

## Chapter 5581

In that moment, Charlie lost control of his emotions. He bowed his head, covered his face and cried out loud!

In his youth, Charlie's parents were brutally taken from him. For years afterward, the weight of solitude and the burden of living alone haunted him. Were it not for the unwavering care and guidance from Mrs. Lewis over the past decade, Charlie might have succumbed to despair, veering toward a distorted path, or worse, ending his own life.

The discovery of the 'Apocalyptic Book' granted him the ability to unravel the hidden details of his parents' demise. Learning that his father orchestrated his safe upbringing in the orphanage intensified Charlie's sense of shame.

But the revelation that the 'Apocalyptic Book' was his father's bequest and that the destiny he unlocked was, in fact, his father's self-sacrifice, overwhelmed him with shame.

Adding to Charlie's torment were the recent words of Peter Cole. Cole described the act of stripping away one's fate as the cruelest thing he had ever witnessed.

As Charlie collapsed in tears, Peter Cole placed a comforting hand on his shoulder. With relief, he said, "Young Master, don't burden yourself with guilt. This was your father's deliberate choice. He understood that without sacrificing his life for you, both he and you would face inevitable death. Through this sacrifice, though powerless, he provided you a chance to survive and defeat the Warriors Den."

Peter Cole continued, "Your father's decision now appears correct. With the 'Apocalyptic Book' in your possession, given time, you'll surely be able to vanquish Morgana and avenge your parents."

Charlie, still sobbing, nodded solemnly. At this moment, he realized the depth of his father's trust in him. The destruction of the Warriors Den and the defeat of Morgana were imprinted in his very bones since childhood.

Unable to contain his curiosity, Charlie turned to Peter Cole and asked, "Uncle Cole, were you there when my father bestowed his destiny upon me?"

Peter Cole nodded "Yes, your father asked me to rush from the United States to witness the process. He feared something might go wrong during the destiny-stripping and he wanted me to take the jade pot, containing the 'Apocalyptic Book,' back to the United States. It wasn't until Master Exeor resolved your predicament that I brought it back to China."

After a moment of hesitation, Charlie inquired, "Can you tell me how the destiny is separated? Or describe the scene you witnessed?"

Peter Cole shook his head "Young Master, I'm not an expert and I haven't grasped the contents of the 'Apocalyptic Book Preface.' I won't burden you with those details today or in the future. Look ahead and move forward, dwelling on the past will only haunt you."

Charlie whispered, "I just want to know what my father went through back then. What did he experience?"

Understandingly, Peter Cole responded, "I empathize with your curiosity, but dwelling on the past can become an inner demon. Even for me, recalling those years is an unbearable burden. I ask for your forgiveness in not divulging those details."

Charlie, after a long pause, reluctantly nodded.

Changing the subject, Peter Cole advised, "Young Master, I've hidden the Four Treasures of the Study in a secure location. Once you leave, retrieve it promptly and bring it back to China."

Charlie asked, "Uncle Cole, where did you hide the Four Treasures of the Study?"

Peter Cole smiled, "It's hidden outside the Cole family's manor in New Jersey, near New York. In the base of the male lion statue at the entrance, there's a concealed compartment holding the treasure. To open it, you just need a small crane or forklift to lift the male lion's body, revealing the hidden compartment."

Charlie, surprised, questioned, "Such a crucial item has always been at your doorstep?"

Peter Cole nodded, explaining, "The Rothschild family has searched our properties countless times, but they never suspected the stone lions at the entrance. My manor's sixteen hidden compartments have remained untouched. The U.S., being sparsely populated, ensures secrecy. Hiding it here guarantees maximum safety."

Charlie marveled at Peter Cole's audacity. Putting such a vital item at an unguarded entrance required immense courage.

Peter Cole cautioned Charlie, "Young Master, despite months passing, the Rothschild family may still be watching. With your strength, though, I believe they haven't discovered anything."

Charlie assured, "Don't worry, Uncle Cole. I'll bring the Treasure back to China promptly. After returning it to China intact, we'll release the news and force the Rothschild family to abandon their pursuit."

Adding a final touch, Charlie declared, "I won't settle for them just giving up, I'll tarnish their reputation. I'll find a way to make them personally release you and grant you freedom!"

## Chapter 5582

Witnessing Charlie's unwavering determination, Peter Cole couldn't help but express his concern, "Young Master, you must avoid any direct conflict with the Rothschild family on my account. If you can't restrain yourself, it might jeopardize the grand plan..."

Charlie nodded solemnly, "Uncle Cole, don't worry. The Rothschild family is facing threats both overt and covert. Making them uncomfortable and tarnishing their image won't be a challenge. Uncle Cole, I want to expose them further, so I need you to answer some questions."

Peter Cole responded promptly, "Young Master, go ahead."

Charlie inquired, "I want to know how my father came across the 'Apocalyptic Book Preface' and the 'Apocalyptic Book'. Also, how did he become involved with the Warriors Den?"

Peter Cole sighed, "Your father's journey mirrors yours. Obtaining the 'Apocalyptic Book Preface' was similar to your experience and the same goes for the 'Apocalyptic Book'."

Charlie, recalling some information from his uncle, asked in surprise, "Did my father also acquire the 'Apocalyptic Book Scriptures Preface' from an antique?"

Peter Cole nodded affirmatively.

Charlie pressed for details, "What exactly happened?"

Peter Cole began narrating, "Your father shared a similar interest in the 'Book of Changes' and Chinese antiques with me. He often visited my store in Queens, where we studied cultural relics together. At that time, I was merely involved in the antique business, not yet focused on recovering lost cultural relics for China. However, your father's influence led me down that path. We faced numerous challenges in our

antique shop and your father played a crucial role in overcoming them. He was our family's benefactor."

With a reminiscent tone, Peter continued, "Over 20 years ago, a distressed British aristocrat approached us to liquidate a significant collection of Chinese antiques due to family upheavals. Sensing an opportunity, I proposed a partnership to your father. We could make substantial profits by auctioning the antiques in Hong Kong. However, your father had a unique condition, he wanted to handle his share through China's embassy in the United States, donating it back to China."

Peter Cole continued, "Despite financial constraints, your father's decision impressed me. We transported the antiques to New York, where he personally selected his share. Even if it meant a loss for our family, he was committed to the deal."

Revealing a pivotal moment, Peter recounted, "Sorting through the antiques with your father, we discovered a hidden ancient book within a cracked teapot. Just like the 'Apocalyptic Book,' it vanished into ashes after revealing its contents."

Charlie, drawing connections, remarked, "It seems the 'Apocalyptic Book Preface' and 'Apocalyptic Book' share similar hidden and triggering logic."

Peter Cole agreed, "Exactly. Your father claimed the contents entered his mind, a revelation I doubted until he transcribed the entire 'Apocalyptic Book Preface' using store materials. We spent two days and nights compiling it."

Eager to know more, Charlie asked, "Uncle Cole, have you read the 'Apocalyptic Book Preface'? What's recorded in it?"

Peter Cole explained, "The 'Apocalyptic Book Preface' encompasses diverse content, but its core is a decipherable map. Your parents were avid researchers. Although I briefly studied it, my limited Chinese foundation hindered my understanding. However, your parents successfully decoded the 'Apocalyptic Book Preface,' locating the places mentioned, especially the 'Secret of Immortality'."

Charlie inquired, "Is that where they found the scriptures?"

