

Bumpkin 271

Chapter 271 Let's Play Poker

"So, did you have fun today?" Yvonne asked Veronica as soon as they sat down in the private room, hoping that she could lighten up the mood.

Veronica nodded. "I guess so."

"Well, that's good to hear. We should have all the fun we can; it's not every day we get to hang out like this," Conrad interjected, smiling affably at Veronica before turning his gaze on Matthew. "And what about you, Matthew? You brought Miss Dame onto your turf and got some first-hand experience with the amenities here. Is there anything you think could be better?"

Matthew looked up at that moment and met Conrad's eyes.

Out of his peripheral vision, he could see Veronica staring at him as well.

Matthew then ignored her and replied impassively, "The opportunity for further improvements has yet to present itself, but you've always had the keener eye for detail, Uncle Conrad, and I'm all ears if you have any suggestions."

The two men dived into an earnest discussion after that, which left Xavier in a rather awkward position.

Veronica grew guilty at the sight of this. Xavier had been the one who invited her along to the ski resort, but he ended up keeping her company most of the time and had missed out on all the fun. With that in mind, she started to make small talk with him so that he wouldn't feel sidelined by the other two men at the table.

It didn't take long for all the dishes to be served. The table was full to the brim, and everyone had a glass of wine poured out for them.

Taking the lead, Conrad raised his glass and said, "Shall we toast to a pleasant day out and friendship?"

"Xavier's driving today, Uncle Conrad, so drinking is out of the question for him. I can drink on his behalf, though," Veronica piped up. She couldn't hail a car in this remote area, and she didn't want Xavier to drink and drive.

Taking his drink on his behalf was what a good friend would do. However, she could feel a sharp look thrown her way the moment she proposed the idea. At that, she glanced up almost habitually and immediately met Matthew's icy gaze.

"You seem to be on good terms with Young Master Xavier," Conrad observed casually, though his eyes were glittering with amusement.

drink and Roni will drive you home later," Yvonne chimed in, thinking her

wasted no time in responding, "The roads are slippery after

reply was enough to give anyone the impression that things between him and Veronica were more than just

commented, "How very chivalrous you are toward Veronica, Young Master Xavier. Perhaps I should take Matthew's drink on his behalf as well. Wouldn't want to be stuck here waiting for a taxi that will never come, would we? What do you say, Matthew?" Underlying her melodic

past Matthew's stoic and handsome face as he

their split. Scumbag, she thought

juice instead of wine?" Yvonne tipped her head to the side as she looked at Conrad inquisitively. "What had been calling Conrad by his first name throughout the whole trip. There was nothing strange about this, except for the fact that she was addressing him

the Kings Family by his given name despite knowing his formidable status implied that there was more to their relationship than they were willing to admit. She could try to pass this

right; I should have known better

all the wines here replaced with fresh

waiter replied courteously as he set himself to work. He took away all the glasses of wine and

out and started to dig into

the park for most of the day, and she wolfed down her food without bothering with decorum. Seeing how hungry she

he reached for a few shrimps and began to peel them

stop him, but that was when she saw Ruka doing the same thing for Matthew. He was usually anal about someone

that could not be the only reason why

how pretentious he was. Following this, she decided not to stop Xavier from deshellng shrimps for her. She looked down at the plump crustaceans lying curled on her plate, and after a

Conrad," Yvonne said sweetly as she put the deshelled

smile while scooping those shrimps up before placing them onto her plate instead.

more like a competition among couples to see who could

something was off. Everyone else seemed to be in a romantic mood, which made her question her

wheel? At the thought of that, she couldn't help losing her appetite even though she had been starving earlier. She took a few more bites, then set her utensils down as she announced, "I'm done. The rest of you can carry

Chapter 272 Ninety-Billion Balance

Now that everyone had agreed on the gameplay, Yvonne set up a group account and added Veronica into it. "Roni, you'll have to add Young Master Xavier and President Kings into the group."

Veronica had to be the one to add them, seeing as Yvonne did not have their contacts.

