

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 721 -

Chapter 721

“Does it matter to me who you are?” Dustin shrugged.

“You insolent bastard! I am the leader of Asclepia, Dr. Bruce Darby’s best student! Your disrespect toward me is a direct disrespect toward Asclepia! Just a word from me is enough to make you vanish from the medical field! Don’t test me!” Preston threatened.

The people who showed up were people involved in the medical field. Asclepia’s power stretched across the nation. And all prestigious entities in the medical world respected them. It was easy for them to wipe out a small fry.

“Oh, I’m so scared. Well, go ahead and do as you wish, then,” Dustin replied dismissively.

His unconcern attitude and disregard fueled Preston’s anger. “Y-yo-you bastard! Just wait!”

“Are you done yet? If you are, please get lost.” Dustin waved his hand impatiently as if he was driving a bug away.

“You-!” Preston gritted his teeth.

As he was about to get violent, Miranda tugged on his arm. “Preston, there’s no need to stoop to levels of such lowlife. People like him can only hope he’ll ever get to our level. He’ll never be as good as us, so all he can do is run his mouth.”

“That’s right! Only incompetent people waste their time talking. People with real skills speak with their actions!” Their lackeys added.

“You rascal! You sound sure of yourself. If that’s the case, let’s have a challenge.” It was clear that Preston wasn’t pleased. Since he couldn’t win him in an argument, it was time he put his skills to

use.

“I’m not interested.” Dustin flat-out rejected.

“Hah! Are you not interested, or you don’t have the skills? Or perhaps, you simply don’t have the guts?” Preston snickered as if he had seen through Dustin’s brave act.

“Hmph! Here I was thinking that maybe we’ve got ourselves a worthy opponent. It turns out he’s just a cowardly chicken!” Miranda mocked.

“This is what we call a champion boaster. They always win in an argument. But once things start getting serious, they chicken out faster than anyone else.”

“A slacker will always be a slacker. No matter what they say, the facts won’t change!”

The lackeys ridiculed and mocked Dustin, looking at him as if he were nothing more than a mere clown.

“Hey! That’s enough!” Abigail was angered. Had it not been for her concerns for decency, she would have taken action much sooner. They were a bunch who did not watch what they said.

“What? Are you just going to stay silent and let a girl stand up for you? What a worthless bum!” Preston continued to taunt.

“I intended to ignore you, but you seem adamant about getting on my nerves. Fine, you wish to challenge me, don’t you? I’ll take you up on that challenge.” Dustin did not wish to tolerate them

anymore. Just because he couldn’t be bothered to take action did not mean that he wasn’t capable of doing so.

“Wow! You’re finally acting like a man!” Preston gave a cunning grin.

“Alright, I won’t take advantage of you. Let’s just go through with Dr. Watkins’ examination. Whoever gets a higher rank in the examination wins. The loser will be the winner’s dog. How’s that? Do you dare to take up the challenge?” Preston was dead set on winning.

Preston was going to defeat Dustin so that he could crush him under his feet, utterly humiliating him. Only by doing so could he vent the anger in his heart.

“Well, if you insist on becoming my dog, I’ll agree to it, then.” Dustin had an impassive look.

“Hmph! Keep talking tough. Let’s see how much longer you can stay arrogant!” Preston sneered.

“Everyone, did you all see that? We are all witnesses to the challenge. The loser shall be the

winner’s dog.” Miranda was quick to back Preston up.

“That’s right! The loser will be a dog!” The lackeys followed along.

It wasn’t every day that they came across someone they could humiliate. They were going to grab hold of every opportunity that came their way.

“This young man is acting so recklessly. Why would he accept Preston’s challenge? At a medical examination too! Isn’t he inviting defeat upon himself?”

“If he doesn’t have the ability, he should admit defeat. But he insists on being arrogant! He’s going to embarrass himself when he loses.”

“Young people these days are too proud. They don’t know their limits.”

The crowd around them started whispering and commenting on Dustin’s actions. From their point of view, Dustin was too arrogant and would end up embarrassing himself.

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Chapter 722

“Silence!” As everyone got into a heated discussion, a loud voice roared. Then, a group of elders of the Stoneray Order entered the hall.

Dr. Linden Watkins, leader of the Stoneray Order, walked before the group. Several other elders and some of the administrative disciples followed behind him.

