

Chapter 174

In Chapter 174 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the scene begins with Saint enjoying a meal of Brunswick stew prepared by Charlotte. Their casual conversation reveals a playful tension, as Saint comments on the stew's taste, hinting at the pressure Charlotte felt while making it. After the meal, Charlotte retreats to the basement to work on her bulletin board, where she meticulously tracks missing girls through a detailed map filled with colors representing their fates: blue for abductions, green for runaways, orange for disappearances, and red for those who are dead.

Saint is drawn into the somber task at hand, studying the names and dates pinned on the board. As she writes Crystal Wright's name in red, a sense of mourning fills the air. Charlotte, with her small nose crinkled in concentration, reveals her intimate knowledge of each name, highlighting the tragedy behind their stories. The mood is heavy as Saint recalls other names, such as Angela Rossi and Summer Reynolds, further contributing to the weight of their grim reality. They share the task of documenting these lost lives, appreciating the history and stories behind them.

After indulging in two glasses of wine, more stew, and dessert, Saint's mind clears enough to make a connection that had eluded her before. With her heart racing, she prepares to leave, grappling with the emotional intensity of the evening and the burden of the knowledge she has gained. The chapter underscores themes of loss, remembrance, and the interplay of personal relationships amid the darker aspects of their shared reality, leaving the characters in a state of reflection as Saint departs for her car.