

Chapter 139

In Chapter 139 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Saint observes a white van at the mud trails while three women don forensic suits. Patch, against her advice, lingers in the background among winter-stripped trees. The Tooms farmhouse stands resilient, having weathered significant storms, built just before the 1896 St. Louis tornado. Saint, drawn to the house, reflects on its weathered beauty and the surrounding wild land, noting the high bluestem grass and white birch trees beginning to change color.

Saint refrains from entering the house, allowing the forensic team to conduct their work, aware of recent judicial changes leading to overturned convictions for several on death row. She recalls conversations with Himes regarding genetic sequencing, which fill her with uncertainty. As the team works diligently throughout the day, moving to an underground store later, Saint observes the work being done, though grappling with the horror of sorting through human remains.

As the forensic team concludes their work, Saint watches the van drive away, leaving deep tracks in the gravel. When Patch approaches her after what felt like seven hours, she questions when they will hear back about results. Saint is unsure, recognizing the complexity of the situation and the favors owed. The two share a moment on a slick rock, their knees brushing together, as Saint pours black coffee from her thermos.

She finds a magnolia leaf, placing it carefully in her pocket, while the light rain does not disrupt their moment of reflection. Patch expresses his hope that this case may lead to a resolution, contemplating the possibility of finding closure and locating a long-lost family. Saint empathizes, acknowledging Patch's need for closure in a painfully prolonged journey. The chapter encapsulates themes of resilience, the search for answers, and the quest for personal resolution amid lingering grief.