



EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW EXCERPT

Farewell Under the Light of the Eclipse

*A journey of relentless ambition, hidden costs, and the final shadow
before the light goes out.*

CHAPTERS ONE & TWO PREVIEW

Chapter One: The List

The lamp above the kitchen table trembled every time the refrigerator motor kicked in. For as long as Elias could remember, that was how light worked in his home—in nervous pulses, as if the electricity itself were struggling to catch its breath.

He was eleven years old, sitting cross-legged on the cracked linoleum floor, watching his mother count the crumpled bills from her evening shift. Her fingers were stained with ink and fatigue, moving with a practiced, desperate precision.

Elias didn't care about the numbers then. He cared about the blank margins of his school notebook. With a stub of a pencil, he licked the tip and began to write what mattered most to him: a list of things he would conquer before the world got too heavy to lift.

At the very bottom of the page, in a faint, unsteady stroke, he added a line: *To witness a total solar eclipse.*

He had no idea, as he pressed the graphite into the cheap paper, that this single sentence would outlive every other ambition on the list. He didn't know it would remain the only unyielding anchor when decades later, a frail old man stood staring out of a hospital window, waiting for the sky to go dark.

Chapter Two: The First Metric

Ten years later, the kitchen table was a distant memory replaced by the polished glass of high-rise boardrooms and the cold hum of server racks. Elias didn't count crumpled bills anymore; he counted millions, benchmarks, and market dominance.

Yet, the restlessness never left him. Every milestone achieved felt less like a victory and more like an installment on a debt he couldn't quite name. His partners praised his relentless focus, calling it vision. But in the quiet hours between midnight and dawn, when the city lights flickered like dying embers, he would pull out a digital copy of that old childhood notebook.

The world saw a tech prodigy who had conquered the digital frontier. Elias knew the truth: he was still that eleven-year-old boy on the kitchen floor, running against a clock that was ticking faster than his wealth could buy back.

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On his desk sat a sealed cassette tape, left by his estranged mentor with a single instruction: *Do not play this until the sky turns black.*

As he looked out at the noon sun beginning to dim behind the heavy glass of his office, the air turned eerie and cold. The shadows outside began to warp, stretching into unnatural angles.

To be continued...

To read the full story and discover what lies on the final tape, stay tuned for the official release.