

The Ashes 641

Chapter 641 Mr.

Brunner, you absolutely dont have to submit to him, Christina snapped angrily

Youre the CEO of Glorious Pharmaceuticals, a leading name in the industry! you stand tall and refuse to be intimidated, no one can oppress you! Aspen quickly chimed in, Mr.

Brunner, you cant give in to a thug like him.

If you stand up to him, Ill back you to the very end! Stephen rolled his eyes and said impatiently, You two are rambling too much.

Who told you I was being oppressed or forced to submit? Christina stared at him, dumbfounded.

Mr.

Brunner, are you saying youre doing this willingly? But... Stephen cut her off with a sharp tone. No but Im doing this willingly, alright? Mr.

Lloyd let bygones be bygones and gave me a chance to collaborate.

If I cant see an opportunity like this and seize it, Glorious Pharmaceuticals wouldve been destroyed long ago! Stephen could not understand what was going through these two womens heads.

The underground king of Jayrodale was sitting right in front of them, yet they were still caught up in petty

concerns

At a time like this, all that mattered was staying on Andrews good side.

If they pleased him, Glorious Pharmaceuticals and Stephen himself could get anything they wanted. Christina gasped.

But Mr.

Brunner, you're the CEO! How can you endure such humiliation getting beaten up and covered in blood? Stephen shrugged dismissively.

In our line of work, a little sacrifice is nothing.

Mr.

Lloyd and I had a rough start, but sometimes, you have to bleed a little to truly understand what's important.

That's more valuable than anything else to me! Christina and Aspen were at a loss for words.

They wondered if Stephen's brain was damaged from all the beating

After all, it had to be the only explanation for him saying something so ridiculous.

Andrew glanced at Dylan with an amused smirk.

Mr.

Garner, your friend sure knows how to play the game.

Dylan chuckled awkwardly.

You've got jokes, Mr.

Lloyd

That fool isn't close to me at all

Still, I'll give him some credit. Stephen does have his moments.

Andrew nodded and turned to another man

Mr.

Chapman, let's get down to business.

You're up.

Talk to Mr.

Brunner

Marcus was startled by the cue and snapped out of his thoughts.

Oh! Right.

Mr.

Lloyd, I'll handle it.

You've worked hard. Take a break.

The r Marcuss mind raced.

The thought of Andrew, a seemingly easygoing young man being the undisputed ruler of Jayrodales underground world was almost too much to process.

He would never have dared imagine something so insane.

Tiana had always looked down on Andrew.

Michael was also constantly tried to challenge him.

Marcus could not help but wonder if Andrew ever got serious, Michael would not stand a chance.

Even Tiana, known for her iron fist

would likely have to bow her head Shaking off his swirling thoughts, Marcus spoke with a

Mr.

ytone.

Brunner, Rhodes Corporations Pharmaceutical Division, would like to collaborate with Glorious Pharmaceuticals to produce two new medicines.

What do you think about- Before Marcus could even finish, Stephen cut in enthusiastically.

Mr.

Chapman, you dont need to say another word.

Were friends! Bring me the formulas , and III have the factory running overtime tomorrow to get everything done for your division! Marcus stood there, stunned.

He had been negotiating deals for decades and had faced every kind of challenge imaginable.

Chapter 642 Stephen had never experienced such an easy negotiation before.

There was no hassle, no drawn out discussions- just a straight green light; clearing the way without obstacles

Andrew stood and said, Well, if thats settled, well be on our way.

He turned to Dylan and added, Dylan, keep an eye on things here with Stephen in the future. Dylan nodded.

Got it, Mr.

Lloyd ! Stephen was elated.

Thank you, Mr.

Lloyd ! I knew something good was going to happen today Ive had this twitching in my eyelid since morning! Dylan raised a brow and teased, How do you know that wasnt a sign of bad luck? Stephen chuckled

Same difference! Good luck, bad luck theyre two sides of the same coin.