Peter Cole admitted uncertainty, "Your father didn't share many details. He warned me not to delve too deep, perhaps to protect me. I respect his decision not to burden me with too much information."

Charlie asked, "Do you still have the 'Apocalyptic Book Preface'?"

Peter Cole hesitated, "Young Master, your father gave me photocopies of his handwritten version. I haven't delved into it, but I've kept them."

Excited, Charlie exclaimed, "Fantastic! I've wanted to study it and now that you have a copy, I might find valuable clues."

Peter Cole, expressing concern, added, "Young Master, your father considered obtaining the 'Apocalyptic Book Preface' a blessing and a curse. He regretted delving into its contents. Are you sure you want to read it?"

Charlie, reflecting on his unique situation, replied earnestly, "Uncle Cole, my father's regret stems from being an outsider thrust into this game. I, on the other hand, have no choice, I was born into it. I'm already part of the game and my father decided for me. At this point, I can only strive to survive. So, do you think I should hesitate to read the 'Apocalyptic Book Preface'?"

#### Chapter 5583

As an elder and a close friend of Charlie's father, Peter couldn't help but hope that Charlie would avoid the same mistake Bruce had made. But when Charlie spoke, Peter had an epiphany - Bruce's decision to study 'The Preface to the Apocalyptic Book' had sealed both his and Charlie's fates. It was clear now that Charlie was destined for a life devoid of peace and stability, one fraught with danger.

With a heavy sigh, Peter lamented, "I once believed that there were three, six, and nine tiers of human destiny. Your father's prowess seemed to transcend them all, but even as you, Young Master, rise as a formidable force, challenges persist."

Charlie, with a wry smile, replied, "It appears destiny has its plans."

Turning his gaze to Peter, Charlie expressed gratitude, "Uncle Cole, thank you for everything you've done. Don't worry, I'll take it from here. You need to endure one more night in this secret chamber. Tomorrow, your freedom will be restored."

Peter nodded earnestly, pledging, "I shall obey the Young Master's instructions unwaveringly."

At that moment, Charlie summoned Bruce with a resounding call, "Bruce, come in!"

Bruce Weinstein promptly entered, showing deep respect as he inquired, "Sir, what are your orders?"

Charlie posed a probing question, "Since you're a confidant of the Rothschild family, let me ask, how satisfied are you with them? On a scale of 1 to 10, what rating would you give?"

"Satisfaction?" Bruce's brow furrowed, his voice resolute. "I'd give them a 1."

Charlie, sensing a breakthrough, nodded with intrigue, and asked, "You're closely tied to the core members of the Rothschild family. Why then such a low rating?"

Bruce Weinstein's indignation surfaced, "Indeed, I serve them and interact with their inner circle, but they've left me in this wretched place. I see no future here, and worst of all, Matt Rothschild has been sleeping with my wife behind my back! He's the one who orchestrated my transfer to Brooklyn Prison! What's even more galling is that I'd known about their affair for some time, but I had to feign ignorance. It's an utter disgrace!"

Charlie couldn't resist a gossipy grin, "Who is this Matt Rothschild, and how did you uncover the affair?"

Bruce blurted out, "Matt Rothschild is one of the twelve grandsons of the current Rothschild patriarch. He's also my direct superior, responsible for the family's illicit dealings in the United States - casinos and related loan shark businesses for finances, and manipulation of U.S. judicial institutions for politics. I managed his Las Vegas casino business, and my family resided there. He later transferred me to New York without explanation. It wasn't until a vacation visit, when I found strange black hair in the bathroom drain, different from my wife's brown hair and my blond hair..."

Bruce continued with anguish, "I suspected my wife's infidelity, so I discreetly installed a home camera. As I was heading to New York for my transfer, the camera caught Matt heading to my house!"

Charlie remarked, "He's audacious, rushing to your home before you even left for the airport."

Bruce clenched his fists, eyes filled with hatred, "That's the worst part! He was already there when I hadn't even reached the airport!"

Curious, Charlie asked, "Haven't you wanted to reclaim your dignity as a man?"

Bruce Weinstein choked back tears, his voice strained, "What can I do? I can't defy the Rothschild family, no matter how angry I am. They're immensely wealthy, whereas my annual earnings are a mere few million dollars. Besides, I'm middle-aged, making job-hunting incredibly challenging. Even if I were to leave the

Rothschilds, I couldn't find a job paying \$300,000 a year. Money forces me to swallow my pride."

With that said, Charlie asked, "By the way, since you installed a camera at home and captured Matt going to your home, did you capture anything more exciting? "

"Yes..." Bruce Weinstein said truthfully, "I also installed a small hidden camera in the socket opposite the bedside of my house and captured a video of the two of them having fun."

Charlie asked again, "What about the video? "

Bruce Weinstein hurriedly said, "It's hidden by me on my personal computer. "

Charlie nodded with satisfaction and asked with a smile, "In this period of time, you haven't even dared to accuse your wife of cheating and you still have to make way for that bitch couple and create opportunities for compromise. Did you have a moment? Do you feel you are not worthy of being a man?"

Bruce Weinstein gritted his teeth and said, "I have always felt that I am not worthy of being a man! This is why I always tried every means to hook up with more women during my time in New York. Only in this way can I feel calmer and more balanced."

Charlie nodded and said with a smile, "Bruce, you have endured it for too long. In the words of our Chinese people, there is no need to endure it anymore. I suggest you break out tonight and be a real man!"

Bruce Weinstein was shocked and frightened and subconsciously waved his hands, "I'm sorry, sir, I really don't dare to offend the Rothschild family and I can't lose my job with an annual salary of millions of dollars... Compared to that, I would rather not be a man..."

Charlie's tone was majestic and with a hint of aura quietly entering his voice, he said sternly, "Bruce Weinstein! You have to remember! From now on, there is nothing more important in this world than you regaining your dignity as a man! Anyone who dares to humiliate you as a man, no matter who he is, no matter how much money he has, or how high his social status is, you will fight him to the end! Even if the price of being tough is that you will die tomorrow, you must remain tough until the moment of death and be a real man! Do you understand?"

Bruce Weinstein's whole spirit suddenly lifted and he shouted hysterically, "I understand!"

## Chapter 5584

To alleviate Peter's troubles and transform passivity into initiative, Charlie devised a plan to make Bruce Weinstein betray him. However, before allowing Bruce to rebel, it was essential to ascertain his loyalty to the Rothschild family. If Bruce Weinstein was fervently loyal and abruptly betrayed them, it would only bewilder and surprise everyone, creating an atmosphere of impending disaster. It was precisely for this reason that Charlie inquired about Bruce Weinstein's inner allegiance to the Rothschild family.

Unexpectedly, this query unearthed a significant revelation. Bruce Weinstein had been cuckolded by a direct member of the Rothschild family, providing a plausible motive for his betrayal. Even the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles had their breaking point, a moment when they could no longer tolerate the situation.

Imagine enduring such humiliation, whose dignity wouldn't be wounded? Charlie continued to provide Bruce with psychological hints, emphasizing that a few dollars were insignificant in the face of a man's honor.

In this moment, Bruce Weinstein was absolutely furious. Charlie had no doubt that if Matt Rothschild were before him, Bruce would tear him to pieces without hesitation.

So, he said to Bruce Weinstein, "Bruce, your top priority right now is to seek retribution against the Rothschild family through your actions!"

