

Chaper 29

In November, winter teased Two Mills, only to strike hard on Thanksgiving. Despite the chill, an old man and a boy joined the crowd at the local stadium to witness the high school football game. The arctic air froze Stony Creek's edgepools, but brought on a runny nosed predicament for Maniac and Grayson, who had no tissues and resorted to using sleeves and napkins.

The game ended favorably, with Two Mills securing victory through a thrilling 73-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Denehy to his friend James "Hands" Down. Maniac cheered wildly for Hands, making sure not to alert Mrs. Beale of his enthusiastic outbursts. After the game, they returned to a cold baseball room, eagerly anticipating the warmth of their apartment. A space heater quickly transformed the chill into a cozy atmosphere as they prepared a Thanksgiving feast. They indulged in roast chicken, gravy, cranberry sauce, SpaghettiOs, pumpkin pie, and more.

Reflecting on previous Thanksgivings spent in silence with his aunt and uncle, Maniac offered a heartfelt grace. He expressed gratitude for the finest Thanksgiving dinner he had ever experienced, and he humorously included Grayson in his sentiments. Grayson replied affirmatively, though he joked about not having tasted it yet. Their meal was a joyful occasion, coupled with Maniac's thoughts about the Beale family and their well-being.

After feasting, they relaxed and listened to polka music on a record player Grayson had brought over. The lively tunes inspired them to dance, filling the room with laughter. They took turns collapsing and re-energizing as their amusement continued.

As darkness fell, Maniac brought up the idea of painting, asking Grayson for some paint and a brush. Though Grayson initially offered brown paint, Maniac opted for black. After collecting the supplies, he painted the door outside with care. Stepping back, he admired his handiwork, declaring it "One oh one," marking their residence on Band Shell Boulevard.