The Ashes 441

Chapter 441 Rodneys lips curled into a mocking smile.
He sneered, Mr.
Keoghan, youve got quite the attitude, showing off in front of my Madblade Martial Academy.
What do you think this is, some kindergarten playground? Jerry, being a renowned senior grandmaster for many years, carried hintself with natural authority.
Mr.
Sanford, if it were your father, Vice Sanford, I would show him proper respect.
But youre still too young and inexperienced, so I advise you not to make any foolish decisions.
Jerry continued, Just hand over Dean and let Ms Rhodes deal with him.
If you do that, we can put this whole incident behind us.
Lauren gave a cold smile and turned to Andrew.
Dont worry, Dr.
Lloyd
Jerry is one of the top fighters in the Rhodes family.
If Rodney wants to play rough, were more than happy to oblige! Andrews expression showed traces of doubt.

Jerrys power as a senior grandmaster was indeed undeniable.

Even if he had only recently reached that level, it was still enough to dominate most fighters.

However, the Madblade Martial Academy was not filled with ordinary practitioners

Andrew previously did not know much about this martial arts school, but their claim as Jayrodales

premier martial arts institution suggested they had substantial backing and power.

From what Andrew could see, both Rodney and Dean possessed junior grandmaster fighting capabilities

Behind Rodney stood several other experts, all at the junior grandmaster level.

What caught Andrews attention most was the tower like man who had spoken only once before.

This man, who kept a low profile, was clearly a senior grandmaster

His protruding temples, callused hands, and unconsciously flexing muscle lines indicated hist fighting style must be incredibly fierce

The Madblade Martial Academy was renowned for its mastery of Southern Fist internal martial arts, and it was clear that the towering brute in front of them had fully grasped its essence

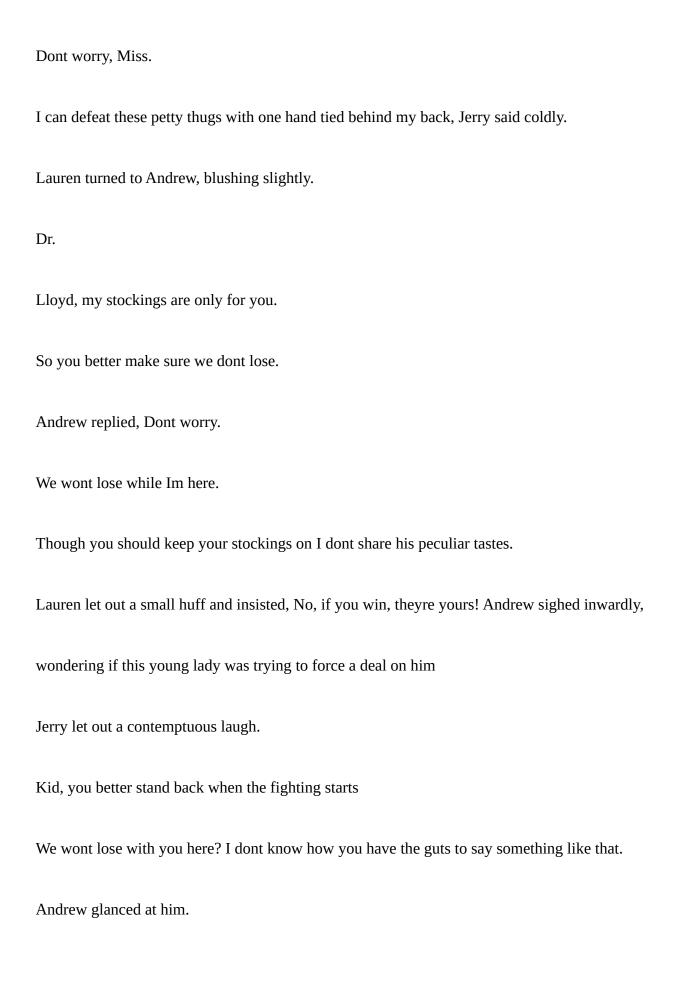
Rodney smirked, his face full of contempt as his eyes flickered with violence.

Since Dad stepped back and handed the school to me, no one has ever dared to come here and push.us around.

Rodney looked at Lauren and added, Lauren, if it werent for showing you some courtesy, I would have already ordered my men to take down your Rhodes family people right here.



Lauren, since I cant have you, I should at least get something out of this. If Rhodes Corporation wants Dean to pay up, fine- but first, youll have to win against my Madblade Martial Academy in the ring. Lauren frowned What exactly do you want? Rodney replied playfully, Its simple following martial arts tradition, well settle this with a best of- three match. Chapter 442 Rodney declared, If my side loses, then youll get their 60 million, handed over without question. But if you lose, I dont want anything else except ... At this point, Rodney suddenly stopped, his eyes gleaming with Just as he licked his lips in an incredibly vulgar manner. Behind him, his martial arts students joined in with sleazy snickers. Lauren felt goosebumps all over her body. She asked with disgust, What do you want? Rodney smiled. Dont worry, my request isnt too outrageous. I just want your stockings, Lauren. And specifically, the ones youre wearing right now I want them while theyre still warm! Then, he burst into laughter Laurens face turned slightly pale, clearly suppressing both rage and humiliation. She controlled her emotions well, though, and turned to look at Jerry.



