

Chapter 224

In Chapter 224 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the focus shifts entirely to Joseph Macauley as Saint momentarily sets aside the Montrose murder investigation. Throughout the day, she is inundated with calls from Himes, the Alwyn County Sheriff's Department, and surrounding police forces, grappling with the fact that Patch, Macauley's known figure, has gone missing. His disappearance has garnered widespread attention, featuring prominently in local and national news reports, including an article in **The New York Times** highlighting his artistic background and notorious reputation as a pirate.

Michaels expresses concern over Patch's notoriety, suggesting that given his eye patch, he's unlikely to remain unnoticed. Meanwhile, Warden Riley attempts to reassure the public, adopting a demeanor reminiscent of an embattled politician. Riley insists residents should lock their doors but assures them that Patch will be recaptured, while police canvass neighborhoods with dogs in search of leads.

As evening arrives, Saint finds Sammy on a balcony, celebrating with a bottle of Laphroaig. Their conversation turns to Nix, a mutual acquaintance whom Sammy had seen the day before. Saint reflects on her own memories of Nix, who had been reliable in his community dealings.

The atmosphere shifts as Saint reveals to Sammy that a construction worker inadvertently severed a critical cable feeding the prison, hinting at possible foul play. Sammy listens as she lays out the suspicious circumstances surrounding Patch's escape, discussing the various prison staff involved who may not be as innocent as they seem.

Despite Sammy's denial of any wrongdoing, Saint pushes for the truth, fearing for Patch's safety due to the implications of money and corruption potentially surrounding his escape. Sammy's defensive stance raises doubts, but Saint holds onto her hope, recognizing that both she and Sammy share a deep affection for Patch, complicating their conversation about guilt and responsibility.

Through this chapter, the tension mounts around the unfolding events, intertwining personal stakes with the broader investigation as Saint navigates her feelings for those involved in this harrowing situation.