

Chapter IV

Chapter IV unfolds in the enchanting streets of Paris on July 29, 1724, where Addie, a woman burdened by the curse of being forgotten by everyone she meets, finds herself sharing a rare and meaningful day with Remy Laurent. The city, alive with its artistic atmosphere, becomes a backdrop for a day that, despite its brevity, allows Addie to experience a sense of normalcy she has not known for centuries. Remy, with his golden hair and youthful exuberance, stands as a stark contrast to the often cold and distant world Addie has inhabited for so long. His vibrancy brings a warmth to her that she had long been denied, drawing her into a connection that feels both refreshing and unfamiliar.

Their day is filled with laughter, conversation, and moments of light-heartedness as they navigate the bustling streets of Montmartre. Amidst the art, the music, and the ever-changing landscape of Paris, Addie finds herself momentarily shedding the weight of her curse and embracing the beauty of a simple, fleeting connection. In a rare instance of vulnerability, she adopts the name "Anna" to shield her true identity, allowing her to share with Remy a glimpse of her long and complex life, albeit a version tailored for him. Remy's admiration for her courage and wit marks a turning point in their relationship, as he finds himself drawn not only to her physical beauty but to the mystery that envelops her. This day, while grounded in the mundane, becomes extraordinary for Addie, as she finds solace in the temporary freedom from the confines of her existence.

As the evening falls, the chemistry between Addie and Remy deepens, and a quiet intimacy emerges between them. Remy's invitation to walk her home transitions seamlessly into a night at his place, where the underlying tension of their growing connection evolves into something more. In Remy's presence, Addie finds herself experiencing something beyond what her long life has offered—a tenderness and

connection untethered by the curse that has plagued her for centuries. Their shared moments are marked by genuine affection and a quiet understanding, a rare experience for Addie in a world where she is constantly invisible to others. For a few hours, she feels seen, cherished, and more alive than she has in a long time, as if her own soul can temporarily escape the trap it has been locked in for so long.

However, as dawn breaks and the harsh reality of her existence returns, the weight of her curse proves impossible to escape. The morning after is a cruel reminder of her unchangeable fate—Remy, now unable to remember their intimate time together, greets her with the indifference of a stranger. His gesture of payment, intended to cover the cost of their brief encounter, only serves to highlight the stark disconnect between their shared moment and the inevitable erasure of it from his memory. Addie, heartbroken but resigned, leaves Remy's home with a heavy heart, carrying with her only a solitary memento from the night—a book by Voltaire that she hopes will serve as a reminder of their fleeting connection. As she walks away, the reality of her eternal solitude begins to sink in, and she is once again reminded of the transience of human connection in her life.

This chapter explores themes of transience and the longing for connection that pervade Addie's existence. It delves deeply into the emotional struggle that comes with being forgotten by everyone she meets, highlighting the brief moments of joy and connection that, while meaningful, inevitably slip away. As Addie experiences these rare moments of connection with Remy, she is confronted with the reality that despite the fleeting nature of these interactions, she is condemned to an eternal cycle of loneliness and disconnection. Yet, within these brief instances, Addie finds something precious—glimpses of what it might be like to belong, to be seen, and to be remembered. These fleeting moments offer her a bittersweet taste of a life she can never fully embrace, leaving her to navigate the complexities of human connection in a world that ultimately forgets her.