

Chapter 178

In Chapter 178 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Patch immerses himself in the vibrant atmosphere of Manhattan, taking a solitary walk through its bustling streets. After crossing Sixth Avenue, he indulges in the sweet aroma of sugared almonds, a reminder of his empty stomach, while passing the carousel in Bryant Park—a symbol of Midtown West's lively spirit.

At Barbetta, Patch dines alone, savoring garganelli in tomato and basil sauce, accompanied by red wine, which he tips heavily on. Reflecting on his solitude, he feels connected to the footsteps of someone special as he walks through the late night and early morning. As dawn breaks over the city, he wanders in the shadows of the Brooklyn Bridge, where memories of a past night in Boston resurface, highlighting moments of fate and conspiracy.

Patch immerses himself in the Union Square Greenmarket's buzz, observing the vibrant hustle of shoppers gathering fresh produce and artisan goods. He's swept along by the multitude of commuters, tourists, and families discussing Battery Park, pausing momentarily to etch the skyline featuring the Twin Towers into his memory.

Once it's a good hour, he meets with Sammy at the Plaza, where they find a quiet table. Sammy, fresh from a triumphant sale, recounts their overwhelming success, noting that new buyers are eager to pay double for the items sold. There's an understanding between them regarding sending a portion of the sales to support the families of missing girls, a gesture intended to provide them a measure of freedom to grieve or seek resolution.

Later, Charlotte enters the champagne bar, carrying a newspaper. As she joins Sammy and Mrs. Meyer, she spreads out the paper, showing them a full-page feature in the Arts section with the headline "A Pirate Takes Manhattan." Unable to suppress her joy, Charlotte turns away, realizing her father has made it to The New York Times, a significant recognition that brings a beaming smile to her face, encapsulating a moment of pride amidst the chapter's heavy themes.