

## Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

---- Chapter 2071 Andrew said flatly, "Alright, don't overreact. From now on, you won't be tormented by it anymore." Cordelia muttered in disbelief, "That's impossible. The Flamebinding can't be broken by outsiders." She twisted around, but she could not see her own back, so she rushed to a mirror instead. One look, and her eyes widened. The seal was truly gone, leaving behind only a faint scar across her smooth skin. "What on..." Her expression shifted from fear to uncontrollable joy. "The seal is gone. That means I'm free, finally free!"

The world is my oyster, and I'll never again be chained by the Crimson Flame Cult. I can go home and reunite with my mother and my brother!" Andrew and Eric watched her cheer with stunned silence. From her reaction, it was clear Cordelia had never joined the cult willingly. Otherwise, she would not be this ecstatic to be rid of their control. After a moment of excitement, Cordelia turned back toward Andrew, her expression complicated. Andrew raised his hand and said, "Eric, your turn. Put her under ---- again and ask questions." Cordelia frantically waved her hands. "No, don't! Please!"

Don't control my mind anymore. Ask me anything, and you'll get the truth." Eric sneered. "And how do we know your truth isn't a lie? I'd rather take full control, strip your will away, and then I'll know exactly what I want with no chance of lying. For example, if I wanted to know whether you're still a virgin, I wouldn't get a false answer." Cordelia clenched her teeth. "I'm not. Satisfied? At 13, when I was dragged into one of the cult's branches, I was violated." Her bluntness made even Eric hesitate to push her further. Andrew sighed. "Do you have to torment her like that? Enough. Find the newest release on [NovelFind.net](http://NovelFind.net)

If she's willing to talk honestly, then let's hear what she has to say." Cordelia immediately turned to Andrew, her voice respectful. "First, I want to thank you for saving my life and giving me a new start." Andrew shrugged. "No need for thanks. From the way you ambushed people earlier, you didn't seem the merciful type. You've killed plenty in the name of the Crimson Flame Cult, haven't you?" Cordelia lowered her head. "Yes... I've killed many. But I had no ---- choice. If I didn't kill, I would have been killed myself." Andrew nodded. "Then let's get to business.

Where is Shiloh?" Cordelia replied, "You mean the Greene family's saintess? Two days ago, Mr. Haynes secretly sent her southeast to the McDaniel family. There, she will undergo the ceremony to become one of us in the Crimson Flame Cult." Andrew frowned. "Ceremony? What kind of ceremony?" Cordelia shook her head. "I don't know the details. But once it's complete, she will forever lose her true nature and become one of our holy cult." Eric scoffed. "Holy cult, my ass. That's nothing but a twisted cult. Cordelia pressed her lips together, not arguing.

"The ritual will be led by a high priest sent from the main headquarters. Mr. Haynes was tasked with distracting everyone in Goldridge and keeping all eyes fixed on the Majestic Hotel."

## Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

---- Chapter 2072 Cordelia said firmly, "The High Oracle will stop at nothing to claim the Greene family saintess." Andrew asked, "Why does the Crimson Flame Cult want Shiloh so badly?" Cordelia looked confused. "That, I don't know! But once, when I was chosen to serve on the Holy Isle, I overheard the High Oracle and the Guardians speaking. They said the Greene family saintess carries a secret tied to immortality." Eric nodded grimly. "immortality. That woman is extraordinary. Others age until they die, but she grows younger with time, eventually even reverting to a child. Chapters first released on find♦novel.net

And the Greene family's secrets go far beyond that. "if the Crimson Flame Cult thinks they can control her, they may end up destroyed instead. Once the saintess's memories return in full, everyone within hundreds of miles will perish." Andrew was silent for a moment, realizing how urgent the situation had become. He had to find Shiloh quickly. "One last question. Where is the Crimson Flame Cult's main headquarters?" His eyes locked on Cordelia. Cordelia answered bluntly, "Augania, on Emberfall Isle." ---- Eric was stunned again. "So it really is in Augania... No wonder.

