

## **Bumpkin 1241**

### Chapter 1241 Skyler Was Here

Veronica, her body feeble, was assisted by Xavier as he gently lifted her up. All her weight leaned on him, creating an inadvertent sense of intimacy between them.

Xavier held a porcelain bowl filled with medicinal soup in one hand and brought it to Veronica's mouth. She slightly parted her lips and drank the medicine slowly.

Her delicate fragrance lingered in his embrace. She was the woman that Xavier had been yearning for day and night. Seeing her in this state, he couldn't help but wish he could tear Zac apart to alleviate the hatred in his heart.

For a fleeting moment, memories of the time he had kidnapped Veronica resurfaced in Xavier's mind. He had selfishly wanted to possess her due to his overwhelming infatuation.

But perhaps the accumulation of the past one or two years had made him grow a lot, to the point where he really wanted to go back in time and beat himself up for what he had done.

Their relationship wouldn't have grown so distant if it weren't for that impulsive mistake.

He regretted it.

The intense regret lingered, and Xavier's only solace was that Crayson had arrived in the nick of time. Otherwise, he feared he couldn't forgive himself in this lifetime.

"I've finished drinking."

The medicine was bitter, but she swallowed it down.

After drinking the medicine, Veronica noticed that Xavier was lost in thought while still holding the bowl. She spoke to break his trance.

"Alright."

Xavier came back to his senses and helped Veronica lie down slowly. He placed the bowl on the table and took out a tissue to wipe her mouth. "Rest well. The doctor said you'll recover within ten minutes."

"Okay."

Veronica agreed softly and looked at Xavier with a complex mix of emotions. "Xavier, thank you."

He had saved her twice.

The immense gratitude made Veronica's feelings toward Xavier incredibly intricate.

"What's Iron Pillar's phone number?" he asked.

Veronica didn't want to tell Xavier, fearing that it would expose Matthew's identity when he came over and agitated Xavier. It could lead to another intense confrontation between the two.

"No need to call him. It's fine."

Although she had just taken the medicine, Veronica clearly felt her body condition had improved significantly. At least now she had enough strength to speak.

"Alright."

Xavier didn't say much and moved a chair to sit by her bed. "How did you end up in Zac's room?"

"I met Zac at the palace today. He said that something happened to my children and asked me to meet him tonight. I was already on guard, but I still couldn't defend against it."

She had thought that having Matthew with her would ensure their safety, but she didn't expect that Zac would use a trick to lure Matthew away.

Suddenly, a frown formed on Veronica's brow. "Xavier, my phone is in my pocket. Can you help me take it out so I can make a call?"

Matthew was undoubtedly skilled, so why had he yet to return? Had something dangerous happened to him?

Veronica was extremely worried and wanted to contact Elrod immediately to look for Matthew.

Chapter 1242 Revealing His Identity

"She's in the bedroom," Xavier mentioned.

Skyler pushed open the bedroom door and walked in. When he saw Veronica lying on the bed, covered with a thin blanket and looking fine, his anxious heart finally settled.

"Roni, are you okay?" he asked.

"Skyler, Titus is in danger. Go find him!" They both spoke at the same time.

"Look at yourself, still worrying about him?" Skyler walked to the side of the bed and sat down, lifting a corner of the blanket to place Veronica's wrist flat on the bed. He checked her pulse.

After a while, realizing that there was nothing wrong with her body and seeing the bowl on the table with remnants of medicine, he sighed and said, "You're fine. You'll be better soon. D\*mn it, Zac! I won't let him go if I ever meet him!"

"Don't worry about me. Go find Iron Pillar," Veronica pleaded as her body gradually recovered. She reached out and tugged at Skyler's sleeve.

Meanwhile, Xavier stood at the bedroom door, hands in his pockets. He leaned against the door frame, watching them silently.

But at that moment, a familiar voice suddenly sounded from the living room...

"Roni?!"

When Skyler came in, Xavier didn't close the suite door. He just closed it halfway.

Matthew, who arrived late, pushed the door open and walked in as he called out to Veronica.

Worried about Veronica, he dropped all pretenses. Even his voice and address were per his previous habits.

