

The Ashes 341

Chapter 341 The cutter straightened his posture and nodded firmly.

Miss, dont worry

With over a decade of experience in stone cutting, III make sure not to damage your stone.

Aspen smiled confidently.

Good.

Then follow my instructions and make the cut.

The man carefully brought the blade down, following Aspens precise directions without a single deviation

As the outer layers were stripped away, the crowd collectively gasped as the interior was revealed.

Its a high quality translucent emerald ! Aspens got an incredible eye for this.

That piece alone is worth far more than 200 thousand dollars.

Shes definitely made a great call on this one.

Man, what a sharp woman.

Her skill at stone gambling isnt something ordinary people can match.

The crowd was awestruck, their admiration for Aspen growing.

However, she remained unimpressed.

In her mind, this was only a warm up.

Cut this one next, Aspeh instructed, pointing to another stone.

And those three over there -open them all

One after another, she directed the cutting of three additional stones, each with a price tag totaling over a million dollars

The audacity of her moves left the spectators in stunned silence.

Suddenly, all the attention in the plaza turned to Aspen.

People flocked to her side, their excitement palpable

What a bold play! She doesn't hold back, someone murmured, awe clear in their voice.

Most stone gamblers would spend hours examining a single stone, analyzing it from every angle.

But Aspen ? She seemed to pick stones on a whim as if she barely cared.

She's just showing off, scoffed a young man from the crowd.

I bet those next three stones won't amount to anything.

If she strikes it big again, I'll kneel and drink the water she washes her feet with! The cutter glanced at Aspen, recognizing her as a serious player

He knew he could not afford to make any mistakes.

People like her could easily attract the attention of someone as powerful as Silas, the head of Radiant Group

Watching the scene unfold, Christina could not help but feel anxious.

Aspen, I don't really understand stone gambling, but isn't cutting three stones at once a bit too risky?
Aspen laughed lightly, brushing off the concern.

Relax, Christie

Trust me I have the skill and the eye for this.

Cutting three stones is nothing

Her gaze swept across the crowd, now numbering in the thousands, all hanging on her move

Aspen nodded subtly to herself.

every This was exactly what she wanted an audience to witness Andrews impending humiliation.

She was determined to crush his earlier success and make sure no one remembered his name.

The cutter worked diligently, and soon, the second stone was revealed.

Gasps erupted again.

It's the white opal with a pearlescent sheen! She's hit the jackpot again! Let's see what's inside the third

one.

If it's another big find, Aspen's definitely going to be crowned the stone gambling queen of this event
The third stone was placed on the cutting table, and the crowd's anticipation reached its peak.

People began clapping, cheering for Aspen and her streak of luck.

Together with Christinas stunning presence, the atmosphere in the plaza grew electric.

Even the earlier buzz about Andrews victory over Orion was fading from memory.

All eyes were now on Aspen

Lets see whats inside the third one.

If its another big find, Aspens definitely going to be crowned the stone gambling queen of this event, The third stone was placed on the cutting table, and the crowds anticipation reached its peak.

People began clapping, cheering for Aspen and her streak of luck.

Together with Christinas stunning presence, the atmosphere in the plaza grew electric.

Even the earlier buzz about Andrews victory over Orion was fading from memory.

All eyes were now on Aspen.

Aspen gave a faint smile, her voice calm and commanding.

Go ahead and cut the third stone however you want.

The cutter froze, visibly startled

Miss, I cant cut it without your instructions.

What if something goes wrong? Aspen waved dismissively.

Theres no need to worry.

I already know whats inside this stone.

Her casual confidence left the crowd reeling

Did she just say she knows whats inside? Does she have x ray vision? How else could she see through

the stones outer layers? The crowd buzzed with disbelief and excitement.

Chapter 342 Wow, Aspen truly lives up to her name as Bridgefields Stevens familys golden girl. Shes got more guts and precision than most men out here Shes in a league of her own no one in Jayrodale could match her confidence and skill in this game.