I got both today, didnt I? Andrew smirked in amusement.

Businesspeople were always like this slick, adaptable, and sharp.

Stephen had just been disciplined but was already smiling like nothing had happened.

Nonetheless, Andrew understood why.

Stephen saw a chance to cozy up to Jayrodales underground king and profit from the connection.

Andrew did not take Stephens flattery too seriously.

A pharmaceutical CEO had his uses, but people like him needed both the carrot and the stick.

If you were too kind, they would get ahead of themselves and think they were untouchable.

After personally escorting Andrew, Marcus, and Dylan out, Stephen called someone to bandage his head before returning to his office with a cheerful grin

Aspen and Christina were still there, watching him with shock and disbelief.

Aspen asked, Mr.

Brunner, you just got beaten up, and youre still smiling ? Are you really going to let this go? Stephen lit a cigarette, waved dismissively, and said, Its no big deal just a minor injury

Back when I was hustling to survive, I got beat up more times than I can count.

Compared to that, this is nothing! Aspen and Christina exchanged baffled looks.

They could not believe the reasoning he just gave them.

Getting beaten when you were struggling was one thing you had no choice.

However, he was the head of Jayrodales pharmaceutical industry.

Was it not humiliating to let someone slap him around without retaliation ? Mr.

Brunner, listen to me, Aspen insisted, her voice rising with frustration

Andrew is out of control! If you rally the industry, you can take him down ! Aspen was like a rabid dog at this point.

If there were even a shred of a

chance to harm Andrew, she would

seize it she would probably if

to rally some random street

she

try

thought it might work

However, Stephen had had enough.

Alright, thats enough.

Getting hit was my business, not yours

Im not complaining, but you two sure have a lot to say about it.

If theres nothing else, III have to ask you to leave.

He made it clear he wanted them gone.

He had important work to do

Rhodes Corporation needed those medicines manufactured, and he was not about to waste time entertaining idle visitors.

Christinas eyes widened in panic.

But Mr.

Brunner, what about our collaboration ? Stephen shook his head firmly before she could finish.
Sorry, Ms.

Stevens.

Our previous agreement is off the table.

If Stevens Corporation wants to

break the pharmaceutical

7, you'll have to find some

indust

W9

else to partner with.

Glorious Pharmaceuticals won't be able to help you.

Aspen and Christina were outraged.

Why? Aspen demanded, her voice trembling with fury.

Mr.

Brunner, we need an explanation!

Chapter 643 Mr.

Brunner, first come, first served

Stevens Corporation approached you first, and we already had an agreement.

How can you go back on your word? Christina tried to stay calm, though her anger simmered just beneath the surface.

Aspens expression hardened as she spoke coldly.

Mr.

Brunner, doing business is about trust.

Stevens Corporation partnering with you is a win win deal, but Rhodes Corporations Pharmaceutical Division is on its last legs.

I heard their formulas were leaked, and the Weller family is squeezing them out.

Theres no profit there anymore.

Are you really going to abandon us for them? Please reconsider! Stephen sneered

A bad move? Aspen, Ive been through hell and back in the real world while you little girl playing in the dirt.

You think you can teach me whats right and wrong? were still He continued, Yes, your pharmaceutical project is impressive, but youve misunderstood something crucial.

No matter how good your project is, can it compete with the influence of Mr.

Lloyd, the king of Jayrodales underworld? Stephen leaned in slightly, his gaze sharp.

Let me be blunt if Mr.

Lloyd asked me to produce a pile of worthless crap, itd still be a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. Making Mr.

Lloyd happy means everything

You really think I care about a bit of profit when I have a chance to secure a relationship like this?
He let out a mocking laugh, exhaling a lazy smoke ring as he leaned back in his chair.

You see, for me, isn't about chasing money

It's about building the right relationships connections that can make me untouchable.

business Aspen and Christina's faces darkened with fury and frustration.