Left without a choice, Veronica did as she was told. By the time everyone had sent in their codes, Matthew, however, was the only one who had not done so.

How do I do this?

“Anytime now, President Kings,” Yvonne urged.

Matthew stared at his phone and scrolled through the various options on the platform, hoping that the link to send in his code would pop out and save him from embarrassment. He had never done this before, and Ruka was equally confused as she mumbled, “Matthew and I have no need for such apps, so...”

“You—” Ruka was close to snapping, but she held back to keep herself from ruining the atmosphere and said instead, “Could you help Matthew with it, then?”

“Fine.” Veronica sighed, then agreed reluctantly, “I guess I’ll do him the favor.”

The wedding banquet had set things off between Matthew and Xavier, who happened to be sitting side by side at the table. They were both businessmen who observed social etiquette, and they would not air their dirty laundry out in public. Besides, the Crawfords were the ones at fault. Having Xavier help Matthew now with the money pool app would only aggravate things, Veronica presumed.

As such, she leaned close to him and pointed at his phone. “See that ‘My Account’ button over there? Tap it.”

The sudden proximity made Matthew hyper-aware of her familiar scent. It hit him like a ton of bricks which instantly transported him to two months ago, when things were not quite as tense between them.

His heart raced at the thought of this. He swallowed, and an odd, imperceptible look flashed across his features.

“Are you even listening to me?” Veronica barked. He was so overwhelmed by how close she was to him that he was almost in a trance.

Almost immediately, he snapped out of his daze and clicked into ‘My Account’.

explain, “Right, then tap on the ‘Pay’ button

anything, but he obediently followed her

app. There was a long series of numbers, and once she realized how much there was in his bank account, she began to count the zeroes. Tens, hundreds, thousands... ten millions, one hundred million, a billion,

twitched like she was about to get a stroke just from looking at the numbers. As it turned out, there truly was no wallet limit when it came to cash apps

next?” Matthew asked when he did not get a response from

of her reverie and said weakly, “J-Just click into the ‘Receive and Transfer’ button. Wait, is there a playing poker against the big wigs of

man of Bloomstead, and he was quite possibly the richest man in the country as well; Xavier, on the other hand, was the young master of the affluent Crawford Family; lastly, although her background

right now? Veronica asked herself as she re-evaluated the amount of money she had

then, she heard Xavier say, “I’m fine with

casual chime by Yvonne, “Whatever limit you think

call the shots,” Matthew added

pursed her lips, rendered speechless by how agreeable they were. Damn it, guys, just because you’re fine with anything,

how she had braced the icy weather for two hours, risking hypothermia along the way, by agreeing to work at an autoshow for two hours. She had only earned about four thousand from that gig alone, but that was nothing compared to the amount her present company had in their accounts. She wondered where she had gotten the nerve to agree to play poker with these billionaire bigshots. I’m an idiot,

to slap herself in

was not one to wear her heart out on her sleeve, but

of money, we can always start out with a small

Veronica pondered on it, she decided that it was still a huge pot of money to bet

play,” she finally said after taking a deep breath. Nothing to worry about. Just shake off the nerves! If I play well enough, I might just win enough down payment for a new

capped the electronic cash platforms at a maximum of one million per day. However, the

was the first one to make

her hand. Not too bad, she mused. I

round of bets, cards were discarded and drawn from the deck. At that point, Matthew decided to

Xavier declared as he added money into the

round of betting ended. When the time came for them

Chapter 273 Crayson’s Bad Fall

Veronica beamed as she showed her hand.

She had been on a roll since the beginning of the last few rounds, and she was working her way into a winning streak.

Matthew, on the other hand, had on the ideal poker face as he sat stoically next to her. Little did he know that Ruka, who was perched on the seat behind him, was aware of the basic rules of poker even if

she hardly ever played. She had watched in grim disbelief as he discarded cards that would have given him a good hand and feigned bad luck by folding during bets. He was pulling back to let Veronica win.

With her newly-boasted confidence, Veronica got her head in the game and began to slay. As a result, her bank account with a meager sum of seventeen thousand had an additional amount of hundred and fifty thousand dollars!

