The Ashes 211

Chapter 211 As an auction host, Elsie was fully aware that the Celestial Nymphaea could not possibly fetch such a high price

Even so, she still asked symbolically, 12 million dollars! Are there any other bids? If not, the Celestial Nymphaea will go to Mr.

Lloyd! Elsie could barely contain her excitement, knowing well the astronomical figure was unbeatable. Just then, a mocking, voice cut through the air, ruining the moment.

I bid 12.3 million! A wave of gasps and murmurs swept through the crowd.

Everyone realized someone deliberately tried to stir up trouble for those in The Vault.

In Michaels private suite, Bane let out a sinister laugh.

Serves them right

If I cant have this precious item, that boy wont get it either.

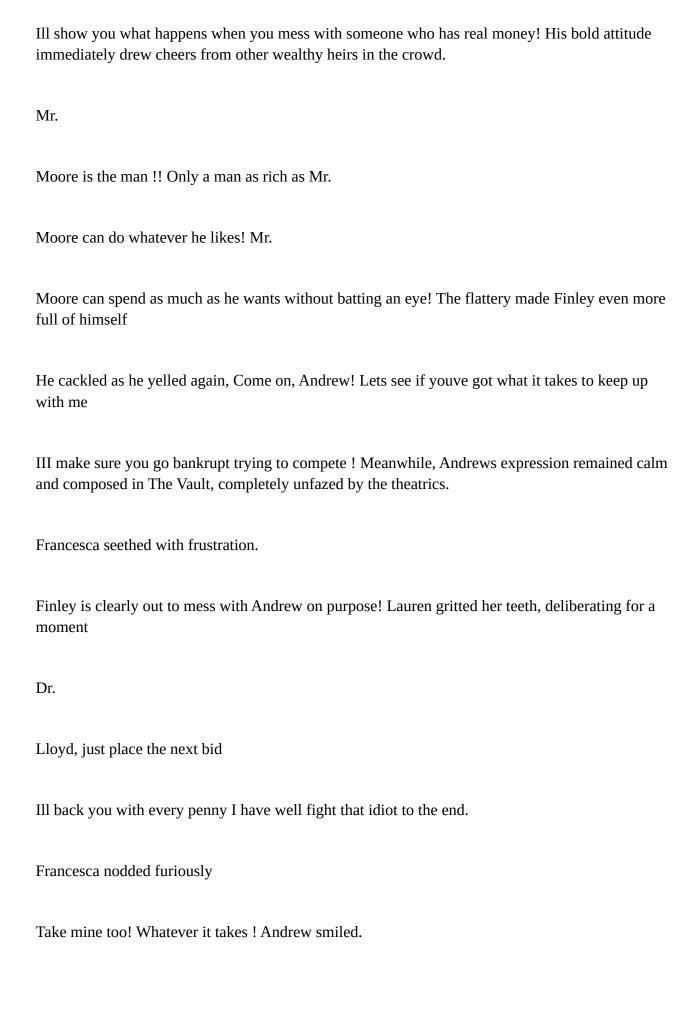
Michael sneered.

I figured Finley wouldnt stay quiet for long.

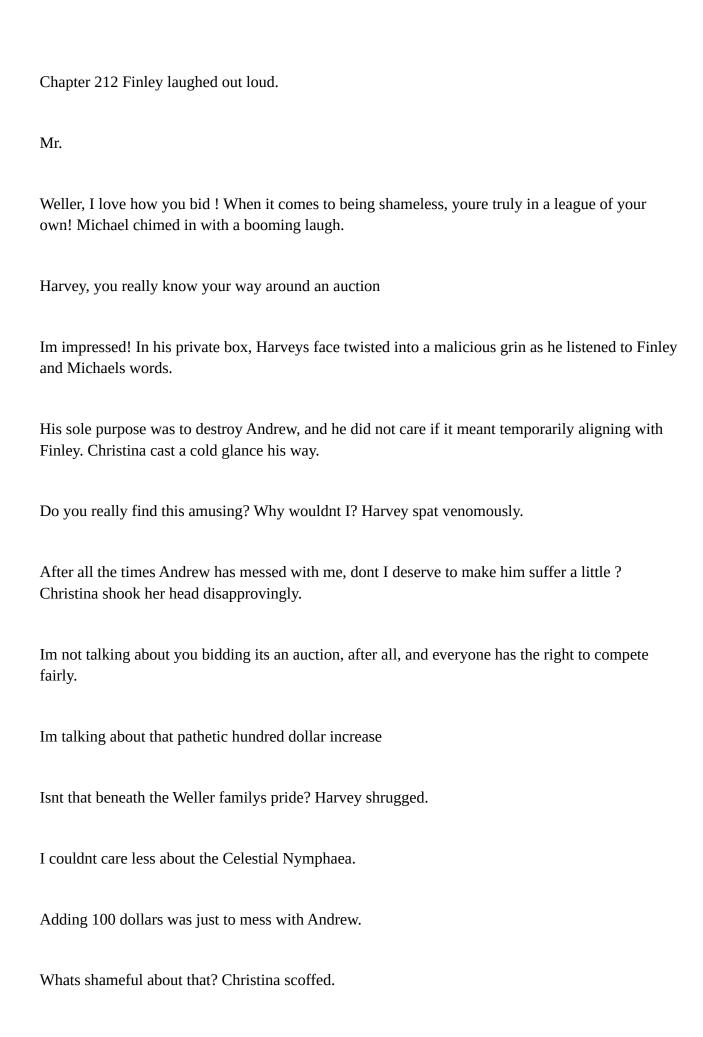
With him stirring up trouble, Andrew will have to bleed money if he wants to win this.

