

Bumpkin 1191

Chapter 1191 Veronica Needs Time

They spoke of benevolence and righteousness in a place full of dangers, seemingly caring for the people in distress. They wanted her to compete for the position of the head of the hidden clan to save the common people in dire straits. Why didn't anyone ask for her opinion if that was the case?

"I..."

Hayley, as elegant as ever, sat gracefully on the couch, maintaining the posture of a noblewoman. However, her eyes showed undisguised sadness as she peered at Veronica.

"I heard from your master that you went to the palace. I was worried, so I came to check on you," she informed.

"I'm fine."

Veronica simply shrugged. She was just one step away from turning around and leaving before them. Then, she added, "If there's nothing else, you can go back. It's late, and I'm tired."

Others would politely ask their guests to leave, but Veronica couldn't even be bothered to pretend.

"You little brat, what did you say?!"

he angrily slapped the armrest of the couch. "She

mention it," Veronica replied with a slight curve of her red lips. She nodded as if it were a serious matter and deliberately straightened her posture.

she changed her tone from before and

ironically, her attempt to be friendly made them feel like she wasn't trying to improve

know how to appreciate the kindness shown to her. She couldn't help but reprimand her, "What is with your attitude?

tilted her head slightly. As her sharp gaze fell on Destiny, she raised an eyebrow and asked in return, "In This was ridiculous.

avoided getting into arguments with them, especially when it came to Matthew. She knew what despicable things Crayson

wanted her to show respect and consideration toward Hayley, preferably with the attitude a daughter should

she supposed to do

your mother,

stirred up, and she was about to say

her usual grace and elegance. "It's alright. Veronica needs time to accept me. I understand. As she said, it's late, so

tonight. The hidden clan has been restless lately. There mustn't be any mishaps," Mateo, who had been silent all this

Chapter 1192 May I Protect Roni?

No matter what he did, Crayson always considered the interests of Veronica and the hidden clan first.

"I watched that girl grow up. To be honest, this time... Sigh..." Crayson waved his hand at Matthew.

"Iron Pillar, you've been with Veronica all day today. You should rest early too."

Some things shouldn't be said in front of outsiders.

"I understand."

Matthew responded and went upstairs to rest as well.

Watching him leave, Hayley frowned. "Does he also live upstairs? Wouldn't it be... inconvenient?"

Hayley felt that "Iron Pillar" was, after all, a man, and it wasn't entirely appropriate for him to live on the same floor as Veronica.

"'Iron Pillar' is skilled. Letting him live in this building is also good for Veronica's safety. If anything happens, he can come to protect her in time."

Crayson had considered this matter carefully before deciding to let "Iron Pillar" live on the same floor as Veronica.

"That makes sense."

Hayley nodded without any objections.

Mateo, who was standing aside, pursed his lips and occasionally

noticed his expression and smiled warmly. "Mateo, do you have something to

"Ah... Me? "

"I...do have something

"You can say anything."

"Can I really?"

a long-standing friendship with your grandfather. We

"Haha, I-I'll tell you."

to her. He was about to say something when he started growing uneasy from Crayson,

brat, is there anything I am

Crayson glared at him.

turned around and glanced upstairs. "Actually, I-I want to ask if I may protect Roni in the
"Hehehe."

his words. "You and Veronica are friends. Of course, you should
you're just talking nonsense!"

"No, that's not it."

his lips. "I mean

"What do you mean?"

looked at him with confusion, not understanding what he

Chapter 1193 Her Selfish Motives

Just as Mateo put on a gloomy face, Hayley smiled and asked, "Do you know that she already has two children and has been married?"

"I know."

"Since you know, why do you still want to be with her?"

"Like I said, I saw her and fell for her when I went to Bloomstead years ago. I've been waiting for her all these years. I didn't want to tell you all, but seeing how outstanding Roni is, I'm worried that someone else will snatch her away."

Mateo really liked Veronica.

After waiting for decades, he finally had the chance to pursue Veronica.

No matter what her past was like, it didn't affect his feelings for her.

