

The Ashes 981

Chapter 981

Nyla quickly waved her hands and shook her head. "I can't, Andy. I appreciate your kindness, but I really can't accept it. I'm too young, and honestly, I don't have what it takes to run the Goth family."

Andrew chuckled. "Nyla, I know exactly what you're worried about. You have no one backing you, no powerful connections, and you're not a man-so you feel like leading a family just isn't in the cards for you.

"On top of that, you're terrified of your father, Dominic, and even more afraid of Camilla. You're convinced they wouldn't approve, right?"

Nyla let out a bitter smile. "It's not even about whether they'd approve or not. The moment I show the slightest interest in becoming head of the family, Camilla would probably find a way to kill me quietly.

"She warned me herself, the day she married into this family. She said the Goth family would belong to her children and that I should forget about having a place in it."

Francesca scoffed coldly. "Andrew, you know what? I'm on board with your plan now. Let's help Nyla take her rightful place. If this goes on any longer, the Goth family will break her completely.

"And Dominic-his ambition is out of control. If we don't put him in his place after trying to get his hands on your miracle pills, people are going to start thinking they can walk all over Moonlit Apothecary."

Andrew pulled out his phone and gave a calm but cold order "Get the crew. Meet me at the Goth residence."

Then, he jumped in the car, with Francesca and Nyla in the backseat, and headed straight toward the estate.

About 30 minutes later, Dylan arrived at the Goth residences front gates with his team. When he saw Andrew's car pull up, he walked over quickly and greeted him respectfully.

"Mr. Lloyd, what's the move?"

Andrew stepped out and said flatly, "We're going in. I want Dominic to come out and talk."

Without another word, Dylan led two of his top men and marched forward.

Two guards at the gate snapped, "What do you think you're doing? This is private property-get out unless you have a death wish!"

Dylan slapped both guards so hard they hit the ground, dazed.

"Tell your boss that South City's Dylan Garner is here to see him. We have some business to settle."

The second those guards heard

Dylan's name, their faces went pale. Even after getting hit, they did not dare argue. They scrambled to their feet and ran inside to alert the family.

Francesca walked behind with Nyla, offering quiet support. 'Don't worry. Andy's on

your side-he won't let them get away with this."

Nyla's eyes were filled with concern. "Dr. Aicker, I'm just scared Andy might... hurt my father."

Francesca was caught off guard, then sighed. "Nyla, you're too soft After everything, you're still worried about that monster? Trust me. Andy knows what he's doing. He won't cross the line."

Meanwhile, in the estate's backyard, Dominic and Camilla were relaxing and chatting about their future plans.

"Dominic, you promised, remember? If we secure that billion-dollar investment, you'll give me a few hundred million, right?" Camilla cooed, gently rubbing her pregnant belly.

Dominic laughed and looked at her with affection. "Of course, honey. You're my wife-once the Goth family expands, you'll be the first to enjoy the rewards."

Camilla pouted. "What about Nyla, though? She's your daughter too. You're not planning to treat her better than me, are you?"

Dominic scoffed.

"That little brat

doesn't even listen to me anymore. Once she finishes this last task, I'm marrying her off. I don't want her hanging around the house-the sight of her put me in a bad mood

Chapter 982

Camilla giggled and said, "Honestly, I think that's the best decision too. But Dominic, don't you think Nyla might resent you for it? Her mom passed away so early-right now, you're all she has left."

Dominic's voice turned cold. "Her mother's been gone for years. To be honest, I barely feel anything about it anymore. Sure, Nyla's my biological daughter, but if I'm being blunt, I never felt much for her emotionally.

"Now that you're carrying my heir-and it's confirmed to be a boy-once he's born, you and our son will be the most cherished members of the Goth family."

Both of them wore blissful smiles, completely lost in their fantasy of a perfect future.

Suddenly, two guards rushed into the garden, completely out of breath.

"Mr. and Mrs. Goth, Ms. Goth 's back!"

Dominic frowned with displeasure. "Back already? That was quick. Don't tell me she failed?"

His tone turned vicious as he clenched his jaw. "If she screwed up, I'll make sure she pays. I won't let that ungrateful brat off easy."

Camilla reached out and tried to soothe him. "Easy now, darling. It might not be a failure. If you ask me, she probably pulled it off. Come on, let's go see what's going on."