They could not believe Stephen had become so devoted to Andrew.

It was like he saw Andrew as a father figure despite just getting beaten half to death by him moments ago

How could someone change their mindset so drastically and so fast? Christina gritted her teeth.

Mr.

Brunner, I know Andrew well.

Don't be fooled by his current success

He's not someone capable of accomplishing great things he's too laid back and weak willed.

Aspen chimed in, You might not

know

es, but Andrew's backed bet

Marvin, the wealthiest man in Jayrodale.

Marvin is cunning and ruthless.

For all you know, Andrew might just be a pawn in his game.

Dylan and Natasha don't really answer to Andrew they serve Marvin. Stephen chuckled darkly.

Does that matter? Let me ask you both who holds the most power

aristina frowned. the officials in Jawer net

a frowned. Coet

Obviously, it's Mr.

Thatcher

Wrong, Completely wrong, Stephen said with a scoff.

The real power lies with the mayor's secretary the person who handles everything behind the scenes.

By the same logic, even if Andrew is Marvin's pawn, he's still someone worth currying favor with.

I haven't done anything wrong.

I'm just doing what anyone in my position would do.

He paused, narrowing his eyes as he continued slowly

And by the way, it'd be wise not to spread rumors about Mr.

Lloyd being a puppet.

I've met plenty of powerful figures in my time, but Mr.

Lloyd is different.

He added, His presence is subtle yet oppressive.

He doesn't flaunt his power, but it's there calm and unshakable, like a mountain standing tall in a storm.

Swanet

That's not something you can fake.

Christina let out a bitter laugh.

Mr.

Brunner, you've barely known Andrew, but I was his ex.

I know him better than you ever will.

Trust me when I say, you're being deceived by appearances, Stephen glanced at her coldly.

And that's exactly why you, Ms.

Christina, are stuck running a small corporation.

You dont have what it takes to rise higher.

Chapter 644 As for why? Its simple, Stephen sneered

Because you cant recognize his true capabilities while others can.

Your understanding is so shallow that youre still stuck questioning the reality.

Christinas face flushed with embarrassment as she glared at him.

Mr.

Brunner, were talking business here- theres no need to get personal.

Besides, how can you be so sure that what you see is the truth? Stephen chuckled coldly

How? Because Im leagues ahead of you, Glorious Pharmaceuticals crushes your Stevens Corporation in every way.

The nobody you keep badmouthing Mr

Lloyd is the undisputed king of Jayrodales underworld.

He owns the biggest, most exclusive spot in town, Moonlit Sanctuary, and hes a board member at Rhodes Corporation.

Without Mr.

Lloyd propping you up, your company is on the decline, and as for you, Ms.

Stevens, your glory days as Jayrodales darling CEO are over.

Lets be real who still talks about you in the media? Hardly anyone cares anymore.

His pointed questions hit hard, leaving Christina pale and speechless.

She clenched her fists as her eyes glistened with tears, but she swallowed her pride, determined not to show weakness.

Aspens eyes blazed with fury.

Christie, lets go ! Theres no reasoning with a blind fool like him

If hes too dumb to see who Andrew really is, then let him have his precious partnership.

Jayrodale has plenty of other pharmaceutical companies besides Glorious! Stephen smirked

Dont let the door hit you on the way out Oh, and Aspen, I hear youve been stirring up trouble with Mr. Lloyd lately.

Listen carefully if you keep acting like a clown, III make sure youre completely shut out of this industry. One word from me, and youll be done.

Aspen laughed coldly.

Stephen, we were polite because we needed you, but now thats over.

Your threats are meaningless to me.

You dont have the power to play in the same league as me.

The Bridgefields Stevens family could crush Glorious

Pharmaceuticals without breaking a

sweat Stephen rolled his real net

eyes,

clearly bored.

Another spoiled brat who hides behind her family name.

Do you think that impresses me? Get lost.

Just seeing you basic bitches makes me sick.

