

## **Bumpkin 1111**

### Chapter 1111 Meeting Caleb's Parents

Matthew noticed that Caleb was in doubt, but he didn't want to delve any further. He simply suggested, "Let's go for a few rounds inside."

"Here we go." Skyler was the first to go in.

Caleb, Miguel, and Matthew also entered the living room following that.

The atmosphere in the spacious villa instantly became lively.

In the afternoon, Troy and Thomas grilled barbecue while Yvette helped out.

The rest of them sat together and played a card game. They enjoyed themselves until late evening before they went on their separate ways.

Matthew and Veronica returned to the Pinewoods Villa while Skyler and Shirley returned to the condominium, and Caleb drove back to the Shaw Family with Abby.

Abby, who sat in the passenger seat asked using sign language, "Where are you taking me?"

"What are you nervous about? It's not like I'm going to eat you alive." Caleb tilted his head to look at Abby as he drove.

"No, I'm not nervous," Abby expressed nervously.

Caleb drove slowly along the road and finally arrived outside a luxurious villa.

Abby was stunned from just looking at the grand villa as this was the first time seeing such an enormous residence. She felt excited and nervous at the same time.

"Is this your home?" she asked Caleb in sign language.

"Yes," he answered truthfully.

"Why did you bring me to your home?" Abby asked as she couldn't figure out Caleb's intention.

Caleb explained following that, "You are one of the students I'm sponsoring. It's only natural to bring you to my home. Besides, I am sponsoring more than just a student."

Abby was the only one he cared about even though he said that.

Then, Caleb parked the car in the garage of the villa, and they got out of the car.

They walked to the living room, and they saw three people sitting on the couch.

They were Caleb's mother, Daisy Shaw, his father, Jamie Shaw, and his older brother.

"You're back, Caleb..." Daisy was delighted to see him, but she saw the lady beside him before she could finish her words. "Who is she?"

"Did you have a girlfriend while you were out?" Jamie asked while reading a magazine about economics. He only glanced at Abby for a brief moment.

Caleb's parents couldn't see Abby's appearance clearly from so far off, but they weren't interested in her at all.

However, Caleb's older brother, Jimmy Shaw, carefully looked up at Abby, and his pupils involuntarily widened.

#### Chapter 1112 The Truth of Saving Her

However, Caleb interrupted before Abby could answer, "Zoe, take her to the guest room. She'll stay there for the night."

Zoe, the servant of the Shaw Family, immediately stepped forward and made an invitational gesture. "Please come with me, Miss Wright."

Abby nodded slightly. She glanced at Caleb before thanking the others with sign language. 'Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw. I'll go upstairs and rest now.'

But, Jamie and Daisy couldn't understand Abby, so Caleb explained, "She said thank you, and she will be resting upstairs."

"This lady is quite a sensible one," Daisy stared at Abby as she said.

She even followed them for a few steps after they headed toward the stairs.

Daisy couldn't help but ask when Abby and Zoe had reached the third floor and disappeared from her sight, "Who is she? Why does she look so much like your deceased sister?"

Caleb walked to the couch and sat down. Then, he lit a cigarette, put it in his mouth, and took a puff. "I thought of the same thing when I first saw her. She looked a lot like my sister. But, she is not Tracey Shaw."

"Are you sure she is not Tracey?" Jamie adjusted his glasses before looking up in the direction of the third floor. "She would be about the same age if Tracey is still alive."

"Are you sure, Cal?" Jimmy asked doubtfully.

Caleb nodded firmly. "I secretly took her hair and ran a DNA test to see if it matches our parents, and the result showed that she is not Tracey. Moreover, Tracey has been missing for more than ten years. We have no idea what she looks like if she's still alive now."

Caleb had a biological sister named Tracey, but few people knew about her existence.

Even Matthew, Skyler, and Miguel didn't know about Tracey.