Without waiting for the guards to finish explaining, the couple walked out of the garden smiling, expecting good

news.

Over in the grand living room, the second Dominic and Camilla stepped into view, they were met by the sight of several unfamiliar faces already waiting in the living

room.

"Who the hell are you people?" Dominic snapped without hesitation. "Showing up uninvited to our home? This is way out of line-get out now!"

Camilla blinked in confusion, then narrowed her eyes. "Wait... aren't you with Moonlit Apothecary?"

She caught sight of Francesca and Andrew, and her heart instantly filled with dread.

At that moment, Nyla stepped out and walked up nervously. "Dad, I brought Dr. Aicker and Dr. Lloyd here. I asked them to come."

Dominic's face turned purple with rage. Bringing them here could only mean one thing, and the outcome was

obvious.

He could not help but wonder what his rebellious daughter was planning. Was she really bringing outsiders in to turn on her own family?

Fury erupted inside him, and without thinking, Dominic raised his hand to strike her across the face. However, just as the slap came down, Dylan snatched his wrist mid-air.

The bone-grinding sound was sickening, and Dominic let out a bloodcurdling scream. "Unhand me! Let go of me! Somebody get in here! Take these thugs down now!"

Camilla shrieked, "What the hell are you doing? How dare you lay hands on the head of our family in his own house? You've lost your damn minds!"

Dylan slapped Dominic twice across the face, and the man tumbled backward, hitting the floor hard.

Dylan sneered, "Dominic, are you sure you wanna pick a fight with me, Dylan Garner?"

Dominic's face twisted in pain and fear. When he looked up and saw clearly who was standing before him, his whole body trembled. "Dylan Garner? W-What do you want from us? don't think the Goth family has any bad blood with South City, right?"

Dylan replied coolly, "That's right-we don't. But just because we've had no beef doesn't mean we can't pay you a visit. Mr. Lloyd wants a word with you. So, I'd suggest you think twice about what comes next."

With a mocking grin, Dylan stepped aside to reveal the man standing behind him.

Dominic's eyes locked onto him and instantly flared with anger. "So you're Andrew Lloyd, huh? I've heard all about how you're making waves in Jayrodale lately. You've gotten so cocky you don't even care about the old families anymore.

"But the Goth family is still a respectable name. Marching into our home like this- don't you think you've gone too far?"

Andrew remained unfazed. "Too far? Nah. This is just standard procedure for me."

Dominic roared, "You arrogant punk! The Goth family never did anything to

provoke you! You're abusing your power and pushing people around, but don't think for a second that we're scared of you!"

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Camilla stepped forward and backed him up. "That's right! Andrew, you may be the head of Moonlit Apothecary and have quite some power right now, but the Goth family is still one of Jayrodale's founding families!

"And the White family still holds plenty of influence around here. If you go too far, and the two of us join forces, don't think we'll just sit back and take it!"

Andrew let out a cold laugh. "I don't usually bully the weak just because I can. But Mr. Goth, you said your family never wronged me. Are you really going to stick to that story?"

Dominic's eyes shifted, but he doubled down. "Of course I am. Why wouldn't I? You gonna tell me when exactly we ever crossed you?"

Andrew's voice turned sharp. "You're still trying to play dumb at a time like this? Really? You became Quinton's lapdog and tried to steal the formula for my miracle pills. You're not getting out of that one, are you?"

Dominic's eyes blazed with fury as he shot a murderous glare at Nyla. That little traitor actually ratted them out- she was as good as dead to him now.

Camilla shrieked, "Andrew, you're making false accusations! When has the Goth family ever needed your precious formula? I get it now-you're clearly being manipulated by that worthless brat, Nyla!"

Dominic's expression shifted as he quickly jumped on the opportunity to shift blame. "Dr. Lloyd, the Goth family has always had a solid reputation in Jayrodale. We would never stoop to stealing.

"You must've misunderstood. The one who wanted your formulas was my foolish daughter. After she got caught, she pinned it on the family. Don't worry-I'll punish her right now and make this right."

He lunged forward, reaching to grab Nyla with a menacing look in his eyes. Terrified, Nyla stumbled back in panic.

