

Bumpkin 111

Chapter 111

Despite that, he never took it. Thus, the man still deserved his credit for his honor and kindness, which was why she couldn't leave him be. Frustrated, she walked back to Matthew's side. Due to her anger, her pale face visibly reddened, and because of that, she appeared rather charming.

Having witnessed what happened, Matthew softly quizzed, "Why help him if you're that mad?" Few moments ago when the masked man appeared, Matthew wanted to eliminate him right away, but Veronica's words and gestures reflected that she was an insightful woman. Besides, he shouldn't be meddling in any of her personal affairs, unless it was an issue she couldn't resolve, that was. That was the basic respect he had for her.

"Hmph. He... Forget it. I'm hungry, and I'll just be wasting my life away talking to him anyway." As she was venting, she snatched the meat skewer in Matthew's hand and impatiently took a bite, only for her lips to be burned by the scorching hot food. "Ah, it's still hot! Damn it all!" With problems stacking on top of each other, she couldn't help but feel irritated. For some reason, her annoyed look made her seem like the whiny little girl next door, and Matthew was entertained by it.

Thereupon, the man grabbed the meat skewer in her hand and cut it into bites with his dagger before picking a piece up with the tip of the dagger. He then blew the heat off and placed it before her mouth. "Here."

Famished, Veronica thoughtlessly nommed it down, and instantly, her face froze. She turned to Matthew with a frown. "It tastes... so bad..." Without salt, it was supposed to taste bland, but the meat was awful!

"Bad?" Baffled, Matthew had a taste for himself, to which he, too, revealed a glower. The meat was dry and carried a strong taste of burntness along with the bloody flesh underneath. The skin was burned but the flesh was thoroughly uncooked. In that instant, awkwardness surged on his handsome face.

uphill, where Matthew would only prepare porridge for meals and nothing else apart from that. Now that she thought about

the open, Matthew turned away with a sharp gaze. "It's up to you, then." His silence, to Veronica, was an implicit

the rawness of the meat, she could only bear the burnt odor on top of the fleshy stink in order to
in

took the meat away from her hands and handed her his gun. "Take this. I'll go look for something." Having said that, he shot the masked man a warning

going?" Seeing as Matthew was about to leave, Veronica suddenly felt her insecurities arise all over again, but she failed

are you, Matthew?" He's not leaving me behind because his pride was hurt after seeing me about to

that immediately soured. His stunning face revealed a vague beam. "What are you talking about, silly?" Utmost warmth and adoration was evident in that smile. Sadly, a hard-headed woman

you dare to abandon me, I'll make sure to tell Grandma about it!" She voiced her threat and pouted past life to be so ignorant and oblivious toward his subtle, loving hints. Upon her words, his smile turned into

to. Bearing that in mind, she was utterly agitated. Swiftly, she stood up and hurriedly limped before Matthew.

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Veronica was stunned at the hug that came out of nowhere. She then began to wail as she pushed Mathew away. "Waa... Matthew, you motherless scum! Why are you doing this to me?! Don't you realize how miserable I've been lately? What did I do in my past life to bump into you? If it weren't for you, I wouldn't have come across so much sh*t! Waaa... B*stard, you knew how much trouble I'm in and you're still trying to scare me! I hate you! Waa..."

Ever since Veronica met Matthew, her peaceful life had slowly turned into chaos. Thinking about the bumpy roads and being at the brink of death, she could pass out from the pressure. She got even more terrified when she was being over-analytical toward Matthew's swiftly changing emotions. Thus, when the man suddenly embraced her, she thought he was only teasing her. As her frustrations imploded, she broke down like a lost child.

As her crying was too sudden, Matthew hastily peered at her and only went up to her after a while. He grasped her shoulder and caressed her cheek with his right hand, attempting to wipe the tears off her cheek with his thumb: "You look ugly when you cry." *She's so dumb, so dumb that it hurts...*

Veronica gazed at Matthew with her soaked, reddened eyes. As she whimpered, Matthew had no idea how to comfort her. "Who are you calling ugly?!" She was exasperated.

"Okay, okay. I'm the ugly one." He brushed the tears off her cheek and pushed her into his arms with his right hand. His left palm caressed the back of her head as it fondled her hair. "Shh... Don't cry anymore." This never-before-seen tenderness and indulgence he was displaying were seemingly etched into his very soul right now.

