

The Ashes 391

Chapter 391 After her initial shock, Natashas face flushed with embarrassment and anger, refusing to back down as she questioned him

Alright, you call yourself a master physician.

Then let me ask you this why did I still get injured in my fight with Atlas after taking the Blood Surge Pill? And now youre accusing me of faking it? Andrews lips curled into a mocking smile as he replied, Is that so hard to figure out? The moment you got back, you took a high quality healing pill.

Judging by your complexion, it mustve been a top tier Vitality Pill.

These pills can quickly replenish energy and restore blood, bringing you back from weakness in no time. Well, am I wrong? Andrews tone was dripping with sarcasm as he stared at Natasha.

Natasha fell silent for a long moment before clapping her hands, a rosy blush spreading across her face there was not a hint of weakness left in her demeanor.

No wonder Dylan swears unwavering loyalty to you.

Even I have to admit defeat before you, darling.

She continued, Youre absolutely right.

The moment I got back, I took a Vitality Pill.

I needed to reach my peak condition as fast as possible so West End could secure the Northern Districts assets and territory before Dylan could make a move

1 Natasha confessed everything, her face calm and unbothered, her smile as confident as ever. Meanwhile, Andrew remained expressionless.

Dont you think your actions were a bit underhanded? Dont you think theyre ... despicable ?
Natashas eyes narrowed with anger as her tone turned icy.

Darling, I wont allow you to speak to me like that.

The underworld is all about deception and power plays.

Its a game of eat or be eaten.

She added, When Dylan and I joined forces, West End and South City were allies friends, brothers even

But now that Atlas is gone, the Northern Districts wealth and power are enough to turn any alliance into rivalry.

Dont blame me for being ruthless.

This is how people like us operate no mercy, no rules, only victory matters! Andrew let out a cold laugh. So, this whole winner takes all philosophy you think youre the winner now, do you? Natasha grinned slyly

Isnt it obvious? Dylans badly injured, and Im completely fine.

South City was already weakened before this

Theyre no match for West End now.

With Atlass forces under my control, my power is unstoppable.

Taking Dylan down is only a matter of time.

So tell me, darling, if Im not the winner here, then who is? What Natasha did not expect was for her triumphant declaration to be met with a scoff from Andrew

He casually sat back down on the couch, stretching out like he had all the time in the world.

III Do you remember what I told you about chess? Andrew asked, out of nowhere, his tone. calm yet teasing.

Natasha frowned slightly, unsure of what he was getting at, but her confidence did not waver.

Of course, I remember! You cautioned me to open my eyes, or I'd end up as another cautionary tale in the history of bad alliances.

I have to admit, I was enlightened

Im ready to seize the world and reign supreme.

Instead of forming bad alliances, Im going to dominate Dylans South City! Natasha beamed, proud of her newfound strategies.

The last time she faced Andrew, she had felt like nothing more than a pretty decoration, but now, she thought she had leveled up, becoming knowledgeable and sharp.

Andrew chuckled softly, shaking his head.

Not bad

It seems like you've put some effort into learning

But aren't you thinking a little too highly of yourself now? Natashas triumphant smile froze on her face. Darling, you're not scaring me with that! she replied, though there was a flicker of unease in her voice.

With frustration written across her face, Natasha gritted her teeth.

She had decided it was better not to show off her strategies in front of Andrew anymore, wanting to avoid further embarrassment.

Andrew ignored her visible discomfort and said calmly, I want you to understand that anything gained through deception and betrayal will eventually become too hot to handle and turn to dust.

Thats the lesson history has taught us time and time again.

Natasha scoffed.

Fine, I cant argue with you.

But you have to admit that two thirds or more of Jayrodales underworld is now under my control.

Either you and Dylan submit to my authority, or youll face death! Andrew shook his head and replied, Youre seeing things through rose colored glasses

While Dylan might not be able to handle you, I can take you down with a single move.

Thats another lesson I want to teach you today that in the face of absolute power, no amount of schemes or clever tricks will work

Natasha paused, then laughed mockingly.

Darling, this is the first time Ive realized how dramatic you can be.

Who are you trying to intimidate? Dont tell me youre planning to stand alone against my entire West End operation? Andrew said seriously, Natasha, my original intention was to let you and Dylan coexist peacefully and develop separately.

Dont force my hand.

