

Chapter 155

In Chapter 155 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Patch takes drastic steps to cope with his circumstances. He uses a large track excavator to demolish the remnants of his past, reducing his former home to rubble in a public display observed by curious neighbors. After the demolition, he utilizes a bulldozer to strip the land. Amidst this chaos, Patch finds himself living a transient lifestyle, sleeping in his car, lacking basic hygiene, and sharing meals with Saint and her grandmother.

During one meal, Saint inquires about his future plans, prompting Patch to declare, "I build." This statement is met with skepticism, as he refuses to hire an architect and instead relies on his past memories and paintings that influence his designs. Despite the delivery of wood that disturbs the neighbors, Patch promises to host a party once his construction is complete.

Patch's building efforts face skepticism from Sammy, who jokes about the structure's instability, and the situation worsens when funds diminish. In desperation, Patch sells paintings to finance his project, each sale feeling like a loss of connections to his previous life. His interactions with Misty and Charlotte provide brief companionship amid his isolation, although Charlotte perceives his situation as "batshit crazy."

As he digs foundations manually, Patch grapples with sleepless nights, frustrating neighbors, and building inspectors who question his non-compliance with codes. He appeases the inspector with the poignant story of his struggle, resulting in a few amendments that allow him to resume work without major penalties.

The harsh winter brings work to a standstill, compelling Patch to wear a wool hat gifted by Charlotte. He reciprocates by painting a portrait of her with her mother, capturing a moment in time that connects him to the past. Despite feeling the emotional distance from her mother, he remains connected to Charlotte through these shared experiences and performances, such as attending her piano recital. His resolve is also evident as he undertakes late-night journeys to seek answers about his lost past, demonstrating his unwavering determination to reclaim a sense of normalcy and closure despite the turmoil.