

Chapter 177

In Chapter 177 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Patch finds himself outside a gallery located in a red brick building on Wooster Street, amidst a bustling crowd observing his artwork. He takes a moment of solitude to reflect on the two hundred guests who seem to know him but whom he does not recognize. Charlotte has collaborated with Sammy, presenting early sketches of his that evoke a sense of embarrassment in him, as they depict his early learning phase as an artist. The artworks, displayed under the names of missing girls—each titled simply by their first names—soften the harshness of their stories, inviting curiosity but offering only brief notes about their lives.

As Patch grapples with the overwhelming attention on his work, he witnesses a woman from Sacramento purchasing one of his sketches, which was created during a particularly desperate night. When asked why she admires it, she articulates that he transforms tragedy into beauty, a sentiment he cannot accept. Leaving the gallery area, he glimpses his daughter Saint, radiant in a pink dress reminiscent of her mother. This sight invokes a pang of nostalgia and loss for Misty, whose memory continues to haunt him.

Their interaction is tender but tinged with Patch's ongoing struggles with self-identity and grief. Saint, supportive yet concerned, notices him slipping away from the crowd during his own exhibition. Their conversation reveals Patch's feelings of acting out roles rather than embracing life fully. He longs for a different ending—a peaceful escape far away, suggesting visions of a beach or a ship, while their whimsical banter provides a temporary respite from their shared sorrow.

As they discuss the validity of loss and memory, Patch's fixation on a specific painting titled "Grace Number One" surfaces; he expresses his refusal to sell it, indicating its deep personal significance. Despite the heaviness of their past haunting them, a light moment emerges as Saint reveals she still plays the piano, letting Patch take solace in the continuity of their connection through simple joys. The chapter closes with them embracing, offering a glimpse of hope amid Patch's complicated emotions and an acknowledgment of the people—like his daughter—who give him reasons to be grateful.