## The Ashes 471

Chapter 471 Lauren exclaimed urgently, Dr.
Lloyd, you cant do this! Mr.
Chapman is emotionally unstable -we should wait for the rescue team
She did not need to elaborate further, as Andrew already understood her meaning
She feared that if he tried to save Marcus and was not careful enough, Marcus might actually jump, and Andrew would have to bear that devastating consequence.
Andrew smiled reassuringly and said, Ms.
Rhodes, trust me.
I will bring Mr.
Chapman back safely.
Andrew, are you trying to be the hero again? Are you looking for more trouble? Eunice snapped angrily. Do you understand what will happen if you fail to save Mr.
Chapman ? If I cant bring him back, Ill take full responsibility, Andrew replied coldly, which silenced everyone as they watched him slowly approach Marcus
Breaking out in a cold sweat, Eunice turned to Lauren and said, Miss, how can you just there and let him act so recklessly? In this situation, whoever tries to save Mr.
Chapman takes on the risk of failure.
Think about it if they fail to save Mr.

Chapman, wont that person face the hatred of all employees? They might even face criminal charges! Lauren responded with a cold laugh, Are you finished? If so, let me explain something to you Whats that? Eunice asked, bewildered

Laurens face showed contempt as she spoke calmly, In the face of saving a human life, Dr.

Lloyd has put aside his personal reputation and is moving forward despite enormous risks.

Yet you call this reckless behavior.

So, Eunice, you think being a coward, being fearful, lacking empathy and compassion is the right way to go? She added, And you think Dr.

Lloyd, whos facing potential public criticism and bearing the pressure of becoming a target of blame while trying to save someone alone, is a foot? Eunice was at a loss for words, Miss, I Lauren smirked and declared, A man who does what must be done despite resistance thats the kind of partner Ive been searching for my whole life! If Mr.

Chapman does jump and we cant save him, Dr.

Lloyd and I will bear all responsibility together.

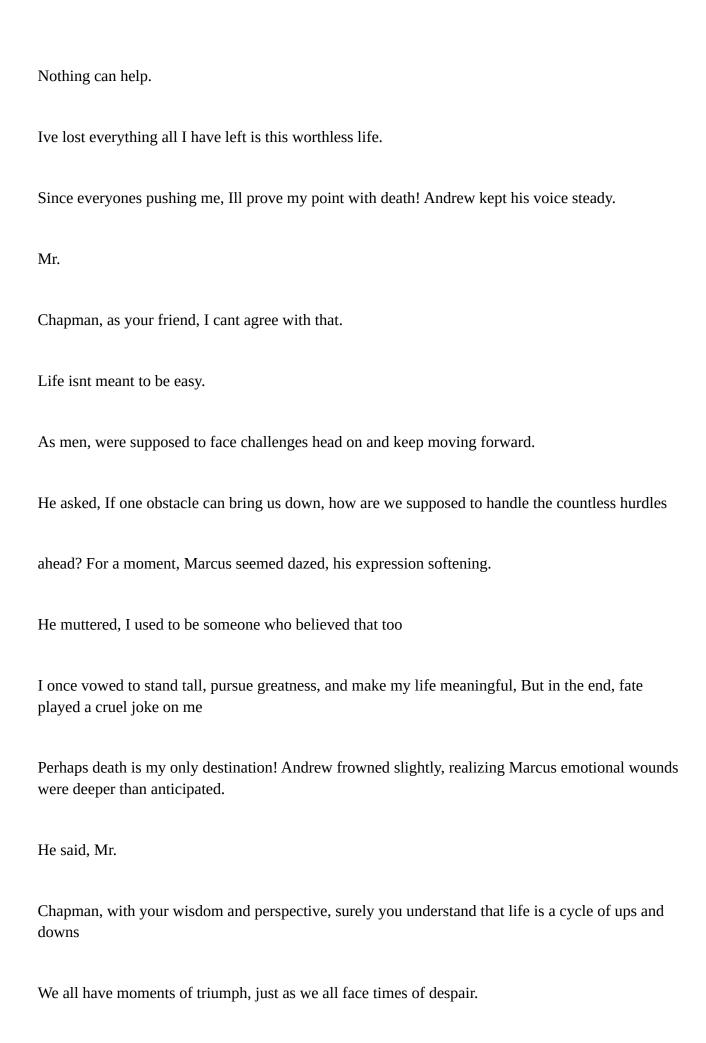
As Andrew carefully approached Marcus, the latters eyes showed wild desperation as he shouted, Mr. Lloyd, dont come any closer, or III jump right now! Andrew immediately stopped and raised both hands in a peaceful gesture, saying with a smile, Mr.

