

The Ashes 271

Chapter 271 While Andrew had single handedly driven away the Weller family and saved both Stevens Corporation and her, Christina felt little joy.

Instead, she was a little uncomfortable. Even now, you can't let go of that ridiculous pride and arrogance? Douglas scoffed at her.

Without Andy, do you think Stevens Corporation would have survived the Weller family's attack today? Christina was at a loss for words.

Picking up her glass, she turned to Andrew and said, Andrew, you truly saved us.

Let me offer you this toast.

Is a single toast enough to repay the enormous debt of saving our entire family? Douglas interrupted before Andrew could respond.

Christina swallowed her pride and added, Grandpa, you're right a toast isn't enough.

Andrew, to show our gratitude, I'm offering you 20% of Stevens Corporation's shares to manage.

Irene and Leroy immediately showed their jealousy.

Irene protested, Christie, 20% is worth nearly 150 million dollars! Isn't that too much? Yeah, 20% is excessive five percent at most.

We owe him, but not that much! Leroy chimed in.

No, I'm standing firm on 20%, Christina stated firmly.

He helped us today despite our breakup, and I do owe him.

However, Andrew, with these shares, I believe debt to you will be fully repaid.

my Ms.

Stevens, you seem very anxious not to be in my debt, Andrew remarked with an amused smile.

Christina remained silent, but internally, she refused to be indebted to Andrew or looked down upon by him.

She had promised herself she would be better off without him and owing him too much would make her eat those words.

20% is quite generous, Andrew said with a slight smirk.

However, I dont want any of it.

I stepped in today for Mr.

Stevens Seniors sake, not yours.

So you dont need to feel any burden.

Everyone froze in disbelief at Andrews refusal.

Well, Andrew, thats quite noble of you ! Irene exclaimed joyfully.

Since you dont want it, we wont force you.

Have some more food and drink with Dad talking about money is so crude, right? Leroy piped up

hopefully, Christie, since Andrew doesnt want it, how about giving me ten percent ? Ignoring her useless brother, Christina frowned at Andrew and said, Andrew, 20 % isnt a small

amount.

You should think this through carefully with these shares, you'd be set for life.

It's a life-changing opportunity!

Chapter 272 Andrew responded indifferently, 20% of Stevens Corporation's shares are supposed to be my reward? You seem to have quite an inflated opinion of yourself, Ms.

Stevens, he added with a hint of sarcasm

1 Douglas quickly chimed in, Take it, Andy.

You helped us out, and this is what you deserve.

Sir, I don't need the money, Andrew said with a smile.

While 20 % of Stevens Corporation is substantial, it makes no difference to me whether I have it or not. Christina took a deep breath and replied coldly, If you don't want it, there's nothing more to say.

I gave you an opportunity, Andrew, but you couldn't seize it.

She felt uncomfortable, knowing Andrew's rejection stemmed from underestimating Stevens Corporation.

Little did he know that the company had transformed significantly since its early days.

To her, Andrew remained as shortsighted as ever, lacking true vision.

Among the Stevens family, only Douglas had a different perspective.

He realized the family had missed their chance to align with a true powerhouse.

He had intended to bind Stevens Corporation and Andrew together through the shares he would have readily offered 50 % instead of 20%.

Unfortunately, Andrew had explicitly declined.

Still unwilling to give up, Douglas suddenly changed the subject and asked, So, Andy, are you seeing anyone these days? At this question, Christina froze mid eating as she turned to look at Andrew. Meeting her gaze, Andrew replied casually, No.

As you know, Im too laid back for most women to consider dating.

Thats nonsense, Douglas said seriously.

Youve got both character and capability.

Christie also mentioned youve even been promoted to deputy chief at Jayrodale General Hospital. Yes.

Someone recognized my talent, and I got a promotion, Andrew admitted.

Douglas nodded thoughtfully.

Youre already a deputy chief at such a young age in my opinion, thats just as impressive as Christies position as CEO

Let me make a suggestion, Andy and forgive me for being presumptuous, Douglas continued.