"Back off!" Andrew kicked Dominic square in the gut, sending him flying backward across the floor.

Even now, this man still dared to lay a hand on his daughter-just to cover his own tracks and use her as a scapegoat. That one move completely ignited Andrew's fury.

Camilla screamed, "Andrew! What gives you the right to lay hands on the head of our family? Someone get in here! Fight back-teach these bastards a lesson and avenge the family!"

At once, a flood of bodyguards and house enforcers-over a dozen in all-stormed into the hall.

However, Dylan just grinned darkly. "Anyone takes a step, and I swear, the Goth family will be wiped off the map in Jayrodale by morning."

Dominic coughed violently and clutched his stomach as he struggled to stand. "Stop! Everyone stand down! Get the hell back-all of you!"

Camilla wailed as she clung to him. "They attacked you! We can't just let this slide! We have to make them pay!"

Dominic turned to her, eyes wide with fear. "No! We can't fight them-we're no match. One wrong move and t.. Goth family is finished!"

He stepped in front of Andrew, forcing himself to stay calm "Dr. Lloyd, that kick? I'll take it. Let's just say it was punishment on behalf of my daughter. You should be satisfied now, right?"

Andrew gave a slow smile. "Mr. Goth, your ability to twist reality and shamelessly lower the bar... honestly, I'm impressed. Let's not pretend here. We both know exactly what's going on.

"Do you seriously think I can't see that you were the one who forced Nyla into this

in the first place? Do I look like a fool to you?"

Francesca scoffed beside him. "Mr. Goth, everyone in Jayrodale knows who you are and what you've done. Trying to pin everything on Nyla? That's disgusting. I have nothing but contempt for you."

Dominic's face twitched as he realized that excuses and pleas were useless now. These people were not here to be manipulated, and they definitely were not buying any of his lies.

He clenched his teeth and let out a

twisted smile. "Alright then. Since you all already know everything, just see what you plan to do. Because even if this blows up, I'm not afraid. Your precious formula hasn't been leaked. "If you're thinking about charging the Goth family with corporate theft, good luck-there's no evidence!"

Chapter 984

Camilla glared at Nyla with eyes full of venom. "You little bitch-this is all your fault! The Goth family fed you, clothed you, gave you everything. And this is how you repay us? By betraying your own blood? You just wait. I swear, I'll make you regret it."

Nyla burst into tears. "Dad... Camilla... we were the ones in the wrong. If we all apologize to Andy together, I know he'll forgive us!"

However, Dominic roared and pointed toward the door. "Get out! Get out of the Goth residence right now! From this moment on, you have no place here. You are no longer one of us."

Nyla turned pale and dropped to her knees, ready to beg.

Francesca rushed over and pulled her into her arms. Her voice was cold. "Nyla, don't waste your tears. Instead, be thankful. Because now, you finally see them for who they really are. These people are not parents-they're monsters."

Andrew casually patted Dominic's cheek, a half-smile on his face. "You think I can't touch you, don't you? Mr. Goth, maybe we haven't dealt with each other before, so let me introduce myself properly."

"You've got one choice-step down and hand over the leadership of the Goth family. Then take your wife and go retire somewhere far away."

Dominic's expression darkened, but then he sneered. "Wow, Andrew, pretty bold of you. Do you really think you can just take over my family? Hah. You think that's even possible?"

Camilla screeched behind him. "Andrew! Who the hell do you think you are? Others might let you walk all over them, but not the Goth family. If you've got the guts, then kill us-I dare you!"

Andrew's tone remained calm. "The Goth family's not even a major player. I don't have the energy to bully nobodies like you. But cutting you off? That I can do."

Camilla scoffed. "Cut us off? Go ahead and try! You're just the head of a little clinic, a glorified street pharmacist. You think you can blacklist us? Who do you think you are the mayor of Jayrodale?"

Dominic snorted. "Quit hiding behind your connections, Andrew. Yeah, you've got more influence than we do right now, but that doesn't mean we need to bow down to you. Thinking you can control who leads our family? That's just childish fantasy."

Andrew did not waste another word on the delusional couple. He turned to Dylan and said, "Send the

message: full blackout on the Goth family. Anyone who associates with them is declaring themselves my enemy."

Dylan immediately pulled out his phone and called Natasha She had already been standing by, waiting for the signal.