In fact, she wasn't the only winner; Xavier and Matthew had won several rounds as well, leaving Yvonne as the odd one out who somehow managed to lose over four hundred thousand dollars during the game.

"Oh, man, talk about sore luck," she moaned ruefully. She turned to look at Conrad in despair. "Conrad, you said you were gonna sponsor me, right? We're splitting this fifty-fifty."

"She has a point, Uncle Conrad," Veronica sang, so happy that she was oblivious to how Matthew had let her win most of the rounds. "I told you to sponsor me and you refused to. Bet you're licking your wounds now."

Conrad shook his head in mock exasperation. "Oh, I should have listened to you, Veronica," he said melodramatically.

Meanwhile, Matthew leaned into his seat and stared at the cards he was holding: three Kings and two Aces. He had a full house, and if he had shown his hand, he would have won the pot for sure. There was at least twenty grand worth of winnings after the bet was raised, but at the last minute, he decided to let Veronica win. Folding, he tossed his cards into the center pile and pointed out nonchalantly, "Someone's on a roll."

"Of course. I've never lost a game of poker," Veronica said proudly, unaware that her poker skills were no match for Matthew's even though she was admittedly better than average players.

"Winner buys everyone a meal," Yvonne piped up, wiggling her brows at Veronica as if to remind the latter that lunch and dinner would be on her.

Veronica nodded. "I'm more than happy to."

on your side as well, Young Master

Roni a little

the restroom. She had been so focused on winning the pot that

came out of the restroom stall and headed for the communal sink area to wash her hands, only to see glance and said nothing. For a moment, neither of them exchanged a word, and

capped her lipstick and wiped her hands with a tissue, then fished out her phone from her purse. When she saw Daniella's name flashing on the

was coming down from the mountain this afternoon when he slipped and fell. He bumped his head

rose by a pitch when she heard the shocking information. Next to her, Matthew

pretty

I'll go back

that, Veronica hung up the phone hurriedly. She stood in front of the sink and took a deep breath, but that was when she saw Matthew staring at her in the large mirror. She met his gaze in the reflective glass, but just as he parted his lips to say something, she turned and walked away before he

followed her out of the restroom area closely

she jogged up to the private dining room. She was surprised to see that the room was empty save for the cleaning

a call while Yvonne and Conrad went skiing..." Ruka

was probably here to straighten up the private room before the crowd

resort was already packed to the brim with tourists, and the hotel would not be able to take in that many customers, even when some of them were

immediately called Conrad on the phone, but none of

offered, speaking up behind

considered his suggestion and decided that she had no other options right now. She reached for the keys he was passing to her

to ask him which car was his when he suddenly appeared and

but she could not bring herself to thank him as she jogged up to the car. Just as she was going to start the car

doing?"

Chapter 274 Riling Matthew Up

It was true that what Veronica said at the hospital had been hurtful, but she started to reevaluate her relationship with Matthew after he cut off all her business ties at Encounters which even led Julius Atelier to call off the endorsement deal.

As it turned out, her business' success pivoted on her amicable relationship with Matthew, and it took one sour turn to reveal to her just how fragile such a dynamic was. She had been painfully reminded of how powerful he was, so much so that he could flip her life around with just a snap of his fingers. She could be soaring high in the sky one day and be brought crashing down the next.

He was a man who could manipulate her life and death like they were components of a Rubik's cube in his hand. He was dangerous—deadly even. Veronica would need nerves of steel if she insisted on staying friends with him, let alone date him.

Nonetheless, she was still Elizabeth's god-granddaughter. Matthew wasn't her only pillar of support, and she knew she could always turn to Elizabeth for help in desperate times. This was the reason why no one in Bloomstead dared touch her even though they knew about her fallout with Matthew.

Presently, Matthew cast Veronica a sideways glance when she did not respond, then frowned in exasperation. Just then, his phone rang, and he fished out his phone with one hand while keeping the other on the wheel. When he saw Ruka's name flashing on the screen, he set the phone aside instead of picking it up.

