

Chapter 158

In Chapter 158 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the setting unfolds at the Quartz Mountain State Park, where Saint is guided to a burial site by a silent sheriff's deputy. The surrounding area of Cedar Creek Trail contains sunbaked scrubs alongside the more rugged terrain of Black Jack Pass Trail, creating an atmosphere filled with suspense as Saint feels a sense of dread in her stomach. The deputy, whose veteran nature is apparent, offers no comfort, making the scene even more chilling as they approach the site of the remains.

The backdrop features the imposing granite face of Baldy Point in the distance, a stark contrast to the tension that hangs in the air as Saint reflects on her journey from Hobart and Lone Wolf. Nearby climbers add a layer of normalcy to an otherwise ominous event, with the deputy remarking on the unbearable heat that is sure to come. His stoic demeanor remains as they reach the burial site, where their attempts to guard the location have not fully obscured the tragic discovery before them.

Kneeling in the dirt, Saint surveys the skeletal remains, her focus drawn to a single intact item that rests among the bones. The conversation reveals that a dog from the Wichita Mountain Climbers Coalition led to this grim finding as they were clearing a new trail. Reflecting on the circumstances of the burial, Saint notes the difficulty in burying the body deeply due to the rocky ground, suggesting a frantic or hasty attempt at concealment.

Saint's examination of the remains reveals a crucial piece of evidence: a metal blue pardon crucifix adorned with larger beads at intervals, leading to a direct confirmation of her suspicions. When the deputy queries if it's the same individual linked to prior cases, Saint calmly affirms, acknowledging her intuition had prepared her for this moment before she had any solid proof. This chapter skillfully combines elements of crime, mystery, and the emotional turmoil of discovering the past, encapsulating a haunting narrative in just a few pages.