The Ashes 601

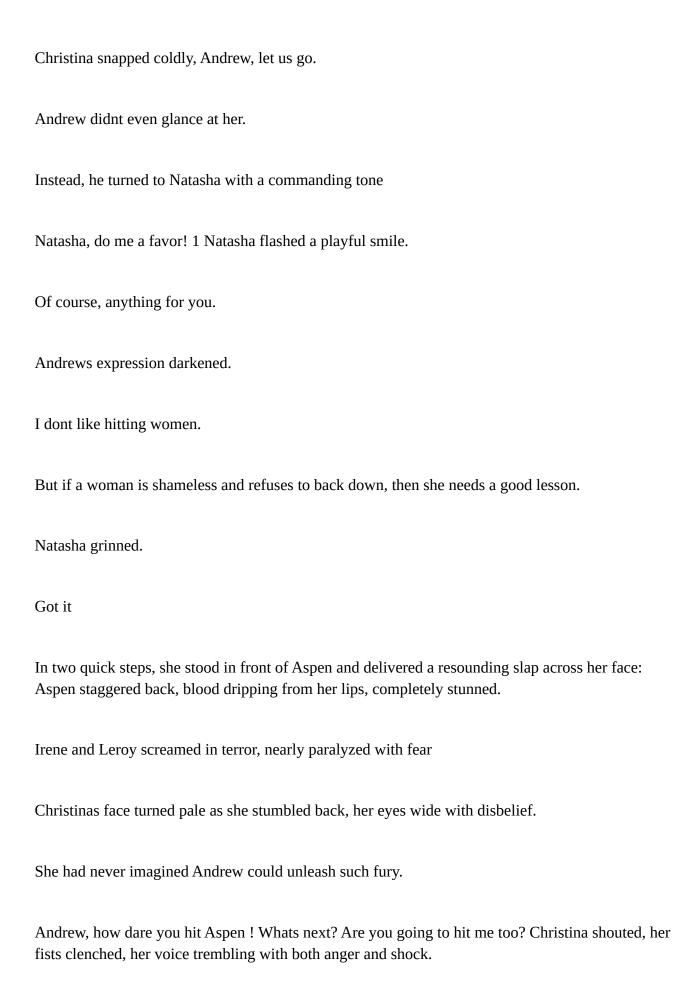
Chapter 601 Ignoring Aspens murderous glare, Andrew snorted coldly.
As for you saying that I stood by while you were humiliated at Madblade Martial Academy and didnt come to your aid Do you even hear yourself? How ridiculous can you be? Am I your guardian in any way? You get bullied, and Im supposed to jump in to save you? Sure, fine.
Just kneel down right now, acknowledge me as your father, and from today onward, in all of Jayrodale!, Andrew Lloyd, will have your back! With a mocking laugh, Andrew stared at Aspen, waiting for her to kneel.
It suddenly hit him just how much of a radical feminist she was, expecting him to rescue her when she was in trouble
And if he didnt, she held grudges and sought revenge
Women like Aspen, spoiled beyond belief and incapable of understanding basic decency, were a product of unchecked indulgence
If she didnt deserve a lesson, who did? Aspens face turned crimson with anger, her teeth clenched Fine
, Andrew, youre right about everything.
Its all my fault.

Neither of you will have a moment of peace

Woods is back, you just wait and Rodney too.

But this isnt over! Im done talking.

When Mr.



Andrews voice was icy.
For your grandfathers sake, I wont lay a hand on you, and I dont need to.
But your arrogance and stupidity will get you into worse trouble one day.
Aspen, clutching her swollen cheeks, glared at Andrew with eyes full of venom.
Andrew, do you even realize what youve done? No one has ever dared to lay a hand on me not even my family.
The Stevens family is a prestigious family with strict rules.
No one ever dares hit me, and you did just that! Youll pay for this with your life! Her voice rose to a furious scream as her gaze burned with pure hatred.
Andrew remained unfazed.
The Stevens familys precious ittle princess, huh? Turns out, youre just an undisciplined brat.
Since your parents and elders wouldnt discipline you, III do their job for them.
Andrews voice dropped, laced with chilling finality.
Natasha, continue
Without hesitation, Natashas hand snapped across Aspens face again.
Oh my, Aspen, your soft skin, that cute little nose, those delicate ears I almost feel bad for you, Natasha said with a playful tone, her smile broad.
But her strikes didnt falter.

Each slap landed harder than the last, leaving Aspen dazed, her head spinning, barely able to stay upright 1 Christinas face turned ashen. Her voice quivered as she stammered, Andrew, you Get out! Andrew barked, his voice sharp and commanding Christina froze, then scrambled to help Aspen to her feet. Without another word, the Stevens family members hurried away, battered and humiliated. Chapter 602 Get out! Andrews cold command cut through the air like a sharp blade, slicing deeply into Christinas heart. The Andrew she once knew had been a gentleman graceful, mild mannered, and never raised his voice at her, let alone spoke with such harshness. At that time, she had seen his gentleness as weakness a lack of masculinity and had looked down on him because of it. But now, this cold, ruthless Andrew terrified her. For the first time, she realized just how much she missed the softer version of him. This is outrageous! That little brat actually dared to order those thugs under Dylan to surround us. This insult- our family must settle this score! On the ride back, Irene fumed, her voice shrill with anger. Leroys expression was equally dark.

