

The Ashes 751

Chapter 751

Andrew packed up and drove to Rhodes Corporation. Right at the entrance, he ran into Marcus, who had just stepped out of his car.

The moment Marcus saw Andrew, he gave him a once-over, grinning from ear to ear. He chirped, "Mr. Lloyd, you're looking great-full of energy and in high spirits!"

Andrew raised a brow in surprise. "Mr. Chapman, how exactly can you tell I'm feeling good?"

Marcus smirked knowingly. "Mr. Lloyd, let's not play dumb. We're both men. That kind of glow? It's obvious you had a very... satisfying night."

Andrew was even more surprised. Could Marcus really tell something like that just by looking at him?

Then, it clicked. This department head at Rhodes Corporation might appear serious on the surface, but he was a regular at certain high-end clubs. That explained a lot.

Lowering his voice, Marcus chuckled. "Every time I spend the night at a club, I see plenty of like-minded gentlemen walking out in the morning with the exact same look as you.

"It's the kind of vigor a man has after a good workout-strength unleashed, energy restored! And it's no different with women—they'll have a certain type of allure after!"

Andrew cleared his throat and laughed. "Didn't expect you to be such an expert in this field, Mr. Chapman."

Marcus glanced around to make sure no one else was listening before chuckling. "Mr. Lloyd, there's nothing to be shy about. We're men-it's natural to enjoy the company of beautiful women.

"Take me, for example. I love spending nights at clubs, but that doesn't mean I neglect my work. It doesn't mean I fail to be a good father to my sweet daughter. On the contrary, a competent man balances everything flawlessly!"

Andrew frowned slightly. "How do you manage your time, then? If you're at the club, what about Lucy? How do you take care of her?"

Marcus patted Andrew's shoulder, giving him a look of seasoned wisdom. "Mr. Lloyd, you've got a long way to go in this department. Don't you know? Every successful man is a master of time management!"

With that, he walked into the building

ahead of Andrew, looking every bit like a seasoned pro, while Andrew stood there, watching him leave, utterly speechless. He could not help but think Marcus really knew how to brag.

"Dr. Lloyd, good morning!"

Lauren arrived just then, her heels clicking confidently against the pavement.

Andrew smiled. "Morning! I brought you breakfast. Let's eat together."

Lauren raised a brow. "Didn't you already eat? Why do you want to have breakfast again?"

Andrew kept a straight face. "I didn't eat. I got this just for you, so we could eat together."

Lauren gave him a knowing smile and took slow steps toward him. Her long legs, wrapped in sheer black stockings, moved with effortless grace as her heels tapped out a hypnotic rhythm.

Then, leaning in slightly, she smirked. "Liar. I was on the phone with Fran this morning." She told me you made her breakfast, didn't you?"

Andrew froze, feeling a sudden headache coming on. "Uh... did I? I don't really remember."

Lauren let out a soft hum, laughing playfully. "Not only do I know you already had breakfast, but I also know you wore poor Fran out last night. This morning, the first thing she did was complain about how you nearly broke her."

Even with Andrew's thick skin, he could not help feeling a little embarrassed. Raising his hands in surrender, he sighed. "Alright, fine. I did eat. But as for nearly breaking Francesca, I think that's an exaggeration!"

Chapter 752

Lauren blinked her big, expressive eyes and asked in confusion, "Why?"

Andrew spread his hands and said, "Because I don't think I even went all out." Lauren's expression froze instantly, thinking that Andrew was truly terrifying. Watching as the flirty Lauren quickly turned and fled, her graceful silhouette disappearing in the distance, Andrew felt completely misunderstood.

However, he had only spoken the truth. Last night, he had actually held back with Francesca. If he had not, things would have taken a much wilder, more intense

turn.

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Today was the scheduled delivery day for Stephen's shipment. Andrew and Lauren personally went to oversee the product being sent out.

Stephen wiped the sweat from his forehead and grinned. "Mission accomplished, Mr. Lloyd. Please check if everything meets your expectations."

Andrew clapped his hands and said, "No need. I already looked it over-good work, Mr. Brunner!"

Stephen quickly laughed along. "As long as you're satisfied, Mr. Lloyd, that's all the motivation I need!"