Within minutes, she relayed Andrew's orders to every key contact: Madblade Martial Academy, Glorious Pharmaceuticals, the Jayrodale Chamber of

Commerce, the Rhodes family, and the Aicker family.

Basically, every faction aligned with Andrew got the message right away. Even those who were not directly connected to him heard about it fast. It spread like wildfire through Stephen, Cedric, Rhodes Corporation, and others.

Jayrodale was not that big, and within the hour, the entire elite circle knew: Andrew was shutting down the Goth family, and he was making an example out of them.

Camilla did not buy it. She scoffed. "If you can't blacklist us then I swear I'll never take you seriously again."

Dominic laughed too, completely unimpressed. "Andrew, I've heard stories about you-like how you even went after people from Blumedale. But from where I'm standing You're just full of hot air."

Sure, Dominic had seen how even Quinton could not take Andrew down. That said, he was now convinced Andrew's whole reputation came from people who were too scared to push back.

Now that he was seeing it for himself, Dominic thought it was all just hype. The way Andrew talked like he could wipe out their entire family was just ridiculous.

Hell, not even the Rhodes or the Wellers would dare to talk about blacklisting him, and they were the real powerhouses in Jayrodale.

Chapter 985

Dominic believed there was a limit to how much someone could bluff. The Goth family might have kept a low profile, but they'd always been stable. Unless they were completely self-destructed, thinking someone could wipe them out from the outside was just a fantasy.

Right then, Dominic's phone rang. He glanced at the screen and grinned before answering. "Mr. Jenner! Haha, I'm guessing the permit finally came through for our project, right? I knew it'd get approved!"

The voice on the other end exploded. "Permit my ass, Dominic! Have you completely lost your damn mind? That project's main contract went through Rhodes Corporation, and you had the nerve to piss off their director, Mr. Lloyd? They already booted us off the deal! You absolute dumpster fire of a partner. I must've been blind to ever work with you!"

The call ended in a furious hang-up before Dominic even had a chance to respond. He stood there frozen, still holding his expensive phone as if it had just slapped him across the face.

His cheeks were burning, and he turned to glare at Andrew, teeth clenched. "This was your doing, wasn't it? Hmph. It's just one project-we can afford the loss. I refuse to believe every major player in Jayrodale is going to bow to you!"

Andrew ignored the tantrum and walked over to Nyla, handing her a tissue with a soft smile. "Wipe those tears. You're about to become the new head of this family-can't have you crying in front of your people."

Then he looked back at Dominic, his expression turning ice-cold. "What just happened? That was just the beginning.

"I said I'd blacklist the Goth family completely... and I meant it. I'll make sure you, Dominic, have nowhere left to

run."

Just as his words landed, several Goth family executives burst into the room, drenched in sweat like they'd seen a ghost.

"Sir! We've got a major problem-no, several problems!"

"Glorious Pharmaceuticals just pulled strings and cut ties with five of our top suppliers. We've got zero access

now."

"And that's not all. A bunch of partnerships we'd already locked in? Gone. At least ten million in losses, and that's just the start."

"Mr. Goth, Jayrodale's elite families just released a joint statement. From now on, all business with the Goth family is officially severed."

"And the Jayrodale Bank just froze our accounts. They're demanding immediate repayments, or they're taking us

to court."

One after another, the

announcements hit like a funeral bell ringing in Dominic's ears. He stared at them in disbelief, then collapsed straight to the floor like someone had ripped out his spine.

"N—No way... This can't be happening. There's no way this is real. We've got too many revenue streams—there's no way they all dried up at once. I don't believe it!"

He sat there, dazed and trembling, screaming into the void like a man who had just lost everything.

Camilla looked like her soul had left her body. She was shaking so hard she nearly fell over. She rushed to

Dominic, clutching his arm in desperation. "You've got to pull it together! Please!

"This has to be fake—it's all fake! That bastard Andrew just planted false rumors to scare us!" Dominic scrambled back to his feet, nodding like a madman "Right, right... it's all fake. Just a bluff... it has to be..." Just then, a thunderous roar came from outside as an old man stormed into the room—furious and unannounced. It was Alfred Goth, the oldest surviving member of the Goth family. His hair was fully silver, and he had been in charge of half the family's businesses for years. Most importantly, he was the one who maintained the family's relationships with Jayrodale's upper class.

