

Bumpkin 1171

Chapter 1171 Veronica Murphy, the Guest of Honor

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She picked up her phone and recognized Liam's call from the string of numbers that were shown on the screen.

Only Liam knew her phone number because she had just changed it yesterday.

She looked at Matthew before pressing the speakerphone button to answer the call. "Hello?"

"Miss Murphy, where are you?" The person on the other line asked.

Veronica looked around and realized she didn't know where she was, so she explained, "I had something come up unexpectedly. Send me your location, and I'll come find you later."

Liam had come specifically to get Veronica, but he had left empty-handed. Although he was upset, instead of expressing it, he just laughed awkwardly. "That works too. I'll text you my location."

"Sure. I'll see you later."

After hanging up the phone, Veronica leaned back in Matthew's arms, putting her arms around his waist and squinting her eyes. "They've all arrived. Is there going to be a big change in the hidden clan?"

"Different situations call for different action. There's no need to worry."

He reassured her, but Veronica couldn't help but feel uneasy despite his words.

Afterward, the two of them straighten up their attire and then set off, following the address Liam had given them.

An hour and a half later, they reached their destination. It was already 6.30PM., and the sun was setting in the west.

Liam had chosen a bonfire feast on a lawn outside the hidden clan palace.

Mountains and water surrounded the lawn's north side, creating a lovely scene. It was dusk, and the glowing blaze of the bonfire enhanced the beauty of the flickering fireflies as they danced across the green grass.

When they entered, they were stopped by soldiers outside. They gained access after Veronica Murphy revealed who she was.

As soon as they entered, Veronica Murphy saw Liam Ledger coming towards her. "Hahaha! Miss Murphy, you've arrived at last. I was prepared to personally pick you up if you didn't show up."

As Liam greeted Veronica, he cast a scornful glance back at the unsophisticated bodyguard standing behind her.

"I apologize for being late," Veronica Murphy replied politely while giving a small nod.

"Don't worry about it. Come, let's go over there."

With a bright smile, Liam led Veronica toward the bonfire and announced, "Everyone, look who I've brought as the guest of honor."

Several people sitting by the bonfire turned their heads and were surprised to see Veronica, each with their own thoughts.

Chapter 1172 Prince Liam Doesn't Welcome Us, so Let's Leave

"Well, we're all here now... Hahaha!"

Liam fixed his intense, enthralled gaze on Veronica.

And that look made Matthew feel particularly uneasy.

Veronica shrugged off Tiffany and simply grinned at Liam before approaching Xavier. "Long time no see. I couldn't attend your wedding with Antheena last time. Is it too late to congratulate the newlyweds now?"

As she spoke to Xavier, she caught sight of Antheena approaching from behind, and her red lips curled into a faint smile.

Antheena didn't reject the sincere gaze and blessings from Veronica, nor did she think Veronica was being overly hypocritical.

Because Antheena knew very well that Veronica only had feelings for Matthew, and even if Xavier couldn't let go of Veronica, it was just his unrequited love.

Even so, it was very hard to get rid of the jealousy that had grown deeply ingrained in her heart.

Antheena walked to Xavier's side, linking her arm with his and looking affectionate. "Thank you."

They both avoided bringing up the assassination at Primrose Residence.

"Why are we all standing? Let's sit. We all know each other, so there's no need to be too polite," Liam said, attempting to hold Veronica's wrist and lead her to her seat.

However, no matter how fast he was, could he beat Matthew?

Matthew stepped forward and pulled Veronica aside in one swift motion. Liam, who was looking straight ahead, didn't notice Veronica had been pushed away, so he reached out and took hold of Matthew's hand.

Liam expected that by taking the initiative to hold who he thought was Veronica, she would definitely struggle and resist, but she didn't.

He was a little giddy inside, and he even used his fingertips to lightly touch "her" skin. He imagined her to have soft, delicate skin and wasn't ready for it to feel rough or even like a man's.

While Liam was perplexed, he noticed that the people in front of him were each giving him a different look while smiling slyly.

