

The Ashes 551

Chapter 551 Ruby bit her lip, struggling to speak.

The truth is ... I have some health issues.

After I ... was with Troy, he got tested and found out he caught a disease

He freaked out and turned on me completely, calling me to scream and curse, saying I was a disgusting tramp who had been with too many men

In the end, Troy went to Andrew and begged him for treatment.

Under Andrews manipulative demands, Troy confessed everything to him.

Aspens face darkened with rage.

Andrew again? Why is it that every single one of my failures has his shadow looming over it? And you youre just as useless! I spent so much effort and money getting you out of prison, not so you could mess everything up! Ruby held back her anger and muttered, I didnt want things to turn out like this.

Its all because of Andrew-hes the real culprit.

H Aspen cut her off impatiently.

Enough! Let me ask you, this disease is it from reckless behavior? Ruby blushed deeply and, with great reluctance, admitted, Yes, its that kind.

I went to a gynecologist as soon as I was released from prison for treatment

The doctor assured me it wouldnt flare up again in the short term, but I .didnt expect the symptoms to return so soon

She clenched her fists in frustration.

The doctor who treated her was now the object of her deepest resentment.

Nowadays, she couldn't leave the house without dousing herself in strong perfume to mask the unbearable, fishy! stench that emanated from her.

Aspen, utterly disgusted, scolded, You have no shame.

Even in prison, you couldn't control yourself and still sought out men ? Ruby felt insulted and snapped back, Ms.

Stevens, not everyone is as fortunate as you

During those years in prison, I did what I had to do to survive.

If I'd had any other choice, I wouldn't have let those men use me ! Aspen sneered.

Do you take me for a fool? You were in a women's prison.

How could there possibly have been men? Tell me what really happened.

Ruby smirked coldly

Why hide it? In a women's prison, there are no men, so the inmates become desperate

Many women who'd been locked up for years couldn't handle the loneliness, so we helped each other out

But let's be real women can't satisfy each other the way men can.

Its just not the same

Eventually, during one of the outdoor breaks, a woman came up with a new trick and taught us. Aspen raised an eyebrow, her curiosity piqued

What kind of trick? After hesitating for a moment, Ruby decided to spill everything.

One day, a woman caught a frog during an outdoor break.

She... She inserted it into herself

From then on, we ... we learned the trick, and it made things a lot easier to bear.

Aspen inhaled sharply, utterly horrified.

You wretches ... were you really that desperate ? Ruby sneered.

Ms.

Stevens, dont try to act like youre a saint.

Youve never experienced life in prison.

You dont understand how suffocating and lonely it can be.

Theres a saying that men are lustful creatures, always thinking with their lower halves.

But in truth, womens desires are no less intense perhaps even greater.

So eventually, in the prison, we ran out of frogs.

And when there were no other options, some women had their first encounters ... with the male guards.

Chapter 552 Aspen sneered.

I knew it.

Playing around with frogs wouldnt cause an illness.

Turns out you wretches went back to men in the end

Ruby ignored the scorn in her words and replied, Ive always wanted to live well.

Even in prison, I liked to feel superior to others.

So, I got involved with several male guards.

They would do anything for me buying me anything I wanted from the outside : fancy bags, pretty clothes everything except my freedom all with just a crook of my finger

But I didnt expect to end up catching a disease, and it spiraled out of control.

Aspen snapped, Enough! Ive heard more than enough of your filthy, disgusting past.

Now, hand over the formulas from Rhodes Pharmaceutical, and well call it even

Ruby smirked coldly

Ms, Stevens, dont you think its shameless to burn the bridge after youve crossed it? If you want the formulas, fine

But first, youll need to arrange for me to get out of Jayrodale.

Aspen scoffed.

Do you think I'm as cheap and shameless as you? The car is already prepared.

Hand over the formulas, and then you can get in the car.

Someone will make sure you leave Jayrodale.

Ruby looked outside skeptically

Sure enough, there was a car waiting.

She broke into a grin, handed the formulas to Aspen, and cautiously made her way toward the car.

Aspen, holding the formulas in her hand, didn't even glance up as she chuckled coldly.

