

Chapter 94

In Chapter 94 of "We Solve Murders," we find Steve walking through Dubai Marina, reflecting on his sense of dislocation and longing for home. He is visibly 3,000 miles away from the familiarity of his home and routine, with vivid memories of Debbie, his late partner, shaping his feelings of nostalgia and loss. As he approaches an Irish Pub, he anticipates an experience reminiscent of British sports and local camaraderie but quickly realizes it won't replicate his usual atmosphere back home, particularly not with friends like Tony, Jyoti, and John.

As Steve enters the pub, he finds the atmosphere bustling and overwhelming, a stark contrast to the quieter noise of his own life in Axley. The vibrant yet unrecognizable setting amplifies his discomfort as he ponders the essence of enjoyment. The overwhelming visuals—bright neon signs, televisions blaring various sports, and a sense of disconnection from his past experiences—bring him to a troubling conclusion: he hasn't truly enjoyed life since the death of Debbie. The term "enjoy" feels alien to him now.

While grappling with his emotions, Steve reflects on his recent experiences, particularly the time spent with his daughter-in-law Amy. He acknowledges the joy derived from protecting her, and he feels a sense of connection with Rosie, another person who has entered his life during this tumultuous period. Despite the enjoyable interactions, a profound sense of emptiness lingers.

As Steve contemplates his return to Axley, he recognizes the duality of his feelings—how he both misses the comfort of home and how the memories of Debbie haunt him. He perceives the sofa that perfectly cradles his form as a metaphor for the life he once shared with her, now etched with an absence. Ultimately, he understands that regardless of where he travels, Debbie's presence accompanies him, deeply influencing his journey even in her absence, as he joins François Loubet at the pub, feeling her spirit beside him.