

The Ashes 401

Chapter 401 Andrew said, Mr.

Chapman, please wait outside

This is a treatment room, and its best not to have non medical personnel present.

He added confidently, As for Lucy, give me half an hour, and shell be perfectly fine.

Marcus was stunned by the young doctors composure and confidence.

After all, Bernard had been frantically trying to help his beloved daughter without success, yet Andrew claimed he only needed 30 minutes.

Seeing his hesitation, Francesca smiled and said, Dont worry, Mr.

Chapman

Youre an executive at the Rhodes family corporation and one of Laurens people.

Lucy will receive the best care possible in our facility

Marcus nodded and said, Alright, III wait outside for Dr.

Lloyds good news

However, let me be clear Lucys well being is non negotiable.

Bernards face darkened considerably as he asked.

Dr.

Lloyd, are you stealing my patient? He had hoped to establish a connection with Marcus, but those plans seemed to be falling apart, which deeply frustrated him.

Andrew frowned and replied, Dr.

Hackett, I believe saving lives is what matters most.

If you feel Im stealing your patient, you can continue the treatment Ive already identified the cause Bernards expression fluctuated between anger and uncertainty.

Malaria was not a joke

It was extremely difficult to treat.

He snorted and stepped aside, saying, Never mind.

Since Mr.

Chapman has requested your care, I should know my place.

Andrew said nothing and began treating Lucy

Francesca watched with contempt, thinking how calculating Bernard was the moment he heard it was malaria, with its potent

fatal complications, he immediately backed off.

She believed his excessive ambition would ultimately limit his success.

Half an hour later, Andrew emerged from the treatment room.

Marcus, who had been anxiously waiting, immediately asked, Dr.

Lloyd, how is Lucy? Andrew smiled and replied, Why dont you go see for yourself, Mr.

Chapman ? In the hospital room, Lucy had regained consciousness.

Though slightly pale, she called out, Daddy! Marcus nodded repeatedly with joy, noting how much better his daughter looked compared to before

Francesca advised, Mr.

Chapman, let her rest for a while.

Malaria isnt something to be taken 1/2 lightly.

Shell need to stay for observation.

Marcus happily agreed, of course, whatever you and Dr.

Lloyd recommend

Bernard attempted one last connection, saying, Mr.

Chapman, would you like to have tea in my office? However, Marcus declined, No need to trouble yourself, Dr.

Hackett.

Id rather spend some time in Dr.

Lloyds office

Bernard had not expected such a direct rejection

His face reddened with anger as he shot Andrew with a resentful look before storming off Marcus scoffed,

I've heard about Bernard's poor character his jealousy and pursuit of fame.

Dr.

Lloyd, be careful working in the same hospital as him.

Andrew smiled and responded, Thank you for the warning, Mr.

Chapman, but already harbors a deep hatred for me.

We're sworn enemies, careful or not.

but Dr.

Hackett Marcus said coldly, I despise people who cause trouble despite their lack of ability.

From now on, Dr.

Lloyd, just call me Marcus if you need anything, I'll be glad to help

Andrew replied, I'm not sure if I'll need anything from you in the future, but I do have something I'd like to ask you now.

Then, Andrew showed Marcus to his office, where he asked Nyla to prepare tea for their guest. Once settled, he carefully asked, Mr.

Chapman, as an executive at the Rhodes family corporation, you must know something about Ms. Rhodes current situation?

Chapter 402 Recently, Lauren seemed to be facing some difficulties but had not confided in Andrew. Even Francesca was not fully aware of the situation, which made Andrew concerned enough to inquire with Marcus about it.

Marcus looked surprised and asked, So the rumors about you and Ms.

Rhodes are true, Dr.

Lloyd ? What rumors ? Andrew asked, caught off guard.

Marcus smiled with a knowing look and said, Theres talk that the Rhodes family heiress, the CEO of Rhodes Corporation, is involved with a young doctor.

None of us employees believed it, until now, when you asked about her situation.