You're now a fugitive, hunted by the Rhodes family.

You've become nothing but a rat scurrying through the streets

If I really let you live and you fall into the Rhodes family's hands, you'll expose me.

And why should I share your fate? Ruby, I can't let you live.

You must disappear! As soon as she finished speaking, the car door opened, and a hunched figure in a long black robe stepped out.

It was Gordon Woods, the Driscoll family's top martial artist and a shadowy enforcer disguised as a steward

He slowly approached Ruby.

Before Ruby could react, a sharp cry of terror escaped her lips as Gordon swiftly snapped her neck. Without a sound, Gordon carried Rubys lifeless body and placed it in the cars back seat.

Aspen walked over, smiling.

Mr.

Woods, Ive been waiting for your arrival in Jayrodale.

Ill be counting on you to help me clear out a few pests.

Gordon rasped with a gravelly voice, If the young lady commands it, how can this old man refuse ?
Rest assured

Jayrodale is the weakest region in Gabo Creek.

While I may not dominate, dealing with a few nobodies is no issue.

Aspen clapped her hands in delight, her tone venomous as she spoke.

Excellent.

The first pest I need you to deal with is Rodney Sanford, the heir of the Madblade Martial Academy.

I want you to sever the meridians in his hands and feet and then destroy his manhood piece by piece.

Gordon let out a chilling, deranged laugh.

The first target is set.

Whos next? Aspen grinned wickedly.

The second target is Andrew Lloyd.

He was my first choice to eliminate, but theres no rush.

Mr.

Woods, you can deal with Rodney first, then take care of Andrew later.

Hes the biggest obstacle standing in the way of my ambitions in Jayrodale, Until hes reduced to ashes, I wont sleep soundly! Gordons tone was menacingly confident.

Rest assured, Ms.

Stevens.

With a snap of my fingers, these little nuisances will vanish into thin air!

Chapter 553 The fact that Gordon Woods, a martial arts master from Bridgefields, had secretly infiltrated Jayrodale went unnoticed by Andrew.

Even if Andrew had known, he likely wouldnt have cared.

Over the years, Andrew had collected nearly 30 rare medicinal herbs, all of which he had refined into a single golden pill, glimmering like a piece of yellow crystal.

The Five Convergence Pill! In the martial arts world, it also went by more illustrious names such as the Ascension Pill or Immortal Pill

As the name suggests, consuming it was said to grant one immortality.

Of course, this was merely a romanticized and exaggerated notion within martial circles.

While the Ascension Pill was extraordinary, it wasn't a magical elixir that could defy death or wrest control of life from the heavens

If it truly granted immortality, the world would have been overrun with immortals by now

In truth, the pill's effects, while not literally divine, were indeed transformative, capable of turning the ordinary into the extraordinary with ease.

In this age of dwindling martial traditions, knowledge of alchemy was exceedingly rare.

Most people, living their mundane lives, adhered to the natural cycle of birth, aging, illness, and death, completing their journeys in relative obscurity

However, martial artists, though few in number, had glimpsed the path to mastering life itself

By cultivating their energy, refining their bodies, and enhancing their essence, they attained great strength and prolonged lifespans

That was why martial artists were often more powerful than ordinary people and controlled far more

resources

Among martial artists, one profession stood out as the rarest, most revered, and highly sought after: the alchemist.

In today's world, alchemists capable of refining pills were a rarity.

Thus, in the martial arts world, every alchemist was a prized figure

High-ranking alchemists, capable of refining fifth-grade pills or higher, were considered true powerhouses

Such alchemists were often recruited by regional governors becoming their indispensable allies

Others were surrounded by top tier martial artists, traveling the martial world with unparalleled influence and grandeur.

The most prominent among them, with great renown and influence, might even establish their own families or martial arts sects, ruling over entire territories and expanding their legacies across generations

Due to the unique nature of their craft, many high ranking alchemists chose to align themselves with powerful families, noble houses, or even royal clans in Holtrien

The reason was simple: such families and clans controlled immense resources and wielded vast influence

By pledging loyalty to these colossal families, alchemists gained access to an endless supply of ingredients for their craft, along with boundless respect and honor.. Andrew, whether in martial arts or alchemy, had already astonished the imperial capital a decade ago. As a prodigy of the Lloyd family, Andrew was a genius in every discipline he pursued.