He was stunned and turned his head to look, only to find that he was holding onto a big man.

A man with moles on his face, ugly and dark—Iron Pillar!

"Prince Liam's interests are, indeed, different from those of ordinary people."

When Veronica heard this, she was so tightly suppressing her laughter that she almost suffered an internal injury.

Liam was the family's youngest child and, as one might expect, a young prince. Outside, Veronica could address him as "Young Master Liam," but inside the palace, she had to refer to him as "Prince Liam."

"Hahaha!"

Anthony's eyes lit up, unable to hold back his laughter, and looked at Liam intently.

Chapter 1173 What Have You Done?

"Prince Liam is right. Veronica, come and sit here," Hendrey said to Veronica with his usual gentleness.

Xavier looked at Veronica, his eyebrows furrowed, and glanced at Antheena beside him, but he didn't say anything.

On the other hand, Tiffany cast a resentful glance at Veronica and then glared at Hendrey with anger

before shamelessly sitting down next to Liam, who was in the main seat.

The lawn was lit with bonfires, and seven or eight rectangular low tables were placed around the bonfires. Each table had two votive candle stands, and there were delicious food and wine on the tables, all of which were pleasing to the eye, nose, and palate.

"She is my honored guest, so naturally she should sit next to me." Liam snarled at Hendrey before telling Veronica, "Miss Murphy, please sit here."

Victoria wished to reject both Hendrey and Liam, lest she face an extremely jealous certain someone later that night, which would be disastrous.

"I..."

"Come and sit here, I won't eat you." Liam didn't give Veronica a chance to argue at all. He pulled her hand and sat her in the main seat.

At that moment, Veronica felt a chill down her spine. She released his hand quickly because she was worried that if she waited even a split second, Matthew would be choking Liam.

"I can walk by myself," she said with an awkward smile.

Then, Liam snapped his fingers, and a band came over to play. A group of beautiful women in hidden clan costumes came forward to dance.

It was a joyful and festive scene, complete with songs and dancing.

"Here, let's drink."

Liam held up his wine glass and clinked glasses with everyone. He smiled at Veronica and said, "This is the best wine of our hidden clan. It's really good. Try it."

"Thank you," Veronica politely replied.

Tiffany couldn't help but feel envious as she observed Veronica and Liam exchanging glances. She sarcastically said, "You're so mentally strong, Veronica. You've only recently lost your husband, and already you're getting so close to other men. Aren't you concerned that he won't be able to rest in peace?"

The smile on Veronica's face disappeared when she heard that. She paused slightly with the glass in her hand and slowly raised the wine glass to her lips in front of everyone.

The orange glow from the bonfire fell on her face, making her features even more charming, and there was not a hint of anger to be seen.

But at this moment, after Veronica put down the wine glass, she picked up a fork from the table and swiftly shot it toward Tiffany. The fork cut right through her hand that was holding the glass.

Snap!

"Ah!"

Chapter 1174 You Can't Kill Me!

She was a unique living being, after all, and her existence was also a result of Veronica's own genes.

Unfortunately, Tiffany didn't know how to cherish it.

"Veronica Murphy, how dare you attempt to murder me in the clan palace's secret chambers? You're disrespecting the head of the clan!" Tiffany covered her left hand, which still had the fork in it. Her face turned pale, and she trembled violently in pain as blood gushed down the fork.

She was filled with rage and wished she could pounce on Veronica, rip her apart, and drink her blood, but even that wouldn't be enough to stop the rage in her heart.

But since she was with the hidden clan, she couldn't act so carelessly.

"You're about to die, and you still care where you are," she sneered, "but it's good to know where you're buried before you die, so you can die with peace of mind."

After saying that, Veronica took a step toward Tiffany.

At this point, the atmosphere was tense. Troy, Liam, Anthony, Xavier, and his wife watched from the sidelines.

Anthony secretly conspired with Tiffany, but he couldn't openly take sides to avoid being exposed.