Bruce Weinstein didn't hesitate and blurted out, "I understand! I will make them pay for what they've done. They need to learn that crossing Bruce Weinstein has consequences!"

Charlie nodded and asked again, "What do you believe is the most effective way to retaliate right now?"

"Exposure!" Bruce Weinstein cursed angrily. "I want to expose everything, post those videos online, and shame him!"

After expressing his intentions, his eyes clouded momentarily, and he mumbled despondently, "But... if this comes out, I'll become a laughingstock nationwide..."

Observing his hesitation, Charlie patted him on the shoulder and said, "In China, we have a saying, 'Sacrifice oneself for righteousness and justice.' You've been wronged by others, and as a man, you might be willing to give up your life, but you still care about your reputation. Consider this, there are no secrets that can be kept forever. If you expose this now, in others' eyes, you'll be seen as a warrior seeking justice. If it comes out later through someone else, you'll appear weak, giving your wife away to

your boss and losing your self-respect. Are you so afraid that you won't even stand up for yourself?"

Charlie then looked into Bruce's teary eyes and asked, "The choice is yours. Do you want to be a warrior, or do you want to remain passive?"

Bruce Weinstein's heart was ignited by Charlie's words, and he roared with determination, "I want to be a warrior!"

Charlie responded sternly, "Louder!"

Bruce Weinstein shouted at the top of his lungs, "I want to be a warrior!!!"

Charlie nodded in satisfaction and praised, "Good! With this resolve, even the Rothschild family will have to yield to you!"

With that, he issued his instructions, "Remember to use your phone to document this basement's conditions and reveal it as a secret stronghold where the Rothschild family misuses public resources, subverting justice and imprisoning victims. After releasing this video, immediately share the footage of Matt Rothschild's affair with your wife. Then, record another video in your office, explaining why you're taking action against the Rothschild family. Let them know that you're reclaiming your dignity as a man and making those who wronged you pay the price. Be fearless from this point on, if you want to use your sharpest teeth to bite their throats out, don't spare them!"

Bruce Weinstein trembled with determination and declared fanatically, "You can count on me, sir. I'll fight them to the end!"

Charlie nodded with satisfaction and asked, "When you record the first video, be sure to include Mr. Peter Cole in it. Explain in the video why the Rothschild family kept him locked up here."

Bruce Weinstein nodded without hesitation, saying, "Of course, sir, I understand."

Charlie added, "But don't rush it. Take me back upstairs and wait for my return. After I'm in the cell, you can handle these matters."

Turning to Peter, he reassured him, "Uncle Cole, once the video is exposed, it will undoubtedly generate significant public backlash against the Rothschild family. They will release you from here as soon as possible, relocating you to a regular cell. I'll be waiting for you up there."

"Thank you for everything, Young Master," Peter expressed his gratitude, fully aware that Charlie's choice of Bruce Weinstein as the catalyst would bring swift public pressure to bear on the Rothschild family without implicating himself.

Charlie offered a small smile. "I'll see you upstairs."

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After bidding farewell to Peter, Charlie returned to his office with Bruce Weinstein. Inside the office, Charlie instructed him, "Summon your associates to replace me and wait. Ten minutes after my departure, begin following my instructions and release those three videos consecutively. Forget that you met with me tonight, and that I've never been to your office. If anyone asks why you suddenly decided to expose all this tonight, tell them the truth, your younger brother is in dire straits, you were pushed to the brink, and finally decided to expose the Rothschild family to vent your anger."

Bruce Weinstein nodded respectfully and affirmed, "Rest assured, sir. I've got it all."

Charlie continued, "Ask your associates to come and escort me back to the infirmary."

"Very well," Bruce Weinstein promptly retrieved his phone and made the call to his trusted confidant.

Dressed as a prison guard, Charlie returned to the infirmary with Bruce, subtly implanting a psychological suggestion in both prison guards' minds. They were now convinced that Charlie had sought medical attention due to physical discomfort tonight, and since the doctor wasn't present, they had allowed him to rest in the infirmary. In their minds, Charlie had never left the infirmary from the beginning to the end.

With this psychological suggestion, Charlie effectively severed any connection between himself and the unfolding events. He believed that once Bruce Weinstein launched his offensive, the Rothschild family would find themselves in an inescapable quagmire of public scrutiny.

Subsequently, the two prison guards escorted Charlie back to his cell. By this time, Bruce Weinstein had already picked up his phone, ready to embark on his journey of revenge.

## Chapter 5585

At this particular time, in the cell during the night, a group of prisoners took turns using the cold shower in the bathroom.

Their motivation for queuing up for these chilly showers stemmed from Charlie's request to do whatever they could to combat their overpowering body odor. Originally, this assembly of prisoners had been a bunch of inmates who paid little heed to personal hygiene. Moreover, they were devoid of any deodorant. A dozen of them gathered together, and when they closed their eyes, they might as well have imagined a septic tank explosion.

In this moment, Gustavo approached Charlie, his hair still damp, and with an obsequious expression asked, "Mr. Wade, did you meet with Bruce just now?"

Charlie replied coldly, "Remember, don't inquire about things you shouldn't."

"Yes, yes, of course..." Gustavo nodded repeatedly, then with a worried tone continued, "Mr. Wade, I have something to ask, if it's not too inconvenient."

Charlie responded calmly, "Go on, tell me."

Gustavo hurriedly began, "Mr. Wade, to be honest, I have no knowledge of the charges against you, whether there was a trial or not, and what your sentence might be. I might spend the rest of my life in this prison. If you ever manage to get out, what will become of me here? What if my wretched son decides he wants me dead? It's only a matter of time before I meet my end in here."

Charlie inquired curiously, "So, what do you propose? Do you want me to stay imprisoned alongside you?"

Gustavo waved his hands anxiously, "No, no, Mr. Wade, I would never presume such a thing. I just believe you possess considerable influence. Can you help me find a way out of this predicament?"

Charlie shook his head casually, remarking, "I don't have any easy solutions. I can only guarantee your safety for one more day in this place. If I'm free tomorrow, it will signify our paths have diverged. Your future is your own concern."

Gustavo implored with a fearful expression, "Mr. Wade, please help me brainstorm a solution. Look at my age, I can't simply die in this prison."

Charlie regarded him and asked with interest, "Since you've broached this topic, I assume you must have some preferred course of action in mind. Why don't you share your plan, and we can assess its viability?"

Gustavo's face lit up with hope, and he moved closer to Charlie, speaking respectfully, "Mr. Wade, here's my proposal. I've thought of two plans—one more audacious and another more cautious. I'm wary of both and need your assistance."

Charlie gestured for him to continue, saying, "Go ahead, I'm listening."

Gustavo swiftly explained, "The more audacious plan involves both of us finding a way to escape this prison, leave Brooklyn, even exit the United States entirely."

Adding to this, Gustavo continued, "The timeframe for this plan is rather limited. Joseph wanted to kill me today, but you intervened. My hunch is that my son will seek retribution soon. If Joseph can't eliminate me within a day or two, given my son's temperament, he'll likely choose someone else. I'll still be in grave danger. While I maintain some influence within the warden's office, I could convince them to discreetly allow us to leave, citing a desire to spend time with women and return early tomorrow morning. That way, we could escape the prison and make a run for it!"