“Is that Dr. Linden Watkins? He has such a grand aura coming from him!”

“Whoever does well in the examination today will be chosen as Dr. Watkins’ student. And will be learning from Dr. Watkins himself. The chosen one will have a bright future ahead!”

The mood turned serious when Linden entered. Everyone looked at him with respect in their eyes.

Linden was the best of the great three doctors in Balerno. Not only was he a skilled doctor, but he also had many students in the entire country. Everyone respected him. It would be a big achievement to become his student.

“We have some interesting candidates here today.” He looked at the crowd, briefly focusing on Preston and Miranda

Asclepia had managed to make a name for themselves in the medical field. And now their influence increased and would soon be on the same level as the Stoneray Order. Preston and Miranda’s presence within Asclepia helped them recruit more geniuses. Linden paid close attention to these rising talents of the younger generation.

“Let’s begin.” Linden nodded to the rest of the elders. Then he sat in the center as the other elders sat on both sides of him.

“The examination will begin.” An invigilator dressed in black stood before the crowd. Then he announced, “There are three parts to this examination. First, you will need to identify some drugs. Second, you will have to produce a medicine And finally, you will cure a sick patient.”

“Now, please get ready for the first test.” With a wave of his hand, more than ten disciples of the Stoneray Order walked in. They held a wooden box with medicine bottles inside.

“These bottles contain medicine that we’ve prepared. For your first test, you will taste it and identify the herbs used. Each of you will get a piece of paper, so list its components. Ten points will be deducted for each mistake. If you make three mistakes, you’re disqualified,” the invigilator announced.

The hall immediately buzzed with discussion when they heard that.

“My goodness! They call this simple? How are we supposed to identify the herbs used by just the taste of it? Can anyone even do that?”

“Exactly! I don’t think anyone can do that without at least 20 years of experience!”

“If the first test is this tough, I can’t imagine how difficult the next two tests will be!”

Everyone began complaining about how difficult the test was. Though everyone knew that the Stoneray Order had strict criteria for accepting students, this was harder than they thought.

“Silence!” The invigilator roared. “If anyone is dissatisfied, you can choose to give up. The Stoneray

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“Silence!” The invigilator roared. “If anyone is dissatisfied, you can choose to give up. The Stoneray

Order will not accept incompetent students!”

His simple statement was enough to silence the crowd’s grumbles and complaints. None of them were ready to give up so quickly after such a long journey there.

“If we have no objections, we will begin now. You will be given a medicine bottle and must list the ingredients within 30 minutes. Whoever completes this within the given time will continue to the next test.” The bottles were given out, and the timer started counting down.

Upon receiving the bottle, everyone quickly tasted the medicine.

Every second counted. Whoever finished the test in the shortest time would show that they were better than the rest. They might even attract the attention of the invigilators.

However, everyone frowned when they tasted the medicine. This was much more challenging than they had thought.

There were all sorts of herbs in the medicine. After they were brewed together, it was impossible to identify the specific herbs used. The taste was a mixture of bitter, sweet, and sour. It tasted disgusting.

“Challenging indeed. But I’ll handle this just fine.

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Chapter 723

Preston smiled faintly after taking three sips of the medicine and wrote on the paper. He listed down all the herbs in the medicine.

When he was halfway through, he took another sip to ensure he did everything correctly. When he was sure of his judgment, he listed the rest of the ingredients. It took him less than 10 minutes.

“I’m done.” Preston raised his hand to inform the invigilators that he finished. Although he spoke softly, he managed to attract the attention of everyone in the hall.

“Is he serious? He’s finished already in such a short time?”

“Hmph! I don’t believe he’s that good. I bet he just guessed the herbs!”

The crowd whispered among themselves. Some were amazed, while some were doubtful.

“Let me check.” The invigilator went to Preston and took his answer script. His eyes immediately lit up after going through the list.

“Not bad at all. Your answers are all correct. There’s not a single mistake. Perfect score.” The invigilator praised.

An uproar broke out among the crowd at that.

“Damn it! Did he get a perfect score? Is he that good?”

“As expected of Dr. Darby’s best student! He lives up to his name!”

“Fuck! I haven’t written a word, and he’s already listed every ingredient and is continuing to the next test. We’re not even competing at the same level.”