Andrew waved a hand. "Save the flattery for later, Mr. Brunner. There's still a lot more weight on your shoulders."

Stephen's eyelid twitched, his face filled with uncertainty. "Mr. Lloyd, w-what do you mean?"

He had already stretched himself to the limit to complete Andrew's orders, working day and night without rest. Yet, judging by Andrew's tone, there was more coming.

Panic set in immediately—he had nearly worked himself to death over the past few days.

Andrew spoke casually. "It's simple. Exactly what you're thinking—keep ramping up production for both formulas. Get ready for the second batch!"

Stephen shook his head frantically. "No way, Mr. Lloyd. I can't—"

Andrew cut him off. "There's no such thing as 'can't'. Read this contract first, then decide if you still want to say no."

Lauren smiled as she handed Stephen a folder. "Mr. Brunner, take a look. I drafted this myself."

Stephen grabbed it and skimmed through the pages. Within seconds, his breathing grew heavier, and disbelief

ashed in his eyes. "Mr. net

Lloyd are you saying I could be getting billion-dollar orders every month?"

Andrew shook his head. "Not 'could be'—it's guaranteed. It's all in black and white."

Stephen's hand trembled as he gripped the contract. "Mr. Lloyd, are these two products really that big of a game-changer?"

Andrew smirked. "They're launching today. Whether they're as powerful as I claim—we'll see soon enough. Bottom line, if you don't want to be our pharmaceutical partner, Øll just find someone else."

Stephen furrowed his brows deeply, locked in an intense internal struggle. He had been producing these formulas for Andrew, but he had never stopped to consider their true potential. It turned out that just manufacturing them alone could bring in billions every month.

What would the total sales revenue even look like if the production orders were this massive?

Stephen did not dare to imagine the actual market value behind these formulas. Nonetheless, a billion-dollar monthly revenue was a tempting offer he could not ignore.

His company, Glorious Pharmaceuticals, was already the leading name in Jayrodale. Even then, he had never enjoyed the luxury of billion-dollar contracts rolling in like clockwork.

If this deal was real, he might just have a shot at competing with Marvin for the title of Jayrodale's richest man.

Chapter 753

Andrew chuckled and said, "No pressure. Even if, down the line, you decide not to work with us or you don't want to handle orders this big, I'd understand. Right now, our products are all investment and no return. No one knows if they'll actually sell. If they flop, that's a massive loss!"

He added, "But let me remind you-golden opportunities don't come around every day. When the market is hot, the smart ones soar. Those who hesitate and miss their chance? Well, they'll just be watching from the sidelines."

Stephen's eyes flickered, and after a brief internal struggle, he clenched his teeth. "Mr. Lloyd, I'm in!"

Andrew shot him a look of distaste. "We're both grown men. Watch how you phrase that it sounds way too suggestive."

Lauren nearly burst out laughing. Andrew was definitely a little sensitive about certain words lately.

Stephen let out an awkward chuckle. "Right, poor choice of words. What I meant is that my company is taking this on, Mr. Lloyd. You don't need to go looking elsewhere!"

Andrew nodded in satisfaction. "Finally, a wise move from you."

Stephen's lips twitched. He could not help but ask, "Mr. Lloyd, are you really that confident these two products will take off?"

Andrew smirked lazily. "If they don't, then the universe is playing a cruel joke."

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As soon as the two formulas left Stephen's warehouse, Marcus' team took over and distributed them to various sales points.

Lauren looked a little nervous. "Everything depends on the next seven days. Back then, Michael's numbers hit 20 million. I wonder how we'll do."

Andrew remained calm. "Relax. 20 million? He won't even come close to our lowest sales figure."

Lauren could not hold back. "Dr. Lloyd, I agree that the Vitality Pill and Titan Essence Pill are game-changing products, and I'm sure people will love them. But as Mr. Brunner asked earlier, I have to ask too-how are you so sure they'll be a massive hit?"

Andrew met Lauren's curious gaze, thought for a moment, and then said, "Simple. Because talking big isn't illegal."

Noticing Lauren's confusion, Andrew did not explain further and simply led her back to Rhodes Corporation.

If he did not believe in his own

formulas, he would not have brought them to market. Besides, he had

already arranged for the Aicker

family to take a piece of the action.