Charlie curled his lips and responded, "You've got an intriguing idea. However, even if you manage to escape, your absence will trigger a global manhunt by American law enforcement. How do you plan to evade capture in and outside the United States? Furthermore, your son now wields substantial influence over the entire Sanchez family. If he discovers you've escaped, he'll stop at nothing to eliminate you. Assassins from all over Mexico and the United States may be on your tail, and you can't be sure whether your own subordinates have been bought off by your son. Trust will be in short supply. How do you intend to escape?"

Gustavo declared with determination, "Mr. Wade, I rely on you to help me. You possess great capabilities. You can find a way to return me safely to Mexico. Once back, the Sanchez family and others will undoubtedly support my return to power. I will be profoundly grateful and promise generous rewards. I won't offer billions in cash, but the Sanchez family can provide that. Alternatively, if that doesn't suit you, I can offer \$10 billion worth of cocaine as compensation!"

Charlie scoffed disdainfully, "To be frank, I have no interest in any money you've acquired."

Continuing in a cold tone, Charlie expressed, "You're aware of my Chinese heritage, my ancestors endured nearly a century of shame partly due to the opium trade perpetuated by the UK. In the 19th century, this so-called 'gentleman' country was

actively involved in opium production and distribution, poisoning millions of Chinese. They're the forebears of your Sanchez family, essentially drug lords. Asking for money from a drug dealer would disgrace my ancestors as a Chinese descendant."

Gustavo hurriedly defended himself, "Mr. Wade, I may be a drug dealer, but I've never trafficked drugs to China. All my dealings involve Americans and their dollars, so you bear no psychological burden in that regard!"

Charlie retorted coldly, "There's no need for debate, your wealth doesn't tempt me."

Gustavo swiftly added, "Then let's consider this, Mr. Wade. If you help me reclaim my position as the head of the family, the Sanchez family will pledge allegiance to you in the future. I'll comply with your directives. Don't underestimate us, the Sanchez family possesses assets worth tens of billions, substantial private armed forces, and intricate networks for drug trafficking and money laundering. We have considerable resources!"

Charlie glanced at him, surveyed their surroundings, and asked with a smile, "Are you truly that formidable?"

Gustavo comprehended his implication, coughed awkwardly, and explained, "Of course, we have power, but we're just a small player in the eyes of the U.S. government..."

At this point, Gustavo sighed deeply and conceded, "Mr. Wade, shall I share the second, less daring plan with you?"

Charlie nodded, urging him, "Go on, I'm listening."

Gustavo hurriedly explained, "Well, Mr. Wade, Joseph still wields considerable influence within Brooklyn Prison. Since he's your nephew and follows your lead, could you ask him to do everything in his power to keep me alive here?"

Charlie smirked and replied, "Gustavo, Joseph can't provide the help you need. Despite his status as the most influential prisoner here and the leader of many inmates, he's still just a prisoner. Do you believe he can ensure your safety?"

Gustavo nodded and argued, "Joseph has numerous loyal followers here. If he's willing to exert himself to protect me, my son may find it challenging to harm me. In that case, I could request a transfer to Joseph's cell block, where living alongside him should be safer."

Pleading with desperation, Gustavo continued, "However, Joseph only heeds your commands. I implore you to speak with him on my behalf..."

Charlie scoffed, "Gustavo, have you considered this? Even if I persuade Joseph to shield you, what if your son employs his connections to have Joseph transferred out of this prison? He could gradually replace Joseph's allies with his own, gaining dominance within the prison. Once his power surpasses Joseph's, your life will be in jeopardy."

Gustavo grew visibly anxious and murmured, "Then... what should I do, Mr. Wade..."

Seeing his distress, Charlie smiled slightly and asked, "Gustavo, are you serious about wanting to save your life? If so, you'll need to start by dealing with the Rothschild family. If you can gain their favor, they will certainly ensure your safety."

Gustavo quickly inquired, "Mr. Wade, how can I establish a connection with the Rothschild family?"

Charlie grinned and replied, "Don't worry, I'll reveal that information tonight."

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At that very moment,

Inside Bruce Weinstein's office,

A furious Bruce Weinstein gritted his teeth and posted a video online.

The video was titled, "Brooklyn Prison, The Rothschild Family's Hidden Domain."

In the opening moments of the video, Bruce Weinstein introduced himself to the camera, saying, "Greetings, everyone. I am Chief Bruce Weinstein, the warden of Brooklyn Prison in New York. What you are currently witnessing is my office within Brooklyn Prison. As we all know, Brooklyn Prison is a federal institution housing individuals who have violated American law. Yet, there remain many undisclosed aspects of this facility. Today, I will reveal a hidden side of the prison that the public is unaware of."

Bruce Weinstein then stood up and approached a bookshelf in the room, revealing a concealed passage behind it to the camera. An elevator door on the opposite side became visible.

Pointing at the elevator door with his hand, Bruce explained, "You must be wondering why there's an elevator door behind the bookshelf in my office. Today, I'll show you where this elevator leads."

He opened the elevator door, stepped inside, and pressed a button. The elevator descended, and upon reaching the underground, he opened another door.

Bruce ventured into the basement and provided an overview before switching to the front camera, stating with a smile, "What you're currently observing is a covert underground chamber beneath Brooklyn Prison. It's quite unexpected, isn't it? A secret underground chamber concealed within a federal prison!"

"What makes it even more fascinating is that this underground chamber was not part of the original design of Brooklyn Prison. Instead, it was clandestinely constructed by my superior, Mr. Matt Rothschild of the Rothschild family. Even the U.S. government is unaware of its existence. You may wonder why Matt Rothschild was permitted to build a secret tunnel and underground space within a federal prison. The answer is simple, his last name carries great weight—Rothschild, a name with a significant reputation in Germany!"

"In the United States, the Rothschild family wields enough influence to dig secret tunnels wherever they please. If Mr. Matt Rothschild desires, he could even excavate a tunnel from the Empire State Building in New York to...well, that's a different matter. But I have no doubt that he's thoroughly prepared for this ambitious venture. You may be curious as to why Mr. Matt Rothschild would want to create a tunnel from New York to... Let me clarify—he's creating a tunnel to facilitate his continued intimate encounters with my wife. Until now, they've had to engage in their affair discreetly, but with this tunnel, those worries will be a thing of the past! I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Matt Rothschild for his support during my tenure. Whenever he visited Las Vegas or New York, he generously used his unimpressive, circumcised little brother to comfort the extremely empty body of my slut wife! Thank you, Mr. Matt Rothschild!"

#### Chapter 5586

When Bruce Weinstein mentioned his wife, his expression turned extremely angry. In the past, he had been like a pressure cooker, constantly accumulating the anger that had brewed within him over time. However, with Charlie's help, he found an outlet for his pent-up frustration. In the video, he clenched his teeth and said, "Regarding the video of Mr. Matt Rothschild comforting my wife, I will release it simultaneously later. But before that, I have an even more intriguing story to share with you."

As he spoke, he switched the camera again, focusing on the door of the secret room where Peter Cole was held captive. Bruce continued, "In the underground secret passage in front of me, a suspect who has crossed paths with the Rothschild family is covertly imprisoned. It's a curious situation. This individual was initially arrested by

the New York police on theft charges. Subsequently, he was convicted of this crime by the Manhattan Court of New York and sent to serve his sentence in Brooklyn Prison. However, despite having gone through due legal process, the Rothschild family took it upon themselves to apprehend him. He has been secretly confined here, subjected to inhumane interrogations, and endured brutal torture at the hands of the Rothschild family members."

