

Bumpkin 1221

Chapter 1221 An Excited Shirley

"Does he like Shirley?" With her sharp instincts, Veronica quickly caught the key message.

"Maybe." Matthew didn't give a definite answer because he couldn't be sure of Skyler's feelings for Shirley. "Let's wait for them in the room." Reaching out, he held her hand, a familiar gesture that they had done countless times.

But since they arrived at Hidden Clan, they had deliberately kept their distance, afraid of being discovered. However, this was One Piece Restaurant, Matthew's territory, so he naturally had no worries.

Veronica's heart warmed up at the touch of the warmth in his palm, and her eyes crinkled as she smiled.

They went to the private room on the fifth floor, and when they walked in, she realized that it was designed as a suite. The living room was outside, and inside was a bedroom. Across from the bedroom was an office that doubled as a study, with a desk conveniently placed by the window.

"This room is not open to the public, isn't it?" Standing in the room, she looked around before turning to Matthew doubtfully.

A curve appeared at the corner of the man's lips. He held her hand and brought her into his arms, gently embracing her. "You're so clever."

His fingertip touched her cheek, and he leaned down and pressed his forehead against hers, his every move intimate and filled with endless adoration.

They looked deeply at each other up close, and their breath became heavier. His voice was particularly husky when he spoke, "If it weren't for Skyler and the others suddenly coming over, I would have made love to you here."

Veronica laughed, and her hand around his waist pinched his lower back playfully. "Didn't you have enough with me last night? Do you still want to do it here?" She really couldn't understand how he could have so much stamina.

The man shook his head. "It's different."

"What's different?" She didn't understand.

After speaking, she saw a mischievous smile on his face. He leaned close to her ear and lowered his voice. "There are outsiders there, so you can't let go, and I can't even hear your... voice."

Veronica's cheeks turned red like a boiled shrimp in an instant.

Just as she blushed and lightly bit her red lips, he raised his hand and held her chin. "Even if you scream your lungs out in this suite, no one will hear it."

"Get away, you're shameless!" Blushing, Veronica couldn't withstand his scorching gaze, so she pushed him away with one hand.

Even though she pushed him away, Matthew still held her hand tightly. Gently, he pulled her toward him, and her body turned around before she could stop herself, her back against him as he embraced her.

Holding her cheek with his right hand, he turned her face to the left, lowered and tilted his head, and kissed her red lips.

Their lips met lightly, and Veronica felt the heat of his lips and his heavy breath, which made her heart gallop and her breathing irregular.

Chapter 1222 Surreal

Skyler stepped forward. Furrowing his brows, he asked, "Didn't you say Matt is here? So, where is he?"

"He is both far away and right in front of you."

Veronica raised an eyebrow, gesturing for Skyler to look at the man behind him. With that, Skyler and Shirley turned around. Their gazes instantly landed on a tan-skinned man with an average look and a mole on his face, but they didn't notice anything unusual.

"What's wrong? You guys don't recognize me now?"

With his hands in the pockets of his loose-fitting pants, Matthew raised an eyebrow slightly and had a faint smile on his face.

"Matt?"

"P-President Kings?"

In addition to his changed appearance, since Matthew had been speaking with a fake voice and deliberately disguised himself after joining the hidden clan, the two never suspected anything.

But now that he spoke with his original voice, they immediately recognized his identity.

"Oh my God! President Kings, so you are indeed alive?! I still didn't believe Skyler when he told me about it."

Finding the situation unbelievable, Shirley opened her mouth wide in astonishment.

After a moment of daze, she walked up to Matthew and reached out to pinch his arm. "It actually is a live body. President Kings, is it truly you?"

Because the image of Matthew's funeral was vivid in her mind, everything felt like a dream now that she saw him appear before her.

No, wait. Too surreal should best describe how Shirley felt at the moment.

"No doubt about it." Matthew smiled lightly.

"Tsk, ts—Matt, it's fine if you want to look ugly, but I can't believe you're going all out with this hideousness. If I were Roni, I would have had nightmares from looking at your incomparably ugly face."

Skyler couldn't help but tease him.

Upon hearing that, Matthew kicked him in the leg. "Get lost."

