

Bernard:

I was actually planning—I've been meaning to talk to you for like a week, but work got in the way. And Teuton wanted me to wait until he talked to you first, so I kind of held off. I don't even know why I waited, honestly.

Czar:

I think the fundamental issue is that you've treated this situation like you're an outsider. I mean, you wanted to be an insider. You wanted to be in the special circle. I don't know what you should've done, but if you'd just asked me what was going on, I would've told you immediately.

Bernard:

Yeah.

Czar:

That's why I get annoyed when I get accused of fucking shadowy cabalist activities, scheming—all that gay shit.

Bernard:

I didn't accuse you of any of that.

Czar:

Not you. Not you. I know that.

Bernard:

Well, I don't think he's accusing you either. But he's his own man, so I don't fucking control whatever the fuck he does.

Czar:

Yeah.

Bernard:

Other people brought him in, but—

Czar:

Well, who are these "other people"? Because I'd like to—

Bernard:

It's like the plate-line thing. That's why you didn't want to be involved in a lot of this shit.

Czar:

I think he does want to be involved.

Bernard:

Not really.

Czar:

Well, when he was in that call with me, he felt compelled to tell me who should and shouldn't be banned from the server.

Bernard:

Like who?

Czar:

He said I should get rid of Ofri. He said I should get rid of Fellow Traveler. Some other fucking people too. He wanted me to silence them. And like—when I get demands like that—

Teuton:

Czar's not going to do that. [laughs]

Czar:

No. [laughs] But when I get requests—even about someone like Fellow Traveler—it gives me the sense that he's trying to be involved, even though he's been saying for like two years now that he wants nothing to do with it.

Bernard:

I dunno. I wouldn't know anything about that part, to be honest.

Czar:

Okay.

Bernard:

My whole involvement has just been like—alright, doing what I always did: working with TFR and making sure things don't go tits up. I didn't really do anything different. I just talked to Ton and Tyrone. That was kind of it.

Czar:

Okay. Well, the difference is, your involvement before was with the leader. Now it's alongside him—but in a different lane. And I think that can't really happen. That's why I did what I did.

If you want it back, I'd be more than happy to give it to you—if concerns about outside involvement in TFR are dealt with.

Bernard:

Elaborate?

Czar:

I need you to cut off anyone—Knowledge included—who isn't a dev, isn't anything. Not even a mod. Not even on the main server. I need those people out of the loop.

When someone tells me they're against me monetizing my mod—and they don't even work on it—that pisses me off.

Bernard:

Mm-hmm. So how would I even go about doing that?

Czar:

That, my friend, is for you to figure out. [laughs]

Bernard:

Because like, what happened here? A lot of that's out of my control. I can't go around monitoring devs' DMs.

Czar:

Yeah. I know the task I gave you is—

No, wait. How about this: something you can probably do. As I said, I've been burdened with dealing with retards. One of them is Munchies. I want him gone. He's universally disliked, doesn't do much, and he's in my way.

If you get rid of him, you can have your mercenary role back.

Bernard:

Have you just tried asking him to leave?

Teuton:

Actually, no. I'll meet you in the middle here—if you get rid of Munchies, I'd vouch for giving you admin.

Czar:

I'll give you your admin back. I'll open the golden gates to whatever the fuck you want to do. Just get rid of those two problems.

Bernard:

Well, one of them...

Czar:

I don't care how you do it.

Teuton:

Get rid of Munchies? You get moderator. Get rid of both? You get everything. Literally everything. I mean, I guess because—

Czar:

At that point, I have no reason to think you're acting against my interests. And even if you were, I wouldn't care—because my problems would be gone.

So my friend, the deal is on the table. Whether or not you take it, that's your call. Nothing's going to change. Nothing bad will happen to you if you don't do it. That's my offer.

Bernard:

Mm-hmm. Well, one of the problems you mentioned—not Munchies—I don't even think it is a problem, to be honest.

Czar:

Okay.

Bernard:

Like, it's something you don't even need to worry about.

Czar:

Well here I am, worrying about it.

Bernard:

There's just no need. I have no reason to lie to you. Zero.

Czar:

Well, I mean, I think you kind of have.

Bernard:

What—what personal gain would I even get?

Czar:

I don't know. Self-preservation? That's the main one.

Bernard:

If it was about self-preservation, I'd be doing this no questions asked.

