

## Chapter 5577

Charlie entered the cramped elevator, trailed by Bruce Weinstein. The control panel boasted simplicity, featuring only a solitary green button. Bruce, with a press of the button, turned to Charlie and explained, "Hit this to go up when someone's below and the top button for descent. No lingering in the middle."

Charlie nodded as the elevator began its descent. He shot a glance at Bruce and inquired, "How deep does this go?"

Respectfully, Bruce replied, "Sixty meters in total."

Unable to contain his curiosity, Charlie asked, "How on earth did you manage to excavate such a deep, secret elevator shaft without anyone noticing?"

Bruce elaborated, "Despite Brooke Clark Prison posing as a federal facility, it's been under the control of the Rothschild family. They funded renovations recently, with the money mostly funneled into constructing this underground stronghold and elevator shaft."

Pausing for effect, Bruce added, "While there's just this one visible entrance, there's an underground one-way passage accessible from the outside."

Charlie, skeptical, questioned, "So, the Rothschild family went through all this trouble in Brooklyn Prison just to house high-profile prisoners?"

Bruce clarified, "Gustavo Sanchez, a major drug lord, is here due to a comprehensive cooperation agreement with the Rothschild family. They want absolute control. This secret passage allows them to discreetly transfer or hide individuals, making it appear as if they've escaped or been released under U.S. court rulings."

Understanding the sinister game at play, Charlie commented, "So, the rich care more about profits than justice."

As the elevator reached its destination, the doors opened to reveal a narrow, arched tunnel. An iron door marked the end, flanked by rooms on either side. Bruce pointed to the door and announced to Charlie, "Peter Cole is held there."

Charlie, with a cold demeanor, ordered, "Open the door!"

Bruce swiftly approached, entering a password on the door. The iron door swung open with a resonant ding. Charlie, eager to proceed, pushed

Bruce aside and forcefully opened the door. The sight inside left Charlie aghast.

The twenty-square-meter room lacked furnishings, save for a toilet and a constantly flowing faucet. Chained to the toilet was a bearded man, Peter Cole, with an iron collar around his neck connected to a thick chain, limiting his movement within a small space.

The damp and cold room offered no respite, forcing Peter into an uncomfortable, curled-up position. As Charlie's eyes met Peter's, the man trembled uncontrollably.

Charlie, recognizing Peter as the manager from Vintage Deluxe, approached, held Peter's hands, and whispered, "Mr. Cole, or rather, Uncle Cole, are you okay? I'm here to get you out!"

Peter, tears streaming, stammered, "Young Master... you... you know everything?"

Charlie nodded, revealing, "I saw a photo of you and my father, so I came to the United States to find you, tracing you all the way here."

Filled with shame, Peter confessed, "Young Master, in Aurous Hill, I not only concealed my identity but also framed your father-in-law. Please don't blame me..."

Assuring him, Charlie responded, "No blame whatsoever. I believe your actions were for my benefit. Thanks to you, I obtained the 'Apocalyptic Book.'"

Touched, Peter shook his head, saying, "Young Master, it was your father's plan. He prepared everything for you, and I'm grateful for his support. You don't owe me anything."

Charlie, now certain of his father's involvement, tore the iron collar apart and declared, "Uncle Cole, I'll take you out. The Rothschild family will pay for this injustice with blood!"

Peter spoke hurriedly, "Master, when it comes down to it, this situation is my fault. I am the one who deserves what the Rothschild family has done to me. I cannot leave this place now. If I do, the Rothschild family will not let me off the hook, and I cannot bring harm to my family..."

Charlie was taken aback and asked with urgency, "Uncle Cole, what is the feud between you and the Rothschild family? I overheard that you stole

something from them?"

Peter gave a bitter smile and replied, "Yes, I did steal something from them, but to be precise, they also stole their possessions..." He then gazed earnestly at Charlie and continued, "Master, you must have many lingering questions that have remained unanswered for a long time. Since you've found your way here today, I will address them one by one for you. And after I've done so, I have one more favor to ask of you!"

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Upon hearing Peter Cole's words, Charlie responded without hesitation, "Uncle Cole, let's step outside and have a chat, nice and easy."

"No," Peter Cole shook his head resolutely, "Young Master, let's discuss matters right here."

He gestured towards the somber-looking Bruce Weinstein behind Charlie, stating, "He's the only one who recently visited. Since you have him under control, it'll be perfectly safe here. There are things I need to clarify with you as soon as possible."

Charlie pondered for a moment, then nodded affirmatively, "Alright! First, let me help you recover, and then you can fill me in at your own pace."

Subsequently, Charlie placed his fingers on Peter Cole's veins, channeling a surge of reiki into his body. Instantaneously, Cole's physical condition was not only restored but significantly enhanced.

