

Chapter 197

In Chapter 197 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the tension between Saint and her grandmother, Norma, unfolds as they sit on the porch during a tranquil spring evening. Norma inquires about Charlotte's new boyfriend, Matt Leavesham, revealing her awareness of his family background. The conversation shifts when Norma presents a box containing the Eli Aaron case file from Himes, emphasizing the importance of the matter, yet she suggests that Saint's focus should be on Charlotte rather than her work.

As Norma reads a well-worn novel, Saint confronts her about their strained relationship, suggesting that Norma has long held back her true feelings. The discussion turns to Saint's past with Jimmy, her ex-husband, igniting a conflict about choices made and the consequences that followed. Saint defends her decisions, feeling unjustly judged for the abortion and subsequent divorce, while Norma argues that Jimmy had potential and deserved more time to grow into a better husband.

Norma's quiet but firm words highlight the sacrifices Saint made and the promises she once made to God in exchange for the return of Joseph, a man from Saint's past. This emotional confrontation leads to a moment of vulnerability as Saint grapples with her choices, eliciting sympathy from Norma. In a poignant display of affection, Norma opens her arms, offering a comforting embrace to Saint, who acknowledges that her emotional support is vital in her current turmoil.

As they navigate through their past, the chapter peaks when Saint admits the complexity of her feelings towards Jimmy, clarifying that he is not equivalent to the man she lost, Patch. Through this intense dialogue, the theme of familial connection, unresolved grief, and personal sacrifice permeates, revealing both characters' struggles in coming to terms with their histories and relationships.