"U—Uncle Alfred..... what are you doing here?" Dominic stammered, instantly uneasy at the sight of him."

Alfred did not say a word. He stormed forward and slapped Dominic across the

face so hard it echoed through the hall.

"You bastard! Do you even realize

what you've done? You've dragged the family straight into hell! What the hell were you thinking?
What

were

reckless nonsense have you gotten us into?"

Chapter 986

Alfred's furious outburst stunned everyone in the Goth family.

"The entire city of Jayrodale is closing ranks against us right now!" he shouted, his face red with rage.

"I spent over 30 years building our network-30 years of sweat, deals, and favors- and you destroyed it in a single day! You want me to stay away? Fine. But what now? You expect me to sleep on the streets like some washed -up nobody?"

Alfred was shaking with rage as he slapped Dominic across the face again-and again, and again, delivering a flurry of brutal smacks. Given his seniority and power in the family, Alfred's authority was on par with Dominic's, if not stronger.

In fact, Dominic's mediocrity had long been hidden behind Alfred's efforts he was the one who kept the family's reputation intact. So, inside the Goth family, Alfred's word always carried more weight than Dominic's.

After that vicious barrage of slaps, Dominic's face was covered in blood. Even one of his ears had started to bleed.

Camilla shrieked in terror like she was the one getting hit. "It's over... It's all over! Even Uncle Alfred's finished... This is it. Heaven itself wants our family destroyed!"

Whatever shred of hope Dominic had left vanished in that moment. With a loud thud, he dropped to his knees and Taughed bitterly, completely broken.

Blood dripped down from the corners of his mouth and his brow, but he did not care. He just stayed there on the floor, looking like his soul had been ripped from his body.

Alfred gritted his teeth and roared, "You idiot! You absolute fool! Even now, you're still blaming the world? Are you blind? Or deaf? Can't you see this is Mr. Lloyd's punishment raining down on us?"

Dominic flinched hard as if someone had dumped a bucket of ice water over his head. "Mr. Lloyd... Dr. Lloyd... please, I'm begging you. Please spare our family. Over 300 people are depending on the Goth family to survive. Please, don't wipe us out... we won't last without you."

Still kneeling, he crawled toward Andrew and clung to his leg, weeping and begging like a man with nothing left.

Camilla barked, "Don't you dare beg him! So what if he got the other families to blacklist us? My family-the White family-we're not afraid of him. We don't answer to anyone!"

Dominic's body tensed. She was right-he still had Camilla's side of the family.

Camilla pulled out her phone and smirked at Andrew. "If you're really trying to destroy us, then I hope you're ready for what happens next. Let me show you how powerless you really are."

She immediately called her brother, Caleb White. "Hey, it's me..."

But before she could say more, the voice on the other end exploded. "Shut your damn mouth! I'm not your family! You backstabbing parasite! You deserve everything that's

coming to you!

"If the White family gets dragged down because of the Goths, I'll cut ties with you

and make sure you pay in blood!

Camilla froze like a statue. It felt like a hundred thunderclaps exploded in her skull, shaking her down to the bone.

She muttered, "H-How was this

even possible? Even her own family had been dragged into this mess. Was Andrew really that powerful? Had his influence already reached that level?"

Her phone slipped from her trembling hand and hit the floor with a dull clack. She stared at Andrew in disbelief,

her lips trembling. "Y-You actually managed to push even the White family this far..."

Andrew let out a cold chuckle as he looked at the devastated couple. "So... now, do you finally believe me?"

Chapter 987

Camilla let out a desperate scream and clutched her pregnant belly as she

dropped to her knees, trying to beg Andrew for mercy. "Mr. Lloyd, I'm pregnant... please, I'm begging you for the sake of my baby, spare us! Please, just give us a second chance!"

However, Andrew stepped to the side, refusing her plea without a second thought. "Sorry, but begging now is a little too late."

He turned to Alfred and asked calmly, "Alfred, I'm thinking of appointing Nyla as the new head of the Goth family. Do you believe she's fit for the role?"

Alfred did not hesitate for a second. "Mr. Lloyd, absolutely. No question-she's more than qualified. But... if I may add just one small condition..."

