

RISING FROM THE ASHES (ANDREW AND LAUREN)

Chapter 1251



The young nurse, sweet and concerned, overheard the exchange. Her face went pale, and she tugged at Daniel's sleeve. "Dr. Charlton, we shouldn't say things like that. Let's just drop it, okay?"

"I'll handle this," she said, trying to smooth things over.

However, Daniel just huffed, flung his sleeve back, and ignored her. He glared at Andrew with pure disdain. "I've seen plenty of lowlifes like you. You think because you're poor and sick, you can cause a scene at the hospital and get sympathy.

"Well, think again. This isn't the place for your kind to throw a tantrum. Scram, or I'll have security toss you out on your ear!"

Andrew's expression chilled. "I've been trying to talk sense into you, but you're not having any of it. So now you're stooping to personal attacks and threats, huh?"

Daniel let out a mocking laugh. "Oh, what's wrong? Can't handle it?"

"Let's cut to the chase-I want you gone, and what are you gonna do about it? I'm the top doctor at Blumedale Hospital, and just by punching in at this high-rise, I'm way out of your league!"

Andrew's patience was wearing thin. He whipped out his phone and made a call.

If logic failed him, it was time to play hardball!

Daniel's sneer deepened. "What's a bug like you going to do? Call in the cavalry? I'm dying to see who you think will come to your rescue. I'd love to see who's got the guts to cause a scene at our hospital."

He glanced around at the onlookers, the patients, and the passersby-all of them wary, all of them beneath him.

Daniel was on top of the world, his voice booming louder, "Listen up, kid, there are VIPs upstairs in the wards as we speak.

"Doesn't matter who you call, it's pointless. I'm backed by the hospital director here. Do you have any idea what kind of heavyweight that is in Gabo Creek?

"What's your move, huh? Tell me, what can you possibly do? You're not even in the game!" Daniel was on a roll, full of bluster.

A nurse with a sympathetic gaze turned to Andrew. "Sir, Dr. Charlton's about to become one of the hospital's bigwigs. Look, don't take it to heart. If you're here to see a doctor, just queue up like everyone else.

"You won't be able to catch a glimpse of Mr. Goddard, that's for sure! Maybe you should try coming back later!"

Andrew chuckled. "No worries, this guy's a total joke. He's still in charge around here? Perfect, I'll shatter his little leadership fantasy!"

The nurse was taken aback. What was this guy's deal?

He would not take a hint, and he had the nerve to spout such crazy talk.

Where did he get all that confidence?

Daniel shook his head, laughing, "Buddy, if you're trying to play the tough guy, do us a favor and take it outside. Make a right and show off somewhere else! And you think you can crush my dreams of leadership?

"If you had the power to mess with our hospital's staffing, then you wouldn't be just some regular Joe coming in for a check-up! No, you'd be like me, sitting pretty in this hospital tower, basking in the glory that so many are clawing for but can only dream of from a distance!

"Too bad, you're nothing special. Calling you a leek would be giving you too much credit!"

He was doing his best to keep his cool, to keep his temper in check!

The reason was that it was indeed a critical time-his chance to climb the ranks and become a leader.

His leader had advised him, "Daniel, stay low-key. Only by keeping it under wraps can you make big things happen!"

Daniel heard the advice, but he only took it to heart halfway.

What could he do? Rising to a leadership position in Blumedale Hospital was the defining moment of his life.

Sometimes he managed to stay discreet, but he could not always resist the urge to show off just a little.

Andrew had just walked into his crosshairs!

In this day and age, someone like him was a one-in-a-million talent. To be frank, calling him a born leader would not be too far off the mark!

Because in Holtrien, being a doctor in a capital hospital, with the right connections, and the chance to rise up the ranks... Well, that combination alone put him ahead of hundreds of millions, no, at least a billion others!

Someone like this could have been a king in the olden days!

The patients around him were all trying to talk some sense into Andrew.

"Dude, just drop it. It's not worth the hassle. You know how things are these days. We're just regular folks, what can we do?"

"Listen, kid," an elderly voice chimed in, "peace is golden. If you can step back and let things slide, just do it. There are some battles we just can't win."

Chapter 1252



"Dr. Charlton here at the hospital has a big shot backing him up. Honestly, stirring up trouble over this won't do you any good, no benefits at all."

"Better to keep your head down and keep the peace. We ordinary people just want a quiet life!"