Why dont you and Christie try to reconnect? Maybe rekindle what you once had? Andrew froze, caught off guard by Douglass unexpected proposal.

i had too much to Grandpa, have drink? Christina protested.

Andrew and I broke up.

long ago.

Some things cant be fixed once theyre broken.

Irene chimed in disapprovingly, Thats right! Christies net worth keeps growing.

Now that shes free from the Weller familys interference, shes about to become Jayrodales most eligible CEO

You cant just play matchmaker without considering whether a mere deputy chief is worthy of Christies status theyre worlds apart! Douglas quivered with anger as he thundered, Foolish woman, hold your tongue! You look down on Andy for being just a deputy chief? Tell me, who saved the Stevens family from crisis today? Irene fell silent with a cold snort, though her disapproval remained evident.

dont Douglas turned to Christina, saying, While you may run Stevens Corporation, you control the Stevens family.

If you still respect me as your grandfather, youll follow my wishes! II He continued, Mark my words even

if you turn Stevens Corporation into a top 500 company worldwide, it will mean nothing if you let Andrew slip away

Christina argued, Grandpa, youre clearly favoring Andrew.

Besides, you cant force matters of the heart.

Douglas retorted, So, youre still going to be stubborn as ever? Christina turned away and stated firmly, When I chose to break up never to look back.

with Andrew, I decided Mr.

Stevens Senior, please dont pressure her, Andrew interjected with a smile.

Besides, I agree that were not compatible.

With her current achievements, Im truly not worthy of her.

Andrew, you dont need to use subtle jabs to provoke Grandpa, Christina responded coldly.

Chapter 273 Christina stated firmly, Once I make a decision, I never regret it.

And speaking of decisions, why are you single now? What about Ms.

Rhodes or Ms.

Aickers? These two Jayrodale beauties have been throwing themselves at you.

She had not realized the jealousy that tinged her voice as she spoke.

Well, Andrew, your love life certainly blossomed after breaking up with Christie, Irene remarked with an eye roll

You must be living the high life now, being Ms.

Rhodess kept man.

Youre absolutely right, Andrew replied with a smile.

Ms.

Rhodes has been very good to me.

In fact, Im planning to confess my feelings to her soon.

I look forward to that sweet sugar baby lifestyle and retiring 30 years early.

Irene scoffed at all you'll ever amount to.

No wonder Christie doesn't want you.

You should really take a look at yourself

Christina interjected coldly, Mom, that's enough.

It isn't easy to win over someone like Ms.

Rhodes, and we should be happy for him.

Leroy eagerly asked, Andrew, why don't you teach me your secrets for attracting wealthy, do

beautiful women? I'd love to coast through life on my looks like you. Andrew shook his head and replied, I could teach you, but with your looks, it would be pointless.

Are you insulting me? Leroy snapped, feeling humiliated.

As Christina's brother, he believed he must have inherited some of his sister's stunning looks.

While Christina was indeed as beautiful as an angel, Leroy was living proof that genetics could be cruelly random.

It was as if nature had sought balance, giving one sibling extraordinary beauty while cursing the other with unfortunate looks.

The dinner finally wrapped up around eight in the evening.

Andrew declined Douglass's offer to walk him out and left the Stevens family residence alone.

However, Christina followed him outside and said coldly, Grandpa asked me to see you off, so dont get any ideas

Dont worry, Im not that desperate, Andrew replied casually.

You can go back inside.

Someones coming to pick me up.

Let me guess, its either Ms.

Rhodes or Ms.

Aickers ? Christina smirked.

You must be having the time of your life with two beautiful women fawning over you.

Andrew grinned.

Its quite wonderful.

I alternate between them Ms.

Rhodes is beautiful and passionate, while Ms.

Alckers Is sweet and innocent with perfect curves

What more could a man want? So your true colors finally show, Christina sald with disgust.

Andrew shrugged.

I have to disagree.

You're the cold one, bland as tap water, too busy admiring yourself.

