

# Chapter 253

In Chapter 253 of "All the Colors of the Dark," the story begins with Patch helping Saint out into the daylight, where storm clouds begin to dissipate, revealing a blue horizon. Saint collapses to her knees, overwhelmed by the aftermath of recent events, retching and coughing as Patch comforts her. In a moment of emotional turmoil, she accuses him, "You killed him," struggling to process the consequences of their actions.

As Saint gathers herself, memories flood her mind, particularly of Charlotte and their shared past. While picking up a gun from the ground, she perceives Patch's smile through her tears. Holding the gun at his chest, she notices his steady gaze, which reflects both vulnerability and resolve. In a poignant moment, Patch raises his hands in surrender, an act that nearly breaks her heart. Saint's thoughts drift towards a house that brings back memories of their town and the hope tied to it.

"Tell me it was her, Patch," she implores, and he affirms that it was, signaling the end of her long search. They share a deeply emotional conversation about taking care of Grace, who waits in the barn, and Charlotte, Saint's daughter. Saint firmly believes this is a crucial time, declaring that they're coming for him, to which Patch responds, "I think they're already here."

As sirens sound in the distance, momentum shifts towards Patch's inevitable return to prison for his crimes. Reflecting on Patch's escape, Saint acknowledges the heart and courage that fueled his desire to right wrongs, hinting at someone powerful possibly behind the scenes.

When asked about regrets, Patch states there are "too few to mention." This moment of shared intimacy culminates in a tight embrace, underscoring the deep bond between them. The chapter closes with the rising sirens and a haunting image of a rainbow breaking through the clouds, symbolizing a fragile connection preserved in the face of impending separation. In that moment, Saint gains insight into the profound nature of love, understanding its significance far better than before.