Matthew glanced at Xavier, bypassed him directly, and grabbed Skyler's clothes before pushing him aside. Matthew then sat on the chair by the bed. He held Veronica's hand tightly as he asked with concern, "How are you? Are you okay? I'm sorry that I'm late."

Matthew's mind was filled with Veronica. He was too preoccupied to care about anyone else, only wanting to know if she was alright. He completely ignored the others beside him, especially Xavier.

When Xavier heard the name "Roni," his nerves suddenly tensed, and he straightened his body.

He turned to look at the living room, and the person who walked in was "Iron Pillar." He thought he was hearing things. But when "Iron Pillar" quickly walked past him and pulled Skyler away, sitting beside Veronica and holding her hand, Xavier's gaze instantly turned cold.

Is he... Matthew Kings?!"

Xavier's fists clenched, a surge of hostility suddenly rising within him.

His gaze, which was directed at Matthew, was filled with anger and hatred. He clenched his fists so hard his veins were bulging.

Then, his gaze shifted and fell on Veronica, only to see her looking back at him.

Their eyes met, and Veronica's watery eyes were filled with guilt and self-blame. "Xavier, I'm sorry."

## Chapter 1243 Complications

Xavier had been despicable to her before, but since then, it seemed he was trying his best to make up for it, and Veronica could see it all.

So, her feelings toward Xavier were also highly complicated. She was cautious, yet he always made her inexplicably relieved.

Matthew noticed Veronica's pained expression, prompting him to turn and look at Xavier. "Thank you for saving Roni."

He had always been clear about his likes and dislikes.

Whether it was the conflict or the hatred between him and Xavier, it had nothing to do with Xavier saving Veronica.

"Get out! Take her and get out of here!"

Xavier suppressed his emotions and gritted his teeth.

"Who do you think you are? You let us..."

"Shut up!"

Skyler was dissatisfied with Xavier's attitude and was about to retort, but Matthew reprimanded him before he could finish.

Then, Matthew bent down and picked Veronica up before walking out.

Leaning in Matthew's arms, Veronica kept her eyes on Xavier, feeling a trace of bitterness in her heart and a sense of guilt.

Xavier's gaze was cold as he turned and walked to the window in the living room. He silently took out a cigarette, lit it, and started smoking.

Veronica looked at his silhouette and felt a deep sadness. She couldn't help but feel sorry for him.

The three of them left the hotel and drove toward the One Piece Restaurant.

As they left, a car parked at the hotel entrance, and a person got out of the car with a loud slam of the door.

After going upstairs, the person appeared outside Xavier's suite and knocked on the door impatiently.

Xavier, with a cigarette in his mouth, slowly turned around and opened the door.

As soon as he saw the person standing outside the door, he was suddenly slapped hard in the face, causing his cheek to turn to the side, burning with pain.

Due to inertia, Xavier's bangs were thrown to the front, scattering across his forehead.

The cigarette in his mouth was also knocked away, and it fell to the ground. The tip of the cigarette suddenly lit up before gradually dimming.

"Sebastian, have you gone crazy? For that b\*tch Veronica, you dare to hit Zac? Do you want to get my father and I killed?"

Antheena was burning with anger, her eyes turning red.

It was not because of grievances but because of anger.

Her heart and eyes were filled with nothing but Xavier. She saved him from the fire, brought him to the castle, and became a general under her father's command. She even married Xavier.

As for the man, his heart was only filled with Veronica.

"Ha!"

Chapter 1244 Pleading for Xavier

"Do you know that I am a person with emotions?"

"But why? I have never despised you, but you only have Veronica in your heart. I'm afraid... I'm afraid that if Matthew dies, you will have hope for Veronica again and want to be with her.

"Sebastian, it's my fault... I'm sorry... I'm really in love with you... Utterly in love with you..."

Princess Antheena, the noble daughter of the Black Ace Mob's leader, was a precious gem admired by many.

But she chose Xavier Crawford among the many outstanding people who liked her and never looked back.

In the eyes of outsiders, Antheena was cold and cruel, yet noble and calm.