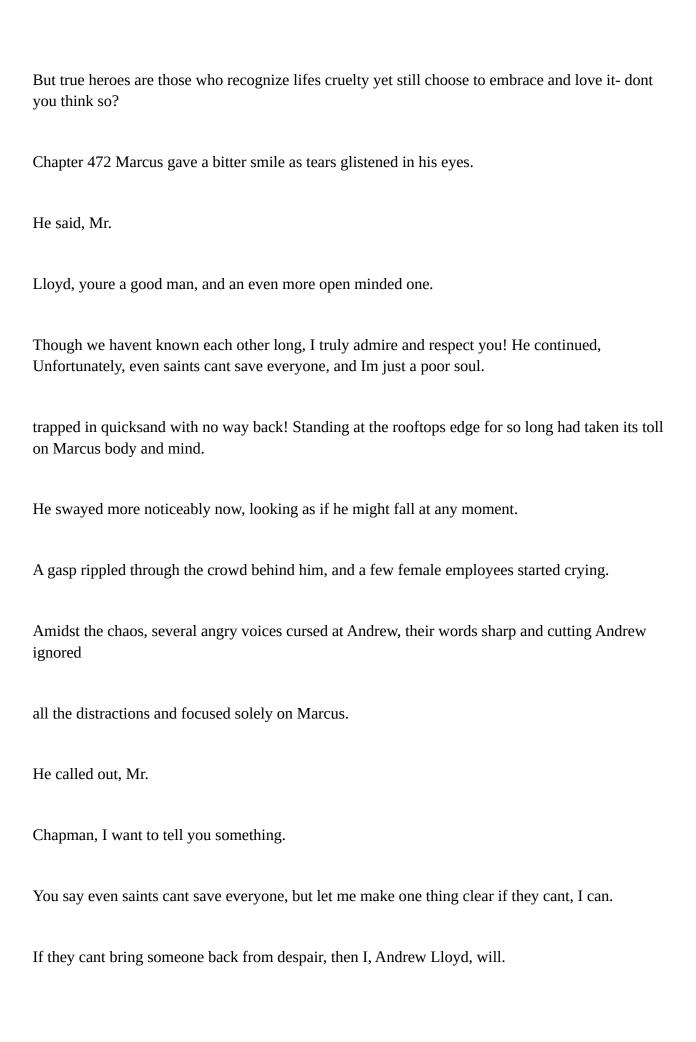
Chapman, come down first.

Whatevers troubling you, lets talk it out, man to man.

If we cant work it out, you can hold me accountable however you want.

Marcus shook his head and said, Its useless.





Marcus blinked in confusion, his expression momentarily softening
Is there really someone like that in this world? Unnoticed by Marcus, Andrew had quietly moved a few steps closer.
The distance between.
them was now less than 10 meters.
Trying to keep Marcus engaged, Andrew asked, Mr.
Chapman, hows Lucy doing lately? Why dont you bring her to the company so I can check on her? Lucy was Marcuss daughter Andrew had learned this during her stay at Jayrodale General Hospital.
At the mention of his daughter, Marcuss face softened with affection.
He replied, Lucys doing well.
She still talks about you and Dr.
Aicker all the time.
His expression suddenly changed as he cried out, But my precious Lucy Shes gone! Then, he closed his eyes and began falling backward
In that moment, everyones heart stopped including Laurens, whose face turned ghostly white.
They all thought it was over, that they had failed to save him.
However, Andrew refused to give up he had never known the meaning of surrender
He covered the thirty foot distance in a split second, every muscle in his body exploding with superhuman speed.

It was not the kind of strength an ordinary person could muster it was something extraordinary,  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

something only a master at the peak of physical discipline could achieve.

The crowd behind them erupted in screams as they watched in stunned disbelief.

Andrew had leaped after Marcus.

Eunice gasped and blurted out, Miss, do you think Mr.

Lloyd just gave up and decided to ... end it all with him? Lauren responded by slapping her across the

face and snapped, Shut up! Andrew had managed to grab the rooftops edge with one hand while holding onto Marcus suit jacket with the other

The two of them dangled over a hundred feet above the ground, swaying precariously as strong winds buffeted them

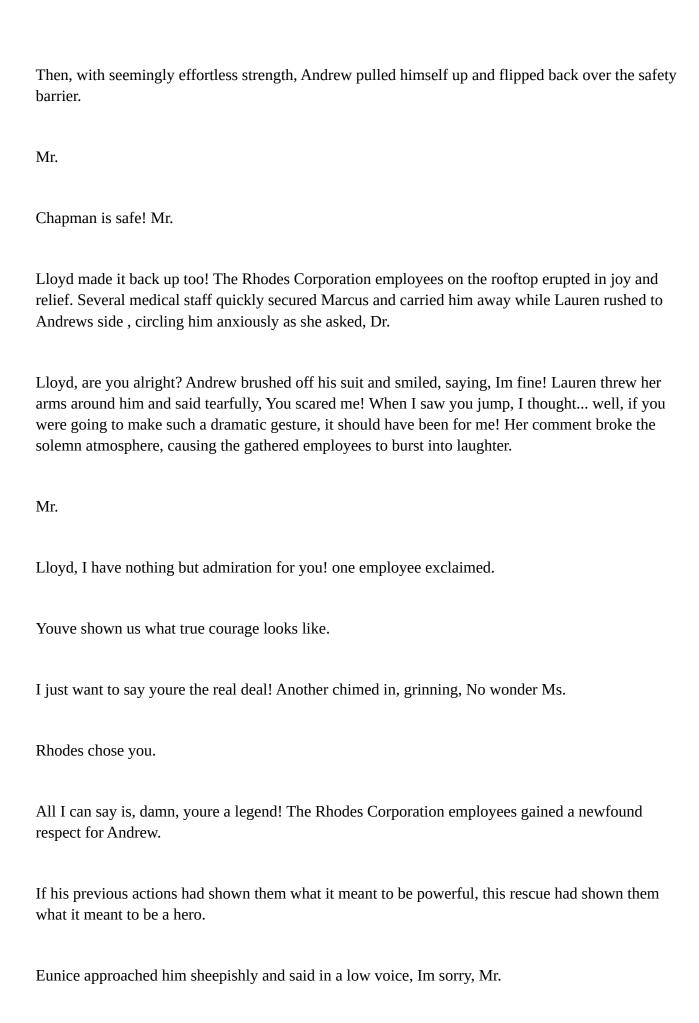
Below the Rhodes Corporation building, pedestrians froze in shock, quickly pulling out their phones to record the scene

