

Chapter 4

The chapter follows Jack Sawyer, a former homicide detective, as he is driven by his admirer Dale Gilbertson to view a farmhouse Dale inherited from his father. Dale, awestruck by Jack's reputation, offers the property at a minimal price, seeing it as an honor to have Jack live there. Jack, however, is overwhelmed by an inexplicable emotional connection to the landscape, feeling as though he is returning home. Despite Dale's hero-worship, Jack is preoccupied with the profound sense of familiarity and sacredness the surroundings evoke, knowing he will buy the property regardless of its condition or cost.

As they travel along Highway 93, Jack experiences a deep, almost mystical resonance with the environment. The roadside landmarks, like Roy's Store and Tamarack Creek, feel intimately known to him, as if he has encountered them countless times before. The natural beauty of Norway Valley intensifies his emotional response, bringing him to the brink of tears. Dale's commentary about the area barely registers with Jack, who is consumed by a whirlwind of feelings he cannot fully comprehend. The sight of tiger lilies along the road triggers an inexplicable surge of emotion, further deepening his sense of connection to the place.

Upon arriving at the farmhouse, Jack is struck by its perfection—a sturdy, well-maintained home nestled in a lush meadow. The property's seclusion and beauty resonate deeply with him, and he immediately declares it ideal. The narrative reveals that Jack, though unaware of it, has a hidden past tied to this place, including childhood adventures and heroic deeds he no longer remembers. The farmhouse becomes a symbolic anchor for his forgotten history, hinting at a deeper significance to his visceral reaction to the landscape and the house itself.

The chapter concludes with Jack exploring the house with Dale, who proudly showcases the repairs and improvements he made. Jack admires the craftsmanship,

but his mind remains preoccupied with the inexplicable pull he feels toward the property. The scene sets the stage for Jack's new life in the farmhouse, foreshadowing that this place will unravel hidden truths about his past. The chapter blends Jack's present reality with subtle hints of his forgotten heroism, creating a sense of mystery and anticipation for what lies ahead.