"Over my dead body!" Hendrey stood in front of Tiffany.

Looking at the man in front of her, she noticed that he was just as kind and elegant as she remembered him from years earlier.

Everything about him seemed the same, but also completely different.

"Then let's try it," Veronica said as she smirked indifferently.

At the same time, she bent down slightly, holding another fork from the low table in her hand, and kicked Hendrey in the air.

Hendrey didn't expect Veronica to really fight back. Although he blamed Tiffany for deserving this outcome, he still had to protect her.

Hendrey managed to avoid Veronica's attack, but he noticed her hand holding the fork and aiming it directly at Tiffany's face. He took several quick steps back while Veronica changed her strategy and attacked Tiffany once more.

"Ah, Hendrey! Save me..." Tiffany's face turned pallid as she became terrified.

During the time she was missing, although she had practiced martial arts, those moves were ineffective against Veronica. Moreover, she was injured and her reaction was slow.

Amid the commotion, Liam sat motionless, enjoying his wine while observing Veronica. Every time he saw this woman, he couldn't help but be amazed.

Liam liked women of all sizes and shapes as long as they were exceptional, and his attraction to Veronica was purely physical—a man's physiological pursuit of a woman.

"Sebastian, look, it turns out that she still has a lot of love for her deceased husband." Antheena used the opportunity to remind Xavier as they watched the chaos unfold.

She hoped Xavier would realize how much Veronica had loved Matthew from the beginning and that even though Matthew was no longer alive, he had no chance.

Chapter 1175 Tiffany Was Spared

Helpless, she took to her heels and ran toward Anthony. "Anth—Ah!"

Tiffany had only started to run when Veronica's fork flew out and pierced Tiffany's calf. She collapsed to the ground, screaming in agony, as a result of the pain.

Veronica, who exuded a fierce aura, approached her side slowly, stepped on her leg, then knelt to remove the fork.

Tiffany screamed in agony again, and this time it was exceptionally loud.

Guards were nearby when this occurred, but they were afraid to approach without Liam's command.

Then, Veronica stepped on Tiffany's stomach while leaning down and playing with the fork in her right hand that was covered in blood. She slid it across Tiffany's fair face, leaving a trail of blood.

Veronica's face gradually darkened as the fork was eventually pointed at Tiffany's neck. "Tiffany Larson, it's all your fault. Remember to be a good person in your next life!"

Following that, Veronica raised her hand and stabbed downward fiercely.

Tiffany's pupils widened at that precise moment as though she could see the Grim Reaper coming. It was also the first time she experienced a sense of impending death.

"Stop!"

At the critical moment, a stone flew from a distance and accurately hit the fork in Veronica's hand. The tremendous force made her hand numb, and the fork flew away.

Everyone turned their heads to look and saw a man and a woman walking toward them.

The two of them were dressed in the attire of the hidden clan, walking with a commanding presence and a remarkable aura.

"How dare you try to kill someone outside our hidden clan palace? Do you not regard our hidden clan royalty in your eyes?" The man said this in English.

The man presumably already knew who they were.

Then, the man turned his gaze to Liam and spoke in the language of the hidden clan. "Liam, as a prince, are you just going to stand by and do nothing?"

"Yes, Dominik is right. You're too lenient," the woman complained.

"Ah, Dominik and Eleanor, they're all skilled here. It's not something I can control with just a few words. There isn't much I can do." Liam shrugged and spread his hands.

At this moment, Matthew and Hendrey also stopped what they were doing. Veronica rose to her height, and Tiffany was spared.

Tiffany, trembling in fear, detected a faint survival opportunity and crept behind Anthony.

Anthony, who was drinking, watched the approaching group of people with a frown. Suddenly, his nose instinctively sniffed and caught a whiff of a pungent odor.

His expression turned icy as he cast a glance back at Tiffany, focusing on her skirt.

Chapter 1176 Eleanor's Reverse Psychology

"Yes, Your Highness."

The servant walked up to Tiffany and stated, "Miss Larson, please come with me."