He was devastated by her sorrowfulness. Patting her back, he comforted, "I was simply going to look for some berries for you to eat."

snuggled against his chest and felt the warmth within. Feeling her sense of security recovering, she slowly shut her eyes. "Let me be here for a

water, only to discover that her wounds were infected, and she could barely move with her high fever. After getting deserted by the masked man, she could only venture along the woods, barely walking as she dragged

Unfortunately, given her fragile body,

of wolves. As she was desperate, what were three days felt

He softly uttered, "For as long as you

she wanted to say his name instead of

she crawled out of his arms and blinked her eyes to shake off the teardrops hanging on her lengthy lashes, assuring, "Don't worry. As long as I'm alive, I'll give whatever I have

from her mouth. Upon the "praise," Matthew's face that was overflowing with adoration instantaneously turned gloomy, so gloomy that mushrooms could grow on his face. The man's limited warmth was gradually ground away

the best way I can. Now go get me some berries. I'm starving. Grandma's heart is gonna be crushed if I starve to death." She waved her hand

Almeida County, she had heard news about this uncle of his returning to Bloomstead. And his existence would be the greatest obstacle to Matthew to inherit the Kings Family's properties. That was the reason why Matthew would do anything to come and rescue her. To him, she was merely a pawn on the chessboard to

of an opportunist Matthew was. To her, he would give anything to retain things

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She wasn't the only one who didn't see any pears, but the masked man didn't either.

Matthew tossed her a pear and coldly answered, "There's a wild pear tree by the river."

"Great job! All hail the Almighty Matthew!" Veronica gratifyingly praised as she wiped the pear with her clothes,

Still, her words sounded like jabber in Matthew's ears. He then sat opposite from her without saying a word, nor did he eat the fruits. Simply, he awaited rescue in silence.

Swoosh! After some time, the sound of a chopper could be heard.

Veronica and Matthew peered at each other and subconsciously lifted their eyes, knowing rescue had arrived. The chopper gradually approached and circled the sky a few times before stopping in the air right above them. As its propellers were speedily rotating, nearby branches and leaves shook violently, producing blaring noises.

Veronica pointed at the campfire before them, to which Matthew came over to help her extinguish the fire thoroughly to prevent a forest fire caused by an ember.

"Veronica?" At that moment, a person called for her from behind. Instinctively, she turned around and saw Xavier standing somewhere not far from her.

As they faced each other, Xavier was dazed. He glanced at Matthew before dashing to Veronica, who also ran toward him, and they gave each other a big hug.

"It's so good to see you! I'd have gone crazy with you lost!" Xavier held her tightly as he spoke into her ear.

“Ow, f*ck. Ouch, ouch!” Veronica gasped as he accidentally touched her injured arm. When he noticed her wound, he worriedly inquired, “What happened? Why’s your arm like this?”

his heart. After knowing Veronica was washed away by the flood, he hurried over as soon as he could. Tagging along with him

tell you when we get back,” Veronica

noddod and supported the woman up the rope

disregarding Matthew and the

on their faces, Mathew scowled intensely.

other chopper, walked to Matthew and stated concernedly, “I’m glad

into another chopper

helplessly scoffed at himself underneath the mask. He then got up and walked to where the campfire was and picked up the pears before wiping and eating them. After consuming the fruits, he could feel his energy replenished. Accordingly, he picked up the dagger

later, the night sky was engulfed in

half an hour later, the woman was pushed out of the room. Seeing her, they immediately came over, and before Matthew

shot, but there’s a minor infection in her wound, so she’ll need to be

hearing that, the anxiety in Xavier’s heart dispersed. He then guarded Veronica beside

Since Veronica’s wound was precisely bitten by one of the wolves, he was worried that the infection in Veronica’s wound might spread speedily. which would result in

thorough examination on her when she was sent over. The results are already out now. Why don’t you bring them to my office

wire?” the doctor suggested.

before bringing them to the consultation room and handed the documents to the doctor who had

would sometimes shake his

her wound has a minor infection, but it’s treatable. However, there’s

Ever since he saved her from overseas and brought her to Dawnpol Village, for the entire month, she had been falling asleep at around four in the morning and waking up about two hours later. Indeed, she gravely lacked sleep, and that, he had realized. Nonetheless, as he wasn’t around her every second, he wasn’t a hundred percent sure

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Putting away the examination report, Matthew entered the ward and looked at Veronica, who was tethered to an IV pack, inquiring, “How are you feeling?”

