

Chapter 221

In Chapter 221 of *All the Colors of the Dark*, the narrative follows Saint, who is jolted from a fitful sleep by a distressing phone call from Himes. The conversation delivers alarming news: Joseph Macauley has escaped from prison. Saint, still reeling from her day spent at the Nix house—completing her report and managing the emotional chaos of concerned neighbors—finds herself grappling with the implications of this situation.

Himes informs her that Macauley's escape was bold; he had locked a library worker in a storeroom, stolen his belongings, and vanished without a trace. Saint, still trying to piece together the fragmented details of the day, expresses disbelief and frustration over the lack of security measures at the prison. Himes reveals that the prison suffered a power outage during a significant fight, which may have contributed to the chaos surrounding Macauley's escape. Despite the prison being on lockdown, Macauley's current whereabouts remain unknown.

As tensions escalate, Saint becomes increasingly determined to take action, asserting that she will assist in the search for Macauley. Himes, while acknowledging her capability, remains concerned about the fact that Macauley has killed before, prompting him to consider the safety of those around her, especially since Macauley's daughter is under Saint's protection. Saint staunchly defends her position, insisting that Macauley wouldn't return to the place he escaped from, demonstrating her understanding of his mindset.

The significant undercurrent of the conversation highlights the complexities of trust and the weight of past actions, especially considering Saint's history with Macauley, having been the one to apprehend him. Himes emphasizes the need for coordination among nearby departments to ensure safety and efficiency in tracking down Macauley. Despite her confidence and experience, the chapter closes with lingering tension, suggesting the unfolding events may lead to unforeseen complications as Saint prepares to join the hunt for the escaped prisoner.