

## The Ashes 251

Chapter 251 Leroy rushed toward Finley and Michael with desperation in his eyes.

The situation was dire, and he needed allies fast.

Mr.

Moore, with your prestigious background and connections, please help the Stevens family.

I'll be your loyal supporter afterward, Leroy pleaded earnestly.

C He then turned to the other man, Mr.

Rhodes, as one of the elite four of Jayrodale, if you help the Stevens family out of this crisis, I'll be forever in your debt.

Both Finley and Michael showed flickers of interest on their faces.

The Stevens family was quite an attractive proposition, especially considering Christina, the elegant socialite.

It would certainly be worth the effort if Christina could be theirs after.

However, they both glanced up at Harvey, who was strutting arrogantly on the platform.

After witnessing his display of power, they both decided to back down.

Leroy, it's not that I don't want to help, Finley said.

I just don't have a legitimate reason to step in right now.

Next time, I promise! Michael chimed in with his own excuse, Im touched that you thought of me in this crisis

But is a personal matter between Mr.

Weller and your sister.

I really shouldnt interfere

In the end, both Finley and Michael proved to be shrewd operators

They wrapped their rejections in pretty words, but essentially shut the door in Leroy's face, knowing better than to cross Harvey when he held all the cards

Sweating profusely, Leroy scanned the crowd desperately for potential allies.

His eyes landed on Lauren and Francesca, who stood beside Andrew.

He scrambled over to them, practically begging, Ladies, please help save the Stevens family- save my

sister! Lauren shook her head and replied, Your plea would be better directed at someone else the person standing next to us.

Leroy turned to Andrew in surprise, and Francesca flatly added, At this point, Andrew might be your sister's only hope.

If you show some genuine humility, he might help.

But if the Stevens family maintains their usual arrogance, there's nothing we can do.

Leroy's face contorted, obviously caught in a dilemma.

He was unsure whether to approach.

Andrew

From across the room, Christina called out sharply, Leroy, come back here ! Christie, maybe we should ask Andrew for help, Leroy suggested carefully.

Harvey has never been able to get the better of him.

If Andrew steps in, our family might... Christina cut him off with an angry shout, Get back here, now! Her pride would not allow her to beg her ex in front of such a large crowd.

It was the last thing she would do.

Christie, were out of options, Irene urged desperately.

Ask Andrew! I know he still loves you

Hell help us, Im sure of it.

Christina could not believe that even her mother who had always looked down on Andrew, was taking this stance.

She raised her head and looked at Andrew, complex emotions churning in her.

Andrew glanced at her indifferently and stated calmly, Ms.

Stevens doesnt need to beg me

Im not worthy of such attention from her.

I knew it, Christina said bitterly.

You must hate me and the Stevens family now.

I dont deserve to ask for your help... Before she could finish, Andrew was already striding toward the Weller familys platform.

Harvey, didnt you say you wanted to settle your score with me? Well, here I am lets see what youve got

! The crowd in the Weller family hall erupted into chaos.

This was a direct challenge to the Weller family at the height of their power.

Chapter 252 Hes got a death wish! This guys brain must be fried, Michael commented with disdain. Even I wouldnt dare mess with Harvey, yet this nobody seems eager to end his life, Finley chimed in mockingly.

After getting a good look at Andrew, the other spectators joined in with their own derisive laughter. The crowd muttered about his apparent lack of self awareness

Who was this unknown challenger picking a fight with the Weller family? It was like bringing a knife to a gunfight.

Mr.

Vaughn, what is Mr.

Lloyd doing? Elsie asked

The sudden turn of events stunned her.

Silas gave a wry smile and replied, Mr.

Lloyds actions are beyond my understanding, but he must have his reasons.

Though Harveys at the peak of his power, he might have met his match.

Are you saying Mr.

Lloyd alone can stand against the entire Weller family? Elsie asked in disbelief. She knew Andrew was formidable.

After all, even Silas respected him.

However, taking on the Weller family single handedly seemed incredibly risky. Whether Mr.

Lloyd can suppress the Weller family, I can't say, Silas responded cryptically.

But I can guarantee that Harvey won't be able to maintain his arrogance in front of Mr.

Lloyd.

Unlike the others, who were either shocked, dismissive, or eagerly awaiting the drama, Harvey felt his blood boiling with rage.

