

"The Curious Affair at the Arkwright Club"

by
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1 INT. WINE CELLAR - LATE MORNING

1

REMLEY, the Arkwright Club's gray-haired cork master, and LEIBOWITZ, a 30-ish attorney and would-be member, walk down the creaky wooden stairs to the dusty, cobwebby wine cellar. A plaque on the wall reads: "The Arkwright Club / Founded 1928."

Amazed, Leibowitz looks around at all the racks and bottles. Voices echo slightly in this (and any other) scene set in the wine cellar.

REMLEY

No other wine club in the country
can boast of vintages rarer than
those available here at Arkwright.

LEIBOWITZ

I would think not!

REMLEY

As a member, Mr. Leibowitz, you
will have access to *all* of these
wines.

LEIBOWITZ

Really?

REMLEY

(beat)
In a "diplomatic" fashion, of
course.

LEIBOWITZ

What do you mean by that?

REMLEY

We can't possibly partake of every
vintage we have in the racks, so,
at our monthly meetings, the
members vote for the wine that
should be enjoyed at our *next*
meeting. Whatever bottle gets the
greatest number of votes is timely
removed from the wine cellar,
properly prepared, and served at
our next get-together.

LEIBOWITZ

I *really* hope I'm voted in. I've
been waiting for an opening ever
since I moved to the city.

(CONTINUED)

REMLEY

I have no doubt you will be admitted at this afternoon's meeting.

LEIBOWITZ

Seriously?

REMLEY

As a young attorney, you are just the kind of professional we're looking for as a new member.

(beat)

It was, of course, terribly sad that Mr. Raymond passed on.

LEIBOWITZ

Very true.

REMLEY

But, without his death, there would not be an opening.

LEIBOWITZ

You *really* think I'll be admitted?

REMLEY

I'd say you can *count* on it.

(beat)

As a member, you will be expected to donate approximately four hours a month of your time to the care and upkeep of the club.

LEIBOWITZ

That's *in addition* to the yearly membership dues?

REMLEY

It is.

(beat)

Is that a problem?

LEIBOWITZ

No, but isn't such a stipulation . . . well. . . *excessive*?

REMLEY

Not at all. Our charter has maintained that requirement since the club's founding in 1928 by Simon Arkwright.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REMLEY (CONT'D)

Even I, the long-standing cork master, donate my time. In this way, we save funds that would have to be spent on hired help, allowing us to invest that money instead on the acquisition of rare vintages. *Everyone* donates his time.

(beat)

Do you wish *not* to be considered for membership any longer?

LEIBOWITZ

Oh no. *Certainly* not! Any true wine connoisseur would be a *fool* to pass up the opportunity. I was merely taken by surprise at that requirement.

REMLEY

If you have any physical limitations, please inform the secretary at your earliest convenience after you are admitted. We certainly don't wish to cause our members any bodily harm.

LEIBOWITZ

I'm sure I can do whatever might be needed.

REMLEY

That's good to know.

(beat)

Colonel Thrip, 88 years old and still sharp as a tack, recently had to stop assisting with the club's upkeep. Bad heart, you know?

LEIBOWITZ

I'm sorry to hear that.

REMLEY

But with him *being* the Colonel, and having been a member in fine standing of Arkwright since the Carter Administration, we have waived that requirement for him.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

REMLEY (CONT'D)

Perhaps you would like to perform
your service here in the wine
cellar?

LEIBOWITZ

I would like that.

He looks about, taking it all in.

LEIBOWITZ

You certainly do have some *rare*
wines.

He removes a dusty bottle from one of the racks. He blows
the dust from the label and reads it, amazed.

LEIBOWITZ

The '47? I've only heard *rumors* of
its existence.

(beat)

And here. . .

He removes another bottle from the rack and blows the
dust away.

LEIBOWITZ

How did you *ever* come across such
rare bottles?

REMLEY

The name Arkwright carries great
weight in the wine world. Most
anything can be had. . . for a
price.

