The Ashes 411

Chapter 411 The female bodyguard cried out in panic, Mr.

Ramsey, whats wrong? Please dont joke around! She rushed to Ernests side and quickly retrieved the cigar from his lap while he clutched his chest in agony.

My chest hurts so badly, Ernest groaned, his face contorted with pain.

Oh God, my head too -everything hurts! Get me to the hospital, now! Within moments, Ernests pain had spread throughout his entire body.

He collapsed to the ground, convulsing violently with white foam spurting from his mouth.

The two bodyguards frantically carried Ernest out the door and rushed him to the hospital. They knew every second counted

This is incredible, Natasha remarked with amazement.

The moment you finished counting down, that pervert just collapsed! She could not help but feel increasingly awed by Andrews abilities.

Andrew said coldly, He brought this upon himself.

Anyway, theres no rush.

Once he discovers the hospital cant help him, hell come crawling back to us.

Natasha giggled flirtatiously while gazing at Andrew with sparkling eyes

So, did you mess with Ernest just to get revenge for me? she asked, touched by the gesture. Andrew smiled.

Ernest is arrogant and untouchable to most people, but I wont stand for it. More importantly, he dared to set his sight on someone who belonged to me. I could easily make him disappear from West End without leaving a trace if I wanted to. Natasha felt a sense of peace wash over her as she noticed the cold glint in Andrews eyes. She knew she had not misjudged this man. Meanwhile, Ernest was rushed to Jayrodale General Hospital after leaving West End, and Francesca personally attended to him. With a grave expression, she explained, I apologize, sir, but we cant determine the cause of your unusual condition. Its extremely serious, and if it continties, your life could be in danger. I recommend you wait here while our deputy chief comes to treat you. Ernest could barely speak clearly, coughing up blood with every word Wait? Youre making me wait? Do you know who I am? Im Ernest Ramsey from the Ramseys of Canraville! If your deputy chief can save me, get him here now! He doubled over, vomiting an impossible amount of blood. Francesca frowned, disliking this vulgar old mans attitude. Nonetheless, she knew saving lives came first, so she immediately called Andrew. Andrew, we have a patient whos vomiting blood uncontrollably and convulsing , she reported urgently.

Hes critical
Can you come right away? Back at West End, Andrew was surprised by Francescas description.
He asked, Is this patient an unruly old man with two bodyguards one male, one female ? Francesca exclaimed
Yes, exactly! How did you know? C Andrew chuckled at the coincidence.
Thats not important.
Im busy with something urgent right now, but give him this message: theres no cure he might as well prepare for death.
Francesca stared at her phone in shock, speechless.
Andrews words seemed incredibly harsh.
However, she quickly realized that given Andrews usual compassionate nature, he would not carelessly dismiss someones life.
Combined with the fact that he had known the patients identity, she concluded that Andrew must know this old man and there was clearly bad blood between them.
Chapter 412 Francescas expression hardened as she delivered the news to Ernest.
She said coldly, Our deputy chief has a message for you.
Ernest was desperate, willing to do anything to save his life.
What is it? Tell me quickly! he demanded before another violent bout of blood coughing seized

