

The Ashes 581

Chapter 581 Mr.

Moore, that hunchbacked old man looks like hes reached the level of a senior grandmaster, one of the Hidden Dragons experts whispered.

No, not just senior grandmaster hes probably at the peak, capable of taking lives with a mere flick of his finger! Hah, Moonlit Apothecary is in big trouble now.

Ive been saying that Andrew cant go around making enemies without someone eventually coming to settle the score

The Hidden Dragons experts exchanged smug glances, their eyes gleaming with schadenfreude. Finley sneered, his jaw tightening.

Just wait.

Today, not only will Moonlit Apothecary be wrecked, but that loser Andrew will probably be lucky to survive this.

Finley sensed the overwhelming danger emanating from Gordon

Although he could not pinpoint who the man was, his instincts screamed that Gordon was not someone to provoke.

If Finley had been in Andrews shoes, he would have run without a second thought.

Natashas voice sliced through the tension

Aspen, take your Stevens family and get the hell out of here! This isnt your playground.

Aspen scoffed.

Madam Vostokoff, youre not on my list today.

If youre smart, youll stay out of this.

I dont want any unnecessary casualties.

Natashas eyes narrowed dangerously.

Go ahead, try it.

My men from West End are all here

Well gladly let you have your fun for however long you can last.

Aspens face darkened

She had not anticipated that the underground groups would turn out in full force for Moonlit Apothecarys opening

Nearby, Dylan crossed his arms, flanked by South City enforcers.

Aspen, youre just a loudmouthed clown from Bridgefields

You think you can come to Jayrodale and bark orders? Aspens lips curled into a sinister smile.

Dylan, do you really think Im afraid of you? Dylan chuckled coldly.

Afraid or not, we can test that right now.

You brought your muscle, didnt you? Well, if you cause trouble here, III personally make sure youre carried out in pieces

At the VIP section, Marvin shook his head

So someone really did come to make trouble.

Seems even being Jayrodales wealthiest man doesnt mean much these days.

Mark leaned in

Mr.

Yates, lets not rush.

Lets watch and see what Aspen does.

The Stevens family from Bridgefields is no small player.

Itd be wise to tread carefully.

Marvin gave a cold smile.

Fine.

But if she doesnt back down, the Stevens family might be fishing for her body in the river by tomorrow. Tiana chuckled.

Oh, Mr.

Yates, since when did you lose your composure? Dont tell me youre getting worked up over someone harassing Andrew? She smirked slyly, clearly enjoying the tension.

This was exactly what she had been waiting for.

Andrew and his medical center had basked in enough glory today.

It was about time someone knocked him down a peg

At that moment, Andrew appeared with Lauren and Francesca.

Aspens cold gaze locked onto him as she sneered.

There you are, Andrew

I thought youd keep hiding like a coward.

Andrew met her gaze, his voice calm.

Aspen, I dont recall inviting you.

So what are you doing here? He glanced at her entourage and added dryly, By the way, rashing my banquet without an Invitation costs five million

Aspen froze for a second before growling, Youve got some nerve.

Deaths knocking at your door, and youre still spouting nonsense. Youve got guts Ill give you that.

In the corner, Finley could not help but laugh under his breath.

He thought Andrew was a fool for still joking around when he should be planning his escape,
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Chapter 582 Finley scoffed, shocked that Andrew was actually trying to eece five million out of Aspen.

He could not help but think Andrews greed was going to be the death of him ..

Irene stood with her hands on her hips, smirking.

Andrew youve got quite a show going today, but let me tell you something our family may not have brought a large crowd, but were not someone you can push around! Leroy puffed up his chest and added, Yeah! Aspens got to family fighters with her

Youre in for a world of pain soon! Shut up, both of you! Christina snapped, her brow furrowed in frustration

Why should we? Irene huffed.

With Aspen backing us, ve got every right to show off a little ! She crossed her arms and scowled. Besides, look at this fancy medical center Andrews opened.

Its practically a luxury resort.

I cant stand the thought of him living it up like this! Leroy nodded eagerly.

Exactly! Andrew dumped you, and now hes thriving first buying that fancy Mercedes, and now opening this place

It just proves you were blind, Christie ! You let a golden opportunity slip right through your fingers. Christinas expression tightened.

Deep down, she could not deny that their words stung

She had always prided herself on making smart choices, yet Andrews unexpected success gnawed at her pride

He had not even worked that hard for it, yet here he was, flourishing.