On the other end, Ruka had been waiting for Matthew in the hotel lounge, but he never showed up. She didn't know that he had already left the resort with Veronica.

"The number you have dialed, can't be reached..." She tried calling him again and again, but none of the phone calls got through.

Back in the car, Veronica was listening to the ringtone of the third phone call drone on and on. She glanced at the number on the screen, then at Matthew, who was unbothered and seemingly intended on leaving Ruka hanging. For some reason, she wanted to wince at this man in disgust. He had told her how much she liked her a mere months ago, but he was now hooking up with another woman in the blink of an eye.

Veronica silently thanked the heavens that she had not been gullible enough to fall for his sugar-coated lies, because in some alternate universe, she could be in Ruka's position right now. Whew, dodged a silver bullet there, she thought.

snapped icily. There was a pause, then he continued, "Yes, she has an emergency back home, and I'm dropping her off right now.

frigid that he could turn

Ruka. Both of them are so head over heels for

d'Amour was playing in the car. The piano ballad was an old arrangement, but Veronica had a soft spot for it. She closed her eyes and let the music wash over

world had only just begun to melt away when something abruptly fell onto her torso. She opened her eyes

a chill," Matthew said with forced patience, tipping his head to one

relished the warmth that came with the throw, nestling further back into her seat in bliss. The heater had been turned on, but it did little to keep out the

she caught

and stated, "I

that didn't mean

her mind. Then again, she had made her aversion to

why's your girlfriend's scent all over it? I don't

face as he said,

She held her phone and checked the time while continuing nonchalantly, "Drop

keyed in the pick-up and drop-off points. She was determined to pay him

but he tried to keep his anger under wraps as he said, "It's snowing now. We can't take the highway, and there

concern," she said while shooting

I ever had. You even had the audacity to get someone to look into me! She knew about all the things he had done behind her back, and she was disgusted by how he

Chapter 275 Shortcut

Matthew eyed Veronica darkly as his lips pressed into a thin line. "So. We'll be at an impasse until I give you what you want, is that it?"

He was one more push away from an outburst, but even so, he still spoke slowly and steadily. He was calm, much like how the seas and skies were before a storm, as if he was completely unaffected.

However, the more he behaved this way, the more anxious Veronica felt. She could sense that there was a fire burning in him, consuming him.

Nonetheless, she went on to add insult to injury as she drawled coquettishly, "You don't have to sound like you're forced into this. It's not as if this is the first time you've tried to make me concede to you, right? Although..." She flashed him a captivating smile while her red scarf brought out a pink tinge to her flawless alabaster skin.

She looked as alluring as a poisonous poppy, but she was just as aggravating too.

He had fallen deeply for her, he realized grimly.

Having trailed off earlier, Veronica continued with wicked amusement, "I've never been one to run away in the face of fear, Matt, so do whatever you like. I promise I won't tell Grandma about it, because I'm gracious like that." As she said this, she reached up and pried his fingers off her scarf. She shrugged him off and turned to get out of the car. She slammed the door behind her and walked away without so much as a backward glance.

Left in the car with his insurmountable rage, Matthew clenched his fists and struck the steering wheel in front of him once, then pressed the heel of his palm into the horn several times, disrupting the winter serenity with several loud honks.

"Damn it!" he cursed aloud, then leaned back into his seat as he pinched the space between his brows. Out of nowhere, a sense of helplessness seized him.

He wondered if all these years of getting his way had corroded his reasoning mind, or if his affections for Veronica had clouded his judgment. Whenever she was around, he felt the need to subjugate her and make her accede without question.