Only in the face of Xavier, his silent and profound demeanor fascinated her.

Especially the scar on his incredibly handsome face added a touch of maturity and stability that came with time, exuding a charming charm that she loved.

Because of this deep-rooted love, Antheena loved him humbly.

As Xavier listened to Antheena's confession, his hand holding the cigarette trembled slightly. He leaned forward slightly and extinguished the cigarette on the ashtray.

Then, he turned around, pressed Antheena onto the sofa, and leaned down to kiss her lips.

His sudden kiss stunned Antheena for a while before she came back to her senses.

Since their marriage, he had always kept his distance from her. Even the kiss on the wedding day was just a symbolic kiss on her forehead as he held her hand.

Their intimacy had always been limited to this.

Therefore, Xavier's belated kiss shocked and excited Antheena. She was stunned for several seconds before she wrapped her arms around Xavier's neck and kissed him back.

The temperature in the room suddenly rose, and the tenderness turned into a blazing fire, successfully making up for the regret in Antheena's heart.

Antheena thought that her confession had touched Xavier, causing him to have feelings for her.

Little did she know that it was Xavier's disappointment caused by Veronica's deception that created a strong contrast with Antheena's goodness toward him, making his heart ache for Antheena at a certain moment, thus "fulfilling" her.

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One Piece Restaurant.

When Veronica was carried back to the room by Matthew, her body had already returned to normal, and she could move freely.

But Matthew kept holding Veronica's hand tightly, unwilling to let go.

"Matt, I'm fine."

She brushed his hand away before walking off and taking a seat. She was about to pour herself some water. However, Matthew had already taken the kettle and poured a cup of warm water for Veronica.

"Drink some water."

"Okay."

She picked up the cup and drank the water, but her gaze was fixed on the cup on the table, lost in thought.

## Chapter 1245 Entanglements

"Matt, for my sake, can you spare Xavier?" Veronica pleaded.

Veronica didn't want to see the two of them fight because she didn't know who she should help.

"Spare Xavier?" Matthew repeated Veronica's words, a hint of pain appearing in his brown eyes behind the colored contact lenses.

The two of them locked eyes for a few seconds, and the man's lips curled into a sarcastic smirk. "You care about him that much?"

Sensing Matthew's cold expression, Veronica lowered her head in guilt, unable to meet his gaze.

After waiting for a while and not getting a response from her, he assumed her answer.

Matthew's face grew even colder, and he brushed away Veronica's hand that was holding his left wrist. Veronica instinctively tightened her grip on his other wrist with her right hand.

Yet, in the end, he heartlessly pushed her away.

With that, he turned and walked away.

Veronica panicked and raised her voice. "Matt, please, I'm begging you."

The man, who had just stepped out of the room, paused his steps. His body stiffened, and a cold air enveloped him in an instant.

His fists clenched tightly by his sides, indicating his anger.

The two of them stood there in a stalemate for a long time.

In the end, Matthew took a step forward and left while Veronica remained motionless.

Downstairs, Skyler returned to his room, and a bored Shirley sat in front of the computer, playing games.

When she heard someone coming back, she immediately left the study and saw Skyler returning. She smiled and asked, "You're back?"

Skyler glanced at the living room, where every light was on, and the computer was still playing loud external sounds.

He understood that Shirley was unfamiliar with the hidden clan and was afraid of the darkness here.

"Were you waiting for me?" Skyler had a strange illusion, feeling like Shirley was a wife waiting for her husband to return.

This feeling was incredible.

Bringing her to the hidden clan was indeed the right decision.

"Huh?" Shirley was taken aback. She carefully pondered over Skyler's words, feeling that something was off, and it made her mind wander involuntarily.

She shook her head. "No, nothing. I was just playing games alone and wanted you to play with me."

"Is that so?" Skyler smirked mischievously, his wicked smile captivating.

"Yes, of course. Our company develops games, and it would be beneficial for me to learn more about games while I have some free time."

She came up with a reasonable excuse.

## Chapter 1246 Angering the Man

But as they were fighting, she caught a glimpse of Skyler's face, which fascinated her, and she took the initiative to kiss him.