Bruce Weinstein then pushed open the iron door of the secret chamber, revealing Peter Cole, who was bound in chains. He continued, "Take a look, this is the fate that awaits those who cross the Rothschild family in the United States. Even if you've been arrested by the police, even if you've gone through a fair trial and paid the legal consequences for your actions, once you provoke the Rothschild family, they will continue to torment and degrade you in their own manner, and even resort to clandestine murder."

Bruce Weinstein paused for a moment, a hint of sarcasm in his voice, and said, "Behold, what a remarkable family they are, possessing unparalleled power and privileges. They can sleep with whomever they please, detain whomever they wish, assault anyone at their discretion, and even take lives at will. So, I earnestly caution you that as long as you reside in the United States, steer clear of the Rothschild family, and never cross paths with those beyond your reckoning—a true heavyweight."

The video concluded abruptly. Upon its initial release, it did not immediately gain popularity, but due to its explosive content, those who did watch it immediately downloaded and shared the video online, recommending it to their friends and family.

For individuals who followed gossip news avidly, amidst the thousands of internet scandals, uncovering something related to the Rothschild family was a rare find. It was akin to buying lottery tickets every day but never hitting the jackpot.

As a result of the incredible user engagement and sharing rate of this video, its viewership grew exponentially. The video struck a chord with the American public, igniting a strong sense of indignation.

In American society, scandals involving the misuse of public assets and interference with the judicial system were highly detrimental. When exposed, even the President could face severe consequences and costs. The infamous Watergate incident had involved eavesdropping and espionage into political secrets, leading to the resignation of the President at the time.

However, the actions of the Rothschild family in Brooklyn Prison were of a much graver nature than the Watergate scandal. This revelation had stirred the nerves of

the American people, evoking their anger and unease. Those who watched the video were incensed by the Rothschild family's actions.

At this moment, another video surfaced. This video clearly depicted Bruce Weinstein bidding farewell to his wife at the door of their Las Vegas mansion before heading to the airport. Matt Rothschild followed closely behind and engaged in a passionate kiss with Bruce's wife. The two continued their amorous exchange all the way to Bruce Weinstein's bedroom, where they couldn't contain their desires.

This video, due to its explicit content, attracted a significant number of viewers. The video-sharing platform's algorithm swiftly recognized its potential and began recommending it to users. What made the algorithm's recommendation system unique was its ability to adapt to users' preferences, suggesting content that aligned with their interests.

Originally, when a user watched the first video, the algorithm had already prepared several possible follow-up videos for the next screen. However, these videos remained hidden until the user scrolled down, creating an element of surprise. This allowed the algorithm to capitalize on trending content quickly.

Once the algorithm detected rapidly spreading and popular content, it would replace the next screen recommendations for all users currently viewing the video. This ensured that more users had immediate access to the viral content.

As a result, this video quickly caught fire on the American internet.

What made it even more intriguing was that many viewers went back to watch the first video after seeing the second one. What had started as a casual late-night viewing session had unexpectedly plunged them into a sensitive political whirlwind.

Some viewers, originally seeking adult content for entertainment, found themselves drawn into a realm of political turmoil. Some even abandoned their initial intent, reacting with anger, typing out furious responses to express their dissatisfaction with the Rothschild family's actions.

Upon discovering these two videos, the Rothschild family immediately removed them from the video-sharing platform they controlled and blocked Bruce Weinstein's video account. However, the most popular video-sharing platform, TikTok, at that moment was beyond their control, as Charlie had acquired it over a year ago.

Therefore, Bruce Weinstein's posts remained unaffected on this platform.

The entire Rothschild family was in turmoil at this point. With the increasing number of views, along with the growing tide of criticism and accusations, the family's

patriarch, 70-year-old Howard Rothschild, was incensed. He immediately ordered his descendants to convene for a meeting. Specifically, he tasked Matt Rothschild with explaining the situation in person the following day.

However, Matt Rothschild had turned off his phone and was currently enjoying an affair with his wife at his cousin's house. This cousin, also a core member of the Rothschild family, was the eldest son of Matt's fifth uncle. Just a year ago, he had married, and shortly after the wedding, Matt began a clandestine affair with his wife. Whenever this cousin traveled overseas for business, Matt took the opportunity to meet with her.

While the video conference was in progress, all the family members logged on, including the cousin who was unknowingly being cuckolded by Matt. He participated in the video conference from South Africa, thousands of miles away. However, Matt, the source of the trouble, remained absent, much to Howard's fury.

Howard, wearing pajamas, yelled at the family members on the screen, "Where is that scoundrel Matt? He has caused such a colossal mess, and he doesn't even show up!"

Matt's father, Robert, was in a state of panic. He hurriedly said, "Father, I tried calling Matt, but his phone is unreachable. It must be switched off."

Howard was furious and berated him, "You can't locate him when his phone is off? Is that the extent of your capabilities? Where is his assistant? His driver? His bodyguard? Even if he's engaged in an affair, he should still have security personnel with him, right? Within five minutes, if you fail to get him to join this video conference, I will have you, Matt, and your entire family expelled from both the United States and the Rothschild family, effective tomorrow morning!"

Robert felt an overwhelming fear at the prospect of being forced out of the family. It was akin to being directly expelled, a thought that sent panic coursing through him. Without hesitation, he swiftly retrieved his cell phone and dialed the number of Matt's head of security, the head of the bodyguards. As soon as the call connected, he inquired urgently, "Jack, where is Matt?"

Jack was sitting in the car parked outside the location of Matt's affair. Being dedicated to Matt's safety, he had been oblivious to the online developments.

Upon receiving the call from Matt's father, Jack instinctively wanted to downplay the situation. He replied, "Sir, Young Master Matt is currently resting."

Robert issued a firm command, his voice betraying his anxiety, "Go in and wake him up immediately. Tell him to log in to the video conference within five minutes. This is his grandfather's directive, and there must be no delay!"

Meanwhile, the elderly Howard approached Robert, took his mobile phone, and activated the speaker function. His tone was cold as he ordered, "I'll have someone send you the address for the video conference. Come in immediately and then rush to Matt as quickly as possible. Do not inform him in advance. I want to know precisely what this troublemaker is up to right now!"

Jack, feeling the pressure, responded with panic in his voice, "Dear Mr. Patriarch, it might not be convenient for Master Matt at the moment..."

Howard erupted in a furious shout, "I couldn't care less about anyone's convenience! Do as I say without delay! If you dare defy my orders or attempt to deceive me, I'll have you eliminated!"

Jack understood that he had no alternative. While he was employed by Robert and Matt, the true authority figure was Howard Rothschild, the patriarch of the family. In the hierarchy of the Rothschild clan, everyone else paled in significance. With a determined resolve, he clenched his teeth and promptly followed the instructions to log in to the video conference. Turning to his two subordinates, he ordered, "Both of you, come with me right away!"

#### Chapter 5587

At this juncture, Howard had no inclination to concern himself with Matt's well-being or fate. His sole focus was on the colossal disaster Matt had wrought. If Matt had truly caused irreparable harm to the family, Howard was prepared to use him as a sacrificial lamb, allowing him to shoulder the entirety of the blame and letting the American public exact their vengeance.

With Howard's orders in mind, the bodyguard promptly banished any consideration of Matt's dignity. The trio swiftly approached the door with coordinated precision. Jack readied his mobile phone for a live broadcast, while the other two braced themselves to breach the room.

The door swung open.

