

## **Bumpkin 411**

### **Chapter 411 Revealing the Mark on Her Body**

When the car halted at the entrance of the hospital, Thomas turned to remind Matthew, who was deep in thoughts. "Young Master Matthew, we're here."

How would Matthew not realize that? With clenched fists, he glanced at the building as a pall of fear cast upon him. It took him a while before alighting from the car.

The cold breeze brushed across his cheeks, dispelling the trepidation in his heart. Yes, it was fear.

Never once had he experienced such a feeling before. Now that he had a taste of it, he knew how terrifying it was to have his loved one lying in the emergency room.

He was aware that Xavier would not make a detour midway if it was not for Veronica's critical condition. Taking a few minutes to calm himself down, Matthew regained his calm demeanor before striding into the hospital and heading toward the emergency room on the twelfth floor.

way, his heart was racing against his chest. Even his fingers in his pockets were slightly trembling; the ever dauntless

patients during the day, so the elevator was

steps before his footsteps began to pick up the pace and he began to run

change in Matthew's emotions while knowing that Matthew could not face and deny the reality at the beginning. When he was finally willing

last, the level-headed man slumped into distress because of

floor, he found the emergency room Veronica was at

in on the lit lamp outside the emergency room

moment of silence, he ordered Thomas, "Find Xavier at

Young Master Matthew." Thomas wheeled around

that the disturbing ringtone might affect the surgery behind the doors,

felt the numbness in his legs. He then turned around and walked to the other side of the corridor. Next, he took a cigarette and lit it

him since smoking and noises were off-limits in the hospital, yet Thomas stopped her by telling her something. In the end, she took a glance

was Matthew leaning against the wall outside of the emergency room with his right leg crooked. His hand delved in his pocket while the

approaching Matthew. It was not until then that they noticed that his hand was actually slightly shaking. It

...

hospital. While they took the front seats of the recreational vehicle, Crayson  
Skyler is a skillful doctor. Will we be able to  
find out about it; not even the greatest doctor in the world can. As for others,  
with a frown before looking at her. "Is  
be. Besides, even if none of them has happened, it's time for her to leave  
knew that there was  
me." Crayson's negligence had led to such an outcome, so he had  
taken by Tiffany without  
asked, "Then,  
to worry about him. Just go

#### Chapter 412 Matthew Found Out the Truth

At that time, the doctor assistant noticed a part of the tattoo on Veronica's waist and exclaimed in  
shock. Tattoo?

Matthew was baffled, for he had never seen any tattoos on her before. However, who could the pale-  
faced woman on the operating table be other than Veronica?

He cocked his head and took a look. With just a single glance, he happened to see the revealed part of  
the 'tattoo' on her waist. Its color was that of blood; the revealed part was the phoenix's head and a few  
feathers. It looked so real as though it was actually a living being.

"Holy cow, I didn't know that Roni has such a gorgeous tattoo. Tsk tsk tsk..." Skyler nudged Matthew and  
joked, "What luck you have there, Matt."

Matthew's solemn yet anxious face, he realized something.

when they entered the surgery room, Matthew knew that she was not in a critical condition given the  
doctors'

might not know of the tattoo because they were not the ones closest to her,

every day to know for a fact that she did not

be able to get

image conjured in his head as he came across the mark in a

was it again? Where did I see it? He was certain that it was

A codex?

he went to the underground chamber with Veronica in which they entered a room and accidentally toppled over a bookshelf that was stacked

to recall the title of the codex. 'Secret Affair of

was a jar in that same room, which made some weird noises after Veronica touched it

returned to the chamber to locate that jar again, only to realize that the space was cleaned up by someone else with no trace

forget about it? That time, he asked the team to look into

times and he said that the case had been taken over by someone else. In truth, that was not

doctor assistant was not fazed by it and merely spared a glance at it; her job was to execute what she was paid to do, so how would she know anything about

to Skyler. The duo waited for a while until the surgery

Matthew's mind was finally put at ease, but the mark on her kept

the room, Matthew stayed by her side next to the bed by clasping onto her hand as if she was going to