After that, Shirley had no idea what had happened.

All she knew was that she woke up leaning against Skyler's chest the next day, feeling extremely sore all over her body. She vaguely felt a swelling sensation in a certain area, and she realized that they were still connected.

Although almost a year had passed, Shirley still felt embarrassed whenever she thought of that day.

"Can you avoid responsibility just by saying it wasn't intentional?"



Skyler grabbed her wrist and pulled her toward the bedroom. "Come here. I think we need to have a serious talk!"

"Hey! Skyler, w-what are you doing? Can't we talk in the living room? Do we have to go to the bedroom?!"

Shirley struggled hard, trying to free herself from his grip. However, he was too strong. Not only could she not break free, but his grip also made her bones ache.

In the bedroom, Skyler pressed on Shirley's shoulders and made her take a seat. He then took off one shoe and put his foot on the bed. Leaning on his elbow, he held her face in his hand as he asked, "Since you want to separate things so clearly, pray tell, how should we take responsibility, hmm?"

The last syllable was drawn out.

Shirley thought Skyler was joking, but he had a serious expression and showed no signs of fooling around.

"It's been almost a year." She pouted.

"It's only ten months and twenty-one days. How can it be a year?"

He deliberately blew air on her cheek, causing her hair to flutter, and a few playful strands of hair plastered to her cheek, making her look innocent and cute.

"Oh..."

Shirley didn't expect Skyler to remember things so clearly. Her mind raced, and she made an excuse. "You are surrounded by beautiful women, having romantic relationships every day. Do you have to take responsibility for each one of them?"

Listening to Skyler's words, Shirley inexplicably felt that this b\*stard was making a fortune by extorting women.

Skyler's expression darkened when he heard that. He released his grip on her cheek, clenched his fist, and poked her heart with his index finger. "Am I so promiscuous in your heart?"

Shirley shook her head.

Seeing her shake her head caused Skyler's expression to soften slightly.

She added, "It's not just me—everyone in Bloomstead knows."

Skyler was at a loss for words.

He gritted his teeth, feeling so angry that he was starting to get amused. "Don't say I'm not that kind of person. Even if I am, it's me sleeping with others, not being slept with. When I sleep with others, I give them money, and when others sleep with me, they naturally have to give me money."

## **Bumpkin's Rich Handsome Husband**

### **Chapter 1247**

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"The last time we were at the Brennan Manor, it lasted less than an hour. I'll have you know that the women who manage to sleep with me usually keep me company for at least a week. There are 24 hours in a day and 168 hours in a week. If we divide five million into hours, that should be..."

He calculated seriously. "A little over 29,000. Let's round it up to thirty thousand. Since we're talking about money, let's see how much you owe me now."

"As a benefactor, the price for sleeping with me should be at least ten times what I give to other women, which is fifty million. You slept with me for a whole night, and we've been together for over a week."

Skyler smirked, his thin lips curling up as he stretched out his palm. "If you settle the amount now, I won't hold it against you. Pay up."

"F-Fifty million?"

Shirley realized she had been tricked. Was it too late for regrets?

"That's right," he answered.

"I... I told you I only have 12,000."

"How do you plan on repaying me, then?" Skyler tilted his head, a mischievous smile on his face. "Since you insist on making things difficult, I'll oblige."

Shirley's face dropped, and she pursed her red lips, scratching her head helplessly. "I'm really short on money."

"Is that so? That's easy. Why don't you compensate with something else?"

"You..."

Shirley blushed, her voice barely audible as she muttered, "How shameless."

"Me? Shameless? If I were truly shameless, I would've sold you to someone else to pay off the debt. Do you think I'd be this patient?"

He snorted coldly.

Shirley pouted, lowered her head in grievance, and dared not speak again.

After a while, she murmured, "You already have a fiancée. What you're doing is not fair to her."

"Did you not realize the truth back at the Brennan Manor the other night?"

That fateful night at the Brennan Manor, Skyler and Shirley had been going at it in the bathroom while Sofia stood right outside the door.

She knew exactly what they were doing but didn't barge in to stop them.