I guess the rumors werent unfounded after all! Andrew chuckled wryly, understanding why such rumors existed.

Lauren had never hidden her attraction to him, regardless of time or place, so it was not surprising that Jayrodales high society had caught wind of it.

Ms.

Rhodes and I are ... indeed very close friends, Andrew replied awkwardly.

Thats why Im asking if shes facing any difficulties lately.

Marcus took a sip of tea and said seriously, The CEO or rather, the former CEO is indeed facing significant troubles

Ms.

Rhodes has stepped down, and Michael has taken over as CEO.

Andrew was shocked

How could Michael have enough power to replace Lauren ? Marcus sighed and said, Usually, I shouldnt discuss internal Rhodes family matters.

But since youre not an outsider, Dr.

Lloyd, Ill be frank with you.

Andrews expression turned cold as he said, Please continue, Mr.

Chapman.

He would not have minded if Michael had legitimately replaced Lauren, but given Michaels history of attempting to harm her, this transition likely involved foul play.

While Andrew did not care about the CEO position itself, he would not let Michael get away with hurting Lauren.

Ms.

Rhodes is currently under house arrest, Marcus explained sympathetically.

Shes only allowed to visit the company and a few specific locations.

The Rhodes family is known for their strict traditional values

Marcus continued, Michael has been increasingly suppressing Ms.

Rhodes lately.

At this rate, Michael will soon have complete control of Rhodes Corporation.

Why would the Rhodes family put Ms.

Rhodes under house arrest? Did she do something wrong? Andrew asked with a frown.

Marcus shook his head and replied, We employees dont know the details, but apparently, a senior family member from Blumedale, the Rhodes family matriarch, has been extremely harsh with Ms.

Rhodes

There are rumors in the company that Ms.

Rhodes is being arranged to marry into a prominent Blumedale family, after which shell step away from the business entirely to become a typical housewife.

And is Ms.

Rhodes willing to accept this? Andrew asked coldly.

Marcus laughed and said, Of course not.

Shes had several public confrontations with Michael in front of the executives.

But in old money families like the Rhodes, the patriarch and elders hold the real power.

Even as the Rhodes heiress, she must comply with the familys marriage arrangements.

Seeing Andrews silence, Marcus hesitated before advising, Take my advice dont get your hopes up about Ms.

Rhodes.

Chapter 403 Andrew was taken aback and said, I have no intention of interfering with the Rhodes familys marriage arrangements

I just think its unfair to force her into something she doesnt want.

Marcus smiled knowingly.

No need to explain so quickly.

I understand your feelings you want to be the hero who saves the damsel, right? But think about it: even

though youre accomplished and young as the deputy chief of Jayrodale General Hospital, the Rhodes family is in a completely different league.

Marcus continued earnestly, Your concern for Ms.

Rhodes isnt wrong, but you need to recognize the vast gap between your worlds.

Lauren is like a rare diamond, and having had her attention should be enough for a lifetime.

If you push your luck, you might end up getting seriously hurt.

Andrew could only smile wryly at Marcuss well meaning advice.

Clearly, Marcus saw him as someone trying to climb the social ladder.

While the Rhodes family had expanded to Blumedale and their prestige grew daily, Andrew was not impressed

He had seen and dealt with far more powerful dynasties, and the Rhodes were hardly intimidating His only concern was Laurens happiness and wishes.

Well, thats all I wanted to say

Remember, if you need my help with anything else, just ask, Marcus said as he stood to leave.

He added, But regarding Ms.

Rhodes, try to be realistic

Only someone from another prestigious family could be her match.

People like us will only get hurt if we reach too high.

Andrew smiled faintly and replied, I believe nothing is impossible for those who are determined.

Marcus paused, then shook his head with a knowing smile

It was clear this young man was not ready to give up, but while dreams were beautiful, reality was often cruel.

Lauren was from the Rhodes family wealthy, prestigious, and refined

Although Andrew was accomplished, he could never meet the Rhodes familys standards.

His pursuit would only lead

to humiliation and oppression from the family, After Marcus left, Andrew contemplated for a moment before deciding to call Lauren.