If news spread across the southern martial world that a Flv Convergence Pill had appeared in Jayrodale, it would undoubtedly spark a bloody frenzy.

Even powerful figures from beyond the southern region would come rushing at the scent of such an opportunity.

And if word got out that Andrew, still so young, had personally refined this extraordinary pill, jaws would surely drop

This Ascension Pill he refined was of excellent quality and was classified as an eighth grade pill.

Currently, across the entire Holtrien continent, the number of eighth grade alchemists could be counted on two hands

Each one was a reclusive master, either buried in ancient archives, poring over ancient texts, or revered as a sage within powerful noble houses or royal courts.

Some, exceptionally gifted and renowned, might even serve as the national advisors to the ruling hierarchy of Holtrien individuals second only to the sovereign, commanding respect and authority from all

Chapter 554 But those who reached the level of an eighth grade alchemist paid unimaginable prices in effort and hardship.

They had faced countless life and death crises and needed immense fortune to encounter rare opportunities and profound enlightenment to become an eighth grade alchemist.

Andrew, however, had walked the path others spent their entire lives treading, finishing it over a decade ago

As per the old saying, The tallest tree in the forest is always the first to be felled.

Ten years ago, Andrew had been forced to carve a bloody path out of Chetvine, vanishing into obscurity. Now, seated calmly in his meditation chamber, Andrew took a deep breath and swallowed the Ascension Pill in one go.

A surge of immense heat rushed to his head and spread through every part of his body.

Break! he muttered

Andrews eyes glowed with a faint golden hue as he clenched his teeth and let out a low growl.

The roaring sound of thunder coursed through his twin core meridians first, then surged into his twelve primary meridians and spread across the network of his entire body.

The three seals that had locked away his martial strength since he fled the imperial capital began to react

The first seal started to crumble

The second seal loosened ever so slightly.

But the third seal remained immovable, tightly binding the final layer of his martial strength with no room for escape.

Finally, the first seal in Andrews lower energy core shattered completely.

The immense power of the pill converged in his energy core, like countless rivers pouring into the ocean. His aura and latent combat strength, dormant for years, began to awaken with a series of crisp popping sounds.

No one knew how much time had passed before Andrew, sitting cross legged, opened his eyes and exhaled a long breath.

His eyes sparkled like the morning star, clear and radiant

A faint smile played on his lips as he stood and stretched his body

The first seal was broken! The second seal had loosened, ready to be shattered with further effort.

All he needed was to collect more rare medicinal herbs and refine an even stronger pill to break through completely

Once the second seal is broken, I can return to Chetvine and settle the debts of the past! And when the third seal

is broken ... According to what my master once said, I will no longer belong to this world.

Even now, I still dont understand what he meant.

Andrew murmured quietly, feeling the boundless power flowing within him.

Deciding not to dwell on it, he set the thought aside.

At that moment, his phone rang- Dr.

Lloyd, today is a perfect day! Fran and I have already made arrangements for a grand opening ceremony for your medical center, Lauren said cheerfully, her laughter ringing through the phone. Andrew raised an eyebrow.

An opening ceremony? I don't think that's necessary.

There's no need to make a big fuss.

Lauren teased, It's not a big fuss at all! Fran and I have invited distinguished guests from all over.

You just need to relax and play the role of the brilliant director of the medical center, saving lives and leaving a legacy

I wouldn't dream of burdening you with all the trivial arrangements, Andrew replied, chuckling wryly.

He hadn't expected Lauren and Francesca to take care of everything for the clinic's opening, even going as far as inviting the guests.

Alright then.

Thank you, my two lovely ladies.

Lauren giggled

You don't need to thank me, Dr.

Lloyd.

After all, you just gave me such precious formulas

Compared to what you've done for me, this is barely worth mentioning! 1 As for Fran ... well, that's up to you.