"Mateo, you're still too young. Some things are not as easy as you imagine." Hayley patted Mateo's shoulder and advised him earnestly.

"I've waited for over ten years. Do you think there's anything I can't accept?"

"The reason I'm being honest with you is because I want your support. As long as you agree, I will openly pursue Roni. We're the same age, and I believe I can take care of her.

he liked was Mateo's

frustrated because Veronica had been away from the hidden clan for so

moved by his sincere and passionate words, was slightly taken

under my watch. You have a pure heart and are kind-hearted. You're not bad. Roni is the mother of two children and has been

"Really?"

were filled with joy, and the corners of his mouth almost reached his

hard to make Roni accept you." Hayley
she agreed to Mateo's request was because of her own selfish
foster mother were all in Bloomstead, it would be difficult for them to
make Veronica willingly stay in the hidden clan, there had to be something that could make her
reluctant to leave. It had to be something she
the
Veronica's affection, Veronica would willingly
hidden clan royalty was very open-minded,
Veronica ascended to the position of the head of the clan and built a harem, having Mateo among her
many
"Yes! No problem!"

Chapter 1194 Knock

...

As Veronica leaned against the door, she looked at him with wide eyes. "Hehe, what does this have to do with me?"

Unable to meet Matthew's gaze directly, she nervously turned her head to look elsewhere.

This was amazing, in a way.

Liam had already given her a headache; now Mateo had come along. Veronica felt overwhelmed.

"How does this not have anything to do with you?"

He leaned down and pressed his forehead against hers.

As the man suddenly approached, a sense of oppression overwhelmed Veronica, causing her breath to hitch.

With a strong will to survive, she shook her head. "It's their business if they like me. I only like you."

She looked up, her bright eyes gazing at him, the sincerity in her eyes making it hard to doubt.

"Oh?" Matthew raised an eyebrow. "Is this your confession to me?"

He was secretly elated.

Veronica shook her head

"Why not?"

know that. Why else would I marry you? So, I'm just stating a fact,

Matthew's face. "Is there a difference?"

It's a fundamental

trying to tell me that you liked me a long time ago but don't like me

feel like Matthew was trying

of my two precious children.

family bond, no romantic

difference?" This time, it was Veronica's turn to counter with

lightly pinching her. "Could it be that you no longer love me and want to love someone else? It seems that I haven't been

while locking the door with his other hand. Then, he walked to the bed and gently placed Veronica on it before he pressed himself

They are all outside. We're

him, asking him

I'm about to lose my wife. It doesn't matter even if we are discovered." Matthew grabbed

was his passionate kiss that was so intense they

head, she couldn't help but think about Matthew's words just now. 'I don't care. I'm about to lose my wife. It doesn't matter even if

completely didn't match Matthew's usual way of

that the word "cute" could be used

Chapter 1195 Tender Love

"I... I want to talk to you."

After much thought, Hayley wanted to have a heart-to-heart conversation with Veronica.

She felt that there was too much distance between them that needed to be addressed. Or else, Veronica would never be able to accept her as her mother.

"Let's talk about it tomorrow. I'm tired. I want to sleep."

Veronica directly refused. She even found Hayley's request somewhat absurd.

Why did she want to chat with her when it was already late at night?

Could it be that she planned to talk all night?

"Well, then." Hayley turned away helplessly.

Because the room had good soundproofing, they couldn't hear whether Hayley had left or not.

Matthew could only gently hold the woman in his arms and leaned down to kiss her red lips, his movements becoming slower.

"How are you so busy?" He smiled, a hint of a curve forming at the corner of his lips.

"You should consider yourself lucky. If our babies were here, you would have to sleep in the guest room every day.

"No, I wouldn't."

her lip. "I'll let the

you? That's

we have

Matt, are

by Matthew

tenderly loving each other

water that touched her hand drew a slight cry

was wrong, held her hand and

frowned. "Does it

further, Matthew already knew what had

injured herself to stay awake during the bonfire feast outside

is just a minor

lay in the bathtub with her eyes

time, you must tell me if something happens. Don't shoulder everything on

will...

woman was so tired

her acting as lazy as a cute kitten, Matthew leaned forward to caress her cheek and kiss her forehead

body, he carried her back to bed to

returned to his

Veronica's room. It only leaped from

Chapter 1196 Explanation

Used?