This isnt a threat, but rather an opportunity Im giving you! Natashas eyes gradually turned cold as she sneered, Darling, while I admire you, I dont appreciate this kind of talk.

Do you really think I, who rose from being a widow to become one of Jayrodale's four powers, and now the dominant force, am someone to be trifled with? Whether you're someone to be trifled with doesn't matter to me, Andrew replied coolly.

Because regardless of who you are or how powerful you think you are, I can make you bow down in the end.

Is that so? Then make me bow down! Natasha laughed coldly, thoroughly provoked.

II She added, I've been patient with you for too long, showing you respect that you didn't deserve

You come to my West End territory and hurt my people don't you think I've been far too gentle with you, Andrew? A sharp, cold energy emanated from the Black Widow as she locked her focus on Andrew. Your combat style is too toxic and extreme, Andrew observed calmly.

While it might be powerful, your body will eventually pay the price! Natasha snapped, Enough talk! Today, I'll subdue you first and give you a harsh lesson.

If you submit afterward and agree to work for me, I'll spare you and might even treat you well

But Andrew, if you remain stubborn and unyielding, I'll have to get rough with you!

Chapter 392 Natasha genuinely admired Andrew, not romantically, but rather like appreciating a perfect work of art.

His intellect and methods had thoroughly impressed her.

However, his repeated rejections and confrontations in her territory made her feel he was being ungrateful

As the cold air whistled around them, Natasha's long red nails extended like claws, striking toward Andrew's vital points.

With her first move, the Black Widow demonstrated combat prowess far beyond that of an ordinary junior grandmaster.

Chapter 393 Andrew remained seated on the couch, his expression unchanged, as he raised his leg to intercept Natashas attack.

You wont even stand up? Fine ! If youre going to disrespect me like this, III have to teach you a lesson ! Natashas chest heaved with anger Her combat abilities surpassed Dylans, and she was just a hairs breadth away from matching Atlas

Yet, this arrogant young man would not even bother to get up from his seat to face her attack, which felt like a direct insult to her pride

She transformed her claw like strikes into palm strikes, alternating blows aimed at Andrews chest.

Without even looking, the latter countered with two palm strikes of his own, and their hands collided with two dull thuds

Natasha felt an overwhelming force transmitted through Andrews hands, causing her to stumble backward

Meanwhile, Andrew remained as steady as a mountain on the couch, even taking a moment to pick up his teacup for a casual sip

He commented, Im surprised that a woman like you knows how to appreciate fine tea.

This tea is decent, though the brewing technique could use some work it hasnt brought out the full smoothness of the tea.

Natasha was enraged.

Take this! she shouted, launching another attack with a straight punch toward Andrews face.

At the same time, she launched a hidden kick toward his chest.

Her strikes were undeniably powerful and lethal, and her techniques were so vicious and tricky that they would have caught any ordinary fighter off guard.

However, her one disadvantage was that she had no idea what kind of opponent she was facing.

Andrew effortlessly caught her punch with just two fingers, while his left knee struck precisely at her ankle with a loud thud

The ankle joint was one of the bodys most vulnerable points, and despite Natashas mastery, Andrews strike was no mere tap it drew an immediate scream of pain from her.

1 The Black Widow proved remarkably fierce.

Despite her injury, she lunged forward with a murderous look, attempting to grab Andrews head and lock his neck in a deadly hold

Andrews voice turned cold.

I was just playing around before, but it seems youre not learning your lesson.

Even though youre a woman, III have to get serious now.

Andrews eyes turned icy as he raised his elbow and delivered a devastating strike.

Natasha screamed as she was sent flying backward, and blood gushed out from her mouth.

With a single step on the floor, Andrew seemed to teleport through the air, catching up to Natashas airborne body.

He delivered a powerful body check to her waist, causing her to cough up more blood as terror filled her eyes

She could not believe someone could be so much stronger than her, finally realizing she had been completely outmatched

Andrew was not finished yet he wanted to leave her with a memorable lesson.

He grabbed her wrist and squeezed with tremendous force, causing Natasha to scream until her voice turned hoarse and tears streamed down her face.

Andrew, if you've got the guts, just kill me! The Black Widow glared at him, but the ferocity in her eyes had been replaced by the vulnerability of a wounded animal

I gave you a chance, but you wouldn't listen, Andrew replied flatly.

Chapter 394 Andrews fingers struck with precision, targeting pressure points that sent waves of intense pain through Natashas body.

