

Miles

In the chapter titled "Miles," the narrative opens with Miles receiving alarming news about his brother Wynton, who has gone into cardiac arrest. As they drive towards home, Miles grapples with a mix of fear and guilt. He reflects on their strained relationship, wishing he could have been a better brother. Dizzy, his sister, is visibly shaken, and Miles struggles to reassure her, nurturing a moment of connection by expressing his love for her.

The journey through the forest brings Miles to a profound realization about the fragility of life, contrasting their youth against the ancient trees surrounding them. He is haunted by his past choices, especially his lack of engagement with Wynton prior to his hospitalization. As they approach their destination—a hot springs resort where they hope to find Cassidy, a person they believe may be connected to Wynton's recovery—Miles feels a blend of hope and apprehension.

They arrive at the hot springs, only to find that Cassidy hasn't worked there recently. The staff provides directions to her home on Dandelion Road, which impresses Miles and Dizzy with its idyllic, picturesque scenery—golden hills, orchards, and a charming yellow house. Dizzy muses that it seems like a home fit for an angel, igniting her belief in supernatural beings.

Upon reaching Cassidy's house, confusion and anxiety mount for Miles as he worries about how to approach her. They unpredictably act like carefree children, echoing playful banter among themselves. However, the atmosphere shifts dramatically when a tall man in a cowboy hat answers their knock. In a shocking twist, Miles realizes this man is their father, a revelation that stuns both siblings. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, with a sense of impending drama as they realize they have unexpectedly encountered their estranged father, bringing a mixture of unresolved family tensions and urgency to the story.