However, his attempts to do just that had been to no avail, and he realized belatedly that her heart must be carved out of stone if she could stand up to him repeatedly, each time bolder than the last.

the business world but not one woman? Why is it so hard for me to

his brows as he watched her leave, and

the street huffily after leaving the car. As she kept up her pace, she held onto her phone and searched for nearby cars she

the conundrum, she

name displayed on the screen. She

it true that your master has been hospitalized after a

around in disbelief. Sure enough, Matthew's car was crawling up to her.

and I don't want you to go back to Cabot Town alone. I've already spoken

no need for that, Grandma. I can just get

he told me that the rumors only started after word got out that you became my god-granddaughter. He said he only did that for

him then? She was completely baffled by how low Matthew would stoop just to get his way. I can't believe he actually lied to

and scheming devil that he was, she had no choice but to go along with the false narrative as she replied, "Grandma, I never thought of him that way. I simply didn't think it was safe for him to drop me off at this

now. I'll have that grandson of mine drop you off, and if he doesn't, then he and I will

"Oh, uh, Grandma, I—"

now!" Elizabeth hung up

as she listened to the series of beeps on the other line, Veronica quirked her lips unhappily, wondering what she had done to deserve

car window with a

the car door, then barked, "How low will you stoop, Matthew? Your grandmother is nearly in

hand on the wheel and tapped against the edge with his fingers, contemplating his reply. "I'm only acting

Chapter 276 Stable Condition

Veronica leaned back into the seat and closed her eyes for a moment, then decided to give Daniella a call. "Hey, Mom. Where are you guys?"

"Collins City Hospital," Daniella replied.

"Which ward?"

"Just a minute. We're at Block 21, Room 2109."

“Got it. I’m on my way.” Veronica hung up and turned to speak to Matthew, who had his eyes on the road. “Could you drop me off at Collins City Hospital?”

When she called Daniella earlier, she was told that Crayson had been sent to the district hospital for a medical examination. Now that he was transferred to the city hospital, there wasn’t much distance they needed to cover.

Both Veronica and Matthew were silent throughout the ride. They were as good as a pair of strangers.

It wasn’t until they had walked into the hospital’s patient ward that she shot him a warning look and said, “Don’t say anything weird in front of my parents.” She shuddered to think how her parents would react if they found out about the recent happenings in her life, and she would rather Matthew keep his mouth shut the entire time.

He hummed curtly in response, as if he was only humoring her, and said nothing more.

They then headed out of the elevator and made their way over to Room 2109. Pushing the door open, Veronica was greeted by the sight of her adoptive parents and Crayson, who lay unmoving in the hospital bed.

Panic seized her as she rushed up to them and pressed, “Mom, Dad, how is he doing?”

just got out of the emergency room, and the doctor says he’s

fine. He’s always been a plucky

here empty-handed; we didn’t

you. It’s so nice of you to drop Veronica off when the weather is so cold and

his parents were interacting. She was admittedly more concerned about Crayson. He was unconscious as he lay on the bed, and there was a bandage wrapped around his head. He looked to be sleeping soundly, and he did not budge even once, but

the caretaker’s chair next to the bed and reached out gently to pat the old man’s hand. “Crayson? Hey, wake up. I’m here to see you,” she murmured softly. She even tugged on his hand gingerly, but still, there was

look at Daniella and urged, “Mom, why isn’t he waking up?

bleeding after he hit his head, and the doctor performed surgery on him earlier. Now, all we have to the

sigh, Veronica muttered under her breath with a frown, “You’re usually quite the agile fellow. Who would’ve thought that you would fall so

but really, her heart was twisting at the sight of him. She saw him as family, and she had practically grown up in his home. Never had she imagined something like this

saw how grim she looked, he consoled, “Don’t worry. I’m sure he’ll be just

Are you hungry?

they also knew they had to tread carefully around him. He might be someone like a brother to Veronica, but his

hand dismissively. His gaze lingered on Veronica as she sat firmly next to

looking so worried made his heart twist. It was as if she suddenly had a

mind, and he announced to the room, "I'm going out to make a phone call." With that, he spun on his heels and walked

fell shut, Daniella immediately leaned close to Veronica and asked quietly, "Roni, did Matthew drive you all

us he was coming with you. We wouldn't want him to think badly of you after you asked him to drop up to his ear. She shook her head and said, "Mom, Dad, it's fine.

after becoming victims to Floch and Rachel's schemes, they had grown weary of the rich and powerful, worried that the smallest thing could offset these

Chapter 277 Hijack

Crayson was both a master and father figure to Veronica. Hence, it was only normal for her to be worried.