"Much better. A hundred times better than being in the hills," Veronica replied as she lay on the bed. With the dirt washed away, her face was now as elegant as before, though it was much paler, and Matthew was devastated seeing that.

"How about you? You okay?" she countered.

"Mhm. Pretty good," Matthew blurted as he nodded. He then turned around and sat on the couch.

Xavier glanced at him before taking a peek at Veronica, his eyes glistening. He lowered his gaze for a while before touching his pocket. He then suddenly stood up. "Roni, I... have something to tell you." Xavier, sporting a suit and a pair of leather shoes, appeared quite dashing, and his aura was unusually daunting. He dropped his usual, prankish act and revealed his stern, mature side.

That side of his was rather unfamiliar to Veronica. She was definitely not used to it. "What is it?" She was visibly surprised by Xavier's behavior.

"Do you know why I let you go to Almeida?" With his hand tucked in the pocket of his slack pants, he grasped something tightly in his hand.

"Why? Isn't it for charity?"

"Yes, yes, charity. But the main reason was because Dad was there as well."

"Yup, I saw him. Why? Man, spit it out! Cut the suspense already. You're making me nervous here!" One thing Veronica hated the most was when others tortured her with suspense.

this time, I wanted for Dad to get to know you and see you for the real you, so that he could fully accept you. And that was why I sent you to Almeida." Pausing his words, he pulled something out of his pocket. He

went to

propose to you."

words, Veronica's mind went blank.

was Matthew, who was sitting at the couch. He didn't expect Xavier to be

stared deeply into Veronica's

in the bed with her face frozen. Blinking her eyes, she peered at him in stupefaction, and only spoke after some time. "S-Stop fooling around,

brows plainly reflected his annoyance. Xavier's actually proposing to Veronica? This damn woman was always pushing me away because she was in love with him? Matthew

it." Xavier's eyes were filled with earnesty and resolution.

being serious, but he knew nothing of her complications, and being in love with him would only drag

Can you go buy me some porridge?" She thought up a

Xavier who was kneeling on the ground. A while later, he got to his feet

shut at once. Matthew slammed the door so hard

Matthew's temper that came out of nowhere,

Xavier was much more attuned to Matthew's emotions than her.

not a word, he could still sense his feelings and thoughts. After all, only men could understand

up quick, Xavier. I won't agree to this." Veronica

did not, in fact, like him, she shouldn't have

Xavier, who hastily questioned, "Do

not like him! However, she couldn't bring herself to complete the sentence. All of a sudden, an idea popped in her mind,

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However, if Xavier became "brothers" with Veronica, their relationship might improve, and she might come to realize his good points. Perhaps one day, it would not be impossible for her to be willing to date him.

He let out an awkward laugh. "Haha! Sure, why not? From now on, I've gained another sister."

"Sister? Oh, by the way, do you know Melissa? I met her when I went to Almeida this time. Your sister has a really good personality and is quite likable." Veronica subtly changed the topic to talk about Melissa.

Xavier nodded in agreement. "Well, yes. Melissa is very nice, and we have a good relationship." As he said that, he used his foot to open the trash can on the side and tossed the ring in.

"Hey, what are you doing?" Seeing that, Veronica couldn't help but be shocked. "Why are you throwing the ring away? It's very expensive, you know."

"It's not that expensive actually. I have no use for it."

"What do you mean? You can at least keep it and give it to other girls."

A ring was a great tool for flirting with girls, so it was a pity to just throw it away. More importantly, it must've cost a pretty penny

"I can't give it away."

"Why not?"

"Your name is engraved on it."

"My name?" Veronica wrinkled her eyebrows and looked sideways at the trash can next to the bed, feeling her heart ache.

After giving it some thought, she suggested, "How about you sell it to me for cheap?"

"Sell it to you for cheap? How?" Xavier was a little puzzled by her words.