The four exchanged a smile, and shortly after, their voices echoed in the VIP lounge.

After taking their seats, Matthew served them tea while Shirley held Veronica's hand. As if she had discovered a new world, she expressed in awe. "Ron, you are simply amazing. I have no idea you're actually the leader of the hidden clan! Also, do you know that I feel like I have traveled through time starting the moment I entered the hidden clan? Everything here feels like a dream to me. After being so used to skyscrapers, the architectural structures of these buildings truly resemble ancient times. Oh, and another thing—when did you learn you are the leader of the hidden clan? So, you were aware that President Kings was alive the whole time, weren't you?"

At this moment, Shirley had countless questions in her mind.

She had been holding Veronica's hand and constantly bombarded her with questions since they entered the room.

Chapter 1223 Our Secret

"Oh dear. I used to think that Mr. Crayson was a good person. Never had it crossed my mind that he would turn out to be nasty." Shirley pouted, feeling somewhat sorry for Veronica.

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"Never mind. Let's not talk about this." Veronica changed the topic. "Matt, where will you arrange for them to stay?"

"Just stay at the One Piece Restaurant. There are three empty rooms, so you two can choose a room for

yourselves and stay here."

Matthew had long made the arrangements.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Outside, someone came to knock on the door again. "Boss, someone is looking for you," the person informed.

Matthew stood up. "You go ahead and chat. I'll go out for a while." After that, he walked out of the lounge and closed the door.

Only three of them were left in the room. Just when Veronica wanted to send Skyler away so that she could ask Shirley about Vincere Games, his voice sounded. "Since I have brought Shirley here with me, naturally, I have assigned someone reliable to manage Vincere Games for you. They will undoubtedly help your company thrive."

Skyler arched his eyebrows at Veronica and gave her a mischievous smile at the end of his speech. "Don't worry, Roni. I won't tell Matt about this."

At first, he couldn't believe that Veronica was secretly running a business. But then again, once he realized that Veronica was an independent and self-reliant woman who would not rely on Matthew for a long time, he figured it was normal for her to start her own business.

"Thank you." Veronica expressed her gratitude. Then, she glanced at Shirley, her eyes filled with a questioning look.

Knowing she had made a mistake, Shirley hung her head low. "Ron, I'm sorry. I-I..."

"It's not her fault. I saw her working at Vincere Games and had someone investigate. That's how I found out about this."

Fearing Veronica would blame Shirley, Skyler immediately stepped forward to explain, being protective of his friend.

"Why are you so anxious? I'm not going to beat her."

Veronica couldn't help teasing him after she noticed the panic on Skyler's face.

Sure enough, Shirley understood the hidden meaning in her words very well.

At once, her face turned red, showing the shyness of an innocent girl. "Ron, stop making things up."

"Making things up? What did I make up?"

Veronica turned sideways to face Shirley with a confused expression.

"I-I..."

Shirley was bereft of speech before realizing belatedly that she had overreacted.

Meanwhile, Skyler sat quietly on the side and looked at them, smiling but not saying a word.

Before long, Matthew returned.

They spent the whole afternoon chatting freely, and everyone was in an excellent mood.

Chapter 1224 Can I Sleep Here Tonight?

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"I've been calling her 'Roni' for over two years. I'm used to it." Skyler laughed. Still, under Matthew's intimidation, Skyler changed his address toward her. "Veronica."

Veronica stifled a laugh and waved him off. "Alright now. Get some rest soon. We're leaving."

"Bye, Ron."

"Goodbye, Roni. Goodbye, Matt." In the end, Skyler didn't change the address he had for Veronica.

Matthew didn't bother to correct him either as he held Veronica's hand and headed downstairs.

In the hidden clan, the market had operating hours. On weekdays, all shops would be closed at 9:30 p.m., and everyone would sleep by 10 p.m. Therefore, the hidden clan's bustling market would be silent after 10 p.m., starkly contrasting with the lively daytime scenery.

Shirley looked at the man beside her and pointed to her room. "I... I'm going to bed now."

"Okay, goodnight. Let me know if you need anything."

Then, Skyler and Shirley returned to their respective room.

In the room, Matthew had ordered the others to prepare all the necessities including newly washed clothing.

