

Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

#Chapter 101 - Read Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren) Chapter 101

Chapter 101 The invited guests would undoubtedly receive Marks favor and shower of gratitude

Even after all his scheming, Harvey had absolutely nothing to show for it, which left him seething with frustration

What angered him most was Andrew, that loser, somehow managed to steal his spotlight.

He was supposed to be Jayrodales golden boy, the rising star of the younger generation destined for greatness.

Harvey growled through gritted teeth, Andrew, youve stolen my thunder one too many times.

Just wait Ill find a way to take you down! Burning with anger and resentment, he stormed out of the Thatcher residence.

Just then, Christina called and asked, Harvey, hows Mr.

Thatcher doing? Harvey forced a laugh, trying to keep his voice steady as he replied, Everythings fine

now

Hes cured

Christina exclaimed in surprise, Thats wonderful news! But who managed to heal him? Was it Dr. Aicker, the one you invited? Of course, Harvey lied smoothly, not showing an ounce of shame. It was Dr.

Aicker

Who else could handle something; this complicated? Even though his pride had taken a hit, Harvey maintained his confident tone.

Naturally.

Mr.

Thatcher has already called me in for a private meeting.

Just wait for the good news, Christie.

I'll talk to you later.

Sure, go ahead.

He probably wants to thank you personally, Christina said.

By the way, I heard Andrew also showed up at the mayor's mansion.

Did you see him? Harvey sneered.

Christie, don't even mention that guy.

He made a fool of himself and got kicked out by security.

Christina let out a cold laugh.

I really don't understand what goes through his head sometimes.

Anyway, I've got to go! Meanwhile, in the main hall.

Mark was clearly moved, and he said earnestly, Mr.

Lloyd, I don't know how I can ever repay you for saving my life

Without even realizing it, he had switched to addressing Andrew formally.

Cedric chuckled.

Mr.

Thatcher, your recovery is entirely thanks to Dr.

Lloyd

I didn't lift a finger, so there's no need to thank me.

Chapter 101 Lauren smiled playfully.

Oh? Mr.

Thatcher actually wants to thank Dr.

Lloyd ? Young lady, what are you suggesting? Mark laughed.

Are you implying that my word as the mayor of Jayrodale means nothing? Leaning affectionately on Andrew, Lauren grinned.

Well, Dr.

Lloyd doesnt care much about money.

If he needs any, I can support him just fine, so you dont need to worry about financial compensation. Andrew felt slightly awkward at how bold she was acting

To anyone watching, it would look like she was claiming him as her own.

Well then, Mr.

Lloyd, name anything within my power, and its yours, Mark offered.

After a moments thought, Andrew replied, When I treat patients outside my practice, I usually accept rare medicinal ingredients as payment.

Rare medicinal ingredients? Mark asked, intrigued.

You mean those precious substances.

that contain innate spiritual energy and are far more valuable than common herbs? Andrew nodded. Exactly

Do you happen to have any in your collection? Mark smiled broadly.

While such ingredients are incredibly rare and hard to come by, youre in luck.

I actually have a Seventh Heaven Quince in my vault! Andrews eyes lit up at this news.

The Seventh Heaven Quince was exactly one of the rare ingredients he needed.

He had not expected it to show up here of all places.

Chapter 102 Mark was a man of his word and immediately ordered someone to fetch the Seventh Heaven Quince for Andrew

Puzzled, Cedric could not help but ask, Dr.

Lloyd, Seventh Heaven Quince is known to be highly toxic.

What do you plan to do with it? 40 Andrew replied casually, Alchemy.

Cedrics eyes widened in shock.

Dr.

Lloyd, you practice alchemy? Andrew smiled modestly.

I know a thing or two.

Whats so special about this alchemy youre discussing? Mark asked, his curiosity piqued.

Cedric explained with reverence, Mr.

Thatcher, alchemy is an ancient sacred art passed down through generations of master healers.

In certain traditions, its known as the art of creating elixirs

By combining various rare ingredients and following secret formulas, one can create.

miraculous medicine.

Take the medicinal pills from Mistveil Peak, for instance.

Theyre legendary throughout Etharia for their powerful effects and are worth a fortune! Mark stared at Andrew in amazement.

Mr.

Lloyd, I had no idea you possessed such remarkable skills.

Im truly impressed.

Lauren chimed in, The Mistyeil Peak pills are always in short supply.

