

Chapter 198

In Chapter 198 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Saint is visibly distressed during dinner, particularly after receiving a call from Mrs. Meyer, who expressed concern over the Leavesham boy's behavior. Speculating that he may have bought something inappropriate, possibly condoms or sedatives, adds to Saint's anxiety. As the evening progresses, Saint struggles with her feelings and finds herself pacing and making calls until she finally discovers the Leaveshams' address.

At the Leaveshams', she observes Charlotte and Matt in a compromising situation, prompting her to confront them forcefully. When she catches up with Charlotte later on Cotterham Avenue, tensions escalate. Charlotte, clearly angered, resists Saint's attempts to intervene, asserting that Saint isn't her mother. The conversation takes a harsh turn when Saint, overwhelmed and inadvertently wounded, snaps that she's grateful not to be Charlotte's mother, a remark she immediately regrets.

The discussion spirals as Charlotte accuses Saint of lacking a life and compares her unfavorable situation to her own. The confrontation grows more intense as Charlotte articulates her feelings of shame for being connected to Saint. In response, Saint opens up about her traumatic past and the domestic abuse she endured from Jimmy, which resulted in physical injuries. This shocking revelation shakes Charlotte, causing her to reevaluate her perceptions.

Saint candidly shares her fears that the violence could resurface, despite her role as a cop, creating an intense moment of vulnerability between them. The chapter culminates in a profound silence, where the once vibrant surroundings feel lost and haunting. Ultimately, as the weight of their exchange sinks in, Charlotte runs away, leaving an aching gap filled with unresolved tension and fear.

This chapter delves into deep emotional conflicts, highlighting themes of trauma, shame, and the complexities of familial relationships, all set against the backdrop of a small town where everyone knows each other's business.