You just can't stand seeing others enjoy life and love

Sounds like jealousy to me! Who are you calling cold and bland? Christina sputtered with anger and embarrassment

And jealous? Don't flatter yourself, Andrew !! Whatever you say.

We're done here.

Goodbye, Andrew replied flatly.

Several black luxury cars had been waiting outside the Stevens family residence.

Then, someone stepped out of the lead car and respectfully opened the door for Andrew, saying with a deferential smile, Mr.

Lloyd, thank you for your time.

Let's go, Andrew commanded with a wave of his hand.

As the convoys taillights disappeared into the night, Christina stood there stunned and confused. She mumbled, Wasn't that Mr.

Garner from South City? Why would such a powerful figure personally open the door for Andrew, and with such a subservient attitude ?

Chapter 274 Inside the SUV, Dylan personally drove Andrew toward West End

Dylan, this isn't the way to South City, is it? Andrew asked, raising an eyebrow. Dylan explained with a wry smile, Mr.

Lloyd, were heading to West End

Tonight is a crucial three way meeting between us South City, Northern Districts Atlas, and the last major underground power in Jayrodale West Ends Natasha Vostokoff.

I wouldnt have dared ask for your company if it wasnt important.

Andrew analyzed and commented, So the conflict between South City and Northern District has reached a critical point.

Thats why West End couldnt stay neutral anymore and had to step in for negotiations, right? Youve hit the nail on the head, Mr.

Lloyd, Dylan said admiringly.

Last time, you helped us take down Griffin, giving South City a chance to counter attack.

Now, neither Norther District nor South City can gain the upper hand

With Madam Vostokoff getting involved, Im worried about potential tricks, which is why I need your help again

Since Ive decided to help South City, I wont stand by and watch Atlas destroy it! Andrew nodded

There was another reason Andrew did not mention it was Marvins intention to bring Dylans South City under their control.

Andrew was quite satisfied with Dylan as an ally.

If they could unite Jayrodales underground forces, Andrew would have billionaire Marvin controlling the legitimate businesses while Dylan managed the underground operations.

This would make Andrew the ultimate authority in Jayrodale, both above and below ground

Andrew had little personal interest in power and status his bloodline already transcended such worldly concerns

With his abilities in medicine, combat, and various other fields, he could excel effortlessly.

However, now that he was not alone anymore, it made sense to cultivate promising talents

As the convoy entered West End territory, Andrew casually asked, How does West Ends leader, Madam Vostokoff, compare to Atlas and your organization in terms of power? Dylan explained, Madam Vostokoff, also known as the Black Widow, is the most inconspicuous of the Jayrodales four

underground leaders.

But dont underestimate her- shes ruthless

Over the years, whether it was Tony before, Atlas, or me, weve all tried to take over West Ends territory

, but no one has succeeded.

The Black Widow ? Andrew asked, surprised.

Dylan chuckled bitterly

Yes, and its a fitting name shes literally a widow.

But dont underestimate her, Mr.

Lloyd.

Shes as skilled a fighter as I am, and shes gathered quite a lot of elite fighters.

Whether its her skills on the bed or some other charm, her men are completely loyal to her.

group Interesting, Andrew commented with a smile.

Mr.

Lloyd, are you thinking of conquering her ? Dylan asked excitedly.

She may not be young anymore, but shes still stunning.

While she might not be as perfect as Ms.

Rhodes, older women know how to treat à man right, if you know what I mean.

With that kind of wit, maybe you should quit the underground and become a comedian, Andrew replied dryly.

Im sure Marvin could set something up for you tomorrow.

Chapter 275 Dylan forced an awkward laugh and ducked his head sheepishly.

I was just kidding, Mr.

Lloyd.

Please dont be angry.

He had no doubt about Andrews influence

With one word, this man could actually have him performing stand up comedy for the rest of his life. The SUV pulled up in front of a towering building in Jayrodales West End district.

Mr.

Lloyd, this is Madam Vostokoffs headquarters the main base of West Ends underground operations, Dylan explained while opening the door for Andrew.

Impressive ... Andrew nodded after taking in the sight.