My grandpa tried multiple times to obtain some but always returned empty handed.

Also, only a handful of people in all of Etharia know the secrets of alchemy

Lauren continued, And theyre all backed by top tier powers with legacies stretching back over a thousand years.

Her sparkling eyes were fixed on Andrew, marveling at this mysterious man before her.

She had already convinced herself that finding this man was due to her extraordinary luck, but now he seemed to be nothing short of a miracle.

Mark broke the silence with a chuckle.

For someone as skilled as Mr.

Lloyd, a single Seventh- Heaven Quince feels like an inadequate reward.

I think I should add something more to show my sincerity

Cedric and Lauren exchanged knowing glances, understanding Marks intentions.

Clearly, he wanted to strengthen his connection with Andrew, and neither could blame him.

After all, Andrews abilities made him impossible to ignore.

Mark suggested casually, Mr.

Lloyd, since you arent interested in mere money, lets chat about other matters.

It'll just be some idle conversation, of course! He explained, You know, theres an undeveloped area on the west side of the city.

The paperwork should be approved soon.

Its nothing major, just a billion dollar project or so... After a moments pause, he continued, Anyway,

Jayrodales pharmaceutical industry has Chapter 102 some significant gaps.

I recently held a meeting where we unanimously decided to provide strong support for its development.

The Weller familys influence has been declining sharply In recent years.

Their position in Jayrodale isnt quite as stable as it used to be

After this stream of information, Mark took a sip from his teacup before turning to Andrew with a smile. Mr.

Lloyd, I havent revealed anything too important, have I ? This is all just casual conversation nothing to take too seriously! Andrew chuckled, playing along.

Dont worry, Mr.

Thatcher.

We havent heard a thing

Cedrics face lit up with amusement.

Mr.

Thatcher only has Jayrodales development at heart.

He wouldnt carelessly reveal important information

Were just having a friendly chat! Lauren added with a playful smile, Did Mr.

Thatcher say something? I didnt hear anything

We were just discussing the weather, werent we, Dr.

Lloyd ? Andrew smirked and nodded.

Thats right, Ms.

Rhodes.

We were just discussing the weather.

Mark burst out laughing.

Exactly! And what lovely weather were having today! Laurens playful quip had everyone laughing, her charm effortlessly lightened the mood in the room.

Chapter 103 After leaving the mayors mansion, Cedric rushed home with obvious excitement.

Lauren turned to Andrew with a knowing smile and explained, The Aicker familys business isnt huge, and their reputation mainly comes from Mr.

Aickers medical expertise.

It seems Mr.

Aicker is ready to make his big move and capitalize on this opportunity, she added thoughtfully.

Andrew nodded in understanding.

Its definitely a golden opportunity.

Mark had essentially handed both the Rhodes and Aicker families a silver platter of opportunities, and even a fool could see what a precious chance this was.

Lauren gazed at Andrew intently.

Dr.

Lloyd, Mr.

Aicker and I you.

th benefited because of While Mr.

Thatcher has good relationships with our families, he wouldnt normally hand out opportunities like this so freely.

I really need to thank you properly

Andrew recognized that Mark had shared this privileged information solely out of respect for him. Nonetheless, he simply smiled and said, Theres no need for that, Ms.

Rhodes

Just keep me informed if you come across any rare medicinal ingredients.

However, Lauren insisted firmly, Such a huge favor deserves proper acknowledgment.

Ive already arranged for you to have a board position at Rhodes Corporation.

Youll receive a share of the groups profits moving forward

Andrew was caught off guard and quickly protested, Ms.

Rhodes, thats completely unnecessary.

You know I have no interest in money or status.

Laurens voice took a playful turn.

I dont care! Im going to repay you anyway.

And thats not the only way I plan to show my gratitude.

Her eyes sparkled mischievously as she added, Dr.

Lloyd, did you notice my stockings today? Andrew felt his throat tighten and stumbled over his words.

Uh... they look... nice? Would you like to touch them? Touch them? Ms.

Rhodes, that wouldnt be appropriate.

Were in public! Lauren leaned closer and whispered teasingly.

We could go to the car.

Dr.

Lloyd, these stockings are not only stylish and soft, but theyre also very easy to tear

Why dont we give that a try, eh? Laurens seductive tone made Andrews heart skip a beat.

He had to admit, this stunning woman knew exactly how to provoke his primal desires.