That place is a mess of warring factions. Drug lords, warlords, ruthless killers on every corner. The Trinarchy is infamous as a living hell, so of course it makes sense for the Crimson Flame Cult to root itself there." Andrew said, "Pack up. We're heading straight southeast to the McDaniel family." Cordelia quickly spoke up. "I'm coming with you!" Andrew glanced at her, and her face flushed as she stammered, " Even though my seal is gone, I can't go back to Augania yet. I have nothing on me.

The only way I can return is if I reconnect with other cult members and travel with them." This time, Eric did not object. Instead, he smirked. "Then why not feed her a Heartlock Pill and use her as our mole? Once we found the McDaniel family, we let her rejoin the Crimson Flame Cult. She can then report Shiloh's exact location to us. Saves us time and energy." Cordelia's face turned pale, but she did not resist or refuse. The Heartlock Pill was a deadly poison. Once swallowed, without the antidote, the death it brought was excruciating.

Nonetheless, she also knew if she wanted to live, she had no choice but to obey. ---- Andrew caught the look of fear she tried to hide and said calmly, "We'll discuss it later. For now, we set out. The McDaniel family in the southeast is a tough nut to crack. If they've already pledged themselves to the Crimson Flame Cult, then to get Shiloh back, we'll have to face them head-on." Eric stepped forward. "Dad has close ties with the McDaniel family. Maybe I can step in and negotiate us into their estate." Andrew curled his lip. "Forget it.

Last time you tried to use your connections, it backfired. Your so-called reputation isn't worth much." Eric's face flushed red as if Andrew had struck a sore spot. The last time in Goldridge, he had strutted in with bravado only to be humiliated badly.

## Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

---- Chapter 2073 Departing from Goldridge toward the southeast, there was only one famous McDaniel family, the McDaniel family of Sunstrand. They were not only old money but also a martial family. Their patriarch, Nicholas McDaniel, ranked tenth on the Titan List. After traveling most of the day, Andrew and his companions finally arrived in Sunstrand. The difference in

atmosphere was obvious the moment they stepped into the city. Martial artists filled the streets, their presence brazen and undisguised.

Eric said darkly, "It looks like quite a few people have heard about Shiloh's whereabouts. Sunstrand won't stay peaceful for long." Andrew stayed calm, his eyes glancing toward Cordelia. Due to her striking foreign-looking blue eyes, she wore dark sunglasses to cover them. She had been quiet along the road, not causing any trouble. "Doesn't matter. First stop is the McDaniel family estate." Andrew decided immediately. The McDaniel family was undoubtedly the giant powerhouse family in Sunstrand. It had a huge reputation throughout all five provinces of Holtrien's Gabo Creek region.

In terms of status, the McDaniel family ranked among the elite families, no less ---- than Goldridge's McCormick family. All three had simple disguises as they passed through Sunstrand's city center, heading toward the McDaniel family estate. However, halfway there, they were stopped by people. "What's your business? Where are you from?" The group blocking their path had over 20 members. Each one wore a long sword at their waist with bulging temples. You could tell they were well-trained experts, and organized ones at that. Eric whispered, "These are the McDaniel family's guard unit.

They're quite strong." The leader was a martial king, and Andrew certainly did not take him seriously. However, an old man was smoking a pipe at a small stall nearby. He looked disheveled and half-asleep. Nonetheless, the faint, dangerous aura emanating from him made Andrew notice him immediately. This old man was a martial saint hiding his true strength. It seemed like a routine inspection, so Andrew did not think much of it and smiled. "We're from Gabo Creek province, here to visit relatives!" The martial king's pale eyes scanned them up and down before he finally stepped aside. Newest update provided by find—novel.net

"Move along. Sunstrand is under ---- lockdown. If you're here to visit family, then find a place to stay. No one is allowed near the McDaniel family estate." Eric feigned ignorance. "Oh? The McDaniel family estate is one of Sunstrand's landmarks. Can't we at least go take a look?" The martial king sneered. "That's the McDaniel family's territory. Surely you know what their name means here? If you have a death wish, go ahead and 'visit'. No one will stop you." Eric scoffed but said nothing more. Andrew smiled again at the martial king, looking completely harmless.