She's been a bit upset since she found out about us confirming our relationship.

Andrew was surprised

Fran is upset? Why? Shouldn't she be happy and congratulating us?

Chapter 555 Lauren giggled and said, Dr.

Lloyd, you silly man, you can even figure out something as obvious as a girl's feelings.

I'm not explaining it to you so you can see me at the medical center later.

With that, she hung up.

Andrew thought for a moment.

Why was Francesca upset? Could it have something to do with Simon? But that didn't seem right.

Francesca had mentioned before that Simon had come to terms with her decision and had even offered his blessings.

After mulling it over, Andrew decided to call Francesca.

Fran, I'd like to thank you and Lauren for taking care of everything for the medical center.

After the opening ceremony, let me treat you to dinner.

Francesca's tone was lackluster, almost lethargic.

Theres no need, Andrew.

I helped you willingly.

You dont have to take me out.

Andrew chuckled.

Fran, you dont sound well.

Are you feeling sick? Francesca responded softly, her voice subdued.

Yes, Im sick very sick.

Andrew frowned.

Youre a doctor yourself.

How can you not take care of your own health? Come to the medical center early.

Ill check you over.

Francesca sighed weakly.

Theres no need

My illness isnt physical; its in my heart.

So, you cant fix it.

Lets just leave it at that, Andrew.

I'll see you later.

Before Andrew could say anything else, Francesca hung up.

Andrew was puzzled

Although Francesca still answered his questions, her tone clearly conveyed a sense of distance and hesitation, as if she was avoiding him.

And her mention of her illness being in her heart rather than her body? That sounded like a broken heart. Silly girl, Andrew muttered with a small smile, beginning to piece together her feelings.

But he knew he had no easy solution to this.

All he could do was take it one step at a time.

After all, he couldn't start a relationship with Lauren and then turn around and add Francesca to the mix. That would be far too much

Moreover, Andrew couldn't quite read Francescas heart.

The two of them had always been close, existing in a delicate balance.

Yet Francesca had never truly opened her heart to him.

Despite their deep connection one that could be considered extraordinary Francesca had kept her feelings guarded.

He remembered treating Francescas condition.

Even while he was blindfolded, he could feel her voluptuous figure due to their physical proximity with each other during the treatment.

Because of her unique medical condition, Andrew had even touched areas no one else had.

In terms of closeness, they were practically beyond what most couples experienced.

But actions didn't necessarily define relationships

Andrew wasn't the type to greedily claim Francesca as his without her consent.

Shaking off his thoughts, Andrew picked up his phone and dialed Natasha's number.

Bring the West End gang to my medical center later for a feast, he said bluntly.

Natasha sounded surprised.

Oh, my darling, you've opened a new medical center? Andrew laughed.

Yep.

You probably know the location- Let Dylan know, too.

Pass along the message for me

Natasha agreed enthusiastically.

Got it

I'll let him know.

where the Weller family's Oakridge Club used to be.

You're amazing, darling! You've just become our boss, and now you've opened a medical center.
You're living the dream!

Chapter 556 From Natasha's tone, it seemed like she was even more excited about the medical centers opening than Andrew himself. Andrew chuckled.

It's just a small medical center, nothing as grand as you're imagining.

Don't forget to bring your people from West End

Think of it as giving everyone a day off! Natasha laughed, covering her mouth

Are you sure you want all of them there? That's several hundred, close to a thousand people.

Do you even have space for everyone? Andrew grinned.

I'm your boss, after all

If I can't even arrange seats for my people, what kind of leader would I be? Natasha teased, No way, my darling isn't that incompetent.

Alright, I'll let Dylan know, pick out a fitting opening gift for you, and then bring everyone over.

Andrew quickly interjected.

No gifts, really.

Don't make it too formal

Just come by and join the fun.

Natasha huffed.

That won't do.

You're our boss, and proper respect must be shown.

I'm not just picking any gift - I'm going to get you an extravagant one! Andrew realized there was no point

in arguing further; once Natasha made up her mind, there was no changing it.

Meanwhile, when Dylan from South City heard about the medical centers opening, his reaction was even more over the top than Natashas.

