

The Ashes 721

Chapter 721 Andrew said casually, I just remembered theres still one thing I havent taken care of.

Winston shuddered, his voice trembling.

Andrew, what are you trying to do? Im warning you if you go too far, the Wright family will have no choice but to go to war with you.

Andrew chuckled.

Relax, Mr.

Wright.

Youre way too afraid of dying, so of course, I wouldnt do anything drastic to you.

Now, go on and swallow this Bone Corroding Poison Pill.

Thats the only way III believe you wont come back to cause me trouble.

Winstons face turned pale with terror as he staggered backward.

What? You want me to take poison? No way! I absolutely refuse ! Andrews expression darkened.

If you refuse, then no one here is leaving today.

You all can stay in Jayrodale permanently.

Winstons face twisted with rage, humiliation, and helplessness, his emotions shifting wildly.

Jason quickly whispered, Mr.

Wright, just take it.

Once we get back to Blumedale, the family will definitely bring in a master healer to cure you.

When that happens, we'll come back stronger than ever, and Andrew will be good as dead.

Winston was instantly swayed.

As long as he could escape back to the Wright family, everything would be easy to fix.

With their resources, dealing with a mere poison pill would be nothing.

He grumbled, Fine, I'll take it! Without hesitation, he grabbed the pill from Andrew and swallowed it.

Then, without sparing a second, Winston and Jason bolted toward Blumedale, running for their lives.

With that, the Reckoning Toast hosted by the Chapman family officially came to an end.

In the end, Raymond suffered a crushing defeat.

No one had expected things to turn out like this.

Winston, the heir of the Blumedale Wright family, had been utterly humiliated in Jayrodale.

For the Wright family, this was an unbearable disgrace.

Many were waiting for the Wright family's elites to storm Jayrodale for revenge.

They were convinced it would not take long there was no way the Wright family would let this slide.

Andrew might have won today, but what awaited him was an overwhelming storm of retaliation.

Meanwhile, Christina's heart trembled as she watched everything unfold.

Seeing it with her own eyes was far more shocking than anything she had ever imagined.

Andrew had changed he was strong, terrifyingly strong.

Compared to before, he was like a completely different person.

She stepped forward, biting her lip as her gaze flickered with mixed emotions.

Andrew, I think we need to talk ... alone.

Andrew's voice remained indifferent.

If you have something to say, Ms.

Stevens, just say it here.

Christina glanced at Natasha and Dylan hesitantly, feeling uneasy.

Andrew, I just want to have a private conversation with you.

Is that really too much to ask? A mocking smirk appeared on Andrew's lips.

Should I take this as you begging me, Ms.

Stevens ? Christina froze, her expression turning grim.

Andrew, I know you've built your own power now, and you're

stronger than ever... But asking

to beg you? Thats never going to happen.

Andrew let out a cold snort.

If thats the case, then why are

wasting my time? Ive allo

Ive been more than fair to both you and the Stevens family.

With that, he turned and left with his people, not looking back.

Christina stood there, biting her lip in frustration, her fists clenching.

Aspen walked up beside her and sneered.

Christie, I told you it was pointless.

That man is nothing but a selfish jerk.

When the Stevens family was thriving, he clung to you like a parasite.

Now that Lauren is the better option, hes sucking up to her instead.

Of course, he doesnt care about you anymore.

Christina shook her head, refusing to believe it.

No... thats not the Andrew I know.

Hes always valued loyalty and emotions.

As long as I'm patient and show him I understand and accept him, I back to me... I know

Aspen sighed in frustration.

Christie, I really dont get it.

Why would you even want him back?

Chapter 722 Aspen asked, Is it just because Andrew is successful now and no longer the same as before ? Aspens question caught Christina off

guard.

She sighed and said, Aspen, Stevens Corporation needs someone strong to support it.

I want Andrew back by my side to work for me ! Aspen smirked.

So, youre just planning to use him? This isnt about rekindling old feelings, is it? Christina hesitated, conflicted.

Its hard to explain... Seeing him doing so well, especially with other women by his side, makes me so upset that I just want to take him back.

