

# Chapter 225

In Chapter 225 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the aftermath of a prison escape is unfolding, causing distress among the guards and local authorities. After twenty-four hours of exhaustive searching, covering a hundred-mile radius around the prison, tensions are running high. Work on a new wing at the prison has been suspended, and the atmosphere is fraught with apprehension. Nearby towns are swarming with local cops, checking various locations, leading to heightened anxiety among residents, especially farmers who are disturbed by the lights shining on their properties at night. The situation escalates to the arrest of an innocent man in Arrow Port, highlighting the panic gripping the area.

In Monta Clare, reporters gather to discuss the ongoing manhunt, taking note of the "Mad House", which has remained pristine due to Charlotte's weekly care, viewed as an investment in her future by her. Meanwhile, Warden Riley is losing control, his anger spilling over as he violently breaks a glass cabinet. He summons guards, furiously berating them in a crimson-faced rage, firing a new guard and the construction crew amidst fears of further delays.

Tug, who is implicated in the troubles, is summoned to face Riley. He appears unfazed, offering cryptic remarks about the dangers of men with nothing to lose. Riley's attempts to intimidate Tug appear futile; he struggles to understand Tug's logic about men with nothing to gain. An hour later, Tug is treated to a haircut and shave by a barber, showing a surprising sense of normalcy amid chaos, even making requests for grooming supplies.

Tug expresses a desire for assurance of a safe return for another man, revealing his value for human connection. Afterward, Riley sends Tug to solitary confinement while Tug reflects on a book given to him by Blackjack. In his small cell, he finds a June 1965 issue of Playboy, and as he smiles at the scantily clad Ursula Andress, a sense of solace washes over him, accompanied by the satisfaction of knowing that Riley and the police are chasing leads that will not help them. The chapter encapsulates themes of resilience, absurdity amidst chaos, and the power of human desire.