

Chapter 145

In Chapter 145 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Misty occasionally visited the gallery, where he would sit by the window, serving as a living display while cleaning the glass. The warmth of the sun on his skin was a stark contrast to the ghostly presence of the missing girls observing him. On Saturdays, he had breakfast with Saint and her grandmother, Norma, at Lacey's Diner. Despite Norma's critical comments, Saint showed tender concern for her grandmother, particularly when she asked the waitress to "Irish up" her coffee. The conversation shifted to recent events, including the riots in Los Angeles, which Norma linked to a lack of civility in society.

The narrative then shifts to the Palace 7 cinema, which had been closed since fall 1986 while owner Sammy battled the town council over zoning issues. He envisioned the venue's potential, with its high ceilings and broad windows, but was hampered by bureaucratic delays. As Sammy dealt with his frustrations, he was approached by Mitzie, the wife of Walt Murray—the theater's beloved projectionist, who was nearing his ninetieth birthday. Mitzie proposed a surprise one-night reopening of the theater. Initially, Sammy agreed, but under the influence of Remy Martin, he forgot about the agreement the next day. When he saw a poster announcing the event a week later, he lashed out, feeling blindsided by Mitzie's request.

Patch, a friend of Sammy's, attempts to persuade him to embrace the opportunity to give back to the community. Sammy expresses his disdain, arguing that he already offers an escape through his gallery and dismissing the idea that reopening the theater would earn him any goodwill. Yet Patch counters that the community's longing for the Palace 7 could translate into positive recognition for Sammy if he allows the event to proceed. Despite his reluctance and frustration, Sammy concedes that he might consider participating, albeit with skepticism about the film choice. A humorous tension builds as Patch nervously checks the poster's title, revealing Sammy's concern for the movie selection and hinting at a deeper connection to their shared past.