

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 726 -

Chapter 726

“What?” Everyone shouted in shock. A bottle fell out of someone’s hand and broke into pieces as it crashed to the ground.

Nobody expected the medicine they tasted to be poison!

It was supposed to be just an easy examination to identify the components of the medicine. How did it turn into a life-threatening situation? Was it necessary for the examination to be so extreme?

“Dr. Watkins, isn’t this going too far?” The invigilator frowned. Linden had always done his best to save lives, so using poison to test them seemed unusual.

“There is a fine line between medicine and poison. There are times when poison can also be used to save lives. It all depends on how someone uses them. As long as it’s effective, it doesn’t matter how it’s being used,” Linden said seriously.

“But-”

“Enough.”

The invigilator was about to say something when Linden raised a hand and cut him off. “The Stoneray Order does not accept incompetent students. Anyone who isn’t confident in your own skills, you may choose to quit.

“All you need to do is walk straight to the door, collect the antidote, and get the hell out of here. However, your life will be in your own hands if you continue.”

“I. I’m out!”

“Forget it. I don’t want to risk it. I’m giving up.”

“Damn it! This is gambling with our lives! Who would be brave enough to continue? I’m quitting too!”

When they learned their lives were in danger, most gave up.

Although being accepted into the Stoneray Order would promise them a bright future ahead, nobody was willing to risk their lives for it. The price to pay was too high.

Furthermore, if the first test was so difficult, won't the second test be even more challenging?

Who would want to take such a risk when they were not confident?

Before 30 minutes were over, most people in the hall had left, and only a few people stayed. The remaining ones were either really confident or really skillful.

Since Dustin had already made known that there were aconite and Fritillaria bulbs in the

concoction, it increased their chances of producing the antidote.

"Alright, those who should leave have already left. Those who passed the first test can proceed directly to the second test," Linden announced.

As soon as he said that, a large door at the side of the hall slowly opened, leading to a big alchemy

room.

It had everything they would need. Many herbs, alchemy furnaces, charcoal, and minerals were

available for them to use.

"Go in." The invigilator led the group into the alchemy room.

It was a large room. Besides the alchemy equipment, there were rows of cabinets filled with various medicinal herbs. At a glance, it had all sorts of medicinal ingredients. There were even some rare and precious herbs.

"Your second test is to produce a medicinal pill." When everyone was ready, the invigilator

continued, "On the table before you is a recipe. All you need to do is produce Curax, which will be

your antidote.

“The judging criteria are easy. Whoever produces a higher-quality Curax will receive a higher score. You have an hour. If the pill is successfully produced before times up, it will be considered

a pass.

The timer started counting down, and the invigilator announced, “Your test starts now!”

With no time for hesitation, everyone began moving.

Producing a medicinal pill was challenging to accomplish. And with the time limit of an hour, it was even more difficult

Everyone had to be quick and careful to avoid making mistakes while producing the medicine. Once there was any mistake, it would be a failure.

“You just got lucky in the previous round, bastard! This time, I’m going to crush you!” Preston glared at Dustin and then quickly made his pill. He was going to beat everyone by producing the highest quality Curax!

“Hmph! He’s just an ordinary doctor! Let’s see what other tricks he has up his sleeves!” Miranda said angrily, unwilling to admit defeat.

She put all her effort into producing the medicinal pill. Her pride as a genius did not allow her to be defeated a second time.

“Curax?” Dustin ignored them and read the recipe given. He smiled thoughtfully.

Many people were able to produce medicinal pills. But to stand out and beat everyone, one must put in extra effort and skill.

“That’s odd. Why does my head hurt?”

“I’m having a stomachache. I feel like I might shit my pants!”

“Oh no! It’s the poison’s effect!”

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Chapter 727

Right then, many of them began showing signs of poisoning. Some felt dizzy, and others experienced severe abdominal pain. Some even had cramps.

Although their symptoms were different, it would affect their production of the medicinal pill. But giving up was not an option. They could only grit their teeth and continue.

