

## RISING FROM THE ASHES (ANDREW AND LAUREN)

### Chapter 1431

However, more Chamber of Commerce members were still making their statements, eagerly rushing to pledge their loyalty to Andrew.

The Keller sisters were completely stunned, utterly speechless. If they had not witnessed it with their own eyes, they would have thought these people were under some kind of spell.

Had Andrew somehow controlled their minds and turned them into his puppets?

Nonetheless, the reality was right there in front of them. Whether they believed it or not, they had to accept it.

"H-How did he manage to win over so many people with just a few words? Half of the people are already supporting Andrew. Could he really be about to steal the chairman position?"

"It's not just half-it's nearly two-thirds already. Even when Dad was in office, his approval rating was only around this number."

"This guy is just too good at winning people over!"

Finally, the heart-stopping show of hands came to an end. Looking around the room, more than two-thirds of the people had raised their hands for Andrew, showing their complete support.

The remaining less than one-third were split-nearly half of them remained motionless. This gesture meant they were abstaining, neither supporting nor opposing Andrew.

Only a pitiful few people stood with Duncan, expressing their opposition. However, their faces looked absolutely miserable.noveldrama

The majority ruled, but this minority was pathetically small, so few that they could practically be ignored.

With a heavy sigh, one of Duncan's supporters turned to him and said, "Duncan, it's over. Just withdraw while you still can. Walk away now, and you still can save face."

Duncan shot up from his seat like a rocket, his face red with rage as he shouted, "Withdraw? Why the hell should I? Andrew, you little punk! You think you can go up against me? I'll destroy you! I oppose this! I'll use everything my family has to oppose you to the very end!"

His fury was so intense that spit flew from his mouth as he yelled. The people sitting nearby got splattered and frantically wiped their faces, looking disgusted.

Andrew calmly stood up from his seat and walked over to face Duncan directly. "Mr. Irving Senior, so you're opposing me?"

Duncan roared back, "Yes, I oppose you! You're not getting that chairman's seat today-mark my words!"

A lightning fast slap struck Duncan's face like a bolt from the blue. With a piercing scream, he flew through the air like a rag doll, flying over 30 feet before nearly rolling out of the Ketters' conference room entirely!

Andrew casually adjusted his suit cuff and said, "Now then, does anyone else object?"

The room fell dead silent. Even the Keller sisters, who had plenty of complaints about Andrew, stood there with their mouths hanging open, too shocked to speak.

Logan muttered grimly, "Father

always said this guy walks the line between light and dark—he's the kind of powerhouse who could flip the whole damn world over if he wanted to. And that hit was brutal—no mercy, no hesitation." Content

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Everyone else had a much more direct thought.

'Mr. Lloyd hasn't even officially taken the seat yet, and he's already making examples out of people.'

'Anyone dumb enough to test him now might as well be digging their own grave!'

Duncan had built his reputation on being ruthless, which had earned him quite a few allies. However, it was clear that compared to Andrew, he was nothing more than a crawling insect.

The few people who had originally supported Duncan scrambled on their hands and knees toward Andrew! "Mr. Lloyd, we support you-completely support you!"

"Please, Mr. Lloyd, lead us to success and fortune from now on!"

The three Keller sisters stood frozen like statues, wondering what the hell was happening.

There were about 80 Chamber of

Commerce members, and they were just one vote short of a unanimous decision. Moreover, that one, opposing vote was now lying by the door, possibly not even breathing.

George stood up, his smile growing wider and wider. Finally, he began clapping

his hands together with enthusiasm.

"From today forward, I hope Mr. Lloyd will lead our Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce to charge ahead fearlessly!"

All the members shouted in unison, "Lead us forward, Mr. Lloyd!"

#### Chapter 1432

Andrew felt helpless as he looked at the situation-it seemed he had no choice but to take this chairman position. Originally, he had only stepped forward to knock Duncan down a peg or two.

"Everyone, is there any way I can decline this chairman position?"

He really did not want the job. He did not even want to manage Supreme Capital Group, let alone this massive Chamber of Commerce. It would just bring him a whole heap of trouble for nothing.

Everyone chuckled, and the applause seemed never-ending. "Mr. Lloyd, please don't be so humble. This chairman position belongs to you and you alone!"

"Exactly! Everyone's counting on you, Mr. Lloyd, to lead us to great achievements. You can't just abandon us now!"

"Since this is Mr. Lloyd's first day as chairman, I've already reserved a table at the Palace Grand Hotel. Surely our new leader won't decline our invitation?"

The wealthy, beautiful widow even started giving Andrew flirtatious looks as she invited him for dinner.

Andrew waved his hand dismissively. "Dinner and all that stuff are minor matters; there'll be plenty of opportunities later! Since you all unanimously want me as chairman, let me be blunt. I'm not someone who likes to

micromanage things! So I hope you all will avoid creating unnecessary drama!"

