

## Bumpkin 711

### Chapter 711

Dognabbit. I just want to use the chance to be around Brennan more and find time to talk business with him. Who'd have thought it'd come to this?!

However, Shirley had no regrets, for it was the only chance she had to get close to Garrick.

"Don't worry about it. It'd be a miracle if you could win a game of poker against those old foxes." Garrick pulled a surprisingly amiable smile, leading Shirley to look at him with twinkling eyes filled with gratitude and admiration.

But lo and behold, Skyler caught her gaze and he speculated her relationship with Garrick groundlessly.

"When has Brennan started taking a liking to the babe-in-the- woods type?" he ridiculed after taking a gander at Garrick.

"Have a cherry, Mr. Skyler," said Gianna as she popped a cherry into Skyler's mouth while sitting next to him. "She looks pretty cute.

Even I'd fall for her, let alone Mr. Garrick."

"Here, let me teach you." Garrick pulled a chair over to sit next to Shirley, teaching her poker while resting one arm on the back of her chair.

he could even guess what his opponents had, and just like that, Shirley won ten games straight, successfully retrieving all her

utterly defeated few hurriedly waved their hands

let's eat.

"What freaking luck."

Luck, aren't

because Garrick's lucky

say

checks and Garrick won over twenty million by the end of it, he pulled a five hundred thousand check, the smallest amount among the stack, out and handed it to Shirley. "Yours. Good

woman frowned while looking at the check. "I don't need

he think I'm?! Anger laced her face as she pursed her lips, then mustered up the courage to ask if he could give her his phone

daring

like her are good at playing hard to get. You should keep your eyes

I give you my number instead,

number instead of money? Tsk, tsk...

others judged Shirley, Skyler had enough. "What

didn't realize I was supposed to report whatever I do to

## **Chapter 712**

It had been some time since they last met, so Skyler was surprised to meet Shirley on this day, and little did he think that she was so down and out she was now an attendant at Philwind, much less that she was trying to hook up with Garrick!

Is she still the Shirley Wilson I know?!

Gianna, on the other hand, looked grim from being inexplicably yelled at, and she sat next to Skyler after taking a gander at Shirley, saying nothing more.

Meanwhile, Shirley caught the other women's disdainful look at her, and she left the private room, ultimately unable to take it anymore.

That said, she didn't leave for good, just standing at the entrance, waiting for the people in Rose Lounge to leave.

At last, the people inside finally came out after two hours, and Shirley, who had been standing by Garrick's car, immediately came forward when she saw him approaching her direction.

"You have alcohol in your system, President Brennan. Would you like me to be your chauffeur?" She mustered up her courage and volunteered as she looked at a drunk Garrick. "I'm a pretty decent driver if I do say so myself."

She noticed from their game of poker that while the other men were fondling the women in their arms, Garrick was the only man who had never touched a woman the entire time.

he was a true

was keeping him steady. "You go back ahead. She'll drive me." At that, he chuckled

back door, helped Garrick into the vehicle, got into the driver's seat, and drove away, ignoring the biondie's jealous gaze the

muttered before going

either the entire drive, keeping her eyes focused on the road while following the directions on

Court, a lavish mansion,

that she realized Garrick was asleep, and she dared not wake

while closing the back door, then asked her

pursed her lips and said, "Oh, alright. I'll

the butler entered the driver's seat and drove the car into the mansion as the

on the other hand, turned around, and her heart sank  
supposed to go home when it's already so late, and there isn't  
Garrick opened his eyes after the car  
sir," the

## Chapter 713

Skyler, however, barely laid his eyes on Gianna and kept his eyes on Shirley the whole night instead.  
Of course, all of it didn't go unnoticed by Garrick.

"Alright, I'll deal with that chick for you while you get married to Skyler ASAP and fulfill Mother's last wish as well as yours. I can only do this much for you as your brother."

He had thought Shirley looked oddly familiar at first glance, yet he just couldn't remember where he had seen her until it struck him when he returned to his office that Sofia had shown him a picture of Shirley before.

Thus, he didn't ask Shirley to leave when he saw her at the hotel.

"Really?" Sofia's eyes lit up as she leaped off the sofa and hugged her brother. "Yay, Garrick, I love you! Haha... You're the best brother in the world!"

"Alright, that's enough. What happened to being lady-like?" Garrick poked the young woman's head.  
"Who else will spoil you other than me now that Mom's gone?"

you're the best, Gary,"

a knock at the door.

response and ruffled her hair, letting it hang

had given her a custom mini translating earpiece, she had no other choice but to let her hair down to conceal it

"I'm up."

got out of bed in her pajamas, took a gander at the paper in the trash can, and brought it to the bathroom, chucking the paper into

done, she finally answered the door, rolling her eyes

surprised at how well he could drink despite his gentle appearance. To think he only got drunk after she forced him to down four whole jugs, but to her dismay, his lips

can drink, Roni," the young man

her gaze and headed to the bathroom

pretty high alcohol tolerance, but compared to Mateo, it really was nothing. Worst, she was still wasted despite

flatter me, Roni," said Mateo at the door

#### Chapter 714

Crayson answered honestly.