Experiencing the profound transformation, Peter Cole exclaimed in amazement, "It seems you've Mastered the 'Apocalyptic Book,' Young Master. Your father's spirit in heaven would be delighted to hear this news!"

After the healing session, Charlie assigned Bruce Weinstein to guard outside the room. He and Peter Cole settled on the floor for a heart-to-heart.

Peter began, "Young Master, what do you wish to know? Ask, and I'll provide any information you seek."

Charlie directed the conversation, "Uncle Cole, let's commence with your situation, the feud with the Rothschild family. What's the story?"

With a sigh, Peter Cole explained, "Our Cole family has been deeply involved in the Western antique business, specializing in Oriental antiques. We've gained some renown in the niche of Oriental artifacts. A few months ago, representatives of the Rothschild family approached me privately, offering a substantial sum. They wanted my assistance in restoring an Oriental antique, a relic known only through unofficial records, the 'Four Treasures of the Study' of the Chinese Tang Dynasty."

Charlie, intrigued, inquired, "What is this?"

Peter Cole elaborated, "At its base, it is a general term for a category of ancient handicrafts, resembling miniature versions of certain structures. Each dynasty had its pagoda-like relics, with the most renowned being the Sui Dynasty's Pearl Relic Pagoda. However, the Rothschild family's Tang Dynasty square pavilion, the Four Treasures of the Study, differed significantly."

Adding historical context, Peter Cole continued, "In the Tang Dynasty, Emperor Taizong Li Shimin, a devout follower of Buddhism and the Book of Changes, ordered the construction of a square treasure pillar, the Four Treasures of the Study, to safeguard the dynasty. I've collected various materials on Chinese antiques, including records of this relic. According to historical accounts, it played a crucial role in stabilizing the Tang Dynasty."

Charlie, curious, interjected, "So, these square treasures were like Feng Shui weapons from the Book of Changes?"

Peter Cole affirmed, "Exactly. Legend has it that during the rebellion, a Master Erren Cole assisted him in disrupting the dragon vein of the Tang Dynasty, causing the Four Treasures of the Study to fall into the hands of Kal Gresh. However, lacking expertise in the Book of Changes, Kal Gresh couldn't harness its true power. Four Treasures of the Study's whereabouts became unknown."

Pausing briefly, Peter Cole continued, "A century later, someone brought the Four Treasures of the Study to the Eastern Shore, where it contributed to the rise of the Houjin dynasty. This relic played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of nations."

Intrigued, Charlie questioned, "If these square treasures are significant national treasures, how did they end up with the Rothschild family and later, in your possession?"

Peter Cole recounted, "In 1840, during the Opium War, the British government, backed by the Rothschild family, exploited China. They not

only flooded China and Southeast Asia with opium but also pillaged gold, silver, tea, and precious antiques. The Rothschild family, during the Eight-Nation Allied Forces period, was a major contributor to looting and burning in China. Numerous national treasures, including those of the Rothschild family, were seized or destroyed. Over 20,000 Chinese cultural relics are now housed in the British Museum and the Rothschild family holds a considerable number as well."

Expressing his indignation, Peter Cole lamented, "Today, the Four Treasures of the Study, a symbol of China's heritage, is also in their possession. I've dedicated years to repatriating Chinese cultural relics from the West. Failing to return these four treasures would be a grave injustice."

Continuing his tale, Peter Cole revealed, "Months ago, the Rothschild family sought my assistance in restoring the Four Treasures of the Study, oblivious to its identity. To confirm my suspicion, I secretly performed a carbon-14 test, validating its Tang Dynasty origins."

Aware of the family's deception, Peter Cole disclosed, "During the restoration, I grew uneasy about leaving such a significant relic with the Rothschild family. I crafted fake replicas during the repair period, intending to deceive them temporarily. When they discovered the ruse and attempted to take me away, I called the police and surrendered, exposing their covert actions. Now, the Rothschild family has landed me in Brooklyn Prison..."

## Chapter 5579

Upon grasping the full extent of Peter Cole's predicament in the confines of Brooklyn Prison, Charlie couldn't help but exhale, his realization coloring his words, "I was initially taken aback. Given the clout of the Rothschild family, if you truly pilfered from them, they wouldn't need the legal route to settle the score. Turns out, you voluntarily dialed up the police."

"Exactly." Peter Cole affirmed with a hint of resignation. "In the U.S., while the Rothschild family's influence can supersede the law, it's contingent on avoiding public outrage. True, I stole from them, but by surrendering willingly, I force this matter into the judicial process. Even they can't just snatch me up. I'm a somewhat renowned antique dealer, connected in upper-class circles. If they lynched me without due process, it would embarrass the American police. So, the Rothschilds opted to let the courts lock me up. Even if they torture me, they can't risk killing me outright. I'm serving a fifteen-year sentence and the Rothschild family needs to save face."