At that moment, an alluring woman wearing a veil and dark smoky eye makeup approached them, surrounded by several imposing bodyguards.

Mr.

Garner, youve finally arrived.

Please come in.

Mr.

Giordano and Mr.

Moore are getting impatient, she said with a smile, her eyes deliberately lingering on Andrew, Mr.

Lloyd, this is Natasha Vostokoff, the leader of Jayrodales West End, Dylan introduced.

Before he could introduce Andrew, Natasha cut in with a flirtatious laugh.

She purred, Theres no need for introductions, Mr.

Garner.

Ive heard all about this handsome young man.

She continued, Word is that on the day the new Weller family head took power, he held his own against their veteran enforcer in a fight.

Impressive indeed, given his young age ! She batted her eyes at Andrew seductively as she spoke. While Natasha was indeed an attractive older woman who had maintained her allure, Andrew merely smiled politely at her advances.

He noted how well informed she was about his encounter with the Weller familys enforcer despite never meeting him clearly, there was a sharp mind behind that sensual exterior.

Knowing Andrews usual indifference to women, Dylan cleared his throat and said, Madam Vostokoff, since Mr.

Giordano is already here, lets get down to business

Natasha giggled charmingly.

Of course! Though I hear theres some bad blood between Mr.

Lloyd and Mr.

Moore.

Mr.

Garner, are you sure its wise to bring him? Dylan snapped, Where Mr.

Lloyd goes, I go.

If he leaves, I leave.

If Mr.

Giordano isn't serious about negotiating, we can end this now.

Now, now, Mr.

Garner, we all agreed that each party could bring their own backup, Natasha quickly assured him.

He added, Though bringing Mr.

Lloyd seems a bit... inadequate? You know Mr.

Moore's got Hidden Dragons behind him.

Hidden Dragons means nothing Mr.

Moore is worthless compared to Mr.

Lloyd, Dylan scoffed.

Natasha shook her head slightly, reflecting on Dylan's typical brashness and lack of political finesse

With Atlas bringing someone as powerful as Finley to the meeting, she could not understand why Dylan would only bring this young man as backup, let alone dismiss Finley so brazenly.

She could already predict that South City would likely lose this negotiation she could not fathom what Dylan was thinking by relying on Andrew.

Chapter 276 Atlas and Finley were already seated in the massive conference

room.

When Natasha entered with her signature sultry walk, Finley's eyes lit up with desire, but Atlas quickly shot him a warning glance.

Atlas was well aware of Natashas reputation in Jayrodales underground circles, and he worried Finleys wandering eye might compromise their position.

Thank you for your patience, Mr.

Giordano and Mr.

Moore, Natasha said with a smile.

Mr.

Garner and South Citys representative have arrived, so we can begin.

What capable fighter could South City possibly have besides Dylan ? Finley scoffed.

Theyre all trash in my eyes.

Pretty big talk from you, Mr.

Moore

Better be careful not to bite your tongue, Dylans voice sounded from the doorway as he and Andrew entered the room

Initially, both Finley and Atlas wore looks of contempt, feeling confident in their position against Dylan. However, when they saw Andrew beside him, their expressions quickly changed.

So this is who Dylan brought, Atlas said through gritted teeth, his eyes narrowing.

Andrew, this meeting is between Jayrodales three underground powers.

What business do you have here ? Finley demanded coldly.

Andrew casually took a seat and replied coolly, Who said outsiders cant participate in this ? Youre an

outsider too, so what are you doing here? Dont twist things around, Finley snapped.

Mr.

Giordano invited me, and Im now officially Northern Districts honored guest.

Thats right.

Mr.

Moore is now considered one of us in Northern District, Atlas added.

Tonight, Mr.

Lloyd speaks for South City, Dylan declared firmly.

If you want to talk, lets talk.

If not, we can settle this another way.

Atlas and Finleys faces darkened at these words.

They could have easily manipulated Dylan alone, but Andrew was a different story.

After all, they still remembered clearly how back at the Weller residence, Andrew had not only beaten up

Michael but had also dared to face off against the Weller familys top enforcers.