Aspen burst into laughter.

Christie, I totally get that feeling! Were best friends, after all we cant just sit back and let someone else take what was once ours! Fine, Ill support you all the way.

Use Andrews lingering feelings for you, take him back, and make him crawl at your feet again!
Christina smiled.

As long as hes willing to return and help me, I wont hold anything from the past against him.

In fact, Ill even promise him that if he helps me bring Stevens Corporation to Blumedale, Ill be his woman.

Aspen gave her a half smile.

That all sounds great, but Christie, do you really think Andrew will agree? Christinas confidence did not waver.

If I put in the effort, he will.

Hell come back to me.

After all, Im his ex.

And honestly, compared to Lauren, I dont think Im any less of a catch ! Men always have a soft spot for their exes, and Andrew is no exception.

Hell return to me sooner or later.

Leaving the Jayrodale Grand Hotel, Natasha could not hold back a laugh and teased, Darling, that ex of yours, Christina ... I swear, with all my years of dealing with a bitch, shes one of the top tier manipulators ! Andrew remained indifferent.

What she has become doesnt matter to me anymore.

Natasha scoffed.

And here I thought she carried this innocent and elegant CEO reputation .

Turns out shes completely shameless! Mark my words, shes definitely going to try to contact you again and use your past feelings for her to manipulate you into doing her bidding! Andrews voice stayed calm.

She can think whatever she wants, but does she really believe she can fool me ? Natasha rolled her eyes and playfully nudged him.

Of course not! If theres one person in this world no one can fool, its you.

But still, be careful.

Women like her are experts at

playing the long game acting pitiful, acting sweet, using every trick in the book until they drain you dry! Andrew watched the scenery blur past the car window and chuckled.

Natasha, you underestimate me.

Besides, Id rather have you as my woman.

Christina? Im not interested anymore.

Natasha was not expecting that at all.

Her face instantly flushed, turning a delicate shade of red.

Embarrassed and annoyed, she lightly punched Andrews arm.

Hey! I was being serious, and youre over here flirting with me? Andrew smirked

Alright then, since you dont want to be my woman, forget I said anything.

Natasha panicked immediately, her voice turning soft.

No! I do! As long as you want me

Ill always want you! Andrew

reached over and gently brushed his fingers against her cheek, smiling.

Natasha, youre actually a good woman.

Sure, you had a fierce reputation before Black Widow, ruthless, a history with plenty of men but to me youre already far more important than Christina or anyone else.

Natashas eyes widened.

You really think that? Andrew grinned.

Of course.

Natashas lips curled into a sly smile.

Then kiss me right now.

Andrew leaned back and smirked.

Sorry, Im home.

Natasha turned furious.

Get lost!

Chapter 723

At first, Andrew did not take Natasha's warning seriously. However, that very

night, he received a message.

[Andrew, I miss you!]

When he saw it, he thought it was Francesca messing around again, but when he opened it, he realized it was not from Francesca-it was from Christina.

Andrew's face instantly darkened, and he replied, [Ms. Stevens, please have some self-respect. If you keep sending messages like this, I'll have no choice but to block you.]

Christina refused to give up.

[Christina: Andrew, come back. Come back to Stevens Corporation... come back to me.]

[Christina: Everything I owed you in the past, I'll make it up to you.]

Andrew let out a cold chuckle.

[Andrew: Christina, if you knew this day would come, why did you make those choices back then?]

[Andrew: Do you really think I still care about going back to Stevens Corporation?]

Christina pleaded, [I know I hurt you, but Andrew, please... forgive me. Back then, I was too focused on my career and my future, and I neglected you. But I swear, if you come back, I won't just treat you better-I'll give myself to you completely.]

She even sent a shy, blushing emoji along with the message.

Andrew stared at the screen, feeling nothing but disgust.

[Andrew: Christina, you're absolutely pathetic.]

[Andrew: Do you think just because you're beautiful and once meant something to me, I can't live without you?]

[Andrew: Do you really believe your charm is enough to manipulate me and make me work for you? You're not just naive-you're downright stupid.]

After sending that final message, Andrew blocked her without hesitation.

