

The Great Company Adventures • Book 28 of 50

CARGILL
**THE
INVISIBLE HARVEST**

A curious girl, three wise mentors, and the single grain of wheat that quietly feeds the whole world.

"Discovering the businesses that built the modern world"

An independent, unofficial educational work • not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by Cargill.



THE GREAT COMPANY ADVENTURES

Discovering the businesses that built the modern world.

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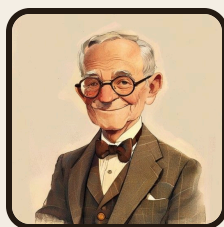
Illustrations were created with AI image tools; the text was written with AI assistance. All content is reviewed and edited by our editorial team.

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MEET THE CHARACTERS



SIRI



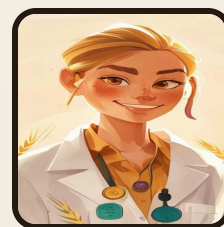
BEN



WARREN



CHARLIE



DELLA

A curious girl named Siri, a wise old teacher named Ben, and his student Warren with Warren's partner Charlie — together discovering the businesses that built the modern world, one adventure at a time.

THE GLOBAL 50

One great company per volume · Fifty adventures, one modern world

SPACE & EXPLORATION

1. SpaceX — *“The Fire That Comes Back”*

MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING

2. Toyota — *“The River That Builds Cars”*
3. Siemens — *“The Factory That Builds Factories”*
4. Caterpillar — *“The Machines That Move Mountains”*
5. Boeing — *“The Bird With Six Million Pieces”*
6. Airbus — *“The Plane Four Countries Built”*

ENERGY & INDUSTRY

7. Shell — *“The Sunlight Buried at Sea”*
8. ExxonMobil — *“The Ancient Sunlight Machine”*
9. GE Vernova — *“The Wheel That Makes Lightning”*

COMMUNICATION

10. AT&T — *“The Voice Inside the Wire”*
11. Qualcomm — *“The Whisper in the Air”*
12. Ericsson — *“The Towers That Talk”*

TRANSPORTATION

13. Tesla — *“The Car With No Engine”*
14. John Deere — *“The Machine That Feeds the World”*
15. UPS — *“The Promise in a Brown Truck”*

INFRASTRUCTURE

16. ABB — *“The Arms That Never Tire”*
17. Schneider Electric — *“The Guardian of the Grid”*

MATERIALS

18. Corning — *“The Thread of Light”*
19. DuPont — *“The Inventors of Almost Everything”*

SCIENCE & TOOLS

20. 3M — *“The Factory of Ten Thousand Ideas”*
21. Bosch — *“The Spark in Every Machine”*
22. Honeywell — *“The Dial That Tames the Weather”*

MEDICINE & BIOTECHNOLOGY

23. Pfizer — *“The Shield in a Tiny Vial”*
24. Roche — *“The Detectives of the Blood”*

25. Novo Nordisk — *“The Key to a Billion Locks”*

26. Johnson & Johnson — *“The Little Bandage That Grew”*

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

27. Nestlé — *“The Cup That Wakes the World”*
28. Cargill — *“The Invisible Harvest”*

FINANCE & COMMERCE

29. Visa — *“The Handshake Inside the Card”*
30. Mastercard — *“The Two-Second Trust Machine”*
31. Walmart — *“The Store That Never Runs Out”*
32. Costco — *“The Treasure Warehouse”*
33. FedEx — *“The Race Against the Sun”*

CONSUMER INNOVATION

34. Disney — *“The Factory of Dreams”*
35. LEGO — *“The Brick That Builds Anything”*
36. Sony — *“The Pocket Full of Music”*
37. Coca-Cola — *“The Secret in the Red Can”*
38. Nike — *“The Shoe That Learned to Fly”*

LUXURY & CRAFTSMANSHIP

39. Rolex — *“The Heartbeat on Your Wrist”*
40. LVMH — *“The Suitcase That Conquered the World”*

COMPUTING & DIGITAL CIVILIZATION

41. Apple — *“The Glass That Thinks”*
42. Microsoft — *“The Invisible Machine”*
43. Google — *“The Library With No Walls”*
44. Amazon — *“The Box That Crossed the World”*
45. NVIDIA — *“The Brain Made of Sand”*
46. Intel — *“The First Thinking Chip”*
47. TSMC — *“The Invisible City”*
48. ASML — *“The Machine That Prints With Light”*
49. OpenAI — *“The Machine That Learned to Talk”*

THE FINAL DISCOVERY

50. The Company Yet to Be Built — *“The Adventure You Will Build”*

THE GRAIN BY THE BREAD BAG

Midnight. Homework: unfinished. And Grandpa Ben's old brass compass? Spinning like crazy.

