

# Chapter V

On the morning of her thirteenth birthday, the narrator wakes up early, filled with anticipation but finds nothing magical happening just yet. Disappointed that she can't perform incredible feats, she ventures out of bed, careful not to disturb her younger sister, Gypsy, who loves the comfort of her stuffed animals. Once in the kitchen, the girl prepares a bowl of cereal and sits quietly on the sofa, where she suddenly hears a strange thumping noise. Investigating, she discovers that Samson's turtle, previously thought dead, is actually waking up from hibernation. This peculiar moment brings up unsettling feelings for her, emphasizing the urgency she feels about the day's significance.

Later, the family prepares to head to the church in Hebron for the planned party. The narrator, clad in a special dress selected by her father, recalls the sweet memory of receiving the dress and the bittersweet reality of her father's absence following her grandmother's death. As they travel, she worries about her father, who remains unresponsive in the hospital. Despite having no supernatural abilities like her brothers, she believes her unique gift lies in her capacity to awaken things, inspired by the turtle's emergence.

Upon arriving at the church, the narrator is shocked to find the party in full swing, exceeding her expectations of a simple gathering. However, anxiety builds when her brother, Fish, warns her about the risks of using her ability in a crowded place. Defiantly, she expresses confidence that she can indeed help her father with her unique talent. Just as she is about to explain, she is interrupted by Will Junior, who distracts her, leading her into the chaotic birthday celebration filled with life and noise, and away from her contemplations regarding her father and her newly realized potential .