

## The Ashes 611

Chapter 611 Simon let out a sharp cry, tumbling across the ground as blood spurted from his mouth. His entire body trembled in fear, his mind on the verge of collapse.

He could not believe how vast the difference in strength between him and Andrew actually was.

The dark arts he had been so proud of, along with his ambush using deadly poison powder, had not even made a dent.

On the contrary, if Cedric had not spoken up on his behalf out of their old ties, Simon was sure he would already be dead by now.

As luck would have it, a cab happened to drive by.

Simon threw the door open, jumped inside, and barked, Drive! The driver stared at him in shock.

Dude, are you practicing for Halloween? Why are you covered in blood? Simon's face contorted with pain, and he roared, Are you going or not? One more word and I'll take you out with one strike! Terrified, the driver slammed on the gas and sped off.

Meanwhile, back at the Aicker residence, chaos erupted.

Cedric's apprentices had been released and were visibly tense, fearing Simon might return for revenge. Andrew announced confidently, Relax.

He wouldn't dare come back.

Take Mr.

Aicker to rest and give him the best healing pill you've got.

With that reassurance, the apprentices finally regained their composure and rushed to carry out Andrew's order.

Cedrics injuries were serious.

Even though Andrew had saved him in time, he still needed rest and treatment, given his age. Francesca, on the other hand, had not suffered any wounds

Yet as she lay feverish and disoriented, her flushed skin glistened.

Andrew felt a headache coming on as her condition was far more complicated than Cedrics.

Andrew... I... I need you... Before Andrew could figure out how to counter the Enthralling Essence coursing through her, Francesca suddenly sprang up from the floor.

With alarming speed, her delicate hands wrapped around Andrews neck, and her lips- soft and burning hot aimed straight for his

In the process, the coat Andrew had draped over her slipped off and fell to the ground

Her curvaceous figure, barely concealed by her disheveled clothes, was now fully on display.

Outside the hall, Francescas junior apprentice kept his head bowed low, not daring to look.

In a trembling voice, he mumbled, Dr.

Lloyd, Mr.

Aicker said... said the Enthralling Essence in Fran can only be neutralized by you.

So... were counting on you! After blurting that out, the young man quickly ran off, too embarrassed to stick around

Andrew cursed under his breath, calling Cedric a sly old fox It was obvious that Cedric knew how potent the Enthralling Essence was

Apart from an intimate union, there was no other way to expel the drug from Francescas system.

That crafty old man had practically handed his granddaughter over to Andrew, leaving him to handle the situation however he saw fit! Andrew, please... I cant take it anymore... I feel like my body is going to explode! Francescas voice cracked with desperation as she clung to him, her body writhing with unbearable heat.

Andrew quickly placed his hand on the back of her neck, trying to restrain her.

If he did not, she would undoubtedly lose all control and press her lips against his.

He attempted several times to wrap her back in the coat, but the Enthralling Essence was relentless.

No matter how many times he dressed her, Francesca would squirm and tear the clothes off again, her body burning up

Andrew... Im burning up... Help me, please! Tears welled in Francescas eyes as she pleaded, her voice cracking with anguish.

She struggled to resist her impulses, but her body betrayed her, instinctively pressing against his. Soon, her hands roamed over Andrews chest and arms.

Chapter 612 Before Andrew realized it, Francesca had torn off every piece of clothing, including her underwear

The rough force she used left faint red marks on her smooth, fair skin.

Yet, Francesca seemed oblivious to the pain, writhing in his arms as sweat glistened on her flushed body

Andrew knew they were out of time.

If she did not find relief soon, the consequences would be dire

Taking a deep breath, he muttered apologetically, Sorry, Fran! Then, he scooped her up and hurried toward her bedroom

Francescas warm breath tickled his ear as her eyes shimmered with desire.

Andrew, I dont blame you... I want this

I want... to give myself to you, she whispered between ragged breaths, her voice filled with anticipation.

Meanwhile, Simons escape led him to a gated mansion on the outskirts of Jayrodales wealthy district.