Dr.

Lloyd, are you missing me? Its rare for you to call first! Lauren answered with her usual fiery enthusiasm

Andrew chose his words carefully and asked, Ms Rhodes, are you facing any difficulties lately? Lauren laughed and said, Difficulties ? Please, Im the Rhodes heiress what difficulties could I have? My only problem is waiting for you to be with me.

Andrew persisted, Ms.

Rhodes, Im serious

If youre in trouble, I might be able to help.

The line went quiet for a moment.

Finally, Lauren forced a laugh and said, Okay, I admit Im dealing with some minor issues. But dont worry, Dr.

Lloyd, Ill handle everything soon and see you.

Just promise youll wait for me and wont fall for anyone else, okay? Andrew was puzzled.

Are you sure you dont need my help? Lauren giggled.

Of course! If I cant handle this petty matter, then I dont deserve to be your precious girl, Dr. Lloyd! Andrew conceded.

Alright then.

Bye, Ms.

Rhodes Lauren responded with a few kisses.

When Andrew hung up after their goodbye, his frown had not eased

Just then, Francesca entered his office with an odd expression and said, Andrew, your old flame is here at the hospital.

Chapter 404 My old flame ? Andrew asked, puzzled

Francesca scoffed, Yes, the perfect CEO Christina and her family, along with that annoying Aspen. Andrew walked to the hospital lobby with curiosity, where he found Irene lying on a gurney being wheeled to admission, wailing dramatically about her losses.

My money! All my life savings! My retirement fund its all gone! God, why must you give me the hardest battle? Her desperate cries drew sympathetic looks from passersb Andrew could not help but smile, realizing that Irene had been hospitalized due to the shock of losing her investment.

This money obsessed woman was truly having the worst luck.

Christina and Aspen stood nearby, their faces dark with embarrassment.

When Aspen spotted Andrew, she immediately stormed over to him with a rigid expression.

Andrew, let me ask you something, Aspen demanded

You said the Northern District would fall soon and that my investment would be like jumping into a fire pit, right? Andrew smirked and replied, Yes, thats exactly what I said

And I was right, wasnt I? Aspens voice turned ice cold as she asked, Then can I assume Atlass death is connected to you? Did you know beforehand, or perhaps you orchestrated everything? Did you kill Atlas ? Is that why you were so certain my billion dollar investment would go down the drain? Youre partly right I did know Atlas would fall, Andrew replied calmly

I warned both you and the Stevens family not to throw your money away, but none of you listened. Thats not my fault.

Aspen responded with a contemptuous laugh.

Christina stepped forward and sneered, Andrew, cant you tell Aspen was baiting you? I cant believe youd shamelessly take credit for Atlas and the Northern Districts downfall.

Dont you think youre giving yourself too much importance? Andrew raised an eyebrow and asked, So you dont believe what I just said? Aspen scoffed.

Were not idiots.

Who are you compared to Atlas ? He was a legendary figure who controlled the entire Northern District. Though he met an unfortunate end, claiming you planned it all is just absurd.

Youre really overestimating yourself.

Christina added with disgust, Andrew, youve become increasingly vain and pretentious.

Taking too big a step isnt always good.

If you cant stay grounded and humble, everything you have have now will vanish like smoke.

Andrew shrugged and replied, Your lecture is noted, Ms.

Stevens

But whos really in trouble here me or the Stevens family? Who lost a billion dollars and ended up with nothing me or a certain self proclaimed female genius? His pointed questions made both Christinas and Aspens faces darken instantly

Aspen, in particular, had arrived in Jayrodale full of confidence, believing she could outperform any man

Yet Andrew had repeatedly proven her wrong.

Her billion dollar investment in the Northern District was completely lost

When she had rushed to Atlass territory yesterday, she found it completely emptied.

Even the furniture had been divided between South City and West End.

She had frantically contacted every possible connection to recover her massive investment, only to learn

that the money had vanished completely.

If she wanted it back, she would have to ask Atlas in the afterlife.