So, he took Abby away from the countryside to Bloomstead when they first met by the river during his visit to Veronica's old residence.

It was because she looked very much like Tracey.

Daisy's eyes reddened at the mention of Tracey. "That's right. We haven't seen Tracey for so long. Even if Abby looks like Tracey, she only looks like the Tracey we know from more than ten years ago,"

Daisy choked as she spoke, and Jamie patted her back. "It's all in the past now. Don't be sad."

"You shouldn't have brought her back and made our parents sad, Cal," Jimmy said calmly.

"Don't listen to your brother's nonsense, Caleb. It's good that you brought her here. I feel peace with her here." It was more like a consolation for her at that instant.

"Why not let her stay with us from now on since your mother likes her so much?" Jamie was always a loving husband to Daisy, and he knew that she had a tough time recovering from Tracey's incident.

Now, there was finally someone who looked so much like their daughter who went missing without a trace. So, they thought it would be comforting, at least psychologically, to have Abby by their side.

"Yeah, why not? Let her stay with us, Caleb." Then, Daisy moved to sit beside Caleb and asked, "What do you think, my son?"

#### Chapter 1113 A Haunting Of The Past

She was the reason why Caleb became a police officer.

Unfortunately, he still hadn't found any information regarding his sister after working so many years in the police force.

Caleb helplessly held the photo in his hand, and he slept another restless night.

The next morning, Caleb opened his eyes when the sun rose, and he realized that he had slept with the photo in his hand all night.

He gently touched the face of the person in the photo with his finger before putting the album back in the drawer.

Then, he got up from the bed, changed his clothes, and went downstairs for a morning run.

He heard cheerful laughter coming from the kitchen right after he went downstairs. He noticed there were mumblings every now and then in the laughter.

Caleb walked toward the kitchen out of curiosity, and he saw Abby helping the cook. She picked the vegetables and communicated with the cook using sign language.

Although Abby couldn't speak, she could still smile and laugh. But, her laughter didn't sound as pleasant as a normal person's.

"Oh, you poor lady. My son is deaf, and I couldn't communicate with him before I learned sign language. That's why I can understand you now."

Apparently, the cook happened to know sign language. Otherwise, she probably wouldn't understand Abby.

Caleb felt touched and relieved as he stood by and listened to their conversation. He turned around and went out for a morning run after that.

An hour later, Caleb returned. Abby was still in the kitchen helping the cook.

So, he went upstairs for a shower before changing into a new set of clothes. He smelled the aroma of scrumptious food coming from the dining room when he got downstairs again.

"Good morning, Cal."

Jimmy was there, and they greeted each other.

"Good morning, Jimmy," Caleb replied.

Then, Jamie and Daisy also came downstairs.

"Mr. Shaw, Mrs. Shaw, Master Shaw, Young Master Shaw, it's time for breakfast," Zoe said.

"Right,"

Daisy responded before looking up at the third floor. "Is she still sleeping?"

Zoe immediately answered, "Are you referring to Miss Wright, Mrs. Shaw? She got up early and went to

the kitchen to help with cooking. She's a very diligent and thoughtful lady."

"Is that right?" Daisy's eyes brightened, and she smiled feeling relief.

They went to the dining room and sat down following that. The breakfast on the table appeared visually appealing and delicious.

Just then, Abby came out from the kitchen after she was done helping the cook. She nodded and made a gesture in sign language when she saw them. "Good morning, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, Jimmy."

Caleb immediately explained, "She's saying 'good morning' to you."

"Why did you get up so early, you silly?" Daisy walked up to Abby, affectionately touched her hand, and continued, "We have a cook for the kitchen work. You don't need to bother yourself. Come, sit down, and let's have breakfast."

"Thank you, Mrs. Shaw. I'm sorry if I have caused trouble." Abby typed it out on her phone and showed it to Daisy.

Daisy only smiled happily. "You're so sweet and polite. Hahaha... It's fine. I always like to have company. You should come over and keep me company whenever you're free. What do you think?"