Charlie asserted with determination, "Uncle Cole, I'll get you out today. As for the Rothschilds, I'll straighten things out with them."

"No way," Peter Cole interjected emphatically. "Young Master, I'm a prisoner here for theft. If you spring me, the Rothschilds won't just give up, they'll come after my family. Moreover, once I'm out, I become a fugitive. Though the Four Treasures of the Study was originally Chinese, I did steal it from the Rothschilds. I'll serve my sentence, plead guilty, but I won't bear the stigma of being a fugitive again."

Concern etched on Charlie's face, he voiced, "Uncle Cole, if the Rothschilds don't secure the Four Treasures of the Study, they won't relent. Over a decade more in prison will be tough."

"No matter." Peter Cole replied, smiling earnestly. "I knew the consequences when I did this. Now that it's out, the Rothschilds won't dare to kill me outright. Their priority is reclaiming the Four Treasures of the Study. The best solution is to return it to China. Once it's back, even the shameless Rothschilds won't ask China for what rightfully belongs to it. When they realize the Treasure is beyond their grasp, they'll stop hounding me. I'll serve my sentence and even if they make things hard, they won't harm me. Killing me then would be meaningless, they won't regain the Treasure."

Turning to Charlie, Peter Cole implored, "Young Master, I need a favor. Help return the Four Treasures of the Study to China. It's a vital national treasure, it should contribute to our country and culture."

Charlie, touched by Peter Cole's patriotism, nodded, promising, "Uncle Cole, don't worry. I'll bring back the Four Treasures of the Study. I have a friend with significant connections who can facilitate its return."

In Charlie's thoughts, he considered Maria's adopted son, Keagan Myers. Since the Four Treasures of the Study was a crucial national asset, Charlie couldn't claim it as his own. Returning it through Keagan would fulfill its rightful place in China's heritage.

Excitement radiated from Peter Cole. "I entrust it to you, Young Master. With the Four Treasures of the Study back, I've fulfilled my sentence."

Charlie declared solemnly, "Uncle Cole, the British and the Rothschilds plundered countless relics from China. Even a thousand years from now, those cultural relics will still be China's. I'll make sure the Rothschilds drop the charges, securing your freedom."

Peter spoke hurriedly, "Young master, there's no need for you to engage in a dispute with the Rothschild family over my predicament. Moreover, your father had some long-standing conflicts with them in the past, both old and new grievances. Getting involved will only bring unnecessary trouble to you, Young Master."

Charlie shook his head in silence, his resolve unwavering.

Observing Charlie's lack of response, Peter couldn't help but sigh. He changed the subject and said, "Young Master, aside from the reason behind my imprisonment, I'm sure you have many other questions. Is there something you'd like to inquire about?"

Charlie admitted, "Seeing the photo of you and my father raises countless questions. I'm curious about your connection to Vintage Deluxe and the 'Apocalyptic Book.'"

Smiling, Peter Cole disclosed, "I joined Vintage Deluxe because I promised your father to deliver the 'Apocalyptic Book' when the time was right."

Charlie, though shocked, had anticipated the link to his father. He probed, "Did my father instruct you to wait until I turned twenty-seven?"

"No," Peter Cole exclaimed, unable to contain his excitement. "Your father told me that when you trap the dragon and ascend, I'm to deliver the 'Apocalyptic Book' to help you soar to great heights. Nineteen thousand miles, nine hundred thousand miles, nine hundred ninety million miles!"

## Chapter 5580

Peter Cole's fervent enthusiasm left Charlie utterly stunned and amazed.

Little did he know that his father had meticulously orchestrated and planned every detail for him.

In that moment, Peter Cole's eyes sparkled with excitement as he continued, "Ever since the tragedy with your parents, I've been anticipating the day you'd be caught in a dragon's embrace and soar to the heavens. That wait lasted twenty long years!"

Nearly five years prior, Master Exeor ventured to Eastcliff. Master Exeor set forth from the United States and I was in the U.S. too. When the Wade family's private plane took off from Los Angeles, I stood just outside the airport runway fence, watching the plane disappear into the sky. In that instant, I knew the day of your dragon's ascent wasn't far



off!

After Mr. Exeor reached Eastcliff, it took years of dedicated effort to break your predicament in the Wade Mountains. The night I heard the news, I stayed awake, flew to China with the 'Apocalyptic Book,' assumed the identity of 'Felix Cole' to secure the Vintage Deluxe manager position, and patiently waited for the opportune moment for you to acquire the 'Apocalyptic Book!'

Charlie never anticipated that all these events would be so intricately connected.