Chapter 405 No matter how many failures I face, Andrew, Ill never stoop to being a gold digger like you, Aspen said venomously

She continued, Natasha and Dylan might be fooled by you now, but tell them this I wont let Atlass death go unpunished.

If they dont return my billion dollars, theyll face the same fate as the Northern District ! Andrew replied calmly, Let me warn you one last time, Aspen.

This is Jayrodale, not Bridgefields, and certainly not your Stevens family territory.

You should learn to be more modest away from home.

Not everyone will coddle you like your parents.

If you try to cause trouble for Dylan and Natasha, youll only be destroying yourself.

Christina laughed coldly and said, Andrew, youre acting like you represent these two underground leaders.

Why put on such an act? Youre actually right, Andrew smiled.

I do represent them.

In fact, I now control Jayrodales underground world.

Aspen scoffed, Come on, Christie.

Lets go

Its a waste of time talking to someone living in a fantasy world.

Christina gave Andrew a cold look and said with a smirk, I heard Ms.

Rhodes has a new marriage arrangement

Your good days are coming to an end, Andrew.

Andrew smiled and replied, No worries.

I still have Fran, Natasha, and Elsie as close friends

These wealthy, beautiful women can keep me living the high life! Have you become completely shameless? Christina snapped

Dont you have any pride left? Andrews expression turned cold as he said, Christina, Ive been lenient with you because of our history

But your stupidity and arrogance have become unbearable.

I warned you that your blind pride would be your downfall.

Lets wait and see

Christinas face flushed with anger as she laughed bitterly, Fine, lets wait and see.

I told you Id be better off without you! Despite her words, Christina felt frustrated inside.

Andrew had risen far above her, while her own missteps had left her trailing behind his success. This realization made her deeply uncomfortable

Ignoring the two egotistical women, Andrew returned to his office and asked Francesca, Fran, whats going on with Irene? Francesca smirked and replied, Chest pain, anxiety attack, fainting she keeps crying about losing her life savings and not wanting to live anymore.

Andrew shook his head.

Thats karma for you.

No one else to blame.

Francesca snorted.

Of course its karma ! You have already advised the Stevens family, but they didnt listen.

I still remember how the old hag Irene kept showing off, but its all over now.

She didnt get rich, and she was so angry that she was hospitalized!... Meanwhile, at the Rhodes residence, Lauren was in a good mood after her phone call with Andrew

Unlike his previous emotionally distant behavior, he had finally shown some consideration for her.

Tiana entered the room wearing an elegant black dress, her expression ice cold as she asked, You were

talking to that boy again, werent you? Lauren replied dismissively, Mom, are you going to control who I talk to now? Watch your tone, Lauren, Tiana said sternly.

Your dad sent me here to keep an eye on you and make sure you cut all ties with that boy including emotional ones.

Chapter 406 Laurens good mood instantly vanished as her face darkened.

She snapped, Why dont you.

just have me killed then? What did you say? Tiana raged.

Lauren took a deep breath and confronted her mother, who had always been extremely strict. with her

Since you want to control my thoughts and freedom, why not just have someone kill me? Then, you wont have to look at me anymore! Tiana raised her hand to slap Lauren but stopped herself at the last moment.

Lauren, I may not be able to control you, but remember this youre a Rhodes heiress, not some common street girl.

She added icily, If you continue this entanglement with Andrew, you wont just destroy yourself, youll end up destroying him too! Laurens heart skipped a beat as she laughed coldly.

Mom, Ive said this before you can take away my CEO position and keep me under house arrest, but the one thing you cant touch is the only person I care about and love.

If anything happens to Andrew, you wont see me in a wedding dress marrying into the Driscoll family youll see my cold dead body returned to you and the Rhodes family! Tianas cold expression grew increasingly agitated before she finally stepped back in defeat.

Her voice tinged with hurt as she said, Youre my flesh and blood, your fathers only child.

Yet for an outsider, a nobody, you treat your parents this way and threaten the family.