The thought burned her.

It was as if Andrews rise was a slap to her ego a harsh reminder of her missteps and misplaced judgment

Taking a steady breath, Christina addressed Andrew

Andrew, Aspens here to settle things with Madblade Martial Academy

But more importantly, youve crossed her too many times especially at the artifact auction where you seized billions of her investment without returning a cent.

If you want to keep your Moonlit Apothecary intact, youd be wise to apologize to Aspen and pay her back

Andrews gaze hardened.

Christina, when did you become her messenger? He sneered.

Aspens a lunatic.

Dont you see shes going to drag your Stevens familys fragile assets down with her? Christinas eyes blazed as she snapped, Watch your mouth! That was a warning, Andrew.

If Aspen gives the order, I wont be able to stop her.

Andrew chuckled softly, shaking his head.

After all this time, youre still blind to the truth.

Go ahead, Christina.

Let Aspen make her move.

Then we'll see if she crawls back to Bridgefields in tears or if I'm the one on my knees apologizing. You're playing with fire, Christina warned icily.

You think you can keep winning? You have no idea how powerful Bridgefields Stevens family is.

If you push them too far, do you really think Mr.

Yates and those other big names will go to war for you? Aspen cut in, her voice dripping with disdain. Christina, stop wasting words on a dead man walking.

Once I settle things with Rodney, Andrews next.

Christina sighed deeply, her voice now cold and detached.

Fine.

Your feud with Aspen is your problem now.

But mark my words when you're lying on the ground, begging for mercy, don't look to me for help. I won't lift a finger.

Chapter 583 Dr.

Lloyd, Aspen and Christina seem prepared for something serious.

We need to be cautious, Lauren warned, her voice tinged with concern.

Francesca nodded in agreement, her brows furrowed.

Aspens always been proud and arrogant.

She wouldnt dare show up here and threaten to ruin Moonlit Apothecary unless she had absolute confidence in her backing Andrew smiled faintly

Her confidence comes from that hunchbacked old man standing behind her.

His skills are decent.

In Jayrodale, there might not be many who could stand against him.

Laurens eyes widened in surprise.

That old man? He looks so frail he can barely walk.

I didnt think hed be a master fighter! Francescas worry deepened.

That just makes it worse, Andrew.

Aspens fattures here have already filled her with resentment, Im worried that after dealing with Madblade Martial Academy, shell turn her attention to you.

Andrew snorted, a hint of disdain tugging at his lips.

Sure, he might be formidable to others around here.

But to me? Hes nothing special

His words were understated

After all, the Five Convergence Pill had broken the first seal in his body, and Andrew could easily crush the old man with a single hand.

If the second seal broke free, the man would not even survive within five steps of him.

Once the third seal was broken, Andrew would recover his full strength.

Meanwhile, Aspen's gaze sharpened, her voice filled with malice.

Rodney, today is the day you pay with your life.

TI Aspen savored the fearful glances directed her way.

In Bridgefields, she had always been untouchable, and now she wanted to send a message here in Jayrodale: no one could cross her and live

Rodney's face darkened as he strode to the front.

Aspen, you arrogant bitch, who the hell do you think you are, coming here to challenge Madblade

Martial Academy? His tone was venomous, and his eyes glinted with cold rage.

He had been waiting for this moment, eager to crush Aspen after the humiliation she had caused him in the past.

Aspen sneered, crossing her arms.

Trash like you isn't worth my time, Rodney.

The shame you put me through will be paid back a hundredfold today.

Rodney chuckled lewdly, his gaze roving over her.

Oh, please.

Last time, I only had time to grab those headlights of yours.

This time, I'm going all in. Let's see you spread those legs and welcome me properly! His crude words triggered a chorus of laughter from the Madblade Martial Academy members behind him.

They jeered and made vulgar comments about Aspen's impending downfall.

Mr.

Sanford is definitely skillful in that area.

That dumb bitch is finished! I don't know what this woman is thinking.

She actually dared to mess with Madblade Martial Academy. Seems like the last lesson wasn't enough for her.

There's no need to compete with her.

Not only is Mr.

Sanford here today, but Mr.

Lincoln is also here to help us.

Aspen is gone! Lauren frowned.

Dr.

Lloyd, do you think Madblade Martial Academy can handle that old man? Andrew shook his head. It's going to be tough.