The curtain to Finleys box was dramatically pulled aside as he revealed himself, challenging Andrew arrogantly.

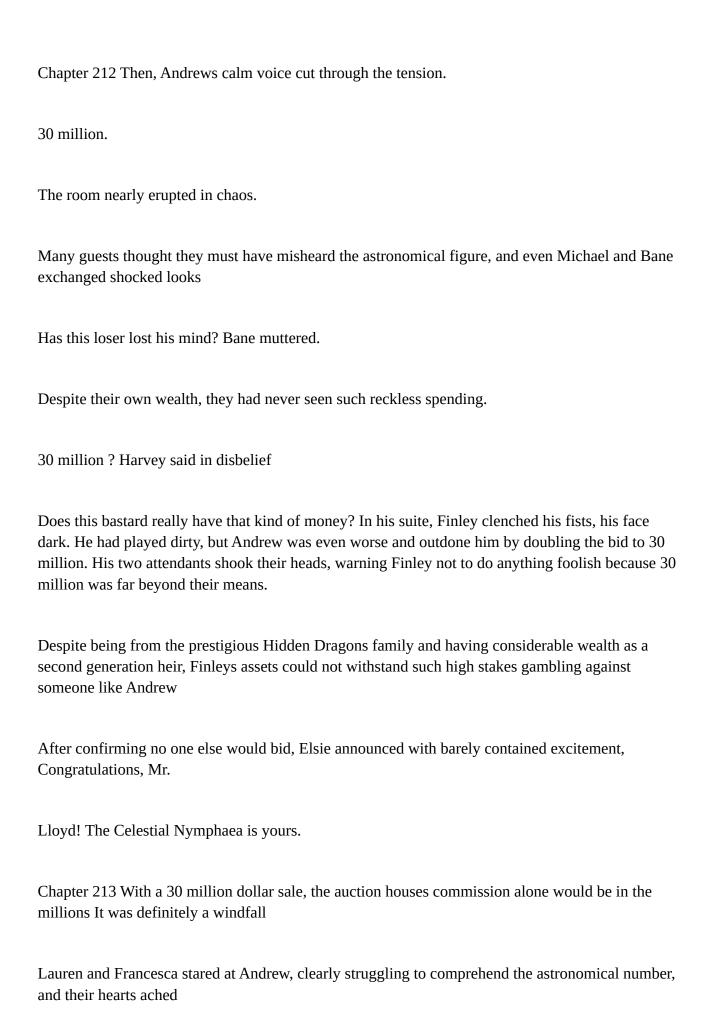
He declared, Andrew, III stick my nose in everything you want tonight.







How childish! Inside The Vault, Laurens gaze was as cold as ice. Harvey truly is nothing but a bastard Compared to Finleys crude behavior, Harveys tactics are even more despicable, Francesca said with disgust. To think hes from the prestigious Weller family... However, Andrew remained unfazed and called out, 15 million dollars! The room exploded with excitement. No one could have predicted that an item with a starting bid of 750 thousand would skyrocket to 15 million dollars Harveys face darkened, and he suddenly lost his nerve to keep playing games. The Weller familys current situation did not allow him to throw money around carelessly. Does this pretty boy really have that kind of money? Harvey wondered silently, completely baffled. Even with Lauren and Francescas backing, he could not fathom how Andrew could bid 15 million dollars. Meanwhile, Finley was not backing down. 15 million dollars, huh? Others might be scared, but Im in it till the end. 15.3 million! Elsies heart was racing with excitement. Mr. Moore bids 15.3 million! Are there any other offers? A heavy silence fell over the room as guests craned their necks, eager to see who would emerge victorious from this bidding war.