Aspens boldness and undeniable charm captured everyones attention.

Some men could not help but look at her longingly, practically ready to bow down at her feet.

She scanned the area with a sharp gaze but did not see Andrew anywhere.

She smirked and mumbled, Looks like someone finally realized theyre out of their depth.

He mustve decided to hide rather than embarrass himself in front of me.

The master gem cutter began working on the third gemstone

With years of experience behind him, he carefully shaved away the outer layers without making any bold

cuts

Two thirds of the stone was removed, yet nothing remarkable was revealed.

A tense silence fell over the crowd.

Could Aspen actually fail this time? Even so, her calm and confident expression did not waver for a moment.

The cutter pressed on, and finally, the stone split open completely.

At its core was a small, dazzling ruby, a deep crimson color that seemed to glow under the sunlight. Gasps echoed through the crowd.

Unbelievable ! Its a blood ruby, and one of the finest grades Ive ever seen! It might be small, but its value easily exceeds three million dollars.

This womans skills are unreal! Shes not gambling shes practically seeing through the stone !! With all three gemstones yielding exceptional treasures, Aspens reputation skyrocketed.

The crowd roared in approval, hailing her as a legend.

The gem cutter wiped the sweat from his brow and said with a respectful smile, Ms.

Stevens, the combined value of these stones exceeds ten million dollars.

Congratulations! In all my years, Ive never worked with someone as extraordinary as you.

Praise poured in from every direction, but Aspens smile remained composed.

To her, this was just another showcase of her abilities.

Christinas eyes sparkled with admiration.

Aspen, youre absolutely incredible.

Aspen smiled faintly.

Christie, youll need to pick this up too.

With your intelligence, it wont take you long to master.

Her gaze swept over the crowd again

As for Andrew, I wonder if hes hiding in shame or has already run off completely, too embarrassed to show his face

Christina smirked

He probably doesnt have the guts to come back.

Aspen, youve got the whole crowd on your side now.

If Andrew dared to show up, hed only make a fool of himself.

Aspen chuckled coldly.

I warned him before Id crush his arrogance.

It seems he finally realized hes no match for me and took the cowards way out.

Christina nodded.

Theres no point even mentioning him.

Andrews win before was just luck.

When it comes to real talent, hes not even in the same league as you, Aspen

Aspens dominance over the gemstone event left no doubt no one dared to challenge her, alone Andrew.

let Christina found the situation almost laughable

Earlier, Andrew had strutted around, forcing others to bow to him with his smug attitude

And now? The once bold Andrew had vanished, avoiding Aspens commanding presence with his tail tucked between his legs.

Chapter 343 Its a shame theres no real competition, Aspen said lazily, stifling a yawn.

Lets open two more stones for fun, and then well head out.

She lifted a finger, casually signaling the gem cutter to begin again.

Her every movement captivated the crowd, who watched eagerly, anticipating another jaw dropping display of her talent.

Before the cutter could start, a calm but distinct voice cut through the chatter.

Excuse me, could you help me cut this stone? Though the voice was not particularly loud, it seemed to pierce through the noise, drawing everyones attention.

Instantly, the crowd erupted in irritation.

Whos this clown? Cant they see Ms.

Stevens is about to make her move? Ms.

Stevens is playing at the highest level why waste time with someone else cutting a stone thats probably worthless? Whoever it is, they need to leave.

Todays show belongs to Ms.

Stevens, and no one should get in the way.

else The disgruntled murmurs turned into curious stares as people turned toward the source of the voice. A moment later, someone gasped.

Its Mr.

Lloyd ! Hes back! The realization swept through the crowd, leaving them stunned.

Andrew stepped forward, his expression calm and composed.

He asked, Whats the problem ? Is gemstone cutting exclusive to Aspen now? Or can others join in too? The gem cutter quickly smiled, trying to ease the tension.

Of course not, Mr.

Lloyd.

Gemstone cutting is open to everyone as long as the rules are followed.

Which stone would you like me to open ? III ask another cutter to handle your stone Francescas voice rang out, sharp and cold.

