

Chapter 132

In the week following a traumatic event, the protagonist, Saint, finds herself in the haunting landscape near the San Xavier del Bac mission church, navigating through a world colored by her memories of pain and longing for Jimmy. She checks into a modest hotel in San Carlos, where she remains isolated for three days, grappling with her past while trying to hide the truth from her friend Norma.

One Tuesday morning, an urgent call pulls her from her introspection. She learns from a visibly shaken bank teller that a suspect emerged just moments earlier, directing her pursuit. Saint speeds down treacherous mountain roads, recalling the folklore and her connection to the Superstitious Mountains, all the while feeling the weight of her badge and her past.

As she drives, she catches sight of a familiar figure—a boy she once cherished, now a man turned away from her. With trepidation, she approaches him, noting changes in his appearance but feeling a powerful emotional pull as he engages her in conversation. Their discussion dances between hope and despair, touching upon a girl named Eloise Strike, whom he believes is significant to him. This sparks a bittersweet acknowledgment of lost potential and dreams.

Saint's heart aches as they discuss family, smiles, and the innocence of children at the lake, drawing her deeper into the nostalgia of better times. However, the tone shifts as she is forced to confront her duty. She reveals to him the truth about Jimmy and the violence she endured. The moment is laden with tension as he grapples with his own guilt and grief.

When he steps closer, their connection is palpable; she allows herself to feel comfort in his presence, yet the necessity of her role as an officer weighs heavily on her. Ultimately, the conversation spirals into a heart-wrenching revelation about a murdered girl. The trust between them begins to fracture as Patch refuses to relinquish his quest for redemption.

Their exchange culminates in tragic urgency, leading Saint to a dire decision when he attempts to flee. Torn between her emotions and her responsibilities, she pulls the trigger, fracturing the remnants of their bond and confronting the harsh reality of her role in a cycle of violence and loss.