SPIN

The needle stopped. Pointing at... one tiny golden grain, rolled from the bread bag.

YOU? You're just a crumb!

The magic diary flipped open by itself. Fresh ink. Grandpa's handwriting.

It's never done THIS before...

"Time to meet the businesses that built the modern world. Start with the invisible harvest."

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

This tiny golden seed feeds more people than any other plant on Earth. It hides in your bread, your cereal, even your dinner. So... **who moves a whole harvest to your plate?**

The grain shimmered. A whirlpool of warm blue light reached out and grabbed her.

WHOOSH



Here we GOOO!



SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

New mystery! 🌱

- ① How does one little seed feed the whole world?
- ② Grandpa says it built a giant company I've never heard of. Prove it.

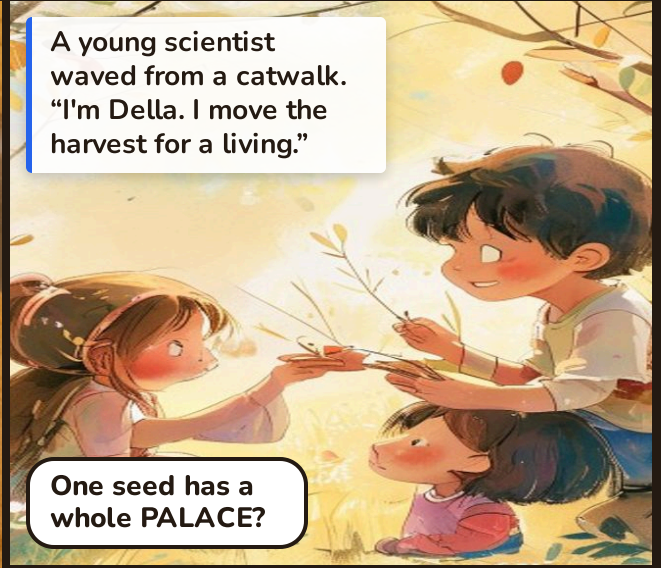
THE MOUNTAIN OF GOLD

She landed in a soaring hall where a mountain of golden grains glowed, rivers of them rolling by.



It's a **MOUNTAIN** made of tiny seeds!

A young scientist waved from a catwalk. "I'm Della. I move the harvest for a living."



One seed has a whole **PALACE?**

Della laid out the journey in steps. A green field. A golden grain. White flour. A risen loaf.



So many secrets in one little seed!

Every step is a puzzle.

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

A grain of wheat looks like nothing. But it must be grown, stored, milled, shipped, and made safe — so a billion kitchens can trust it. That is a lot of hard jobs for one seed. 🌾

📖 SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

A golden mountain, warm and dusty. Della says every step hides real science. First question: what even IS a grain of wheat? 🔍

THE LITTLE GOLDEN PACKET

3a What a grain really is

"A grain isn't just food," said Della. "It's a SEED — a whole baby plant, wrapped in its own packed lunch."



There's a world inside one seed!

"And the lunch is sunlight. All summer the plant drinks the sun and stows it away as starch."