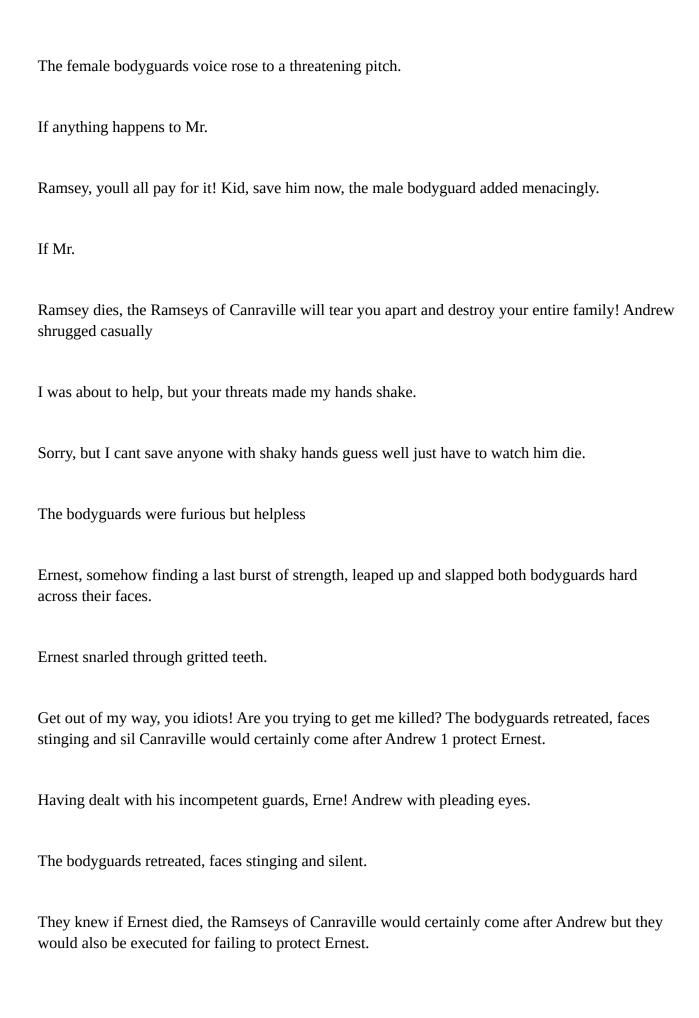
him.

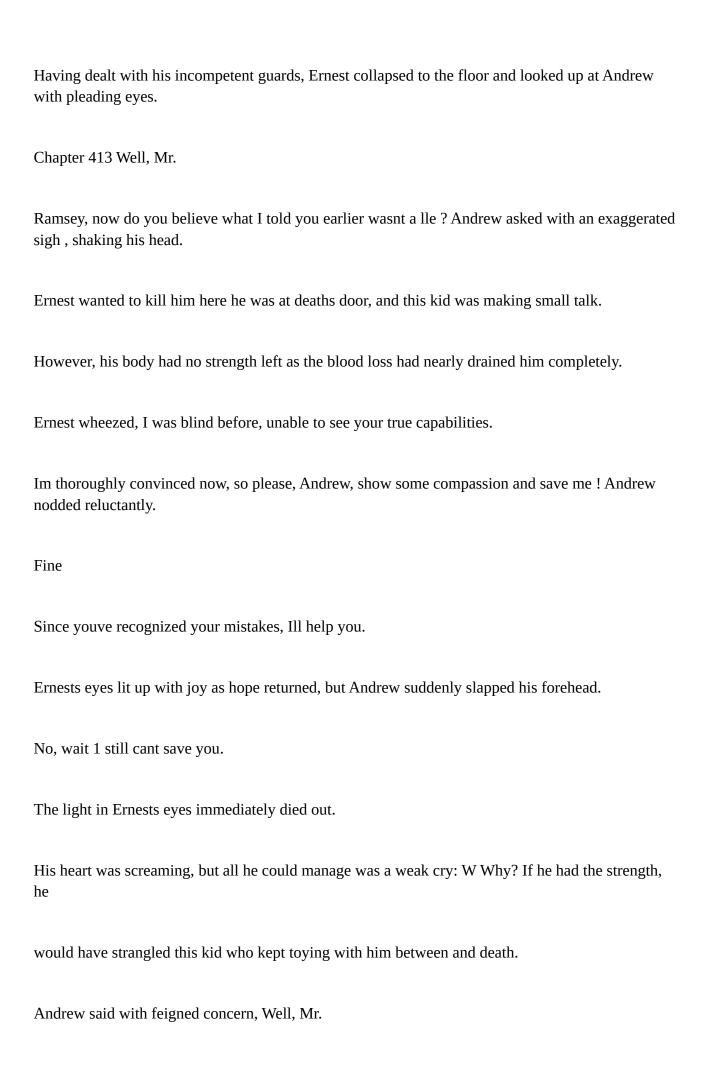
He clamped his mouth shut afterward, trying to minimize his speech to reduce the bleeding He cant return to the hospital, Francesca stated professionally, softening the harsh message out of her medical duty to do no harm You should prepare yourself this mysterious condition could be fatal. The news hit Ernest like a ton of bricks, and he nearly passed out from shock A terrible realization dawned on him as he turned to his bodyguards with a blood stained snarl What are you idiots standing around for? Get me back there to find that guy, hurry! Ernest could feel his life force draining away with each passing moment. The taste of death was upon him, making his head spin with genuine fear. Andrew was his only hope now. Despite his distrust of the young man, he had no choice but to try. With his bodyguards support, the three of them rushed back to West End in desperate haste. Mr. Ramsey, were you ... ambushed while you were out? Natasha asked with feigned innocence, already knowing from Andrew what had caused Ernests condition.