Well... if you insist, we should test that theory in the car

To Laurens surprise, Andrew agreed after only a moments hesitation.

Suddenly flustered, she Chapter 103 stammered, D Dr.

Lloyd, you... youre not actually serious, are you? Andrew winked.

Of course I am

You suggested it, didnt you? Besides, Ive been single for quite a while. Ms.

Rhodes, youre a stunner, and those legs of yours in those sexy stockings are a sight to behold.

Im sure well have a good time.

Dr.

Lloyd, please ... calm down! I was just teasing you! Lauren laughed nervously.

Andrews burning gaze made her heart race.

She had not expected him to call her bluff so boldly.

For a moment, Lauren genuinely worried he might take her up on the offer.

While she was not opposed to the idea, she certainly had not prepared herself for things to escalate so quickly

Meanwhile, Andrew could barely suppress his amusement at the seductive troublemakers flustered reaction.

It served her right for always trying to tease him.

Chapter 104 Lauren pouted as she glared at Andrew and whispered shyly, Dr.

Lloyd, we havent even established a relationship yet, so touching is definitely... inappropriate, She thought momentarily and added, However, if you really want to, we could... maybe share a kiss ? It was Andrews turn to be flustered

He never expected Lauren to say something so bold, especially with that soft, bashful expression. Andrew had always regarded Lauren as a confident and outspoken woman.

Hence, her delicate demeanor and shy, alluring gaze completely stunned him.

She looked like a gentle, elegant beauty straight out of a painting

For a moment, Andrew felt his heart skip a beat.

Just as the atmosphere grew thick with tension, Andrews phone rang, abruptly breaking the moment. Lauren covered her mouth, giggling softly.

Go ahead and take your call, Dr.

Lloyd.

Im in no hurry! When Andrew answered, Christinas cold voice came through.

Mr.

Lloyd, do you remember what we discussed before? Please come to Jayrodale Bank.

We need both signatures for the loan.

Ill be right there, Andrew replied, Christina had already hung up, as if reluctant to speak with him any longer

Was that Ms.

Stevens? Lauren pouted

When Andrew nodded, she continued unhappily, You two broke up, and now shes supposedly engaged to Harvey.

The news is all over town.

Why is she still contacting you? Its not what you think, Andrew explained with a sigh.

This is strictly business.

I dont buy it! Are you two trying to rekindle things? Lauren looked at him with pitiful puppy eyes.

Andrew chuckled bitterly

Rekindling? Is that even possible, Ms.

Rhodes? Shes with Harvey now.

I cant even compare to him.

compares Lauren huffed, unimpressed.

Harvey ? Hes decent at first glance, but anyone who the two of you would see the difference immediately

Hes not even worthy of being your assistant.

Andrew shook his head and replied, You think too highly of me, Ms.

Rhodes.

In Christinas eyes, Im the one who isnt worthy of even being in the same room as Harvey.

Lauren sneered

Thats because shes blind.

Anyway, I wont hold you up.

But remember, Ill be waiting for the day you make me your wife.

Chapter 104 Andrew made a hasty retreat.

No matter how prepared he thought he was, Laurens relentless teasing was impossible to defend against.

Meanwhile, at Jayrodale Bank, Christina walked in wearing a black lace dress.

Well, well, if it isnt the lovely Ms.

Stevens ! What an honor to have the belle of the industry to visit our humble bank! The bank manager, Nelson OConnor, greeted Christina, his gaze shamelessly roaming over her figure.

Christina ignored his inappropriate gaze and said curtly, Mr.

OConnor, I trust youre already aware why Im here.

Lets get down to business.

The portly Nelson leaned back in his chair, propping his legs on the desk with an air of arrogance. Straight to the point? Fine by me.

The 30 million loan for your South City project.

has been approved

Christinas heart leaped with joy, surprised at how easily this seemed to be going.

Nelsons smile turned sleazy as he continued, However, Ms.

Stevens needs to show some... appreciation for this deal to go through.

Appreciation? Christina frowned, his vulgar tone setting off alarm bells.

Thats right.

Dont worry.

Its just a small token of appreciation, and the 30 million will be transferred to your project immediately, no questions asked

Nelsons face bore an increasingly lecherous grin

Fighting back her disgust, Christina replied, Name your terms, Mr.

OConnor.

As long as theyre within Stevens Corporations capabilities, we can negotiate.

Chapter 105 Nelsons eyes gleamed with lust as he pointed to the chair beneath him.

