

# Chapter Twenty-seven

In Chapter Twenty-Seven of "The Chocolate War," Frankie Rollo, a nonchalant junior known for his insolence, is summoned by Archie Costello and The Vigils for an assignment. Rollo refuses to conform, casting aside Archie's authority with a playful demeanor, which startles his peers. Rollo's challenge marks an unprecedented moment for Archie, who has never faced such defiance. The tension escalates when Carter, another Vigil member, impulsively strikes Rollo after he belittles The Vigils' ability to intimidate. Rollo is quickly subdued and ejected from the meeting, eliciting cheers from the members, which frustrates Archie, who planned on using Rollo as mere entertainment.

Carter then addresses the group, asserting that The Vigils must not allow individuals like Rollo to undermine their credibility. He argues that the group has become linked with the chocolate sale, positioning Rollo's defiance as symptomatically indicative of their failure. Obie, another member, presents a poster that crudely declares "SCREW THE CHOCOLATES AND SCREW THE VIGILS," reflecting the increasing dissent among students.

Carter confronts Archie, implying responsibility for their predicament and casting doubt on their control. Archie, maintaining a facade of calm, senses the need to reclaim authority and encourages quick action to complete the chocolate sale. His idea is to make selling chocolates appealing, enlisting influential students to facilitate their goals. Although some like Obie question the feasibility, Archie assures them of success and plans to outmaneuver Rollo's burgeoning reputation as a rebel.

Tension between Carter and Archie remains palpable, particularly after Carter places Archie on probation regarding the sale's success. Archie's internal resentment simmers as he hides his humiliation behind a forced smile, aware that failure would undermine his position, but confident in his strategy to rally the school in a mass sale campaign. His goal is to neutralize Renault's rebellious image, ensuring The Vigils maintain influence while disguising their challenges as mere obstacles en route to victory.