

Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

#Chapter 21 - Read Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren) Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Andrew was nowhere to be seen as Christina looked around.

Since youre not involved in this, get lost, you coward, Baldy snarled, kicking Shawn aside before turning his attention to Christina.

Ms.

Stevens, Mr.

Garner has his eye on that property.

Youre coming with us to sign it over.

Shawn crawled away, groveling, Thank you for your for your mercy.

Thank sparing me.

you, Mr.

Garner, for Internally, he cursed his terrible luck.

Jayrodales four districts were each controlled by a ruthless crime lord.

Dylan was the crime lord of the southerri area, with hundreds of loyal thugs at his command.

The Fields family was insignificant in comparison.

Shawn, theyre taking Christie ! Do something! Irene pleaded desperately.

Leroy joined in, begging, Shawn, I know you can figure this out.

Youre the Fields family heir

Dont you have connections? Shawns face darkened as he replied, I cant do anything.

When Mr.

Garner wants something

you'd better hand it over Irene turned on him, furious.

Shawn, are you even human? You act so high and mighty, but you're nothing but a spineless coward!

Having just been beaten and suddenly insulted, Shawn's expression twisted.

He spat venomously, Irene, you blind old hag

You deserve this! Your whole family deserves it.

I only got close to your family to get Christina in bed.

I couldn't care less about you idiots, Shawn continued, revealing his true nature.

H H How dare you ... Irene stammered, fuming with rage.

Leroy shouted, Shawn, you're despicable ! Shawn laughed coldly.

Insult me all you want.

Lets see how you protect Christina now.

Once Mr.

Garner gets his hands on her, she's done for His words sent chills down their spines ! Baldy grew impatient.

Ms.

Stevens, lets go

We're not known for being gentle.

Christina tried to hide her fear, keeping her face straight.

Im not going anywhere, and Im not giving up the property, she stated firmly.

Baldy chuckled, reaching for her chin.

I like feisty women.

After Mr.

Garner's done with you, my boys and I will take our turgs.

His crude words made everyone's skin crawl.

You're disgusting! Christina snapped, slapping him hard across the face without thinking.

The sudden action stunned the group into silence. Shawn trembled, muttering, It's over. She hit one of Mr.

Garners men.

Not even God can save her now.

Irene desperately approached Baldy, pleading, please, I'll give you money.

Don't hurt Christie, take me instead! Shut up, you old hag.

I'd rather die than touch you, Baldy snarled, slapping Irene so hard she flew backward.

His eyes burned with rage as he focused on Christina.

You little bitch, you'll regret not playing nice, he growled menacingly.

Christina stepped back, her face pale as she bluffed, I've already called the cops.

Baldy's cruel smile widened.

By the time they show up, we'll have had our fun with you a hundred times over, you stuck-up tease.

He raised his hand to strike Christina's beautiful face.

Many onlookers turned away, unable to watch.

It seemed the beautiful CEO was about to face a terrible fate at the hands of these thugs.

Chapter 22 Right at the last second, a cold voice suddenly commanded, Get away from her.

! Baldy's hand had just begun to swing when a powerful force struck his back.

Before he could even grunt, he was sent flying by a kick, landing motionless on the ground.

Christina stared in disbelief at Andrew, who had suddenly appeared behind Baldy.

Andrews eyes were frighteningly cold, as if ready to kill.

W Why did you come back? Christina stammered, surprised.

She had thought Andrew had left, disappointed that he seemed even more cowardly than Shawn. Should I have let them take you and have their way with you? Andrew snapped, giving the thoughtless woman a stern look.

Christina froze, feeling Andrew was being too aggressive.

Andrew, I know I misunderstood

you, but youre- Before she could finish her sentence, Baldy roared, Get him! Kill that bastard! A dozen thugs in black clothes immediately surrounded Andrew, some even pulling out weapons.

Shawn was secretly delighted and thought, Idiot.

Hes dead for sure

No one messes with Dylans men! He was annoyed by Andrews sudden heroic appearance, which made him look like a coward in comparison.

Christina screamed, Andrew, run! But in the next second, she, along with Irene, Shawn, and all the onlookers, were left stunned.

With a blank expression, Andrew unleashed a flurry of precise strikes and effortlessly blocked their attacks.

Within seconds, all the tough looking thugs were on the ground, groaning in pain and unable to get up. H Hows he such a good fighter? Leroy's scalp tingled

He was no longer afraid of Baldy and his crew, but of Andrew.