Lauren muttered, Dr. Lloyd, 30 million dollars... think we might e gotten carried away. I just didnt feel like playing games with these idiots, Andrew said casually. Better to crush them with one bid and be done with it. His casual tone made Lauren and Francesca grit their teeth in frustration. After all, 30 million dollars was not just a small sum. It was a monumental deal Anyone else would have spent hours debating about that kind of money, let alone tossing it out so casually. Spending 30 million on a single item? Finley laughed mockingly. Andrew, I cant tell if youre actually stupid of just pretending to be. I was going to keep playing, but after seeing that move, III let you enjoy your foolish victory. No one joined in his mockery this time. Everyone could tell Finleys words were just an excuse because he could not match the bid. In the end, the mighty heir of Hidden Dragons had been thoroughly crushed by Andrew. While secretly delighted, Elsie was also intrigued.

She had seen many wealthy clients before, but this mysterious man, who dominated the bidding so effortlessly, gave her a different feeling entirely. Throughout the next few bids, Andrew showed no interest in bidding. Meanwhile, Michael and Finley tried to outdo each other with increasingly loud and boastful bids, clearly wanting the world to see how freely they spent their money Their behavior drew squeals and praise from the materialistic young crowd, feeding their massive egos. Andrew could only laugh. These two fools were making more noise about spending a few million than he had over 30 million on the Celestial Nymphaea Its actually quite entertaining, Francesca remarked. It really shows that these so called elite heirs are nothing but empty headed show offs. Lauren teased, Dr. Lloyd, youve been quiet for several items now. Ms. Santana keeps glancing our way with disappointment. Andrew chuckled I may be rich, but Im not stupid Just then, a dazzling diamond crown was brought onto the stage under the spotlight. Elsie began her introduction, saying, This crown is one of tonights featured items.

I wont bore you with its luxurious history, but Ill say this its worthy only of a princess or queen. 1/2 Gentlemen, its time to fight for your true love. Just as she said that, a voice sounded from across the auction hall. Distinguished guests, I ask for your consideration both for myself, Harvey and the Weller family. Ive set my heart on this crown to propose to my angel. The screen to Harveys box swept open, revealing him in an immaculate suit. His icy gaze swept across the room, making his intention clear this crown would be his, and anyone dared compete would make an enemy of both him and the Weller family. who A heavy silence fell over the room. Harvey had drawn his line in the sand Challenging him now would mean facing the wrath of the powerful Weller family, something few could afford to risk. Chapter 214 Finley let out a cold short, dissatisfied with Harveys show of arrogance that had stolen his thunder.

As the elder, Im here to support my son Harvey I trust everyone will show proper respect.

through the room

Just as he was about to argue, a commanding volce, though accompanied by a cough, resonated

The auction house erupted in commotion, as no one had expected the head of the Weller family, one of Jayrodales most influential figures, to make a personal appearance.

That decrepit old man Kane actually showed up, huh, Finley muttered under his breath in his private booth, choosing to hold his tongue.

While he could provoke Harvey, it was a different story with Kane.

After all, as the head of an established family, Kane held the same status as the leader of the Hidden Dragons

Finley knew all too well that Kane, despite his current frail appearance, had been a force to be reckoned with in his younger days.

As a junior grandmaster in martial arts, Kane could end him with a single hand.

Even though the Weller familys influence had waned, Kane was still very much alive, and his reputation remained formidable.

Michael and Bane also chose to remain silent.

Bane mocked, To think that old man Kane would personally step in for Such a worthless son But no

matter how much effort you put into propping up a failure, trash will always be trash.

Once Kane kicks the bucket, the Weller family will collapse like a house of cards.

Michael gritted his teeth and said, If only the Rhodes family head treated me like Kane treats Harvey, I wouldnt be in such a pathetic position

Unfortunately, he isnt a fair man showing favoritism to that bitch Lauren while ignoring me, the true heir of the Rhodes family! Elsie curtsied gracefully to Kane, showing proper respect to the Weller family head

However, she secretly sighed, knowing that with Kane throwing his weight around, the diamond crown. would not fetch its true value and would end up being a bargain for the Weller family.