Everyone quickly expressed their willingness to cooperate with his leadership.

As Andrew watched them laughing cheerfully, he smirked. These people were all big bosses, heads of their households, controlling real capital, and for him, a newly appointed official, to think he could make these people submit with just a few words was impossible.

However, Andrew did not care about their two-faced games, just so long as they did not provoke him. Otherwise, he would not mind dealing with the next unlucky fool just like he had dealt with Duncan. noveldrama

George announced, "Well then, this meeting is adjourned. Everyone can go! From now on, all the authority of our Chamber of Commerce rests in Mr. Lloyd's hands!"

The meeting members began leaving one by one. Before departing, each one was very tactful, coming over to chat pleasantly with Andrew.

When most people had left, Logan approached Andrew, chuckling. "Andy, congratulations! You'll soon discover just how powerful this Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce chairman position really is! Now, even compared to the head of the Five Apex Families, you stand as their equal."

Andrew pouted. "I can tell at a glance that me taking this position is exactly what Mr. Keller Senior wanted most! Your family is taking at least half of the real benefits from this."

Logan laughed, replying honestly, "Of course that's true! When Father steps down; he'd naturally prioritize giving it to one of his own people. keeping it in the family! If you hadn't taken over, he would have had to stay in the position for at least

another ten years."

Andrew sighed. "It looks like I'm working for your family again! Alright, I'm going to hit the restroom, and then I should head home."

Logan tried to persuade him to stay. "Don't go! Tonight, our whole family should get together and celebrate properly! I'll have my sisters toast with you!"

Andrew declined the offer. "Forget it! I can't handle those three beauties of yours! Next thing you know, they'll be asking me to drink some suspicious tea!"

Logan's face darkened a bit were his sisters really that bad?

Andrew ignored him and found the restroom, where he spread his legs and began relieving himself. While doing so, he called Francesca Fran, have you gotten off work and

headed home yet?" '

Francesca giggled on the other end. "I bought groceries and I'm almost home! By

the time I finish cooking, Lauren and Aspen should be back, and you too!"

Andrew smiled. "Fran, you're becoming more and more the perfect housewife!"

Francesca snorted playfully. "I bought lots of pumpkins, oysters, and maca roots. You need to take more supplements lately. Otherwise, you won't be able to satisfy us three! I won't allow you to have any performance issues!"

Andrew felt a headache coming. "Got it, got it!"

After hanging up, he looked down and nearly cursed out loud. That busty Francesca had startled him earlier, causing him to drip a few drops on his dress shoes.

Andrew had no choice but to pull out some tissues to clean himself up. Just then, a hand with pink nail polish that looked both pale and plump beat him to it, wiping him clean first.

He turned around, surprised and somewhat speechless. "Um... Ma'am, thank you! But I think you might not have noticed-this is the men's room, not the women's room!"

The person who had suddenly appeared was none other than that very wealthy, beautiful widow from the Chamber of Commerce.

"How annoying! Don't call me ma'am—I have a name, you know!"

#### Chapter 1433

The flirtatious widow was incredibly bold, pressing herself against Andrew as she spoke. "My name is Rachel Gardner, but Mr. Lloyd, you can call me Rae!"

From her revealing outfit and enormous chest, it was obvious she was a wealthy but dangerously sensual woman. Any ordinary man who fell into her hands would definitely be drained after just one session.

Andrew stepped back to create distance and said flatly, "Madam Gardner, please watch yourself."

Rachel batted her dramatic eyelashes and smiled suggestively. "Mr. Lloyd, you're not even 30 yet, are you? You're at the perfect age-full of energy and stamina for seven rounds in one night! I'm willing to serve you for free tonight, with all my heart and soul!"

Rachel leaned in closer, her intoxicating perfume wrapping around Andrew as her laughter rang out.

Andrew shook his head. "I'll pass. I'm not particularly interested in women, especially divorced ones."

Rachel giggled coquettishly. "Haven't you heard, Mr. Lloyd? A divorced woman without kids is the ultimate prize! Whatever position you want, whatever difficult moves you desire-I can do it all! I guarantee you'll have an experience that no high-end club could ever provide!"

Her sultry poses were indeed effectively lethal.

Unfortunately, Andrew was not falling for her act and countered, "So what's your angle? You think if you control my lower half, you can control me as chairman, right? And then you can use me to do whatever she wants, correct?"

Rachel put on a pitiful, innocent expression and pouted. "I wouldn't dare think such things! I just thought that if you enjoyed my services, maybe you could help me out occasionally. But if not, that's fine too. After all, I'm just a widow who's always had to fend for herself!"noveldrama

Andrew sneered coldly. "Fend for yourself while holding onto 100 billion dollars? Do you really think I'd believe that?"