LEIBOWITZ

And this bottle. . .

He removes another bottle from the rack. This one is
empty.

LEIBOWITZ

Mr. Remley, this bottle is empty.

REMLEY

Yes.

Leibowitz speaks as he looks at two more bottles.

LEIBOWITZ

As is this one. . . and this one.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LEIBOWITZ (CONT'D)

Do the members save the empties as
remembrances of vintages enjoyed?

REMLEY

(beat)
Not exactly.

LEIBOWITZ

Then why -

REMLEY

There is one more thing you should
know about Arkwright.

LEIBOWITZ

What's that?

REMLEY

Observe our secret.

Remley grabs an empty bottle from one of the racks and
pulls out the cork. The entire wine cellar begins to
shake, the bottles dinging against each other. Dust falls
from the ceiling, and loud creaks are heard. Leibowitz is
alarmed. Remley is not.

LEIBOWITZ

It's an earthquake!

REMLEY

Don't be alarmed. It will soon be
over.

FADE OUT.

INT. WINE CELLAR - MOMENTS LATER

The cellar continues to shake, as before. Leibowitz is
alarmed, but Remley is unusually calm.

REMLEY

Just a moment longer.

LEIBOWITZ

How can you. . .

The shaking fades to nothing.

LEIBOWITZ

(beat)
I'll be damned.

(CONTINUED)

REMLEY

Are you alright?

LEIBOWITZ

(chuckles)

Yeah, but my nerves may never be the same. You?

REMLEY

Don't you worry about me. I've been through this before.

LEIBOWITZ

There have been other earthquakes here?

REMLEY

That *wasn't* an earthquake.

LEIBOWITZ

But the whole room -

REMLEY

Would you like to know what that was?

LEIBOWITZ

You *bet* I would.

Remley points at a door in the far corner of the wine cellar.

REMLEY

Open that door.

LEIBOWITZ

(beat)

How'd *that* get there? There wasn't a door there before the shaking.

REMLEY

True, but there is now.

(beat)

Aren't you curious what's on the other side?

LEIBOWITZ

I *know* what's on the other side: Washington Street. The snow and the cold.

(CONTINUED)

REMLEY

I wouldn't be so sure.

(beat)

Open it.

LEIBOWITZ

Why should I?

REMLEY

It's about time you learned what our secret is. I don't share this information with just anyone, but I feel a certain *kinship* with you.

Leibowitz hesitantly walks to the door, followed by Remley. He grabs the doorknob and pauses.

REMLEY

You can't be hurt by what's on the other side.

Gathering his courage, Leibowitz opens the door to reveal a bright sunny day. The birds are chirping, and many people pass by dressed in old-fashioned garb.

LEIBOWITZ

(beat)

This. . . *isn't* Washington Street.

REMLEY

It's Italy.

LEIBOWITZ

(chuckles)

It's a gag you play on potential members.

REMLEY

Not at all.

(beat)

Follow me.

Remley takes a few steps forward.

LEIBOWITZ

(nervously)

Out. . . there?

REMLEY

You will see *amazing* things.

(beat)

Come.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (3)

2

A white light shines out from the door as the men pass through to the other side.

FADE OUT.

3 EXT. ITALIAN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

3

Leibowitz and Remley walk among the people on the street. Leibowitz is amazed at what he sees, while Remley seems nonplused.

LEIBOWITZ

This is incredible! We *really* are in Italy.

REMLEY

I told you.

LEIBOWITZ

I've been here before - a few years ago - with my wife. But it looks. . . *different*.

REMLEY

That is because we are in the Italy of 1971.

LEIBOWITZ

What?

REMLEY

We have not only traveled in location, but in time. Notice the fashions the people are wearing. Hideous!

LEIBOWITZ

(beat)
I don't understand one bit of this.

REMLEY

It is the secret of the Arkwright Club - the thing that makes us so special.

