

## Bumpkin 501

### Chapter 501 The Mysterious Woman

Veronica finally saw Thomas after another half an hour. After alighting from the car, she closed the door casually and asked Thomas, "How is Matt now?"

She was very concerned about Matthew's condition. Thomas was aware that Matthew and Veronica had split up. Even though he thought the breakup was fishy, that did not mean that she was aware of it too.

Skip

Thomas was taken aback by her reaction at this precise moment. "Miss Murphy, Young Master Matthew... He..." Thomas sighed before continuing, "I'm sorry. I wasn't expecting to pull you into this."

"What nonsense are you on about? I'm asking you about Matt's condition." The incongruous conversation between them heightened Veronica's anxiety.

It's only the first day you've been in

very dangerous to rescue Young Master Matthew. Are you sure you want to do this?"

I look like I fear death?" she inquired with a

However...

Young Master Matthew are no longer together. I won't make you do anything that you

Her patience was nearly gone after listening to Thomas' ramble. "Are you done talking? Just hurry up. Which

unsure which one to take

standing motionless as if he had suspicions of her. After all, the couple had just split up and her eagerness to help was questionable. "Are you a

she realize she had

quickly changed her words. "Despite my breakup with Matthew, he's someone who has saved my life and Old Mrs. Kings

some reason, Thomas

went straight to the passenger seat while he

go there

sides of her

asked, "Did Matthew

business mogul, so there will

him and they wouldn't be aware of my relationship

a thought, filtered through those who had previously met

assist me in

“What is it?”

Chapter 502 Long Time No See, Xavier

The woman communicated in French. “Sebastian?” Veronica asked, slightly puzzled. “Oh, you understood? I thought you wouldn’t catch it.”

When the mysterious woman entered earlier, Veronica stood up and greeted her in English, leading her to believe that she could not understand French. “Come along with me,” the woman said coldly before turning around and walking away.

Without any hesitation, Veronica immediately followed suit before they exited the side chamber and made their way to the back of the palace.

She quietly followed the woman in front of her while occasionally hearing the patrol passing by greeting her ‘Princess’. Is this woman a princess?

She suspected that the woman might be the daughter of a powerful figure within the Black Ace Mob. How can I save Matthew when I’m up against such a formidable foe?

Suddenly, the confidence which she had harnessed earlier was slowly shrinking away. They were walking for a solid five minutes and Veronica was having a hard time keeping up as the woman walked efficiently. Soon, they made their way around to an attic and descended the stairs.

At that point, Veronica paused for a moment, clearly hesitating. Noticing the footsteps behind her had disappeared, the woman turned around to see Veronica standing still.

can you meet him if you’re just standing there?” she sneered lightly. Is this a trap down there? Veronica

Thomas was powerless now that Matthew was in the hands of this woman. Furthermore, the  
down the stairs despite having thousands

the two ladies down to a basement, which was illuminated by all the lights in the room,  
first floor being a wine cellar at which the strong aroma of fermented grape filled the air;  
a feeling of unease in her heart.

the woman before her shout

tilted her head and looked forward, only to notice that the  
approached the man did he

not believe her eyes as her heart dropped to the pit of her stomach while  
him with utter shock, which

in an army green vest, camouflage pants,

did, however, replace his short hair with a longer style and had it in a ponytail at the back of his head. His complexion was also a few

Veronica thought to

that he had visibly gained a

put it more accurately, he's become

skin back then was not the glowiest, he still had a very healthy complexion. However, the man who stood in front of her now had a dark complexion and no longer had a trace of a smile on his face. Instead,

to the past, he

dreadlocked woman approached Xavier, wrapped her arms around his neck, and kissed him on the lips while saying, "Is this the woman

shot his murderous and cold glare at the woman, who then shrugged upon noticing his agitation. "I'm

as he approached Veronica with

not notice anything out of the ordinary until he uttered the words. His

his cold appearance and chilling sharp eyes, she perceived Xavier to be a wild wolf that could not be tamed as it was

she was terrified

to convince her that he had transformed

brings you

however, ask Matthew on how he handled Xavier after which he said he

Chapter 503 Xavier's Intention of Killing Matthew

All the successive events that happened today were hard for Veronica to swallow all at once. Shaking her head, she wore a dazed expression. "I'm sorry. I really didn't know."

She pondered for a bit before asking, "Do you think that your sister's death... has something to do with Matthew?"

If Melissa's death has nothing to do with Matthew, then why would Xavier kidnap him?

