

"Mrs. Harrison, please show Alex in." sputtered the intercom. She motioned for Alex to go ahead. Alex got up and opened the heavy wooden door which read "Mr. Reynolds, Headmaster".

"Good afternoon Alex. Have a seat please."

"Yes Sir. And how are you today, Sir?" Alex smiled.

"I'm well Alex, and yourself?"

"I'm fine thanks, Sir. How are Mrs. Reynolds and the children, Sir? Doing well?"

"Quite well, thank you."

"Good. How old is little..."

"Enough! Come on Alex, let's not waste time with idle chit chat. Tell me why you are here."

Alex clenched his lips and forced a smile. He didn't like to be interrupted.

"I had a ....disagreement with my teacher, Sir. He thought that I should speak with you about it."

"And what was the disagreement about?"

"Just a minor disagreement about some of my work, Sir. You really shouldn't bother yourself with it."

"It's no bother Alex. It's not good to have disagreements with your teachers. You don't want you grades to slip, do you?"

"No Sir. Not at all. But I think it's important we stand up for what we believe in. Isn't that something this school hopes to teach its pupils, Sir?" Alex said with a look of arrogance on his face.

"Well, yes, it is Alex, but..."

"And so I was doing just that, Sir. My teacher obviously doesn't understand the goals of the school the way you and I do, Sir."

"But Alex, your teacher assigns your grades, and if he dislikes your work, then you will get a low grade. Your father would be quite upset I think."

"My father would be upset that the teaching staff didn't understand the goals of the school very well, Sir. Part of the reason he is such a ....generous contributor to the school is because

he expects the teachers to be able to ...teach us well enough that we maintain high grades. I'd hate for my father to have to reduce his contributions, Sir."

Mr. Reynolds stared at Alex for a moment.

"I can't very well fix your grades Alex."

"No, Sir. Wouldn't dream of it, Sir. But maybe you could ...have a conversation with this teacher, Sir. He is new here after all. You could give him some... advice on his methods, Sir." Alex said with a smirk.

Mr. Reynolds thought for a moment. "Very well, Alex. You may return to class."

"Thank you, Sir. Good day, Sir." Alex said, quite pleased, as he headed out of the office.