LEIBOWITZ

Why is no one paying us any mind?

REMLEY

They can't see us.

(CONTINUED)

LEIBOWITZ

We're. . . *invisible*?

REMLEY

This is *their* time. We don't belong here.

LEIBOWITZ

I can't buy that.

REMLEY

No?

(beat)

Observe.

Remley stops walking and shouts.

REMLEY

All Italian women are ugly and should be on leashes!

Leibowitz grabs one of Remley's arms.

LEIBOWITZ

What are you doing?

REMLEY

Proving my point. Did anyone react?

LEIBOWITZ

(beat)

No. No they didn't.

REMLEY

And don't you think that remark should have bought me a *pack* of trouble?

LEIBOWITZ

Yes, if these people could. . .

REMLEY

Hear me. I rest my case.

(beat)

Come. We have a stop to make before we return to the present.

FADE OUT.

4

INT. LIQUOR SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

4

Remley and Leibowitz enter a fairly crowded shop. The walls and tables are full of wine bottles.

REMLEY

Did you stop here when you visited Italy with your wife?

LEIBOWITZ

It's a coffee shop now.

REMLEY

Pity.

LEIBOWITZ

Why are we here?

REMLEY

To acquire some fine vintages for Arkwright's wine cellar.

LEIBOWITZ

But no one can see or hear us. How are we going to pay?

REMLEY

We aren't.

(beat)

They won't miss a few bottles.

LEIBOWITZ

That's *stealing*.

REMLEY

We couldn't pay for the wine if we wanted to. Besides, you weren't even *alive* in 1971. How can you be convicted of shoplifting that occurred before you were born?

Remley begins rummaging among the bottles.

LEIBOWITZ

I *can't* do this. I'm an attorney. I've never broken the law in my life.

Remley picks up a particular vintage and shows it to Leibowitz.

LEIBOWITZ

Oh my God! Is that *real*?

(CONTINUED)

REMLEY

It certainly is.

LEIBOWITZ

But this vintage is *impossible* to find. I know. I've tried.

REMLEY

It's very possible to find in 1971. Look at all the bottles of it they have. Take two. I'll take two also.

LEIBOWITZ

I *can't*.

REMLEY

Don't you want to enjoy this wine as Arkwright's newest member?

LEIBOWITZ

(beat)

OK. I'll admit it: I do.

REMLEY

Then take a bottle in each hand and follow me back to the wine cellar.

LEIBOWITZ

They'll see us take the bottles.

REMLEY

When we touch the bottles, they will become invisible as well. No one will ever know we've been here.

LEIBOWITZ

Are you *certain*?

Remley is growing irritated.

REMLEY

Do you want the wine or not?

LEIBOWITZ

You *know* I do.

(beat)

Are you sure we can't get into trouble?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

REMLEY

How do you think Arkwright has so many rare bottles in our wine cellar? I've done this *many* times with absolutely no difficulty.

Remley picks up two bottles.

REMLEY

(long beat)

Mr. Leibowitz?

With some reluctance, Leibowitz does the same.

FADE OUT.

5 INT. WINE CELLAR - LATER

5

The wine cellar, making its return trip, stops shaking.

REMLEY

Are your bottles alright?

Leibowitz looks them over.

LEIBOWITZ

Just fine.

REMLEY

Let's put them on the racks before anything happens to them.

LEIBOWITZ

I want some questions answered first.

REMLEY

Later. It's almost time for the vote on your membership.

FADE OUT.

6 INT. WINE CLUB MEETING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

6

Leibowitz stands awkwardly in the club's meeting room. The walls are lined with books. A fire is blazing in the hearth. Many of the club's members sit in leather wingback chairs reading the newspaper or chatting. Tuxedo-clad waiters mill about with trays of hors d'oeuvres.

MEMBER #1 passes by Leibowitz.

(CONTINUED)

MEMBER #1
Congratulations, Leibowitz.
Welcome to Arkwright.