How many times do you need to fail in Jayrodale before you learn your lesson? If it werent for the halfway decent reputation of your Stevens family do you really think youd still be standing here talking to me? Hell Id have had you both tied up an and shipped off to some seedy corner of the world by now.

Aspens fury hit its peak, her eyes practically glowing with murderous intent.

However, she forced herself to hold back.

Her strongest ally, Gordon, was still out of commission, leaving her without the leverage to retaliate. Outside Glorious Pharmaceuticals, both Aspen and Christina wore grim expressions.

That bastard Stephen ! Ill make sure he pays for this, Aspen snarled through gritted teeth

No matter where Andrew showed up , she always ended up on the losing side

Wstina sighed and forc

x smile. Content belon

Aspen, lets just move on and find another company

Whats done is done theres no point dwelling on it

Aspen was about to respond when she saw something near the entrance.

a

A security guard was hanging up a poster that read: [Stevens Corporation staff and dogs are not allowed inside

] An explosion of rage and humiliation ignited in both women.

Christina, who was usually the calm and composed one, finally snapped.

Hes gone too far! she shouted, her voice shaking with anger.

Chapter 645 Marcus had not expected the task of securing a pharmaceutical partner to be handled so easily.

Mr.

Lloyd, your moves today have truly impressed me, Marcus said with a grin.

How about I treat you to a night out? Andrew chuckled.

Mr.

Chapman, lets head back to the office first and check on how things are going with Lauren.

As for your offer, maybe tomorrow.

Marcus nodded enthusiastically

Its a deal then ! You cant back out tomorrow I insist on helping you unwind and enjoy yourself.
Andrew teased, Mr.

Chapman, you always seem so focused on work.

I never pegged you as someone who enjoyed going out and having fun.

Or is this one of those you never really know someone moments ? Marcus laughed.

Youve got it wrong.

Lloyd

Mr.

Sure, I spend most of my time on work and my daughter, but I know when to take a break and splurge on a good time

Whats the point of making all this money if you dont enjoy yourself now and then? Andrew raised an eyebrow and joked, Special experiences, huh? Care to share

wry smile.

Come on, Mr.

Lloyd.

few tips? Marcus shook his head with a

Youre the underground king of Jayrodale my Tittle indulgences would seem trivial to you.

H Andrew thought for a moment and then said, Mr.

Chapman, you can tell Lauren about my involvement in Jayrodales underground scene, but dont mention it to Tiana yet.

Ive got my reasons frankly, I just cant bring myself to fully trust her.

Marcus gave a serious nod.

Understood, Mr.

Lloyd

You have my word

Even if Andrew had not said anything, Marcus had already decided to keep todays events to himself.

Witnessing the real power behind

Jayrodales underground world was

swnovel bet

a chilling reminder of how dangerous loose talk could

Besides, Marcus had gained deep respect for Andrew.

In his eyes, Andrew had become a figure worthy of the same reverence as Tiana.

They drove back to Rhodes Corporation, but when they arrived, Andrew noticed Lauren was not in her office

Eunice, where's Lauren ? Andrew asked, glancing at the assistant, who was busy working at her desk. Eunice hesitated before answering quietly, Mr.

Lloyd, she went to confront Mrs.

Rhodes and hasn't returned yet.

They've been arguing since this morning, and it's been intense.

Honestly, I'd advise you not to get involved you don't want to provoke Mrs.

Rhodes right now.

Andrew's expression darkened

Lauren is under my protection now.

I don't care if she's up against Tiana or anyone else no one messes with her.

Without waiting for a response, he turned and headed straight for Tiana's office.

Eunice called after him, but he ignored her.

Frustrated, she shook her head in exasperation.

Everyone in the company knew that Lauren and Tiana were at each other's throats.

Anyone caught in the crossfire

risked a verbal lashing or worse Tiana had been known to slap

people on the spot.