knew how real that emotion felt like to him the moment he caught wind of her news; he could feel that she was going to leave him for

of the mark. Lifting the blanket and her clothes, he took a peek at it

it wrongly? Is it on the other

and went to the other side of the bed to repeat his actions. Once again, there was not a red smidgen on her waist! Nonplussed, he was put into a

man was not an ordinary person during their first meeting. Given the current situation, it was highly possible that Crayson's appearance was

room. Thomas, who was sitting on a bench while playing with his phone, saw him and stood up instantly. "Young Master

sure there was no one else before whispering, "Find

Chapter 413 Tiffany's True Identity

"He's caught," Matthew answered honestly. "Oh." Since it was within expectation, Veronica did not waver. "About that... video..."

She looked at him with pursed lips. "That wasn't me." Although she was not used to explaining her stance, she figured that it was necessary to explain it to him. "I know." "You knew?"

"There is a date stated on the footage. I've checked the surveillance footage at the hotel and Xavier and Tiffany were the only ones who went there." He stood up to pour her a cup of lukewarm water before feeding her with a spoon.

His gentle actions were unfamiliar to her as she blinked her eyes with mixed feelings while gawking at him. The man smiled gently in response. "What are you looking at? You should get hydrated."

need to say that to me ever again," he emphasized.

not know how convenient a straw was to the patients. As she

remained serious. "I'm afraid that you'll drink

feeding her a few spoonful to quench her thirst, she lay on bed as she mused on the news, which in

the cup paused in midair while his eyes fixated upon her. It took him a moment before letting out a smile. "That's a great idea,

that it had only been six months since his call-off engagement with Tiffany, it would cause a controversy despite having the scandal handled and debunked. If they were to

a grand wedding. I want it to be simple, so

you've recovered." It was safer to get married first regardless. He was afraid that Veronica would retrieve her words and he would

phone is with Xavier.

him about it.

a big

for the next couple of days. I have something on this afternoon, but I'll visit

me." She

Knock! Knock! Knock!

knock resounded on

cup. "Have some

"Hmm."

went out of the room and closed the door. There stood Thomas, who passed over the DNA test results while whispering,

was the case, Tiffany was

As expected.

the papers to

Master Matthew," Thomas

## Chapter 414 And the Show Begins

After the long years of grooming and company, it was natural for the Larson couple to grow attached to Tiffany. After all, it was the same for dogs, let alone taking care of a person. Still, she had blinkered by resentment and led herself to a downfall. In the end, she was grounded by her own father.

Inside the master bedroom, one half of the couple was sitting on the couch whereas the other was smoking on the balcony. "What a disappointment."

Rachel leaned against the couch while hugging a pillow as she sighed. "I did think of grooming her into someone outstanding with the hope that she can replace Veronica someday, but I never foresee things escalating to this. She's a failure. Not only is her conception distorted, she's narrow-minded. Veronica is definitely in a different league from her."

"You're not alone. I did think of that as well, but it seems like we're wrong." Floch heaved a deep sigh.

"No. We're not wrong. Veronica is the chosen one. Even if she's dead, there will never be a chance for Tiffany because she's just a dummy. We were fooled by the happy days we spent together."

Rachel shook her head and sighed again. "About the voice note, I've asked someone to give it to Matthew. I told him that it is to clear Veronica's name in order to make up for our lack of care all these years. I'm not sure if he's buying it, though."

disguised herself as Veronica and slept with another man in order to ruin her life.

the same that swallows it up. Tiffany's existence itself is against the law of nature and hence the incident that has happened today. It's

cigarette before breathing out a puff of smoke. "Once he reveals the recording to the public, that's when Tiffany's nightmare begins. She's just a poor... sacrifice. There's

her coffee. "Let's treat her better in the remaining days

cup before striding out of the room. "I'll ask her what

went to Tiffany's room on the second floor. After opening the door with the key, she realized