Andrew listened to the well-meaning advice from one patient after another. He looked around: mothers clutching their children, elderly folks braving the sea of people at the hospital just to find a bed, and coal miners with simple, honest faces and brawny arms.

Maybe they were hurt or had a family emergency. Their hard-earned daily wage of five or six hundred, all gone because of a hospital visit!

Andrew took a deep breath, and his gaze turned fierce. He stared down Daniel, the smirking doctor, and said with a steely voice, "Getting medical care is hard, it's costly, and on top of that, we have to deal with the likes of you ruining our mood..."

"You've made the hospital a place more terrifying than a prison for ordinary people! All these problems, they're because of people like you!"

"If I, Andrew Lloyd, can't strip you of everything and kick you out of this hospital, then I'd be failing all these hardworking folks here, struggling and fighting just to get by!"

Daniel's face flushed with fury, and he let out a scornful laugh. "Alright, let's see what you can do, you underdog!"

He had not expected those down-and-outs and nobodies to try and talk him down. And now, this clueless fool had the nerve to stand up to him!

It was like a tiny insect thinking it could topple a giant tree-way out of his league.

The phone rang, and Andrew's voice came through, icy and sharp. "Ms. Garcia, I'm at Blumedale Hospital dealing with some nonsense. Someone's giving me a hard time! Can you check with Governor McCormick? Does he plan to step in or not?"

On the other end, Chantelle, caught off guard by Andrew's call, snapped back, "Andrew, what kind of mess are you causing now? Why on earth are you causing a scene at Blumedale Hospital?"

Andrew's voice turned even chillier. "Ms. Garcia, I'm the one asking the questions here, not you. What's this about causing a scene? You think I'm joking around?"

"I'm trying to be civil here, for Derek's sake! Blumedale Hospital is a key part of the capital, after all! However, if you're not going to handle it, then I'll just have to stand up for my own rights and fairness!"

Chantelle's heart pounded at his words.

She hurriedly replied, "Andrew, just hold on a second, don't get worked up! I'll talk to the governor and be right there!"

Andrew was not one to fly off the handle, but Chantelle knew that when he meant business, he might just bulldoze the whole hospital if he had to!

What's more, Andrew's clout in the capital was on the rise, marking him as a force to be reckoned with!

Chantelle could not ignore the massive wealth of Supreme Capital, nor the powerful connections that came with the backing of the Keller family.

Then there was Andrew, a walking disaster waiting to happen.

The more Chantelle got to know him, the more she realized he was a man of substance. She had no choice but to take him seriously.

However, his rotten attitude was driving her nuts!

She was used to being independent, but then she found herself at this guy's mercy, having to jump whenever he snapped his fingers.

After she briefed Derek on the situation, he just laughed and said, "Chantelle, looks like you're up for a bit of a challenge. Better head over there now!"

Chantelle clenched her teeth in

frustration. "Mr. McCormick,

Andrew's been stirring up left and right. Am I going over the

bail him out or to set him straight?"

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Derek's laughter was light. "I doubt you can put Andrew in his place. Andrew's not the type to cause trouble for no reason. Just handle it the way you see fit once you're there."

Chantelle scoffed. "And if Andrew's the instigator?"

Derek was unfazed. "Then stand by him. It's simple."

Before she could protest, he added with a hint of gravity, "Unless I decide not to step in. If we let Andrew, who's bold enough to challenge The Five Apex Families, drag the Keller family into this, we're only asking for more trouble. You get what I'm saying, right?"

Chantelle's resolve deflated. "Fine, I get it."

If Derek did not step in, Andrew would likely take it as a license to run wild.

The Kellers were infamous for playing hardball.

If Andrew ever got the Kellers involved, the whole hospital would be in an uproar.

Chapter 1253



Andrew pocketed his phone in the bustling lobby of the hospital.

Chantelle might be icy and bossy, but when Andrew stepped up his game, she did not stand a chance against him!

A bewildered young nurse muttered, "Who is this guy? He even dropped the governor's name. Did he actually call the governor?"

Daniel, arms crossed, could not help but snort at the thought.

Those nurses were not exactly sharp. He figured it was not worth explaining.

"Kid, you're laying it on thick. You're not seriously going to tell me you just dialed up the governor's office, are you?"

He was not buying it, and neither were the patients milling around.

Meeting a top-notch professor or the dean there was like winning the lottery, let alone getting a call through to the governor!

Daniel scoffed, "What a joke, who does he think the governor is? He's the boss of Gabo Creek! If it were that easy to meet the big cheese, then why would you be here making a fool of yourself?"

