

Bumpkin 1161

Chapter 1161 You've Changed

"I know Flavian has ulterior motives, especially when I accidentally found out that he had investigated you and the children. I became even more worried after that. The real reason for announcing our divorce is to make him give up his schemes on you."

Matthew sighed after speaking, his face filled with concern as he looked at Veronica and smiled helplessly. "I'm sorry that I'm useless."

A trip to the hidden clan made Matthew financially strained, and many things went beyond his control.

Veronica stared at him with clear eyes, and after a while, she stood up and sat beside him, wrapping her arms around his neck and resting her head on his shoulder. "I thought it was a big deal."

After she found out the truth, all of her anxiety and doubts disappeared, and she gradually understood why he had an ambiguous relationship with Eviette.

The reason was to prove that he had a new lover by having an ambiguous relationship with Eviette. It was done in order to eliminate any possible threats that Flavian might bring to her.

It was like an act of diverting misfortune away from oneself by taking the initiative to cause trouble.

"If I had known this earlier, I would never have agreed to announce a fake divorce." Veronica rested her head on his shoulder, one hand covering his hand as she caressed his slightly warm skin, feeling emotional. "Matt, I'm not as fragile as you think. We have been through thick and thin together. This is nothing at all."

"It's all my fault."

Matthew placed the tall glass on the table to wrap his long arms around her waist. Looking down at his understanding wife in his arms, he leaned down to kiss her cherry-like lips. "You can punish me."

The two looked into each other's eyes affectionately.

Suddenly, a mischievous glint flashed in Veronica's raven eyes. "Hmm... How about I punish you by kissing me for a minute?"

A charming smile appeared on the handsome man's face. "This sounds more like a reward, but since my dear wife has requested, I will naturally fulfill your wish."

As soon as he finished speaking, his warm lips covered her soft lips as they engaged in a passionate makeout session.

The conflicts between the two were like seasoning, adding a hint of flavor to their lives. At this moment, it ignited like a raging fire.

30 seconds later, Veronica regretted it.

She was pinned down by Matthew on the couch, and he forcefully destroyed all her clothes, seizing her in a strong and domineering manner.

They moved from the couch to the windows and finally ended up on the bed.

By now, two to three hours had passed.

Veronica panted heavily while resting her head on his arm and lazily squinting her eyes. "I think the person who poses the greatest threat to me is you, Matthew. Let's get a divorce for real, or I'm afraid that one day I will die in bed."

This b*stard seemed to have endless energy, completely draining her.

A mischievous smile appeared on his handsome face. He lightly pinched her waist and remarked, "I'll never run out of energy on things like these, for your information."

Chapter 1162 Something To Take Care Of

Veronica was also considering Matthew's situation.

After the incident with the hidden clan, he was no longer a coward. However, since he publicly announce their fake divorce because of Flavian, it was enough to prove the seriousness of the situation, especially since Flavian had not contacted Matthew for 20 years. His appearance just seemed too intentional.

If she maintained being divorced from him, it could also help him avoid unnecessary worries.

"After you have investigated Flavian and resolved the matter between you two, we can consider restoring our marriage publicly," she said.

Matthew leaned to the side, propped his head on his hand on the bed, and uttered with concern, "Rumors and gossip about you are spreading online. They're hurting you."

He had publicly announced his divorce from Veronica, claiming that they had peacefully divorced, but he couldn't stop the keyboard warriors from speculating.

"We have gone through dangerous situations with the hidden clan, so why would we care about these rumors and gossip? Matt, I am not as fragile as you think," Veronica reassured him firmly, her eyes looking even more determined.

Only by maintaining a fake divorce status with Matthew could she make him feel at ease and fully focus on dealing with Flavian.

Seeing that Matthew still had concerns, she continued, "Okay, let's keep it a secret for now. When you have thoroughly investigated Flavian's conspiracy, we can remarry publicly, alright?"

"Okay," Matthew agreed this time.

At the thought of Eviette, she asked, "You have such a good relationship with Eviette. Are you sure she has no feelings for you?"