Before he could even finish, Andrew cut in with a cool tone. "I already know what you're trying to say. You want me to spare the Goth family, right? Don't worry. As long as Nyla takes the leadership role and you support her properly...

"I'll personally make sure the Goth family bounces back. In fact, I'll help them rise even higher in Jayrodale than ever before."

Alfred blinked in surprise, then a huge grin spread across his face. "Mr. Lloyd, did you just say you'd support the Goth family?"

He bowed with excitement, doing his best to contain the joy in his voice.

Andrew shot him a glance with a half-smile. "Do you think I'm the type to joke about this?"

With full confidence, Alfred stood tall and declared, "Nyla, from this moment forward, you are the new head of the Goth family. You have my full support, as your great-uncle."

Dominic felt the world spinning around him. His vision blurred, and he nearly collapsed as he roared, "Uncle Alfred, you can't do this! This is a coup!"

Camilla burst into tears beside him, screaming, "If Dominic loses his position as head, then what happens to us? What about our child?"

Alfred's eyes were ice cold as he growled, "The two of you should get the hell out of my sight! None of this would've happened to our family if it weren't for your incompetence and arrogance.

"Right now, Nyla is the future-the core of our legacy. Are you deaf? Didn't you

hear Mr. Lloyd say he will personally support her?"

Dominic and Camilla were speechless, their faces ghost-white.

Andrew had not raised a hand against them. All it took was a few words to

shift the entire power structure of the Goth family. He did not just oust a family head-he made the entire household turn against their own leaders.

"We support Ms. Goth as our new head!"

"That's right! From today on, Nyla leads the Goth family!"

"Dominic and Camilla have no strength or integrity-they don't deserve to lead! Get them out of here!"

One by one, the other family members stepped forward, voicing their support for Nyla.

Andrew had not forced a single word out of them, but now it was clear-Dominic had lost the trust and loyalty of his entire family.

Camilla grabbed Dominic's shirt, sobbing in panic. "Dominic! Do something! Say something!"

However, Dominic shut his eyes, looking like a hollowed-out shell. "It's over. We're done. Didn't you hear them? Everyone wants us gone."

Camilla exploded. "Useless! You're a complete disgrace! Nyla is your daughter— beg her! Beg her not to go through with this! Do it!"

The realization hit Dominic like a lightning bolt. He scrambled across the floor toward Nyla. "Nyla, I was wrong. I'm sorry-I truly regret everything! Please, give me

chance. Spare me and Camilla... we'll do anything!"

Chapter 988

For a split second, Nyla hesitated. She had once truly loved her father. However, seeing Dominic sobbing on the floor, pathetic and pitiful, she finally saw him for what he really was.

The so-called fatherly authority he used to carry was nothing more than fear- based dominance he was no different than any other coward clinging to survival.

She said calmly, "You don't have to worry. I won't pursue charges against you or Camilla."

Nyla turned her head away, refusing to look at him again. "But whatever bond we had as father and daughter... ends here."

Dominic's face twisted in disbelief. "Nyla, what are you saying? You're seriously going to steal my position as family head?"

Nyla shook her head and let out a soft scoff. "I'm not stealing anything. But tell me do you really think you're still fit to be the head of this family?"

Dominic opened his mouth, but nothing came out. His throat locked up like someone was physically choking the words from him.

Francesca stepped forward with a bright smile. "Congratulations, Nyla. You'll be the first female family head in all of Jayrodale-and one of the youngest at that!"

Nyla flushed shyly. "Dr. Aicker, I don't think I'm ready for that. I'm not suited to lead the family. There are better candidates... like Uncle Alfred. He should take the position instead."

Andrew grinned. "Alfred, look at that Nyla's already showing humility. She wants you to take the helm. Why don't you just accept and lead the Goth family yourself?"

Alfred nearly wet himself on the spot. Internally, he cursed Andrew for being a smiling devil in disguise. If he really let the idea go to his head and stepped up now, he would probably end up floating face-down in the river tomorrow.

"Mr. Lloyd, you must be joking. I'm way too old for that position. Nyla is the rightful successor. She's the perfect choice. And let me make this clear-if anyone in this family dares defy her authority, I'll personally see them thrown out of the Goth family!"