She had asked him repeatedly to move in with her parents instead of staying in his house up in the hills, but he turned her down every single time. Now that something as grievous as this had happened, she couldn't help fretting over him even more.

"I'm warning you, Master Crayson, if you don't wake up right now, I'll—"

"Oh, for heaven's sake, can you just cut it out? I'm trying to sleep here!"

Just as she was grumbling under her breath, Crayson blinked his eyes slowly and woke up. When he saw Veronica sitting next to the bed, he stared at her in bewilderment. Perhaps the open-cranial surgery had left him a little disoriented because he couldn't quite respond to her presence.

"Master Crayson, you're awake!" Veronica exclaimed happily when she realized that he had regained consciousness. She patted the back of his hand while exclaiming, "Thank goodness. If you hadn't regained consciousness, I would have thought you were a goner!" As she said this, her voice thickened without her realizing it.

Crayson softened and started to register his surroundings. When he felt Veronica clutching his hand, he let out a breath and glared at her pointedly. "Pull yourself together. It's not like I'm dead or something."

"Hey, don't jinx it," she countered cheerily. "You can't die until you witness me walk down the aisle. In fact, I won't let you die until after you've trained my kid how to wield a strong punch, so hold on till then, okay?"

Though she could joke, she was actually terrified. Then again, an average person would need about a day or two to regain consciousness after intracranial surgery. In any case, Crayson must be stronger than he looked if he woke up just hours after the surgery.

"You ingrate," he bit out gruffly, snorting. "Training you was the most work I'd ever done, and I can only imagine how much worse it will be to train your kid. I'm not a babysitter, you know."

"Well, if you're against taking in little kids that much, then you should move in with my parents. The three of you can keep an eye on one another, and I wouldn't have to worry all the time."

He did not hesitate to reject her proposal. "No, I can't do that. I'm used to living on my own, and it'd be awkward for me to live with your parents."

this, she suggested, "Then how about you come to Bloomstead with me instead? I'm running a bridal store, and I could use a good

of him if he agreed to go back

Crayson's eyes lit up. "In

gleam in his eyes, she frowned and

Conrad's return to Bloomstead when she had been sitting on the curb of Mudwood Street, right outside the main square, and watching the youngsters party the night away. She distinctly remembered seeing someone who looked an awful lot like Crayson among the

by the time she chased after him, he disappeared into an alleyway and she never saw

and Matthew showed up, and she completely forgot about

when he heard her question, and he replied, "I don't even know how to get around Collins,

amusement. "You have a point. I mean, you're not entirely literate either,

"Has Master Crayson awakened?"

just as the

of him and the food he had in tow,

have the appetite to. Now that he was awake and appeared to be in good spirits, she felt the knots in her stomach

way though," Crayson said. Owing to his years of practicing martial arts, he was stronger and more

alright, Master Crayson," Matthew replied. "I brought enough food to feed a small

he can't have all those carbs and fats," Veronica interjected,

as high-strung as she had been moments ago, and her good humor was starting to show. Currently, she

the food on the table between the beds and

swallowed and glowered at Veronica. "Go eat somewhere else; the smell is too overwhelming for

she said defiantly. "I'll be

in front

Chapter 278 Treat Him to a Meal

Veronica was furious at Matthew for his blatant attempt to poach someone from her. However, her worry was placated by Crayson's willingness to follow her back to Bloomstead.

After all, he had been living all alone on the mountain. No matter how good he was at fighting, he was still an old man. She was worried that something might happen to him.

"Haha! Matthew, you are still the best. My student is still too much of a cheapskate." Crayson was smiling brightly while his mood lightened.

The three of them chatted for a while longer before Crayson, who was still drowsy from his recent surgery, fell asleep.

Then, Matthew paid for an extra bed and told Veronica to nap on it while he kept watch.