This nobody, this worthless man was actually challenging the Weller family on such an important day.

It was ridiculous! Andrew, are you really that eager for your own death? Harvey snarled through gritted teeth as Andrew approached the platform.

You're to Andrew stood calmly on the stage and replied flatly, quick to decide who'll come out on top. Others might fear the Weller family and your threats, Harvey, but to me, you're nothing but a clown. Harvey's face contorted with fury as he roared, You've lost your mind! Since you're so eager to die, I'll gladly oblige! He had been suppressing his anger for so long, overshadowed and humiliated by Andrew. But now, with complete control of the Weller family and a legion of powerful fighters at his beck and call, Andrew's audacity to insult him calling him a clown felt like the last straw.

Harvey thought that if he tolerated this any longer, he would not be fit to lead the Weller family. Instead, he would be nothing but a spineless coward.

Ch231 The Weller family elder stepped forward, arms crossed, his gaze cold and commanding You Insolent fool! How dare you step onto the stage! State your name ! Andrew glanced and said, Youre not worthy of knowing my name.

The crowd erupted in murmurs, their expressions filled with shock and disbelief.

Who the hell is this guy? Hes way too cocky! The elders face darkened as his fists clenched, his knuckles cracking audibly

Before he could react, Harvey growled, Dont kill him just yet.

Break all his limbs first

I want to see him crawling and begging like the loser he is! The spectators whispered anxiously among themselves, their voices laced with a mixture of dread and fascination

This guy is doomed! Its over for him! Trying to act tough against Harvey is like a one way ticket to hell. Did he forget? Even the Stevens familys top fighters lost to the Weller family.

What makes this guy think he stands à chance ? Suddenly, the elder moved with blinding speed. Like a thunderclap, he lunged forward and struck with an open palm aimed straight at Andrews face.

Chapter 253 The strike was incredibly vicious, carrying the full force of the Weller family elders 50 years of martial arts training

To experienced fighters like Finley and other martial arts experts in the crowd, it was clear that this attack carried lethal intent.

Finley smirked

This kid might have some skills, but hes hit a wall now.

The fighter is obviously at least a junior grandmaster.

Andrew couldnt possibly dodge that! Down below, Laurens expression suddenly tightened as she turned

to Eunice and said, Alert our people if anything happens to Dr.

Lloyd, we intervene immediately.

How do you plan to defend against my decades of refined combat experience? the Weller family elder sneered

Your arrogance comes with a price! Many spectators instinctively covered their eyes, imable to watch what was coming

.

The elders attack was beyond human limits, distorting the very air around them.

Yet Andrew remained perfectly calm as he watched the thunderous palm strike approach.

While others saw an overwhelming display of power, it seemed pathetically weak to Andrew

In a flash, Andrew raised his right hand without even looking at his opponent and delivered his own strike

His moventent had no warning signs or dramatic flair, appearing deceptively ordinary.

When the two forces collided with a dull thud, an invisible wave of energy rippled through the elders entire body.

In an instant, about seven of the elders ribs cracked, while his striking arm was nearly crushed.

Blood rushed to the elders face as he stood motionless on the stage, his weathered features twitching occasionally.

The spectators stood dumbfounded, unable to believe that the fight was already over after just one exchange

Finley furrowed his brow, noticing something was not right.

However, his mind refused to accept what he was seeing

Meanwhile, Andrew casually dusted off his clothes and started walking off the stage as if nothing had happened

Andrew, you think you can just leave? Harvey shouted anxiously

Andrew glanced back with a cold look and replied, Why dont you try to stop me? Harvey trembled but did not dare move

Instead, he called out to the elder, Stop him! I want him torn to pieces today! The elders body shook as Harvey continued to rage, What are you waiting for? Stop this bastard! Does he think the Weller family is some roadside inn he can just walk in and out of? Fighting back the blood rising in his throat, the elders lips quivered as he spoke, Let him go ! 1/2 +15 BONUS Cener251 What did you say? Harvey asked in disbelief.

The elder growled, I said, let him go ! Before Harvey could respond, the elder turned and rushed toward the back hall.

As he passed through the crowd, he finally could not hold back anymore.

He vomited a mouthful of blood and collapsed to the ground

When Harvey caught up and saw this scene, he was so shocked he nearly wet himself

Chapter 254 Lock this place down immediately no outsiders can see this, the other Weller family elder commanded gravely.