But... Matthew isn't such a cruel man. The woman in braids, who was standing behind her, seated herself to a nearby chair before lazily leaning over to the table and listened to their conversation.

Fishing out a pack of cigarettes from her pocket, she was quietly smoking while trying her best to lower her presence.

One could see that Xavier's hand, which was grabbing onto Veronica's collar, was starting to tremble. From the popped veins to his tightly pursed lips, he was obviously holding his anger in.

Even though he did not answer her, Veronica already knew what the truth was. At that moment, a series of excuses hung by her lips, but she could not bring herself to say them.

I didn't know

of apology were merely

she only felt avoidance and disdain toward him. In fact, she never truly hated him because he was once her ray of light in her before

knew that at the end

death, Xavier ignored Matthew's hunting and

wounds she sustained that time was because of

a cold expression. "You don't need to apologize. I

to the woman with braids.

the

out a cigarette for

hips and the other holding the cigarette,

the start till the end,

for quite a while, Veronica finally asked the question she

All of a sudden, Xavier's

As if he did not want Veronica to overhear the conversation, he distanced himself

"What?" Xavier asked.

Matthew,"

the cigarette butt, Xavier had a cold look in his eyes.

release the news

took a drag and puffed it out. "As per your request,

the start, the person Xavier hated was only

her to come today was not Xavier's intention but the

forget about Antheena. If you dare to harm her,

did not seem to answer Xavier's question, for they were warning him indirectly that he should not over-concern himself about Veronica

anything, the person had already terminated the call.

these people only kidnapped Veronica because of her and Matthew's close relationship. Yet, now trying to do. However, his

when he instructed his subordinates through a phone call, "Spread the word that Matthew's doomsday is

up after giving the

he finished the cigarette with a deep frown. It was after that did he

#### Chapter 504 A Beaten Matthew

Xavier, who was curious as well, told her upfront that it was not his intention to kidnap her. "You. What other secrets do you have?"

"Secrets?" Feeling her brain go blank, Veronica was momentarily stunned. She had no secrets to speak of. In fact, for a period of time, even Veronica was doubting herself that she was the root of the problem. Up until now, she could not come up with a head start.

However, it was Xavier's question that enlightened her. It was Crayson's sudden appearance that led her to think something was off, especially when he had been growing increasingly strict on her training lately.

Under normal circumstances, a woman in her twenties—like Veronica—could defend herself adequately with the skills she possessed, so it made more sense that she did not need to polish her techniques further. Furthermore, when Hendrey left Bloomstead, he gave her a bracelet, stating that it could save her in case of an emergency.

expression was very strange upon laying eyes on the bracelet. There must be some secret in all this, but Steven did not

was also not caused by Matthew, which made her death even more so mysterious. The weird thing was that after Tiffany's 'death', Randy went missing with Floch and Rachel without looking further into their daughter's death. Instead, they sold

place before, could clearly detect that something was awry in retrospect and that she

secret, then... Crayson did mention that Matthew broke up with her because Zac and Conrad were targeting him, so he did not wish to implicate her as well. In

real reason that Matthew broke up

Thomas saw her, he did ask why she was willing to help Matthew. From that, she could tell that

she also knew that Matthew had his own

Matthew did all

train of thoughts spooked her as she only felt chills

possibly have? Aren't your people monitoring me constantly? I think that your men might even know me better than myself

Just do whatever you want to him. After that, let  
make full sense of the situation, Veronica decided

Chapter 505 Xavier, Gone Mad

Standing beside Veronica, Xavier froze upon hearing her words. With furrowed eyebrows, memories started to flood into his mind. The scenes from half a year ago were just like yesterday as it played out in his mind.

Xavier could never forget how Melissa was humiliated by Matthew. He could never accept how after he and Melissa were sent to Lisbon, they became prisoners and were forced to provide services to 'guests' everyday.

Melissa, who was born with a golden spoon, was the precious daughter of the family and she had lived her life being loved by all around her. In contrast, Melissa did not have any right of way in Lisbon as if she was treated like a pig at the slaughterhouse.

Forced to 'service' customers, she did try to escape once, but they broke her leg after they caught her. Even under the condition that her wounds had yet to recover, she still had to receive untold humiliation by them.

At last, she could not take it anymore and attempted to take the easy way out.

Due to the incident, she thoroughly enraged those people; they cuffed her limbs and only released her when she needed the toilet or at meal times.

Not long after enduring such hellish days, Melissa totally lost her mind.

Becoming insane, she got the freedom she wanted as she was eventually set free.

