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Chapter 8021

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Rachel quickly cautioned him, "Didn't your great-grandfather tell you not to say anything carelessly when you get back, and not to discuss any details with your parents?"

Robert shook his head very seriously, saying, "What he says is what he says. Fundamentally, I'm closest to my parents. He's just my grandfather's older brother."

Rachel shook her head again and said solemnly, "If you think like that, then in your lineage, you'll end up like your grandfather, a collateral branch of the family, and the inheritance of your family's wealth will definitely not fall to you."

Robert was immediately shocked and asked her, "Why? " "Huh?"

Rachel said seriously, "Because you don't know how to choose sides!"

She continued, "Whether you can become the heir of your lineage isn't up to your parents, but your grandfather. First, your father has to win among his brothers for you to have a chance of inheriting. And even if your father wins, you still have to compete with your brothers. If there's even the slightest deviation, you're out!"

Robert's expression froze instantly. He cautiously asked Rachel, "Honey, what do you mean?"

Rachel said seriously, "First, you need to make sure that among your brothers, there are others..." "An unassailable competitive advantage, so you can secure your position as your father's primary heir. This way, you'll have a solid foundation; no matter how much your father inherits from your grandfather, you'll get 80%."

Rachel's expression grew more solemn as she spoke, enunciating each word clearly: "Secondly, if you're capable enough, you should find a way to help your father become your grandfather's primary heir. If your father can also inherit 80% from your grandfather, you'll get 64% of his assets. This is the best-case scenario for you."

Rachel then changed the subject, continuing: “But if...” “You’ve secured your father’s inheritance rights, but your father might not. He might only receive 10% of your grandfather’s assets, meaning you’d only get 8%. That’s a poor outcome for you.”

Rachel’s tone grew increasingly cold, her words sharp and unsettling. “And if you yourself don’t become your father’s primary heir, you’ll most likely only receive 10% of his assets, and your father will only receive 10% of your grandfather’s. So, you can foresee that the worst-case scenario is that you’ll only inherit 1% of your grandfather’s assets.” Upon hearing the mention of 1%, Robert’s face turned deathly pale.

He wasn’t particularly business-minded; in fact, he was even more naive than most top-tier rich kids. Being young, he spent his days only thinking about studying, dating, playing sports, and enjoying life, without ever planning for his future.

But now, after hearing Rachel utter this string of cold, hard numbers, he immediately realized the enormous difference.

His future net worth could differ tenfold or eightfold depending on his own efforts.

His father’s net worth could also differ tenfold or eightfold depending on his efforts.

While the Rothschild family was very wealthy, core interests were always reserved for core members. His grandfather had already lost his chance to succeed him, so going up another level, there was the same arithmetic problem: his grandfather would be lucky to receive a hundred billion dollars in assets.

If he could only get 1% of those hundred billion dollars, that would only be a mere billion dollars—a paltry sum unworthy of the Rothschild name in Silicon Valley, where billionaires abound.

However, if his father could become his grandfather’s first heir, and he himself could become his father’s first heir, then he could only receive a maximum of 64 billion US dollars in assets.

That’s a full 64 times—a world of difference!

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Even now, Rachel still believes that she will do everything in her power to marry Robert.

Therefore, she cannot accept her future husband being a nobody in the Rothschild family.

Robert has no chance of ever breaking into the core of the Rothschild family; his ceiling is the successor and head of his own lineage.

Now, she needs to find a way to improve Robert's chances, and Steve Rothschild is the huge opportunity Robert must seize. The mysterious Mr. Wade, whom Steve treats with such deference, is a huge opportunity for herself and her family.

Robert has also figured this out. He deeply realizes that his girlfriend's political acumen far surpasses his own; with her guidance, he can see the true nature of events more clearly.

So he quickly asks Rachel, "So, you mean I need to find a way to maintain a relationship with my great-grandfather?"

"Of course." Rachel nodded and said, "You not only need to find a way to maintain a good relationship with him, but you also need to be unilaterally loyal to him. Remember, don't tell anyone about tonight's events, not even your parents."

Robert asked in surprise, "Not even my parents?"

Rachel immediately said seriously, "Of course! Your parents can't help you much in the future, but you have the opportunity to help them now. If you build a good relationship with your great-grandfather, he will definitely provide you with tremendous assistance in the future, perhaps even helping your father win the family inheritance! Since that's the case, why not keep this matter to yourself for now, in case it can be used as a future..." "A game-changing trump card, and you'll be your parents' savior!"

Robert wasn't stupid; he immediately understood the core logic. No matter where you are, you're all about status and resources. This applies to royalty, family businesses, and even universities. Whoever has resources can thrive at a school like Stanford, attracting the attention of major investment banks even before graduation. They can even raise substantial funds by simply creating a business plan with AI. Those without resources, even with Stanford's prestige, will still end up working for others, with a ceiling of a few hundred thousand dollars a year. So, Robert firmly told Rachel, "I understand, Rachel. Don't worry, I'll do my best to leverage Grandpa's connection!"

