

Chapter 28

The chapter opens with Jack Sawyer, Dale Gilbertson, Beezer St. Pierre, and Doc Amberson standing before the ominous Black House, a place that defies natural laws. The house shifts in size and appearance, while the surrounding woods whisper threats and host unnatural creatures. The atmosphere is oppressive, filled with a pre-storm tension and strange noises, including a guttural growl that unsettles the group. Dale, overwhelmed by the surreal environment, vomits, while the others struggle to maintain their composure. The house itself seems to resist entry, its front door appearing painted shut, heightening the sense of dread.

As the group attempts to enter, the eerie surroundings grow more hostile. A scream from the woods pierces the silence, adding to the tension. Jack, however, remains determined, wielding a baseball bat as a symbol of authority. Suddenly, a massive swarm of bees descends, creating a protective canopy over the clearing. The bees' presence silences the hostile forces in the woods, and Jack feels a connection to them, recalling memories of his mother, Lily. The bees seem to respond to him, hinting at a deeper, mystical bond tied to his family's legacy.

Jack uses the bat to strike the door, demanding entry in the name of his mother and Queen Laura DeLoessian. The door cracks open, revealing a musty, death-filled interior. Just as Jack prepares to lead the group inside, Doc Amberson begins screaming, signaling another layer of horror. The chapter shifts abruptly to Ty Marshall, a boy trapped in a nightmarish machine called the Big Combination. Ty regains consciousness to the sounds of screams and machinery, realizing he is still shackled and in grave danger.

The chapter juxtaposes the two narratives: Jack's confrontation with the supernatural forces at Black House and Ty's desperate struggle for survival. Both scenarios emphasize themes of resistance against evil and the power of familial bonds. Jack's

connection to his mother and the bees suggests a latent strength, while Ty's ordeal highlights the brutality of the world he's trapped in. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, leaving both groups in peril and setting the stage for further confrontation.