“Who do you think will be number one today, Dr. Watkins?” an elder with a white beard asked.

“Preston and Miranda are performing well and gifted in the medical field, so they are considered geniuses. But I think the young man will do better.” Linden looked at Dustin.

“Him?” The elder followed and looked at Dustin too.

Then, he asked, curious, “But Dr. Watkins, he’s a nobody. Maybe he was lucky in the previous round. He’s still not on the same level as Preston and Miranda.”

No matter their family background, talents, or medical accomplishments, they were not on the same level. And Dustin’s good luck would not change anything.

“Hahaha... We’ll find out soon enough.” Linden smiled and said nothing else. He sat and watched. He refused to believe that someone who could see through his plans was just a nobody.

“Bang!” After a moment, an explosion was heard in the hall.

A man’s alchemy furnace burst when he made a mistake. The hot liquid, burning charcoal, and

furnace fragments splattered all over his face.

“Ah!” The man screamed in pain as he clutched his burned face.

“Somebody bring him away!” The invigilator waved his hand, and several members of the Stoneray Order moved to help the man.

“Bang!”

“Bang!”

“Bang!”

As the first person was carried away, several others had their furnaces explode as well. They had burned faces and were carried out too.

Some made mistakes because of the poison’s effects and the pressure they were under to save themselves. Some burnt their pills, some could not solidify their pills, and some of their furnaces

exploded

The number of people who were eliminated increased quickly.

“Done!” When there were still 30 minutes left, Preston shouted as he showed the crowd the red pill

he had taken from the furnace.

The invigilator walked to Preston and looked at his pill. Then he praised. “Not bad, you have indeed produced a Curax And it is a good quality one!”

“A good quality Curax? That’s amazing!”

“As expected of Dr. Darby’s best student! Impressive!”

“He managed to produce a Curax of good quality even though he was poisoned! That’s amazing!”

Everyone was shocked to hear what the invigilator said.

Preston quickly completed the task under such stressful conditions. It showed how amazing his medical skills and accomplishments were.

“Done!” Not long after Preston was done, Miranda finished hers. The pill she produced was like Preston’s in both looks and properties.

“Very well done. A good quality Curax too!” The invigilator nodded, very pleased. The two geniuses from Asclepia had not disappointed him.

As time continued, others successfully produced the Curax. Yet, they mostly failed. Soon, one hour was almost over.

“Dr. Watkins, it seems like Preston and Miranda are winning. As for that young man you had your eyes on, I guess he won’t pass this test if he hasn’t produced the pill by now.” The elder smiled. Suddenly, Dustin’s furnace exploded with a loud bang.

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Chapter 728

“Bang!” When Dustin’s alchemy furnace exploded, everyone turned and looked at him. Some were shocked, some were confused, and some were enjoying what they saw.

After a moment of shock, Preston and Miranda laughed out loud.

“Hahaha! His furnace exploded? And here I thought he might secretly be an expert. It turns out he just managed to make his furnace explode?” Preston ridiculed.

Because of Dustin’s excellent performance in the previous test, Preston thought he was a strong opponent. So, he did his best to produce the pill.

But now that Dustin’s furnace exploded, Preston thought he had just been overreacting. If someone’s furnace exploded, that person was not suitable to be considered his rival.

“What were we expecting? Trash will always be trash. Just because he got lucky once will not change anything. Under a bit of pressure, he can’t take it and starts making mistakes.” Miranda looked down on Dustin.

How could an ordinary doctor compare to medical geniuses from Asclepia like them?

“Dr.

Watkins, you always had an eye for talent. But I think you might have made a mistake today. The elder had a faint smile on his face.

It was a big problem for an alchemist’s furnace to explode and was considered a rookie mistake. No matter how well Dustin did in the previous round, the fact that his furnace exploded proved that he was still bad at alchemy when compared with Preston and Miranda.

“We don’t know that yet.” Linden shook his head.