Good luck, Andrew, Eunice muttered under her breath, knowing Tianas temper all too well. Inside the CEOs office, Tianas face was cold and stern.

Ive made myself clear the top

priority is to get the

Pharma

Division back on track.

Bane has provided three exceptional formulas, and the factories will prioritize their production needs. Theres no debate on this Lauren stood stiffly before the desk, her eyes blazing with defiance.

Oh, really? And what about my formulas ? Are you saying they dont matter anymore?

Chapter 646 Tiana spoke with an icy tone.

Where are those formulas of yours? Im guessing that punk Andrew handed you some worthless nonsense just to pacify you.

Laurens face darkened.

Mom, Dr.

Lloyds formulas are highly classified

I cant show it to you yet due to confidentiality.

But if you think its trash, then Im sorry to say that your prejudice has blinded you.

Banes formulas dont even compare to what Dr.

Lloyd provided.

Tiana scoffed

You're letting your attachment to Andrew cloud your judgment.

Let me remind you Bane is a top talent from the Advanced Medical Institute

Whether his formulas are perfect or not, it's far superior to anything Andrew could offer

If Bane's work weren't up to par, then Andrew's would be absolute garbage, not even worth reviewing. Lauren clenched her teeth.

You keep claiming that you're giving Michael and me equal opportunities, but in the end, you're still biased toward him, aren't you? Tiana's gaze hardened

Bane's formulas are already in production at the factories.

We'll see the results soon enough.

And no, I'm not showing favoritism.

I simply trust Bane's expertise and the Advanced Medical Institute -far more than Andrew's.

Michael, who had been lounging on the couch with a smug grin, decided to chime in.

Lauren, stop pestering Aunt Tiana already.

I can believe Andrew knows a bit about medicine, sure.

But him having groundbreaking formulas? Please.

Id sooner believe that drinking weed killer could prolong your life.

Laurens voice turned icy.

Michael, youre such a loser that you cant stand to see anyone else succeed.

Thats why you doubt everything and everyone

But every time, the one who ends up getting stomped is always you.

Michaels expression darkened, and he shot to his feet with a cold glare.

Oh, so Im a loser, huh? You think Im always the one who gets stomped? Well, this time, lets see what youve got.

Banes formulas for Rhodes Corporations Pharmaceutical Division are valued at over a billion dollars. And what about Andrew ? Isnt he supposed to be helping you ? Ha! I bet hes more interested in you than the business.

My dear cousin, wake up! Andrew is just Marvins puppet, a pawn sent to manipulate you.

Youd be better off packing your

bags and marrying Joe over in Blumedale! Michaels voice dripped with mockery as he leaned back, smirking.

He did not care how many times he lost.

As far as he was concerned, Lauren was destined to marry and leave the company, making him the inevitable victor.

Laurens fury boiled over.

She glared at him and said, Listen carefully, Michael.

Im not going anywhere.

I dont recognize anyone but Andrew.

I dont even care about being CEO of Rhodes Corporation, because its not something I desire.

But Andrew has sacrificed so much for me

Hes poured billions into this company, and I wont betray him.

So, even if its just for him, I wont let a pathetic failure like you take the CEO position.

I refuse to let you benefit from Andrews hard work! Michaels eyes blazed with rage as he shouted
What did you just say? Say it again! Lauren smirked coldly.

Oh, did I hit a nerve? Fine.

III say it again- Before she could continue Tiana slammed her hands on the desk and shouted,
Enough! Both of you, shut up!

Chapter 647 Lauren and Michael both fell silent, tension hanging in the air.

Tiana gave Lauren a mocking smile

You really have a knack for siding with outsiders, dont you? Whats the matter? Just because
Andrew spent a few billion dollars, you feel the need to defend him? Listen, Lauren, youre the
Rhodes familys heiress.

Family interests come before anything else, Tiana continued coldly.

Do you honestly think Andrew threw billions around just because he cares about you? No.