Rachel's face stiffened, and her smile became unnatural. "Mr. Lloyd, you're so funny! Where would I get that kind of money?"

With a cold snort, Andrew grabbed her wrist and warned her. "Rachel, listen carefully! I hope this pathetic little scheme of yours is the last one! Did you think I didn't know what you were really here for?"

As he spoke, Andrew yanked apart her pinned-up hair, and a recording pen with video capability tumbled from her locks onto the floor.

Rachel gasped, "You..."

She lunged forward to grab the recording device, but Andrew was faster. He stepped forward and crushed the recorder under his foot.



Rachel exploded with rage. "You bastard! Don't mistake my kindness for weakness. I'm telling you, I'm not someone you can mess with! You damn-"

Without hesitation, Andrew delivered a sharp slap across her face.

This sudden strike left the sultry widow completely stunned. "You hit me? You actually dared to hit me?"

In all her years of power, this was the first time she had experienced being slapped. She was Gabo Creek Province's famous billionaire businesswoman, worth hundreds of billions.

Andrew looked at her with ice-cold eyes. "That was just a small lesson. Next time, trust me, you won't want to see what happens when this chairman really loses his temper. Now get out!

"And tell Duncan when you see him that I know he's holding a grudge But the fact is, I'm the chairman of the Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce now, not him! If he dares to disobey, I'll destroy him!

The words "destroy him" were so coldly delivered that Rachel could not stop trembling.

Watching Andrew's retreating figure, she suddenly realized this newly appointed chairman was not easy to fool or manipulate. Trying to take advantage of his youth might end up costing her life.

She pulled out her phone and angrily called Duncan. "Mr. Irving Senior can't help you anymore. Andrew isn't someone I can afford to provoke! If I keep helping you, I might not even be able to protect myself!

"That's it, and let me give you some sincere advice: don't try to mess with him anymore. This man is as ruthless as George, but what's more deadly is that he's nearly 50 years younger!"

After saying everything, Rachel did not wait for Duncan's response and immediately hung up.

## Chapter 1434

Across from the Keller residence's front gate, Duncan gripped his phone as the dial tone buzzed, his expression increasingly sinister. Half his face was still swollen from earlier, and as a prominent figure in Blumedale, his current appearance was truly pathetic. *noveldrama*

He hissed, "That little punk stole my position, beat up my son, and then slapped me..."

Grinding his teeth furiously, he roared, "I'll kill that bastard!"

Duncan had to admit that being slapped around by Andrew earlier had been utterly humiliating. As a big shot and someone bold enough to run for chairman of the Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce, he simply could not accept being beaten like that.

"Rachel, that bitch, is completely useless too. She's actually afraid of some newly appointed young punk! Well, I'll make sure that whatever day he takes office is the same day he gets kicked out!"

His vicious gaze locked onto the front gate. The moment Andrew emerged, he would get his revenge.

Spencer was nearby with about 30 street thugs, all waiting like hungry wolves. He growled, "Dad, the second that bastard shows his face, I'll take the guys and chop him to pieces!"

He was aggressive and arrogant.

Duncan snorted coldly. "Take your trash and get as far away as possible! Andrew is still the chairman of the Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce, after all. Do you really think those useless idiots of yours could handle him?"

With that, he turned to look at the Maybach behind him. In the passenger seat sat

a man wearing a baseball cap, quietly and unremarkably.

However, Duncan knew that the moment Andrew appeared, this expert would strike like lightning and kill him right at the Kellers' front door. As for the aftermath, George would undoubtedly be furious.

Nonetheless, by then, Duncan would not care anymore. Since he dared to kill, he already had his escape route planned.

Suddenly, Spencer pointed toward the gate and shouted, "Dad, that bastard is coming out! He's coming out!"

Duncan's spirits lifted as he looked over immediately. A cruel smile spread across his face, and he spat his cigar onto the ground.

That was the agreed signal to attack.

In the Maybach's passenger seat, the man in the baseball cap pushed open the car door. Then, he strode toward Andrew.

Spencer asked in confusion, "Dad, who did you hire? He's alone. Can he really handle it?"

Duncan smiled smugly. "He's number seven on the Underworld Index, just a hair away from reaching martial king level-a martial arts master. What do you think?"

Spencer was shocked and incredulous. The seventh-ranked person on the Underworld

Index-isn't that Iron Palm Chasen et

Burns Damn, Andrew probably won't last even one move before

Chase kills him!"

Duncan laughed heartily as if he could already see Andrew being killed instantly by a single palm strike. The next second, he did

get to

indeed see some of the net

their knees in front of the Ketters' gate.

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However, Duncan made a puzzled sound. "Huh? What's wrong with Chase? Why is he kneeling on the ground?"

Spencer had better eyesight and was horrified. "Dad, something's wrong! I think I see Chase... coughing up blood!"