Oh ? Are you saying we arent worth your full attention? The cutters face stiffened awkwardly

It was clear where his priorities lay he was far more interested in assisting Aspen as she dazzled the crowd.

One of the younger onlookers, a wealthy heir who had earlier mocked Andrew, sneered, Mr.

Lloyd, stick to antiques.

This is way above your pay grade.

You sure you even know what youre doing? Andrews tone remained steady.

Theres only one way to find out.

The young man laughed.

Dont say I didnt warn you.

Gambling with gemstones isnt for amateurs its easy to lose everything and ruin your reputation in one bad call

Aspen chuckled softly.

Andrew, Im surprised you had the guts to show up.

Didnt you hear? Even amateurs know gemstone cutting is a risky game.

Are you sure youre ready to take the plunge, or would you rather think it over? Christina frowned, worry flickering in her eyes.

Andrews sudden arrival felt ill timed and reckless.

Could he not see that Aspen was at the top of her game? Challenging her now seemed like a foolish

move

Andrew met Aspens gaze calmly.

Lets not kid ourselves, Aspen.

Youve put on this big show just to bait ine into competing with you.

And now, you want to talk about risk? That's a little hypocritical, don't you think? Aspen's smile turned icy

You're right. I do want to see what you've got.

Just say it, Mr.

Lloyd

Are you in, or are you out? She emphasized his name mockingly, drawing attention to the weight of her challenge. The crowd caught the sharp edge in her tone.

Aspen was not merely inviting Andrew to compete; she was openly taunting him.

At that moment, Elsie spoke up.

Mr.

Lloyd, you don't need to do this.

Gemstone cutting is for everyone. There's no rule saying you have to compete against Ms.

Stevens.

Chapter 344 Aspen smirked and said, Ms.

Santana, you sure are devoted to Mr.

Lloyd.

From the beginning, you've been protecting this so-called expert at every turn.

Are you worried that the rest of us collectors might feel a little neglected? Elsie responded calmly, I'm not sure I understand what you mean, Ms.

Stevens.

Mr.

Lloyd is a distinguished guest of Radiant Group, and its my job to assist him.

Is there an issue with that? Aspen let out a disdainful laugh

For someone to earn such exceptional treatment from you, Ms.

Santana, they must be quite the expert.

So, Mr.

Lloyd, how about it? Are you brave enough to take me on ? Dont chicken out now after all your earlier bravado

All eyes turned to Andrew, their curiosity piqued.

His earlier confrontation with Orion had been impressive, earning hfin widespread admiration, but gemstone cutting was an entirely different challenge.

, Someone encouraged, Mr.

Lloyd, your expertise in antiques is remarkable.

Surely you can hold your own in gemstone cutting, too.

Exactly! Win or lose, youre already a rising star in Jayrodales collectors circle.

Show them what youve got! another added.

However, a few older experts from the antique association, who were more cautious and well-meaning, tried to dissuade him.

Mr.

Lloyd, your reputation is hard earned.

Gemstone cutting is unpredictable, and gambling on it carries great risks.

We advise you to proceed with caution.

While some were eager to see a showdown, others genuinely wanted to protect Andrews burgeoning reputation.

Aspen, however, stood by, her smile growing colder by the second

She thought to herself that if Andrew backed out now, he would be branded a coward

However, if he took the bait and accepted her challenge, she would finally have her chance to humiliate him and settle past scores.

Either way, she saw herself winning.

Andrew chuckled lightly, his tone was casual yet firm.

Since Ms.

Stevens is so insistent and everyones clearly looking forward to it, refusing would indeed make me look like a coward

I suppose I have no choice but to play along.

Aspens smile froze for a moment as she processed his reply.

Was he really this fearless or just foolish? Christina shook her head in exasperation.

Andrew, cant you see shes goading you? This is exactly what she wants! Elsie, looking anxious, pleaded, Mr.