You dont need Stevens Corporation to shoulder anything.

Just spread those beautiful legs and take a seat right here, Ms.

Stevens

How about it? Christinas face darkened immediately.

Mr.

OConnor, what exactly do you mean by this? Isnt it obvious? You want the loan, and I want to sleep with you in return, Nelson stated bluntly, dropping all pretense of professionalism.

Youre shameless! Christina growled in anger.

Nelson sneered and leaned back, patting his thighs as he mocked her.

Lets not kid ourselves, Christina.

Youre the one coming to me for help, not the other way around.

Ive wanted to see what Jayrodales Ice Queen is really like for years now

His tone turned cruder as he continued, Let me have my fun tonight, and Ill approve the funds.

Youll walk out of here with everything you came for

You disgusting pig! Christina cursed at him and turned to leave.

However, Nelson quickly moved to block the door.

Bitch, dont act so high and mighty.

I know women like you well.

While you look pure and untouchable, youre actually a whore ! His face darkened as he approached Christina, and he added, I know your secret

The Stevens Corporation didnt grow overnight just because of good management.

Youve been sleeping your way to the top, havent you? No one else might see through your little game, but Ive been in finance long enough to read you like a book.

Christina had not expected such brazen behavior and quickly pulled out her phone.

You're going to regret this, you disgusting creep! I'll make sure everyone knows just what kind of person you really are! Nelson laughed, completely unfazed.

Go ahead and call whoever you want

Let me guess- you're ringing up Harvey Weller? Hah! Others might fear the Weller family, but I don't.

In fact, Harvey's up to his neck in debt, and I've got him under my thumb.

He owes me millions.

If he tries anything, I'll call in his debt immediately.

Christina glared at him, her voice icy.

You're lying

The Wellers family is one of the oldest and most powerful names in Jayrodale.

There's no way they'd need a loan from you.

Nelson scoffed.

The Wellers aren't what they used to be

Since returning, Harvey racked up massive debts overseas, then lost millions more on his failed

ventures

He'd be broke without my loans.

Christina's face paled as doubt crept in.

In her mind, while Harvey was not perfect, he was still an accomplished man from a prestigious family. There was no way he would be buried in debt.

Nelson saw the hesitation in her expression and took his chance, lunging forward with a +15 BONUS Chapter 105 repulsive grin.

Listen, sweetheart.

Be a good girl and let me have my way just this once.

Please me, and I'll make sure the Stevens Corporation has my full support.

Harvey? That guys all show and no substance.

Stick with him, and hell drag you and your company straight into the ground.

Overwhelmed with anger and disgust, Christina did not hesitate and delivered a sharp kick with the pointed toe of her stiletto, landing squarely in Nelsons groin ..

Nelson howled in pain, clutching himself as his face contorted with rage.

You little bitch! You dare ?! He struck her across the face and grabbed her hair roughly, yanking her toward the nearby couch

His voice was filled with venom as he threatened, If you wont cooperate willingly, Ill just have to force myself on you! The more you resist, the more it turns me on!

Chapter 106 Blood dripped from the corner of Christinas mouth, and panic gripped her heart

She was alone in Nelsons office, and no one could hear her cries for help

Critical moment, she did not Tears streamed down her face as fear overwhelmed her.

In that think of her fiance, Harvey.

Surprisingly, it was Andrew instead.

Suddenly, the office door crashed open with a thunderous bang.

Both Christina and Nelson turned in shock as Andrew strode in with a cold expression.

Without hesitation, Andrew delivered a powerful kick to Nelsons chest, sending his heavy frame flying backward into his desk with a loud thud

Christina stood frozen, her eyes wide as she stared at Andrews swift and powerful move.

W What are you doing here? she stammered, the red mark on her face still stinging. Andrews eyes were ice cold.

Ms.

Stevens, did you forget? You called me over.

No, I mean... h how did you get past security ? she stuttered.

Thats not important right now, Andrew snapped

What were you thinking, coming to this predators office alone? I I didnt think it through.

Please dont be angry, Christina mumbled.

Im not angry, Andrew replied coldly.

Im just amazed at how reckless and foolish you can be.

Christina bit her lip, silently taking his scolding.

His stern expression was intimidating, but she could not understand why he was so angry at her when she was the one who had been assaulted.