How much did you buy it?

meant, and after thinking about it, he ad. "I boughu it

much for something you're about to throw away? As siblings, the least you

do you

"Round it off,"

"9:000?"

Shouldn't it be 5,000

5,000? Her way of thinking is... odd. Xavier would have never thought that he would be rejected after his first proposal to a woman in his life, and that he would sell the engagement ring

sell

from the trash can and handed it to her. "I'll give you the

"Hehe, of course."

Veronica took the

a ring that originally cost 99,000 for 5,000, she could earn

the ring out of the box and squinted at it, only to see that her name was indeed engraved on the inside of

best!"

glad you like

I like it. I'm in love with it." As long as it can be sold for money, anything's good. Veronica did not try on the ring, but carefully stuffed it into the ring box and placed it on

after that, Matthew walked in carrying a thermos. His harsh gaze swept

to see them chatting happily as Veronica clutched a heart Whaped ring box in her hands with an unconcealable

the thermos on the table and

mood, she subconsciously ignored Matthew's unhappy expression. She got up and leaned on

Xavier intervened. "Let

lid of the thermos, she was met with a delicious aroma. Using a spoon, she scooped up a spoonful of porridge and briefly blew on it before stuffing it into

few days, it was a gift from heaven

little hot." She laughed and continued to eat

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The large movement caused the wound on Veronica's arm to start hurting as well.

Seeing her wrinkled face and pained screams, Matthew's cold heart melted and he did not reprimand her anymore. Instead, he allowed her to snatch the ring from his hand, clutching it in her hand as if she was protecting a rare treasure.

"Do you... like him a lot?" Matthew hesitated before asking.

Veronica looked up at Matthew, not understanding where this scum got the confidence to dislike Xavier so much.

However, in the end, she currently needed to rely on the power of the Kings Family and had no choice but to spend time with Matthew. Still, she was afraid that Matthew had covetous thoughts about her, so she said, "Yes, I do. Is there a problem?"

"Since when were you a social climber? Are you really desperate enough to like someone like Xavier?" Matthew asked, his brows wrinkling in anger.

Everyone in Bloomstead knew that Xavier was a playboy who had seen countless women and spent his days flirting. This woman had no idea what she was talking about.

"Matthew, you're just my god-brother, not my real brother. What does it matter to you who I like? Don't think that just because you saved me, you can flaunt your authority over me, say whatever you want, or tell me what to do!" Veronica mocked him with a glare.

She felt dissatisfied. In any case, Xavier was her brother. Even if he was not perfect, he was not as bad as Matthew was making him out to be.

There was a chilly expression on Matthew's chiseled and handsome face. He lifted her chin with his long fingers as he leaned down slightly and warned, "As long as you're related to Grandma, you are a member of my family. I will never allow you to be with Xavier and bring shame to the Kings Family's name."

"That's on you if you don't allow it. I'll just talk to Grandma later. Hmph." Veronica brushed away Matthew's hand before she lay down on the bed in anger, giving him the cold shoulder.

Not long later, once her IV drip had run dry, Veronica tossed and turned in bed. She couldn't sleep, but as she didn't have her phone or anything else with her, she was.

Seeing that he had gotten a laptop somewhere and was playing with it, she said, "Hey, Ma...

called him Matthew, and only called him bro

his deep eyes, and then looked at the time in the lower right corner

still not

been irritated, but now his cold heart softened a

he got up and walked to her

“What are you doing?”

recently. Since we have nothing

the left side of her bed, saying, “You can lie here. The hospital beds here are big, so it won’t be crowded even if two people lie down

and handsome. He retrieved a pillow from the sofa and placed it behind him as he sat next to Veronica. Then, he chose a sci-fi blockbuster on a streaming site and

after the movie started, Veronica shook her head

what do you want

Park, The Rise of the

remembered the most was Transformers 5, as it was the first time she had gone to the cinema to

was worth remembering and she had never forgotten about it. However, because her first love

for a long time even after leaving

He casually searched for a movie

on the head of the bed, shoulder to shoulder. It was rare for them to sit calmly and

is so talented. He knows how

the Apes 1, and the most exciting part was that Caesar

at Veronica beside him, he felt a strange emotion surging in his chest. He rarely watched movies.

