

Chapter 6

In Chapter 6, tension mounts in French Landing as Officer Danny Tcheda calls the police department from a landline, bypassing standard radio procedure due to concerns about the Fisherman case. He reports finding a bike and a sneaker near Maxton Elder Care, potential evidence linked to the recent child abductions. Bobby Dulac, taking the call, grows uneasy, recognizing the implications. Danny explains he handled the items carefully to avoid public panic, but Bobby worries about procedural breaches and the automatic call recording. The chapter highlights the officers' dread of another Fisherman victim and the strain on the understaffed police force.

Dale Gilbertson, the police chief, grapples with stress, secretly smoking despite his wife's disapproval. His recent interview with Tansy Freneau, mother of missing Irma, was emotionally draining. Dale's hope that Irma's father might be responsible is dashed by an email confirming his alibi. The bulletin board in Dale's office, adorned with photos of previous victims, foreshadows Irma's potential addition. When Bobby interrupts to relay Danny's call, Dale's resigned reaction underscores his growing despair over the unsolved cases and the community's rising fear.

Meanwhile, Henry Leyden, a blind DJ, arrives at Maxton Elder Care to perform at the Strawberry Fest dance. Pete Wexler, resentful about assisting, carries Henry's equipment, including vintage records and a white suit. Henry's cheerful demeanor contrasts with Pete's irritation, and their exchange reveals Henry's sharp awareness despite his blindness. The scene shifts focus momentarily but maintains an undercurrent of unease, as Henry notices the earlier police presence at Maxton, hinting at the looming threat of the Fisherman.

The chapter weaves together the perspectives of law enforcement and civilians, emphasizing the pervasive anxiety in French Landing. Danny's discovery, Dale's exhaustion, and Henry's arrival all contribute to a sense of impending crisis. The

narrative balances procedural details with emotional depth, painting a vivid picture of a community on edge. The Fisherman's shadow looms large, affecting every character and action, as the town braces for potential tragedy.

