

Chapter 189

In Chapter 189 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Police Chief Saint is at her desk in the Monta Clare Police Department when she receives a call from Mildred, the principal's secretary, regarding an incident at the school. She notes Deputy Michaels, who is younger and eager, as he relays the information. Saint, accustomed to her interactions with Mildred, often brings her treats from the bakery, establishing a friendly rapport.

As she steps out, she observes her surroundings: the early spring environment, the work of Mitch Evans painting a sign, and the town's charm marred by graffiti, which she has addressed in the past by making the local juvenile delinquents scrub it clean. The community respects her for her dedication, viewing her as a tough and competent officer, although she still feels the lingering judgment of her past, particularly related to Jimmy Walters.

At Monta Clare High, she discusses a student's misbehavior, Charlotte, who has been suspended. Charlotte reveals she injured Noah Arnold-Smith after he inappropriately touched her, which prompts Saint to reflect on her own past experiences with disrespectful boys. The conversation reveals Charlotte's frustration with her grandmother's impending disapproval and her desire for independence, highlighting her strained family dynamics and aspirations of moving to Las Vegas.

Saint sits with Charlotte at Misty's grave, reflecting on loss and expectations. Charlotte expresses her weariness of feeling judged, foreshadowing her struggle to reconcile her rebellious actions with her family responsibilities. This interaction serves to underline the recurring themes of defiance, the complexities of growing up, and the burdens of expectation in Monta Clare, setting a contemplative tone for the chapter as Saint navigates her role in the girl's life against the backdrop of her own unresolved issues.

In the end, the chapter encapsulates the tension between past and present, authority and rebellion, as Saint grapples with the consequences of actions taken by a new generation while facing her own unresolved trauma.