I meant what I said, and let me warn you, Jerry dont let your guard down! Jerry chuckled dismissively.
Who do you think you are to warn me? I was already dominating the Jayrodale martial arts scene while you were still crawling.
Ive said my piece.
Take it or leave it, Andrew replied calmly.
Jerry sneered
I know what youre up to youre just trying to show off in front of Ms.
Rhodes, trying to make a name for yourself.
Unfortunately, your cheap tricks only make people despise you more.
Jerry, youre going too far, Lauren said seriously.
Dr.
Lloyds martial arts skills are not to be underestimated.
Jerry stood with his hands behind his back.
Even if theyre not bad, theyre still far beneath my notice.
Dont worry, Miss.
Its time to put Magblade Martial Academy in its place.

With Atlas dead and gone, theres hardly anyone left in Jayrodales martial arts circle who I need to be wary of Lauren remained silent, as she had always trusted Jerrys abilities. After all, she was not the only one in Rhodess family who believed in Jerry even Tiana knew how formidable he was. Dealing with Rodney and the other experts from Madblade Martial Academy should be no problem for Jerry, especially since the head of the school himself would not interfere. Ollie, youre up first. Remember, show no mercy I want to slap Rodneys face and send a message to his father. I may have lost to him years ago, but now hes aged while Im in my prime. If we were to fight again, he wouldnt stand a chance! Chapter 443 Andrew shook his head and warned, Jerry, you being too arrogant. From what I can see, the head of Madblade Martial Academy doesnt even need to step in that martial arts expert next to Rodney alone is enough to give you serious trouble. Jerry sneered

What do you losow about fighting levels? Do you think you can see something I cant? Young man, dont mistake ignorance for courage its truly foolish! Ollie Keoghan, who had just been called up, mocked, Andrew, why do you always have to run your mouth when youre around Ms.

Rhodes? Jerry could probably take you down with just one finger

Ollie is right this guys a nobody who talks too much, another guard chimed in.

Since were having three matches, lets win the first two to secure victory.

Then, we can let this punk go up for the last round and get beaten to a pulp by Madblades fighters.

Jerrys bodyguards all shot hostile looks at Andrew, joining in the criticism.

Andrew just shook his head, noting how Jerrys people had inherited Jerrys excessive arrogance a trait that would surely lead to their downfall.

The fighting ring at Madblade Martial Academy was set up.

Rodney sat comfortably in his leather chair with a smirk and taunted, Lauren, dont back out if you lose. Ive been eyeing your black stockings for a while now.

Once I get them, III play with them day and night! Lauren maintained a blank expression, though internally she was disgusted by Rodneys perverted and vulgar behavior.

Stockings were a womans personal item, and some people these days had strange fetishes-from underwear to socks with odor

Lauren would not let anyone touch her intimate clothing, except perhaps her beloved Andrew. Meanwhile, Andrew was amazed at Rodneys boldness.

It was one thing to have such peculiar interests, but to announce them publicly showed there was definitely something wrong with this young mans mind.

With a wave of Rodneys hand, a Madblade Academy student jumped into the ring.

Jerry was visibly upset.

How dare you send a mere student to fight.

Fine, if youre going to be so cocky, III teach you a lesson you wont forget Then, Ollie jumped into the ring

The Madblade student, wearing a black headband, did not waste any words and immediately launched a high kick at Ollie, who dodged to the side with a snort and countered with an elbow strike to the face. Andrew watched the exchange and shook his head.

Whats wrong, Dr.

Lloyd? Lauren asked curiously.

The outcome is already decided, Andrew replied simply.

Already? But they just started fighting, Lauren said in surprise.

Andrew explained, This Madblade student is just pretending to be weak.

In a few more exchanges, when Ollies stamina drops, hell lose Lauren pondered this warning

thoughtfully, while Jerry interjected, If you dont understand fighting, dont spout nonsense

Ollie losing in a few exchanges? Thats ridiculous! Combat can change in an instant, and Ollie is my rained student his fundamentals are far beyond this Madblade student.

Whatever makes you happy, Jerry, Andrew replied with a light laugh

Behind Jerry, several well postured Rhodes family bodyguards shared silent smirks

To them, believing Andrew was just a clown who knew nothing but dared to comment.

They knew that if not for Laurens protection, Jerry would have already put him in his place.

Chapter 444 Suddenly, Ollie, who had been attacking fiercely, started panting and made a tactical retreat.