Remembering how he had threatened Andrew with a knife earlier, cold sweat ran down Leroy's back. He realized he had been playing with fire.

Shawn was also shocked, This loser has such impressive skills! Christinas beautiful eyes were fixed on the man throwing punches at the speed of light.

She could not believe a small town, doctor could be so skilled in combat.

Baldys face contorted with rage

He pulled out a knife from his waistband and lunged at Andrews back, shouting, Die! 1/2
Chapter 22 Andrews eyes flashed coldly as he grabbed the mans wrist and twisted hard.

With a sickening crack, Baldys wrist shattered.

The unbearable pain brought him to his knees as he screamed in agony.

Youre in deep shit now.

Were Mr.

Garners men.

Hell have you torn to pieces for this! Andrew replied coolly, Sorry, but Ive never heard of this Mr. Garner guy.

Is he supposed to be important? He tightened his grip, causing Baldy to scream and curse more. Christinas expression changed as she stepped forward.

Andrew, let him go.

Stop hurting people.

Holding his bloody nose, Shawn added spitefully Youre in big trouble now, Andrew.

Mr.

Garners ruthless youll be lucky if he only cripples you

Irene trembled with fear and yelled at Andrew, Youre a walking disaster nothing but trouble follows you around! Youve doomed us all! Let him go and apologize before its too late! 1 Baldy shouted, I want him dead, or this isnt over ! In response, Andrew casually struck the mans bald head, knocking him unconscious.

You talk too much, Andrew muttered, lowering his hand.

Shawn and the onlookers gulped nervously.

This guy was incredibly bold.

Dylan was notorious for his brutality.

Of Jayrodales four underground leaders, Dylan was the youngest but also the most vicious.

His name alone struck fear into peoples hearts.

Yet here was Andrew, seemingly unconcerned. Did he truly not fear death?

Chapter 23 Andrew, you need to run! Get out of Jayrodale, now! Christina urged, her eyes filled with worry after carefully considering the situation.

Andrew calmly replied, I dont think thats necessary.

Christina flew into a rage, shouting, Dont you understand? Youre in trouble! How can you say its not necessary? Andrew smirked

So what? Do you think Ive caused trouble for your family? That Im giving you problems? Isnt that exactly whats happening? The retort left Andrew speechless.

Irene grabbed Christinas arm, pulling her away.

Christie, lets go

All this trouble is because of this jerk.

It has nothing to do with us.

Come on, lets leave.

Leroy chimed in, Christie, lets go

Harvey is coming back from overseas tomorrow, and he can help us handle this.

Stevens Corporation wont be affected.

Christina nodded quickly.

Youre right

Harveys coming back tomorrow.

Hell sort this out.

Everything will be fine.

She turned to Andrew, her expression complicated.

Andrew, you should run.

Dont worry.

I'll ask Harvey to intervene and calm Dylan's anger.

You'll be okay, but you probably can't return to Jayrodale.

Andrew chuckled sarcastically.

Is that so? Ms.

Stevens, you're so generous, asking your fiancé to save your ex's life.

Should I prepare a big thank you gift for your oh so powerful fiancé? Hearing the mockery in Andrew's

tone, Christina shook her head, disappointed.

You're hopeless.

Even at a time like this, you're still jealous.

Let me tell you an uncomfortable truth: Harvey has the power to handle Dylan.

You might not like it, but it's the truth, she added firmly.

Andrew replied coldly, He must be really something.

But I don't need anyone else to handle my business.

With that, he walked away.

Shawn saw an opportunity and approached with a friendly smile.

Christie, that loser doesn't appreciate your help.

He's doomed.

I was forced to act the way I did earlier.

Don't be angry.

The Fields family will do everything we can to help mediate.

Christina responded indifferently, That won't be necessary.

From now on, Stevens.

Corporation won't be troubling the Fields family.

Irene scoffed

Shawn, the Fields family should just stay out of this.

You're nothing compared to Harvey.

As Christina's family walked away, Shawn's face darkened.

Bitch! You'll see! he thought bitterly.

Later that night, in a large underground fight club on the south side of the city, over a thousand spectators cheered as two men faced off in the ring.

One was built like a wrestler, with a fierce face and a chest covered in black hair.

He charged forward with a roar.

