

Chapter Thirty-nine

In Chapter Thirty-Nine of "The Chocolate War," the story unfolds with Obie warning Archie of a potential future reckoning. Archie dismisses Obie's concerns, claiming that he's already received enough preaching for one night, referencing a sermon from Brother Jacques. The two characters sit in the bleachers watching others clean up after an incident, which includes the recent assignment where Archie had selected Renault. As the night cools, Obie reflects on the scene around him, his thoughts drifting as he notices the goal posts—a memory eludes him.

Obie expresses disdain for Leon, whom he observed enjoying a fight from a hilltop. Archie admits he tipped Leon off anonymously, believing it would entertain him and ensure their safety should anything go awry. Obie's warnings about Archie's future troubles seem futile, as Archie maintains a position of control and manipulation in their interactions, always seeming a step ahead.

Archie airily comments on the dramatic events of the evening and indicates that he understands Obie and Carter better than they might imagine, veering into sarcasm. Obie hints at the possibility of a future incident, suggesting that perhaps the next "black box" maneuver will be successful or that another like Renault might appear.

Archie's preoccupation with food becomes evident as he casually inquires about the missing chocolates, which were stolen amid the chaos. Obie confirms that the chocolates are indeed gone, and Brian Cochran is holding the money for a drawing the following week. Despite Obie's responses, Archie remains uninterested, fixated instead on his hunger. As they sit in the darkness, their conversation dwindles, and they eventually exit together, enveloped in silence. The chapter encapsulates themes of friendship, manipulation, and the looming consequences of their actions.