Mr.

Lloyd changed my life.

For the opening of his medical center, I'm going to show my absolute sincerity! Brimming with

enthusiasm, Dylan gathered his trusted men and subordinates, asking for suggestions gift to get for Andrew, One of his top men eagerly volunteered, Mr.

Garner, I suggest we get Mr.

Lloyd a female celebrity.

what Dylan shot him a glance and shook his head.

That won't do Mr.

Lloyd already has Ms.

Rhodes, Ms.

Aicker, and Elsie by his side he's certainly not lacking for companions.

The man smirked slyly and said, Mr.

Garner, you're overthinking it.

Mr.

Lloyd may not lack beautiful women, and those around him are indeed the most stunning in Jayredale. But men, especially someone as extraordinary as Mr.

Lloyd, wouldn't complain about having too many beauties, would they? The more, the better, right? We could find a pristine celebrity, someone untouched, and discreetly send her to his room without Ms. Rhodes or the others knowing. Just imagine, how do you think Mr.

Lloyd would react? I can guarantee it'd be a night to remember, and afterward, he'd hold you in even higher regard. For a brief moment, Dylan was tempted, but he quickly dismissed the idea. From what I know, Mr.

Lloyd doesn't seem particularly interested in women.

Forget sending a celebrity even if you sent over a girl group from Sorya or Ivanka from Mirelan, I doubt Mr.

Lloyd would bat an eye! The men from South City were stumped.

For them, women and wealth were the ultimate temptations something everyone enjoyed without exception! But since Andrew seemed indifferent to both, they were at a loss for what to gift him. After a moment of contemplation, Dylan waved his hand.

Everyone, leave me for a moment.

I need to make a call

Once the room was cleared, Dylan picked up his phone and called Marvin, the wealthiest man in the region.

Given Marvin's close relationship with Andrew, Dylan was confident the tycoon could guide him on what would make the perfect gift.

Chapter 557 Meanwhile, at Rhodes Corporation.

Lauren checked the time.

There were still two hours until the grand opening of the medical center..

III head to the Pharmaceutical Division first and hand over the two formulas Dr. Lloyd gave me to Mr.

Chapman

Then III head to the medical center, she muttered to herself.

With her plan set, Lauren made her way to the Pharmaceutical Division.

Marcus greeted her with a smile.

Ms.

Rhodes, what brings you here personally? Lauren replied, Lets talk in your office.

Marcus immediately realized this must be important and promptly invited her in.

Lauren wasted no time, pulling out two sheets of paper and handing them to Marcus with great care.
Mr.

Chapman, these are from Dr.

Lloyd

The value of these two formulas far exceeds the three we previously lost

In fact, you could say that all the research and development achieved by Rhodes Pharmaceutical over

the past decades doesn't even compare to just one of these formulas.

Make sure to keep these absolutely confidential.

We cannot afford another disaster like Troy's betrayal ! she added

Marcus, fumbling nervously, took the formulas, his disbelief evident

Is this even possible? He had anticipated that Andrew might be able to provide a formula, but he never imagined Andrew could deliver something so extraordinary

If what Lauren said was true, and one formula alone was more valuable than the three they had lost,

then these weren't just formulas they were recipes for miraculous medicines! Lauren smiled

You'll understand once you review them and send them to the lab for verification by the experts.

Being in charge of the Pharmaceutical Division, Marcus had a foundational understanding of medicine. Without delay, he began examining the formulas.

After a moment, he gasped, his face pale with shock.

These are ancient formulas some of the rarest passed

down over millennia in Holtrien ! My god, Dr.

Lloyd actually entrusted us with such priceless knowledge ... Ms.

Rhodes, Im worried... Seeing Marcus mixture of exhilaration and apprehension, Lauren said, I know what youre concerned about- youre afraid these formulas will attract attention from powerful families or large organizations, right? Marcus nodded gravely.

Thats exactly it.

The two medicines described here have incredible effects almost too miraculous to believe.

If we release them to the market, the response will be overwhelming

This will inevitably draw attention to our corporation.