Rodney may seem reckless, but he's actually shrewd.

He came to me earlier to forge an alliance, showing he knows how to adapt to circumstances

But he doesn't understand how dangerous that hunchback is, and it'll cost him, Andrew added
Francesca pointed out, But Mr.

Lincoln is still here.

He's Madblade Martial Academy's top master.

He might be able to turn the tide, right?

Chapter 584 Andrew spoke calmly, Ivan has solid expertise in hard martial techniques. With his aggressive internal boxing style, he might hold his ground against that hunchback for while. But if the fight drags on, that old man will use his superior stamina to gain the upper hand he's adept at controlling internal energy flow.

On the VIP platform, Tiana said flatly, That Madblade Martial Academy guy is going to suffer today. 7 Marvin chuckled.

Not many know this, but Cedric and I are well aware of your talents, Mrs.

Rhodes

You've always been a martial arts genius

Who do you think that girl from Bridgefields is relying on? Cedric nodded thoughtfully.

Indeed.

Back then, you were one of Jayrodale's most celebrated women.

Even Kane from the Weller family admired you.

Wed appreciate your insights.

Tiana smiled arrogantly.

Those days are long gone now that Im a wife and mother.

But since you asked, Ill share what I know.

She turned her gaze toward Gordon and explained, That man is Gordon Woods, a martial master from the northern regions.

He had to flee south years ago after offending a powerful northern clan.

I never expected hed go into hiding with Bridgefields Stevens family all this time.

No wonder Aspen is so confident.

Gordon was already a senior grandmaster years ago, she continued, and by now, hes probably reached the peak of that level.

Unless Vince comes out of seclusion, Madblade Martial Academy doesnt stand a chance.

This wont end well not for Rodney, nor for that Andrew kid.

Cedrics expression tightened.

So thats the infamous Gordon? This complicates things.

Marvin scoffed and said, I dont see any problem here.

If he dares to mess with me, Ill teach him a lesson in the power of money! 11 He crossed his arms confidently.

If it comes down to it, I'll drop a billion dollars to have Gordon wiped out

Tiana and Cedric exchanged glances, their expressions darkening slightly.

Marvin was not known for his physical prowess

Unlike families like the Wellers or the Aickers, Marvin had no powerful martial artists at his command. Nonetheless, this was an era where wealth was often more powerful than fists.

Money could achieve what brute force could not.

A billion dollars would be more than enough to hire some top martial arts masters from the Gabo Creek region to take Gordon down

Even if Gordon was strong, he would not stand a chance alone against multiple grandmasters.

This was not Marvin's first time playing the money game

When he was starting out in Jayrodale, the head of an old noble family had constantly tried to bully him, thinking their family's martial strength could crush Marvin and seize his fortune.

Marvin had responded by spending a billion dollars to hire two senior grandmasters, who stormed the family's estate and wiped them out in one night.

The arrogant family head was found hanging from his own front gate.

That was the terrifying power of wealth

You might not be able to hire the strongest martial artists on earth, but with a billion dollars, you could easily get several grandmasters on your side.

Even those martial legends who were revered by entire regions could sometimes be hired for the right price.

Many people who believed martial arts masters were beyond reach simply did not understand one truth: they were not offering enough money.

Chapter 585 Heh, Mr.

Yates, your money might be able to move mountains, but Aspen's threat is right here and now !
Tiana said with a cold smirk, clearly annoyed

Once they deal with the Madblade Martial Academy fighters, Aspen will turn his sights on Andrew.

She continued, Even if you throw a fortune around right now, by the time your reinforcements show up, your prized pawn will already be on his knees, begging for mercy! Cedric frowned

If Gordon gets too out of hand, aren't you going to step in ? Tiana gave a playful but sharp smile.

Why would I? The Bridgefields Stevens family has done me no harm.

Why should I get involved in their business? Cedric's voice became more serious.

You're still from Jayredale, Mrs.

Rhodes.

Are you really going to stand by and watch Gordon run wild in your own city? And what about Dr.

Lloyd ? He and Lauren are close.

Surely, for their sake, you'd lend a hand? Tiana gave an icy snort.

Mr.

Yates is right here.

Hes the boss around here, and he hasnt made a move.

Why would I? Besides, hasnt Mr.

Yates always been a big supporter of Andrew ? Im sure a genius like Andrew, a real man of honor, can handle a little setback, right? Cedric let out a bitter chuckle

Mrs.