At the Stevens mansion, Christina slowly set down her phone, her face twisted in frustration.

Irene leaned in eagerly. "Well, Christie? Did that loser take the bait? Did he say he's coming back to serve us?"

Leroy looked just as desperate. "Christie, you've gotta get him back. Andrew's a big deal now-Dylan and Natasha listen to him! For all we know, he's already taken over Jayrodale's underground scene!"

Christina gritted her teeth. "He called me pathetic... and then he blocked me."

Irene's face turned red with rage. "That ungrateful piece of trash! Who does he think he is? Christie, don't

worry next time I see him, I'll give worry-n

him a piece of my mind and remind him he owes this family!"

Leroy chimed in, his tone filled with greed. "I don't care-Andrew's rich

now, so he has to take care of the Stevens family! His G-Wagon? That's mine. His properties? He needs to sign some of that over to me too!"

Christina rubbed her temples, exasperated. "Is that all you two ever think about?

His car, his properties, his money? Can't you, for once, put aside your selfishness and just welcome him back for real?"

Irene scoffed, her voice dripping with sarcasm. "Welcome him back? Christie, do you hear yourself? I'm the elderchère—he should be the one respecting me, not the other way around! If it weren't for you breaking up with him, do you think he'd be where he is today? Honestly, he owes us a huge debt!"

Leroy nodded furiously. "Exactly! Mom's right—Andrew wouldn't have made it without us! Christie, you can't let him slip away. You need to lock him down and squeeze every last benefit we can get from him!"

Christina let out a tired sigh. "I want to make things right with him, but it's clear now... he's set on being with Lauren."

Chapter 724

Christina said, "Sigh... I don't have a solid plan for now either."

Irene's eyes flickered with scheming intent as she suddenly smirked. "Christie, men are all the same. They say no with their mouths, but their bodies say yes. If you ask me, just dress a little sexier and see Andrew. I don't believe for a second that he won't fall for it!"

Leroy's eyes lit up as he nodded eagerly. "Great idea! Christie, with your looks, if you just lower yourself a little and seduce Andrew, he'll be wrapped around your finger in no time like a loyal dog, doing whatever you command!"

Christina's expression twisted with disgust. "Sorry, but what you're suggesting is no different from selling myself... and I won't do it."

Irene quickly countered, "Christie, does it really matter as long as Andrew ends up back here, serving the Stevens family, helping us grow stronger, and making sure Leroy and I enjoy endless wealth?"

"Besides, you and Andrew used to be together. Seducing him isn't some shameful act—it's just reigniting something that was already there! You're not doing this to a random man."

Christina hesitated. A part of her was tempted. Nonetheless, she did not want to show it in front of Irene and Leroy, so she waved them off. "Mom, you two leave me alone. I need to think about this properly."

Irene grinned in excitement. "Christie, you're the face of Stevens Corporation! Leroy and I believe in you-you've got this!"

Leroy rubbed his hands together shamelessly. "Christie, when you set up a meeting with Andrew, I'll start referring to him as my brother-in-law. Let's see how he reacts! If you can get him under control, even Dylan and Natasha might have to show me some respect one day!

"Especially Natasha... that seductive woman. If I ever get the chance, I'd love to taste her for myself!"

Before he could finish, Irene grabbed him by the ear and dragged him toward the door. She scolded, "Shameless brat! All you ever think about is women and money. When are you going to grow up and actually do something useful to help your sister?"

Leroy winced in pain but shot back, "Mom, what exactly have you done for Christie? All you do is play cards and get your nails done with your friends! You're no better than me!"

A confident smirk curled on

Christina's lips as their voices faded

down the hall. She muttered,

"Andrew, if I really put my pride aside and seduce you, I doubt for a I

second that you can resist me. No

matter what, you'll come back and

work for me again!"

That night, Christina slept soundly, convinced that it was only a matter of time before Andrew fell back into her hands.

Meanwhile, in Blumedale, the Wright family was in complete chaos.

"Someone dared to lay hands on Winston and even had the audacity to poison him? I don't care who you are-whoever did this is going to be completely wiped out!"