She could certainly tell.

But what surprised Shirley was that she didn't expect Garrick to admit it directly and apologize to her in person.

But why is he doing this?

When Shirley said nothing, Garrick continued, "This is our family's private matter, and we have never mentioned it to the public. I wouldn't be telling you this if I didn't feel guilty toward you. Um..."

Garrick hesitated a bit on the phone. "How about this? When you're free, I'll make another appointment and explain it to you in person."

It surprised Shirley how the president of Cyberten Holdings was humble and polite in front of her.

If she postponed it again, she would appear like she didn't know how to act according to the situation.

After all, Garrick made it clear that he wanted to apologize in person. He really might have something that he struggled to tell her.

"I'll wait for you at the coffee shop where we last met in an hour."

She had just said that he had something to do, so if she went there now, it would prove that she had lied.

Helpless, Shirley postponed it to an hour later.

"Okay, I'll wait for you."

The other party hung up the phone readily.

Shirley sat in her office chair, lost in thought as she thought about something. Soon, her phone on the desk buzzed.

She picked up her phone and saw a missed call. She clicked on it...

It was Skyler.

But the phone only rang once before the call ended.

What is Skyler up to?

As last night's events filled Shirley's mind, her cheeks involuntarily turned red. She threw her phone aside and didn't reply.

An hour later, she appeared at the coffee shop as agreed.

She saw Garrick sitting by the window when she entered the coffee shop.

She walked straight over. "Sorry to keep you waiting, President Brennan."

Garrick, who was playing with his phone, was startled by Shirley's sudden appearance. He immediately flipped his phone over and placed it on the table with the screen down.

"You're here. Would you like something to drink?" he asked.

Shirley beckoned to the waiter, who then approached and asked her, "Ma'am, what would you like?"

Chapter 1197 Getting Along

"So, that's how it is."

Shirley suddenly realized.

Just as she was about to accept Garrick's apology, she thought of Sofia...

Then, she heard Garrick explain, "After you left yesterday, Pia told me about what happened between you and Skyler. It's a matter between you guys, and I won't interfere. Of course, I would like to apologize to you on Pia's behalf for hitting you last time. I scolded her yesterday too. However, my spoiled sister never listens to me."

He shook his head while a graceful yet slightly resigned smile hung on his lips.

"You may have misunderstood. In fact, there's nothing between Skyler and me." Shirley quickly explained the situation between her and Skyler, "He and I—"

"Like I said, this is a matter between you guys. I won't interfere."

Before Shirley could finish her words, Garrick interrupted her and handed a gift to her. "To express my apology, this is a small token of my appreciation. Please accept it."

"It's alright. I didn't take it to heart."

Looking at the rectangular velvet box before her, Shirley felt the gift must be expensive. And so, she returned it. "It's enough to have the misunderstanding cleared up. I choose to believe in your character, Mr. Brennan."

She called him "President Brennan" awkwardly, but now she changed it to "Mr. Brennan," which proved

that Shirley believed in him.

"Aren't you going to open it and take a look?" He pointed to the box and asked in a gentle voice.

Shirley smilingly shook her head.

"Hehe."

Seeing her reaction, Garrick laughed out loud, his laughter particularly soothing. "I've met many women, but you're the first to refuse my gift."

Garrick then picked up the box and opened it, revealing a necklace inside.

He pointed to the tag on the necklace. "I got it for 526. It is a very affordable necklace. I know you won't accept it if the item is too expensive, so I bought an inexpensive necklace as a token of goodwill. You mustn't refuse again."

One would succeed if they knew their opponent well.

Garrick had inquired about Shirley and knew that she was honest, straightforward, independent, and non-materialistic.

For a woman like her, receiving an expensive gift would only make her suspect his ulterior motives or even reject it.

"Huh? This..."

Shirley never expected Garrick to be so meticulous.

She looked at the gold necklace. With its ordinary design, it clearly was not something meticulously chosen.