I wouldnt be surprised if people from Blumedale or even all of Gabo Creek try to take a share or worse, outright seize them! Lauren snorted coldly.

Dont worry.

While we may not have been capable of developing such incredible formulas ourselves, that doesnt mean we cant defend them

I trust in the strength of the Rhodes family.

Marcus, trembling with excitement, nodded repeatedly.

Wonderful! With your assurance, Ms.

Rhodes, I can proceed confidently.

Ill take these to the lab immediately.

Once the clinical trials and related preparations are complete, well begin production.

Go ahead! Lauren replied with a smile.

As Marcus opened the door to leave, however, they found themselves face to face with Tiana, Michael, and a group of bodyguards entering the office.

What immediately caught Laurens attention was the presence of a pockmarked man with an arrogant demeanor standing next to Michael the Master of Poisons, Bane Eslinger.

Mrs.

Rhodes! Marcus greeted Tiana hastily

Tiana nodded lightly

I've brought an expert to assist the Pharmaceutical Division.

Mr.

Chapman, let me introduce you.

Michael jumped in quickly.

Mr.

Chapman, allow me to introduce Mr.

Eslinger, or as he's better known, the Master of Poisons.

Even our famed Dr.

Aicker is his junior.

With Mr.

Eslinger joining our Pharmaceutical Division, no one not even the Weller family will dare challenge us! Marcus was stunned.

Mr.

Eslinger is actually Dr.

Aickers senior? Even Lauren was momentarily taken aback.

She hadnt expected this pockmarked old man to have such a formidable reputation.

Chapter 558 Michael grinned smugly.

Of course! In front of Mr.

Eslinger, even the renowned Dr.

Aicker must step aside

Whether its medical skill or the art of poison, Mr.

Eslingers unparalleled ! Bane ignored Marcus entirely, addressing Tiana instead.

Mrs.

Rhodes, you know the price of engaging my services isnt small.

Tiana smiled graciously.

Mr.

Eslinger, as a highly regarded disciple of the Advanced Medical Institute and a true master of medicine, any price is well worth it.

Bane laughed heartily, clearly pleased with her flattery.

With an air of arrogance, he said, Since youve spoken so kindly, consider it done.

Give me at most a month or as little as ten days and I will deliver two top tier formulas to Rhodes Pharmaceutical.

Theyll restore your departments reputation and bring in immense profits! Marcus was stunned.

Ten days to develop formulas ? That seems impossible! Bane cast him a disdainful glance and sneered.

The mysteries and prowess of someone like me, a master beyond worldly bounds, are beyond your comprehension.

Youre nothing more than an ant.

How could you grasp the heights of heaven or the depths of earth? Lauren couldnt hold back a scoff.

Mr.

Eslinger may be a medical genius, but that doesnt mean we cant develop formulas ourselves.

Bane smirked dismissively.

Ms.

Rhodes, Im not looking down on your Pharmaceutical Division.

The truth is, its full of nothing but garbage.

With me assisting Mr.

Rhodes, your aspirations to compete for the CEO position are nothing but delusions.

Let me offer you some advice give up your unrealistic ambitions sooner rather than later.

His tone brimmed with overconfidence and contempt, as though he was unbeatable.

Michael couldnt resist chiming in.

Lauren, I dont see why youre even bothering.

Mr.

Eslinger is a legend among doctors! You heard him he can produce groundbreaking formulas in just ten days

And you? Who knows how many years itll take you to make any progress? By then, Ill already be sitting in the CEOs chair.

Laurens expression remained calm.

Youre mistaken

I already have formulas.

Michael froze for a moment before bursting into laughter.

Lauren, you really are relentless

You'd say anything, no matter how absurd, to keep up appearances.

Fine, keep deceiving yourself.

But when Mr Eslinger develops his new formulas, I won't rub it in.

I just hope you'll be able to handle the reality check. For Michael, the likelihood of Lauren already possessing viable formulas was about as probable as pigs flying.

Bane let out a scoff, his tone dripping with disdain.

I suppose Ms.

Rhodes so-called ally is none other than that brat Andrew? I'll admit, the kid's medical skills are impressive.

