

# Chapter 52: Journey's End

The chapter "Journey's End" captures the surreal and dreamlike final leg of Jack Sawyer's cross-country journey from California to New England. Time distorts for Jack, blending days into a single twilight filled with vivid sunsets, music, and fleeting memories. Wolf drives the El Dorado with unwavering energy, while Jack drifts in and out of sleep, his perception of time warped like a "diamond's concentration." The Talisman, dormant for much of the trip, begins to glow again as they enter New England, signaling the return of normal time and Jack's reconnection to reality. The journey feels both eternal and fleeting, marked by small, sharp memories of strangers peering into the car and the camaraderie of his companions.

As the group arrives at the Alhambra Inn in Arcadia Beach, New Hampshire, the setting sun paints the sky in vibrant hues, contrasting with the barren winter gardens. The Cadillac's arrival is underscored by Creedence Clearwater Revival's music, adding to the eerie yet triumphant atmosphere. The Talisman's faint glow reflects the urgency of their mission, while Richard clutches his book, visibly anxious. Jack reassures him with a silent kiss on the cheek and a fierce hug, a moment of tenderness amid the looming confrontation. The scene is charged with anticipation, as Jack steps out to face the final challenge.

Jack pauses at the edge of the driveway, gazing at the Atlantic and the Arcadia Funworld roller coaster against the darkening sky. Holding the Talisman aloft, he reflects on his mother and their shared memories in this place. The wind tousles his hair as he stands at the precipice of his quest, embodying both youth and resilience. The Talisman's light flickers wildly, mirroring his inner turmoil and determination. The moment is poignant, as Jack, now thirteen, stands on the cusp of fulfilling his destiny, unaware of his birthday but acutely aware of the stakes.

Meanwhile, Lily Cavanaugh, Jack's mother, lies frail and near death in the Alhambra, her body ravaged by cancer and pneumonia. Her skeletal hand fumbles for the light switch, her condition a stark contrast to the vitality of the sunset outside. The chapter juxtaposes her suffering with Jack's arrival, hinting at the impending clash between life and death. The narrative leaves readers suspended in tension, as Lily's flicker of hope and Jack's resolve converge in the fading light of the Talisman's glow.