In his eyes, the dean was the king of the hospital.

However, even the dean was small fry compared to the Governor.

This guy had the gall to name-drop the governor!

In short, he was a total show-off.

However, Andrew was not about to waste his breath. "Don't worry, someone will be here to take care of you soon. And if they can't handle you, trust me, I'll step in."

The hospital was supposed to be a sanctuary for healing, not a hangout for lowlives!

Before the echo of the scolding faded, Chantelle made her entrance.

Her trademark aloofness parted the crowd, with everyone keeping a respectful distance.

"Hey, isn't that Ms. Garcia from TV?"

"He actually got her to come? Who is this guy?"

"No way he's the one who called her. If he's got the pull to get Ms. Garcia to show

up, this dude must be off-the-charts powerful!"

The hospital onlookers were buzzing with shock and wild guesses.

Daniel was gobsmacked, his eyes nearly popping out as Chantelle walked up with purpose.

She was the governor's go-to, his personal mouthpiece!

There he was, a mere chief physician, definitely not in her league.

He rushed over, all smiles and nervous energy. "Ms. Garcia, to what do we owe the pleasure? Should I get the dean to welcome you?"

Chantelle's voice was frosty. "No need. I'm here on a personal visit, not official business."

Daniel's heart skipped a beat and thought, 'Personal visit? Did she really come because of this kid?'

Chantelle shot Andrew a look that could curdle milk, mentally tagging him as a walking disaster.

She turned back to Daniel, her eyes slits of ice. "Did you just call Mr. Lloyd a kid'? Dr. Charlton, was it?

Have you ever thought that maybe you're jumping way out of your league?"

Daniel's forehead was a waterfall of sweat, and he was tongue-tied.

Chantelle had been summoned by this kid.

By the looks of it, she was there to lay down the law.

Things were definitely taking a turn for the worse, and everyone around was just as stunned!

"Whoa, they actually brought in the big guns-Ms. Garcia herself!"

"This guy, acting all unassuming like he's just one of us, but it turns out he's a major player!"

"Ha, this is gonna be epic! Some of

the docs here act like they're the center of the universe, but they've just hit a wall. Can't wait to see how they squirm their way out of this one."

Andrew stepped up to Daniel, adjusted his doctor's badge with a forced smile, and asked, "Dr. Charton, can I see Mr. Goddard now?" velet

Daniel swallowed hard and nodded like his life depended on it. "Of course, absolutely!"

"Mr. Lloyd, huh? If you'd shown your hand sooner, I wouldn't have dared to cross you. Right this way, Mr. Lloyd, please!" he added.

However, Andrew just stood there, giving him the stare-down.

Chapter 1254



Daniel felt a chill run down his spine, mopping his brow as he asked, "Mr. Lloyd, is something wrong?"

Internally, he was fuming, 'Dude, don't try to push your luck.'

Andrew's face was a mask of stone as he said, "Just resign, take a good look at yourself, and then take a hike! I used to be in the medical field, and I can tell you, your attitude doesn't cut it for a doctor!"

Daniel's face went white with rage, and he spat out, "Mr. Lloyd, you're crossing the line! I was being nice because of Ms. Garcia! However, if you're seriously telling me to quit my job, let me be blunt-you're being laughable!"

He was on the verge of a big promotion, quitting now would be insane, right?

Chantelle was frowning too!

Andrew's request to see Mr. Goddard was already sorted, so what was the point of that drama?

Was it fun to pick fights with a low-level doctor?

Andrew's frown deepened as he reiterated, "Let me make myself clear, Dr. Charlton, your behavior is downright shameful! Being in the hospital, you're just going to hurt more people. So here's my final word of advice: quit your job!"

Daniel had been biting his tongue, but this time he lost it. "Ms. Garcia, you've seen it yourself, I'm not trying to disrespect you! However, Mr. Lloyd is just too pushy, always sticking his nose where it doesn't belong!

"He demanded to meet our hospital director, and I made it happen! And now, he's making such an absurd demand. Does he think I'm a pushover, that I'd just quit because he says so?"

Chantelle's voice was grave, "The government can't just meddle with the staffing of Blumedale Hospital. Let's call it a day, you've made your point!"

Andrew gave her a look, "You're mistaken, I haven't reached my goal at all!

"This fool, just taking up space, causing chaos in a hospital that belongs to the people, making it hard for countless people to get care... As long as this problem exists, I haven't achieved anything!"

