

## **Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)**

### **#Chapter 41 - Read Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren) Chapter 41**

Chapter 41 Michaels head buzzed as he felt his blood pressure spike.

He could not believe Andrew, whom he deemed a loser, was asking for such an outrageous amount. While Rhodes Corporation was rich, 15 million dollars was not pocket change.

Fine, Ill give you the 15 million, Michael agreed unexpectedly.

But remember if I find out that you breathed a word of this to Lauren, youll be dead

After that, Michael rushed back to his office and wrote a massive check, his heart bleeding at all those zeros.

Andrew accepted the check happily.

Then, as if afraid that Michael would not believe him, Andrew even made an oath, saying, Mr.

Rhodes, youre so generous

I swear on my life I wont tell Ms.

Rhodes

May all the poisons in the world strike me if I break this yow! As Andrew left grinning with the check, Michael sneered

Idiot, youre playing a game you cant win.

He immediately pulled out his phone and dialed a number.

Mr.

Garner, its Michael.

I need your men to take care of someone

I know your prices are steep, but moneys no object.

Im offering 3 million dollars, flat rate

Hanging up, he smirked and muttered, You thought you could keep my 15 million that easily? I just needed to keep you quiet.

Once Mr.

Garners men finish the job, that money will be right back in my pocket.

Meanwhile, Andrew had no intention of keeping his end of the deal.

He immediately went to Lauren and said, Ms.

Rhodes, this check belongs to you.

Lauren was dumbfounded.

A check from Rhodes Corporation ? Dr.

Lloyd, where did you get this? Andrew chuckled and explained everything that had happened with Michael, including his suspicions about the poisoning plot

That bastard! Im going to kill him! Lauren fumed, shocked that her own family could be behind such a scheme

Just as she wanted to call for security to drag Michael in, Andrew stopped her.

Andrew stopped her.

Ms.

Rhodes, confronting him now would be useless without concrete.

evidence.

If I were you, Id wait and watch until we have proof to send him to prison.

Lauren calmed down and agreed.

Youre right, Dr.

Lloyd.

Im sorry for losing my composure.

Michael has always wanted control of Rhodes Corporation and caused me trouble before.

I shouldve known it was him.

She thought it over and asked anxiously, Dr.

Lloyd, since youve confronted Michael, are you going to be safe? Chapter 41 Andrew shrugged.

Im fine

I even made a vow to stay silent, or all the poisons in the world strike me.

Lauren gasped.

What? Dr.

Lloyd, how could you do that? I swear, if anything happens to you.

because of that bastard, Ill make sure he suffers hundredfold! Francesca frowned at Laurens fierce protectiveness.

She turned to Andrew and scolded, As a medical professional, you should know better than to make such reckless vows.

Andrew replied dismissively, Honestly, Im not worried.

Theres no poison I cant cure.

Both women suddenly realized Andrew had cleverly tricked Michael.

Nonetheless, that did not stop Francesca from mocking him.

She scoffed and said, Yeah, right.

Keep bragging Andrew did not bother explaining further

He could make such oaths all day long because his extraordinary medical skills truly made him immune to any poison.

Chapter 42 In the Rhodes Corporation conference room, Lauren called an emergency executive meeting After all the executives had entered, Andrew locked the door, drawing immediate disapproval from those present.

Ms.

Rhodes, whats the meaning of this ? C First, an unannounced emergency meeting, and now were locked in? What are you planning? Hey, you! Unlock that door now, thats an order! Andrew returned to Laurens side, ignoring their protests.

When one furious executive tried to speak up, a warning look from Michael silenced him immediately.

At the head of the table, Lauren looked over the gathered executives, her tone cold and direct.

She began, Ive called this meeting because of an urgent matter.

Someone has been trying to poison me for some time, and Ive just discovered who it is.

The executives faces changed dramatically with this revelation.

Who could stoop so low? Ms.

