

Chapter 218

In Chapter 218 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Saint drives twenty miles from Monta Clare, navigating through picturesque vineyards and fruit stands, finally reaching the Shaw house, a place reminiscent of her childhood piano lessons. The Nix house, modest yet well-kept, stands across the street with its fresh white paint and a polished porch. Taking in her surroundings, Saint feels the heavy summer air, pauses to admire an untouched okame cherry tree, and prepares herself with a deep breath before drawing her gun.

As she inspects the area, she heads toward the back of the house, crunching gravel beneath her feet. The landscape unfolds beautifully, showcasing distant canola fields, empty stables, and a riding mower resting in the shade. Finding the kitchen door surprisingly unlocked, she ventures inside, momentarily forgetting her role as she calls out for the Chief, momentarily disoriented by her own title.

The kitchen's dated decor contrasts sharply with its cleanliness, prompting her to move instinctively down a hallway. She enters a bright den, cushioned by deep synthetic shag carpet and adorned with vases filled with wildflowers collected from the property. Despite seeing three guest-ready, unoccupied bedrooms, an unsettling sensation emerges as she hears water flowing in the bathroom. Maintaining her readiness, she gently pushes the bathroom door open.

After exiting, she takes a moment under the sun to walk towards the stables, where she catches sight of Nix, who is cheerily wielding a shovel and bearing a smile. Nearby, there are bags of hay by the door and horses grazing in the distance. Holding her gun steady on him, she hears him remark, "Just like I taught you," indicating their shared past. Despite the distance between them, his immobility elicits a profound love within her—love rooted in their intricate history and the complexities of their relationship.