#### Chapter 1114 On The Verge of Bankruptcy

"Shepherd Star Group?" Matthew only frowned. "We haven't had any form of collaboration with them before, am I right?"

Thomas immediately handed the information about Shepherd Star Group to Matthew following that. "This is all I can find about Shepherd Star Group. It was established five years ago. Its headquarters is in Mythpoint, and it has branch offices in Bloomstead. The owner of Shepherd Star Group is a woman. However, not only is she smart and ruthless, but she also knows what she's doing when it comes to business. From what I know, she was once an actress before this."

Matthew looked at the personal information of Eviette while Thomas briefly informed him about the current situation of Shepherd Star Group.

"How does she plan to collaborate with us?" Then, Matthew deducted a conclusion from the information given, and he asked, "Is it an artificial intelligence project?"

Thomas nodded. "We're thinking the same thing. Look, Shepherd Star Group just called and said they would be here in an hour. Should we make some proper preparations for them? Shepherd Star Group is a powerful company. It can be advantageous if we collaborate with them."

"Even you know that Shepherd Star Group is an influential company. Why did she choose to collaborate with our company then?" Matthew placed the documents on the table as he continued, "How did she

find out when we haven't done any promotion or publicity for our AI projects?"

Spinfluence Group was once the top company in Bloomstead, but there were always others who were even bigger and stronger. Spinfluence Group still had a long way to go before it could catch up to the major enterprises in Mythpoint.

Moreover, Spinfluence Group was now in the hands of Conrad Kings, and Zac had invested further in the company to make it even stronger.

Matthew had little influence over things at the company at the moment.

Dominik Ledger proposed to him a collaborative project after he returned from the hidden clan. But, even launching that project required at least 15 billion in funds.

After all, the distance from the hidden clan to Bloomstead was the major issue of the project. Thus, it would require a massive investment of funds and manpower.

Matthew secretly established connections through money during his visit to the hidden clan and he spent a total of more than 75 billion.

The hidden clan credit had an exchange rate of 5 to 1 with the domestic currency. So, the 75 billion hidden clan credit which he spent was equivalent to just over 15 billion.

The number seemed insignificant. But, it was already a massive blow to Matthew.

He didn't tell Veronica about this matter, nor did he want to. He didn't want her to worry unnecessarily.

Meanwhile, Conrad took over Spinfluence Group and secured several promising projects in quick succession along with Anthony's help. Now, Spinfluence Group's financial projection looked even better, and its stock market value skyrocketed, multiplying several times.

Therefore, Matthew, who had limited financial resources, didn't dare to confront Conrad Kings looking at his current situation.

He was grateful that Veronica was foresighted and had started the development of the company's AI projects. Otherwise, Spinfluence Group would be in an even worse spot.

There would be no place for Matthew and Veronica in Bloomstead if that didn't happen.

## Chapter 1115 Reunion

An hour later, Thomas entered Matthew's office. "President Robins of Shepherd Star Group is here, Young Master Matthew. She's waiting for you in the reception room."

"I'll be there in a sec." Matthew put away the files on his desk and got up from his seat.

He glanced through the glass window of the reception room as he walked toward the reception room, and he found the woman's figure inside the room somewhat familiar.

Thomas pushed open the door of the reception room when they arrived. "Please, Young Master Matthew."

Matthew entered the reception room following that. He greeted in a professional, but cold tone, "Sorry to keep you waiting, President Robins. I..."

Eviette, who was sitting at the desk, looking down at her phone, raised her head when he spoke.

Matthew clearly saw her face when their eyes met, and he couldn't help but feel shocked. The words that he was about to say were stopped by his own thoughts at that instant.

"Greetings, President Kings." Eviette smiled gently and gracefully.

Her smile carried a sense of familiarity and an inexplicable affection.

"Leave us be, Thomas," Matthew instructed.