With a cry, Tiana clutched her chest as her face turned pale with pain.

Lauren, can you really be so heartless to me, your mother, and the Rhodes family that raised you? Do you really want to fight us to the bitter end until the Driscoll family turns against our Rhodes family? Lauren rushed forward to support Tiana and called out anxiously, Jerry, quick, get a doctor! Moms condition is acting up! Tiana pushed her away angrily and said, Dont worry about me, worry about yourself! Go chase your happiness and your so called freedom and ridiculous love

Let the Rhodes familys hard earned position in Blumedale crumble, and destroy everything your father and grandfather worked for ! Tears rolled down Laurens cheeks as she said, Mom, you know I never meant to put the family in trouble

I want the Rhodes family to prosper too

I want to carry on grandfathers and fathers legacy, but- But you just cant marry into the Driscoll family? Cant make this tiny sacrifice for the family? Tiana interrupted

Lauren burst into tears.

A tiny sacrifice? So my entire life and marriage are just small sacrifices to you? Tiana hesitated, realizing her words had been too harsh.

My child, Im a woman too, and Ive been your age.

Thats why Im telling you that Andrew isnt the one for you.

Right now, you think your love for him is irreplaceable forever, but eventually, external pressures and lifes challenges will break you both.

Youll see that the man who once dazzled you is just another ordinary person; with him, youll only have a simple, mundane life.

Tiana continued earnestly, Listen to me this pain is temporary, an illusion.

Youre the Rhodes family princess.

Your world shouldnt be limited to a nobody.

Joe and the entire Driscoll family, all of Blumedale that's your true destiny.

One day, you'll thank yourself and thank me for pushing you now.

Trust me, you won't regret it.

Chapter 407 Lauren cried hard, but her resolve remained unshaken.

She declared firmly, No.

If I choose to comply now, that's when I'll truly regret it

I've told the family countless times Andrew isn't ordinary.

He's a hidden gem, and he deserves not just me, but any exceptional woman! The momentary softness

in Tiana's eyes vanished instantly.

So you're still blindly obsessed with him? he asked coldly.

Lauren trembled as she felt the invisible barrier between mother and daughter, which had briefly

narrowed, suddenly grew wider than ever.

She slowly wiped away her tears and said expressionlessly, Call it a blind obsession or say I'm degrading myself either way, it has to be Andrew.

Tiana sneered.

Fine.

You've always made this boy sound extraordinary.

Let's see how exceptional he really is.

Do you think he's better than Joe ? Lauren scoffed

Joe has his family's backing, of course, people look up to him

But when it comes to true excellence, he doesn't even deserve to be compared to my Dr.

Lloyd ! Words are cheap we need facts, Tiana replied coldly.

Starting today, your house arrest is lifted.

You can return to work at Rhodes Corporation, but I need you to do one thing prove to me what makes this Andrew so special.

Tiana continued, If he turns out to be ordinary and worthless, I'll never approve of your relationship, even on my deathbed

Your father will inform the Driscoll family about this, and you know Joe's temperament.

If he learns about Andrew's existence, the consequences will be severe.

Lauren's face paled slightly as she protested, You can't let the Driscoll family go after Andrew! He's on his own without any backing, while Joe has the entire Driscoll family supporting him it's not fair! Fair ? Tiana laughed coldly

There's no such thing as fairness in this world

Only the strong survive, and the weak perish.

Why would elite families talk about fairness with someone they could crush like an ant? Why would they waste their time? Lauren felt angry but knew she could not convince her mother.

She gritted her teeth and said, Fine, Ill bring Dr.

Lloyd to prove it to you

But let me be clear if his performance is impeccable, will you, Dad, and the Rhodes family approve of our relationship? If this Andrew truly is the hidden gem you claim he is, then perhaps the Rhodes family might end up looking up to him instead, Tiana replied dismissively.

Lauren stated confidently, You might be right one day, Andrew might have the entire Rhodes family looking up to him.

With that, she turned and left, eager to see Andrew after several days apart.