After that, Xavier managed to escape from that hellhole and came to know that Melissa was kidnapped before being toyed to death.

He tried every way to recover her body. In the end, he only found a skeleton.

"Mind your own business."

a cigarette and lit it before taking a long drag. The two fingers that were holding the cigarette were trembling subtly.

if he did burn that purgatory to the ground and watch with his own eyes how the people who abused him

sat down on the chair at the

immediately walked up and poured  
on his coffee then asked, "What  
"I'll have... tea. Nevermind, I don't think you guys have that. I'll have a cup  
the huge interrogation room in front of them, it  
before gently setting down the porcelain cup and waved at the person beside him. The person nodded  
before opening  
Veronica found out that the door was password  
security here sure  
was treating Matthew, he did not plan on  
do if he really wants to kill  
thinking about how to save him?" Xavier asked her  
never thought that he would be this  
thinking, with how tight your security is and how everyone of your subordinates is a fighter, how  
hint of truth mixed in with lies. At that moment, both knew  
each other. So,  
years. He was a man who had never touched another woman and had  
Xavier had witnessed how Matthew could risk his  
his core. Otherwise, why would anyone  
of coffee and set it in front of Veronica. She  
up, she looked up only to match Xavier's gaze, which  
POV will always be more  
that it was highly abnormal for Matthew to end their relationship, and to think  
"Beats me."  
she still put it down in a hurry and  
her mouth before sighing and asked, "How about you  
at her coffee with an  
the coffee be  
Veronica's cup and drank the coffee. "Hmm,  
back in front of Veronica with a slightly disappointed look. "You've

Hot coffee?

## Chapter 506 Midnight Invader

Suddenly, he kicked her in the stomach before bellowing like a wild beast. "Humiliation that is worse than death? Humiliation that's worse than death?! Humiliation that's worse than death?!?"

He repeated his words three times through clenched teeth, hence he spoke in a slow manner. With every repeated sentence came two kicks; at last, Veronica endured a total of six kicks.

Pain. Since she was being kicked, she subconsciously curled up into a fetus position, prompting the kicks to land on her stomach, legs, arms, and even head.

With pain emanating throughout her body, every fiber of her being was screaming. Even if Veronica was a trained fighter, she could still feel that Xavier used all his strength in his assault, leaving her motionlessly in agony. "Ugh..."

After the attacks stopped, she gasped a fresh breath of air and slowly stood up. In spite of her ability to rise up, her brain still felt foggy as blood formed a steady stream from her nose.

Without a care about her image, Veronica wiped the blood with her sleeve before gazing up at the man to discover something horrifying...

Xavier, whose face turned red and veins popped, was trembling as he stumbled backwards and kicked the chair he was sitting on. "Even you're aware of what's 'humiliation that's worse than death!'"

He finished his sentence by striking his fist against the wall. Thud... A faint strike could be heard with Xavier standing there motionlessly.

Soon enough, Veronica could clearly see the blood from his fist slowly staining the white wall, drip by drip and jarring enough to look at.

Veronica was, he understood why Xavier had such a

was admitted to the hospital and before she was discharged, Matthew told her that he sent Xavier and Melissa away and that

would take revenge on

why her words agitated Xavier and drove him in a

her. She could finally puzzle how Melissa met her end with her understanding of

like Matthew might not make it through

blankly as words of concern reached her throat,

receiving end was Matthew, she would do anything to exterminate the

traumatic it must be for one to go through this. This kind of

she was deep in her thoughts, Veronica felt that



upright. She slumped down on the chair as she wiped the blood with the tissues before grumbling, "Have you gone mad? Didn't you say

Veronica could not imagine

was a person

his future, Xavier would

just sit and

speaking to Xavier calmly, she was racking her brains to find a solution, which made her feel like she was about to

Clack, clack, clack—

of high heels rang

sound, Veronica

glared at Veronica for a split second

"Are you okay, Sebastian?"

name when he

held his wrist while tugging on his hand that crushed against the wall. Staring at it, she felt her heart pang. "Why did you hurt yourself like this? Why are

stunned bodyguards finally

then proceeded to clean the scene up and

kept her gaze at Antheena and Xavier, but her heart was with Matthew, who was separated by

not wake

rest for now." Antheena dressed Xavier's wounds

were being dressed, Xavier gave a mysterious

was brought away by Antheena, Veronica resembled a piece of trash that was left in the

huge and empty room with Matthew in it, wanting very much to

personnel walked

Chapter 507 Establishing Contact with Thomas

The mysterious figure only walked stealthily toward her and they did not seem to be sneaking around, judging from the way they walked; instead, it looked as if they were about to prey.

