

# Chapter Twenty-nine

In Chapter Twenty-Nine of "The Chocolate War," Brian Cochran is deeply engrossed in tallying the sales figures of the chocolate sales campaign. He feels exhilarated by the staggering rise in sales, experiencing a high akin to intoxication from the increasing numbers. The sudden surge in sales is inexplicable but palpable throughout the school, with chocolates becoming a new trend. Rumors suggest that The Vigils, a secretive group, are rallying support for the sale, although Brian avoids direct involvement with them. He observes members ensuring that students who haven't performed well in sales receive a warning, indicating a possible coercive effort behind the unusual levels of participation.

Brian juggles records and responds to a hectic atmosphere as teams of students actively promote chocolate sales in neighborhoods and even local factories. As Brian updates the results on the board, the assembly hall becomes a hub of excitement; students cheer as they see the achievements of their peers. However, the fairness of credit distribution troubles him. For instance, Carter, head of The Vigils, submits a significant amount of money from what he claims to be seventy-five boxes sold, and Brian carefully counts it under Carter's scrutinizing gaze.

Carter requests that Brian allocate credits for the sales to various students, many of whom did not make those sales. Brian complies, acknowledging the shadiness of the situation but rationalizing that it's not his place to interfere. Brian notes that several students have reached their sales quota, and Carter commends his work, momentarily boosting Brian's confidence, despite his suspicions about the integrity of the campaign.

At the end of the day, the total sales figure climbs to fifteen thousand and ten boxes, with Brother Leon, the faculty member overseeing the sale, appearing visibly thrilled by the success. He shares in Brian's excitement, even addressing him by his first name for the first time. When Brian posts the final figures, he is met with applause, feeling like a star athlete, a milestone that marks a significant turning point in his school experience.