He staggered toward the entrance, only to be blocked by a scowling security guard

Get lost, freak! Who the hell do you think you are? the guard barked, eyeing Simon suspiciously. Ignoring him, Simon stumbled past and yelled hoarsely, Mr.

Eslinger ! Mr.

Eslinger, help me! The guard cursed and summoned reinforcements.

This is a high class neighborhood.

We cant have some bloody lunatic running around scaring off the rich folks.

Several guards rushed forward, ready to subdue Simon

Just then, the mansions iron gate creaked open, revealing a gaunt, stern faced old man in a black robe.

His cold gaze swept over Simon before he frowned.

He blurted out, Simon? What the hell happened to you? The guards hesitated and then approached cautiously

One forced an awkward smile.

Uh, Mr.

Eslinger, do you know this... this naked man? Bane scowled, clearly annoyed

Mind your own damn business and get out of here! The guards exchanged confused looks but quickly backed off

They shook their heads in disbelief as they dispersed, mumbling about how weird things kept happening in the area.

Just recently, there was a rumor about a female CEO who was in her 30s, gorgeous, and filthy rich. Apparently, she got stuck in some inappropriate situation with her pet golden retriever.

Eventually, firefighters were called, but they still could not separate them.

The CEO was so embarrassed that she called the cops

Without any luck, she tried to jump out of her second floor window to avoid further humiliation.

Surprisingly, the jump was a blessing in disguise as both the woman and her beloved retriever were separated and ended up fine.

Inside the mansion, Bane handed Simon a fresh set of clothes.

He snapped, Explain yourself.

I told you not to come to me publicly! Simon, still shaken, caught his breath and muttered, Mr. Eslinger, I didnt want to come here, but Mr.

Aicker kicked me out of the Aicker family.

Ive got nowhere else to go.

Bane narrowed his eyes.

And what about those injuries? How did you end up like this? Simons face twisted with rage.

It was Andrew ... that bastard Andrew! He ambushed the Aicker residence and ruined my entire plan.

If it werent for him, the whole family would be under my control by now.

Francesca would already be mine

1 Banes expression darkened, and he lashed out in frustration.

You fool! How many times did I warn you not to act alone? Taking over the Aickers isnt something you

can handle without me! He continued, Youve jeopardized everything by rushing in.

Now how am I supposed to wrest control from Cedric with you screwing things up?

Chapter 613 Simon frowned in confusion.

Mr.

Eslinger, Ive never understood why youre so determined to control the Aickers.

I mean, with your abilities, you could easily build your own powerful legacy.

Bane snorted coldly.

What do you know about my ambitions? Cedric and I were once fellow apprentices under the same mentor, Mr.

Gregory Sivan.

From the start, Cedric was inferior to me in every way whether in medicine, combat, or earning Mr. Sivans favor.

The man wasnt even in my league.

Simon looked skeptical.

If thats true, then why are you here all alone? Meanwhile, Mr.

Aicker has established a family empire thats thriving in Jayrodale.

Banes expression darkened, his face twisting into a grimace. Funny you should ask.

My story isnt too different from yours.

He paced slowly as he continued.

Cedric was a nobody at the Advanced Medical Institute, a clown obsessed with weird herbs and remedies.

I was respected, one of the Institutes top figures, while he was ignored by everyone.

But somehow, that pathetic fool became Mr.

Sivans favorite

Bane clenched his jaw as his voice grew harsher.

Mr.

Sivan even married off his daughter, our junior apprentice Beatrice, to that loser! Simons eyes widened in shock.

Wait, are you telling me youre just like me, who had his girl stolen ? Damn.

Banes scarred face twitched as he suppressed the urge to slap Simon.

Watch your mouth! My case is nothing like yours.

He sneered

Sure, Cedric inherited Mr.

Sivans legacy and got Beatrice, but I didnt fall behind him in terms of skill or power.

Still, Mr.

Sivan kept favoring him more over time, which drove me mad.