Only then did he leave with Cordelia and Eric. The main road to the estate was sealed, so the only way to approach was through side routes. Eric grumbled, "The McDaniel family estate is huge. We have plenty of ways to sneak in!" Andrew shook his head. "Keep moving. Something feels off." Eric frowned. "Off? You're imagining things." Ahead of them stretched a redwood path. At the end of it lay another street of Sunstrand. Andrew's brows furrowed as he scanned the surroundings, then stepped forward into the redwood forest. ---- Halfway through, a sharp whistle split the air.

Without hesitation, Andrew yanked the slow-reacting Cordelia down and dropped low. A long spear, carrying enough force to pierce through anything, sliced past their heads. Eric's expression changed slightly as he shouted, "Who's there? Come out!" Cordelia lay beneath Andrew, already pale with fear. If he had not saved her just now, she would have died. She opened her mouth to say thank you. However, Andrew had already sprung up and was looking toward the depths of the forest.

## Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

---- Chapter 2074 With two cold laughs, a group of people emerged. Leading them was the same drowsy old man from before. He had completely shed his previous frail appearance and now looked vigorous and alert. Two other people stood beside this old man. One had an arrogant expression, and a silk band wrapped around his forehead had "McDaniel" written on it "Im Callum McDaniel, the third son of the McDaniel family. Which one of you is Andrew Lloyd?" His nose tilted high, his tone dripping with disdain. Andrew ignored him and looked at the person beside him instead. It was Henry!

That bastard had not only arrived in Sunstrand ahead of them, but he had also joined forces with the McDaniel family. "Andrew, bet you didn't expect me to get here first and wait for you. And even though you're in disguise, I still recognized you," Henry said smugly. He turned to Callum and bowed slightly. "Mr. McDaniel, this is the man I told you about, Andrew Lloyd. He's guilty of countless ---- crimes. He crawled out of Gabo Creek, failed to make it there, and then ran to Goldridge. Even in Goldridge, he's hated by the McCormicks. Discover more novels at [Find\[N\]ovel.net](http://Find[N]ovel.net)

Now, look at him, fleeing again, all the way to Sunstrand." He lied smoothly and shamelessly, his face calm as though every word were true. Callum raised a hand and pointed at Andrew. "Scum! Sunstrand is a place of order. We will not tolerate the likes of you here. Get on your knees and come with me to the McDaniel family estate to face judgment, or face death!" Andrew smirked. "Judge me? And who the hell are you? Henry, what did you tell the McDaniels you were really here for?" Henry's face did not change. "What else could it be? I came at Mr. McDaniel's invitation.

Their new estate is about to be unveiled. I brought lavish gifts to attend the ceremony. Not like you, sneaking around like a petty thief." Andrew shrugged. Henry was as cunning as ever. He had obviously come for Shiloh, but managed to fabricate such a perfect cover story. Eric spoke up. "Mr. McDaniel, I am Eric Humphrey of Goldridge. Years ago, I came here with Dad to visit the McDaniel family." Callum sneered. "Eric Humphrey. Yes, I know your name. You're ---- Mr. Thornton's foster son. But to think you'd stoop so low as to Tun with this trash. Mr. Fischer said you were simply misled.

Come over to our side, and together we'll erase this disgrace." Eric's face darkened. "We're together, and Andrew is not what you call him. Step aside. If the McDaniel family won't welcome us, we'll leave." Callum stepped forward, his aura flaring. "Leave? You think it's that easy? Andrew stays here today. You may have gotten away with evil in Gabo Creek, but in Sunstrand, the McDaniels will see to it you never leave alive." Andrew raised both hands as if in surrender. "Alright, you win. I give up. Mr. McDaniel, you're too mighty for me to resist.

I'm too scared to run anymore." Callum blinked in surprise, then burst out laughing. "Mr. Fischer, you said this man was cunning as a fox, hard to deal with, But look at him now! It's pathetic." He strode toward Andrew to seize him. Henry's face tightened, and he shouted, "Wait! He's tricking you! Stop!" However, it was too late. Without warning, Andrew struck. His hand shot up along Callum's arm, stabbing straight for his armpit. ---- "You're asking for death!" Callum roared, igniting his body's protective energy. A shimmering shield flared around him Andrew's lips curved into a cold smile.