The bidding starts at 3 million dollars Esteemed guests, please place your bids! Elsie announced halfheartedly, then fell silent. Harvey beamed with joy and was the first to speak: I bid 3.75 million dollars. Thank you, Ms. Santana and Mr. Vaughn. Seated in the front section, Kane smiled slightly before leaving with the Weller familys elite guards. He had only come to show face and support Harvey. Now that the outcome was certain, it was time for him to leave staying longer might invite accusations of bullying with his status. 3.75 million dollars going once Would anyone like to raise the bid? Elsie inquired, unable to resist glancing at The Vault Seeing no movement from the opposite side, she could not help but think that even Andrew had to show deference to the Weller family head, Ms. Santana, since our esteemed guests are being so accommodating, please dont delay any further.

them? Harvey was lost in pleasant thoughts about his impending marriage to Christina, the refined beauty. Not only would he win her hand, but he would also ascend to become the Weller family head.

Have the diamond crown delivered to my private room, Harvey said; basking in his victory.

The Weller family might be declining, but they still ruled Jayrodale who would dare challenge

It was the perfect win win situation, and soon, he would not need his fathers backing his own presence would be enough to command respect.

Elsie announced loudly, 3.75 million dollars going for the last time.

Since there are no other bids, this diamond crown belongs to-

Chapter 215 Before Elsie could even finish her sentence, someone spoke from The Vault.

3.75 million and one dollar.

My apologies I was dozing off and forgot to bid.

Thank you for your patience! The statement left all guests momentarily stunnert before the room erupted in unprecedented laughter and chaos.

Adding just one dollar? This gentleman is definitely settling an old score! someone shouted through their laughter

And who said he wouldnt dare challenge the Weller family? Karma might be late, but it never fails to show up

Harveys really getting a taste of his own medicine now! another guest called out.

Brilliant, absolutely brilliant! The Weller family throws their weight around, Kane comes to show off, and Harvey deliberately drove up prices before now theyre getting exactly what they deserve, someone else chimed in

Andrews unexpected bid shocked not only the spectators but also Michael, Bane, and Finley. This guy really isnt afraid of death, is he? Even with Kane making an appearance, hes still stirring up trouble, Finley muttered, his lips twitching as he wondered how Andrew had the courage to challenge the Weller family

Andrew, know your damn place! Harvey shouted, watching his sure victory slip through his fingers. His anger rose rapidly as he directed his fury toward The Vault

Whats wrong, Harvey? Cant handle it? Andrew responded coldly.

Remember how you kept interfering when I was bidding on the Celestial Nymphaea? If you can dish it out, you should be able to take it too

This logical retort made Harveys face turn bright red.

Through gritted teeth, he spat, Fine, since youre asking for it, I wont go easy on you.

4.5 million! Come on, keep bidding if your dare! The 750 thousand increase was indeed a bold move

but Andrew calmly responded, 4.5 million and one dollar! Many guests nearly lost it, doubling over with laughter

Even an idiot could tell that Andrew was determined to take this annoying strategy all the way, but no one could criticize him, given Harveys past behavior

7.5 million keep following if youve got the guts! Harvey snarled

L He was convinced that Andrew would not have the resources to compete after spending 30 million on the Celestial Nymphaea.

7.5 million and one dollar! The pattern continued.

Whatever amount Harvey bid, Andrew simply added a dollar, sending the rooms atmosphere to new heights.

Chapter 215 Harvey was practically jumping with rage.

10.5 million! I havent even started spending tonight, you punk! I can keep this game going all night! Well, well... Someone seems to be getting a bit worked up, Andrew casually remarked to Elsie with a smile

Ms.

Santana, I wont be making any more specific bids Just remember- whatever he bids, add one dollar for me. Elsies beautiful face showed a hint of awkwardness, but inside, she was delighted. The master of The Vault was truly a blessing for the auction house. With Harvey cornered like this, the bidding would keep climbing, and their commission would soar. The other spectators had stopped their teasing by now. Everyone could see that Andrew was determined, to push Harvey to his limits, and when titans clashed. it was best for ordinary folk to stay out of the way... Chapter 216 Harvey was overwhelmed with rage, feeling like he was about to lose his mind. He did not expect Andrew to get on his nerves this much, Andrew, if youve got the guts, lets settle this outside! Harvey shouted, pointing at The Vault. He thought Andrew was going too far. While everyone else showed respect to the Weller family, the latter deliberately interfered and treated them like nothing

