

Chapter 159

In Chapter 159 of "All the Colors of the Dark," Patch experiences the rapid decline of Misty's health due to cancer. He moves her bed to the bay window to allow her to observe the changing seasons, wishing to preserve what little beauty remained in her life. Throughout the summer and fall of 1993, Patch immerses himself in the background of family life at the house on Parade Hill. He finds solace in Charlotte, who alternates between reading to her mother and reminiscing about their past. As they discuss a former bully turned car salesman, a tragic train derailment flashes on the television, highlighting the juxtaposition of life and death that permeates their daily existence.

As Misty's condition worsens, Patch strives to maintain a semblance of normalcy for Charlotte, planning to get her a Christmas gift amidst the overshadowing despair. The family's attempts to cope are evident as Patch takes Charlotte to the gallery to keep her mind off Misty's pain, which only saps their spirits more. He encourages Charlotte's artistic pursuits, showing her how to paint, while also reflecting on his own past as an artist.

The chapter transitions to New Year's Eve, where the three gather on Misty's bed, watching fireworks illuminate the sky; a spectacle that combines hope and sorrow. After the fireworks, Patch finds Mrs. Meyer on the terrace. Their conversation explores themes of loss, legacy, and the human tendency to reserve emotions—she reflects on her marriage to Franklin Meyer as a cycle of unfulfilled potential and unexpressed love. Patch advocates for embracing life fully, suggesting that people should cherish experiences regardless of their timing. Ultimately, Mrs. Meyer expresses her deep love for Charlotte, emphasizing her significance and the hopes she carries for the future, even as the specter of past relationships looms heavily over them .