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The Vitality Pill and Titan Essence Pill would not just be successful-they would exceed all expectations.

Just then, a voice rang out, dripping with sarcasm. "Well, congratulations, Mr. Lloyd and Lauren! Your trash products finally made it to the shelves!"

Michael strolled over, clearly enjoying himself.

Lauren responded coolly. "We'll see soon enough who the real 'trash' is. No need to get cocky just yet, Michael."

Michael laughed, looking smug.

"Can't help it When you've got results, confidence comes naturally. In just one week, we pulled in 20. million in sales. The new week is

about to start, and I already had the marketing team run projections.

"This time, my three products will hit at least fifty million. Under my leadership, the Pharmaceutical Division is thriving. And Lauren, things aren't looking good for you. That CEO seat? It's mine!"

His arrogance was nauseating, and Andrew had no patience for it. "Move aside. You're blocking my way."

Michael's smirk stiffened, and he snorted. "Andrew, are you jealous already? Afraid of losing?"

Andrew scoffed. "I already told you-you can't win. The results aren't even out yet, and you're already running over here to brag? Are you brain-dead?"

Michael's face turned red. He had not expected to hit a wall like this.

His expression darkened as he sneered, "Fine. Enjoy your little fantasy for another week."

Chapter 754

Michael sneered. "When the time comes, I'm going to crush you so hard, you won't even know what hit you!"

He truly could not understand why Andrew and Lauren were still bothering to put up a fight. Even with Glorious Pharmaceuticals backing them, he believed there was no way they could produce anything worthwhile in such a short period.

Michael had never been more confident. At this point, losing was not even an option.

Just then, Tiana called them over. Michael walked up with a smug smile. "Aunt Tiana, what can I do for you?"

With his numbers climbing, he spoke with newfound confidence.

Tiana's expression was slightly grim as she slammed a document onto the table. "Take a look at this!"

Michael frowned and flipped through the pages. The moment he grasped what was inside, his face twisted in anger. "Stevens Corporation is entering the pharmaceutical industry?"

"And according to this analysis, their products are almost identical to Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division's former flagship formulas! H-How is this even possible?"

Lauren finished scanning the document and said, "No doubt about it. The formulas our Pharmaceutical Division lost ended up in Stevens Corporation's hands."

Michael's voice dropped, his tone ice-cold. "The Stevens family must have a death wish. I'll take a team over there right now and shut them down!"

Lauren scoffed. "That's just blind rage. You don't have any proof-what grounds do you have to go after them?"

Michael snapped. "Their products are proof! Isn't that enough?"

Lauren smirked. "Their product names, branding, and packaging are completely different from ours. What exactly do you plan to use as evidence?"

Michael was momentarily speechless. Then, gritting his teeth, he growled, "I should've known. That snake Ruby must've been sent by Christina!"

Andrew spoke calmly. "Not Christina. Aspen."

Tiana's eyes flickered with surprise. "Aspen? What makes you so sure?"

Andrew remained composed. "I'm not certain. It's just a strong hunch. Aspen has been stirring up trouble ever since she arrived in Jayrodale. She's never been content to sit on the sidelines.

"She has ambition and a massive appetite, which is why she poured a billion into Atlas, only to watch it all go up in flames. With nowhere else to turn it wouldn't be surprising for someone as ruthless as Aspen to

set her sights on Rhodes

Corporation's Pharmaceutical

Division formulas."

Tiana let out a cold laugh. "That woman better hope I never get my hands on her, or she's finished in Jayrodale."

Andrew was more than happy to watch Tiana go after Aspen. After all, both women were formidable in their own right-throwing them together would be an explosive spectacle.

Tiana flipped to another document. "Aside from Stevens Corporation, the Weller family is also launching new health supplements. Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division is already struggling. One wrong step, and we could be pushed into a dead-end!"

Her expression was more serious than usual as she glanced at the group. She quickly shifted her gaze, but Andrew still caught it her eyes lingered on him for just a moment too long.

He could tell that Tiana was hoping he would step up and come up with a plan. Too bad for her-Andrew no longer trusted her. Unless it concerned Lauren, he was not lifting a finger for Rhodes Corporation.

Michael puffed out his chest. "Aunt Tiana, don't worry. Even if those two companies join the competition, I'm not intimidated. Based on the results I've already achieved, we've got nothing to fear. Worst case, we toss them a few scraps-let them think they're eating well when they're just licking up leftovers."

