

Chapter 255

In Chapter 255 of "All the Colors of the Dark", Sammy embarks on a late morning journey, departing from a warm goodbye with a woman and immersing himself in the serenity of the outdoors as he travels toward the old farmhouse. Upon arriving, he is met by Marty Tooms, who is dutifully clearing bindweed from the land in preparation for an upcoming auction. Their initial exchange is polite, and Marty assumes Sammy's presence is related to the bank, having spoken with Mr. Fulbright about tidying the place to attract buyers.

Sammy, however, clarifies that he isn't from the bank. This revelation creates a moment of surprise for Marty, who, despite his standing as a stranger to Sammy, has a flicker of recognition and familiarity about the land's history and its importance to him and the late chief. They discuss the land's memories, hinting at the emotional weight it carries, especially in the wake of Callie Montrose's body being discovered beneath a cherry tree on Nix's property.

As they walk to the house, a weighty envelope drawn from Sammy's car serves as the catalyst for a pivotal moment. Inside, Marty discovers that the land—his home—belongs to him once again, a revelation that astonishes him. Sammy explains that a valuable painting, once treasured in his life, has been leveraged to facilitate this loan for Marty. He emphasizes the significance of the painting, expressing a desire for it to remain hanging among others, not just as collateral but as a reminder of friendship.

Marty is initially perplexed, struggling to comprehend the depth of this unexpected generosity. Sammy assures him that the details can be settled later, allowing space for contemplation on the implications of such a gesture. The chapter encapsulates themes of redemption, memory, and the inherent ties to land and personal history, showing how past bonds can shape present realities and hopes for the future.