He has his own hidden agenda and ambitions.

She gave a disdainful scoff.

He wants you.

He wants to use you to establish a connection with the Rhodes family.

Wake up, Lauren.

Dont be so naive

Laurens face remained emotionless.

Im fully aware of who truly cares about me.

So, Im sorry, Mom, but I dont agree with you. Tianas expression hardened.

Whether you agree or not, I dont care anymore.

The decision is final.

The factories.

will prioritize Bane and the Pharmaceutical Divisions projects.

If you believe Andrew can turn things around, then let him prove it.

Laurens voice rose in anger.

How is he supposed to prove anything if you wont even let the factories produce my formulas ?
Tiana sneered.

If Andrew is as capable as you claim, let him figure it out himself

Just then, the office door swung open, and Andrew walked in with an icy expression.

Michael, who had been itching for a fight, exploded in rage.

Who the hell let you in ? Get out! This is a Rhodes family meeting

What right do you have to be here? Andrew motioned with his hand, his voice cold.

What right? Come over here, and I'll show you

Michael gritted his teeth and stomped toward Andrew.

Oh, I'm coming.

Lets see what you've got ! Heres the truth, Andrew you're nothing but a pile of shit to the Rhodes family, Michael spat

Before Michael could finish, Andrew slapped him.

Michael let out a pained howl as he was sent flying back three meters and crashed to the ground.

belongs to store

You hit me ? In front of Aunt Tiana? Michael screamed as he scrambled to his feet, clutching his bruised face

His eyes blazed with fury.

You're dead, Andrew ! I swear I'll kill you today! Andrew's eyes flashed with a deadly gleam.

He strode forward and slapped Michael twice more, sending teeth, spit, and blood flying. Michael stumbled back, utterly humiliated.

Andrew stood over him, his voice cold and detached. Listen carefully.

You're not the CEO anymore.

So what makes you think you can

act tough? Second, Andrew added,

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his eyes narrowing, you seem to forget that I hold a five billion dollar stake in Rhodes Corporation.

You think you can just insult a major shareholder without consequences? Mrs.

Rhodes being here won't save you.

In fact, I was about to ask her to weigh in on your behavior.

Turning to Tiana, Andrew spoke calmly, Mrs.

Rhodes, Michael attacked me without provocation.

Don't you think you should step in and handle this? Or has Rhodes Corporation become so rotten that your family can bully whoever they want without repercussions? Tiana crossed her arms and gave a cold laugh.

Mr.

Lloyd, are you trying to put me in a corner with that question? Andrews tone remained even

Not at all.

Im simply wondering if Rhodes Corporation has decayed beyond repair.

If so, I can always pull my investment and walk away.

Chapter 648 Tiana clenched her teeth.

Andrew, enough is enough

You re already hit him and vented your anger.

Dont push your luck Andrews face was expressionless as he responded, I dont care about that.

I just want to ask one thing did Michael deserve to get slapped or not? Tianas face darkened as she glared at Michael

Despite being a member of the family, Michaels inability to control his temper had made him an easy target.

Andrew had taken full advantage of the situation, and even if she wanted to defend Michael, there was not much she could do

After all, a major shareholder like Andrew demanded a certain level of respect.

Mr.

Lloyd, Tiana finally said in a clipped tone, youve made your point.

Lets just end this here.

I dont want anyone questioning my decisions.

Michael, still holding his swollen face, had no choice but to swallow his anger.

He knew he had acted impulsively and now had to suffer the consequences.

Quietly, he thanked his luck that Andrew had not hit him any harder.

Lauren, meanwhile, felt a surge of satisfaction watching Andrew handle Michael.

She smiled warmly and said, Dr.

Lloyd, what brings you here? Andrew chuckled

I came to check if anyones been giving my girlfriend a hard time.

As her man, its my job to protect her

II Michael clenched his fists in fury at Andrews words, thinking, Andrew, you bastard, just wait.