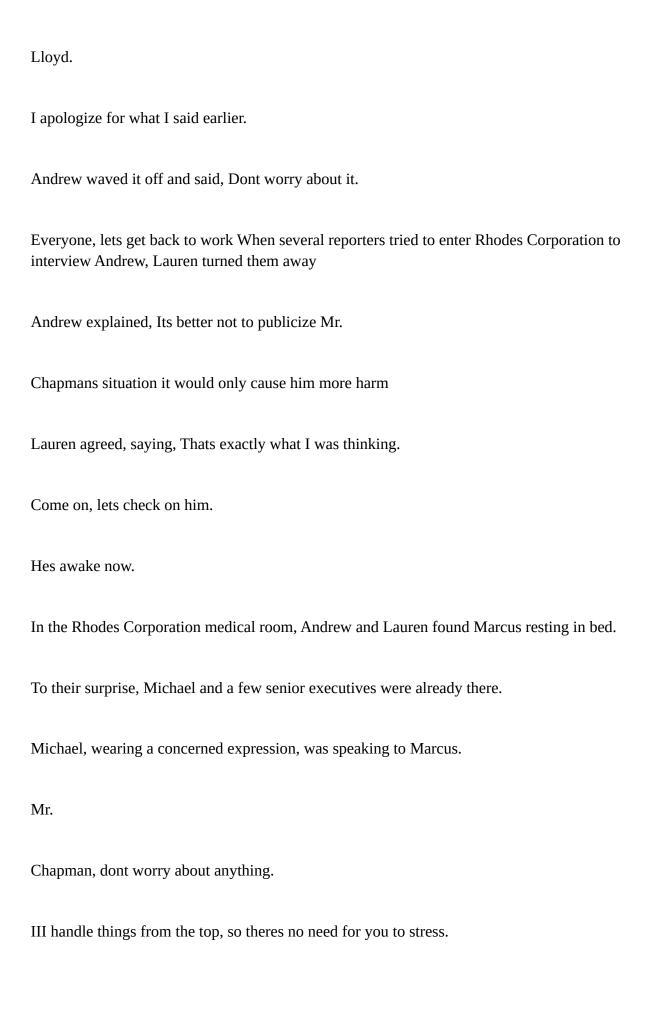
Someone shouted, Holy cow, is that guy a superhero or something? Thats incredibly cool! How is he holding up both himself and the other guy with one arm? Thats not just strength; thats superhuman! Forget about saving someone Id probably wet myself just looking down from that height, a third person added

Forget just wetting yourself I bet youd straight up lose it! The onlookers exchanged awed remarks, unable to believe what they were witnessing.

Chapter 473 The crowd watched in amazement as Andrews arm swung like a pendulum, launching Marcus

back onto the rooftop.





He continued, Take a few days off to rest and recover You can return to running the Pharmaceutical Division when youre feeling better! Michaels face showed sincerity as he patted Marcuss shoulder, but the executives behind him wore smirks that suggested they were there to mock rather than comfort. Marcus lay pale faced in the bed, clearly struggling to contain his emotions as he said, Mr. Rhodes, I dont need several days. Just give me half a day, and I can return to work in the Pharmaceutical Division. Michael smiled and waved his hand dismissively, saying, Mr. Chapman, Im giving you time off just relax and dont push yourself! Dont worry, III keep an eye on the Pharmaceutical Division for you Marcus suddenly snapped, his tone sharper, I think your offer to let me rest is just an excuse Youre planning to sideline the and eventually push me out of the division altogether, arent you? Michaels smile faltered for a moment before he recovered and said, Mr. Chapman, youre overthinking this. The Pharmaceutical Division has always been under your management- how could I overstep? As Michael and the executives turned to leave, they found Lauren and Andrew blocking the doorway.

Michael adjusted his glasses and gave Andrew a practiced smile.

Mr.

Lloyd, I must say, risking your life to save someone youve become the companys hero.

Well have to reward you for this!

Chapter 474 Andrew raised an eyebrow and said, Well, anything less than a few million dollars would be an insult, dont you think, Mr.

Rhodes? A few million? Andrew, has money made you lose your mind? one of the executives beside. Michael snapped angrily.

Michael raised his hand to silence his subordinate and smiled, saying, Lauren, Mr.

Lloyd, Ill be going now would you mind stepping aside? Lauren did not budge an inch and asked coldly, What were you doing when Mr.

Chapman was about to jump? Michael tilted his head thoughtfully and replied, As the CEO, Im extremely busy.

I was working in my office, of course.

More like busy doing inappropriate things with your secretary.

How disgusting! Lauren mocked

Michaels face darkened as he snarled, Lauren, watch your words.

Im the CEO who are you, a mere subordinate, to question my actions? Besides, what proof do you have about these so-called inappropriate activities? Andrew laughed and commented, Theres plenty of proof

The cleaning lady who tidies your office complains about the excessive trash every day.

Out of curiosity, I checked it out and wow, all those used boxes of Viagra, male enhancement pills, and various imported performance medications... Andrew continued, You should be careful, Mr.

Rhodes.