The Madblade students face broke into a mocking smile as he taunted, Whats wrong? Tired already? The student changed his footwork pattern, rhythmically advancing toward Ollie before launching a series of quick, vicious strikes at his face

Ollie was startled and tried to defend with all his might, but his footwork became unstable and chaotic. Seizing the opportunity, the Madblade student whipped out a devastating leg sweep that connected with Ollies thigh.

As Ollie groaned in pain and lost his balance, his opponent showed no mercy and delivered a lightning fast kick to his groin.

There was a sickening crack that made even Andrew wince.

Ollies face drained of all color as he rolled around the ring, streaming in agony.

The Rhodes family bodyguards stood speechless completely caught off guard.

Ollie had not only lost but had been brutally defeated his groin likely shattered.

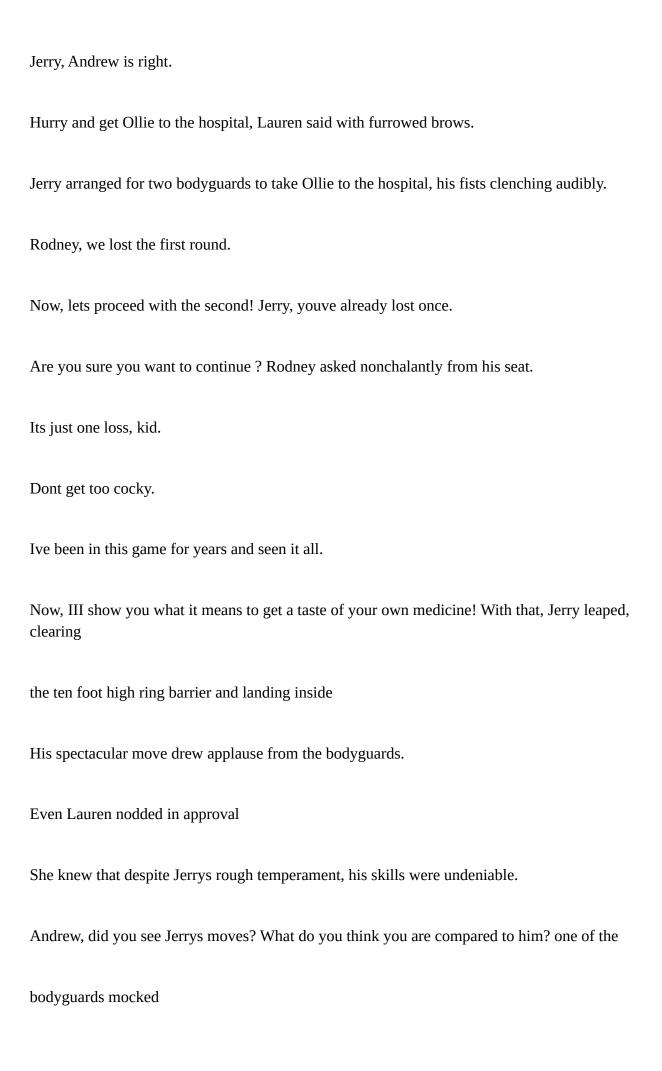
Rodney, your students fight quite dirty, Jerry growled through clenched teeth as he ordered two men to help Ollie down.

Ollie, his face now a sickly purple, had passed out from the excruciating pain, with blood spreading from his lower body, making Jerrys expression darken even further.

Get him to the hospital quickly.

If youre late, hell never be able to have children, Andrew warned.

Shut your damn mouth! Jerry shouted in rage.



You better watch and learn from the master because chances like this dont come often.
I hear you know some martial arts too probably just amateur stuff.
Consider yourself lucky to witness this! The bodyguards could not resist taunting Andrew, annoyed by how much Lauren favored him
As members of the Rhodes family, they felt it unfair that Lauren, who barely acknowledged them, showed such care for this pretty boy.
Jerry declared boldly, one hand behind his back.
Come forth, young one! Let me see what Madblade Martial Academy has to offer! Who dares face me? Rodneys expression turned serious, as he was genuinely wary of Jerry.
After all, he was one of the Rhodes familys top fighters.
He commanded, Dean, youre up!
Chapter 445 Dean scoffed.
Dont worry, Mr.
Sanford
Ill handle this arrogant fool.
With a single leap, he landed on the fighting platform.
Jerry looked at Dean with extreme contempt and Launted, If it were Atlas, perhaps he could have given me a decent fight.

But you, his worthless senior? Youre not worthy save yourself the humiliation! Deans gaunt face turned ashen as he gritted his teeth

Jerry, youre only slightly more famous than me.

Even if I cant defeat you, Ill at least make sure you suffer! With that, Dean launched into a flurry of lightning fast punches toward Jerry.

Jerry moved with measured steps, turning left and right before delivering a powerful palm strike that sent Dean stumbling back three steps.

Garbage! Jerry mocked, still keeping one hand behind his back.

Dean was enraged and charged forward three steps before leaping high and launching a series of three rapid kicks

Three loud thuds sounded, and Jerry retreated while blocking Deans flying kicks with one hand, steady as a mountain.