Kevin Wright, the head of the Wright family, roared in fury as he crushed the wine glass in his hand. The

entire Wright family instantly mobilized their connections and top martial artists.

Within the hour, over a dozen of Blumedale's top doctors had gathered at the

Wright estate, working frantically to detoxify Winston's body.

The moment Winston was cured, Kevin was going to unleash an even deadlier force-martial artists ten times more terrifying than Jason.

Their target? Jayrodale.

That tiny city was about to learn what true despair looked like.

Chapter 725 The first week sales report for Rhodes Corporations Pharmaceutical Divisions new products have finally come in.

Michael could not contain his excitement as he stared at the numbers, grinning.

He exclaimed, Bane, the three products you developed are making a killing ! That bastard Andrew looked down on us, but now? This is going to slap him right in the face! Clutching the thick financial report, Michael immediately shed to find Tiana.

Bane snorted.

I told you from the start that kid is nothing but a spineless weakling.

All he does is brag, but when it comes to real ability? Hes got nothing! When Tiana reviewed the sales figures, she let out a deep breath and gave Michael an approving look.

Michael, youve officially saved the Pharmaceutical Division.

Not only have you redeemed yourself, but youve taken its success to the next level.

Michael was feeling immensely proud, but he kept his tone humble.

Aunt Tiana, you flatter me.

As a Rhodes, this is my duty.

As long as I can help our family grow stronger, Il do whatever it takes even if it means putting my life on the line! Wanting to bask in his achievement, he called for an impromptu meeting, summoning all the executives.

Even though this was not a scheduled conference, Michael insisted that

everyone be there to witness the miracle he had created.

Andrew and Lauren strolled into the meeting room at a leisurely pace.

They did not spare a glance at Michael, completely unfazed by his over the top enthusiasm.

Seeing Andrews indifferent expression, Michaels temper flared instantly.

Mr.

Lloyd, shouldnt you something to say at a time like this? Michael sneered, waiting for a reaction.

have Andrew responded calmly, What exactly do you want me to say,

Mr.

Rhodes ? Should I call you an idiot, or should I compliment your looks? Michael scoffed.

Mr.

Lloyd, dont forget what Aunt Tiana said.

Whoever rescues the Pharmaceutical Division and produces the best performing product will take the position of president! He added, Yet you still have the audacity to disrespect me? Arent you afraid that when reclaim my title as CEO, Ill make your life a living hell? Andrew chuckled.

Stop spurting nonsense.

Forget about being CEO hell, even if you became the head of the Rhodes family,

Id still see you as nothing more than trash.

Michael let out a mocking laugh.

Oh? You cant handle losing, huh? Whats wrong? Are you jealous because my numbers are better? Is that why youre refusing to acknowledge them? Andrew gave him a look as if he were an absolute moron.

for

You think your numbers are impressive? According to the market report, Ive already reviewed the sales your total revenue in a week barely broke twenty million.

Thats average, at best.

Michael was so furious that he laughed.

20 million is just average now? Andrew, stop acting like youre better than me! If

you think its nothing, why dont you beat my numbers ? Lauren remained composed.

No need to rush.

Our product is about to hit the market as well.

One of the companys old timers who had previously been knocked out by Andrew twice could not resist running his mouth again.

Mr.

Lloyd, you like to call yourself a medical genius, but lets be real.

Just dont end up making some deadly drug, or else youll be spending the rest of your days behind bars sewing prison uniforms! Andrew shrugged, completely unbothered.

Whether my products are good or not isnt for you to judge.

But, if I were you, Id cut back on all those supplements youve been taking.

Your kidneys arent what they used to be, and let's be honest at your age , forcing your body too hard might just have you dropping dead in the of a Woman!

Chapter 726 Several people in the room who were aware of the senior executives dirty secrets could not help but chuckle.

The mans face flushed with rage as he pointed at Andrew.

You- However, after sputtering for a while, he did not dare to say another word.

The truth was, he already had a deep-seated fear of Andrew.

Moreover, Andrews words hit a little too close to home.

He was on the verge of full retirement.