Lloyd, gemstone cutting is far too uncertain

Theres not need to engage with Aspen she clearly came prepared, and it wouldnt be a fair match, Andrew smiled reassuringly.

Dont worry

If anything, Im afraid it might not be fair for her.

Elsie stood stunned.

Did he really mean what hest sald? Could he truly be that confident? Francesca, torn between

excitement and concern chimed in, Andrew, if things go south, promise me well stop before its too late. Andrews eyes gleamed coldly as he replied, Id love to lose, but unfortunately, my skill wont allow it. Aspens voice rang out sharply, cutting through the murmurs.

Andrew, Im sure you know how this works

Normally, gemstone cutting is about buying a raw stone and gambling, on whether it holds anything valuable inside

But our match will be different.

Well see who can extract the most valuable and highest quality stone.

III show you what it truly means to be a master and the kind of precision thats almost magical.

Her words drew loud cheers from the crowd, many already betting on Aspen to win.

Andrews presence was seen by some as nothing more than a foll to highlight her brilliance.

All eyes were now on the two of them, as the atmosphere buzzed with anticipation.

need to engage with Aspen she clearly came prepared, and it wouldnt be a fair match.

Andrew smiled reassuringly.

Dont worry.

If anything, Im afraid it might not be fair for her.

Elsie stood stunned.

Did he really mean what he just said? Could he truly be that confident? Francesca, torn between

excitement and concern chimed in, Andrew, if things go south, promise me well stop before its too late. Andrews eyes gleamed coldly as he replied, Id love to lose, but unfortunately, my skill wont allow it. Aspens voice rang out sharply, cutting through the murmurs.

Andrew, Im sure you know how this works

Normally, gemstone cutting is about buying a raw stone and gambling on whether it holds anything valuable inside

But our match will be different.

Well see who can extract the most valuable and highest quality stone

III show you what it truly means to be a master and the kind of precision thats almost magical.

Her words drew loud cheers from the crowd, many already betting on Aspen to win.

Andrews presence was seen by some as nothing more than a foil to highlight her brilliance.

All eyes were now on the two of them, as the atmosphere buzzed with anticipation.

Chapter 345 Andrew spoke calmly, his tone steady but cutting Aspen, theres nothing wrong with a woman being proud and confident.

As long as she has the right to be proud, thats fine.

But if a woman is arrogant and foolish on top of it, shes bound to learn some painful lessons.

Aspen sneered, glancing sideways at Christina

Christie, did you hear what this man just said? He claims hes going to teach me a painful lesson

Honestly, with an ex like that, I cant blame you for kicking him to the curb.

If you hadnt, I wouldve stepped in to help straighten him out myself.

Christinas face darkened as she cast a worried glance at Andrew.

Why was he so bold? It seemed that he did not understand that going up against Aspen in a gamble like this was reckless

Everyone, quiet down! The gemstone challenge between Mr.

Lloyd and Ms.

Stevens is about to begin, Elsie announced, her voice rising above the crowd.

She turned to Andrew and Aspen, adding, Do either of you have any additional terms to set ? Aspen flashed a confident smile

I have nothing to add.

I just hope Mr.

Lloyd wont start crying when this is over.

Andrews voice remained composed.

I do have something to add

He paused briefly, letting the crowds anticipation build.

Whoever loses will forfeit all their winnings to the other person.

And since Ms.

Stevens enjoys excitement, lets make it interesting.

Every gemstone we choose must cost at least ten million dollars.

Is that too much for you, Ms.

Stevens? The crowd erupted in a frenzy.

Ten million per stone? Is Mr.

Lloyd trying to make Aspen gamble away her entire fortune? This isn't just intense, it's outright insane!

The winner will walk away filthy rich, while the loser gets completely wiped out.

You can't even call this a gamble anymore.

This is full blown, high stakes warfare ! Aspen's confident smile began to fade, replaced by a shadow of

unease

She stared at Andrew, her voice sharp

Andrew, are you sure you want to play at this level? Andrew met her gaze, unwavering.

Just answer the question.

