

Chapter VI

Chapter VI takes us to the streets of Paris on the night of July 29, 1724, where Addie, engulfed in emotional turmoil, takes refuge in the solitude of the city's quiet corners. The warmth of a summer evening contrasts sharply with the heavy weight of her despair as she wanders aimlessly, not seeking any specific destination but instead running from the overwhelming stagnation of her thoughts. Despite the seeming tranquility around her, Addie's internal world is in turmoil, torn by the curse that has defined her existence for centuries. The air is thick with loneliness, but it's only when she becomes aware of the presence walking beside her that something shifts. It's Luc, the godlike figure who has been both her tormentor and occasional companion, and he matches her pace step for step, his aura of power and familiarity unsettling her in the stillness of the night. His arrival after four years of absence disrupts her solitude, bringing with it a complex blend of resentment and reluctant relief.

Luc's sudden return stirs a range of emotions in Addie. While she has spent years despising him for the curse he placed on her—a curse that leaves her perpetually forgotten by those she meets—his presence also fills the void that has marked her existence. No longer completely invisible, she feels the weight of being acknowledged again, even if it is by someone who has caused her immense suffering. Luc, reveling in the tension, seems to find amusement in her discomfort. As their conversation unfolds, it becomes clear that their relationship is one of intricate antagonism, with Luc taunting her with reminders of his control over her life. His absence, he reveals, was no accident; it was a test, a cruel experiment to see how long Addie could endure the isolation he had inflicted. She meets his provocations with a deflection, offering him nothing more than an outward indifference, though her internal world swirls with anger and confusion.

Luc continues to toy with Addie, making pointed comments about her attire and referencing the night from four years ago, when her path first crossed with his in a moment that sealed her fate. The emotions he stirs in her run deep—shame, resentment, and an almost overwhelming hatred. Yet, Addie, ever the survivor, keeps her emotions tightly controlled. She dons a mask of defiance, not willing to let him see how much his presence affects her. Despite the growing tension between them, Addie refuses to give Luc the satisfaction of seeing her vulnerable. His game intensifies as he suggests that he may cease his visits altogether, a chilling offer to remove even the barest acknowledgment of her existence. The thought of complete solitude without even the occasional reminder of her cursed life is enough to unsettle Addie, but she stands firm. She won't let him control her, and she responds with a measured calm that is as much a defense as a refusal to succumb to his manipulations.

As the interaction reaches its peak, Luc makes Addie an offer—one that promises release from the curse that has bound her for centuries, but at a heavy cost: her soul. This offer, filled with the temptation of ending her suffering, threatens to undermine her carefully cultivated resilience. For a moment, she is caught in the vortex of desperation and hope, but she quickly gathers herself. Refusing to succumb to Luc's control, Addie rejects his proposition, her spirit intact despite the pain that lingers. Luc's offer highlights the complexity of their relationship, the balance of power, and the ever-present threat of surrendering her soul to something that seeks to dominate her existence. Addie's refusal marks a pivotal moment, illustrating her fierce determination to hold on to her identity and autonomy despite the burden of her curse. This chapter deepens the narrative's exploration of themes like memory, identity, and the pursuit of human connection, underscoring the complexities of Addie's existence as she continues her eternal struggle against the forces that seek to define her.