I repeatedly asked why he treated me so unfairly

He explained, Every time, he berated me, saying I was arrogant and lacked the humility necessary for medicine

He scolded me, telling me to learn from Cedrics dedication and perseverance.

He even said that Cedrics slow, methodical approach was the true path to success.



Bane scoffed bitterly.

As if I'd believe that nonsense.

Eventually, I couldn't take it anymore.

I broke into his hidden chamber, stole a manual on toxic arts, and began mastering it in secret. Then, on the day Mr.

Sivan married Beatrice to Cedric, I crashed the wedding.

I injured Mr.

Sivan, kidnapped Beatrice, and made a spectacle of myself.

He chuckled darkly before saying, That was my moment of glory.

Far better than you, stumbling around naked after fleeing the Aicker residence.

You think you can compare yourself to me ? he taunted, his gaze sharp and condescending. Simon gritted his teeth, swallowing his humiliation.

You're right.

I don't measure up to you.

But look at yourself you're hiding from the world and wanted by the Advanced Medical Institute

All those grand stories don't really match your current situation, do they? Bane's eyes blazed with fury.

Bullshit! If it werent for the poison arts ravaging my body, causing constant skin decay that I have to suppress, I wouldnt be in hiding! I also killed several disciples when I defected, and Mr.

Sivan died not long after I injured him.

Thats why the Institute put a bounty on my head.

Sure, the Institute is powerful, but Ive killed every hunter they sent after me, he added with a cold laugh

Unfortunately, Cedric also hunted me relentlessly back then.

I was forced to abandon Beatrice during my escape.

That failure... its the one regret that haunts me to this day

Chapter 614 Banes voice became cold and sharp.

Time may have passed, but my hatred for Cedric hasnt diminished one bit.

If anything, I crave even more to see him suffer so much that death would feel like mercy.

When I came to Jayrodale, I made a vow to strip away everything he has, piece by piece, just like peeling off his skin layer by layer

I want him to regret ever crossing me.

Simons eyes burned with shared hatred.

Then lets join forces, Mr.

Eslinger.

Together, well crush the Aickers.

Cedric didnt give me what I wanted, and Francesca wouldnt accept me

Fine III make sure their entire family is destroyed! Bane nodded approvingly.

Youve got potential

Youre not quite on my level, but youll do .

Im at a point in Jayrodale where I need capable people, and your timing couldnt be better. Simon clenched his teeth.

Then lets stop wasting time! Once I recover, well storm The Aickers and take them down. Idiot! Bane barked.

Do you really think they wont be on high alert after your little stunt? You wont get anywhere near them

now

He crossed his arms and added, Besides, Ive got to deal with some issues involving Rhodes Corporation first.

I cant focus on The Aickers right now.

Simon scowled in frustration.

Fine, but I swear III have my revenge

And that Andrew ... Hes even more deserving of death.

If I cant beat him in combat, III poison him to death through his own damn profession.

Bane raised an eyebrow.

Dont underestimate him.

Andrews medical expertise is impressive

Even I havent figured out his full capabilities.

Youd better not rush into anything foolish.

Simon sneered.

Medical expertise? Maybe.

But theres no way he can compare to you, Mr.

Eslinger

Youre a master from the Advanced Medical Institute Andrews nothing compared to you! Bane stroked his beard, clearly pleased with the flattery.

Hmm, well said

You can stay here for now and follow my lead

Once we bring down the Aickers and seize everything Cedric has, Francesca will be yours.

Simons face lit up.

Thank you, Mr.

Eslinger ! Please, accept me as your apprentice! Bane shook his head.

No.

You're Cedric's apprentice, not mine.

Simon protested, But I've already defected from The Aickers ! I'm following you now, and I want to officially become your apprentice

I'll serve you loyally! Bane chuckled darkly, giving Simon a knowing look.

You're missing the point

I don't want to end up like Cedric .

If you betrayed him, what's to stop you from betraying me? Simon froze, then let out an awkward laugh.

You've got it all wrong, Mr.

Eslinger.

Cedric's a worthless old bastard who didn't deserve my loyalty.