Rhodes is our CEO who would do something so despicable? Whoever it is should get on their knees and beg for mercy !! If I, Paul Clarke, find out who did this, theyll regret it! One by one, the senior

executives expressed their outrage.

Michael slammed his hand on the table, and he declared icily, Anyone who threatens a member of the Rhodes family will live to regret it.

If the culprit comes forward now, Ill spare them

Andrew had to suppress a smile at Michaels performance the guilty party playing detective.

After much shouting and declarations of loyalty that left them hoarse, no one stepped forward.

Each executive acted as if they were innocent.

Lauren, if you know who it is, just point them out, Michael suggested

I gave them a chance, but they didnt take it.

We shouldnt be so merciful to that person! Lauren smirked.

You already know who it is, dont you? How would I know? Michael feigned surprise.

If I did, theyd be in pieces by now.

Lauren inwardly scoffed at his act but maintained her composure.

I'll give the guilty party one last chance to confess

Given your years of service to Rhodes Corporation, I might show leniency! The executives exchanged uneasy glances, but no one spoke up

# Chapter 42 Paul Clarke's face darkened.

Which gutless coward did this? Ms.

Rhodes has taken care of all of us executives.

If I catch who betrayed her, they're going straight to prison! Michael suddenly smiled

Lauren, are you sure you actually know who did it? Lauren gave him a cold look.

Michael, are you suggesting I'm bluffing? Of course not, Michael replied with faked sincerity.

If you know who it is, just name them.

Leave everything else to me.

I'll handle it.

His words were full of feigned concern, perfectly playing the role of the protective family member.

Chapter 43 Chapter 43 +26 BONUS Andrew noticed Michael's obvious relief, and their eyes met silently across the room

Andrew flashed Michael with a knowing smile, while Michael's gaze was mocking

To him, even if Andrew had figured out some of his secrets, he was convinced Andrew did not know the identity of the actual poisoner.

As long as that person remained unknown, Michael believed he was safe

Lauren might suspect him, but suspicion without evidence was meaningless.

I imagine everyone must be thirsty, Lauren suddenly announced.

There's water in front of each of you to quench your thirst.

Michael frowned and said, Lauren, catching the culprit is more important.

Being thirsty isn't a priority right now.

Paul chimed in, Mr.

Rhodes is right.

Even if we die of thirst, we won't leave until we find the person who tried to harm you, Ms. Rhodes

Lauren smiled gracefully and declared, I'll be honest with everyone one of these glasses has been poisoned by me.

Everyone must drink their water now.

Those with clear consciences will be fine, but as for the culprit... well, good luck.

All the executives were immediately alarmed.

Ms.

Rhodes, which glass did you poison? This isn't right, Ms.

Rhodes

What if you hurt the wrong person? All these glasses look identical.

How can we tell which one is poisoned? This seems reckless! They were all sweating, staring at the glasses of water with fear.

I've already said that only one glass is poisoned

Lauren stated calmly.

The water in front of innocent people is perfectly safe.

Then, she picked up her glass and drank it all.

However, Michael's face showed uncertainty as he shot Andrew a fierce glare, convinced that such a devious plan must have come from this pretty boy he despised.

Andrew returned his glare with a bright smile and warned the executives, Everyone should be careful before drinking

The poison used is arsenic it's lethal and acts fast.

Once it takes effect, not even the fastest ambulance in the city can save you! This terrified the executives even more, with several of them trembling visibly Michael finally lost his composure and shouted angrily, Lauren, and you, pretty boy aren't you afraid of karma for being so vicious? Lauren fixed a cold stare on Michael and retorted If you're not the culprit, then your water isn't poisoned. Why are you so nervous? Unless you have something to hide? 12 Chapter 43 Michael faltered, his eyes darting around nervously.

At that moment glass and drank it all

Eunice picked up her The other executives followed suit, one by one, showing their loyalty to Lauren. After all, only the culprits glass was poisoned, so this was their chance to prove their innocence.