Meanwhile, Nelson groaned as he struggled to get up, his face twisted with pain and rage

He growled, How dare you hit me ! Im going to make you pay for this! Christina gasped in fear and tugged on Andrews arm.

Andrew, lets just go! Security will be here any second.

Their men are on the way.

Which hand did he use to strike you? Andrew asked calmly.

Huh? Christina blinked, confused by his question.

Which hand? Andrew repeated, his voice growing louder and more commanding.

H His right hand, she answered, flinching.

Without hesitation, Andrew turned and stomped on Nelsons right hand with enough force to send a sickening crack echoing through the room Nelson let out an ear piercing scream, writhing as his bone shattered beneath Andrews foot.

Chapter 106 Andrew... Christinas mind was blank, realizing he had just retaliated on her behalf.

Then, Andrew pulled her up and led her toward the door.

He hit you, so I broke his hands.

It seems fair to me.

Nelson burst out of the office behind them, screaming, Security, stop them! Take them down! A dozen security guards rushed forward with batons, followed by several bank employees who surrounded them with hostile glares

They all froze when they saw Nelsons condition.

Mr.

OConner, w what happened to you? Nelson clutched his injured hand, his face contorted with rage as he glared at Andrew.

Youre dead! Do you have any idea who I am? Im the manager of Jayrodale Bank.

I can destroy you with one word! Andrews response was swift and merciless, slapping Nelson twice with brutal force, sending him sprawling to the floor.

Blood gushed out from Nelsons mouth, mixed with several teeth as he landed with a thud.

Chapter 107 The security guards and employees stood frozen, stunned by the audacity of someone who dared to storm into Nelsons office, given his position in the bank.

Christina felt her blood run cold, wondering why Andrew would escalate the situation when they were so heavily outnumbered

What are you idiots waiting for? Get them! Nelson screamed from the floor, his rage boiling over.

Since becoming the bank manager, he had never faced such humiliation.

Just then, two cars suddenly screeched to a halt outside the bank.

Irene and Leroy rushed in with Stevens Corporation security as backup.

Christie, are you alright? Irene asked frantically.

Mom, Im fine.

Andrew saved me, Christina explained.

Irene scoffed.

Saved you? Then why are you hurt? Mom, dont be unreasonable ! Christina retorted, her frustration rising

If Andrew hadn't come, who knows what could've happened to me! Irene snorted dismissively.

If he had gotten here sooner, you wouldn't be injured at all

Andrew, get away from my daughter! Meanwhile, Leroy confronted the bank's security team

How dare you hurt my sister?! You'll all pay for this! Irene placed her hands on her hips and joined in, finally finding an outlet for her anger.

I can't believe you lay your hands on my precious daughter! Oh, you better believe I'm tearing this dump apart today! Nelson struggled to his feet with help from his employees.

Well, well... A little family business like Stevens Corporation thinks they can cause trouble at Jayrodale Bank, eh? You'll regret this! He pointed furiously at Irene and Leroy, his voice dripping with venom. You and your filthy family are done for.

Mark my words.

Then, Nelson pulled out his phone and quickly made a call.

Mr.

Thatcher, we have an emergency at Jayrodale Bank. Stevens Corporation turned violent when we denied their loan.

They attacked me, and one of them broke my hand.

Yes, yes, please send officers immediately to handle this! After hanging up, Nelson smirked at Christina and her family.

You think you can barge in here and win just because you outnumber us? Well, Mr.

Thatcher is on his way, and I'll enjoy watching you grovel.

The mention of Jayrodale's mayor sent a chill through the Stevens group.

Irene stammered, M Mr.

Thatcher is your backer? Chapter 107 Even Leroy paled, motioning for their security team to stand down.

Everyone knew that going against the city's most powerful figure was a losing battle.

Nelson grinned viciously.

Oh, are you scared now? Too bad its far too late for regrets.

When Mr.

Thatcher arrives, Ill make sure the Stevens family vanishes from Jayrodale for good. Christina spoke up defiantly, Nelson, we wont fear you even if the mayor comes.

You were the one who started this! Nelson chuckled mockingly.

Ms.

Stevens, I have no idea what youre talking about.

Everyone here knows the truth: you came to me asking for a loan.

When I refused, you tried to seduce me.

I told you to put your clothes back on and leave, or Id call security.

But instead of leaving, you brought in your little thug to stage some elaborate scheme to frame me.

When I wouldnt give in, your guy resorted to violence.