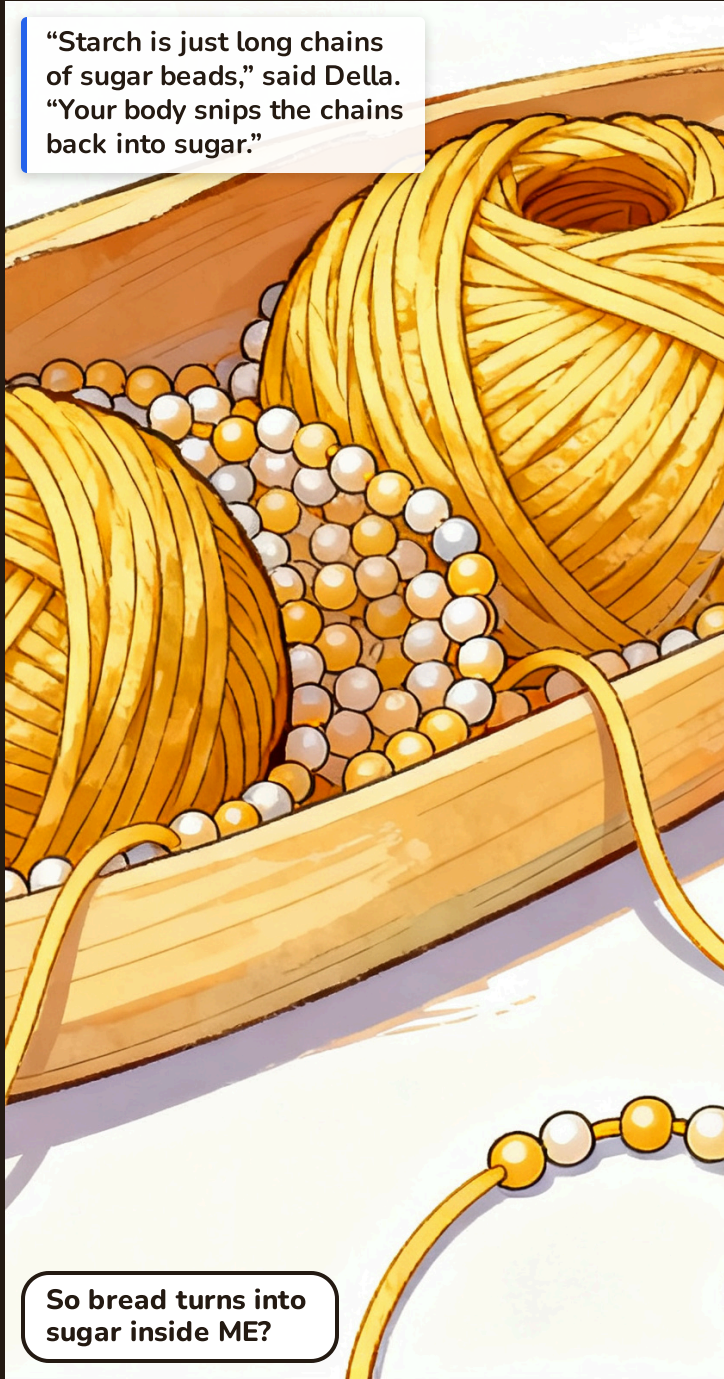


The seed is bottled SUNSHINE?!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

A green plant catches sunlight and packs it into **starch** — food for its baby. That starch is the same energy that later powers YOU. Every grain is a little battery, charged by the sun. ☀

"Starch is just long chains of sugar beads," said Della. "Your body snips the chains back into sugar."



So bread turns into sugar inside ME?

"Slowly, though. Whole grain gives steady energy — a calm, all-morning kind of full."



Not a sugar rush — a slow, cosy fuel!

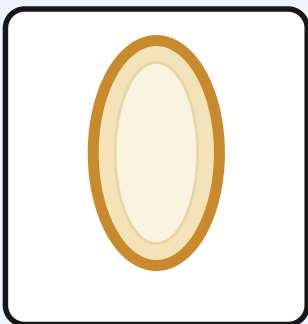
Exactly.

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

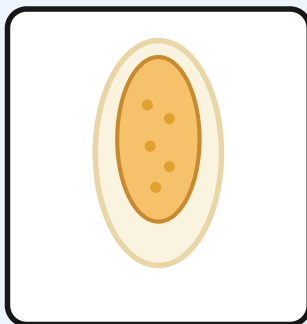
Starch = sugar beads on a long string. Chewing and your tummy **snip the strings** back into sugar for energy. Whole grain keeps the fibre, so the fuel arrives slow and steady. 