His hand twisted and clamped down hard on Callum's arm. Power surged like a raging flood, and a crisp crack and tearing sound echoed. Callum's eyes went wide with shock as he watched Andrew crush his protective aura into shards with his bare hands.

# Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

---- Chapter 2075 In the next instant, Andrew had Callum firmly in his grasp. Callum managed a quick reaction, stomping the ground and leaping upward, his leg whipping around in a vicious kick aimed at Andrew's head. Yet, Andrew's face did not even flicker. He blocked with his elbow, deflecting the strike, and then slammed a palm into Callum's shoulder. It all happened so fast that Henry and the McDaniel family's martial saint, Larry McDaniel, only realized what was happening when it was too late. Both roared in fury and shot toward Andrew. Andrew's face hardened with killing intent.

Ignoring Callum's scream, he grabbed him like a rag doll and hurled him outward. A violent surge of energy burst from the strike, making the entire redwood forest tremble. Larry froze, afraid to attack recklessly and injure Callum. He dropped back down to the ground just as Andrew kicked Callum hard in the chest. Blood gushed out from Callum's mouth as his face twisted in agony. ---- Larry's eyes bulged with rage. "Mr. Callum! Andrew, how dare you lay a hand on the McDaniel family? You'll never leave Sunstrand alive!" Andrew slapped Callum twice across the face.

Then, he launched a powerful kick skyward, knocking Henry straight out of the air. Henry staggered back several heavy steps before he steadied himself, shock rattling through his chest. Wave after wave of dread struck him. How had Andrew become this terrifying? Back in Goldridge, Henry had still thought himself capable of keeping Andrew under control. But now, weighing the gap, he realized he stood no chance at all in a direct confrontation. "Run!" Andrew barked, turning toward Eric.

Eric wasted no time, sprinting out of the redwood forest Cordelia struggled to keep up, her strength lagging, but she forced herself forward, Larry's face twisted with fury. He bounded forward in giant steps, his palm surging with lethal force as he struck for her back. "No one leaves alive!" ---- Andrew was faster. With Callum still in his grip, he swung him forward like a weapon, slamming his body straight toward Larry. "Mr. Callum!" Larry shouted in horror, abandoning his attack to catch Callum. Seizing the opening, Andrew grabbed Cordelia and bolted down the path, following Eric.

Together they burst from the redwood forest and vanished into the streets below. Inside the forest, Callum lay flat on his back, coughing blood in steady spurts. Larry knelt and forced his energy into him, desperate to stabilize him. Smoke rose from the top of Larry's head from the effort, and at last he had to stop, panting heavily. Callum coughed again, finally managing to stand. However, the fear in his eyes was undeniable, tears welling as he rasped, "T- That was so close. Mr. Larry, escort me back to the estate at once. I must see Dad.

If I don't flay Andrew alive, I don't deserve the name McDaniel!" Larry nodded rapidly. "Yes, of course. Don't upset yourself. I'll take you back immediately." He turned a venomous glare on Henry. "Mr. Fischer, this is your doing. You said nothing of how strong that bastard was. Mr. Callum nearly died!" Henry raised his hands, all innocence. "Mr. Larry, heaven knows I ---- warned him. You heard me. But that thief is sly and cunning. He lured Mr. Callum in, and during their first exchange, he struck unexpectedly. Next time, I'm certain Mr. Callum will cut him down." Larry's face twitched.

Cut him down? Even though Callum was a peak martial king and a gifted heir of the McDaniels, he had been nothing but prey in Andrew's hands, a lamb waiting for slaughter. This content belongs to find~novel~net

## Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

---- Chapter 2076 The door slammed shut with a bang. Andrew and his crew slipped into an empty house. Sunstrand was nothing like Goldridge. Other than its small downtown, the place was just neighborhoods stacked one after another. Hiding here was child's play for Andrew. Andrew leaned against the door with a smirk. "You old flame's quite a cunning fox, eh? Not only did you beat us here to Sunstrand, but he even set traps for us." Eric sat on the bed, gasping for breath as he gritted his teeth. "I told you before, Henry isn't someone to underestimate. In fact, Henry really is a wild beast.

