

Chapter 201

In Chapter 201 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Sammy expresses disdain for the guard who confiscated a round of Beaufort d'Été, lamenting that the first casualty in such a place is the palate. The conversation shifts to Sammy's art, where he notes that his piece, *Grace Number One*, might sell for seven figures. Patch remains detached, knowing that Charlotte will be well taken care of by Misty and her grandmother. When asked about Charlotte, Sammy reveals she has resumed painting, albeit casually, and may have wasted a few canvases in the process, which momentarily brightens Patch's mood.

Sammy offers to cover the tab, but Patch requests a favor. He seeks a specific box in the attic of the Mad House, containing his childhood belongings, including a June 1965 issue of *Playboy*. Sammy attempts to boast about his own collection, but Patch cuts him off. Their conversation takes a somber turn when Sammy reveals that Norma has died that morning. This brings a moment of quiet reflection, and Patch instructs Sammy to relay a simple message to her, a task Sammy readily agrees to.

As they sit, Patch observes a little girl drawing with crayons, the vividness of her colors contrasting their heavy exchange. Sammy stands to leave, and Patch notes that despite Sammy's numerous trips claiming business, he never ventured to the lost acres of their past. Patch recalls how during the arraignment, Sammy remained steady, sipping from a flask while Patch's hands trembled. They often communicated through short quotes, mainly from Oscar Wilde, and postcards that reflected shades from Patch's artwork—small gestures that held deep meaning.

Though Sammy has been present, he never asked Patch to explain his actions, choosing instead to respect his silence and implied understanding. Sammy, adjusting his hat and sinking deeper into his blazer, affirms that he never needed to know. Their bond is one of unspoken camaraderie, forged through shared experiences and quiet moments that transcend the need for words.