

## Chapter 6\_ Purgatory ...

In the chapter titled "Purgatory," the narrator reflects on a lengthy period of fifteen years spent in New York City, which he describes as his personal purgatory. He recounts his disappearance from Germany at the close of the Second World War, only to resurface unnoticed in Greenwich Village. There, he rented a dingy attic apartment, characterized by the unsettling presence of rats scurrying within the walls. This bleak living situation persisted until a month prior when he was extradited to Israel for trial.

Despite the dismal conditions of his dwelling, the attic did provide one small solace: it had a window that opened up to a charming private park formed by the adjoining backyards. This park, shielded from the bustling streets, served as an unsuspected oasis, large enough for children to engage in games of hide-and-seek.

From his attic, the narrator often listened as the joyous sounds of children echoed from the little Eden. He was particularly drawn to a specific cry signaling the end of their playful games—an innocent and mournful call, "Olly-olly-ox-in-free." This particular cry stirred deep feelings within him, as it symbolized an invitation for those hiding to come out, marking the end of their game. In a poignant twist of longing and sadness, he expressed his desire for someone to call out that cry for him, to conclude his relentless game of evasion from numerous threats and dangers he faced.

The narrator's yearning for freedom and connection resonates throughout the chapter, underscoring a profound sense of isolation stemming from his past actions and current circumstances during those fifteen years in purgatory. This bond with the innocent joys of childhood stands in stark contrast to his hidden life, marked by fear and the shadows of his former life.