Darling, no! Please, stop! I was wrong I'm sorry! I can't take it anymore.

It hurts so much! Ahhh! Stop it, please stop! Don't do this anymore! Natasha cried out, her voice switching between desperate wails and hysterical laughter as the unbearable pain pushed her to the brink

The excruciating pain caused Natasha to writhe on the floor.

She crashed into the couch and coffee table, making loud thudding noises that echoed through the room

In the hallway outside, several heads peeked around the corner, intently watching Natashas door.

Conan led the group, his weathered face twisted with concern as he whispered, Something doesn't sound right about this

One of the West End enforcers chuckled

Come on, can't you tell? Madam is just having a good time! Another man with a scruffy beard joined in with a knowing chuckle.

Exactly! Madam Vostokoff has been a widow for so many years.

Shes had her fair share of pretty boys, but Mr.

Lloyd ? Hes clearly the one shes most satisfied with.

Listen to those sounds shes practically breaking the ceiling! My god, who wouldve thought someone as lean as Andrew could be so... impressive, the scruffy man added with a laugh.

Conan frowned deeply and asked, Are you sure those arent screams of pain rather than ... something else? The scruffy man smirked.

Come on, Conan, youre getting old, You wouldnt understand the kind of fun we younger folks have these days.

I bet shes having the time of her life.

Thats why shes making those noises.

Thats right, another enforcer chimed in eagerly

Conan, youve got to let us take one of those clubs sometime.

These days, its all about flipping the script the more intense and painful, the more thrilling and satisfying

it is... you to Conan remained unconvinced and muttered, Even so, doesnt she sound like shes in serious pain? The scruffy man waved him off.

That just shows how much fun shes having! Checking his watch, another enforcer whistled.

Ten minutes already? Mr.

Lloyds got some serious endurance! Think about it Madam Vostokoff is incredibly strong.

Ordinary men couldnt even dream of satisfying her.

But Mr.

Lloyd ? Hes clearly got what it takes.

Gotta respect that ! Another thug glanced at his watch and his jaw dropped.

Holy crap, its been almost ten minutes ! Mr.

Lloyds stamina and control are insane! If it were me.

Id be done in twenty seconds at best and thats on my best day! The scruffy man shot him a look of disdain.

You? Please.

If you had what it takes, youd be the one in her room, not Mr.

Lloyd

Conans face darkened as unease crept over him.

Unlike the others, he could not shake the feeling that something was not right about Natashas screams. Without another word, Conan stormed toward Natashas room, his steps quick and determined.

Then, he kicked the door open with a loud bang.

The scruffy man and another thug scrambled after him, their faces lighting up with anticipation.

They were sure they were about to walk in on a steamy, scandalous scene.

However, the moment the door flew open, the sight inside left them frozen in place, their jaws hanging open shock

Meanwhile, Conan erupted in rage.

Andrew, how dare you do something like this to Madam Vostokoff!

Chapter 395 Natashas bedroom was in complete disarray.

She lay on the floor, drenched in sweat with disheveled hair and blood at the corner of her mouth, her face ghostly pale Her half open eyes glared at Andrew with intense hatred, while he sat casually on the couch, sipping his tea as if nothing had happened

Unlike Natashas battered state, not a single thread on Andrews clothing was out of place

Wait, so you two werent... you were actually fighting? the bearded enforcer asked in disbelief.

Another West End thug added in shock, How is it possible that Madam is injured? To them, Natasha had always been an invincible fighter, yet now she lay helpless on the floor, thoroughly defeated by Andrew. Conan shot an angry glare at the bearded enforcer and his companion.

Werent you just saying how much fun she was having ? Stop standing there like idiots and help her up ! The two men rushed forward to assist Natasha, but she impatiently pushed them away

Get out! All of you get out! I dont deserve to be West Ends leader if I dont teach Andrew a lesson today! As a proud woman, having her subordinates witness her defeat by Andrew filled her with unbearable rage and humiliation

Before she could fully push her men away, her legs gave out, and she nearly collapsed again with a pained groan

Madam Vostokoff, maybe you should call it quits, the bearded enforcer advised gently.

You can barely stand

Another thug scratched his head, completely baffled.

Yeah, what did Mr.

Lloyd do to you? You're bleeding, you can't even stay on your feet... I know you like things rough, but isn't this too much? Natasha slapped him hard across the face

You idiot! Can't you see that Andrew beat me up? I'm not playing around here! She glared at him, fury burning in her eyes.