LEIBOWITZ
Thank you.

MEMBER #2 follows him.

MEMBER #2
You make sure to pay your dues on
time now.

LEIBOWITZ
(chuckles)

COLONEL THRIP, the club's oldest member, approaches
Leibowitz. What remains of his hair is white, and he is
wearing old-fashioned formal wear.

THRIP
Mr. Leibowitz?

Leibowitz turns.

LEIBOWITZ
Colonel! I didn't see you.

THRIP
That's because I've grown shorter
and more frail with the years.

LEIBOWITZ
Not at all.
(beat)
It's an honor to meet you.

THRIP
You flatter me.

LEIBOWITZ
I'm quite sincere. My father had a
collection of *National*
Geographics. I remember reading
about your African safaris.
Fascinating!

THRIP
Those were ages ago.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THRIP (CONT'D)

I was wondering if you might be available to have dinner with me after the meeting. It should be breaking up soon.

LEIBOWITZ

I would enjoy that. Is this concerning a legal matter?

THRIP

Yes. Yes it is.

(beat)

How about we go to Georgio's? Do you like Italian?

LEIBOWITZ

(chuckles)

I certainly do.

THRIP

Is something wrong?

LEIBOWITZ

Not at all. I've visited Italy myself. . . a *couple* of times.

(beat)

Isn't it difficult to get a reservation at Georgio's?

THRIP

Not when you know the proper people.

LEIBOWITZ

And when you're Colonel Reginald Thrip.

THRIP

I suppose my name does carry some weight.

(beat)

I'll call Georgio and get us a private room.

FADE OUT.

Light Italian Muzak is playing as Thrip and Leibowitz enter the private room of this elegantly appointed restaurant.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGIO, the owner, approaches the men. He wears a three-piece suit and speaks with a thick Italian accent.

GEORGIO
Colonel, it has been some time.

THRIP
It certainly has.

GEORGIO
I will be waiting on you
personally this evening.

THRIP
Excellent.
(beat)
Georgio, may I present Mr.
Leibowitz, Arkwright's newest
member.

GEORGIO
Congratulations, sir. A pleasure.

LEIBOWITZ
Nice to meet you, Georgio.

GEORGIO
Do I *dare* bring our paltry wine
list to two men of the prestigious
Arkwright Club?

THRIP
(chuckles)
Just bring a bottle of my usual.
I'm sure that will be fine.

FADE OUT.

Georgio has now seated Leibowitz and Thrip at the
Colonel's usual table.

GEORGIO
I'll bring your antipasto
momentarily.

He walks to the kitchen.

THRIP
I'm sure you'll enjoy your meal.

(CONTINUED)

LEIBOWITZ

Thank you for the invitation.

(beat)

What legal matter did you want to talk about?

THRIP

(beat)

I. . . uhm. . . lied about that.

LEIBOWITZ

I'm sorry?

THRIP

I wanted to speak with you about Arkwright. I had to feign the need for some legal advice to get you alone for a time. I apologize.

LEIBOWITZ

What do you want to talk about?

THRIP

(beat)

I was one of the two people who blackballed your membership.

LEIBOWITZ

May I ask why?

THRIP

I didn't want a fine young man like you to get involved in a *godforsaken* club like Arkwright.

FADE OUT.

With a flourish, Georgio places the antipasto on the table.

GEORGIO

Your antipasto, gentlemen.

THRIP

Thank you.

He removes a wine bottle from the ice bucket and shows it to Thrip.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGIO

And the wine you requested. It is to your liking?

THRIP

Very good, Georgio.

GEORGIO

Would you like me to open it for you?

THRIP

No thank you.

Georgio returns the bottle to the ice bucket.

GEORGIO

What would you like for your dinners now?

THRIP

A steak for me, a thick one, medium rare with all the trimmings.

GEORGIO

Wonderful choice. And you, sir?

LEIBOWITZ

That sounds good. I'll have the same.