Despite his refined appearance, they knew he was dangerous.

Gentlemen, let's all calm down, Natasha intervened smoothly.

We've barely started talking

This rare gathering of us three should focus on resolving our differences.

She glanced curiously at Andrew, wondering why his mere presence had agitated Atlas and Finley so much.

For your sake, we'll continue, Atlas grunted.

But Northern District's position remains firm.

As long as Madam Vostokoff stays out of it, Mr.

Giordano and I can easily crush South City, Finley boasted

Then Jayrodale's underworld can be split between Northern District and West End

A win-win situation, wouldn't you say? Natasha's eyes flickered with interest as she considered the proposal

With the three underground powers currently at a stalemate and Northern District and South City wearing

each other down, her untouched West End territory stood to gain from their conflict.

Don't listen to their empty promises, Madam Vostokoff, Dylan quickly interjected.

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Chapter 277 Finley and Atlas can't be trusted, Dylan warned

If you believe their lies, once they destroy South City, West End wont be spared either.

Oh? What makes you say that ? Natasha asked with a smile

Are you suggesting Northern District plans to take over West End as well? Before Dylan could respond, Atlas cut in, Dylans just a brute dont take his words seriously.

Northern District and West End have always maintained peaceful relations, and even if we wanted your territory, we wouldnt have the strength after dealing with South City.

That would be suicide ! Mr.

Giordano is right, Finley added smoothly.

In fact, West End stands to gain the most from this.

The only reason were pursuing this vendetta against South City is because Dylan treacherously killed Mr. Giordanos lieutenant.

Such a betrayal demands justice.

Their coordinated pitch seemed to sway Natasha, while her lieutenants behind her nodded approvingly. Madam, we should stay neutral and let them fight it out, one whispered.

Well be the real winners in the end, another added.

Mr.

Giordano wants revenge, and clearly, Mr.

Moore has a score to settle with Andrew.

No matter who wins, West End benefits.

As Natasha prepared to announce her decision, Dylans face darkened, realizing she had fallen for Northern Districts scheme.

Finley and Atlas exchanged knowing glances, barely containing their glee.

Andrew, your support of South City means nothing, Finley gloated.

Youre a nobody, and South City will fall regardless of what you do.

In the midst of their celebration, Andrew started clapping slowly.

Mr.

Lloyd, do you have something to add? Natasha frowned, holding back her intended statement.

Hes probably just impressed by our alliance, Finley smirked.

Atlas laughed and added, Andrew, youre quite capable yourself.

Why not leave Dylan and join us? While you might not reach Mr.

Moores status, you could easily become a lieutenant in Northern District.

Andrew chuckled.

Northern District is too small and crawling with losers.

Im not interested

And regarding Madam Vostokoffs question, Im just amazed at how someone can be so easily played for a fool and still seem happy about it.

Natashas expression turned icy.

Mr.

Garner, your friend seems to have a death wish, speaking so boldly in my territory.

Perhaps he doesnt plan on leaving West End tonight? Dylan tensed up, internally cursing.

He could not understand why Andrew would antagonize Natasha at this crucial moment when she was obviously leaning toward Atlass side.

It was like adding fuel to the fire!

Chapter 278 How dare you insult Madam Vostokoff ! Are you asking for death? West Ends enforcers erupted in anger.

In all these years, no one has ever dared to disrespect our leader on our turf! Over the years, many have experienced Natashas ruthless cunning firsthand.

For this young upstart to openly mock her intelligence right to her face he must have been tired of living. Atlas and Finley could barely contain their joy at this turn of events.

Dylan, is this your way of making South City perish faster? Finley taunted, fanning himself with a smirk.

He added, Andrew, I know youre trying to get Madam Vostokoffs attention, but this thorny rose is far beyond your reach.

Now, youll probably leave here in pieces! Mr.

Garner, hes your man, Natasha snapped.

For old times sake, III give you one chance to explain what he means.

Otherwise, none of you will leave West Ends headquarters alive.