Dean has power but lacks finesse.

Hes going to lose, Andrew commented quietly.

Just as he finished speaking, Jerry suddenly exploded forward as Dean landed, aiming a lethal palm strike at the top of Deans head

Dean, proving he was not completely incompetent, managed to turn his head away at the crucial moment, taking the devastating blow on his shoulder

In desperation, he roared and threw two powerful punches at Jerrys chest, but Jerry had already kicked him squarely in the body.

Blood gushed out from Deans mouth as he screamed, flying off the platform and crashing heavily to the ground

Jerry casually dusted off his chest and asked coldly, What do you have to say now? Dean struggled to his feet, his shirt soaked with blood, his face twisted in a grotesque expression. Jerry, you may have beaten me, but you wont win this match, he snarled Youre all going to lose, and someones going to put you in your place! As Dean limped away in defeat, Jerrys contempt was plain to see. Suddenly, two sharp claps rang out Rodney was applauding Your Octa Palm technique has really improved over the years, Jerry, Rodney smiled. Jerry snorted, At least you have the eye to recognize it, though youve only seen the basics In this whole Madblade Martial Academy, only your father is worthy of seeing my full power! Dont be so sure about that! Rodneys smile turned cold. Jerry beckoned to him mockingly. Why dont you come up here and test that theory? Rodney crossed his legs casually and mocked, Dont be impatient, Jerry Someone will soon make you wish you were dead Mr. Lincoln, would you handle our third round? The towering man, Ivan Lincoln, walked toward the

Jerry demanded, State your name! I dont fight nameless nobodies!! Ivan waved dismissively and growled, Lets get this over with.

Youre not worthy of knowing my name!

platform without acknowledging Rodney.

Jerrys eyes narrowed as he laughed bitterly. So youre a nobody whos afraid to speak up. Fine, Ill make you pay for your ignorance and arrogance. Down below, the Rhodes family bodyguards were rubbing their hands in anticipation, already envisioning Jerrys decisive victory after defeating two of Madblades fighters. Andrew, this is the final round if Jerry wins, weve got this in the bag! Watch and learn what real power looks like! Kid, look at Jerry, and then look at yourself. From what I can see, you probably couldnt even last half a move against him, one guard sneered. Another laughed, Half a move? Jerrys breath alone could blow him away! They continued their mockery: The entire tournament was won by Jerry single handedly. Hey Andrew, didnt you say you wouldnt let us lose? Havent seen you lift a finger! With victory seemingly within reach, Jerrys followers had become increasingly arrogant, praising him while ridiculing Andrew. Andrew just smiled and said, Youre celebrating too early. Jerrys about to get into trouble. The bodyguards froze before bursting into derisive laughter. Jerrys a senior grandmaster. Him getting in trouble? You must be joking! Didnt you see how he made Dean throw up blood with just one blow? Unless Mr. Sanford Senior shows up, Jerrys unbeatable today! Andrew, anyone can talk big. Why dont you get up there and show us what you can do? one challenged. Another added, Yeah, you talk like youre something special.

If you can last three minutes up there, well all bow down to you! Dont worry, youll have your chance to see me in action, Andrew replied calmly.

The bodyguards just smirked, dismissing his words as those of an attention seeking clown.

Laurens palms were sweating, and she asked nervously, Dr.

Lloyd, you really think Jerry cant handle this big guy? On the platform, Jerry made the first move. Still keeping one hand behind his back, het attacked with the confidence of a master.

Despite his verbal contempt for Madblade Academy, his movements showed no carelessness- he approached the mysterious giant with calculated steps.

Ivan stood motionless, his face expressionless, not even shifting his stance as Jerry advanced. Jerry let out an angry laugh, believing this mans disrespect would cost him dearly.

With a low shout, Jerry executed the Octa Palm technique, circling around and striking at his Chapter 446 opponents flank.

He put his all into this move if his opponent turned to face him, the palm strike would hit his chest and disrupt his energy flow.

However, if he remained stationary, Jerry would transform the palm strike into a devastating punch to his joints.

Chapter 447 Below the ring, Andrew nodded slightly.

Jerrys arrogance was backed by real skill, but unfortunately, the martial arts path was like a mighty river flowing into an endless ocean- there were always greater depths to discover.

Ivan finally moved, transforming from his mountain like stillness into explosive action.

His classic internal martial arts technique concentrated all his power into a single point, channeling his energy like a surging tide before releasing it like a dragons strike.

Then, a dull thud echoed through the arena.

Jerrys palm strike connected with Ivans chest, but Ivans counter strike to Jerrys abdomen was even faster

Blood gushed out from Jerrys mouth as he staggered back three steps, his face pale as paper and filled with shock.

Meanwhile, Ivan stood unmoved, wearing a look of disdain.

He commented, The Octa Palm technique flows like a swimming dragon, fluid and adaptable.

Too bad youve only scratched the surface of what your master created.