Andrews gotten too full of himself.

He doesnt even respect our family anymore.

Christie, you heard him, didnt you? He had the audacity to command you to leave! Leroy spat, his tone seething with rage

Does he think he can defy us and get away with it? 1 Irene chimed in, her voice venomous.

Exactly! Who does Andrew think he is? Just some useless man leeching off women! If it werent for our family giving him food and shelter, and for Christie giving him a chance to be with her, how could he possibly have gotten so lucky and climbed up in the world? Christie, you cant let this go

At the very least, you need to remind him that no matter how hard he tries or how many women he leans on, hell never surpass the Stevens family.

Leroy added fiercely, Christie, you saw how Aspen got beaten to a pulp.

Heres an idea: lets not take her to the hospital right away.

Instead, lets show the main family in Bridgefields exactly what happened to her.

He grinned maliciously.

Once the family head sees his daughter in this state, theres no way they wont retaliate.

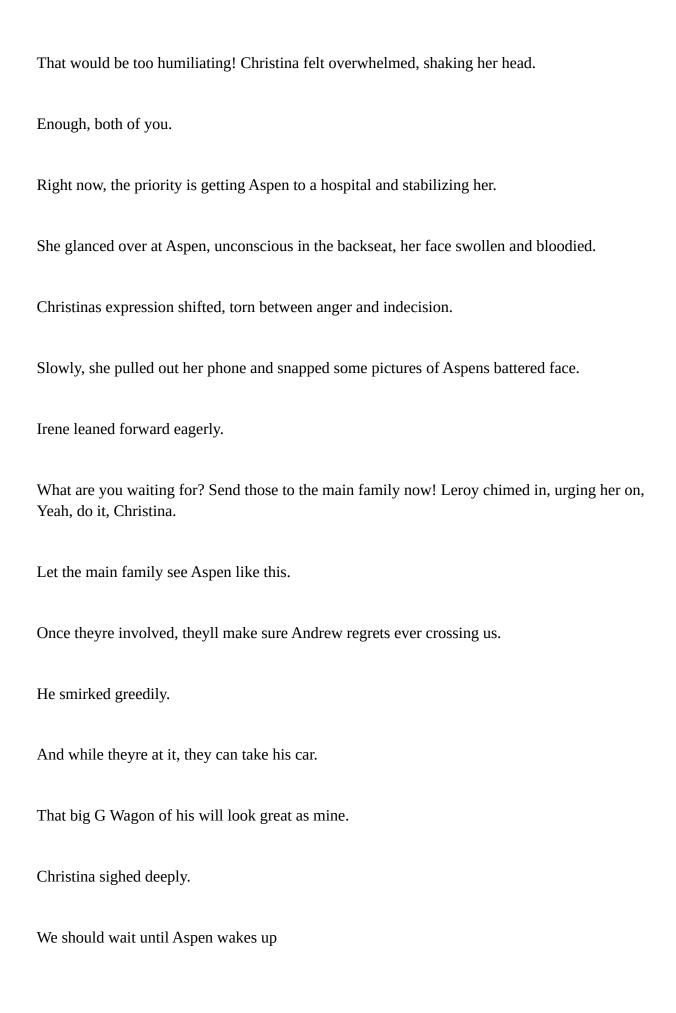
Theyll crush Andrew like an ant! Irenes eyes lit up, nodding enthusiastically.

Thats a great idea, Leroy! Christie, call the main family in Bridgefields and show them whats happened to Aspen.

If we dont teach Andrew a lesson, hes going to overshadow us completely.

Youre the Ice Queen of the Stevens Corporation you kicked him to the curb once.

You cant let him rise above you.



Its her decision whether or not to escalate this to the main family. Sending these photos now feels underhanded.

Irene snapped, Underhanded? Nonsense! Andrew attacked us! He deserves to be beaten to death for that.

Hes nothing but a disrespectful little punk! Leroy growled, We cant deal with Andrew on our own anymore.

Christie, if you dont involve the main family, its only a matter of time before Andrew walks all over us! Christina stared at her phone, her finger hovering over the send button in the chat with the main family. She hesitated, torn about whether or not to send the photos.

Chapter 603 At Moonlit Apothecary, the members of Madblade Martial Academy bid farewell shortly after the Stevens family left.

Rodney let out a long sigh of relief.

He hadnt expected Andrew to order Natasha to give Aspen a beating.

Seeing her get put in her place was incredibly satisfying.

Aspen was no longer someone Rodney could handle.

With Gordon around, Rodney knew he wasnt completely out of danger yet.

Watching Andrew deal with Aspen was cathartic, but if it had been him, he wouldnt have dared.

The fear Gordon instilled in him was too great.

For now, he would stay away from Aspen, though the grudge he held burned deeply.

After the last guest left, Andrew, Lauren, and Francesca turned and stepped into the apothecary.

Francesca began showing Andrew around the various functional areas of the medical center.

Originally owned by the Weller family, the building had been one of the largest upscale clubs in Jayrodale

It was vast and luxurious

After its transformation into a medical center, it retained its grandeur while also becoming practical for its new purpose.

Lauren and Francesca had been thoughtful in their design, even including a private office and a rest area for Andrew.

