

Chapter 101

In the village of Axley, under a pale moon at three a.m., Steve Wheeler reflects on his life while sitting on a familiar bench, reminiscing about his late wife, Debbie. He converses with Amy, who rests her head on his shoulder and expresses pride in him. Rosie D'Antonio, another companion, humorously critiques their sentimentality, engaging in playful banter about her "mentoring" relationship with a younger man named Eddie.

The conversation shifts when Steve inquires about Amy's future plans now that Mickey Moody and Susan Knox are in custody. Amy reveals she feels done with her current line of work, echoing the sentiment that Jeff and Henk suggested she take time off. While Rosie jokingly proposes a switch to assassin work, Steve chimes in with concern over Rosie's recycling habits, which she dismisses nonchalantly.

Amy shares her ambition to start a detective agency focused on solving unsolved murders, emphasizing her desire to address cases that others overlook. Steve, skeptical about the viability of such a venture, supports Amy's idea but underscores the financial implications and logistics involved, including office space and advertising. Despite her friend's doubts, Amy states she has a wealthy friend willing to invest in her plan.

Rosie cheekily offers to back Amy for a larger share than her friend, but Amy insists on sticking with her original deal. Steve appears reluctant and expresses a preference for his current lifestyle, filled with mundane comforts and small-town activities. He finds fulfillment in his routine and connection to Debbie, who he feels has been with him in spirit.

After a humorous exchange about business plans, they find themselves discussing a possible first case related to a news presenter's suspicious death. Rosie is eager to get moving. The chapter concludes with Steve proposing a name for their agency: "We Solve Murders," which, despite initial resistance from Amy, she ultimately accepts, finding humor in the name's simplicity. As the chapter ends, owls hoot in the background, encapsulating the peaceful yet pivotal moment in their lives.