

Chapter 106

In Chapter 106 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Patch arrives in Washington, D.C., feeling out of place yet captivated by the city's ambiance. He shares an extravagant dinner with Sammy at a high-end steakhouse, where he struggles with the cost of the meal, unsure if the price tag reflects its age or exorbitance. Attempting to order something simple, he faces Sammy's bemusement, leading to a light-hearted teasing about his choices. Sammy indulges in expensive wine, reminiscing about the day they made a significant deal while Patch reflects on his past.

Their conversation shifts from casual to serious as Sammy reveals the interest surrounding Patch's art, which has been making waves thanks to his recent successes. Patch, while struggling with his finances, resists Sammy's suggestions of selling family heirlooms, as his mother had always dreamed of owning their family home. Amid their banter, Patch's curiosity piques regarding a waitress named Melissa, though his interest wanes when her appeal becomes too familiar.

As they discuss life connections, Patch learns that his past love, Misty Meyer, is now at Harvard, though still bartending, which he finds intriguing. Sammy prompts Patch to focus back on his new reality, leading to deeper explorations of the choices they both made in love and art. Their dinner culminates with a waitress slipping her number into Patch's pocket; however, he discards it outside.

Later, Sammy bundles Patch into a taxi, taking him to his penthouse, where Patch is struck by the opulence of his surroundings. Sammy, now intoxicated, reminisces about a Mark Rothko painting he bought in his youth, sharing how his artistic endeavors led to success, yet differing narratives colour their understanding of wealth and love. As Sammy drifts off to sleep, Patch contemplates the vastness of the world and how it has unfolded before him, making a silent vow to find his lost connection, with resolve blooming inside him as he gazes out at the moonlit city.