However, for a billionaire CEO to be willing to buy a reasonably priced necklace, it did show some effort on his part. It wouldn't be good if she refused.

Still, accepting it made her a bit uneasy.

"You really don't have to, Mr. Brennan. How about this? Why don't you treat me to a meal today as your way of apologizing?"

"Hahaha, alright. As you wish."

He readily agreed to Shirley's suggestion.

It was already half past noon, and there was still an hour until lunchtime. It was unbearable for Shirley.

Helplessly, she could only find a few topics to chat with Garrick.

Ring ring ring—

Chapter 1198 Bad Idea

Shirley's expression had a hint of unease when she saw the two of them. Meanwhile, Garrick slowly stood up and asked, "Why did you two come here?"

His tone of speech made it easy to tell that he was unaware.

"Um... Gary, is the friend you mentioned Shirley?"

Sofia glanced at Shirley and said to Garrick, "Skye and I wanted to find a place to have coffee, and since you were here, we came over. We didn't know you were on a date with Shirley."

As she spoke, Skyler, donning a black T-shirt, cast a cold glance at Shirley.

When the two of them looked at each other, the events of last night involuntarily came to mind.

His gaze was clear and sharp, causing a faint blush to rise to her cheeks. With just one glance, she lowered her head, no longer daring to meet his eyes.

Garrick quickly explained, "Don't talk nonsense. Yesterday was your birthday, and it was because Nancy kept bugging me that I asked Shirley to pretend to be my girlfriend for a while. That's why I invited her here today to express my gratitude."

After saying that, he turned to Shirley. "Right, Miss Wilson?"

"Ah? Yes, that's right."

Although there was a slight discrepancy with what was said earlier, Shirley agreed with his words as she felt that Garrick was trying to save her the embarrassment.

Hearing Garrick's explanation, Skyler frowned slightly and glanced at Shirley with a hint of surprise in his eyes.

So, that's what happened?

Did I misunderstand her last night?

Feeling uncomfortable from Skyler's burning gaze, Shirley could only pick up the coffee on the table and take a sip to ease the awkwardness.

Naturally, Garrick invited Shirley to come over because he had coordinated with Sofia. Sofia then brought Skyler over and deliberately showed off the fact that they were together in front of Shirley.

Sofia felt satisfied now that her goal had been achieved. "You guys should continue chatting. Skye, let's go upstairs."

Skyler raised his wrist and glanced at his watch. "It's almost time for lunch. As we all know each other, why don't we have our meal together?"

"T-That doesn't sound like a good idea."

Shirley immediately looked up.

However, her gaze involuntarily fell on Sofia's hand that held Skyler's arm. She felt a slight pain in her chest.

Yesterday, in the bathroom of Brennan Manor, Skyler did whatever he wanted to her, and Sofia even heard it while standing outside the door. Even so, the two of them could still reconcile now.

Although she didn't understand what kind of relationship they had, Shirley couldn't help but feel disgusted.

"Yeah. You two are on a date. Miss Wilson and I wouldn't want to be the third wheel."

Garrick joked with a smile.

"Yes, Mr. Brennan is right." Shirley agreed.

"I..."

Chapter 1199 Invite Miss Wilson to the Wedding

She hesitated to speak, likely thinking that some of the words might sound harsh, so she omitted that part and continued, "I only found out later that it was all just an act for the occasion. I truly apologize. I've been wanting to apologize to you and haven't found the right opportunity. Let me treat you to this meal today. Consider it my way of apologizing."

Haven't found the opportunity to apologize?

Goodness, it's been over half a year from last year to now. How could she shamelessly say this?

Shirley secretly criticized in her heart, but she didn't show it.

Since Sofia had apologized, Shirley could only force a smile and say, "It's all in the past."

"Thank you. You're really nice. I wonder if we can be friends?" Sofia asked. Without waiting for Shirley's response, she immediately picked up her phone. "Let's exchange numbers. We can hang out together when we're free in the future."

If Sofia hadn't taken her phone and clicked on her QR code, Shirley might have been able to refuse.