In a humiliated state, Tiffany followed the servant out of the room out of fear that her embarrassing incident would be made public.

"Are you Veronica Murphy?"

Eleanor walked up to Veronica and curiously looked her up and down.

The Haians have deep and three-dimensional facial features, thick brows, and large eyes—particularly Eleanor, whose features are incredibly attractive, exotic-girl charming, and very pleasing to the eye.

She could also speak English.

But Veronica had just overheard Eleanor and Dominik conversing fluently with Anthony in Trilas, which made her secretly admire Tanya Ledger's excellent parenting of her children.

Her three children are all fluent in at least three languages, and even Liam, the least capable, is fluent in eight. Their abilities should not be underestimated.

Are all the subordinates under the Ledger clan as strong as the Ledger children? Can Hayley and Crayson compete with Eleanor? Veronica thought.

"Yes." Veronica Murphy nodded and feigned a smile.

"I know you. You are Hayley Elrod's daughter, and you want to challenge me for the position of the head of the clan, right?" Eleanor tilted her head and looked at Veronica, her lips curved into a smile.

Her words caused everyone's expressions to change, despite her voice being high-pitched and very pleasant to the ear.

Even Veronica, who was usually calm in the face of things, was stunned for a moment.

She was Hayley's daughter, which everyone in the room knew, but nobody had ever mentioned it.

And for a moment after what Eleanor had just said, people were unsure if she was being honest about her ignorance or just acting foolish.

Or did she want to show her dominance in public?

Everyone's attention suddenly turned to Veronica; some people laughed while others were concerned as they observed from the sidelines.

"You should ask Hayley this question. She should be able to give you an accurate answer," Veronica answered.

"Hahaha! It was just a random question. You don't have to be nervous. My mother has held the position of head of the clan for many years. If you were to snatch it away overnight, it would only mean that my mother is incompetent."

She laughed freely and naturally, and her smile even had a hint of innocence.

The use of reverse psychology astounded Veronica.

"Come, let's all sit down. Since you are a friend of Liam, you are also a friend of mine. Everyone, make yourselves at home." Eleanor sat at the empty table across from her, and the servant had already prepared cutlery as well as delicious food and wine.

She raised her glass and stood up, "It's a pleasure to meet everyone, so here's a toast to all of you. Tell me all about the outside world later, alright?"

"Oh, Princess Eleanor. You shouldn't have."

Chapter 1177 Roni, Do I Still Have a Chance?

Liam's interest in Veronica was purely based on her beauty so there was nothing to be afraid of, but the other three had completely different intentions towards her, which inadvertently put immense pressure on Matthew.

Therefore, he wished to reveal his identity as soon as possible.

Veronica understood Matthew's meaning even though he left his sentence unfinished, and she felt helpless because there was nothing she could do.

Next to Eleanor was Anthony, who vividly described the prosperity of Castron to Eleanor, which she found very interesting.

"I'm going to the restroom," Veronica said to Liam, who was staring at her and got up to leave.

She said she was going to the restroom, but she actually just wanted to get some fresh air on the hillside.

The night grew incredibly lovely and peaceful as she stood by herself on the hillside, feeling the brisk evening breeze and admiring the dancing fireflies and sparkling stars.

"Are you thinking about him?" A voice suddenly emerged from behind.

Veronica turned around and saw Xavier.

She shook her head and denied it.

And of course, when Xavier referred to "him," he meant the "deceased" Matthew. Veronica stood on the hillside, gazing into the distance at the bustling city lights, and she felt a pang of unease in her heart.

"You shouldn't have brought Antheena here."

There were issues both inside and outside the hidden clan, and danger could strike at any time.

Standing next to her, Xavier stared off into the distance with his hands in the pockets of his light grey jeans. He sighed and added, "If I don't come, who will protect you when he's not here?"

The words Xavier spoke warmed her from the inside out, despite the chilly evening breeze.

Veronica felt a twinge of guilt towards Xavier.