After washing up, Shirley lay on the bed and held the new phone given by Matthew. She learned how to

use all of its functions except making and receiving calls.

Bored, she lay on the bed and stared at the ceiling.

Slowly, her mind was filled with supernatural stories, such as "The Strange Case of the Walking Corpse" and the movie plots of "It's Alive."

As she thought about it, she became more and more scared.

Suddenly, the room lit up. Shirley was startled, and she trembled in fear.

Just as she thought she was hallucinating, her surroundings lit up again. In that split second, she immediately got up from the bed and ran out of the room, knocking on Skyler's door.

"Open the door, Skyler!" she shouted.

After a few seconds, she heard the sound of the door lock opening. Then, the door opened, and out came Skyler. He looked at Shirley, who had a pale face as she stood before him. Before he could say anything, a muffled thunder sound was heard.

"Ah!!"

Shirley was frightened as she felt her hair standing on end. Without further thinking, she threw herself into Skyler's arms, hugging him tightly as she trembled in his embrace.

Chapter 1225 Why Is Eleanor Here?

He said casually, "Okay."

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Then, he walked past Shirley and closed the door before heading towards the bedroom. Shirley followed him behind slowly.

The bedroom was spacious, with a two-meter bed covered in gray and white striped sheets. It looked neat and clean.

Shirley pointed at the sofa and asked softly, "Can I sleep on the sofa?"

Skyler casually sat on the bed and took off his shirt, which startled Shirley as she stepped back. "What... What are you doing? I advise you to think before you act, Skyler."

Skyler had already taken off his shirt as she spoke, revealing his well-defined muscles.

He was the type who looked thin when dressed but muscular when undressed. He had a devilish face, especially when he smiled mischievously, which could easily captivate people.

Skyler held his shirt and said, "I'm going to sleep. Do you still keep your shirt on when you go to bed?" Then, he lowered his eyes toward her chest naturally. "Oh, my bad. I forget that we're different." He pointed to his chest muscles and shrugged, smiling at her.

Skyler lay on the bed and propped his head with his elbow. "It's uncomfortable to sleep on the sofa. Why don't you sleep on the bed? I promise not to touch you. Besides, this bed is two meters wide. That's enough for both of us," he said sincerely. He swore that he had no ulterior motives.

Hearing his words, Shirley glanced at the sofa. Although it was not as big as the one in the living room, it was enough for her.

"No thanks. I'll just sleep here." As she spoke, she walked toward the door. "I'll get the bedding."

A hint of amusement flashed across Skyler's eyes as he watched her scurry away.

In that split second, he suddenly felt that he had made the right decision to bring her to the hidden clan.

If I were to leave her in Bloomstead, she would be tricked by Garrick's cunning methods.

As Skyler thought about it, he heard the sound of the door closing. Shirley had come back with the bedding.

To make her feel more at ease, Skyler faced away from the sofa and closed his eyes, pretending to be asleep.

When Shirley entered the room, she saw Skyler lying without moving on the bed. At that moment, she thought he had fallen asleep due to tiredness. Thus, she quietly went to the sofa and put on the bedding. Then, she turned off the lights and slept.

...

Veronica and Matthew left One Piece Restaurant and returned to Mountainside Gardens by the mountains.

The lights in the attic of Mountainside Gardens were still on, and faint voices could be heard.

The duo stopped at the door and looked at each other before entering.

Chapter 1226 When Have I Ever Been Loyal?

Crayson didn't answer Veronica's question. Instead, he smoked his cigarette and stared with his shining eyes at Matthew walking upstairs.

That look made Veronica's heart tingle.

Could it be that he suspected Matthew's identity?

"You've been with Iron Pillar for a while. What do you think of him?" Crayson avoided Veronica's question and focused on Matthew instead.

Veronica noticed a clue and asked. "He's honest and simple, not bad. Why?"

"Lately, Eleanor has been getting close to him. I'm afraid she has some ulterior motives. Be careful," Crayson warned.

"Heh."

Veronica sneered, leaned down, picked up the tea on the table, took a sip, and cleared her throat.

"Based on your analysis, you underestimate Eleanor too much. If she really wants to make a move on Iron Pillar, her actions would be too obvious for anyone to see."

