

# Chapter 182

In Chapter 182 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Himes and Saint sit together in a café outside the federal building, a comfortable retreat where they often seek solace or ponder the weight of their past decisions. The conversation begins with Himes suggesting the possibility that a woman might be mistaken about her perceptions, to which Saint counters, emphasizing the certainty she felt by stating, "I saw it in her eyes."

Saint has spent the week investigating the life of Eli Aaron, unearthing a painful history. He discovers a ledger that documents Aaron's arrival at a foster home at the tender age of six. Compounding this backstory, he learns about Aaron's mother, who was trapped in a cycle of addiction and ultimately succumbed to an overdose—a narrative all too familiar to Saint, evoking little more than a resigned acceptance as she reads about it.

Despite her efforts, Saint reveals that the only information she gained about the woman who haunted her past—who she had followed home from confession years ago—was what Sister Cecile had previously shared. Wrestling with her inner turmoil, she expresses remorse, saying, "I really thought I killed him, Himes. He's already dead."

As their conversation unfolds, Himes references Aaron purchasing more rosary beads that year, a detail that implies deeper implications about his ongoing struggles. Saint responds affirmatively, only to receive a grim reminder from Himes about the consequences of that action, leading to the chilling ultimatum: "It means you have to kill him again."

This chapter encapsulates themes of guilt, the inescapable nature of one's past, and the dark cyclical patterns within human lives. Saint grapples not just with her conscience but also with the haunting reality of Eli Aaron's life choices, while Himes's blunt pragmatism offers a stark contrast to her emotional turmoil. Their dialogue emphasizes the complexity of human relationships and the burdens they carry as they navigate memories that refuse to let go.