Do you dare, or don't you ? Aspen gritted her teeth before responding, her tone firm.

Fine.

I'll see this through to the end.

She squared her shoulders and added, You think you can intimidate me? Clearly, you've underestimated me and my family.

The Stevens family doesn't back down.

Inside, Aspen's mind raced.

Andrew had upped the stakes to an extreme level, forcing her to gamble with stakes worth millions.

Losing was not an option not only for her reputation but also for her companys investments.

Her business ventures in Jayrodale and the Northern District were on the line, and failure here could mean financial disaster.

Christinas heart pounded as she looked at Andrew

His wager was enormous, raising more questions than answers.

Did he truly have the money to back this up, or was he bluffing? Aspen, Im worried... Christina started, hoping to caution Aspen.

But Aspen held up a hand, her expression resolute.

Relax, Christie.

I started this, and Ill finish it.

Andrew is just trying to rattle me with his theatrics, but Im not so easily shaken.

Still stunned by the sudden escalation, Elsie motioned toward the raw gemstones. The terms are set.

Both competitors may now begin selecting their stones.

Her voice trembled slightly, even as she tried to maintain composure

Aspen strode forward without hesitation, pointing to a stone she had chosen in advance.

Im ready.

This is the one.

Chapter 346 Andrew did not waste any time.

He pointed at a medium sized stone and said, Could you cut this one for me, please ? Aspen scoffed and said, Andrew, you should really take a closer look.

Jumping in without thinking might just make you a laughingstock.

O Ignoring her, Andrew turned to Francesca with a smile.

Get ready to celebrate.

Francesca froze for a moment before catching on Wait... are you seriously this confident? Andrew chuckled and replied, Well know soon enough, wont we ? Aspen gritted her teeth.

This man had an unbearable arrogance that made her want to wipe the smirk off his face.

The crowd stayed silent, not daring to say a word.

With stakes this high, nobody wanted to risk disrupting the players focus and becoming the target of blame.

Aspens stone was cut first.

A gasp echoed from one of the experienced gem traders in the crowd.

Wow! Its a massive green tourmaline with impressive quality.

Its just shy of the imperial grade

Christina let out a quiet sigh of relief.

Aspens stone was of exceptional quality she had likely secured an early lead.

Aspen clapped her hands and laughed.

Andrew, it looks like Lady Luck is on my side today.

Andrew remained unfazed

Celebrating too soon might make it hurt more when the tables turn.

At that moment, the gem cutter started on Andrews stone

After a few careful cuts, the worker hesitated, wearing an awkward expression. Mr.

Lloyd, its... its blood ruby, he admitted.

The crowd erupted in a mixture of disappointment and disbelief.

Blood ruby? Thats good, but its nowhere near the value of green tourmaline.

This round is over Andrews already lost.

-Aspen relaxed, a wave of relief washing over her as a smug grin crept across her face.

Andrew, you really dont have the skills for this, do you? Your blood ruby is big, but size doesnt matter this green tourmaline is better.

Youve lost.

The crowds murmurs grew louder as Andrew remained calm

He quietly brushed away the leftover fragments of his stone and then smirked.

Take another look.

Are you sure this is just blood ruby? The gem cutter leaned in, his eyes widening in shock.

Wait... this isnt blood ruby.

Its- Elsie was watching nervously and rushed over to inspect the stone herself.

Her face lit up with excitement.

Its not blood ruby! Its rare blood spinel! She gestured to the crowd, explaining, The first cut only revealed a small section, which led to the wrong conclusion

But this is undeniably blood spinel, one of the most valuable kinds of gem on the market.

The onlookers surged forward, eager to confirm for themselves.

It really is blood spinel ! This stuff is even rarer than green tourmaline, and its worth far more.

Plus, look at the size of Andrews piece its way bigger than Aspens! This round isnt even close

Aspen lost the first round? No way! Aspens face turned pale as she stepped forward to inspect Andrews stone herself

One glance confirmed it, and her stomach sank.