Tiana, however, completely ignored him.

Instead, she turned to Andrew with a smile. "Mr. Lloyd, what do you think? I have

a feeling we'll need your insight on this one."

Michael and his inner circle were stunned that Tiana was asking Andrew for advice.

Lauren and Marcus were just as surprised.

Since when did Tiana humble herself enough to seek someone else's opinion?

Chapter 755

Michael grew anxious and blurted out, "Aunt Tiana, why are you asking him? What can he possibly do?"

He quickly followed up, "You have nothing to worry about. Even if the Stevens and the Wellers both jump in, I guarantee I'll keep them completely suppressed!"

Tiana shot him a cold glare. "I hate when people interrupt me while I'm talking. Right now, I'm asking Andrew, not you. So shut up-that would be the best thing you could do!"

Michael's face turned red, then pale. He could not understand why Tiana was turning to Andrew instead of relying on him.

He was the backbone of Rhodes Corporation now, was he not?

Andrew remained completely unfazed. "Sorry, Mrs. Rhodes, but I don't have any great solutions at the moment. But it's easy to predict that with Stevens Corporation suddenly jumping into Jayrodale's pharmaceutical market, the situation will only become even tougher."

Tiana's expression darkened even further. She replied, "Mr. Lloyd, I know you still hold a grudge against me. But at the end of the day, you're a shareholder in Rhodes Corporation now. Helping the company survive this crisis benefits you, too-don't you think?"

Tiana tried playing the emotional card, even offering him a rare, gentle smile.

Too bad Andrew was not buying it. He simply said, "Apologies, Mrs. Rhodes, but I genuinely can't think of any effective countermeasures right now. We'll just have to take it one step at a time."

With that, he shut his mouth and did not say another word.

Tiana's eyes grew colder, frustration simmering beneath the surface as she thought, "That little punk actually had the nerve to play with me? It's infuriating!"

Michael scoffed. "Aunt Tiana, I told you there was no point in asking him. He knows nothing! Banking on him to come up with a solution is like asking a blind man to lead a high-wire act."

Tiana, already irritated, let out a sharp laugh. "Oh? So, according to you, you have a solid plan?"

Michael puffed up his chest with confidence. "I wouldn't call it a perfect plan, but let's be real-so long as we have Bane from Advanced Medical Institute backing us, Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division has nothing to fear from Stevens Corporation or the Weller family!"

Tiana's voice was icy. "And if things don't go the way you claim?"

Michael's face turned red, but he gritted his teeth and declared, "If Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division actually falls under pressure, I'll let you handle me however you see fit!"

Tiana smirked. "Good. I'll remember that you said it yourself."

Michael added, "But, Aunt Tiana, if I succeed in saving the Pharmaceutical Division, then you have to fulfill your promise and give me the CEO position!"

Tiana responded coolly, "I never go back on my word. If you prove yourself capable, then forget just the CEO position-one day, you could even compete for control over the Rhodes family itself."

Michael's eyes immediately burned with ambition. He clenched his fists, excitement written all over his face.

The leader of the Rhodes family was a position of true power, the one who controlled the entire Rhodes family empire. If he played his cards right, his overall status would surely soar.

And if he actually became the head of Rhodes Corporation, dealing with small fry like Andrew would be a walk in the park.

Watching Michael's smug, eager expression, Andrew's lips curled in disdain. He thought Michael was an idiot.

Tiana had just used him as a pawn, throwing him straight into the fire, and he did not even realize it.

Andrew could already see what was coming-Rhodes Corporation's

Pharmaceutical Division was

heading straight for disaster. When Michael inevitably failed to handle it, Tiana would discard him without hesitation.

The trap was so obvious, yet Michael willingly jumped right in, blind to the fact that

he was just a disposable pawn in Tiana's grand scheme.

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Time flew by, and three days passed in a flash. Just as Andrew had predicted,

disaster struck Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division.

An executive reported, "Mr. Rhodes, we have a problem. In just three days, the Weller Group and Stevens Corporation have snatched away 30% of our market share, and the trend is still continuing!"

