

Chapter 126

In Chapter 126 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the setting is the Derry Younger Center, a two-story building with an unimpressive pink exterior and a green-mottled roof. This place symbolizes the hidden struggles it houses, where the protagonist, referred to as Saint, arrives to a place that could easily attract protesters against her choices. Inside, she takes a seat and avoids eye contact with others, capturing her desire for anonymity amidst her turmoil.

Saint's life is contrasted starkly with her current circumstances as she reflects on the past two hundred miles away in Monta Clare. Here, she has been living with Jimmy, who has succumbed to both physical and emotional lethargy, a side effect of his academic failures. Despite reaching out to help him by scheduling an appointment with Dr. Caldwell, he has refused to attend, demonstrating yet another layer of disappointment in their lives.

As she waits, a young girl beside her inquires about the pain she might experience, prompting Saint to ponder the future impacts of their current choices. She empathizes with the young girl, recognizing that the emotional toll—particularly in moments like Christmas or when friends become pregnant—will likely bring more heartache. However, in an effort to uplift the girl, Saint assures her, "You'll be fine."

Their conversation drifts into dark humor as they watch news of a prison break involving spree killers. The girl comments on the romantic notion of escape, to which Saint responds with biting irony. Their dialogue oscillates between moments of humor and deep reflection as they address the nature of mistakes versus regrets. Saint concludes that learning from a mistake lessens its regretful nature, leading the girl to declare she will abstain from sex altogether, eliciting a supportive response from Saint, who sees the girl's resolve.

Finally, when her name is called, Saint hands in her form at the desk, briefly noticing a photograph on the receptionist's wall that features Dr. Tooms, who seems detached from the celebration of the center's opening. This moment encapsulates Saint's feeling of isolation as she prepares to face whatever awaits her on the other side of the door.