She searched the whole room before checking the balcony, but Tiffany was nowhere to be found. However, there was a rope tied to the ground at the balcony and before long, she realized

entered the room

for her. I don't want any more

contacted Troy upon

ready. We just need a word from

before the call ended. In the next ten minutes, the Internet

It is

News! The Truth Behind the Called off Engagement Between Tiffany

the Hotel With Xavier Crawford Is

'Tiffany Larson's Fearsome Revenge'

Larson

Larson and Xavier Crawford Conspired Against

Larson's Complicated

True Face of

the same time. Many of it contained the recording and screenshots as

forced a marriage by taking Veronica's credit of saving Matthew. They even exposed her lies of

engagement turned the love into resentment and hence the conspiracy with Xavier against the Kings Family and Veronica. The recording, which was provided by the Larson couple, attested to the truth of Tiffany disguising

she had disguised as Veronica again to have a live broadcast of a sex play with several

through a phone in the clip, where Tiffany was having sex with the men. However, after broadcasting for over ten minutes, the police invaded and took every single one

camera directed at the window, one could clearly see how she was screaming for help before Xavier's car bulldozed through the railing and made a detour in

least, there were photos of Veronica lying on the operating table and staying in the hospital for recuperation. Shirley

Stories and Twitter were broken at that instant

Chapter 415 Spare Xavier's Life

While the Larson couple was searching everywhere in Bloomstead for Tiffany, they received a call from the police and went straight to the police station. Silence dawned upon them in the car as they were absorbed in their own thoughts.

"You can easily tell that Matthew is behind this."

Rachel propped head with her arm against the window and sighed. "No matter how foolish Tiffy is, she wouldn't have done this in such a critical time."

"She's foolish for offending Matthew." Floch was feeling helpless as well.

both of them were aware that there was nothing they could do about it because Matthew was doing it for

at the police station and saw Tiffany in the detention room. She crouched while wrapping her arms around her knees at a corner

pained Rachel to see Tiffany like that. With red-rimmed eyes, she walked

called out for her with a soft tone, yet Tiffany did not move an inch as if she could  
here,”

with a hollow gaze before rising to her feet to

the police station and cottoned on the situation through

Veronica again!

a conversation with her only to receive zero response from her. She cooped herself up in her room as soon

underground basement with dead silence. Xavier was fettered to a steel chair and could not budge at all,

Clomp. Clomp. Clomp.

by the door turned on the lights, causing him to shut his eyes in

his eyes to see the person before him. He cocked his

bled and fell into a swoon, he knew what was ahead of him. Thus, he was not surprised to be

Click!

before exhaling a puff of smoke, which covered his

just a loser,” Xavier dissed himself as though he was yielding to

words.” Matthew stood upright with a hand delved in his pocket and the other tapping on the cigarette.

“But... I do admire your loyalty for choosing to save her life instead of

he returned, he sent her to

me?” Xavier frowned in confusion as he was aware of the vengeful

Veronica and almost got her killed. Why is

sensed the perilous ferocity in the

for the two bodyguards to lift up the chair and bring Xavier out of the

Chapter 416 Marriage Certificate

“W-What does that mean?”

“Exactly what it sounds like,” Matthew said with a cold chuckle. “Get it yet?”

“You—For crying out loud, Matthew, you call yourself a human? You’re no better than an animal, f\*ck you! Veronica must have been kicked in the head to fall in love with someone like you!” Xavier snapped incredulously. Then, he threw his head back and laughed maniacally. “But now that I think about it, I can see why you’re so obsessed with her. She has incredibly soft skin and there’s a certain part of her body that’s... Well, let’s just say it’s deliciously tight, shall we? I’m guessing you didn’t get that far with her yet, huh? She’s practically untouched!”

Men often lost all sense of reason when their rage was at its peak and Xavier was downright furious after seeing the humiliation his sister had been put through. He wanted to probe Matthew’s anger and see the man snap.