She was amazed at how severe his symptoms were he was barely breathing, and his shirt was

S Save me ... please, help me! Ernest gasped like a fish out of water, making his final plea.

drenched in blood





Ramsey, you havent agreed to give me the Aurora Lotus yet.
This is a matter of life and death especially your life, which is priceless.
I cant just save you without getting anything in return.
life Ernest nodded frantically.
Take it! The Aurora Lotus is yours! Please, stop wasting time! Im dying! You can have all my assets if you just save ne! The two bodyguards were stunned
They had never seen their arrogant superior act so pathetically, begging like a madman.
Meanwhile, Natasha was delighted, silently cheering, Well done, my darling! Take that pervert down! Andrew held out his hand
One last condition my rule is payment first, treatment second.
You know what to do, Mr.
Ramsey.
Ernest immediately understood and ordered his female bodyguard to hand over the Aurora Lotus. Though reluctant, she had no choice under Ernests murderous glare.
After confirming the Aurora Lotus was properly stored in its silk lined box, Andrew handed it to Natasha. Then, to everyones shock, he began stomping on Ernests chest repeatedly, causing him to howl in pain
What are you doing? Are you seriously trying to kill him after taking the payment? the female bodyguard screamed, her eyes wide with age
The male bodyguard lunged forward.

You double crossing snake! Ill fight you to the death! Even Natasha was horrified as Andrews brutal kicks landed on Ernests face, distorting it. Suddenly, Ernest coughed up one final mouthful of black blood and slowly got to his feet, groaning. My chest... my head... the pain is gone. I feel so much better ... Chapter 414 Despite his bruised and swollen face, Ernest wasting with pay as he felt his body recovering After checking himself thoroughly to confirm he was really okay, he burst no laughter. Im alive! I actually made it! The bodyguards looked at him in dishelled before turning to Andrew. They could not comprehend how a few kicks could save someones life was this guy some kind of mice worker? Andrew explained clinically, Mr. Ramseys mainproblem was blocked pressure points causing blood congestion. My kicks cleared those blockages at restored groper dialaton, which naturally resolved the issue. But Andrew, why do I feel so weak even though the pain is gone? mest as you holding his head. I feel like Im about to pass on Andrew smiled knowingly. Thats normal. Most people would have died from losing that much blood. You survived only because of your strong constitution and all those supplements you take. Ernests face turned pale.

Are you saying my life force is severely depleted? Not just depleted, Andrew corrected him.

