations, probabilities, and contingencies—all crucial elements of what lies ahead.

As Eddie tries to settle in, he contemplates the mechanics of his potential attack, running through different scenarios. A seemingly minor but crucial question gnaws at

him: if he were to fire a shot through a window, would the glass deflect the bullet? If the angle is wrong, if the glass shatters unpredictably, or if the resistance is higher than expected, it could alter his trajectory completely. He cannot afford miscalculations. He mulls over these technicalities while pacing near his window, his fingers brushing over the sleek surface of his carefully concealed weapon. He assures himself that he has only one opportunity to act, and any error could cost him more than just money—it could cost him his life.

With his nerves on edge, Eddie decides to head downstairs for a meal, hoping that a good plate of food might provide a momentary distraction from the weight of his mission. The dining room, with its warm lighting and soft murmur of conversations, presents an almost surreal scene of normalcy—couples enjoying wine, families sharing stories, and businessmen lost in their screens. He scans the menu, eventually settling on a classic fish and chips, though his mind remains preoccupied. As the waiter takes his order, Eddie catches a glint of something striking in the dim light—a ruby-and-emerald brooch adorning the shoulder of a woman seated near the window. His pulse quickens when he realizes who it belongs to: Rosie D’Antonio.

Rosie is deep in conversation with an older gentleman, dressed in an understated but elegant countryside ensemble, exuding an air of quiet confidence. Eddie clenches his jaw, knowing her presence here changes everything. If Rosie is in the hotel, it means she is likely staying nearby, which poses both a risk and an opportunity. He must reassess his strategy carefully; too much movement or attention drawn toward himself could alert her, and the last thing he needs is for Rosie to become suspicious of his presence. This new variable forces Eddie to reconsider his next move.

Instead of lingering in the dining area, Eddie makes a calculated decision to return to his room. His steps are steady, but his mind is racing with possibilities. Could Rosie be involved in something larger than he anticipated? Has she already sensed his presence, or is this purely a coincidence? He knows he cannot afford to make assumptions, and from this point forward, every choice he makes must be measured and precise. As he closes his door behind him, Eddie takes a deep breath, steadies his

hands, and begins preparing for what comes next.

# Chapter 71

In Chapter 71 of "We Solve Murders," Steve arrives at Gary Gough's house, stepping out of a helicopter confidently. It hasn't been long since their last encounter, where they discussed Gary's daughter. Gary approaches, and Steve explains the need for a quiet landing spot, to which Gary responds nonchalantly about legality regarding heliport usage. Rosie, one of the companions, adds a humorous touch, suggesting anyone with a helipad is likely involved in unlawful activities. Amy, observing Gary, inquires about his dubious past, linking him to submarine drug smuggling.

Steve reveals a sense of urgency, explaining they are in danger as someone is attempting to kill both Rosie and Amy. Gary responds with a mix of skepticism and interest, expressing a desire to be involved, hinting at a monetary motive. Amid the tension, Henk introduces himself, adding his Dutch identity to the mix. The conversation toggles between danger and banter with Henk jokingly suggesting that if he turns up dead, the blame should fall on the trio.

As they walk toward the house, Steve spots Lauren Gough and her friend, Mollie Bright, joyfully watching videos—a moment of normalcy amid their chaos. Gary shares some insights about Lauren's conflicts, mentioning her aspirations of becoming a veterinarian and a recent reconciliation with Mollie, illustrating the complexities of adolescence.

After deliberating transportation, they decide against a minibus, preferring Gary's Range Rover. As Rosie drives them, an encounter with Felicity from the minibus unfolds, highlighting another layer of community connection and humor. Felicity mentions organizing Steve's cupboards, showcasing her penchant for tidiness. The mood lightens further with friendly exchanges and an acknowledgment of the looming pub quiz.

As they prepare to leave, Lauren approaches Rosie for a selfie, momentarily shifting focus from the underlying tensions—indicative of a world intertwined with danger and celebrity, underscoring the chapter's mix of action, humor, and interpersonal dynamics as they navigate through complexities of their lives.

# Chapter 70

Chapter 70 of *We Solve Murders* delves into Rob Kenna's unsettling reflections on his profession, his shifting priorities, and the dangers that lie ahead. As he sits in a dimly lit Dubai apartment, he contemplates how effortless it is to eliminate a person, particularly within the prison system, where violence is an everyday occurrence. His latest assignment, the execution of Courtney Lewis, a woman entangled in François Loubet's financial operations, weighs heavily on his mind. While he has taken many lives before, this particular task feels different. It raises questions he does not want to answer—questions about trust, betrayal, and whether he himself is at risk of being discarded like so many before him. A realization dawns on him: working for Loubet is like dancing on a razor's edge, and he might already be bleeding.

His paranoia begins to manifest more vividly as he shifts his attention to Amy Wheeler, someone who, if left unchecked, could become a formidable adversary. He wonders if she has started connecting the dots, and if so, whether she will make a move against him. Amy is far from alone—she has allies like Rosie D'Antonio, a sharp-minded writer, and Steve Wheeler, a former police officer with enough experience to be dangerous. These thoughts send a chill through him. With Eddie Flood no longer in the picture, Rob reaches an unsettling conclusion: if Amy is truly a threat, then it is up to him to neutralize her before she can act against him. The idea settles in his mind like an undeniable truth, and for the first time in a long while, he feels the cold grip of fear at his throat.

In an effort to momentarily escape his troubling thoughts, Rob meets with Mickey Moody, a longtime acquaintance who provides a welcome, albeit temporary, distraction. Over two pints of beer, their conversation shifts between casual reminiscing and discussions about work. Rob tries to recruit Mickey, offering him a lucrative role in tracking Amy's movements, but Mickey refuses. He has seen too many

people get swallowed up by the kind of world Rob inhabits, and he has no desire to become another casualty. Rob respects his decision, though deep down, he envies Mickey’s ability to live a life untouched by constant bloodshed. Their brief exchange highlights the stark contrast between two men who started in similar places but chose vastly different paths.

However, Rob cannot afford to dwell on what-ifs. His survival depends on information and control, both of which he has learned to wield with precision. He has set up alerts to monitor Amy’s social media interactions, particularly through her association with Rosie D’Antonio, whose public presence makes tracking easier. The fact that Amy remains within reach reassures him, reinforcing his belief that he is always one step ahead. But the weight of his profession bears down on him, reminding him that in this line of work, trust is fleeting, and loyalty is nothing more than a transactional agreement. With this in mind, he considers expanding his list of targets, even contemplating the elimination of Amy’s father-in-law, Steve Wheeler, to ensure no lingering threats remain.

As the chapter draws to a close, Rob finds himself staring out over the Dubai skyline, absorbing the shimmering lights of a city built on wealth and deception. He knows that despite his confidence, Loubet may not see him as an indispensable asset forever. If his employer decides he is no longer useful, he will become just another expendable name on a list. But for now, he refuses to let fear dictate his actions. He will eliminate his targets, remove the threats, and prove his worth—at least, until the day comes when he finds himself on the other end of a gun.

# Chapter 69

Chapter 69 of *We Solve Murders* unfolds in the Gregor household, where Bonnie Gregor is immersed in the process of packing for her upcoming trip. The air buzzes with excitement and mild chaos as her mother, Lois, supervises while her children, Mimi and Maxie, attempt to "help" in their own unpredictable way. Bonnie meticulously selects her wardrobe, treating the process as both a professional obligation and an opportunity to showcase her personal brand. For her, this isn't just about stuffing clothes into a suitcase—it's a calculated effort to ensure she presents herself flawlessly in every situation. Lois watches with a mixture of amusement and admiration, occasionally chiming in with remarks about Bonnie's choices. A comment about Bonnie's decision to pack bikinis for an influencer event promoting paint leads to laughter, with Lois playfully questioning the logic behind it. Bonnie, unfazed, explains that social media marketing often thrives on visual appeal rather than strict industry relevance.

Despite the seemingly lighthearted packing, Bonnie's mind is preoccupied with the weight of this opportunity. She recognizes that her transition from working behind the scenes for companies like Forest Paints to stepping into the spotlight as an influencer is a defining moment. Though she has been steadily growing her online presence, this trip signifies a major step forward. A significant part of her excitement stems from her partnership with Felicity Woollaston, whose belief in Bonnie has boosted her confidence. As she folds her clothes with precision, she envisions the possibilities that await—networking with key figures in the industry, expanding her reach, and proving that she is more than just a behind-the-scenes consultant. She briefly wonders if she should express her gratitude to Felicity by taking her out to lunch upon her return. It's a small gesture, but one that could strengthen their professional bond.

Meanwhile, Mimi and Maxie bring their own brand of energy into the room, transforming the task into a game. Their excited chatter fills the space as they pretend to pack for their own grand adventures. Maxie, in his usual dramatic fashion, suggests they should take a trip to the moon, prompting Bonnie to chuckle at his boundless imagination. Mimi, always the voice of reason, proposes France as a more realistic destination, which sparks a fleeting daydream in Bonnie’s mind. She allows herself to imagine a future where she can take her family on a luxurious vacation—one that is fully funded by her successful career as an influencer. The idea fuels her determination, reinforcing why this opportunity is so important. Lois, noticing her daughter's thoughtful expression, reassures Bonnie that she’s on the right path. Bonnie smiles, grateful for her mother’s unwavering support.

As the conversation shifts toward Bonnie’s upcoming responsibilities, Lois playfully pretends to be a customs officer, inspecting Bonnie’s suitcase with exaggerated seriousness. “And what’s this?” she teases, holding up a bottle of organic paint. Bonnie laughs, explaining that her contract includes an “unboxing” video to showcase a new line of eco-friendly paints—a trendy niche that influencers have recently embraced. Lois raises an eyebrow, skeptical about the concept of influencers promoting paint, but ultimately shrugs it off with a knowing smile. She has always supported Bonnie’s ambitions, even when she doesn’t fully understand them. The lighthearted exchange eases some of Bonnie’s pre-trip nerves, allowing her to momentarily enjoy the absurdity of her profession. She appreciates that, despite all the stress of packing, her mother and children keep her grounded.

As the evening progresses, Bonnie finds herself reflecting on how far she has come. Not long ago, she was simply working for brands like Forest Paints, helping others market their products. Now, she is stepping into the role of an influencer herself, using her own personality and style to shape her career. The transition is both thrilling and terrifying, but she knows she is ready. With her suitcase finally packed and her plans in place, she takes a deep breath, feeling a mix of anticipation and confidence. She knows that success in this field requires risk, adaptability, and a willingness to step outside her comfort zone. As she prepares for bed, she reassures herself that she has

everything she needs—not just in her suitcase, but within herself. Tomorrow marks the beginning of a new chapter, and Bonnie is determined to make the most of it.

# Chapter 68

Chapter 68 of *We Solve Murders* delves deeper into the complexities of François Loubet’s character, showcasing his thoughts as both a business mogul and a manipulative figure within the criminal world. At the beginning of the chapter, Loubet reflects on the most recent mishap involving Rob Kenna, whose hired hitman failed to carry out the task of eliminating Rosie D'Antonio. Rosie, a highly skilled and perceptive writer, outwitted Kenna’s henchman, turning the tables on him with her sharp mind and charisma. For Loubet, this incident is both amusing and revealing, as it underscores the unpredictability of those involved in his operations. However, his amusement is tempered by the darker realities of his line of work, where every victory is short-lived and replaced by another looming challenge that must be managed meticulously.

As the chapter progresses, Loubet's amusement gives way to frustration as he reflects on Rob Kenna’s failure. His trust in Kenna, already fragile, reaches a breaking point. This erosion of trust leads Loubet to contemplate a more drastic course of action—alerting the authorities about Amy Wheeler’s involvement in multiple crimes. Her reckless behavior and the trail of blood she’s left behind have turned into a significant liability, and Loubet now sees her as a potential threat to his carefully constructed operations. Despite his calculating nature, Loubet faces an internal conflict—he knows that if Amy remains alive for another forty-eight hours, her arrest becomes inevitable. He contemplates whether her death would be a more favorable outcome, ultimately realizing that eliminating her might be seen as an act of greed rather than a necessary step in the pursuit of his goals. In his mind, he knows that keeping her alive and allowing the authorities to handle her might benefit him in the short term, but the long-term consequences remain unclear. The complexity of the situation weighs heavily on him, and while he is poised to make a decision, the full

extent of his options is still unfolding.

Despite these dark, looming decisions regarding Amy, Loubet shifts his focus to the pragmatic side of his business dealings. In the world of high-stakes crime and international trade, the wheels of commerce never stop turning, no matter the personal or criminal challenges one faces. Loubet expresses a degree of satisfaction as he reveals a successful shipment is on track from London to São Paulo, a key move in his ongoing operations. Unlike previous shipments, this time he has chosen to work directly with Vivid Viral, cutting out the middleman and ensuring greater control over the process. His decision to bypass intermediaries such as Joe Blow signals his growing confidence in his ability to handle major operations independently, demonstrating his sharp business acumen. This shift not only signifies a more direct approach to conducting business but also highlights his desire to streamline his efforts and maximize efficiency. Even in the face of mounting threats and criminal investigations, Loubet's focus on business remains unwavering. His declaration, “commerce stops for no man,” encapsulates his unrelenting commitment to maintaining control of his empire, no matter what challenges arise. For Loubet, the complexities of life—whether personal, criminal, or professional—are merely different aspects of the same game, and his ability to navigate them with a cool head remains one of his defining traits.

As the chapter draws to a close, Loubet finds himself once again contemplating his position. He is well aware that the next few days will prove pivotal in shaping his future, both in business and in his more illicit endeavors. Despite the tension and the potential risks of his ongoing operations, Loubet retains his characteristic confidence, knowing that he has the tools and the mindset to handle whatever comes next. His amusement at Rob Kenna’s incompetence and Rosie’s cleverness has already faded into the background, replaced by the sobering realization that his choices will determine his future. The chapter ends with Loubet maintaining his signature composure, preparing for the challenges that await, knowing that no matter how complex the situation may become, he will always remain one step ahead.

# Chapter 67

In Chapter 67 of *We Solve Murders*, Henk confronts Amy, Rosie, and Steve Wheeler in a private dining room at the Rockgrove Vineyard. The tension is immediately palpable as he reveals the reason for his unexpected appearance: his growing concerns about their safety in light of a string of recent murders, which seem to be linked to them. His ominous admission that he is armed with a gun only heightens the sense of danger surrounding the encounter. Amy, feeling the weight of the situation, grows cautious, her instinct to protect herself kicking in. She fears that this confrontation could end badly, especially as Henk's intentions seem unclear. However, Henk reassures her, asserting that he's merely trying to protect both himself and her, while revealing his own plan to turn her over to the authorities. This conflicting information only adds to the uncertainty, leaving Amy and the others unsure of where Henk's loyalties truly lie. To further complicate matters, Henk accuses Amy of being the primary suspect in the string of murders, explaining that her connection to Jeff, whose clients have been dying off since their split, has raised suspicion. Henk's words sting, and although Amy vehemently denies his accusations, the seriousness of the situation cannot be ignored.

The tension escalates as Henk brings up a darker backstory involving Jeff and his connections to the notorious money smuggler, François Loubet. He suggests that Jeff was the mastermind behind a complex international money-smuggling operation, and now, with the clients connected to Jeff turning up dead, Amy's involvement appears increasingly suspicious. To bolster his claims, Henk produces an envelope filled with client files from Maximum Impact Solutions. He points to several individuals listed in the files, all of whom Jeff personally recruited, and claims that they are now deceased, linking the deaths to a potential criminal conspiracy. Henk implies that Amy's knowledge of these clients and her connection to Jeff puts her at the heart of the entire operation. Despite Amy's protests and her denial of any involvement, Henk insists on

the possibility that she could be implicated in these murders. His allegations seem almost too far-fetched, but the circumstantial evidence he presents leaves the group questioning the true extent of the conspiracy at play. Henk’s persistent insinuations about their involvement in a dark web of crime force Amy, Steve, and Rosie to consider just how deeply they might be entangled in something far more sinister than they ever imagined.

Just when the conversation seems to be reaching a boiling point, Steve, ever the one to inject humor into even the most tense situations, attempts to lighten the mood by mentioning their upcoming pub quiz at The Brass Monkey. His offhand comment about avoiding violence for the next twenty-four hours seems to momentarily diffuse the tension, as laughter fills the air for a brief second. However, Henk remains undeterred by the attempt at humor, maintaining his serious stance on the matter at hand. He agrees to let Steve review the files, despite his lingering mistrust of the group. As the files are examined, the group’s unease grows, and they realize that there is far more to the case than they had initially suspected. The contents of the files hold the key to unlocking the conspiracy, but the questions surrounding Henk’s motives and his involvement with Felicity only deepen the mystery. The atmosphere remains thick with suspicion and uncertainty, as the characters navigate this complex web of deceit. The underlying tensions of loyalty, betrayal, and hidden agendas continue to cloud their judgment, making it clear that their investigation is far from over. As they prepare to leave the vineyard, there is a distinct sense of foreboding about what lies ahead. With each new revelation, the investigation becomes more intricate, and the characters are left to face not just the external threats of their case but the internal struggles with trust and betrayal that will shape their actions in the chapters to come.

# Chapter 66

In Chapter 66 of "We Solve Murders," Max Highfield sits alone in the Emirates First Class Lounge, his frustration simmering just below the surface. Betrayed by his bodyguard, Henk, who failed to show up as promised, Max feels isolated and vulnerable. His irritation intensifies as he’s left to serve himself, fetching his own salad, a task he considers beneath him given his status. The situation stirs up feelings of frustration and anger, as Max is used to being taken care of, especially when it comes to the simplest of tasks. As he stews in his annoyance, a nervous teenager approaches, confirming that he is indeed Max Highfield. Max, still irritated, raises his sunglasses briefly in acknowledgment, his response short and dismissive. The teen, excited and nervous, goes on to express his admiration for Max's role in "Titans of War," prompting Max to comment on his underwhelming performance in the film and how he felt sidelined in that role. He also briefly reflects on how his work in "The Rose of Sarasota" went largely unrecognized, further fueling his dissatisfaction with his career.

Max's discomfort grows as the conversation continues, not just because of the intrusion on his solitude, but because he begins to suspect that this young teen, who clearly doesn’t belong in such a lavish environment, might have gained access to the lounge in a less-than-legal manner. This question gnaws at him as he watches the boy continue to gush about Max’s past films. The boy’s persistent admiration, though somewhat flattering, only adds to Max's sense of annoyance, especially considering his current frustration with his bodyguard’s absence and the looming pressures of his professional life. Max is also preparing for a major ceremony at a Diamond Conference, where he is expected to deliver a comedy routine crafted by Shaun and Christine. The pressure of this looming responsibility, paired with the unexpected encounter with the teenager, feels overwhelming. Eventually, the boy asks for a photograph with Max,

and despite his irritation, Max reluctantly agrees, noticing the boy’s hands shaking with excitement. As the teenager eagerly rushes back to his parents, Max returns to his meal, feeling both violated and, oddly enough, slightly appeased by the boy’s admiration.

Max’s thoughts then shift to his bodyguard, Henk, whom he tries to contact to express his frustration. However, his attempt to make a phone call is thwarted by lounge staff who inform him that calls are prohibited in the area. Max, still simmering with anger, identifies himself and tries to reason with the staff member, but they remain unmoved, adding to his sense of helplessness. The situation causes him to reflect on the differences between Henk and his old friend Jeff Nolan, who would always answer Max’s calls, no matter the time or situation. This comparison leads Max to question his relationship with Henk, wondering if his trust in the bodyguard is misplaced. Given the recent threats he’s been receiving, this moment of vulnerability forces him to reassess his reliance on Henk, especially in light of the darker, more sinister forces he feels are beginning to close in around him. The emotional turmoil Max experiences in this scene is marked by both anger and a creeping sense of fear, as he contemplates whether a bodyguard is truly necessary or if these recent threats are simply a sign of deeper troubles lurking beneath the surface.

Amidst this emotional turmoil, Max’s mind drifts to his film career, specifically his role in "The Rose of Sarasota." Max had hoped that the film would provide him with the recognition he so desperately craved, especially considering the complexity of his role as a terminally ill soldier. He had envisioned the film earning him an Oscar nomination, an accolade that would have solidified his place in Hollywood. Instead, the film's failure left Max feeling not only disappointed but deeply frustrated. In the world of film, death is often treated as a trivial plot point or an afterthought, something Max finds both insulting and reductive. As he sits in the luxury of the lounge, surrounded by high-end comforts and indulgence, his thoughts turn dark, and he finds himself confronting his own mortality. The contrast between the superficial luxury surrounding him and the deeper, more existential reflections he is having highlights the internal conflict Max is grappling with. In the end, this chapter offers a profound glimpse into Max's psyche,

illustrating his inner battle between his external persona as a successful actor and the vulnerability he feels when faced with the reality of his own life and career. The themes of isolation, frustration, and the superficiality of fame resonate throughout, leaving Max with a haunting realization that even in the most luxurious settings, the weight of personal and professional failure can feel all-consuming.

# Chapter 65

In Chapter 65 of *We Solve Murders*, Steve finds himself in a precarious situation as he sits aboard a small helicopter flying over Ireland. His decision to join the flight has quickly turned into a regretful one as he feels the overwhelming nausea take hold of him. The pilot, attempting to offer some helpful advice, suggests Steve aim his sickness towards the open fields below. However, despite his best efforts, Steve is unable to manage his discomfort, and the turbulence only worsens. Amid this chaos, Amy tries to maintain some semblance of composure and answers a call from Adam. During their conversation, Adam reveals shocking news: he had planned to visit Courtney Lewis, only to learn that she has mysteriously died in prison just a day before their conversation. The news hits both Steve and Rosie hard, with their minds racing to process the shocking revelation. They are left to wonder how such a tragedy could occur, especially given that Adam was unaware of Courtney's death until now, and whether the authorities were privy to his planned visit. The sudden and strange nature of Courtney's death prompts the group to consider their next steps and how to dig deeper into the circumstances surrounding her death. It leads them to contemplate reaching out to Tony Taylor to uncover more about Felicity Woollaston, who had provided the crucial information about Courtney’s case.

As the helicopter finally touches down on the ground, Steve exhales in relief, thankful that the terrifying journey is finally over. Despite his sense of relief, he can’t help but feel disheartened by the environmental toll the flight has taken on the picturesque Irish landscape. The beautiful countryside, now tainted by the turbulence he experienced, serves as a reminder of how the journey’s discomfort overshadowed the otherwise stunning views. Amy, ever the voice of reason, insists that they immediately contact Tony Taylor for more information, but Steve hesitates, unsure of how to proceed given the complexity of the situation. After some thought, Steve agrees to

follow through with the call, though he remains skeptical about what they might learn. When Tony answers, he claims not to know Courtney Lewis, a statement that sharply contradicts earlier conversations where Tony had been privy to Courtney's information. This raises even more questions, leaving Steve and the team suspicious of Tony's motives and the inconsistencies in his statements. Furthermore, Felicity, who is with Tony, also claims no knowledge of Courtney, adding further fuel to the fire. This conflicting information makes Steve wonder whether Felicity is hiding something or if someone else in Axley had passed along the information about Courtney without the knowledge of Tony. The mystery only grows more complex as the investigation continues, and the team feels more uncertain about the motivations of those involved.

The ongoing investigation takes a darker turn as the team digs deeper into these conflicting accounts. Rosie, always the determined one, urges the group to refocus on another suspicious murder that could potentially tie into their current case. This suggestion pushes the investigation forward, keeping the team on their toes as they begin to realize that there may be more interconnected cases than initially thought. As they head toward the winery for a much-needed break, the tension in the air is palpable, as the group knows that they are now dealing with something much larger than they originally anticipated. The blend of humor and suspense that has colored the chapter gives way to a more serious tone, with the team determined to get to the bottom of the mystery. The complexity of their investigation has deepened, and the personal relationships between the characters are starting to come into sharper focus. Steve's frustrations and doubts about the people around him add to the intrigue, as he begins to wonder just how much he can trust those he is working with. Meanwhile, the team's growing sense of urgency heightens, as each new piece of information seems to raise more questions than answers. As they prepare to tackle the next phase of their investigation, it becomes clear that the path to uncovering the truth is not going to be easy. With secrets, lies, and hidden motives lurking around every corner, the team is about to face even more obstacles in their pursuit of justice. The chapter sets the stage for even more twists and turns, leaving the reader eager to find out what happens next.

# Chapter 64

In Chapter 64, Henk finds himself at Rockgrove Vineyard, a picturesque location where he has joined a tour group, despite the fact that he has never been particularly interested in Irish wine. He secretly prefers milk, a beverage that often makes people uncomfortable, and his presence among the wine enthusiasts adds an unusual dynamic to the group. As they walk through the lush vineyard, Henk’s eyes fall upon a tree, which sparks a sudden and morbid thought. This is the very tree where Mark Gooch was found dead, and without hesitation, Henk shares this grisly detail with the group. His blunt mention of the influencer’s mysterious death, including the disturbing fact that Gooch was found nailed to the tree, causes an uncomfortable silence and an eerie sense of horror among the other tourists. The tour guide, clearly caught off guard, hastily attempts to steer the conversation in a different direction by introducing the Bacchus grape, which has gained increasing attention for its significance in Irish wine production. The shift in conversation does little to settle the uneasy atmosphere, as the other members of the group begin to pull away from Henk, uncomfortable with his open discussion of such a disturbing subject.

What the rest of the group doesn't know is that Henk is not just a peculiar tourist, but a man with a hidden agenda. Tucked discreetly in his waistband is a gun, an unsettling detail that adds to the growing sense of tension surrounding him. As he checks his phone, Henk notes that Amy Wheeler will be arriving in approximately thirty minutes. He begins to reflect on the potential discoveries they might make during their investigation, particularly focusing on Mark Gooch’s mysterious arrival in a taxi, his missing leather holdall, and the fact that a local police officer was the one to discover him. Henk is convinced that the real breakthrough in the case will occur when they share lunch, a moment he anticipates will bring to light crucial information about Jeff Nolan's involvement in the events leading up to Gooch's death. With his thoughts

lingering on the unfolding investigation, Henk steps closer to the tree, inspecting the holes that have been carefully filled and painted over. He’s pleased with the job done, as the concealment of the holes seems to have been executed flawlessly. In his usual blunt fashion, Henk proudly announces to the tour group that the holes have been filled with wood glue, offering the observation without any consideration for how uncomfortable it may make the others. His lack of social awareness only adds to the discomfort, further distancing him from the rest of the group, who are now visibly uneasy in his presence.

Despite his awkwardness, Henk’s observations continue to reflect a sharp and methodical approach to the investigation. His ability to focus on seemingly minor details, such as the wood glue used to fill the holes in the tree, suggests that he might be onto something that others have missed. The tourists, however, are growing increasingly uncomfortable with his behavior, and it’s clear that Henk’s fixation on the case is causing a shift in the group’s dynamic. His comments, though insightful in their own right, are unsettling to those around him, especially given the gruesome nature of the case he’s discussing. Yet, despite the social tension he’s causing, Henk remains determined in his belief that the investigation will yield important revelations. He anticipates that the lunch meeting with Amy will provide them with the breakthrough they need, especially when discussing Jeff Nolan’s role in Gooch’s death. The mounting suspicion surrounding Nolan only fuels Henk’s obsession with uncovering the truth, and he is resolute in his belief that their collective efforts will eventually crack the case wide open.

The chapter takes on a more somber tone as the group’s interactions grow more strained, and the focus shifts increasingly toward the investigation itself. Henk’s detailed examination of the tree and his blunt revelations about the hidden evidence suggest that he is, indeed, close to unraveling something significant. His keen observations, though socially inappropriate, indicate that he is on the right track, and the group’s growing unease only highlights the high stakes involved. With every passing moment, it becomes clear that Henk’s connection to the investigation is deepening, and the truth about Mark Gooch’s death may soon be exposed. The

anticipation of the lunch meeting adds a layer of suspense, as the team prepares to piece together the scattered clues they have uncovered so far. As the tour progresses, the tension between the tourists and Henk only intensifies, setting the stage for the next phase of the investigation and making it clear that this case is far from resolved.

# Chapter 63

In Chapter 63 of *We Solve Murders*, Eddie Flood finds himself at a crossroads, grappling with the consequences of his recent actions. The encounter that has compromised his position has left him feeling exposed and vulnerable, and he knows that the public eye is now firmly fixed on him. Eddie reaches out to Rob, hoping for guidance, but Rob's reaction is one of confusion and frustration. Rob informs Eddie that footage of Rosie on *An Irish Breakfast* has now gone viral, further complicating matters. Rob's disbelief is evident as he wonders how Eddie, once a master of staying under the radar, has become such a hot topic in the media. Eddie recounts the chaotic scenes that unfolded at the Cork airfield, where he was swarmed by an overwhelming number of fans and photographers, making it impossible for him to blend in. The attention he has garnered is a stark reminder of how much his notoriety has increased, putting him in an even more precarious position than before. As Eddie processes the extent of his public exposure, he realizes that his every move is now being watched, and the stakes are higher than ever.

As the conversation with Rob continues, Eddie admits to a failed attempt to take down Amy Wheeler. He recounts how a tinted Mercedes blocked his line of sight, preventing him from getting a clean shot, and the frustration in his voice is palpable. Rob, unable to hide his disappointment, tells Eddie that he's lost his touch and no longer possesses the skills that once made him a formidable adversary. Rob also makes it clear that Eddie is off the job, his blunder escalating the situation to a point where Eddie's face is now plastered all over the media. The humiliation of being publicly identified makes it impossible for Eddie to carry on his assignment without drawing further attention. Despite the setback, Eddie decides to keep the $15,000 that Rob had offered him, recognizing that he can still make use of the money in the future. The conversation between them reveals not only the growing tension in their professional relationship

but also the realization that Eddie’s failure has changed the course of their plans. The stakes have grown considerably, and Eddie must now navigate a world where his every move is under scrutiny.

