

Chapter 227

In Chapter 227 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Saint arrives at a stark apartment complex, evoking memories of her early days as an agent. Temporarily reinstated by Himes, she is given full access to the resources at her disposal but finds she needs little to investigate.

Inside, she finds Cooper living alone in a lifeless space. His clothes are neatly arranged on a rack, and a single sofa faces a window that overlooks a parking lot, with drawn blinds allowing a hint of light to filter through, illuminating him as he regards her indifferently.

Saint observes, "You've had a rough time," noting Cooper's tall, slim frame and the symmetry in his features, characteristics that should invoke confidence. As they go over his statement together, she cross-references it with the original and verifies he hasn't deviated from the truth. In a troubling administrative situation, the prison office is overwhelmed, leading to a disconnect with Warden Riley's busy line.

Cooper describes a mundane life, having spent a decade in public libraries before his tenure at Hannington. He reveals nothing about his past family life, emphasizing his solitude—no wife, no children. As Saint prepares to leave, suggesting he consult a lawyer for future inquiries, she unexpectedly notices a small photograph on a bedside table, the only sign of life in his austere environment.

Drawn to the image, she approaches and picks up the small gold frame. The faded photograph features a dark-haired girl whose full lips and green eyes seem strikingly familiar. After a moment of contemplation, Saint prepares to exit, stating, "I'll be seeing you, Mr. Cooper." To her surprise, he corrects her, saying, "Actually, Cooper is my first name," before revealing his full name, "My surname is Strike. My name is Cooper Strike." This unexpected revelation lingers in the air, suggesting deeper connections and potential developments ahead.