These three individuals were former elite special forces, veterans from the U.S. Navy's Special Forces and Navy SEALs. They had amassed years of experience and an innate understanding of teamwork during their service. Thus, they executed a

flawless entry into the room, reminiscent of the Navy SEALs' textbook tactics for breaching indoor spaces. Following the successful door kick, they surged towards the bedroom where their target awaited.

Inside, Matt was in the throes of a final amorous encounter with his cousin's wife.

The abrupt sound of the door being kicked open jolted the hesitant couple, particularly the woman in Matt's embrace. They snapped out of their tryst in an instant, but Matt was already on the brink of climax.

In this critical moment, his body and mind had descended into a frenzy. Despite his mounting panic, he couldn't halt his actions.

Just as he neared his climax, the bedroom door crashed open with a resounding bang, and three bodyguards stormed into the room.

Jack's right hand held his phone steady, capturing the unfolding scene for a live audience. The footage was simultaneously broadcast to the Rothschild family's video conference.

Within the video conference, one man erupted in fury, bellowing, "Matt! You're sleeping with my wife!"

This declaration plunged the entire conference into chaos.

None of the Rothschild family members in attendance had anticipated that Matt would be having an affair with his cousin's wife at that very moment. Even the usually well-informed Howard was left utterly stunned.

Matt, perceiving that something had gone awry, wrapped himself and his sister-in-law in a quilt as he gazed at Jack with a mixture of anger and terror. "Are you insane? Who let you in? And why are you filming with your phone?" he demanded.

Jack, left with no alternative, replied with a strained tone, "The patriarch instructed me to enter, and my phone is live-streaming to the core family members."

"What did you say?" Matt was in a state of collapse, shifting his attention to the phone's camera as he exclaimed in panic, "Grandpa, please hear me out... She seduced me!"

Terrified, Matt's cousin-in-law promptly rebuffed Matt's attempt to shift the blame. Trembling, she retorted, "Mr. Howard, I didn't seduce Matt! He seduced me! He's

been pursuing me, manipulating me, and coercing me into betraying Charles and engaging in this affair with him! Don't believe his deceit!"

Within the video conference, the betrayed Charles Rothschild broke down emotionally, imploring, "Grandpa! You must seek justice for me!"

Howard's complexion turned livid as he gritted his teeth and admonished, "Matt, you are a disgrace to the Rothschild family! I will offer you a chance for redemption, publicly admit that everything involving Bruce Weinstein and Peter Cole was your personal conduct, unrelated to the Rothschild family. Surrender to the authorities immediately. If you comply, your father can retain his place in the family, and when you are released from prison, you may still enjoy familial privileges."

His tone shifted to a stern one. "However, if you refuse, I will personally ensure your incarceration and exile your father and entire family from the United States!"

A confused expression overtook Matt as he inquired, "Grandpa... What happened with Bruce Weinstein? He's just a pawn under my control. Why should I shoulder the blame for him?"

Howard erupted with anger, retorting, "You fool, check TikTok! The videos of Bruce Weinstein exposing you and your entire family, as well as your affair with Bruce Weinstein's wife, are among the top three trending topics in North America!"

He added bitterly, "You three, take care of this matter. I'll report it to the family in the morning, and I have other appointments to attend to. I won't bother with this loser any longer!"

Upon hearing Howard's words, Jack and the other two bodyguards felt a surge of relief. Howard, however, didn't wait for their expressions of gratitude, immediately expelling Jack from the live broadcast room.

As Jack realized his video connection had been severed, he offered a somewhat embarrassed apology to Matt. "Master, these are the patriarch's orders, and we have no choice. I apologize."

He then signaled to his two colleagues, and the trio exited the room.

For them, this night's incident represented a significant leap within the Rothschild family hierarchy.

Among the family's servants, those serving direct family members held a higher status than those serving collateral members. The servant closest to Howard enjoyed the most elevated status. After all, Howard ruled the family like an ancient

emperor ruled a kingdom, with other direct family members serving as his vassals. Having earned Howard's favor, they no longer had any regard for Matt, who had fallen from grace.

Once the trio departed, Matt, still shocked and frightened, swiftly retrieved his phone from airplane mode and opened TikTok.

To his surprise, as his IP address was in the United States, the algorithm had already pushed two videos related to him onto his homepage.

Cautiously, Matt selected one of the videos and watched with growing dread. The more he watched, the more terrified he became. His initial instinct was to exact vengeance upon Bruce Weinstein, but a second thought quashed that impulse. He was acutely aware of his precarious predicament.

With the exposure of these two videos, Bruce Weinstein had become someone Matt could never confront.

Worse yet, Grandpa Howard had tasked him with managing everything related to Peter in the upcoming week. Cheating may not be illegal in the United States, but manipulating federal prisons, obstructing justice, and engaging in lynching were all criminal offenses. Assuming these charges meant he'd spend several years behind bars, transforming him into a pariah that all of America would scorn.

Sex scandals held little weight in America, but political scandals were devastating.

Just as Matt grappled with his uncertain future, the Rothschild family video conference continued.

Betrayed and cuckolded, Charles was in emotional turmoil, demanding answers from Matt's father.

Charles's father, equally embroiled in this scandal, pressed Howard for an explanation, his indignation palpable. "Father! Whatever you decide, Matt and his family must provide an explanation. Otherwise, I won't stand for it!"

Matt's father, Robert Rothschild, was equally panicked. He understood that his son had initiated a colossal catastrophe, but he couldn't fathom the implications for Matt, himself, and Matt's siblings. In the Rothschild family, they valued prolificacy, and one of their guiding principles was to produce numerous offspring. Hence, Robert had not only fathered Matt but had also sired three sons and four daughters.

Within the Rothschild family, the patriarch Howard held the unique title of Ninth Five-Year Planner. In addition to him, the family was divided into various interest

groups, each consisting of several of Howard's sons. These groups adhered to a pyramid structure, led by a father and comprising multiple offspring. Howard governed the family much like an ancient emperor ruled a nation, prioritizing interests over familial ties. If any of the subordinate pyramids encountered problems, Howard was fully prepared to dismantle the entire structure.

In a state of panic and humility, Robert offered, "I apologize profusely. It is my fault for not raising my son properly. I am willing to provide \$100 million in compensation to Charles..."

Charles's father exploded in anger, retorting, "A mere gift for my son? Are you suggesting \$100 million as payment for him to sleep with your daughter-in-law?"

Unable to refuse, Robert could only nod with frustration and declare, "Yes, I...I am willing..."

Charles's father seethed with anger, cursing vehemently, "Fine! Transfer the money to him immediately, and you can pick one of your daughters-in-law to offer to my son!"

"Enough!" Howard's voice thundered with rage as he intervened. "Cease this discussion immediately! I assure you that I will provide Charles with an explanation. However, our paramount concern right now is how to manage this crisis and find a resolution."

Robert hastened to explain, "Father, I've already contacted numerous parties in the United States. The online platform removed both videos and imposed a ban on their dissemination through all U.S. media outlets. No online platform or media group in the United States would dare to defy us, with the exception of China's TikTok. TikTok has witnessed rapid growth in the United States over the past year and has become one of the most widely used apps. Its influence is considerable and should not be underestimated."

Expanding on this, Robert added, "I also reached out to the North American representative of TikTok, hoping they would delete the two videos in consideration of the Rothschild family's interests. Unfortunately, their response was resolute. They claimed that the user-uploaded videos did not violate any relevant laws or regulations. Out of respect for content and users, they could not remove the videos without proper authorization. It is evident they intend to showcase our predicament on their platform."