The crowd was shocked. Preston’s talent showed them how much they lacked medical skills and knowledge. They had no hopes of getting first place. So, they could only focus and try for second or third place.

“I’m done too.” Right then, Miranda raised her hand.

The invigilator approached her and nodded in satisfaction when he saw her answers. “Very good.

Perfect score as well.”

“Another perfect score? Aren’t they too good at this?”

“Oh man... What can I say? They’re way too good for people like us.

“They are terrifying! I don’t think I’m cut out for this. I’m giving up!”

Miranda’s perfect score destroyed everyone’s spirit. Many could not stand the pressure and chose

to give up.

“Hey, buddy! Are you not done yet? Do you need some help?” Preston turned to look at Dustin, a sarcastic smile on his face.

“Preston, I think he needs some help. He hasn’t even written a word!” Miranda turned to look at Dustin’s paper and covered her mouth to hide her snigger. She looked just like a mean b*tch.

“No way! It’s such a simple test! You can’t even manage to think of a single herb? My, aren’t you a

dumbass?” Preston mocked him, exaggerating his words.

“What’s the rush? We have lots of time,” Dustin answered casually.

“No matter how much time you have, it won’t change anything. Trash will always be trash. It doesn’t matter how hard you struggle. You’re never going to succeed.” Preston taunted.

“I say, stop struggling and just be Preston’s dog. At least he might give you a bone when he feels like it,” Miranda said with a smirk.

“Are you sure that you’re going to be the winner?” Dustin asked suddenly.

“Why not? We’ve both scored full marks, and you have not even written a word. Isn’t it obvious who the winner will be?” Preston’s lips curled into a mean smile.

“Well, seeing how confident you are, I’ll teach you a lesson today.” Without another word, Dustin quickly wrote a long list of ingredients on the paper

He wrote with great ease, without any hesitation. The crowd was stunned and amazed, wondering if he was secretly an expert.

Even Preston and Miranda were flustered. He wrote so fast and with complete certainty. They began to doubt if they had chosen the wrong person to bully.

“Done.” While everyone was still shocked by Dustin’s fast writing, he had already submitted his answer to the invigilator.

The invigilator frowned when he saw Dustin’s answer. Then, in a frosty voice, he said, “Wrong answer. You get zero marks!”

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Chapter 724

“Zero?”

Everyone was shocked before they burst out in laughter. They looked at Dustin like he was a fool.

“Hahaha... How hilarious! The audacity he has to act so arrogantly when he got zero marks!”

“He looked so certain of himself that I had begun to think he was all that. In the end, he was just pretending!”

“Even I could at least get a few points if I simply wrote some herbs. How did you manage to get zero points? What a joke!”

Everyone started to ridicule him.

They initially thought Dustin was an expert when he wrote confidently and quickly. But in the end, the zero he received said a lot about him and exposed him as a fool.

“Rascal, I must say, you sure are shameless. How can you behave so arrogantly when you’re getting zero? I am amazed.” Preston sarcastically gave him a thumbs-up.

“If you don’t have the ability, then admit that you don’t. You are humiliating yourself if you insist on being arrogant!” Miranda looked at him like he was an idiot.

“Zero?” Dustin ignored the insults thrown at him and looked straight at the invigilator. “Are you sure you didn’t make the wrong judgment?” Dustin asked.

“What? Are you questioning me?” The invigilator raised a brow.

“I don’t think I’ve made any mistakes with listing the herbs, so I’m just curious why you gave me zero points.” Dustin countered.

“You’ve indeed got most of the herbs right, but you added aconite to the list,” the invigilator said icily

“Alright, let’s put aside whether I got that wrong. Even if aconite were a wrong answer, I’d only get ten points deducted. Why did I end up with zero?” Dustin pressed.

According to the rules, one mistake meant he lost ten points. He would only be disqualified after three mistakes. He really could not comprehend how he ended up with zero marks.

“If it were just a regular mistake, I would not have given you zero points. But the problem is, you listed aconite as one of the ingredients, which reacts with the Fritillaria bulb in the medicine and becomes a deadly poison! If a doctor

cannot even understand the difference between medicine and poison, what makes you think you can join the Stoneray Order? And this is the reason why I've given you zero points. Are you happy with my explanation?" the invigilator asked gravely.