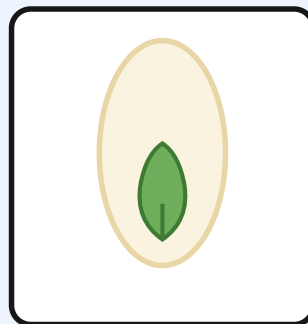
WHAT'S INSIDE A GRAIN OF WHEAT



THE SHIELD
the tough coat



THE LUNCHBOX
stored sunlight



THE BABY
the tiny sprout



SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

- ① A grain is a seed + its packed lunch. 🌱
- ② The lunch is sunlight, stored as starch.
- ③ Starch = long chains of sugar beads.
- ④ Your body snips the chains for energy. 🔗

THE STRETCHY SECRET

4a From seed to snow-white flour

Della fed grain between big rollers. Out came a cloud of white flour; papery flakes drifted off.



You crushed the seed into POWDER!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Milling cracks the grain and sorts its three parts. The tough coat and tiny sprout drift away; the soft starchy middle is ground into **white flour**. Whole-wheat flour simply keeps every part. 🌾

"Add water, and something wakes up." Della kneaded the flour into stretchy, springy dough.

"Two proteins in the flour link up into a net — we call it gluten. That's the stretch."

It went from powder to BOUNCY!

A trampoline made of PROTEIN!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Wet flour + kneading builds a stretchy net called **gluten**. It's why dough pulls like elastic instead of crumbling. No net, no bread — just a puddle of paste. 🕸

Then yeast puffed the dough full of tiny bubbles, and the gluten net held every one. The loaf rose.



The net traps the bubbles — so it PUFFS UP!

SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

Milling = crush + sort the grain's 3 parts → flour. Flour + water + kneading = the gluten NET. ✨ Yeast makes bubbles; the net traps them; the bread rises. That's a loaf!

KEEPING A BILLION SEEDS ALIVE

“Here's the strange part,” said Della. “A grain is still ALIVE. It breathes, very slowly, waiting to sprout.”



My toast was BREATHING?!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Grain is a sleeping seed — and sleeping things still breathe. Too warm or too damp and it wakes, moulds, or rots. Keep it **cool and dry** and it stays good for years. 😴

That's what the tall towers are for: grain elevators that keep the harvest cool, dry and safe.



So the giant tower is a **GIANT** fridge for seeds!

Then the harvest rides: barges down rivers, trains across land, ships across seas. Rivers of gold.

CHUGGA



One field can end up an **OCEAN** away!

★ **WORTH REMEMBERING**

The real trick isn't growing grain — it's **moving mountains of it** from where it grows to where it's hungry, without letting it spoil. That is the invisible harvest. 🚢

📖 **SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK**

Grain is **ALIVE** and breathes. 😓 Keep it cool + dry or it spoils. Elevators = giant seed-fridges. Then barges, trains, ships carry it worldwide. Moving it is the hard part!

WHY THE WORLD SAYS YES

Della waved at a whole store.
Bread, cereal, oil, eggs,
chicken, chocolate — all
glowing with one golden
thread.



The grain is hiding in
EVERYTHING!

“Harvest comes once a
year, in different places.
But people eat every
single day, everywhere.”



So someone has
to fill the gaps!

Farmer. Elevator keeper.
Barge captain. Miller.
Baker. Shopkeeper.
Each shrugged: “I only
do my small part.”



But nobody does
the **WHOLE**
thing?!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

So why build all this for a cheap seed? Because the world needs the **same food, every day, everywhere** — even when the harvest is far away or last year's. Deliver that, quietly, and you feed the planet. 🍞

📖 SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

Grain hides in bread, oil, chicken, chocolate — everything. Harvest = once a year; hunger = every day. Someone must store it and move it to fill the gaps. That's the real job. 💛

THE COMPANY YOU NEVER SEE

Across a blue northern lake, ringed by wheat fields, stood a quiet giant. No loud sign — yet the whole harvest flowed through it. Siri gasped.

"In 1865, a young man named William Cargill built ONE wooden grain house — right beside the new railroad."

CARGILL! The company hiding inside my breakfast!

He started with a single BARN?