Give him the chance, and he'll do anything and even pull it off." Andrew shrugged. "Of course I know. That man will try anything. Otherwise, he wouldn't have worked as the McCormick family's lapdog and taken a swing at Mr. Thornton. If the McCormicks hadn't been backing him, Mr. Thornton alone could've buried him." Eric's face darkened. "Right now, we're already exposed in Sunstrand. Finding Shiloh is going to be ten times harder. If I'm not wrong, with Callum injured, the McDaniels will be tearing this city apart to track us down." ---- Andrew's expression stayed calm. "Let them search.

You think I'm afraid of the McDaniel family? I'll kill anyone who gets in the way of me taking Shiloh home." From the corer came a groan. Cordelia, the Crimson Flame Cult follower, stirred awake. Andrew had knocked her out earlier on the run because she was slowing them down. Now, as she regained consciousness, Andrew said flatly, "Go. You're free." Cordelia blinked in shock. "Y- You're letting me go?" Andrew nodded. "Leave. You're useless to me now. If you stay, you'll only drag me down." Cordelia fell silent.

During the clash with the McDaniels earlier, she knew that without Andrew, she would have died as nothing more than cannon fodder. After a long pause, she finally whispered, "Thank you... for saving my life back there." Andrew waved her off. "Go on. The Flamebinding on you is already broken. As long as you don't crawl back to the Crimson Flame Cult, living a normal life shouldn't be hard." ---- Cordelia bit her lip. "But... Augania, my home, is so far from here. How do I even get back?" Andrew shrugged. "That's your problem to figure out." She got to her feet and walked toward the door. THIS CHAPTER IS UPDATE BY FindNovel.net

After a few steps, she stopped and turned back to glance at him. Eric smirked. "What's wrong, sweetheart? You want Andrew to bed you before you go?" Cordelia ignored him. Her eyes stayed on Andrew. "You saved me. I want to repay you." Andrew looked at her with surprise. "Repay me?" He gave a dry chuckle. "Forget it. I wouldn't call that saving you. I just didn't want to see us escape while you got caught and executed." Cordelia's face grew serious. "Believe me. I can really help you." She took a step closer. "I can sneak into the McDaniel family estate as a Crimson Flame Cult believer.

Once I find the chance, I'll pass you the location of the Greene family's saintess. At the same time, I can arrange a safe way in for you." At first, Eric sneered, not buying it. However, the more she spoke, the more intrigued he looked. ---- Finally, he glanced at Andrew and said, "I think she's onto something. If she's inside feeding us intel, we'll have a hell of an advantage." Andrew shook his

head. "No." Eric frowned. "No? Then what's your plan? Listen, right now, the McDaniels will have that estate locked up tight.

With their resources, they can fill the place with top fighters." Cordelia nodded eagerly. "Exactly! Right now, I'm the only one who can help you. Our cult's high priest should have already arrived at the McDaniel family estate by now. He came specifically for the saintess, and he's brought top fighters with him. Without my help, your chances are basically zero." Andrew looked at her intently. "You want to help us, but have you thought about what this means for you?"

## Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

---- Chapter 2077 Andrew said, "If you help us and get exposed, you could die." Cordelia blurted out, "I'm not afraid! I grew up in hellish conditions. Later, when I was taken and forced into the Crimson Flame Cult, I suffered through the torment of the Flamebinding. I've already lived through worse. Passing along information is nothing compared to that. I can handle it easily." Andrew hesitated for a moment, then nodded. "Alright then, but be careful." Cordelia smiled. "Consider this my way of repaying you for saving my life and helping me break free from the Flamebinding.

Then, she removed her disguise and put on the black robes of a Crimson Flame Cult member, covering half her face before heading out the door. Eric chuckled. "You're not actually buying into what she is selling, are you?" Andrew replied casually, "Whether I believe her or not doesn't matter. Even if she walks out that door and sells us out immediately, it won't make a difference." Eric looked thoughtful. Read complete version only at [find—novel.net](#)

"I actually think she is being genuine ---- Ideally, I would've just controlled her with Phantom Mirage, but once she's back at the McDaniel family estate, Dorian would easily notice something was off. My only question is... Why does she want to help us?" He looked at Andrew with a knowing expression. Andrew shrugged. "Why are you looking at me? How would I know?" Eric smirked. "Don't you think you're the reason she's willing to risk her life?" Andrew let out a dry laugh. "You're overthinking it. You really believe she'd throw away her life just because of me? Come on.

