

Chapter 90

In Chapter 90 titled "We Solve Murders," Steve finds himself in an unfamiliar scenario as he enters a sauna for the first time—a decision he made for investigative purposes, embracing the sacrifices that often come with his work. Sitting across from Mickey Moody, a balding Cockney who had played golf with Rob Kenna the previous day, Steve attempts to strike up a conversation, citing his own experience with saunas, albeit humorously admitting he's not a golfer.

Mickey, with an air of suspicion, questions Steve about his connections to Rob Kenna—Steve's way of probing deeper into Kenna's world while maintaining an air of casualness. Mickey claims not to know much about Kenna, suggesting that in their circle, it's prudent not to pry too much into others' lives. Their conversation shifts as Steve fabricates a background in scented candles, trying to fit in without arousing suspicion about his ulterior motive.

Mickey shares his past in the scrap business, mentioning the strange characters he encountered—a stark contrast to the candle industry Steve depicts. Their dialogue reveals Mickey's cautious approach to life, highlighting how he avoided trouble even during challenging times, which resonates with Steve's own life and losses.

As the conversation deepens, Mickey shares his thoughts on Rob Kenna, labeling him a "wide boy" and urging Steve to keep his distance. This prompts Steve to reflect on his own connection to his deceased wife, Debbie, finding solace in their shared experiences and memories of loss. The dialogue between Steve and Mickey offers both humor and melancholy, illustrating their coping mechanisms.

Ultimately, the chapter culminates with Steve having an epiphany about his investigation—realizing the significance of François Loubet and the evidence he needs to gather. In a physical act of acceptance, he kicks off his shoes and removes his socks, symbolizing a newfound commitment to the task at hand, while Mickey encourages this small moment of liberation—a fitting end in a sauna setting, emphasizing the dual themes of investigation and personal reflection.