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

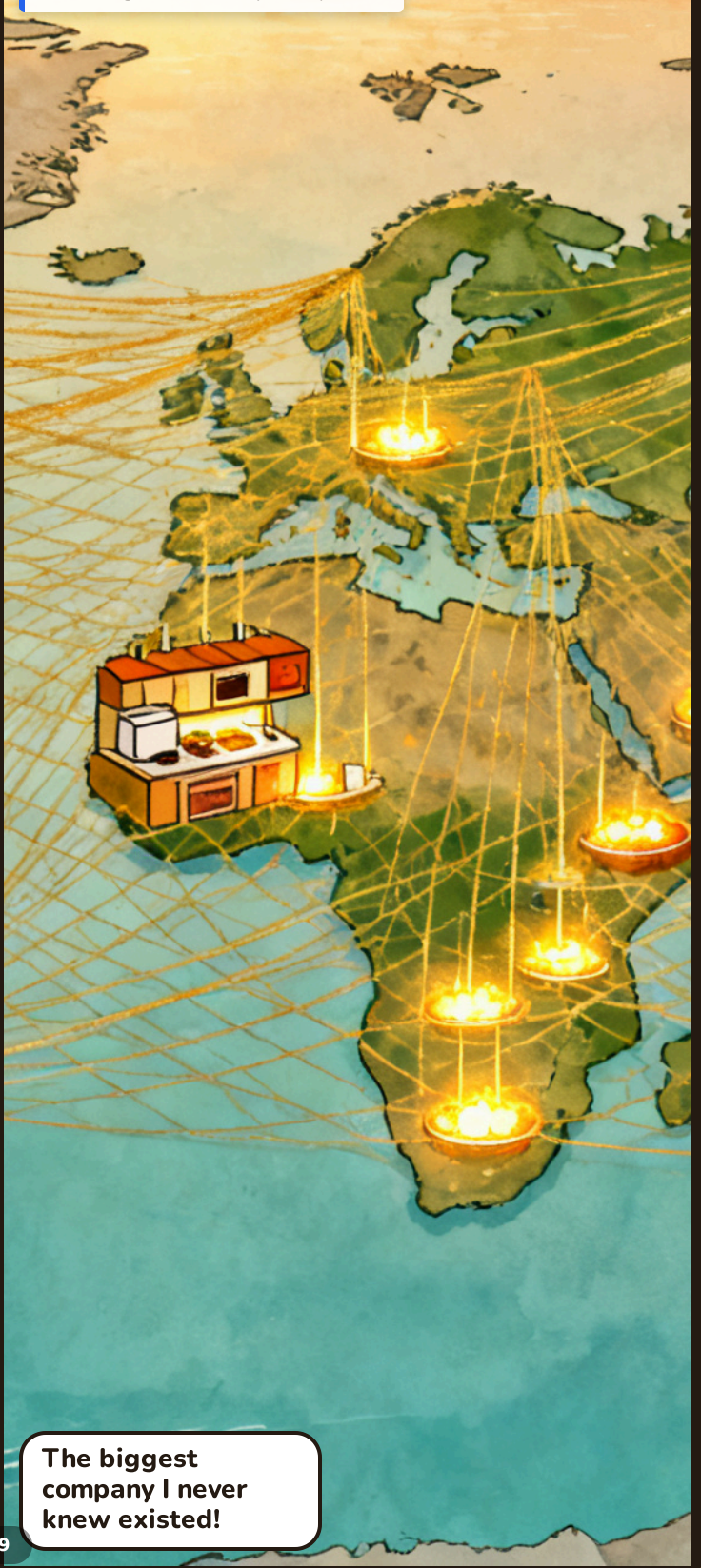
William stored other people's grain safely and moved it when they needed. As the railroads spread west, so did his little grain houses. A business of **trust** grew, one elevator at a time. 🚂

"And here's the rare part:
Cargill stayed a **FAMILY**
company. No stock ticker. It
can think in decades, not
days."



So it plays the
LONG game!

"Today it's one of the
biggest private companies
on Earth — grain, oils, feed
for animals, ingredients —
feeding billions, quietly."



The biggest
company I never
knew existed!



THE STORY IN TIME

1865

William W. Cargill buys his first grain storehouse in Conover, Iowa.

1875

The family moves to La Crosse, Wisconsin, following the railroads.

1900s

Cargill spreads its grain elevators across the American prairies.

1930s

It reaches overseas, trading grain across the world.

1960s

It grows into oils, sweeteners and feed for farm animals.

1990s

Cargill becomes one of the largest private companies in the world.

2000s

Salt, cocoa, meat and food ingredients widen the harvest.

Today

Cargill quietly helps feed billions of people every single day. 🌾



SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

CARGILL = the invisible giant. 1865: one wooden grain house by the railroad → today one of the biggest PRIVATE companies on Earth.