To be honest, even I have some respect for him.

But he's arrogant, reckless, and full of the typical youthful bravado.

He has all the traits of someone destined to burn out early.

Lauren's voice was ice cold.

Mr.

Eslinger, perhaps you should focus on yourself.

Being experienced doesn't always equate to being exceptional.

By your logic, shouldn't those thousand year old turtles in the pond be far more accomplished than you, Mr.

Eslinger ? Bane's face darkened in fury.

You insolent girl! Are you mocking me? Lauren remained unfazed, her tone sharp

I'm not mocking you, Mr.

Eslinger.

I'm simply advising you not to lean on your age and experience as a crutch.

Medical expertise isn't always a matter of years lived; it's about genuine ability! Bane sneered.

You make a fair point.

There are indeed prodigies with unparalleled talent in medicine.

But as for Andrew, what qualifications does he have? He's just a small time doctor at best, he knows a few tricks.

Once I've developed my formulas, I'll make sure you and that boy understand what it means to have a reputation built on real skill!

Chapter 559 Lauren felt indignant and wanted to say more, but Tianas cold voice cut her off. Enough.

Mr.

Eslinger is a specially appointed consultant for the Pharmaceutical Division

He is the foundation of Rhodes Corporations efforts to regain a foothold in the medical market and strengthen our competitiveness, From today onward, Marcus, all resources of the Pharmaceutical Division are to be fully allocated to Mr.

Eslinger ! Marcus glanced at Lauren and said gravely, But Mrs.

Rhodes, Ms.

Rhodes also needs the Pharmaceutical Divisions resources.

Dr.

Lloyd is fully supporting her and will be developing new formulas.

If all resources are given to Mr.

Eslinger, it could impact this competition

Although Andrew had already provided formulas, Marcus wasnt foolish.

He knew it was wiser to keep things understated for now.

The formulas Andrew had given were too valuable rare ancient formulas, nearly unheard of.

Making them public prematurely could lead to serious consequences.

Tiana dismissed his concerns coldly

The immediate priority is for the Pharmaceutical Division to recover and regain its strength. As for Dr.

Lloyd, I have little faith in him.

Frankly, giving resources to him would be a waste.

Theres no need to say more.

The Pharmaceutical Division is to fully cooperate with Mr.

Eslinger ! Michael and Bane exchanged a smirk, their faces full of ridicule and disdain.

Marcus, feeling increasingly frustrated, was shocked by Tianas blatant favoritism. Lauren remained composed but spoke icily.

Mr.

Chapman, if thats what Mrs.

Rhodes has decided, then follow her instructions.

After all, to her, nothing matters but profit.

Tiana frowned.

Lauren, my decision was not meant to single you out.

Mr.

Eslinger is a master invited by Michael, His reputation in the medical field precedes him.

And as for Dr.

Lloyd, lets not forget that he was just a small-time doctor.

Now hes idling around in our corporation.

Do you really expect me to believe he can develop viable formulas ? Hmph.

If Dr.

Lloyd could develop formulas, why would he have stayed at a minor hospital in the first place?
Lauren responded with an icy glare.

As long as it pleases you, Mom.

But let me remind you excessive bias can blind you.

Tiana replied calmly, Ive lived long enough to recognize talent from fraud

Ive seen plenty of so called prodigies, and I can tell the difference.

Lauren, unwilling to continue the argument, turned and began to leave.

Tiana called out sharply, Stop.

Where are you going? Lauren turned back, her voice flat.

Dr.

Lloyd is opening his medical center today.

Im going to support him

Is there a problem with that? Tiana was momentarily surprised

Hes opening his own medical center ? After a moment of thought, she chuckled.

So, it seems Marvin is giving his pawn a new role to play.

Does he not understand that piling too much on Andrew will overwhelm him? In the end, it'll all collapse

like a house of cards and make him a laughingstock

Lauren replied indifferently, That's none of your concern Tiana suddenly grinned.

I have some free time

I'll join you to congratulate him.

With me there, I can help raise his profile and lend him some credibility.

Lauren looked at her warily.