That young man is at least a junior grandmaster level fighter.



We cannot provoke him again carelessly

Cold sweat broke out on Harveys forehead

Andrew, a junior grandmaster? It had to be some cosmic joke.

Hes no damn grandmaster ! You must be mistaken, Harvey snarled

Everyone, follow me! Well cut him off and end this now! He refused to believe that someone so young could hold such power in Jayrodale.

Youd better listen to me, the elder warned.

If you rush to your death, neither of us will step in to save you.

The elder was already frustrated with Harveys arrogant behavior since taking over.

Even with one elder being critically injured, the new leader was still trying to pick fights

Harveys face turned red with fury, but looking at the elder still bleeding on the ground, he had no choice but to back down

Without the elders support, he did not dare pursue Andrew

Meanwhile, in the Weller residences main hall, confusion rippled through the crowd.

What happened? Did the elder actually back down? someone whispered.

That young man survived! Its a miracle ! Could it be that the Weller family suddenly showed mercy and

chose to let him go? Many people could not believe that Andrew had left the scene unharmed.

Andrew, how badly hurt is the Weller family elder ? Francesca asked in amazement.

Hell live, Andrew replied

His casual response left everyone wondering if he had come close to killing the elder.

The Stevens family watched Andrew in disbelief.

After their two best fighters had been defeated, Andrew had walked away without a scratch.  
Andrew, are you alright? Christina asked with concern

Andrew smiled wryly and replied, You should be asking the Weller family elder that question.

Christie, this is our chance to slip away, Irene urged

Leroy added quietly, Moms right, Christle

Let go before Harvey notices Finley pushed through the crowd and sneered at Andrew.

Luck seems to favor you, always letting you escape death.

Mr.

Moore, would you like to test your skills against mine? Andrew asked calmly.

Finleys face darkened as he growled, Dont get ocky.

Well settle this eventually.

Then why are you here running your mouth? Andrew dismissed him contemptuously.

Dont push it too far, Andrew, Finley snarled through gritted teeth.

Others might buy your act, but I can see through you.

If the Stevens familys fighters hadnt weakened the Weller family elder first, you wouldnt be here talking. Atlas, the notorious local crime boss, chimed in with a mocking tone, Mr.

Moore makes an excellent point.

Some people just have incredible luck! Michael approached and added his own taunt, Youve got nine lives, Andrew.

But if youre so tough, why dont you stick around and see if Harvey lets you walk away? www

Chapter 255 Michael, mind your own business and go back to your figurines collection, Lauren snapped coldly.

The reminder of his embarrassing hobby filled Michael with rage and humiliation

Lauren, that pretty boy youre protecting is a dead man walking, Michael growled.

Considering Harveys temperament, Ill rip my own head off and let him use it as a soccer ball if Andrew makes it out of the Weller residence today.

Just then, Harvey emerged from the platform with a dark expression

He shot Andrew at venomous glare before forcing a smile and announcing, Everyone, please leave.

Its my fathers funeral, and I dont want to cause a scene.

The Weller familys mercy extends just this once

Someone from the crowd asked about the elders hasty departure, and Harveys face twitched with barely contained rage

Still, he maintained his facade and replied, Our elder is formidable and has protected the Weller family for years

Hes just tired after multiple fights and needs some rest.

Mr.

Weller, Andrews right here

Surely you wont let him go? Michael shouted.

Andrew nodded with exaggerated eagerness and added, Yes, Mr.

Weller, Im right here.

Come and get me

His eager cooperation left Finley and Michael dumbfounded.

They wondered if this fool had truly become suicidal

At that moment, Harvey wanted nothing more than to strangle Michael for interfering.

Though he desperately wanted to take Andrew down, he knew he could not not with one elder down and the other unwilling to fight.

Andrew, I wont touch you today out of respect for my father, Harvey declared darkly.

But well settle our accounts soon enough.

With that, he turned and walked away

Michael, Finley, and Atlas stood in shock.

Mr.

Weller, are you really letting him go? What about the Weller familys reputation ? As Michael tried to follow Harvey, Lauren blocked his path with a smirk.

Werent you going to rip your head off if Andrew walked out of here? Well, were waiting! Red faced with embarrassment, Michael huffed, Mr.