III make you pay for this someday.

Andrew gently took Laurens hand and said, Lets go.

The issue with the factory has already been resolved.

Laurens eyes widened in surprise

Resolved? But all the factories under the Pharmaceutical Division are already booked.

Andrew glanced at Michael and smirked.

Theres more than one pharmaceutical manufacturer in Jayrodale.

Glorious Pharmaceuticals has already started production for us and is working overtime to meet our needs.

Lauren stared at him, stunned.

Glorious Pharmaceuticals? Thats the largest manufacturer in the city! Dr.

Lloyd, how did you manage to get Stephen to cooperate? That guys a powerhouse who plays both sides hes

hot easy deal with.

Andrew grinned, Simple.

I gave him an offer he couldnt refuse.

Tiana, suspicious, narrowed her eyes.

Are you seriously telling me you got Glorious Pharmaceuticals to start production? Andrew and Lauren walked out the door without turning back.

Not asked

Demanded, Andrew replied as they exited.

to Tianas eyes flashed with disbelief.

Demanded? From Stephen? Dont make me laugh.

He wouldnt even show me that kind of respect.

Michael crossed his arms, sneering

Aunt Tiana, come on.

Theres no way Andrew could sway Stephen.

Id be more likely to see the sun rise in the west.

Tiana scoffed.

Stephen doesnt even care about my influence anymore

Check with Glorious Pharmaceuticals to see if Andrews telling the truth.

If he is, then Stephen has some explaining to do.

Michael immediately pulled out his phone and searched for Stephens number.

As he dialed, he muttered confidently, Aunt Tiana, dont worry.

Stephen is all about profit.

If he ignored your offers, theres no way Andrew.

could have made him budge.

He smirked as the phone rang.

III make you a promise- Stephen

Andrew , III live stream myself eating shit

Chapter 649

This is Michael Rhodes

I wanted to ask you about something, Michael said, forcing a polite tone as the call connected.

Stephens voice came across as indifferent.

Oh, its you, Mr.

Rhodes.

Im busy, so just get to the point

Michael hesitated, then asked, Well, I heard your Glorlous Pharmaceuticals is working with Andrew Lloyd.

Is that true? Stephen responded nonchalantly, Of course its true.

Im in the middle of overseeing several factories rushing production for Mr.

Lloyd as we speak.

Now, unless you have something important, dont waste my time.

Michaels jaw dropped in shock.

Youre not joking, right? houre actually producing for Andrew? Stephen sighed impatiently.
Michael, do I sound like Im joking? I told you Im busy making sure things get done for Mr. Lloyd

I dont have time for your nonsense

Wait a second- Michael stammered, his voice rising with anger.

What the hell is this? Mrs.

Rhodes personally reached out to you before, and you gave her excuse after excuse ! But now youre bending over backward for Andrew? Are you saying Mrs.

Rhodes isnt as important as him? Stephen chuckled coldly.

Oh, trying to intimidate me with Mrs.

Rhodes now? Well, you can tell her this: at Glorious Pharmaceuticals, we believe the biggest force in the world is Mr.

Lloyd

Michaels face turned red with fury.

Stephen, do you even realize what youre saying? Youd better show some respect. Stephen sneered.

Respect? Glorious Pharmaceuticals is my company.

I built it with real hard work and skill.

You think Im afraid of Mrs.

Rhodes ? Whats she going to do eat me alive? Im only calling you Mr.

Rhodes out of politeness, but lets be real youre nothing but a useless rich kid living off your familys reputation

You dont deserve my respect, Stephen spat, then slamming the phone with a loud click. Michael stood frozen, his face twisted with rage.

That bastard! Hes asking for death! he snarled, his hand trembling as he gripped the phone.

He could not understand why Stephen was bowing to Andrew like a loyal dog.