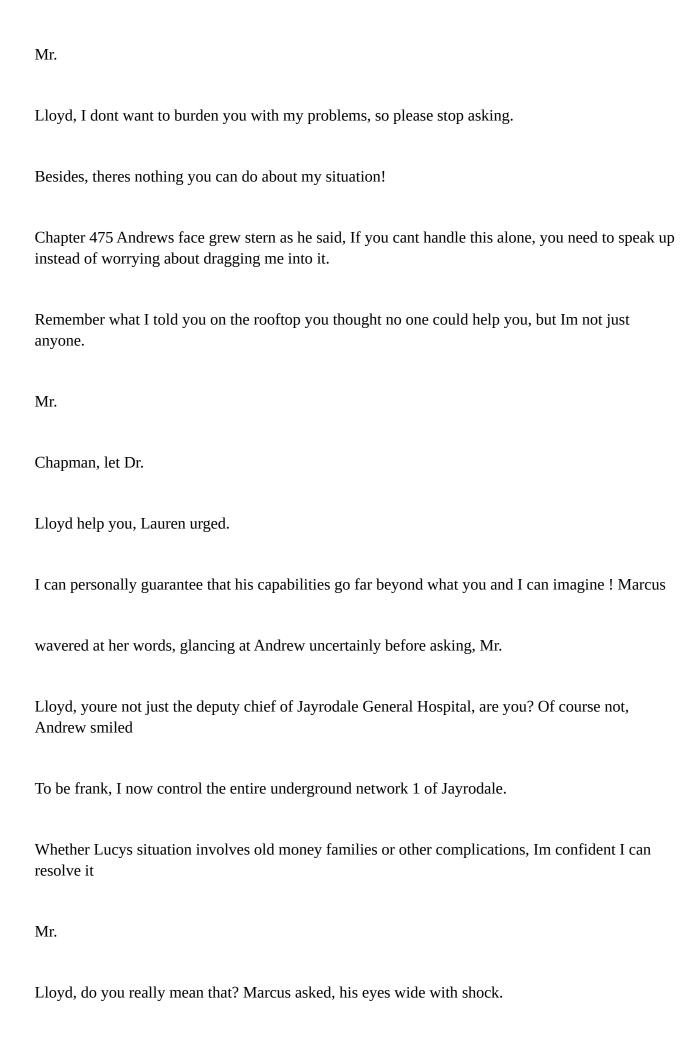
These drugs might feel good in the moment, but overuse can lead to serious complications blood in urine , permanent damage, even cancer requiring surgical removal of-. Michaels face twitched violently as he gritted his teeth and growled, Enough, Andrew! I dont want to hear another word from you! Michael felt a chill run down his spine. Though he disliked Andrew, he had absolute faith in his medical expertise. Hence, if Andrew said these enhancement products could lead to catastrophic consequences, he needed to act fast. Feeling a sudden anxiety about his manhood, Michael rushed out, heading straight to the hospital instead of his office He needed to get checked immediately. If Andrew was right about the cancer risk and surgical removal of his private part, he might as well commit suicide on the spot Lauren covered her mouth and laughed, asking Andrew, Dr. Lloyd, is Michaels condition really that serious? Andrew snorted.

Its not life threatening yet, but if he keeps this up, hes going to drop dead in the middle of one of his

He already reeks of excess

escapades.

Mr.
Chapman, how are you feeling? Marcus shook his head and replied, Im fine.
Im just feeling weak.
Ms.
Rhodes, Mr.
Lloyd, please leave I need some time alone
Tell me what happened, and III help you deal with it, Lauren insisted firmly
Marcus forced a smile but continued shaking his head, saying, Its useless.
No one can help me
Lauren felt frustrated.
Without Marqus speaking up, there was nothing she could do.
Plus, as her respected senior, she could not force him to talk
Mr.
Chapman, your problem is that Michael wants to take control of the Pharmaceutical Division and strip you of power, right? Andrew suddenly chimed in.
When Marcus remained silent, Andrew continued, But thats not your biggest worry, is it? Somethings happened to Lucy, hasnt it? Marcus hesitated before Sighing.



Andrew chuckled.

Why would I lie about something like this? Marcus studied Andrew intently, his mind racing as he processed this revelation.

This man, who had always seemed unassuming, turned out to wield unimaginable power behind the

scenes

Yet, as Marcus thought it over, he began to understand.

After all, someone who could casually throw down billions of dollars to buy into Rhodes Corporation and become the fifth largest shareholder was not ordinary by any means

The Weller family has kidnapped Lucy! Marcus finally revealed, his voice filled with anguish.

Im powerless against such an influential family

They gave me an ultimatum- either I steal Rhodes Corporations pharmaceutical formulas for them, or

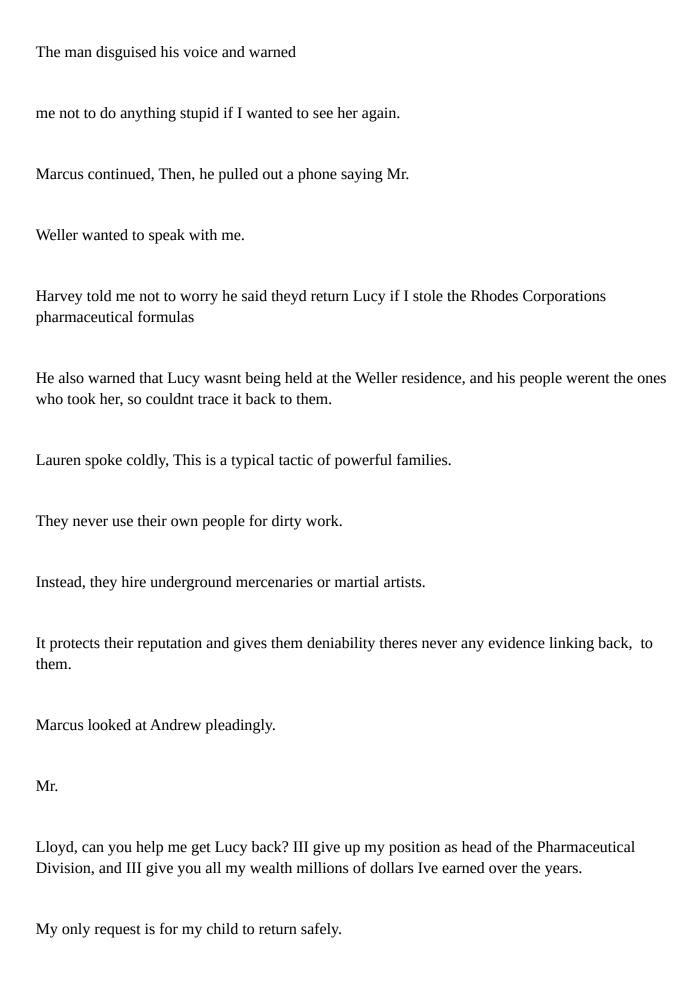
theyll kill her! Lauren gritted her teeth in anger and barked, The Weller family! I cant believe that beast Harvey would secretly target Rhodes Corporation like this.