They also added a dedicated alchemy room and a leisure room filled with entertainment equipment. Andrew looked around, clearly impressed and satisfied.

However, he realized he wouldnt use many of the areas, especially the leisure room.

Entertainment didnt appeal to him much.

The high end gym equipment might see occasional use, but as a martial artist, he didnt need it.

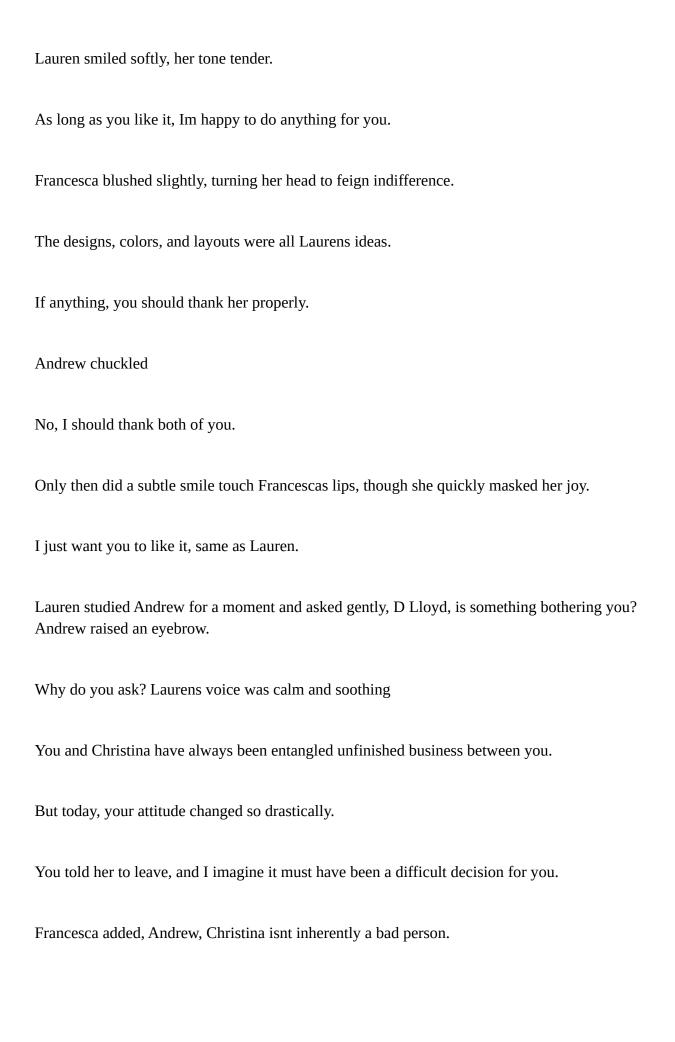
If he wanted to push his body to its limits, he could simply head to an underground arena.

And if he desired a perfectly sculpted physique, he could achieve that with ease

As a master of medicine, Andrew could stimulate specific acupuncture points, combine them with

tailored treatments, and achieve any desired physical transformation whether it was a bodybuilders muscles on a figure like a fitness model.

Lauren, Fran, youve really put a lot of thought into this, Andrew said after the tour, as the three of them sat in the front hall.



Shes just struggling with jealousy and resentment after seeing you doing so well while she feels left behind
But after what you said today, I think any lingering connection between you two is likely severed.
That mustve been hard for you.
Andrew paused briefly before breaking into a smile.
No, youre both wrong.
Lauren blinked, surprised.
Wrong? Then how do you feel, Dr.
Lloyd? 1 Francesca also looked at him curiously.
Andrew laughed softly.
To be honest, I feel nothing at all no sadness, no regret.
My heart is calm, completely at peace.
I let go of Christina a long time ago.
Through everything thats happened recently, Ive come to see her clearly.
Shes not the person for me, and thats okay.
Chapter 604 Andrew held Laurens delicate hand tightly and said with conviction, Now, Ive found someone I truly care about.

Everything in the past is behind me its gone for good.
Laurens cheeks flushed red in an instant.
With Francesca still present, she felt shy and tried to pull her hand away.
But Andrew tightened his grip and gave a gentle tug, pulling Lauren toward him.
Ah! Lauren exclaimed softly, falling into Andrews arms.
Before she could react, he wrapped an arm around her slender waist, holding her close
A shiver ran through Laurens body like an electric current, leaving her feeling weak and her ears burning red.
She stammered softly, Dr.
Lloyd, y you dont do this.
Fran is still here
Let go! Andrew chuckled.
No, I dont want to
Francesca, sitting nearby, felt a pang of discomfort as she watched the two of them so intimately close. Her heart felt hollow and uneasy.
Yet at the same time, she couldnt help but feel a wave of embarrassment
She noticed Andrews hand roaming slightly, exploring familiar territory on Lauren.

Meanwhile, Laurens long legs naturally found their place draped over Andrews lap

The scene was undeniably intimate and electric, enough to make Francescas face turn red and her heart race uncontrollably.

You shameless pair! Go ahead and enjoy yourselves.

Im leaving! Unable to bear the sight any longer, Francesca quickly stood up and hurried out of the medical center.

Once outside, she pressed her flushed cheeks with her hands, feeling how warm they were.