Granted, his fingers tightened on the cigarette he was smoking, but there was hardly a trace of emotion on his handsome face as

guards who eventually pacified him and reduced him

spat out menacingly, “Kill me if you’ve got the guts, Matthew! Come on,

hands firmly on his back and held his head in place by grabbing a fistful of his hair. One of his legs was broken, so he could not retaliate even if he wanted to. He suffered in silence

to target Xavier, she was left alone. She scooted into an upright position and used her knees to pull the rag out of her mouth. Now

about to throw herself over him to shield him,

the

bond is the stuff of fairytales,” Matthew drawled sarcastically with an insidious smirk, though there was hatred and

he had already let the Crawford siblings off the hook for Veronica’s sake. Since they had not appreciated his mercy then, they could only reap what

care for one another,” Matthew added icily with a humorless

the air around Matthew grow cold.

they were used to plotting against others as well as scheming. It was only too bad that they

which echoed after him. Xavier and Melissa should have known

just yet. If she did, then no one would go to Africa with the

look for Xavier and Melissa, but when he could not find

but Hendric had been in the business world long enough to know how important it was to save up for a rainy day. He knew that his life would be a mess if the company crumbled and the debt collectors started calling round the house to demand payment with interest, so he packed up and left the

upon hearing this and decided

Matthew was with Veronica when he got a call from Troy, who cut

yesterday afternoon all the way until this morning, which to a certain extent was impressive, given the number of people who were there to dole out their punishments and the amount of time it would have taken for the deed to be done. It was tough, but

“Got it,” Matthew answered.

...

later, Veronica finally recovered from her broken arm, which had been grievously injured. During the time of her recovery, she stayed at Twilight Condominium where Matthew

#### Chapter 417 Matthew’s Proposal

During the three months where Veronica was recovering from her broken arm, Matthew looked after her and took very good care of her round the clock. The only time he did not take care of her was when she was working at the company. That said, she had also fully experienced just how strong Matthew was—physically.

One simply had to acknowledge the differences in strength when things boiled down to it, which was why Veronica could only surrender to Matthew in the bedroom. It was the wisest strategy on her part and the best thing for the both of them.

Seeing that she was on the verge of surrendering, Matthew smiled and flicked the tip of her nose lovingly, then said indulgently, “I can carry you to the bath—”

“O-Oh, no, it’s fine. I can bathe myself!” she answered and quickly pushed him aside, then dashed into the bathroom and locked the door behind her.

She had already witnessed his stamina first-hand and she was not about to take any chances by agreeing to bathe with him. If she did, they would never leave the house and get the marriage certificate.

They each put on a change of clothes after they showered, but at that moment, Veronica’s stomach rumbled loudly. She turned to look up at Matthew in mute despair and said, “I’m hungry...”

suggested while wrapping an arm around

done eating,” she pointed out worriedly as she took out her phone and checked the time on the screen.

grab a quick bite on the way. It won’t take up much time,” Matthew said as he ruffled her hair affectionately. He took her hand and led her out

One Piece Restaurant where they had a quick lunch before they made their

scrolling through her phone when she said, “Hey, it’s the twenty-seventh of April day,” he replied softly as he

“Well, aren’t you just

you are. I mean, I know exactly how sweet you taste, after all," he teased about his devilish behavior when she noticed that the car was rolling to a stop. "Hey, why seatbelt and opened the door on his side. "Wait for me in the

She thought he needed to use in the car for about five minutes after which Matthew closed the door and turned to look at her to close her hand and before she knew it, diamond ring on her finger. The diamond resembled some kind of a rose, but it was subtle and complemented the delicate and simple band. She admired it for a few

"Your name has a 'rose' in She gazed at the ring and muttered, "It's pretty, but don't you think it's a little prod her temple. "Don't you know what a briar be an expert at things like these. It's would be passing by the biggest jewelry atelier if they were to depart for the Civil Affairs Bureau from the restaurant,

was no wonder that he had avoided talking about the marriage certificate whenever she brought the topic up during the last three months; he wanted to put a asked her slender fingers look even longer and her hand was the color of porcelain. She might as well do," she said, sparkling under the sunlight that spilled through

Matthew said. He gave her hand a squeeze as he gazed at her. "With that ring, I make you met his smoldering gaze and felt a smile tug on her lips. She had always envisioned being proposed to in a field of flowers; or perhaps in the presence of her closest friends; or during a romantic candlelight dinner. However, little did she know that a

#### Chapter 418 You Cannot Marry Him

"I'm making you my wife, not my maid or nanny. You don't need to be a pro in the kitchen or be reasonable and mature all the time. You only need to be yourself," Matthew said warmly. There were butterflies in her stomach when she heard this, and she felt like her heart could melt.

