

Chapter 37_Dat Old Golden Rule ...

In this chapter from "Mother Night," the protagonist finds himself returning to Jones' cellar, realizing that it is the only place he desires to be, despite acknowledging the true nature of his companions—Resi, Father Keeley, and the Black Fuehrer. As he enters the basement, he observes them engaged in a game of cards and reflects on the nonchalant atmosphere. The Iron Guard is also conducting a class nearby, and Jones is upstairs focusing on his writing.

The protagonist notes Kraft, a Russian Master Spy, fixated on a magazine featuring a portrait of Werner von Braun. The radio plays a song titled "Dat Old Golden Rule," which resonates with him in this moment, prompting him to recall its lyrics. Engaging with Kraft, he shares a brief anecdote about von Braun, suggesting a familiarity between them that implies a past connection.

The game's outcome sees Father Keeley losing the Old Maid, highlighting his misplaced optimism as he moves upstairs with the Black Fuehrer. Alone with Resi and Kraft, the protagonist exchanges thoughts about their impending journey to Mexico, although he feels a restlessness and an urge for movement. Kraft's skepticism about their destination leads the protagonist to muse about heading to Moscow, further complicating their plans. Resi's affection for him contrasts with Kraft's incredulity at the idea.

As the conversation unfolds, the protagonist reveals that he might have a connection to an old friend in Russia. However, he mentions Colonel Iona Potapov, revealing the subplot of betrayal and espionage. When Kraft expresses disbelief, the protagonist escalates the tension by drawing a pistol, which shifts the dynamics drastically.

Resi's emotional turmoil emerges as she pleads her love to the protagonist, revealing that the mission was never meant to be carried out because of her feelings for him. This revelation layers the story with themes of love, deception, and the complexities of escape from their entangled lives. As the chapter culminates, the protagonist asserts that their situation is dire as American agents have surrounded them, leaving them trapped in a volatile confrontation that intertwines love and danger .