Thomas only glanced at them with a puzzled look before leaving the reception room.

Eviette also gave a signal, and her assistant immediately said, "Ouch! I'm having a bad stomach ache. Please allow me to go to the restroom, President Robins."

"Okay, go ahead." Eviette nodded, and her assistant immediately got up and left the reception room.

Matthew closed the blinds after their assistants left the room.

He slowly turned around after releasing the cord of the blinds, and he looked at Eviette, who was sitting 6.5 feet away from him. "Is it really you?"

Eviette was dressed in a white blouse, paired with high-waisted pants and high heels. She tied her black and straight hair into a knot using a colorful headband. She also had red earrings on, which accentuated her natural and beautiful cheeks with light makeup. What really stood out the most was her distinct graceful temperament. It made her especially captivating.

"Long time no see." Eviette took a few steps forward to stand in front of him and opened her arms.

Matthew faintly smiled as he stepped forward and gave her a hug. "It's been eight years since we last met. I didn't expect us to meet in this way."

Chapter 1116 What a Jerk!

His "death" broke her heart and sent her spiraling into despair, where she drowned her sorrows in alcohol.

Eviette often doubted it was real and found it difficult to believe Matthew had passed away so soon.

She frequently tricked herself in an effort to escape the weight of his passing.

But, one day, she was shocked to find out that he was still alive!

She dashed over from Mythpoint as soon as she found out, but she didn't get any closer than a glance.

"I'm sorry. As you know, I only follow political and financial news. I don't keep up with the entertainment industry."

Sincerely apologizing, Matthew said, "If I knew it was you, I would have contacted you sooner."

He then looked her up and down, shook his head, and sighed, "But even if I saw you on TV, I don't think I would recognize you. You were a tomboy back then. But now, I didn't expect you to..."

Matthew shrugged, furrowing his brows as if trying to find the right words to describe her.

"To be so beautiful?"



Eviette couldn't help but chuckle in response.

"Look at you, you can't even compliment a girl. You really haven't changed at all."

Ring!

Just then, Matthew's phone rang with a WhatsApp notification.

He picked up his phone and glanced at it.

It was a message from Veronica that said, "Monica and Ivana invited me to dinner. I won't be going back tonight."

Because they had publicly announced their divorce, they had to keep it a secret from everyone except for close friends.

Veronica obviously wouldn't tell Monica and Ivana, especially since Ivana had a big mouth and could make anything she knew public within three days.

Matthew quickly replied, "Alright. I'll be home late as well."

After he sent the message, Veronica immediately replied with an "OK" GIF and didn't ask any further.

She thought he would be working late.

"Who are you texting with? You're smiling so happily. Was that someone special?" Eviette asked when she saw Matthew's gentle smile.

Deep down, she felt a hint of envy toward the person on the other end of the phone. Could it be Veronica?

"No, it wasn't. It was the nanny updating me on my two kids." Matthew kept his lips sealed.

After hearing the word "kids," Eviette immediately asked, "I saw in the news that you got divorced?"

#### Chapter 1117 The Shameless Actress

For a split second, Veronica secretly felt sorry for Matthew. But what could she do?

Unfortunately, she couldn't explain it on Matthew's behalf yet.

"That's very unlikely. We just have different values. And it was I who asked for a divorce."

The only thing Veronica could do was avoid accusing Matthew and clear up the misunderstanding.

"Really?" Half-believing what Veronica had said, Ruka sipped her tea.

"Of course." Veronica nodded firmly.

"Think about it, I grew up in the countryside, so our habits are very different. At first, I didn't realize it, but we really are not compatible."

"There are explanations for why two people cannot get along. But different values and lifestyle differences are unacceptable reasons," said Ivana, who was far from convinced.

The already-married Monica added, "I think I can understand. Like my ex-husband, we didn't discover any incompatibilities before marriage, but afterward, many issues cropped up that really brought our underlying problems to light."

