

## RISING FROM THE ASHES (ANDREW AND LAUREN)

### Chapter 1416

Elon explained, "So everyone who came today had to be members of the Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce-others wouldn't be appropriate attendees!

"Mr. Keller Senior has always single-handedly managed the largest Chamber of Commerce in Gabo Creek province, but ever since he got sick, there have been rumors that he's planning to step down and give up his position as Chamber president."

Andrew asked casually, "Is the Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce really that powerful?"

Elon made admiring sounds, his face full of longing, "Powerful? It's incredibly powerful! In the entire Holtrien's Gabo Creek region, including places like Somaeth, there are only two major Chambers of Commerce.

"The first is the Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce, led by Mr. Keller Senior himself. The second is the Somaeth Chamber of Commerce, led by Mr. Hawkins from the PumpkinByte Group in Somaeth.

"He used to be our country's richest man. The combined net worth of all members from these two Chambers could shake the entire Vestraen economy!"

Andrew nodded. "That is pretty impressive. By the way, Mr. Hawkins, as you mentioned from PumpkinByte Group, wouldn't that be Mr. Freddie Hawkins, the one who made that martial arts movie and has incredible fighting skills?"

Elon looked worshipful. "That's exactly who I mean! I love his most famous quote: 'I've never been interested in money!' Dr. Lloyd, I thought that was such

an enlightened outlook on life, what a bold attitude! In this day and age, there are too few people who don't obsess over money!"

Andrew sneered coldly, "A man worth hundreds of billions saying he's not interested in money-don't you think that's like someone who's stuffed themselves saying they're not interested in food?"

Elon chuckled, "I just think it's a really classy way to show off!"

Andrew replied flatly, "When you're as rich as Mr. Hawkins someday, you can show off like that too-but first you'd need to have billions to your name."

Suddenly, there was a commotion on the distant lawn. Then, eight burly men in black suits came running over and surrounded Andrew's area.

Andrew remained completely composed and finished the food on his plate-waste was never a good habit.

Elon smiled, "Dr. Lloyd, looks like you're in trouble. Want me to say something?" Andrew replied indifferently, "No need. I don't value favors from the Goldings." Elon had tried to curry favor but hit a wall, so he reluctantly backed away.

"So you're the bastard who beat up my son?" A middle-aged man with a cane slowly approached Andrew's table and asked expressionlessly.

Andrew remained seated. "I've beaten up a lot of people, so I don't remember who your son is."

The middle-aged man pounded his cane several times and growled menacingly, "Quit playing dumb with me! I'm Duncan Irving, and Spencer is my boy. I know you're an honored guest of the Keller family, and George thinks highly of you."

"I also know you have exceptional medical skills and quite a reputation in Blumedale these days. But you injured and crippled Spencer's hand, so today you're going to pay the same price!"

The crowd around them was stirred up and gathered to watch the spectacle. The

Keller sisters were among them, each wearing cold smiles.

"I told you Mr. Irving Senior would definitely come after him—now we've got a good show!"

"What kind of show? Just the usual groveling, apologizing, and begging for mercy. This guy is supposed to be sworn brothers with Logan. I'm embarrassed he might bring shame to our family!"

"Enough! Stop talking nonsense. If Mr. Irving Senior goes too far, we can't just sit

back and watch Andrew get beaten to death."

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Andrew stood up.

Chapter 1417

Under the eager gazes of the crowd waiting for a show, Andrew stood up. Ignoring Duncan's menacing expression, he looked straight at him and sneered coldly.

"Spencer started the trouble himself, which led to his current situation! As his father, instead of disciplining your son first, you come to blame me? Mr. Irving Senior, your family's values are seriously lacking!"

The crowd erupted in shock.

"Damn, this kid actually has the nerve to lecture Mr. Irving Senior?"

"Does he really have a death wish? Mr. Irving Senior is notorious in the Gabo Creek Chamber for his ruthless methods!"

"He beat up the man's son-he should just get on his knees and beg for mercy instead of running his mouth here. No doubt about it, he's going to die horribly!"

