

# Chapter 149

In Chapter 149 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the narrative begins with Saint awakening early and exploring a downtown area rich in history, marked by buildings from the first gold rush. With her camera in hand, she documents sites such as the Chinese Laundry House and the Pollock House, reflecting on the miners who forged the town, characterized by resilience and tragedy. As she collects a conker from a horse chestnut case, she finds herself contemplating the complexities of life and loss.

During her visit to a toy store, Saint examines a wooden train and peruses shelves filled with a wide range of books, including children's tales and historical works. Her observations are interrupted by a heartwarming interaction between a mother and son, which prompts her to note the title of "Where the Wild Things Are."

Upon returning to her motel, Saint encounters Patch, who appears weary after driving straight through the night. Their exchange is brief but filled with unspoken emotions, culminating in a somber journey to the police station to meet with Mrs. Reynolds. Patch carries a large package containing a painting of their daughter. The reunion, steeped in nostalgia, reveals the lasting bonds of family, regardless of time's passage.

Later, in the Blue River Café, Patch struggles with the memories of a girl he never knew, the weight of loss bearing down on him. Saint shares that the DNA results from the Tooms farm revealed no matches among numerous samples, casting a shadow over their hopes for closure. Patch's frustration erupts when he slams his fist on the table, shattering cups, prompting Saint to intervene with the waitress.

As the day turns to evening, the conversation shifts to the unresolved cases of Summer Reynolds and Callie Montrose. Saint contemplates Richie Montrose's recent bar brawl, illustrating the entangled lives within their investigation. Patch's anguish about the potential number of victims adds a layer of urgency and despair, posing a haunting question about the fate of the girls he has painted. The chapter encapsulates themes of loss, familial bonds, and the relentless search for truth amidst haunting memories.