Sofia's stance was clear. She knew she had wronged Skyler, so she didn't care about his private life.

"No, you're just twisting things around."

Everything clicked in Shirley's mind suddenly, and she glared at him with furrowed brows. "Although I was in the wrong that night, I was the one being taken advantage of afterward. We're even!"

Skyler was speechless. How did she suddenly come to her senses?

"Hmph, you're a liar!"

Shirley became furious, feeling that her trust in Skyler had disappeared instantly.

She pushed him away and got up to leave at once.

Chapter 1248 Scared Sh\*tless

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After much thought, Skyler decided against it. He turned around, went to the bedroom, pushed open the window, and climbed out.

The hidden clan's house was designed like an ancient building with distinct features. After climbing out of the window and stepping on the green bricks and tiles, he easily made his way to Shirley's living room.

Her room's window was half open. He pushed the window sash open and quietly entered the living room.

While standing in the living room, he faintly heard a sound coming from the bedroom.

He couldn't help but feel confused. It was late, so why hadn't she gone to sleep yet?

Skyler walked toward the bedroom and pushed open the door gently. Only then did he realize that the bedside lamp in the bedroom had been on the whole time, and there was also a phone playing hidden tunes that he couldn't understand.

The bedding was all messed up, but there was no sign of Shirley.

All of a sudden, Skyler panicked. Where's Shirley?

He went to the bathroom and pushed the door open, but no one was inside. He then turned and walked out of the bedroom and went to the study, only to find it empty as well.

"Shirley?"

Skyler yelled out, but there was no response.

He was even more worried about Shirley now, so he returned to the bedroom, wanting to see if he could find any clues on her whereabouts.

Standing in the bedroom, Skyler carefully observed every detail in the room, but he didn't find any signs of struggle.

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Just as he was pondering, he noticed the wardrobe shifting slightly.

He furrowed his brows and glanced at the ashtray on the bedside table. He picked it up, held it in his hand, and walked slowly toward the wardrobe.

Standing next to the wardrobe, he listened quietly for any movement inside. When he heard no sound, he reached out and grabbed the handle of the door, drawing it open abruptly.

"Ah!"

A sharp scream came from inside.

Only then did Skylar see Shirley crouched in a corner of the wardrobe, her head buried between her knees as she trembled.

The ashtray in Skylar's hand fell to the ground with a thud. He grabbed Shirley's arm and pulled her out, saying, "Shirley, it's me!"

Terrified, Shirley looked up and saw Skyler standing there. She hugged him tightly, burying her head in his chest as she cried silently.

When Shirley threw herself into his arms, Skyler finally noticed that she was soaked with sweat, and her back was drenched.

Seeing Shirley's pitiful appearance stirred up Skyler's protective instincts. For some reason, his throat tightened, and his heart ached.

He beat himself up for it, thinking he shouldn't have deliberately teased Shirley earlier that night. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been scared to this extent.

"Silly girl, don't be afraid. I'm here."

He held her waist with one hand and gently ran his fingers through her hair, comforting her continuously.

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#### Chapter 1249 Her Haunting Past

With Shirley in tow, Skyler went to the bedroom and pulled her to sit on the bed. He made her lean against the headboard.

Seeing sweat on her face, he went to the bathroom and grabbed a soaked towel. Then, he sat next to her and intimately wiped the sweat off her face.

Shirley was still in shock, and even though Skyler was caring and gentle toward her, she didn't pay much attention.

Skyler noticed Shirley wasn't fine, so he placed the towel on the table and sat cross-legged on the bed, asking, "Tell me, why are you so afraid of the dark? When you were in Bloomstead, you weren't this scared." Skyler knew Shirley was timid and afraid of the dark, but he was surprised by her exaggerated response after coming to the hidden clan.

"I... I..."

Shirley bit her lip slightly, recalling past events in her mind as she nervously looked around.

After sensing Shirley's discomfort, Skyler's heart ached.

"It's a long story..."