In his fury, Duncan's cane lashed out violently, not at Andrew, but splitting the dining table beside him clean in half. His rage was evident as he snarled, "Who do you think you are to judge how my family conducts itself? That's our business!"

"How dare an outsider, some insignificant little brat, presume to criticize me? Andrew, if it weren't for the Keller family's sake today, I wouldn't waste another word on you—I'd simply order your ruin and show you what true misery means!"

Duncan had an extremely volatile temper, and his entire being radiated the brutal aura unique to those in power, causing many people to instinctively step back. They all sneered inwardly, thinking Andrew was finished-absolutely finished.

Only one person did not think so-the chubby Elon standing far away. He also thought someone was finished, but it would be Duncan, the family patriarch, and the entire Irving family.

"Today is Mr. Keller Senior's birthday, and I don't want to start trouble at the Keller residence," Andrew said casually, though his actions said otherwise.

He pressed his finger directly against Duncan's chest and continued, "Let's go outside and settle this properly. Your family thinks it's hot shit and wants to hold me accountable? Fine-I'm not exactly a pushover either. I'll just wipe out your entire family. You're nothing but a bunch of weaklings in my eyes."

By the end of his words, Andrew's expression had turned ice-cold. The Irvings were not even at the level of The Five Apex Families, yet they had the attitude of a first-class dynasty family without the power to back it up.

Andrew absolutely could not tolerate that kind of arrogance. He had even dared to take on Rafael from one of the Three Titans. So, what was the measly Irving family to him?

The crowd gasped in unison.

"What the hell is Andrew doing? Goodness, where does he get the balls to boss around Mr. Irving Senior like that?"

"Mr. Irving Senior is already temperamental, yet Andrew's even more volatile. Does he really think he can single-handedly take on the Irvings and their dozen experts?"

"He's too arrogant! He's young, and with just a little taste of success, he becomes insufferably cocky, not knowing his place. How could he possibly mess with someone like Duncan..."

Even the spectators thought Andrew was being suicidal, let alone Duncan himself.

His eyes blazed with fire as he spat, "You... poked me? You actually laid a hand

on me? I'll fucking kill-"

He was about to finish his threat when George's voice rang out cheerfully from the second floor of the Keller residence.

George chuckled and called out,

"Duncan, why bother arguing with a

youngster? Everyone, disperse! Logan, take Andy to the conference room-he'll be joining our family for the executive meeting shortly."

With just a few words, George had settled everything. Then, he immediately turned and went downstairs.

No one dared disobey-the spectators automatically dispersed, and Duncan suppressed his rage, looking grim as he walked away with his Irving family experts, leaning on his cane.

That was George's authority-those who listened could still smile and remain friends, while those who did not might find their families destroyed overnight. As the leader among the Five Apex Families, the Ketter family had always operated this way, and this approach had made them what they were today.

Logan walked over to Andrew with a smile. "Is everything okay?"

Andrew shrugged. "Why wouldn't I be?"

Logan replied helplessly, "Of course, I know you're fine-I'm asking if Duncan is okay, in case you hurt him."

Andrew was exasperated. "It's Mr. Keller Senior's special day. Do you think I'm that inconsiderate?"

Logan sighed. "My father intervened just now because he was afraid you might kill Duncan!"

Chapter 1418

Logan explained, "The Irvings hold an important position in the Gabo Creek Chamber, so don't take it to heart. You can wipe them out when you get the chance later!"

Andrew curled his lip, "I'm not some villain who goes around destroying people for no reason. I just can't stand that crippled Irving bastard acting like everyone should bow down to his family!"

Logan smiled, "Don't worry. If you can't stand it, you won't have to force yourself to tolerate it much longer!"

Andrew raised an eyebrow, "Much longer? What do you mean?"

Logan jerked his chin toward the building, "Come on, my father wants me to bring you to the highest-level executive meeting of the Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce! He's planning to pass the Chamber presidency to you.

"After that, you'll be the head of the Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce. Then, you can do whatever you want, so naturally you won't have to force yourself to hold back anymore!"

Andrew's jaw dropped. "What the hell?"

He immediately turned to leave, but Logan grabbed him and said through gritted teeth, "Andy, I'm begging you! You have to take this seat no matter what!