Gulp after gulp, the glasses were emptied quickly Only Michael and Paul remained.

Paul's face turned pale as he looked at Lauren and said, Ms.

Rhodes, arsenic isn't something to joke about.

Are you sure... Lauren cut him off with a wave of her hand.

Mr.

Clarke, drink the water first.

If you're not the culprit, I guarantee you'll be safe and sound.

Chapter 44 Paul's trembling hand reached for the glass but quickly withdrew as if burned by its touch. Andrew watched him with an intriguing smile, remembering how this same executive had loudly proclaimed his loyalty earlier.

Yet, here he was, stalling and reluctant to take action.

One of the executives urged, Mr.

Clarke, what are you waiting for? We all drank our glasses.

You're the only one left.

Another executive frowned and chimed in, We're all fine, so why are you being such a coward? Just down it in one go

What's the worst that could happen? Paul's trembling only intensified at these words.

For such a big, tough looking man, he looked like he was about to burst into tears.

Mr.

Rhodes, it seems you haven't drunk yours either, Andrew suddenly remarked with a smile.

Michael scoffed and said, I'm the Vice CEO of Rhodes Corporation and a member of the Rhodes family.

I shouldn't have to participate in these ridiculous games

If you're too scared to drink, then you must be the culprit! Andrew declared.

Michael exploded in rage.

You're spouting nonsense! Then why won't you drink it? I'm not thirsty.

Andrew chuckled and said, That won't be a problem

We'll just wait a few more hours until you're thirsty! Lauren and Francesca could not help but laugh. They had never seen Andrew, who was usually refined and composed, show such a wicked side. Michael crossed his arms and sneered.

I'm the Vice CEO of Rhodes Corporation, the heir to the Rhodes family.

I'll drink when I want to drink, and no one can force me otherwise.

So, you're refusing to cooperate with my investigation? Lauren asked coldly.

Michael snapped, I'm happy to cooperate, but don't you think his methods are disrespecting the

executives? If you're unhappy, you can complain to the board or the family, Lauren replied.

Michael grunted.

Oh, I'll definitely be filing complaints.

But can we end this ridiculous charade now? Lauren's expression remained unchanged as she stated, It ends when you and Mr.

Clarke drink your water.

No matter what you say, I won't drink it

I'd like to see anyone try to force me, Michael +20 BONUS Chapter 44 retorted defiantly.



Andrew grinned.

Mr.

Rhodes, do you really think that we cant identify the culprit just because two glasses are left untouched? That was exactly what Michael was thinking

With a smug smile, he shot back, saying, Listen, worthless pretty boy, this is the Rhodes Corporation. You have no authority to give orders you here.

Andrew shrugged, unbothered.

Mr.

Rhodes, given your prestigious position, no one would dare force you.

So, Mr.

Clarke, why dont you drink yours? Pauls heart sank as he pleaded, Ms.

Rhodes, I... Ive given you more than enough time.

Drink it and prove yourself to me, coldly.

Lauren uttered The other executives chimed in impatiently, Just drink it! Whats the worst that could happen? We all know your loyalty to the company

Youll be fine! Everyone else could be suspicious, but youre the last person anyone would suspect.

Weve all seen your dedication / Paul forced a smile, though he looked closer to tears, silently cursing them all.

After all, they could not possibly know him better than he knew himself.

Under Laurens increasingly cold stare, he finally lifted the glass with shaking hands, while Michael tensed up, his palms sweating.

2/2 Chapter 45 Chapter 45

Chapter 45 Chapter 45 Michaels hatred for Andrew reached its peak, furious that this pretty boy had completely destroyed his carefully laid plans.

Suddenly, there was a loud crash as Pauls glass shattered on the floor.

Then, he fell to his knees, begging Lauren for mercy through desperate cries.

Ms.

Rhodes, Im sorry! Please give me another chance! I truly regret what I did! The other executives were caught off guard, but their surprise quickly turned into anger.

