

# Chapter 256

In Chapter 256 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the atmosphere is set at an art gallery where Sammy and Tooms experience a profound moment together. As they enter, Tooms is captivated by a blinding and brilliant painting displayed prominently on a vast white wall. For a while, he remains silent, absorbed in the memory of Callie Montrose, a girl he had once tried to save and for whom he would sacrifice everything again without hesitation.

As Tooms surveys the collection, he focuses on a particularly valuable piece known as "Grace Number One." Sammy reveals that he recently acquired it from a young lady in Alabama, who plans to use the funds to improve her family home. The two men transition from the vibrant gallery to the calmness of the balcony outside, where they can feel the gentle warmth of a spring day and overlook Monta Clare.

Marty Tooms finds himself at a loss for words, especially as Sammy presents him with a check that signifies a new beginning, complementing Tooms' reclaimed land and cherished memories. Curiosity about another painting prompts Tooms to inquire further. Sammy responds that he has recently obtained a piece known as "the white house," a cherished addition from a close friend.

When questioned about selling his acquisitions, Sammy asserts his identity as a collector. He emphasizes that this collection is woven into the very fabric of Monta Clare, serving as a symbol of hope that persists against great odds. Thankfulness finally emerges from Tooms, who expresses his gratitude. Yet, Sammy redirects the appreciation, pointing out that it is Joseph Macauley who deserves Tooms' thanks, though neither of them has any idea where to find him. As the chapter concludes, Sammy raises his glass, affirming the mystery surrounding Macauley.