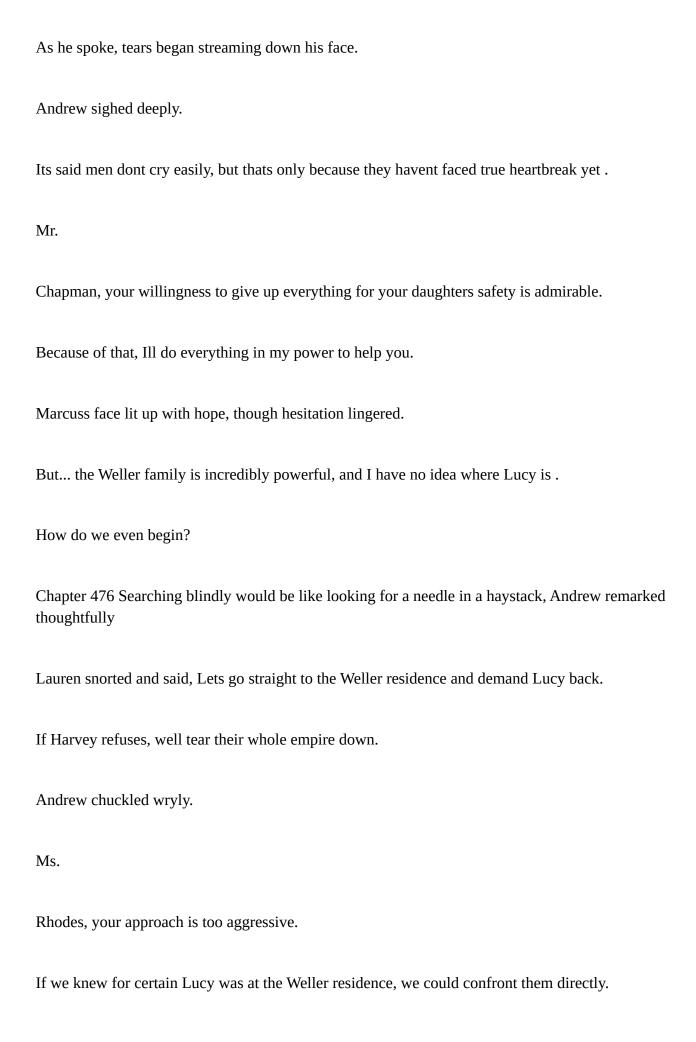
Andrew pressed on gravely, Mr.

Chapman, I need you to answer my questions precisely- Lucys safety depends on it.

When was Lucy kidnapped, and do you know who took her? Last night, I was working late, Marcus replied painfully

When I got home, there was a masked man in my living room, and Lucy was gone.