Damn it.

She had lost the very first round! Aspen clenched her fists so tightly that her nails dug into her palms. She fought hard to keep her expression neutral, though her mind was racing.

Elsie raised her voice.

The results are clear.

Ms.

Stevens, youve lost this round

Andrew remained composed, his tone calm but sharp.

These gems are both treasures, but even without ranking them, my red spinel is larger than your green tourmaline.

Do you have anything else to say? The gem cutter leaned in, his eyes widening in shock.

Wait... this isnt blood ruby.

Its Elsie was watching nervously and rushed over to inspect the stone herself.

Her face lit up excitement

Its not blood ruby! Its rare blood spinel ! with She gestured to the crowd, explaining, The first cut only revealed a small section, which led to the wrong conclusion

But this is undeniably blood spinel, one of the most valuable kinds of gem on the market.

The onlookers surged forward, eager to confirm for themselves.

It really is blood spinel ! This stuff is even rarer than green tourmaline, and its worth far more.

Plus, look at the size of Andrews piece its way bigger than Aspens ! This round isnt even close.

Aspen lost the first round? No way! Aspens face turned pale as she stepped forward to inspect Andrews stone herself.

One glance confirmed it, and her stomach sank.

Damn it.

She had lost the very first round! Aspen clenched her fists so tightly that her nails dug into her palms.

She fought hard to keep her expression neutral, though her mind was racing.

Elsie raised her voice

The results are clear.

Ms.

Stevens, you've lost this round.

Andrew remained composed, his tone calm but sharp.

These gems are both treasures, but even without ranking them, my red spinel is larger than your green tourmaline.

Do you have anything else to say?

Chapter 347 Aspen felt a sharp, burning pain on her face.

Christina was stunned too, unable to believe the sudden turn of events.

Aspen had opened such a good gem, so how could she still lose? Fine, I'll admit defeat for the first round, Aspen said, her voice cold as she could not bear the eyes of the crowd anymore.

Andrew, do you dare to go for another round? Andrew waved her off.

There's no need to hurry, I'll deal with things first.

Right in front of Aspen and everyone else, Andrew casually gathered Aspens green tourmaline and his own rare red spinel and handed them to Francesca.

Francesca blushed

Andrew, I cant carry these.

Its fine.

Theyre ours anyway.

Just keep an eye on them.

Dont let anyone steal them.

Francesca beamed, nearly bursting with excitement.

These were two high quality gems though she was not an expert, she knew they were worth a fortune. Nonetheless, it was not about the money.

What mattered was that Aspen, that nasty woman, had lost to Andrew she deserved it! Elsie said, Mr. Lloyd, dont worry

We have full surveillance here.

Your things will be safe.

Andrew nodded and glanced over at the scowling Aspen.

Im not worried

Im just afraid someone might not handle losing well and try to steal my spoils.

Aspen fumed, her face turning red with rage.

Andrew, youre getting too cocky now.

When did I ever not handle losing? You won, so take everything as per the agreement.

She could tell Andrew was intentionally provoking her, but in that moment, Aspen could barely hold herself back.

This bastard was pushing her buttons.

Christina added coldly, Andrew, just because you won one round doesnt mean youll keep winning.

1 Only the one who laughs last is truly victorious, just like you said getting too happy too soon will lead to tears

Andrew smirked

Youre right, but thats just who I am.

When I feel like being arrogant, I cant stop myself.

Christina gritted her teeth, unsure how to respond.

She did not like Andrews arrogance, but she was powerless to do anything about it.

Aspen, her face darkened, said, Andrew, are you going to play again or not? If youre scared, 1/2 go home and keep celebrating your win.

Andrew shrugged.

If youve got endless money to burn and want to give it to me, Im happy to take it.

Aspen was fuming

You mightve won once, but dont think youll get a second chance.

Remember, what goes around comes around.

I wont fall in the same place twice.

Andrew shook his head.

I already told you that no matter what happens, youll lose.