Youre like a candle in the wind one wrong move and your light could go out permanently.
Cold sweat broke out on Ernests forehead.
Are you exaggerating? Andrew gestured casually.
You dont believe me? Try moving around a bit and see for yourself.
Ernest attempted to take two steps forward.
His legs trembled with weakness, and after those mere steps, he was panting heavily with his tongue hanging out like an exhausted dog.
Why? Why am I like this? Ernest raged, unable to accept his condition.
How am Lany different from a frail old man now? The bodyguards pointed accusingly at Andrew.
Mr.
Ramsey, this guy must have done something to you.
Hes definitely behind this! Mr.
Ramsey, you should be thanking God that I managed to save your life, Andrew sighed as Ernest glared at him with bloodshot eyes.
He continued, Instead of showing gratitude, youre treating me like an enemy.
Maybe I shouldnt have saved you after all.
Ernest shouted, I dont care! You saved me, so youre responsible for fixing everything! How can I live if I cant eat, drink, or even touch women? Andrew nodded matter of factly. Youre right, Mr.

Ramsey.
In your current condition, your cant drink alcohol, overeat, or engage in any strenuous physical activities
, especially with women! Ernest staggered, nearly losing his balance.
Without these pleasures, whats the point of living? Life without his favorite indulgences fine food
experisive liquor, and beautiful women- seemed worse than death to him.
Chapter 415 Actually, things arent as bad as you think, Mr.
Ramsey, Andrew explained coudly.
You can return to Canraville and rest quietly for a few years with proper restraint and the right supplements, your body will recover.
Ernest immediately perked up at this suggestion Yes, yes, youre right! 1 may be weak now, but its temporary
I just need some time to recuperate However, Mr.
Ramsey, theres one crucial rule, Andrew warned.
You must absolutely avoid any intimate relations with women.
Ernests face fell dramatically as though he had just received news of a death in the family.
He could handle giving up fine food and drinks, but this restriction was one he just couldnt bear Andrew added gravely, Dont take this lightly, Mr.

Ramsey.
In your condition, any intimate activity will instantly drain what little life force youve managed to rebuild When that happens, youll become nothing but an empty shell not even the worlds best doctor could save you then
Ernests face turned ashen
With his bodyguards support, he left West End in a daze, abandoning even his plan to stay in Jayrodale and choosing to return directly to Canraville.
Despite his desires, he valued his life more no momentary pleasure was worth dying for.
After Ernest left, Natasha asked Andrew eagerly, Darling, is his condition really that serious? Of course not, Andrew replied flatly.
Half of what I said was just to scare him
But you sounded so serious and convincing! Natasha exclaimed in disbelief.
Andrews performance had been so convincing that she had believed every word.
Andrew shrugged
I wasnt entirely lying
His body is severely depleted, nearly half dead.
Once your life force is damaged this severely, it causes permanent harm.
Unless he finds some miracle cure, hell always have underlying health issues.
Natasha laughed incredulously

Then why did you traumatize him by saying he can never be with women again? For a sex addict like Ernest, thats basically a death sentence! Andrew snorted. Thats what he gets for constantly pursuing you. If I didnt teach him at harsh lesson, hed just come back to bother us once he recovered I decided to get rid of this annoying pest once and for all! Natasha smiled seductively, touched that Andrews scheme had been for her sake. Her cheeks flushed as she gazed at him with sultry eyes Well darling, I may not want Ernest, but Id give myself to you... Are you really that desperate? Andrew frowned at her obvious attempt at seduction. Natashas blush deepened with anger. Youre the desperate one! You promised to make me your woman! Why are you getting angry so quickly? Andrew sighed. How can I not be angry? Natashas eyes reddened. You never give me a straight answer. If youre just playing with me, who will want me when Im old and gray?. 106 Andrew countered, Dont you have all of West End? With so many people under your command,

Chapter 416 Natasha glanced at him and turned away, her voice filled with frustration as she said, I

used to be obsessed with power and martial arts, always wanting to be above others.

you can live quite well even without a man!

But now, I dont care about any of that anymore if you just say the word, Id give up my position head of West End right away to serve you.

Andrew was stunned.

What did you just say? I said Id give up everything just to be with you, Natasha replied irritably.

as the Andrews heart skipped a beat as he realized the widow had developed feelings for him.

As he wondered if he really had to sleep with Natasha, anger washed over him.

