

Chapter 217

In Chapter 217 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Saint drives sixty miles to the small town of Darby Falls, feeling a deep nostalgia as she passes by familiar sights, including a church whose bells she longs to hear. Upon arriving, she encounters a young, anxious police officer waiting outside a house. The officer informs her that they're still waiting on the forensic team as he worries about Richie, a former cop, who has missed his newspaper delivery and is now suspected to be deceased.

Inside the house, a somber atmosphere prevails as the grandfather clock ticks heavily. The lounge is devoid of any smell, except for the presence of Richie Montrose, who lies dead with a bullet hole in his chest. The scene displays an eerie cleanliness, suggesting that Richie knew his killer, evidenced by the lack of struggle or disorder around him—it was an execution carried out smoothly and methodically.

On the mantelpiece is a haunting photograph of Callie Montrose, reminding Saint of the girl's vigil which still resonates in her memory. This personal connection deepens the emotional weight of the scene. Beside Richie's body lies a letter addressed to him, containing the ominous message: "I'll see you in hell."

Saint swiftly locates security camera footage from a neighbor, which reveals the killer's identity. The perpetrator shows no sign of attempting to hide or escape, raising the stakes of the unfolding investigation. As she absorbs this information, a wave of sorrow washes over her, intensifying her emotional turmoil. The chapter concludes with a significant shift in tone, capturing the heaviness of loss and the inevitability of confronting the dark realities that the investigation will unveil.