GEORGIO

Medium rare too?

LEIBOWITZ

Please.

GEORGIO

I will place your order with my chef. If you require *anything*, please ask.

THRIP

We will.

Georgio walks away. As they talk, Thrip and Leibowitz share the antipasto.

THRIP

They make an *excellent* steak, Leibowitz. I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

(CONTINUED)

LEIBOWITZ

Can we get back to Arkwright now?

THRIP

Of course.

LEIBOWITZ

You called it "godforsaken."

THRIP

I did, and being a Christian, that isn't a word I use lightly.

LEIBOWITZ

Why has God forsaken the Arkwright Club, Colonel?

THRIP

Arkwright has a *terrible* secret.

LEIBOWITZ

Time travel?

THRIP

How do you know about that?

LEIBOWITZ

Mr. Remley demonstrated it to me. We took a trip to 1971 Italy just before the voting on my membership began.

THRIP

Then it may be too late. Damn it! I should have acted earlier!

(beat)

If Remley has taken you on a time hop, it means he considers you a likely donor.

LEIBOWITZ

"Donor?"

THRIP

Did he convince you to take *anything* back to the present from Italy?

LEIBOWITZ

Just a couple of bottles of wine.

(CONTINUED)

THRIP

Wasn't it against your morals to do that?

LEIBOWITZ

Well, yes, but he assured me no harm would be done.

THRIP

That's what he tells everyone. That's what his predecessor told me so long ago.

(beat)

Didn't you wonder - even for a *second* - how the time hop he took you on was possible?

LEIBOWITZ

Come to think of it, I. . . I *didn't*. I suppose I was astounded by the trip.

THRIP

That's one thing Remley counts on.

LEIBOWITZ

How is the time travel possible?

THRIP

(long beat)

Arkwright was founded in 1928. It was a modest success. Simon Arkwright was a connoisseur of fine wines and hoped to instill that love into the people of Boston and, in doing so, become rich.

(beat)

You know what happened the following year?

LEIBOWITZ

The stock market crash.

THRIP

Even for the well off, the wine club was a dispensable luxury. Membership plummeted, and Arkwright was faced with bankruptcy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THRIP (CONT'D)

The story goes that Simon turned to an. . . *unusual* source for help.

FADE OUT.

The meeting room, though somewhat different, is recognizable as the room we saw in the present.

SIMON ARKWRIGHT, a man in his 30s and dressed in clothing of the period, looks down at the red pentagram he has drawn on the floor. He sighs and touches his hand to his heart.

With a thunder clap and a puff of smoke, SATAN appears. He also is dressed in clothing of the era, but we see two small horns protruding from his skull.

SATAN

Mr. Arkwright?

ARKWRIGHT

It's *really* you!

SATAN

You called me, and I answered. I am *always* ready to talk business.

ARKWRIGHT

You know what I want?

SATAN

Yes: The most successful wine club in the country.

ARKWRIGHT

In the *world*!

SATAN

I can provide that.

ARKWRIGHT

Even in this economy?

SATAN

You will have to turn members away.

(beat)

I *will* want something in return.

(CONTINUED)

ARKWRIGHT

What?

SATAN

What do I *always* want?

ARKWRIGHT

(uneasily)

I understand.

SATAN

We'll start with yours, and we'll work out an agreement for me to get *many* others.

FADE OUT.

INT. GEORGIO'S RESTAURANT PRIVATE ROOM - LATER

Thrip and Leibowitz's dinners have arrived.

LEIBOWITZ

Souls?

THRIP

Precisely. As part of their agreement, Arkwright was given *dozens* of empty wine bottles, all of which - when the cork was removed - would transport him and anyone else in the wine cellar to the location and year on the bottle's label.

LEIBOWITZ

That's what Remley and I did this morning! The whole cellar shook like an earthquake.

THRIP

(dejected)

I know.

LEIBOWITZ

Colonel? Surely not!