However, she was unable to sleep until late into the night when she drifted off while leaning against the side of Crayson's bed.

Matthew gently carried her into his arms thereafter. Perhaps it was because she found some sense of security in his familiar scent that she did not wake up at all. Instead, she remained asleep as he moved her to the bed.

After covering her with the blanket, he headed back to sit on the chair placed next to the patient's bed. It was then that he realized Crayson had woken up.

"You're up," he commented as a faint smile spread across his cold face. "It's still early. You can sleep a while longer."

"Do you like my student?" Crayson directly went straight to the point without hesitating.

Matthew was not surprised at all by the sudden question. As he glanced at the woman sleeping on the cot, he hummed in confirmation.

"You're an honest man, but you have definitely fallen in love with the wrong person. With her, what you see is what you get. She is extremely frank. When it comes to love, she is as thick as a brick. You have to be patient," Crayson declared.

Elderly people required less sleep, which meant he did not need to sleep for long. He had woken up a while ago and to his surprise, he opened his eyes to see Matthew carrying Veronica over to the other bed before gently placing her down. It was easy to tell the man loved her from how careful and protective he was.

However, Matthew was the heir to the Kings Corporation. Would there really be a happy ending for these two?

Crayson did not know for sure.

"You are wise, Master Crayson," Matthew said with a sigh and a smile.

"Alright, go to sleep. I'm fine now." Crayson pointed to the bed next to his. "The nurses had changed the sheets and you've been busy the whole evening. You have to get some sleep."

any protests. He then
asleep. Hence,
the ward, Daniella had arrived and Veronica had already woken
Murphy. I've bought some breakfast. Let us eat together." As someone who did everything perfectly
Veronica. "Matthew is
hand, she turned to glare at Matthew. "Ah, yes. Well, are you listening? You are a guest.
girl, he's just being nice. How can you be so
rendered speechless. What did I do wrong
walk around the shops
declaring his condition to be stable, she heaved a sigh of relief. Then, she
she had arranged a caretaker for him
were waiting for Veronica to complete, and she was worried about Vincere Games and the bridal store.
Thus,
few hours later, their car arrived
treat you to dinner tonight," she said to Matthew as she felt guilty
by the offer." His thin lips curled up into a smile as stars began to twinkle
I am only offering because my mom keeps badgering me about it," she said, quickly
she got out of the car and
the day, she was busy working away. Finally, she was able to finish her tasks before the end of
back
waylaid by Crayson's hospitalization. As per their
a matter
at the Alpine Ski Resort. Otherwise, she would be crying over how much
car appeared at the entrance of the bridal store just
saw his luxurious car pull
that President Kings'
that he was fighting with President Murphy, but doesn't this
Think about it. Two months ago, all of our orders were canceled overnight. It was definitely his
fought, then what is

“Who knows?”

Chapter 279 Report Him

“Where are we going?” Matthew asked upon seeing Veronica walk out of the store.

With a flick of his finger, he sent his cigarette flying into the rubbish bin.

“Any suggestions?”

As she asked that, she walked over to the car, pulled open the door, and sat in the passenger seat.

“Whatever the host wishes.”

“We’ll go to One Piece Restaurant then,” she replied.

After all, she could not just dine with Matthew wherever she liked due to his status.

She did also win big in the Alpine Ski Resort. If splurging on a meal once was enough to return the favor, she would happily do so.

He got back into the car and began driving toward One Piece Restaurant.

“You haven’t visited Grandma for a few days. She missed you. Visit her when you are free,” he said as he drove.

“Okay,” she responded, looking out the window the entire time.

They seemed to be experiencing more snow this year.

It was a sunny day yesterday, but it was now beginning to snow again.

Bloomstead was a bright and colorful place with lights everywhere. With snowflakes drifting in the air, the city looked extraordinarily gorgeous.

“Do you love snow?” he asked upon noticing her focused attention on the world outside.

However, her reply surprised him.

“I like everything except for you.”