What are you planning to do? Tiana's smile deepened.

You think I'm going there to see Rhodes Corporation

Over the years, he's done some things Lauren sighed, exasperated.

Do as you wish.

Meanwhile, at the Stevens family residence in Jayrodale.

Bruce, Jackie, gather the car.

We're heading out, Asper Lauren looked at her warily.

What are you planning to do? Tiana's smile deepened

You think Im going there to embarrass him? Dont worry.

Hes still a shareholder of Rhodes Corporation.

Over the years, hes done some things for us

Im just going to take a look nothing more.

Lauren sighed, exasperated.

Do as you wish

Meanwhile, at the Stevens family residence in Jayrodale.

Bruce, Jackie, gather the car.

Were heading out, Aspen ordered, a cold smirk playing on her lips.

Chapter 560 Christina glanced at Aspen and asked, Are you heading out for something Important, Aspen ?Aspen smirked coldly.

Havent you noticed the commotion in Jayrodale today, Christina ? Christina frowned.

Are you referring to the opening ceremony of Andrews medical center? Aspens tone turned icy.

Exactly.

Since early this morning, people have been hyping it up, making a big scene in the streets, as if theyre desperate for attention.

Hes celebrating his grand opening, right? Well, Im in a good mood III head over and turn it into a grand closing ! Christina shook her head with a hint of disdain.

Aspen, its just some low level marketing

Why even bother paying attention to it? Andrew has the backing of Lauren, Francesca, and, apparently , even Marvin now.

So yes, his career is starting to gain traction, and he finally managed to open a medical center of his own

But at the end of the day, its just a small medical center a place for treating patients and making some money

Its no different from a roadside clinic.

Nothing special

In my opinion, theres no need to wade into these waters.

Isnt your focus on setting up a pharmaceutical plant in Jayrodale? The Stevens family could collaborate with you on that.

Aspen raised a hand, signaling Christina to stop.

Her voice was sharp and cold

I know youre making serise, Christina.

Andrew can do whatever he likes.

To us, hes nothing more than a minor character who cant even make it to the main stage! But every time

I think about the humiliation hes caused me, I cant just let it go

No matter what, Im heading over today to completely destroy his medical center.

Lets see what Lauren and Francesca can do about it! Christina grew serious.

Aspen, I really think you should reconsider.

Smashing up the medical center might be too impulsive.

Also, dont forget that Andrew has Marvin, the wealthiest man in Jayrodale, backing him.

If you act recklessly, itll definitely attract his attention.

Aspen sneered

So what if Marvin backs him? Im not afraid of him.

Worst case, Ill leave Jayrodale

Ill rake in some serious money here and head back to Blumedale.

Who can stop me then? Christina couldnt help but worry.

Aspen had arrived in Jayrodale full of ambition and confidence, but repeated setbacks had left her impatient and quick tempered.

If this continued, Aspen might end up suffering a huge loss.

At that moment, Irene and Leroy entered the room.

Christie, lets go check out the scene too, Leroy suggested with a grin.

Andrew opening a medical center? Who would've thought he'd come this far? We should go see if it's just some rundown shack.

It'll probably reek of poverty! Irene scoffed.

Successful men open companies, run corporations, or launch big projects.

But him? He opens a medical center.

What a joke.

Even in business, he's just dabbling

Leroy countered, Mom, don't underestimate medical centers.

Many high end ones are run by top tier medical experts and make a lot of money.

Irene rolled her eyes.

Of course I know that, but do you really think Andrew's medical center will have that kind of prestige? I doubt Aspen even needs to smash it up

Let him keep it open; it'll probably shut down in two or three days on its own. Maybe he'll even get reported for something and end up in jail! Christina sighed.

Fine, we'll go with you, Aspen

But I still think you should avoid using force.

Making more enemies won't do you any good.

Internally, Christina scoffed at the thought.

Andrew, youre opening a medical center and making such a huge spectacle of it, flaunting your success so ostentatiously.

Well, now youve drawn Aspens ire.

Maybe even the Weller family or others like Finley will show up to cause trouble.

Youre practically inviting humiliation upon yourself.