His opponent was an unassuming young man with a friendly smile who looked harmless.

With lightning speed, the smiling youth struck the big man's throat and immediately withdrew his hand.

The big man's expression froze, and he stood there rigidly.

The audience was confused, not sure what had happened.

Meanwhile, the smiling youth had already left the ring, with his follower draping a jacket over his shoulders.

It was only then that the big man collapsed with a thud.

The referee checked and announced, trembling, "He's dead!" The crowd was silent for a moment before erupting into excited cheers.

Dylan! Dylan! Dylan is unbeatable! No one can defeat him! Dylan was known to be a wolf in sheep's clothing, looking harmless but actually cruel.

Mr.

Garner, Baldy and his crew failed, one of Dylan's men reported as he left the fight club.

Dylan's smile barely changed.

What happened? The person replied nervously, "According to Baldy, they ran into trouble."

One guy took them all out.

Dylan's smile took on a sinister edge.

Useless.

We have intel on every tough guy in Jayrodale.

Whose going to believe some nobody took out a dozen of my best men? His follower only laughed nervously, not daring to respond.

Dylan, still smiling, ordered, Everyone who failed, cut off one of their hands as punishment. And find that guy.

Send Bobby to take care of him.

Chapter 24 That night, two events caused ripples in Jayrodale's high society circles. First, Dylan, the crime.

lord of South City, had stumbled for the first time since solidifying his power

Second, Harvey had returned from abroad, ready to take control of the Weller family.

The Weller family was among the top three elite families in Jayrodale, far above second tier families like the Fields.

Harvey was even more renowned, once considered the leader of Jayrodale's Four Scions and the most prominent young heir in the city

The next morning, Lauren called Andrew.

Dr.

Lloyd, I heard you ran into some trouble at the Jayrodale Grand Hotel yesterday.

If you need any help, please don't hesitate to ask, she said, her voice filled with worry.

Andrew replied, Thanks for your concern, Ms.

Rhodes, but it's not a big deal.

Lauren laughed

I should've known something like this wouldn't faze you, Dr.

Lloyd.

I was hoping I could help and have you owe me a favor Andrew smiled.

I doubt a favor from someone like me would mean much to you, Ms. Rhodes

Lauren let out a playful hiff.

I beg to differ? If it meant getting a favor from you, Dr.

Lloyd, Id do anything.

Id even strip down and wear thigh highs every day if thats what it took.

As Laurens teasing became more outrageous, Andrew quickly stopped the car.

Actually, there is something I should warn you about, Lauren continued.

Do tell, Ms.

Rhodes

Harvey Weller has returned from abroad.

The Wellers have been ambitious lately, aiming to become the top family in Jayrodale.

Harveys engagement to the rising Stevens Corporation might be part of a plan to use your ex. Andrews reaction was nonchalant.

What about it? Lauren cautioned, You should be careful of Harvey, Dr.

Lloyd

Hes skilled but not very forgiving.

Given your history with Christina, Im worried he might hold a grudge and try to retaliate.

Andrew replied calmly, Christina and I have nothing to do with each other anymore.

Lauren persisted, That may be true, but Harveys always been petty.

He might use shady tactics.

With the Weller familys resources, Im worried you might get hurt.

Andrew yawned.

I dont bother those who dont bother me

But if he wants to push it, I wouldn't mind making the Weller family disappear from Jayrodale. Lauren was secretly shocked.

Her words were partly a test to gauge Andrews ability, and he proved to be even more formidable than she had imagined.

Chapter 24 After ending the call with Lauren, Andrew received another from an unknown number

Hey, Andrew, come to the Oakridge Club.

I've got the Morlic Root you wanted, Francesca said coldly.

Andrews spirits lifted immediately, and he rushed over.

While he was not interested in money when treating patients, the rare Morlic Root was something he desperately needed.

The Oakridge Club sat atop the scenic Oakridge, rumored to be owned by a true Jayrodale power player

Only the rich and powerful of Jayrodale could enter, while ordinary folk could not even get close. Andrew found Francesca at a booth in the club

She was sipping red wine alone and looked up in surprise, blurting out, How did you get in here? Andrew replied casually, I walked in.

Francesca rolled her eyes

The Oakridge Club was members only, and ordinary people could not just waltz in.

She figured he must have connections through Lauren.

Wheres the stuff? Andrew asked, getting straight to the point.