With a gloomy countenance, Howard interjected, "TikTok is an investment of China's Wade Family. We currently have unresolved disputes with them, making it impossible to seek their assistance."

Robert inquired urgently, "Is it feasible for us to exert pressure on Congress to pass legislation restricting TikTok's development in the United States? Failing that, could Congress enact a law mandating the deletion of this software by all Americans?"

Howard remained silent for a moment, his tone solemn. "This proposal is not unworkable. However, the primary obstacle is the time and process required for Congress to draft and enact legislation, a minimum of one to two months. By that time, the fervor surrounding this matter may have subsided, and we would have lost the reputation we rightfully deserve. Blocking the software then could result in public backlash once again."

With a cold gaze fixed on Robert, Howard concluded, "I implore you to find a way to arrange a meeting with the individual overseeing TikTok in North America. I intend to meet with them in person and explore the possibility of reaching a settlement."

#### Chapter 5588

Howard Rothschild was known for his pragmatism. Despite being at the helm of the entire Rothschild family, he possessed the flexibility to adapt and accommodate. Howard had a simple principle, anyone, regardless of their background, could earn his favor if they held sufficient value for him or the family. Even a beggar, when deemed valuable, would receive Howard's respect and consideration.

In the current predicament, his primary concern was TikTok's ability to remove all videos pertaining to the Rothschild family, preventing the scandal from further dissemination. As the patriarch of the Rothschild family, he was willing to go to the extent of personally meeting with the head of TikTok in North America.

This divergence in status between the head of a trillion-dollar family and a mere multimillion-dollar business executive was stark. Under normal circumstances, the latter would never have had the opportunity to engage with Matt Rothschild, let alone Edward's level of discernment, let alone Howard.

However, Howard found himself eager to arrange a meeting with TikTok's North American head. Furthermore, he believed that his lofty status would signify sincerity, possibly fostering deep collaboration, should this matter come to the attention of the Wade family's leader.

The Rothschild family swiftly reached out to TikTok's North American representative. Upon revealing his identity to the executive, TikTok's representative was genuinely

taken aback. The notion that this incident would compel the patriarch of the Rothschild family to personally intervene had not crossed their minds.

The executive promptly conveyed the situation to TikTok's higher-ups, who, in turn, established contact with Charlie through the contact information provided by Butler Thompson.

Charlie, upon receiving a call from the Eastern Suburb of Eastcliff, surmised the situation. He answered the call, and a middle-aged man's gentle voice emanated from the other end, inquiring, "May I speak with Master Wade?"

Charlie inquired, "Who is this?"

The middle-aged man introduced himself, "Greetings, Master Wade. I am the founder and current CEO of TikTok, Zhang Chishui. Butler Thompson provided me with your contact information a few days ago and instructed me to report major developments directly to you."

Charlie deduced, "You're calling me because of the Rothschild family, correct?"

Zhang Chishui affirmed, "Indeed." He elaborated, "The Rothschild family contacted our North American representative, expressing a desire for Howard, their patriarch, to meet and discuss potential cooperation. He refrained from making unilateral decisions, opting to seek our advice. Given the significant global influence of the Rothschild family, I hesitated to make a decision independently. Therefore, I contacted you for guidance."

Charlie offered a simple directive, "Kindly inform them that we have no interest in collaborating with the Rothschild family. If they request the deletion of TikTok videos related to their family, the content of which adheres to our guidelines, there is no room for negotiation. They must reconcile with this decision."

Zhang Chishui, albeit with some hesitation, pointed out, "Young Master, the Rothschild family, and similar plutocrats wield immense influence in the West, capable of shaping government policies and decisions. They boast the world's most extensive lobbying group. If they lobby the government to impose sanctions on us, it could significantly impact our operations in North America, and possibly..."

Charlie remained resolute, asserting, "That is of no concern. Allow them to proceed as they wish. Even if we must withdraw from the U.S. market at some point, we shall maintain our principles. The people of North America will bear witness. In my view, we can stage a comeback when the timing is right. However, compromising our principles would result in a loss of the public's support. We, TikTok, serve the people. If we lose their backing, our development foundation crumbles."

Charlie stressed the essence of their mission, "Remember, in any conflict between the people and the government, we shall consistently side with the people. Their welfare remains our foremost concern."

Zhang Chishui, relieved of doubt, affirmed his commitment, "Understood, Young Master. I shall communicate this decision to them immediately."

Meanwhile, within the Rothschild family, members were not idly awaiting TikTok's response but actively strategizing on how to address Bruce Weinstein.

Bruce had unveiled two significant scandals tied to the Rothschild family, compelling core members to clench their teeth in frustration. They harbored an ardent desire to dispatch someone to Brooklyn Prison and eliminate Bruce.

However, in the current situation, Bruce remained untouchable within the Rothschild family's ranks. Should anything untoward happen to him, the Rothschild family would inevitably face repercussions. The blame would be placed squarely on their shoulders. Thus, the family had refrained from taking any drastic measures.

During this moment, Howard's eldest son received a call and then delivered somber news, "Father, TikTok has declined our request for a meeting."

"Declined?" Howard furrowed his brows and inquired, "I'm Howard Rothschild, they were asked to meet me, and they still dared to refuse?"

His eldest son, with a tinge of helplessness, responded, "Indeed... We clearly expressed your desire to meet with them, but they still declined."

Howard contemplated for a moment before remarking icily, "They didn't refuse outright, they took a few minutes before declining. It appears they reported the matter to China. It seems the Wade family has no inclination to meet with me."

With clenched teeth, he continued, "I never expected that, even after all these years since Bruce Wade's passing, the Wade family would remain so resolute. Given their limited scale and a lack of figures like Bruce to consolidate and mobilize resources, they are merely children. In the face of the Rothschild family, they are but jesters who dare to defy us. They have overestimated their capabilities!"

In the midst of a video conference, a young member of the Rothschild family interjected, "Grandpa, TikTok has seen explosive growth over the past year, boasting a vast global user base. While not yet publicly listed, the capital market's conservative estimate values it at nearly \$400 billion."

"Four hundred billion?" Howard expressed surprise, questioning, "Can TikTok, a simple TikTok, truly command such a colossal market value?"

His counterpart nodded, affirming, "Short videos have now become a global phenomenon, and TikTok from China has taken the lead. It has outpaced our established internet giants. Additionally, short videos serve as the gateway to various industries. Businesses across the board are racing to utilize TikTok for acquiring and monetizing traffic. They have a profound influence on empowering e-commerce, virtual services, and value-added services. The \$400 billion estimate is conservative, and with more time, they could potentially surpass Facebook's \$800 billion market capitalization."

Cursing in frustration, Howard exclaimed, "This is infuriating! How could a company of such magnitude fall into the hands of the Wade family? Their assets can hardly exceed one to two hundred billion dollars, correct?"

His counterpart, resigned, explained, "Grandpa, the nature of the internet industry is dynamic. By seizing the forefront, rapid ascent becomes possible. Consider Zuckerberg and Facebook, achieving an \$800 billion valuation."

Howard sighed, his frustration evident, as he muttered, "Damn! The Wade family has stumbled upon a goldmine! Should TikTok successfully go public and reach a \$400 billion market value, the Wade family would become the foremost family in China with unprecedented ease."