Because of his busy schedule, he didn’t have enough time for himself, much less enough to watch a

his shoulders sink and turned his head to look, only to find Veronica asleep on his shoulder. Currently, it was already half past

hold her cheek, trying to make her lie down. However, her skin felt hot to the touch. Matthew put his hand over Veronica’s forehead, and sure enough, she had a fever. He held her head and carefully helped her lie

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However, Veronica wasn’t a peaceful sleeper; she kept rolling on the bed as she slept, and she ended up squashing her injured arm.

“Ow... that hurts...” she mumbled, before rolling over again.

Matthew couldn’t exactly stomach this anymore. Worried that she would roll onto her injured arm again, he got up and lay next to her, pulling her into his arms. He carefully took care of her to prevent her from hurting herself again.

The familiar smell put Veronica at ease as she lay in his arms, and she rubbed herself against his chest. Her injured arm wrapped itself around Matthew’s waist, one of her legs coming to rest on his own legs as well. She fell asleep peacefully then.

Veronica's sleep might be peaceful now, but Matthew wasn't in a comfortable position. In order to prevent himself from pressing down on her injured arm, he kept his left arm behind himself as he lay motionlessly next to her. It wasn't until her fever broke at six in the wee hours of the morning that Matthew finally got up, his body already numb from being stuck in one position. He worked the stiffness out of his body so that he wouldn't feel as numb as before.

to

A few minutes later, Veronica woke up. "Why are you up so early?" She sat up weakly in bed, her eyes locked on Matthew as he paced the room, "Don't you need to sleep too?"

"Did I wake you?" Matthew's voice was soft. The harshness from yesterday was absent.

Veronica shook her head. "No. I pretty much wake up at half past six every day."

"How do you feel now? Feeling any better?" Matthew walked over to her and pressed a hand to her forehead. His heart only slipped back down his throat when he realized that her fever had abated.

"I had a fever last night?"

"Just a low one."

"Oh," Veronica replied. She looked at him with a complicated gaze. "Matthew?"

gently answered her as he sat on the chair next to her bed. His typically frigid expression was like though you're being nice to me because

was using her or if his concern was fake; he did save her, and he did take care of her. Veronica was thankful for that, and she naturally didn't dislike him as much as she did before. At the very least, she considered the debt incurred from this f*ckboy sleeping

would have been better if she hadn't said that, for her words sounded extremely harsh to Matthew. But in the end, he didn't have

night, I want to go downstairs for

doctors already said

Then, buy me some porridge. The

"You're fond of porridge."

Veronica smiled, but she ended up looking

you

you know how to make is porridge, and I love porridge. It's absolutely perfect," Veronica murmured. Suddenly, she shook her

breakfast from Matthew

behave well, I can consider

“Really?”

“Yes.”

the future, you can make breakfast for me and I’ll clean for you. How’s

“All right.”

save at least two thousand bucks. That would be 24,000 a year. Woohoo, a ward

airport after they had arrived and slowly closed her eyes, breathing in

into the car with a hand pressed to the back

to glance at Matthew. “Where are we going?”

“The Kings Residence.”

look all that overjoyed. Just as she thought, Matthew’s niceness toward her was only because he was cultivating a useful piece for his chessboard; he wanted to use her to improve his relationship with his

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Veronica let out a hiss.

“Oh dear, what is it?” Elizabeth asked in concern.

In order not to worry Elizabeth, Veronica lied and said that she had slipped earlier and her arm was sliced open on a sharp rock.

Elizabeth’s heart ached terribly for her. She pulled Veronica over to the couch to sit down and chat with her.

“As a lady, you should be more mindful. You won’t be as pretty if it leaves a scar,” Elizabeth said solemnly as she patted Veronica’s hand.

“Don’t worry, Grandma. I’m fine.” Veronica smiled.

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Elizabeth and Veronica chatted as usual about their daily happenings easily.

“In a few more days, I’ll be taking you to see someone,” Elizabeth said. ”

“Who is it?”

“Matthew’s Uncle Conrad. He’ll be returning from overseas in a few days’ time. You’ll be able to acquaint yourselves with each other. After all, he is your uncle as well.” Having brought him up, Elizabeth elaborated, “Conrad is only a few years older than Matthew, but he has a mind for business. I’m considering letting you learn from him.”