With more money than he could ever spend, he had been indulging in his second youth.

Yet, lately, he had been feeling the consequences blood in his urine was a clear warning sign.

He thought maybe it really was time to take it easy.

Otherwise, he would end up ruining his reputation in his old age.

Tiana scoffed.

Mr.

Lloyd, this is a corporate meeting room, not a place for you to run your mouth.

Andrew smirked.

Mrs.

Rhodes, youre absolutely right.

Which is exactly why I dont think it was necessary to hold such a big meeting just to celebrate Banes three garbage tier products.

Tiana let out a cold laugh.

Mr.

Lloyd, facts speak louder than words.

A revenue of 20 million already exceeds the Pharmaceutical Divisions past performance.

And yet, you still call this garbage ? Andrew shook his head

Mrs.

Rhodes, you cant just look at revenue and ignore the costs.

20 million in sales... with a production cost of nearly ten million.

I have to say, if this is how good pharmaceutical products are managed, then wheres the profit? He continued, On top of that, Banes three products all have extremely narrow effects theyre nothing more than overpriced supplements.

Lets be honest, there arent that many people out there as physically drained as Mr.

Rhodes or the esteemed elder over there.

And even if there were, the average person wouldnt be able to afford these ridiculous price tags.

Sure, the first wave of sales might bring in a decent profit, but by the second or third wave? People will realize theyve been scammed, and Rhodes Corporations

Pharmaceutical Division will

widespread backlash.

Lauren nodded seriously.

Mom, thats exactly what concerns me .

First, these three products are absurdly overpriced.

Theyre way more expensive than similar products in the market.

Second, they all fall under the same category just supplements.

As Mr.

Lloyd said, we cant focus solely on wellness products.

We need to expand into other areas, like wound care and treatment for common illnesses.

Tiana frowned but remained silent.

She had already realized this issue

long ago but without a better

alternative, she had no choice but to push Banes three main products.

Michael, however, was not having any of it.

He sneered.

Lauren, quit being stubborn.

Everyone here including Aunt Tiana acknowledges these products as a huge success.

But the moment you and Andrew walk in, all you do is nitpick and find faults.

What, do you want us to pull the products off the shelves just to satisfy your egos ? Laurens expression hardened.

Michael, not everyone is as shameless and spiteful as you .

Michaels eyes turned cold.

Oh ? Im the spiteful one? Then why are you so jealous of my success? Why are you and Andrew attacking my achievements with Bane ?Lets be real youre just afraid of losing to me.

Afraid that you wont get the CEOs position ! He scoffed.

Let me make this clear you can keep dreaming.

Because the role of Rhodes Corporations CEO is mine for the taking !

Chapter 727 Laurens expression turned ice cold.

Michael, youre a complete idiot.

If you keep running the Pharmaceutical Division like this, youll ruin Rhodes Corporations reputation sooner or later ! Michael turned to Tiana, gritting his teeth

Aunt Tiana, theyre still talking down on me even now! It seems not everyone appreciates my contributions to this company.

Since thats the case, I might as well step down and let Lauren be CEO instead.

Im done putting up with this disrespect ! Lauren sneered.

Playing the victim now? Michael, youre absolutely shameless.

Tiana suddenly slammed the table.

Enough! Have you two argued enough ?! Lauren, your time is running out.

If you want to prove your products are better, then do it! If you cant show results

, I will hand the CEOS seat to Michael.

And if that happens, theres no reason for you to stay in Jayrodale anymore.

You should return to Blumedale and focus on preparing for your wedding! Laurens eyes burned with frustration and resentment as she stared at Tiana.

However, Tiana remained unfazed, turning away as she declared, Meeting adjourned ! .

With that, she walked out of the conference room without another word.

Michael stood up right after her, turning to Andrew with a smug grin.

He made a throat slitting gesture, radiating arrogance as if to say, Aunt Tiana is on my side now.

If anyone dares to challenge me, theyre doomed ! Once the others had left, Marcus face darkened.

He said, Its obvious that Mrs.

Rhodes is putting too much trust in Bane and Michael .

The entire Pharmaceutical Division whether its funding or decision making power

is now completely under Michaels control.