But you? You're a hundred times more powerful than him.

I'd never dare betray you! Bane's voice turned cold.

Let's be honest with each other we're both traitors.

We know exactly what kind of people we are.

Dont insult my intelligence by pretending otherwise.

Simon sighed in defeat.

Fine

But can you teach me your poison arts ? I need to get stronger if Im going to deal with Andrew.

Banes expression was unreadable.

Well see about that

Simons frustration boiled over.

Come on, Mr.

Eslinger ! Without stronger poison techniques, I cant take him down. Youve got to help me get stronger- He suddenly stopped mid sentence, screaming in agony as he doubled over

He clutched his crotch and collapsed to the floor, writhing in pain.

Banes eyes widened in shock.

What the hells wrong with you? He crouched beside Simon and pried his hands away from the area. Bane gasped at the sight and exclaimed, Simon... Your junk is about to explode!

Chapter 615 Mr.

Eslinger, help me! I feel like Im burning from the inside out like a hot iron is scorching me ! Simon writhed on the floor, all curled up as he screamed in agony.

Banes face turned serious as he crouched down beside him Spread your legs and stop moving.

I need to take a proper look.

When Bane examined the area, his expression darkened further.

Simons groin had turned completely black, a clear sign of severe poisoning

However, what baffled Bane was the swelling Simons manhood was inflating unnaturally, almost as if it were about to burst.

Mr.

Eslinger, how bad is it? Youve got to help me! I feel like Im going to explode! Simon gasped for air, drenched in sweat, as he groaned in pain.

Banes brow furrowed in confusion.

What the hell happened to you? How did this even get poisoned? Simon howled in frustration.

Its that bastard Andrew! He stuck a silver needle down there! I thought it wasnt a big deal, but now its killing me

You have to save me ! Bane quickly pulled out two detox pills and forced Simon to swallow them. He then pressed his hands over the affected area, inspecting it further.

His face twisted with shock as he asked, Your vital gate has been completely destroyed

Goodness, how is this possible? He shook his head and explained, Simon, your condition is dire. Your energy is all being funneled to that spot.

If you cant release the pressure, your body will literally burst Simons bloodshot eyes widened in terror. Then hurry up and treat me ! I cant hold on much longer! Bane sighed deeply.

Its complicated very complicated

The vital gate is one of the body's most important secrets.

Normally, it never fully opens in a person's lifetime.

But in your case, Andrew didn't just open it.

He pierced it completely with a needle.

Simon's face paled.

Y You're kidding, right? You're just saying that to scare me, right? Bane's expression darkened further.

If it were just poison or a physical injury, I could cure you in minutes.

Yet, Andrew somehow managed to damage one of your most fragile areas with precision.

I have no idea how he did it.

So, what now? Simon asked, panic rising in his voice.

Is there nothing you can do? Bane clenched his jaw.

Damn it.

The lower body is extremely sensitive, and this injury is beyond normal treatment.

At this point... there's only one solution.

Simon's eyes filled with desperation.



What is it? Tell me ! Il do anything even if I have to jump off a building! Bane glanced down at Simons convulsing body and the thick fluid beginning to leak from his groin.

He sighed heavily.

Youre blocked.

If we dont release the pressure, youll lose more than just your life.

Simon groaned in agony

Fine, I get it! Just call someone anyone to help me release it! And make sure shes young and pretty. No old, ugly women, please.

Bane scoffed.

Youre in no position to be picky.

You should be grateful if anyone shows up at all.

Standing up, Bane pulled out his phone and called Michael Rhodes.

Mr.

Rhodes, I need a favor.

Could you send over a family meal as soon as possible? Michael chuckled on the other end.

Bane, thats quite a portion.

Are you sure you can handle it? Its not for me, Bane replied dryly.

Its for Simon Gaal, a junior of mine.

And trust me, if you dont get it here fast, this kids a goner.

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616 Michael asked in surprise, What happened to Simon ? f hes in bad shape, I doubt a family meal will help much.

