

# Chapter 229

In Chapter 229 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the narrative follows Saint as she delves into the intricacies of a case involving Joseph Macauley. Himes informs her about Owen Williams, a construction worker implicated in a power outage, noting that Williams claims it was a simple mistake. Saint's frustration is palpable as she anticipates familial ties—guessing correctly that Williams has a daughter named Lucy. A subsequent phone call to Warden Thompson at the James Connor Correctional Facility proves fruitless at first, but Thompson casually reveals that Macauley had a connection with a guard named Darnell Richardson during his incarceration.

Saint's investigation leads her to the attic, where she retrieves the Macauley abduction file after twelve years. She immerses herself in case materials, revisiting recordings and documents, piecing together Macauley's past while grappling with memories of her grandmother and the phantoms of the case. Significant items emerge from the file: soil reports, photographs, and a map that traces Macauley's movements in relation to crime scenes where he had previously been.

As dusk settles, Saint reflects on a suspect, Marty Tooms, whose narrative regarding searching for a stray dog highlights his emotional turmoil. The dialogue between Nix and Tooms raises ethical questions about life, death, and the concept of playing God, revealing Tooms' internal conflict regarding the loss of life. Despite Tooms' claims, his story raises suspicion, particularly in relation to the stray dog that appeared on his property. This suggests deeper implications regarding his involvement in the case.

The chapter culminates when Saint uncovers a gold dog tag inscribed with the name "Scout," hinting at the intertwining themes of memory, loss, and the search for truth. The case and its characters continue to haunt her, leading her to question the boundaries of her investigation and the connections between past and present.