He hated Matthew to the bone. Would Xavier hate her if he knew Matthew was still alive?

"Xavier, would you hate me if I lied to you one day?"

Unable to hold it in any longer, she asked him what was on her mind.

"No, I wouldn't," Xavier answered firmly without hesitation.

"Why don't you ask me what I would lie to you about?"

"I trust you. Unless it's absolutely necessary, you wouldn't deceive me or bother with lies."

"Heh." Veronica cracked a bitter smile. "You trust me too much. Aren't you afraid that one day I might betray you?"

Sighing, he crossed his arms, cocked his head, and raised an eyebrow with a smile. "You're not that kind of person."

Veronica was at a loss for words as a sudden sourness filled her heart, feeling sorry for Xavier's obstinacy.

"Actually, Antheena is a very nice person. She loves you very much, and you should cherish her."

"You say she's nice, but she wants to kill you. What about you, then? Aren't you better and more deserving of being cherished?"

"You two are married."

"We can get a divorce."

Chapter 1178 Let's Have a Few Drinks

"The bodyguard that Master Crayson found for you is quite skilled. The people around you are all hidden talents."

Xavier sighed.

He didn't know who Veronica was when he first met her, but when he later found out, he didn't find it at all surprising because she didn't radiate a normal person's aura from the inside out.

Veronica averted her gaze and let out a quiet sigh. "I'm not interested in all of these."

She wished for a simple and ordinary life, but it seemed as though fate had pulled a cruel joke on her.

When she looked up at the sky, it was filled with brilliant stars. The sound of croaking frogs filled the space, and everything reminded her of a childhood midsummer night. She would sit on her foster mother's lap and be fanned by her with a fan as she counted the stars and looked up at them.

"I can help you if you want to leave." Xavier got closer to Veronica and lowered his voice to say in her ear.

Veronica had no doubts that his words were genuine, but Xavier was too nice to her, so nice that she felt guilty.

Especially since Matthew, who was standing not far away, was still alive. If Xavier found out the truth... He'd be furious.

"Antheena is a good person. Don't let her down."

Veronica looked around and turned to leave, saying, "Let's go or people will start gossiping."

They took a few steps and walked to Matthew. Even in the dim light, Veronica could feel Matthew's sharp gaze on her, which made her feel uncomfortable.

The three of them sat down by the fire and talked and drank about various subjects, but they made no mention of the hidden clan's inheritance.

The atmosphere was pleasant and relaxed, and after a few rounds of drinks, everyone started to feel at ease.

At this moment, Liam stood up, holding a cup of wine, and walked to Veronica's side. He waved at Matthew, motioning for him to move aside.

But Matthew ignored him and continued to drink with his head down.

"Miss Murphy, tell your bodyguard to get out of the way. He really can't read the room." Liam felt displeased.

Veronica's lips twitched slightly as she met Matthew's' deep and bottomless eyes. "Could you scoot over a little?"

She couldn't help but feel a little guilty when she met his gaze after saying that.

Matthew frowned, stood up, and sat down at an empty table nearby.

Liam chuckled. "You're really gentle with your bodyguard."

He sat in the seat where Matthew had just been sitting. "I heard that you can hold your liquor well. Come, let's have a few drinks."

Chapter 1179 The Hidden Clan's Roasted Lamb

Antheena got to the point and Dominik raised his head and laughed heartily. "Liam is definitely the youngest among us. But when Liam and Eleanor competed as children, the bet was that if Liam won, Eleanor would call him 'Big Bro.' He did win that match against Eleanor, and since then, Eleanor has been calling him 'Big Bro Liam.' She got used to it over time."

"Your sibling relationship is truly enviable." Anthony sighed and continued drinking.

In the flickering firelight, the disappointment and sadness in Anthony's eyes were particularly clear.

He must have been thinking about his own siblings, which made him envy the harmonious family relationship of the Ledger clan.

"Your Highness, the wine is here."

A servant brought a jar of wine and knelt in front of the two, pouring wine for them.

