

Chapter 156

In Chapter 156 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the protagonist dedicates a week to painting his home after completing the framing and allowing the stucco to dry. The house is transformed into a vision of his dreams: the walls are coated in white, while the shutters are a shifting shade of Aegean, evoking memories that flutter like peacock feathers in his mind. This stark contrast between light and dark contributes to his emotional landscape.

He reflects on moments of joy, such as dancing on the wooden floorboards with tap shoes, filling the space with sound until his heart soared. Patch, intent on creating a space that resonates with his inner vision, searches for heart pine floors, spending a month searching through reclamation yards to find the perfect shade that aligns with his imagination.

Patch recounts the history of the house—a bedroom for himself, his mother, and additional rooms rented out to various guests. He remembers a young woman who taught him makeup, encapsulating the notion of decadence; and a preacher travelling to Pearl River County, evoking images of a troubled place in need of purification. Despite having five bedrooms, he envisions living alone within the expansiveness of a cavernous den, kitchen, and dining room that accommodates the traditions of Thanksgiving dinners, emphasized by Grace's insistence on formalities.

An orangery—a term Patch initially did not understand—becomes a feature named by Saint. He is captivated by the morning light that filters through its glass roof onto the white walls. The external staircase proves to be a daunting task, nearly overwhelming him with frustration. Seeking help, he calls upon Saint's cousin Patrick, a carpenter who assists him over Labor Day weekend. The staircase emerges nearly as he envisioned, prompting an emotional hug of gratitude between them, leading Patrick to seek Saint's assistance to extricate himself from the embrace.

Amidst sharing a meal of Brunswick stew and corn muffins, Saint's grandmother admires the aesthetics of the house, reinforcing Patch's sense of accomplishment and pride in his labor of love .