If this continues, it wont end well for us.

Lauren replied indifferently, Her favoritism doesnt surprise me anymore.

Im used to it.

Marcus scowled.

But how is this fair to you, Ms.

Rhodes? Andrew raised his hand, signaling him to stop.

His gaze turned icy.

Fairness is something you earn with strength.

If you sit around waiting for respect and expect people to play fair with you, thats

not fairness thats charity.

Marcus let out a bitter chuckle.

Mr.

Lloyd, I just cant stand seeing Ms.

Rhodes being treated like this.

If she doesnt become CEO, the company will be completely under Michaels rule.

And when that happens, Ill resign and go home to spend time with my daughter.

Lauren was caught off guard.

Mr.

Chapman, there's no need

that.

Even without me, your skills and experience will still help you climb higher in Rhodes Corporation.

Marcus let out a cold snort.

Wise ones will choose the right leader.

If I were younger, I might have turned a blind eye to morals and followed Michael for money and ambition.

But at this stage in my life, I've already earned more than enough to retire.

More importantly, Mr.

Lloyd, you saved both me and Lucy.

If Ms.

Rhodes is going to be suppressed

like this, and I don't stand with her, I won't deserve to call it! Lauren sighed. myself a

Mr.

Chapman, you really don't have to go this far.

Marcus was about to respond when he suddenly noticed Andrew smirking.

Mr.

Lloyd, why are you smiling? Andrew leaned back, amused.

Why are you two acting so defeated ? What just because Michael pulled in 20 million in one week, you think thats some big achievement Marcus straightened.

Mr.

Lloyd, it is a big deal.

Michaels biggest advantage is Mrs.

Rhodes support.

The entire Pharmaceutical Division is under his control, and even I, as the

director, barely have a say anymore.

Tell me, under these circumstances, what support does Ms.

Rhodes have? Where is her backing? Michael has taken everything

for himself! Andrews smile faded.

He raised a hand and pointed at

himself,

woman, and youre asking whet

stating coldly, Shes

support or backing is?

Chapter 728 Andrew said, Isnt it obvious? Laurens biggest support is me ! Marcus jaw dropped slightly as if he had just been personally attacked.

On the other hand, Lauren felt a mix of embarrassment and warmth, her heart fluttering as she looked at Andrew.

For the first time, she realized her composed and gentlemanly Andrew had a bit of a rebellious, streetwise streak.

Marcus raised his hands in surrender.

Mr.

Lloyd, I have to admit your confidence is actually pretty damn cool! Andrew shot him a sharp look.

Mr.

Chapman, this isnt just confidence.

Im stating facts.

Enough sulking.

Its time to do something! Let me make this clear III definitely crush Michael ! Lauren and Marcus exchanged glances, unsure of what Andrew had up his sleeve.

Nonetheless, neither of them doubted his words.

After all, Andrew had proven anything time and time again that no challenge ever seemed to be a real obstacle for him.

Back in Laurens office, Andrew immediately began assigning tasks.

He said, Mr.

Chapman, were short on trustworthy people.

Bring in five of your men only the ones you can vouch for.

Marcus nodded without hesitation.

Understood, Mr.

Lloyd.

Ill handle it now ! Andrew then turned to Laurens assistant, Eunice .

Ms.

Brooks, I need you to go to the Pharmaceutical Division and get an official approval document for our product launch.

Eunice instinctively glanced at Lauren, clearly confused.

She wondered since when did Andrew have the authority to dictate company business.

Lauren gave a firm nod.

Go ahead.

Whatever he says is what I want.

Eunice hesitated for a second before responding, Understood, Ms.

Rhodes.

Yet, deep down, she could not help but feel uneasy.

She believed that Lauren was already at a major disadvantage, so she should not be handing over control to Andrew.

Sure, Andrew might be skilled in other areas, but corporate affairs were not something a newcomer could just waltz in and take over.

Eunice worried that Lauren was placing too much trust in him, which could lead to an even worse situation.

Once everyone had left, Lauren blinked her bright eyes and eagerly asked, They all have tasks now.