Czar:

Well, if it is, you're doing a pretty fucking bad job. No offense. I just—

Bernard:

It's not. It's not about TFR. It's just like—hey, let's clear up some miscommunication here. Because I'm not doing anything different than I did months ago during the John Titor era. I'm just doing my fucking job.

Czar:

Yeah, but you were just a guy. You were John Titor's handler, basically.

Bernard:

I wasn't Titor's guy. I was the fucking peacemaker. Always have been the peacemaker.

Czar:

When did you make peace?

Bernard:

I dunno—just keeping retards from killing each other.

Czar:

Concrete, please. I just want to know.

Bernard:

Okay, not literally killing, but when people needed to get smacked down, like Hazard.

Czar:

Yeah, but who got “killed”? I mean, I was involved in pretty much everything. I’ve got a shitty memory, sure—but I don’t remember anything where it was like everyone on the dev team was gonna implode, except one particular event. And in that event, you acted like his handler. You told me last time we spoke—it was kind of like that.

Bernard:

Yeah.

Czar:

Not saying you were his lapdog or anything. Just saying—you had quite a case to manage.

Bernard:

Yeah, not a lapdog. More like a handler. Like, “Hey, don’t do anything retarded.”

Czar:

Yeah. Well, we know how that went.

Bernard:

There he is—our buddy, John Titor.

Czar:

You know, I don’t think it ever worked, to be honest with you. We never made peace. He just had to leave. Even Hazard was screaming ‘til the bitter end.

Bernard:

Yeah, but he... he fizzled. He fizzled out.

Czar:

He fizzled out because people fizzled out. And in some cases, I made them disappear.

Teuton:

Hmm.

Czar:

Man of action. A man of action—it's real.

Anyway, I don't really know what my point is with any of this.

Bernard:

I think a lot of this is just conjecture. I don't do gay ops. I don't like doing gay ops.

Czar:

Okay. Then I'll believe you at face value.

Bernard:

Yeah. It's fucking stupid. And that's why I don't want to be doing gay ops in some quid pro quo deal just to get roles back. That's dumb.

Czar:

Okay.

Bernard:

I just wanted to clear up some miscommunication.

Czar:

Anyway, elaborating on the gay-op vibe I got—during that VC I had with MJ, everything felt rehearsed. I had to leave for work, and things were going fine, then bam—he drops a screenshot from my DMs with Polite Line.

He came into that call with disingenuous intentions. He didn't show his full hand from the start.

Bernard:

He dropped a—what?

Czar:

He dropped a screenshot.

Bernard:

Of Polite Line's DMs? Like, in your DMs or—

Czar:

No, in the VC. He said, "Czar, one more thing before you go—what's this?" And then dropped our conversation.

Teuton:

You know, I think one of the big problems with MJ is he tries too hard to act tough. Like, he overcomplicates things that could be casual. And that definitely pisses people off.

Czar:

Yeah, it rubbed me the wrong way. That's exactly why I don't want him involved with TFR. If someone's going to try to boss me around, get under my skin, or catch me off guard—

Oh, look. He's in the dev server with Rusty right now.

Yeah, no. I don't want that guy in my dev team.

I liked him a lot more when he had nothing to do with TFR.

We got along fine for 90% of our convo.

I thought I made it pretty clear who I did and didn't want having certain information.

Bernard:

Yeah, well—I withheld a lot of information. I didn't tell a single soul about your plans to monetize. Everyone only found out when you dropped it.

Czar:

Yeah, well—for example, I let you in. I let you into the circle for a little bit. I wanted to give you an honest shot.

It goes without saying.

Teuton:

Yo, little buddy just told me he got banned from the Mag server. Did he say anything recently?

Czar:

Oh—little buddy?

Bernard:

Yeah, he's been acting really fucking weird around everyone. Even in the Mag server.

Teuton:



Little buddy meaning...?

Czar:

He's been very upset about certain developments.

Bernard:

Yeah, and he's—

Czar:

He's just... today he's been—

Bernard:

A little passive. Passive-aggressive too.

Czar:

He was strangely silent.

Teuton:

I'll hand it to Suan, I'll play devil's advocate here—Suan's done pretty well not causing problems. Which is probably a—

Czar:

He gets a gold star. A fucking gold star for not causing drama.

Bernard:

Because Suan knows if he acts out, he's getting nuked.

Czar:

Which is great. Yeah. That makes things easier.