Another chimed in, "Mr. Rhodes, our sales have been dropping every single day. According to the latest numbers, yesterday we barely even made a million dollars in revenue."

"If this keeps up, forget making a profit-we won't even be able to recover our initial investment!"

Chapter 756

Michael had been in his office, getting a little too comfortable flirting with his secretary, when his subordinates suddenly barged in, looking grim.

They reported, "Mr. Rhodes, the Weller family is playing dirty! They're openly marketing against us, calling our products garbage that not even dogs would buy. And that scumbag Harvey even hired a professional team to run tests on our products and posted the results online!

"Now, the entire internet is trashing us, saying our products are nothing but a cash grab with zero real value. Our Pharmaceutical Division's reputation has completely tanked, and we're being dragged through the mud online!"

Shoving the secretary aside, he did not even have time to zip up before he exploded, "What the hell happened? How did things turn to shit this fast? Get me the latest market reports-now!"

Grabbing the report, he skimmed through it with an increasingly dark expression. By the time he reached the last page, veins bulged on his forehead. With a loud bang, he slammed the report onto the floor.

"This doesn't make sense! It shouldn't be like this! We had everything in our favor -how the hell did it all go sideways?"

Desperate for answers, he rushed to his computer and pulled up the online discussions about Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division.

Someone commented, [What the hell are these products? Straight-up trash. Total rip-offs!]

More joined in the discussion. [They charge ridiculous prices for something that barely works. You'd have to be brain-dead to buy this crap!]

[Stevens Corporation's new products are actually decent, and they're way more affordable. From now on, I'm sticking with them-Rhodes Corporation has officially fallen off!]

[They really think we're suckers, huh? Screw this! Time to boycott Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division for good!]

Michael scrolled down, his hands trembling as he read comment after comment, each one more brutal than the last.

He shouted, "These broke losers! Just because they can't afford our products, they want to complain about the price? Screw them! don't even want their money-a bunch of worthless nobodies!"

Realizing he was about to lose it, he finally slammed the laptop shut, unable to read another word.

"Mr. Rhodes, what do we do? At this rate, forget matching last week's twenty million in sales-we might not even hit ten million!"

The executives in the room looked like they were on the verge of tears, all eyes on Michael, waiting for his decision.

Michael's expression twisted in rage. "The Weller family, huh? Since Harvey wants to play dirty, I'll show him how to play nasty! Come with me! We're heading straight to the Weller Group's warehouse-I'm burning their entire stock to the ground! Let's see who comes out on top, Harvey!"

The executives exchanged uneasy glances. They had not expected Michael to go completely off the rails, but they were desperate too.

After a brief moment of hesitation, they all met each other's gazes, seeing the same ruthless determination reflected back.

Meanwhile, Andrew casually strolled into the Rhodes Corporation building right on schedule. Just then, a message from Tiana arrived.

[Mr. Lloyd, Mrs. Rhodes is completely out of ideas. Could you please come over and offer some advice?]

Tiana had even sent her personal assistant Jerry, to personally relay the message, practically pleading for Andrew's help. Yet, Andrew

remained completely unbothered.

Leaning back on the couch in Lauren's office, he casually popped a grape into his mouth, speaking lazily between bites.

"Sorry, Jerry, but I'm busy. Let Mrs. Rhodes know I've got plans today. In fact, I have a golf game lined up with Mr. Chapman in a bit."

Jerry's expression darkened instantly.

Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division was on the verge of collapsing, yet this guy still had the time to play golf.

Chapter 757

Jerry said, "Mr. Lloyd, Mrs. Rhodes is sincerely asking for your input this time. She really wants you to come in and help strategize."

Jerry's voice was urgent. "Like it or not, we're all in the same boat right now. If the Pharmaceutical Division goes under, you're going to take a loss too, Mr. Lloyd."

Andrew let out a light scoff. "What, you mean the five billion I invested? Big deal. Even if Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division collapses, the rest of the corporation will still stand.

"If worst comes to worst, Mrs. Rhodes can just file for bankruptcy and liquidation. Whatever I get back is whatever I get back. And even if I lose all five billion, I couldn't care less."

Jerry could not believe how Andrew was dismissing the five billion dollars like it was nothing. Was Andrew even human?