As she spoke, her gaze moved from Veronica to behind her, her face surprised.

The other three noticed Monica's odd expression and turned to look behind them.

It would have been better if they hadn't looked, but when they did, they were astounded.

A handsome man and a stunning woman emerged from the lift, exuding an extraordinary aura, as though they were a perfect match.

"Isn't that Mr. Kings?" Ivana's eyes were wide with shock, and she was speechless.

Ruka's face darkened as she glanced at Veronica. "Is this what you meant by not having aligned values?"

Then Monica added, "I-I take back what I said earlier."

The three friends of Veronica were enraged.

Veronica and Matthew suddenly locked eyes, startled by the encounter.

After calming down, Veronica took a deep breath and realized the situation had become complicated.

Why did he have to bring a woman out now instead of any other time?

Chapter 1118 He Really Is a Jerk!

While mockingly laughing at Eviette, she pointed to Veronica.

"Miss Top Actress, your playboy boyfriend here used to be in love with Veronica, but in the end, he left her. Don't be fooled by his charming appearance. A playboy like him is unworthy of you."

At this point, she had insulted two people with her remarks.

Ruka, however, didn't care who she offended because she had the support of the Dame Family and wasn't scared of anyone.

Eviette had previously been skeptical about Veronica and Matthew's relationship, but now she felt strangely happy about it.

"If I'm not mistaken, you must be Miss Ruka Dame of the Dame Group."

She gave a soft smile after quickly recognizing the other person's identity.

"As far as I know, Miss Dame is single. I understand that a woman with no dating experience would not understand love. Besides..."

Eviette glanced at Veronica sitting in the booth, and continued, "Matt said that he divorced Miss Murphy because they had different values. They were both young; realizing they weren't compatible and deciding to get a divorce so they wouldn't waste their time was a wise decision. On the other hand, he knew they had different values but still clung to the marriage; this is what truly resembles playboy behavior."

Her words carried weight.

"What a twisted argument. Only you can make cheating sound so chic and sophisticated," Ivana said while rolling her eyes.

"You're a broke, washed-up actress. Is that why you shamelessly seduce a married man and ruin his

family?"

Even after being criticized, Eviette did not become angry; she simply looked at Ivana and chose to remain silent.

Hearing all of this gave Veronica a headache, so she moved forward right away to diffuse the situation.

"Enough, Ruka and Ivan. Matthew and I are no longer together. Let it go."

"What do you mean 'let it go'?"

Ivan, who had a short fuse, pointed at Matthew and exclaimed, "He clearly cheated on you while still married. Don't you know you were deceived?!"

"What did you say?!"

Matthew's handsome face turned cold, his sharp eyes locked on Ivan, and he yelled, "Apologize to Eviette this instant!"

His tone was harsh and cold, and Veronica could sense his rage.

Veronica was taken aback by his expression and questioned whether he was merely "too into the role" or actually upset.

She fixed her gaze on him, but Matthew paid no attention to her.

While Veronica was being ignored by him, Eviette continued to maintain a soft and graceful smile on her face, but Veronica could sense that she was being provocative.

She also sensed that Eviette was a potential love rival.

#### Chapter 1119 Avoiding Misunderstanding

As she watched the two walk away from her, Veronica felt a strange sense of sadness.

She shook her head and murmured, "It's fine."

Monica was concerned when she noticed Veronica wasn't looking well and asked, "Should we go somewhere else for dinner?"

"No." Veronica forced a smile.

Ivana and Ruka, on the other hand, could not stand the situation and continued to criticize Matthew.

Veronica tried several times to explain the situation to them, but she had no idea where to begin, especially to Ruka.

She had always been very kind to Veronica but she had a tendency to be reckless.

If she knew the truth, she definitely wouldn't be able to keep it a secret, so Veronica didn't dare to tell the truth.