Just then, the pouting Natasha burst into laughter and looked at him triumphantly

You fool, couldnt you tell I was just messing with you? You think this is funny? Andrew asked, slightly annoyed

Natasha stood tall and challenged him, It is funny... Unless youre man enough to take control of the situation.

Your provocations wontwork on me, Andrew said with a smirk.

Then youre not much of a man, Natasha retorted.

Andrews jaw tightened as he controlled his rising frustration with the widows taunts.

Natashas expression turned serious as she added, Dylan has already contacted me.

Our two organizations are the only ones left in the underground world of Jayrodale

Since Dylan already your man, and youve recently won me over, darling, what are your plans for us? Andrew realized this was indeed a pressing matter.

Heres the deal youll both continue managing your own territories



You decide how to divide the territory.
Seeing her curb her greed, Andrew smiled.
Dont worry, youll both get the elixirs.
As for Northern District and East Side, you and Dylan will manage them together.
Alright, Ill do as you say, Natasha replied obediently.
She had initially tried to get the better deal, but Andrews attitude quickly made her wiser
Besides, Now that she was under his leadership, she needed to put aside her old cunning ways.
territory meant little compared to Andrews elixirs, which were more valuable than gold in their world
Chapter 417 Seeing that everything was settled, and Natasha had no objections, Andrew asked, Is there anything else? If not, I need to head back.
Natasha replied seriously, Oh, darling, theres one more thing.
Although Atlas Northern District has fallen apart, several of his top fighters have gathered over 100 followers and are starting to gain influence again.
When it comes to eliminating threats completely, you and Dylan are more skilled than I am, Andrew replied calmly
From now on, you dont need my approval for these matters just discuss it between yourselves. Natasha flashed a seductive smile
Perfect, thats exactly what I wanted to hear.

Andrew shook his head, thinking how Natasha truly lived up to her Black Widow nickname.

With him, she was charming and submissive, even offering to warm his bed, but as a crime lord, she definitely had blood on her hands.

It was necessary though.

How else could a beautiful widow establish her position and protect her West End territory without being ruthless? From Andrews perspective, her submission to him was only because of his overwhelming power.

Hence, Andrew didnt want to stop Natasha from clearing out Northern Districts remnants.

In the underground world, that was simply how things worked the strong dominated the weak Or rather, that was how the entire world operated those with power always had the final say.

Later, Andrew left West End with the Aurora Lotus but did not return to Jayrodale General Hospital. Instead, he headed straight to Rhodes Corporation.

While Andrew was busy dealing with Ernest earlier, Lauren had called him several times.

He had not had the chance to ask what the temptress wanted, but he had learned from Marcus that Lauren was in trouble and needed help

So, he decided to go and ask her personally.

After parking his car, Andrew strode toward Rhodes Corporations entrance.

Well, well, a mere doctor driving a G Wagon worth over 200 grand.

