

Chapter 114

In Chapter 114 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Nix is fishing at the Glenn Hook Reservoir, balancing his leisure with the strain of life's commitments. As he pulls in fish like catfish and walleye, he engages in conversation with Saint, who has come to see him despite her supposed honeymoon. Their dialogue reveals the reality behind her marital status, explaining that she and Jimmy are saving to renovate their home and focus on Jimmy's impending exams. Nix expresses concern for her and reminisces about past conversations regarding Saint's life choices and the implications of marrying Jimmy, especially in the context of Joseph's shadow over her life.

Saint reflects on her wedding night with Jimmy, recalling the awkwardness and disappointment. Nix probes into her feelings about marriage, with Saint responding that it's decent. She acknowledges her mother's belief in Jimmy's goodness—or possibly the need for safety against past fears related to Joseph. Their conversation touches on themes of love and existence, as Nix philosophizes about life comprising numerous roles, revealing his own heartbreak from the distant past.

They delve into heavier topics, like the weight of parenthood and societal views on it, which lead to a shared understanding about the challenges of responsibility. Nix, having had a cherished dog in his youth, echoes sentiments of loss, a sentiment that resonates beneath the surface. He hints at having lost heart due to past relationships, suggesting emotional scars from experiences that have shaped him. As they share laughter and reminiscing about fishing exploits, a somber tone settles over them, revealing the impact of their town's history of violence and tragedy, particularly regarding a local crime involving Callie Montrose's father.

As daylight fades, Nix informs Saint of an FBI inquiry into her, indicating a potential shift in her circumstances. The chapter concludes with a moment of closeness between them, highlighting Nix's integrity and the bond they share. The evolving dynamics of their lives against a backdrop of haunting memories and personal growth is captured poignantly in this serene yet melancholy fishing trip.