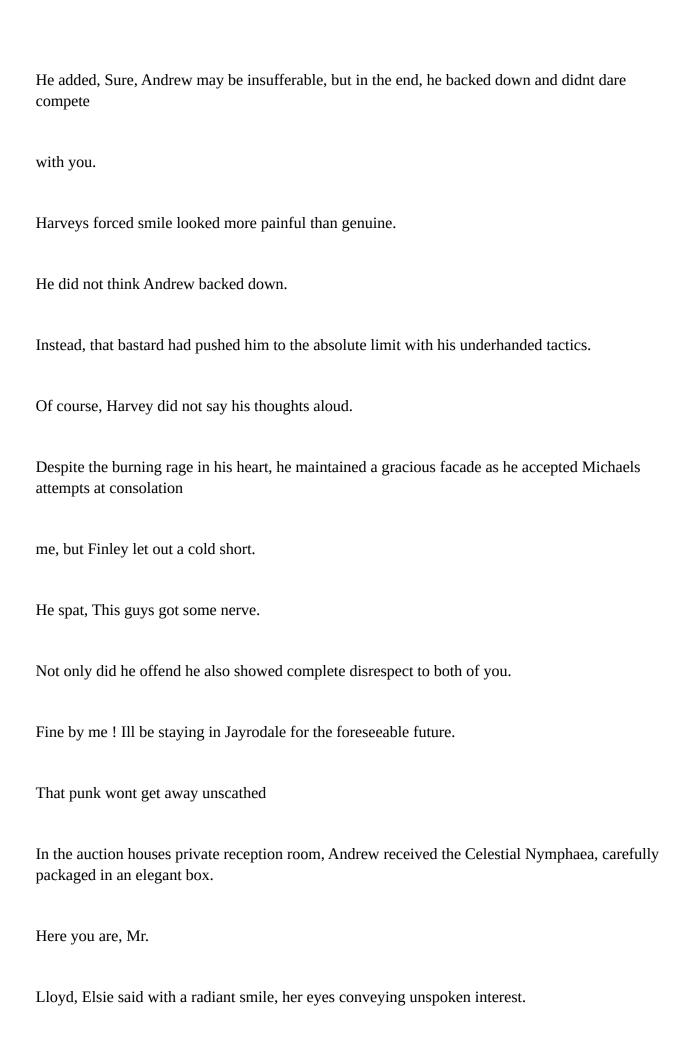
What about the diamond crown? Or are you admitting defeat like a coward? Andrew sneered, unmoved by the threat

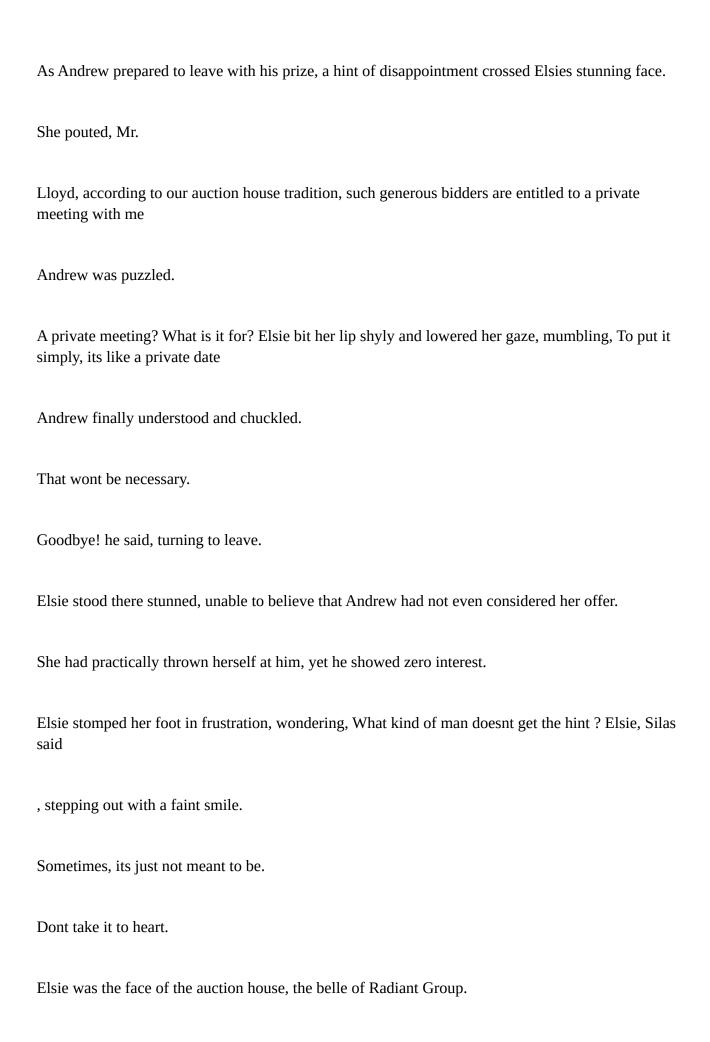
Harveys face contorted with fury, and roared, 15 million! Ill destroy you tonight! He was trapped and had to see the bidding through to the end.

