

Chapter 245

In Chapter 245 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Patch finds himself in a storm, seeking refuge in a barn near his house. As he pushes the large door shut against the pelting rain, he is enveloped in darkness, a reflection of his inner turmoil filled with fear, hope, and exhaustion. Sitting on the hard wooden slats, surrounded by the scent of hay, he closes his eyes and contemplates the weight of his search for a girl—one that has consumed significant years of his life.

Patch grapples with the profound loss he has suffered: a daughter, a friend, a love, and a parent. His journey has taken him through various life events, from boyhood in Monta Clare to a tumultuous path involving crime and imprisonment. As he lies back, he battles the emotional devastation he feels, realizing that he has lost far more than he can easily measure.

Amidst this introspection, Patch feels a ghostly hand slip into his, stirring a mix of longing and sorrow. He instinctively understands that this presence, though vivid, is a figment of his imagination, an echo from a cherished past that intertwines with his current reality. The phantom girl gently caresses his face, causing tears to mingle with his memories. When she speaks, her voice resonates hauntingly familiar: "Someone once told me you could hear a smile."

In this poignant moment, he becomes thirteen again, revisiting a chance to relive memories. He responds dismissively, "Bullshit," but her gentle insistence directs him to affirm their bond. He reassures her that despite the darkness and her strength, he would always prioritize her safety. As she shares her understanding that he is smiling, Patch acknowledges the authenticity of his words, affirming a deep connection that remains steadfast through time.

As the chapter concludes, Patch tenderly speaks her name—"Grace"—to which she affirms, capturing the essence of love and memory that transcends the trials of life .