What about me, Dr.

Lloyd ? Andrew smiled.

I cant bear to send you running around for errands.

Id be heartbroken if you got too tired.

Laurens fair cheeks flushed red as she glared at him.

Dr.

Lloyd, I swear, youve been getting way more flirtatious lately.

This is work hours! No flirting allowed.

Andrew replied innocently, But I mean it.

The team can handle the grunt work.

Youll be CEO I refuse to let you wear yourself out.

Lauren shook her head.

But I cant just sit still.

Michael has a huge advantage right now, and honestly ... Im really anxious.

Andrew studied her before teasing,

Lauren, do you have to become Rhodes Corporations CEO? How about we take a different approach?

I could just buy out your entire

familys company and hand you the CEO's seat myself.

Laurens mind went completely blank for a few seconds before she suddenly burst

into laughter.

Talk about wishful thinking! Dr.

Lloyd, youre getting bolder with your flirting.

But... I kind of like it! Andrew sighed he was not joking.

Meanwhile, Lauren thought it was impossible because taking over

Rhodes Corporation would regnet

an astronomical amount of money.

Not to mention, he would have to completely overpower the Rhodes family to

make them surrender their business.

Then again, if Andrew really wanted to, it might take some effort, but it was definitely not out of reach.

Even if the Rhodes family had expanded to Blumedale, Andrew could still bring them crashing to their knees.

Chapter 729

Grabbing Lauren's delicate hand, Andrew said, "Let's go. We need to make a trip to Glorious Pharmaceuticals and check with Mr. Brunner to see when the first batch of products will be ready for release."

Lauren frowned. "The timeline is too tight. I'd say it'll take at least another two weeks."

Andrew shook his head. "No, I'm only giving him two days at most."

The two of them quickly drove over to Glorious Pharmaceuticals. As soon as they arrived, Stephen came rushing out with a bright smile as soon as they arrived. "Mr. Lloyd, Ms. Rhodes, welcome!"

Lauren returned his smile politely. "Sorry to bother you again, Mr. Brunner."

Stephen waved his hands. "Oh, come on, Ms. Rhodes, no need to say that! Being able to work with Mr. Lloyd is an honor. I should be thanking you!"

Andrew did not hesitate to walk straight over to Stephen's office chair and sit down, leaving Stephen standing there awkwardly with nowhere to sit. After glancing around helplessly, Stephen finally resigned himself to just standing and waiting for instructions.

Lauren held back a laugh and gestured to the side. "Mr. Brunner, let's just sit on the couch instead."

Stephen instantly scurried over and sat down-though he made sure to keep two seats of distance between himself and Lauren.

Andrew leaned back lazily. "Mr. Brunner, Lauren and I are here for just one thing. We need a straight answer-when will the first batch of our special products be ready for release?"

Stephen hesitated before replying, "Mr. Lloyd, my factory has already been working overtime, but realistically, it'll take at least ten days."

Andrew shook his head. "That's too slow."

Stephen's eye twitched, and he quickly lowered the timeframe. "Eight days! Mr. Lloyd, give me eight days, and I swear I'll get it done—even if I have to work day and night without rest."

Andrew remained unmoved. "Not good enough."

Stephen's forehead immediately broke out in cold sweat. He looked like he was about to cry. "Five days! Five days is my absolute limit! If you push me any harder, Mr. Lloyd, you might as well bury me now!"

Lauren could not help but feel bad for him and turned to Andrew with a slight pout. "Dr. Lloyd, Mr. Brunner is really doing his best-I can see that. There's no way he can go any faster!"

Andrew smiled. "Mr. Brunner, I'm not forcing you-I'm negotiating with you. Here's the deal-I'll give you two more days, but by then, I need the first batch ready for release."

Stephen paled. "Mr. Lloyd, if you're serious about that... then I might as well just jump off a building now and save myself the trouble!"

Andrew scoffed. "With that kind of attitude, it's no wonder Glorious

Pharmaceuticals is only the top pharmaceutical company in Jayrodale—and not beyond."

Stephen immediately straightened, looking offended. "Mr. Lloyd, don't underestimate my business! Do you know how many pharmaceutical distributors beg to get my products?"