She used to be a Crimson Flame Cult zealot. She's killed, burned, and butchered. A person like that doesn't just grow a soft heart overnight." Eric nodded slowly. "You've got a point. Which means, more likely than not, she's just trying to earn our trust by playing along." As night fell, the party inside the McDaniel family estate was in full swing. The massive property stretched from the upper hillside down to the valley, every level lit with strings of lights. Music blared, fireworks popped, and the whole place pulsed with noise and ---- laughter.

Every wealthy figure in Sunstrand showed up to toast the McDaniels. Dozens of martial artists crowded the halls as well, all invited by the family to celebrate. Andrew and Eric circled the perimeter and found it was indeed airtight. The only way into the McDaniel family estate would be to force their way in. However, the estate was crawling with not just McDaniel family experts, but also Dorian, the peak martial saint criminal from the Crimson Flame Cult, along with their terrifying high priest. Andrew was not afraid, but he was not here to fight his way through.

He was here to rescue someone; alerting them would be the worst possible strategy. "How about we blend in with the guests and slip inside?" Eric suggested. Andrew shrugged. "You can give it a try." Just then, a Porsche pulled up to the estate's main gate. An obviously wealthy woman stepped

out. Eric smoothed his hair and walked over with a charming smile. " Miss, I was wondering if I could get to know you?" His beauty was undeniable. He had sharp, almost androgynous ---- features, pale skin, and a touch of feminine grace. However, it worked against him.

The woman glanced at him and said with disgust, "Where did you crawl out of? Get lost! I like real men, not pretty little princes like you." Having been thoroughly rejected, Eric's expression turned particularly dark. Andrew suppressed a laugh and said, "Forget it, we'll find another way." Suddenly, two points of light flashed twice in the back section of the estate, which was shrouded in darkness. Andrew quietly moved closer. The two flashes flickered again, quick and deliberate, before vanishing. Eric spotted it too and rushed after him.

A figure crouched on the estate wall, whispering down to them, " Over here..." The black cloth wrapped around half her face made her easy to recognize. It was Cordelia. Eric grinned. "Well, damn. She actually pulled through. So what ---- do you say? Do you want to sleep with her as a thank-you?"

## Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

---- Chapter 2078 "Climb over here and follow me!" Cordelia whispered. She moved quickly, and after helping the two men over, she immediately took the lead. Andrew and Eric said nothing and hurried to keep up with her. The spot where they had climbed into the estate happened to be empty. Cordelia explained, "I sent the McDaniel family's patrol guards away. If we run into anyone questioning us, don't say a word." As soon as she finished speaking, they passed through an archway. Inside the compound, guards watched vigilantly every dozen steps or so. The security was incredibly tight. "Hold it!

What are you two doing here?" As expected, they were stopped. Andrew kept his expression neutral and looked toward Cordelia. With the black silk scarf covering the lower half of her face, Cordelia said flatly, "These two are with us. Let us through!" The guard stared at Andrew and Eric for a moment. Then, he waved his hand, signaling they could pass. ---- Only after they had walked quite a distance did Eric dare to breathe a sigh of relief. He said, "Looks like not all of the McDaniel family recognizes us." Andrew said calmly, "Don't worry. THIS CHAPTER IS UPDATE BY find—novel.net

Apart from Callum and that McDaniel family expert from before, the McDaniel family still doesn't have complete information about us." Along the way, they encountered several more checkpoints. Finally, under Cordelia's guidance, they entered one of the rooms in the McDaniel family estate. As soon as they were inside, Cordelia locked the door and pulled off her black scarf. Andrew smiled. "Thanks for this." Cordelia looked at him for a moment, her face reddening. "Don't mention it. You saved my life before. But this is all I can help you with.