Ivan walked toward Jerry step by step.

Jerry clutched his stomach and roared, Who are you? How did you master internal martial arts to such a degree? I told you, youre not worthy of knowing my name, Ivan replied coldly.

Jerry let out a battle cry and charged forward despite his injuries, unleashing the full extent of his Octa Palm technique.

However, the only response was the sound of impacts echoing through the air Ivan remained completely unharmed

Every one of Jerrys attacks was blocked and countered brutally.

The sleeves of Jerrys jacket had been completely shredded, revealing arms covered in bruises. Surrender and get out now, or you might die, Ivan warned in a low voice.

Unable to accept defeat, Jerry shouted with bloodshot eyes, No! I cant lose to some nobody like you! Ivan responded with a cold grunt before driving his shoulder and elbow forward in a devastating strike. There was a sickening thud as Jerrys chest caved in

He flew through the air like a ragdoll, spraying blood before crashing in front of the Rhodes Corporation bodyguards.

Jerry, are you alright? The bodyguards trembled in fear.

Jerry struggled to stand but lacked the strength to do so, lower body soaked in blood like a crimson painting

Dr.

Lloyd, please help! Save Jerry! Lauren pleaded

his Andrew shook his head helplessly, This wasnt necessary.

If he had simply surrendered, his

internal injuries wouldnt be this severe.

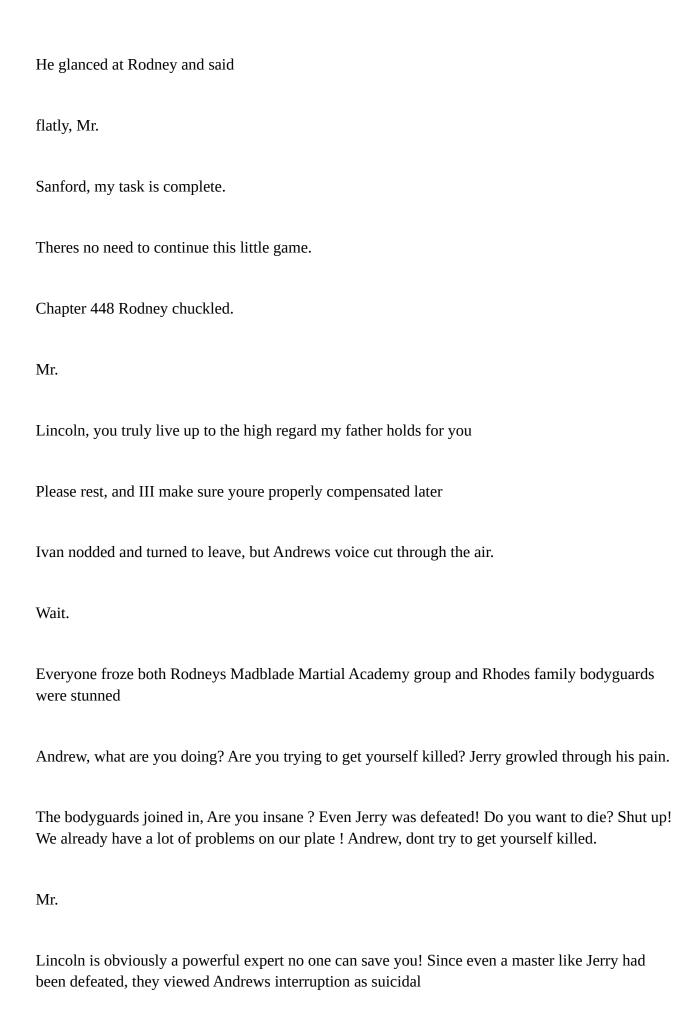
He knelt down and quickly pressed several pressure points on Jerrys body, immediately helping him breathe easier and stopping the blood flow