“Huh? Learn... Learn from... Uncle Conrad?” Veronica couldn’t understand. Thirsty, she picked up the glass of water from the table and took a sip.

Elizabeth's voice rang out again by her ear. "Conrad is a reliable man with dashing good looks. He's a bachelor too. You might not be able to be with Matthew, but I want to introduce you to Conrad."

"*Cough... Cough...*" Startled by Elizabeth's words, Veronica ended up spitting out the water she had been drinking and choked.

"How old are you to still be choking while drinking

urk... I'm okay, really." Veronica wiped her

hand, "I'm fine. Grandma, what

is coming home, so it'll be a

Elizabeth liked her better than Matthew. While she couldn't marry Matthew when he already had a fiancée, that didn't mean that Elizabeth couldn't "introduce"

the matchmaking went through, would Veronica end up being... Matthew's aunt?

isn't this just

of him? Forget about it."

say that you can meet him, then you will. That's settled for now."

to the Twilight Club by Thomas. After getting out of

when she returned. He didn't come

and washing up,

I'd like to pawn this off." Veronica handed a ring over to the staff member

"Do you have the receipt for this?" he asked as he checked

"Nope"

Why do you want to pawn the

the pawn shop worker was spouting garbage. She looked at the

did you get

friend gave it

much did it cost?" the

once she named a price, so she thought of an excuse. "The ring was a gift, so how would I know? But look

frown. "Hold on a sec. I'll get my boss to take a look at

round

card down on the counter and pointed at the name printed there. "You see this? Veronica Murphy, as stated on my ID! You gonna take it or not? If

checked the ring again. Having confirmed that it was hers, the owner grinned as he raised his right hand and splayed his

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Slam! All of a sudden, the door to the office flung open with a hard kick.

Veronica and Xavier whipped their heads around, startled, only to see a woman with long, wavy hair and thick makeup strolling in. A pair of sunglasses rested on her face, and several bags hung off her arms.

"Hey, Xavier, look what I bought for you..."

The woman turned her head to look at the side as she spoke. All of a sudden, she went stiff. Her slender fingers reached up to pluck her sunglasses off so that she could take a closer look at the person in front of her. She shrieked then, tossing aside her bags to charge toward Veronica and wrap her in a hug. "Oh, Veronica, you're alive! You're still alive! This is great news! Hahaha, I was so worried. I thought that something actually happened to you."

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Melissa was so worked up that she hopped as she screamed, like an overstimulated kid.

"Ow... that hurts! Release me! Stop hugging!" Veronica sucked in a breath after Melissa jostled her injury, breaking out in a cold sweat.

Having seen this, Xavier pulled Melissa aside. "Let her go, Melissa. Roni is injured."

Melissa's smile froze over. "Ah, she got... hurt?" She loosened her hug then. Seeing Veronica press a hand to her right arm, she leaned in close, frowning as she asked in worry, "Oh dear, how did you get hurt? I'm so sorry. I didn't do that on purpose." She pursed her lips. Her heart ached, yet she was also happy.

"I'm okay, really." Veronica waved a hand dismissively and shook her head, but the pain in her arm still didn't abate.

"So long as you're fine. Tell me now, what happened to you guys that day actually? You got swept away by the river currents, and we couldn't find you. Later on, when Xavier said that you were alive, I didn't believe him. Who would have thought that you really are alive?" Melissa dragged Veronica to sit on the couch. She kept chirping away endlessly like a sparrow.

swept away, I managed to get back to shore by pulling myself up a tree by the riverbank. Your brother found me later. I got hurt while in the river, and was discharged from the hospital just recently." In a past now. So long as

by their closeness. "Since when were you two so close?" he asked as he picked up

rifled through her dozen or so shopping bags before she found what she was looking for. She then brought a handbag over to Veronica. "Here you go. Good

with Veronica here, it would be better to gift it to Veronica instead. After all, Melissa would be able to at it and shook her head.

