

Chapter 123

In Chapter 123 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the story unfolds during Thanksgiving, where Saint spends two days at home with her grandmother, Norma. The chapter captures a moment of familial connection as they prepare a traditional feast. While Jimmy, who has been drinking, occupies himself with football, Saint busies herself cooking a variety of dishes including a roasted turkey and sides like mashed potatoes and green bean casserole.

As they sit together at the table in their mountain abode, a light-hearted moment ensues with Norma joking about buttered biscuits, highlighting her concern for Jimmy's well-being, which is compounded by his weight gain since Saint wasn't around to prepare his meals. The narrative then shifts to a more intimate scene on the back porch where Norma and Saint share a brandy. Here, Saint leans on her grandmother, enveloped in a blanket, as they engage in a heartfelt discussion about life, love, and the burdens of masculinity that weigh on Jimmy.

Norma expresses her worries for both Saint and Jimmy, voicing a concern for the fragility of the male ego. Their conversation addresses deeper themes—love as an ephemeral visit and the tendency for men to stray from their core values. When Saint hesitates to affirm her choices, Norma's persistent questions reveal the tension in their relationship.

The chapter reflects a poignant mix of nostalgia and pain, as Saint recalls a time when evenings seemed endless. Norma's reflections on the past—particularly on the struggles they face due to external influences and worries for loved ones—showcase the complexities of family dynamics. As they reflect on sacrifices made for one another, especially concerning Jimmy, the chapter closes with a revelation about the importance of recognizing beauty in the world and the struggles of youth, leaving readers with a sense of unresolved tension and the longing for connection.