THRIP

(ashamedly)

I am one of those who sold my soul to Arkwright.

(beat)

It was some years ago.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THRIP (CONT'D)

Simon bested me in a battle of wits, and I mistakenly agreed to the arrangement.

LEIBOWITZ

But there *must* have been some type of agreement you had to sign.

THRIP

(chuckles)

You're thinking like a lawyer, Leibowitz. It's merely a verbal agreement. When Arkwright fell ill some years ago, he groomed Remley to be his successor and carry on his arrangement. The full power of Arkwright's deal with the devil now rests with Remley.

LEIBOWITZ

Are you saying that I. . .

THRIP

I don't believe so, but the time hop he took you on shows that he *thinks* you can be added to his list of donors.

(beat)

Some club members were told the story of Arkwright and the devil. They laughed it off.

LEIBOWITZ

How could they *do* that?

THRIP

If you had heard it from anyone else but me, wouldn't *you* have thought it a fiction?

LEIBOWITZ

What are the rules of the deal?

THRIP

I'm not sure.

LEIBOWITZ

Then how -

THRIP

I've seen the ledger Remley keeps - a list of all the members whose souls he's earned for Satan.

(CONTINUED)

LEIBOWITZ

And he wants to add *my* name to that ledger?

THRIP

I believe so.

(beat)

You must be very careful. Like Arkwright was, Remley is a master of wordplay. He will get you to give your soul away before you know it.

LEIBOWITZ

There *must* be a way to stop him.

(beat)

Where does he keep this ledger?

THRIP

He has it tucked away behind some loose bricks along the south wall of the wine cellar.

LEIBOWITZ

We'll have to get it.

THRIP

What good would that do?

LEIBOWITZ

It will show us who might be loyal to Remley and can't be counted on for help. Then you and I can -

THRIP

No. I'm sorry, but I *cannot*.

LEIBOWITZ

Colonel?

THRIP

(beat)

I am a weak man. Not only old and infirm, but weak in spirit and, especially, in character. I wish it were otherwise.

LEIBOWITZ

You? That's not possible. I read all about -

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

THRIP

My exploits among animals are legendary, but I am a *coward* when it comes to facing down people.

LEIBOWITZ

All I need you to do is keep Remley occupied while I go down to the -

THRIP

I cannot.

LEIBOWITZ

Colonel -

THRIP

Please, Mr. Leibowitz, do not ask me again! So many before you have lost their souls - men I might have been able to save - but I was *afraid*.

(beat; sniffs)

I am a coward, and my condemned soul and I have to live in shame with that fact.

FADE OUT.

12 INT. WINE CELLAR - LATER

12

Leibowitz is struggling to remove a loose brick to get at the ledger.

LEIBOWITZ

(sotto voce)

Come on. *Come on!*

It finally comes free.

He puts the brick on the floor, reaches into the hole in the wall, and removes Remley's ledger. He flips through the pages.

LEIBOWITZ

My God! This is most of the membership. I can't rely on *anyone!*

Walking quickly down the stairs, Remley appears.

(CONTINUED)

REMLEY

What are you doing, Mr. Leibowitz?

Leibowitz hides the ledger behind his back.

LEIBOWITZ

(chuckles uneasily)

Mr. Remley, I didn't see you.

REMLEY

Did you forget the rule that no member is allowed down here without the cork master's company?

LEIBOWITZ

I. . . I guess I did.

REMLEY

Such an offense is grounds for dismissal.

LEIBOWITZ

Then I'll be going.

Leibowitz takes a few steps toward the stairs.

REMLEY

Not with my ledger you won't.

(beat)

Who told you about it?

LEIBOWITZ

I'm not saying.

REMLEY

I underestimated you. I thought you would be an easy mark - another soul for the ledger.

LEIBOWITZ

You were wrong.

REMLEY

I will not allow you to ruin what I have here. My. . . *arrangement* has made me very wealthy. You saw in our time how easy it is to take what we want.