Take it!" Melissa shoved the

"But I really can't..."

it's a present for you, you should accept it," Xavier advised Veronica before

Yep. I see you as my bestie, so you'll have to accept my presents, or you'll be looking down on me." Melissa raised an eyebrow, radiating pure "I'm a princess and my words is law" energy.

no other choice, Veronica helplessly accepted the

now, no need to thank me. You'll have plenty of opportunities to make it up to me in the

her own plans since she gave her

you say that you were going to propose to Veronica after she's back? Why aren't you seizing this opportunity

helplessly with his hands raised. "I

and Melissa were as close as could be. Although they were only half-siblings through

outright baffled. She turned her head back to look at Veronica. "Why did you reject my brother's proposal? Is it because he seems like too much of

look came over Veronica's expression as

over Veronica's shoulder and rubbed herself against it. "You really shouldn't agree to a proposal from a f*ckboy like my brother. You'll need more than a single book to

Xavier leaned against his desk, his arms folded over his chest as he observed the two women on the couch. He wasn't sure whether he should laugh or cry at Melissa's antics when he heard that.

sister to me. How can I just stand by and watch her jump into a dumpster fire?" Melissa shook her head and let out a sigh. "From now on, I'll protect her. You should

was close to Xavier, she also knew about his womanizing antics. Naturally,

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Veronica's eyes lit up at Melissa's words. Her mood instantly took a turn for the better. "How could I? I keep my promises."

It was so easy earning money like this. Veronica hadn't thought that Matthew could be used like a golden goose. She would have to hang onto him for this in the future!

Thirty minutes later, Veronica and Melissa arrived at the Spinfluence building. She prepared to call Matthew, but she was also worried that she would interrupt him on the off-chance that he was in a business meeting. So, she called Thomas instead. Thomas came downstairs shortly after that.

“Hello, Miss Murphy and Miss Crawford, what are you here for today?” Thomas had immediately come to see Veronica the moment he heard about her arrival. He was good at reading people, after all. As someone who had a good grasp on people’s feelings, Thomas knew very well just how important Veronica was to his employer.

“Uh... I’m here to look for Matthew,” Veronica said with a straight face as she glanced at Melissa meaningfully.

Thomas dipped his head before walking over to the reception and pointing at Veronica. “From today onward, you are not supposed to stop her from entering the premises,” he said to the receptionists.

The two receptionists eyed Veronica, jealousy clear in their eyes as they nodded. “All right. Understood, Mr. Ritter.”

Thomas proceeded to lead Veronica and Melissa upstairs.

This was Veronica’s first time inside the Spinfluence Group. At the sight of the elegant and modern interior design and the throngs of smart business people walking its halls, she felt envious. If it wasn’t for the Larsons, she could have been like the employees here, working hard in a similar environment.

Having reached the CEO’s office, Thomas pointed at the door. “This is Young Master Matthew’s office, Miss Murphy. Please head inside yourself; I still have some business to attend to.” He didn’t want to third-wheel them, so he made up an excuse to slip away.

you, Mr. Ritter,” Veronica said. Then, she and Melissa walked over to the door, knocking on

office with a muted color scheme. Matthew sat by a curved desk, leaning back

tracks to stare dumbly at the

his arms was clad in a strapless dress. Her long hair cascaded down to her waist, and her light makeup was beautifully done. Her collarbones were

perfectly normal that this would happen. And yet Veronica felt suffocated,

lips upon seeing Tiffany, envious

looked very much similar, Melissa still thought that Veronica’s beauty surpassed Tiffany’s,

more lively. Her eyebrows especially were more beautiful than Tiffany’s, and her nose was more defined and straighter than Tiffany’s.

the most beautiful woman in Bloomstead

heart at Veronica’s sudden appearance. His onyx-like eyes turned away from her momentarily as he immediately pushed Tiffany away gently.

Veronica. “I knew that you went to Almeida

see any concern coming from you,” Melissa stated mercilessly. She found

“No, I just suspected...”

Before Tiffany could finish her words, Matthew walked over and pulled her to his side, answering Melissa’s

in Almeida. One could say they were inseparable. Matthew was also someone who treated the friends of those important to him well, so he was naturally

his words. She eyed Matthew for a long while with a meaningful look. At last, she forced herself to giggle. “He’s right; I’ve been feeling under the weather the last few days. I

had been in Almeida at the same time, Tiffany hadn’t gone to

at Matthew with a dispirited gaze. For a moment, she didn’t speak. They looked at each other just like that with complicated looks