

Chapter 108

In Chapter 108 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Patch finds himself in a difficult phase of his life after the incident at the Merchants National Bank. He sells his car and starts working at dawn, hauling freight and loading frozen meat into trucks. Living in an old house, he pays cash upfront for a room, sensing that the elderly landlady knows about his troubled past.

As Patch's days become increasingly monotonous and challenging, he creates a dark refuge for himself. He meticulously blocks out the light from streetlamps, stripping his small room of distractions until, without the chaos that surrounds him, he can finally close his eyes and find sleep. He acknowledges that his dreams about a particular woman are becoming less frequent, a change that weighs on his mind.

During his work, Patch encounters several girls who seem almost familiar, sharing an air that captivates him. They are university students who seem to tire of the typical college scene, briefly engaging with Patch before he slips away before dawn, feeling a lingering sense of disappointment as he navigates their superficial connections.

After a month of stalling in his search, he takes a job at a Gloucester marina, where he assists with lobster traps, cleaning and measuring them amidst the serene yet laborious backdrop of the sea. He finds camaraderie among the crew, particularly with Skip, who guides him while they haul traps from the seabed. Although some crew members tease him about his eye patch, Patch embraces the playful jibes, feeling a sense of belonging amid the salty air and camaraderie.

As night falls, Patch finds solace in solitude, opting to remain on the boat with a beer while watching the sun dip below the horizon. He eventually sleeps on a beach, using his shirt as a makeshift pillow, feeling the exhaustion from his labors. Instead of eating much, he sustains himself on what little food Skip provides, in preparation for the journey that still lies ahead—a journey towards the memories of the woman who haunts his thoughts.