Are they really going to... in the medical center they just opened? Francesca muttered as her mind wandered to less than innocent thoughts

Part of her wanted to turn around and sneak a peek, but she felt too embarrassed to act on it

She also felt a slight sting of jealousy both Lauren, her closest friend, and Andrew, the man she admired

If only ... if only they included me, Francesca thought to herself.

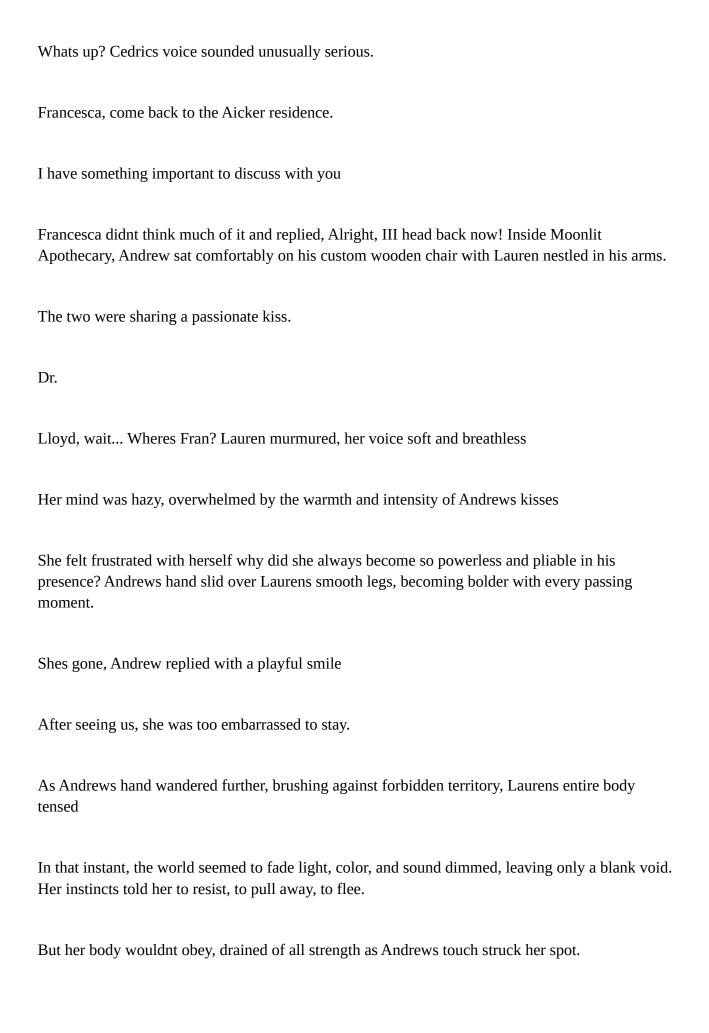
Her face burned even hotter at the ridiculous notion.

She slapped her cheeks and chided herself, Francesca Aicker, are you insane? What are you even thinking? No way! Absolutely not! she muttered, shaking her head Letting Andrew have two women to himself? That would make him way too smug.

Its not happening! At that moment, her phone rang.

It was her grandfather, Cedric Aicker.

Grandpa, Im still at the medical center.



Dr.
Lloyd, youre youre terrible! Stop it You cant do that to me! Lauren pleaded softly, her voice trembling like a gentle rain, laced with a faint nasal tone.
Chapter 605 Andrew unexpectedly felt a wet sensation on his hand
For a brief moment, a wave of desire threatened to consume him, but just as quickly, his unwavering self-discipline took over, and he stopped himself.
Are you okay? Did I hurt you? Andrew asked softly, withdrawing his hand and planting a gentle kiss on Laurens forehead
Youre so annoying! Lauren pouted, playfully hitting Andrews chest with her delicate fist
Her legs still felt weak, and a strange sensation lingered in the center of her being a feeling shed never experienced before.
It was unfamiliar but irresistibly enticing.
Andrew chuckled apologetically
Maybe its because I finally let go of some old emotional baggage.
I couldnt help myself.
If you werent ready, I wouldnt have done anything to push you.

Andrews desire for her, his willingness to claim her entirely, meant that she was now the only woman in his heart.

Laurens heart swelled with joy.

The shadow of the past her rival, Christina was now completely gone.

Yet, when she thought about taking the next step with Andrew, a wave of nervousness swept over her. She felt shy, even a little scared at the thought of doing something so intimate.

Lowering her gaze, Lauren looked incredibly enchanting at that moment

Her flushed cheeks, silky hair framing her face, and a strand playfully brushing against the corner of her lips all combined to create an irresistible allure

The slight bite of her lower lip and the dazed look in her eyes from the earlier intimacy only added to her captivating charm.

And if I said yes ... would you want me? Lauren murmured impulsively, her voice barely audible, like the buzz of a summer breeze.

Andrew froze for a moment, then exhaled a warm breath that made Laurens heart race uncontrollably. If youre willing, then III be ready whenever, wherever.

You just have to say the word

Andrew leaned closer, his smile full of mischief

Ill do all the work, wont I? Lauren, the captivating yet coy woman before him, was now entirely under his control.

Unlike before, she was no longer as aloof or hard to grasp.

For Andrew, the feeling of having her completely yielded to him was a strangely satisfying one.