How could Stephen, a man who

Ignored Rhodes Corporations power

and Tianas influence, choose

elinet

Andrew, over them? Aunt Tiana, recommend that Rhodes

Corporation officially cut all ties with Glorious Pharmaceuticals, Michael fumed.

His anger showed no signs of cooling.

Tiana was silent for a moment, then muttered coldly, Idiot Michael looked stunned.

Youre scolding me? You should be scolding Stephen and Andrew ! Tianas voice turned icy.

I am scolding you

Stephen controls Glorious Pharmaceuticals, the largest pharmaceutical company in Jayrodale.

Cutting ties with them? What

happens if our Pharmaceutical

Division needs its resources later ? How do you plan to handle that ?

You're letting your bruised ego dictate your actions.

Acting impulsively without considering the consequences- that's exactly why you keep failing to meet my expectations, she added sharply.

Chapter 650 Michael scowled, his frustration evident.

So what now? If Andrew's formula gets produced by Glorious Pharmaceuticals, does that mean I'll be outperformed? Tiana's lips curled into a mocking smile.

What's the matter? Don't tell me you have no confidence in yourself.

Michael's face flushed

It's not about confidence.

I just don't want things to keep going sideways

I was this close to securing the CEO position, but now I'm worried Andrew will pull some stunt and mess it all up again

Tiana replied calmly, I'll admit, it surprised me that Andrew could sway Stephen.

But without a solid formula- or if what he has turns out to be trash it won't be enough to compete with you. Bane is a top expert from the Advanced Medical Institute, and I'm putting my faith in him and you to restore the Pharmaceutical Division's standing. Hearing this, Michael's anger faded, replaced by a smug grin.

Thank you for trusting me, Aunt Tiana.

Don't worry, Bane will help us achieve great things for the division.

Meanwhile, in Lauren's office, Marcus was recounting the events from earlier that morning.

Dr.

Lloyd, you had Dylan rough up Stephen? Is that the irresistible reason you mentioned? Lauren asked, her.

eyes wide with surprise.

Andrew sighed.

I wasn't planning on getting physical, but Stephen and his people at Glorious Pharmaceuticals were acting so arrogant

I had no choice but to teach them a little lesson.

Lauren giggled.

Dr.

Lloyd, you're getting more domineering by the day.

Stephen is a well known powerhouse in Jayrodale, a hands on businessman with ties to the underworld.

Most people wouldn't dare provoke him.

Andrew grinned

Actually, I won him over with my charm.

Believe me? Lauren covered her mouth, laughing.

Oh, sure.

I totally believe that! Marcus chuckled

Well, now that Glorious Pharmaceuticals is producing for us, we'll soon see how Mr.

Lloyd's results compare to Bane's.

Lauren's expression turned serious

Both Mom and Michael have high expectations for Bane.

Let's just hope he can live up to them.

Marcus nodded

I'm only putting my faith in Mr.

Lloyd

Lauren smiled sweetly.

What a coincidence.

So am I.

After a brief chat, Marcus left to return to the Pharmaceutical

Division, leaving Andrew and El

Swan

alone.

Andrew paused for a moment

before asking, Lauren, is something going on? Has your mother been pressuring you in some way ?
Laurens body tensed slightly, though she forced a smile

No, Dr.

Lloyd.

Why would you ask that? You know personally no one, not even my mother, can control me my
Andrew gaze steady and piercing.

watched her silently, his ne

Under his intense stare, Laurens forced smile gradually faded, and she looked away, nervous.

Actually, I overheard your conversation with Mrs.

Rhodes earlier, Andrew said softly.

Joe hes the fiance your family arranged for you, isnt he? Lauren panicked.

Dr.

Lloyd, please believe me! I havent done anything to betray you.

I swear! Andrew Shook his head gently and took her hand in his.

His voice was calm and warm.

Silly girl, of course, I believe you.

If I didnt, I wouldnt still be here at Rhodes Corporation

He added, Now tell me who is Joe? And what exactly does the Rhodes family expect from you?