You'll have to find the saintess on your own." Eric looked surprised. "You mean you don't know where she is either?" Cordelia shook her head. "I don't! All I know is that the high priest has already arrived at the McDaniel family estate. Right now, he's meeting with the head of the McDaniel family. Beyond that, I don't know anything else." ---- Eric was about to ask more questions when Andrew interrupted. " No point in asking more. Cordelia's just a regular cult member, and the Crimson Flame Cult's leadership would never casually reveal Shiloh's location." Then, he looked at Cordelia.

"You didn't run into any trouble when you went back earlier, did you?" Cordelia shook her head. "Not at all. I should head back now, though. If I'm gone too long, they might get suspicious." Andrew nodded. "Yeah. You'd better go back. Don't worry about anything else." Cordelia hesitated for a moment, then said quietly, "Be careful, Andrew." Andrew was slightly taken aback, then smiled. "You be careful too, Cordelia." After she left, Eric laughed so hard he clutched his stomach. "Be careful, Andrew!" My God, she said it so sweetly.

I'm telling you, she has a crush on you." He explained, "In Augania, the women are tougher than most. Life is hard and brutal, so they grow up cold and ruthless. But if someone truly treats them well, shows them warmth, they'll repay it with everything, even if it means sleeping with you, even if it means serving you for life." ---- Andrew's expression remained blank. "So what? What's your point in telling me all this?" Eric shrugged. "No point really.

Just wanted to let you know that she has probably got the hots for you." Andrew said flatly, "You're ridiculous." He walked over and pushed open the window. Cordelia proved to be thoughtful, choosing a room that gave them a clear view of the front of the McDaniel family estate. From Andrew's vantage point, he could see hundreds of people gathered in the front area of the McDaniel family estate, offering their congratulations. Among them were Henry and Grace. However, he did not see anyone from the McCormick family. After thinking about it briefly, Andrew understood what was happening.

Henry probably wanted to keep Shiloh all to himself, so he had not informed the McCormick family that Shiloh had been brought over.

## Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

---- Chapter 2079 Henry's ambition was undeniable. Eric said, "Staying here isn't a solution. We need to find Shiloh." Andrew agreed and looked at him. "Let's split up. Half an hour from now, no matter what happens, meet back here." Eric nodded. "Deal." He slipped out the door and disappeared into the shadows. Andrew stepped out as well, closing the door behind him. After orienting himself, he headed toward the upper levels of the estate. Since Eric had gone toward the crowded, lively side, he would cover the opposite direction.

Security was incredibly tight, and Andrew often had to perform various acrobatic maneuvers to stay hidden. Fortunately, he was already inside the McDaniel family estate, so he could move through the buildings and their interiors as he worked his way up to the higher levels. As he passed by a hallway, he heard voices coming from inside. Andrew immediately pressed himself against the wall and listened carefully. ---- "Declan, who exactly are these weird people who came to our house?" "Don't ask about things you shouldn't be asking about.

Just focus on healing your injuries." "Fine, but let's be honest, the family never tells me anything important anyway. I'm just here for show. Earlier, I nearly lost my life, and no one even cared." Hearing this, Andrew could not help but smirk coldly. That complaining tone belonged to Callum, the third son of the McDaniel family. If Andrew had wanted to, he could have killed him outright back then. At that moment, Declan McDaniel, Callum's second brother, spoke up. "Callum, Andrew will definitely pay the price for your injuries, but don't be impatient right now. Read full story at [FindN\(\)vel.net](http://FindN()vel.net)

Some very important people have come to our family. "Dad says there's something crucial we need to help them with. So once that business is taken care of, the family will avenge you. Someone like Andrew is nothing. A handful of our fighters could make him beg for death." Callum sighed. "Fine, I'll wait a little longer. But Declan, do you seriously not know what Dad and those people are planning?" Declan snapped, "I already told you, don't ask about things you ---- shouldn't." Then, he softened slightly. "Truth is, I don't know either.

I asked Eugene, and he probably does know, but he wouldn't say a word." Callum grumbled, "All this secrecy... those people are creepy. Walking around with black cloths over their faces, looking like some phony exorcists. I don't get what Dad's thinking, welcoming those freaks into our home." Declan sneered. "Those freaks you're talking about are actually a major power from Augania. And that old man who arrived this afternoon? He's their high priest. From what Eugene said, that man is even stronger than Dad." Callum sucked in a sharp breath. "Stronger than Dad?

