

Chapter 199

In Chapter 199 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Saint frantically searches the town after realizing Charlotte is missing. She wakes up Michaels and two auxiliaries, plus Sammy, and heads out to alarm the entire community. The oppressive anxiety floods her mind, reminiscent of two decades ago, as she races through the streets from St. Raphael's to Monta Clare High, feeling time slip away with daylight. Upon returning home, she finds Norma waiting on the porch, which further intensifies her fears about Charlotte's safety.

Determined not to relent, Saint visits various houses to gather information, especially from individuals mentioned by Charlotte. She grapples with the realization that she doesn't know enough about Charlotte's life, reflecting on the danger they all face due to past traumas connected to figures like Patch and Misty. As she navigates the woods, she uses a flashlight to search for any signs of Charlotte amid the growing darkness, feeling the weight of her gun, a symbol of her experience and urgency to protect the girl she considers her own.

Eventually, her search leads her to the Mad House, where she finds Charlotte sitting quietly in her father's chair, transfixed by the television. The relief is palpable, mixed with frustration as she confronts Charlotte about her nonchalance amidst the chaos. The program on screen portrays a poignant moment between Charlotte and her father from two years prior, revealing their past struggle. The scene transitions to a woman from Arlington who notices a painting at a gallery, recognizing the girl and determining to report her missing.

Saint is shocked to see the face from the painting—a reflection of Charlotte when she was taken. This moment crystallizes the connection between the past and present, igniting a deeper understanding of Charlotte's experiences. Kneeling beside her, Saint recognizes the girl is beginning to show emotion. As the conversation unfolds, it becomes clear that the truths and revelations they share could change everything for both of them. The narrative culminates as Sammy enters with dreadful news about Charlotte's grandmother, leaving a feeling of helplessness in the air. The chapter deftly intertwines themes of desperation, familial bonds, and the quest for truth in the face of adversity.