Andrew let out a cold chuckle.

"Those distributors? Their market

size barely scratches a few

million—at most a hundred million, if

I'm being generous. But I need you

to produce a product that will

generate at least a billion in

revenue!"

Stephen sucked in a sharp breath,

shaking his head violently. "Impossible, Mr. Lloyd! Absolutely impossible! Even if my factory could handle that kind of production, do you really have a billion dollars ready to throw at me right this second?"

Andrew rolled his eyes. "Obviously, I know you wouldn't dare take an order that big. If you did recklessly accept it, I'd make sure your company shut down by tomorrow."

Stephen laughed nervously, feeling completely exposed under Andrew's gaze.

He had considered playing a few tricks to stall things, but now? He did not dare anymore.

Andrew's expression turned serious. "Tell me if I only give you two more days, what's stopping you from producing the first batch?"

Stephen did not even hesitate. "Machines. I need more equipment!"

Chapter 730

Stephen said, "But Mr. Lloyd, you should know that pharmaceutical-grade

precision equipment costs a fortune. Most of it is imported, and a single machine alone could easily cost over 100 million!"

Andrew nodded. "The equipment has already been taken care of. Once Ms. Rhodes and I leave, you need to head straight to the factory and inspect it."

Stephen blinked in disbelief, thinking he must have misheard. "Mr. Lloyd, what did you just say? The equipment is already handled?"

Andrew responded calmly, "Yes. It's done. You'll be dealing with a vice CEO from Wealthroller Investments—a major investor in the pharmaceutical industry. He'll be there to assist you and ensure everything runs smoothly."

Stephen froze in shock. "Mr. Lloyd, you actually got someone from Mr. Yates' company involved?"

Andrew remained indifferent. "No, I didn't ask for help. I gave an order."

Stephen's heart skipped a beat. He was smart enough to stop questioning, but internally, his mind was racing. He wondered, 'Does Mr. Lloyd have direct ties to Marvin, the wealthiest man in Jayrodale? If that's true... then I really made the right bet.'

Previously, he had risked everything by siding with Andrew against the Blumedale Wright family. To be honest, it had been terrifying, but the reward was so damn satisfying.

All he could think was-that was the best damn decision he ever made.

"Alright, that's settled. Get to the factory and inspect the equipment immediately." Andrew stood up, ready to leave, but gave a final instruction. "Mr. Brunner, the machines are no longer an issue. You have two days-I expect the first batch to be on the market by then."

Stephen clenched his fists, his excitement barely contained. "Mr. Lloyd, if the equipment is really ready, then two days it is! I started from nothing, so hard work doesn't scare me one bit."

Andrew grinned. "Good. That's what I like to hear."

Just as Andrew was about to walk out, Stephen hesitated and spoke up again. "Uh, Mr. Lloyd, there's one small issue."

Andrew turned to him. "What is it?"

Stephen scratched his head

awkwardly. "These high-end machines must cost at least a hundred million each, and

considering where they're comionet

from, they're probably even better. I mean, I'll start using them right away, but... I don't exactly have the money to pay for them upfront."

Andrew smirked. "No need to pay."

Stephen was stunned. "No need? You mean... they're free?"

Andrew chuckled. "You can think of it that way. From now on, all my pharmaceutical products will be manufactured by you. But your outdated machines held you back. Low productivity means lost profits. I'm upgrading your equipment so Glorious Pharmaceuticals can scale up and meet my demand as soon as possible."

Stephen's breathing became erratic, and his voice trembled. "Mr. Lloyd, I don't even know how to thank you for this!"

Andrew waved a hand dismissively. "Just focus on your work. Right now, this is small money—the real profits are yet to come."

The moment Andrew and Lauren left, Stephen locked his office door and let out a loud, uncontrollable laugh.

"Holy shit! I've spent decades in this

industry, thinking I had already hit my peak... But turns out, my real career is only just beginning! No matter what it takes, I have to deliver for M. Lloyd! That man is on a whole other level. I don't know how I got lucky enough to latch onto him!"