

Chapter 48

In Chapter 48, titled "We Solve Murders," Tony Taylor is invited for tea by Felicity Woollaston, who comments on his journey from Southampton to Letchworth Garden City, which, despite some traffic jams, was relatively smooth. Tony reflects humorously on the parking fees, having parked eight minutes away due to costly parking in the center. As they prepare tea, a conversation unfolds, revealing Felicity to be in good spirits, and Tony marvels at her cheerful laugh.

Tony is there on a request from his friend Steve, who has asked him to gather information about Felicity's work within a viral media company, which Tony struggles to understand as he only works with cars. His banter with Felicity flows lightly, leading to an exchange of personal insights. He mentions that his nephew is an influencer, but when pressed about the nature of his niche, Tony blunders into claiming his nephew influences 'spies' through Instagram, which prompts a curious reaction from Felicity.

With each question, Tony feels the pressure of making a good impression while gathering useful information, maintaining levity despite the serious context. Felicity's probing sparks a realization for Tony that she might not have a clear idea of her own professional standing or the company's direction. They also engage in some playful flirtation, with Felicity complimenting Tony on his smile and suggesting he could make a good on-screen presence.

As the exchange continues, Tony struggles to stay focused on his mission for Steve, torn between gathering intel and enjoying Felicity's company. The chapter hints at a potential romantic undercurrent when Felicity expresses a desire to share secrets, revealing her uncertainty about her work and life. Ultimately, their conversation leads to a decision to have lunch together, highlighting the theme of taking risks and living momentarily, ending on a whimsical note as Tony realizes that sometimes the journey can be rewarding, regardless of the obstacles faced.