Matthew smiled in response. "No, there's someone else she likes."

"Are you sure?"

Veronica always felt that Eviette liked Matthew a lot.

"I'm sure," Matthew replied firmly, completely convinced that Eviette had no feelings for him.

Veronica asked about Eviette several times before this, but Matthew never had the intention of sharing their past with her. From there, she knew that things between them were not that simple.

Since Matthew was also not a simple person, it was reasonable that his friends had mysterious backgrounds.

Although they were married, they still had their own privacy. Veronica would not pry into it unreasonably.

The same went for the matter with Flavian.

Initially, Matthew chose to keep it a secret, but now he had voluntarily told her.

She believed that one day, he would also voluntarily talk to her about his past with Eviette.

Suddenly, the quiet room was interrupted by the sound of a ringing phone.

Chapter 1163 Tiffany Larson

Liem's body stiffened. With a frown, he stared at the women who he was supporting. "You're not Veronice!"

"I... I think you must have mistaken me for someone else. My name is Tiffeny." Tiffeny took a step back, lowered her head, and brushed off the dust on her skirt with her slender fingers. However, due to the angle of her posture, it perfectly highlighted her exquisite figure.

She looked almost identical to Veronica, hence she was naturally a beauty.

However, compared to Veronica, who had a cold and elegant beauty, Tiffany had shed her former gentleness and become more delicate and charming, exuding a variety of charm that was even more captivating.

"Tiffany Larson?"

Liam's mind quickly spun as he suddenly remembered Tiffany's identity. The sense of unfamiliarity he felt disappeared instantly, replaced by a polite and gentlemanly attitude.

Due to his inherent unruliness, it seemed forced.

"Do... Do you know me, sir?" Tiffany was slightly surprised, which prompted her to raise her thin and curved eyebrows. "I-I just arrived here. How did you come to know about me?"

"Hehehe. It's actually a coincidence. A friend of mine knows your sister, and I heard from her that she has a sister. It is fate that brought us here together today."

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"Hahaha. It's actually a coincidence. A friend of mine knows your sister, and I heard from her that she has a sister. It is fate that brought us here together today."

Liam's unfriendly gaze scanned Tiffany up and down as if the words "playboy" were etched on his face. Perhaps he was afraid that others wouldn't know what kind of person he was.

"Really? That sounds like fate indeed. I didn't expect to meet my sister's friend in the hidden clan."

Since Liam could speak English, Tiffany also used English to communicate with him without barriers.

In fact, if they were to define it by age, Veronica would be Tiffany's older sister, not younger.

However, this matter was rarely known, so no one would bring it up naturally.

"Hehehe, of course. Have you had dinner yet, Miss Larson? If you don't mind, let me treat you to dinner as an apology for accidentally bumping into you just now."

"W-Wouldn't it be inappropriate?"

"Why would you say that? A friend's sister is also a friend. We are on the same side. Come on, let me take you to a sushi place."

Liam didn't give Tiffany a chance to refuse and took her to a nearby sushi restaurant.

That night, the two exchanged contact information, and he tried to invite her several times but was rejected.

She was trying... to play hard to get.

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Chapter 1164 Invitation

Veronice knew that Creyson was afraid of losing control over her, but he also knew that she couldn't be controlled.

Besides Creyson, Destiny was also sitting on the couch. The two of them looked at Veronice, who had disappeared at the end of the stairs, and exchanged a melancholic glance.

"Mr. Creyson, have we pampered her too much?" Destiny raised her hand and brushed her bangs, sighing. "The hidden clan will become even more crowded starting tomorrow. If she continues being like this, she will be like an untamed wild horse."

By then, it would be as difficult as reaching the sky to restrain Veronice.

"Well..." Creyson picked up the cigarette, took out a bit of tobacco from his pouch, lit it, and took a puff.

He was used to smoking like this, used to it for a lifetime, and had incorporated this habit into his bones.