Alfred slapped his chest proudly as he made the declaration to Andrew.

Andrew smirked. It was clear this old man was ten times smarter than Dominic.

That entire moment had been a test. If Alfred had gotten too excited and accepted the offer without a second thought, Andrew would have taught him the difference between surface-level words and what was really being said.

Any elder who did not understand nuance and power dynamics had no place helping lead under Andrew's banner.

"Dylan, pull back your team," Andrew said calmly. "Also, lift the blacklist on the Goth family. From now on, they'll be one of the official distributor's for our top two miracle treatments."

Dylan grinned. "Understood, Mr. Lloyd!"

With that, he moved to make the calls.

Nyla was overwhelmed. "Andy, letting the Goth family distribute your miracle

formulas... that's too much. I-I can't accept that."

Andrew just smiled. "Why not? I told you I'd help you rebuild the Goth family, and this is how I'm going to do it."

Alfred could hardly contain himself, feeling like he had hit the lottery. People said blessings and disasters would often come hand-in-hand, and now he finally understood what that meant. What looked like a complete collapse had become the greatest opportunity in the Goth family's history.

They had not just survived-they had secured direct ties to Moonlit Apothecary

and Andrew himself.

This was not a downfall; it was a divine favor.

Alfred led the way, bowing respectfully. "Nyla, please take your seat."

The rest of the family followed, their excitement erupting like wildfire. "Ms. Goth, please take your seat!"

Nyla, cheeks flushed, was surrounded by her kin and coaxed into the very seat she'd never imagined herself in.

At the same time, Dominic and Camilla were physically escorted out of the estate by the Goth family's own guards.

Alfred's voice was cold and final.

"Dominic, per the new head's

decision, you and your wife will be sent to manage one of our lower-tier

shops in the neighboring county. You are not permitted to return to the main estate without her direct approval."

Dominic laughed bitterly. "Uncle Alfred, did Nyla really say that? I don't believe she could be that cruel."

Alfred's expression did not change. "What do you think? Of course it wasn't her."

Chapter 989

Alfred added coldly, "This was Mr. Lloyd's order. Satisfied now?"

Dominic's body went stiff as his heart sank completely. He knew that crossing Andrew meant ruin deep down, but now he was sure of it. This was not just a fall from grace; it was a freefall straight into hell, and there was no coming back.

Camilla shrieked, clinging to Dominic's arm. "How are we supposed to survive in some small county town? They don't even have shopping malls, no luxury boutiques, not even a damn proper restaurant! What about my friends? My lifestyle? What the hell am I supposed to do?"

Dominic tried to comfort her. "It's okay. These smaller towns have developed a lot recently. The Goth family owns several properties down there. Once we settle in, we'll still live comfortably.

"As for luxury stores and proper restaurant chains-come on, let's be real. Do you think we'll ever be buying designer bags again?"

Camilla shouted, "I don't care! I'm pregnant, and I can't live without the things I love. You expect me to raise a child in the middle of nowhere? What kind of life is that?"

Dominic sighed bitterly. "We'll do what every parent does-we'll work hard to build a better future for him. And don't forget, he'll have Nyla for an older sister. With her in charge now, she won't leave him behind."

Camilla crumpled into sobs. "We never should've treated Nyla that way... I should've known-she had Andrew backing her this whole time. Pushing her down, controlling her... of course, it would backfire eventually. I just couldn't help it. I always saw her as a threat to me and my baby."

Dominic let out a deep breath. "You weren't the only one. I misjudged the whole situation. Andrew isn't just powerful... he practically controls Jayrodale now. I was blinded by pride. I thought I could still hold my own-but clearly, I had no idea what I was dealing with."

The two sat quietly in the back of a rickety old van, bumping along the highway, leaving Jayrodale behind.

Halfway into the trip, Dominic's phone rang-it was Quinton.

"Mr. Goth, I heard there's been some trouble in your family. What's going on?"

Quinton was still out of the loop-being from Blumedale, he always got Jayrodale news a beat too late.

Dominic clenched the phone and answered with bitterness. "Sorry, Quinton. I won't be able to help you anymore. From now on, there's nothing between us."