Your only choice is to stay away from me from now on

Aspens face grew darker as she selected her second stone.

This time, she picked a small but perfectly suited rough stone, one that matched her trained eye. She had to win this round.

After all, it was her last chance to recover, to turn things around.

Cut it open, please, Aspen instructed the cutter firmly

The cutter hesitated, glancing nervously at Andrews side.

There was clear concern in his eyes

He had sided with Aspen earlier, but he feared the consequences of angering Andrew.

Chapter 348 The cutter was beginning to regret his earlier actions because Andrew had proven to be far more formidable than expected, even outshining Aspen.

If only he had not been so absolute in his statements before.

What are you waiting for? Don't you trust me? Aspen snapped when she noticed her cutters hesitation. The cutter flinched and quickly replied, III cut open Ms.

Stevens stone right away.

This time, Miss, you'll definitely win.

Andrew chuckled

Aspen, your judgment is clouded.

The Stevens family of Bridge fields isn't exactly rolling in money.

Being this wasteful isn't doing you any favors.

He gestured toward the largest raw stone in the center.

Aspen responded with a cold laugh.

Andrew, don't you understand that a raw stone's size has nothing to do with what's inside? You can't seriously think that just because this stone is huge, it must contain something valuable? Several gambling experts nodded in agreement with Aspen's statement.

The central stone, with its hard texture, mottled colors, and chaotic patterns, was clearly worthless 1 more than common rock.

In contrast, Aspen's stone, though modest in size, had a promising green tint with dark undertones and a softer texture, suggesting valuable contents inside.

The two cutters began cutting with their machines while the crowd held their breath.

The tension between Andrew and Aspen had clearly escalated

If the Stevens familys golden girl lost this round, she would share Orions fate losing both money and reputation

Meanwhile, Andrews loss would not matter much

In stone gambling, wins and losses were expected maintaining a winning record was enough to keep his reputation as a master intact

Andrew, I went first in the last round, Aspen said, signaling her cutter to stop.

This time, youll open yours first.

Thats fine by me, Andrew replied casually.

Soon, the outer layer of the largest stone was cut away, revealing a multicolored piece of inside.

gem Just as expected low grade material.

Look at those colors and that surface area.

Mr.

Lloyd made a mistake this time, someone in the crowd commented

Others added that this piece was even worse than Andrews previous stone, barely qualifying as scrap material.

Dont worry about it, Andrew.

Weve already won once, Francesca consoled him.

On the other hand, Aspen finally breathed a sigh of relief.

With Andrew revealing such a worthless piece, she could not lose

Just as Aspen was about to order her stone to be cut open, displaying a winners smile, Andrew called out, Wait! What now? Aspen sneered.

Are you admitting defeat before I even reveal mine? If so, this stone is too worthless for my victory to mean anything youll need to compensate me with an additional 50 million.

Chapter 349 Stupid woman, I just asked you to wait, not admitting defeat, Andrew said with a smirk Why are you already counting your money? Running low on funds? Aspens face turned red with anger. Fine, lets see what trick youre trying to pull here, she spat, knowing she was running out of money. Even if she won, claiming Andrews worthless stone would be like taking home garbage. Mr.

Lloyd, what else would you like me to do? the cutter asked

The crowd watched curiously, wondering what Andrew could possibly do at this point.

This stone can be cut further, dont you think? Andrew smiled, pointing at the multicolored piece. The cutter was taken aback and replied, Mr.

Lloyd, weve already reached the core layer.

Further cutting would be pointless

Elsie and the others frowned deeply at Andrews suggestion.

The massive stone had already yielded worthless material and cutting it further would only destroy its integrity and a rease its value even more.

Mr.

Lloyd, in my opinion, cutting it further will only make it mot not help but say.

worthless, Elsie could Andrew smiled and replied, On the contrary, I think continuing might lead us to an unexpected treasure

Elsie was stunned by Andrews unusual thinking

Meanwhile, Aspen could barely contain her laughter.

She taunted, Andrew, the outcome is already decided.