Agitated, he continued, "Indeed, a family's ascendancy can't be solely attributed to one or two remarkable talents. Bruce, immensely capable as he was, failed to propel the Wade family to China's top position. Now, the Wade family effortlessly acquires TikTok."

Amidst Howard's dejection, his eldest son received another call, which made him appear anxious. He addressed his father, saying, "Father, public sentiment is escalating rapidly. A Washington-based investigative task force has been assembled and is en route to Brooklyn Prison. Moreover, the New York Bureau of Prisons and the FBI will assume control of Brooklyn Prison. Their takeover team has already departed."

Howard's expression darkened, and he lamented, "The situation is deteriorating rapidly..."

In swift succession, he requested, "Do you have Bruce Weinstein's contact information? I wish to speak with him."

...

Meanwhile, Bruce Weinstein sat in his office, engrossed in recording his third video. His mobile phone, set to airplane mode to ensure focus, lay idle. Unexpectedly, the landline phone on his desk rang insistently.

Annoyed, he picked up the phone and snapped, "What's the matter?"

Howard introduced himself patiently, "Hello Bruce, I am Howard Rothschild, the patriarch of the Rothschild family. I'm aware of your situation, and I sincerely apologize."

Bruce, irate, retorted, "You wretched old man, your apologies are meaningless! Don't think I'm unaware of your intentions. You just want me to change my stance, don't you? Well, let me make myself clear, I'll never give you that satisfaction. This time, I'll fight you tooth and nail, even to the death!"

#### Chapter 5589

Bruce hadn't always possessed such bravery. However, Charlie's psychological cues were remarkably effective and Bruce harbored a deep-seated resentment toward the Rothschild family.

In the past, Bruce had managed to suppress his loathing for the Rothschilds out of sheer fear. But now, that fear has dissipated. Consequently, even when Howard Rothschild personally called him, Bruce wouldn't yield an inch.

In this moment, Howard found himself taken aback by Bruce's audacity. The more he faced Bruce's resolve, the less inclined he was to provoke him further. So, he swallowed his anger and spoke patiently, "Bruce, I understand you've been deeply hurt. It's a grave insult, and no one can face such a situation calmly."

With empathy, Howard added, "However, we're all adults, and in the adult world, every issue can be resolved through business. Moreover, as long as the price is right, there's no business deal that can't be negotiated. So, all you need to do is name a price you find satisfactory to let go of your grudges and move on."

Bruce responded with disdain, "Do you think my dignity as a man can be bought with money?"

Howard offered a faint smile and continued, "If dignity truly couldn't be bought with money, why have you remained silent for so long? Bruce, I don't want to waste everyone's time. Here's my proposition, I'm willing to offer you a fixed sum of \$100

million. If you put an end to this, take down all the videos, and publicly acknowledge that you instigated your wife to seduce Matt, as well as intentionally confined Peter Cole in that underground secret room, I'll provide you with \$100 million. It's more than enough for you to live comfortably anywhere in the world."

In Howard's perspective, no one could resist the allure of wealth over principles. If it was possible, the offer wasn't large enough. He believed that every principle in the world had a price, some were just cheaper than others.

He continued persuading Bruce, "Bruce, I genuinely understand your current feelings, but you should also consider what comes after your momentary satisfaction. Without the Rothschild family, if I don't employ you, your million-dollar annual income will plummet to zero! Plus, you've earned our ire, and no one in Europe or the United States will dare to hire you. You'll find yourself destitute, begging on the streets. Do you really wish to end up like that after seeking revenge? I earnestly hope you can reconcile with us, take the money, leave the United States, and find a new, better life with younger women, completely rid of these troubles. What do you say?"

A hundred million dollars was undoubtedly a substantial sum for a man like Bruce. It rendered him torn between his principles and wealth.

But Bruce now resembled an idealistic warrior with unyielding beliefs. To him, dignity outweighed all else. Not even a hundred million dollars, let alone ten billion, could sway him.

He asserted firmly and disdainfully, "Howard, your Rothschild family is accustomed to putting a price on everything and believes everything can be bought. Yet, that doesn't extend to my dignity! I can do without money, without a woman, even without a brother, but I cannot live without my dignity. So, wait and watch, I will make you pay for trampling on my dignity!"

Howard hastily proposed, "Bruce, do you find \$100 million insufficient? That's not an issue, we can discuss the amount further. What about \$500 million?"

"\$500 million?" Bruce sneered, "Howard, your days are nearing an end. Instead of that \$500 million, you might as well save it and buy yourself a coffin!"

With that retort, he promptly hung up the phone and disconnected the line.

Only then did Bruce realize that his cellphone had been recording the conversation. This revelation elated him and another revenge plot formed in his mind.

...

Meanwhile, Howard's state of mind began to deteriorate. He muttered angrily to himself, "When did a lapdog that only knew how to wag its tail and beg for scraps start valuing its dignity!"

At this juncture, the eldest son reminded him, "Father, the takeover team is nearly here, and that obstinate Bruce is unwilling to reconcile. What should we do about Peter Cole?"

Howard sighed in exasperation, "Originally, I intended to bribe him with money and have him take control of the team while the Bureau of Prisons and FBI were assuming authority. However, they haven't arrived yet. Hurry and find a way to make Peter Cole talk. Then, place him in an ordinary cell. It's too late now."

The eldest son expressed his helplessness, "Once the Bureau of Prisons and FBI take charge of Peter Cole, they'll surely bolster his personal safety. Yet, Peter Cole has never divulged any information about the Four Treasures of the Study. If he's well-protected, it'll be even more challenging for us to ascertain the whereabouts of the Four Treasures of the Study..."

Howard sighed with great frustration, remarking, "Incidents like these have been occurring frequently within the family recently, and they're likely connected to the loss of the Four Treasures. Our Rothschild family's immense fortune and ascent over the past two centuries have largely hinged on the Four Treasures of the Study! If we don't recover it, our family's fortunes will be jeopardized. If our luck takes a turn for the worse, it will constitute the most significant crisis we've faced in two centuries!"

With a gradually darkening expression, he instructed his eldest son, "Alert customs offices across the United States, notify both law enforcement and smuggling-related personnel at ports, and anyone else involved in shipping. As soon as there's any lead on the Four Treasures of the Study, we must be informed immediately. If anyone provides accurate information leading us to recover the Treasure, I'll reward them with \$100 million! Remember, we cannot allow the Treasure to leave the United States under any circumstances!"

The eldest son nodded and pledged, "Father, I'll initiate this immediately."

Howard added, "Furthermore, we must prepare for a crisis in public relations. Once the Bureau of Prisons and FBI take control of Brooklyn Prison, their first act will likely be to search for secret passages, rescue Peter Cole, and disclose the situation to the public. They'll hold a press conference to explain the circumstances. We must preemptively release Peter Cole's records online, letting the public know that our imprisonment of him is due to his theft of Rothschild family archives, an heirloom

preserved for nearly two centuries. While our methods might be extreme, we're the true victims."

The eldest son agreed, "Father, I'll ensure that the records are made available online. Regarding the Four Treasures of the Study, should we provide a detailed description?"

Howard responded hastily, "There's no need for that. Revealing the origin of the Four Treasures to the public might tarnish our reputation further."

While they were discussing, during the video call, one of Howard's grandchildren exclaimed, "Grandpa, this is bad! Bruce Weinstein has posted the contents of your recent phone call online!"



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