"I'm the only male heir in the Kellers, and managing the family business is already my limit. My father's getting old and has been wanting to step down from the Chamber presidency for ages, but it wasn't until you showed up that he finally decided you were the right person for the job!"

Andrew protested angrily, "Logan, that sounds nice and all, but while the Kellers may only have one male heir, you've got three sisters! I've seen how 'capable' your three sisters are any one of them could take over for Mr. Keller Senior, right?"

Logan rubbed his temples, looking pained. "Andrew, you don't know the half of it. Emily, the eldest? Five years in business—burned through nearly a

billion of the family fortune. Freya, the middle one, is too busy chasing fame in the entertainment industry to care about power or money. You'd be lucky to catch her at home."

He continued, "And Hannah? The most rebellious of them all. Clubs, bars, zero sense of responsibility. Trust me, my father and I have tried."

Andrew scoffed. "So this is your grand plan? Your sisters are nothing but pretty faces with zero competence, and now you want me to clean up the mess?"

Logan raised his hand and swore, "Andrew, don't misunderstand my father's and my sincere intentions Especially my father-his fondness and admiration for you come from the bottom of his heart! I'm telling you, if you're smart and play your cards right, you could take all three of my sisters in one sweep! Then, half of the Kellers' fortune and social influence would be yours!"

Andrew was shocked, "What do you mean, take all three in one sweep? Logan, you and Mr. Keller Senior are so devious! I thought the deal was to take just one. Three? Are you trying to kill me?"

Logan laughed nervously, clearly guilty, "Taking at least one is a non-negotiable condition you have to meet! But if you can win over all three and take them all, everyone would be thrilled. My father and I would give you our full support and immediately split half our fortune with you!"

Andrew shook his head firmly, "Forget it. I can't handle it! I already have three at home, and besides, I'm not interested in your three sisters."

Logan became desperate. "Nothing is required for the marriages-they'd be free! We'd even throw in a billion dollars each as a wedding gift. Are you sure you're turning them away? Andrew, we're sworn brothers. Why are you being so unreasonable?"



Seeing how upset Logan was getting, Andrew also felt his temper rising. However,

he realized that George and Logan had indeed been very good to him, so rejecting them outright would be really ungrateful.

"Fine, I don't really know your three sisters anyway. Let's get to know each other better first and talk about this later. Let's not bring it up today."

Logan broke into a grin, "I knew I could count on you! Andy, my sisters might be a bit spoiled, but their looks and figures are absolutely flawless! If you married them all, you'd make countless men jealous!"

Andrew chuckled, "Marry them all? You think I could handle that?"

Logan laughed. "Other men definitely couldn't handle it, but I believe in you, Andy! Your stamina and skills are surely impressive-that's obvious from the three beauties you're keeping!"

Andrew shot back, "Screw you!"

Chapter 1419

Inside the Keller residence, George looked stern as he called his daughters to come before him. He asked, "You three were behind the conflict between the Irvings and Andy, weren't you?"

Emily remained silent, Freya snorted coldly without responding, and Hannah giggled.

She said, "Dad, we were just playing a little joke on him! You want to marry one of us to him, right? Of course, we had to test him first!"

George sneered coldly, "Is that so? So, what did your test reveal?"

Hannah pouted. "We found out he's completely useless! If you hadn't stepped in, Dad, Mr. Irving might have beaten him to a pulp!"

George laughed but it was a cold laugh. "So, all three of you think this way?" The three sisters did not speak, but all nodded, their expression contemptuous. George suddenly roared, "Foolish! If you three weren't girls, I would have given you all a severe beating today!"

This sudden outburst frightened the three.

Hannah, being the most delicate, immediately teared up. "Dad, why are you being so mean? We're telling the truth-we're not wronging Andrew at all. He really is that pathetic!"

Emily said through gritted teeth, "Dad, we know you favor Andrew, but we're your daughters! Sometimes we really can't understand why you think so highly of him and trust him so much!"

Freya, whose mind was focused on

her entertainment career rather than family matters, chimed in coldly, off

"Anyway, if you want to marry your daughters, I don't object to Emily and Hannah doing it, but I'll only marry someone I love, I'd rather die alone than settle for some mediocre nobody!"