Tiana stood at the second floor window of the mansion, watching her daughters retreating figure with a calculating look in her eyes.

Foolish girl, youre too naive, she muttered.

No matter how hard Andrew tries or how lucky he gets, he can never match someone like Joe, who comes from old money

Its an insurmountable gap the advantage of centuries of family legacy.

A common man will always be common, never comparable to true nobility.

Chapter 408 Though Tiana claimed she wanted to see if Andrew was as exceptional as Lauren described , she inwardly dismissed the possibility.

In her mind, Jayrodale was just a backwater pond full of small fish no hidden talent could emerge from such a place

Meanwhile, today was Andrews appointment with Ernest.

He had to get his hands on the Aurora Lotus, and since Ernest had been unreasonable and thrown his weight around, Andrew decided he would not be polite either

Andrew, the prince of the Lloyd dynasty who survived until today, was never a pushover .

Sometimes, it took a villain to deal with another villain.

Driving his G Wagon to Natashas place in West End, Andrew was surprised to find Ernest already there. He had brought two bodyguards a man, and a woman.

Hey kid, didnt you say Id be fatally ill and dying today? Ernest taunted with disdain, puffing on his cigar with his feet propped up on the table in a show of dominance.

But look at me now arent I alive and kicking? Ernest sneered and continued, Ill tell you what I spent last night with some hot foreign girls, and Im still in perfect shape! His female bodyguard playfully chided him at this comment.

Andrew understood immediately this seductive woman was not really a bodyguard but Ernests mistress. Not that he cared.

After all, these wealthy heirs were known for their scandalous private lives.

Dont be hasty, Ernest, Andrew replied calmly.

When I said three days, I meant t e full days.

The day has just begun.

Anything could happen at any moment.

Ernest scoffed

Tough talk, kid.

If cheap tricks could scare me, I wouldn't have made my reputation all these years.

Ernest, did you bring the Aurora Lotus today? Natasha asked with a forced smile.

Of course I did, Ernest replied, his eyes gleaming.

But Natasha, have you considered my offer? Spend one night with me, and this rare medicinal herb is yours at a fair price

Though disgusted, Natasha kept smiling and said, Ernest, I'm a widow you shouldn't pursue me. It would tarnish your reputation

Ernest brazenly replied, That's nothing! History is full of scandalous affairs, and nowadays, people do far worse.

Wanting a widow is perfectly normal compared to others' depravity, I'm practically a saint ! Natasha had enough of this repulsive old pervert and gave Andrew a pleading look.

Before, when Natasha was not under Andrew's protection, he could not interfere too much.

But now that she was his person, he could not let Ernest's shameless behavior slide.

Andrew cleared his throat and smiled.

Ernest, you seem to have quite a thing for widows.

Chapter 409 I young Ernest exhaled a cloud of smoke and laughed heartily.

Kid, you're There are things in life you just can't appreciate yet.

He leaned back, smirking.

Im feeling generous today, so III share a little wisdom with you- listen up

Women are best when fresh and youthful but being too young isnt ideal either.

Aside from being fresh, theres another factor experience.

A widow like Natasha? Shes got both.

Her skin is smoother than an 18 year olds and lets not even start on the experience she brings.

Trust me, a widow like her is a rare gem, an absolute treasure! His shameless speech was so over the

top that even Natasha, seasoned as she was, felt her cheeks flush with embarrassment.

Andrew could not help but marvel at Ernests brazenness.

For someone so openly lecherous, his argument almost made sense.

Andrews gaze involuntarily flicked toward Natasha, studying her with curiosity.

Noticing this, Natashas eyes narrowed in annoyance.

She wanted to punch him but settled for clenching her teeth.

She thought, This idiot! Hes barely spent time with Ernest, and hes already picking up his bad habits. Men are all the same.

But me? Im not just some random craving Im the prime of it all! Andrew chuckled, breaking the moment

Ernest, forget about Natasha.

If youre feeling that desperate, Im sure your old friends at West End can set something up

Theres always the late-night crowd on the block below.