Chantelle was getting angry, "Fine, what do you want then? Do you expect me to take him out, or pull some strings to settle your personal scores?"

Daniel let out a scornful laugh, "Mr. Lloyd, you've done enough! You've shown you can pull in the big guns, you've got the chops to brag! However, there's a limit to everything!

"If you don't know when to quit and want to keep up this act, then let me make it clear: if I, Daniel, don't take you seriously, you're nothing!"

He was at his wit's end!

Where did this obnoxious fool come from?

Chantelle had come to support him, and he had already humbled himself, offering a graceful exit!

However, still, it was not enough. Even now, Andrew still wanted to pick a fight with him!

Seriously, he should take a good look at himself.

He was not some bigwig from the capital power bloc, he was part of the healthcare system.

Did Andrew think he could just force him out, make him pack his bags, and leave? He must be out of his mind. There was no way Andrew had the clout for that!

Andrew kept quiet, which only made Daniel smirk with satisfaction. He reached out his hand and said, "After you, Mr. Lloyd. I'll take you to Mr. Goddard myself!

"Some battles just aren't worth

fighting, you know! You're the top dog, fine I'm just showing you. some respect, that's all! However, there are other things, Mr. Lloyd, that you really shouldn't meddle with.

"Because that's just asking for trouble, and it's way out of your league i've met plenty of rich and powerful folks, and let me tell you, they're sharp. They know how to stay out of harm's way!

"Mr. Lloyd, you're acting like a rookie, all hot-headed and rash..."

Daniel could not help but feel smug as he ended up schooling Andrew on life lessons, all the while feeling on top of the world.

'Mr. Lloyd, you've got money and, connections, sure, you even brought Chantelle on board! However, there are places your influence just doesn't reach! And that's where I, Daniel, come in,' he thought smugly.

Chapter 1255



'So you're stronger than me, so what? If you can't touch my turf, it's all for nothing!' Daniel thought.

Chantelle shot Andrew a look and said with annoyance, "Come on, Mr. Lloyd, I'll go with you to see Mr. Goddard. You can't expect everything to always go your way, can you?"

Andrew replied calmly, "Actually, you're spot on. Today, I need things to go exactly my way. So, this doctor, he's got to go!"

Hmm?

Chantelle's face turned stormy, Andrew was being utterly ungrateful!

Daniel's smirk was icy, his eyes dripping with scorn, and he was visibly seething!

"Fine, Mr. Lloyd, you want to play hardball, huh? I'm right here, let's see what you've got! Go ahead, get Ms. Garcia to kick me out. My whole family would thank you for generations.

Come on, I'm giving you a shot, but do you have what it takes? Are you up for it?"

Andrew's gaze was steady and calm. "We're in a hospital, and you're dressed as a doctor, remember? I won't stoop to violence in front of these kids, patients, and expecting mothers.

"That would just tarnish the honor of being a doctor, and I'm Andrew, I won't do that! However, just because I won't touch you doesn't mean my friends won't..."

At that moment, outside the main entrance, Logan and a whole crew from the Keller family had arrived!!

Chantelle gasped, "Andrew, you called the Kellers too?"

Derek's worst nightmare was unfolding right before his eyes!

Andrew's face was a mask of indifference, he did not even spare her a glance.

He calmly addressed the approaching Logan, "There's a piece of trash here. Take care of it, will you?"

With that, he pointed straight at Daniel.

Logan was all smiles, not even bothering to ask why. He did not need to.

Andrew had given the order without a 'please,' but to Logan, it made perfect sense.

He strolled up to Daniel, ignoring the shock that flashed across his face.

Logan's hand flew out, and with a single slap, Daniel was seeing stars, blood gushing from his mouth and nose.

"Mr. Keller, you..."

Daniel knew who he was dealing with the head of the Keller family, the most powerful of the Five Apex Families.

Clutching his bleeding face, he let out a roar of disbelief!

Logan gave Andrew a wry smile and said, "We're in the hospital, and let's be real, hitting a doctor here is a bit of a problem for me!

"Plus, we've got some old bigwigs staying here lately! If they catch wind of this, they'll stir up trouble for my Keller family again!"

His words were laced with feigned difficulty, but Logan's actions spoke volumes.

Two more brutal slaps landed on Daniel's face and head!

In a flash, Daniel was sent sprawling, his face grotesquely twisted!

He lay on the ground, screaming in torment, but he did not dare lash out.

"If my sworn brother tells you to do something, you do it-no questions asked. Even if it means your life! You might think my Keller family is just throwing its weight around, but guess what?