He was just like Veronice. She had been independent since young, so how could she easily submit to others?

"You don't need to worry about her. Just manage Meteo, that boy, and don't let him cause trouble outside anymore." Creyson changed the topic.

Sensing that Creyson was reluctant to talk about Veronice, Destiny kept quiet.

In the evening, Matthew went into Veronice's room as usual.

The couple enjoyed a passionate and intimate moment, with soft moans echoing through the room, but they deliberately kept their voices low to avoid being noticed.

Afterward, Veronice nestled in Matthew's arms. "Mett, Zec, and the rest will come to the hidden clan tomorrow. What if your identity is discovered?"

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There was always a risk when walking by the river.

Although Matthew disguised himself very well, the truth couldn't be hidden for long. Sooner or later, there would be a day when his true identity would be exposed.

Matthew hugged her waist and gently petted her back tenderly with his palm. "We have two months to go until the ascension ceremony of the new head of the clan. Even if they don't discover my identity, I will have to reveal myself at that time. It's just a matter of time, and it won't have a big impact."

"Two months may not seem too long or too short, but accidents can happen anytime."

"Silly girl. Even if they find out, it doesn't matter. I don't want to stay with you with this face forever. What if you find me ugly one day and turn to someone else's embrace? What should I do then?"

"Pfft... What are you talking about?"

Matthew successfully made Veronice laugh.

Suddenly, she recalled something and asked him, "Anyway, have you met the future head of the clan since you came here?"

The future head would naturally be Tenye Ledger's daughter.

"I have. She is a beauty herself, but she can't compare to my elegant and charming wife."

"Tsk, if you want to praise someone, just praise them directly. Why bring me into it? I won't get jealous."

"Is that so?"

"Of course."

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Chapter 1165 Liam Wants to Meet Me

The moment Veronice heard it, she knew that Tiffeny had already hooked up with Liam.

Despite her initial desire to refuse, she eventually nodded and said, "Okay. When is it?"

They would have to meet sooner or later; avoiding it would not solve any problems.

Furthermore, meeting them now would give her access to the hidden clan's most recent updates, effectively killing two birds with one stone.

"It's tonight. Do you need me to pick you up?"

"Okay." Veronica agreed quickly and without hesitation.

In this awkward circumstance, she shouldn't have to interact with Liam, but Veronica was a rebel by nature. The more Crayson and the others tried to keep her under control, the more she wanted to rebel.

Because...

She had her own plans.

Matthew had said not to trust anyone, only to trust oneself.

So, Veronica chose to enter the tiger's den.

At lunchtime, a few people sat at the dining table, and Veronica was savoring the lunch prepared by Matthew. She noticed that Matthew had gotten better at cooking.

This flawless and perfect man was prepared to give everything up for her—even to be beneath her.

As she pondered Matthew's "sacrifice," she started feeling increasingly guilty.

"By the way, I'm going out tonight for a while."

She picked up a piece of roasted squash, took a bite, and lowered her gaze, saying, "Liam wants to meet me."

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Moments ago, the sound of a fork sporadically scraping the porcelain bowl could still be heard. But then the dining room fell silent.

Veronica tried to keep her head down, but she could feel the hot gaze on her. She pretended not to see anything as she calmly continued to eat her meal.

Creyson's face darkened, and he subconsciously glanced at Destiny sitting across from him. Before he could speak, Matteo couldn't help but speak up.

"You're meeting Liam? Don't you know that he wants to pursue you, Roni?"

He was straightforward.

Veronica took a piece of baked fish and placed it in her bowl, then removed the fish bones and casually stated, "I know."

"You know that, and you're still going to see him?"

His voice suddenly rose, and it was clear that he was not happy. He looked at Veronica like she was an idiot.

"Anthony and a few others that I know are coming as well," Veronica explained.

As she spoke, Veronica deliberately glanced at Creyson and found that he visibly relaxed after hearing her words.

"Grendpe, aren't you going to say anything?" Matteo looked at Creyson and waited for him to berate Veronica, but he didn't say anything for a while.