Rachel nodded slightly. She knew in her heart that the one who could truly help Robert wasn't Steve, but herself. Only by cooperating well with Ye Chen would she have value to him, and only then would Steve give Robert some face. Otherwise, given Steve's status, Robert wouldn't even catch his eye.

The two returned to school, and Rachel went straight to her dorm.

Her roommates' expressions turned tense and envious when they saw Rachel enter.

They were all scholars, but now there was a world of difference. Rachel being able to dine with Steve Rothschild meant she had connected with the very core of the Rothschild family.

This was incredibly difficult for scholars who could never achieve 100% white ancestry.

Rachel's connection today made her the most successful among these scholars mingling in the West.

Facing her colleagues, Rachel felt a surge of pride, not only because she had interacted with Steve Rothschild that day, but more importantly, because she had seized a chance to change her fate.

Ignoring everyone else, she went straight to her dorm room, saying without turning back before entering, "I'm going to call home. Don't bother me."

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The three men's expressions tightened, and they nodded repeatedly in agreement.

Once inside the room, Rachel closed the door and took out her phone to call her mother.

Meanwhile, Rachel's mother was anxiously waiting at home in Miami.

Long before Rachel went to the banquet, she had already reported the news to the Left Army Governor's Office. The Left Army Governor's Office was extremely excited. They knew Robert's standing in the Rothschild family was far less than theirs, but they hadn't shown any disdain before. After all, being a Rothschild was already a sign of status in the Western world.

If Rachel married him, the Left Army Governor's Office would have earned a credit with Wu Feiyan.

Moreover, with Steve Rothschild now involved,

if this could truly strengthen their relationship, the Left Army Governor's Office would consider it a great achievement.

Therefore, the Left Army Governor's Office also wanted to know the entire process of Rachel and Steve's meeting, including Steve's motives for seeking out Robert and what they discussed.

Ever since Rachel and Robert confirmed their relationship, Rachel's love life has been entirely managed by the think tank of the Left Army Commander's Office. They not only analyze all of Robert's information but also provide Rachel with direction and guidance based on every detail of their interactions.

Rachel has also developed the habit of reporting back after each meeting with Robert.

She made a encrypted call to her mother, who asked with great concern, "Rachel, what progress or discoveries have you made tonight? Tell me briefly, the Commander's Office is waiting for my report!" Rachel knew that this encrypted phone line was the exclusive line of the Anti-Qing Society. On the one hand, it was indeed very difficult for outsiders to hack into or eavesdrop on it. On the other hand, all the data on the entire line was forwarded by the Anti-Qing Society's own servers, and they had a clear understanding of all the call information. They might even be simultaneously monitoring this call from the Left Army Governor's Office.

So, Rachel took a deep breath and said excitedly, "Mom, Steve Rothschild is going to meet Robert this time. He intends to groom him, possibly helping him become the heir of this lineage in the future, and then strengthen cooperation with the core families!"

"Really?!" Rachel's mother immediately became excited as well. This meant that her future son-in-law had been favored by the Crown Prince and was to be developed into his own direct power. There couldn't be a better thing than this.

She exclaimed excitedly, "That's wonderful! Robert's future is limitless! You must do your best to maintain your relationship!"

Rachel quickly replied, “Mom, don’t worry, I definitely will! Oh, by the way, Mom, I overheard a rumor while they were chatting!”

Her mother immediately pressed, “What rumor? Will it benefit Her Majesty?”

Although most of the members of the Destroyer of Qing Society had never seen Her Majesty, or even knew her name, their indoctrination from top to bottom was very effective. Everyone spoke of serving Her Majesty, so whether this matter would help the Destroyer of Qing Society depended on whether becoming Her Majesty would be beneficial.

Rachel explained, “Steve said they plan to escalate the conflict in the Strait of Hormuz to further drive up international oil prices, intending to sell at the peak and make a profit. I think given their size, this kind of maneuver should be very stable. Perhaps international oil prices will soon reach new highs, and once they sell at the peak, oil prices will quickly fall back. Her Majesty has many shale oil assets in North America, and if she seizes this opportunity, she should be able to generate more profits!”

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The Left Military Governor’s Office received the news immediately.

The Left Military Governor’s Office was now essentially a regional warlord, still largely under the control of the Anti-Qing Society, but its underhanded activities were increasing.

For the Left Military Governor’s Office, the concealment of energy production over the past few years had indeed brought in considerable personal wealth, but making money is addictive. The Left Military Governor’s Grand Commander, Wu Yongzhen, was driven by the thought of how much money he could make each day.

The recent surge in oil prices had made Wu Yongzhen incredibly wealthy; he was like a stock market investor who had bought stocks that kept hitting their daily limit, already making a profit but still constantly hoping for the next peak.

The core members of the Left Military Governor’s Office were all his relatives and cronies, naturally aligned with his actions. When they learned from Rachel that the Rothschild family

was about to use the Strait of Hormuz to further drive up oil prices, they immediately realized that their opportunity had arrived.