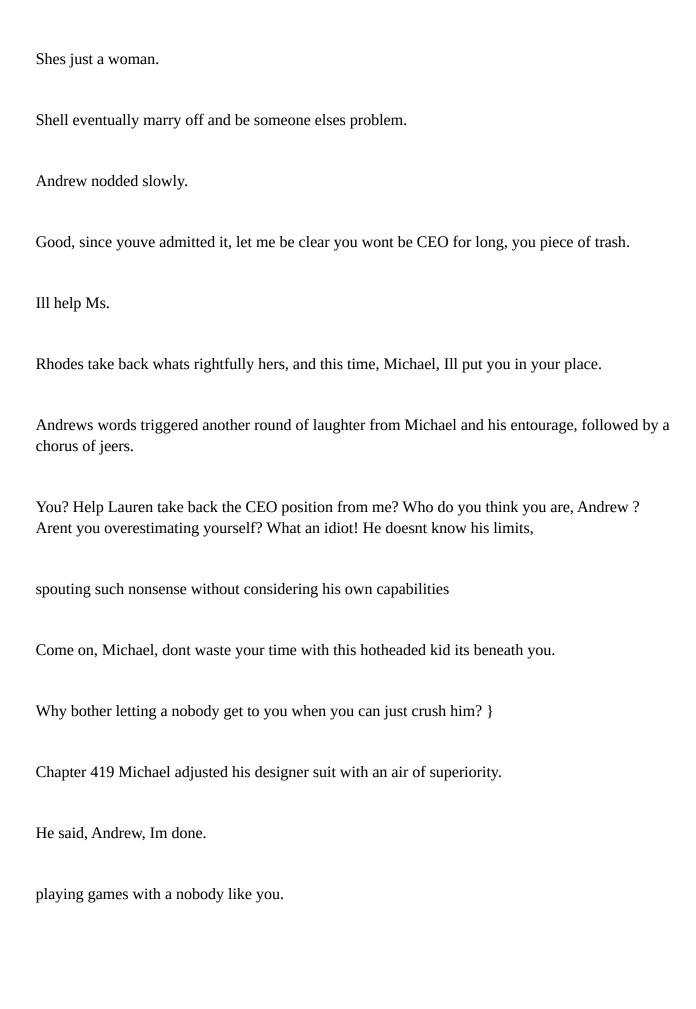
Andrew, you've really mastered the art of gold digging even Im jealous! Michael appeared out of nowhere with about a dozen corporate executives, looking smug.

Andrew gave him a quick glance and said flatly, Mr.

Rhodes, have you already forgotten the lesson from last time? Wasnt that beating at your hotel enough
Michaels face darkened at the reminder of his humiliation.
Andrew, I know you had something to do with Atlas roughing me up that day.
Andrew smiled
Of course I did
To be honest, Mr.
Rhodes, I was the one who orchestrated Atlas raid on your hotel that day.
Michael exploded with rage, veins bulging on his forehead.
He snarled, Andrew, youd better watch yourself
You probably dont know this, but Im now the CEO of Rhodes Corporation.
With my power, crushing you would be childs play.
He had expected Andrew to be shocked and frightened by his new position, but all he saw was Andrew looking at him like he was an idiot.
Sorry, but why should I care that youre Rhodes Corporations CEO? Andrew asked mockingly.
Is being Rhodes Corporations CEO supposed to be impressive? Michael froze, then burst into laughter.

Ladies and gentlemen, did you hear what this gold digger just said? He asked if being the CEO of Rhodes Corporation was impressive.
Someone, please educate this country bumpkin about just how impressive I am!
Chapter 418 A man in a sult and glasses stepped forward with sneer.
Let me tell you just how impressive Mr.
Rhodes is he has complete control over Rhodes Corporation now, and hes as powerful as any other head of the prominent family in Jayrodale
Another executive rushed forward to brown nose Michael, looking down at Andrew with contempt. Young man, in this business, Ignorance is a sin.
The fact that you dont know how powerful Mr.
Rhodes is just proves youre a small fry who cant see beyond your own limited view youre less than an insect in his eyes.
Marcus, who had been standing quietly in the back, stepped forward to mediate .
Sir, its time for the noou meeting, and Ms.
Rhodes is here today.
Perhaps we should head up.
Michael scoffed
Ah, right, I forgot Lauren was coming to the company today.
Fine, lets meet blade her, but remember what I said earlier choose your sides carefully.

I dont want my catching any foolish bystanders in the crossfire. After that, Michael swept his threatening gaze across the executives, causing them all to bow their heads in submission. Dont worry, sir, were forever your followers. Mr. Rhodes, youre the future leader of this company wed be fools not to know who to follow We old timers will always be loyal to you, the rightful heir! rew? Michael laughed triumphantly and glanced at Andrew with amusement. See that, This is the respect and treatment I command in the company now. While your precious Lauren is already yesterdays news, relegated to the sidelines. You seem capable enough why not leave Lauren and work for me instead? I might even make you a team leader with a five figure monthly salary, Michael taunted, causing his suckups to burst into mocking laughter. So you really did steal Ms. Rhodess CEO position? Andrew asked coldly. Michael looked at Andrew condescendingly. Thats right, I stole it. I wanted to show her that Rhodes Corporation belongs to me.