"She has her own opinions, so no matter what I say is useless," Crayson continued as he ate.

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Chapter 1166 The Bribe

While sighing, he cast a glance towards the kitchen as a plan formed in his mind.

After dinner, Mateo quickly gathered the bowls and skipped over to Matthew, offering him a cigarette. "Iron, want to smoke?"

Matthew, who was cleaning up the kitchen, set the dishcloth aside and shook his head as he washed his hands. "Sorry, I don't smoke."

"You don't smoke?"

Mateo furrowed his brows and played with the cigarette in his hand. "You don't smoke. Hmm. Hold on."

He quickly exited the kitchen and then came back. "Here. How about this?"

Mateo handed Matthew a jar of wine. "This is the best Drunken Wine of our hidden clan, aged for ten years. I wouldn't even give it to my Grandpa."

"I suppose you aren't a filial grandson then." Matthew stood there, his gaze intently fixed on the jar of wine in Mateo's hand.

Mateo had a strange sense that he was being reprimanded, but he had no proof.

"Hehehe. Now that you're guarding Roni, let's become friends. It's only fair that I give this to you since we men should share the good stuff among ourselves."

"From what I know, you haven't known Miss Roni for long."

"Tsk. What do you know? I met Roni ten years ago, so we're old acquaintances. Speaking of which, I fell in love with her at first sight back then, I was..."

Mateo smiled brightly as he thought back on the old times. But about halfway through, he quickly suppressed his grin. "Why am I telling you all of this? Forget it. Take this wine, and find a reason to leave this afternoon so I can go to the banquet with Roni."

Love at first sight?

Despite his suspicions, Matthew was unaware that Mateo had been in love with Veronica since ten years ago, which was much earlier than him.

"Sorry, I don't drink either." Matthew declined.

However, his voice had a softer, more sincere tone than usual, giving people a sense of his sincerity.

"Oh, you don't drink either?"

Mateo was really in a pickle because Matthew didn't smoke or drink.

He planned to give Matthew a few cigarettes because he thought Matthew smoke. Little did Mateo know, though, that Matthew was not a smoker or drinker.

Holding the jar of wine, Mateo pondered for a while, his eyes suddenly brightening. He grinned at Matthew and said, "Wait for me. I'll be right back."

Five minutes later, he hurried back into the kitchen after leaving it in a hurry, only to discover that "Iron Pillar" had left. So he went upstairs to his room.

He pushed the door open, and, as expected, Matthew was resting on the bed.

"Oh, you're here, Iron. You made it so hard for me to find you."

Mateo walked over to Matthew's bed and sat down, reaching into his pocket and pulling out a wad of cash, and shoving it into Matthew's hand. "Here's some money. Take it and buy whatever you want. You don't have to be shy. If you need anything in the future, just let me know, and I'll do my best to help you."

Chapter 1167 How Can Iron Pillar Go Back on His Word?

Who would have known that these 20,000 hidden clan credits were worth 100,000 Destorian Dollars and enough to send Mateo into a nightlong state of despair? However, Matthew didn't quickly agree. He reluctantly replied, "I'll give it a try."

"That's settled then. Iron, I'm going back to my room to await your good news."

With everything settled, Mateo was in a great mood and couldn't contain his smile.

He stood up and left the room, shutting the door behind him.

Instantaneously, the serene look vanished from Matthew's face and was replaced with a tinge of iciness. He smiled as he shook his head, looking at the 20,000 in his hand.

At 3.00PM, Mateo emerged from the room wearing a suit and looking stunning.

Crayson, who Mateo thought had come to find him, was approaching him. Mateo smiled and stated, "Grandpa, Iron told me that he has something to do this afternoon, so I'll accompany Roni to the appointment."

"Iron Pillar told me the same thing, but that little brat has already left with him. She needs to take care of some business first before going to the appointment. So you should just stay at home."

Crayson's words undoubtedly struck Mateo hard. He stood there dumbfounded, his fair face drooping.