"I've got the power, and I'm not afraid to use it to crush you! So, you'll just have to grin and

no

matter how much it hurts

Logan watched Daniel writhing on the floor without a hint of sympathy.

Like a judge passing a sentence, he declared Daniel's doom.

Silence fell over the vast hospital lobby.

Some were silent out of fear, intimidated by the immense power of the Keller family of Blumedale.

However, for most onlookers, the

real shocker was Andrew's ability to summon Logan, which left them feeling like they were choking under an intense wave of awe and pressure!

Getting Chantelle to show up was no small feat already!

Then, the heir to the mighty Keller family was acting like Andrew's personal muscle!

Was Andrew some kind of hidden royalty?

While he could not personally rough up the doctor, he called in the Keller family's

heavy hitters to do the dirty work!

The hospital staff was at a total loss on how to handle him.

Chapter 1256



In the midst of an uncanny hush, the nurse, pale as a ghost with fear, snapped out of it first.

"How... how can you guys just hit someone? Dr. Charlton... he's one of Mr. Ellington's people, you guys are in deep trouble now!"

She said to Andrew, her voice barely above a whisper.

Daniel, somehow finding a burst of energy, scrambled to his feet.

He shot Andrew a poisonous look and let out a furious roar before running off, hand clutched to his bleeding face, towards the hospital!

Chantelle rubbed her temples. "He's probably off to find his big shot backer. Mr. Lloyd, if this keeps up, we're only going to get in deeper."

Andrew replied calmly, "Then let's brace ourselves for an even wilder storm!"

Chantelle was speechless.

She had told him to take the win and get out of dodge, but he was actually gearing up for a bigger showdown!

Logan, never one to shy away from a fight, laughed in his face. "You've got guts— I'm impressed!"

The crowd around them? They were all secretly buzzing with anticipation.

Could someone actually go toe-to-toe with Blumedale Hospital, a giant among giants?

Even though Andrew had some serious clout, with influence in both Blumedale and with the Keller family, that did not change the fact that Blumedale Hospital was like a nest of powerful players.

They barely had to wait before a group stormed out, fuming and marching with purpose. At the front was a short, chubby guy with hardly any hair left on top. They could tell from his stern face that he was someone in charge.

Daniel, his face still smeared with blood, was right on his heels, pointing at Andrew with a look of pure loathing. "Mr. Ellington, this guy's the one who stirred up trouble in our hospital And he's the one who got others to hit me!"

The nurse, her face ghostly white, shot Andrew a worried look. "Mr. Ellington 's here, and you're in deep trouble now!"

Andrew was the picture of cool, eyeing the nearly bald Norman Ellington without a ripple of concern.

Norman shot back a frosty look of his own.

"Sir, the hospital is a sanctuary for healing, not a playground for thugs! I'm one of the directors here, and I'm in charge of this front desk area!

"So, tell me, do you have any complaints, or is there some beef you have that made you attack our doctor?"

He was all bluster and authority like he was calling someone on the carpet.

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Andrew just smirked. "Impressive, Mr. Ellington. You've got quite the air about you! You set yourself and the hospital up on this moral high ground right off the bat. And you treat me like I'm some criminal under interrogation, as if I've been on a rampage in your hospital!"

Norman snapped, "Sir, mind your tone!

"You might not have gone on a killing spree, but you did assault someone, and that's serious! If the hospital decides to take this further, you're going to face the music legally!"

Andrew threw up his hands with an apologetic grin. "Sorry to let you down, but it looks like you're in for a disappointment, Mr. Ellington! First off, I'm not the guy who threw the punches, so chasing me for legal trouble is a dead end.

"Second, if you're wondering why your buddy here got decked, maybe you should ask him! Third, you're right about one thing: hospitals are supposed to save lives and offer comfort.

"However, Dr Charlton? He's not

doing his job. He's making it tough for regular folks to get care, not to mention his insults, threats, and scare tactics. And what's with the attitude? Who gave him the right to act like he's the king of the hill, treating patients like they're beneath him?"

Andrew's words picked up speed, his voice growing fiercer by the second, until it was ice cold!

Daniel was so spooked he shivered uncontrollably.

Norman's face turned stormy.

Great, he had hit a snag! He knew all about Daniel's antics, but he usually looked the other way.

Most patients were just average Joes who would not dare stir up trouble.

The high rollers? They had already slipped through the back door for VIP treatment.

Things had been smooth sailing until then.