After pondering on what she had just said, he found it to be true.

liked way too many things when he was

was rendered speechless by her ability to kill off all conversation with one

up to run through his hair as exasperation shone in

should he even do about

actually hate me that much?” he asked

as though he was a fool. “Have I

He was speechless.

Thus, the conversation ended.

pulled up to

got out of the car and were

Matthew did

before asking, "Good day.

the man

fine with anything," he calmly stated as he took a sip of

the server. "Give me a few servings of the cheapest items on

cheapest item on our

hit by the thought that their server was kind of an idiot. "I want two servings of the cheapest mains you have along with some appetizers. Remember, they must be the

to order when you're treating me to dinner?"

poor. Do I look like someone who can afford to pay for a feast? Anyway, a feast is unhealthy for you. There will be too much fat, and that will

no-nonsense

"As you say."

dropped his forehead to his palm

treated him to was breakfast, where

that meal

The food will be out shortly," the server said with a nod before turning away with the

ignored while Veronica

minutes later, the server was

service," she commented with a gleam in her

finished speaking, her face

plain bread and a bowl of mushroom

your meal," the server politely said once

"Wait. That's... it?"

Chapter 280 Yvonne Kidnapped

Matthew pulled his plate over to himself, yet he could not find the appetite to eat.

After a few moments of silence, he could not resist asking, "Am I going to have just plain bread the next time you treat me to a meal?"

"Huh?"

Veronica awkwardly stared at the food on the table.

"No way," she replied with a fawning smile. "This is all because the owner of this place is a scamming con artist. He really deserves death for this! Men like him should be single forever with no kids..."

"Me!"

Suddenly, Matthew shouted.

"What? What about you?" She was confused. What did he mean by that?

After talking for so long, she seized a moment to sip at her water.

Just then, he continued, "Six years ago, I opened up this restaurant."

"Pffft! Excuse me?" she sputtered, coughing as she spat out the water she was drinking. "Fucking hell! Oh, I'm sorry."

The water she had spit out when she choked just so happened to have hit him on the face as well.

He stiffened and slowly closed his eyes. Despite the calm on his face, he was betrayed by how his trembling hand clenched so tightly that his knuckles were white.

Never had he ever felt so upset.

Not only had she insulted him to his face, but she had also cursed his family line to end with him!

Very... Well.

"You should have said so earlier. How could I have known you were the boss of One Piece Restaurant?" she said as she dabbed at her mouth with a paper napkin.

She then pouted and continued in a low mumble, "Even so, the food here is quite expensive."

said that, she noticed his face clouding over as

napkin to wipe the water

finish apologizing, he grabbed her wrist and tugged her closer. "What did you just say?" he asked with a cold stare. "Did you just say I should never have

words were spat out

seething with unfathomable

but Veronica who said that,

you owned this place, I would never have said that. Look at you, handsome and kind. One glance and I could tell how generous you truly are. Also, One Piece Restaurant is a members-only restaurant where the membership fee is over a few thousand dollars. This is such

would pay a

her. His gaze was so fierce and sharp that it felt like she was going to

would I

told lies, she had to concede defeat when it came

his entire family, so there was a good chance that he wanted to

down, she was

her shoulder, making it impossible for her to even move an inch while he tilted her chin up with his right hand. "Do you know that if anyone else had acted as brash as you did, they would be dead by

about

She believed it whole-heartedly.

wanted to run away while he let his guard down, but he

around her, she had to watch as he slowly grew closer. His tanned skin was silky smooth with no visible powers. It was

a fortune on skincare. How else could he maintain such beautiful skin

"Your skin is so smooth. Matthew,

change in topic stunned him. For a moment, he just paused

his arms were empty as she fled his grasp. Like a gust of wind blowing by, she swiftly

of the shop. She thereafter patted

a fast runner, or she

from the restaurant, she glanced back at it, shook her head, and

Ring, ring, ring!

Her phone began ringing.

out of her bag, she saw that it was a

"Yvonne, call..."

are you doing,

Yvonne was calling because she had something to say, but then she heard the shriek coming

go! This

resist me, Yvie, or your parents will