"What do you—How can Iron Pillar go back on his word?"

He had spent 20,000 hidden clan credits to bribe "Iron Pillar," but he never expected to be played.

"What do you mean by going back on his word? He did have something to do, but that little brat went out with him because she had nothing to do."

Crayson explained and then left.

But after taking a few steps, he paused, turned around, furrowed his brows tightly, and glared at Mateo in anger. "You little brat, did you bribe Iron Pillar? That's why he said he had something to do and couldn't accompany that little brat."

"Ah, I..."

At this time, Mateo felt like crying. He waved his hands repeatedly and remarked, "No, no, no. It's not like that. Iron Pillar came to me earlier and said he had something to do, so he asked me to accompany Roni. It's just a misunderstanding."

He turned back to the room while forcing a bitter smile.

His smile then was even more hideous than when he was sobbing.

In the meantime, at the base of a hill, in an off-road vehicle.

Matthew drove along with Veronica, leaving the city and heading to the outskirts. They came to a halt in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by green mountains and clear water.

Turning to look at the woman in the passenger seat, Matthew played with a strand of hair at her temple with his slender fingers. "Tell me. What should I do with you?"

"What's wrong?"

Chapter 1168 I Only Have Eyes for You

As she sat on his lap, Matthew held her by the waist. He showed genuine regret as he lifted her chin with one hand and caressed her skin with the other. "Can I get rid of the homewreckers around you if I reveal my identity?"

"I think that term is usually used for females," Veronica responded, chuckling as she found him amusing.

However, she had to admit that she found something about Matthew's jealous expression to be somewhat endearing.

And somewhat pitiful.

"Don't pay attention to others but me." Matthew Kings lightly squeezed her chin with his hand, implying punishment.

"Oh, Matt. Why would you even think that?"

Veronica was amused by Matthew's jealousy. She caressed his neck while encircling it with her hands and leaning close. "I only have eyes for you. Never mind Mateo or Liam; even if 100 men exposed strip naked in front of me, they wouldn't be as attractive as my husband."

"Really?"

"Of course."

She straightened up and nodded vigorously.

Looking into his eyes, she could see Matthew's concern in his uneasy expression. She felt so bad for him that she leaned down and kissed his lips.

The fact that they kissed didn't matter; however, once they started, they couldn't stop.

With a large hand holding the back of her head, Matthew savored the taste of her lips as he gently nibbled on them. He continued to lose himself in the kiss as if he were high on opium.

Unable to catch her breath, Veronica attempted to push Matthew away while patting his chest with her hand, but Matthew firmly held on.

"Matt, stop messing around. People will see," she mumbled as she let him kiss her lustfully.

His throbbing revealed his innermost feelings.

Veronica, however, was embarrassed that she nervously looked around, worried that Matthew might lose control of his emotions and do something that would later be seen by someone.

"It's okay. Not many people come here. They're all my people here."

He replied in a low, hoarse voice while leaning against her forehead and closing his eyes.

Veronica no longer had any reason to resist, even if she wanted to.

But...

"I—Matt, I'm worried that—"

"Silly girl. I'm here, so don't worry."

"You're the reason why I'm worried. I'm worried that you'll become overcome with passion and that people will see us, which would be so embarrassing."

Chapter 1169 Brennan Manor's Bathroom Incident

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She didn't know when, but she flinched against his chest and let her eyes drift closed. "Matt."

"Hmm?"

The man held her in his arms, his fingertips caressing her cheek, a faint smile on his lips.

"Hmm..."

Veronica made a barely audible noise out of her nose, but she didn't have anything to say other than to call his name.

"Be good for me and get some sleep."

The man reached behind him and pulled over a blanket, covering Veronica and patting her back like a child.

Exhausted, Veronica fell asleep in his arms for a while.

Her insomnia had gradually improved since meeting Matthew, which surprised Veronica.

...

In Bloomstead, Shirley arrived home exhausted and went straight to the bathroom to turn on the water for a bath.