Unable to help herself, she smiled and leaned forward. "You're wonderful, Matt." She pressed her lips to his and pulled him into her arms afterward. "It's my greatest honor to have come to know and love you."

"Silly girl," he said affectionately, chuckling as he tousled her hair. "Come on, we should get going before the Civil Affairs Bureau closes," he reminded her.

She gasped. "You're right! We have to leave now or we won't get our marriage certificate today!" With that, she pushed him aside and quickly settled back into the passenger seat. As she fastened her seatbelt, she prompted him to hurry and hit the gas pedal.

Matthew's handsome face lit up with a smile when he glanced at the ring on her finger, then at his own. The glimmer in his eyes was unmistakably that of a man in love. He did not pull away from the curb until after a second or two.

nothing to do while they were on the way to the Civil Affairs Bureau. When her eyes fell on her ring, she pulled out her phone

love unmarred by time; like a promise of eternal happiness. Her fingers clutched her phone even tighter after she read this, and

was combed up to reveal a neat and precise side part. He looked immaculate under the afternoon sun and it warmed her to think that he was dressed up nicely so that they could take

drown in his obsidian eyes or become mesmerized by his long eyelashes and he had a nose that looked like it was a work of the high heavens;

Johnny Depp. They both shared

first time she met him and how she had found him distant and reserved. She had believed that would be one of the few times she would ever encounter him, like two strangers who happened to walk past one another every once in a while, but never did she imagine she

expect a man as stoic and unfeeling as Matthew would turn out to be the warmest and most loving

but he certainly got the job done. He was reliable like that and he had demonstrated how much thought he put into what he did just from picking out their

you how sweet and thoughtful you are?" Veronica asked

he could prop his head up, then gazed at her sideways in amusement as he drawled, "Sweet and thoughtful?"

funny?" she

so used to hearing others say I'm a cold-blooded devil who acts without

she had called him something along the lines of a cold-blooded devil when

this, Matthew

They had only just started to queue up when Veronica's phone suddenly turned to say to Matthew, "My mom's calling.

her queue number to him and headed out of the building. In truth, she knew how easy it was for a man of Matthew's status to obtain a marriage certificate, but she had insisted on a secret marriage and he happened

he chosen to pull strings, then they would not be standing here in line patiently waiting for gone out of the lobby, Veronica picked up the you?" Daniella asked

took the family records with her. She had been worried that her parents would find out what she had done; being questioned by her

at a loss for

Daniella asked, "Let me guess, you took the family records with you. You're planning to true so quickly she barely registered it. She patted the back of her head as though to give her mind some encouragement to scramble for an answer, but she was entirely speechless. At last, she began

#### Chapter 419 There Is No Future for the Both of You

Having flipped through the 'Secret Affair of the Hidden Clan' and analyzed Veronica's situation, Matthew concluded that there was more to her than they thought. If he assumed correctly, she could very well be the leader of the hidden clan.

Veronica and Tiffany were twin sisters. If the former was the leader of the hidden clan, then Tiffany would naturally be one as well. Matthew had taken Randy's sample before to run a DNA test, only to find that he was not Floch and Rachel's biological son, but his DNA structure was similar to Veronica and Tiffany's.