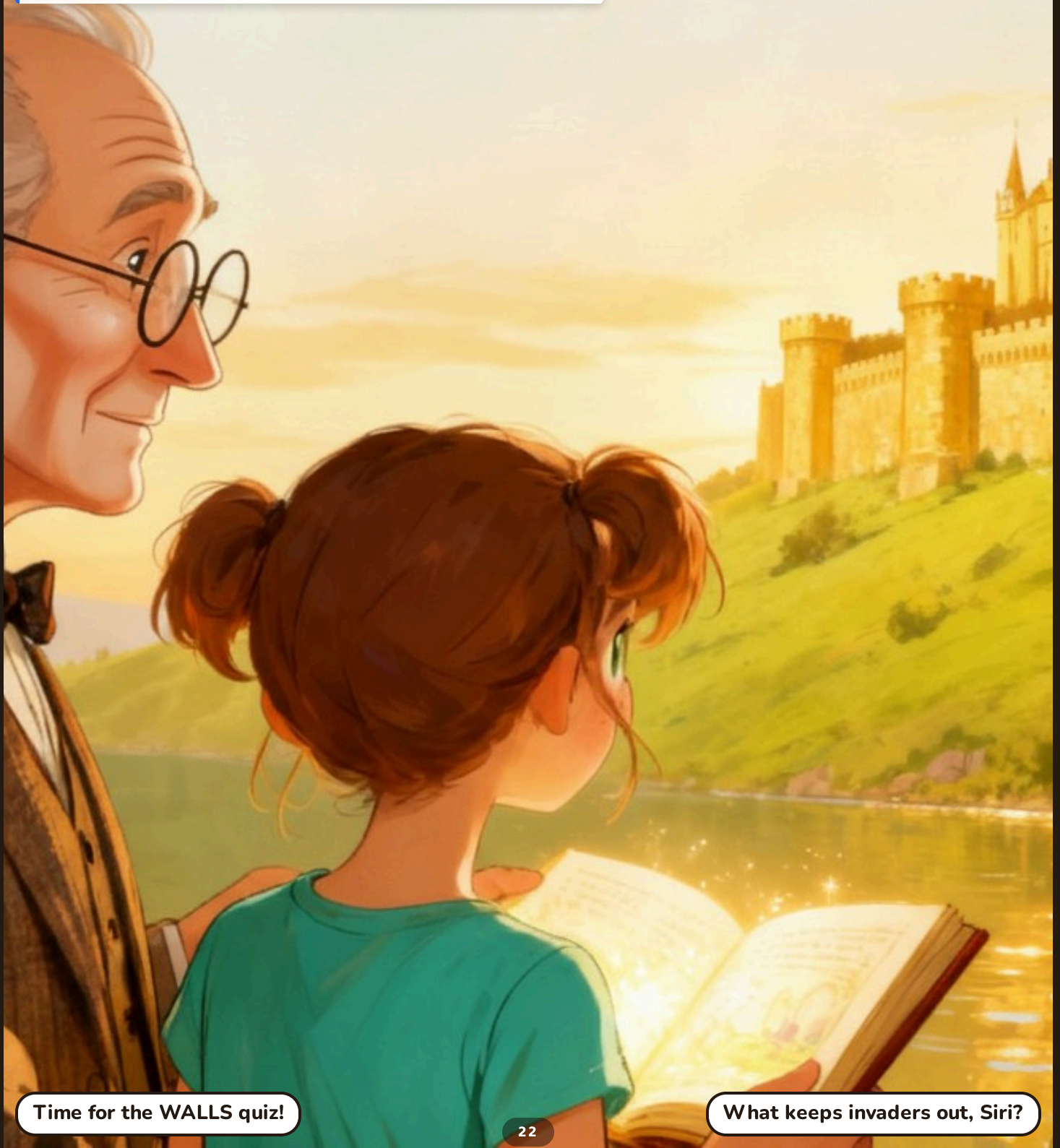


Stayed family-owned, so it thinks in decades.

It's in my whole breakfast!

THE CASTLE IN THE GRAIN

A warm glow. A smell of cherry cola. Warren and Charlie of Omaha, before a shining castle.



Time for the WALLS quiz!

What keeps invaders out, Siri?