Chanter

Chapter 25 Andrews straightforwardness made Francesca scoff.

She mocked, You didnt even bot greet me first? Youre so unsophisticated.

Despite her annoyance, she slid an elegant box across the table to Andrew.

He opened it, confirming the presence of a twisted root nestled on silk, then stood to leave.

to Wait, Francesca called out.

Youve got what you wanted.

When are you going to treat me ? Andrew replied frankly, Just set a time.

But I should warn you about the treatment.

Ill need to lift your dress.

Francesca froze.

Lift my dress? What do you mean? Andrew explained calmly, Your condition isnt ordinary.

Its more severe, which Im sure youre aware of

Francescas face flushed as she realized the implications, and anger

her gaze a mix of embarrassment Ignoring her reaction, Andrew continued, To ensure a complete cure,

Ill need to perform a minimally invasive procedure on the ... affected area.

Understand? Francesca gritted her teeth.

Thats hardly appropriate between a man and a woman, dont you think? Andrew frowned.

To a medical practitioner, theres no distinction between male and female patients.

Youre a doctor yourself.

How can you not understand this ? Francesca was speechless, but the thought of Andrew touching her, especially in such a sensitive area, was uncomfortable.

Andrews expression softened slightly.

Dont worry.

Ill be blindfolded and wont actually touch your body.

1 Hearing this, Francesca sighed in relief, though still feeling incredibly embarrassed.

Just then, the club manager clapped for attention.

Ladies and gentlemen, I know you've all been curious about the identity of our Oakridge Club's mysterious owner.

Well, today's your lucky day.

He's here and would like to treat everyone to a drink and make your acquaintance.

The room erupted in applause.

Those sitting in this club were all wealthy and influential people, and they all started chattering excitedly.

Finally, we'll see who owns this place! I wonder which Jayrodale bigshot it is? It's got to be someone from one of the top families, at least.

No way, I heard it's one of the four crime lords of Jayrodale.

Chapter 25 Francesca, holding her wine glass, looked intrigued.

The owner of Oakridge Club has always been a mystery in Jayrodale.

Given the club's impeccable reputation, it's quite an honor to finally meet him.

Andrew was uninterested and had planned to leave after getting the Morlic Root.

However, with the crowd blocking the exit, he had no choice but to wait.

Amid thunderous applause, a couple walked arm in arm on a red carpet.

The man wore an expensive suit, looking handsome and confident with a charming smile.

Meanwhile, the woman glided in a floor-length white dress, her beauty almost otherworldly.

The club manager announced enthusiastically, Allow me to introduce our club owner, Mr. Harvey Weller! The crowd went wild with excitement and admiration.

Wow, they're gorgeous! What a power couple! Holy crap, Mr.

Weller owns this place? No wonder it's so high end! Mr.

Weller's making quite an entrance fresh from his return! And that stunning woman must be his fiancée Christina Stevens, the CEO of Stevens Corporation! As the crowd surged forward to greet the couple, Francesca glanced at Andrew with a sly smile.

So, Dr.

Lloyd, what are your thoughts on this unexpected turn of events?

Chapter 26 Enjoy yourselves tonight, everyone.

Drinks are on me, Harvey announced with a charming smile.

The crowd erupted in cheers and praise

After all, Dakridge Club was known for being one of the most expensive places in Jayrodale.

Only someone like Harvey could boldly claim that the whole nights bill was on him.

Mr.

Weller sure is generous ! Hes still the same Mr.

Weller we know and love Only the beautiful CEO of Stevens Corporation is worthy of our handsome and wealthy Mr.

Weller ! Francesca watched in admiration as Harvey and Christina disappeared into the VIP room on the second floor.

Before he went abroad, Harvey was known as Jayrodales most eligible bachelor.

Now, hes returned even more refined and mature

The Weller family has a bright future, and Ms.

Stevens is a lucky woman, Andrew sipped his drink and nodded.

This is a great wine

Francesca looked at him, confused.

At a time like this, youre still in the mood to enjoy your drink? She found Andrews behavior odd.

While everyone else was admiring the handsome couple, he just sat there drinking.

Then, a thought struck her.

With a sly grin, she asked, Dr.

Lloyd, are you drowning your sorrows because youre jealous of Harveys success and beautiful fiancée ? Andrew smiled

Harvey is exceptional

Im happy for them and wish them well.

Theres nothing to be sad about.

