Chapter 85

In Chapter 85 of "We Solve Murders," Bonnie Gregor spends just over three hours at Costa Coffee, initially contemplating leaving after ninety minutes due to feeling judged by an Albanian barista. However, the arrival of a new employee, who attentively reads when not serving, prompts her to linger. She decides to purchase a lemon-and-poppy-seed muffin, acknowledging the challenging nature of business these days. She sends an email to Felicity, believing good manners are important and that it's better to be cautious.

As Bonnie embarks on the check-in for her flight, she reflects on her aspirations. While working for established brands like Forest Paints is worthwhile, she's eager to develop her own brand and considers investing her twenty thousand toward new equipment and stock. She recognizes the positive impact she has on others, wanting to create more smiles in the world. Upon reaching the front of the queue, she encounters the same check-in staff who jokes about her time at Costa Coffee.

The check-in process progresses smoothly until a commotion arises behind Bonnie. A man in his fifties attempts to bypass the queue, creating tension among the waiting passengers. When he snatches Bonnie's leather holdall from the belt, she begins to protest but stops short upon seeing Felicity Woollaston pushing her way forward. Felicity apologizes for the mix-up regarding Bonnie's flight and introduces a man named Tony, who is retrieving her luggage.

The check-in clerk checks on Bonnie, confirming everything is fine as Felicity clarifies the situation is merely a misunderstanding. Tony leads Bonnie and Felicity away from the check-in area, where they discuss the timely receipt of her email. Felicity expresses relief at their near-miss and mentions roadworks that delayed them on the way to the airport. As they discuss further, Felicity offers to buy Bonnie a coffee, signaling a moment of camaraderie amidst the travel chaos.