“Dr. Watkins, time is running out, and that young man’s furnace has exploded. How will he be able to succeed?” The elder chuckled.

Linden remained silent as he watched on.

“You failed to produce the medicinal pill, so you’re eliminated!” the invigilator announced as he walked up to Dustin.

“Hang on... Who said I failed?” Dustin asked calmly, not giving up yet.

“Didn’t you fail when your furnace already exploded?” The invigilator frowned. He believed that Dustin was only there to create trouble for them.

“Hey, bastard. You should just admit your defeat. There’s no point in continuing to be unreasonable. If you can’t produce a single Curax, how are you different from trash?” Preston looked at him with mockery.

“Stop embarrassing yourself here. Just leave!” Miranda glared at Dustin too.

“Why are **you** two complaining non-stop? It’s true that my furnace has exploded, but that doesn’t mean I failed to produce a pill,” Dustin said calmly.

“What? Are **you** still continuing to be stubborn? Do you think that you can just magically produce a Curax out of thin air?” Preston smirked.

“Why not? Now open your **eyes** wide and look here. This is the real Curax!” With that said, Dustin brushed aside some shards of the furnace. Then, he took out a dark red pill from the broken pieces.

It was really a Curax!

“What the f*ck? He actually did it? Is this true?”

“It’s true! It is Curax! In fact, it looks like it’s good quality!”

“Damn it! He produced that even after his furnace exploded? That’s amazing!”

The crowd excitedly commented when they saw the pill in Dustin’s hand.

Logically speaking, an exploded furnace would mean that one had failed. But this young man had broken all the rules and surprised everyone.

“You... How did you do it?” Preston stared at him, wide-eyed with disbelief.

Miranda was shocked too, and she refused to believe it. She had thought that they’d easily be able to defeat Dustin. But he actually made it and managed to produce it!

“If you can do it, there’s no doubt I’d be able to do it too.” Dustin smiled faintly.

As he spoke, he passed the pill to the invigilator.

The invigilator frowned after taking a good look at the pill. From the looks of it, it was indeed Curax. But it seemed like there was something else in there.

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Chapter 729

The Curax that Dustin produced was different from the regular Curax in terms of color, scent, and size.

“Hmph! So what if he managed to produce the pill? Just looking at it, we can tell its quality is not up to standard!” Miranda folded her arms arrogantly.

“Exactly! The test for the second round is to compare the quality of pills that we’ve produced. This pill that he produced from an exploded furnace is definitely trash!” Preston regained his confidence.

The pill he produced was good quality, and Dustin's was a low grade. They were on completely different levels!

"How weird..." The invigilator studied the pill for a while.

Because he was scared to make a decision by himself, he took the pill and showed it to Linden and the rest of the elders. "Dr. Watkins and elders. I think there's something strange about this Curax. But I am not sure."

"Oh? Is that so? Let me see?" An elder took the pill and looked at it seriously. Then, he was shocked.

"Dr. Watkins, this young man is something else. Please have a look." After studying the pill repeatedly, he passed the pill to Linden.

"Interesting." Linden smiled widely after looking at the pill. The young man indeed had many tricks up his sleeves.

"Dr. Watkins, what quality is this pill?" the invigilator asked.

"Can't **you** tell? This is a top grade pill!" The elder said.

"What? Top grade?" The invigilator was taken aback,

Though good quality pills and top grade pills sounded like they weren't that much different, there was actually a very big difference between the two. It would not be an exaggeration to say that 100 good quality pills were no match for one top grade pill.

Not even Linden could produce a top grade pill. Even Preston and Miranda were still not capable of making top grade pills. Was it possible that Dustin was even more skillful than Linden?

"Don't just stand there. Go ahead and announce the results!" Linden urged.

"Sure..." The invigilator gulped before he turned around and raised the pill in his hand.

With a loud voice, he announced, "According to our united decision, this pill is a top grade pill. The person who produced this has received a perfect score!"

"Top grade pill? How is that possible?" The crowd shouted.