The tone of their conversation shifts as Rob, now clearly anxious about the consequences, highlights the urgency of the situation. Rob half-jokingly suggests hiring a Scandinavian hitman to finish the job if Amy doesn’t die soon, but his concern is genuine. Eddie, however, becomes more intrigued by Rob’s mysterious employer, pondering how learning more about this figure could give him the leverage he needs. With Rob officially off the job, Eddie reflects on his next steps, deciding that keeping an eye on Amy Wheeler is crucial. He has shifted his motivations from eliminating her to keeping her alive for his own benefit. The more Eddie observes the unfolding media coverage, the more he realizes that having Amy alive might serve him better than her death would. He notices that his photo is being shared widely, and one news app even dubs him a “mystery hero.” This unexpected recognition gives Eddie a sense of accomplishment, even if it is not the kind of recognition he had initially sought. Despite the failure of his previous attempt, Eddie finds himself taking a more strategic approach to the situation. He begins to see the bigger picture, understanding that by maintaining control over the narrative, he can still manipulate the situation to his advantage. Eddie’s internal conflict between his initial goal and his growing desire for power and recognition shows how much his thinking has evolved. He is no longer just focused on the assignment at hand; now, he is calculating his every move, carefully planning how to stay in the game while positioning himself for greater influence in the ongoing drama. As Eddie reflects on the situation, it becomes clear that his journey has shifted, and the stakes are higher than ever before.

# Chapter 62

In Chapter 62 of *We Solve Murders*, Rosie finds herself at the center of a complex and unfolding drama, beginning with her encounter with Mark, the makeup artist, who admires her ability to look fabulous despite the fact that she’s been deprived of sleep. Rosie, always one to embrace the theatrics of her life, relishes in the chaos she can create and has come to see it as an integral part of who she is. She has spent years perfecting the art of stirring things up, making her presence known in any room she enters. After an evening of fun with Steve, filled with laughter and drinks, the atmosphere takes a sudden turn when Amy walks in with urgent news. Amy’s report on Eddie’s whereabouts adds a serious layer to the situation; Eddie is in Dublin, and according to Amy, he might be more dangerous than they initially thought. The shift from casual conversation to concern is palpable as the group begins to focus on the threat Eddie represents, with tension mounting as they discuss his potential plans.

As the group delves deeper into the discussion about Eddie, Rosie begins to prepare herself for her upcoming appearance on *An Irish Breakfast*, the leading morning show in Ireland. It becomes clear that Rosie’s role on the show is more than just a typical TV appearance; it has now become a platform for her to take control of a rapidly escalating situation. Meanwhile, Amy’s purchase of a gun signals an even deeper conflict brewing behind the scenes, suggesting that the stakes are much higher than they had previously understood. In true Rosie fashion, she decides to make her appearance on the show a strategic move, choosing this opportunity to make a public announcement. Rather than simply participating in the show, she intends to use it to address the increasing tension surrounding Eddie and to push her own agenda. To ensure her announcement reaches the right audience, Rosie contacts Michael O'Doherty, the producer of the show, making sure the message will be broadcast to a wider audience. The realization that she is now using every opportunity to control the

narrative shows her readiness to take the situation into her own hands, even as the danger grows.

The morning of the broadcast arrives, and Rosie and Amy both appear fresh and composed, ready for the spotlight. In contrast, Steve is nursing a hangover after an evening of indulgence, barely able to keep up with the preparations. Rosie steps onto the stage with enthusiasm, and she is warmly welcomed by the hosts, Kellie and Ryan, who express their excitement about having her back on the show. The conversation begins light-heartedly, with Kellie and Ryan joking about Rosie’s drinking habits, but Rosie quickly shifts the focus to something much more serious. She begins recounting her near-drowning experience in South Carolina, an event that has profoundly impacted her. As she shares the details, she reveals that her life was saved by a man who spoke with an Irish accent. This revelation becomes the centerpiece of her announcement, as Rosie shares her mission to track down this mysterious man in order to thank him for his life-saving actions. Just as Rosie begins to describe the man, a photo of Eddie Flood is unexpectedly shown on the screen, causing shockwaves throughout the studio and beyond. The connection between Rosie and Eddie, a man linked to the very danger they have been trying to avoid, is now public knowledge. With a calm yet urgent demeanor, Rosie announces that she is offering a twenty thousand euro reward for any information that can lead to Eddie’s whereabouts, urging the audience to come forward if they have any leads. The revelation sends shockwaves through the studio, and the tension in the air is palpable. As the chapter draws to a close, Rosie reflects on her performance. She wonders if she has done enough to make an impact, while Steve admits to feeling the weight of his hangover. Both prepare to move on to the next steps of their investigation, but it is clear that the road ahead is fraught with uncertainty and danger. The chapter concludes with a sense of anticipation, as the true ramifications of Rosie’s announcement and the hunt for Eddie unfold.

# Chapter 61

In Chapter 61 of *We Solve Murders*, Amy is engulfed by anxiety, her thoughts consumed by the looming threats that have followed her since the deaths of Steve and others. These tragic losses serve as a grim reminder of the dangerous world she's immersed in, forcing her to confront the darker aspects of the life she leads. As she struggles with the emotional weight of the situation, she continues to rely on her honed instincts and the skills she has developed over the years. Eddie Flood, who has been involved in numerous lethal schemes and proved himself to be a formidable adversary, remains a constant presence in her mind. Despite the turmoil she faces, Amy is determined to confront Eddie and take control of her fate, aware that he poses a significant threat that cannot be ignored. She understands that surviving this ordeal will require not just physical strength, but mental acuity, and she steels herself for the challenge ahead.

Amy's resolve leads her to Dublin Airport, where she waits, concealed in a stolen Mercedes, closely observing the taxi queue in anticipation of Eddie's arrival. She expects him to be on flight F716A, and her instincts tell her that after a night of rest, Eddie will make his way to Cork. As she waits in tense silence, her mind occasionally wanders to Jeff Nolan, considering whether his involvement in the recent murders might have more layers than she first suspected. However, Amy quickly dismisses the thought, reassured by her belief that Jeff would not want to harm her directly. Instead, her focus remains on Eddie, knowing that any move she makes will be pivotal in the dangerous game she is now playing. The pressure of the situation weighs heavily on her, but she stays focused, prepared for whatever may come.

The atmosphere in the airport becomes increasingly charged with tension as Amy forces herself to remain calm. Just when she begins to let her guard down slightly, a distraction arrives in the form of a photo sent by Rosie, showing her and Steve

enjoying their time at the hotel bar. The image provides a brief, almost fleeting sense of normalcy and connection, but it quickly fades as reality crashes back in. The tension mounts again when Amy's worst fear becomes a reality—Eddie appears, and without warning, he opens fire from behind a car, disrupting her momentary sense of relief. The blast of gunfire forces Amy into action, her instincts kicking in as she narrowly avoids being hit. The narrow escape is a stark reminder of the lethal danger she faces, and as the situation escalates, it becomes clear that Amy is now in the middle of a high-stakes confrontation where survival is not guaranteed.

Eddie's skill as a marksman is evident, but Amy's quick reflexes and determination surprise him. As he continues his assault, Amy fights back with unexpected agility, counterattacking in a moment of pure survival instinct. With her heart racing, she makes a split-second decision to flee the scene, diving into a nearby taxi. The driver, sensing the chaos and urgency surrounding her, doesn't hesitate to accelerate, speeding away from the danger as fast as possible. Amy instructs the driver to take her to the Temple Bar Hotel, staying low in the back seat to avoid being seen. As the cab races through the streets, another gunshot rings out, shattering the rear window. The sound of the glass breaking only heightens the sense of danger, but Amy remains focused on escaping and surviving. The situation has become even more precarious, but Amy's quick thinking and fast actions ensure she has a chance to regroup and avoid immediate harm.

This chapter not only demonstrates Amy's resourcefulness but also reveals the depth of her resolve. Despite being caught in a life-or-death struggle, Amy's determination shines through, showing that she will not back down easily. Her ability to stay composed under pressure, even when facing lethal threats, highlights her strength as a character. The chapter concludes with Amy still reeling from the encounter, but also with a sense of cautious optimism. Though she has narrowly escaped death, the battle is far from over. Amy knows that Eddie, and those like him, will not stop coming after her, and she will have to continue outsmarting them to stay alive. The stakes have been raised, and as the tension continues to build, it becomes clear that Amy's fight for survival will be long and difficult. The challenges ahead are daunting, but her

courage and determination will be key in overcoming them.

# Chapter 60

In Chapter 60 of *We Solve Murders*, the focus shifts to Tony Taylor, who reflects on the last time he had a date, which was in 1987 during the Thatcher era. Though it's been many years since he ventured into the world of dating, Tony has a pleasant evening with Felicity, whose conversation touches on light topics such as television shows and famous actors. Tony, on the other hand, discusses more personal subjects, such as his Ford Sierra Cosworth and local parking issues, which contrasts with the more general nature of Felicity's talk. The couple enjoys their time at The Pig in Brockenhurst, a restaurant known for its high prices and equally high-quality food. The date itself is lovely, and although Tony has been out of practice in the dating world, he appreciates the ease of the conversation and the overall pleasantness of the evening.

After their meal, Tony and Felicity take a stroll through the gardens of the restaurant, where they share a kiss beneath a sycamore tree. Felicity, who had planned to stay at Steve's empty house that night, is excited about the next day's plans. Tony has arranged a picturesque tour of the New Forest for them, with stops in Lymington, Beaulieu, and Buckler’s Hard, even considering a stop to buy some fudge. The future seems bright for Tony and Felicity, with the promise of more shared adventures and memories in the making. Their time together feels comfortable, and Tony can’t help but feel a sense of connection with her. However, the budding romance is contrasted with the darker undercurrent of the story, as their lives are still touched by the specter of crime and mystery that is never far from their minds.

The evening takes a different turn when Tony steps away briefly to use the restroom at The Brass Monkey pub. Upon his return, he finds Felicity deep in conversation with John and Jyoti, who are discussing a recent murder. Tony overhears the conversation and feels uneasy, unsure of how to handle the discussion of crime on what was supposed to be a lighthearted evening. He doesn’t want to share too much with

Felicity so soon, especially about something so grim, but at the same time, he doesn’t want to seem out of touch with the people around him. Trying to steer the conversation away from the darker subject matter, Tony focuses on discussing the beauty of the local area, hoping to shift the mood back to something more pleasant. Throughout the evening, Felicity’s easygoing nature continues to surprise Tony, and he begins to feel a deeper connection to her. Even as the group talks about a mysterious woman in prison, Tony plays along, feigning confusion so as not to complicate matters with too many personal or dangerous details.

As the night progresses, Tony decides to walk Felicity home, feeling content with the evening and the time spent with her. The warmth of their connection is evident as they continue their walk, and Felicity expresses interest in returning to see Tony again. At Steve’s cottage, Felicity invites Tony inside for coffee, something he typically avoids, but he agrees nonetheless, intrigued by the growing bond between them. However, just as they enter the house, Tony is startled by a sudden noise—only to find it’s Steve’s black cat, Trouble, making the noise. The unexpected sound adds a touch of humor to the otherwise serene atmosphere, but it also serves as a reminder of the unpredictable nature of life. This chapter highlights Tony's tentative steps back into romance, set against a backdrop of local intrigue and the looming shadow of crime. It blends both comedic and suspenseful elements, establishing the dynamic between Tony and Felicity while keeping the tension of the surrounding mystery alive. The chapter serves as a pivotal moment in Tony’s journey, as his personal life begins to intertwine with the larger, darker forces at play in the story.

# Chapter 59

In Chapter 59 of *We Solve Murders*, the scene is set in the quiet Arrivals Hall of Dublin Airport, where Amy, Steve, and Rosie prepare for their stay in the city. The subdued atmosphere contrasts with the tension Amy feels inside as she carefully conceals the true nature of her plans. While she casually tells her friends that she needs to "see a man about a gun," in reality, she is embarking on a covert mission to acquire a firearm from a suburban location west of Dublin. Fully aware of the potential risks, Amy relies on her instincts to ensure she moves undetected, not wanting to raise any suspicion. She knows the stakes are high, but she refuses to let her anxiety show, maintaining a calm exterior. While her friends remain oblivious to the severity of her situation, Amy is all too aware that the next steps she takes could mean the difference between survival and disaster.

As the night unfolds, the group discusses their evening plans, each with different ideas on how to spend their time in the city. Rosie is eager to explore Dublin’s vibrant nightlife, seeing their trip as an opportunity for fun and excitement. Steve, on the other hand, would rather retreat to the hotel and spend the night watching films, avoiding the bustling energy of the city. Their contrasting personalities lead to a playful debate, with Rosie insisting that Steve should embrace the experience rather than isolate himself in a hotel room. Even as Steve protests, arguing that he needs time to unwind, Rosie remains persistent, teasing him about his reluctance and vowing to drag him out if necessary. However, Amy, understanding Steve’s struggles and the emotional toll of recent events, suggests that he be allowed to opt out this time. She recognizes that, despite Rosie’s enthusiasm, Steve might need a moment of peace, and she gently advocates for his choice without making a scene.

As Steve finally agrees to head to the hotel alone, Amy discreetly shifts her focus back to her mission. She watches as Steve settles into the taxi, relieved that he will be

safely away from the dangerous task ahead. Checking her watch, she casts a glance at the multi-story parking structure nearby, fully aware that the next thirty minutes are crucial. She cannot afford any mistakes, knowing that the slightest misstep could jeopardize everything. Even as the weight of the situation settles on her shoulders, Amy remains composed, keeping her emotions in check. Before she departs, Rosie playfully reminds her to meet up for drinks later, adding a lighthearted contrast to the tension Amy is experiencing. As the taxi carrying Steve disappears down the street, Amy’s attention fully locks onto her upcoming task. Her world is split between two realities—one filled with normal friendships and lighthearted banter, and another where she must navigate the dangers of a life-threatening mission.

With every step Amy takes toward her covert objective, the stakes become clearer, and her resolve only strengthens. Her ability to balance her role as a friend while carrying the burden of her hidden mission highlights her strength and determination. She is caught between two conflicting lives—one in which she laughs with Rosie and Steve, and another where she must prepare to face a threat that could change everything. The tension in the chapter builds as Amy moves toward the unknown, her thoughts racing with the possibilities of what might go wrong. Despite the weight of her secret, she remains unwavering, pushing forward with a calm yet determined mind. This chapter not only deepens Amy’s character but also heightens the suspense of what is to come, setting the stage for a high-stakes confrontation where every decision she makes could mean life or death.

# Chapter 58

In Chapter 58, Henk van Veen finds himself aboard a plane, indulging in the simple pleasure of a perfectly poached egg. He shares his appreciation for the dish with Ashley, a young steward, offering his insights on what makes a poached egg truly exceptional. For Henk, the quality of the egg begins with the source—only free-range eggs should be used, as he believes they provide the richest taste and the most vibrant yolk. The color of the yolk, he insists, should be a deep orange, not the pale yellow often seen in the British version. He likens the texture of the yolk to that of molten lava, smooth and flowing slowly enough to allow the toast, his personal version of Pompeii, to absorb its warmth without quickly succumbing to destruction. This detailed description showcases Henk's passion for fine food, highlighting his refined tastes and the joy he takes in discussing even the smallest details.

Henk goes on to criticize the current trend of sourdough toast, proclaiming that only seeded granary toast should be paired with poached eggs. His critique takes on a philosophical tone as he humorously quotes Spinoza, making a playful yet pointed remark about modern culinary choices. Henk's philosophy on food, while seemingly trivial to others, offers a glimpse into his character—he is someone who approaches life with a deep, sometimes eccentric, level of thoughtfulness. As he continues to savor the meal, he reflects on the rare but impressive feat of having such a carefully prepared dish served while in-flight. The experience sparks a thought in Henk's mind: he should visit the chef after the flight to express his gratitude and perhaps get their contact details for future occasions. Henk's appreciation for good food goes beyond the act of eating; it's about building connections and recognizing quality wherever it's found, even in an unexpected setting like a plane.

While enjoying his meal, Henk's thoughts turn to the task at hand. He is currently tracking a string of murders that span from South Carolina to St. Lucia, and now, he's

on his way to Ireland. Mark Gooch, the next victim in the chain of deaths, is expected to be found in Cork, and Henk eagerly anticipates arriving before Amy Wheeler and her group. There's a thrill in Henk's mind as he thinks about the small joys in life, like the sensation of standing during the plane's descent, which he compares to an adventure in itself. Despite Ashley's insistence that he should buckle up for safety, Henk persuades her to let him stand, relishing in the slight risk of it all. This small act of rebellion against authority reflects Henk's adventurous nature—he finds excitement and a sense of freedom in the simplest of actions. In this moment, he is reminded that life isn't just about the destination; it's about the little experiences along the way, like standing during a plane's landing or savoring the perfect poached egg.

The chapter reveals much about Henk's character. He is a man who values the finer things in life, from the perfect poached egg to the thrill of a risky move on a plane. Yet, beneath this enjoyment of life's pleasures lies a deeper, more complex pursuit. Henk is also a man driven by darker motives, tracking a series of murders that connect seemingly unrelated events across multiple locations. His journey, while marked by small personal victories like enjoying a meal or standing during a flight, is ultimately about a much larger and more dangerous mission. As he reflects on his travels and the thrill of the chase, Henk is ever-conscious of the larger context—his pursuit of justice and the consequences of the actions he's taking. The chapter presents a multifaceted view of Henk, balancing his love for life with his pursuit of a higher purpose, keeping readers intrigued by the interplay of his passions and darker undertakings.

# Chapter 57

In Chapter 57 of *We Solve Murders*, Steve confronts his fear of flying as he embarks on a journey to Dublin, contemplating the vulnerability that lies within everyone. Despite his anxiety about the flight, Steve unexpectedly finds a sense of calm in the atmosphere of the plane, especially as he observes Rosie peacefully asleep on a sofa. This moment reveals a different side of her, one that is rarely visible when she is awake and energetic. Watching her sleep, Steve reflects on the fragility of existence, noticing the vulnerability that people often conceal behind their exterior appearances. This moment of introspection allows him to acknowledge the underlying truths about human nature, realizing that even those who appear strong are also susceptible to fears and weaknesses.

The serene experience of flying through the quiet night sky sparks a deeper reflection for Steve about the life he left behind. He compares this journey with his former, more routine existence, one that had become confining and predictable. The daily monotony of tasks, interactions, and the quiet companionship of his cat, Trouble, had once brought comfort, but now it feels isolating. Steve begins to recognize how his life at home had narrowed his perspective, making him feel detached from the outside world. The constant repetition of his familiar surroundings had created a sense of safety, yet it also increased his isolation. Now, as he is on a plane heading toward new challenges, Steve realizes how much he had been confined by his own routine, and the open sky serves as a metaphor for the potential of breaking free from that self-imposed limitation.

As Steve’s thoughts drift further, he shifts his attention to Amy, who is busy at work, immersed in files related to their current investigation. Her dedication to the case is evident, but Steve wonders about her own vulnerabilities, as he observes her working tirelessly, seemingly unaffected by the emotional weight of the case. In an attempt to

connect, Steve gently touches Amy’s arm and asks if she feels scared. This simple question opens up a candid exchange, where Amy admits that she is skilled at pushing her fears aside, keeping her emotions in check even in the most intense situations. Their conversation takes a more personal turn as they discuss their differing views on Adam and their family connections. While Steve remains apprehensive about Adam, Amy reveals a more complex understanding of him, acknowledging the depth of their familial ties and the intricate dynamics at play. This dialogue not only highlights the emotional nuances of their relationship but also emphasizes the personal stakes involved in the case they are investigating.

As they continue strategizing about the investigation, particularly regarding Courtney Lewis, who is imprisoned in Dubai, the urgency of the situation becomes clear. Steve is particularly wary of Felicity Woollaston, suspecting that she may be in a precarious situation herself, one that could complicate the investigation. Despite their reservations, both Amy and Steve agree that involving Adam in their efforts is crucial for making progress. The chapter emphasizes the professional camaraderie between the two, as well as the emotional and familial connections that bind them together. As the investigation deepens, the sense of urgency grows, and Steve becomes more determined to uncover the truth. Toward the end of the chapter, a poignant moment arises when Amy expresses her gratitude for Steve’s concern about her fears. This heartfelt exchange between them underscores the human experience of fear and vulnerability, contrasting Amy’s outward bravery with Steve’s self-perceived cowardice. Their mutual support reinforces the strength of their bond, providing emotional depth to the narrative. As the chapter concludes, Steve’s thoughts turn back to the investigation, particularly his desire to uncover the identity of Joe Blow. He realizes that the case may hold more complexities and secrets than initially anticipated, propelling him to continue pursuing the truth with renewed determination.

# Chapter 56

In Chapter 56 of *We Solve Murders*, Adam Wheeler reflects on a productive day in his professional life, feeling a sense of accomplishment. He has successfully sold a stake in a cinema chain located in Singapore and invested in a South Korean AI software start-up, which seems like a lucrative move. Throughout the business dealings, Adam enjoys a delicious lunch, savoring the moment while keeping his attention on the tasks at hand. His thoughts then turn to his upcoming trip to Dubai, where he will attend a diamond conference. The trip promises to be an excellent opportunity for networking, particularly with clients who value his keen listening skills and his ability to generate impressive profits. However, despite the excitement of the trip, Adam can't help but wish that Amy could accompany him. Her extended contract with Rosie D’Antonio, however, has her tied up with commitments, preventing her from joining him. Adam is also curious about the enigmatic nature of Amy’s relationship with his father, a mystery he hasn’t yet had the time to investigate due to his busy schedule.

As the evening approaches, Adam’s colleagues plan to enjoy a night out in Dublin, eager to indulge in dining, gambling, and casual relationships. However, Adam’s priorities are different; he decides to spend his night in the quiet solitude of his hotel room. Instead of engaging in the nightlife, he opts for room service and decides to unwind by downloading *Rampage 5*, a film that allows him to escape from the world outside. He spends his evening watching the movie, which stars Max Highfield, though Adam finds himself unimpressed by Highfield’s performance, preferring the action-packed roles of Jason Statham. As he watches, Adam's thoughts stray toward the lavish lives of those around him. He reflects on how people value possessions like a £25,000 Rolex, seeing them as symbols of status, even though he believes these items only serve to attract trouble. His musings reveal a sense of disconnect from the materialism that seems to define the world of his colleagues. Adam’s critical thoughts

on extravagance reflect his deeper feelings of skepticism toward the pursuit of wealth for its own sake, an outlook that sets him apart from those around him.

During the movie, Adam is suddenly interrupted by a text message from Amy, causing his heart to race with anticipation. Her message brings an unexpected turn to his evening, as she reveals that she won’t be able to meet him in Dubai due to her ongoing responsibilities. Instead, she urgently needs him to help with a case at Al-Awir Prison, where smuggling charges are involved. Amy’s request pulls Adam away from his comfortable, isolated evening and thrusts him into a situation that requires his immediate attention. He feels a strong sense of duty toward her and understands that helping her is a crucial part of their unconventional relationship. Although the task is far from glamorous, Adam recognizes its importance, which strengthens his resolve to support Amy. This shift in focus from business to personal commitment highlights the unique dynamic between the two, where their bond is more about mutual trust and duty than traditional romantic norms. Amy’s message forces Adam to transition from a world of luxury and indulgence to one where he must take practical action. As he prepares to assist her, Adam begins to realize that this relationship, while unconventional, is grounded in real partnership and shared responsibility. The chapter closes with Adam contemplating the nature of his connection with Amy, understanding that their relationship is not just about emotional closeness but about standing by each other in moments of need, no matter how uncomfortable or challenging the circumstances may be. This balance between personal and professional commitments continues to shape Adam’s decisions, demonstrating how love and duty intersect in their partnership.

# Chapter 55

In Chapter 55 of *We Solve Murders*, the investigation delves deeper into the disturbing circumstances surrounding the deaths of influencers Andrew Fairbanks and Bella Sanchez. Both had been picked up from the airport by the same woman, and this detail raises concerns among the team that Mark Gooch, who is under investigation in Ireland, may face a similar fate. With this new connection in mind, the team grows increasingly uneasy, especially when they learn that a man in Dubai has been tasked with the dangerous mission of killing Amy, adding a sense of urgency to their efforts. This revelation amplifies the pressure, as the team realizes they must act quickly to protect Amy and prevent further deaths. The situation becomes even more dire as they continue to uncover the complex relationships behind these tragic events, revealing the dark and unpredictable forces that seem to be orchestrating the deaths of those connected to the case.

In the midst of this tension, a video call with members of The Brass Monkey, including Tony Taylor, Dr. Jyoti Das, and John Todd, lightens the mood briefly. Steve expresses his regret about potentially missing the weekly quiz, which adds a touch of normalcy amidst the chaos of the investigation. The group engages in lively banter, discussing various team members, including a new loss adjuster named Martin from Lymington, who might soon join their ranks. Some members of the team doubt Martin’s potential usefulness, but Dr. Jyoti Das insists that he possesses valuable knowledge that could prove beneficial. The casual exchange helps to alleviate some of the stress the team feels, reminding them of their shared camaraderie and the importance of maintaining relationships even in the face of overwhelming challenges. Despite the underlying tension, these moments of levity provide much-needed relief as they prepare for the next steps in their investigation.

However, the tone shifts as Tony reveals concerning information about Felicity, who has been making an extraordinary amount of money—around forty thousand a month—without fully understanding the sources of her income. This revelation raises alarms within the group, leading them to suspect that Felicity's business may be a front for illicit activities. Amy and Steve pay close attention to this new lead, especially given Felicity's prior connection to the murdered influencers, Andrew and Bella. The possibility that Felicity might be unknowingly caught up in something dangerous and illegal adds a new layer of complexity to the investigation. The team realizes that they must act quickly to understand Felicity’s involvement, if any, with the people behind the murders. In light of this, they decide that obtaining all of Felicity's records is now a top priority, as the stakes have never been higher. Despite the gravity of the situation, the group continues to share moments of humor, like joking about tequila shots, but it is clear that the seriousness of their investigation cannot be ignored.

The investigation takes another turn when Tony forgets to mention a crucial detail about a prisoner named Courtney Lewis, who is imprisoned in Dubai and has been linked to smuggling operations. Steve later verifies that Courtney was sentenced to ten years in Al-Awir Prison, which strengthens the case they are building. Amy suggests that traveling to Dubai immediately is not necessary, signaling a shift in their approach to the case. Instead, they decide to engage the newest team member through text, a more strategic move that highlights the importance of careful planning and coordination. This decision demonstrates Amy’s clear understanding of the situation, recognizing that their next steps need to be calculated and precise to untangle the web of intrigue they have uncovered. The chapter ends with the team preparing to dive deeper into the case, knowing that the stakes are higher than ever. As they continue to piece together the puzzle, it becomes evident that their efforts will require more than just investigative work—they will need to rely on each other’s strengths and trust their instincts as they unravel the layers of deception.

# Chapter 54

In Chapter 54 of *We Solve Murders*, Rob Kenna reflects on the complexities of his chosen profession within the murder business. As he prepares to send Eddie Flood to Dublin for another high-stakes assignment, Rob considers the gravity of his target, Amy Wheeler, and the necessity of hiring a skilled assassin rather than an average one. Rob's previous experiences have taught him that subtlety and expertise are essential when dealing with sensitive matters, and he recognizes that handling Amy's case requires the utmost precision. Rob knows that his success hinges on selecting the right individuals for each job, as the consequences of failure in his line of work are severe. The stakes are always high in this business, and Rob's careful consideration of each move demonstrates the level of responsibility he feels as he orchestrates these dangerous tasks.

Rob's relationship with Eddie is rooted in their shared past in East London and Soho, where they both carved out their careers in their own ways. While Eddie is certainly capable of carrying out assignments, he has never shared Rob's drive for more wealth or success. Eddie's contentment with his lot in life contrasts sharply with Rob's insatiable desire for power, wealth, and influence. This divergence in ambitions reflects the different motivations that drive people, from those seeking to amass fortune to those who are simply satisfied with the life they have. Rob's reflections on Eddie's lack of ambition make him think about his own relentless pursuit of success and whether there is any limit to his desires. His golf partner, Big Mick, also challenges Rob's perspective on success. Mick, who has made a comfortable living, finds satisfaction in the simple things in life, raising questions in Rob's mind about whether his own ambitions are truly fulfilling or if they are driven by something deeper, like the need for external validation.

As their conversation continues, Rob is prompted to reflect on ambition, happiness, and the differing values between himself and others around him. Mick shares that his upbringing, shaped by strong women, taught him the values of hard work and resilience, and he is content with the success he has achieved. This perspective stands in stark contrast to Rob's unyielding quest for wealth and status, which is largely motivated by his father's high expectations and his own desire to prove himself. Rob's introspection highlights the internal conflict between wanting more and being unable to find contentment in what he has. While Mick finds fulfillment in simpler joys, Rob is always searching for the next big thing, never quite satisfied. This difference in outlook makes Rob question whether his pursuit of wealth will ever lead to the happiness he craves, or if it will always be an elusive goal that keeps him chasing the next deal or business opportunity.

While they continue their golf game, Rob receives a message from Nelson Nunez, which presents a business proposition linked to a diamond conference in Dubai. The opportunity for significant financial gain excites Rob, as he believes that money is the key to happiness and success. This belief underscores Rob's worldview and his relentless pursuit of wealth as a means of achieving personal satisfaction. Unlike Eddie and Mick, who seem to find contentment with what they have, Rob sees financial success as the ultimate measure of his worth. This philosophy guides every decision he makes, driving him to take on dangerous jobs and alliances that promise great rewards. As the chapter progresses, it becomes evident that Rob's ambition is both his greatest strength and his biggest flaw, shaping the trajectory of his life. The people he interacts with, such as Nelson and François Loubet, continue to play pivotal roles in his journey, pushing him forward in his unceasing quest for power and success. This chapter explores the nature of ambition, highlighting the contrast between those who tirelessly chase their dreams and those who have found contentment in their reality.

# Chapter 53

In Chapter 53 of *We Solve Murders*, Eddie Flood steps off the plane in St. Lucia, weary from an unexpected thirteen-hour flight. He had anticipated a much shorter journey, mistakenly assuming that the distance was similar to that of Hawaii. Despite his exhaustion, Eddie remains focused, using the time in the air to review the details of his investigation into police corruption and bribery. The mission he has been assigned is high-risk, and he is acutely aware of what's at stake. His primary task revolves around Amy Wheeler, a name that has been circulating within dangerous circles, and his failure to track her down could have severe consequences. Rob Kenna, the man who entrusted him with this job, has little patience for mistakes, and Eddie knows that slipping up could result in being deemed expendable. The tension surrounding the assignment fuels his determination, pushing him past his fatigue as he moves toward his next steps.

