

34. Search the Shack

In 1969, Sheriff Joe and Ed visit Kya's shack with a search warrant, seeking evidence related to the mysterious circumstances surrounding Chase's jacket. The scene is set in a marshland setting, surrounded by the natural elements. Upon arrival, they find the shack unoccupied, allowing them to proceed with their search. The interior of the shack is described as a menagerie, filled with various items and artifacts that hint at Kya's deep connection with the marsh and its wildlife.

Joe and Ed are tasked with finding specific items: articles of red-wool clothing, a diary or notes mentioning Kya's whereabouts, a shell necklace, and bus stubs. These items are believed to be crucial in linking Kya to the investigation. Despite their objective, they express a certain respect towards Kya's possessions, indicating a desire not to disrupt her belongings unnecessarily.

Throughout their search, they uncover various intriguing aspects of Kya's life and interests, particularly her detailed studies of the marsh's birdlife. Joe finds himself momentarily distracted by Kya's notes on birds, learning that female birds have only one ovary and reflecting on the evolutionary adaptations of male peacocks. This discovery highlights Kya's extensive knowledge and passion for the natural world, contrasting sharply with the invasive nature of their search for incriminating evidence.

Their meticulous search through the shack encapsulates a blend of professional duty and personal curiosity, as they navigate through Kya's private world. The chapter draws attention to the complexity of Kya's character, a reclusive yet profoundly knowledgeable individual, against the backdrop of a criminal investigation that seeks to penetrate the depths of her solitary existence.