George was so angry that he laughed. "After being away from home for a while, you three have really grown some nerves! Fine, since you all think you're so excellent and capable while looking down on Andy, let's start with you, Emily. Tell me, what gives you the right to be so arrogant in front of him!"

Emily snorted, coldly with pride. "I've started a company that's actually profitable While it's still far from going public, the valuation is already no less than two billion dollars Compared to others my aged Blumedale, I think I'm doing pretty well!"

George replied mercilessly, "Your 'pretty well', to put it nicely in Andrew's eyes, means you still have room to grow. To put it harshly, it means you're worthless and not worth mentioning! You think two billion is something to be proud of?"

"What if I told you that on the very day Andrew arrived in Blumedale, he registered a company worth 50 billion? You can't even match a fraction of what he has. What do you have to say for yourself?"

Emily looked incredulous. "A 50-billion capital company? Dad, you're joking, right? Even you probably couldn't easily come up with such an enormous sum!"

George snorted coldly. "It's precisely because even I don't dare feel superior in front of Andrew! What makes you three little nobodies think you can?"

"Emily, you're the eldest and supposedly the most sensible, but this time, you acted very poorly and short-sightedly. Whichever one of you manages to catch Andrew, your future success is basically guaranteed!"

Chapter 1420

Emily looked completely unconvinced but had nothing to say, so she just sat there sulking in silence.

Freya maintained her aloof demeanor and said coolly, "He might be very wealthy, but there are many rich people in this world. What I love is art—something ten thousand times more valuable than money! So, Andrew's money means nothing to me!"

George smirked, "Is that so? What if I told you that Andrew has two of your beloved Viktor Voss masterpieces hanging in his Serenity Villa right now? Serenity Villa itself is the perfect combination of architecture and art, and it's

registered under his name! What gives you the right to act superior in front of him?"

Freya could not believe it. "The Serenity Villa at The Sovereign Residences-that perfect mansion is under Andrew's name? But Dad, wasn't Serenity Villa always owned by that Southern martial arts master Zachary Fischer?"

George snorted, "I don't know the exact details, but one thing's certain-Zachary voluntarily gave Serenity Villa to Andrew!"

Freya's mouth widened in shock. She loved houses and art and had previously approached Zachary about purchasing Serenity Villa. Unfortunately, he would not even meet with her, and even being a Keller did not get her any respect from him.

Yet, Zachary had voluntarily given Serenity Villa to Andrew.

What kind of influence did that require?

Hannah, seeing her two sisters get shut down, felt annoyed and pouted, "Dad, no matter how great you make this Andrew sound, at most he's just a doctor who knows how to make money! Besides his stinking money, he's got nothing-how boring and unromantic!

"I like men who have money, power, and influence. Ideally, they should also have incredible martial arts skills, like Logan, or Xavier from the Haywood family! That's what I call a perfect man!"

George scoffed. "Of the three of you sisters, you're the most vain and delusional! You want money, power, influence, martial arts skills, and romance-I'm telling you, men like that are incredibly rare in this world!"

Hannah replied matter-of-factly, "Exactly because they're so rare, that's why I'm pursuing that type of man!"

George sneered. "Well, you're in luck, because Andrew is exactly the type of man you want! In terms of martial arts, Logan and Xavier are not even in the same league as him!

"In terms of power and influence, if Andrew wanted, Governor Derek could make him rise to great heights instantly! And I'm about to hand over the Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce to him-tomorrow, he'll become one of the most powerful people in all of Gabo Creek province!"

Ignoring his daughters' stunned expressions, George continued with cold mockery, "As for your ridiculous notion of romance, when Andrew gets into the mood for romance, silly girls like you wouldn't even catch his eye! You probably don't know this yet, but he already has three intimate female companions!

"I've investigated all three of these women thoroughly. While their family backgrounds don't match yours, in every other aspect that you girls love to compete over-looks, figure, and temperament-none of you three can surpass any of them."

George stood up with an air of authority. Looking at his three daughters, he said coldly, "You three girls need a reality check!"