Rhodes, thats not fair.

Dr.

Lloyd may be a genius, but he still needs time to grow.

Gordons already a seasoned veteran with a notorious reputation.

Its understandable if Dr.

Lloyd struggles against someone like that.

Tiana sneered

So what if he struggles ? Ive been out of the martial arts scene for years.

Im not going to make an exception now.

Marvin laughed confidently.

Relax, Mrs.

Rhodes

You dont need to lift a finger just sit back and enjoy the show.

If Gordon actually wins, Ill be at his beck and call! Tiana and Cedric stared at him, dumbfounded. They were stunned by Marvins bold declaration.

Tianas face darkened.

Mr.

Yates, youre making some bold claims.

I hope you wont end up eating your words and embarrassing yourself.

The VIP platform was large, but only a few people were seated on it, leaving much of it empty.

At that moment, Aspen turned to Gordon, who had been standing quietly behind Christina and her family

, blending into the background.

She said respectfully, Mr.

Woods, Ill leave this to you.

Gordon let out a raspy chuckle and slowly made his way up to the platform, his hands behind his back and his hunched figure moving leisurely.

Whos that old guy? He looks like hes on deaths doorstep.

Is he seriously the Stevens familys trump card? Come on, that frail old man wouldnt last a second against someone from Madblade Martial Academy! His bones would snap like twigs! Dont be fooled by appearances.

In martial arts stories, its always the crippled, elderly guys who turn out to be hidden masters.

A wave of chatter spread through the spectators, their eyes fixed on Gordons unimpressive figure.

Aspen sneered at the crowds ignorance, thinking that these fools had no idea how terrifying Gordon truly

was.

Whether in Bridgefields or Jayrodale, Gordon was a man who commanded absolute respect. Aspen chuckled coldly.

Step aside, girl.

Mr.

Woods hasnt had a proper warm up in a long time, and todays the Charles 525 perfect chancel Gordon carked verily as he rolled his shoulders, causing a series of loud cracks to echo from his bones.

The sound sent chills down the spines of those watching.

On the Madblade Martial Academy side, Ivans face turned serious as he called out, Mr.

Sanford, dont underestimate him! However, Rodney did not seem fazed.

He scoffed and barked, Get out of here, old man.

If you know whats good for you, step aside.

You're one foot in the grave already.

Why would you risk your life sticking your neck out for Aspen ?

Chapter 586 You must have a death wish, old man! Rodney sneered, watching Gordon stretch nonchalantly

Gordon glanced up at him with a twisted grin.

Young man, trying to provoke me before the fight even starts? Clever move, but it won't change the outcome you'll still die.

Rodney's face tensed, but he smirked coldly

You want my life? Well see if you have what it takes.

With a low growl, Rodney charged forward, closing the distance in two powerful strides.

He executed a low sweeping kick aimed at Gordon's legs, trying to break his balance.

Andrew stood between Lauren and Francesca, shaking his head slightly.

Rodney sure lives up to his reputation as the heir of Madblade Martial Academy.

His strategy is leagues better than what guys like Harvey would come up with.

However, against absolute strength, strategy won't matter.

Gordon's hunched figure, with a large lump on his back, made him seem slow and physically limited. Rodney's choice to target his legs first seemed smart if he could disrupt Gordon's balance, he would have a chance to land a finishing blow

To Andrew, the tactic was sound

The problem was that Gordons power completely overshadowed Rodney's.

Rodney's kick struck Gordon's knee, and dust kicked up slightly.

However, Gordon remained rooted like a stone pillar.

His frail looking frame, barely over five feet tall, stood immovable, shocking the onlookers.

Gasps echoed through the crowd.

Rodney's face flushed red, and he almost screamed in pain.

His leg throbbed as if he had struck solid metal, already swelling from the impact.

Your body... its insanely tough! Rodney stammered, quickly retreating to put some distance between them.

Gordon let out a sinister laugh.

What an embarrassing move! Let me teach you what happens when you play with fire.

With a booming stomp, Gordon's foot slammed into the ground, causing the entire platform to tremble.

In an instant, he launched himself forward like a spinning top, closing the gap between them with terrifying speed.

