

Chapter 185

In Chapter 185 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Patch wakes up in an operating room with a sense of disorientation reminiscent of his childhood, as he struggles to recall where the last year of his life has gone. For a brief moment, he hopes he could simply return to the past, picturing the familiar sights of his hometown—Misty Meyer with Chuck, and his mother taking a nap after a night shift—yearning for a chance to relive past mistakes in a less consequential manner.

As he takes in his surroundings, he notices windows looking out at sparse treetops and a clear blue sky dotted with flowers. The room is stark yet busy, with a silver trolley and a computer positioned next to a cluster of strange lights overhead, alluding to an alien atmosphere. His disarray continues until he stands up, inadvertently sending the trolley rolling clatteringly across the floor.

A man seated at a white desk notices him and offers reassurance, explaining that Patch's daughter is elsewhere with Keeper Jen, and they're currently involved in feeding meerkats. He informs Patch that he fainted, a common occurrence at the zoo when summer heat leads to dehydration and poor sun protection.

Patch attempts to explain that his fainting spell may have been triggered by the presence of snakes, but the man, exhibiting a calm demeanor devoid of humor, continues to probe for details regarding Patch's health. He inquires if Patch is feeling sick or taking any medications. Patch reassures him that he isn't, yet the man advises him to visit a doctor for a check-up, emphasizing that it's wise after such incidents.

As Patch rises, acknowledging a slight headache, he questions whether the man is a doctor and learns that he is not—his role is focused on animal care. The man hands Patch a bottle of water, briefly mentioning the necessity of clearing him out due to a wolf suffering from tuberculosis. It is only then that Patch notices the name on the door: Jimmy Walters, the man who has attended to him .