She wanted to say that Eleanor simply had a crush on Matthew, but she couldn't bring herself to say it.

"Hmm."

But why is she getting close to Iron Pillar? Could it be

Iron Pillar. As long as you don't reveal any important information to him, he won't be

made a suggestion and continued, "Observe a little longer. When the time comes, we can't lose

"Good point."

his nose, shrouding his face full of vicissitudes, making

thinking. After pondering for a while with a furrowed brow, he suddenly looked up. "Oh, I forgot about the main matter. Eleanor invites you and Iron Pillar to the palace for a

"A banquet?"

Like the Malicious Banquet?

Veronica had no clue.

the excuse of inviting Iron Pillar to get you to go together. It's probably not that simple," Crayson said, go, of course," Veronica

you afraid they'll harm

going alone, so there's nothing to worry about. Besides, Tanya Ledger won't do

She was very confident.

tapped the cigarette holder against the ashtray, stood up, and said, "Rest early. I'm

Chapter 1227 Is He Coming?

"You..."

Mateo wanted to say something, but he saw Veronica had already gone upstairs.

He scratched his head and went straight to Crayson's bedroom to seek his approval.

Upstairs, Veronica returned to her room and went to the bathroom to freshen up. But when she came out of the bathroom, she still didn't see Matthew's figure in the bedroom.

She could not help but murmur, "Is he not planning to come today? If he's not coming, then forget it. I'll read for a while."

She bypassed the partition between the bedroom and the study area and walked towards the desk, only to be pulled into someone's arms.

Instantly, a refreshing scent of shower gel hit her. She leaned against the man's strong chest and instinctively wrapped her arms around his waist. "I thought you..."

When she looked up to speak, she saw the cold and handsome face in front of her.

However, her eyebrows furrowed slightly, and her delicate jade fingers gently caressed his facial skin, filled with deep concern. "Wearing heavy makeup every day has made your complexion much paler."

Fortunately, his skin was very good, and wearing makeup every day did not enlarge his pores. On the contrary, it made his skin even fairer.

But precisely because of this, Veronica felt even more distressed.

harm the skin. Maybe there won't be any

at the man who was close

"Silly girl."

revealed a smile as he held her waist and spoke in an indulgent tone, "I am a married man. As long

heart, but Veronica felt a pang of guilt

good to

closed her eyes, and took the initiative to

with her initiative, Matthew was

their lips met, it was like a collision between ice and fire, sending an electric current through their bodies, making

lifted her buttocks with the other, carrying her and placing her on

be any problems in the

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Chapter 1228 Can I Refuse?

"Roni?"

The man rested against the headboard, draping a light blanket over her and toying with a strand of hair near her ear. "How about dining at the One Piece Restaurant next time?"

The One Piece Restaurant had transformed into his headquarters.

There, he held dominion.

"Hmm?"

Veronica, still half in slumber, struggled to grasp Matthew's words, responding with a vague murmur.

A suggestive smile curved at Matthew's lips. He bent down, exhaling softly into her ear, causing her soft locks to caress her skin teasingly.

His voice grew quieter. "The sound insulation there is exceptional. I'd rather witness you being uninhibited."

Unlike here, where he dreaded any loud sounds that might draw attention.

"I'm tired, let's sleep."

Veronica reached out and hugged Matthew's waist, rubbing against his chest to find a comfortable sleeping position.

"Okay, let's sleep."

Unable to bear seeing her so exhausted, Matthew was relieved to see that her sleep quality had improved. In the previous year at Bloomstead, she had battled severe insomnia, often relying on alcohol to find respite in sleep. Since their union, her condition had ameliorated; she could now doze naturally, lifting the weight from Matthew's heart.

Matthew rose early to purchase ingredients

a small group gathered in the dining room. After Eleanor's first shared meal with Matthew at the

You better

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already reminded

noddod and continued to eat, trying to lower his presence as

really likes your

he always felt that something was not

people from the Eleanor Family are not simple characters. Be careful not to

Pillar. "I'm worried that you

I will

them, so he remained silent, almost perfectly establishing the image

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Chapter 1229 What Do You Mean?

"Your talking never stops, even when you're eating."