Nelsons voice rose as he addressed everyone in the room.

Thats the real story.

And when Mr.

Thatcher gets here, my people will back me up.

Chapter 108 After spinning his web of lies, Nelson smirked smugly at the Stevens family. He thought they were foolish for trying to go against him.

His employees chimed in obediently, one of them saying, Thats right, we all saw Ms. Stevens come in to request a loan.

When negotiations failed, she called for backup and resorted to violence.

O Have you no shame ? Christina shouted in rage.

Nelsons expression turned sinister.

This, Ms.

Stevens, is the price for defying me

You're not even close to being in my league.

Irene snapped back, You disgusting low life! Well just pull the surveillance footage the truth! to prove Nelson laughed dismissively.

Did you think I wouldn't think of that, you old hag? All our surveillance cameras are conveniently malfunctioning today

Christina clenched her fists, her fury barely contained.

Nelson had clearly planned this, covering his tracks completely.

1.

The bank employees stared at the Stevens family with contempt.

One female employee in a revealing outfit mocked, Other clients know how to get what they want from

Mr.

O'Connor, practically throwing themselves at him.

Ms.

Stevens, drop the innocent act

Who do you think you're fooling? Another chimed in mockingly, These days, if you want something, you have to offer something in return.

Ms.

Stevens, aren't you supposed to be a CEO? You're not playing the game right.

Exactly! This deal could have been so simple, but you had to make it complicated

No wonder your company can't get a single cent! Their mockery stung, but the Stevens family dared not retaliate

Nelson was clearly enjoying his power trip.

In Jayrodale Bank, he was practically the king.

He had already grown bored of his employees, and compared to them, Christina was much more alluring

My offer still stands, Ms.

Stevens, Nelson said smoothly

Agree to my terms, and I'll overlook today's incident.

However, your little boy toy here will have to pay for breaking my hand.

Christina responded with disgust, Save it.

I've already texted Harvey, and he'll be here soon.

Irene's eyes lit up

That's right! Harvey just helped cure Mr.

Thatcher.

Surely the mayor will show us some consideration.

Leroy grinned, adding, Exactly.

Harvey's practically Mr.

Thatcher's golden boy now.

This sleazy guy is going to regret crossing us

1/7 Chapter 108 The Stevens family's confidence began to return as they anticipated Harvey's arrival.

Meanwhile, Andrew raised an eyebrow at this news, confused.

After all, he was the one who had cured Mark

Nonetheless, he pushed the thought aside, having more pressing matters to deal with.

Even Mr.

Thatcher can't save a low life like you, Andrew said calmly to Nelson.

Still talking big when you're about to go down? Nelson scoffed.

The Stevens family panicked at Andrews boldness

Irene snapped, Andrew, you bring nothing but trouble.

Keep your mouth shut! Watch it, Leroy growled.

No ones going to save you if you anger the mayor.

Just then, police sirens wailed outside as Mark arrived with a group of officers.

Nelson rushed

to greet him with a servile smile.

Mr.

Thatcher, youre finally here !

Chapter 109 Marks commanding presence filled the air as he demanded, Whats going on here? Nelson pointed accusingly at the Stevens family.

Mr.

Thatcher, when I denied Stevens Corporations loan request, they turned violent.

Ms, Stevens even tried to blackmail me with a setup! Marks expression darkened as he turned his cold gaze toward the Stevens family.

Is this true? Christina spoke up firmly, Mr.

Thatcher, thats not what happened at all.

This man abused his position and tried to take advantage of me, so I defended myself.

Nelson gestured at his injuries

Youre the CEO of Stevens Corporation, yet you dare lie to the mayors face? Look at my injuries this is what her thug did to me when I refused her advances ! Marks eyes narrowed as he took in Nelsons visibly broken hand.

Fury overtook him.

Officers, arrest the Stevens family immediately! Who gave you the right to assault someone? The Stevens family members trembled with fear, but Christina pleaded, Mr.

Thatcher, please let me explain ! Explanations dont matter breaking someones hand demands

punishment, Mark declared coldly

Christie, wheres Harvey? Irene asked frantically.

Call him to explain everything to Mr.

Thatcher ! Christinas heart raced

Harvey should have arrived by now, so what was taking him so long? Leroy suddenly pointed at Andrew

Mr.

Thatcher, hes the one who did it not us! Yes, thats right! Irene jumped in eagerly.

