

Chapter 231

That evening, Saint sat at her desk with the Macauley file, grappling with the aftermath of Richie Montrose and Nix, which promised to create more work than she had encountered since taking over her current role. Despite her urging Deputy Michaels to leave for the night, he remained, sensing he would be needed as they faced a complex situation.

Saint mentally cataloged what she knew: Nix had taken a gun and driven to Darby Falls, where he fatally shot Richie Montrose. While she considered the possibility that Tooms was being honest about the dog, she recognized that it didn't alter the core facts. The frightening reality was that Callie Montrose's blood was discovered at Marty Tooms's farmhouse, raising troubling questions.

As she prepared to leave, the phone interrupted her thoughts. Expecting Himes, she was surprised to hear Lucy Alston from the lab on the line. Lucy informed her of newly obtained fingerprints, prompting Saint's thoughts to race back to the envelope found beside Richie Montrose, inscribed with the ominous message: *I'll see you in hell*.

Lucy revealed that they had a match to Nix, causing a tightness in Saint's chest. Seeking more clarity, she hoped for additional leads, but Lucy disclosed that there were indeed more matches: fingerprints had also matched to Martin Tooms and Joseph Macauley. This development added another layer of complexity to the investigation, heightening the stakes as Saint recognized the implications of such connections.

In this charged atmosphere, with mounting pressure from multiple directions, Saint faced the encroaching headache of frustration and urgency. The pieces of the puzzle were slowly beginning to fit, yet each revelation complicated her understanding of the case, leaving her with more questions than answers.