His expression darkened as he lowered his voice. "Mr. Lloyd, I understand you don't approve of Mrs. Rhodes' methods. But don't forget-Ms. Rhodes is her daughter. If you ever want things to work out between you two, you won't be able to avoid dealing with Mrs. Rhodes."

Andrew chuckled. "So you're saying I should use this opportunity to cozy up to Mrs. Rhodes, earn her favor, and get her blessing to be with Lauren?"

Jerry nodded firmly. "Exactly. That's why you shouldn't be so arrogant, Mr. Lloyd."

Andrew's expression turned cold. "I'm arrogant? Funny, because from where I'm standing, it's Mrs. Rhodes, who's unreasonable and power-hungry."

Jerry hesitated, struggling to respond.

Andrew raised a hand to cut him off and said flatly, "Do me a favor-tell Mrs. Rhodes that now that things have spiraled out of control, there's nothing I can do to help.

"She was the one who blindly trusted Michael and handed him complete control over the Pharmaceutical Division's resources. Now that it's a complete disaster, she expects me to clean up the mess? No thanks-I don't do damage control for other people's stupidity."

"You"

Jerry's face twisted with anger, but in the end, he could only sigh in frustration and leave. No matter how he tried to persuade

Andrew-whether through reason or pressure-it was pointless. If

Andrew did not want to help, nothing could change his mind.

After Jerry left, Lauren spoke up, concern evident in her voice. "Dr. Lloyd, Michael has completely ruined the Pharmaceutical Division's reputation. That's bound to affect our products too."

Andrew remained calm. "From the

moment the Pharmaceutical

Division lost its formulas, this was

inevitable But sometimes,

destruction is necessary for rebuilding. Let it fall apart

completely-then we'll step in and

turn it all around."

Marcus let out a sigh. "It's rare to see Mrs. Rhodes this panicked. If the Pharmaceutical Division can't bounce back, then Rhodes Corporation's most profitable sector will have no choice but to shut down for good."

Andrew smirked. "This could've been avoided if people actually used their heads and listened to advice. If they had acted sooner, the Pharmaceutical Division would've crushed the Weller Group ages ago.

"But they kept stalling, missing every good opportunity. Now, even Stevens Corporation has jumped in to take a bite. If the Pharmaceutical Division isn't doomed, I'd be shocked."

Marcus frowned. "Looking at the sales data from the past three days, our two formulas are selling, but they're not gaining the momentum they should be. I see two main reasons for this.

"First, Michael has already destroyed Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division's reputation. Customers have lost trust in the brand; unfortunately, we're getting dragged down with them.

"Second, the Vitality Pill and Titan Essence Pill are missing a big publicity push. If we can get them the right exposure, they'll explode in popularity overnight!"

Chapter 758

Lauren nodded. "I've realized both of these issues too. The Pharmaceutical Division's reputation has tanked, and there's no way to fix that in the short term. But for the second issue, I think we can bring in a well-known spokesperson to endorse our two formulas."

Marcus' eyes lit up as he immediately agreed. "That's a great idea, Ms. Rhodes. Our products will gain instant recognition if we get a solid endorsement!"

Andrew chuckled. "Getting a spokesperson is a good move. But for our two formulas, it would be best to have an expert in traditional medicine or holistic wellness-someone with real authority in the field."

Marcus suggested, "How about we get Mr. Aicker to endorse us?"

Lauren shook her head. "No way. Mr. Aicker is the head of the Aicker family. There's no way he'd personally endorse Rhodes Corporation's products."

Andrew smirked. "That works out perfectly. I need to drop by Moonlit Apothecary to see him anyway. When we get there, we can ask him about any well-respected holistic medicine and wellness experts in Jayrodale."

Lauren nodded in agreement. "Exactly. If anyone knows the right people, it's Mr. Aicker."

Without wasting any time, Andrew and Lauren set off for Moonlit Apothecary.

Meanwhile, over at Rhodes Corporation, Tiana sat in her office, her expression unreadable. "So? That little punk still won't budge?"

Jerry sighed, spreading his hands helplessly. "Mrs. Rhodes, I did everything I could. I tried every argument possible. But you won't believe what he said—he told me he 'couldn't help' and that he wasn't in the business of cleaning up other people's messes."