Youre the culprit? You traitor ! We defended you, and this is how you repay our trust? You must have lost your mind to try poisoning Ms.

Rhodes! Go to hell! Paul continued kneeling on the floor, sobbing, Ms.

Rhodes, I didnt want to do it ... Someone

forced me ! www The room fell silent again as Andrew asked, Who forced you? Paul glanced nervously

at Michael, hesitating to speak while Michaels already dark expression turned even more sinister.

Tell me who forced you, and Ill protect you, Lauren commanded icily.

Andrew added, If you confess everything and reveal your mastermind, Ms.

Rhodes might show mercy.

Really? Pauls fearful eyes lit up with hope as he began to raise his hand to point at Michael.

You ungrateful bastard! Rhodes Corporation gave you everything, and this is how you repay us ? Ill kill you! Michael exploded into action before Paul could speak.

In a rage, Michael grabbed Pauls hair and violently slammed his head against the table.

Pauls scream filled the room as blood began flowing from his wound.

Just as Michael prepared to strike again, Andrew kicked him away.

However, Paul suddenly began convulsing violently, foaming at the mouth before collapsing lifelessly. Francesca rushed over to check on him before announcing grimly, He had taken poison beforehand. The impact triggered the toxin, and he died instantly.

Michael stood up, brushing himself off as he cursed, Well, looks like the coward chose suicide. Good riddance

We found our culprit ! Why did you silence him? Andrew asked coldly Michaels eyes flickered as he smirked

I dont know what youre talking about.

Chapter 45 The other executives shifted uncomfortably, as even a blind man could tell Michael was acting suspiciously

Yet, Michael maintained his composure and insisted, He tried to poison Lauren.

He deserved to die.

I assume he knew his fate and chose to end things himself.

Lauren scoffed

You expect me to believe he committed suicide? I dont care what you believe.

The man is dead and cant testify, and theres nothing you can do about it! Michael replied, unfazed by Laurens questioning

With that, he kicked aside a chair and stormed toward the exit.

Lauren watched as he left and gritted her teeth in frustration. With no evidence, she could not take action against him. Oh, Mr.

Rhodes, Andrew called out suddenly, I forgot to mention that none of the water was actually poisoned ! Michaels face contorted in fury at the doorway, his chest burning with rage.

He realized he had fallen right into Andrews trap, but there was nothing he could do except swallow his anger and leave.

Chapter 46 Chapter 46 In the conference room, Lauren asked everyone else to leave, leaving only Andrew and Francesca behind.

Lauren, did you know from the start that Paul was the culprit ? Francesca asked eagerly as soon as the room emptied.

Lauren rolled her eyes and said, If I had known it was him, I wouldve just had him arrested instead of setting up these theatrics.

Francesca exclaimed in surprise, So you didnt know who it was? But you acted like you did! Lauren smiled and explained, I didnt know, which was why Dr.

Lloyd suggested this trick to force their hand.

All I had to do was claim one glass was poisoned, and Paul cracked under the pressure.

Francesca stared at Andrew, shocked

I didnt expect you to be so cunning! She was impressed by his ability to devise such a trick, which left the culprit with no choice but to surrender

Although we found out it was Paul, we still fell one step short, Andrew remarked.

Laurens beautiful face hardened as she agreed, Indeed.

That bastard Michael had already poisoned Paul beforehand.

Even though I know hes behind this, I cant prove it! I dont understand how Paul willingly took poison. Thats literally suicide ! Francesca wondered aloud.

Andrew shook his head and explained, Paul didnt take it willingly.

If he had been, he wouldnt have tried to expose Michael before he died.

Michael must have secretly poisoned him earlier as insurance.

Francesca shuddered and said, I never imagined Michael could be so ruthless.

Lauren smiled, looking at the bright side.

Either way, we forced him to show his true colors.

Dr.

Lloyd, youre truly my lucky star.

You saved me time and time again! Ms.