Moreover, this crown was meant for his proposal, and backing down would destroy both the Weller familys reputation and any chance with Christina 15 million and one dollar, Andrew replied coldly. As I said, III add a dollar to whatever you bid He was never one to let grudges slide, and he intended to make Harvey experience true regret and pain. Ms. Santana, hes mocking the auction house rules by only adding a dollar Please have him removed! Harvey suggested, desperate to find a way out as Andrews relentless pursuit was driving him mad. While he really wanted to continue this ridiculous bid against Andrew, the Wellers simply could not afford any reckless spending. Mr. Weller, while its unusual to bid in such small increments, Elsie explained diplomatically, Mr. Lloyds total spending at our auction house qualifies him for VIP privileges, which allow flexible bidding. Thats right! Lauren and Francesca chimed in. Andrew has spent over 30 million here, so he can bid however he wants! Besides, Harvey, werent you the one who started this bidding trend? Harvey trembled with rage, knowing they were right. He could not criticize Andrew for usi using his own tactics against him. Fine, Andrew, you win, he growled through gritted teeth.

18 million thats my final offer.

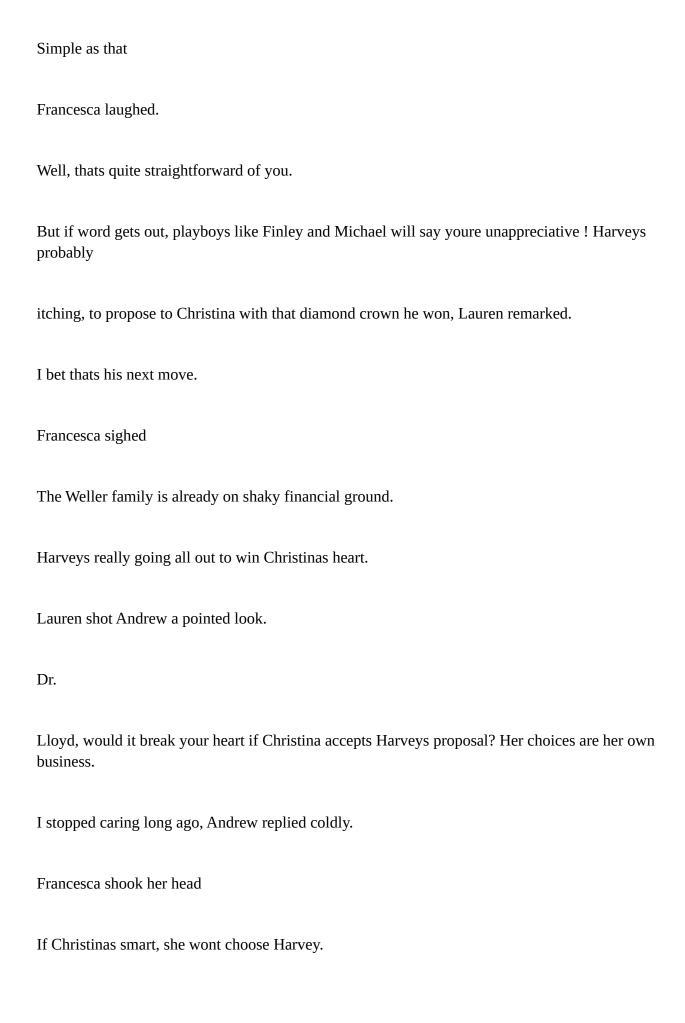


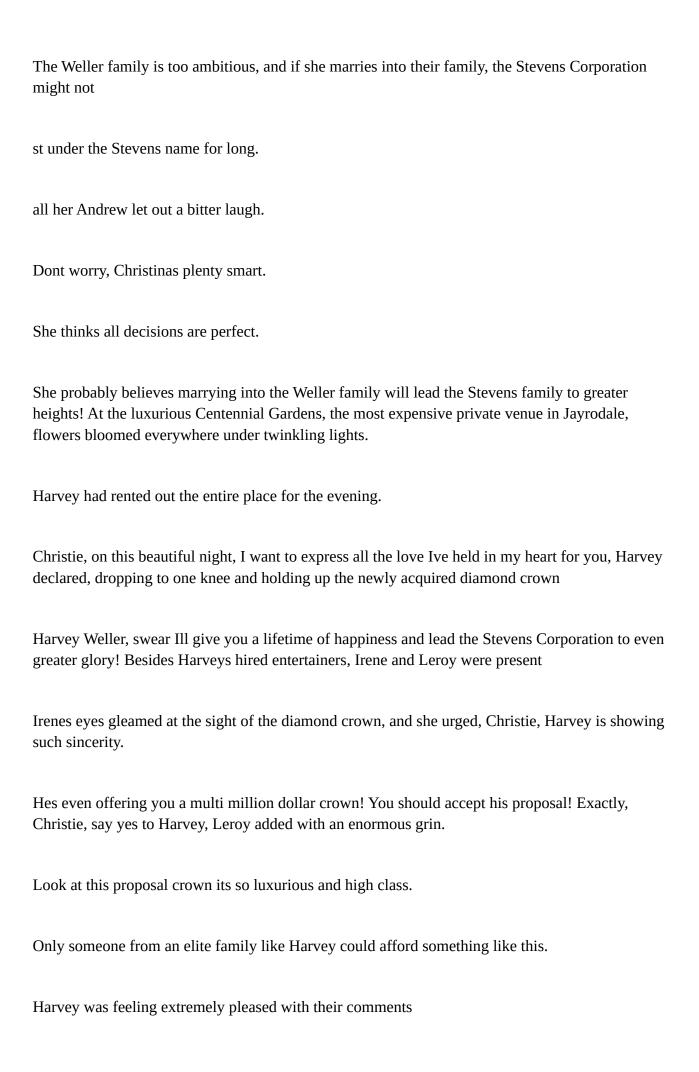




She had never faced such treatment before.
She glared at Silas and huffed.
Mr.
Vaughn, you saw it too! I couldnt have made it any more obvious, and he still didnt care.
Does Lauren have something I dont ? Silas shook his head.
Its not about being less attractive than Lauren or your beauty falling short.
Then what is it? Elsie demanded impatiently.
Silas paused, his tone turning serious.
Because you and Mr.
Lloyd are not from the same world
He continued, Your charm and talent might work on people like Harvey or Michael, but for someone like him? Theyre just not enough.
Not even close.
Elsie bristled.
Mr.
Vaughn, youre exaggerating! What is he, some kind of Braundville elite or something? Silas gave her a meaningful look.