Its a long story, Bane replied with a sigh.

Just hurry and send it over

If you dont, Simon might die ! Michael chuckled

Sounds to me like hes more likely to die happy after hes done with that meal.

Dont worry, Ill arrange it right away premium service just for you! Half an hour later, the family meal arrived

The delivery included five women, two of which were foreigners, speaking with an accent that butchered the local language

Simon eagerly grabbed the two ladies and dashed to the room, ready to feast.

Bane smirked and called out, You three, go in as well

With five women in total, Bane figured it would be enough for Simon to relieve the dangerous buildup in his body.

As long as he released himself, Simons life could be saved.

Soon, loud thumping sounds and muffled commotion echoed from inside the room.

Bane remained expressionless, quietly waiting.

An hour later, the door swung open

The two foreigners stormed out, pulling on their clothes and shouting angrily, What the fuck was that?

That guys a beast! Were done! They bolted out of the mansion, hurling curses behind them.

Banes expression darkened as he walked into the room to assess the situation.

Inside, the three remaining women were passed out, completely exhausted.

Meanwhile, Simon was still pacing in agony, his symptoms far from relieved.

Mr.

Eslinger, this isnt enough! I need more more ! Simon groaned, his face twisted with desperation. Bane frowned and muttered under his breath.

Fine.

Ill make another call.

He quickly rang Michael again.

Michael was stunned when he heard the news.

Are you serious? He went through all of them and still isnt satisfied? Hes dealing with a medical crisis, Bane said through gritted teeth.

His conditions forcing him to push his limits its not just for fun! Michael chuckled in disbelief.

Well, Ill send another batch Hell, Im coming over myself.

I need to see what kind of monster this Simon is! A short while later, Michael arrived with more women. Another round of chaos ensued, leaving the new batch utterly depleted.

Yet, Simon still was not fully relieved, his body refusing to stabilize.

Michael shook his head in awe.

Bane, when can I be as exceptional as Simon? This guys... unstoppable ! Banes face was grim as he sneered.

Oh, you want to be like him? Sure.

Ill destroy your vital gate and focus your energy there

Then, youll be just like him except youll die, your body shriveled to skin and bones.

You want that? Michael swallowed hard and shook his head.

Hell no ! Exactly, Bane said coldly.

And this cant go on forever.

We cant just keep calling for more women.

Its not sustainable.

Michael looked uneasy.

So... whats the plan? Youre not suggesting something extreme, are you? Bane gave a chilling grin.

When it comes to saving a patient, I have only two options: kill or cure

And when I choose to cure, I dont care about the method only the results matter.

Michael wiped the sweat from his brow.

Alright, Bane ... Whats your plan? Banes eyes gleamed darkly.

Were going to find a pig farm.

And not just any pig farm I want one with sows.

You understand what I mean, right? Michaels face turned pale as a shudder ran through his spine.  
Oh... I understand.

Crystal clear.

Chapter 617 Meanwhile, Andrew neither knew nor cared whether Simon was alive or dead.

He was too preoccupied with Francesca, who had completely lost her mind

Let go of me ! Please, I need you! Im going to die if you dont help me please! Francesca cried out.

Her flushed, naked body squirmed helplessly as Andrew had her bound and placed inside a large tub of ice water to reduce the intense heat radiating from within.

The icy water helped cool her down temporarily, but it was only a surface level solution.

The powerful drug, Enthralling Essence, was still wreaking havoc on her organs, tearing through her from the inside

If she did not find relief soon, she might not survive the night.

Fran, calm down, Andrew said firmly, gripping her shoulders to keep her from thrashing.

Im working on it.

I promise Ill save you! His mind raced as he searched for a way to neutralize the effects of the drug. Simon had gone too far.

Enthralling Essence was not a substance anyone used lightly it was exponentially stronger than regular aphrodisiacs.

Even animals exposed to it could go into a dangerous frenzy.

As Andrew pondered, he made the mistake of loosening his grip for a split second

Francesca suddenly broke free, lunging out of the ice water and wrapping herself tightly around him.