Rhodes, you should be very careful of your cousin.

If Im not mistaken, he likely has powerful backing, Andrew warned her ! Lauren was startled and asked, Dr.

Lloyd, what have you noticed? The poison that killed Paul is called Deaths Draught, and its rare and lethal.

A mere playboy like Michael wouldnt have access to something like that, so someone must be helping him, Andrew explained.

Francesca chimed in, Hes right.

Grandpa once mentioned that poison is a weapon of the underworld, not something an average person would come by.

Chapter 46 Laurens face turned cold as she uttered, If he wants to play dirty, then I wont show any mercy either

Meanwhile, in Micheals office.

Michael was violently smashing everything in sight, his face contorted with rage.

He was consumed by anger, roaring, That bastard ruined everything with one move! I lost it all! Pauls death did not bother him.

He had planned to sacrifice that pawn anyway when Lauren started suspecting the executives.

What infuriated him was how close he had come to being exposed.

If he had not taken the risk of attacking Paul, he would probably be facing prison time right now.

Lauren might be smart, but with my backers strategy, Im not worried about her, Michael muttered after his outburst.

But now her pretty boy advisor is becoming a real problem! Chapter 47

Chapter 47 Finally, Michael understood Andrews two part strategy the trap and the pressure play Poor Paul had cracked under pressure and confessed, which Michael could understand.

After all, anyone would be terrified to drink potentially poisoned water, which was also why Michael refused to drink it.

However, he had underestimated Andrew, as none of the water was poisoned, and Lauren did not know who the culprit was.

They had simply played a trick to force Paul into confessing.

Just as his anger had begun to subside, Michaels face turned ashen as he clenched his fists again. The humiliation was overwhelming.

He could not believe a mere gold digger had played him, a Rhodes family heir, like a fool.

Michael pulled out his phone and made a call.

Bane, didnt you say your poison was incurable except by you? Some small time doctor just cured Lauren you better explain this! A sinister voice replied, Hows this possible ?  
Mr.

Rhodes, you must be mistaken.

In Jayrodale, not even Cedric could counter my poisons.

Cedric was Francescas grandfather.

Michael scoffed.

I saw it myself.

Do you think Im making this up? The plan to poison Lauren is clearly a bust.

You need to come up with something else.

After impatiently ending that call, Michael dialed another number.

Mr.

Garner, I dont care what it costs make that guy disappear

I wont rest easy until that bastard is gone! Even though Paul was dead and could not expose him, Andrew still held evidence against him.

Not only had he extorted 15 million, but he had also nearly ruined everything.

There was no way Michael would let him live.

After making his arrangements, Michael still felt agitated, so he made one final call.

Have Oakridge Club prepare two foreign models for me tonight.

Im tired of local girls! Meanwhile, Andrew was leaving Rhodes Corporation when he noticed two missed calls on his phone.

Seeing the familiar number, he frowned but called back.

Christinas voice came through coldly.

She said, Andrew, Grandpa is hosting a family dinner tonight.

I wouldnt have invited you, but he specifically requested your presence.

After some thought, Andrew replied, Alright, Ill come and visit Mr. Stevens Senior.

One more thing, Christina added coldly, Harvey will be there, so watch what you say.

His presence means nothing to me, Andrew replied dismissively before hanging up.

Christinas grandfather, Douglas Stevens, was in his seventies

He had always been kind to Andrew as his potential grandson in law.

Since Douglas had graciously invited him, Andrew felt obliged to attend.

1/2 Chapter 47 Soon, Andrew arrived at the Stevens family residence carrying two bottles of aged wine

The house was bustling with activity as other family members had also gathered.

While Andrews arrival went largely unnoticed, Harveys entrance caused quite a stir among the Stevens family members, with everyone rushing to greet him.

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Mr.

Weller is here ! Everyone, lets give him a warm welcome!

Chapter 48 Irene beamed at Harvey with obvious approval and commented, Harvey, please take the seat of honor.