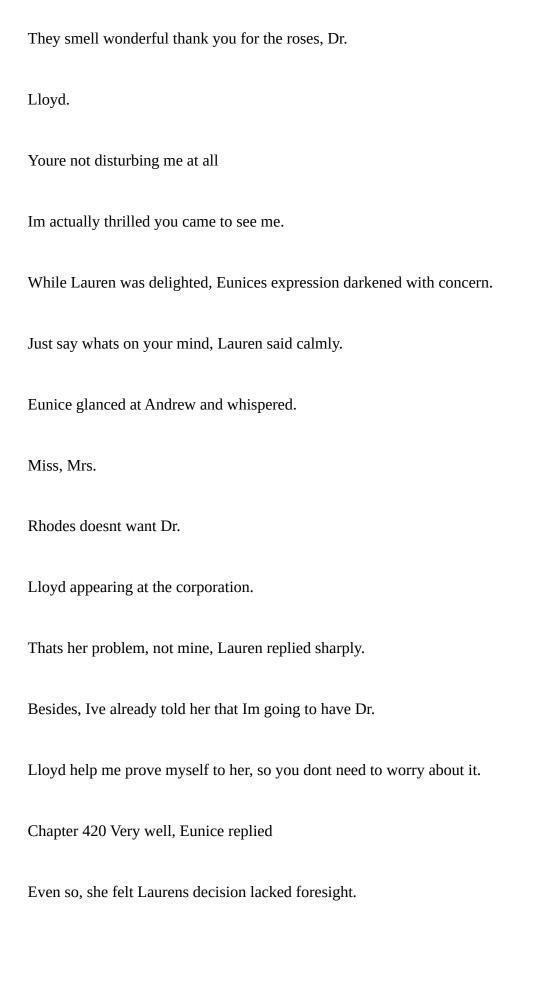


Watch yourself if youre foolish enough to side with Lauren, I might have to eliminate you along with her. With a contemptuous smirk, Michael led his group of executives through the corporate entrance. Marcus, who was the last to leave, looked at Andrew with a sympathetic smile.
Didnt I tell you to stop coming to see Ms.
Rhodes? You not only showed up openly but also challenged our CEO arent you just digging your own grave? He was particularly concerned about Andrews bold declaration to take Michaels position. Marcus felt that Andrew was still naive about how the real world worked
With Michaels current position, all it would take was a nod of his head for his lackeys to destroy this young deputy chiefs life.
Thanks for trying to help back there, Mr.
Chapman, Andrew said with a smile.
Marcus waved his hand dismissively
I did what I could, but thats all I can do
Dr.
Lloyd, please dont provoke Michael from what I know, he can be quite ruthless.
Im not provoking him Im going to deal with him, Andrew replied firmly.
Marcus hesitated before speaking again.
Dr.