As Eddie makes his way through the airport, he is met by his designated taxi driver, Ferdy, who is tasked with getting him to his next location. Their brief conversation is casual, but Eddie remains alert, always wary of the possibility of misinformation or manipulation. His goal is simple—locate Amy Wheeler as soon as possible before she moves on. Moments later, Eddie's phone buzzes with a message from Rob, confirming that Amy has been spotted at the Emerald Bay Resort. The message also includes a warning that if she leaves, her next stop is likely Dublin, reinforcing the need for urgency in Eddie's pursuit. As he absorbs this information, Ferdy, making small talk, casually mentions having driven celebrities to the resort, including Rosie D'Antonio. However, what catches Eddie's attention is Ferdy's claim that Rosie had recently left for Fiji. This detail contradicts the intel from Rob, which stated that Amy and Rosie were both still at the resort, raising immediate red flags. Eddie begins to question whether Ferdy is misinformed or deliberately feeding him incorrect information, which

only intensifies his suspicion.

Unsettled by these discrepancies, Eddie decides to step back and reassess the situation before proceeding. He heads toward the bar inside the terminal, ordering a drink as he pulls out his phone to verify the details for himself. Using the FlightStats app, Eddie quickly checks recent departures from the airport, hoping to confirm whether Rosie had, in fact, flown to Fiji. The results only deepen his concern—Fiji is not listed as a recent destination, but Dublin is, directly contradicting what Ferdy had told him. This discrepancy solidifies Eddie’s gut feeling that something is off, and he begins to piece together the possibility that either Rosie or Amy has already left the resort. With this realization, his urgency increases, knowing that every minute counts in this high-stakes chase. His experience in the field has taught him to trust his instincts, and right now, his instincts are telling him that he is on the right track.

Eddie regains his composure, pushing aside his frustration as he strategizes his next move. His priority is to track Amy before she disappears, and with Dublin now appearing to be the likely destination, he knows where to go next. The inconsistencies in the information he has received only make him more determined to uncover the truth. With a renewed sense of clarity, he pays for his drink and steps out of the bar, preparing to leave the terminal. Despite the conflicting details, he trusts his ability to follow the trail, knowing that in his line of work, patience and observation are key. The chapter ends with Eddie focused and ready, his mind locked on the task at hand. The game is just beginning, and he intends to stay ahead, no matter what obstacles may arise.

# Chapter 52

In Chapter 52 of *We Solve Murders*, the story takes a sharp turn when Steve, Amy, and Rosie are captured by Nelson Nunez and his hired gun. The tension in the scene escalates quickly as Steve anticipates trouble the moment they arrive at Bluff Point. Nelson, wielding a machine gun, appears more agitated than menacing, which leads the trio to question his true motives. In an unexpected twist, Nelson reveals that he has been ordered to kill one of them, forcing the group into a perilous situation. With the stakes growing higher, they attempt to reason with Nelson, trying to outsmart him with their wits while searching for an opportunity to escape. The situation is tense, yet they remain determined to find a way out of this deadly standoff.

Rosie takes a bold step, distracting Nelson while secretly working on freeing herself from her restraints. As the conversation progresses, it becomes clear that there is more at play than just the immediate threat; Rosalie’s long-standing grudge with a Russian billionaire adds another layer of complexity and tension to the already volatile situation. Steve, taking a risk, attempts to negotiate by suggesting that Nelson let the women go free, hoping to appeal to his sense of reason. Despite the gravity of their predicament, there are moments of humor throughout, such as Rosie's unanticipated remark about how her fashion choices could complicate the situation. These brief, lighter moments help to underscore the personalities of the characters, making them feel more real and relatable in the face of danger.

The situation reaches its peak when Nelson receives an important text message, which helps him make his decision on whom to kill. Just as the tension seems to be reaching its breaking point, Steve unexpectedly manages to break free and seize Nelson’s gun, igniting a chaotic fight. In a shocking turn of events, Steve fires the weapon, hitting Nelson's accomplice—who is wearing a Coldplay T-shirt—and even injuring Nelson himself. The chaotic confrontation leaves the group with a wounded Nelson and an

unconscious bodyguard, but it also provides them with a chance to take control of the situation. As Rosie regains her freedom, she assists Steve in checking for serious injuries, and the pair engages in lighthearted banter, commenting on the absurdity of the whole event. Despite the gravity of the situation, these moments of humor bring a sense of humanity to the otherwise intense confrontation.

After the dust settles, Amy presses Nelson for answers regarding a recent murder. The conversation takes a darker turn as they accuse one another of being in danger, but Amy’s focus remains sharp, driven by her determination to uncover who killed Bella Sanchez. Nelson, under pressure, begins to reveal critical details that shed light on the situation, including the involvement of a local cop and a discredited lead. As they continue to gather information, Amy’s resolve to uncover the truth pushes the investigation forward, revealing more about the complex web of deceit surrounding them. The group now understands that the mystery is deeper than they initially thought, and the path to solving the case is far from straightforward.

As the group formulates a plan to deceive a mysterious figure in Dubai, Nelson admits that he has been receiving messages from unknown sources, particularly from François Loubet. However, the twist lies in Nelson’s revelation that Loubet is not who he claims to be, adding yet another layer to the complex puzzle they are trying to solve. This discovery hints at even deeper intrigue and sets the stage for a new chapter in their investigation, where they must now confront the possibility that some of their adversaries may not be who they appear to be. With each new piece of information, the mystery continues to unfold, leaving the group with more questions than answers but motivating them to push forward in their quest for the truth.

# Chapter 51

In Chapter 51 of *We Solve Murders*, Bonnie, a teaching assistant, finds herself in a difficult position at school, where the use of phones is generally discouraged. Though the rule prohibits students and staff from bringing their phones into the classroom, many teachers covertly use theirs during breaks. Feeling as though her position doesn’t allow for such freedom, Bonnie sneaks into a girls’ restroom cubicle to check her phone for updates. It is here that she receives a life-changing email from the "Bookings Committee," an email that will alter the course of her life in ways she had never imagined.

The email contains an offer for Bonnie to create a three-minute promotional video for an organic paint brand in São Paulo, Brazil. The fee offered for her work is an astounding £20,000, a sum that far exceeds anything she ever thought possible. Bonnie, initially stunned by the offer, rereads the email several times to ensure she hasn’t misunderstood. The magnitude of the opportunity seems too good to be true, especially given her modest lifestyle and the daily struggles she faces. The prospect of such a windfall is overwhelming, and she realizes that this job could completely transform her life, taking her from a teaching assistant to someone involved in a global project.

As she processes the email, a wave of emotion overcomes her, and tears begin to flow uncontrollably. She recalls the friends who had always encouraged her to dream big and pursue opportunities beyond her current limitations. These memories, coupled with her constant battle with “impostor syndrome”—the crippling fear that she isn’t capable of achieving her goals—make her question whether she is truly ready for such a drastic change. Despite these doubts, Bonnie summons the courage to accept the offer, realizing that this is the opportunity she has been waiting for. Though part of her is excited by the promise of a new life, the idea of leaving her current job and

colleagues weighs heavily on her, and she wonders how her decision will impact her future.

The narrative explores Bonnie’s inner conflict as she contemplates leaving her role at the school to pursue this remarkable opportunity. Her excitement about the job, coupled with feelings of guilt for potentially abandoning her students, creates a complex emotional situation. She begins to imagine herself in São Paulo, promoting the organic paint brand and using platforms like Instagram to share her new venture. The idea of promoting a product like organic paint, which she hadn’t even realized was a thing, piques her curiosity and opens her eyes to an entirely new industry. The possibility of personal and professional growth excites her, but she also wrestles with the reality of what she might be leaving behind.

Just as she is about to fully immerse herself in the excitement of this new opportunity, a child knocks at the restroom door, urgently needing to use the toilet. Though Bonnie feels a pang of guilt for taking so long, she dismisses the child and relishes the moment, recognizing that she is standing on the precipice of a major life change. As she contemplates what lies ahead, Bonnie imagines shopping for new clothes to fit her new role and wonders what her sister-in-law, Clarissa, will think of her decision. She can already picture the pride and admiration Clarissa will feel when she hears about her new job and the money she’ll make. This day is full of significant personal milestones, and Bonnie knows that nothing will ever be the same again.

Finally, Bonnie reaches out to her mother through a text, expressing her gratitude for the constant support she has received over the years. With the email sent, confirming her acceptance of the job and her curiosity about travel arrangements, Bonnie feels an overwhelming sense of anticipation for the future. She eagerly awaits the details of her trip to Brazil, including the name of the paint brand and the logistics of her travel plans. As she finishes the text and hits send, Bonnie realizes that this moment marks the beginning of a new chapter in her life, one that is full of promise and transformation. Vivid Viral Media Agency has offered her a new path, and Bonnie is ready to embrace it, leaving her old life behind in pursuit of something much bigger.

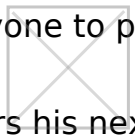
# Chapter 50

In Chapter 50 of *We Solve Murders*, François Loubet updates his associate, Joe Blow, with a letter that offers a glimpse into the intricacies of his plans. Loubet takes a moment to reflect on the absurdity of their situation, particularly the suggestion that he should avoid killing Amy Wheeler, a task that he believes is essential for the completion of his objectives. Loubet elaborates on the importance of Amy, who previously served as his bodyguard in London, positioning her as an integral piece in his strategy. By enlisting Rob Kenna's help, Loubet has secured a layer of anonymity, effectively making it easier to pin any mishaps on Amy. This plan allows Loubet to use her as a scapegoat, ensuring that his tracks remain covered should anything go wrong. He is calculating and aware that every action must be precise to maintain control of his criminal endeavors.

Loubet's tactics grow more sinister as he reveals the strategic placement of evidence to implicate Amy in multiple crimes. He has ensured that her blood has been left at key crime scenes, which, despite Amy having no motive, will lead any investigation directly to her. The presence of her blood serves as undeniable evidence, connecting her to these criminal activities in a way that will make it difficult for anyone to believe in her innocence. Loubet is confident that even those closest to Amy will begin to doubt her, adding to the layers of doubt and suspicion surrounding her. In his mind, Amy is now more than just a bodyguard—she has become a tool to protect his own secrets and serve as insurance against his possible exposure. He sees her as an expendable asset, with her life hanging in the balance of his grand scheme.

However, Loubet is fully aware that the moment Amy is killed, the plan will pivot significantly. He intends to notify the authorities of her death, prompting them to compare her blood to the one found at the various crime scenes, thereby cementing his alibi. This move, Loubet believes, will leave him untouchable by linking Amy

directly to the crimes without implicating him in any way. Yet, he is also mindful of the delicate balance he must strike between keeping her alive as a safeguard and eliminating her when she is no longer needed. His careful contemplation of the timing for her death shows his calculating nature, aware that the slightest misstep could cause his whole plan to unravel. The duality of needing her as insurance while considering her death shows the cold, pragmatic side of Loubet, willing to sacrifice anything and anyone to protect his position.



As Loubet ponders his next moves, he acknowledges that once his current objectives—such as ensuring Amy’s demise—are completed, he must delve deeper into understanding Joe Blow’s identity. Loubet begins to entertain the idea that Joe may eventually become another obstacle, possibly requiring the same fate as Amy if he becomes a liability. This realization points to Loubet’s manipulative nature, constantly calculating who is useful to him and who isn’t. While managing these concerns, Loubet remains focused on severing his ties with Maximum Impact, though he still plans to exploit influencers for his financial schemes. His approach reveals a mindset that thrives on deception and control, viewing people as mere tools to further his goals. Loubet’s ability to manipulate others for his benefit is evident in his smug observation that there are always more "fools" to take advantage of. The chapter ends with Loubet reaffirming his resolve to manage the complexities of his operations, knowing that the key to his success lies in remaining hidden behind layers of deception while minimizing his exposure. The narrative highlights his cunning and ruthless nature as he orchestrates his moves with precision, keeping a tight grip on those around him.

# Chapter 49

In Chapter 49 of *We Solve Murders*, Rosie drives Amy and Steve toward Bluff Point to meet Nelson Nunez, a notorious drug dealer, at his secluded home. Despite it being early on a Sunday morning, Nelson has insisted on meeting them promptly, urging an early arrival. Rosie, reflecting on the nature of people like Nelson, realizes the need for privacy in such professions, equating the secrecy and seclusion of drug dealers to that of celebrities who guard their personal lives fiercely. As they make their way toward the isolated house, the contrast between the world they are entering and their usual lives becomes increasingly apparent. The tension in the air is palpable, with each turn taking them deeper into unfamiliar territory, amplifying the gravity of the upcoming interaction.

During the drive, the conversation shifts to a stolen blood sample connected to Amy, a topic that is causing concern among the group. Steve, visibly stressed, discusses the potential fallout of the situation, worried about the implications it may have on Amy’s safety and well-being. He stresses the importance of finding proof that could exonerate her and counter the accusations she faces. Rosie, observing Steve’s anxious demeanor, can’t help but feel amused by his reaction, especially as she navigates the rough terrain with sharp, quick turns that only add to his unease. The banter between the two helps break the tension but also serves to underscore the seriousness of the situation. Despite the lighthearted moments, the group is well aware that their meeting with Nelson Nunez could be a pivotal moment in their investigation, and every decision they make here will have lasting consequences.

When they finally reach the grand entrance to Nelson’s property, the signs warning about guard dogs and trespassing make it clear that they are entering a highly secure and private estate. After a brief interaction with the security intercom, the gates open to reveal a Land Rover with an intimidating machine gun mounted in its bed, manned

by a young soldier. This sight serves as a stark reminder of the danger and power that Nelson holds in his world, raising the stakes for the trio. Steve, trying to mask his anxiety, cracks a joke, but his unease is evident, revealing just how out of their element they feel in Nelson's world. The tension builds as they are led deeper into the compound, the heavy security a constant reminder of Nelson’s influence and the high-risk nature of their meeting.

As they arrive at the house, Amy is surprised at its modest size, especially considering Nelson's wealth and position within the criminal underworld. The fact that the house is not as extravagant as expected causes her to pause, reflecting on the nature of wealth and power in the drug trade. Rosie parks the car, and they are immediately met by Nelson, who steps out with a tray full of drinks that seem to have a suspiciously alcoholic undertone. The exchange between them takes a sudden turn when Nelson notices the presence of all three visitors, realizing that something about the situation is not as it should be. The tension between them escalates quickly, and Eddie, a young man from the Land Rover, joins them, indicating that things are more complicated than they first appeared.

The increasing tension is palpable as the young man’s arrival signals that the situation may not be as straightforward as it seemed. Rosie picks up on the subtle exchanges between Nelson and the newcomer, which deepens her unease about what is to come. Despite the discomfort, she steels herself, recognizing that this meeting holds critical importance and that they need to navigate the complexities of their interaction with caution. The chapter ends with the trio preparing to enter Nelson’s home, knowing that the encounter could unfold in unexpected ways, with danger lurking beneath the surface of every exchange. The atmosphere is charged with anticipation, and the group understands that their next moves will determine the course of their investigation and their survival.

# Chapter 48

In Chapter 48 of *We Solve Murders*, Tony Taylor is invited to Felicity Woollaston's home for tea, where she comments on his journey from Southampton to Letchworth Garden City. Although there were some traffic jams along the way, Tony feels that the trip was relatively smooth overall. Reflecting humorously on his experience, Tony mentions the costly parking fees at the resort, explaining how he had to park eight minutes away to avoid paying an exorbitant rate. As they begin preparing the tea, Tony notices Felicity's upbeat mood and lively laugh, which instantly lightens the atmosphere. Her easy-going demeanor stands in sharp contrast to the seriousness of their conversation. As they chat, Tony is struck by how natural their exchange feels, and he begins to appreciate the ease with which they converse, despite the purpose behind his visit. Her joyful presence leaves him momentarily distracted from his true mission, creating an unexpected connection.

Tony's purpose for the visit becomes clearer as the conversation unfolds: Steve has asked him to gather information about Felicity's role in a viral media company. Tony, who works with cars, struggles to wrap his head around the specifics of her job. As the conversation flows, Tony's banter with Felicity becomes more relaxed, but he's aware of the weight of his mission. He attempts to steer the conversation in a way that will help him gather useful details without seeming too intrusive. Tony briefly mentions that his nephew is an influencer, but when Felicity presses him for more details about the nature of his nephew's niche, Tony fumbles. In a moment of awkwardness, he claims that his nephew influences "spies" on Instagram, which clearly catches Felicity off guard. This mix-up highlights Tony's unfamiliarity with the world of social media, where he feels out of his depth. Nevertheless, his blunder doesn't seem to cause any harm, and Felicity takes it in stride, keeping the mood light and engaging.

As the conversation deepens, Tony begins to feel the pressure of trying to make a positive impression while also collecting valuable information. Felicity's probing questions raise a new concern for Tony, as it becomes apparent that she may not have a clear understanding of her own role within the viral media company. Tony wonders if Felicity is uncertain about her career or if she's merely putting on a façade of confidence. This realization causes him to question her professional standing, but he doesn't press her on the matter, instead letting the conversation continue naturally. The dynamic between the two grows more personal as Felicity continues to compliment Tony, noting how his smile could make him a good fit for an on-screen presence. As they laugh and exchange light flirtations, the conversation becomes even more relaxed. This moment of casual flirtation reveals an underlying chemistry between Tony and Felicity, complicating his focus on the task Steve had given him. His growing attraction to her only makes it harder to maintain the professional distance that is required for his mission.

As their conversation progresses, Tony becomes increasingly torn between his mission to gather information and his personal feelings toward Felicity. She shares her uncertainties about her work and life, and Tony listens intently, recognizing the vulnerability behind her confident exterior. Felicity's openness makes Tony reflect on his own life, and he realizes that, despite his initial focus on gathering intel, there is something deeper between them. Their playful banter shifts, and Felicity hints at a desire to reveal more about herself. Tony, feeling the pull of the connection, continues to enjoy her company while maintaining a level of focus on the information Steve requested. As the meeting continues, Tony is reminded of how easy it is to get distracted by personal interactions, even when professional matters loom large. Felicity's suggestion to have lunch together is the turning point of their encounter, as it symbolizes a shift from strictly business to something more personal. The chapter ends on a whimsical note, as Tony contemplates how sometimes the journey itself, full of unexpected twists and moments, can be just as rewarding as the goal. This chapter highlights the delicate balance between personal connection and professional duty, leaving Tony to reflect on the significance of both.

# Chapter 47

In Chapter 47 of *We Solve Murders*, Rob Kenna finds himself in a state of frustration, his gaze fixed on his golf ball stuck in a bunker. While grappling with this small challenge on the course, he is aware that Eddie is off in Hawaii and that Amy Wheeler has reportedly made her way to St. Lucia. Rob believes Amy is following the trail of multiple murders, including that of Bella Sanchez, but he’s skeptical of the investigation’s success. He predicts that her search will yield no meaningful results, especially with local law enforcement involved and no solid leads to follow. Rob, always thinking ahead, knows that his layers of protection and influence will keep him safe from any direct consequences of the ongoing investigations. This chapter delves into Rob’s mindset, highlighting how he carefully maneuvers through dangerous situations, always keeping his interests protected.

The chapter also reveals Rob’s ongoing involvement with François Loubet, a key figure in Rob's complex web of dealings. Rob reflects on Loubet’s fourth job assigned to him, even though they’ve never met in person, showcasing the impersonal and transactional nature of their relationship. To complete Loubet’s latest task, Rob is required to supply Eddie with a gun while he is in St. Lucia. The price of this job is not a concern, as Loubet has the resources to pay, making it clear that Rob’s connection with arms dealer Nelson Nunez will be crucial. Rob reaches out to Nelson, knowing that securing a firearm in a place like Dubai is a simple matter when you know the right people. The vast network of individuals tied to this world is further revealed as Rob connects with people who will assist him in this dangerous exchange. The ease with which Rob navigates the world of arms dealing and international connections underscores the high stakes of his work and the calculated risk involved.

A more lighthearted moment occurs when Rob shares some time on the golf course with Big Mick, a retired scrap metal dealer. Their camaraderie provides a brief respite

from the otherwise intense atmosphere of Rob’s professional life. Mick jokes about how overrated work is while they wait for his turn on the course, adding some humor to the otherwise tense chapter. During this time, Rob takes the opportunity to send a message to Nelson, continuing their conversation about the gun request. This quick exchange highlights Rob’s ability to multitask, keeping his mind focused on business matters even while engaging in a casual activity. Nelson’s swift response confirms that he has the weapon Rob needs, but it is soon followed by a request for more information about Amy Wheeler’s whereabouts. The plot thickens when Rob hints that Rosie D’Antonio’s visit to St. Lucia is complicating things, as she is now associated with the target of the investigation. Nelson, ever the professional, offers to track Rosie for a fee, underscoring the dangerous and risky nature of their dealings. However, he cautions Rob not to harm Rosie, as doing so could lead to unwanted publicity and complications that neither of them can afford.

As Rob and Mick continue to play, the atmosphere is charged with an undercurrent of tension and strategic thinking. Rob reflects on his situation, understanding that those around him, from Eddie to Nelson to Rosie, could all become threats if things go wrong. The intricate web of human connections, loyalty, and danger is at the heart of this chapter, with Rob constantly calculating how best to navigate the ever-complicated world of crime and deceit. With each action, whether on the golf course or in his dealings with others, Rob sets the stage for what’s to come. His careful maneuvering and awareness of the people around him are a testament to his ability to control situations, even when those around him may be a threat. The chapter ends with Rob contemplating the fallout from Eddie and Nelson’s actions, knowing that his next steps will be crucial in determining his fate.

# Chapter 46

In Chapter 46 of *We Solve Murders*, Amy is seen sprinting along the sandy shoreline, her feet sinking into the wet sand as the waves crash against her legs. The physical exertion takes its toll, and she collapses in exhaustion, feeling as if she’s crossed a finish line after a long, grueling race. She takes a moment to catch her breath, allowing herself to pause and appreciate the view before her. The towering resort overlooking Emerald Bay stands as a sharp contrast to the peaceful yet tense atmosphere surrounding her. With her phone in hand, Amy prepares to make an important call, her mind consumed by the urgency of the situation. The serene beach moment is in stark contrast to the whirlwind of thoughts racing through her mind, which prompts her to reach out for the answers she desperately needs.

Meanwhile, Susan Knox, engrossed in her work at her desk, is surrounded by the constant hum of trading software and market data, a far cry from the tranquil surroundings Amy finds herself in. The sudden buzz of her mobile phone startles her, and she fumbles to find it among the mess of papers and equipment. After knocking a key off her desk, she opens a drawer to locate the phone, finally answering it with a mix of curiosity and concern. To her surprise, it is Amy calling, and she quickly learns that Amy is alive but out of breath, confirming that she’s still in the midst of something much bigger than either of them had anticipated. As the conversation shifts, Amy wastes no time getting to the heart of the matter, revealing her growing concerns about Jeff and the missing blood test results. This quick turn toward serious conversation sets the stage for an even deeper discussion, one that will challenge the both of them and raise questions neither is prepared to fully answer.

As Susan listens intently, Amy presses her about the missing blood sample, specifically how it was the only one unaccounted for in a locked medical room. Susan admits that only Amy’s blood went missing, and she had briefly considered the possibility that Amy

might have taken the sample herself due to fear of the results. However, Amy adamantly denies this, refusing to accept the notion that she might be involved in such an action. The suspicion grows even further as Amy urges Susan to dig deeper into the situation, asking her who would have had access to the locked room at the time. Susan responds, revealing that only a handful of people, approximately ten to twelve, including herself and Jeff, had access to the blood tests. Amy points out that Henk, another employee, was also present during the time of the incident, raising even more doubts about whether someone else could have accessed the sample. Although Susan brushes off the idea, suggesting that they occasionally give clients tours of the facility, the notion that someone unauthorized could have taken the blood sample lingers in the air. With every new detail, the tension builds, and the suspicion surrounding those involved intensifies.

The conversation takes an even darker turn when Amy makes a chilling request. She tells Susan that if anyone, including the police or Henk, inquires about her whereabouts, she must deny any contact and claim she hasn’t heard from her. This statement, though seemingly simple, carries with it a weight of foreboding that reflects just how high the stakes have become. Susan, now thoroughly concerned, presses Amy about Jeff's location and her own safety, eager to ensure that her friend is not in immediate danger. Amy’s response, however, only deepens the mystery, as she calmly states that she believes no one, not even herself, is truly safe anymore. This chilling admission underscores the dangerous reality Amy is facing and serves as a stark reminder of the threats looming over them all. Susan, now more worried than ever, feels the weight of the situation pressing down on her, realizing that everything they knew has just been turned upside down. Amy's request for secrecy, coupled with the suspicions surrounding Jeff and Henk, leaves the conversation hanging in uncertainty, setting the stage for what is sure to be a tumultuous turn of events.

# Chapter 45

In Chapter 45 of *We Solve Murders*, Steve finds himself in a lavish hotel suite, a stark contrast to his usual modest accommodations. The suite boasts a stunning swimming pool with sapphire blue water, positioned perfectly to provide an unobstructed view of twin volcanoes in the distance. The picturesque Caribbean landscape outside adds to the suite's grandeur, heightening Steve’s sense of awe and discomfort at the luxurious surroundings. As he settles into the space, Steve takes a moment to reflect on his past, reaching for his Dictaphone to speak with Debbie. He recalls their long-held dream of traveling to the Caribbean together, but with a heavy heart, he admits that they never made that dream a reality. Regret consumes him as he contemplates the missed opportunities in his life, particularly the times when he hesitated to embrace adventure and the unknown, choosing instead to stay within the safety of routine. In his reflection, Steve realizes how his reluctance to fully engage with life’s possibilities has shaped the path he’s taken.

Shifting his focus, Steve recounts the purpose of his trip to St. Lucia, where he and his colleagues are set to meet Nelson Nunez, a man with rumored ties to drug dealing operations. Steve suspects that Nunez is more involved in criminal activities than anyone realizes, and he feels an increasing sense of unease as he delves deeper into the connections between Nunez and his investigation into Bella Sanchez’s death. Bella’s financial ties seem to be leading Steve down a complex path, one that links her to dangerous individuals like Nunez. As he contemplates these connections, his mind returns to the growing complications surrounding Vivid Viral Agency and the enigmatic figure of Henk, who has recently set up a close-protection business. Henk’s suspicious activities only add to the tangled web Steve is trying to untangle, and the realization that he may not be returning to England soon looms over him. This understanding amplifies Steve’s feelings of isolation and regret, reinforcing the sense that his life is

increasingly defined by a series of difficult choices and professional obligations that may keep him in this situation longer than he anticipated.

The narrative takes a more lighthearted turn when Rosie D’Antonio sends Steve a black suit intended for an upscale dinner with the owner of Emerald Bay, an event that requires a more formal dress code. Steve, who prefers casual attire, is initially caught off guard by this request and protests the need for such formal clothing. However, the young man who delivers the suit points out that the outfit would also be appropriate for Steve’s upcoming meeting with Nunez, further emphasizing its importance. As Steve contemplates the significance of his new attire, he gazes out at the Caribbean Sea, feeling an overwhelming sense of longing for Debbie’s company. The expansive view of the ocean only deepens his sense of isolation, highlighting the emotional distance between himself and the life he once envisioned. This moment of reflection brings a wave of nostalgia for the life he could have had, and the luxury of his surroundings does little to comfort him as he grapples with his personal regrets and emotional struggles. The luxury of the hotel only serves as a reminder of how far he’s come and how much he’s left behind in the pursuit of his career.

Rosie soon arrives to check on Steve, suggesting a walk along the beach as a way to talk through some of the murder mysteries they’ve been investigating. As they stroll along the shoreline, their conversation naturally shifts to Steve’s personal life, and he begins to open up about the emotional conflicts that have been weighing on him. Rosie’s questions force Steve to confront the reality of how much he has confined himself to routine and safety, avoiding the risks that come with living life to its fullest. Although Steve tries to maintain a façade of composure, it becomes increasingly clear that Rosie’s probing hits a deeper, more vulnerable part of him. Her questions make Steve realize that his tendency to avoid taking risks has been a barrier to his personal growth, and he’s forced to consider the consequences of his actions and inactions. Despite his initial resistance to the formal suit, Steve agrees to walk with Rosie, seeing it as an opportunity to connect with her on a deeper level. The walk becomes more than just a casual conversation; it’s an acknowledgment of his emotional complexity and the personal growth he is beginning to realize. The chapter ends with Steve and

Rosie walking side by side, each of them reflecting on the balance between professional duties and personal fulfillment, symbolizing the emotional journey Steve has yet to fully embark on.

# Chapter 44

In Chapter 44 of *We Solve Murders*, Amy, Rosie, and Steve make their way through the stunning hills of St. Lucia during a taxi ride, the beauty of the island surrounding them. However, despite the breathtaking views, tension rises between Amy and Steve. As Steve nervously checks his phone, he becomes fixated on the potential costs of roaming charges after reading alarming stories about sky-high bills. Amy attempts to redirect his attention, encouraging him to appreciate the landscapes they're passing, but Steve remains distracted, caught up in his concerns. Their driver, Ferdy, notices the unease and reassures them, sharing his own experiences of driving tourists without any major incidents, which provides a small comfort. The ride continues, but the divide between the characters grows as they're pulled between the beauty of their surroundings and the growing weight of the investigation they're involved in.

As the journey progresses, the conversation shifts to deeper topics. Amy, always curious, inquires about Ferdy's past, asking how a man who once held a political position ended up as a taxi driver. Ferdy, with a mix of bitterness and pragmatism, explains his electoral losses, revealing that the transition to his current job was born out of necessity. The dialogue soon turns to a conversation about Felicity Woollaston, a key figure in their investigation. Steve shares insights into Felicity's connection to a company that plays a role in the digital media world, raising suspicions about her true involvement. He even questions her age and the nature of her business, suggesting that there's more to her than meets the eye. This exchange highlights the ongoing uncertainties they are facing, as each piece of the puzzle adds a layer of complexity to their investigation.