However, Preston and Miranda stood there, frozen in place, disbelief on their faces.

Everyone knew how difficult it was to produce a top grade pill. Even professional alchemists could only make one top grade pill out of every 100 pills that they created. And even then, it was

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Chapter 730

“What? He changed the recipe?” Everyone was surprised by Linden’s explanation.

Every recipe was created only after millions of experiments. The smallest change in ingredients or dosage would disrupt its balance and cause the production of the pill to fail.

For someone to change the recipe, they needed talent and lots of experiments. **For** someone to be able to change up the recipe on the spot and succeed right away, he had to have crazy good luck,

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or he must be a medical genius who was out of this world.

“No way! That’s impossible!” After a moment of shock, Preston continued, “There’s no way you can change the recipe so easily! Even my mentor can’t change a recipe that’s meant to produce a good quality pill into one that produces top grade pills within such a short time frame! How is it possible that this bastard can do that?”

“Exactly! He’s just an ordinary doctor! How would he be able to change the recipe?” Miranda added.

Even with her talent, she was still unable to do something so complicated. There was no way that bastard doctor was better than her!

“Young man, these people don’t seem to believe in your ability. Would you like to explain how you did it?” Linden shot him a faint smile.

“There’s nothing to explain. I simply added a few other herbs,” Dustin said.

“Hmph! You claim that you added other herbs. So tell me, what were the herbs you added?” Preston glared at him.

“Angelica root, licorice, white creepers, and honeysuckle.” Dustin did not find it necessary to hide the information from them. He wasn’t worried that they might steal the recipe from him, as it took skills to produce top grade pills.

Besides, it was just Curax, not some rare or expensive medicine. There was no point in keeping it a secret **from** them.

After processing the information, Preston exclaimed with his brows furrowed, “That doesn’t sound right! **It** is true that Angelica root, licorice, and white creepers can enhance the effects of Curax. But **honeysuckle** reacts adversely with some other herbs in the recipe. It might cause some harmful effects when added!”

“**If** you don’t understand, don’t try to show off.” Dustin looked at Preston like he was looking at an idiot.

“Though Curax functions to detoxify the body, all the herbs used are considered to have strong effects. So when weak people take the pill, they will feel nauseous. Honeysuckle can neutralize the effects of the stronger herbs, making the medication easier for weaker patients. You should know this, don’t you? To think that you’ve been accepted into Asclepia! I expected better of you!” Dustin’s last sentence was directed toward Preston.

“You-!” Preston was at a loss for words, and his expression darkened.

Dustin’s words made so much sense that Preston couldn’t even retort him. Is it possible that this bastard **could produce top grade** pills?

“Hahaha! Brilliant! Absolutely brilliant!” Linden laughed and clapped after hearing what Dustin said.

The more Linden looked at Dustin, the more pleased he was with him. In fact, he even had the urge to have Dustin marry his granddaughter!

“Who is this person, and why is he so good?”

“Who knows? But he sure is a secret genius! There’s no doubt that he will be accepted into the Stoneray Order.”

“He beat Preston and Miranda in the first two rounds. I wonder how he will do in the final test.”

The crowd whispered among themselves excitedly. Their view of Dustin was now different.

“If there are no objections, then we shall continue to the third test.” Without wasting any time, Linden waved his hand.

Soon, an old man in a wheelchair was pushed in by two students of the Stoneray order. The old man’s face was pale, and he had sunken cheeks. Because of long-term paralysis in the legs, the muscles in his legs had shrunk, making them appear much smaller compared to the upper body. “Your third test is to heal a patient. This patient has been paralyzed for eight years. He has recently asked us for help.

“Many of our disciples don’t know what to do with his sickness. Your task **will** be to find out the cause of the condition and try your best to help the patient feel sensations in his legs.

“Within the time limit, you are allowed to observe and touch the patient yourself. But you are not allowed to ask the patient any questions. The result is based on your own abilities. Each of you will have 15 minutes to treat the patient. Who’s going first?”