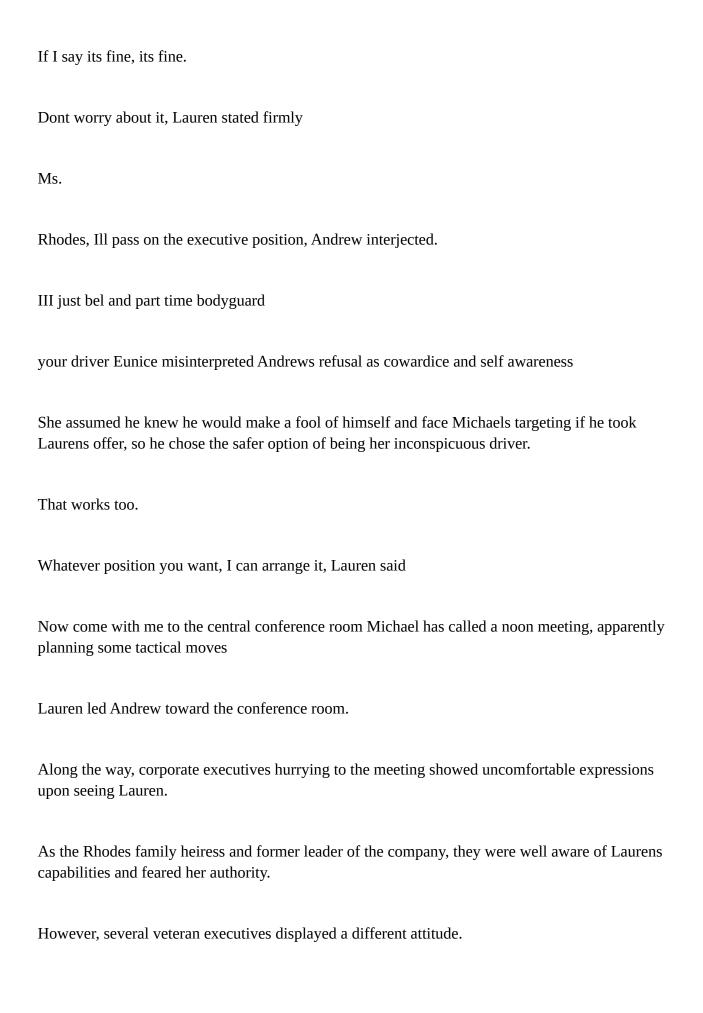
Lloyd, you have a promising future ahead of you I think theres no need to fight a losing battle

against Mr. Rhodes

Also, Ms.
Rhodes has returned to the corporation, but her situation isnt great.
Anyone who dares to support her will face Michaels wrath, Marcus added meaningfully before entering Rhodes Corporation.
Andrew stood there, smiling to himself.
Marcus was a decent person who genuinely meant well, which was rare for a chance acquaintance
What Marcus did not know was that when Andrew said he would deal with Michael, he meant he would make Michael unrecognizable even to his own parents
Under the hostile gazes of several security guards, Andrew casually entered the corporate building and took the elevator to Laurens office on the 12th floor
When Andrew entered, Lauren was discussing pending work with her secretary, Eunice, and her face lit up with surprise and joy.
She asked, Dr.
Lloyd, what brings you here? Andrew placed a bouquet of red roses he had bought on the way on her desk.
I was worried, so I came to check on you personally.
I hope Im not disturbing you, Ms.
Rhodes
Lauren smiled gracefully as she picked up the flowers.



The entire Rhodes Corporations upper management disapproved of her relationship with Andrew, and Michael especially despised him bringing him to the company under this double pressure would only invite trouble.
0 Andrew clearly sensed Eunices aversion to him but chose not to comment on it.
He asked, Ms.
Rhodes, now that youre back working at the company, is there anything I can help with? Lauren playfully chewed on her pen cap and replied flirtatiously, I couldnt bear to have do anything strenuous,
Dr.
Lloyd.
Just be my personal assistant here in the office.
Andrew deliberately ignored her teasing, thinking this temptress really was not afraid he might lose control and take advantage of the situation.
Lauren quickly switched back to her professional demeanor.
Then, she said decisively, Lets do this III hire youas my driver for now.
In a few days, Ill arrange a management position for you starting at the executive level
Eunice protested, Miss, executive positions cant be assigned casually they require multiple rounds of selection
Plus, Mr.
Rhodes needs to sign off on it.



They barely acknowledged Lauren with superficial nods before strutting into the conference room. Lauren remained silent at this display, but her eyes grew colder.

Andrew observed these veteran executives thoughtfully.

It was clear that Rhodes Corporations key leadership had defected to Michaels side, which explained his arrogance.

Yet, Andrew did not consider these opportunists worth his attention.

After all, they were merely pawns in the game.