Quinton's voice instantly turned sharp. "What are you saying? That's not how business works. Even if we didn't close a deal, we should part on good terms. What about the billion-dollar investment the Wrights promised? Don't you want that?" Content belongs to

Before Dominic could reply, Camilla snatched the phone and exploded. "Quinton, you walking disaster!

Shove your damn investment

your ass! Do you even realize it was because of you that Dominic cost everything?

"He's no longer head of the family, thanks to your mess! Get lost! Dominic doesn't want anything to do with you anymore!"

And with that, she hurled the phone against the van wall, smashing it to pieces. Her whole body was trembling with fury.

Dominic stared at the shattered phone and groaned. "You're angry, fine but did you have to destroy the phone? We were kicked out so fast, we barely packed. That phone was my most valuable possession right now!"

Camilla screamed, "I don't care! I

needed to break something! You're a pathetic excuse for a man! If my life sucks from here on out, I'll divorce you without hesitation. I'll remarry and find someone richer than you! Sticking with a washed-up loser is not how I plan to live."

Dominic's face darkened. "You're blaming me? I should be blaming you. Do you think I didn't know how cruel you were to Nyla while I was gone? You treated her like trash!"

Camilla shrieked, "Are we really doing this now? You want to argue about right and wrong while we're being driven out of our home? If you keep pushing, I swear I'll get an abortion and leave you in the dirt!"

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Meanwhile, Quinton lowered his phone, his face clouded with rage.

Shawn sneered. "I told you Dominic was unreliable. You should've known he'd let you down."

Quinton scoffed. "Anyone can throw shade after the fact. If he was worthless, then what exactly could you have done better?"

Shawn looked like he had swallowed poison. He opened his mouth, but nothing came out.

"Damn it," Quinton growled. "Dominic didn't just screw up-he lost his position as family head. Find out exactly what happened. I want details, and I want them now!"

He had invested serious hopes in Dominic, and to watch it all collapse this fast felt like a drop from heaven straight into hell.

Christina spoke up, her voice cool and calm. "No need to investigate. I already know what happened."

Quinton turned toward her. "Ms. Stevens, go ahead. I'm listening."

Christina said plainly, "Everything started with Andrew. He pulled strings and leveraged his connections to rally over half of Jayrodale's powerhouses. Together, they completely blacklisted the Goth family."

Quinton's eyes widened. "Over half of Jayrodale? Where the hell did this Andrew get that kind of pull?"

Even as someone from Blumedale, Quinton knew how polite people in Jayrodale pretended to be around him. However, when it came time to get real support, very few actually stepped up for him.

Yet, Andrew managed to mobilize half the city's elite. That level of influence practically made him the king of Jayrodale.

Christina shook her head. "I'm not exactly sure how he pulled it off. Honestly, our

family isn't even qualified to enter that circle anymore.

"But getting the info wasn't hard. The Rhodes, the Aickers, the underground cartels, and even Madblade Martial Academy all gave Andrew full support. With big names like that leading the charge, every other family and business followed suit.

"Even those with no prior relationship with Andrew saw this as their chance to win favor with him. In short, Andrew didn't just isolate the Goths—he weaponized nearly all of Jayrodale's public-facing power structure to do it.

"Dominic and Camilla were stripped of everything and exiled to some small county town, while their daughter Nyla took over as the new head of the family."

Quinton scowled and let out a mocking laugh. "That's insane. You're telling me they handed the family over to a naive little girl with zero experience? Do you really think the elders of the Goth family are going to sit back and let that happen?"

Christina gave a complicated look. "Whether they approve or not doesn't matter. What matters is that Nyla is now considered Andrew's person. Which means..... the Goth family effectively belongs to him now."

Quinton's voice turned cold. "So you're saying that instead of getting my hands on the miracle formula, I practically handed Andrew the keys to the Goth family on a silver platter?"

Christina nodded. "In a way... yes."

Quinton clenched his jaw. "If Dominic is out, then do either of you have a backup plan? That Vitality Pill and the Titan Essence Pill—everyone's after them. If I don't move fast, someone else will."

Shawn growled, "Quinton, I still don't think we need to keep dancing around Andrew. With your status—and the Wrights behind you there's a cleaner way.

"If push comes to shove, why not just bring in the Wrights' private guard along with a couple of top-tier enforcers and force him to hand it over? It's quick and easy problem solved."