Madam Vostokoff, Mr.

Lloyd can be quite direct, but let me explain- Dylan began with an awkward smile.

Explain ? No need, Andrew interrupted, still smiling.

Madam Vostokoff, I say it again- you're a fool being played for entertainment, and you don't even realize

it.

Natasha's men were enraged.

Before long, the sound of heavy footsteps echoed outside the conference room, and dozens of West Ends thugs armed with machetes, batons, and knives flooded in, surrounding them completely. Now you know why they call me the Black Widow, Natasha said coldly, looking down at the seated Andrew.

She continued, Everyone who's dared to challenge me is dead.

I've seen too many young hotheads like you who think they're untouchable just because they have some backing.

Dylan pleaded, Madam Vostokoff, let's talk this through.

Mr.

Lloyd came here to negotiate, not fight.

Using force like this goes against the rules of the meeting.

I've been more than patient, Natasha exploded. Did you not hear how this boy was asking for death? My reputation isn't just for show! Madam Vostokoff, I suggest cutting out his tongue first, Finley chimed in gleefully.

Then break his limbs piece by piece.

After he dies from torture, hang his body at West End's entrance as a warning to others.

Any last words? Natasha asked Andrew icily.

Andrew's expression turned cold, and he calmly stated, You're proving my point about being a fool.

Let's ignore whether your men can even lay a finger on me for now.

Chapter 279 He leaned forward, his voice biting as he said, Answer me this : Atlas promised you a 50-50 split of the territory once he takes down South City.

Did you seriously believe that just because he said it? Natasha's glare intensified, but before she could respond, Andrew continued

Second, Jayrodale has three major underground organizations, with Atlas and Northern District being the strongest

Surely, you know this much.

And now, with Finley and the Hidden Dragons backing him, Atlas is more powerful than ever.

After he crushes South City, do you really think he won't turn around and wipe out West End next?

Natasha scoffed, though there was hesitation in her voice.

Do you seriously think I don't understand the dynamics of Jayrodale better than you? After taking South City, Atlas will be weakened

How could he possibly come after me? Andrew shook his head, smirking.

Calling you stupid is honestly being too kind

As I said, Atlas has the Hidden Dragons and the ambitious Finley by his side

Even if Northern District is weakened after taking South City, Finley can easily gather the Hidden Dragons fighters with just a call.

When that happens, West End will be next.

Natasha frowned, feeling increasingly uneasy.

Andrews cold laughter echoed through the room.

Once Atlas takes South City, hell absorb its territory and fighters.

Sure, hell take a hit, but give him a little time to recover, and West End is as good as gone.

He continued, Theres no way Atlas will let a rival breathe down his neck.

Hell rip you out by the roots.

And as for you, the so called Black Widow ? Youll be paraded around as a trophy.

You know exactly what that means, dont you? Natashas expression darkened as her eyes darted to Atlas and Finley.

Her anger was palpable.

Finley forced a laugh, his fan snapping shut with a loud clack.

Madam Vostokoff, hes spinning nonsense.

Mr.

Girodano only wants to avenge Griffin.

Thats it! You cant seriously believe his baseless accusations.

Andrew let out a mocking chuckle.

Finley, youre a terrible liar.

Even a rookie in this game wouldnt buy your story.

You expect someone like her to believe that Atlas is going to war out of some sense of loyalty?

Underground leaders never care about loyalty, They use their men as disposable pawns, let them bleed

in their place, and then sit back and enjoy the spoils.

Atlas slammed his fist on the table, his voice thunderous.

Andrew, youre crossing the line! How dare you question my honor ! Andrew shrugged, unfazed.

Im not questioning it, Atlas

Im flat out saying you dont have any.

Ignoring Atlas glare, Andrew turned to Natasha and said, Let me put this in simpler terms

Ever heard of a game of chess? Natashas brow furrowed

Chess? What does that have to do with anything? Andrews voice grew colder.

Open your eyes

Youre being played.

If you keep trusting Atlas, youll end up as another cautionary tale in the history of bad alliances.