Francesca raised an eyebrow

Youre not even a little jealous or upset? Andrew replied with a question of his own.

Why should I be ? Francesca smirked.

Come on, Dr.

Lloyd; stop pretending.

Its only natural for someone like you to be envious of someone as accomplished as Harvey.

You dont have to put on a braye.

face.

I dont mind comforting you.

I appreciate your concern, but I really dont feel that way.

Andrew shrugged, his expression calm.

He had thought this day might be difficult.

However, he found himself surprisingly at peace

Perhaps it was because he had risen above such petty concerns

Chapter 25 Suddenly, a sharp knife was stabbed into the table in front of Andrew.

A muscular young man with tattoo covered arms, reeking of alcohol, loomed over him.

Youre Andrew Lloyd, right? he asked menacingly.

Francesca jumped, startled.

When she recognized the man, her face paled.

She asked, Bobby, whats the meaning of this? The Aicker family doesnt have any beef with South City,

does it? Bobby grinned.

Sorry to interrupt, Ms.

Aicker, but this is between me and the kid.

It doesnt concern you.

Francescas heart sank Andrew was in serious trouble.

Andrew did not even glance at Bobby.

Yes, Im Andrew Lloyd.

What do you want? Bobby chuckled darkly.

Youve got guts, kid.

Youre the first in Jayrodale to act so cool in front of me.

But youll be meeting your maker soon enough.

Bobbys arrival caught the attention of many in the club, who watched with fear.

Whats Dylans mad dog doing here? This is bad.

Wherever he shows up, blood is sure to follow.

Looks like hes after that guy.

1 That poor kid is as good as dead.

Bobbys an ex special force, and every move he makes is fatal.

Anyone he targeted is already six feet under Francesca hesitated, wondering if she should call Lauren for help

However, what happened next made her doubt her own ears.

Chapter 27 Andrew spoke casually, Im not in a great mood today, so Id advise you not to push your luck

Bobbys eyes gleamed dangerously.

What did you just say? Repeat that.

Andrew chuckled.

I said, get lost.

Im not in the mood, and Id hate to hurt you if things get out of hand.

Francesca thought Andrew had lost his mind.

Andrew, shut up! Dont you know Bobby is Mr.

Garners best fighter from South City ? I cant protect you if you keep running your mouth.

She turned to Bobby, her voice tense.

Bobby, this guys a friend of mine and Laurens.

Can we talk this out later? Maybe you could let him off the hook today? Bobby laughed.

Im afraid thats not possible.

This punk messed with Mr.

Garners business yesterday.

The boss wants him taken care of personally.

He continued, Ms.

Aicker, please tell Ms.

Rhodes its nothing personal

This guy not only screwed up Mr.

Garners plans, but hes also acting all high and mighty even with my knife on the table.

Thats disrespecting me and Mr.

Garner

Francesca had to admit Andrew was being recklessly arrogant.

With a knife out, he was still acting untouchable.

He was clearly asking for trouble

Andrew, apologize to Bobby before this gets out of hand, Francesca ordered, hoping to defuse the situation.

Andrews brow furrowed slightly.

Apologize? Why should I? I didnt do anything wrong yesterday.

If anyone should apologize, its Dylans men.

My hand still hurts from punching that bald guy! Francesca was exasperated

She could not believe how ignorant Andrew was, practically digging his own grave to demand an apology

She wondered how he could have such twisted logic.

Bobbys face darkened

Youve got a death wish, kid

Ask around about my reputation in Jayrodale.

Ive got over a hundred bodies to my name, but youre by far the most suicidal idiot Ive ever met.

The other club patrons watched in horror, seeing Andrew as a dead man walking.

Is this guy fearless or just insane? It must be the latter.

No one in their right mind would act this way.

Even powerful families back off when Bobby goes nuts

If I were that moron d be on my knees begging for mercy! Francesca glared at Andrew coldly. Fine, if youre so eager to die, I wont interfere

Just dont Chapter 27 call Lauren begging for help like a coward at the last minute. Andrew calmly poured a drink and pushed it toward Bobby with a smile.

Here, have a drink to steady your nerves.

Id hate for you to wet yourself when things get rough.

Francesca felt a chill running down her spine.

She was dumbfounded that a freeloading loser like Andrew dared to provoke Bobby.

Meanwhile, the other patrons were stunned by Andrews remark.

