

THE GOLDEN ORB: PRELUDE – VOL. 1

CHAPTER SEVEN

Written by Jenner Arriaga

Jonathan Barden arrived in his blue BMW vehicle. The headlights of the vehicle illuminated the path as it moved through the open gates and parked before the lower upper-class home. Jonathan exited the vehicle and spotted his father's car parked beside his own. He headed to the front door. Jonathan heard the clanging of pots and utensils of his father cooking in the kitchen. He headed there through the darkened hallway and moved into the light of the kitchen.

Alejandro Barden was at the working stove pushing freshly cut vegetable pieces into a tall pot off a wooden cutting board with a white ceramic blade. The head of the Barden crime family heard his son's footsteps on the tile floor as he entered the kitchen. Father turned to son.

"What's up?" Alejandro said. "You're here late."

"Yeah, I had some business to attend to," Jonathan answered.

Alejandro turned to face away from Jonathan again as he set the knife atop the cutting board. He sealed the pot with its glass lid. "Don't lie to me."

He turned back around to face Jonathan once he finished tending to the stew.

"I'm not," Jonathan said.

"Why do you do this?" Alejandro asked.

"Dad, I'm not lying-"

"I've heard from within that you are organizing things. Operations."

"Dad-"

"Are you taking over?"

"No, I would never dare-"

Alejandro nodded. "It is time. Unless you are going to college."

"No! I'm not. But don't think I would ever disrespect you in this way."

"Disrespect me? I couldn't be prouder. My boy growing up, taking over the family business."

Jonathan held himself high with pride.

Alejandro continued: “Not like your brother. You stuck with me.”

“I would never leave you. We’re in this together.”

His father was receptive and felt the same way. “I love you, son.”

“I love you too.”

“The stew is for tomorrow. I have some ribs in the oven that are almost done. We’ll eat quickly then we’ll go see your mother.”

“Is she okay?”

“Today was one of her better days.”