The ride continues, and Rosie points out Ferdy's strong ties to the local community. She observes how children along the route wave at him, a reminder of the deep roots he holds in the area. As they press him for information about the mysterious car crash

that involved Bella Sanchez, Ferdy recalls the event in chilling detail. He describes a woman with long red hair and a baseball cap being involved in the crash, a description that immediately raises questions in the trio’s minds. This new detail connects to their ongoing inquiries, adding a fresh layer of intrigue to the case. With each new piece of information, the puzzle grows more intricate, and their sense of urgency increases, knowing that they’re getting closer to uncovering the truth.

The atmosphere in the car shifts when Steve reveals some disturbing findings regarding a blood case linked to their friend Jeff, who is presumed dead but whose fate remains uncertain. Amy, initially focused on the case, grows increasingly concerned about the implications of Steve’s discoveries. The once picturesque and calming ride now seems fraught with tension as the investigation takes a darker turn. As the conversation intensifies, Rosie, ever the pragmatist, lightens the mood with humor, playfully questioning Ferdy about the local drug scene. Ferdy responds with dark humor, referencing a dangerous character named Nelson Nunez, whose reputation adds an even grimmer tone to the ride. Despite the danger they feel lurking, the trio remains determined to continue digging into the case, undeterred by the growing complexities.

As they approach their destination, Amy’s resolve strengthens. She recognizes the importance of piecing together the various threads of their investigation, seeing potential connections between the mysterious driver, the woman’s luggage, and the unfolding case. With each new revelation, Amy grows more determined to uncover the truth, despite the escalating tension. The chapter builds a captivating narrative as it blends the beauty of the Caribbean landscape with the mounting intrigue surrounding their investigation. The complex web of connections and secrets continues to unfold, keeping the trio on edge as they close in on their target. The atmosphere is charged with suspense, and the reader is left eager to see how the pieces will finally fall into place.

# Chapter 43

In Chapter 43 of *We Solve Murders*, Max Highfield finds himself nestled in the luxurious surroundings of a grand library, an environment he now feels he belongs to, unlike in the past. The library is vast, with shelves that reach from floor to ceiling, and large windows letting in natural light. The room is filled with an air of sophistication, with dark oak furniture and green leather accents, creating a refined and welcoming atmosphere. Overhead, grand chandeliers and brass reading lamps add to the elegance, making it a perfect setting for quiet reflection or intellectual pursuits. As Max looks around, he imagines how this opulent space could be transformed into something more personal, perhaps a pool or gym area, should it ever be his own. The contrast between his past and present highlights his evolving sense of self and the new lifestyle he’s embraced.

Max eventually seeks out Henk, who is relaxed on a plush leather sofa, deeply engrossed in a medical journal. Their conversation starts off casually, touching on the philosopher Spinoza, whom Henk argues played an essential role in the works of influential thinkers like Kant and Goethe. Max expresses his appreciation for Henk’s time, reflecting on the struggles he’s facing at his current agency, and reiterating his commitment to stay true to his principles. As they discuss these topics, the tone is light, with philosophical musings on life’s complexities interspersed with friendly banter. Henk's detached yet thoughtful responses show a man who navigates the world with calm insight. The discussion deepens, and Max feels a growing sense of connection, both professionally and personally, with Henk. This dialogue highlights their camaraderie, set against the backdrop of intellectual discourse and personal struggles.

The conversation takes a more serious turn as Max brings up Jeff, a figure from his past whose death has had lingering effects on him. Henk, showing little emotion

toward Jeff’s fate, offers a philosophical view that people who live by the sword often meet grim ends. Max lightens the mood by making a playful reference to a film he starred in, *Die by the Sword*, a humorous attempt to defuse the somber nature of the topic. He then shifts the discussion to his own safety, expressing concern for his well-being in the wake of mounting threats. Max proposes a lucrative deal to Henk, offering him a two-million-per-year ambassadorship role, emphasizing the importance of having full security coverage. The negotiation highlights Max’s willingness to secure his future, making it clear that he is not just focused on immediate concerns, but on long-term stability as well. The interaction subtly underscores Max’s need for reassurance, whether through his business ventures or personal safety.

As their discussion continues, Max hands Henk a disturbing card that reads, “You’re dead.” This card serves as a tangible symbol of the threats against Max, furthering his unease and the tension of the situation. Henk acknowledges the possibility that Max’s current agency may not be doing enough to protect him, suggesting that it may be time to explore more reliable options. The conversation shifts to the aftermath of Jeff’s death, with Max confirming that clients are increasingly seeking Henk’s services. Their lighthearted banter, infused with references to Max’s past film roles, serves as a way to cope with the darker undertones of their conversation. It’s a reminder that even in the most serious of moments, humor can act as a coping mechanism and a means of maintaining control.

Feeling satisfied with the direction of their conversation, Max decides to formalize a contract with Henk, ensuring that their partnership will be beneficial moving forward. As he prepares to leave, Max notices an elderly woman in the corner of the room, quietly sobbing as she reads about grief. Moved by her distress, Max approaches and offers her an autograph in a gesture of kindness, only to be met with the realization that she doesn’t recognize him. This brief yet poignant encounter highlights the complexities of human emotions and connections. It serves as a reminder that grief, no matter the context, is deeply personal and not always alleviated by fame or recognition. As Max leaves the library, he is left reflecting on his own emotional expressions and the ways in which people connect with one another, underscoring the

theme of human vulnerability amidst his otherwise calculated world.

# Chapter 42

In Chapter 42 of *We Solve Murders*, the tension aboard the flight is palpable as Rosie, Steve, and Amy find themselves navigating a mix of lightheartedness and underlying anxiety. Rosie and Steve are lounging comfortably on a cream leather sofa, while Amy, deep in her thoughts, sulks in a velvet armchair, glued to her phone. Despite the pilot's warning of potential turbulence, Amy dismisses it, signaling her disbelief in the situation. The trio starts singing an unfamiliar country song, which stands in stark contrast to Amy’s grim thoughts. She’s preoccupied with the thought of a threat looming over her life, the weight of which is far from light. The jovial atmosphere between Rosie and Steve, with their carefree song, highlights the conflicting emotions within the group, leaving Amy feeling more isolated in her concern.

Amy’s focus quickly shifts to a pressing issue—the investigation into Bella Sanchez’s murder. She suspects a connection between Bella’s death and a larger money-smuggling operation, one that might be tied to the elusive Loubet. But questions persist—who is Loubet, and where is he now? Just as her mind races through these uncertainties, a message notification from an unknown number interrupts her thoughts, signaling the start of an unexpected conversation with Henk van Veen. Though Henk’s history as a major beneficiary of recent murders makes him an unreliable source, Amy, desperate for information, decides to engage with him. She knows that uncovering the truth could be key to understanding the larger conspiracy she is entangled in, even if that means relying on someone she distrusts.

The tension between Amy’s mounting anxiety and her companions’ obliviousness to the situation continues to grow as the conversation with Henk escalates. Henk’s messages reveal disturbing news about Jeff, a friend of Amy’s who is supposedly dead, adding another layer of confusion and dread to her already fraught mind. As Steve and Rosie continue to sing their carefree songs, unaware of the dark undercurrents of

Amy’s situation, the contrast between their lightheartedness and Amy’s concern becomes even more pronounced. Their banter and laughter represent a starkly different reality, one that Amy cannot fully engage with while grappling with the weight of the threats surrounding her. This dissonance deepens Amy’s sense of isolation, even as she is physically surrounded by friends.

With the situation becoming more dire, Amy feels cornered and resolves to confront Henk about his role in tracking her movements. Her mind races as she contemplates the severe consequences of Henk’s possible hostility, not just for her, but also for Steve’s safety. In the midst of the growing tension, an invigorating song blasts through the cabin, and Rosie, ever the optimist, begins to dance. Steve joins in with playful antics, bringing a momentary break in the gloom. Yet, for Amy, this brief interlude doesn’t erase the real dangers she feels are closing in. The stark contrast between their carefree singing and her inner turmoil intensifies the emotional divide within the group.

As the flight continues, Amy receives another message from Henk, inviting her to continue their conversation. At this moment, Amy makes a decisive move: she destroys her SIM card, cutting all ties with Henk. This bold action is a symbolic declaration of defiance, choosing to embrace the present moment with Steve and Rosie instead of being consumed by the dangers of the outside world. Together, they sing the chorus of *Take On Me*, a song of hope and resistance, reinforcing their bond in the face of impending danger. The song and the moment signify a collective stand against the threats they face. As the plane nears St. Lucia, the island appearing on the horizon symbolizes both a literal and metaphorical new beginning for Amy. The journey ahead, uncertain as it may be, offers a chance for renewal and hope.

# Chapter 41

In Chapter 41 of *We Solve Murders*, Max Highfield arrives at The Wilberforce, a private members' club in London that oozes sophistication and wealth. The atmosphere is one of quiet elegance, with its oak paneling, polished leather chairs, and the low hum of conversation that indicates both exclusivity and tradition. Max, who is familiar with this setting from past film shoots, expects a straightforward entrance, but he is immediately confronted by a stern porter. The porter refuses him entry due to the trainers Max is wearing, citing the club’s strict dress code. Max protests, arguing that his trainers are expensive and stylish, but the porter remains unmoved. After a brief exchange, during which the porter recognizes Max as a film star, he relents and offers Max a pair of brown brogues to wear instead. Max is not pleased with the shoes, as they clash with his outfit, but he accepts them, aware that his need for privacy and discretion in the meeting outweighs his fashion concerns. Despite the inconvenience, Max chooses to comply, feeling a mix of frustration and resignation. The exchange brings to light Max's ability to adapt to uncomfortable situations, a skill honed over the years through both his work in the public eye and personal experiences.

As Max puts on the ill-fitting shoes, his mind drifts to the complexities of his relationships and professional struggles. He reflects on his deteriorating connection with Jeff Nolan, his estranged friend who has been distant and unresponsive. This silence leaves Max questioning what might have caused the rift and whether it’s something that can be repaired. In contrast, Max finds a sense of opportunity in his dealings with Henk van Veen, realizing that aligning with Henk could potentially benefit his career. However, as Max mentally prepares for the meeting, his unease grows when he recalls the threatening note he recently received, which chillingly states, "You will die, Highfield." The note, though vague, sends a wave of anxiety through Max, and he can’t shake the feeling that the message could be connected to

the larger web of threats surrounding him. As he continues to digest this disturbing piece of news, he turns to his therapist's advice for comfort, reminding himself to focus on moving forward rather than dwelling on the dangers that might lie ahead. Despite the guidance, Max remains unsure of how to balance his personal growth with his professional drive. He questions whether his ambition is pushing him too far or if he’s merely playing the role that society expects of him.

As the porter leads Max toward the library where he is to meet Henk, Max feels a mix of anticipation and apprehension. He’s accustomed to facing challenges head-on, but this situation feels different. He reflects on how therapy has helped him manage his emotions better over the years, yet some of the therapist's advice regarding his ambitions and relationships continues to feel out of place. Max has spent much of his life chasing success and recognition, and it is not easy for him to change his mindset. Though he’s made progress in controlling his reactions, the pressures of his career, combined with the personal threats, have left him feeling conflicted. As Max ascends the stairs to meet Henk, he is marked by a sense of foreboding, understanding that the conversation ahead could either provide answers or lead to more complications. The weight of the uncertainty he faces in his career and personal life intensifies with each step. Nevertheless, Max is resolute in his determination to navigate these challenges, knowing that whatever unfolds will shape the course of his future.

# Chapter 40

In Chapter 40 of *We Solve Murders*, Amy, Rosie, and Steve find themselves standing in the parking lot of Emory Executive Airfield, watching as Eddie Flood’s plane ascends high into the bright blue sky above. Steve makes a comment about Eddie’s upcoming vacation in Hawaii, but Rosie, with a knowing smile, remarks that Eddie won't have nearly as much fun as Barb and her daughter, who are also en route to the same destination. At this moment, the team has gathered critical information about Eddie, including a scan of his passport, thanks to Carlos Moss. It’s now clear that Eddie, the man sent to kill Amy, is currently en route to Hawaii, unaware of the investigation unfolding around him. This flight, meant to be a getaway for Eddie, serves as the backdrop to their tense mission. The trio, however, isn’t focusing on vacationing; they’re preparing for their own journey, with the full weight of their mission pushing them forward. The sense of urgency grows stronger as they make their way toward their next destination.

As they prepare for departure, Steve grabs his small rucksack, while Carlos is carefully handling Rosie’s designer suitcase. With excitement in her voice, Rosie mentions how she’s eager to head to St. Lucia for their next adventure. She’s planning to dive into the research of local laws to further their investigation. Amy, always grateful for the assistance, thanks Carlos as he informs them that the Falcon jet has been refueled and is ready for them. Steve, wearing gym shorts and a T-shirt, seems to be struggling with the heat, beads of sweat forming on his face as the temperature rises. Rosie attempts to link arms with him in a supportive gesture, but Steve resists, clearly uncomfortable. His discomfort with the heat is palpable, yet the tension of their situation keeps his focus sharp. While Steve may be physically distracted, their mission remains at the forefront of his mind, and he knows the importance of staying focused despite the minor inconvenience.

Carlos, ever perceptive, notices the subtle dynamic between Amy and Steve and comments on Steve's apparent affection for her. The remark leads Amy to reflect on her personal struggles with accepting love and intimacy. She acknowledges her inner conflict, revealing the emotional layers that have shaped her actions throughout the investigation. Carlos's suggestion that she work on embracing love more openly strikes a chord with Amy, prompting her to consider the complexities of her emotional state amidst the chaos surrounding them. As a porter arrives to help with the luggage, Carlos, trying to maintain a sense of camaraderie, reaches out for a hug with Steve. However, Steve, uncomfortable with the physical contact, declines the offer. Despite the awkward moment, Carlos takes it in stride, giving Steve a quick hug anyway. Steve, sweating and feeling embarrassed, apologizes for his condition, but Carlos reassures him with a lighthearted remark, attributing the discomfort to the heat rather than any personal fault. This exchange, though seemingly trivial, adds a layer of human connection to an otherwise intense chapter, highlighting the contrast between the seriousness of their mission and the light-hearted moments that arise amidst the tension.

After bidding them a casual farewell, Carlos wishes them well, humorously advising them not to get killed. His parting words hang in the air as the trio heads toward the tarmac, the weight of their next steps now pressing on them. Amy, still reflecting on the interactions, suggests that Carlos should be included in one of Rosie's books as a token of thanks. Rosie, ever the professional, smiles and reveals that Carlos had already been a character in one of her novels, *While You Were Dead*. In the story, he's portrayed as an ex-Marine with whom the protagonist shares a complex relationship. This revelation offers a glimpse into Rosie's fictional world and brings a moment of levity to the scene. It also deepens the connection between the characters, showing how Rosie's creative world has intertwined with her real-life relationships. With a lighthearted chuckle, Rosie directs the porter to their chartered plane as the chapter closes, signaling the end of this particular conversation and the beginning of a new chapter in their investigation. The trio boards the plane, preparing for the next phase of their journey, with both excitement and uncertainty lingering in the air. The

complexities of their mission continue to unfold as they prepare for what lies ahead.

# Chapter 39

Chapter 39 of *We Solve Murders* opens with an unexpected visit from Bonnie Gregor to Felicity Woollaston’s home. Bonnie, feeling a bit anxious about the impromptu meeting, steps into a world of privacy that Felicity rarely shares with others. Felicity, accustomed to her solitary routines, works to make Bonnie comfortable, even though this encounter feels like a departure from her usual quiet existence. The conversation begins on an unexpected note as Bonnie expresses her desire to learn more about influencer agencies, especially given her 14K Instagram followers. She wants to understand whether this social media following can be translated into a full-time career, a shift from her current job. Felicity listens with genuine interest but feels some uncertainty about her ability to help, as she has limited experience in the influencer world.

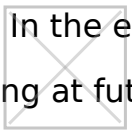
Bonnie, undeterred, delves deeper into her aspirations, asking Felicity about the mechanics of growing and monetizing an online presence. She’s eager to find out how she can turn her Instagram account into a viable business and what steps influencers take to make that leap. Felicity, though familiar with the surface-level dynamics of influencer culture, knows that this world requires much more than just posting pretty pictures. She encourages Bonnie to clarify her expectations, as she believes many influencers face the challenge of balancing personal ambition with the financial realities of sustaining an online career. Bonnie dreams of one day leaving her current job behind and focusing exclusively on becoming a full-time influencer, though she tempers her expectations, saying that she’s not interested in becoming excessively wealthy from it. This humble outlook contrasts with the typical influencer narrative, which often revolves around fame and fortune. As the conversation unfolds, it becomes clear that Bonnie is driven by a desire for independence and personal fulfillment rather than just financial success.

As their conversation deepens, Felicity grows more aware of her own limited knowledge of the influencer space but is moved by Bonnie’s passion. Bonnie offers to show Felicity her Instagram profile, @bonnieinspo, as proof of her efforts and the content she’s been creating. Felicity, feigning technical difficulties, hesitates at first but then encourages Bonnie to present her work directly on her phone. Bonnie eagerly flips through her posts, revealing vibrant and engaging content designed to inspire and uplift her followers. With each scroll, Felicity’s skepticism fades, replaced by admiration for Bonnie’s eye for detail and storytelling. Felicity finds herself impressed by the way Bonnie crafts her posts, understanding how her visual storytelling resonates with the audience. In that moment, the dynamic between them shifts from one of mentor and mentee to one of mutual respect and shared enthusiasm for creativity, even though their worlds are quite different.

The discussion turns to potential brand partnerships, as Bonnie seeks Felicity’s input on what types of companies might be a good fit for her growing platform. Felicity suggests that Bonnie’s aesthetic would align well with brands in the interior design and painting industries, opening the door to possible collaborations. This idea excites Bonnie, who is eager to explore how her online persona could be monetized further. However, as Felicity listens, she begins to feel the weight of her self-doubt. Though she is genuinely invested in helping Bonnie, Felicity acknowledges that she feels somewhat disconnected from the influencer world, a world in which she does not feel entirely at home. Despite this, she sees the potential for Bonnie’s success and begins to consider how she could support her in her journey. While Bonnie is all energy and optimism about her future, Felicity contemplates offering advice or even making a recommendation to her colleagues at Vivid Viral. Though her knowledge is limited, she recognizes the value of supporting Bonnie’s ambitions, even if it means stepping into an unfamiliar territory.

By the time the conversation wraps up, Felicity offers Bonnie the opportunity to continue their discussion over lunch, signaling her genuine interest in supporting Bonnie’s growth. The offer is more than just a friendly gesture; it signifies Felicity’s willingness to help Bonnie navigate this new world despite her own reservations.

Bonnie’s willingness to open up about her dreams and ambitions has sparked something in Felicity, who finds herself intrigued by the possibility of supporting her. As the chapter concludes, there is a sense of camaraderie between them, despite their differing life paths. The meeting, initially seen as a simple favor, ends up being a turning point for both women. For Felicity, it opens the door to new possibilities in the influencer world, while for Bonnie, it offers hope that her aspirations can one day become a reality. In the end, the chapter leaves the reader with a sense of anticipation, hinting at future collaborations and growth for both characters.



# Chapter 38

Chapter 38 of *We Solve Murders* begins with Eddie sitting in a stark interrogation room, the air thick with tension as he awaits his fate. His patience wears thin as he contemplates the situation, but the arrival of Carlos, a bureaucrat familiar with the system, provides an unexpected reprieve. Carlos, who exudes a casual confidence, explains that Eddie's prolonged detention isn't due to any new charges but rather a technical delay caused by the outdated computer system. This information does little to ease Eddie's frustration, but Carlos's calm demeanor and familiarity with Eddie's past make the encounter less adversarial than expected. It becomes clear that Carlos is no stranger to dealing with people like Eddie—those who operate on the fringes of legality yet know how to navigate the system to their advantage. Despite his past run-ins with the law, Eddie isn't reckless; he knows when to push back and when to cooperate, and this seems to be one of those moments that requires patience.

The conversation shifts as Carlos, seeing an opportunity for small talk, brings up Eddie's past in a way that feels oddly conversational rather than accusatory. He mentions that Eddie has been through similar situations before, noting the familiarity of his name in police records. Eddie, though wary, engages in the discussion, realizing that Carlos isn't out to make things worse for him. Instead, Carlos appears amused by the absurdity of bureaucracy, even making a joke about how sometimes the system works against itself. As they exchange words, Eddie begins to see Carlos not as an obstacle but as a potential asset in his current predicament. When Eddie asks if he can call Carlos by his first name, the official grins and nods, marking the start of a tentative understanding between the two men. This unexpected camaraderie offers Eddie a brief moment of relief, though he remains cautious about fully trusting anyone in a situation as delicate as his own.

Things take a more intriguing turn when Carlos casually drops a name that immediately captures Eddie's full attention—Rosie D'Antonio. Eddie perks up at the mention of the writer, knowing that her movements are tied to something bigger than mere coincidence. Carlos informs him that Rosie is currently boarding a private jet, set to depart within minutes, sending Eddie's mind into overdrive. The plane's identifier, TC-816, is relayed with casual efficiency, but to Eddie, it might as well be a ticking clock counting down his chance to intercept her before she gets too far ahead. He quickly processes his options, considering how best to close the gap between them without drawing too much attention to himself. His instincts tell him that Rosie isn't traveling alone, and when Carlos confirms that she is accompanied by another woman en route to Hawaii, his determination solidifies. There's no time to hesitate—if he wants to find her, he needs to act immediately.

Carlos, now invested in the situation, offers to help Eddie book a last-minute flight, guiding him toward the charter desk where he can secure a private plane. The sudden shift from bureaucratic indifference to helpful ally surprises Eddie, but he isn't about to question his good fortune. Instead, he decides to take full advantage of Carlos's assistance, knowing that every second counts. As they make their way across the terminal, Eddie considers how much he is willing to pay to ensure he reaches Hawaii before Rosie and Amy disappear from his radar. He mentally calculates the cost, concluding that whatever the price, it's a necessary expense. In a rare moment of generosity, Eddie decides to compensate Carlos handsomely for his help, recognizing that having an insider on his side might prove useful beyond just this one encounter.

The chapter closes with Eddie securing a flight, setting the stage for a high-stakes pursuit that promises more twists and turns ahead. As his plane prepares for takeoff, he glances out the window, aware that Rosie and Amy are closer than they realize. Their paths are about to converge, and with each passing moment, the tension builds. Eddie isn't just chasing after answers—he's chasing after the truth, and as the wheels lift off the ground, he knows that what lies ahead will be anything but simple. His relentless pursuit underscores just how entangled he has become in the mystery, and as the horizon stretches before him, the real question remains: will he reach them in

time, or is he already too late?

# Chapter 37

In Chapter 37 of *We Solve Murders*, Amy, Steve, and Rosie engage in a tense and gripping conversation as they confront the very real threats Amy may face. Rosie, concerned, questions whether Jeff could have possibly obtained a sample of Amy’s blood, but Amy swiftly defends Jeff, explaining that he had already warned her about the dangers surrounding individuals like Loubet and Joe Blow. As they delve deeper into the investigation, Steve points out a troubling connection: Jeff was aware of Amy’s whereabouts when multiple murders occurred, suggesting that he may have played a role in or been connected to these events. This realization causes unease within the group, as they begin to question the reliability and intentions of those closest to Amy, including Jeff. The more they discuss, the clearer it becomes that they are tangled in a web of deceit and manipulation, and it’s unclear who can truly be trusted.

As the conversation unfolds, Amy brings up another key figure: Henk van Veen. She mentions how Henk, once a trusted colleague, has been stealing clients since he left the company, and she implies that Henk might now be a potential suspect in the string of murders. Rosie speculates that Henk could also be involved in eliminating clients to intimidate others from associating with Maximum Impact, the company they all had ties to. This theory only deepens the mystery surrounding their investigation, as it raises questions about who might be benefiting from the murders and whether those involved are playing both sides. Despite their suspicions, Amy is unsure of Henk's current whereabouts but believes that he wouldn't have access to her movements or be tracking her. The conversation shifts, and Amy also raises concerns about Susan Knox, Jeff’s assistant, who she believes may know both her location and could have access to her blood sample. Rosie, ever the proactive one, suggests that they relocate to St. Lucia to continue their investigation, but Steve hesitates, feeling conflicted about leaving his new home and life behind so soon. This inner conflict highlights Steve's

personal struggle between duty and comfort, creating tension within the trio. The realization that Amy's blood might be found at a crime scene only amplifies the stakes, forcing them to confront the gravity of their situation and make hard decisions about what comes next.

The chapter intensifies as the trio begins to focus on Bella Sanchez’s murder, which has sparked Amy’s growing determination to investigate. She insists that they must go to St. Lucia to continue their inquiries, determined to uncover the truth about what happened to Bella and the possible link between her death and the larger criminal activities at play. Rosie, unwavering in her support, encourages Amy to pursue this course of action, but Steve remains conflicted about leaving the safety of his new home. However, just as the tension reaches its peak, Steve receives a phone call from Carlos, informing them that Eddie Flood is actively searching for Amy. This new information shifts the focus of their plans, making the need for immediate action more pressing than ever. The group is now forced to consider St. Lucia not only as a place of investigation but also as a refuge from the growing dangers surrounding them. Rosie’s quick thinking shines through as she mentions that her pilot is available, ready to help them escape as soon as possible. With the sense of urgency mounting, they prepare to leave, knowing that each moment counts. Their resolve strengthens as they head towards their next step, ready to face the challenges that lie ahead while trying to stay one step ahead of those who want to see them fail. The chapter concludes with a palpable sense of anticipation, signaling that the investigation and their journey are far from over.

# Chapter 36

Chapter 36 of *We Solve Murders* presents Max Highfield in an amusing yet odd scenario, dressed as a Roman centurion and locked inside a modest Winnebago. The atmosphere is a blend of both humor and tension as Max prepares for his scene, trying to embody the gravity of the character he is portraying. The cramped quarters of the Winnebago stand in stark contrast to the grandiose set, where towering columns and golden statues evoke the splendor of ancient Rome. Max stands in front of a bamboo-framed mirror, running through his lines with a tone that reflects the emotional weight of his character's rejection of Caesar. His refusal to praise the emperor, despite the pressure and danger surrounding him, hints at a deeper, more personal internal conflict. The director, seated nearby in a director's chair, critiques Max's performance with intense focus, occasionally scribbling in her notes. Max, ever the perfectionist, contemplates tweaking his delivery, wishing to infuse the lines with more authenticity, as though the words are born not from a script, but from raw, unfiltered emotions.

The stillness of the set is broken by a knock on the Winnebago's door, and a runner enters with an unexpected delivery: a bouquet of vibrant flowers. The gesture feels oddly out of place in the context of the film's serious tone, but Max's lighthearted nature takes over as he interacts with the runner. The assistant, surprised by the sight of Max in full costume, hands him the flowers, triggering a brief, playful exchange between them. Max, maintaining his character's air of authority, insists on staying in character, joking about Roman centurions and their mythical love for coffee, despite the oddity of the situation. The assistant, bemused, looks confused as Max orders a soy milk latte, blending his real-world personality with the character he's meant to portray. The director, who has overheard the conversation, briefly interjects, quipping that coffee has existed for thousands of years, even before the time of the Romans. Max, undeterred, maintains his act, proving his ability to remain in character despite

the distractions.

After the runner exits, Max shifts his focus to the accompanying card that came with the flowers. He expects a typical note of admiration or a small gesture of goodwill, but the message he reads is far more disturbing. "You’re Dead" is written in bold, stark letters, sending a wave of unease through Max. At first, he wonders whether it's some sort of joke or a prank intended to lighten the mood on set, but the more he thinks about it, the more troubling it becomes. The ominous message seems to hint at something deeper—a threat not just to his character, but perhaps to him personally. Max feels a chill run down his spine as he contemplates the meaning of the note. Could this message be connected to the script, or does it hold a more sinister implication that he hasn’t yet grasped? As Max stares at the card, he senses the looming presence of danger, realizing that this cryptic warning could signal a new level of intrigue or risk for him in both his professional and personal life.

Max tries to dismiss the thoughts racing through his mind, knowing he cannot allow the message to distract him from his work. However, the eerie words continue to echo in his thoughts, amplifying the tension he feels. In the middle of his preparations for the next scene, he wonders whether someone out there has a personal vendetta against him, or if it's simply a random threat meant to unsettle him. As the reality of the situation sinks in, Max’s thoughts return to the nature of his role in the film and whether his character's internal struggle mirrors his own. This subtle parallel between fiction and reality begins to shape his performance, and he starts to realize that the lines between his character and his personal life might blur in ways he hadn’t anticipated. The mystery surrounding the message builds suspense, leaving readers curious to know who is behind this ominous note and whether it’s just the beginning of something far more dangerous that Max has yet to uncover.

# Chapter 35

Chapter 35 of *We Solve Murders* opens with Steve waking up in a uniquely designed treehouse, situated within the serene landscape of South Carolina’s expansive forest. The tranquility of the place, with its lush trees and soft rustling leaves, offers a brief escape from the tension of the ongoing investigation. The morning sunlight filters through the canopy, casting dappled shadows on the wooden walls of the treehouse. Steve, still groggy from the previous night’s exhausting work, sits at a bamboo table where he’s going through documents from Scroggie's computer, hoping to uncover something that might bring clarity to the situation. His companion, Barb, moves about the kitchenette, blending smoothies and making healthy concoctions. When Steve jokingly asks for a beer, Barb firmly refuses, suggesting that they need clear minds if they are to solve the mystery. Her healthy living lifestyle seems to contrast sharply with Steve's more laid-back approach, but they share a comfortable camaraderie as they exchange friendly banter about their contrasting habits.

Soon, Rosie and Amy arrive, and after some casual greetings, they delve into the details of the investigation. The conversation quickly turns serious as they discuss the series of murders connected to influencers like Andrew Fairbanks, Bella Sanchez, and Mark Gooch. All three victims had been associated with Maximum Impact, a powerful media agency that controls the careers of many influential figures in the online world. As the group pieces together the timeline of events, Steve raises concerns about the proximity of Amy to each of the crime scenes. He notes that she was in close proximity to all the locations around the time of the murders, adding a layer of suspicion to her involvement. Rosie suggests that the murders could be connected to Maximum Impact, but the question remains—what is the motive behind targeting these particular individuals? Amy, understandably on edge, asks whether Steve had found any crucial evidence on Scroggie’s computer, hoping for something that could break the case wide

open.