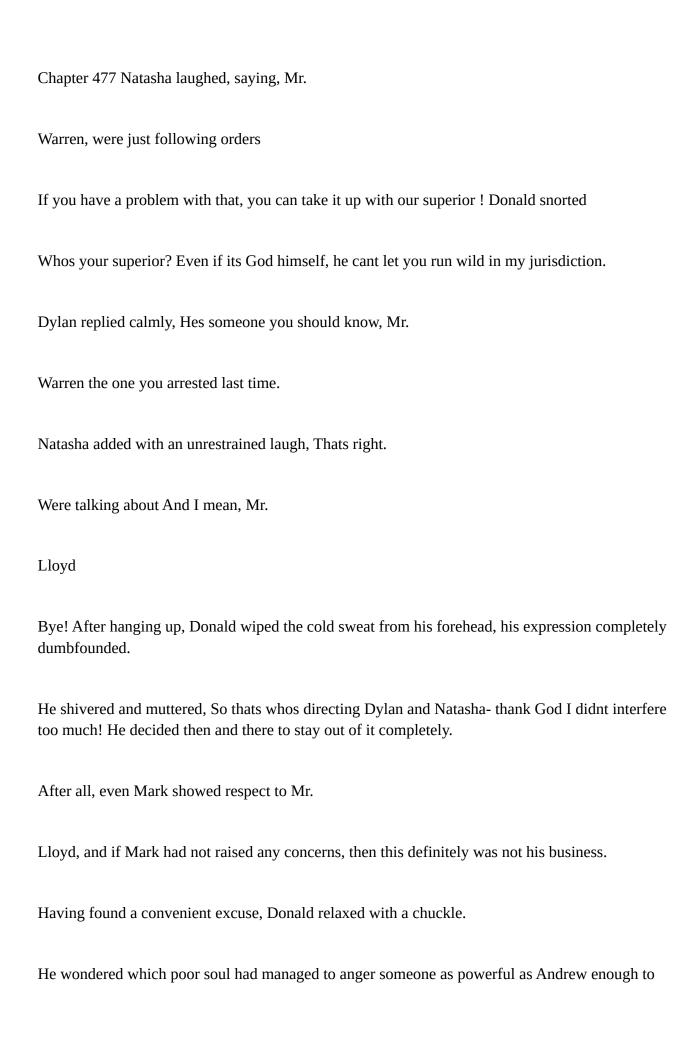


But as we heard, Harvey played it smart Lucy isnt with the Weller family. Shes with the masked man, so we need another approach. Lauren sighed, feeling frustrated. But the Weller family is our only lead, and everything else is a dead end. What else can we do if we dont confront them? Andrew turned to Marcus and asked, Mr. Chapman, think carefully about that masked man- did you notice any distinguishing features? Marcus racked his brain, trying to recall the incident. He even disguised his voice, clearly being extremely careful not to reveal his identity, I studied him while we talked, but couldnt spot anything useful. Andrew shook his head Everyone has distinguishing features its just a matter of whether theyre obvious enough to notice. Think harder was there anything particularly memorable about him? Marcus suddenly jolted upright and exclaimed, I remember now! Though he was completely covered, I saw a scorpion tattoo on the back of his hand where his sleeve didnt quite reach! Thats not much help, Lauren said 'disappointedly. Countless people have tattoos these days, and a scorpion tattoo just makes you think of some street thug nothing more. Not necessarily, Andrew said with a knowing smile Then, he immediately dialed Natashas number while Marcus and Lauren looked on in confusion. I need you to find a man with a scorpion tattoo on his arm

Hes connected to the Weller family and has kidnapped a little girl named Lucy After quickly

relaying the information to Natasha, he hung up.

Will this really work? Marcus asked skeptically Andrew smiled as he replied, Mr.
Chapman, just wait and see.
You might doubt yourself, but never underestimate the efficiency of the underground network.
Imagine the entire Jayrodale.
underground mobilizing to find Lucy thats quite a force.
Marcus clenched his fists and nodded firmly, saying, Thank you, Mr.
Lloyd
Ill never forget this huge favor! As soon as Andrews order reached Natasha, the entire underground network sprang into action.
Though Andrew had not contacted Dylan directly, Natasha would naturally coordinate with him. When both crime lords mobilized their forces across Jayrodales four districts, they commanded a few thousand people
Such a massive operation made some guilty parties tremble, thinking Jayrodale was about to experience a power shift.
The major families the Rhodes, the Goths, the Wellers, and the Combs all wondered what Natasha and Dylan were up to
There had always been tension between the established families and the underground lords they despised each other
Donald, the Jayrodale Police Commissioner, immediately called both Natasha and Dylan, growling Natasha, Dylan, whats with all this commotion? Why didnt you notify me first? What are you up to? He worried these Time lords might cause some serious trouble.



mobilize the entire underground network even the most established families would be crying for mercy. Meanwhile, at the Weller residence

Harvey walked into the living room and embraced Serena from behind, who was wearing a revealing dress that accentuated her curves

Stop it! What if someone sees us? Serena protested halfheartedly while swaying her hips, causing Harveys expression to grow increasingly pleased.

Let them everyone in the Weller family knows about us anyway, Harvey said shamelessly, his eyes closed in enjoyment.

Serena asked, If youre not afraid of the gossip, when are you going to marry me? We can be together, but marriage absolutely out of the question, Harvey immediately replied

Youre still technically my stepmother we cant mess with those formalities! That didnt seem to bother you when you couldnt wait to get me into bed, Serena said bitterly.

I know the truth youre still obsessed with that bitch, Christina, arent you? Harvey smirked and admitted, Youre right.

I cant forget about Christina.

I wont rest until I have her on her knees begging for forgiveness.

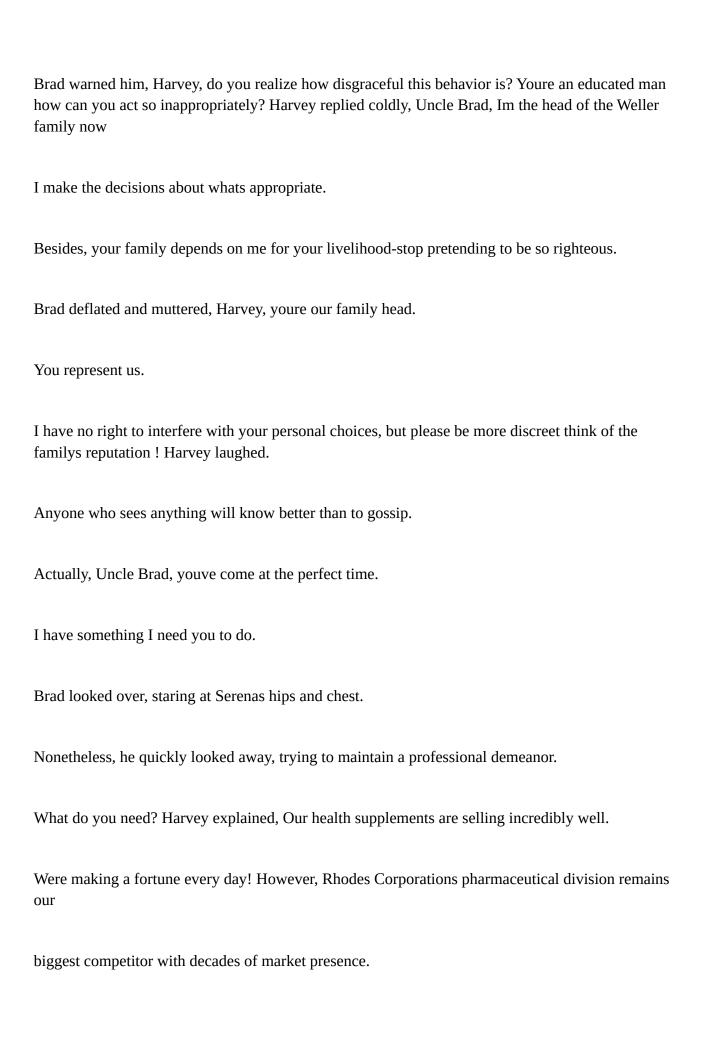
Serena sneered

I should have known youre just like your dead father, always wanting what you cant have.