Without waiting for Veronica to speak, the person sat down by the bed and said, "I know you're not asleep." She thought that the person's silhouette seemed a bit familiar. As expected, it was Xavier.

Even though she did not respond, her body tensed up as she was wary of him. “Does it still hurt?” he asked gently and his mood was clearly different from the bloodlust tone he had in the underground cell earlier.

Still, it was a weird thing to ask, seeing that it would be impossible for her injuries to not hurt. Since Xavier knew martial arts, he kicked her with all his power while treating her as if she was his mortal enemy and nearly beating her to her demise.

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agony all over her body. “I’m sorry,” he apologized sincerely. “I brought some ointment for you. Apply it.” He set the medicine on the table and fell

asked after

cell, Xavier did mention that it was not him who threatened her into

would you believe me?” Xavier asked after a brief moment of silence. Understanding what

don’t know.” “Will I

so he could not give her a concrete answer. “Is your backer the

“I don’t know.”

you don’t want

know,” he replied truthfully as he really

simple conversation, Veronica asked a lot of questions, which she did not

bedroom, one was lying down while the

of the patrol walking outside as

purposefully made her breathing sound more stable so as to chase him away before she could execute her rescue

her all

a world-class security system in place. It’ll be close to impossible if you want to rescue Matthew out of here.” As he reached into

was suddenly illuminated and Veronica opened her eyes to find an

on his face that she left with her necklace was still clearly visible as it looked

out through his nose, filling the room with the smell  
not, you best give up on that thought if you want to keep your  
however, was precisely what Veronica was struggling  
not the case as he had always been protecting her whenever he could because of all  
my family. If I can't rescue Matthew, they will make my family disappear."  
your hometown and took care of those people," said Xavier while  
frowning eyebrows were highlighted by the  
of something else and continued, "U-Unless you let me go and I'll make sure of my parents' safety  
it received no reply. Eventually, she found herself waiting for nothing before she lost her patience and  
questioned again. At that moment, Xavier flicked the cigarette ash into the ashtray and took a drag.  
With  
Naughty?  
I some pet of  
out of this castle, I will immediately kill Matthew," he warned

#### Chapter 508 Hendrey's Appearance

Veronica froze as her face showed the slightest hint of surprise before it returned to normal. "Friend? What friend?" She suddenly had a foreboding thought. "You'll know soon enough." Xavier placed the glass of milk and sandwich in front of her. "Eat up."

Stating that calmly, he then started digging in his breakfast. The ambiguity of his words made Veronica feel very uneasy. With no one else at the dining table, the place was eerily quiet as the two silently ate. Even after the sandwich was finished, she did not remember what it tasted like as anxiety totally engulfed her, leading her to think that the food was tasteless.

Picking up the glass of milk, Veronica took a huge gulp before setting it down. She subconsciously spared a glance at Xavier, who was sitting opposite her, and his cold eyes further unsettled her.

"Let's go." He tossed the tissue onto the table and headed outside while she followed suit silently. They left the west side of the castle and walked toward the main chamber.

Keeping a close eye out, Veronica was secretly marking down the hallways and patrol routes of the castle. In the end, what surprised her was that Xavier did not bring her to the main building but to the observation tower beside it.

The attic was in a very high up place with French windows surrounding the room while equipped with surveillance equipment and telescopes. "Why did you bring me here?" Veronica was perplexed. Even though she appeared calm on the outside, she was very frantic inside.

With such tight security, even if she told Thomas roughly where Matthew was kept, they might not successfully infiltrate the castle.

window facing the main gate of the castle and sat down

for... someone? Who

was akin to him not revealing anything, for it

a sedan slowly drove into

“They’re here,” said Xavier.

Due to the height of the attic, she could not see properly when viewing from such a

to find that a man

none other

was searching for him for a very long time now, she could not uncover anything either no matter how hard she tried. Nobody could

Matthew into the trap?” Xavier hinted at her while

saying that it

into deep

it was Hendrey that gave her this bracelet when

that there was more to his identity, but she figured that he was not hostile

a word,

other hand, Xavier slowly rose to his

at the ground floor

Hendrey before he could even step

suit, Hendrey had his hands in his pockets when he walked up the stairs before he looked over to the source

The moment he saw her, he

her while looking over

“Why are you here?”

had a sense of elegance emanating from

the mood to care about his looks

voice her thoughts, she saw that there was another stranger accompanying Hendrey, so she suppressed her anger and changed her tone. “Was it you who devised

of that, Veronica was cursing Matthew at how stupid  
intelligent, so why would he get caught in a  
you here?" Hendrey  
looked like he admitted to

#### Chapter 509 The Malevolent Antheena

Veronica could not understand why Xavier took her to the attic despite knowing that Hendrey was visiting. She figured that Xavier must have discovered something hence decided to bring her there.