But yeah—little buddy was removed because he refused to do a sit-down VC with MJ. The plan was for MJ to berate him and inform me about what was going on.

Bernard:

Is that what little buddy said?

Czar:

No, that's what he told me today. MJ asked him to VC—he didn't do it. He knew he was gonna get chewed out, so he said "nah, fuck no," and now he's gone.

That's how my devs are treated.

And to be fair, little buddy's got more foresight than 99% of people in this scene.

Bernard:

Well, the reason little buddy got kicked from the Mag server isn't really because of that sit-down. That was way later, last night.

It's the way he's been acting.

I was the one who wanted him out—because I don't want him causing fucking problems.

Czar:

Oh. Well, you fucking—okay.

Bernard:

Yeah, because like—if he's getting hostile with us, I don't need him reporting people's messages in here and getting us banned.

Czar:

Yeah. I mean, it's a valid reason.

I just think it's fucking odd how you keep denying your involvement with these people, and yet...

Bernard:

Yeah, they're my friends. Like—

Czar:

Yeah, but that's all TFR is. It's just friend groups. There's no organization, never has been.

Bernard:

The only person from TFR in there is you and MJ.

The whole point of the [inaudible] was to merge all the friend groups together. That was the point of it.

Why do you think the fucking S-friends are in there?

Czar:

Because he likes them.

Bernard:

I was the one who added them in.

Czar:

Yeah, whatever. Whoever. I don't really care. I just think—sure, they're friends, but I don't think they need to be discussing what's going on.

Bernard:

They don't.

Czar:

Okay, well—

Bernard:

There hasn't been a single fucking VC I can think of where people were talking about TFR decisions. Like, "What are we gonna do here?" That doesn't happen.

Czar:

I find that incredibly doubtful. At least once.

I mean, you say all this stuff like "I'm not involved with these people," "I'm my own person"—but you did deny it.

Bernard:

No, I never denied it. They're my friends—of course I'd be hanging out with them.

Czar:

You did. You fucking did.

Bernard:

You're acting like there's a cabal here.

Czar:

It's not a cabal. I'm just saying TFR is made up of little friend groups.

Bernard:

It's not that kind of friend group, Czar. There's no need for this fucking paranoia.

Czar:

It's not paranoia.

I'm acting based on what's in front of me.

Bernard:

And what is that? A couple of retards being retarded? That's normal operations for TFR.

Czar:

Yeah, but it's all intertwined.

TFR will always be a part of people's hearts and minds—MJ, you, whoever.

Little buddy was in here. Now he's gone.

A lot of devs are friends with them. It's all connected.

Bernard:

Devs are friends with them because Magen was part of TFR. Of course he's gonna be friends with devs.

Teuton:

I think, end of the day, Czar just doesn't want people who aren't part of the dev team thinking they run the mod.

I feel like that's what Czar's picking up on.

Czar:

The fact that little buddy had to worry about any of this to begin with—

It was tied into the mod.

And now that he's kicked out, he's gonna bring it back to us.

Back and forth, right?

Something happens in TFR—people over there worry.

Something happens in that server—and now we have to hear about it.

It's all a shitshow.

Bernard:

It doesn't need to be a shitshow.

Czar:

It doesn't. I just want it to stop. That's it.

Bernard:

Then stop paying attention to people discussing things they don't affect. Just ignore it.

Czar:

Okay, but—

Bernard:

Nobody's plotting with devs.

Teuton:

I think Czar just wants to do things his way. And—

Bernard:

I respect that. I'll respect that.

It's just, worrying about—

Teuton:

It's not so much about you. I think it's more about MJ.

That's what I'm hearing from Czar's side.

Bernard:

If it's about MJ, then just be honest with him about it. That's fine. Be upfront.

Czar:

Yeah? Well, how am I supposed to be upfront with someone who's not upfront with me?

Teuton:

He makes a point.

Bernard:

Then tell him straight up.

Czar:

Yeah, he's gonna have a great reaction to that.

Bernard:

Why does it matter what his reaction is?

Czar:

Because he can fuck things up. You know how he acts.

You've seen him destroy Second West Russian War.

Bernard:

He's not gonna do that to TFR. He's not gonna do anything to you.

Czar:

Yeah, I know he's not gonna do anything to me.

I just don't want to deal with this.

He doesn't like me.

And honestly? I don't even care if he stays in the server.