Telling Bobby to have a drink to steady his nerves and that he might wet his pants was his guy was simply unbelievable.

They thought Andrew was out of his mind, running on blind confidence.

Bobby could no longer contain himself.

His right hand shot out like lightning, the knife gleaming as it slashed toward Andrews throat.

Kid, this time next year, Ill make sure to visit your grave when its your death anniversary.

Youre the most suicidal bastard Ive ever met, Bobby snarled.

Chapter 28 Bobby, put the knife down please, for my sake, a calm voice interrupted just as Bobby was about to strike

Bobby turned with a cold smirk, ready to dismiss whoever dared interfere.

However, his demeanor instantly changed when he saw the elegant Harvey approaching.

Mr.

Weller, what brings you here? Bobby asked with a forced smile.

Harvey, with Christina by his side, walked over gracefully.

They looked like a prince and princess, drawing everyones attention.

Dylan and are great friends

Im vouching for this man today, and Ill talk to Dylan personally later, Harvey stated with a smile as if it were a trivial matter.

He glanced at Andrew, his eyes flashing mysteriously.

Bobby hesitated.

But Mr.

Weller, this guy hurt over a dozen of Mr.

Garners men yesterday.

He really disrespected the boss... Harvey calmly replied, I said Id handle it.

Dont worry about Dylan ; Ill explain everything to him.

Besides, I heard your men tried to harm my fiancée yesterday.

I havent even addressed that yet! Bobbys expression changed

The Weller family was powerful in Jayrodale, and Harvey was no small player

Im willing to overlook yesterdays misunderstanding, but you need to do me this favor and let this man go

, Harvey insisted firmly

However, nobody found his tone inappropriate.

Even Bobby, as the involved party, felt it was reasonable given Harveys status and influence in Jayrodale

Bobby gritted his teeth and smiled.

Alright, Mr.

Weller.

If you put it that way, Id be a fool not to oblige.

But Im curious.

Why would someone of your status bother saving this nobody? fiancéés ex.

Harvey smiled and explained, What you may not know is that Andrew here is my Out of respect for Christie and their past connection, I naturally couldnt stand by and do.

nothing.

His words sparked a wave of hoots from, the crowd.

So, hes just Ms.

Stevens former boy toy? How pathetic ! Needing Mr.

Weller to save his life

What a loser! Thankfully, he handed Ms.

Stevens over to Mr.

Weller.

Otherwise, hed be dead meat without Mr.

Wellers intervention! Mr.

Weller is such a gentleman.

Only he deserves Ms.

Stevens.

This freeloader isnt even fit to shine Mr.

Wellers shoes ! 1/2 Chapter 28 ** Bobby laughed.

So, youre Ms.

Stevens former kept man.

You should be on your knees thanking Mr.

Weller.

Without him, youd be a corpse by now! Francescas face burned with embarrassment.

She felt ashamed to be sitting with Andrew.

How could he endure the humiliation of being saved by his rival? Andrew, thank Harvey,
Christina spoke

up, her expression complex as she looked at Andrew.

Andrew replied coldly, Why should I thank him? The crowd immediately turned hostile,
glaring at

Andrew in anger.

Why thank Mr.

Weller ? Are you stupid or something, kid?

Chapter 29 Mr.

Weller just saved your life.

Dont you think you owe him a thank you? I bet hes just Jealous of Mr.

Wellers status and influence ! The crowds attitude toward Andrew turned even more disdainful.

Some even considered teaching Andrew a lesson to impress Harvey.

Christina frowned.

Andrew, Harveys intervention calmed things down with Mr.

Garner

Is it so hard to show gratitude for helping us both? Before Andrew could respond, Harvey waved his hand dismissively.

Christie, theres no need to force him.

You know I dont do favors expecting anything in return.

He turned to Andrew with a smile

Andrew, right? Christie has told me about you.

I should thank you for looking after her these past three years.

The crowd was impressed by Harveys graciousness, further highlighting the contrast with Andrew. Mr.

Wellers is such a classy man.

That loser cant match him! Ms.

Stevens made the right choice dumping this petty jerk.

This loser must be feeling pretty useless right now.

But what did he expect, competing with Mr.

Weller ? Francesca shook her head, thinking Andrew had hit rock bottom.

There was simply no comparison between him and Harvey.

Christina spoke coldly, You cant even say thank you, but Harvey can easily express gratitude.