Her soft, overheated body pressed against him as she locked her arms around his waist and captured his lips with a feverish kiss.

Andrew tensed but held back from using force to push her off, fearing he might accidentally hurt her. He was caught in a dilemma.

Andrew ... please, Im begging you, Francesca whispered, her tears mixing with her desperate kisses. Dont hold back anymore.

I need you help me! She sobbed as she clung to him, overwhelmed by the sensation of what felt like thousands of tiny ants crawling and gnawing inside her body.

The shame and embarrassment had long faded she just wanted Andrew to end her torment.

Fran, I cant, Andrew replied, turning his head away.

If I do that with you, what happens afterward? What would this mean for us? I want to be your woman, Andrew, Francesca whispered softly.

Im not afraid

Let this be the moment its what I want.

Do you even know how I feel about you? she continued, her voice trembling with emotion.

I... I like you, Andrew

Just like Lauren does

I want to be with you.

Please dont push me away, Im willing.

She grabbed his hand and guided it over her body as her legs wrapped tightly around his waist.

Andrew felt a wave of frustration and temptation rising within him

Any man in his position would have struggled to resist, and Francesca was undeniably a stunning woman

.

Her figure was breathtaking, her skin radiant with an alluring flush, and her innocent, teary eyes

brimmed with an irresistible mix of purity and desire.

His mind screamed at him to give in.

The voice in his head roared louder with each passing second, Take her! Claim her now! Several times, Andrew nearly lost control

However, each time, he forced himself to stop.

He reminded himself that Francesca was not acting of her own free will at least not entirely.

Though she had opened her heart to him, the drug was still influencing her.

He refused to take advantage of her in such a vulnerable state

Then, there was Lauren.

Andrew knew that if he gave in to Francesca now, he would never be able to face Lauren again.

He could not betray her like that.

With an iron will, Andrew shook his head and spoke firmly.

Fran, I cant.

Im sorry.

I wont do that to you.

Ill find another way to help you.

Just hang in there a little longer.

Trust me.



Chapter 618 Francesca sobbed, her voice filled with despair.

Andrew... we said everything.

You still won't accept me? Do you just want to watch me die? Or ... is it because you don't care about me at all? Andrew quickly shook his head.

No, Fran, you're wrong.

I would never let you die.

Then give me what I need ! Francesca cried out, her voice cracking with desperation.

I can't take it anymore, Andrew ! I'd rather die than go through this torture! Andrew hesitated, his heart

softening at the sight of her tear filled eyes and pained expression.

He knew he could not drag this out any longer he had to act.

Alright, Fran... but brace yourself.

It might hurt a little.

Francesca's flushed face brightened with a gentle, relieved smile.

Andrew... I trust you.

I'm not afraid.

Just... give me what I need, she whispered softly.

Andrew carefully laid her on the bed and reached out, his heated hands making contact with her trembling body

Francesca let out a quiet, kitten like whimper.

For the first time in what felt like an eternity, her agony melted away, replaced by waves of soothing warmth and gentle release.

Meanwhile, at Banes mansion, Simon was dragged inside like a limp, lifeless body.

Michael glanced at him and spoke casually.

Well, the swellings gone down.

Looks like hes going to be okay! Bane crossed his arms and snorted.

His life may be spared, but... his manhood is destroyed.

Permanently.

Michaels eyes widened in horror.

Wait, what? But we found a sow at the pig farm, didnt we? I thought that worked! Bane sighed heavily. The excess energy was released, which kept him alive.

But you dont understand how the body works.

The essence were born with is finite nurtured over the years through careful balance and development.

He continued, This time, Simons vital gate was shattered causing his entire reserve to flood out like a broken dam

The reservoir is bone dry now.

And when a reservoir dries up... well, the fate for the fish inside is sealed.

Michael shivered

Damn... Andrew is ruthless.

He didnt just hurt Simon he destroyed him.

At that moment, Simon stirred, groaning as he slowly regained consciousness.

