

# Chapter 35

Chapter 35 of *The Chocolate War* portrays a charged atmosphere as Archie takes control of a controversial event at Trinity. The event, disguised as a football rally, quickly turns into a spectacle with a raffle that draws large crowds to the athletic field. The students eagerly participate in the raffle, buying tickets and fueling the excitement surrounding the event. Archie, overseeing the setup, ensures that every student has a clear view of the boxing ring, making sure the spectacle will captivate them. Renault and Janza, the fighters, stand nervously in the ring, unaware of the full extent of what they're about to face. The entire situation is expertly manipulated by Archie to create an intense, high-stakes atmosphere, all to entertain the crowd while asserting his own control.

Archie's manipulation is evident as he subtly convinces Renault to fight Janza under the false pretenses of seeking revenge. Renault's desire for justice and his injured pride are easily exploited by Archie, who plays on his emotions and manipulates his desire to confront his bully. However, Archie is fully aware that Renault is outmatched, having already set Janza up for victory by taunting him in a way that ensures his involvement in the fight. The challenge, framed as a fair opportunity for retribution, is actually a trap designed by Archie to humiliate Renault and further establish his dominance. This cunning manipulation highlights Archie's ability to control the situation, using others' weaknesses to serve his own agenda. His control over both fighters, Renault and Janza, demonstrates his dominance and how he capitalizes on the emotions and motivations of those around him to create a situation that benefits him.

As Renault faces Janza in the ring, his emotions are a mix of nervousness and determination. He reflects on his earlier desire to not only confront Janza but also challenge the toxic environment of the school, which Archie symbolizes. However, as

he stands exposed and vulnerable before the crowd, the harsh reality of the situation sinks in. The pressure from the spectators and the growing tension of the fight weigh heavily on him. His body is tense, not only with fear but also with a sense of pride, as he faces the challenge head-on. This moment represents a turning point for Renault, as he realizes the fight is not just with Janza but with the larger system at play, a system that Archie manipulates to his advantage.

As the fight draws nearer, the raffle tickets continue to sell out, demonstrating Archie's skill in stoking the excitement of the crowd. He has created a frenzy around the event, offering the promise of thrill and entertainment, and the students eagerly comply. Brian Cochran, who is responsible for overseeing the raffle, finds himself filled with anxiety as the pressure builds. Despite his discomfort, he ultimately submits to Archie's influence, recognizing that resisting him would have serious consequences. Cochran's internal struggle mirrors the larger theme of power and control that runs throughout the chapter. Archie's ability to manipulate his peers is starkly displayed here, showing how he can make others conform to his will, even when they are unsure or uneasy about their participation.

In contrast, Janza's own internal conflict is also explored. Desperate to prove himself and avoid being seen as weak, he prepares for the fight, eager to gain validation through physical domination. However, he's also aware of the manipulation at play and questions whether Archie is truly looking out for him or simply using him as part of his larger scheme. This moment of self-doubt mirrors Renault's own questioning of the events unfolding around him. Both characters are caught in a web of manipulation, struggling to determine their roles in a situation that is largely out of their control. This parallel struggle adds depth to the chapter, illustrating how both Renault and Janza are products of the toxic system that Archie has created.

Chapter 35 deftly explores the psychological and emotional complexities of peer pressure, manipulation, and power dynamics. Through the experiences of Renault and Janza, the chapter delves into how easily individuals can be controlled and exploited by those in positions of power. Archie's ability to manipulate the situation, playing on

the desires and insecurities of others, is central to the chapter's development. As the fight looms and the tension builds, readers are reminded of the dangers of unchecked authority and the profound effects it has on those involved. The chapter serves as a powerful commentary on the manipulation of individuals within a larger societal framework, highlighting the struggles of the characters as they navigate a web of control and moral ambiguity. It sets the stage for the inevitable conflict that will arise, leaving readers with a sense of foreboding and anticipation.