However, Andrew had just thrown a wrench in the works.

Daniel, seething with rage, bellowed, "Alright, I'll own up to it—I was rude and snappy!"

Chapter 1257



"However, I said I was sorry after Ms. Garcia showed up, and I even agreed to let you meet Mr. Goddard! I've bent over backward here. Why are you still on my case, getting the Keller family to come after me?"

Andrew gave him a look that could freeze fire and cracked a chilling smile.

"Because you had it coming! You thought I couldn't handle you, huh?"

"Remember saying you'd have your whole family thank me if I managed to get through to you? Well, are you happy with how things turned out?"

Daniel was seething with anger, feeling like he was about to explode.

"Mr. Ellington, you heard him, right? This guy doesn't give a hoot about Blumedale Hospital! He doesn't show an ounce of respect, even with you here! His tone? Might as well be a criminal or some punk off the streets!"

Daniel was at a loss with Andrew.

Fuming, he stormed off to tattle to Norman!

Norman spat out his words with venom, "Mr. Lloyd, you might have powerful friends. However, your words just now were an insult to us doctors. They were disdainful and oppressive! With that kind of bullying attitude, I have no choice but to escalate this!"

Logan replied calmly, "Go ahead, Mr. Ellington, report away! Trying to use your higher-ups to intimidate us? I know all the big shots at Blumedale Hospital. Play it however you want!"

Norman, barely containing his rage, said, "Mr. Keller, there should be some sense in everything! Your buddy here is so overbearing, stirring up trouble without a hint of remorse. It's like a slap in the face to our hospital, do you think we can just let that slide?"

Logan gave an icy snort. "You're right, there should be sense in everything! Mr. Lloyd is just too sensible, but when talking fails, that's why he asked me to step in!"

Norman did not dare to clash too much with Logan.

He turned back to Andrew, his voice dripping with menace, "Mr. Lloyd, you're clearly no ordinary man! Strictly speaking, we both have our faults in this matter!

"Would that work for you, Dr. Charlton? I'll give you a formal apology. And you, you'll need to make a public apology to our hospital!

"Please try to understand. The reputation of the hospital is our top priority. The scene you've caused today has really done a number on our image!"

Before Andrew could get a word in, Chantelle cut in, "Andrew, let's call it a day, okay? They've said sorry, I think we can let it go at that!"

Logan chimed in with a laid-back tone, "It's your call. I'm good with whatever makes you happy!"

Andrew burst into laughter, a sudden, unexpected laugh!

Norman, scowling, demanded, "Mr. Lloyd, may I know what you find so amusing about what I've said?"

Andrew did not hold back, "Of course, everything you say cracks me up! It's as if you're a living, walking, stand-up comedy."

Under Norman's glare, which could practically set things on fire.

Andrew replied with an icy edge, "First off, that apology you want for the hospital, I think it's a joke. I Andrew, have never disrespected the hospital, not one bit. Why should I apologize?"

"Secondly, my problem has

been with just one h just one personie

So,

he owes me an

You got that part right, Mr. Ellington.

"However that's not nearly enough! He's got to do more than just say sorry. He needs to face the music, and then pack his bags and hit the road!" bitt

Andrew's powerful comeback left everyone around him speechless with shock!

The head of the capital hospital was there, and he still stood his ground.

How deep were that guy's pockets, anyway?

Or maybe he was just too headstrong and not scared of stirring up trouble?

Chantelle snapped, "You're really looking for drama, huh? Well, I'm done dealing with your mess!"

With her arms folded, she took a step back.

She was curious to see what Andrew thought he would achieve by being so stubborn!

If he actually got the big shots from Blumedale Hospital involved, even Derek would not be able to do much.

Chapter 1258



Daniel was secretly thrilled, labeling Andrew a total idiot in his mind.

He had been lenient, and yet the guy refused to back down!

Then he had ticked off Norman, known for his fiery temper. This dude was in for a ride!

"Mr. Ellington, you've seen it with your own eyes, how this guy just loves to cause trouble and pick fights, right?"

Egging on the situation, Daniel was quick to fan the flames.

Norman was seething with rage and said icily, "You don't want to apologize? Fine, we'll settle this through legal channels! Also, Dr. Charlton is one of our own. It's not your place to boss him around!"

As the director of the hospital, handling Andrew would be a piece of cake. His actions earlier were no doubt just asking for trouble.

If Norman couldn't manage this small fry, how was he supposed to command respect after a promotion?

As for the Keller family, Norman was not scared at all.