His skeletal hand shot out like a claw, and before Rodney could react, Gordon had him by the throat. There were two sickening cracks as Rodney's face turned a deep purple, struggling for air. Gordon lifted him off the ground effortlessly, holding him up like a ragdoll for everyone to see. The crowd erupted in panic and disbelief

No one had expected Rodney, a top fighter from Madblade Martial Academy, to be defeated so easily. Who is this old man? His strength is terrifying! This is bad! If Rodney falls, will the entire Madblade Martial Academy be wiped out? I can't believe the Stevens family had someone like this hidden away. They've been playing the long game all along! Even Dylan and Natasha, powerful in their own right, realized how far below Gordon's level they were.

The onlookers shifted their gazes toward the Stevens family, now filled with fear and respect. Aspen's eyes gleamed with a cruel light as she sneered.

Mr.

Woods, don't kill him just yet.

I want to mutilate him first and then watch him suffer to death.

Gordon cackled, his voice rasping like a rusty hinge.

He's just a bug, but if you want to play with him, I'll let you. Here, have fun.

With a casual flick, Gordon hurled Rodney toward Aspen's feet.

Rodney crashed to the ground, blood spurting from his mouth as he gasped desperately for air.

Chapter 587 The students of Madblade Martial Academy erupted in anger, ready to charge forward to save Rodney.

However, Ivan moved first, leaping in and catching Rodney before he hit the ground.

Mr.

Sanford, are you alright? Ivan asked urgently.

Rodney gasped for air, his eyes bulging and his body trembling in fear.

Finally managing to catch his breath, he stammered, Mr.

Lincoln ... be careful

That old bastard is way too strong! Aspen chuckled coldly.

Rodney, I warned you youd die an ugly death today.

Even with Mr.

Lincoln saving you, its only delaying the inevitable. When I say youll die, you will die.

Rodney gritted his teeth, fury blazing in his eyes.

Aspen, you vicious bitch! Even if youve brought in a peak level senior grandmaster, the Madblade Martial Academy would rather bleed than bow to you! Aspens smirk deepened, her voice icy.

Oh, is that so? Lets see if you still have that spine when I castrate you and make you beg for death. Ivan ignored the heated exchange as he carefully set Rodney down.

Then, he turned to face Gordon, his gaze sharp and focused.

With such power, you cant be an unknown figure

Please, tell me your name! Gordon let out a raspy laugh.

You arent worthy to know my name.

Since youve stepped forward, youre obviously prepared for death.

So, lets get this over with.

His words dripped with arrogance and dominance

Ivan swallowed his anger and clasped his hands respectfully.

Sir, there's no need for things to escalate.

Madblade Martial Academy is willing to offer an apology to both you and Ms.

Stevens.

Can we resolve this peacefully? Gordon clasped his hands behind his back and chuckled condescendingly.

Why would I care about an apology from ants I could crush with one hand? He glanced at Aspen. But if the girl agrees, I might consider sparing you.

Aspen's eyes turned cold.

Mr.

Woods, I only have one condition Rodney must suffer until he begs for death, and even then, I want him to die in agony.

Gordon snorted and turned to Ivan with a grin.

You heard her.

She has no intention of letting you live.

Looks like you'll be joining him in hell.

With a booming crack, Gordon seemed to glide across the ground in an instant, appearing right in front of Ivan.

Ivan widened his stance, grounding himself and preparing for a serious fight.

The two martial artists launched into a brutal exchange on the platform

Every strike carried immense force, producing bone rattling vibrations that echoed in the air

Ivan fought with full intensity, his face tense with concentration.

2 Yet, Gordon absorbed each punch effortlessly, occasionally reflecting the force back with enough power to make Ivans organs ache

Ivan could feel the overwhelming strength of this monstrous old man bearing down on him.

Under increasing pressure, Ivan realized he could not hold back any longer.

He unleashed his signature internal martial arts technique, which he had not even used the last time he faced Andrew

This time, he brought out everything he had.

With his full power unleashed, Ivan managed to fend off Gordons relentless attacks.

However, Gordon laughed mockingly

Youre burning through your energy just to keep up

How long do you think you can last? Accept your fate! Gordon launched another barrage of attacks, his hunched frame radiating an almost limitless force.

His strikes came fast and relentless, forcing Ivan onto the defensive.

sidelin Meanwhile, Tiana watched intently from the her eyes locked on Gordons movements.

Based on what she had seen so far, she was confident she could defeat him but just barely

As for Ivan, the massive, battle hardened warrior from Madblade Martial Academy, Tiana did not spare him a second glance because he was not worth her attention.