Tiana let out a cold laugh. "That little bastard is really trying to test me, huh? Did you at least remind him that if he doesn't step up, the Pharmaceutical Division will collapse, and he'll take a financial hit too?"

Jerry looked exhausted. "I told him, Mrs. Rhodes. Every single thing you asked me to say—I said it. But he just laughed it off. He said it's only five billion, and he doesn't care if it's gone."

Tiana's jaw clenched as rage flared in her eyes. "He really said that?"

Jerry nodded grimly.

Tiana gritted her teeth. "That little bastard wants to sit back and watch Rhodes Corporation fall apart. I really underestimated how ruthless he could be!"

Jerry's tone grew more serious.

"Mrs. Rhodes, we have to find a way to stabilize the Pharmaceutical

Division. Bane's three formulas turned out exactly as Mr. Lloyd predicted—they're completely useless. They won't save the division. If we don't figure out another solution, Rhodes

Corporation could be heading for a massive financial loss."

Tiana's face darkened as she let out an annoyed scoff. "You think I don't know that? Where's Michael? Get him in here—I need to ask if his so-called guarantees were just empty words."

Jerry hesitated before shaking his head. "Mr. Rhodes stormed out earlier, looking absolutely furious. No idea where he went, but judging by his expression, he looked like he was ready to kill someone."

Tiana sneered. "Hotheaded, impulsive, and painfully stupid. Completely useless. If it weren't for his father constantly causing trouble for the head of the family over in Blumedale, I would've gotten rid of him ages ago."

Jerry asked cautiously, "Then what's our next move, Mrs. Rhodes?"

Tiana's gaze turned icy. "We wait. And in the meantime, schedule a meeting with Aspen from the Stevens family in Bridgefields. That little snake thinks she can mess with Rhodes Corporation? It's time she learns exactly what it feels like to cross me!"

Chapter 759

Meanwhile, Andrew and Lauren stepped inside Moonlit Apothecary together.

"Dr. Lloyd, welcome!"

"Ah, Dr. Lloyd, good to see you!"

"Dr. Lloyd, you're here just knowing you're around makes us feel safe!"

The reputation of Moonlit Apothecary was growing stronger by the day. Naturally, Andrew, as the owner, had earned the trust and admiration of many.

Lauren was taken aback. It was surprising to see just how well-respected Andrew had become. Moonlit Apothecary had become a bustling, sought-after establishment in just a few days.

At this rate, it would not be long before it became a household name in Jayrodale and across the entire Gabo Creek region.

Nyla was busy moving around. However, the moment she spotted Andrew, her face lit up. "Andrew, you're here! Dr. Aicker and Mr. Aicker are upstairs."

Andrew smiled. "Is Fran here too? Perfect-I actually came to see her and Mr. Aicker."

Upstairs in the lounge, Andrew found Francesca and Cedric.

The moment Francesca saw her, she put down her cup and greeted her with a warm smile. "Lauren, you came too!"

Andrew raised a brow and smirked. "Lauren made it here, and I did too. What, Fran, are you just going to pretend you didn't see me?"

Francesca shot him a glare and huffed, "Nope. Someone doesn't know how to be gentle, so from now on, I'm just going to ignore them completely!"

Andrew was speechless. He had not expected last night's intimate session to leave such a lasting grudge. In his defense, he had only used 30% of his strength.

He wondered if he had gone all out, would Francesca have declared a lifelong vendetta against him?

Lauren smirked playfully. "Fran, you're still walking funny. Was it really that intense?"

Francesca's face turned beet red as she gasped in outrage. She lunged at Lauren, trying to cover her mouth. "Lauren! Stop using dirty jokes against me! I swear, I'll rip that mouth of yours off!"

The two of them giggled and wrestled for a bit before finally settling down when they noticed Cedric looking more and more uncomfortable.

Andrew chuckled. "Mr. Aicker, I assume you know why I came to Moonlit Apothecary today?"

Cedric stroked his beard and smiled. "Dr. Lloyd, I'd guess it has something to do with the sales performance of the Vitality Pill and Titan Essence Pill, right?"

Andrew nodded. "That's right. It's been three days-how have things been on the Aicker family's end?"

Cedric hesitated for a moment before suddenly laughing heartily. "To be completely honest, every single unit we received has already sold out!"

Even though Andrew had expected good results, he was still slightly surprised. "Sold out completely? Are you sure?"