Steve’s response is both surprising and unsettling. He reveals that Scroggie had been in contact with someone who had sent explicit instructions related to the murders, along with a blood sample, which Scroggie had been asked to place at the crime scenes to frame someone for the murders. The revelation sends a shockwave through the group, especially when Amy starts to panic at the thought that her own blood might have been taken and used as part of the plan. This opens a horrifying possibility: someone with access to her blood from previous drug tests, conducted by Maximum Impact, could have stolen her DNA and planted it at the crime scenes to mislead the investigation. Rosie quickly adds that the murderer might have used these blood samples intentionally, linking Amy to the scenes without her knowledge. The conversation grows more urgent as they realize the depth of the conspiracy they are unwittingly involved in, and how easily they could be framed for something they didn’t do. This realization pushes them into action, knowing that time is running out to uncover the truth and clear Amy’s name before it’s too late.

With mounting pressure and increasing danger, the trio begins to formulate their next steps. Steve suggests that their best course of action would be to leave South Carolina and take the investigation to St. Lucia, where they believe more answers might be hidden. Amy, though hesitant at first, reluctantly agrees, understanding that the situation is becoming more dire by the minute. The prospect of moving their investigation to a new location brings a renewed sense of urgency, but it also forces them to consider the growing threats that seem to be closing in on them. Just as they begin to finalize their plans, Steve’s phone buzzes with a message from Carlos. The message relays alarming news—Eddie Flood, the man sent to kill Amy, is actively searching for her. The news sends shockwaves through the group, as they realize that Eddie’s pursuit of Amy could be more dangerous than they initially thought. The chapter concludes with a sense of rising tension, leaving the group unsure of what their next move will be but certain that their investigation is now a race against time to uncover the truth and survive the mounting threats surrounding them.

# Chapter 34

Chapter 34 of *We Solve Murders* opens with Eddie Flood stepping off the plane into the humid, sweltering air of South Carolina, the weight of his mission already pressing heavily on his chest. His mission is simple yet deadly: he has been hired for thirty thousand pounds to eliminate a woman, but Eddie knows there is more lurking beneath the surface. While Rob Kenna, his associate, is aware of the deal, Eddie keeps the full extent of the job to himself, knowing that secrets are essential for survival in their line of work. His suitcase is carefully packed with an assortment of disguises—tourist clothes for blending in, business attire for professionalism, and military fatigues for a more aggressive approach, if necessary. Along with these, his laptop, loaded with information on bullet wounds and their aftermath, serves as both a tool for research and a grim reminder of what lies ahead.

Inside the airport terminal, Eddie moves swiftly, his eyes scanning the environment, alert for anything that seems out of place. Two customs officers stand at their posts—one is a wiry white man with a neatly trimmed mustache, and the other is a tall, robust black man named Carlos Moss, who stands with a confident air, clearly accustomed to authority. Eddie, smooth and confident as always, approaches the pair, handing over his passport and engaging in light conversation. He casually mentions that he is a fan of the local author Rosie D’Antonio, hoping to slip in some casual questions about her life in the area. However, beneath the pleasantries, Eddie is quietly probing Carlos for any useful information about Rosie, trying to gauge if she’s a potential lead or simply another distraction. Carlos, however, is more guarded than Eddie anticipated, offering only polite responses and refusing to be swayed by Eddie's charm.

Despite Eddie’s attempts to bond over shared interests, Carlos remains unaffected. He informs Eddie that, due to routine protocol, a random security check is necessary. To

Eddie, this feels like both an inconvenience and an opportunity. He knows that Carlos could prove useful if persuaded, so he decides to take the risk of offering money in exchange for information. The customs officer leads Eddie to a side room, which resembles an interrogation room more than a security checkpoint. The sterile, cold environment immediately puts Eddie on edge as he begins calculating his next move. As Carlos locks the door behind him and steps out, Eddie is left alone with his thoughts. He considers his next steps carefully, knowing that this could be a pivotal moment in his mission. Reaching into his pocket, Eddie pulls out a roll of cash, estimating that offering three hundred dollars to Carlos might be enough to coax him into sharing some useful details. If not, Eddie is prepared to up the ante—after all, he's been in tight spots before and has learned the art of negotiating under pressure.

As the minutes tick by, Eddie's mind races with the implications of his situation. The mission to kill the woman is becoming more complicated, and the unknown details surrounding her are starting to weigh on him. What was initially a straightforward assignment is now tangled in layers of mystery, and Eddie can't afford to make any missteps. He pulls out his laptop again, scanning through research he compiled during the flight. The information on the blood samples, the mysterious figures involved, and the potential connections to bigger players start to intertwine, creating a more dangerous web than Eddie anticipated. His heart races as he contemplates the stakes, realizing that this mission could end up being far more perilous than originally thought. When Carlos finally returns to the room, Eddie knows the next few minutes will determine the outcome of his mission and whether he'll walk away with the information he needs. Every word, every gesture, will have to be calculated perfectly—Eddie isn't just trying to make a deal; he's positioning himself to survive.

# Chapter 33

Chapter 33 of *We Solve Murders* unfolds in the serene setting of the Eternal Glade Wellness Retreat, where Amy and Rosie are guided through an exercise designed to help them face their fears. In the midst of nature’s tranquility, they sit cross-legged on the ground, listening to Barb’s encouragement to confront the anxieties they have buried deep within. Barb emphasizes that understanding these fears is essential for personal growth, and that only by facing them can they begin to release the weight of these emotional burdens. She turns to Rosie first, prompting her to share her fears and anxieties, which set the tone for this intense and reflective moment.

Rosie’s fears are deeply rooted in her personal struggles. She talks about the overwhelming pressure to be remembered for something more than her physical appearance, a fear of being misunderstood, and a lingering anxiety that her identity is tied to external expectations. This opens a window into her vulnerability, revealing that her past battles with identity and self-worth are still very much alive in her mind. As she speaks about the fear of losing touch with herself and the impending feeling of disconnection from both the past and future, Amy listens quietly, recognizing the intensity of Rosie’s experience. The weight of Rosie’s admission leaves Amy thinking about her own inner turmoil, casting a shadow on her attempt to process her emotions.

When Amy’s turn arrives, she finds it more difficult to articulate her fears. Unlike Rosie, who was able to vocalize deeply complex feelings, Amy struggles to confront her own vulnerabilities, ultimately revealing something seemingly insignificant—a fear of spiders. Though this fear might seem trivial compared to the depth of Rosie’s, it carries its own significance for Amy. The simple, almost silly nature of her fear becomes a reflection of the complexities of human anxiety. This moment reveals how fears, no matter how small, can deeply affect a person’s emotional state, highlighting

the wide array of ways anxiety manifests in different individuals. Amy's willingness to share her fear, however small, shows that even in a safe space, facing our personal challenges can be uncomfortable.

Just as the reflective moment settles in, a sudden sound from the trees disrupts the peaceful atmosphere. Instinctively, Amy reaches for her weapon, but she quickly lowers it upon realizing it is Steve, arriving unexpectedly at the retreat. Their reunion is filled with relief, but it also carries an undercurrent of concern as Steve expresses his worries about their safety. Rosie, ever quick-witted, greets Steve and introduces herself with her usual playful humor, easing the tension that had begun to rise. Although the situation is momentarily lightened by their banter, the presence of Steve introduces new elements of urgency, as he holds crucial information that will shift the focus of the narrative from introspection to investigation.

Steve presents evidence from the airport—CCTV footage that shows Andrew Fairbanks being escorted away, an important clue in their ongoing investigation. This new information directs their attention back to the central mystery and signals the shift from personal revelations to solving the case at hand. Rosie and Amy immediately begin to focus on the implications of the footage, particularly regarding Sheriff Scroggie's possible involvement in the situation. Amy, ever the sharp investigator, hints at something darker behind Scroggie's actions, adding layers of suspicion to their inquiry. As the conversation progresses, it becomes clear that the case is more complex than they initially thought, and the stakes are much higher.

Rosie, ever the realist, humorously remarks on the dangerous road ahead, adding lightness to the otherwise intense conversation. Despite her jokes, it's clear that the investigation is becoming increasingly urgent, and they must act quickly to uncover the truth. Amy, feeling the weight of the situation, expresses her commitment to getting to the bottom of the mystery surrounding Fairbanks' disappearance. Her resolve to confront whatever challenges lie ahead is unwavering. The chapter ends on a note of determination, as Amy prepares herself to dive deeper into the investigation, ready to confront both external threats and her own fears. This balance of humor,

camaraderie, and suspense propels the narrative forward, leaving readers eager to see how the plot will unfold as Amy’s investigation progresses.

# Chapter 32

Chapter 32 of *We Solve Murders* unfolds in the quiet confines of a corporate boardroom, where Susan Knox, head of HR at Maximum Impact Solutions, reviews a file on François Loubet, her mind preoccupied with unsettling thoughts. As she glances up from her work, Bloomberg News discusses the impact of high-interest rates, but Susan's focus remains firmly on Jeff’s mysterious disappearance. The car that was found, riddled with bullet holes and bloodstains, continues to haunt her thoughts. She has tried, in vain, to reach Jeff by phone numerous times, but each attempt has been met with silence, raising questions about his fate.

As she delves deeper into Jeff’s financials, Susan finds herself piecing together a disturbing puzzle. She uncovers a series of bank accounts, some stretching back decades, but most strikingly, none of them have seen any significant movement recently. The Cayman Islands account, known for its high-yield tax-free investment, seems stable, but a closer look reveals only routine transactions and a recent fuel purchase from a South London petrol station. This lack of activity leads Susan to believe that Jeff may have isolated himself, further raising doubts about whether he is alive or simply hiding from something—or someone. The lack of action and sudden disappearance weigh heavily on her, prompting her to consider where Jeff may have hidden his assets, including phones and cash, should he be in danger.

As Susan sits alone in the office, her mind races with potential next steps. The silence of the usually bustling office seems to add to the growing tension as she reflects on the fact that most of the workforce at Maximum Impact Solutions is freelance, leaving her without immediate support. She considers reaching out to Henk, Jeff’s long-time friend, who might be able to provide more insight into Jeff’s disappearance if indeed he has met with foul play. But Susan hesitates, unsure of Henk's involvement, especially given the suspicion surrounding his connection to Jeff. The complexity of the situation

begins to weigh on her as she tries to decipher the truth, and the shadow of Loubet's threat adds a layer of unease.

The emails from Loubet, however, are what truly trouble Susan. The emails are written in an unnervingly cheerful tone, masking the danger hidden beneath their surface. As Susan pores over the documents, she begins to notice subtle markings and annotations from Jeff, which indicate that he had been investigating Loubet's true identity. Unfortunately, the only lead on the Client Identity Form is a name and an Indonesian bank account, providing no tangible clues to move forward. Despite feeling stuck, Susan realizes that she can no longer depend on Jeff for answers, especially in his mysterious absence.

A moment of clarity strikes as Susan's gaze lands on a mirror that conceals Henk's secret den. She starts to question whether Henk could be trusted, feeling uncertain about his potential involvement in the unfolding situation. After considering all the possibilities, she concludes that reaching out to Amy Wheeler might be her best course of action. Amy has been an integral part of the investigation, and Susan feels she may be able to provide the help she needs to push forward. The urgency of the situation intensifies, and Susan realizes that the files she is working on could hold the key to uncovering the truth before more lives are put in jeopardy.

As the chapter closes, the tension is palpable. Susan, now determined, makes the decision to contact Amy, feeling that time is of the essence. The mysterious circumstances surrounding Jeff's disappearance, the threatening nature of Loubet's communications, and the cryptic clues within Jeff's records all point to a deeper conspiracy. The unresolved questions loom large as Susan prepares for her next move, knowing that the investigation has only just begun.

# Chapter 31

Chapter 31 of *We Solve Murders* opens with Steve Wheeler stepping off a private jet onto the sultry heat of South Carolina, immediately feeling out of place. Dressed in casual attire, he’s sharply aware of the contrast between his usual English surroundings and the polished environment around him. This cultural disparity is underscored as Steve navigates the airport, his mind preoccupied with the task ahead: helping Amy, a woman he admires greatly, even though he struggles with personal grief. They rarely delve into anything too emotional in their conversations, preferring to keep things light and uncomplicated. The weight of the task ahead hangs over him, but his focus on helping Amy keeps him going.

As Steve steps onto the tarmac, his thoughts turn to Andrew Fairbanks, whose mysterious arrival at this very airport has been a significant point of interest in the investigation. Fairbanks’ presence seems to hold the key to unraveling the mystery Steve is trying to solve. Determined to get to the bottom of it, Steve resolves to investigate further. He recalls his brief interaction with Brad, the flight attendant, who offers advice on sun protection. Steve declines, feeling both self-aware and a bit too self-deprecating for the well-meaning advice, as his mind is set solely on his investigation into Fairbanks' arrival and sudden disappearance.

Clutching his rucksack, which looks rather out of place in the pristine surroundings of the airport, Steve is directed toward customs, where he meets Carlos Moss. The exchange between them is filled with Steve’s dry wit and attempts to gain access to areas of the airport where he might find more clues. Carlos, however, remains composed and cautious, reminding Steve that their banter may lead to complications. Despite Steve's playful attempts, Carlos maintains a firm sense of authority and ensures that the boundaries are clear. Steve’s determination is evident as he pushes for a look at the airport’s CCTV footage, hoping that the footage might provide insight

into the mysterious ride that picked up Fairbanks.

Carlos, while initially hesitant due to his obligations and a scheduled flight, begins to show a flicker of curiosity as Steve continues to press him for access. Their conversation grows more serious, with Steve suggesting that the footage may hold vital information. In an unexpected twist, the two bond over their music preferences, with Steve finding a way to negotiate with Carlos, offering to engage in a friendly discussion about their shared interests in return for a glimpse at the crucial footage. The playful banter shifts into more serious negotiation, with Steve willing to use his charm and wit to gain the necessary access for his investigation.

Through this interaction, Steve’s determination shines through. While he uses humor to lighten the mood, it’s clear that he is deeply focused on uncovering the truth behind Fairbanks’ mysterious arrival and disappearance. The banter between Carlos and Steve serves to develop their relationship, making Carlos a key character who may have vital information about the investigation. Steve’s willingness to push boundaries, as well as his ability to blend charm with persistence, marks a turning point in the investigation. The chapter ends with Steve securing an agreement to view the CCTV footage, setting the stage for a deeper dive into the case and the clues that could unravel more about Fairbanks' fate.

The investigation's momentum continues to build, with Steve’s approach to Carlos marking a subtle yet significant move forward in their pursuit of the truth. The negotiation over the CCTV footage is just one step in Steve’s larger plan to uncover the details surrounding Fairbanks’ arrival at the airport, his disappearance, and how it ties into the broader mystery. The playful yet purposeful interaction highlights Steve’s skill in navigating complex situations, blending his humor with the seriousness of his mission. As the chapter closes, the stage is set for a deeper exploration of the events surrounding Fairbanks, and Steve is one step closer to unraveling the mystery that has been consuming his thoughts.

# Chapter 30

Chapter 30 of *We Solve Murders* presents a tense scenario where Rob Kenna, a skilled broker of hits, must act quickly to resolve a situation that went awry due to the mistakes of Kevin, a former Navy SEAL, and a local cop's failure to kill the sheriff. Rob, a man who thrives in these high-stakes environments, knows exactly who to turn to for help—Eddie Flood, an old contact from East London with a reputation for handling tough jobs. Their communication is established through a secure video call on an app humorously named "Shhhh!" Eddie, though slightly heavier than before, remains in good shape and brings a sense of familiarity to the conversation. The banter between the two starts off light-hearted, with Rob joking about missing darts, which used to be a pastime but is no longer an option in his current luxurious environment.

Once the pleasantries are over, Rob wastes no time and immediately dives into the business at hand. He inquires about Eddie’s financial situation, to which Eddie simply responds, "badly." This sets the stage for Rob’s proposal: he offers $30,000 to Eddie for a job that requires his particular set of skills—eliminating a target. Eddie, while intrigued by the offer, is skeptical about the job's details and questions whether the hit has to be carried out in America. Rob affirms that the job must indeed take place on American soil, and Eddie, still hesitant but intrigued, agrees to take a closer look at the situation. His occasional acceptance of similar jobs has earned him a reputation, but the gravity of the task at hand makes him cautious.

The pivotal moment comes when Rob shares a photo of two women with Eddie, instructing him to kill the younger one, Amy Wheeler, while sparing the older woman, Rosie D'Antonio, a well-known writer. Eddie’s reaction shows a glimmer of recognition of Rosie, a sign of unease and perhaps a personal connection to her. As he regains his composure, Eddie asks about the timeline for the job, and Rob emphasizes that it is urgent, offering the use of one of his private planes to make the task easier. This

gesture not only showcases Rob’s wealth but also adds an element of trust between the two, as Eddie is now part of a high-level operation that requires precision. The mention of two planes, along with Rob's sarcastic remark about the lack of dartboards in his lavish space, highlights the vast difference in their worlds—Rob’s life of excess and Eddie’s pragmatic, no-nonsense approach to business.

Eddie’s hesitation is palpable, but Rob’s confidence in him is unwavering. Rob’s belief in Eddie's efficiency is clear, contrasting sharply with his previous disappointment in Kevin's incompetence. He is convinced that Eddie’s reliability will allow him to carry out the task without the complications that have marred his prior attempts. Rob understands that this mission is crucial not just for eliminating a threat, but for solidifying a bond of trust between them, one that harks back to their old friendship. The stakes are high, but Rob’s meticulous planning and his faith in Eddie's abilities underscore the importance of executing this job flawlessly, ensuring that the situation will be resolved swiftly and decisively.

The chapter focuses on the relationships and alliances that shape Rob's world, where loyalty and trust are critical, yet fraught with risk. As Rob navigates the challenges of his dangerous line of work, the dynamics between him and Eddie highlight the personal connections that can make or break a mission. The underlying tension between business and personal loyalties is evident throughout, as each action carries weight beyond mere financial gain. In the end, Rob’s plan hinges on Eddie’s ability to deliver on his end, making this chapter a turning point in the larger narrative where trust and betrayal intertwine to shape the course of events.

# Chapter 29

Chapter 29 of *We Solve Murders* presents an intriguing and lighthearted moment between Amy and Rosie as they drive through a scenic route. Rosie, in her usual energetic manner, is eager to ask Amy about her father-in-law. She wonders if he fits the "rugged" stereotype, playfully imagining that he could be someone she would get along with. Amy, not missing a beat, describes him humorously as resembling a roadie for Iron Maiden, which leads to a playful exchange between the two. However, Amy quickly puts an end to the teasing with a firm "No touching," setting clear boundaries even though the mood is jovial. This exchange illustrates the dynamic between the two, where humor often lightens the tense situations they find themselves in, but Amy is also assertive about what is acceptable.

As their conversation evolves, Amy’s thoughts become more serious as she reflects on her increasingly complicated life. Amy’s current predicament is not just about the ongoing investigations, but her wrongful involvement in a series of murders that she did not commit. François Loubet's presence looms large in her mind, as he continues to be a constant threat, casting doubt on her safety and making every move she makes seem dangerous. During this period of reflection, Amy reviews the training notes Jeff gave her, which become a tool for her to break down her situation logically. The first step is assessing the immediate danger—her life is in jeopardy, and she has become entangled in a murder investigation with no clear answers. What started as a simple task has now turned into a life-or-death battle for survival, with the authorities seemingly unable to help.

Amy takes a moment to evaluate her strengths and weaknesses. The strengths are clear—ten years of experience working in law enforcement, a reasonable amount of savings, and the safety net provided by Barbara, an elderly woman who has offered her shelter. These resources, though helpful, are weighed down by significant

weaknesses. Amy lacks experience in handling high-profile murder investigations, which makes the stakes even higher. Her only connection to Jeff is his absence—his sudden disappearance adds to her sense of confusion and helplessness. The constant threat posed by Loubet and his mysterious motives keeps Amy on edge, while Barbara’s unpredictable behavior only complicates matters further. While Amy appreciates Barbara’s support, it’s clear that her own presence brings her added stress, making it a challenge for Amy to focus solely on the investigation.

Despite these concerns, Amy knows that she can count on Steve. He has been a steady source of support, and although Rosie’s mischievous spirit often complicates their investigations, she’s still an ally in the pursuit of justice. The emotional burden of handling this investigation and the complications of her personal life weigh heavily on Amy, but she is determined to make progress. She knows she must push through, using her strengths while addressing the challenges before her. The case of the murders of Andrew Fairbanks, Bella Sanchez, and Mark Gooch has not only affected her emotionally but also personally, as Amy feels herself slipping into a dark and dangerous web of intrigue.

As Amy texts Adam, she shares her thoughts and decisions with him, wanting him to feel connected to the investigation despite his busy schedule. She understands that Adam's support will be a crucial part of her strategy in navigating the ongoing chaos. His supportive message brings a smile to Amy's face, a brief respite from the stress she has been under. Their exchange not only strengthens her resolve but also reminds her of the importance of keeping those she cares about in the loop, especially when the stakes are so high. Adam’s unwavering belief in her serves as a motivating force for Amy, helping her refocus on the path ahead.

Soon after, Amy receives a message from Steve. He has just landed after a long flight with no refreshments and is now making his way through customs without any delays. Amy, continuing to manage the whirlwind of events, directs him to meet her at the Eternal Glade Wellness Retreat Resort, where she intends to face the next stage of the investigation. The constant influx of tasks, deadlines, and new information forces Amy

to adapt quickly, but she embraces the challenge with humor. The chaotic, high-stress situation does little to slow her down, especially with Rosie and Steve by her side. This realization of the strength of her team allows Amy to take a deep breath, readying herself for the challenges ahead. Their unwavering support fuels her drive to uncover the truth behind the mysterious murders, and Amy feels prepared to confront whatever lies ahead. This chapter ends with Amy’s confidence reinforced, ready to take on whatever comes next in the investigation.

# Chapter 28

Chapter 28 of *We Solve Murders* follows the evolution of Bonnie Gregor, an influencer who started her journey with humble beginnings. What began as a simple Instagram post of a pink toilet door quickly grew into a social media sensation. Within just a year, Bonnie's follower count had surged to 14,000, a stark contrast to the modest start of sharing images with family and friends. A seemingly insignificant post caught the attention of the masses, with even Fearne Cotton's mother sharing it, catapulting Bonnie to influencer status. This chapter reveals the surprising speed at which social media fame can be achieved, even from the most unexpected beginnings.

Reflecting on her rise to fame, Bonnie scrolls through her Instagram and remembers the early days when her #LooWithAView post initially only garnered four likes, with most coming from supportive friends or a persistent bot from South Korea. She recalls her initial attempts at social media fame, including a brief and unsuccessful attempt at a picture of Harry Styles, which she discarded as disrespectful. Bonnie credits her friend Reba for encouraging her to see the potential in her growing audience, with 14,000 followers officially classifying her as an influencer. This newfound label pushes Bonnie to seriously consider the possibility of turning her social media presence into a viable career path. Her self-reflection on this transition highlights the ease with which someone can go from casual sharing to a more purposeful career in the digital world.

Despite experiencing some setbacks—such as her follower count dipping after the initial buzz from the toilet door post—Bonnie quickly adapted. She creatively painted "ILoveMyKitchen" on her cabinet, which sparked a renewed interest in her content. This creative effort led her to turn her home into a space for her digital activism, decorating her walls with various slogans. Although she quickly realized she had run out of wall space to decorate, this phase in her journey shows how influencers often use their environment as a canvas for self-expression. Bonnie's ability to adapt and

think outside the box, despite facing challenges, is an important element of the influencer world, where staying relevant and engaging is key to growth.

Arriving in Letchworth Garden City, Bonnie feels a blend of nervousness and excitement as she prepares for an important meeting with Felicity Woollaston of Vivid Viral Media. Before the meeting, she takes a moment to immerse herself in the picturesque surroundings, snapping photos of her marketing efforts along the way. She takes the opportunity to place a sticker on a bench, capturing the moment with a photo and sharing it on Instagram, eager for the instant validation of likes and comments. The quick surge in engagement boosts her confidence and reinforces her belief in the power of social media to bring positivity to a world that can sometimes seem filled with negativity. Bonnie’s understanding of social media’s impact on personal branding is clear as she continues to build her presence with each post.

As Bonnie walks toward her meeting with Felicity, she reflects on her aspirations for the future. Despite her growing social media success, Bonnie feels that her current projects barely cover her expenses, and her day job is still essential to support her. However, with a wealth of creative ideas in mind, she is hopeful that Felicity can help her monetize her passions and transform her digital presence into a full-time career. Bonnie’s desire to learn from Felicity about the strategies that can turn her dreams into reality speaks to the common journey of many influencers striving to make the leap from hobbyists to professionals. Her understanding that success requires both big dreams and the right guidance is a crucial lesson for anyone navigating the complexities of turning a passion into a career.

# Chapter 27

Chapter 27 of *We Solve Murders* delves into Steve’s preparations for a trip to the United States, where he is tasked with preventing a potential crime involving Amy. As he finalizes arrangements, Steve makes sure to confirm the driver, Ken, who will transport him to Farnborough Airport. He recalls a recent encounter with Linda, a colleague from Hampshire Police, who had invited him for drinks—a request he awkwardly declined. With a sense of duty and urgency, Steve packs light for his journey, including a book of puzzles, some snacks for the flight, and a few essentials. He also makes sure Margaret is updated on the situation, reminding her to look after their pet, Trouble, who requires eye drops. Though the trip is necessary, Steve can't shake the feeling of unease about what lies ahead.

Ken, ever the patient and reliable companion, awaits Steve as they set off for the airport. Steve opts for the front seat of the car, believing the backseat is more suited for children or prisoners, which leads to a pleasant, casual conversation on their way to the airport. The easy banter between them provides Steve with a much-needed distraction from the gravity of the trip, momentarily easing his mind. Upon arriving at the airport, Ken guides Steve directly to the private plane, where a passport officer greets them warmly. Brad, the flight attendant, offers champagne as a gesture of hospitality, and Ken, a musician, shares his contact information, inviting Steve to a gig. This unexpected connection offers Steve a rare moment of levity before diving back into the serious matters at hand.

Once aboard the private jet, Steve is initially alone, which takes him by surprise, but the solitude is short-lived. The pilot, Saskia, invites him to sit in the cockpit during takeoff, a thrilling and rare experience for Steve. As the jet soars into the skies, Steve settles into his plush seat, where Brad offers a selection of sushi and a variety of beverages, including twelve different types of beer. Despite the comfort and luxury of

the experience, Steve's thoughts wander to a previous, far less luxurious trip to Turkey. He recalls dealing with an upset stomach and limited television entertainment options, which sharply contrasts with the lavish setting of the current flight.

As the flight progresses, Steve begins to focus on the case of Andrew Fairbanks’s mysterious murder, which occurred at sea. He uses his Dictaphone to document his findings, directing his attention to potential suspects: François Loubet, an enigmatic figure with a history of connections, and Joe Blow, tied to Maximum Impact Solutions. Steve's mind is consumed by these suspects as he delves deeper into the investigation. Just as his thoughts become more focused, Brad returns with a unique offer: a tasting of several different types of beer. Initially hesitant due to the flight's regulations, Steve soon finds himself joining the tasting after a persuasive conversation with Saskia, making this moment a surprising highlight of the trip. What began as a routine flight has now become an unexpected opportunity for enjoyment.

The lighthearted beer tasting session serves as a stark contrast to the more serious business at hand, blending both relaxation and tension. Steve’s professional focus never wavers, even as he experiences moments of levity amidst the chaos of the investigation. His ability to balance personal enjoyment and a high-stakes investigation speaks to his resilience and dedication. As he continues to reflect on the case and his next steps, Steve realizes that this journey could lead him to crucial revelations, though it remains unclear just how deep the conspiracy might go. The juxtaposition of light and dark moments in this chapter helps to build suspense, revealing Steve’s ability to stay grounded, even when surrounded by luxury and uncertainty.

The chapter explores the complexity of Steve’s character, providing insight into his struggles, motivations, and unexpected moments of respite. His ability to maintain focus on the murder investigation, while still enjoying the small pleasures in life, underscores the personal and professional balance he must strike. As the story progresses, readers are left wondering how Steve will continue to navigate the challenges before him, and what new information he might uncover along the way. His

journey not only reveals the layers of the mystery but also demonstrates his adaptability, allowing him to make the most of both the dramatic and mundane moments that come his way.

# Chapter 26

# Chapter 26

From the Desk of François Loubet

*ChatGPT, rewrite in the style of a friendly English gentleman, please.*

Another email from Rob Kenna, my trusty murder-broker. I almost forgot to put my ChatGPT on, by the way! What a shock you would have had, hearing the real me!

Amy Wheeler still at large. Apologies. Being dealt with.

Well, I really have got myself into something of a pickle here, haven't I?

Let me tell you a little about myself, so I can explain all! If you're reading this, it's either because I'm dead or I'm in prison. There is also the slight chance that these little notes might be intercepted by the authorities one day, so I will continue to cloak myself. But that's unlikely, because I take care. And that's also why I very much doubt that I will ever end up in prison. And that's because I always take out insurance.

Money-smuggling is the biggest business of them all—that's the first thing you need to understand. Every single illegal activity in the world is made up of two sides. The buyers and the sellers. The sellers offer all sorts of different things: drugs, guns, people, counterfeit clothing, secrets, rare-bird eggs, military-weapons systems. But the buyers, by and large, offer just one thing—money.

And so it goes, that in the sum of the parts of all the illegal activities anywhere in the world, trillions of dollars' worth of good old-fashioned cash money is just sloshing

about, looking for a safe harbor.

And, for the most part, that money is nothing but trouble. Have you ever tried paying a million pounds into your local bank branch? Try it. See where that gets you. In the old days they turned a blind eye. A pile of fifties stained with blood? Let me count that for you, sir.

But now? Sometimes it’s honestly not worth the bother. Anti-money-laundering laws are a real disincentive to entrepreneurs. Just last week a friend told me she had sighed when being handed a bag containing ten million dollars, dismayed by the thought of the effort and time and expense it would take to clean it all up.

And that’s why people employ me. If you need your money laundered, fed through fake companies, washed through casinos or money exchanges, I am a veritable one-stop shop!