Chapter 588 After all, Ivan was not at the level that Tiana considered worth paying attention to

Once Gordon takes down that brute, the next target will be Andrew, she thought coldly.

When Gordon beats him bloody, Marvin and Lauren will be begging me to intervene.

Tiana's expression shifted slightly before she huffed softly under her breath.

I can't let Andrew get killed outright.

But I'll wait until Gordon cripples him first then I'll step in.

A chilling smile tugged at her lips as she plotted.

That way, Marvin will owe me a favor, and Andrew's future will be ruined.

Once he's a broken man, Lauren will never think twice about him again.

She glanced over at Marvin, who seemed entirely unconcerned, even sipping his tea as if this were just a casual show

You've been the undisputed top dog in Jayrodale for too long, Marvin.

That overconfidence will be your downfall.

Amused at the thought, Tiana eagerly awaited the moment when Gordon would crush Andrew.

A loud boom echoed across the platform.

Gordons palms struck Ivan square in the chest, sending him hurtling through the air

Then, Ivan crashed to the ground with a heavy thud, vomiting a mouthful of blood as his face turned deathly pale.

Mr.

Lincoln ! Madblade Martial Academy students cried out in panic, their faces stricken with fear.

Ivan weakly raised his hand to stop them from rushing over.

He forced himself to shout, Go! Save Mr.

Sanford ... or the consequences... will be unimaginable ! Realizing Rodney was still on the platform, the students snapped out of their shock.

However, before they could act, Aspen approached Rodney and stomped on his hand with a sickening crunch

His fingers snapped like twigs under her heel.

Rodneys face contorted in agony, yet he did not make a sound.

His resolve was fierce, but Aspen sneered down at him.

Wow, youre tougher than I thought, she taunted.

But that was just the appetizer.

Lets see how long you can keep quiet.

In response, Rodney spat a mouthful of blood at her face and roared, You bitch! Kill me if you have the guts! If you dont, Madblade Martial Academy will come for you! Aspen sidestepped the spit with ease and slapped Rodney hard across the face.

He rolled across the ground, blood and broken teeth spilling from his mouth.

Rodney, I know youre clinging to hope because of your father, Aspen said mockingly.

But hes probably hiding like a coward somewhere.

Even if he shows up, Mr.

Woods will smash his skull and raze your entire academy to the ground! Her disdain was palpable. She had been waiting a long time for this moment, and finally, Rodney would die at her hands. After that, Andrew would be next.

She was not worried about Marvin and the other influential figures in Jayrodale they might prevent her from killing Andrew today, but they would not always be around to protect him

Chapter 589 The students of Madblade Martial Academy were furious, their eyes bloodshot as they watched Rodney being tortured as they shouted at Aspen.

1 Aspen, you bitch! Let go of Mr.

Sanford right now! If anything happens to him, Madblade Martial Academy will never stop until your Bridgefields Stevens family is destroyed! Aspen sneered in disdain and slapped Rodney again, sending more blood splattering from his mouth.

Mr.

Sanford ! Gordon stood calmly with his hands behind his back as if he did not even notice the outrage around him.

Take your time

Play with him however you like until youve had your fun, and hes dead.

He added, Dont worry, as long as Im here, no one in Jayrodale will dare stop you

Anyone who tries will die on the spot! Though terrified of Gordon, some of the Madblade students were so enraged by Rodneys condition that they prepared to rush forward, ready to sacrifice everything to save him.

Before they could act, Ivan clutched his chest and shouted, Everyone, stand down! The students hesitated, turning to face him, their expressions filled with defiance.

Mr.

Lincoln, we have to save Mr.

Sanford ! If we wait, that bitch will kill him! Ivans face darkened.

Youll just be throwing your lives away.

You cant save him.

He had already experienced Gordons overwhelming power firsthand.

The only one who could possibly save Rodney now was their academys master, Vince but Vince was in seclusion and had no idea his son was on the verge of death.

Meanwhile, Finley sat in a corner, drinking one glass of whiskey after another, grinning like a man who had just won the lottery.

This was beyond satisfying

Rodney was getting beaten to death, and next, it would be Andrews turn.

Heh, Mr.

Moore, one of Finley's companions whispered, that hunchbacked old guy is doing us a favor by taking care of Andrew for free! Yeah, not just taking care of him he might actually kill him.

Good riddance! That bastard conned us out of five million.