At this moment, Tiffany also walked over, glanced at the wine bottle in the servant's hand, and her eyes lit up indicating that she was up to no good.

"Let's finish our drink for now. Later, when the roasted lamb is ready, I'll treat you to the specialty roasted lamb of our hidden clan."

Liam was hospitable and easygoing, making people feel close to him.

"Thank you for your generous hospitality, Prince Liam."

"Cheers."

"This wine is good."

"We heard that the roasted lamb of your hidden clan is delicious. We're looking forward to it."

"I love lamb meat a lot."

...

Everyone was chatting, and the mood was laid-back and pleasant.

But there were also one or two exceptions.

For example, Iron Pillar had a gloomy face throughout the banquet but was easily overlooked, and Tiffany was humiliated earlier and tried to minimize her presence as she was afraid of attracting attention and ridicule.

After everyone put down their wine glasses, Liam turned to the servant and said, "Go and ask if the roasted lamb is ready, and bring it over."

"Yes, Your Highness."

The servant turned and left.

After a while, several people carried two roasted lambs over, and two others set up a folding rack to roast the lambs and cut them into pieces with knives.

"Wow, it smells so good."

"It looks crispy on the outside and tender on the inside, very appetizing."

"What spices did you use to roast it? It smells amazing."

"Indeed."

"I've had many roasted lambs before, but none of them were as fragrant as this. I love eating lamb chops. Can I have more?"

...

The chef who roasted the lamb cut the meat with a knife and put it on plates, serving each person one by one.

Chapter 1180 Let's Spar!

"He's so quiet. If he hadn't spoken just now, I would have thought he was mute," Antheena said.

Eleanor looked at Matthew with interest. "Although he looks ordinary, he was quite skilled when he sparred with Hendrey Johnson." She then turned her head to Dominik and asked, "Can I spar with him, Dominik?"

"I've heard that Princess Eleanor is quite skilled. I also want to see for myself."

"You two can give it a go."

"Eleanor, don't be reckless."

"Why not? I've wanted to teach him a lesson for a long time. You can teach him a lesson for me, Eleanor."

"He is far superior to me in skill. Princess Eleanor should give up, or he might hurt you," Hendrey added.

This statement seemed normal, but upon closer examination, it seemed to be sowing discord.

Veronica couldn't guess what Hendrey was trying to do. She looked at him with an unfathomable gaze, and their eyes met. And Hendrey averted his gaze, feeling guilty.

"Hmph! You underestimate me too much."

Eleanor was pleased with the provocation. She raised her eyebrows confidently and walked up to Matthew. "Hey, what's your name? Would you like to spar with the leader of the hidden clan?"

Matthew poured himself a drink and coldly replied, "No."

His response was calm and firm, rejecting her altogether.

Tiffany, who had been silent since embarrassing herself, held a grudge against Iron Pillar. If he hadn't intervened to restrain Hendrey just now, Veronica wouldn't have had a chance to attack her.

Seeing this, Tiffany added fuel to the fire. "A mere bodyguard actually dares to disregard the leader of the hidden clan. How audacious."

As soon as she finished speaking, Matthew and Veronica glared at her, frightening her into immediately lowering her head and keeping quiet.

"That's right. If this matter gets out, it's likely that people will say you, Veronica, are disrespectful to the head of the clan," Anthony exaggerated.

Xavier couldn't stand it anymore and said, "It's been said that this is a friendly match, so of course, we need to seek the player's consent."

Among the crowd, Xavier was the only one genuinely protecting Veronica.

However, Xavier was a married man, and his words pissed Antheena off. "Princess Eleanor has condescended to spar with him, giving him face. His direct refusal shows that he doesn't know what's good for him! If it were someone else, he would have been dragged out and killed."

Antheena continued to fan the flames, hoping to provoke a conflict between Veronica and Eleanor.

"Why force him if he doesn't want to, Princess Eleanor?"

Veronica didn't want to force Matthew. The most important thing to her was to protect her man.