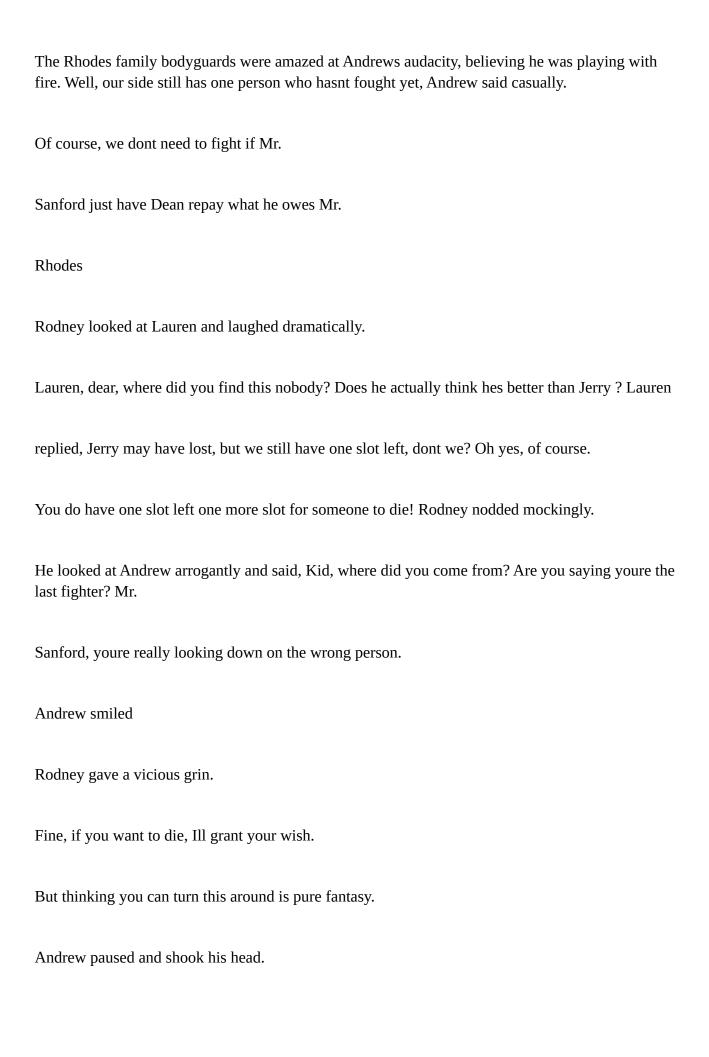
Two bodyguards helped Jerry up, still in disbelief that their seemingly invincible leader had been so thoroughly defeated by just two moves from the giant man.

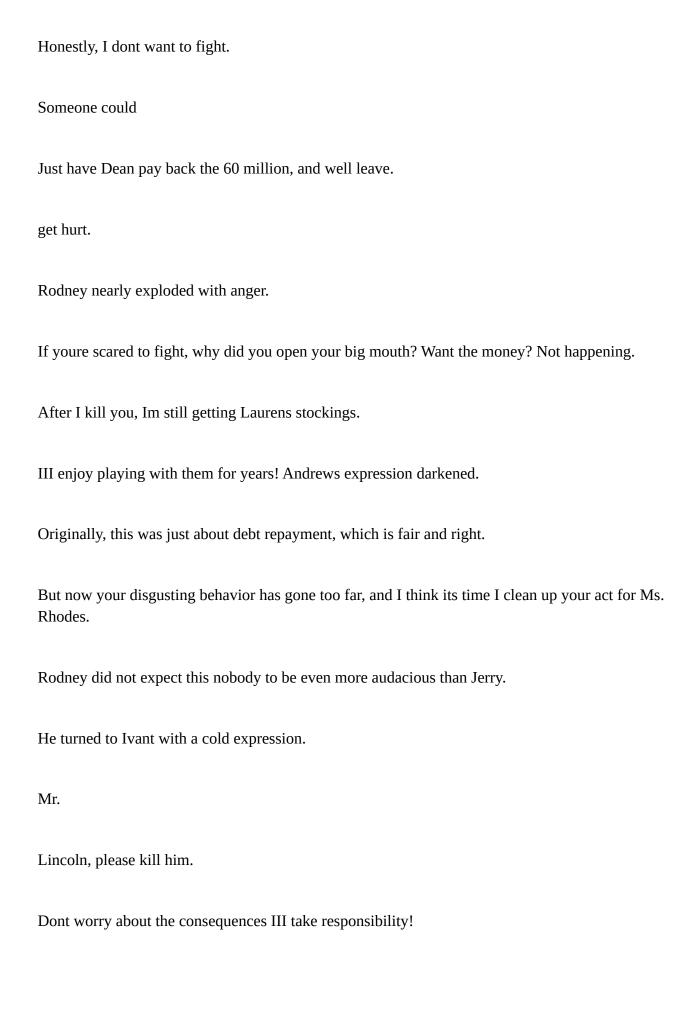
I admit defeat to the better fighter, Jerry said weakly, giving a formal salute toward the ring

His once mighty presence had been cut in half by this crushing defeat.

The towering man did not even acknowledge Jerrys surrender.







Chapter 449 Ivan stood on the platform with his arms crossed letting out a disdainful snort that showed his complete contempt.

Andrew, what the hell are you doing? Jerry shouted.

Andrew gave him a cold glance and replied, Since youre badly injured and have already.

embarrassed the Rhodes family, you should stay quiet.

Jerrys fury triggered his stomach wound, making him wince in pain.

Andrew, you cant possibly beat this guy, he hissed through clenched teeth.

Once you step into that ring, your life is in your own hands do you understand that? He had seen many reckless young men like this before all courage and no wisdom.

In his experience, they usually ended up as corpses.

Andrew, weve warned you multiple times not to throw your life away! one of the bodyguards shouted.