Now hell have the money, but he won't live long enough to spend it

The elite fighters nearby chuckled, practically ready to applaud.

They had never been able to touch Andrew, but Gordon's brutal strength had given them sweet revenge by proxy.

Finley swirled his drink, his grin widening

Interesting... Once Aspen finishes Andrew off, maybe I'll propose an alliance with her.

Were both outsiders in Jayrodale, both treated like nobodies here.

Might as well team up and look out for each other.

His gaze drifted to Aspen's toned, long legs.

Truth be told, both Stevens' beauties Christina and Aspen were extremely tempting.

Either one would be a dream to have under his control

More importantly, both women were resourceful and capable.

Hence, it would be a tremendous advantage if he could get them on his side.

A sudden crack echoed through the air.

Aspen had stomped on Rodney's other hand, breaking all his fingers.

His vision blurred from the pain, and he was on the verge of passing out, but he gritted his teeth and stared at her with murderous defiance.

Aspen's eyes sparkled with sadistic glee.

Oh, I love it when they're tough.

The harder you resist, the more fun I have breaking you.

She smirked coldly, savoring every moment.

The more time Rodney could endure her torture, the more satisfaction she would get from his suffering. Aspen then raised her voice, turning to address the crowd.

Jayrodale's such a big city, full of supposedly great martial artists.

So why hasn't anyone stepped up to save this man? Her voice dripped with mockery and provocation as she scanned the crowd with a contemptuous grin.

Chapter 590 Rodney lay at Aspen's feet, his body soaked in blood, her triumphant stance making it clear who had the upper hand.

Anyone who caught her gaze instinctively looked away, too afraid to meet her eyes.

Gordon's overwhelming presence filled the air with dread, silencing even those who despised Aspen's arrogance.

Though her words were infuriating, no one dared risk their lives for Rodney.

Everyone valued their own survival too much to challenge Gordon.

Mark finally spoke in a grave tone.

Aspen, thats enough.

Youve beaten him half to death

Whatever grudge you had with Madblade Martial Academy, I think its time to put it to rest.

Mark had never been fond of the academy, but as the citys mayor, he could not just stand by and watch Rodney be tortured to death by someone from out of town.

Aspen chuckled softly.

Of course, Mr.

Thatcher, I wouldnt dare disrespect your authority.

But tell me this Rodney humiliated me and nearly ruined my reputation as a woman.

Do you think a few broken bones are enough to settle that kind of score? Marks brow furrowed.

What do you want, then? Aspens smile turned cold

At the very least, I want Rodney to lose the ability to be a man.

Mark fell silent, fully understanding the dilemma

Rodneys actions had caused a serious issue, and with someone like Gordon standing beside Aspen,

interfering too much could provoke conflict with the powers in Bridgefields.

Sensing that Mark was stuck, Aspen shifted her focus to Marvin and Tiana.

Flashing a respectful smile, she said, Mr.

Yates, Mrs.

Rhodes, I apologize for the unpleasant scene today

Im just a woman who was nearly robbed of her dignity

With a grudge that deep, I cant rest until its avenged even if it means going to extremes.

She bowed politely to both of them as she spoke.

Marvin sipped his tea, his tone indifferent

Ms.

Stevens, your personal matters are none of my concern.

11 Tiana offered a small smile.

As a woman, I understand your pain.

Reputation is everything to a woman.

Whatever actions you take, I wouldnt consider them excessive.

Thank you, Mr.

Yates, Mr.

Thatcher, and Mrs.

Rhodes, Aspen replied graciously.

She had accomplished exactly what she wanted securing the silent approval of Jayrodales most powerful figures

Now, even if she went too far and accidentally killed Rodney, these influential people would have a hard time holding her fully accountable.

At worst, any fallout could be mitigated through her familys political connections.

Aspen glanced down at Rodney, her lips curling into a smirk.

Youre pathetic, Mr.

Sanford

The future heir of Madblade Martial Academy, one of Jayrodales Four Most Eligible Bachelors reduced to this

She ground her heel into his face and laughed softly.

And now youre lying here like a half dead dog.

Look around this whole city is watching, and not a single person is willing to save you.

No one even dares to speak up for you.

Isnt that tragic? Her words stung the crowd below.

They were directed at Rodney, but everyone knew she was really mocking Jayrodale as a whole.

The message was clear Aspen had broken one of the city's most prominent young men, and no one dared to challenge her for it.