Weller said hes letting Andrew go because of his fathers funeral.

You should consider yourselves lucky hes alive

So youre going back on your words? Andrew asked with raised eyebrows.

When Michael exploded with anger, Andrew stepped forward and delivered a sharp slap across his face

The impact knocked Michaels glasses askew, and blood streamed from his nose.

You bastard, how dare you hit me ! III- Before he could finish his threat, Andrew landed several more ruthless slaps, turning Michaels face into a swollen, bright red mess.

Chapter 256 Atlass eye twitched nervously as he pulled at Finleys sleeve.

Mr.

Moore, lets get out of here

This madman has completely lost it today.

Its best not to provoke him further.

Finley, already unnerved by Michaels pitiful state, could not have agreed more as he quickly made his escape.

Meanwhile, Michael was seething with murderous rage but knew better than to fight back, especially since his bodyguard Bane was not present today.

Andrew, Lauren, youll both pay for this, Michael threatened as he fled, covering his swollen face. Lauren whistled loudly and called out to the departing crowd, Ladies and gentlemen, dont miss this! Michael, the heir who excels at gambling, drinking, and watching inappropriate videos alone in his room ! The crowd burst into laughter, making Michael stumble at the doorway.

His reputation was completely destroyed, and he cursed Lauren and Andrew as he ran away in humiliation

Francesca doubled over with laughter.

Lauren, youre absolutely ruthless! How will Michael ever show his face in public again? He did it to himself, Lauren sniffed

That bastard kept picking fights with Dr.

Lloyd

He deserved it.

As they left the Weller estate, Francesca remarked, Harveys definitely made an enemy of Andrew today

Who knows what that psychopath might do next? If hes that eager to join his father, Ill be happy to arrange it, Andrew replied coldly

Lauren quickly interjected, Enough of this dark talk, lets celebrate! The medical center is finally complete! What are we celebrating? Francesca asked.

Lauren replied, Were celebrating Dr.

Lloyds new medical center.

Its finally ready.

So soon? Andrew asked in surprise

Lauren beamed with pride and replied, Yes.

I kept my promise.

Weve built you the finest medical center in Jayrodale

Your reputation as a master physician will spread far and wide! In that case, let me treat you both to dinner, Andrew offered

Its the least I can do to thank Ms.

Rhodes

Lauren agreed cheerfully, saying, Fine by me! As long as youre happy, thats all that matters.

The clinic had been built on the property Andrew had acquired from the Weller family, with Laurens construction team working at incredible speed.

The three of them found a quiet, elegant private restaurant to celebrate

After ordering several house specialties, Francesa suggested, How about we open some bottles? Laurens eyes lit up as she enthusiastically agreed, Absolutely! The opening of Dr.

Lloyds clinic is a special occasion.

We need to celebrate it the right way!

Chapter 257 Without waiting for Andrews input, the two women eagerly ordered drinks.

The restaurant manager approached with a respectful smile to make suggestions.

Ms.

Rhodes, Ms.

Aicker, for refined young ladies like yourselves, Id recommend our premium wine selection, the manager suggested smoothly.

Its gentle on the throat and wont leave you feeling unwell.

Lauren scoffed at his recommendation.

Who do you think we are? Bring us your best vodka! Francesca slapped the table in agreement, adding Exactly! Wine tastes like fancy water.

We want the strong stuff! The manager turned helplessly to Andrew, clearly impressed that this mysterious man had earned the company of two of Jayrodales most prominent heiresses.

Andrew simply smiled and said, Let them have whatever they want.

Their happiness is what matters.

By the end of the meal, they had barely touched the food but had emptied two bottles of premium vodka. Andrew was amazed at Lauren and Francescas tolerance.



The alcohol level was really high, yet each woman had finished an entire bottle.

Lauren leaned against Andrew, her breath sweet with alcohol as she murmured, Dr.

Lloyd, I have a secret Ive wanted to tell you.

Andrew, who had barely drunk anything himself, smiled and replied, Im all ears, Ms.

Rhodes.

11 Lauren moved closer, her perfume subtle and intoxicating as she gazed at Andrew until he felt almost shy.

Finally, she whispered softly, I... have fallen for you! The simple confession caught Andrew completely off guard.