Shirley sighed and continued, "Over ten years ago, I encountered evil spirits. Back then, I could see my deceased grandfather haunting me day or night. Also, I wasn't in the pinkest of health. I was fine during the day, but I had a high fever one night. My parents took me to the hospital, but the doctor said it was just a fever and only gave me an IV drip."

She added, "Even after receiving treatment for half a month, nothing changed. The same thing happened when we switched to another hospital. Later on, my parents realized it might've been an evil spirit, so they contacted a well-known shaman in the area. According to the shaman, I had a weak aura and came into contact with something evil, so I was given a cure and told to sleep with a kitchen knife under my pillow at night."

"Sure enough, after that day, I couldn't see my deceased grandfather anymore, the fever subsided, and life returned to normal."

At this point, Shirley paused. "My family lived in a remote countryside area, and back then, every household had wooden or bamboo houses, which are similar to the houses here. That's why I became terrified after coming here."



Since she lived in poverty during childhood, the people in Shirley's hometown lived in wooden or bamboo houses. As time went on, those wooden and bamboo houses were replaced by modern buildings.

As such, Shirley had almost forgotten the terrifying memories of her childhood until she came to the hidden clan and saw the people's clothing and wooden houses. Everything seemed to return to her younger, darker days.

Combined with the terrifying yet real stories she heard when she was younger, Shirley became afraid in this unfamiliar environment.

"So that's what it is."

Skyler secretly sighed in relief and comforted Shirley, saying, "It's all in the past, so everything will be fine."

Listening to Shirley talking about her past, Skyler didn't find it unbelievable.

After all, he had a friend who experienced something similar years ago. Having been frightened, he had a high fever that couldn't be subdued until he reached out to a few shamans.

#### Chapter 1250 His Raging Hormones

"In the middle of the night, I carried my backpack and walked out of the Brennan Manor with my husky, confidently beginning my escapade. Who would've known..."

Skyler was still telling his story when he suddenly noticed that the woman in his arms was leaning to the side. He supported her and saw that Shirley had fallen asleep.

She was sleeping soundly, probably exhausted from the tension earlier that night.

While gently holding Shirley, he placed her flat on the bed. Skyler lay next to her quietly, then covered her with a thin blanket.

As he looked at the sleeping woman, her peaceful appearance made him inexplicably moved.

His fingers brushed away the hair on her cheek to her ear, revealing her fair and delicate skin, which was as smooth and tender as the finest jade. Her lips were rosy, and her teeth were white, giving off a serene and lovely aura.

Thump. Thump.

Skyler's heartbeat accelerated, and he couldn't help but gulp. Unable to resist, he leaned down and

kissed her lips.

As his lips touched hers, a slight coolness and a hint of sweetness enveloped him. It was soft and tender like jelly, making him somewhat infatuated.

"Mmm..."

Shirley, who was sleeping, felt disturbed and moved her cheek to the side, turning over and finding a comfortable position to continue sleeping.

Skyler remained with his hands propped on the bed, maintaining his previous posture while looking at Shirley's back. He couldn't help but shake his head as he suppressed a smile.

"Skyler, you're a beast."

He exhaled, feeling the burning sensation in his abdomen. He got out of bed, went to the bathroom, and took a cold shower.

As Skyler stood under the showerhead, the cool water fell on his body, relieving the heat.

His body temperature returned to normal after a while, so he put on his pajamas and returned to bed.

Skyler lay next to her again, but it was torturous to be so close to a beauty like her.

He tossed and turned, unable to fall asleep for a long time, so he had to move to the edge of the bed to sleep.

The bed was six feet wide, with over three feet between them.

However, as he lay on his side, Skyler's gaze remained fixed on Shirley. Unable to resist the itch in his heart, he moved closer to her and embraced the woman in his arms.

If you scare her again, she might really run away this time. Where could she possibly run, though? In the vast hidden clan, where would she run to when she's not familiar with the place? No, be a gentleman. Don't be petty! Should I, though? We've already done it back at the Brennan Manor the other day, so what difference does it make now? Besides, she was the one who climbed onto your bed voluntarily back then.

"D\*mn it!"

Skyler felt like he was about to go crazy, so he lifted the blanket and got up, then headed to the living room.