At that moment, she seriously considered getting rid of the fools for good.

Conan turned to Andrew and said coldly, Mr.

Lloyd, you owe us an explanation, unless you want us to take matters into our own hands.

Andrew took another sip of his tea, his tone calm and dismissive.

I felt Natasha needed to be put in her place, so I taught her a little lesson.

That's my explanation

Does that satisfy you, Conan? Conan's face turned red with fury as he bellowed, Andrew, you've gone

too far! Do you even realize where you are? This is West End territory and you've injured Madam Vostokoff

Do you think you can just walk away from this? Andrew smirked, his gaze cold

I just disciplined Natasha.

What, Conan ? You dont seem too happy about it

Do you want to settle this with me yourself? Conan clenched his fists, his rage boiling over

Eine ! If its a fight you want, then its a fight youll get! Ive spent my life in the underground world, and Ive never backed down from anyone! Before Conan could take a step forward, Natashas voice cut through the air like a blade, Conan, stand down.

Youre no match for him.

Conan hesitated, his anger still simmering.

But he attacked you in your own room! How can we let this go?

Chapter 396 Has West End lost all its pride ? Conan demanded. Natasha waved her hand dismissively and gritted her teeth.

Everyone out I cant blame anyone when Im simply outmatched.

I underestimated him, and even if you all attacked together, youd just be throwing your lives away. Conan and the other two men reluctantly withdrew, but this time, he remained stationed right outside the door.

He wanted to be ready to rush it if Natasha needed help, though he knew they stood no chance against someone who could defeat her.

I admit now that you surpass me in both combat skills and intelligence, Natasha said blankly, You even have mysterious connections with Marvin and Mark.

I cant beat you, Andrew, so do what you will with me.

For the first time, Natasha felt utterly defeated.

She had never underestimated Andrew, but she had clearly misjudged him completely.

She had admired him and wanted him to work for West End, believing her status, charm, and fighting prowess would be enough to tame this wild wolf.

Unexpectedly, he had taught her at harsh lesson the man she thought she could conquer was not a young pup at all, but a predator who could devour her without effort.

Given up fighting? Andrew asked with a smile.

Natasha felt a surge of humiliation as she recalled her defeat.

I may have lost to you, Andrew, but dont think you can humiliate me ! Andrew shook his head.

I never intended to humiliate you.

I just wanted you to understand that while you can manipulate Dylan and other men who fall at your feet,

you cant manipulate me ! With your combat skills and extraordinary abilities, you cant be an ordinary person, Natasha commented suspiciously.

Ive never heard of you in Jayrodale before, which means you must come from somewhere else, right? Andrew smiled.

Finally showing some intelligence.

But dont try to dig into my business- you wouldnt understand it right now anyway.

Just return Dylans territory to him, and III overlook your previous behavior.

As Andrew stood to leave, Natasha quickly moved to block his path.

Her dress was in tatters from the fight, clinging to her ivory skin in ways that would catch any mans eye.

You hurt me and humiliated me in front of my own people, Natasha said with fierce determination.

If you think you can just walk away like this, youre underestimating my pride! Andrew raised an eyebrow

beat you because you deserved it.

Dont tell me you want another round?

Chapter 397 Natasha trembled but stood her ground

Andrew, I know Im no match for you, but Im not someone to be trifled with either.

You at least owe me some compensation.

What do you want? Andrew asked with an amused smile.

Im not greedy just give me some of that medicine, Natasha said, her eyes lighting up as she held out her hand

Andrew chuckled and tossed her a small vial

You say youre not greedy, yet you ask for something money cant buy.

Natashas face lit up with delight as she examined the vials contents

Well, at least you have some conscience, she said, carefully tucking it away.

Her eyes roamed over Andrews form as her cheeks flushed.

I have one last request.

If you agree, then I'll be yours forever.

Lets hear it, Andrew said with a laugh, but Im warning you nothing excessive! Natasha stepped closer

until she was nearly pressed against him and whispered, Andrew, I want to be your woman.

Ive never submitted to many men, but youre different.

Take me, and both I and the entire West End will be yours.

Her allure was unique different from Laurens fiery passion, Francescas innocent charm, or Christinas cool demeanor

She possessed an intense sensuality that could bewitch any man.

Andrew stepped back, shaking his head.

I can give you the medicine, but matters of the heart cant be forced.