Ernests expression darkened

What are you implying? Are you insulting me? Andrew shook his head with mock seriousness. Not at all

Im just saying, the ladies down there might be more suited to your taste.

200 pounds and only 80 bucks sounds like a perfect match, dont you think? The sound of Ernest slamming his palm on the table echoed through the room, his cigar snuffed out under his hand.

He growled, his grin turning menacing, Kid, youve been pushing my buttons since the last time we met.

If youre looking for trouble today, not even Natasha can save you.

A woman standing beside Ernest a bodyguard with a gaudy demeanor let out a cold laugh.

Hey, for someone who looks clean cut, your mouth sure knows how to get you into trouble. Andrews eyes glinted with amusement.

And you must be his bodyguard

Tell me, if those 200 pound ladies arent good enough for Ernest how do you qualify? The woman froze for a second, processing his words, before her face twisted in fury.

You little punk! Did you just insult me? Believe me, one word from me, and Ernest will have you bleeding out in no time ! Andrew could not help but laugh.

Insult you? Come on now, I was being generous by being so courteous.

Honestly, talking to you almost made me gag

Why dont you step outside and ask anyone if they think youre a miss or a maam The womans face turned red with anger as she grabbed Ernests arm, shaking it dramatically.

Ernest, are you just going to stand there? Hes bullying me! Youve got to do something about this little punk! She continued, Im a proper lady pure and respectable ! And now hes calling me used goods ? I cant take this humiliation! My reputation is ruined! who Even Natasha could not help but roll her eyes at the over the top theatrics.

For someone loved a little drama herself, this womans act was downright embarrassing.

Sweetheart, Ernest said, patting the womans shoulder, Dont cry

As long as youre with me, no one dares mess with you! He then turned to Andrew, his eyes cold and sharp.

Let me remind you of something You said last time Id be a goner in three days.

Well, here I am perfectly fine.

Chapter 410 So, you were just trying to scare me with empty threats, Ernest snarled.

Do you understand how serious the consequences will be ? Before Andrew could respond, Ernest pointed at Natasha and commanded, My patience with you has worn out.

This kid is your man, and since hes been disrespectful, youll have to pay the price! Ernest, how have we offended you? Natasha asked angrily.

If you dont want to sell the Aurora Lotus, fine well just forget about it.

Ernest sneered.

You think you can just walk away and make me look like a fool ? I have my pride.

Now, regardless of what you want, you'll face the consequences.

Otherwise, I'll deal with this kid first, then settle scores with West End

Natasha's expression changed as she realized Ernest had completely abandoned any pretense of courtesy

Meanwhile, she wondered about Andrew's prediction that Ernest was supposed to be gravely ill today. Seeing Natasha's troubled expression, Ernest thought he had the upper hand.

He smirked, Natasha, following my lead will only benefit you.

Play nice, and perhaps West End will prosper

Now that Atlas is gone, there's still Dylan to deal with.

I could help with that situation too.

Before Natasha could respond, Andrew suddenly spoke.

Five.

Everyone turned to look at him in confusion.

Five ? Kid, have you lost your mind? Ernest laughed mockingly, thinking he had intimidated Andrew into nonsense.

Four

Andrew continued.

Ernest frowned.

What are you babbling about? If you're scared, run home to mommy.

I'm counting down the moments until your demise, Andrew stated emotionlessly.

Ernest laughed hysterically

At this point, you're still trying to scare me ? Fine, keep counting.

If nothing happens to me, you'll be on your knees begging for mercy! Andrew ignored him and continued ,Three

Two One ! A moment of silence followed the final number.

Ernest burst into laughter.

What an absolute idiot! Did you think you were some kind of wizard ? His bodyguards joined in the mockery, demanding Andrew get on his knees.

Natasha began to sweat, wondering what Andrew was planning and worried about the embarrassing situation

Suddenly, Ernest let out a painful cry.

His cigar slipped from his fingers, landing on his lap and burning through the fabric.

What followed was an even more agonizing howl as the burning end made contact with a sensitive area.