The crude oil market is the world's largest single commodity market. Even slight fluctuations in crude oil prices can bring enormous wealth to some and utter ruin to others. Therefore, when this incredibly valuable news reached Wu Yongzhen, besides excitement, he immediately began to study how to capitalize on this opportunity.

The simplest method was to suspend shale oil shipments and wait for prices to rise before selling. This operation lacked leverage; the amount earned was simply the percentage increase in oil prices multiplied by the total volume, limiting potential profits.

Adding a little leverage, one could simultaneously suspend shipments and purchase spot orders from American oil dealers. Because market conditions change quickly, once the orders were secured, even without actual oil transfer and storage, one could sell at a higher price and make another profit, somewhat similar to short selling.

For those with a higher risk appetite, the funds could be invested in the futures market with maximum leverage, going long. This offered the highest profit margin, potentially tenfold returns, but also carried extremely high risks. Despite having insider information, this high-leverage strategy remains extremely dangerous.

If the Rothschild family wanted to control oil prices, they wouldn't simply drive them up in one straight line. Instead, they would create a volatile, ebb-and-flow pattern, consistently pushing prices higher.

This constant fluctuation is designed to shake out those who are too weak to ride the wave, preventing them from profiting from the artificially created price surge.

The method is simple: the Rothschild family has ample funds, making a margin call virtually impossible. They can even allow themselves to suffer losses exceeding 100% in the futures market, just like when they drove oil prices into negative territory. Ordinary people and wealthy individuals would have been wiped out in such a scenario, but the Rothschild family is unfazed. They have the money to stabilize their positions and reap the rewards after everyone else has been liquidated.

If someone uses five times leverage, a mere 20% drop in oil prices would be enough to liquidate their entire position.

This kind of strategy is similar to carrying an oxygen tank and dragging everyone into the water, only to float back up leisurely after everyone else has drowned.

Therefore, if someone simply knows that the Rothschild family will drive up oil prices and then rashly leverages their position to enter the futures market, they are very likely to not survive the volatile market until the storm clears.

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The Rothschild family has always been a financial behemoth, their strategy being to prey on the large and let the small ride. If you want to profit from them in the futures market, your scale must be very small, so small that it won't attract their attention. Otherwise, if they discover anyone trying to ride the wave to make big money, they will definitely devour those who try to do so.

Therefore, the third method becomes a dilemma: large investment means high risk, while low risk means insufficient scale.

After much deliberation, Wu Yongzhen decided to use the second method.

This involves playing it safe: avoiding the futures market and instead accumulating his own production capacity while using low leverage to acquire more shares offline. Once prices rise, he can liquidate his entire inventory, quickly profiting from the price difference. This way, even with price fluctuations, there's no risk of being liquidated.

So Wu Yongzhen immediately summoned his trusted confidant, Du Heng, the Vice Commander of the Left Army, and instructed him: "Du Heng, go to the Getty family and meet with Rachel's mother. You need to settle a few things with her."

Du Heng immediately replied respectfully, "Grand Commander, please give your orders!"

Wu Yongzhen smiled smugly and said, "First, have her tell her husband that our previous private shipments to them will be suspended for now, and will be resumed later; second, have her help our other company connect us with a potential buyer to purchase a batch of spot crude oil from her husband's family. However, we need to make it clear that I can pay in full

upfront, but we cannot take delivery immediately. We need them to store the oil for ten days, and I can pay some storage fees. I will take delivery after ten days.”

The situation in the Strait of Hormuz is changing rapidly. Talks today, fighting tomorrow, fighting tomorrow, talks the day after. Therefore, the Rothschild family will definitely achieve their goal of raising oil prices within ten days.

Wu Yongzhen understood perfectly well that although it was a war, there was no logic of victory or defeat in this kind of war. There was only the logic of manipulation. The manipulator never wanted to delist a stock. He just wanted the stock to become his tool. He could make the stock price rise or fall, so that he could design the stock to be a financial crusher, crushing even the biggest rocks into pieces. Right now, the Strait of Hormuz is the crusher controlling international oil prices. Once this machine starts running, retail investors’ money will fluctuate wildly until nothing is left. To crush retail investors as much as possible, the frequency of price fluctuations will be extremely high, so each price movement will peak in at most ten days.

Du Heng replied without hesitation, “Rest assured, Grand Commander, I will definitely convey the message.”

Wu Yongzhen reminded him again, “By the way, there’s one more thing. Tell Rachel’s mother that the news Rachel brought back must not be known to the Getty family. Once they know, I won’t have the chance to borrow some leverage.”

Du Heng nodded, “Yes, Grand Commander, rest assured.”

Wu Yongkang waved his hand, “Alright, go, and come back soon.”

“Yes, sir!”

Du Heng finished speaking and was about to leave when Wu Yongkang suddenly remembered something. He called Du Heng back, “By the way, where has the Second Elder been these past few days?”