Ha! Elites from Braundville would only be fit to shine his shoes.
Elsie froze, her jaw dropping slightly as the weight of his words sank in.
Braundvilles elites would be lucky to shine his shoes? Since when did Jayrodale have such a formidable figure ?
Chapter 218 Andrew remained unaware of the conversation between Silas and Elsle. Even if he had known, he probably would not have cared
Back so soon, Dr.
Lloyd? Dont tell me Ms.
Santana didnt ask you out? Lauren teased, batting her eyelashes at Andrew.
I dont have time for that, Andrew replied with a weary sigh.
Lauren pouted
So she did make a move on you! Hmph! Shes got some nerve trying to compete with me for a man shes way out of her league.
Andrew, Elsie is the belle of the Radiant Group, Francesca chimed in.
Shes the most sought-after woman in Jayrodales elite society, with several prominent family heads vying for her hand in marriage.
Why did you turn her down? Andrew shrugged casually.
Im not interested, and we barely know each other.





Christie, I promised you an unforgettable proposal, and now Ive delivered on that promise with my own capabilities! Christina stood on the lawn, looking troubled.
Harvey, Im sorry, but Im afraid I cant accept your proposal.
Harvey chuckled, maintaining his sincere gaze
Christie, I know youre just overwhelmed and nervous, which is making you hesitant.
Thats alright.
I can wait until youve calmed down a bit before you say yes to my proposal, he added confidently. Irene laughed.
Christies just excited and shy, Harvey.
Just wait a moment shell definitely accept your proposal.
To everyones surprise, Christina firmly rejected the notion.
No.
Im neither excited nor nervous right now.
Chapter 219 Harvey, I really cant marry you, Christina stated firmly
The color drained from Harveys face as his hand holding the crown began to shake uncontrollably Even Irene and Leroy panicked at her response.
Christie, what nonsense are you talking about? That crown is worth 18 million dollars! Do you think proposals like this grow on trees? Just accept it first! Irene exclaimed frantically.

