

Chapter 10

Dale Gilbertson, the police chief of French Landing, searches through his cluttered wallet for a phone number while his deputy, Tom Lund, drives. He finds the number and calls Jack Sawyer's cell phone, only to be surprised when the call is answered by Henry Leyden, Jack's blind friend. Henry, riding with Jack in his truck, hands the phone back to Jack, who reluctantly takes it. The conversation reveals that the Fisherman, a serial killer, has contacted the police, claiming Irma Freneau's body is at Ed's Eats and Dawgs, a derelict diner near Goltz's.

Jack, initially skeptical about cell phones, pulls over to talk to Dale. He learns that the Fisherman called 911, hinting at Irma's location. Jack shares his own disturbing discovery: a box containing Irma's foot and Ty Marshall's cap, delivered to his doorstep. Dale, overwhelmed, admits his uncertainty about handling the case, while Jack advises him to secure the pay phone at the 7-Eleven for fingerprints, suggesting the killer may have grown careless. Jack's calm demeanor contrasts with Dale's near-panic, highlighting the tension between the two.

The narrative shifts to a broader perspective, describing the journey of Jack and Dale toward Ed's Eats and Dawgs. Gossip about the murder spreads quickly through the community, reaching figures like Beezer St. Pierre, a grieving father and leader of the Thunder Five motorcycle gang. The scene is set with vivid imagery of the decaying diner and the surrounding overgrown landscape, creating an eerie atmosphere. The chapter builds suspense as the characters converge on the location, hinting at the grim discovery awaiting them.

As Jack and Dale arrive at the dilapidated diner, Jack scans the area for signs of disturbance, signaling the beginning of their investigation. The chapter ends on a tense note, with the reader anticipating the gruesome revelation of Irma Freneau's fate. The interplay between the characters—Jack's resolve, Dale's desperation, and

Henry's eerie perceptiveness—adds depth to the unfolding mystery, setting the stage for the next developments in the hunt for the Fisherman.