Never mind about that little tramp Christina she gives me a headache

Hows the family business doing lately? Harvey sat down in the family heads chair with his legs crossed and smiled, saying, Excellent couldnt be better! Our health supplements are in such high demand that we cant keep up

Distributors are lining up at my office every day with briefcases full of cash. Serena warned, Dont get too excited Those supplements are extremely risky if anything goes wrong, the Weller family will be in serious trouble Harvey laughed dismissively and said, Whats there to worry about? The public is queuing up, begging our factory to work overtime and ship faster. If there were side effects, wed know by now and besides, no ones forcing them to buy our products. Chapter 478 Harvey said smugly, Its simple supply and demand everyone wins. Were making money faster than my father ever did. Too bad hes not alive to see how Ive made the Weller family more prosperous than ever! Serena beamed as she walked over to Harveys chair, settling down beside him. She purred, Once youve built up the Weller family empire, dont forget my contribution. At that moment, Brad Weller, Harveys uncle and a senior member of the family, walked into the living room. His face darkened immediately at the scene before him. What do you think youre doing? Have some decency youre bringing shame to the Weller family name! Brad exclaimed angrily. Harvey and Serena barely reacted to his outburst Harvey simply smiled and said, Uncle Brad, dont act so shocked this isnt the first time youve seen us together.



So Ive made some arrangements to bring down their medical department in one fell swoop. How did you manage that ? T Thats remarkable! Brad exclaimed in shock. Harvey smiled proudly and replied, You dont need to know the details. I just need you to do one thing meet with Marcus Chapman from Rhodes Corporation and collect the pharmaceutical formulas hell be delivering. Is this ... Is this assignment dangerous? Brad asked hesitantly. Harvey sneered. What danger could there be ? Id do it myself if I werent so busy. Marcus is completely under my control. If he doesnt cooperate, his entire family will pay the price! Chapter 479 Brad said doubtfully, From what I know, Marcus is a loyal veteran at Rhodes Corporation. Will he really do as you ask? Harvey sneered. Of course, he wouldnt normally cooperate, but he has no choice with his precious daughter in my hands Blood is thicker than water, after all. Y You kidnapped Marcus daughter? Brad gasped in shock. Harvey snapped, Why are you panicking? The end justifies the means. Ill do whatever it takes to crush Rhodes Corporations pharmaceutical division.

Besides, I hired underground thugs to do the kidnapping even if it gets exposed, it cant be traced

back to the Weller family.

Just then, Harveys phone rang.

After answering it, he cursed, Those bloodsucking quality control inspectors, damn them! All they do is snoop around.

He stood up and headed for the door, adding, Im coming right over.

Make sure you treat those animals well give them whatever they want !! Before leaving, Harvey turned back to Brad and said, III send you Marcus number be ready to meet with him at any time. Dont worry, Harvey.

III handle it perfectly! Brad assured him.

Soon, only Brad and Serena remained in the living room.

After glancing around to ensure they were alone, Brad rushed over and embraced Serena, kissing her passionately.

Serena, Ive missed you so much! Let me kiss you I havent been able to sleep without being close to you! Brad panted, saying endearingly.

Serena pushed Brad away in disgust and complained, Stop it! Youre messing up my hair and dress.

Do you know Harvey just bought me this designer dress from Fraines? Its expensive! You wont even let me touch you anymore? Brad asked, looking wounded.

That beast Harvey, taking his own stepmother hell pay for this someday! Serena laughed coldly and said And what about you? Having an affair with your own brothers second wife how are you any better? Brad cried out, No, Im nothing like that monster Hatvey! Hes just using you, but my feelings are

genuine.

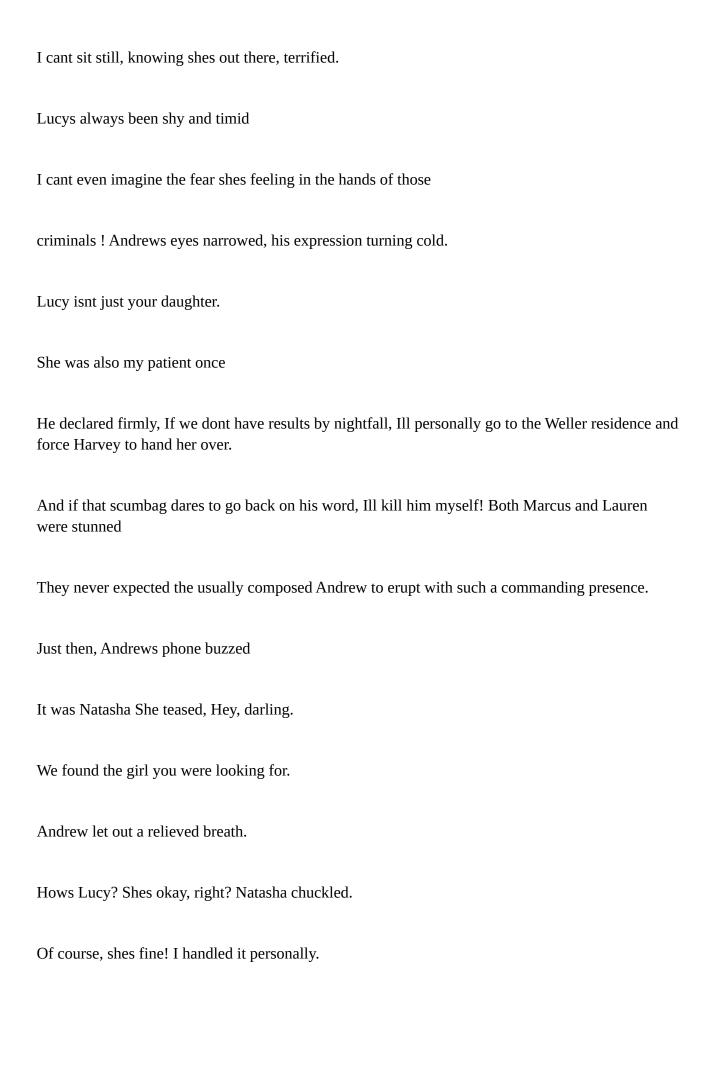
Id do anything for you! Serena just sneered with contempt while Brad continued desperately, If you dont believe me, III prove it! When I saw Harvey holding you earlier, I wanted to kill him on the spot! Serena retorted, Oh, please. Look at yourself! Youre too old to compete with someone young like Harvey. Let me be honest that one time with you was a mistake. I never had real feelings for you, so stop pursuing me. If Harvey catches you, I wont help you. Serena, how can you be so cruel? Brad asked, clutching his chest, his face ashen. Do your really care for him that much? Chapter 480 Serena giggled and said, Like him? Not exactly But men are always better when theyre young -more energy, better in bed, and they actually know how to please a woman She continued with a sneer, Besides, Harveys not just young; hes the head of the family. He can give me everything I want. But you? Youre useless in bed and cant afford to buy me anything.

