

Chapter 190

In Chapter 190 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Saint navigates the complexities of parenting her daughter Charlotte amidst various challenges. She recalls her efforts to manage Charlotte's issues, like seeking advice from Norma about her eating habits and consulting Dr. Caldwell regarding her lack of sleep. Their weekly meetings with Mrs. Meyer are also highlighted, where they share teas and anxieties, gazing at the rolling Midwest clouds that mirror their worries. Meanwhile, Charlotte isolates herself, spending hours locked away in her father's studio, blasting Nirvana, leading Sammy, her companion, to the sunny sidewalk outside, choosing to sit in the warmth rather than witnessing her lack of creativity.

Charlotte's silence becomes a focal point, especially during her visits to Rita Kohl, M.D. Here, the pressures of her home life are compounded by her withdrawal from communication, prompting Saint to attempt to connect with her through meaningful discussions. Saint mentions a recent article about Patch, which Charlotte brusquely dismisses as trash. This exchange represents the growing distance between them and Charlotte's attitude toward any intervention in her life.

Amidst these familial struggles, Saint expresses her frustrations as she contemplates her efforts to seek changes in the system affecting Patch, demonstrating a commitment to advocate for humane treatment in facilities that house individuals like him. She balances this with her parental duties, describing her attempts to connect with Charlotte, who remains unmoved by the prospect of discussing emotions or sharing her thoughts.

The chapter culminates in a teen rebellion when Charlotte expresses her desire to be alone and not to engage in conversations that invite scrutiny of her feelings. Saint attempts to interject humor into their serious dynamic by offering a surprising role in teaching Charlotte about self-defense. The chapter ends on this note of dark comedy, encapsulating the tension and disconnect present in their relationship while highlighting the broader themes of adolescence and parental concern.