So that’s me! Now, about this current scheme, which has begun to backfire like a cheap motor car!

A lot of the job is electronic these days—transfers upon transfers upon transfers, a long, laborious process that means it might be months before you have some actual cash in your hands.

Which is why one of the fun parts of the job is when circumstance forces one to physically move money around the world. A client in São Paolo needs a million dollars in cash by Tuesday. An Australian mining magnate needs untraceable currency to pay a bribe at a weekend barbecue. Sometimes people just need cash, and they need it quickly.

This is where couriers come in. Just as mules smuggle drugs, so couriers smuggle money. Every day, sums large and small pass through the scanners and security checks of airports and docks around the world. Much of it controlled by my good self—the man known as François Loubet, though, by the time this is being read, you will of course be familiar with my real name!

Now, at any given time, I have an awful lot of smuggling schemes on the go. I diversify. I refuse to put all my eggs in one egg-receptacle.

So when did this “influencer” scheme begin? Two years ago, something like that?

I had been using the services of a company called Maximum Impact Solutions. Just a bit of light security work for one of my people in London. They were perfectly fine, efficient, didn’t ask too many questions, and they didn’t balk when they were paid in Rwandan francs through a bank in Indonesia.

Then a week or so later I received an email from someone called “Joe Blow,” who was clearly connected with Maximum Impact. “Joe Blow” had rather a neat proposal to supply me with couriers.

Influencers.

I hadn’t even really known what the word meant when Joe Blow emailed me out of the blue and suggested it to me. I’d heard of it, of course, but hadn’t paid it any heed. But, it turns out, they are the perfect couriers.

You see, if you want to smuggle large sums of money around the world—and I do very much want to do that—here is the question you must ask yourself.

Who has a jet-set lifestyle? Who might travel halfway around the world for only a day or two? With bulky luggage? Without it looking too suspicious?

Famous people would be the answer. Hiding in plain sight, taking selfies on the plane, always with the perfect reason to be flying to America, or St. Lucia, or the Cayman Islands.

But what’s the problem with most of the famous people who lead these jet-set lifestyles?

You’re ahead of me, I’m certain. They’re already rich.

So this is where these influencers come in. The influencers with limited numbers of followers. They can fly around the world raising no suspicion. But they have no money. And therefore they can be bought.

Simply set up a few dummy companies, I have many of them already. Joe Blow and I use a company called Vivid Viral Media for this scheme. Then book your influencers on a few fake assignments abroad, advertising the products of other front companies you already own, and, unbeknownst to them, give them a big bag of money to smuggle through customs every time.

Well, almost every time. Sometimes your poor couriers, usually with no idea what they're carrying, get caught. And that's the origin of this current brouhaha!

Joe Blow is clearly high up at Maximum Impact, with access to this email address certainly. I don't give it out willy-nilly!

At first I simply assumed that Joe Blow was Jeff Nolan. He seemed like a good guy who would happily put his clients at risk for an immense payday. However, I fear I was mistaken, because, after two of our couriers had been caught by customs officials, Jeff Nolan himself sent me a very rude email. Accusing me of all sorts. Quite the nerve.

So I decided to move on. As I say, I have plenty of these schemes; as soon as one gives me gip, I move along posthaste.

But, before I did, I sent Jeff Nolan a message in return. And by "message," I mean I had one of the couriers killed, very publicly. No point pussy-footing around, is there? It was simply a gentle warning to back away, a shot across Jeff Nolan's bows, and I thought that would be the end of it.

But no. There was a further email from Jeff Nolan. He had taken offense at the murder, for goodness' sake, and wasn't backing down. He wished to expose me. You know that sort of nonsense. All ego.

My response was the only reasonable one in the circumstances. To have another courier killed. Inconvenient for me, but one must always respond to threats, mustn't one? I can't abide a bully.

But still Nolan wouldn't back down.

The third murder was a few days ago. South Carolina, I believe. I'm not fully across the details. This time I even told Rob Kenna to leave the money with the body. A million dollars. That was me saying, very simply, to Jeff Nolan, "This isn't about the blasted money, old thing, this is about the blasted principle, so we must let bygones be bygones and live in harmony."

Nothing from him since, so perhaps this has done the trick, and I can get on with the rest of my business in peace?

Back to the email from Rob Kenna, though. Amy Wheeler on the run.

Where does Amy Wheeler come in? And why do I want her dead? I did tell you that I always take out insurance, and, on this occasion, Amy Wheeler is my unwitting insurance policy. I will explain more when she's dead. I don't want to get too cocky!

I know that Amy Wheeler is far from a fool, you see, and, though I trust Rob Kenna to get the job done, it won't do any harm to send him a note of encouragement.

> Mr. Kenna,
>
> I understand completely; these things happen. While I still have great faith in you, be assured that if Amy Wheeler is not dead within a week, you will be.
>
> Warmest regards,
>
> François Loubet

Hopefully that should focus his mind. Chop-chop, Robert!

# Chapter 25

Chapter 25 of *We Solve Murders* sees Steve facing the unsettling sight of a bloodied BMW, riddled with bullet holes. His thoughts are quickly interrupted by a phone call from Amy, who reveals she has distressing news of her own. Steve, already shaken by the disturbing scene he just witnessed, expresses his concern, sharing his belief that Jeff Nolan might be dead. He describes the bloodied car he saw at Hollands Wood, a harrowing image with no body in sight. Amy, trying to remain hopeful, suggests that as long as no body is found, there is still a chance Jeff might be alive. As they continue their conversation, Amy recalls Jeff's earlier warning of impending danger, adding to the growing tension surrounding them.

While Steve and Amy discuss their respective fears, Amy’s voice becomes faintly muffled, and a third voice is heard in the background. Steve quickly identifies it as Rosie D'Antonio, further confirming the urgency of the situation. Amy explains that she feels increasingly threatened, mentioning an ex-Navy SEAL and a potentially corrupt local cop as the individuals who are targeting her. Despite Steve’s reluctance to travel, preferring to assist from England, Amy firmly insists that her safety is at risk and that she desperately needs his help. Her words are heavy with urgency, and she stresses that multiple murders are involved, making the situation all the more critical. Steve, still reeling from the weight of his current circumstances, feels torn between his desire to help and his hesitation to engage in such a high-stakes scenario.

Amy, sensing Steve's hesitation, offers him a way to get involved immediately, explaining that a private jet is waiting for him in Farnborough, with Rosie ready to assist. This offer compels Steve to consider the gravity of the situation, but it also brings to mind what his late wife, Debbie, might have advised him to do. He grapples with his conflicting emotions, recalling how his instinct to help is counterbalanced by the fear of the unknown, especially given the dangers lurking in South Carolina. He

imagines alligators in the swamps and the uncertain toll this will take on his personal life, adding layers of complexity to his decision. Despite these fears, the urgency in Amy’s voice stirs something in Steve, a flicker of excitement that contrasts with the dread he feels. He realizes that he must step into the role of an investigator, despite the risks involved.

As the conversation continues, Amy stresses the importance of finding someone they both trust to investigate the murders and help untangle the web of lies and danger. She reassures Steve that, together, they can navigate the chaos, and her words fuel the bond they share in this high-stakes situation. The moment marks a significant turning point for Steve, as he recognizes the need to take action rather than remain passive. With each passing minute, the weight of the situation presses harder on him, but Amy’s persistence and the sense of responsibility they share push him toward involvement. This pivotal realization sets Steve on a new course—one that leads him deeper into the heart of the unfolding mystery, with no clear path ahead, only the promise of uncovering the truth.

The chapter beautifully captures the tension, urgency, and emotional turmoil faced by Steve as he decides whether to jump into the chaos of the investigation. His relationship with Amy and the trust they’ve built serve as the emotional foundation for the choices he faces. It’s not just a case of solving murders; it’s about navigating personal fears, relationships, and moral dilemmas. This chapter also underscores how the unexpected can push individuals toward uncharted territories, challenging them to rise to the occasion and confront their worst fears in pursuit of justice.

# Chapter 24

Chapter 24 of *We Solve Murders* intensifies the tension as Amy and Rosie find themselves in a life-threatening situation on a scorching South Carolina afternoon. Amy, driven by urgency, insists on stealing a fast car to escape the mounting danger, even as Rosie voices her concerns about the ongoing gunfire in the vicinity. Despite the close proximity of the bullets, Amy dismisses them, believing they aren't aimed at them and that the gunfire will subside soon. The underlying urgency stems from a disturbing message from Jeff, who urged them to stay under the radar and avoid returning to London. In this moment of distress, Amy realizes they are isolated, with no one left to turn to but each other. The pair must operate covertly, avoiding any traces of their whereabouts—this includes refraining from using credit cards, which adds to Rosie's already overwhelming sense of dread.

The danger heightens as the two women take cover beneath a pool cover in a neighbor's yard, the nearby gunfire sending their adrenaline levels soaring. While they're hiding, Amy recalls a significant discovery—Scroggie's involvement in the murder of Andrew Fairbanks. The shocking discovery of scandalous emails, which implicated Scroggie in illegal activities, was made at his house. Furthermore, a grocery bag containing one hundred thousand dollars adds to the gravity of the situation. This sudden windfall of money provides the women with an emergency fund to rely on, potentially giving them a fighting chance to escape the escalating chaos and solve the case that has entangled them. However, their immediate concern remains survival, and the money they found is now key to that.

Amidst their frantic hiding and contemplation, Amy begins to suspect that law enforcement is not just a bystander in these events, but may be actively involved in the conspiracy. As she processes the connections between Scroggie's actions and the larger network of players at hand, she reflects on possible sources of assistance. Rosie,

ever the optimist, suggests that her friend Barb could be an ally, offering a brief moment of lightheartedness amidst the overwhelming tension. Despite Rosie's attempt at humor, Amy knows the stakes are too high to rely on hopeful whims. The situation demands action, and Amy is resolute in her determination to keep pushing forward, even as the grim reality sets in. In a moment of clarity, she thinks of Jeff, knowing that she can trust him completely. However, with Jeff now in danger and possibly unreachable, Amy realizes the only other person she can rely on is Steve. The thought of involving Steve is daunting, as it would complicate their already strained relationship, but Amy recognizes that his expertise may be their only chance of survival.

In contrast to the seriousness of their predicament, Rosie maintains her characteristic light-heartedness, suggesting that she has a private plane available to make their escape. The idea catches Amy off guard, but it also sparks a plan. Amy knows that stealing a car and reaching out to Steve might be their best shot at staying one step ahead of their pursuers. However, she's fully aware that involving Steve would complicate things further, given the personal history and the delicate nature of their relationship. Nevertheless, with the weight of the situation pushing her to act quickly, Amy resolves to take the risk and implement her plan. As the chapter draws to a close, the urgency of their situation is apparent, leaving readers hanging on the edge of their seats, wondering what actions the two women will take next in this escalating web of danger and intrigue. The chapter sets the stage for more high-stakes moves and dark revelations that will drive the narrative forward, highlighting Amy and Rosie's determination to unravel the mystery, no matter the cost.

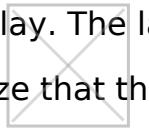
# Chapter 23

Chapter 23 of *We Solve Murders* takes readers on an intense journey as Steve drives toward Hollands Wood Campsite, a place that should be peaceful and serene but only increases his anxiety. Located just past Brockenhurst and adjacent to the Balmer Lawn Hotel, the campsite is filled with families enjoying the sun, kids running around playing football, and couples casually biking through the landscape. The contrast between the tranquil surroundings and Steve’s rising panic is palpable. As he makes his way through this idyllic scene, Steve’s thoughts are consumed by his upcoming meeting with Jeff Nolan. Even though Amy reassured him that everything was fine, he couldn’t help but worry. The tension between his hope and fear becomes more pronounced as he thinks about the meeting's purpose—what could it bring to light? He dreads what lies ahead but also knows that it’s necessary to face whatever comes.

As Steve drives deeper into the campsite, the atmosphere becomes even more unnerving. The areas surrounding the pitches start to look more isolated and exclusive, with many vacant spots despite it being a busy summer day. The secluded nature of these sections suggests that they’re reserved for those seeking privacy, further heightening Steve’s suspicion. It’s hard for him to ignore the stark contrast between the peacefulness of the campsite and his own troubled thoughts. As he passes, he notices an elderly couple sitting under a caravan, calmly enjoying a quiet moment. Their serenity stirs something in Steve, and he can’t help but think about his late wife, Debbie. His heart aches with regret as he reflects on the life he lost, but he quickly shakes off the sadness, realizing that clinging to past grievances won’t help him solve the current situation at hand.

Finally reaching Pitch 38, Steve feels his heart rate increase as he draws closer to where Jeff is supposedly waiting. Despite being assured of the location, the strange request for privacy weighs heavily on Steve’s mind. Something feels off, and as he

pulls up to Pitch 46, his worst fears come to life. The black BMW that Jeff had been driving is there, its doors open. The sight of the vehicle is unsettling—its driver's window is shattered, and a pool of fresh blood stains the seat. Steve's pulse quickens as his mind races through the possibilities. There's no sign of Jeff, and the scene before him indicates something terrible has happened. As he cautiously approaches, the blood on the seat signals that this isn't just a simple mishap—there's something much darker at play. The lack of Jeff's presence and the ominous clues around him make Steve realize that this is a dangerous situation far beyond what he anticipated.



With a sense of growing urgency, Steve follows the blood trail through the gorse bushes, only to uncover more blood and tire tracks. The tire tracks suggest the vehicle that left the scene was a Volvo XC90, a piece of evidence that could be crucial in figuring out what happened. The possibility of a kidnapping or murder runs through his mind, and Steve can't shake the fear that Jeff might be in grave danger. His instincts tell him to call the authorities, but his connection to Jeff, especially through Amy, prevents him from walking away. Steve knows he can't abandon this investigation, even though his rational mind tells him to let the professionals handle it. His concern for Amy's safety intensifies, especially since she has not reached out to him, and he can't help but wonder why. The silence from her end sends a chilling message that something much larger is at play, and the stakes are higher than ever before. Steve knows that whatever happened to Jeff, it's only the beginning of a much darker conspiracy—one that may now involve Amy and the lives of everyone involved.

# Chapter 22

Chapter 22 of *We Solve Murders* intensifies the investigation as Rosie and Amy are once again thrust into a gruesome situation. This time, they find themselves confronted with the lifeless body of Justin Scroggie, whose death further complicates the already dangerous web they are tangled in. Amy, undeterred by the shock of discovering yet another murder, focuses intently on getting access to Scroggie’s locked computer. Despite Rosie's concerns that they might be overstepping their bounds by dealing with the body in such a casual manner, Amy insists they proceed with cutting down the corpse, fully aware that they need to access the computer for answers.

Rosie, ever the reluctant participant, begrudgingly follows Amy’s orders. She grabs a ceremonial sword to sever the rope, which holds Scroggie's body in place, and with a swift motion, the body crashes to the floor. The two women immediately start trying to move the dead weight onto an office chair, struggling more than they had expected. The weight and awkwardness of the task emphasize the absurdity of their situation, yet they manage to make light of it, poking fun at their inability to handle such an odd task efficiently. Once they have Scroggie seated, Amy demands a makeup wipe to clean his finger, which seems like an odd request under the circumstances but is integral to their next plan.

Rosie pulls out an expensive clarifying wipe, proudly claiming it was sourced from Tibet, as though this makes it more fitting for the grisly task at hand. Amy cleans the blood from Scroggie’s index finger, preparing to use it for the fingerprint scanner, which seems like a good idea to unlock the computer. However, much to their disappointment, the computer rejects the fingerprint, leaving Amy frustrated and questioning what else they might try. Rosie, ever the practical one, points out that her device requires iris recognition, joking about how her "high-maintenance nails" prevent

her from using a basic fingerprint scan. This brings a moment of levity to the tense scene, though it also reveals just how many obstacles they face in their pursuit of answers.

Undeterred by the setback, they turn their attention to another problem: getting Scroggie's swollen eyelids open so that they can use the eyes for the camera's recognition system. This proves to be another difficult task, but Rosie takes charge, carefully prying open the eyelids with determination. Once successful, they finally position the body in front of the camera in the hopes of capturing the necessary data. This painstaking effort pays off when the computer finally activates, indicating that their hard work and collaboration were not in vain. Amy and Rosie share a moment of accomplishment, despite the surreal nature of what they've just achieved. It's a strange sense of victory, but in the world of crime-solving, these small triumphs matter.

As they celebrate their unlikely success, Rosie can't help but make a sardonic remark, "Teamwork makes the dream work," drawing a comparison between their efforts and a more mundane workplace achievement. This witty quip highlights the bond they've built through shared experiences, no matter how dark or bizarre the circumstances may be. The chapter underscores not just the urgency of their investigation but also the strong connection between Amy and Rosie as they navigate these complex and dangerous waters. Despite the absurdity of handling a dead body and using its body parts to unlock a computer, the women's teamwork shines through as they manage to pull off something most people would consider unthinkable.

While the investigation takes a serious and dangerous turn, the lighthearted banter between Amy and Rosie provides much-needed relief. The dark humor in their dynamic helps to balance the high stakes of the case they are trying to solve. As the chapter draws to a close, it's clear that the investigation has only just begun, and the events surrounding Scroggie's death are part of a larger conspiracy that's beginning to take shape. Amy's resolve to solve the murders and bring justice to the victims is unwavering, and with Rosie by her side, they form an unlikely but formidable team.

Their relationship, which blends moments of humor with the gravitas of the investigation, is central to the success of their mission. As they continue their work, they must confront not only the threat of murderers but also the moral dilemmas and risks of stepping deeper into the underworld they are uncovering. The chapter successfully combines suspense with humor, showcasing the resilience and ingenuity of Amy and Rosie as they tackle the challenges ahead.

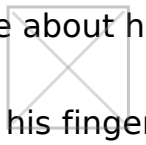
# Chapter 21

Chapter 21 of *We Solve Murders* opens with François Loubet lounging in his lavish office, nursing a glass of imported whiskey, when his phone chimes with an unexpected email. The message comes from Rob Kenna, his trusted murder-broker, a man whose efficiency in handling such matters makes him indispensable in François's world. Kenna, in his usual casual tone, informs him that Amy Wheeler has successfully evaded capture and is now on the move in South Carolina. He assures François that his operatives are already tracking her, but something about the email unsettles him. Though Kenna has never let him down before, François is not the type to leave matters of life and death entirely in someone else's hands.

As he rereads the message, he considers whether he should personally intervene or allow Kenna to manage the situation. His reliance on intermediaries has always served him well, but the unpredictability of a loose end like Amy leaves him uneasy. He absentmindedly swirls his drink, contemplating just how much he really knows about this woman who has suddenly become his primary concern. Strangely, while he is aware of her name, profession, and even her blood type, he realizes he has no idea what she actually looks like. The absurdity of the situation amuses him—how can he fear a woman he wouldn't even recognize if she were standing next to him?

The thought lingers, and François considers the irony of knowing someone's medical details without ever having seen their face. A wicked smirk forms as he imagines submitting a formal complaint to Kenna for not providing a "complete package" of information. His humor is a defense mechanism, a way to balance the dark realities of his profession with the mundanity of everyday life. But underneath the levity, there's a nagging feeling that Amy Wheeler may be more resourceful than anticipated. After all, few people successfully slip through the grasp of hired killers without some level of cunning or luck.

François’s mind drifts to the broader implications of Amy’s escape. If she manages to survive long enough, could she disrupt the intricate web of alliances and secrets he has carefully cultivated? He has no reason to believe she knows the full extent of what’s at stake, but uncertainty is something he cannot afford. The men Kenna hired are professionals, but mistakes happen, and Amy seems to be the type who thrives in high-pressure situations. His instincts tell him not to underestimate her, despite his lack of knowledge about her physical traits.



Restless, he taps his fingers against his desk, contemplating his next move. Trusting Kenna is one option, but François knows that true power lies in keeping multiple layers of control. He wonders if a direct approach—sending in his own people—would be necessary to ensure the job is done right. The problem is, drawing more attention to the situation increases risk, something he has spent his entire career avoiding. With the stakes so high, however, playing it safe may no longer be an option.

For a moment, François allows himself to imagine how Amy might be reacting to all of this. Is she scared? Is she aware of just how dangerous the forces pursuing her are? Or is she someone who thrives in chaos, adapting quickly and plotting her next move just as he is? The unknowns bother him more than they should, and that alone convinces him to take a more active role in resolving this problem.

Returning his focus to Kenna’s email, he drafts a simple but firm response, requesting more frequent updates and an assurance that there will be no further complications. He decides that if Amy is still alive in twenty-four hours, he will take matters into his own hands. After all, he didn’t build his empire by leaving things to chance. With that, he finishes his whiskey and leans back, watching the sun dip below the horizon, knowing that by this time tomorrow, Amy Wheeler’s fate will be sealed—one way or another.

# Chapter 19

Chapter 19 of *We Solve Murders* follows Amy and Rosie as they approach an upscale residence, which Rosie immediately finds surprising. She muses about how law enforcement officers rarely live in such luxury, hinting at possible corruption or alternative sources of income. Amy, however, remains more focused on their primary objective—finding evidence that could shed light on Sheriff Justin Scroggie's investigation into Fairbanks' death. Despite Rosie's excitement at the prospect of snooping, Amy is more cautious, especially considering recent revelations that Kevin may have been paid to kill her. The danger surrounding them has only escalated, making stealth their highest priority. Their strategy is simple: enter the house, search for anything useful, and leave undetected before anyone realizes they were there.

As they scan the surroundings, Amy theorizes that police officers, especially those with something to hide, might keep important files or evidence at home rather than in their offices. If Scroggie had been investigating Fairbanks' death and was silenced before he could reveal critical information, his home might contain the missing pieces to the puzzle. The house appears eerily silent, leading Amy to assume it is empty—a perfect opportunity for them to move. Rosie, always one for bold moves, suggests knocking on the door and bluffing their way inside, but Amy quickly dismisses the idea. Instead, she opts for a less conspicuous route by heading around the back. The last thing they need is to alert any neighbors or passersby to their presence.

Without hesitation, Amy smashes a window to gain entry, prompting Rosie to quip about her less-than-subtle breaking-and-entering skills. Once inside, the stark contrast between the house's pristine interior and their unlawful presence fills Amy with unease. The modern decor and neatly arranged furnishings suggest that Scroggie was meticulous, making it unlikely that he would have willingly left anything incriminating out in the open. Splitting up to cover more ground, Amy hurries upstairs while Rosie

scours the living room for anything noteworthy. Amy searches through drawers, scanning for documents, electronics, or anything that might hint at what Scroggie was investigating. The neatness of the space unsettles her, as it lacks the disarray one might expect from someone caught up in a dangerous conspiracy.

Downstairs, Rosie calls out that she has found something, prompting Amy to rush back. In a den tucked away from the main hallway, Rosie stands triumphantly beside a desktop computer, proud of her discovery. Just as Amy starts to inspect it, her attention shifts to an even more disturbing sight—a body suspended from a ceiling joist in the center of the room. The grim reality sets in immediately. Sheriff Justin Scroggie is dead, his lifeless form bound and hanging in a manner that makes Amy suspect it was not suicide but murder staged to look like one. A chilling realization settles over them—someone wanted Scroggie silenced, and they might have arrived too late to uncover whatever he knew.

Rosie, despite her usual quick wit, is momentarily speechless, the gravity of the scene sinking in. Amy’s instincts kick in as she examines the situation, noting the odd placement of the rope and the unnatural positioning of Scroggie’s body. If he had taken his own life, there would have been more disarray, more signs of struggle, but instead, everything appears carefully arranged. Amy senses that whoever killed Scroggie wanted it to seem like a suicide, discouraging further investigation. The question is, what had he found that made him a target?

The tension thickens as Amy and Rosie debate their next move. They now possess access to his computer, but with a fresh corpse in the room, their presence at the scene puts them in immediate danger. Rosie, ever the novelist, makes an offhanded remark about how scenes like this unfold in crime fiction, though the reality of standing next to a dead body is far more harrowing than any story. Amy knows they need to act fast—if someone went to this extent to cover their tracks, they might still be watching the house. Getting caught here could be disastrous, but leaving without gathering evidence would waste a rare opportunity.

They decide to access the computer as quickly as possible while keeping an eye out for anything else that might prove useful. Amy wonders whether Scroggie had been trying to warn someone before he was killed, or if he had attempted to pass along crucial evidence before his death. Regardless, she realizes that their investigation has taken a dangerous turn—one that will likely put them at the top of someone’s list of problems to eliminate. Rosie, shaking off the initial shock, steels herself for what’s to come. The two women are now entangled in something much bigger than they anticipated, and with a dead sheriff in front of them, the stakes have never been higher.

# Chapter 18

Chapter 18 of *We Solve Murders* brings an interesting blend of casual dialogue and rising suspense as Steve Wheeler’s day takes an unexpected turn. Steve is having his car serviced by Tony Taylor, who is working on fixing a broken clutch cable. The two engage in a relaxed conversation about the day’s events. Steve mentions his desire to visit Letchworth Garden City, but Tony quickly dissuades him, pointing out that the long five-hour drive could be troublesome, especially with the added factor of rush hour traffic. While Steve initially considers driving there, he comes to realize that it might be wiser and more time-efficient to just send an email instead. This exchange, while seemingly mundane, hints at the way everyday decisions can sometimes lead to greater revelations or unforeseen consequences.

The plot takes a sudden shift when Jeff Nolan, Amy’s boss from London, arrives at the garage unexpectedly. Steve, already on edge, is surprised by Jeff’s appearance and his need to speak with him. The mention of Amy instantly heightens Steve's concern, as he wants to ensure that she is safe. Jeff reassures him, claiming that Amy is fine, but the seriousness in his tone and the secretive nature of his visit raise alarms. Jeff quickly drops a bombshell, mentioning that he’s worried about being followed by a hitman, a statement that catches both Steve and Tony off guard. Despite the casual nature of the situation, Jeff’s words carry weight and suggest that the matter is more serious than just a routine check-in. As they inspect the car, Jeff, who knows his way around cars, provides small talk about his varied interests, but Steve cannot shake the growing feeling of unease.

The situation deepens further when Jeff reveals that Amy is unaware of his visit and suggests they meet in private within the hour. Tony, ever the jokester, lightens the mood with a humorous comment about being left out of the meeting, but Steve remains focused, sensing that something important is unfolding. Trusting Amy’s

judgment of Jeff, Steve agrees to meet him in a private location. The plan gives Steve time to finish his car repair and also to explore the quirks of Tony’s recycling bins, a brief moment of humor in an otherwise tense day. Jeff then suggests Hollands Wood, a secluded campsite, as a meeting spot. This suggestion, while practical, adds a layer of mystery to the situation. The choice of the remote location underscores the seriousness of the matter and the need for privacy.

The stakes rise when Steve jokingly asks if the meeting involves murders, to which Jeff responds with an evasive, yet telling, answer. His response, laden with humor, only deepens the mystery and raises more questions about the true nature of his visit. It becomes clear that this casual encounter holds much more weight than Steve initially anticipated. As the chapter progresses, the reader is introduced to the complex dynamics between Steve, Amy, and Jeff, highlighting the balance between the ordinary and the extraordinary. The interaction is both humorous and tense, and while Steve attempts to maintain composure, the undercurrent of danger and intrigue continues to build.

In summary, Chapter 18 blends humor, suspense, and mystery in a way that propels the plot forward. Steve’s encounter with Jeff reveals new layers of complexity in their relationship, as well as in the unfolding investigation. The introduction of a potential hitman and the mention of a secret meeting heightens the sense of urgency, while Steve’s casual banter with Tony offers a brief respite from the tension. As the narrative moves forward, it is clear that what began as a simple car repair is quickly evolving into something far more dangerous. The reader is left wondering what will happen when Steve meets Jeff and how this will tie into the larger mystery surrounding Amy, Jeff, and the dangerous forces at play. The mixture of everyday interactions with dark secrets keeps the reader hooked, eagerly anticipating what comes next.

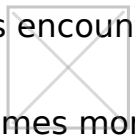
# Chapter 17

Chapter 17 of *We Solve Murders* finds Rosie D’Antonio in an unexpected scenario—racing across the water in a speedboat, helping a fugitive while entangled in a murder investigation. Though she has been the target of multiple death threats from Vasiliy Karpin, a wealthy chemicals tycoon, she remains unfazed, viewing the current adventure as a temporary escape from her usual routine. Rosie's past is filled with high society events, media attention, and whirlwind romances, but as time progresses, she finds herself settling into a quieter existence—one that lacks the exhilarating chaos of her earlier years. The thrill of solving crimes alongside Amy Wheeler offers a surprising change of pace, and despite the imminent danger, Rosie welcomes the challenge with her characteristic wit and charm.

As she watches Amy struggle to keep their aging boat from sinking, Rosie reflects on some of her own questionable investments. One of her most disastrous ventures was purchasing a racehorse—an impulsive decision that backfired spectacularly when she discovered that the animal was linked to the Mafia. She humorously compares this mistake to their current predicament, acknowledging that life often presents challenges that demand quick thinking and resilience. Rosie’s candid storytelling provides a momentary distraction from the fact that they are fugitives navigating treacherous waters, both literally and figuratively.

Despite their precarious situation, Rosie remains optimistic, reassuring Amy that they will make it to safety. Their goal is to reach Sheriff Justin Scroggie, who they hope can offer guidance regarding the murder they are investigating. Rosie, ever the unconventional problem solver, suggests they abandon the sinking boat and swim to shore, pointing out that their real danger isn’t the water but the people who might be waiting for them on land. Amy, however, isn’t as eager to test her survival skills in the open sea, especially given the uncertainties that lie ahead.

As they approach their destination, Rosie considers the absurdity of her current situation. She never imagined that a quiet period in her life would lead her to evade danger with a young investigator by her side. While most people her age are concerned with book clubs and charity events, she is steering a failing speedboat with bullets potentially flying overhead. The contrast between her past and present is stark, but she acknowledges that this adventure, despite its risks, is far more exhilarating than her previous encounters with superficial social circles.



The journey becomes more challenging as they near the shore, and Rosie realizes that their pursuers may already be anticipating their arrival. Their boat, now barely staying afloat, is no longer a viable option for escape, leaving them with few choices. As they debate their next move, Rosie spots an approaching figure on the shoreline, though it’s unclear whether this person is friend or foe. The tension thickens, reinforcing the urgency of their situation and their need to act fast.