Cedric nodded proudly, his voice full of praise. "A good product never lacks a market. And these two formulas you provided? They're an absolute hit among our customers. It's complete madness!

"Especially the Titan Essence Pill-I've had several esteemed colleagues in the medical field practically begging to collaborate with us. They want to distribute it themselves!"

At this, Cedric's excitement dimmed slightly, his face turning somewhat conflicted. He said, "Truth be told, Dr. Lloyd, I have mixed feelings about this."

Andrew smiled. "I can understand the joy, but what's the concern?"

Cedric let out a deep sigh. "The

demand for Titan Essence Pill and Vitality Pills simply enormous. Particularly for Titan Essence Pill-the benefits for overall vitality and men's health are just too pronounced!

"I've even received direct calls from wealthy businessmen trying to place bulk orders, They're treating Titan Essence Pill like some sort of high-end performance enhancer! I mean, this is ridiculous, isn't it?"

Seeing Cedric's frustrated

expression, Andrew simply nodded. "It makes sense. Titan Essence Pill does have incredibly powerful

benefits for men's health and vitality. But it's not just about one

function-it's a holistic formula that enhances overall immunity physical resilience, and energy levels."

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Cedric let out a bitter laugh. "I've already explained the true benefits of Titan Essence Pill countless times. But those wealthy men don't care about anything else—they only see its effects on endurance and performance, and now they're desperate to buy in bulk!"

He added, "I turned them down outright, telling them there was no more stock. But having something valuable is a dangerous thing. Several powerful groups have already set their sights on the Aicker family. If I can't hold my ground, someone is bound to come after these two miracle formulas!"

Andrew's expression darkened, his voice turning cold. "Mr. Aicker, you don't need to worry too much. If anyone thinks they can muscle in with brute force... Then, they should know—I'm no easy prey!"

Cedric gave him a serious look and warned, "Dr. Lloyd, don't underestimate the threat. From what I've heard, several major families in Blumedale, along with the Hidden Dragons—one of the top three groups in Gabo Creek—have already set their eyes on Titan Essence Pill!"

Andrew was slightly surprised. He had not expected his formulas to cause such a stir in just three days, reaching as far as Blumedale. Then again, it was not that shocking.

In business, information could spread at terrifying speeds—especially in today's digital world.

A new gadget could launch abroad and go viral in a day or two, only for certain companies in other countries to "magically" roll out a near-identical version within a week.

Andrew had seen it happen countless times.

Some countries were not always the best at original innovation, but when it came to—well, let's call it strategic replication—they had perfected the art. For example, it was common in Holtrien.

As one influential businessman from Holtrien once said, "Why waste money and effort on R&D when you can just wait for others to do the work and recreate it flawlessly?"

Even Newton had said, "Standing on the shoulders of giants allows you to see further."

Andrew figured these power players were simply putting that philosophy to good

use.

Cedric pulled out a bank statement and handed it to Andrew with a grin. "As per our agreement, Dr. Lloyd, we're splitting the revenue seventy-thirty. All of the products you supplied us have completely sold out, bringing in just over 100 million dollars.

"The Aicker family kept 30 million, and I've already instructed finance to wire the remaining 70 million to your designated account!"

Andrew skimmed the document briefly and nodded. "Everything looks good."

Lauren, however, seemed a little stunned. "Dr. Lloyd, the Aicker family was also distributing Vitality Pill and Titan Essence Pill?"

Andrew smirked. "That's right. I anticipated Rhodes Corporation's Pharmaceutical Division might crash and burn so I allocated some stock to Fran and Mr. Aicker's channels. And as we can see, that decision paid off. Through the Aicker family's distribution network, both formulas became instant bestsellers."

Lauren's eyes lit up in excitement. "That means our products have already passed

the market test. There's no doubt about their success!"

Andrew scoffed. "Not only are they

problem-free, but they're also highly sought-after! The Aicker family's sales results have already proven that. If you want to take the CEO position, Lauren, these two products alone are more than enough to crush Michael!"

Just then, Francesca gasped as she stared at her phone. "Guys, check the news!"

The Weller Group's pharmaceutical warehouse just went up in flames! The report says the fire destroyed over 100 million dollars worth of inventory!"