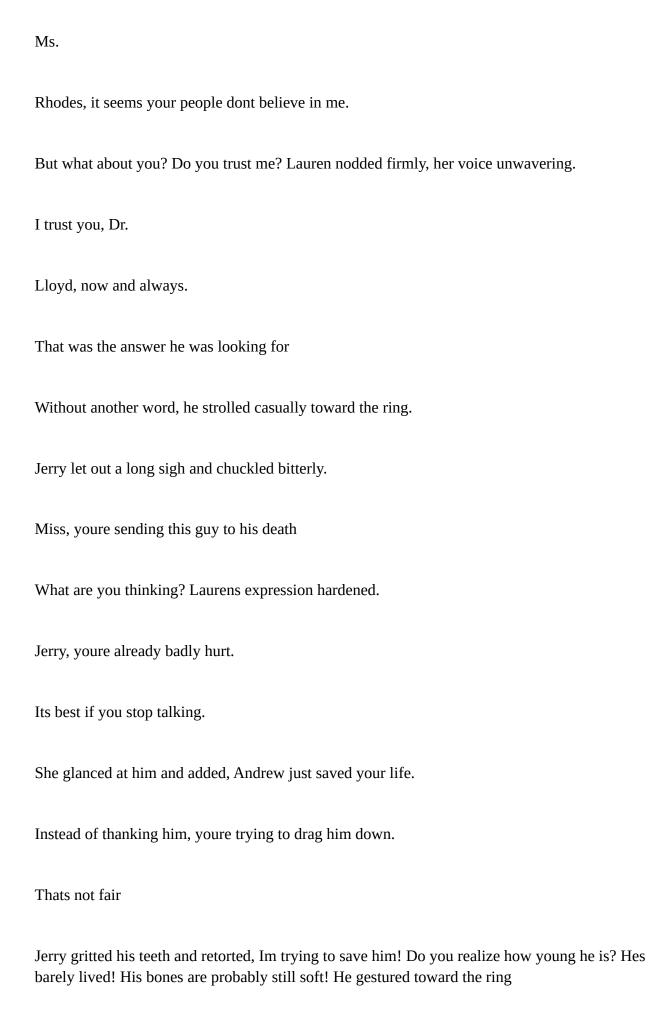
If you get yourself killed, thats one thing, but youll be putting Ms.

Rhodes in a terrible position! Get lost youre not as important as you think you are! The Rhodes family bodyguards were furious, openly scolding Andrew.

Even though they were trembling with fear, none dared to act recklessly In their eyes, someone like Andrew should have been hiding in the crowd like a scared mouse.

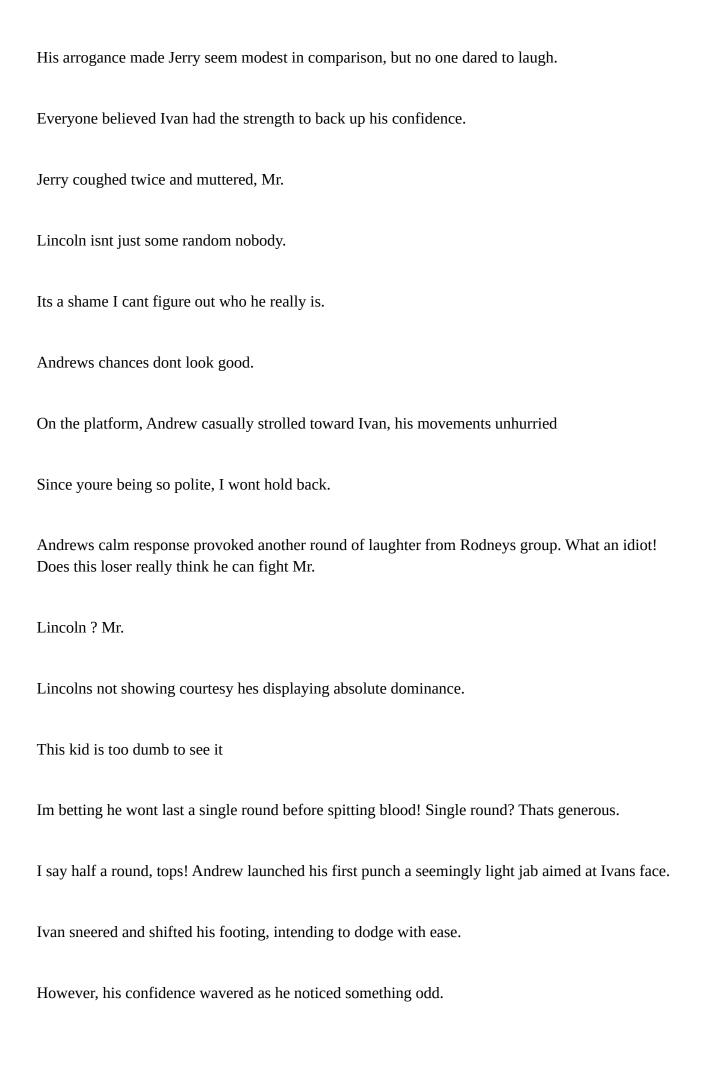
Stepping into the spotlight like this was nothing short of suicide.