Yeah, Christie, Leroy chimed in. At least say yes and get the crown. If you really cant stand him later, you can always change your mind! Christina ignored her familys shameless greed. She looked at Harvey with unwavering seriousness and said, Harvey, I dont think were ready for marriage right now. Im sorry, but I really cant accept this crown. The reality of rejection finally hit Harvey. Christina, Ill give you one more chance. Choose your next words very carefully, he growled, his voice a mixture of humiliation, rage, and hysteria. The Weller family had stretched themselves thin for this proposal, putting on a show of wealth they could barely afford. This rejection was an outcome Harvey had never anticipated. Harvey, you need to calm down, Christina warned, frowning. How the hell can I calm down? Harvey exploded Christina, what gives you the right to reject my proposal? Tell me, what makes me not good enough for you? What makes you think you can refuse me? Christina took a deep breath, her disgust evident. Harvey, havent you noticed how classless you've become? Recently, you've turned into nothing but a clown making a fool of yourself. And now look at you what are you going to do, hit me? Harvey jumped to his feet in a rage

You stupid bitch, you think you can play me? Let me make this clear if you dare reject me, Ill destroy you and the Stevens family! His bloodshot eyes and twisted expression frightened even Irene and Leroy. Harvey, have you lost your mind? Irene shouted.

Is this how you propose to someone? This looks more.

like attempted murder! Whats your deal, Harvey? Leroy snapped

Are you threatening Christie? I wont stand for this you better watch yourself! Harveys face contorted as the bottled up resentment toward the Stevens family erupted.

He screamed, Get out! All of you get the hell out! Irene, youre nothing but a greedy, disloyal fat cow! And Leroy, youre just worthless trash living off others! Ive been too nice to you all.

Who the hell do you think you are to lecture me? His violent outburst left Irene and Leroy stunned.

Irene recovered first, jumping up and screaming, Who are you calling a fat cow, you Weller brat? No wonder Christie wont have you! Get lost! Do you really think the Weller family is all that? Everyone knows your family is nothing but an empty shell now! I always knew you were a two faced snake, Harvey, Leroy mocked.

Finally showing your true colors, arent you? Let Christie see what you really are just a madman throwing at tantrum! Mom, Leroy, were leaving, Christina said coldly, her face expressionless.

Harveys true nature terrified her, but more than that, she felt deeply humiliated.

She hated to admit it, but Andrew had been right she was a fool.

A blind, stupid fool!

Chapter 220 Nobodys going anywhere, or Ill kill you myself Harvey snarled menacingly.

As the Stevens family tried to leave, Harvey snapped his fingers, and over 20 of the Weller familys bodyguards rushed in, surrounding the three of them.

Irene nearly lost her balance from fear, trembling as she spoke, Harvey, what are you doing? Youre going to make Christie hate you forever! his chesta Leroy puffed up asked, Are you sure? You may be powerful, but you cant force someone to marry you! Harveys eyes blazed with fury as he strode forward and struck Leroy repeatedly across the face.

When Leroy tried to fight back, one of the bodyguards knocked him down with a brutal kick, leaving him writhing in pain.

Neither Irene nor Christina had expected the Weller family to resort to violence.

Irene rushed at Harvey, screaming, You monster! Ill tear you apart! Harveys face twisted into an ugly sneer as he struck Irene, sending her spinning to the ground.

She screamed hysterically, Help! Mr.

Weller is trying to kill us! Hes threatening us! Someone, help us! Harvey taunted, Yell all you want. Ive rented this entire place out.

If I dont get what I want tonight, you and your pathetic son will never leave here alive.

Christina helped Irene up, her face pale with terror.

Harvey, my mother was right.

Youre a monster.

Thats right, I am a monster! Harvey laughed coldly as he advanced toward them.

And let me tell you something I wanted more than just marriage.

I wanted the Stevens Corporation as your wedding gift.

But since you and your family are being so difficult, youll have to face the consequences! Christina finally understood the full extent of her mistake.

She never imagined Harvey could be so ruthless and calculating.

The realization hit her he did not just want her; he wanted to take over the Stevens Corporation.

Then, Harvey said, Get undressed now and lay on the ground.

Im going to take you while your pathetic mother and brother watch.

He licked his lips, his face contorted in deranged excitement.

Months of suppressed desire and depravity erupted all at once, consuming him entirely.

Irene, her face streaked with blood, shouted, Harvey, youll pay for this, you asshole! Harvey silenced her with a vicious kick that knocked her unconscious.

Christina stared in horror, her mind going blank.

Had her poor judgment not only endangered herself but also put the Stevens Corporation at risk? For someone as proud as Christina, this was a devastating blow.

As panic set in, her thoughts.

immediately turned to the one person who had thoroughly outmaneuvered Harvey at the auction earlier.