

Chapter 206

In Chapter 206 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Patch takes significant steps to try and prevent the execution of Marty Tooms, the man who abducted him. He writes letters to the supreme court, urgently seeking a stay of execution as the date approaches—an imminent threat hanging over him like the calm before a storm. Patch also reaches out to ministers from various churches, asking them to appeal to the district attorney in a desperate bid to delay the process. To further equip himself, he immerses in legal literature concerning capital punishment, absorbing details about its history and discovering legal loopholes that would prove unhelpful for Tooms, as well as cases that have been reversed in the past.

During this time, Patch learns about a political figure, Teddy Fawn Durston, a Democratic candidate running for governor of Missouri, who speaks about implementing moratoriums on the death penalty. Motivated by a sense of urgency, Patch instructs Sammy to contribute twenty thousand dollars to Durston's campaign, hoping to influence the political climate surrounding capital punishment.

However, the situation takes a somber turn when Cooper delivers a copy of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* to Patch's desk. The gravity of the article hits Patch hard, despite his anticipated awareness of the news. After reading it, he confronts a devastating reality: in just over two weeks, Marty Tooms is scheduled for execution. The knowledge of Tooms' impending death brings a profound realization for Patch—he understands that Grace, a significant figure connected to him, would also suffer dire consequences as a result of this event. The chapter closes on a note of desperation and an acute awareness of the intertwining fates of those involved, marking a pivotal moment in Patch's ongoing struggle against the system.