I just don't want him thinking he has some big input on how things go—when I don't.

Bernard:

Okay.

Czar:

I don't want to hear anymore like,

“Oh, MJ dragged me into a questioning VC,”

or “Bernard asked me about X, Y, Z,”

and now I have to explain things.

Bernard:

I apologize for fucking with Azrael. That was a joke. Just messing with him. It was funny.

Teuton was there—he can back me up.

Was it a bad idea? Yeah.

Czar:

Yeah. You know how bad that looked?

Bernard:

It looked pretty bad in the moment.

But it was kind of funny.

Czar:

It’s made worse because MJ is super inquisitive about Azrael.

He really doesn’t fucking like him.

So when I see you messing with him—

Bernard:

We were all a little bit curious.

Czar:

Yeah. But from my side, it raises questions.

Like—do I have the full story?

Is someone telling you to do this?

Are you just trying to figure it out yourself?

Bernard:

That’s why we’re talking. To get context.

Czar:

Okay. Yeah.

Well—I think the full context is here now.

Bernard:

That's the screenshots of Polite Line saying Azrael isn't who he says he is.

Czar:

Oh, that's funny. Let me see the second one...

"Azrael Returns. Azrael isn't a relic."

It's someone anonymous. [laughs]

Everything he said was like—yeah, it's sort of true.

But also everything he said is basically a lie. [laughs]

Bernard:

You can see how this shit makes people schizo out.

He told a shitload of half-truths.

Czar:

Yeah. I don't even know—maybe he got some of those things. And that's just worse than Polite Line's usual bullshitting lies.

Bernard:

All this info is just wrong. Which makes it so much worse.

Even the original plan wasn't gonna happen.

And he exaggerated it with stuff that wasn't even correct—like Azrael being part of it. He wasn't. [laughs] He wasn't even part of that fucking plan.

Czar:

Well, Polite Line wouldn't shut up about it for weeks.

Bernard:



Weeks. It wasn't just a one-time thing—he kept going on about it.

Polite Line, not Azrael.

Czar:

Alright, well, if you knew he was going on about this for weeks, why didn't—

Bernard:

No, we didn't know for weeks.

Rusty kept quiet about the entire thing until very recently.

Czar:

So when did Rusty actually tell people? What prompted it?

Bernard:

I think it was one of the spurgouts involving the MENA team.

There was some provocation—someone like Azrael pissed off the Russians, I think?

A week or two ago. I forget the exact day.

Anyway, that made Rusty go, "Oh fuck, is Polite Line actually telling the truth?"

Czar:

I see.

Bernard:

It looked like it added up.

Czar:

So we just thought Polite Line was lying... until Rusty saw it happen in real time.

Well, there's a key difference between that incident and what Polite Line was claiming—

Because the Russians weren't even involved. They've been quiet, actually. [laughs]

Bernard:

Oh yeah, also—didn't help that Polite Line also sent this.

Czar:

Yeah, the final screenshot. That one.

Bernard:

It didn't help when Polite Line sent that.

Because—

Czar:

I don't even know what the fuck to do with this guy.

Bernard:

You see a screenshot like that—something damning—and it gives him a little bit of credence in some people's eyes.

Czar:

Where did that come from? Where did the screenshot come from?

Bernard:

Polite Line. From your DMs with him.

Czar:

Yeah, I know that. I mean, how did you get it?

Bernard:

He sent it to Rusty.

Czar:

What the fuck, dude... God. Ugh.

Bernard:

You see why Polite Line is a massive fucking retard.

Czar:

Yeah. Yeah, I see that now.

I just don't like how—

Bernard:

It's a good thing Rusty has everyone's best intentions in mind.

He didn't leak that stuff to the public dev chats or anything.

Czar:

Fucking crazy.

Hey, Teuton—this the first time you're seeing all these screenshots?

Teuton:

One of them, yeah. Some of them, no.

Czar:

Okay.

I remember you told me about Polite Line yapping—like two weeks ago.

But I saw everything for the first time when I got cornered in a call with MJ.

And the way he did it—organized, deliberate—

That really rubbed me the wrong way.

I'm not tolerating that kind of shit anymore.

And hopefully, this kind of Q-drop nonsense doesn't happen again. [laughs]

Alright. I think that's it on that topic.

I don't really have anything else to add.

Bernard:

Well, the question that begs to be asked is...

Czar:

You can be as involved as much or as little as you want.