Bane leaned in, his expression cold

Simon, how are you feeling? Simon coughed weakly and spoke in a strained voice.

The pains gone... but I feel completely drained

I cant move a muscle

Of course, you cant, Bane scoffed.

Youre practically a cripple now.

Youll need at least two weeks of rest before you can walk again.

Simons eyes widened in panic

Wait... what about my ... you know... down there? Is it ... still okay? Banes face twitched slightly before

he sighed.

Its still there.

The poisons gone.

But Simon... you should prepare yourself.

Simons body tensed, a deep sense of foreboding washing over him.

Prepare for what? Dont scare me like this, Mr.

Eslinger ! Bane looked at him with pity.

Your manhood is useless now.

Sure, its still attached, but its shriveled and dead inside just a flaccid husk.

Its lost all function and sensation.

No ... that cant be true! Simon gasped, his mind reeling.

Youre lying! Youre wrong! This cant be happening! Bane shook his head solemnly.

You know my skills, Simon I dont make mistakes like this.

Its dead tissue now- a liability connected to your body.

He added, My advice? Have it removed.

Itll prevent infection and further complications.

Think about it clean and simple.

Simons eyes widened in horror as he stared blankly at the ceiling

His mind snapped under the weight of Banes words and roared, No! I wont do it! His body convulsed as

the shock overwhelmed him, and within seconds, Simon collapsed into unconsciousness.

The Novel will be updated first on this website. Come back and continue reading tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 619 Michael shook his head in pity.

Man, Simon really got the short end of the stick.

Losing his pride and manhood and even wasting his last moment on a pig.

Thats beyond agic.

I cant even wrap my head around it

Bane remained calm, his tone indifferent.

At least hes alive.

Thats all that matters.

He narrowed his eyes and added thoughtfully, I didnt expect Andrew to pull off a move like that.

I need to meet him sooner or later to figure out his techniques.

Even I couldnt fully understand what he did.

Michael smirked.

Dont worry, Mr.

Eslinger.

Your plan for Rhodes Corporation is almost finished.

Once Lauren falls, Andrew will be out of the picture there.

After that, dealing with him will be a piece of cake.

Bane hummed softly, his expression darkening.

Dealing with him isnt what intrigues me.

I want to know where he learned his medical skills and how deep his expertise runs.

Meanwhile, at the Aicker residence.

Andrew exited Francescas room, wiping the sweat from his forehead.

Francescas junior apprentice had been waiting outside the door.

Dr.

Lloyd, hows Fran doing? the young man asked nervously.

Andrew gave him a reassuring smile.

Shes fine now.

You dont have to worry anymore

The apprentice discreetly glanced Andrew up and down.

His clothes were neat, his shoes were on, and his zipper was closed

Contrary to the dramatic warnings Cedric had given him, it did not look like anything inappropriate had happened.

Dr.

Lloyd, Mr.

Aicker is awake

He asked me to bring you to the living room, the man said respectfully.

His gaze, however, held a mix of curiosity and admiration, almost as if he were looking at a brother in law figure

Andrew walked over to a nearby faucet and thoroughly washed his hands.

After drying them, he chuckled softly.

Alright.

Lead the way

I want to check on his condition anyway.

As they made their way down the hall, Andrew reflected on Francescas condition.

The Enthralling Essence in her system had finally dissipated, leaving her out of danger.

Despite the tension, Andrew had managed to avoid a direct physical relationship with her

Instead, he had used an alternative method one that was not exactly ideal but had worked nonetheless. Earlier that same day, Andrew had already found himself in a similar situation with Lauren at Moonlit Apothecary.

Now, here he was again, having to wet his hands to help Francesca

There was nothing enjoyable about it if anything, the experiences had tested his willpower to its limit. Andrew sighed inwardly.

Things with Lauren had not progressed to the point where intimacy felt natural, even though he sensed she would be open to it if he made a move

However, he did not want to force anything that would disrespect her.

On the other hand, Francesca had thrown herself at him with complete openness and vulnerability.