Dont let West End become a footnote In someone elses story.

Chapter 280 Natashas expression darkened as a chill ran down her spine.

Though Andrews words were harsh, they struck with undeniable truth she had almost fallen into Atlas and Finleys trap.

.

I understand why you were so eager to fall for their scheme, Andrew continued calmly.

You wanted South City eliminated so you could grab a plece of the pie

Your ambition isnt small, Madam Vostokoff West End wants to dominate too.

Unfortunately, greed often exposes ones weaknesses, Andrew added with mock concern.

As a woman in this business, you should be more careful playing games with cunning men like Atlas.

His patronizing tone made Natasha grind her teeth.

While it was her first time being lectured by such a young man, she could not deny the truth in his words. She did have ambitions and had been swayed by Atlas promises.

Mr.

Giordano, Mr.

Moore, please leave.

You're no longer welcome in West End, Natasha ordered through clenched teeth.

Madam Vostokoff, you can't actually believe this pretty boy's baseless accusations? Atlas exploded.

Think carefully about your choice, Finley threatened, his face dark with anger.

Stay neutral, or if West End wants to interfere, Mr.

Giordano and I will have no choice but to eliminate you too.

Andrew chuckled

You see, Madam Vostokoff? This is their true color.

They never had good intentions; they've been playing you for a fool from the start.

! Get out, both of you! Natasha roared.

And Finley, you think I'm scared of you? Go ahead and try to touch West End.

I'd love to see what Hidden Dragon's lap dog is really made of! Even Andrew had to give her an

appreciative glance she was showing the fierce spirit that had earned her the Black Widow nickname.

West Ends enforcers redirected their weapons toward Atlas and Finley, their bloodlust obvious.

One shouted, You backstabbing sons of bitches! If Mr.

Lloyd hadn't warned us, we would've fallen right into your trap! Madam, let's finish these traitors right here and now, several more aggressive members suggested, gripping their weapons tightly.

The color drained from Atlas and Finley's faces as the situation turned against them.

Think carefully, Natasha.

If anything happens to me and Mr.

Moore on your territory, Jayrodale's underworld will descend into chaos, Atlas warned, sweat beading on his forehead

If anything happens to me, West End won't survive the consequences! Finley threatened

Move aside and let them leave, Natasha ordered with a cold smile

But remember this, Atlas - West End won't play nice with Northern District anymore.

Your dream of ruling Jayrodale's underworld is dead.

As Atlas and Finley walked past Andrew, Atlas paused with pure hatred in his eyes.

You ruined my plans.

I won't forget tonight's humiliation.

Keep making enemies, and you'll meet your end soon enough.

Worry about yourself, Mr.

Giordano, Andrew replied casually.

luck might run out.

never know when your Back at Northern Districts headquarters, Atlas finally exploded in rage.

He screamed at Finley, Why did you have to threaten Natasha? We almost convinced her to stay neutral

! Why did you have to provoke her, you idiot? Finley wiped Atlas spittle from his face with a dark expression

How is this my fault? Andrew was the one who ruined everything by showing up out of nowhere ! Atlas smashed his fist through a table, his eyes cold with fury.

You're right it was all Andrew.

He destroyed our perfect plan! We need to kill that worthless punk.

I can't stand another day with him alive! Finley seethed.

Hell die, but we must be patient, Atlas replied.

For now, we need to strike fast.

We should take out either Dylan or Natasha first.

If we can eliminate one side quickly, the other won't stand a chance alone.

Lets hit West End first, Finley suggested with a vicious grin.

I want to make that ungrateful witch Natasha suffer.

Atlas scoffed.

Youre still thinking about women at a time like this? It doesnt matter which we take out first South City or West End

We need to move before they join forces.

Finley leered.

Youre too old to appreciate the finer things, Mr.

Giordano

A powerful, sophisticated woman like Natasha is the ultimate prize

Help me take control of Jayrodales underworld Atlas offered with a smile, and Natasha will be yours to do with as you please.

You have my word! Finley agreed eagerly, licking his lips in anticipation.