

THIS INFINITE GAME

December 13, 2025

1 | Your gift casts a shadow

If asked to describe one of my greatest gifts, I would say it's attention to detail. Throughout my life, others have reflected this quality back to me. In trading, it manifests as the ability to identify segments of price action with fine granularity.

I've built a deep mental catalogue of chart analogs and fractal patterns that repeat across timeframes. My trade setups are defined by the alignment of multiple attributes that must all be present to validate entry.

This attention to detail and rigorous adherence to my definitions has kept me out of trouble when managing risk. It helps me avoid tilt, ensures concurrent exposure stays in check, and acts as a shield against blowups.

All this makes my inherent attention to detail a true gift in my trading. But as with any outsized strength, that gift casts a shadow. And for me, that shadow is perfectionism.

If a setup meets nearly all my criteria but even one attribute isn't quite clear, I can slip into hesitancy over placing orders. I am easily drawn into fitting every attribute of my setup into clean, black-and-white rules, despite the market's inherent messiness.

My inner work is to keep these forces in balance: to watch that my shadow of perfectionism doesn't paralyze me, while my gift of attention to detail keeps my setups methodical, and my risk-taking within reason.

At times, I envy traders who can trust their stops and pull the trigger time and again on setups that, to my eye, appear ambiguous or inconsistent. For them, their gift of conviction may require balancing a shadow of recklessness.

Your gift may be either of these, neither, or something else entirely. Whatever your gift, be aware that it casts a shadow that needs to be balanced. What's yours?

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2 | The bad print

There was [mention in the Comm Center on Monday](#) of an outsized lower wick appearing on HURN just after the open.

HURN, 1D, December 8th, 2025



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What was particularly strange was that the wick did not appear on any of the lower timeframes.

And when I checked my broker's platform, that chart did not display the outsized wick either—and the stop I had placed just above \$166 had not been triggered.

HURN, 4h, December 8th, 2025



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I fed all this information to Perplexity, and here is what it had to say:

This is almost certainly a bad print / data artifact on the daily feed rather than a true traded low, which is why you do not see it on lower timeframes and your stop did not trigger.

Why the daily shows a phantom wick

Daily candles are usually built from a consolidated data feed that may include occasional erroneous ticks (bad prints) or odd-lot/late-reported trades that chart vendors still treat as "low" for the day. Intraday aggregations (1m/5m/15m etc.) often come from a cleaner or differently filtered feed, so those rogue ticks never make it into the intraday bars, creating the discrepancy you see.

On top of that, some vendors stitch together trades from multiple venues and dark pools; a single tiny trade reported at a stray price (e.g., 157.52 when everything else is trading much higher) can show up in the daily OHLC calculation as the official "low," even though the continuous market never actually traded there in a meaningful way.

Why your broker stop didn't trigger

Stops at your broker are triggered by the prices your broker's routing/market data system sees, not by your charting platform's daily OHLC print. If your broker never saw a tradable bid/last at 157.52 (or they filtered the bad tick out), your stop would not be activated even though the charting vendor's daily candle shows that as the low. This behavior is common with fat-finger errors or bad prints that occur in tiny size and are later busted or excluded from the broker's executable feed.

That shadow of perfectionism that I spoke about earlier ... it abhors these types of anomalies. Had that wick appeared during a backtest of this setup, it would have been marked as a full stop out. And yet ...

Were I to white out the bad print from my chart, thereby displaying the trade levels honored by my broker, the Bull Flag featured in [last week's issue](#) could not look more textbook.

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HURN, 1D



To be clear, my shadow of perfectionism disdains the fact that the above chart must come accompanied by that caveat.

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3 | The pauses that refresh

I find a number of names on my watchlist this week meandering mid range. Of note: despite Friday's clear weakness, the majority of short setups cited in recent issues actually moved *away* from their lower boundaries this week.

Some of names that have my eye going into next week include:

CME Group (CME)



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Heico Corporation (HEI)



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Jabil Inc. (JBL)



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Charles Schwab Corporation (SCHW)



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XP Inc. (XP)



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4 | Financial flurries

Bread Financial Holdings (BFH) continued to lead Financials higher this week. I'm always pleased when I watch my bottom-up approach position me longest the strongest.

BFH, 1D



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A handful of other Financial Sector names cleared their resistances and are now hovering just above their respective upper boundaries, testing both buyer and seller conviction.

These breakouts include East West Bancorp:

EWBC, 1D



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And Northern Trust Corporation:

NTRS, 1D



I know from my personal trade journaling and analysis that these breakouts are most vulnerable to failure in their first 1-2 weeks.

Let's see how they play out.

Best wishes in your trading, and see you in the next issue.

— Mike Gyulai