Tonights family dinner is all about you Harvey maintained perfect etiquette, treating every Stevens family member with utmost politeness and respect.

His behavior had everyone glowing with pride, convinced they had found the perfect addition to their family.

Seeing Harvey so popular and capable must be hard for you to watch, Christina remarked, suddenly appearing beside Andrew.

Andrew smiled and said, Congratulations on finding such an always dreamed of marrying into high society, and now youve achieved it.

exceptional match

Youve Christinas expression grew complex as she sighed.

Andrew, Ive always known youre not a bad person.

Im not saying this to rub in your face.

I just want you to learn from Harveys admirable qualities.

Even if you cant match his success, you could at least live with dignity.

Andrew chuckled

Are you saying Ill never be as successful as him? Christina shook her head in disappointment.

I see youre still stubborn and hopeless.

I was trying to help you, but youre just being defensive.

Forget it.

Grandpa knows were over, and Im sure Harvey will soon réplace you in his eyes The Stevens family dinner was an elaborate affair.

Douglas sat at the head of the table, smiling contentedly.

Andrew sat beside him, much to the familys displeasure.

Why should this loser sit next to Grandpa ? That spot should be for Harvey! Who does this guy think he is

? Leroy and Irene complained loudly, not hiding their disdain.

Harvey sat beside Christina and graciously remarked, Mrs.

Stevens, Leroy, its fine.

Im happy to sit anywhere as long as Mr.

Stevens Senior is comfortable

Now thats class exactly what youdexpect from an old moriey family, Irene praise enthusiastically. Leroy chimed in, Harvey, were family now

Please, help yourself and enjoy the meal! The other Stevens family members fawned over Harvey, treating him as if he were a celebrity



Douglas sighed and said apologetically to Andrew, Andrew, I never expected things between you and Christie to end this way.

Not wanting Douglas to worry, Andrew replied, Mr.

Stevens Senior, some things aren't meant to be.

Here, I brought some excellent wine that's good for your health.

Please enjoy it.

Douglas smiled warmly.

How thoughtful of you! I've been craving your wine for a while now.

Chapter 48 As Andrew began pouring, Leroy interrupted loudly, What do you think you're doing, Andrew? That cheap trash isn't fit to drink! Andrew frowned.

If you don't understand fine wine, don't talk like you do.

This is perfectly suitable for Mr.

Stevens Senior! Leroy laughed mockingly.

He's claiming I don't know wine! Look at that unlabeled bottle- it's probably watered down garbage from some street vendor! The other Stevens family members around the table sneered, casting dismissive looks at Andrew's bottle.

Chapter 49 Indeed, Andrew's wine looked unimpressive in its unlabeled bottle, lacking the luxurious packaging that fine wines typically boasted.

Naturally, no one could take such plain presentation seriously.

Irene snapped, Andrew, you're such a fool.

We're already generous by letting you join us for dinner, but Dad's too distinguished to drink your cheap wine.

Take that embarrassment away from our table! Andrew remained composed, saying, I'll say it again: this is an exceptional wine.

I've brought it to Mr.

Stevens Senior many times, and it's been beneficial for his health.

Leroy clicked his tongue and mocked, Exceptional wine? You're really full of it, Andrew.

Harvey, you should show him what real premium wine looks like.

Harvey smiled, speaking modestly.

Its fine.

Mr.

Stevens Senior seems to enjoy Andrews wine.

Irene chuckled

Harvey, youre too humble.

Some people dont even come close to your class.

Another family member chimed in, Harveys wine is absolutely top shelf.

I saw the bottles earlier theyre truly exquisite

Leroy had already brought several bottles to the table and presented them to Douglas.

Grandpa, let me show you the fine wines Harvey brought.

Any one of these outclasses that dirt water! Irene pretended to know all the wines on the table exclaiming, Wow! Theyre all such prestigious brands! Harvey, this must be the legendary 82 Lafite, right? Christina felt embarrassed and said, Mom, please stop.