THE CASTLE WALLS • WHY RIVALS CAN'T COPY IT



Wall One: A Web of Steel

Elevators, ports, barges and ships all over the world. Building that network takes a century — a rival can't rent it overnight.



Wall Two: A Name

Farmers Trust

For over 150 years it has paid fairly and shown up on time. That trust, earned slowly, is worth more than any promise.



Wall Three: Eyes

Everywhere

Knowing which field is ready and which country is short, all at once, lets it move food to where it's needed most.



Wall Four: A Whole Forest

Grain, oils, sweeteners, salt, cocoa, animal feed — thousands of crops and products. When one harvest fails, the forest still stands.



The Cracks in the Glass

Weather and harvests swing wildly. Prices can turn on a dime. And a quiet giant must always earn the world's trust in how it treats land and people. Castles need defending — daily.

Charlie tapped his glasses. “Don't ask how to WIN. Ask what would DESTROY it. **Invert, always invert.**”



Find the ways to lose... then don't!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Charlie's checklist for ruining them: break a promise to a farmer, guess badly on the weather, or grow so big you stop caring how food is grown. Now — just never do those. Worry, turned into a to-do list.

Warren raised his cola. "A business the whole world leans on and never sees. That kind of quiet, patient moat is exactly what I love to study."



So the treasure isn't the grain. It's the NETWORK.



SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

Walls: a web of steel 🏛️ + farmers' trust 🤝 + eyes everywhere 🌐 + a whole forest of crops 🌳. Cracks: wild weather, swinging prices, growing clumsy. Charlie: INVERT. Warren: love the quiet, patient moats. 🏰

THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS

"What does this become in thirty years?" asked Della. A farm of tomorrow: richer soil, less waste, more food from less land.



Feeding MORE people, and healing the Earth too!

On a rooftop at dusk, Siri thought it through the way Grandpa taught her.



Bet on the NEED, not the barn.

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

The deep currents: smarter farms that heal the soil, less food wasted, kinder ways to feed a growing world. Barges and elevators will change — the need to be fed will not.



SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

2056 watchlist: healthier soil, precision farming, less waste, feeding billions more. Rule: bet on needs, not barns. (People will still need to eat in every one of those years.)

COMING HOME

Her own bed. Morning. The compass: quiet. The house: somehow different.

Was it real? It FELT real...

One fresh line dried on the diary's glowing page.

"The modern world is not magic. It is millions of ordinary people doing small hard things, together, for a long time."

At breakfast the little grain sat by her toast. Stored sunlight. A gluten net. A billion hidden hands.

You're a whole hidden world, you little seed.

She hugged the diary tight. Somewhere far away, wheat fields glowed beside a northern lake.

Show me the next one, Grandpa. 🍷

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Next unlock, feel it: sunlight stored as starch — a stretchy net that lets bread rise — a living seed kept cool and dry — a web of steel that feeds the world unseen. A grain of wheat is no longer just a crumb. **Nothing, from now on, is just anything.**



SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK · WHAT I LEARNED

- ① A grain is a seed full of stored sunlight.
- ② Starch = long chains of sugar.
- ③ Gluten is the stretchy net that rises bread.
- ④ Grain is alive — keep it cool and dry.
- ⑤ The hard part is moving the harvest.
- ⑥ Reliability, sold cheaply, a billion times.
- ⑦ Invert! And love the quiet, patient moats. 🧡



OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe the greatest gift we can give a child is the ability to think.