Looking at Laurens flushed face and stunning features, he found himself at a loss for words.

The alcohol had made Laurens thoughts fuzzy as she curled up against Andrews chest.

I dont want to marry into the Driscoll family, she mumbled.

Ive only ever liked Dr.

Lloyd.

I hope youll give me that King of Diamonds... With that, she drifted off to sleep while still clutching Andrews shirt.

Andrew could only smile wryly at the situation.

Did he just receive a drunken confession? However, Lauren had mentioned the Driscoll family.

It seemed the Rhodes family had arranged a marriage alliance that she clearly did not want.

Fran, are you okay? Andrew called out with concern to Francesca, who had also drunk quite a bit. Looking up, he found she had already curled up asleep in her corner of the couch.

Andrew rubbed his temples, wondering what he was supposed to do now that both women had passed out from drinking.

Chapter 258 After some thought, Andrew called the manager to arrange for designated drivers to take both ladies home.

The manager stared at him in shock and disbelief.

Have them driven home? Sir, what are you thinking? Andrew was confused.

What do you mean? They're both drunk.

Of course, I have to get them home

The manager continued with exasperation, You absolutely cannot send these young ladies home. Don't you understand? He added, Two beautiful women getting drunk in front of you surely you know what that means! This is your golden opportunity! I can't believe you'd let such a perfect moment slip away! Andrew was speechless as he watched the manager get more worked up than he was about the situation.

I have to admit, your charm is impressive, the manager said enviously.

Do you realize who these heiresses are in Jayrödale? Most people can't even get close to either of them, let alone have both interested in them! Forget the designated drivers let me call you a cab, the manager continued, winking suggestively

Take them somewhere nice to relax, if you know what I mean.

Just remember to stay safe! Andrew shook his head at the manager's implications.

What the manager did not realize was that Lauren and Francesca were not ordinary women.

If they were not home by midnight, their families security teams would likely be mobilized

After getting a cab, Andrew dropped Lauren off first, then headed to the Aicker residence with Francesca

Although she had her own place at the Moonlit Sanctuary, Andrew did not know her exact unit and did not feel comfortable leaving her alone in her drunken state.

You again, Simon growled as he opened the front door.

Andrew simply stated, Im just dropping her home

Simons eyes flashed with rage when he saw Francesca sleeping in Andrews arms.

You pervert! What did you do to my dear Fran? Ill kill you! Andrew frowned.

Keep your voice down.

She just had too much to drink.

And I didnt do anything to her.

Yeah, right! Simon shouted

You expect me to believe you didnt try anything? Shes just there in your hands! I knew you were trouble when you first came here.

Im telling Mr.

Aicker about this! Your reputation is finished ! Andrew replied calmly, Do whatever you want, but move aside so I can take Fran to rest.

Simon sneered, Oh, its Fran now? You clearly have designs on her ! Well, let me tell you, Fran and I are meant to be together.

A nobody like you doesnt deserve her As Simon reached out to take Francesca from Andrews arms, Andrew smoothly stepped back, keeping her safely cradled against him.

Chapter 259 Whats your problem? Simon demanded angrily.

Move aside.

Ill take Fran to her room myself, Andrew replied coldly.

Simon barely contained his rage as he insisted, Just hand her over.

As her senior apprentice, Im the most qualified to look after her ! Actually, I was going to let you take her

, Andrew said mockingly.

But now I dont trust you, so Id better do it myself.

Simons constant jealousy and hostility had worn Andrews patience thin.

Though fuming, Simon had no choice but to step aside and let Andrew carry Francesca to her room.

After making sure she was settled safely, Andrew stepped out.

Now you can get lost! Simon spat.

Andrew gave him a cold look and replied, Stop deluding yourself, Simon.

Fran has no feelings for you.

He strode away, leaving Simon red faced with anger.

The front door slammed behind Andrew as he reached the street to call a cab back to the Moonlit Sanctuary.

However, Simons predatory glances toward Francesca kept nagging at his mind.

Something felt wrong

Andrew frowned and quickly turned back toward the Aicker residence.

Meanwhile, inside, Simon crept toward Francescas room.

After checking that the other apprentices were asleep and Cedric was still out, he reached for her door with ill intent.

Fran, tonight, Im going to make you mine! Simons throat burned with desire as he stared at the peacefully sleeping Francesca lying on the bed.