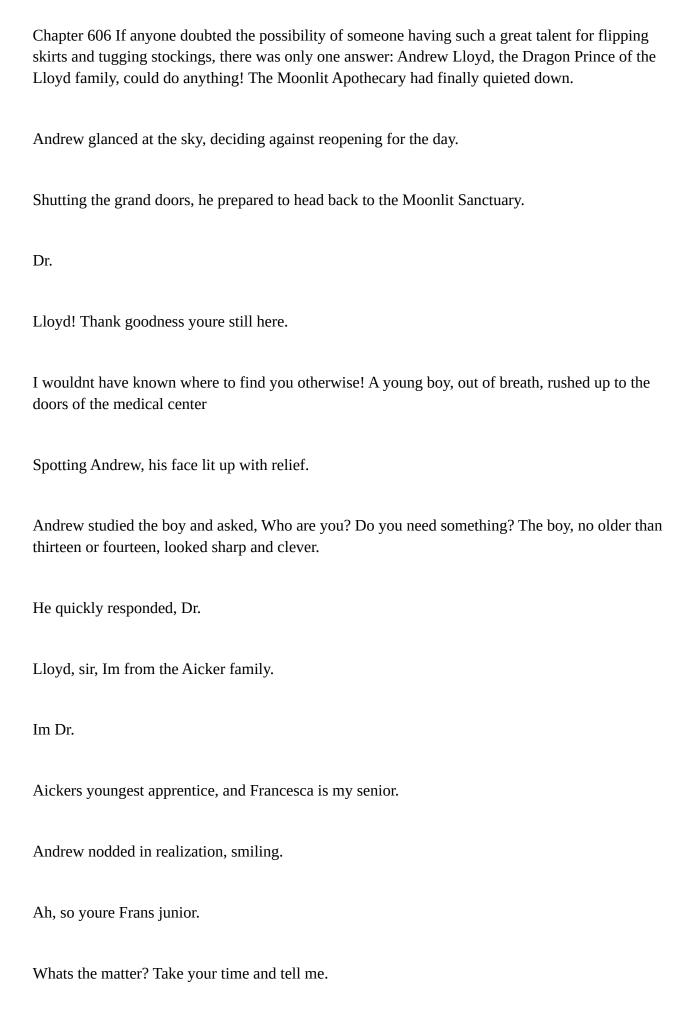
Dr.

Lloyd, your sweet words are so dangerously tempting! Lauren whispered, leaning in to nibble lightly on his ear, her tone a mix of irritation and amusement

Andrew raised his hand as if to playfully slap her on the bottom, but his hand froze mid air. Lauren had been secretly anticipating it, her heartbeat quickening in excitement. But when she noticed Andrews hesitation, she looked up curiously. Thats when she saw it his hand, fingers, and even the back of his hand were wet and glistening. Time seemed to stop for Lauren. Her face turned bright red as she realized what it was, and she wanted nothing more than to dig a hole and hide forever Andrew! Is ... is that from me? Lauren stammered, burying her face in his chest in utter embarrassment. Andrew laughed lightly. What else would it be? Of course, its from you. Youre... very well hydrated. Stop talking! Lauren cried, covering Andrews mouth with her hands, too mortified to hear another word As Andrew got up to wash his hands, Lauren hurriedly grabbed her bag and bolted toward the door. Why are you running? Im not going to eat you! Andrew called after her, shaking his head with a wry smile To be honest, he wasnt quite ready to let her go For Andrew, Lauren was the first woman he could truly call his own.

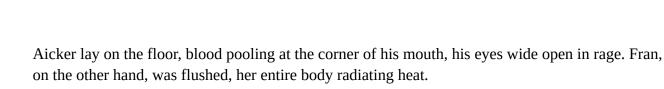
Though she had her moments of inexperience, Andrew himself wasnt exactly a master of romance.

What had happened between them had been purely instinctual.



The boy clenched his teeth and said, Dr.
Lloyd, Im here to ask you to save my master and Fran! Andrews face darkened.
What happened to them? The boys voice quivered with anger.
My senior, Simon, has gone mad! He attacked Dr.
Aicker and drugged Fran! Right now, hes taken control of the entire Aicker household.
I managed to sneak out, but all the other apprentices have been locked up
Andrews expression turned icy.
Lets go
Ill come with you to the Aicker residence and deal with this traitor Simon.
The boys eyes welled with tears as he shook his head.
Dr.
Lloyd, Im scared of him.
Hes been practicing dark arts, and not even Dr.
Aicker could defeat him.
If he finds out I was the one who alerted you, hell kill me! Seeing the boy trembling, Andrew sighed.

If youre so scared, why risk coming here to tell me? Tears rolled down the boys cheeks as he replied, Dr.
Aicker has always been kind to me
When my parents abandoned me, he took me in, fed and clothed me, and even taught me medicine. Fran promised to take me to the Jayrodale General Hospital in the future, to become a doctor.
She even said shed help me find a wife.
I really like her and dont want anything bad to happen to her! Andrew patted the boys head and smiled. Fran didnt waste her care on you.
Dont worry.
Come with me to the Aicker residence.
III make sure youre safe
With the roar of his G Wagons engine, Andrew and Frans junior sped toward the Aicker residence.
During the opening ceremony earlier, Simon had already caused a scene with Dr.
Aicker
The latter even publicly declared Simon expelled as his disciple
Andrew should have anticipated that Simon, narrow minded as he was, wouldnt take his expulsion lightly
But he hadnt expected Simon to act so brazenly, immediately turning on the Aicker family.
Inside the main hall of the Aicker residence, the situation was grim.