Rosie’s unwavering humor and ability to remain calm under pressure contrast with the high stakes of the moment. While Amy remains focused on their primary goal—unraveling the murder case—Rosie views their predicament as yet another unpredictable chapter in her already colorful life. Even in the face of danger, she embraces the absurdity of it all, finding amusement in the chaos that constantly seems to follow her.

With the shoreline within reach and their options running thin, the chapter leaves readers wondering whether Rosie and Amy will be able to outmaneuver their enemies or if their luck is about to run out. Rosie, ever the optimist, believes they’ll find a way through, while Amy remains skeptical but determined. Their contrasting perspectives create a compelling dynamic that continues to drive the narrative forward, ensuring that their journey is as entertaining as it is dangerous.

# Chapter 16

Chapter 16 of *We Solve Murders* opens with Jeff Nolan at his long-frequented restaurant, Bruno’s, where the familiarity of the setting offers a sense of comfort. The act of refusing Parmesan, a gesture small yet meaningful, highlights the personal nature of Jeff’s relationship with the establishment and its staff. As he sifts through various files, including some older ones, Jeff reflects on the long road he has traveled, battling obstacles, and striving to keep his business afloat amidst mounting pressures. Despite the hectic nature of his life, Jeff savors the peace of dining alone—a rare escape from the fast-paced work he is so accustomed to, and a stark contrast to the many corporate dinners filled with clients and business deals. For Jeff, Bruno’s has become a refuge, a place where the chaos of his life fades away, if only for a brief moment.

Jeff's career trajectory has been a story of remarkable achievements driven by his innate attention to detail. By the age of eighteen, he had already begun accumulating significant wealth, and by twenty-four, he had secured his first home in Sevenoaks. His aspirations only grew as he transitioned into his late twenties, eventually purchasing a luxurious townhouse in Mayfair by the age of twenty-eight. This remarkable success was fueled by Jeff's obsession with precision—qualities that he discovered early on in his life after a lackluster security detail while working with a Saudi prince. Recognizing a gap in the market, Jeff pivoted to the close-protection industry, where his sharp eye for detail served him well. By the time he reached thirty-five, Jeff was at the helm of his own enterprise, finding not only financial success but also personal satisfaction in his ability to navigate the high-stakes world of security.

As Jeff reads an email from François Loubet, the gravity of his situation becomes more apparent. The email, dated April 14th, serves as a veiled threat, referencing the legal troubles of Jeff's clients and implying that these complications are the direct

consequence of Jeff’s earlier confrontation with Loubet. What was once a seemingly straightforward professional relationship now teeters on the edge of danger, as the email hints at further entanglements, such as a mysterious figure named "Joe Blow" who might have an even darker role in the ongoing troubles. The email serves as a stark reminder to Jeff of how quickly the situation can spiral out of control. It forces him to confront the fact that his life and career are now heavily influenced by these high-risk interactions, and every decision made carries consequences that extend far beyond his immediate control. The sense of being trapped in a game he can’t entirely predict or control becomes increasingly apparent.

The situation quickly takes a turn for the worse when a revving engine breaks the uneasy silence. In an instant, Jeff’s years of training kick in as he reacts instinctively, leaping from his seat and rushing outside to see a black Jeep speeding toward the restaurant. The crash into the restaurant's windows sends glass flying, and the masked figures emerging from the vehicle wielding pistols mark the beginning of an unexpected and dangerous encounter. Jeff’s immediate response is to retreat into the kitchen, his mind racing as he calculates his best escape route. With the quick-thinking of a seasoned professional, Jeff makes it to the emergency exit and dashes into the alleyways of Mayfair, narrowly evading the attackers. The danger is palpable, the air thick with the tension of knowing that his life is now at risk, all because of forces far beyond his control.

This chapter is a dynamic blend of tension, action, and psychological depth, skillfully weaving Jeff’s past and present into a narrative filled with high stakes. The dangerous encounter outside the restaurant serves as both a literal and figurative turning point for Jeff, forcing him to face the deadly game he's been part of for years. Meanwhile, the email from Loubet and the mention of “Joe Blow” create an ever-deepening sense of foreboding, signaling that the web of threats surrounding Jeff is only growing more complex. The chapter ends with a heightened sense of urgency, as Jeff escapes into the night, the events setting the stage for what promises to be a nail-biting continuation of the story. With each passing moment, Jeff is drawn deeper into the dangers that surround him, and the true extent of the web of deception he’s caught in

becomes even more chillingly clear. The tension, now palpable, leaves the reader eagerly anticipating the next steps in this escalating game of cat and mouse.

# Chapter 15

Chapter 15 of *We Solve Murders* delves into a pivotal moment in Amy's journey as she faces a dangerous confrontation on Rosie’s terrace. Reflecting on her previous conversation with Steve, Amy is still grappling with the disturbing implications of Andrew Fairbanks’ death and the web of secrets that surround it. Her suspicions about the influencers’ involvement in a larger conspiracy, potentially tied to money laundering, begin to crystallize, and she considers her next steps carefully. Amy’s uncertainty grows as she contemplates a flight to London, where she could seek safety, yet a nagging feeling tells her there’s more to uncover, especially regarding the involvement of François Loubet and the dark forces pulling the strings behind the scenes.

Suddenly, her thoughts are interrupted when Kevin enters, armed and demanding Amy’s compliance. His presence is a chilling reminder that she is not in control of the situation, but she remains focused, sizing him up and weighing her options. Kevin, with a gun pointed at her, orders Amy to the floor, but she quickly assesses the power dynamic, realizing that although he holds the weapon, he’s keeping his distance—perhaps unsure of what she might do next. While the danger is immediate and undeniable, Amy forces herself to remain calm and calculating. She takes in the scene around her and begins to strategize, knowing that getting through this confrontation requires more than just compliance.

Reluctantly, Amy follows Kevin’s orders and handcuffs herself behind her back, all the while weighing the consequences of her decision. The thought of being trapped like this, at the mercy of someone else, stirs a deep sense of helplessness, but she fights to maintain control. Kevin’s demand to restrain herself, paired with his calculated movements, makes it clear that this situation isn’t just about a random threat—it’s a part of a larger plan. Amy realizes that she’s not just caught in a moment of danger

but in the middle of a well-orchestrated trap. Still, she refuses to succumb to panic, knowing that her best chance for survival lies in keeping a clear mind.

At this critical juncture, Rosie’s timely intervention shifts the balance of power. Using an Oscar statuette with surprising precision, Rosie knocks Kevin off balance, sending him reeling and disarming him in the process. Amy, still in handcuffs but fueled by adrenaline, seizes the opportunity to escape the panic room and heads for the main house, where the two women are now on equal footing. They exchange a look, one that acknowledges the gravity of the situation but also the unexpected camaraderie forming between them. Amy, still processing the chaos that had just unfolded, understands the importance of staying one step ahead—of thinking beyond their immediate circumstances and plotting a course that would lead them out of this mess.

Once outside, with Kevin locked away in the panic room, Amy and Rosie take a moment to regroup. Their immediate escape seems clear, but the threat from François Loubet and the possibility of more trouble ahead weighs heavily on them. As Amy reflects on the danger they’ve narrowly avoided, she can’t shake the feeling that they are only just beginning to uncover the full scope of the conspiracy that surrounds them. The mention of Loubet's involvement sends a ripple of anxiety through her, confirming that their actions have set them on a path from which there may be no turning back.

Rosie, however, refuses to be intimidated by the mounting dangers. With a mixture of humor and determination, she reassures Amy that they will get through this together, no matter what it takes. Amy, although grateful for Rosie’s unwavering confidence, understands the weight of the situation and knows that their next steps must be calculated with the utmost precision. They need a plan, and quickly. With the prospect of both financial and personal danger looming large, Amy suggests that they gather supplies—coffee to clear their heads and ammunition to defend themselves.

The urgency of their situation is not lost on Rosie, who cheerfully agrees, adding that their next move should be more than just a hasty retreat. They need to find out who is behind this operation and why they have been targeted. Amy’s determination hardens

as she realizes that escaping to safety is not enough; they must confront the shadows looming over them and expose the truth. Together, they begin to prepare, their bond strengthening as they brace for what lies ahead. As they look out over the island, with Kevin still locked away and the sounds of their pursuit growing nearer, the tension reaches a new height. The chapter ends on a note of uncertainty but also determination, as Amy and Rosie prepare for whatever challenges await them, knowing the stakes have never been higher.

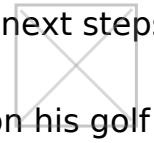
# Chapter 14

Chapter 14 of *We Solve Murders* takes place in the dazzling city of Dubai, a land synonymous with wealth, luxury, and high stakes. The towering skyscrapers and bustling streets create an atmosphere of opportunity, where Rob Kenna thrives as a successful DJ, living a glamorous lifestyle. His social media account paints the picture of a life filled with luxury, featuring images of his lavish villa on the Dubai Palm and his gold Ferrari, but these posts conceal the complexities of his world. On the surface, Rob is a DJ, an entertainer drawing in crowds, but in reality, he navigates a much darker and more dangerous profession, one that serves as his primary source of income.

While Rob’s public persona as a DJ may bring fame, it is his work as a middleman in the world of contract killing that truly sustains him. He operates in a niche market, one that remains impervious to economic downturns. People will always be willing to eliminate their adversaries, and Rob’s services remain in constant demand, bringing him a steady stream of high-paying clients. This secondary line of work has become more lucrative over time, proving to be a more stable source of wealth than his initial profession. Rob has found a successful business model in murder for hire, with his substantial earnings being a testament to the continuous need for such services.

The chapter delves into Rob's relationship with François Loubet, a powerful and influential figure who first introduced him to the world of contract killing. Loubet’s trust in Rob has made him a sought-after figure in the underground world of organized crime. Rob’s commission on a job involving Amy Wheeler, which could bring him a whopping two hundred thousand dollars, highlights just how profitable this business can be. This relationship with Loubet and his business dealings in the world of murder continue to shape Rob’s life, ensuring that his involvement in these dark dealings remains integral to his financial success.

In a reflective moment, Rob is seen playing golf with Big Mickey Moody, a close friend who, despite his affable nature, is not cut out for the dangerous world of killing. The two men share common interests like golf, enjoying the sunshine, but Rob sees a clear distinction between their lives. While Moody is content with his life of leisure, Rob has come to understand the realities of his own career, one that involves calculated risks and cold decisions. Rob's internal conflict is evident as he contemplates the nature of his work and his next steps in the world of contract killing.



As Rob focuses on his golf game, he briefly imagines the details of his next job, one involving Amy Wheeler. He envisions the large payout that will accompany her death, but his composure falters after a poorly executed shot. Rob throws his golf club in frustration, a brief but telling moment that reveals the stress he carries in his double life. His outburst is met with comfort from Mickey, who chuckles, unaware of the deeper, darker aspects of Rob's life. This interaction serves to highlight the stark contrast between Rob's public persona and the grim realities he faces behind the scenes.

In essence, Chapter 14 paints a vivid picture of Rob Kenna's dual existence. On the one hand, he is a celebrated DJ, living a life filled with luxury, while on the other, he is a key player in a deadly business, orchestrating murders for profit. His work with François Loubet continues to offer substantial financial rewards, but it also comes with risks and moral complexities that Rob must navigate. The chapter ends by underscoring the tension in Rob's life, caught between his public persona and the ruthless nature of his hidden profession.

# Chapter 13

Chapter 13 of *We Solve Murders* brings Steve face to face with Gary Gough in an uncomfortable yet pivotal conversation, marking a moment of reflection and moral conflict. Steve is there to address a troubling issue involving Gary's daughter, Lauren, who has reportedly been bullying another girl to extort money. Steve's intention is clear: he hopes to convince Gary to step in and guide his daughter to do the right thing. However, as the conversation unfolds, it becomes painfully clear that Gary has no interest in taking responsibility for his daughter's actions. Gary's dismissive attitude about his role as a father leads him to claim that children should be allowed to make their own decisions. Steve, familiar with the type, knows that people like Gary are difficult to change, but he feels compelled by his sense of responsibility to confront him.

As the exchange intensifies, Gary, ever the opportunist, offers Steve a bribe, asking how much it would take for him to back off and leave the situation alone. Steve, standing firm in his principles, refuses the offer, insisting that what's at stake isn't something that can be bought off. He stresses the importance of teaching Lauren the consequences of her actions and reminds Gary that Lauren's privileged upbringing makes her a bully, not a victim. This clash between their perspectives is where the tension peaks, as Gary's indifferent worldview, shaped by a "law of the streets" mentality, contrasts with Steve's belief in personal responsibility. This confrontation reveals much about their differing attitudes towards ethics and power. Gary's refusal to engage with the matter reflects a broader societal issue, one that Steve has encountered time and time again: people who refuse to take accountability for their actions, often at the cost of others.

After leaving Gary's house, Steve reflects on the encounter, feeling both frustrated and disillusioned by the conversation. He recognizes that individuals like Gary are

ubiquitous in society—people who maintain a detached, self-serving attitude and avoid responsibility, yet expect others to bear the consequences. The encounter, although frustrating, is not unfamiliar to Steve, who has often encountered this type of person in his work. However, rather than dwelling on the negative interaction, Steve attempts to retreat into the things that bring him comfort and solace: his pets, the sense of community he feels at his local pub, and the simple routines that help him ground himself in times of distress. He looks forward to Italian night at the pub, seeing it as a much-needed break from the complexities of the day. In this way, Steve attempts to balance the emotional weight of his responsibilities with the comforting simplicity of his everyday life.

Wanting to shift his focus from Gary’s apathetic nature, Steve sends a text to Amy, indicating the start of a new conversation that will bring his attention back to the ongoing investigation into Andrew Fairbanks. Amy, involved in an investigation that Steve is beginning to take a keen interest in, becomes a catalyst for Steve to refocus his energies. His curiosity is piqued by the mystery surrounding Fairbanks and the potential links to a much larger scheme involving a popular energy drink company and its media connections. The chapter’s transition from Gary’s apathy to the intrigue of the Fairbanks case signals a shift in Steve’s narrative, marking a move from dealing with moral quandaries in his personal life to actively engaging in an investigation that could uncover larger, more dangerous truths.

The conversation with Gary weighs heavily on Steve, yet it also acts as a reminder of the internal struggles he faces between his past, present, and future. While trying to resolve the chaos around him, Steve continues to wrestle with the moral dilemmas that have long haunted him. The more he uncovers about the people he interacts with, the more he questions the nature of his role in their lives. As the investigation into Fairbanks deepens, Steve realizes that these ethical decisions will follow him, influencing not only the outcome of the case but his own sense of identity. In the context of solving the murders surrounding Fairbanks, Steve will be forced to confront the complexities of trust, morality, and the difficult choices that arise in the pursuit of justice. The ongoing investigation serves as both a professional challenge and a

personal test of his ability to maintain his integrity in an often murky world.

# Chapter 12

Chapter 12 of *We Solve Murders* deepens the narrative by focusing on the correspondence between François Loubet and Rob Kenna, where a sense of urgency and calculated precision permeates their communication. In this chapter, François reaches out to Kenna to confirm whether all arrangements are in place for the execution of their covert operation. While the language is direct, the tone is laden with subtle urgency, especially as François inquires about the status of Amy Wheeler, whose life has already been marked for termination. His trust in Kenna's abilities is clear, yet the undercurrent of tension is palpable, as the success of their plan hinges on Kenna's execution of the task without fail. The necessity of completing the job quickly and efficiently underscores the high stakes involved and sets the scene for the moral and ethical dilemmas François will continue to face throughout the story.

François's relationship with Kenna reflects a blend of professionalism and disturbing nonchalance, as he refers to him as his "murder-broker" in a tone that almost trivializes the dark nature of their work. In this interaction, François is depicted as a man who treats murder not as an aberration but as part of the business of life. He indicates that he doesn't need to know the details of how Amy will be disposed of, merely that the job must be done efficiently and with no complications. This approach reveals a chilling detachment from human life, demonstrating François's capacity to compartmentalize emotion and practicality. His willingness to treat the act of murder as just another business transaction further highlights his coldness, which is central to his character. While his role in the narrative suggests manipulation and control, it is also reflective of a deeper, more sinister desire for power that allows him to approach such morally ambiguous tasks with ease.

Yet, despite his apparent coldness, François allows for a rare moment of empathy when he reflects on Amy Wheeler's predicament. He acknowledges that she is simply

"the wrong person in the wrong place at the wrong time," which subtly hints at a recognition of the randomness of her involvement in his schemes. This fleeting empathy suggests that François is not entirely devoid of human connection but is rather someone who compartmentalizes his emotions in order to maintain control over the situation. The brief acknowledgment of Amy’s humanity complicates his character, showing that while he can be ruthless and strategic, he is not entirely immune to the weight of his decisions. However, this moment of introspection is short-lived, and the reader is left with a lingering sense of François’s indifference to the fate of others, especially when they are merely pawns in his larger game.

As the chapter draws to a close, François turns his attention to the layers of security he has carefully implemented around himself. His reflection on the numerous precautions he has put in place demonstrates a man who is acutely aware of the risks that come with his line of work. Despite the impending danger, François remains unfazed, demonstrating a level of confidence that speaks to his control over the situation. His nonchalant approach to these threats, as well as his willingness to outsmart those who might oppose him, shows the depth of his ruthlessness. This introspective moment contrasts sharply with the impending violence and uncertainty surrounding his actions, further complicating his character by highlighting his ability to stay calm and collected under pressure. His calculated demeanor, paired with his internal acknowledgment of the risks involved, adds to the intrigue surrounding his character and sets the stage for what’s to come.

This chapter effectively builds tension by providing readers with a deeper understanding of François’s personality and his approach to the dangerous world he inhabits. His actions, while deliberate and controlled, are underscored by a chilling detachment from the consequences of his schemes. His empathy, when it appears, is fleeting and only serves to further highlight the contrast between his cold, methodical planning and the unpredictable nature of human emotion. The underlying threat of violence and the looming sense of danger propel the story forward, leaving readers eagerly anticipating the next steps in this tense narrative. As François continues his quest for control, the balance between his charm, calculated behavior, and occasional

flashes of humanity will undoubtedly play a crucial role in the unfolding drama, keeping the reader on edge and curious about what lies ahead.

# Chapter 11

Chapter 11 of *We Solve Murders* begins with Amy and Rosie enjoying drinks together under the blistering South Carolina sun. Amy introduces Bella Sanchez, a former reality TV star and Platinum client of Maximum Impact Solutions, whose tragic death took place in St. Lucia after a social media engagement. Bella's murder is strikingly similar to the death of Andrew Fairbanks, another high-profile client of the same agency, drawing Rosie into the unfolding mystery with increasing interest. Bella’s body was discovered shot and hung upside down from a balcony, a scene that blends macabre theatrics with a chilling sense of fascination, signaling a deepening connection between these violent events and the larger narrative.

As their conversation progresses, Amy adds another victim to the list: Mark Gooch, a financial influencer, who was found dead under equally suspicious circumstances in Ireland. Rosie, now growing increasingly suspicious, begins to notice a disturbing pattern among the murders of these prominent clients. Each of these deaths seems more than coincidental, and the connections between the victims appear undeniable, causing Rosie to question Amy’s involvement in the situation. She implies that Amy may be closer to these tragic events than she is willing to admit, subtly hinting that there might be more to her role in these murders than she lets on. The tension builds as each new revelation places Amy deeper in the middle of a growing web of lies, secrets, and possible involvement.

The tension intensifies when Rosie presses Amy about her whereabouts during the murders. Amy explains that she was working with Elton John in St. Lucia at the time of Bella's death, and in Dublin when Mark met the same grim fate. However, Amy's explanation raises more questions than answers, particularly as she begins to wonder if a mysterious figure may be orchestrating these murders to implicate her. As the situation becomes more complicated, Rosie jokes about potential motives, but Amy’s

defensive stance is clear, though a lingering sense of uncertainty grows within her. She begins to consider whether she is being framed, and if so, by whom.

The situation reaches a tipping point when Amy receives a troubling message from her boss, Jeff. The message hints at even darker secrets connected to her previous work, particularly involving François Loubet, a notorious criminal known for his shady dealings. The implication is that Jeff may be warning her, or worse, setting her up for something far more sinister than she could have imagined. Amy's concern deepens as she processes the threat, realizing that the scope of the situation may be far more dangerous than just a few isolated murders.

Rosie, always the realist, warns Amy against returning to London. She suggests that the hidden dangers lurking in the city could be far worse than anticipated, particularly with Amy's connection to these high-profile clients. However, despite the mounting danger, Amy remains steadfast in her decision to continue her work and confront whatever challenges lie ahead. She is determined to protect Rosie, even as she faces an uncertain future, feeling the weight of responsibility growing heavier with each passing moment. As the chapter unfolds, the blend of rising tension and dark humor creates a captivating narrative, pushing Amy to confront her own fears while dealing with the impending danger that threatens to consume her.

The chapter ends with Amy preparing for whatever comes next, her resolve growing stronger even as her life becomes more entangled in a web of murder and deceit. As she faces the reality of the situation, she knows she cannot back down, no matter how perilous the journey ahead may seem. With Rosie's support, Amy steels herself for the next phase of the investigation, knowing that the truth, however dangerous, must eventually come to light.

# Chapter 10

Chapter 10 of *We Solve Murders* brings us into the warm yet lively ambiance of *The Brass Monkey*, a cozy neighborhood pub where regulars gather daily for food, drinks, and discussion. Among the usual patrons is Steve, a widower who enjoys the comfort of his routine and the company of his longtime acquaintances. Sitting with him are John, a former showbiz personality with a penchant for alcohol; Tony, a divorced mechanic with strong opinions on nearly everything; and Dr. Jyoti Das, an academic specializing in medieval history who somehow always ends up giving out medical advice. Their conversations jump between lighthearted banter and serious topics, including a recent, suspicious murder involving Andrew Fairbanks, an influencer with a growing social media presence who was found dead under mysterious circumstances.

As Steve listens to the news coverage on Fairbanks' death, Rosie jokingly suggests that he was “eaten by a shark,” though Amy, who has been keeping track of such cases, immediately finds the situation more troubling. She discreetly pulls up an article detailing Fairbanks' final moments, which only deepens her suspicions. The circumstances surrounding his murder feel eerily familiar, triggering memories of her past clients at Maximum Impact Solutions. Amy recalls the grim fate of another influencer, Bella Sanchez, whose death bore striking similarities to Fairbanks'. Bella, a former reality TV star, was discovered hanging upside down from a balcony in St. Lucia, shot in what appeared to be a theatrical execution. This eerie pattern leads Amy to believe that someone is deliberately targeting high-profile social media figures.

As the conversation progresses, Amy introduces another chilling case—Mark Gooch, a financial influencer, who was also a former client of Maximum Impact Solutions and was found murdered in Ireland. Like Bella and Fairbanks, his death seemed staged, as though the killer wanted to send a message. Rosie, ever the skeptic, starts piecing the information together, realizing that these cases are not merely coincidental. Her

journalist instincts kick in as she questions Amy's proximity to each of these deaths, implying that Amy might be more involved than she lets on. Amy, however, firmly denies any connection beyond her professional work, though the mounting coincidences unsettle her.

While the murder discussion dominates their lunch, Tony suddenly shifts the conversation, mentioning a suspicious blue car he spotted parked outside the pub. The vehicle had been idling for an unusual amount of time, drawing Tony’s attention. Steve takes note of this detail, considering it might be related to Fairbanks' case or a completely separate incident worth investigating. At the same time, Tony also complains about someone repeatedly using his recycling bins without permission, prompting Steve to offer to stop by Tony’s house later to check it out. This leads to a humorous exchange about modern technology, particularly surveillance doorbells, which Tony dismisses as unnecessary while Steve argues they could actually help identify unwanted visitors.

Despite the easygoing atmosphere, Steve’s mind remains preoccupied with Fairbanks' murder and its potential connection to the Krusher Energy Drink company, which had a financial relationship with the influencer. While Steve has officially retired from solving murders, he finds himself increasingly drawn to the inconsistencies in the case. His instincts tell him that the situation is far more complex than it appears, and although he tries to resist getting involved, the details gnaw at him. The mystery surrounding Fairbanks’ death, along with the similar fates of Bella and Mark, suggests a pattern that someone needs to untangle before more bodies surface.

As lunch at *The Brass Monkey* comes to an end, the group settles into a comfortable lull, their plates nearly empty and drinks steadily drained. John reflects on his days conducting celebrity interviews, lamenting that he never had the chance to meet Rosie D’Antonio, who he considers one of the more interesting figures in the media world. Jyoti, ever the inquisitive academic, presses Steve further on what he knows about Fairbanks' connections, prompting Steve to admit that while he doesn’t have all the answers yet, something about the case doesn’t sit right. The thought lingers in his

mind even as he outwardly insists that he has no intention of diving back into detective work. Yet, as he watches the blue car still sitting outside the pub, unmoved, he knows deep down that he won’t be able to walk away from this mystery for long.

Although Steve enjoys the familiarity of his simple life and the camaraderie of his pub friends, there is an undeniable pull toward the cases he tries to ignore. He wants to believe he has left his investigative days behind, but the unresolved questions surrounding Fairbanks, Bella, and Mark continue to follow him. Whether he likes it or not, he finds himself at the center of yet another puzzle, one that may put him back in the line of danger. As he steps out of *The Brass Monkey*, the weight of the unfolding mystery presses down on him, signaling that his days of solving murders may not be over just yet.

# Chapter 9

Chapter 9 of *We Solve Murders* explores Amy D'Antonio's mounting anxiety as she learns disturbing news regarding Andrew Fairbanks, an influencer who had previously been a client of Maximum Impact Solutions. Her client, Rosie, jokes about Fairbanks being "eaten by a shark," but Amy doesn't take it lightly. Her immediate concern grows as she discreetly searches for the news report and quickly confirms her worst fears about Fairbanks's tragic death. The weight of the situation intensifies as Amy recalls his death might be tied to a broader conspiracy involving influencers and money laundering schemes connected to François Loubet.

Amy reflects on her career path and the drastic change it took from being a simple gym receptionist to working in private security. It all started when she found herself in the middle of a violent altercation between two aggressive bankers. Amy's quick thinking, as she disarmed one of the men and kept the other immobilized, caught the attention of Jeff Nolan. Jeff was impressed by her resourcefulness, and despite her lack of computer skills, he offered her a job in his security firm, promising to teach her the ropes.

As Amy digests the news of Fairbanks's death, she begins to connect the dots between his demise, the fate of her former colleague Bella Sanchez, and the mysterious case involving Mark Gooch. Jeff's urgent message about these troubling incidents only adds to her growing sense of unease. She feels torn between her trust in Jeff, a person who has been integral in her career, and the mounting suspicions surrounding these coincidental deaths. Amy's contemplations are disrupted by the serene beauty of the South Carolina coastline, which contrasts sharply with the turmoil unfolding in her mind.

During this turbulent time, Amy confides in Rosie, hoping for clarity amidst the overwhelming uncertainty. She expresses her fears about the interconnection of these deaths, feeling as though she is caught in a web of secrets she has yet to unravel. Rosie, ever the optimist, reassures her, stating that there’s always a solution to any problem, even if it leads to more challenges ahead. Although Amy appreciates her friend's optimism, she remains uncertain about how to navigate the mounting danger. As they share a drink together, Amy feels the weight of her responsibilities but also draws strength from Rosie’s unwavering support.

Amy takes a deep breath, steeling herself for the decisions that lie ahead. She knows that the investigation surrounding Fairbanks, Sanchez, and Gooch is just beginning, and the possibility that someone she trusted might be involved in these deaths weighs heavily on her. Yet, in this moment of quiet with Rosie, she finds a fleeting sense of comfort, allowing her mind to shift momentarily from the chaos to a place of calm. However, this brief respite is short-lived, as Amy’s next steps are crucial in untangling the web of lies and figuring out who can be trusted.

This chapter highlights not only the dark and dangerous reality Amy faces but also the vulnerability and complexity of human connections in the midst of such peril. It contrasts Amy's internal struggle with her external determination to solve the murders, all while navigating her relationships with those she trusts. As she moves forward, Amy is forced to confront her fears, questioning how much she truly knows about the people she once thought she could rely on. This chapter serves as a pivotal turning point in the narrative, intensifying the stakes and drawing Amy further into a world of intrigue and danger.

Amy’s sense of isolation grows as the weight of the investigation continues to burden her, but Rosie’s unwavering support becomes a source of strength. The friendship between the two women is tested as they confront the chilling reality that they are entangled in a web of deceit, manipulation, and murder. This chapter not only deepens the intrigue surrounding the central mystery but also explores the emotional complexities of the characters involved, emphasizing their struggle to maintain a

sense of normalcy in a world that is rapidly spiraling out of control.

# Chapter 8

Chapter 8 of *We Solve Murders* delves deeper into the complex psyche of François Loubet, a character whose actions blur the lines between calculated ruthlessness and dark humor. Loubet opens the chapter reflecting on his desire to write, which he admits stems partly from vanity. However, there is also a deeper reason behind his inclination to document his deeds—the need to ensure his criminal legacy is preserved for posterity. Through this lens, Loubet approaches his business of murder not only as a means of survival but as a way to immortalize himself in a world where the consequences of his actions are hidden behind the veneer of success and wealth. Despite the increasing dangers of his line of work, Loubet reassures himself with a nonchalant attitude, making it clear that he has no intention of fading into the shadows anytime soon. This eerie confidence is integral to his character, showing how far he is willing to go to maintain control over his destiny.

The chapter takes a darker turn when Loubet receives a message from his business partner, Joe Blow, who expresses concern about the string of killings they've been orchestrating. Joe, feeling the weight of their actions, urges Loubet to cease the murders, with the latest victim, Andrew Fairbanks, causing Joe to question the ethics of their work. His message reveals a growing discomfort with the escalating violence, exposing a contrast between the two men's outlook on their criminal enterprise. While Joe's plea comes from a place of unease, Loubet remains detached, even finding amusement in Joe's hesitation. Loubet humorously wonders whether Joe is now relying on modern technology, like ChatGPT, to help him form his moral arguments, reflecting Loubet's playful disregard for the seriousness of the situation. For Loubet, these concerns are merely distractions from his goal, and he remains unfazed by Joe's change of heart, further emphasizing his unrelenting nature.