You clearly dont know wines.

The 82 Lafite is practically impossible to find these days.

Stop believing everything you read online.

Irene huffed.

Who says its impossible? In all those novels, the rich kids drink 82 Lafite like.

its standard ! Douglas spoke up, Harveys wines are fine, but at my age, I prefer Andys wine to these famous labels.

Irene protested, Dad, how can you say that? Harvey thoughtfully brought these for you.

Is some outsider more important than your future grandson in law? Harvey graciously intervened, Its perfectly fine, Mrs.

Stevens.

Actually, my family owns several wineries.

Ill have some local wines sent over tomorrow that might suit Mr.

Stevens Seniors taste.

Irene beamed with pride and said, Dad, did you hear that? Harveys family owns multiple wineries ! If you want local wines, hell provide plenty.

The Stevens family members nodded approvingly, impressed by Harveys graciousness and Chapter 49 generosity.

In contrast, they found Andrews offering cheap and completely beneath their standards.

Chapter 50 Andrew calmly stated, This isnt just some local wine, nor something any winery could produce.

His statement only angered Irene, and she barked, Andrew, would it kill you to stop bragging ? If its not local wine, what is it soine mythical elixir ? Actually, yes, thats exactly what it is, Andrew replied, causing the entire Stevens family to freeze before crupting in laughter.

They thought he was making a complete fool of himself with such an outrageous claim.

Even Harvey could not help but smirk, feeling insulted that such a nobody would dare compare himself to someone of his status.

Douglas gently patted Andrew on the shoulder and tried to comfort him.

Andy, even if our wine isnt the best, theres no need to compete

Remember : if youre truly exceptional, others will naturally recognize it.

Andrew nodded.

Wise words, Mr.

Stevens Senior Ill keep them in mind

Christina shook her head, thinking how pathetic it was that Andrew could not even understand her

grandfathers subtle hint to stop embarrassing himself.

Well, well, it looks like the party started without me ! a new voice called out.

It was Gerald Stevens, Douglass brother.

He was an antique dealer in Chetvine, the capital city.

Douglas smiled and said, Gerald, perfect timing! Join us for a drink.

We have plenty of fine wines tonight! Irene chimed in, Uncle Gerald loves! appreciate what Harvey brought

wine, but only the finest will do.

Im sure hell Leroy quickly poured some wine and placed it before Gerald, saying, Uncle Gerald, this is a 50-year old wine from Harvey.

Please try it! Gerald's face lit up

What a treat! Dont mind if I do! He was about to reach for it when he spotted the wine before Douglas. His expression changed.

dramatically as he snatched Andrews wine instead, leaving everyone stunned.

Irene cried out, Uncle Gerald, dont ! Thats just a cheap drink put it down! Gerald inhaled the wines aroma, ignoring Irene completely

Then, he gulped the entire glass down.

His face showed pure bliss as he exclaimed.

I never imagined Id find this divine nectar in Jayrodale! Where did you get this incredible wine? Ill pay

750 thousand dollars for whatever's left, bottle and all! The entire Stevens family, including Harvey, sat speechless

1/2- +20 BONUS Chapter 50 Gerald urged them on.

Well, what are you waiting for? Get me the rest! Do you even know what this is? Its literally liquid gold! The family was dumbfounded

Desperate to make sense of it, Irene protested, Uncle Gerald, are you drunk? This is garbage, not liquid gold! Gerald scowled and retorted, Such ignorance! Ive lived in Chetvine for years! Do you think you know better than me? I once had the privilege of tasting just half a glass of this at a noble familys home there, and Ive never forgotten it!

The family turned to stare at Andrew, who remained composed and said, This wine lives up to its name as Divine Elixir.

And yes, it does have connections to Chetvine.

Gerald nodded approvingly.

Well said

You seem to be the only knowledgeable one here.

I assume youre the one who brought this wine?