

27. BURNED AGAIN

Sienna needed to pick up her Lexis. She paid a cab driver to take her to the site. The car was still covered with underbrush. She had been clever. She parked about ten miles from the cliff. That day she had to make the long hike before she could even begin her ascent. It was important that the car could not be connected to what had gone on at the summit. Try as he may, Jack was never able to find it.

The SUV had been there for almost six months. She gave the car some gas. Then she turned the key. It started right up. She drove it away. There never was any money in the car. She had no intention of giving Jack a thing.

She looked at her reflection in the mirror. Her makeup was immaculate. The powder was sheer. It was her calling card. She could give the world the face that they wanted to see.

So she disappeared never to be seen in North Georgia again.

A couple of days later, the lease on the Adairsville apartment expired. Warren asked Jerry about the apartment.

“Warren, I didn’t find a thing in the apartment. Not a thing.”

“We’re going to take a final look in the place.”

The superintendent let them in.

Jerry was correct in every detail except for one thing.

“Do you see this, Jerry?”

Jerry looked in the drawer. It was a crayon: Burnt Sienna.

They both started laughing.