At this time, the waiter began to serve the dishes one by one.

The group of people sat together and chatted. Veronica spoke very little and drank beer with her head down.

After the meal, they split up. Veronica said, "You guys go ahead. Be careful on the road."

Ruka wrapped an arm around Veronica's shoulder, and said, "If you're not comfortable living in Twilight Condominium, you can move in with me."

When they were upstairs just now, they asked Veronica where she was living now. Veronica told them that she lived in Twilight Condominium.

"It's great. I'm used to it now so it's no problem," Veronica assured Ruka.

At this moment, Ruka's driver drove over, and Veronica helped Ruka into the car.

The driver then waved to Veronica and drove away with Ruka.

Matthew and Eviette happened to be leaving One Piece Restaurant at the same time.

Veronica was standing on the side of the road when she turned around and saw the two.

For a brief moment, she had the impression that Matthew and Eviette were a perfect match as if they were meant to be.

She saw them, and they saw her too.

Eviette then approached Veronica with long strides, asking, "Miss Murphy, where are you going? Would you like a ride from Matt and me?"

Matt?

When they were upstairs, Veronica overheard Eviette call Matthew by that name. At the time, she thought she was hearing things.

However, now that she clearly heard how intimately she had referred to him, her heart ached.

Veronica turned her attention away from Eviette and toward Matthew as he drew near. She shook her head and said, "No, thanks."

She turned around, hailed a cab, opened the door, and got in, leaving right away.

Eviette turned to Matthew and said, "I feel bad for your wife. Is there really no chance for you two to get back together?"

She was trying to test him.

Matthew stared at the car that was getting further and further away, mentally leaving with Veronica.

He paused for a brief moment before shaking his head and saying, "It's impossible."

He returned his gaze to Eviette and asked, "Where do you live?" Would you like me to drive you somewhere?"

Matthew inquired out of courtesy.

Eviette feigned a polite decline. "I'm good. I'll take the cab."

Chapter 1120 Misunderstanding Resolved

Veronica got out of the cab and put on a hat and a mask to avoid being recognized when she arrived at Pinewoods Villa.

She arrived at the villa's entrance and paid cash before exiting the car.

Then, she scanned her fingerprint at the entrance and opened the door.

As she moved through the courtyard, she noticed Matthew smoking a cigarette and pacing back and forth by the music fountain.

Matthew could hear the sound of her walking while wearing high heels.

He took a sharp look up, made quick strides to her, and gave her a tight hug.

"Did I make you sad today? I'm sorry."

He held her tightly, tossed the cigarette to the ground, rested his chin on her head, and softly said, "Her name is Eviette. We have known each other for many years. She is a very, very important person to me."

Veronica leaned against his chest and smelled the strong scent of nicotine on him, guessing that he must

have smoked a lot of cigarettes. Is he stressed?

"Is she your ex-girlfriend?" Veronica asked openly.

Matthew shook his head. "No."

It was a straightforward response that was given in a firm manner.

Veronica remained silent as she awaited his explanation, but the man had none to offer.

She thought for a moment and gently patted his back with her hand. "I believe you. But, I think that woman named Eviette likes you."

"Are you jealous?"

Matthew couldn't help but smile. "Roni, I hadn't seen her in eight years until today. Do you believe she would have waited until now to find me if she really liked me?"

"Stop overthinking, alright?" he said as he stood up straight and poked her in the forehead.

Veronica pouted.

"Then why were you so harsh to Ivan earlier at One Piece Restaurant? You scared me. I thought you were just acting."

She secretly exhaled a sigh of relief, and the anxiety she had been experiencing suddenly vanished.

"I wasn't acting. I was really angry." Matthew put his hands on her shoulders, and added, "Roni, Eviette is very important to me. You two will become friends in the future."

"Is she very important?"

"Yes."

"Did you tell her about our fake divorce?"

"No. I have to wait for the right moment to tell her," Matthew explained.