

Chapter 59

Chapter 59 of *All the Colors of the Dark* begins with the protagonist moving through his day in a state of deep, muted desolation. As he walks the school halls, he keeps his head down, avoiding the whispers and glances of his peers. A confrontation with the principal ensues, where the principal attempts to inspire him by talking about bravery shaped by fear, but this only prompts the protagonist to seek an escape. He decides to leave the school behind, stepping out into the open air, and spotting Mr. and Mrs. Roberts heading into Lacey's Diner. This sight triggers a rebellious decision within him—he sneaks into their home, takes the keys to their new mustard-colored Aspen, and drives away, remembering times when he used to pull his mother's Fairlane into the driveway, longing for a simpler past. The contrast between his current actions and his nostalgic memories marks a pivotal moment in his emotional journey.

The journey takes him to the public library in Panora, where he spends hours buried in microfiche, poring over missing persons reports. As he combs through the articles, the weight of sorrow grows heavier, and he becomes acutely aware of the number of young girls who have gone missing. The stories are heart-wrenching, each one representing a life lost, leaving behind not only broken families but also fractured communities. Patch reflects on the destruction caused by these disappearances, recognizing that each case shatters more than just the individual lives involved—it tears apart the very foundation of familial bonds. This emotional weight propels him forward, as he searches for answers amidst the bleakness of the reports, his sense of urgency and loss growing with each new piece of information he uncovers.

Later, Saint joins him at the library, providing some much-needed companionship during the painful task of reading through the grim reports. Together, they sift through photographs of the missing girls, with one, in particular, standing out to Patch—Callie Montrose. Her smiling face haunts him, filling him with a sense of urgency as if her

story is calling out to him. As they continue their research, the mood shifts to one of unease when Saint recounts the dark and troubling events surrounding Eli Aaron, a name ominously connected to the disappearances. Patch, still grappling with the unresolved trauma of his past, pushes harder for answers, not only about the missing girls but also about his own personal demons. His desperation grows as he realizes the depth of the web of mysteries he is entangled in.

The conversation becomes more intense as Saint admits her own fears, revealing that she once stole her grandfather's Colt, a sign of her own desperate bravery. This moment of vulnerability strengthens the bond between them, as both are driven by the same need for answers, even if those answers might be painful or dangerous. As they continue their discussion, they uncover more grim details about the cases, including the unsettling discovery of rosary beads among the victims. These beads serve as a chilling symbol, connecting the disappearances in a way that adds to the growing sense of unease surrounding the case. Patch's determination to uncover the truth is only solidified by these findings, and he becomes more resolute in his quest for justice.

As the conversation winds down, Patch's sense of resolve becomes more apparent. He expresses his unwavering determination to find the missing girl, even if it means taking matters into his own hands. He suggests that if Nix, the authority figure in his life, refuses to take action, he will not hesitate to act independently. This shift in Patch's attitude marks a significant turning point in his journey—he is no longer willing to wait for others to solve the problem. His commitment to finding the missing girl becomes all-consuming, and he vows to leave no stone unturned in his pursuit of the truth. With a fierce resolve, Patch promises that he will "burn everything in my path till I find her," indicating that he will face any obstacles that stand in his way, no matter the consequences. His words signal the intensity of his conviction, setting the stage for the unfolding chapters of his quest for justice and the emotional toll it will take on him.