LEIBOWITZ

I shouldn't have listened to you. I compromised my ethics.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LEIBOWITZ (CONT'D)

That's something I should never do
as an attorney or a human being.

REMLEY

Who got hurt by what you did?

LEIBOWITZ

I did. I'm ashamed of myself.

REMLEY

Don't be. I want men like you
around.

(beat)

I'm offering you the opportunity
to remain an Arkwright member.
Hand me that ledger and *never*
mention its location to anyone.

LEIBOWITZ

No.

REMLEY

There's one factor of the bargain
that no one else knows: I am
allowed to bring back *anything* I
wish from the time hops.

LEIBOWITZ

Really?

REMLEY

Money, jewels, artwork. I have
accumulated a nice nest egg. I can
share that with you *if* you agree
to become a donor.

(beat)

Think of it: Incredible riches for
you and your wife. You could
retire *right now*. All that for a
mere soul.

LEIBOWITZ

Definitely not.

Remley removes a gun from his suit coat pocket and levels
it at Leibowitz.

REMLEY

Put the ledger back.

Grudgingly, Leibowitz does so and puts the loose brick
back in place.

(CONTINUED)

LEIBOWITZ
(sarcastically)
Happy?

REMLEY
Very, but we're not done yet.

LEIBOWITZ
What do you mean?

REMLEY
You're too honest, Leibowitz.
You're a threat to my ambitions.
It's time for the two of us to
take one last time hop together.

Remley removes an empty bottle from one of the racks. He checks the label and nods happily.

LEIBOWITZ
Where to today?

REMLEY
That's a *surprise*, but it will be
your last time hop - a *one-way*
trip.

Walking slowly down the stairs, Thrip appears. He too is armed. Remley and Leibowitz are surprised to see him. He levels his gun at Remley.

THRIP
Put down the gun.

REMLEY
Thrip, I'm surprised you made it
down the stairs.

THRIP
I'd watch your mouth.

REMLEY
So, the great Colonel Thrip has a
weapon. However, unlike any of
your much-ballyhooed safaris, your
would-be prey this time is armed.

THRIP
It seems we have a stand-off.

Remley gestures with the wine bottle.

(CONTINUED)

REMLEY

Ready for a time hop, Colonel? Mr. Leibowitz will not be returning from this one. . . and neither will you.

THRIP

I won't allow that to happen. You forget that I'm armed.

REMLEY

No, but I know you don't have the *courage* to shoot a human being. I've known you for years. Simon knew you. You're weak. . . a *coward*.

THRIP

Even a coward has his moment.

REMLEY

(chuckles)
And *this* is yours?

THRIP

Yes. I can't allow you to do to Mr. Leibowitz what you did to Miller, Norton, Lawford, and the rest. I should have acted long ago, but I didn't. For that, I am ashamed.

REMLEY

And how will a coward like you stop me?

THRIP

Like this.

Thrip fires a shot into Remley's right leg. Remley drops his gun, screams, and falls to the floor, blood gushing from the bullet wound. The bottle he was holding rolls toward Leibowitz, who grabs Remley's fallen pistol.

Remley is in great pain.

REMLEY

How *could* you -

THRIP

Even a coward can have one moment of bravery.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THRIP (CONT'D)

We'll have to smash all the empties. That will prevent any further time hops.

REMLEY

You *can't*!

THRIP

Do you care to see if I can have a *second* moment in me, Remley?

Leibowitz picks up the bottle that Remley once held. He looks, astonished, at the label.

THRIP

Leibowitz? Are you alright?

Leibowitz glares down at Remley.

LEIBOWITZ

Is *this* where you were going to send me. . . send us?

REMLEY

Damn right it was!

Leibowitz passes the bottle to Thrip. He looks down at the label.

THRIP

Oh my God!

We see the bottle's label: Germany 1939. Thrip smashes the bottle to bits on the wall.

FADE TO BLACK.