Lost in thought, he questioned, "Uncle Cole, Master Exeor mentioned that I ended up in the Dragon Shoal because I got married and settled down in Aurous Hill. But my father was killed long before that. How did he plan all this before I turned eight?"

With a somber expression, Peter Cole explained, "Young Master, Master Exeor is a Feng Shui Master. He only discovered your presence in the Dragon's Shoal after arriving in Eastcliff. At that time, he couldn't determine how long you had been ensnared in the shoal."

Peter Cole continued, "Master Exeor deduced that you were trapped after marriage, coincidentally, when I found him. Actually, your father knew you were in the shoal not because of divine knowledge, but because when you left Eastcliff with your parents at eight, you were already in the 'Dragon's Bank.'"

Charlie was taken aback, "I was already in the 'Dragon's Bank' at eight?"

"Indeed," Peter Cole affirmed, "Your family's departure from Eastcliff to Aurous Hill was a desperate move. Your family's fate shifted dramatically. From prosperity, it spiraled into a sharp decline. Since then, you've been trapped until Master Exeor broke the situation for you."

A sudden realization dawned upon Charlie. He had misunderstood the timeline of Orion Exeor.

Four or five years ago, Master Exeor was invited to Eastcliff by his grandfather, coinciding with the time of his marriage to Claire. Mr. Exeor thought the Wade family had just become trapped in Longquan Shoal, but in reality, they had been ensnared for over a decade.

Charlie remembered something crucial and queried Peter Cole, "Uncle Cole, do you know what a Divine Dragon is? I keep hearing the term, but I'm unsure of its meaning..."



Peter Cole gazed at Charlie seriously and stated, "Young Master, the ascending dragon pattern is a unique destiny required for the dragon's path. Historical records suggest that only those with the ascending dragon destiny pattern can enter the dragon's path. Your father was a dragon like you, but he could only open the 'Preface to the Apocalyptic Book,' unable to unlock the 'Apocalyptic Book.' The 'Preface' states that only a Divine Dragon's life can unlock the 'Apocalyptic Book' and embark on the path of dragon ascension."

Perplexed, Charlie questioned, "My father couldn't open the 'Apocalyptic Book,' yet I, as an orphan ridiculed in Aurous Hill, can?"

Peter Cole fixed Charlie with a serious look and declared, "Young Master, you're not just a dragon, you're a genuine Divine Dragon!"

Puzzled, Charlie asked, "Why?"

Peter Cole spoke deliberately, "Young Master, you're not born with the destiny of a Divine Dragon, it's a fate molded day by day. Like the saying, a dragon begets a dragon and a phoenix begets a phoenix. Your father was a dragon with the highest destiny. To ascend as a dragon, the two dragons must merge into one."

With tears in his eyes, Peter Cole added, "Young Master, the reason you're an ascending dragon is that your father separated his destiny and bestowed it upon you. Your father's dragon, combined with your own, blesses you. Only when you're adorned with dragon qualities can you be like a dragon!"

Overwhelmed, Charlie asked, "Uncle Cole, what did you just say?"

Tears streaming down, Peter Cole explained, "Your father knew he couldn't match Warriors Den or the British Lord as a dragon. He'd inevitably be killed, along with your mother and you. So, he chose to die, leaving you a chance for survival. He separated his destiny to ensure you could break free from the Dragon Trapped Shoal after ascending to the Dragon Rank."

Charlie, deeply moved, couldn't fathom the cruelty behind his journey to obtain the 'Apocalyptic Book.'

His heart weighed heavy as memories of that fateful year played like a rapid slideshow in his mind, parents, relatives and Aurous Hill flashing before his eyes.

At that moment, Peter Cole maintained a solemn demeanor. "Young Master, after your father parted ways with his destiny, he took you and your mother to Aurous Hill. He accepted the inevitability of his death, knowing he couldn't hide without any protection. His death was a sacrifice to secure Warriors Den's withdrawal and provide you with a chance to grow safely. So, even before your parents left Aurous Hill, you were already destined to be a dragon."

Charlie recalled Maria's words and murmured, "No wonder Maria said my father should be a dragon, otherwise, Gideon wouldn't have killed him. He separated his dragon destiny and gave it to me."

Peter Cole revealed, "Your destiny wasn't obtained by chance, you're the only one in the world capable of freeing the 'Apocalyptic Book' from its container. I orchestrated the events at Vintage Deluxe so everything felt natural to you and went unnoticed by those who cared."

Silently listening, Charlie couldn't contain the tears any longer. After a prolonged silence, he asked, "Uncle Cole, is it painful to strip away one's destiny?"

Peter Cole, looking at the ceiling with misty eyes, replied in a choked voice, "Separating one's destiny is the most agonizing experience I've witnessed in my life."



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