

Chapter 44

Anne took a deep breath, pushed the door open, and walked into Sally's office. She had come here to talk about the Encerian Week Speech Competition.

"Ms. Soares, the Encerian Week speech competition is coming up. I was wondering who you plan to recommend from our class?" she inquired.

Sally was quite fond of Anne as she came from a prestigious family and had a strong Encerian foundation. Anne was also a great help with class affairs, making her an invaluable assistant to Sally.

"I know you're interested in it, and I plan to recommend you for the competition," Sally confirmed.

Anne's eyes sparkled with excitement upon hearing this.

"Thank you, Ms. Soares. I'll give it my all," she replied sweetly.

Sally patted Anne on the shoulder and offered some encouragement.

"Your proficiency is impressive, Anne, well beyond our current curriculum. But there's always room for improvement. Helen has a good grasp of Encerian as well. It might be beneficial for you to discuss and learn from each other. It's a way for both of you to grow and make progress together," she suggested.

Anne's face sunk at the mention of Helen, but she quickly

masked her disappointment and regained her composure .

"Thank you, Ms. Soares. I'll definitely ask Helen for some tips, " she said while forcing a smile.

"Good, I have high hopes for you. Keep it up! Class is about to start, so you should head back," Miss Sally concluded .

Anne left the office , feeling like a deflated balloon . It was clear Sally favored Helen.

She couldn't let this stand. Anne was determined to outshine Helen.

Anne dialed her phone. "Mom, is it true that Mr. Beter is back in town? Maybe we should visit him soon..."

She hung up with a plan forming in her mind . "Watch out, Helen. This isn't the end of it."

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After school, Jenson drove Helen home.

He usually had a sarcastic comment ready , but today , he was silent.

Esmond was overjoyed over Helen's victory in the Math Olympiad competition. The principal had even called to congratulate him.

When Helen arrived home, Esmond couldn't hide his joy. " You're amazing, Helen! You won first place so easily!"

He pulled out a limited edition black card, leaving Jenson astounded.

"What are you doing, Grandpa!" Jenson couldn't stop himself

from shouting. That was the Newton family's no-limit black card.

Esmond ignored him and called Helen over. "Come here, Helen."

Helen approached, slightly bewildered. "Yes, Mr. Newton Senior?"

"Take this," he said, handing her the card. "It's your reward. Buy whatever you want."

Helen knew the card's worth. "I can't accept this, Mr. Newton Senior. It's too much."

"Nonsense. What do you mean it's too much? You deserve the best!" Esmond insisted.

"Mr. Newton Senior..."

"No need to be so polite, Helen. You should learn to celebrate your wins. I've arranged a celebration banquet. I've invited everyone I know to come. You can invite your friends too, Helen."