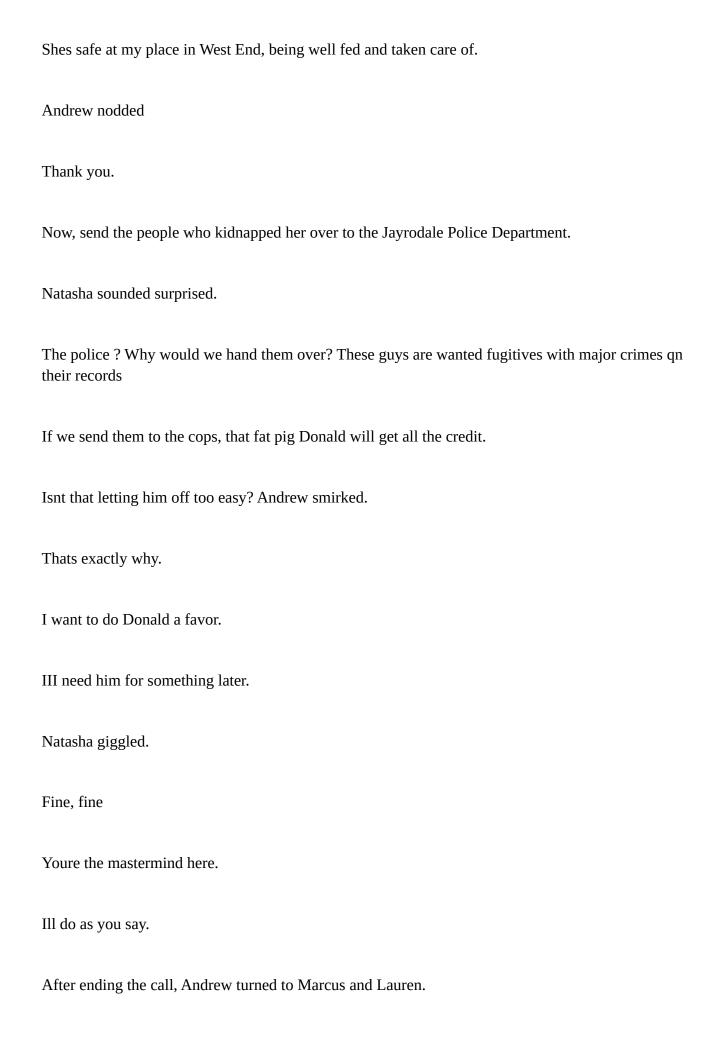
What do I need you for ? Brad was humiliated beyond words.

He glared at her with a searing hatred in his eyes and spat, Youll regret this, you shameless woman!

Both you and Harvey deserve to be struck by lightning! With his face twisted in rage, Brad stormed out of the Weller residence, his heart filled with bitterness.

Serena scoffed as she watched him leave.
Old fool! He cant even last for even a few extra seconds, and he still thinks I need him.
How pathetic! Meanwhile, four grueling hours had passed, and the two major underground forces of Jayrodale were still combing the city for Lucy.
At Rhodes Corporation, Marcus was in torment.
Every passing minute felt like an eternity, and the longer it went on, the greater the danger to Lucy.
Lauren was visibly worried and glanced at Andrew, seeking reassurance.
Andrew stood with his arms crossed, looking down at the bustling streets through the windows.
He said calmly, No need to rush.
I trust Natasha and Dylans abilities.
He added, Besides, Harvey hasnt gotten what he wants yet.
He wont hurt Lucy until he does.
Marcus sighed in pain.
I understand that, but Lucy is all I have.
Her mom passed away when she was little, and Ive raised her on my own ever since.
His voice cracked as he went on.





Lets go.
Were heading to the police station.
Marcuss eyes filled with hope.
Mr.
Lloyd, is Lucy really okay? Andrew smiled reassuringly.
Dont worry.
Shes fine.
Ive arranged for the people who kidnapped her to be delivered to the police station. Youll see her there.
Tears welled up in Marcuss eyes as he jumped out of bed.
Overcome with gratitude, he dropped to his knees in front of Andrew.
Mr.
Lloyd, youve saved Lucy again
This is the only way I can express my thanks to you.