It seemed that there was indeed something important today that required Mateo to accompany Crayson. Master Crayson's attitude was steadfast.

The group slipped into the hushed mealtime, quietly savoring their breakfast.

After breakfast, Veronica tidied up briefly before setting out with Matthew.

Having worked as the chef at Mountain Side Gardens for nearly a month, Matthew had become acquainted with Master Crayson, who had arranged an off-road vehicle for him.

It was convenient for buying groceries and for taking Veronica out.

Due to the terrain, the hidden clan had many mountain roads, so off-road vehicles were more popular and sold well.

The two set in the car and drove to One Piece Restaurant.

Upstairs at One Piece Restaurant, Shirley and Skyler sat in the room having breakfast together.

Shirley felt highly embarrassed about what happened last night, so she quietly returned to her room at dawn.

She was naturally timid and afraid of the dark, especially in the hidden clan where the architectural design gave a sense of mystery. As soon as it got dark, she felt scared.

She held the bowl of pudding in her hands, drinking it while thinking of something. Then she put down the spoon and looked up at Skyler. "Could you... please not mention what happened yesterday to Ron?" "Your talking never stops, even when you're eating."

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Skyler, engrossed in his omelet, looked surprised. "What do you mean?"

"I mean... what I did in your room... can you keep it from Ron?"

If Veronica found out about her middle-of-the-night visit to Skyler's room, she would definitely scold her for being imprudent.

Skyler, who had been confused at first, suddenly understood. A mischievous glint appeared in his brown eyes. "What happened yesterday? Are you referring to when you hugged me at my room's door?"

Shirley blushed deeply at Skyler's teasing. She lowered her gaze, focusing on her pudding.

"No, not that. I mean... when I slept in your room."

She stammered, wishing she could just disappear into the ground as she spoke.

If only she had known earlier, she would never have come to the hidden clan with Skyler.

"Alright, I won't bring it up."

Seeing her blushing face, Skyler smiled and stopped teasing her.

Shirley's shyness added to her overall charm.

Chapter 1230 Why the Name?

"Pft, M-Mett. This is too much for my eyes." Skyler found Matthew's outfit unbearable to watch, and his uncontrollable laughter seemed to rub off on Veronica and Shirley.

Meanwhile, Matthew walked up behind Skyler and slapped the latter on the head. "Looks like you aren't as sharp as Shirley's. She knows what to say and what not to say, at least."

"Ouch, that really hurt. I almost got a concussion."

Skyler rubbed the back of his head, where he was slapped. "Everyone at One Piece Restaurant knows you. No need to be shy."

"I'm worried about potential eavesdroppers," Matthew said and sat next to Skyler.

"Iron is right." Shirley nodded vigorously in agreement.

Covering his mouth, Skyler laughed so much that his shoulders shook. "Seriously, why did you have to pick such a name? 'Iron Piller?' Hehehe... I'm going to tell this story forever when I return to Bloomstead, hehehe..."

Matthew smiled helplessly. "Out of Destiny's crew, only this person named Iron Piller is an amazing cook. I didn't have much of a choice!"

Being a cook was his only ticket to getting closer to Veronica and smoothly moving into Mount Inside Gardens.

Creyson could find a new chef, but Veronica could easily reject them for reasons like "bad taste" or "not her preference." Surprisingly, Destiny chose Matthew as the chef when Creyson asked for one.

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Since Iron barely had contact with Destiny, Matthew decided to impersonate him.

Struggling to hold back her laughter, Shirley chimed in, "You know, I also think Iron's personality just doesn't match well with yours, President Kings."

"Well, well, well! Look at you, daring to tease him now." Veronica reached out and poked Shirley's head. "You've grown bolder."

"Hehe, just kidding." Shirley smirked.

"It's okay." Matthew was not bothered and pointed toward the breakfast on the table instead. "You all go ahead and eat. I've got something to share."

Since it was time to discuss business, Skyler and Shirley quickly put their laughter aside and focused on listening attentively.

Matthew glanced at his watch on his wrist. "I'm a bit short on time, so I'll keep it brief. Skyler, you and Shirley aren't acquainted with the hidden clan. So, it's best to stay out of sight. You would need to learn to hide your identities. Especially you, Shirley."