

In this chapter, Mr. Halloway receives an alarming phone call from his son, Willy, which sets a tense and urgent tone. The conversation begins with Willy explaining they cannot go to the police station and might not be home. He urges Mr. Halloway to inform his mother and Jim's mother of their situation. Willy's distress is palpable, as he reveals they need to hide because "they're looking for us." Mr. Halloway, confused and worried, desperately asks who is searching for them.

Willy, in a tone that mixes fear and determination, insists that his father must not get involved. He is resolute that their immediate safety lies in hiding until the threat passes—a few days at most. Willy's protective instinct is evident as he expresses concern that by returning home, Mr. Halloway or the others could get hurt. Time seems scattered and heavy around them, marked by Willy's hasty farewell—"I got to go"—and a poignant wish for luck.

After Willy hangs up, Mr. Halloway finds himself staring out at the familiar landscape of trees, houses, and streets, a normal scene suddenly infused with dread. He hears distant music, which only heightens the surreal quality of the moment. Addressing the silence of the dead phone, he echoes Willy's sentiment, "Luck," a simple yet profound expression of his worry for his son.

Feeling a mixture of concern and determination, Mr. Halloway gets dressed in his coat and hat. The chapter closes with his venture into the unusual brightness of the rainy sunshine, symbolizing his entry into a world tinged with anxiety and uncertainty. This moment illustrates a father's anguish and a son's bravery, highlighting the themes of familial love, the instinct to protect, and the shadow of danger looming over their lives.