

At dawn, a storm swept through the town, its thunder reverberating against the heavens as rain pattered down on rooftops. Jim and Will found themselves in a fitful sleep, haunted by dreams that seemed crafted from dark fabric. Amidst this, the carnival grounds stirred; the carousel awakened with a discordant melody, hinting at its return to life, likely heard by only one person in town—Miss Foley, who hurried away upon hearing it.

As rain poured harder, Jim and Will sought solace in their homes, conversing quietly about past events. Dressed in rain gear, Jim stepped outside into the gloomy Sunday before slowly making his way towards Will's house. When Will joined him, they walked with heavy thoughts, reflecting on unsettling mysteries from the previous night. Jim broke the silence, recounting a dream about an ominous parade featuring a coffin, which he imagined to be as long as forty feet. This led them to humorous discussions about balloons and funerals, but an unsettling air hung above.

Their conversation turned serious as they approached an empty lot dominated by a towering oak tree, where they heard a girl weeping. Despite Jim's reservations about a girl crying in the rain, Will, compelled by the sound, ventured towards the tree and discovered a distressed little girl, unable to stop crying. She sought help, clinging to them in desperation. Jim recoiled, insisting they didn't know her, while Will felt increasingly drawn to the girl's plight.

Will composed himself and promised the girl they would return with help, acknowledging her familiar eyes despite Jim's protests. Jim felt a mixture of disbelief and frustration, while Will pointed out the differences he noticed reminiscent of their previous encounters with the sinister carnival. They realized Miss Foley was in danger, possibly caught in the clutches of the carnival.

As they strategized about the urgent need to assist the girl, they were distracted by the booming sounds of the carnival—clowns, music, and the stirring aura of an approaching parade. The boys felt the gravity of their situation as they rushed to hide, hoping to protect the girl beneath the oak. Upon returning, their search turned to dread as they found the spot under the tree empty, prompting them to hide even deeper within the town as worry seeped in about the girl's fate .