Her cheeks were bright red, and even her exposed wrists were visibly scarlet.

Her consciousness was fading fast.

Dr.

Simon stood nearby, licking his lips with a depraved grin.

Fran, if you just behave and submit to me, we can settle this nicely.

But if you resist, I might have to make things unpleasant for you.

Dont blame me later! Fran fought against the feverish, burning sensation consuming her body.

Her voice, hoarse but resolute, was filled with disgust, Simon, youre not human youre a monster! How

could you stoop so low as to drug your junior? Does your conscience feel no shame?

Chapter 607 Simons expression turned dark.

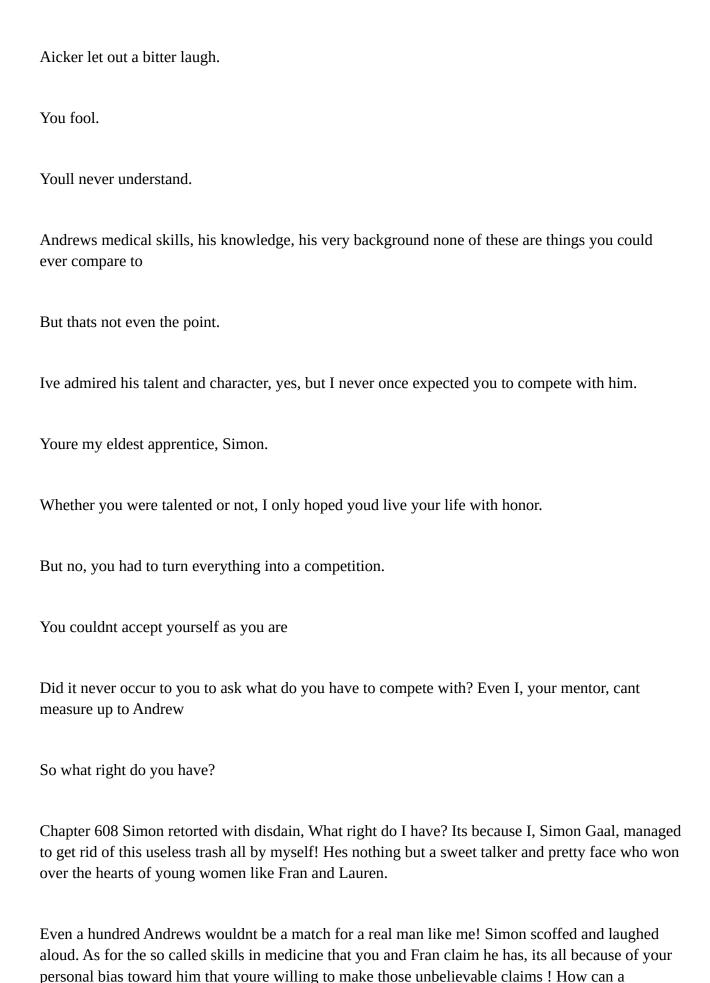
Do you think I wanted this? If I didnt trick you into drinking this Enthralling Essence, would you ever willingly give yourself to me? Before Francesca could respond, Simons face twisted with rage as he shouted, No! Your heart is full of that Andrew Lloyd, that useless pretty boy! I just dont get it, he continued, his voice filled with frustration.

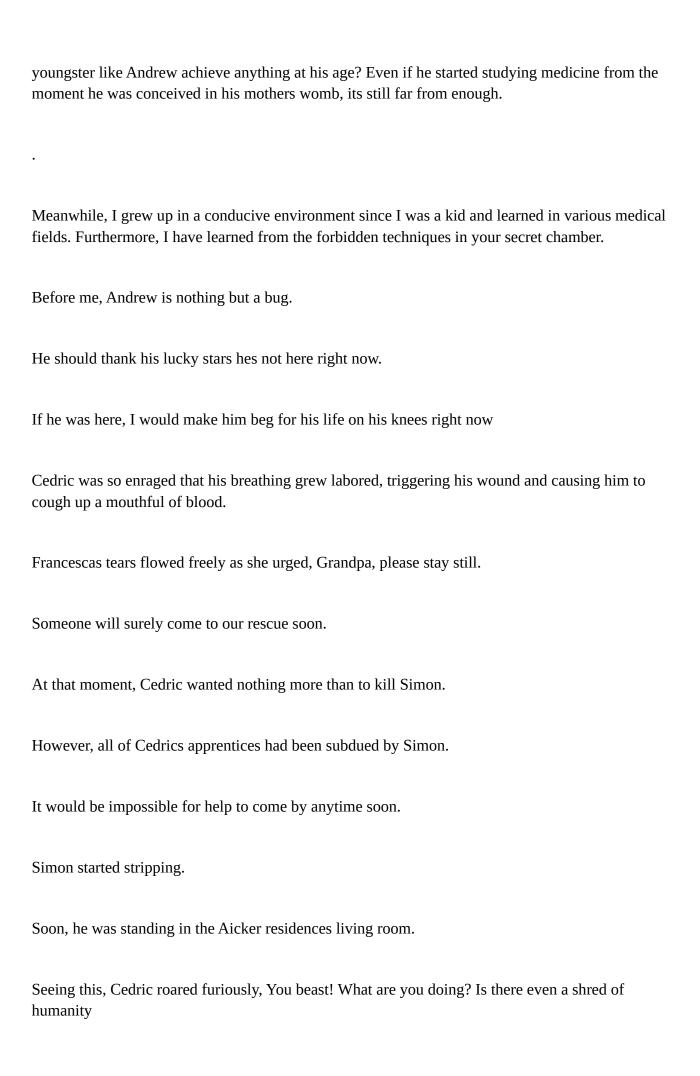
Compared to me, your childhood companion, what is Andrew anyway? Hes nothing but a pathetic excuse for a man! Francesca swallowed hard, her throat burning as if flames were licking up from within