Andrew, youve changed, and not for the better.

Whatever, do what you want.

She felt that Andrew had shown nothing but poor behavior, and he was not acting like a man at all.

This only made Christina confident that Harvey was the right match for her.

She turned to Harvey and said, Lets go.

I dont want to stay here anymore.

Harvey flashed a charming smile.

Of course, Christie.

We can go anywhere you want to go.

Your wish is my command.

Ill do anything for you.

Christina replied icily, As long as were not in this uncomfortable place, anywhere is fine.

It was obvious to everyone that her words were aimed at Andrew.

Well then, Andrew, Fran, enjoy your chat.

Well be going now, Harvey said politely to Francesca.

Francesca quickly stood up

Harvey, dont worry about us

And thanks again for stepping in earlier.

bacle: 201 Harvey smiled casually.

Its nothing

But Fran, know the Aicker family has strict rules

Youre safe here, but elsewhere, I might not be able to protect you in time.

You should have someone reliable with you.

Francesca glanced at Andrew, seeing the stark difference between the two men.

Thanks for the advice.

Ill keep that in mind.

Suddenly, Andrew chuckled

Sounds like youre looking down on me.

Francescas face changed.

Andrew, shut up

No one will think youre mute if you dont speak.

The crowd scoffed, Look, the losers getting worked up! Mr.

Weller isnt looking down on him hes just ignoring him completely! Everyone around them sneered, thinking Andrew was losing his cool.

Chapter 30 # 26 BONUS Harvey glanced at Andrew, shaking his head with a smile.

I apologize if my words offended you, Andrew.

I simply meant that a lady from a prestigious family like Fran should be accompanied by a gentleman

befitting her status Though not overtly insulting, Harveys words dripped with upper class superiority and dismissiveness toward Andrew.

Andrew grinned.

Im impressed.

Also, didnt you say earlier that youd cover all expenses at Oakridge Club today? Harvey nodded, surprised by the question.

Thats right.

Whatever you want to drink or do, its on me.

Well, since you offered, Id be rude to refuse, Andrew replied, his smile widening.

Harvey chuckled and walked away with Christina, not bothering to respond further.

He had hoped to have some fun with this nobody, but Andrew did not even pique his interest.

Christina was already eager to leave.

Her disappointment in Andrew had turned to disgust.

It seemed he knew he could not compete with Harvey and was shamelessly trying to take advantage of him.

Francesca glared at Andrew.

You should be ashamed of yourself

How can you be so pathetic ? Andrew shrugged

Whats there to be ashamed of? He said I could do whatever I want, and hed foot the bill.

Francesca shook her head, too embarrassed to continue the conversation.

Then, she saw Andrew stand up slowly, stretching

She frowned and asked, What are you doing? Youre not really going to mooch off him, are you? Ignoring her, Andrew waved to Bobby at the next booth.

Bobby stood up with a menacing grin.

youd better lie low like the worthless You got lucky tonight, kid.

Mr.

Wellers gone now, so loser you are.

Andrew looked at him seriously.

Youre mistaken.

You're the one who'll be crawling on all fours tonight

I told you to drink up for courage because I'm about to beat the shit out of you.

The crowd's jaws dropped.

They thought Andrew must have lost his mind to say such things.

Francesca felt her temples throbbing.

It was not from the alcohol, but the frustration.

She shouted, Andrew, are you insane? Harvey just saved your ass, and now you're picking a fight with

Bobby? She could not understand how Andrew's mind worked.

Poor guy, Mr.

Weller must have pushed him over the edge

12 Chapter 30 Yeah, he probably can't face living anymore and wants Bobby to end it quickly! How sad.

Seeing his girl with Mr.

Weller was too much for him.

He's choosing suicide! Some even started to pity Andrew, thinking Harvey's presence had broken him. Meanwhile, Bobby looked at Andrew with mock sympathy.

You poor bastard.

If you want to die so badly, I'll make it quick for you! Andrew smiled and suddenly slapped Bobby across the face.

The sound echoed through the room as Bobby, standing tall at 1.9 meters, spun a full 180 degrees before crashing to the floor.

The crowd rubbed their eyes in disbelief, certain they must have imagined it.

On the other hand, Francesca's mouth fell open in shock.

Only Bobby, lying on the ground and seeing stars, realized the gravity of the situation.

He internally cursed himself for underestimating Andrew he was much tougher than he looked.