"Of course not," Dustin answered. "You were the ones who brewed the medicine. I'm only listing what I think is in there. So even if it's poisonous, that's your problem, not mine."

"How dare you!" The invigilator lost his cool right then and there. "Why would the Stoneray Order put something poisonous into our medicine? You are simply spouting nonsense!"

"Hey, rascal! Are you just here to create problems for everyone? You know you can't win, so this is your way of disrupting things?" Preston asked with irritation

"We should drive this troublemaker out, or things will only worsen." Miranda looked at him with

contempt.

"Get out! Get out!" Many of the people there echoed in agreement. How dare a person who scored zero marks behave so arrogantly? He was only going to embarrass himself even more.

"Guys, throw him out of here!" The Stoneray Order's disciples rushed toward Dustin on the invigilator's order.

"Hold on." Just as they were about to grab Dustin, Linden, who sat at the main seat and had

watched everything happen, spoke up. "He's a promising talent. Let's keep him around."

Upon hearing that, everyone was taken aback. No one expected Linden to speak up for someone

who was trash.

"Dr. Watkins, this person is making baseless claims and slanderin

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Chapter 725

“He said nothing wrong. There is aconite in the medicine.” Linden’s words shocked everyone.

“What?” That invigilator froze in disbelief. “Dr. Watkins, you must be mistaken. I remember that aconite wasn’t listed in the recipe.

The elders beside Linden did not say anything but had puzzled expressions. The medicines were brewed according to a recipe, and no one would dare to change it. How is it possible that it contained aconite?

“Originally, Aconite was not included. But I just felt like adding it, so I did,” Linden said casually,

“You felt like it?” When the crowd heard that statement, they exchanged looks with each other. Wasn’t Linden too carefree?

“Dr. Watkins, when aconite is combined with the Fritillaria bulb, it becomes poisonous. Why would you add it?” The invigilator frowned.

He had said the same thing just now to criticize Dustin. Now, Linden had confirmed that there was really aconite in the medicine.

“It’s to test everyone, of course,” Linden said casually. “If we strictly follow the recipe, it would be too simple and boring. They would easily be able to guess the ingredients.

“However, adding aconite would make things more interesting. Everyone must think outside the box to notice the little surprise I prepared for you.

“Unfortunately, none of you noticed it. Except for this man, who was sensitive enough to spot it. So technically speaking, he is the only one with a perfect score!”

The crowd became uneasy when they heard that. It seemed this was all planned by Linden. Most importantly, Dustin was the only person who successfully noticed the special ingredient added to the medicine!

Before Linden revealed the truth, the crowd thought that Dustin was just an attention seeker, SO they mocked him as much as they wanted. None of them expected that they were the real fool.

“How’s that possible? I didn’t even notice that there was aconite. How did that bastard know?” Preston’s brows furrowed as he frowned. He was usually proud and arrogant because of his talents. He could not accept losing to someone else.

“Does this scoundrel have some insider information?” Miranda had a doubtful look on her face. Even though she was talented, it took her a few years to be on the same level as her seniors. Even her mentor, Dr. Darby, always praised her and considered her a potential successor.

She had never once made a mistake regarding medicine. That was until today. So she was annoyed.

“So, I was wrong?” The invigilator’s lips twisted to a frown, and he was speechless. He felt ashamed of his actions.

“Young man, you surprised me. But I have a question for you. Can you guess why I’ve added aconite to the medicine?” Linden smiled at him thoughtfully

“It’s to poison us,” Dustin answered confidently.

“Oh? Could you explain?” Linden raised a brow

“Based on the herbs, their properties, and the dosage. The toxic effect should start in about 30 minutes. And if I’m not wrong, this is all for our second test,” Dustin said calmly.

“And what else?” Linden nodded in approval.

“They mentioned that the second test is to produce medicine. But what you want us to do is to come up with the antidote while we are poisoned. However, it won’t be easy to produce the antidote while we are experiencing the effects of the toxin.” Dustin revealed the truth.

“Hahaha... Young man, you sure have talent!” Linden laughed heartily, his eyes shining with admiration toward Dustin.

“You are right! That is our next test for you. Whoever manages to produce the antidote will move on to the next round. Whoever fails to do so will never live to see the next day!”