Duncan roared angrily, "You're talking nonsense! That's impossible! If anyone's coughing up blood, it should be Andrew!"

At the front gate, Andrew had been preparing to leave under the escort of the Ketter sisters. He had absolutely no interest in these three women, but there was no choice as George had insisted that his three daughters see him off.

So, the group, mutually annoyed with each other, had walked out of the Keller residence together.

Then, Andrew sensed a killing intent directed at him. Next came a thunderous palm strike aimed directly at his heart.

Andrew immediately realized this person intended to kill him. Since that was the case, he would not hold back either and instantly counterattacked-also with a palm strike.

Chase coughed up blood, his hand shattered, as Andrew seized him and forced him to kneel on the ground.

Chase was terrified out of his wits. "Y-You're actually a martial king! No, your strength far exceeds that of a martial king! H-How's this possible?"

Andrew's expression was emotionless. "How is this possible? Why don't you ask the King of Hell?"

Grabbing Chase's head, Andrew sent him to meet his maker. The Keller sisters screamed in terror, their faces turning pale with shock.

#### Chapter 1435

Andrew ignored the sisters and scanned the area, spotting Duncan and Spencer across the street. Ignoring the flowing traffic, Andrew strode toward them.

Seeing this, Spencer was so terrified he nearly wet himself. He was about to call his gang of thugs for help when he turned around to find they had all fled in terror.

"Dad, we're finished, we're completely finished..." Spencer despaired in an instant.

His pants became soaked as a puddle of murky liquid spread on the ground beneath him.

Even Chase, a martial arts powerhouse who could walk through Blumedale untouched, had gone down with a single hit from Andrew.

What were they compared to Andrew? They were as insignificant as dust.

Duncan's hand trembled violently on his cane. Soon, his whole body began to shake, like he was freezing from the inside out.

He had seen serious power before and even worked with martial kings, real monsters in their own right. However, as he watched Andrew approaching, for the first time in his life, he had the urge to drop to his knees to surrender and beg.

Finally, Andrew stood before them. His tone was calm, almost casual. "That man earlier was your hitman, wasn't he?"

Duncan stammered, his voice shaking. "M-Mr. Lloyd, I-I... please, let me explain

Andrew's hand shot out like lightning, grabbing Duncan by the throat and slamming him against the front of his Maybach. The windshield shattered on impact, and blood burst from his mouth, splashing across the hood of the luxury

car.

He collapsed onto the engine block, writhing in pain, screaming. "Mr. Lloyd, please don't kill me! I was wrong, I was so wrong! I swear I'll never disrespect you again! Spare me, Mr. Lloyd-please, I'm begging you!"noveldrama

His cries were animalistic-cornered, broken, and completely unhinged with terror.

Andrew punched down again—this time, not on Duncan, but on the hood beside him. The sleek, multimillion-dollar Maybach was totaled in a single blow.

Andrew's voice dropped, cold as ice. "Next time, I won't smash your car, but your skull instead."

He stared down at Duncan, who was still coughing blood, face twisted in agony. "Believe me when I say—your head will pop like a watermelon under my fist. Not just your head, your son's, and your whole disgusting family's.

"I told you—I can make your family vanish from this world with just me alone. If your idiot of a son wants to test me again, go ahead. Try me."

With that, he turned around and walked away.

Duncan lay slumped on the hood, gasping like a drowning man. Yet, even now, the terror in his eyes would not fade.

He wanted to slap himself senseless. He wondered why he had been so stupid as to pick a fight with this monster.

He regretted everything, especially for not listening to Rachel.

As for Spencer? He had already dropped to his knees. He was not just kneeling—he was slamming his forehead into the pavement, again and again, as if breaking his skull would buy him mercy.

Back at the Keller residence gates, Logan looked at Andrew with a complicated

expression. "I honestly thought you were just gonna kill him."

Blood still dripped from Andrew's knuckles—Duncan's blood.

He replied flatly, "Killing him would've cost the Chamber a high-ranking member. It's better to keep him around and use him however I want later. Though I be honest, every fiber in me wanted to wipe the Irvings off the map. What a pile of garbage."

The Keller sisters stood frozen, speechless. They looked at Andrew, eyes wide open. All their past mocking, dismissiveness, and defiance now seemed laughable.

They realized just how brutal, volatile, and powerful this man truly was.

If it were not for the Keller name shielding them, who were they to him, really?  
At

best, they would be toys-disposable and replaceable.

That terrifying thought sent chills down their spines.

Worse yet, Andrew was now the official Chairman of the Gabo Creek Chamber of Commerce. He held real power and authority that even they had to answer to.

Freya bit her pale lip, then suddenly stepped forward. "Mr. Lloyd, we sincerely apologize for our earlier behavior. We're truly sorry, sin Please forgive us."

Not only did she apologize, but the proud woman also formally bowed her head to

Andrew.