He was not out to make enemies with the Kellers!

He just needed to put Andrew in his place, and if the Kellers got involved, they would have to know their limits!

Logan might get away with hitting Daniel, but Norman, the director? He wasn't someone to be messed with...

"Man, Mr. Lloyd meant well, trying to be our voice, for all of us struggling to get medical care!"

"However, who knew it would blow up like this. I think making Dr. Charlton say sorry should cut it. Getting him fired? That's just not happening."

"Right? A doctor from a big hospital has a huge network. Us regular folks, we get the short end of the stick, what can we do?"

"We just suck it up and look the other way, right? Mr. Lloyd's got guts, he's got heart. However, sometimes, it's like he's trying to stop a train with his bare hands..."

Everyone around sighed quietly, their words tinged with regret.

They all thought Andrew did not have to go all out against Daniel.

It was not that Daniel didn't deserve a lesson, but Andrew was taking on the hospital all by himself. He would be the one who was going to end up hurt!

That was how the underdogs make it-they endure, they stand strong!

The ones with real power, who dared to raise their voices, to fight back, were rare. Those folks, they were heroes!

However, how many heroes were out there, really?

Logan's face turned stone-cold in an instant. "Bro, what's the plan? Just say the word, and I'm in! The Kellers might not have that much power, but I don't give a hoot about Some department head! "

"The old man's got your back, and now, you and I, we're sworn brothers. Whatever you're planning, count me in, no questions asked!"

Andrew cracked a smile. "Since I've been in Blumedale, Logan, you're the first blue blood I've actually respected!"

Logan's stance really got to Andrew.

The Kellers, it turns out, were definitely worth befriending!

"Mr. Ellington, Daniel has got to go. And that's final, no matter what you do!"

Andrew glared at Norman, his stance unyielding.

Norman chuckled in irritation and said, "Really? Well, Mr. Lloyd, I'm dying to hear your plan."

Andrew's face was stone-cold. "I

don't have a plan. I just know what's been going on behind the scenes. Like how Daniel's been hogging all the appointments with the dean and the other big shots."

"He's been slamming the door on regular folks, acting like their lives don't matter one bit! Meanwhile, he's been auctioning off those precious slots to the highest bidder, lining his own pockets, am I right?"

"And the hospital bigwigs? They're clueless! They think everyone's getting a fair shake at an appointment!"

Chapter 1259



"However, that's a joke. The only people getting through are the ones Daniel's handpicked, the real bottom-feeders."

At first, Norman scoffed at Andrew's accusations.

Somebody trying to tell them how to run a hospital? The absurdity!

However, as Andrew kept spilling the beans, it was like a bolt from the blue.

Norman's face went white as a sheet.

Daniel, already scared witless, nearly toppled over as he gasped, "You... how did you find out?"

Norman roared, "Zip it, Daniel!"

Inside, he was fuming. This fool, this absolute moron, could not keep his cool!

However, it was too late. The crowd erupted, a wave of fury sweeping through them!

The chaos was off the charts. "Dr. Charlton is a walking violation of medical ethics, totally unworthy of his white coat! Nobody forced his hand, he spilled the beans himself!"

"Man, if Mr. Lloyd hadn't blown the whistle, we'd all still be clueless!"

"Daniel, you call yourself a doctor? Are you even human?"

Panic-stricken, Daniel just blurted it out, setting off a total meltdown!

Norman's face was storm-cloud dark, and he was mentally trashing Daniel, labeling him a total waste of space.

However, Norman was seriously ticked off at Andrew, too.

Daniel's mess was his own doing!

'Now this guy comes out of nowhere, airing my dirty laundry? That's a slap in my face as the chief!' Norman fumed.

"Those are some big claims without proof, Mr. Lloyd! Dr. Charlton is my guy, under my watch, he wouldn't dare step out of line!"

Norman was digging in his heels, trying to spin the story his way.

Andrew just scoffed, "I'm not looking to drag us all through the mud. However, if you're still playing the cover-up game, that's gonna tick me off! You say Daniel's clean, but he pretty much just owned up to it!"

Daniel yelled back, "I didn't confess to anything, I'm innocent! Andrew, you're just throwing mud at me.

"What did I ever do to you, that

you're

think

going for the jugular? if I go down,

skate by? Well, think again

With eyes blazing, Daniel was backed into a corner, throwing threats at Andrew

for all to hear.

Just like that, the patients around them were boiling mad!

One by one, they fixed Daniel and Norman with furious glares that could practically set the room on fire.