If youre going to arrest anyone, arrest him.

We had nothing to do with it! Christina was angered by their antics

Mom, how can you say that? Andrew was protecting me! Irene retorted, Christie, this isnt the time to defend him! He hit Mr.

OConnor, not us

Lets clear our name first! Im sorry, but I wont be that heartless, Christina said, standing her ground. Mr.

Thatcher, if you must arrest someone, arrest me.

This all started because of me.

Nelson sneered.

Oh, dont worry, Ms.

Stevens.

You and your little hero wont escape.

No one.

here will be walking away.

Then, he quickly rushed over and pointed Andrew out from the crowd, afraid he might escape.

Chapter 109 Marks eyes widened in surprise as he recognized Andrew.

Mr.

Lloyd, what are you doing here? Andrew stepped forward calmly and said, Mr.

Thatcher, Im the one who struck him.

If youre going to arrest someone, arrest me .

Marks demeanor shifted instantly.

If Mr.

Lloyd resorted to violence, he must have had good.

reason.

Stand down, everyone! With a wave of his hand, the officers immediately stepped back.

The sudden change left everyone stunned.

Just moments ago, Mark had been ready to make arrests.

Yet, here he was, being remarkably understanding toward Andrew.

Nelsons composure cracked as he shouted desperately, Mr.

Thatcher, its him! Hes the one who attacked me ! You cant just let him off! Marks cold glare silenced him

Are you trying to tell me how to do my job? Nelson froze, his instincts screaming that things were about to go terribly wrong.

Chapter 110 Mr.

Lloyd, I assure you this matter will be resolved satisfactorily, Mark declared earnestly.

His deferential tone stunned everyone, including Christina

She could not believe the mayors unusually respectful attitude toward Andrew.

Andrew remained unfazed.

Mr.

Thatcher, you'd better give me an explanation for this.

If not, breaking his hand will be the least of my actions, Mark inwardly cursed Nelson's stupidity.

Of all the people to provoke, this fool had to pick someone even he himself needed to treat with respect.

Nelson, a mere branch manager, clearly had a death wish.

Mark's frustration boiled over.

He glared at Nelson and snapped, Mr.

O'Connor, step forward and explain yourself.

If Mr.

Lloyd isn't satisfied with your explanation, I won't be able to protect you.

Nelson's face paled, and he protested in disbelief.

Mr.

Thatcher, he's the one who attacked me! Why should I have to explain myself to him?
Mark exploded in anger.

You idiot! Would Mr.

Lloyd have hit you if you hadn't done something to piss him off? This is clearly your fault!
Nelson's mind went blank, and his lips quivered as he stammered, M Mr.

Thatcher, are you siding with him against your own employee? By now, even the most clueless bystanders could see that Mark was firmly on Andrew's side.

However, the bigger question was why this young man commanded such respect from the mayor. Christina spoke up, Mr.

Thatcher, it's true that Andrew did strike him, but only after Mr.

O'Connor attacked me first.

Everything he claimed earlier was a lie! Mark gritted his teeth.

So, Nelson, you're the real troublemaker here

What a disgrace! In that case, you're fired pack your things and get out! Nelson was shocked by the sudden turn of events and crawled forward in panic.

Mr.

Thatcher, I've served you faithfully for years how can you do this to me? He never thought that when he called Mark over to support him, he would end up being on the losing end, not his enemy, Mark was not swayed by his begging.

He grabbed Nelson's collar and hissed, You fool! Of all the people to harass, you picked someone even I have to respect.

This is on you! You've no one to blame but yourself for being blind to who you were dealing with .

Nelson's knees buckled as Mark's words sank in, realizing there was someone in the room even Mark respected

How could that be? Chapter 110 His eyes darted around, searching for answers, until they landed on Andrew's icy stare

At that moment, all the color drained from his face.

Could this guy really be so powerful that even Mark had to bow to him? Ms.

Stevens, Mr.

Lloyd, are you satisfied with this solution? Mark asked with a friendly smile, completely ignoring Nelson on the floor.

Christina felt surreal about how quickly everything had been resolved.

Andrew gestured toward her and said, My satisfaction isn't important.

Ms.

Stevens was the victim, so it's her opinion that matters.

Yes, Mr.

Thatcher, I'm satisfied with this outcome, Christina quickly responded

Since Nelson had lost his job and was thoroughly humiliated, she felt it would be ungrateful to ask for

more.