her.
She was wearing a cropped white T shirt and tight jeans, but under the effects of the Enthralling Essence , she felt an uncontrollable urge to remove her clothes.
Yet, in the last moments of clarity, her rational mind forced her to stop.
Andrew would never stoop to your level, doing something so vile and disgusting to his own junior! And now that youve hurt my grandfather, Simon, I swear Ill never forgive you as long as I live! Her voice wavered as the effects of the drug overwhelmed her mind, leaving her increasingly disoriented. Simons eyes gleamed with unbridled lust as he smirked.
Francesca, stop resisting.
Just surrender to me already.
You know as well as I do how potent the Enthralling Essence is.
Before long, youll be begging me to love you.
And when that happens, Ill gladly grant your wish! The mere thought of what was to come sent Simon into fits of laughter
Francesca was desperate but utterly powerless.
Even if she wanted to call for help, her phone had already been taken by Simon, and she barely had the strength to lift a finger
Time ticked by, and with every passing moment, the drugs influence spread further through her body. Francesca could feel herself losing control, and the idea of becoming Simons plaything brought tears to her eyes.
Never in her worst nightmares had she imagined her first time being stolen by someone as

despicable as Simon- and through such a despicable, underhanded method at that! Nearby, Dr.

Aicker lay injured on the ground, his lips bloodied and his face red with fury.
Simon, you ungrateful wretch! If you dare harm Francesca, Ill spend every last penny I have to see you destroyed
Simon sneered, You wont have the chance, old man.
You cant even beat me anymore.
And once Francesca is mine, once she carries my child, do you think youd really have the heart to kill the father of your grandchild? I doubt it.
Dr.
Aickers voice trembled with rage.
Youre a monster! Do you have any shred of humanity left in you? Simons tone turned venomous. Humanity? You burned that out of me a long time ago, old man.
Whats so great about Andrew? Before he became known, he was just some pathetic kept man, living off
that so called Ice Queen of Stevens Corporation, only to be thrown out like trash.
That losers only skill is mooching off women! And yet, Francesca is head over heels for him.
Fine, whatever.
But even you, Dr.
Aicker, have fallen for his nonsense.
Why? Why him and not me? Dr.





left in you? Simon ignored him completely, shamelessly walking toward Francesca Francesca sat with her back to the wall in a corner, fighting the effects of the Enthralling Essence as she moved her legs, trying her best to distance herself from Simon. Unfortunately, she was unable to muster many strengths. I ... Id rather die ... than let you have your way! Francesca gritted her teeth, resolved to end her own life Simon walked up to her and looked down condescendingly with a perverse grin on his face. Fran, its futile. You cant take your own life even if you want to You should know how powerful the Enthralling Essence is. You cant. even muster the strength to stand up. How are you going to take your own life? As he said this, Simon reached out with his hands and ripped Francescas shirt apart. He then tossed it aside, exposing Francescas flawless skin. Her voluptuous breasts, supported by a laced bra, seemed as though they were ready to pop out, a stark contrast to her slim and shapely waist. Her alluring figure laid bare caused Simons blood to boil with excitement.

He swallowed hard, feeling a fire within him burning strong as his heart raced. Fran, youre so beautiful. Theres nothing in the world that can compare! Im willing to suffer anything in this world just to make you mine! Simon blurted in a daze, his eyes completely transfixed on Francescas shapely figure He grabbed onto her legs, and with a powerful tug, ripped her jeans apart. Chapter 609 No, I cant hold it anymore. Francesca, youre mine, and mine alone... With a guttural roar, like a wild beast, Simon lunged forward Francesca silently screamed in her mind, No! Tears streamed down her face uncontrollably. At that moment, she recalled the time when she was still afflicted with her condition, a state that had made her incapable of intimacy. Back then, she had been grateful when Andrew had cured her, giving her the chance to experience love and the hope of family life. But at that moment, she regretted it. If this was how it would all end, Francesca wished she had remained the way she was untouched, and unable to be violated. Suddenly, the solid wooden wall of the grand hall exploded into splinters. Andrew stepped through the debris, lowering his leg, his face dark and menacing

Stripping down naked in broad daylight and drugging your junior? Simon, are you performing some avant garde performance art here? Andrew sneered as he moved to block Francesca, staring at Simon with a cold and emotionless gaze.

Francesca, Dr.

Aicker dont worry, Im here! Francescas junior burst into the hall, tears streaming down his face as he rushed to help Cedric .

Simons expression turned livid, his face twisting in anger as he pointed at Andrew.