Norman's hand flew out, landing a stinging slap on his subordinate's cheek.

What a bonehead! A total moron!

Losing it and spouting such self-defeating nonsense at a time like that.

Norman was convinced that Daniel was a lost cause.

The slap brought Daniel back to his senses in a flash.

He realized he had messed up, big time, and was probably in deep trouble!

Norman, true to his role as the

director, was quick on his feet and barked Get out now and think hard about the mess you've made! And cool off, then come back to O personally apologize to Mr Lloyd!"

Daniel, feeling like he had just dodged a bullet, beat a hasty retreat.

Norman's advice to 'cool off' was actually his way of pulling Daniel out of the line of fire.

If he could avoid being outed by Andrew right then, he would have all the chances he needed to make a comeback!

As long as he could keep his head down at Blumedale Hospital and secure his upcoming promotion...

He was determined to do whatever it took to crush Andrew.

The hatred boiled inside him, fierce and unyielding.

"Wait a minute, Daniel, who said you could go?"

Andrew's face turned stormy as he watched the would-be escapee.

Daniel kept his head down and kept moving, tuning everything out.

Norman, relieved, managed a strained smile and said, "Mr. Lloyd, I don't need your apology to the

hospital anymore. Daniel's just a kid who doesn't know any better, sometimes he talks without thinking."

Chapter 1260



"You heard him. I'll send him over to apologize to you in person later. Can we put an end to this drama now?"

His voice was quieter then, and the bluster was gone.

It would not be an overstatement to say he was totally bowing down to Andrew!

Yet Andrew just shook his head, his voice icy as he said, "I don't need his apology. An apology from a doctor without morals is an insult to me! You're the director, and you think you can just brush it off as youthful ignorance?"

"Heh, anyone else might have been duped by you! However, today, Mr. Ellington, you're out of luck. Because you've run into me, Andrew!"

Norman had not expected Andrew to push further and exploded, "Andrew, what do you want from me? Are you not satisfied? Do you want to hit me, the director, too?"

Andrew replied with scorn, "Sorry, but I'm a civilized person. Resorting to violence is crude, and that's not my style."

Logan looked on, his face a picture of sorrow.

What was that supposed to mean?

Was he implying that he was the uncivilized one?

"The bottom line is, Daniel has to go," Andrew insisted.

Norman's face was a mask of icy resolve. "I'm sorry, but my stance hasn't changed. You can't meddle in our hospital's business! You have no proof for the accusations you've made against Dr. Charlton. So, Mr. Lloyd, I think we've heard enough from you!"

In a flash, Andrew grabbed the registration book from the front desk and hurled it right at Norman's face.

"Looking for evidence? This book is all the evidence we need! It lists every single person who's made an appointment to see our hospital's top dogs for treatment!

"Should we track each one down and check their background? Should we confirm whether, as I've said, Daniel has been giving special treatment to the wealthy and influential, arranging meetings with the hospital's top specialists?

"And what about the regular folks, the everyday people? Did Daniel just turn a blind eye to them?"

After tracking down the old lady from earlier, Andrew led her straight to Norman and confronted him with a fierce look.

"This lady w

right

ignored by Daniel,

physicer my nose! We've got theet

واز

proof. Do you need me to

drag in a witness too?"

Norman's face turned ghostly pale, and his lips twitched, but he could not get a word out.

He shakily opened the register, but snapped it shut after a mere glimpse!

Because the register showed that Daniel had indeed taken care of those with connections!

However, he had shut the door on so many others!

That move alone could cost Daniel his job and tarnish his reputation in the field for good!

"Mr.

our medical world. Mr. Lloyd, it

to me that you came prepetoks you sure know a lot about

today, all ready to stir up

Wouble."

Norman was stumped, suspicious of Andrew's motives, and let out a mocking laugh, trying to deflect.

Andrew replied calmly, "Mr. Ellington,

not everyone operates with the same cynicism you do! I didn't need to do any homework to uncover these secrets!"

Norman bellowed, "Then how can you explain knowing our processes inside out?" Andrew pointed to his nose and announced icily, "Because I'm a doctor myself!"

Norman was speechless, looking like he had seen a ghost!

He stumbled backward, nearly losing his footing.

Ah, so he was a doctor too, one of them.

It was no wonder he could pinpoint Daniel's misdeeds so accurately!

Daniel was done for.

As for Norman, the head of this operation, it looked like he was about to take a

total nosedive in the dignity department!