Why struggle so pointlessly? Looking for hidden treasure? Arent you afraid youll just turn your waste into complete garbage? Turning to the cutter, Andrew said, Sir, just cut boldly.

If its ruined, its on me, not you.

Well, its time to show everyone whats inside my stone.

Since he wants to fight to the bitter end, III make him regret it, Aspen stated.

The cutter cut open her stone, revealing a brilliant gem with a soft violet hue.

Someone in the crowd gasped

Oh my God, could that be the legendary Royal Violet Crystal ? Thats incredibly rare! The exclamations continued as others confirmed, It is the Royal Violet Crystal ! In some ways, its even more prestigious than the imperial grade emerald

Aspen really hit the jackpot this time ! Amid the amazed exclamations and shocked voices, Aspens confident smile returned.

She had not expected to find a Royal Violet Crystal, thinking it would be just a regular emerald at best, but fortune had smiled upon her with this exceptionally rare gem. Aspen, you truly have a gift with gems, Christina said, her voice trembling with excitement. Each time you find something even more valuable than the last.

The only other Royal Violet Crystal in existence is worth 600 million ! Indeed, the Royal Violet Crystal is considered nobility among gems, Aspen stated, finally relaxing.

Though mine isnt quite as valuable as the one Christina mentioned, this small piece is more than enough to cover all my previous losses.

She turned toward Andrew, waiting for Elsie to declare her the winner.

Elsie could only smile wryly the comparison between Aspens Royal Violet Crystal and Andrews worthless stone could not have been more stark.

Chapter 350 At this point, there was nothing else Elsie could do.

The situation seemed hopeless for Andrew.

What a shame for Mr.

Lloyd this round, someone remarked, while others chimed in, Why choose such an obviously worthless large stone when there were so many better options? The antique experts shook their heads in disappointment, having hoped to see Andrew triumph over the Bridgefields heiress.

Yet, Andrew did not even glance at Aspens Royal Violet Crystal.

Instead, he carefully guided the crafts mans cutting, and as the waste material fell away, a mysterious red glow began to emerge.

The craftsmans heart skipped a beat such a lustrous glow should not appear in worthless material.

Elsie noticed something unusual too, and quickly moved to Andrews side, crouching down for a closer look.

The red glow intensified, revealing a transparent red gem standing out prominently among the debris. For a moment, even the experienced Elsie was left speechless.

Well, what do we have here ? A Blood Phoenix Agate quite rare indeed, Andrew said va smile as he picked up the thumb sized red gem.

Ms.

Santana, would you mind checking if theres a cicada with spread wings inside? Elsie carefully accepted the gem and examined it with a magnifying glass.

Sure enough, inside the agate was an incredibly lifelike cicada with spread wings.

Mr.

Lloyd, youve unlocked natures treasure vault! Elsie exclaimed, her voice trembling.

This is definitely another Blood Phoenix Miracle.

In both the collectors and antique markets, this agate would easily fetch over 100 million ! The crowd, which had been cheering for Aspen moments ago, fell dead silent at Elsies announcement.

Then, the room erupted with wild discussions and incredulous shouts.

The Blood Phoenix Miracle ? Im Harrison Blake, a private collector, and Im offering 200 million! one voice called out.

Another bid came from Blumedale Antiquities.

300 million, Mr.

Lloyd, and well make you our Vice Chairman ! The scene became chaotic as countless collectors experts , and enthusiasts rushed toward Andrew.

Even elderly connoisseurs were pushing through the crowd with surprising vigor.

As the situation threatened to turn into a stampede, Elsie looked helplessly at Andrew for assistance.

He pulled her behind him alongside Francesca and shouted, Everyone, step back now! Dont make me

use force! Only Aspen and Christina remained frozen in place, isolated from the commotion.

Christinas mind went blank as she felt the sudden chill around them.

Christina whispered in disbelief, Aspen, the Blood Phoenix Miracle? Isnt that supposedly the rarest stone in history? How could Andrew possibly have found one ?