You've got no responsibilities. No obligations.

Bernard:

So I'm still not getting my position back?

Czar:

No.

Bernard:

Really?

Czar:

What?

Bernard:

I don't know. I don't think it was deserved.

Czar:

Okay.

Bernard:

I don't—

Czar:

Well, I'm sorry you feel that way.

Bernard:

It's not fair.

It's not.

Really ain't, man.

Long, long-term super-janny Bernard, man...

Czar:

Are you telling me you earned it?

Bernard:

Maybe I did. [laughs]

Maybe I did earn it. [laughs]

Czar:

Maybe you did.

Bernard:

Maybe I did earn it.

But I definitely didn't do anything to deserve getting kicked off. That's for sure.

Czar:

In all seriousness, I don't feel the effects of your super-janny powers.

If you want to be part of my thing, I think you gotta do shit for me.

I don't think that's unreasonable.

Bernard:

Such as?

Czar:

Well, I already told you the two things you could do.

But if you want something else—

I don't know.

Maybe just fucking wait and see.

But your past contributions don't really leave an imprint on me.

And I don't mean that disrespectfully. It's just the truth.

If you want, feel free to list out some concrete things you've done that helped me, specifically—not just TFR overall.

Bernard:

Helped you?

Czar:

Yeah.

Bernard:

Well, for example... I'm the reason you're lead dev.

Czar:

I don't think that's true. [laughs]

Bernard:

I was the one who told John Titor to make you lead dev.

Czar:

What?

Bernard:

Yeah.

For months, every time John talked about stepping down, I told him, "You need to make Czar lead dev—he's the only one who isn't fucking retarded."

Czar:

Okay, okay. You helped.

You know who else helped?

Mazda was in the call. MJ was in the call.

When Titor said he was stepping down, they both said, "Just give it to Czar."

I give both of you credit for that.

That's why I listened to MJ. That's why I'm listening to you now.

But before all that—before the "happenings"—what did you do in TFR, as super-janny, for four or five years, that helped the server?

Bernard:

Every little aspect of being a janny.

Czar:

Sure, but like what?

Teuton:

I—

Czar:

I need something concrete. Something big.

Bernard:

Everything I've done has been about preserving TFR and unfucking the bullshit.

Czar:

Again—respectfully—you haven't really pointed to a time where you unfucked something that would've caused a massive blowup.

In terms of general moderation, you've done fine. But like—look at Fcon. He's been a mod for like four years. He's jannied countless times.

If you're saying I should equate my level of respect for you with this guy—who barely speaks anymore—like...

Bernard:

He also helped shut down the Juno People's dev revolt when you took power.

Czar:

Okay, okay. Alright—you got me there.

That was huge. I do recognize that.

And you know what? When you requested to rejoin the inner circle, that was heavily considered because you helped me there.

I don't want to discourage that. That was definitely huge for me. So I'll give you credit.

I just... I don't know. I—

Bernard:

There was also the model situation. I tried.

Unfortunately, we couldn't get the models back—but I prevented—

Teuton:

Yeah, to be fair, nobody was gonna win that.

Bernard:

Right. But I prevented that guy from having a meltdown and trying to DMCA us.

Czar:

He wouldn't have been able to DMCA us.

Bernard:

That doesn't matter. We still would've had to go through the headache. And I prevented that.

Czar:

Yeah, well—

That was largely seen as...

Well, no, it wouldn't have been a DMCA. The models were going to be removed anyway. And they did get removed.

Bernard:

The majority of them weren't going to get removed unless I actually sat down, talked to the guy, and worked through it with him.

Czar:

We would've just had to remove everything.

It would've happened either way.

But, I think it was seen—by a lot of people—as a defeat.

Because you were supposed to handle it. And... well, people felt you didn't.

Bernard:

We handled it the only way we could.

Czar:

Yeah, no, I'm not saying we didn't.

I just don't think it's a major win.



Bernard:

Who sees it as me failing?

Czar:

At the time, it kind of coincided with the John Titor situation.

So all of us in our little... conspiracy group, or whatever, agreed: the model situation didn't work out.

We had to remove everything.

But what I don't appreciate is when developers try to get their little hands into things—which I'm seeing happen again.

I'm handling it. I've already started.

Anyway, in the spirit of separating business and friendship...

I guess things will stay the way they are.

And... that's that.

Bernard:

Mm-hmm.