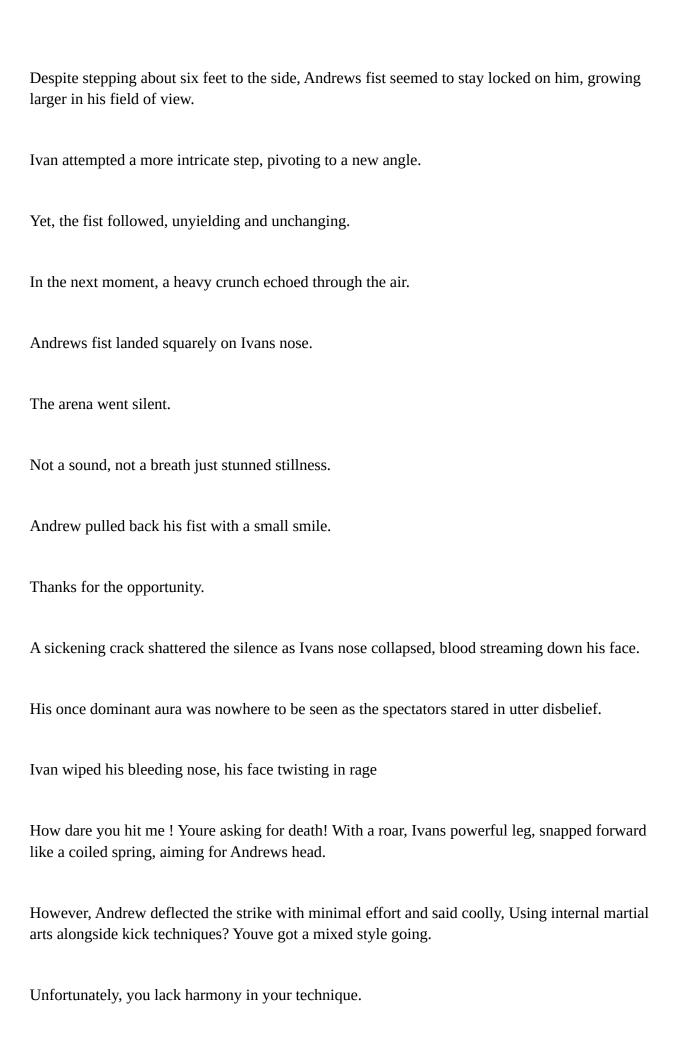
Andrew turned to Lauren with a faint smile.



That guys mastered internal martial arts to the point of killing effortlessly
One hit and Andrew will die instantly! Lauren crossed her arms and huffed.
I dont see at that way.
Though she silently admitted Ivans skills were extraordinary, her faith in Andrew never wavered.
Ivan loomed over Andrew as he stepped into the ring, his voice dripping with disdain.
Kid, tell me why youre here.
Is your life so miserable that youre looking for a quick end? Standing casually across from him, Andrew appeared completely relaxed.
Ive already said I dont want to fight.
He paused before adding, But I wont let Ms.
Rhodes lose.
Ivan sneered.
Thats the reason youre willing to throw your life away? Andrew shook his head.
Youre not capable of hurting me, let alone taking my life.
He met Ivans gaze, his voice calm yet confident.
On the other hand, if I wanted to kill you, wouldnt be hard.

The crowd erupted into mocking laughter.
Rodney, Dean, and the Madblade Martial Academy students could not contain themselves.
Did you hear that? He said killing Mr.
Lincoln wouldnt be hard! What a clown! Not just arrogant hes delusional! I bet hes got some kind of mental illness
Mr.
Lincoln, just knock him out with one punch! Show him why our internal martial arts.
reign supreme in Jayrodale! Rodneys expression turned cold as he addressed Ivan. Mr.
Lincoln, dont hold back.
Whatever happens, the Madblade Martial Academy will take responsibility!
Chapter 450 In the world of martial arts, following the unspoken rules of the ring meant that even if someone died, it was considered their own fault.
And with the Madblade Martial Academys influence in Jayrodale, the loss of one or two lives was nothing significant they could easily sweep it under the rug
Ivan lowered his crossed arms, a mocking smile playing on his lips.
He gestured at Andrew with a beckoning motion.
Kid, Ill give you the first move.
If you can get close to me or even touch my clothes, III admit defeat.





Ivans face darkened, and his earlier confidence completely shattered.
He kept wondering how could such a soft looking punch break his nose a body he had trained to
withstand brutal force.
Bellowing furiously, he launched into an aggressive attack.
Both fists shot out in a ferocious Double Dragon Strike, the winds from his punches howling through the
air
Lauren smirked from the sidelines.
Didnt Mr.
Lincoln claim that hed admit defeat if Dr.
Lloyd got close to him? But look at him now bloodied and panicking.
Seems like someones tempers flaring! Ivan roared mid attack, Shut up! If I dont tear this kid into pieces today, Ill never live it down!