Yet Andrew could not bring himself to take advantage of her in that state.

Life had a strange way of complicating things.

He shook his head and smiled bitterly.

He could not help but think, Fate sure has a twisted sense of humor ! Cedric was seated on a sofa when Andrew entered the living room.

He immediately expressed his gratitude, saying, Dr.

Lloyd, I dont know how to thank you.



You saved everyone here.

Andrew waved it off.

You're too kind, Mr.

Aicker.

Fran is my friend, and you're her family.

Helping you was the right thing to do.

Cedric coughed lightly and sighed

I never imagined Simon would stoop to such a monstrous act.

I should have seen it coming

He's lost all traces of humanity.

Don't blame yourself too much, Andrew replied calmly.

Simon's downfall was his own doing.

It has little to do with you

Cedric smiled bitterly and shook his head.

Perhaps.

But it has everything to do with Fran.

Thats what I cant forgive myself for

Chapter 620 Fran has reached the age where marriage should be a serious discussion, Cedric said with a heavy sigh.

He continued, I was well aware that Simon had been lusting after her beauty for a while now.

But since he was my eldest apprentice the child I raised from a young age I chose to avoid confronting the issue

He shook his head, his voice filled with regret.

In the end, my avoidance and weakness nearly destroyed Fran.

Its all on me... such a cruel twist of fate

t Andrew could see the conflict in Cedrics eyes.

Despite Simons betrayal, Cedric still had a deep affection for him.

After all, he had begged Andrew to spare Simons life at the last moment.

Andrew offered a comforting response.

Mr.

Aicker, youve done more than enough

Simons downfall was his own doing he had every opportunity to change but chose to betray you.

H Cedric remained silent for a long moment before suddenly speaking up.

Tell me honestly, Dr.

Lloyd... Have you and Fran become ... intimate ? Andrew froze for a second, caught off guard by the

question Cedric's expression was a mixture of amusement and curiosity, his gaze as if he were examining a rare treasure

Andrew had anticipated this and calmly replied, You've misunderstood, Mr.

Aicker.

Nothing inappropriate happened between Fran and me.

Cedric chuckled knowingly.

Come now, Dr.

Lloyd

You're both young and full of passion.

Fran was under the influence of Enthralling Essence, a drug that drives people to madness.

As I understand it, the only way to neutralize its effects is through sex.

He gave a reassuring smile and added, Even if something did happen between you two, I wouldn't blame you.

In emergencies, sometimes you have to prioritize saving a life. I'm not ignorant of that.

Andrew sighed inwardly, shaking his head.

Its true thats one method

But I assure you, I didnt touch Fran like that.

Cedric appeared confused.

Really? I must admit, I dont know of any other way to counter Enthralling Essence.

How else could Fran have recovered? Its complicated, but I swear I didnt touch her in that way.

You can ask Fran yourself when shes fully recovered, Andrew explained.

As for the method I used ... Im afraid cant reveal it.

Cant reveal it ? Cedric muttered to himself, puzzled.

Andrew remained silent, unwilling to elaborate further.

There was no way he could explain the unorthodox method he had resorted to without dying of embarrassment.

If Cedric knew the truth, Andrew was certain his reputation would be ruined forever.

However, Cedric seemed eager to learn

Enthralling Essence is notoriously difficult to treat.

Im impressed that you found an alternative method.

Dr.

Lloyd, would you be willing to share this technique with me? Andrew straightened, his tone serious.

Im sorry, Mr.

Aicker, but this method is ... unique.

Its something I cant teach to anyone else.

I hope you understand.

Cedric sighed in disappointment but nodded in acceptance.

I see.

Youre right.

Medicine is full of secret techniques and rare knowledge.

I respect your decision not to share it.

Andrew felt a pang of guilt but knew there was no other way.

It was not that he did not want to teach Cedric- there was simply no practical reason to do so.

If he revealed the method, Cedric would likely lose all respect for him.

He could already picture it.

Cedrics admiration for him as a brilliant healer would crumble in an instant, reduced to disbelief and humiliation