

Chapter 180

visiting this particular church in this town. Saint's curiosity leads her to contemplate the possibility of another girl resting here, as she had searched archives for evidence but found nothing relevant from four decades prior.

Navigating through a maze of rooms, she enters a smaller building filled with books organized in black-stained hardwood cases. There, she encounters Sister Isabelle, who appears to be managing a cash register that likely does not see much business. After briefly interacting with her, Saint moves outside, circling around to the back of the building, where the children's home is situated. The adjacent concrete area is adorned with colorful chalk drawings and numbers, bringing a sense of joy to the place. Amidst her exploration, she picks up a perfect feather, a gray one from a mourning dove. This feather symbolizes protection, love, and guardian angels, as Norma once explained to her, prompting her to tuck it into her pocket for safekeeping.

For two hours, Saint works to unravel a mystery that seems elusive. She engages with locals about the church's history, wanders through the graveyard to inspect gravestones, and illustrates her search by showing Eli Aaron's photos to the nun and a group of elderly men outside.

At the church's pulpit, she runs her fingers over Latin inscriptions and intricate carvings on the benches, whispering, "What are you trying to tell me, Grace?" Seeking answers in a sacred space, Saint steps aside as the sisters pass by, observing their reverence and the way they carry themselves. She notes their simple sandals, veils, tunics, medals, and coifs, and particularly their rosary beads, which symbolize their devotion.

Throughout this chapter, Saint's quest intertwines her past, her heritage, and her belief in signs, leaving her in contemplative pursuit of her grandmother's guidance and the deeper meanings hid within her surroundings.