Step by step, he approached her, his eyes blazing with an uncontrollable hunger.

His breath quickened, his body ablaze with the thought of claiming her his long held craving surging to the surface

Simon had been obsessed with Francesca for what felt like an eternity

Ever since Andrew had cured her mysterious ailment, that obsession had turned into an uncontrollable inferno

Fran, he murmured, his voice husky, I need to taste the sweetness of your lips.

Youre mine -from head to toe, you belong to me, and Im going to make sure you know it.

Closing his eyes, Simon leaned in, his lips hovering dangerously close to Francescas, trembling with a twisted anticipation

Yet, before Simon could reach Francesca, he felt a powerful force slamming into his back, sending him flying across the room.

The impact nearly shattered his bones.

1/2 +25 BORK Mr.

Acker, when did you return? Simon asked fearfully, trembling.

I wasn't thinking clearly

Please forgive me! Andrew emerged from the shadows with a cold stare.

Wasn't thinking clearly? Somehow, I doubt that.

You're not Mr.

Acker ! Simon exclaimed in shock.

Andrew, when did you come back?

Chapter 260 It doesn't matter when I came back, Andrew said with a cold smile.

However, you seem pretty scared of Dr.

Acker finding out.

I wonder how he'd feel about his star student doing something so disgraceful? Terror flashed across Simon's face

Cedric knew about his feelings for Francesca but had never approved of them, which frustrated Simon deeply

If Cedric found out about tonight's attempted assault, Simon knew he would be expelled from in disgrace.

As this realization hit him, a murderous glint appeared in his eyes.

He snarled, Andrew, since you've seen everything, I'll have to silence you permanently.

At this point, he knew murder was his only way to keep this from reaching Cedric .

I wouldn't try it, Andrew warned calmly.

You'll be the one getting hurt.

Simon sneered.

You're really full of yourself.

Let me show you what it means to be Dr.

Aickers senior apprentice ! .

Just as the tension peaked, Francesca stirred in her sleep, the commotion waking her up.

She rubbed her eyes groggily and sat up, still drowsy from the night's drinks.

Andrew ? Simon? What's going on here ? she asked, her voice laced with confusion. Simon's face shifted immediately, feigning righteous indignation.

Fran, you're awake! Thank goodness.

This scum tried to take advantage of you, and I caught him in the act.

I was just about to subdue him and report him to you and Dr.

Aicker! Francesca blinked in disbelief.

Andrew tried to do what? Simon, are you sure about this? Simon nodded earnestly.

I saw it with my own eyes! And honestly, Fran, you being drunk tonight may have been part of his plan.

Hes a despicable, shameless man, and I cant allow him to stay here.

Francesca frowned and shook her head.

Simon, Andrew isnt like that.

I trust him.

Simon was momentarily stunned

But Fran... 11 She cut him off.

Simon, its inappropriate for you to stay in my room like this.

Its late, and you should go rest now.

Simon protested, his face darkening

Fine, Ill leave, but only if Andrew leaves too.



I cant trust him alone with you.

Francesca stood firm.

I have something to discuss with Andrew.

Please, Simon, just go.

Reluctantly, Simon huffed and stormed out, casting a final glare at Andrew.

His attempt to frame him seemed successful enough, as he believed Francesca would not believe Andrews version of the story

Still, as Simon left, a tinge of regret lingered

He had not been able to quench his desire for Francesca tonight, but he reassured himself there would be more chances.

As Cedrics star disciple, Francesca was ultimately within his grasp.

Once Simon was gone, Francesca let out a tired sigh and gave Andrew a weak smile.

Andrew, can you close the door? I need to talk to you.

Andrew complied, quietly shutting the door before returning to the bedside

He looked at her thoughtfully and said, It seems like you already know what Simons true nature is, dont you? Francescas face hardened

I do.

I knew every word Simon just said was a lie.

And I also know that after you brought me home, he tried to take advantage of me.

- Andrew raised a brow in surprise.

So, you werent actually drunk earlier ? Francescas cheeks turned pink, and she shyly averted her gaze.

Well ... I wasnt exactly pretending either.

When I was drinking with Lauren, I really did get a little tipsy, she admitted.

But later, I secretly took a detox pill, so by the time I got home, I was mostly sober.