He must be in the top ten on Holtrien's Titan List, right?" Declan retorted, "Why would an Augania powerhouse care about the Titan List? Forget it. I have guests to attend to. You stay put." With that, a figure strikingly similar to Callum stepped out of the room and vanished down the corridor. Andrew stayed by the door, listening Inside, Callum turned on the TV, then made a phone call. Soon after, two scantily dressed women arrived and got cozy with him. Andrew was speechless. Callum was injured, yet he still had the ---- energy to fool around. His vices ran deep.

It became clear that even within the McDaniel family, no one seemed to know where Shiloh was being held. If he wanted to find her, Andrew would have to look to the Crimson Flame Cult. Either Dorian, the martial saint criminal, or the high priest himself. With that, Andrew slipped back into the darkness.

## Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

---- Chapter 2080 The layout of the McDaniel family estate was crystal clear. The main family's core area was located in the northern part of the estate, positioned at the highest point. Compared to the bright lights and chaos below, the northern section was obviously much quieter, shrouded in darkness with only dim lighting. Andrew stepped along the roof edges, climbing steadily upward. With his current abilities, the patrols had no chance of spotting him. His target was simple: head straight to the highest point, toward the McDaniel family's chapel.

Any major family with a long heritage considered their family chapel to be of utmost importance. Andrew planned to try his luck and see if he might encounter McDaniel family leadership or Crimson Flame Cult members at the chapel. He could not understand why a great family like the McDaniel family would willingly serve the Crimson Flame Cult. Perhaps the McDaniel family and the Crimson Flame Cult had reached some kind of secret conspiracy. Thoughts flashed through Andrew's mind as he caught the roof's edge and smoothly slipped into a courtyard.

---- Behind the courtyard stood the family chapel. Going directly into the family chapel might invite trouble. Approaching through this courtyard would be much safer. Following the garden path, he crouched low and moved quickly forward. The McDaniel family truly lived up to their reputation as a great family. Even in this cold weather, the flowers in the courtyard were meticulously maintained and bloomed beautifully. They were clearly foreign varieties. Three patrolling McDaniel family guards walked past Andrew with vigilant eyes.

He crouched motionless in the flower bushes, making no sound whatsoever. Once they passed, Andrew immediately returned to the gravel path, planning to continue forward. Just then, a flower vase suddenly flew out from the courtyard gate. In the quiet night, the sound was extremely loud, startling even Andrew. His first instinct was that he had been discovered. However, he stayed frozen, waiting. He glanced back and saw the three guards, unfazed, continuing their patrol as if this was nothing unusual. ---- Andrew exhaled in relief.

He glanced toward where the vase had shattered but decided not to investigate. Just then, a heated argument suddenly broke out. "Eugene McDaniel, if you think I'll ever be yours, forget it. I'd rather die than bow to your family's disgusting power." The words were sharp and defiant. A mocking voice followed. "Rowan, do you really think you still have a choice? You know perfectly well how dire things are for 'the Onyx Serpents. I don't need to remind you. Marry me, let Onyx Serpents fall under the McDaniel family, and you'll have a future. "Otherwise, you've got no road left. Think about it.

If you're smart, you'll accept. If not... whether the Onyx Serpents survive or die depends entirely on what I say." Thuds followed, the sound of things being smashed in anger. Andrew leaned just enough to see. A man who looked almost identical to Callum, except with rough stubble, stepped out of the front door. With a twist of the key, he locked the courtyard gate behind him. Standing under the eaves, he licked his lips, let out a crude laugh, and strolled away. ---- "Rowan, oh Rowan, now that you've fallen into my hands, escaping will be impossible.

Besides obediently being my plaything every night and bringing the Onyx Serpents under my control, don't even think about anything else." The courtyard fell silent once again. Andrew stood in place for a long time, but he did not move toward the family chapel behind him. He was conflicted! Of all the rotten luck, he had run into Rowan here. Originally, he had not wanted to meddle in other people's affairs. However, back in Goldridge, she had risked her life trying to rescue him.

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