She felt an immense sense of shame and grievance when she thought about what happened in the bathroom in Brennan Manor, and tears fell from her eyes.

She continued to soak in the bathtub without realizing how much time had passed or that the water had grown cold.

Soon, she passed out from exhaustion after crying.

On the other side, Skyler, after finishing his work, felt guilty when he saw Shirley's desolate and sad appearance.

After leaving Brennan Manor, he went to a bar by himself and got drunk.

But no matter how much he drank, all he could think of was Shirley's pitiful and tearful appearance. He felt restless, so he picked up his phone and called Shirley.

He made a call, but no one answered.

Skyler then made another call, but still no response.

By this point, he had made five or six calls in a row, but there was still no answer.

Skyler panicked, his heart sank with a pang of pain, and a bad premonition flooded his mind.

Then, he raised the drink in front of him, downed the last sip in one gulp, and walked out of the bar.

First, he went to the company, but couldn't find her, so he went to the hospital where Wade's mother was, but Shirley wasn't there either.

Afterward, he proceeded to Shirley's rented apartment.

Because he had lived here before, Skyler knew that Shirley's spare key was under the carpet. He found the key, opened the door, and rushed in.

"Shirley?"

No one was in the living room, so he went to the bedroom, but no one was there either.

He saw the bag and phone left on the sofa so it was obvious that Shirley was home.

Eventually, he turned his attention to the bathroom and moved a step forward.

The bathroom door was partially open, and he called out "Shirley," but there was no response.

At that moment, he felt a throbbing pain in his heart that swept through his entire body, and his fingertips trembled slightly.

"No, it can't be."

Chapter 1170 I Must Be Insane to Be Worrying About You

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He then held the woman's waist and gently patted her cheek with one hand. "Shir—"

"Hmm?"

The woman in his arms made a sound that forced air out of her nostrils. Her long, lush lashes fluttered as she slowly opened her eyes and vaguely recognized Skyler's face. She couldn't help but become irritated. "This is so annoying. I have to be bothered by you even in my dreams."

Hearing that left Skyler speechless.

What the heck? Does she truly despise me?

Skyler, who had always been popular with women, felt strangely hurt and wanted to let go of her and throw her back into the cold bathtub. However, he noticed that her skin was gradually becoming warmer, so he reached out and touched Shirley's forehead, realizing that she was feverish.

While she was soaking in the chilly water just now, her skin felt cool to the touch, but as soon as she got out, it quickly warmed up.

"I truly have no idea how to deal with you."

After that, Skyler carried Shirley back to her room and searched the apartment for some fever-reducing medication. He poured her a glass of water and sat beside her bed, giving her the medicine.

However, she didn't open her mouth at all and kept her eyes closed, leaving Skyler unsure of what to do.

Having no choice but to do so, he reached out and squeezed Shirley's cheeks, forcing her to open her mouth so he could administer the medicine.

He then gently assisted her in bringing her fever down.

Skyler filled a basin with water, soaked a towel in it, wrung it out, and lifted the blanket to wipe her body. But when he saw her flawless fair skin, he felt a tightness in his throat.

"F*ck!"

He frowned and tossed the towel into the washbasin before turning and fleeing the room.

Bang!

He shut the bedroom door and stood at the bathroom door for a few moments. His hand clenched slightly by his side as he tried to shake off his inappropriate thoughts.

Skyler picked up his coat with the intention to leave the apartment. But when he thought about Shirley still having a high fever, he knew he had to stay with her.

Upon entering the room again, Shirley was still sleeping and he patiently wrung out the towel once more to clean her body.

"Ah! What are you doing?"

"Oh, sh*t!"

A scream erupted out of nowhere, and before Skyler could respond, he was kicked and knocked to the floor. Unfortunately, he tumbled and sat in the basin, splashing water all over the floor.

This was unquestionably the worst humiliation of his life.

Shirley, who had awakened, wrapped herself in a blanket tightly and gazed in terror at Skyler. "Y-you bastard! Get out!"