

## CHAPTER 1

### A Very Nice Inheritance

The ten members of the “Little Sons of the Rich” had got together in a New York apartment for a birthday celebration. They came from some of the city’s richest and most powerful families at the start of the 20th century.

The most popular person there was Montgomery “Monty” Brewster. He was tall and handsome, but it was his unusual background\* that interested many people in New York’s high society.

His parents had run away to get married because Monty’s father’s family had not approved of the marriage. Monty’s mother hadn’t come from a wealthy enough family for Monty’s grandfather, “Old Man Brewster”.

At the time, this story had been the talk of the town because it was both shocking and very romantic. Tragically\*, both of Monty’s parents had died when he was still a child, and Old Man Brewster had wanted to take care of his grandson. He felt guilty at the way he had treated his son and daughter-in-law when they were alive. But Monty hadn’t wanted to live with his grandfather.

Luckily, Mrs. Gray, a friend of Monty’s mother, had stepped in and begged Old Man Brewster to let her raise the boy. Monty had gone to live at the Grays’ modest house and grown up with the Grays’ daughter, Margaret, who he considered a sister.

As Old Man Brewster was a multi-millionaire, Monty was set to inherit a fortune when his grandfather died. This made Monty very popular among women, who saw him as a good potential husband.

However, despite the fact that he was about to become very rich, Monty didn’t avoid hard work and was well respected. After he finished college, Monty wanted to be independent and not rely on his grandfather. He asked Old Man Brewster for a job in his bank but requested no additional favors\*. Every day, Monty got up early to go to work and lived on the small salary he earned.

When Monty turned 25, his birthday dinner, like all the other celebrations of the Little Sons of the Rich, was a luxurious\* event, with food brought from a French restaurant. The guests were all in the middle of singing “Happy Birthday” in Monty’s honor, when the doorbell rang.

“Who could that be at this hour?” asked Monty’s best friend, Oliver Harrison. A servant came into the room and provided the answer.

“It’s Ellis, from old Mr. Brewster’s bank,” he announced. “He says he’s here to speak to young Mr. Brewster.”

Monty looked annoyed. “Tell him to go away,” he demanded. “This is not the time to talk about work. I’ll deal with it in the morning.”

*Monty’s birthday dinner was a luxurious event.*



background  
רקע / خلفية

tragically  
באופן טראגי / بشكل مأسوي

favours  
טובות / معروف

luxurious  
מפואר / فاخر