However, the woman had already opened the QR code page and handed it to her. "Here, scan my code."

Shirley hesitantly giggled before giving an "Okay."

After all, Sofia was Garrick's sister, and the company still had to cooperate with Garrick. She couldn't afford to offend him.

Skyler beside her had a gloomy expression, making it hard to figure out his thoughts.

"We are friends now that we have added each other. Don't refuse when I ask you out in the future," Sofia said excitedly.

It was an undeniable fact that Sofia was gorgeous.

Wearing a black crop top that revealed her belly button, long hair cascading down, and delicate makeup, she had the air of a capable and straightforward beauty. It was hard not to be attracted to her at first glance.

"Haha, okay, okay. As long as I'm not busy with work, there's no problem."

As long as she invites me, I will definitely say I'm busy.

"It's nice to see you two make up." Garrick laughed heartily. "How forgiving of you, Miss Wilson."

"You flatter me, Mr. Brennan."

"Haha, I'm telling the truth." Garrick's gaze shifted, and he looked at Skyler. "You must invite Miss Wilson to your and Pia's wedding."

Skyler only looked at Garrick with a deep and unfathomable gaze without saying anything.

It was Sofia who quickly responded, "That's a must."

"Sure! I'm honored."

Shirley nodded and smiled. However, her smile didn't reach her eyes. She then lowered her head, picked up her coffee, and drank it silently.

They... are getting married?

Hehe, that's great.

That's great.

She thought that it was great. However, she couldn't help but think of the scenes from last night.

Suddenly, she felt a chill gushing in her chest.

Ding dong...

Her phone on the table rang.

Shirley picked up her phone and saw that it was a WhatsApp message from Wade.

Chapter 1200 Hitch a Ride

...

"What does everyone want for lunch?" Sofia changed the topic and waved to the waiter.

After the waiter brought the menu, Sofia considerately handed it to Shirley.

She subconsciously wanted to give it to Skyler at first, but she handed it to Shirley instead when an idea came to her. "Shirley, take a look and see what you want to eat."

"I'm fine with anything," Shirley said.

"Alright then..." Sofia didn't say much and ordered some Western food.

The atmosphere was quite harmonious when the four of them sat together, eating and chatting.

While the three of them felt relaxed, Shirley was uneasy, like she was on a battlefield. Although nothing was wrong, she always felt like she was in a war zone.

For her, having this meal felt as if there was a fishbone stuck in her throat.

It wasn't until the end of lunch that Shirley finally breathed a sigh of relief and smiled at Garrick.

"President Brennan, Miss Green, I'm afraid I can't keep you company anymore. I have to go to the hospital."

She had ordered a meal on her phone and would pick it up later to bring to Wade's mother at the hospital.

Skyler's handsome face turned frigid at those words, and his expression became somewhat twisted.

"Oh, go ahead. Gary and I have something to do, so we should leave too," Sofia replied.

"Are you going to Big Heart Hospital?"

Skyler deliberately asked.

Shirley nodded. "Yes."

"Since you're going there, give me a ride. I have something to discuss with the hospital director," Skyler instructed.

"Skye, since Shirley has something to do at the hospital, I'll give you a ride instead." Sofia didn't want to give them a chance to be alone together.

When they came over earlier, it was Sofia who drove Skyler, so it was understandable that he wanted to hitch a ride.

However, he must not hitch a ride with Shirley.

"You and Garrick have something to do, no? You go ahead and do your thing. I'll contact you after I'm done," Skyler coldly replied.

With just this sentence, he directly shut Sofia up.

Sofia clenched her fists on her lap, feeling dissatisfied but not daring to show it too obviously. She could only force a smile. "Shirley, it would be troublesome for you. Skye always likes to trouble people. Please don't mind him."

"Well..." Shirley wanted to refuse. "I still have to pick up my meal. How about you let—"

"It won't be a problem." Skyler seemed to know what Shirley was going to say. He swiftly stopped her with a single sentence.

Shirley pursed her lips and didn't say anything.

On the other hand, Sofia breathed a sigh of relief when she noticed Shirley's resistance toward Skyler.