This could only mean that all three of these siblings were not biologically related to Floch and Rachel at all, but that they were descendants of the hidden clan

If Floch and Rachel somehow managed to get their hands on and raised two of the three descendants, then it prompted the question of their true identities.

identity? Did Tony and Daniella know the truth

and he investigated further into the history of the hidden clan, only to dig up baseless legends and nonsensical rumors. This led him to think that

he finally came to terms with Veronica's identity. When he chose to be with and Veronica made their way back to

parents were totally fine with our plans to marry until Master Crayson decided to butt in and dissuade them. That old geezer's ruining

of her life with; the only reason why she wanted to secretly marry him was because of his status. She did not want to be in the center of public attention, and announcing their marriage to the rest of the world would mean sacrificing what little

not think that in successfully evading the public's white-hot microscope, she would have to put up with Master Crayson's unreasonable protest against her marriage to Matthew. Now, the old man was on poured her a glass of

her neck tenderly. "Your master has watched you grow up and you're

"I know that, but it doesn't mean he gets to stop me from living my life the way I want to. Don't caressed her hair

house during New Year's previously. He had respected her family and did all the dishes, as well as went out in the snow just to chop up firewood for

grueling hours. At long last, Master Crayson and Veronica's parents arrived at the Bloomstead after which they headed toward One Piece

of them was broken was when Matthew ordered the food, but as soon as the waiter left, Veronica Mrs. Murphy, Master

the tension in the room by making small talk, but he broke off when he saw Master Crayson raise his hand to stop him mid-sentence. He obediently kept quiet out

in private, that is. Could you..." Daniella began, eyeing Matthew meaningfully as if hoping he would catch on to what

replied agreeably. "I was just about to go out for

rose to leave, but Veronica's hand darted out to grab his arm. She turned and said with implication, "Sit down. Whatever she has to say to me, she can say it in front of

Chapter 420 The Secret

"We get it. You're a big girl now and you think you know better," Master Crayson pointed out in resignation. He stood up and began to head out of the private dining room. "I need to use the restroom."

None of them had had a toilet break since arriving at the train station, so Veronica believed him and did not dwell too much on this.

Leaving the private room, he walked down the hallway and immediately spotted Matthew in the distance. The young man was leaning against the steel banisters while smoking, looking deep in thought.

When Matthew noticed Master Crayson approaching, he straightened up and snuffed out his cigarette. "Master Crayson, what are you doing out here?" His usual icy demeanor was nowhere to be seen whenever he was around Veronica's family; he more often than not showed them his utmost respect.

banister, he pulled out his cigarette holder, then produced a small pouch and pinched some rolling tobacco. With

quickly offered to light up the end of

him. Why else would a man of his stature offer to light up a cigarette for

sighed deeply. "You know, Veronica is a simple girl from an even simpler background. I just don't see

and took a drag of it. After a second of silence, he nodded and

think that way, then why don't

fail because of our difference in status," Matthew countered with a smile. "What if I were

up your status?" The old man frowned and tipped his head to the side to assess Matthew, looking deep in thought. However, there was no telling if he was thinking about how truthful or practical Matthew's suggestion was. A moment later, he

always ask around and I guarantee everyone will tell you how I'm a man of my word," Matthew said playfully. He

in all, there's no getting me to trust men like

do with Roni's identity?" Matthew looked up and fixed his sharp gaze on Master Crayson. There was a dark gleam in his eyes this time and some

mind for an answer. Not wanting to give anything

you are and I don't care about Veronica's background. She's the woman I

he did not sound like he was asking for permission; he was merely making a statement and it was a bold one that made

eyes narrowed slightly as he eyed

behind Veronica's identity. After all, Matthew was a rare talent and a business prodigy in Bloomstead. His

come true. If his suspicions about Veronica's identity were already aroused, then there was no stopping him from running further

hard to keep a secret from bubbling up

know to stay away from her. There is no future for the both of you, I've told her as much. Surely you must realize that your relationship is doing more harm than good

impassive toward most things in life; that was just the way he was programmed. However, when it came to things that concerned Veronica, his curiosity shot through the roof. He wanted to know everything about her background and uncover every secret. He wanted to see just what her fate as the leader

moment, a sudden thought flashed across

important detail—Master Crayson and the Larsons never tried to stop him from getting engaged to the other young ladies of nobility here. Conversely, Veronica was raised in the country where no