Perhaps, he was trying to remind her about the tight security in the castle and that she should quell her preposterous thoughts. Don't tell me he had found out about what happened last night?

She was uncertain. They entered the living room, only to see that Antheena was already there. Hearing the sound of footsteps, she turned around and cast her gaze onto them. The moment she caught sight of Hendrey, a smile appeared on her once cold yet gorgeous face as she scurried to him and wrapped her arms around his neck. "Hendrey, you're finally here! I've been waiting for you."

She then gave him a peck on the cheek. Given that she was Xavier's girlfriend, her intimate gesture toward Hendrey was nothing more than a form of greeting etiquette practiced in Castron. Still, it was obvious that she and Hendrey were close.

Despite the tranquility of her countenance, a storm was brewing inside Veronica.

so close, so all this time he should have known that Xavier is still alive. Yet, he didn't  
got prettier again." Hendrey stroked

for sure! I am always pretty," she said with unreserved confidence. Her straightforward

on another couch, was being left out of the conversation as though she was not even around. Even if she wished to join in, she had no rights to do so. Taking

when Xavier suggested, "Since it's a good

me the best!" Antheena hugged Xavier, who was sitting next

rose to her feet and beckoned Veronica to

a fact that their notion of playing card games was not as simple as to kill time. To lose both her rights to talk and liberty to move while being the passive party was the worst feeling ever

looked very close to each other as she wrapped her arms around their shoulders while talking and laughing

sun hung up high in the sky. The heat lingering in the air

quiet for the first time. No matter how domineering and calm

exactly where they were heading for.

the glass window of the interrogation room

your mind?" Antheena abruptly

ped a beat at that, but she remained placid as she replied, "Nothing, I was just thinking it might be proficiency was excellent as she could speak fluently with perfect pronunciation. It was certainly not something one would expect of a country

They put on

this way." Antheena smiled while pointing at one side of the

could only obey and took a seat at the designated spot, which was facing the interrogation room. The rest

Let's get the

remained silent for a while, finally spoke up. "No gambling,

only fun when money is involved though. But anyway, let's play a few rounds first." Xavier glanced at her coldly before pointing at

of them rolled the dice and Atheena rolled seventeen, which was the largest number among them. Therefore, she would

Veronica questioned, "Which type of card games are we

Just get rid of your

was indeed one of the easiest card

Chapter 510 Troy was Caught

"Anything on your mind?" questioned Hendrey as he gazed at Veronica. She came back to her senses. "Oh, nothing. I was just wondering who would dare to intrude Princess Antheena's territory. He must have a death wish."

Everyone knew who that person was. And now, she was more certain than ever about one thing—Xavier took her to the attic to tell her that her little secret was discovered. It was also a warning that whoever intruded the castle could never escape.

Last night, Thomas sent out a rescue team upon receiving her message. However, that voice did not belong to Matthew nor Thomas. Then, who could it be? They won't make such a big fuss over a small fry, though.

"Who else? Of course it's Matthew's confidant, Troy," Xavier responded. It was not until then did Veronica realize that the familiar voice belonged to Thomas' elder brother—Troy! He came to save Matthew under Thomas' arrangement, but he fell into a trap.

- as she forced a smile. "Foolish. He can't even save

honor to have the chance to entertain me," said Antheena while looking at her

better at this, huh?" Hendrey flashed her a smile that was so gentle it felt like he was a loving brother. His gaze always alternated between Antheena

Antheena won

motioning the bodyguard to come

and she took another ball before tossing it to

at

that, he relayed the

basement, drowning the sound of

fun!" Antheena clapped her

It was obvious that she was a cold-blooded woman with no mercy, yet she could still

draw the curtains open. That way we can enjoy the show

the curtains that were blocking the view to the interrogation room were soon drawn. Veronica could clearly see how Troy was tied up and beaten to a bloody pulp. Even so, the card game

new punishments awaiting

we play another game? Truth or Dare." Antheena tapped her head and contemplated. "Whoever wins will throw a question. If that person tells the truth, there will be no punishment, but if