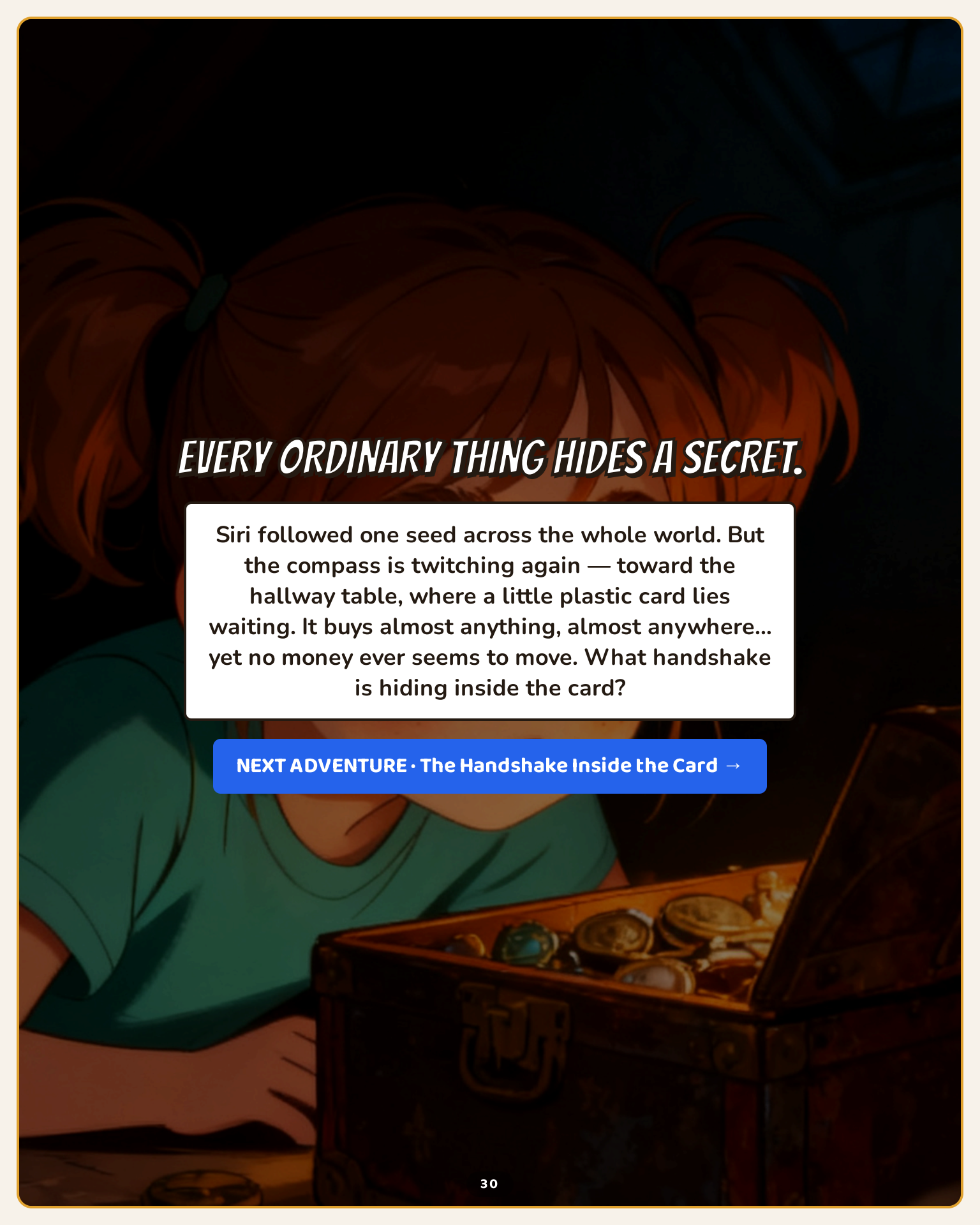
Inspired by the multidisciplinary thinking of [Charlie Munger](#) and the rational, long-term philosophy of [Warren Buffett](#), our comics connect science, technology, business, history, and human behavior to show how the real world works.

Every story begins with a scientific idea and follows its journey into innovation, industry, and the businesses that create value for society. Along the way, children learn that great companies are built on curiosity, experimentation, integrity, and long-term thinking.

Our goal is not to teach children how to invest, but to help them build the mental models needed to understand the world, ask better questions, and think independently.

The companies featured in *The Great Company Adventures* are educational case studies—not investment recommendations. They show how knowledge, innovation, and perseverance turn ideas into products, services, and enduring businesses.

LEARN THE SCIENCE. • UNDERSTAND THE BUSINESS. • THINK FOR LIFE.

A girl with red hair in pigtails, wearing a green shirt, is looking into an open treasure chest filled with gold coins and jewels. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden glow emanating from the chest.

EVERY ORDINARY THING HIDES A SECRET.

Siri followed one seed across the whole world. But the compass is twitching again — toward the hallway table, where a little plastic card lies waiting. It buys almost anything, almost anywhere... yet no money ever seems to move. What handshake is hiding inside the card?

NEXT ADVENTURE • The Handshake Inside the Card →