

Chapter 91

Chapter 91 of *All the Colors of the Dark* follows Saint as she takes on the task of showcasing Patch's talent as a painter. She reaches out to various news outlets from Camden County to Dade, persistently convincing reporters to come and view the works of this promising young artist. Patch's paintings represent more than just visual images—they capture the essence of a possibly imaginary girl, adding depth and intrigue to his art. As the story progresses, Saint sits down for an interview with Daisy Creason from the *Monta Clare Tribune*. During this conversation, Saint skillfully avoids revealing the true identity of the girl in the paintings, choosing instead to fabricate promises to ensure that the event receives the coverage it deserves. The act of deflecting questions adds an air of mystery to Patch's work and amplifies the tension surrounding the showcase. Saint's determination to protect Patch's artistic vision is evident as she navigates the media landscape to build anticipation for the event.

As the showcase approaches, Saint arrives early to the venue, observing Patch as he prepares for the night. Misty, helping with the decorations, adds a touch of personal involvement, underscoring the support system that surrounds Patch during this important moment in his life. Though Saint wonders if Patch's mother will attend, the conversation with Sammy reveals the tension between the artist's vision and the harsh realities of selling his work. Sammy, a local resident, expresses his disdain for Patch's refusal to sell his pieces, suggesting that Patch's reluctance may hinder his success. The event gradually fills with familiar faces—locals, reporters, and city residents—each one bringing their own perspectives on art and life. These individuals are all eager to witness the work of a young artist who is still figuring out his place in the world, adding layers to the narrative as they react to Patch's creations.

In the midst of the crowd, Saint encounters Jimmy Walters, who awkwardly tries to impress her with stories about his ferret, offering a glimpse into the casual friendships

that exist in Monta Clare. While this interaction may seem trivial on the surface, it subtly reveals deeper, unspoken emotions. As the conversation unfolds, Saint's bond with Patch becomes clearer, underscoring the complexities of her feelings. Though Jimmy invites her to prom, her thoughts remain focused on Patch, a reflection of the emotional weight she places on their connection. The night takes a personal turn when Patch finds her outside, beneath the stars, and their conversation delves into his struggles and insecurities regarding his art. Patch's vulnerability is palpable as he confesses his feelings of unworthiness, yet Saint reassures him, reminding him of the power that art has to touch people's hearts. She encourages him to share his work with the world, suggesting that his paintings might resonate with others in ways he cannot yet imagine. This moment marks a turning point in Patch's journey, as he begins to understand the value of his art and the potential it holds to create connections beyond himself.

As the night unfolds, Patch makes significant strides in his artistic career, including his first sale—an important milestone for any emerging artist. Despite this achievement, he holds onto his most personal painting, "Grace Number One," symbolizing his internal conflict between sharing his work and maintaining his artistic integrity. The sale marks a crucial moment in his growth, reflecting the emotional stakes tied to his art. The chapter crescendos with the themes of art, identity, and connection. Saint and Patch's journey is marked by hope and the challenges of self-discovery, as they both grapple with their respective fears and dreams. As the evening draws to a close, Saint admires Patch's paintings, reflecting on their significance and the path that lies ahead for both of them. The chapter leaves readers with a sense of anticipation and a deeper understanding of the emotional complexity that drives Patch and Saint, offering a poignant reflection on the transformative power of art and the connections it fosters.