

Chapter 157

In Chapter 157 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the narrative unfolds as Patch opens the doors to his vast house for a gathering, organized by Norma. Nearly three hundred guests attend, including Daisy Creason from **The Tribune**, who features the event in a front-page article, much to Patch's mixed feelings. Sammy, a self-appointed dignitary, humorously and somewhat incoherently delivers a speech filled with complaints about bureaucracy and town planning, drawing a mix of laughter and disapproval from the attendees.

Amid the festivities, Misty handles the catering, presenting a unique menu that bemuses the locals, while a few single ladies express interest in the artist whose paintings adorn the walls. In a reflective moment, Misty and Patch find themselves in the garden, surrounded by fairy lights and enjoying a serene evening on a bench made from oak. They share a conversation about the house's aesthetic, with Misty likening it to a beautiful painting, prompting a discussion about memories and life choices.

As they watch Chief Nix conversing with others, Misty reveals her motives for returning: to provide Charlotte with experiences from her own past and to reconnect her mother with familiar roots. Patch, too, explains his return is influenced by the difficulty of losing loved ones in a vast world and the hope of reuniting with them in familiar places.

The atmosphere shifts when Misty discloses her serious illness, one that does not spare hope for recovery. Patch's heart sinks as he absorbs the weight of her words. He recognizes her vitality in her vivid descriptions; her essence is seen through the lens of art that resonates deeply with him. Despite his emotional turmoil, he cradles her close, aware that no colors can truly express the depth of his feelings for her, emphasizing the painful juxtaposition of beauty and suffering in their lives.