Darling, Im offering myself willingly, Natasha purred.

Are you really going to turn down whats being freely given ? Its not about that.

I have my principles, Andrew replied wearily.

Natasha bit her lip and said, Fine, I know your personality force wont work.

So, I have a different request, and if you agree, Ill follow you from now on.

Just tell me what it is

Andrew sighed in relief, thinking anything would be better than her previous proposition. Natasha smiled.

Its simple.

You dont have to accept me now, but someday in the future, you must give me a chance to become your

woman

As Andrew was about to refuse, Natashas eyes welled up with tears.

Darling, you must think Im shameless and desperate, dont you? Why are you crying? Andrew asked helplessly.

Do you think I enjoyed having to charm disgusting men like Ernest? Natasha said softly.

She continued, I may be the leader of West End with exceptional fighting skills, but at my core, Im still just a woman a widow without any man to rely on

Today, you proved yourself honorable by not taking advantage of me.

Chapter 398 Natasha continued softly, But what if it wasnt you today, but someone else? Someone who defeated me so easily and pinned me down what do you think would have happened to me then? Without waiting for Andrews response, she gave a bitter laugh.

Ive walked the edge of destruction countless times to reach this position.

Though Ive always refused to trade my body for power, believing that true strength comes from within, a widow like me often doesnt have many choices

If you believe in that, then why are you so determined to give yourself to me? Andrew asked.

Natasha wiped away her tears and gave him a tender look.

You really are clueless! When others desire my body, I want them gone, but with you, I'm willing

because there's only one reason I genuinely care for you! Her eyes grew softer and more melancholic as she continued.

And now, seeing your true strength, I want to give myself to someone I truly submit to

It would make me happy to finally let down my guard with a man who has earned both my respect and can protect me.

Andrew felt his face grow unusually warm.

Natasha's words had touched something in him, helping him understand her struggles and why she was so determined to win his affection.

Don't worry, I'll protect you from now on; no one will dare bully you, Andrew said with a smile, his respect for her growing

Before, Natasha had always struck him as cunning and ruthless, the kind of woman you could never fully trust

But now, he had glimpsed a softer side of her.

It turned out she was not just a cold, calculating leader; she was also someone with a deeply passionate and genuine nature.

Natasha scoffed

I've heard too many empty promises from men over the years to believe them anymore.

Darling, either accept me completely, or know that while you may control me on the surface, you won't have my true loyalty

You need to understand that relationships aren't games, Andrew said seriously.

Are you certain this is what you want? Natasha's face flushed as she lowered her head shyly.

I'm certain I want you to take me right now.

I can tell what kind of man you are, and I know I'll never regret being with you! Andrew took a deep breath, realizing he had run out of ways to dissuade this widow.

However, could he really accept her proposal? Don't worry, Natasha whispered, biting her lip.

I won't cause you trouble.

A man like you.

will surely meet countless women more beautiful, gentle, and accomplished than me.

I'm not asking for exclusivity I just want to be one of your women! Andrew found himself at a genuine loss

wondering if he should accept her.

It was truly a difficult decision.

Chapter 399 Just as Andrew was wrestling with his decision, Francesca called. Andrew, we have a critical patient at the hospital who needs your personal attention. Can you come now? I'll be right there, Andrew responded, then turned to Natasha. You heard that.

I need to get to Jayrodale General Hospital right away.

Does it have to be so urgent? Natasha asked, clearly frustrated.

Of course its urgent.

Its a medical emergency, Andrew said hastily, as Natasha began to undress.

She purred

Ten minutes is all I need.

We can make it quick! You think I only last ten minutes? Andrews face darkened.

Natasha gave him a flirtatious wink and giggled.

Youre right

You need at least thirty minutes

Wrong one hour minimum, Andrew corrected before making his escape.

Before she could respond, he darted out the door, unwilling to let the sultry widow trap him any further. Natasha had been alone far too long, and her unrestrained hunger was impossible to ignore.

As Andrew fled, Natasha called after him with a sly grin, Darling, Im taking this as a yes! You owe me that hour later ! Andrew nearly stumbled as he left.

Even with his enhanced physical capabilities, the thought of keeping up with a senior grandmaster like Natasha for an hour was daunting

Natasha chuckled softly as she watched him retreat.

Then, her tone turned serious.

Dont forget, Andrew Ernests symptoms are due to show tomorrow.

You promised to meet me then.