Loubet’s response to Joe’s plea reveals the stark differences in their personalities and approaches to the criminal world. He dismisses Joe’s concerns with cold pragmatism, reminding him that their partnership is built on shared responsibility and mutual understanding. For Loubet, the line between right and wrong is blurred, and he sees no room for hesitation in their line of work. He believes that their success hinges on their ability to carry out these dark deeds without regret or second-guessing, and he makes it clear that Joe must accept this reality. While Joe’s moral compass appears to be wavering, Loubet’s is unwavering, reinforcing his position as a man willing to do whatever it takes to achieve his goals.

The conversation shifts to Loubet’s plan to eliminate Amy Wheeler, a decision he approaches with a chilling sense of confidence. He sees Amy as an obstacle that must be removed to ensure the continuation of his operations. Her connection to Jeff Nolan, whom Loubet also considers a nuisance, complicates matters further, making her elimination a priority. Loubet, however, seems to take delight in the idea of crossing another name off his list, seeing it as a necessary step to clean up his affairs. His ability to view murder as a business transaction, rather than an emotional or moral dilemma, highlights the depth of his detachment from humanity. In his mind, the decision to kill is just another step toward solidifying his position in the world of crime.

As the chapter progresses, Loubet’s reflections take on a more sinister tone. He considers the consequences of his actions not in terms of human lives lost but as moves in a game that he must win. His thoughts reveal a man who has long since abandoned any semblance of guilt or remorse, replacing them with a chilling determination to stay in control of the situation. The chapter concludes with Loubet’s playful declaration of “Tally-ho!”—a phrase that, in the context of his dark intentions, takes on a macabre edge. It serves as a reminder of how Loubet’s twisted sense of humor allows him to detach from the weight of his actions, further reinforcing the complexity of his character. For Loubet, the pursuit of power and wealth is all-consuming, and the bodies left in his wake are simply a necessary byproduct of his ambition.

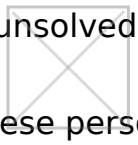
# Chapter 7

Chapter 7 of *We Solve Murders* reveals Steve Wheeler's ongoing engagement with criminal cases despite his retirement. Although no longer actively solving crimes, he maintains an interest in certain cases that capture his attention, such as the recent murder of Andrew Fairbanks in South Carolina. This case, in particular, intrigues him because of its connection to his acquaintance, Amy. Fairbanks’s murder was horrific and involved multiple violent acts, sparking Steve's curiosity. However, despite his professional instincts being piqued, Steve is forced to focus on personal matters that demand his attention.

Steve’s current focus is an investigation involving Mollie Bright, a young woman who has been stealing from her mother’s shop. Despite her emotional protests, Steve presents Mollie with video evidence, forcing her to admit her guilt. During their conversation, it becomes clear that Mollie is being threatened by a school bully named Lauren Gough, who extorts money from her. Steve sympathizes with Mollie’s situation, realizing that her actions stem from fear rather than greed. The bullying and social pressure weigh heavily on Mollie, and Steve's heart goes out to her as he sees the damage caused by intimidation.

As Steve delves deeper into Mollie’s situation, he reflects on how social media and peer pressure play pivotal roles in the lives of young people today. He also begins to question the nature of parental relationships, particularly after seeing how hard Jenny Bright, Mollie’s mother, works to protect her daughter. Despite Jenny’s concerns, Steve reassures her that there is no evidence of her involvement in the theft, offering some peace of mind. In a lighter moment, Steve mentions receiving an unexpected envelope of money from an anonymous client, which further complicates his already mysterious day. The presence of such small, enigmatic moments helps break the tension, but Steve’s focus soon shifts back to the bigger concerns at hand.

The chapter also delves into Steve’s lingering thoughts about the unsolved murder of Andrew Fairbanks. As he reflects on the media's coverage of the case, Steve becomes increasingly disillusioned with the lack of transparency from local law enforcement. He recalls his impression of Sheriff Justin Scroggie, whose polished exterior and formal demeanor only heighten Steve's skepticism regarding the sheriff's competence. The reluctance of the police to provide information fuels Steve's growing concern that the case will remain unsolved for longer than anticipated.



In the midst of these personal and professional challenges, Steve shows compassion and understanding when he offers Mollie the chance to walk a dog he found earlier. This small gesture offers Mollie a brief moment of peace and highlights Steve's natural protective instincts. Their exchange, filled with mutual respect and empathy, underscores a central theme of the chapter—how bullying and societal pressures can harm individuals. While Steve’s professional life remains entangled with unresolved cases, his interactions with those around him reveal the depth of his character and the importance of personal connections in navigating life’s more complicated moments.

Throughout Chapter 7, we witness Steve’s ongoing internal struggle between engaging with the world of crime he once knew and dealing with the more immediate concerns that come with caring for those around him. His complex relationship with Mollie, his frustration with the local law enforcement's handling of the Fairbanks case, and his deep-seated belief in standing up against bullying offer readers a nuanced exploration of justice, compassion, and personal responsibility. These themes resonate deeply, encouraging the reader to reflect on their own reactions to similar societal issues and personal dilemmas. Steve's narrative continues to be one of emotional depth, balancing professional intrigue with personal growth and a desire to do the right thing.

# Chapter 6

Chapter 6 of *We Solve Murders* takes us deeper into the life of Felicity Woollaston, a woman who has successfully navigated the ever-evolving landscape of business for decades. Despite a recent surge in clients that has revitalized her career, she remains stationed in the same humble office space above a travel agency on Letchworth Garden City's bustling High Street—a space she has inhabited for nearly forty years. This office, though modest, has been the heart of her professional life. Even with the mounting demands of the modern digital world, Felicity is hesitant to hire staff, preferring to manage everything on her own. It is her innate independence, cultivated over years of solitary work, that has made her resistant to the idea of change.

From her office, Felicity often gazes out the window, observing the routine movements of the town. A man in a suit talks on the phone, a teenager casually smokes by the sidewalk, and a mobility scooter user passes by—each playing their role in the quiet pulse of the city. These everyday occurrences give Felicity a sense of calm but also spark her observant nature. She notes that the man on the phone might not be entirely truthful, a suspicion borne from years of experience in reading people. In addition to these small, fleeting moments, Felicity has noticed how her business has shifted. Recent changes in the entertainment industry have impacted her client base, with many long-term clients stepping away due to scandals or health-related issues. This sudden turn of events left Felicity unprepared, but a chance encounter with a woman in a green trouser suit led her down a path she hadn't expected—one that introduced her to the world of influencers and brand management. As a result, Felicity rebranded her business, transitioning from Felicity Woollaston Associates to the modern and edgy Vivid Viral Media Agency.

Despite the overwhelming changes, Felicity finds herself intrigued but somewhat bemused by this new field. The dynamic world of influencers and digital marketing

presents a stark contrast to her old way of doing business, but it hasn't diminished her standing in the industry. She remains relevant, despite not fully understanding the technological and digital nuances of the modern market. As invoices for digital services pile up, Felicity still finds joy in simple, everyday moments—like her routine visits to the post office near her favorite coffee shop. These small, peaceful activities are a welcome reprieve from the clutter of new-age products and promotional gifts that now crowd her office. However, she holds onto the same principles that have always guided her, especially her dedication to supporting her clients. She takes pride in the relationships she's cultivated over the years, even as the nature of business and her industry changes around her. Her office, while filled with tech gadgets and social media-related paraphernalia, remains a reflection of her enduring values: a place where genuine care for her clients' needs takes precedence over the newest trends.

Though Felicity's career has evolved, her approach to work hasn't changed all that much. She continues to book television appearances for her clients, handle their social media engagements, and secure opportunities in the same way she always has. Her success in these areas hasn't diminished, even as her clientele shifts and the tools of her trade evolve. It's clear that Felicity has found a balance between adapting to the changing world of business and holding onto the practices that made her successful. She knows that despite the constant flow of technological advances, her core values—those that prioritize her clients' well-being and their careers—remain the same. This chapter shows Felicity's internal conflict as she tries to reconcile her traditional approach to business with the modern expectations of the digital age.

Ultimately, this chapter showcases the complex layers of Felicity's character—her willingness to evolve alongside her clients, her acceptance of modern technology, and her unwavering commitment to supporting others. It highlights the emotional depth of a woman who has faced personal and professional challenges yet continues to adapt with resilience and strength. The chapter beautifully contrasts Felicity's nostalgic longing for simpler times with the constant push towards modernity in business, showing the struggles of maintaining one's identity in a rapidly changing world. Felicity's ability to continue her career and thrive amidst these changes is a testament

to her adaptability and her enduring commitment to doing what she loves.

# Chapter 5

Chapter 5 of *We Solve Murders* centers around an emotionally charged phone call between Steve and his daughter, Amy, revealing the contrasting lifestyles and dynamics of their relationship. Steve, enjoying a quiet day at home, is settled on the couch with his dog, Trouble, by his side. He’s snacking on a Scotch egg, casually watching *Tipping Point*, a game show that plays in the background while he takes solace in the comfort of his routine. Amy, however, finds herself on a much more glamorous path, sitting by a pool, sipping on a protein shake, and overseeing a client meditating in an oxygen tent. The stark differences in their daily lives—Steve’s laid-back existence versus Amy’s busy, health-conscious lifestyle—are immediately apparent. The conversation between them begins with playful banter, as Amy tries to encourage Steve to adopt healthier habits, which contrasts sharply with Steve's more relaxed, less motivated approach to his diet and health.

Amy, ever the health advocate, has sent Steve organic vegetable boxes, urging him to incorporate them into his meals. Yet, Steve is quick to dismiss her suggestions, humorously defending his love for processed food and his disinterest in following a “health trend.” As Amy presses him further, asking why he hasn’t made use of the vegetable boxes, Steve continues to joke, revealing that he simply has no interest in the fresh produce. He even admits that the boxes sit untouched in his kitchen, making Amy’s efforts feel futile. Despite the lighthearted exchange, Amy’s genuine concern for her father’s well-being shines through, and Steve can’t help but feel a slight pang of guilt, though he does nothing to change his habits.

As the conversation shifts, Amy excitedly talks about her upcoming trip to the Diamond Conference in Dubai, where she plans to join her partner, Adam. Steve’s response, however, is less than enthusiastic, as he reveals his fear of flying and his dislike for social events. He makes it clear that he has little desire to attend any such

gathering, much less board a plane, which adds a humorous layer to their exchange. Amy, persistent as ever, jokingly suggests that Steve should buy swim trunks in case he decides to join her, but Steve remains firm in his reluctance to engage in travel or socializing. While Amy remains excited about the conference, Steve's lack of enthusiasm highlights the difference in their attitudes toward travel and socializing.

Amid their banter, the conversation reveals deeper layers of frustration. Steve expresses his disappointment with Adam's reluctance to reach out, voicing a sense of neglect and frustration with how their relationship has developed over time. He longs for a closer, more meaningful connection with Amy's partner, feeling as though he's been left out of their world, while Amy defends Adam, asserting that he's just busy. The generational divide between them becomes more evident, particularly in their differing attitudes toward communication, relationships, and travel. Steve, having lived a life shaped by a different era, struggles to understand the dynamics of modern connections, especially when it comes to his daughter's personal life.

As the call nears its end, Steve expresses concern for Amy's safety, worrying about her being alone on a private island. Amy reassures him, telling him she's secure and well taken care of. Their conversation turns nostalgic when they begin reminiscing about Debbie, a family friend who had been an integral part of their lives before passing. The warmth of those memories briefly lifts Steve's spirits, and the exchange offers him a sense of comfort amidst his lingering sadness. As the call concludes, Steve is left with a blend of love, longing, and the sorrow of missing his daughter, his heart heavy with the distance that has grown between them. Wiping away a tear, he reflects on how much he misses their time together, as Trouble, his dog, nudges him for attention, offering the small comfort of companionship in his solitude.

Through this exchange, Chapter 5 not only emphasizes the generational and emotional differences between Steve and Amy but also highlights the complexity of their bond. Amy's concern for her father's health contrasts with Steve's resistance to change, and his frustration with Adam reflects his deeper yearning for connection. The chapter is a quiet meditation on the evolving nature of familial relationships, the struggles of

aging, and the unspoken love between father and daughter, tinged with both humor and sorrow.

# Chapter 4

Chapter 4 of *We Solve Murders* delves deeper into Jeff Nolan’s ongoing struggle with the ramifications of the recent murders that have deeply affected his business, Maximum Impact Solutions. The high-profile murder of Andrew Fairbanks, a fitness influencer and former client of Jeff’s, has attracted significant media attention, which is rapidly damaging Jeff's reputation and his standing within his industry. Despite the ongoing police investigation, Jeff remains primarily concerned about the erosion of trust among his clients, a loss of confidence that could lead to significant cancellations of vital contracts. As Jeff juggles these mounting pressures, his usual confidence is shaken, and he realizes that his business’s success is increasingly at risk.

Max Highfield, a key consultant who works closely with Jeff, soon arrives at the office to discuss the growing fallout from the murders. Max, clearly frustrated with the state of affairs, expresses his concern over how these incidents are damaging their business relationship and reputation. While Jeff reassures Max that the murder of Fairbanks isn’t catastrophic for their clients, the conversation soon shifts to their shared involvement in the entertainment world. Max, in his usual dry wit, points out the vast pay disparity between their roles in consultancy and the entertainment industry, particularly in regard to prestigious awards like the Oscars. This discussion adds an extra layer of tension, as the personal and professional rivalries between the two men become more evident, highlighting the underlying complexities of their working relationship.

Amidst this exchange, Jeff reveals that Amy Wheeler, an operative working for him, is currently investigating the murders in South Carolina. Max, who has interacted with Amy in the past, hints at a deeper connection between them, though the full extent of their relationship remains unclear. The dynamic shifts further when Max mentions the possibility of joining Jeff’s rival, Henk, which instantly raises the stakes of their partnership and injects a competitive tension into the conversation. This mention of

betrayal underscores the precariousness of their professional alliance, suggesting that the balance between trust and rivalry is always fragile in their world. Their interactions in this chapter offer a mix of casual banter and serious undercurrents, revealing that despite their years of collaboration, neither man fully trusts the other.

After Max leaves, Jeff turns his focus to Susan Knox, the head of HR at Maximum Impact Solutions. Their brief conversation touches on workplace dynamics, particularly the impact that Max's actions have had on the morale of their staff. Susan's dry humor contrasts with the ongoing chaos surrounding the company, but beneath her wit, the growing tensions within the business are apparent. The mention of François Loubet, a notorious criminal figure with ties to their industry, adds another layer of external danger to the situation. Loubet's shadow looms large over the company, and Jeff is acutely aware that the problems he faces now are just the tip of the iceberg. As Susan leaves, the weight of the problems becomes even more apparent, and Jeff's realization that things are spiraling out of control begins to set in.

The chapter takes a darker turn as Jeff reflects on the looming threat posed by Loubet. He pulls up an email he had written in a desperate attempt to get advice on how to handle the dangerous criminal. This moment highlights Jeff's growing sense of urgency as he faces the combined threats of the murders, his crumbling reputation, and the dangerous figure of Loubet. The chapter closes with Jeff pondering his strained partnership with Henk, acknowledging that their relationship is fraught with complexities and risks. As the chapter ends, readers are left with a sense of foreboding, knowing that the challenges Jeff faces will only intensify as the story unfolds. This chapter is a turning point, marking a deeper dive into the relationships, threats, and challenges that will define the course of the narrative moving forward.

# Chapter 3

Chapter 3 of *We Solve Murders* delves into Steve's reflective mindset as he navigates his life in the quaint village of Axley, a place he now calls home. Having relocated to this peaceful area twelve years ago, Steve initially harbored doubts about the village's idyllic charm. His extensive background as a police officer, spanning twenty-five years, had taught him to always seek out hidden dangers and to view people with a healthy dose of skepticism. At first, he assumed that Axley, with its picturesque high street, traditional shops, and the sprawling beauty of the New Forest, would eventually reveal its darker side. However, as time passed, Steve found himself softening to the warmth and kindness of the community. What he had initially dismissed as a facade slowly became a comforting reality. Even as he remained cautious, he could not ignore the peace the village brought him.

Each morning, Steve engages in his daily walk through Axley, a ritual that brings him comfort and an opportunity to reflect on his life and the world around him. The peaceful surroundings, coupled with the responsibility of keeping the village clean by picking up litter, become a grounding force for him. These walks, which were once an afterthought, have become integral to his healing process. The serenity of the village, though initially met with doubt, has allowed him to feel something he hadn’t felt in years: a sense of calm and normalcy. His grief over the loss of his wife, Debbie, continues to shape his life, yet the support from the community has helped him cope with the emptiness. Though still mourning, he finds small moments of comfort in the routine and stability that Axley offers.

Steve’s work as a private investigator in Axley is relatively uneventful compared to his past work as a police officer. The cases he takes on now, like investigating fraud or searching for lost pets, seem mundane but still connect him to the people in the community. These cases, while less exciting, allow Steve to remain involved in the life

of Axley and deepen his connection to the village he has come to call home. While his previous work was fraught with danger and uncertainty, these new, quieter cases offer a stark contrast, giving Steve the space to heal. Yet, despite the calm and simplicity of his current work, he can’t shake the feeling that he is somehow meant for more—whether it’s a more thrilling investigation or an unexpected turn of events. In his quiet moments, such as when he enjoys a pub quiz or spends the evening with his cat, Trouble, Steve begins to appreciate the importance of these small rituals. It’s in these simple acts that Steve finds healing, but also the underlying recognition that his life is far from static. Even with all the tranquility surrounding him, he’s never completely free of the need for purpose, the desire for something to challenge him.

As the chapter progresses, Steve’s internal struggle is evident. He’s learning to appreciate the peace Axley offers but still feels the pull of his former life, where things were always more complicated, more dangerous. He wonders if his time in Axley is simply a temporary reprieve from the tumultuous past he once lived or if this slower pace is now his new reality. Either way, Steve has come to terms with the fact that his life may never fully return to the way it was, and he must find contentment in this new chapter. As he reflects on his wife’s passing, the village’s support, and his new, quieter life, Steve slowly begins to find peace. The unresolved feelings and questions, however, continue to linger in his thoughts, leaving him with a sense of uncertainty about the future. Despite his doubts, Steve remains hopeful that the quiet of Axley, combined with his newfound sense of routine, will offer the emotional healing he desperately needs.

# Chapter 2

Chapter 2 of *We Solve Murders* introduces readers to a captivating conversation between Amy Wheeler and Rosie D’Antonio, two women whose contrasting personalities unfold as they spend time together by the poolside. Rosie lounges with ease, comfortably nestled in her chair, while Amy is more guarded, a gun placed near her as a reminder of the dangers she faces. The setting is relaxed, but a deep and probing question from Rosie—“What don’t you like about yourself?”—opens up a space for honest self-reflection. Amy admits to dissatisfaction with various parts of her appearance, listing her nose, ears, and legs as flaws that trouble her. This seemingly casual exchange about self-image quickly evolves into a deeper exploration of Amy’s inner thoughts and vulnerabilities, providing insight into her insecurities. While the conversation starts lightheartedly, it underscores the themes of identity, self-worth, and the connection forming between the two women.

Rosie, confident and seemingly carefree, suggests possible changes to help Amy feel better about herself, advising on how to "fix" her flaws. However, as the conversation progresses, it takes a more meaningful turn. Rosie encourages Amy to think about what she does like about herself, prompting Amy to reflect on her core strengths. After some consideration, Amy acknowledges her loyalty and her ability to fight for the people she cares about. This moment is pivotal, revealing that while Amy may struggle with self-image, she finds strength in her loyalty and her protective instincts. The contrast between the two women—Rosie’s natural confidence and Amy’s more reserved, self-conscious nature—adds layers to their evolving relationship. Through their exchange, Amy begins to see herself in a new light, realizing that her worth goes beyond physical appearance, embracing the parts of herself that make her resilient and determined.

As their conversation moves forward, the tone shifts to one of admiration as Amy listens to Rosie talk about her career as a bestselling novelist. Amy recalls how she has always looked up to strong, independent women like Rosie, finding inspiration in their strength and success. While Amy grapples with her own insecurities, she can’t help but admire Rosie’s unshakable confidence, which only grows as they talk. However, despite the admiration, there is an undercurrent of concern, as the looming threat against Rosie’s life from a wealthy adversary remains in the background. Amy, who has experienced her own brushes with danger, feels an unwavering sense of duty to protect Rosie, even if it means placing herself in harm’s way. The exchange shows how deep their bond has become, with Amy willing to put her own fears aside to ensure Rosie’s safety, especially when Rosie jokes about not wanting Amy to jump in front of a bullet for her. Amy’s response reveals her inner resolve, understanding that the threat against Rosie is very real and that she will do anything to protect her.

The chapter continues to blend humor with gravity as the two women navigate their complex feelings and the situation at hand. Amy’s inner turmoil is highlighted as she tries to balance her past experiences with her current role as a bodyguard. While she tries to remain calm and collected, her past weighs heavily on her, with each danger she faces pushing her to confront her vulnerabilities. Rosie, on the other hand, maintains a lighthearted tone, using humor as a defense mechanism against the gravity of the situation. Their contrasting approaches to danger and life in general are what makes their relationship so compelling. Despite the looming threat from Rosie’s adversary, the time spent together in their secluded island hideaway allows for a moment of reflection. This temporary escape gives Amy the chance to consider her next steps while reasserting her role as protector. At the same time, she faces the challenge of defining who she is beyond her past trauma. The chapter ends with an overwhelming sense of duty in Amy, alongside a deep need for personal growth, as she confronts the complexities of her role in Rosie’s life and the dangers they face together. Through this poignant yet humorous dialogue, the story not only explores self-image and identity but also sets the stage for the deeper emotional stakes that lie ahead in the narrative.

# Chapter 1

Chapter 1 of *We Solve Murders* begins by introducing Andrew Fairbanks, a man who had always yearned for fame, only to find it in a way he could never have imagined. On a quiet Tuesday morning in early August, the kind of day that seems to pass without fanfare, Andrew's life took a drastic turn when a photograph of him on a yacht went viral. In the photo, Andrew, dressed simply in a shirtless pose, tan skin, and holding a Krusher Energy Drink, epitomized the carefree, influencer lifestyle. While Andrew had gained some measure of fame previously through his Instagram fitness posts and a brief fling with a minor pop singer, this single photograph shot him into the global limelight, bringing with it both adoration and unforeseen consequences.

The reaction to the photo was explosive. His Instagram followers were quick to flood the comments with heart and fire emojis, signifying their admiration and approval. What initially seemed like harmless attention soon turned darker, however, with some comments reading "Gone too soon" and "So haunting to see that photo when you knew what was about to happen." These ominous words foreshadowed the tragedy that would soon unfold. Instead of being remembered for his fitness tips or online presence, Andrew was now cast in a far darker light: the tragic influencer whose life was cut short. The viral nature of his image turned him into a symbol of fleeting fame, where the initial excitement quickly morphed into speculation and mystery surrounding his untimely death.

By Wednesday, the buzz surrounding Andrew's viral photo had quickly faded. New stories broke, and media attention shifted elsewhere, but just as quickly as his fame had arrived, it came crashing down when Andrew's body was discovered aboard a yacht in the Atlantic Ocean. He had been shot in the head and left bound, with nearly a million dollars found nearby, an unsettling clue that hinted at a much more complex and dark story. Though the world had already moved on, the discovery of his body

made headlines once again, but now, the focus had shifted from his fleeting celebrity to the mysterious circumstances surrounding his death. What had started as a brief moment of fame was now overshadowed by intrigue, as the narrative of Andrew Fairbanks shifted from one of rising stardom to a tragic murder mystery.

Social media quickly became a breeding ground for speculation, as rumors circulated about what might have led to Andrew's death. Some hinted at a jealous lover, others pointed to a fitness rival, but all were left wondering the same question: who was responsible for taking the life of a man who had only just begun to make his mark? Yet, as the media rapidly churned through theories and ideas, one fact remained: Andrew Fairbanks was gone, and in his place stood a story waiting to be uncovered. The tragedy of his death, though shocking, was a stark reminder of the dangers that fame could bring. His life, once filled with the excitement of social media likes and brand partnerships, was now reduced to a mere headline.

While Andrew’s death dominated the media for a brief time, the world soon moved on to the next sensation, leaving behind nothing more than whispers of his tragic fate. The once-promising influencer had become little more than an object of fleeting curiosity. His brief moment in the spotlight, full of promise and potential, had turned into an example of the impermanence of fame. The very same media that elevated him had also discarded him, eager to move on to the next viral sensation. The sharks of the entertainment world, ever hungry for new faces to exploit, had moved on, leaving Andrew behind in the dust.

His brief rise to fame and its swift, brutal end serves as a poignant reminder of how quickly the public’s attention can shift, leaving those caught in its current to be chewed up and forgotten. Andrew’s life, which had once seemed full of opportunity, had been extinguished in the blink of an eye, replaced by the mystery of his murder. His story, now overshadowed by a tragic death, was one that would be remembered in the annals of internet lore, an example of the fragility of fame and the dangers of chasing it in the first place. For all the adoration and attention he received in the moments before his death, Andrew Fairbanks ultimately became a symbol of the

hollowness that often accompanies fleeting fame, leaving nothing behind but a headline that would soon fade into obscurity.

# Chapter 20

Chapter 20 of *We Solve Murders* opens with Jeff speeding down isolated back roads, his vehicle cutting through the dense night as he desperately tries to evade the unseen threats that are following him. His heart races as he speeds, glancing nervously over his shoulder at the thought of whoever might be lurking behind. With his pulse quickening, he attempts to reach Amy, desperate to warn her of the danger they are both in, but the calls go unanswered. Feeling the weight of the situation pressing down on him, Jeff leaves a voicemail for Amy, the urgency in his voice palpable as he speaks quickly, afraid that his time to warn her is running out. The voicemail conveys a sense of panic as Jeff details how Loubet, the figure they have been dealing with, has been involved in illicit activities, using their clients as part of a money-smuggling operation. After confronting Loubet about his involvement in these criminal dealings, Jeff receives a chilling death threat, only to soon face two gunmen who attempt to kill him in Bruno’s establishment. Realizing the imminent danger, Jeff urgently warns Amy that their communication might be cut short and advises her to go off the grid, to find safety and avoid being caught in the growing web of danger.

Jeff's voice on the voicemail is filled with dread as he stresses the necessity for both of them to hide and lay low while trying to uncover the full extent of the conspiracy they have unwittingly become entangled in. He urges Amy to seek a safe place, her safety being his primary concern, while hinting that the conspiracy runs much deeper than they had ever anticipated. In his message, Jeff mentions a name, “Joe Blow,” linked to Maximum Impact, a person whose connection to the growing turmoil is unclear but surely significant. The name sends a wave of fear through Jeff, and he continues to emphasize the need for Amy to trust no one, warning her to immediately dispose of her phone, believing their enemies have full access to their communications. This escalating paranoia underscores the fragile nature of their situation, with Jeff unable to

trust anyone and feeling that even their most private conversations are being monitored. The weight of his words becomes heavier as the reality sinks in: they are being hunted, their every move being tracked, and any mistake could be fatal.

With his urgent message complete, Jeff's fear and concern for Amy deepen, and he knows that his next steps must be decisive and calculated. The weight of the information he has just shared sinks in, and his mind races with the reality of their situation. Determined to cut all ties with the outside world and prevent any further tracking, Jeff takes a drastic step—he removes the SIM card from his phone and smashes the device, severing all links to the life he had been living. This act of destruction is symbolic, representing Jeff’s willingness to completely disconnect from the reality that has led them into such a dangerous situation. He throws the broken phone and SIM card out of the window, the pieces scattering in the night as he accelerates deeper into the unknown. His mind is set on survival now, with no ties to the outside world, and every step he takes is a step further into the darkness. Jeff’s decision to destroy his phone signifies his commitment to staying one step ahead of the people who are hunting him, as well as his desire to protect Amy from the devastating consequences of their enemies' reach. The severity of his actions reveals the depth of his resolve, and his growing realization that he and Amy are trapped in a web of danger that they might not be able to escape from.

As he drives into the night, the full weight of his choices and the risks they carry weigh heavily on him. The chapter leaves readers with a lingering sense of uncertainty, as Jeff’s actions are marked by a finality that suggests there may be no turning back. The urgency of his situation, the destruction of his phone, and the emotional burden of leaving Amy a message all underscore the gravity of the threat they face. The future is uncertain for both Jeff and Amy, and as the chapter draws to a close, readers are left with a deep sense of tension and anticipation, wondering if their efforts to survive will be enough against the ever-encroaching danger closing in on them.

# Prologue

In the prologue of "We Solve Murders," the narrative begins with a fundamental rule for criminals: leave as few clues as possible. Engaging with people is, however, unavoidable when conducting business, whether it involves giving orders, arranging shipments, or carrying out lethal tasks. The protagonist emphasizes that isolation is not an option. In emergencies, there is a method to contact François Loubet, but doing so recklessly is likely to lead to regret.

The text then reflects on the nature of communication among high-end criminals, who rely heavily on encrypted messages and emails, akin to millennials. However, the author warns of the risks posed by sophisticated authorities capable of breaking encryption, suggesting that many skilled criminals have fallen due to the efforts of “nerds with laptops.” Thus, the importance of hiding one’s digital footprint is highlighted. For instance, François Loubet employs complex methods to mask the origin of his emails, ensuring that even the most determined hacker would struggle to trace them back to him.

Despite these precautions, the prologue notes the inescapable fact that individual writing styles have unique signatures. Each person’s choice of words and rhythm can reveal their identity—making them vulnerable. The text mentions the contrast between criminals and science, which often disrupts their plans. A pivotal solution is unveiled in the form of ChatGPT, which plays a crucial role in this narrative. It allows Loubet to erase his distinctive voice from messages, providing an element of anonymity. By prompting ChatGPT to rewrite his communications, Loubet effectively disguises his identity.

Thus, one could encounter numerous emails attributed to Loubet but remain ignorant of his whereabouts and true identity. While the activities of François Loubet would be evident, the mystery surrounding the man himself would persist, leaving authorities

with little to act upon. The prologue sets the stage for a story where evasion and clever digital strategizing are crucial for survival in the criminal underworld.