Andrew, Im warning you- dont stick your nose where it doesnt belong! he snarled.

If you dare ruin this for me today, I swear Ill kill you! Andrew smirked dismissively, not even sparing Simon a glance

He crouched down and gently covered Francescas exposed body with his jacket

Andrew, forget about me ... Save my... grandfather, Francesca murmured weakly, her voice trembling with relief before she passed out, a faint smile of gratitude gracing her lips.

Andrews gaze darkened as he observed her flushed face and overheated body.

Her legs were pressed tightly together, her condition worsening by the second.

The effects of the Enthralling Essence were evident its potency far exceeded that of common

aphrodisiacs or the likes of Euphoria Essence.

Once consumed, the drug would only dissipate through physical intimacy

Without release, the accumulating energy would wreak havoc on the body, potentially leading to severe internal damage or even death

Simon, youve given me every reason to end you right here and now. Rising to his feet, Andrews face turned icy as he took a step toward Simon. Simon roared, You think Im afraid of you, Andrew? You think youre invincible? With a bellow, he raised his right leg, aiming a powerful kick at Andrews head Simon was seething his plan had been completely derailed. He was furious that his victory had been snatched. away. Standing there, stripped and humiliated, with his plans in ruins, he was determined to make Andrew pay Bút Andrew sidestepped effortlessly, his movements fluid like a shadow, before delivering a countering kick. Simon grunted in pain as Andrews foot slammed into his chest, sending a sharp pang through his body. Gritting his teeth, Simon charged forward again with a furious yell Andrews smirk widened Simon had been harboring animosity toward him for some time, but that didnt change the fact that Simon was woefully underqualified to face him. Simon hadnt even scratched the level of a grandmaster, let alone posed a challenge to Andrew As Símon lunged, Andrews body blurred. Simon blinked in confusion Andrew had vanished from sight. Before Simon could react, a searing pain erupted in his back.

Andrews kick had landed squarely, sending Simon hurtling across the room to crash into the wall with a loud thud

How ... How can you be this strong? Simon stammered as he staggered to his feet, his face pale with disbelief.

I may not be at the grandmaster level, but Ive trained in dark arts! They grant me unmatched speed and power.

You shouldnt be able to harm me! Andrew took two firm steps forward, his gaze sharp and unwavering. Simon let out a desperate roar.

Die!

Chapter 610 Simon crossed his arms, fists flying with ferocity, his face twisted with rage. Andrews eyes, cold and unyielding, locked onto him.

With one hand, Andrew intercepted Simons strike mid air and grabbed his throat with a vice like grip. Two powerful punches one to Simons nose and another to his crown left Simon screaming in agony, blood spraying from his face.

His nose was broken, and crimson streams poured freely, choking him with every breath. Andrew, Ill kill you! Simon roared in desperation, trying to activate his dark art. But no matter how he tried, his body refused to respond.

His meridians felt frozen, immovable, and powerless against Andrews crushing grip.

Andrew sneered.

Arent you the one who loves stripping and behaving like a beast? Fine, Ill help you fulfill that desire make you a man who will never stop.

Lets see how long you last before you burn out.

A cold, glinting silver needle appeared in Andrews palm.

His hand moved like lightning, driving the needle directly into Simons lower body. Simons agonized screams tore through the air His eyes bulged, blood vessels bursting, and his tongue hung limply from his gaping mouth. Andrew released him with a harsh shove, throwing Simons naked body to the ground Simon writhed, groaning in pain, as he struggled to move. Slowly, he glanced down at himself What he saw nearly drove him mad with terror. His lower body was grotesquely swollen, like a radish, and the swelling was spreading rapidly. A horrifying black discoloration began creeping up, adding to the unbearable pain. Andrew! What did you do to me? Simon shrieked, his voice cracking You lunatic! What have you done? Andrew stared down at him, his expression icy. Youre fond of using drugs and indulging in filth? Well, Ive shattered your meridians and inserted a hollow silver needle filled with a special concoction.

Trust me, one day, youll thank me, Andrew said coldly, a faint, enigmatic smile playing on his lips. Meanwhile, Cedric, with the help of the youngest apprentice, had finally regained his composure and managed to sit upright.

, Enjoy it.

Suddenly, he exclaimed, Andrew, watch out! Andrew turned his head just in time to see Simon, his face a mask of madness, hurling a handful of white powder straight at him.

Andrew remained calm, raising his palms and unleashing a powerful strike into the air.

Two shockwaves rippled through the air, reversing the powders trajectory and sending it hurtling back at Simon.

Simons expression froze in terror.

He hadnt anticipated Andrews strength an overwhelming force beyond anything he could comprehend Without a second thought, Simon scrambled to his feet, bolting like a stark naked, pale figure down the hall, abandoning all dignity in his flight.

Andrew stepped forward, closing the distance in an instant Raising his palm, he aimed for the back of Simons head, intending to end it all.

Andrew, please, for my sake, spare his life! Cedric called out, his voice filled with urgency

1 Andrews icy gaze showed no intention of relenting, his hand descending with precision.

At the very last moment, he shifted his aim, striking Simons back instead.

The force sent Simon flying over 20 feet backward, smashing through the outer wall of the Aicker

residence and rolling unceremoniously onto the street outside.