Andrew paused briefly, nodding before rushing off.

Tomorrow would indeed mark the third- day the day Ernests condition would finally escalate

When Andrew arrived at Jayrodale General Hospital, Francesca greeted him with a curious look
Where were you just now? You look like you barely escaped something terrifying.

Andrew let out a sigh of relief, still shaken.

I just ran from a tigers den, Fran.

It scared the life out of me.

Francesca laughed.

As long as it wasnt a tigress! Andrew blinked, startled.

How does she always know? he wondered, feeling a pang of guilt.

He thought Francescas intuition was almost supernatural.

Clearing his throat, he changed the subject.

Wheres the patient? Lead the way

As Francesca guided him through the hallway, she said, Andrew, Lauren and I have been talking,
and

weve decided its time for you to leave Jayrodale General Hospital.

Andrew stopped in his tracks, shocked.

What? Are you two kicking me out? Francesca blushed, swatting at him playfully.

We'd never do that.

Your clinic is fully renovated and ready to open.

We thought it'd be better for you to run your own practice.

With your skills, it won't take long for it to become the most sought after clinic in the entire city!
Her dimples deepened as she beamed, clearly thrilled by the thought.

Seeing her excitement warmed Andrew's heart.

He chuckled

Fran, I'll leave it to you then.

When the clinic opens, I'll be there to take charge

Francesca nodded, her bright eyes full of enthusiasm.

Lauren and I both think it's a waste of your talent to stay here.

The clinic will be yours completely; you'll have full control.

I know it won't be long before your name becomes a household name, even surpassing my grandfathers

reputation! Andrew felt a wave of gratitude as he realized how much effort Francesca and Lauren had poured into setting up his new clinic.

They had thought of everything, even envisioning his success before he had.

He smiled warmly.

All right, Fran.

I'll trust your judgment and make the clinic my new base.

Lets make it happen.

Chapter 400 As they entered the treatment room, they found a young girl suffering from persistent high fever and intermittent chills.

Bernard was treating her with several nurses, but his frustrated expression suggested he was struggling with the case.

Dr.

Aicker, what's the meaning of this? Bernard asked unhappily when he saw Andrew.

This patient is under my care.

When it comes to saving lives, it doesn't matter who's in charge what matters is helping the patients, Francesca replied coolly.

Dr.

Aicker, are you saying I'm incompetent because I haven't cured this child yet? Bernard snapped angrily.

Before the situation could escalate further, a well-dressed man with graying hair the girl's father interrupted anxiously.

Dr.

Aicker, can you treat Lucy or not? If not, I'll transfer her immediately.

We can't waste any more time

Before Francesca could respond, Bernard quickly put on a pleasant smile.

Don't worry, Mr.

Chapman.

Lucy likely has a viral infection

I'll identify the virus and prescribe appropriate medication right away! That doesn't make sense, Marcus Chapman said worriedly.

Lucy has been staying in our villa, and our housekeeper is perfectly fine.

How could she get infected? With a patronizing smile, Bernard explained, Mr.

Chapman, children have weaker immune systems.

This is quite normal.

Please rest while I cure her immediately! Andrew observed the interaction, noting that Marcus was likely

an important business executive, given Bernard's deferential attitude.

However, he could not stay silent about the misdiagnosis.

This isn't a viral infection, Andrew stated firmly.

Blindly prescribing medication without identifying the real cause will only worsen things.

Dr.

Lloyd, are you trying to tell me how to do my job? Bernard sneered.

Marcus turned to Francesca with interest.

Dr.

Aicker, is this gentleman also a chief physician here? Yes, Mr.

Chapman.

Dr.

Lloyd is our deputy chief Francesca replied with a smile.

Dr.

Lloyd, if it's not a viral infection, what is it? Marcus asked eagerly.

Your villa is in the countryside, isn't it? Andrew asked instead.

Surrounded by vegetation or farmland, with lots of mosquitoes? Marcus eyes widened in surprise.
That's exactly right.

Our villa is on the rural outskirts of Jayrodale, surrounded by farmland

But what does that have to do with Lucys condition? Everything, Andrew explained.

Lucy has malaria from a mosquito bite

If your villa were in the city, there wouldnt be as many mosquitoes, which is why I made that connection.

Marcus looked at Andrew with newfound respect III admit I initially underestimated you because of your youth, but now I understand why youre a deputy chief.

Youre truly brilliant for your age!