Veronica had no clue what 'specific reason' Crayson was talking about, but since no one could come into the hidden clan for as long as three months, it meant that he would have either returned to the hidden clan or at Castron every time he left home in the past.

From the looks of things, no doubt he had also raised an army of his own in Castron.

"When will this come to an end?" She just wanted an answer, not liking waiting ceaselessly.

"A few months maybe, at most, one year," Crayson answered extremely perfunctorily.

Veronica, on the other hand, asked no more.

She might not be able to control everything, but she could find a way to leave the hidden clan as soon as possible.

of Matthew's businesses would

inside of the hidden clan is stabilized, I'll send someone to bring the children over. It's better for them to the young woman eventually laughed after hearing Crayson's

"And then?"

the other hand, could clearly tell Veronica wasn't in the brightest mood. At that, they exchanged a glance and took a gander at Veronica before diverting their gaze

too, naturally caught Veronica's grim face and displeasure.

slamming it back down on the table, seemingly venting out

my identity, have you ever asked what I think?! Do you know what

eyes were filled with fathomless emotions

up, he naturally didn't want to see her upset when he regarded her as his own. But

as?! A heartless machine?! And

then I'd rather die as soon as I

future would be this horrible, she'd rather they strangle

rendered the other

#### Chapter 715

"Get someone to protect her in secret," Grayson instructed worriedly as he opened the bottle, poured the liquor out, and took a sip. "The chief of the hidden clan has already taken Tiffany Larson away. His purpose is obvious, and Veronica will be in grave danger. Her safety is a priority."

"Don't worry, Mr. Crayson. Leave it all to me."

"Hmm. One more thing. Keep a close eye on everyone that comes."

"Yes, sir." Destiny nodded in acknowledgment.

As Veronica descended the mountain in exasperation, her heart grew heavy when she looked at the breathtaking scenery of the hidden clan while Mateo followed right behind her.

Suddenly, she stopped in her tracks and turned around. Her sharp, icy gaze instantly sent chills down his spine, and he hurriedly explained, "Hey, don't worry. I'm not going to stop you from doing anything. I'm just here to keep an eye on your safety."

"Do you have a cigarette?" she asked out of the blue.

"Sorry?"

"Cigarette."

so good for a girl like

they're annoyed

walked to the boulder

breeze carried a whiff of floral scent with it as it

she had held all her emotions back for so long just to

again, her babies were where she drew the line, and what

it to Veronica, and even thoughtfully

took a heavy drag only to get

to smoke. This isn't good stuff anyway." The young man took the

taken a drag!" Veronica exclaimed in shock as

what? It's not like you have any infectious diseases. What a waste to throw it away," Mateo disputed as he flicked the ashes aside while reminiscing. "The adults didn't allow us to smoke back when I was in school, but one of my dormmates snuck some

## Chapter 716

"My grandpa shouldered the blood feud of our family, and he wanted to avenge them by fighting Tanya to the death. However, Hayley gave birth to you and entrusted you to my grandpa. He was the only one she trusted in the entire hidden clan. Back then, this entire place was in absolute chaos, and it was not as peaceful as everything looks now. Everywhere you looked, chaos took shape, and there were even people dedicated to killing your mother. To protect you two, my grandpa took you guys away and even left me here. When I learned of this when I grew up, I honestly hated him for it. But with time, I came to realize he did it for the greater good. He was selfless and great. As such, my hatred for him gradually faded and I came to admire him..."

"His sacrifice sounds touching, indeed," Veronica interjected. "However, they controlled my life without ever stopping to ask how I felt. Also, it was his choice to put his vengeance aside and help Hayley and me flee the hidden clan. It had nothing to do with me. Lastly..."

She pointed down the mountain as she continued, "Look at the hidden clan. You said it was chaos everywhere you looked, but now, peace has been restored. Do you know what becomes a nation with internal turmoil and usurp? Do you know who the biggest victims are?"

"The people."

"Huh, you're not as stupid as you look." Veronica shook her head. "In that case, you should persuade your grandfather to give up reclaiming the throne of the hidden clan. It's completely pointless.

avenge his family, why don't he just kill Tanya and let the next

we're living in. To think Crayson and Hayley and their followers would have such pedantic and old-fashioned

At that, Mateo dragged Veronica down the mountain without waiting for

urged Mateo as he got into the

going, but judging from his rare straight face, she knew it was

the vehicle, slowly

going?" Veronica couldn't help satisfying her curiosity, but Mateo kept it mysterious. "You'll know when

had been over five hours since they left downtown, and the surroundings grew more secluded by the minute. Finally, another short distance later, Veronica caught sight of several residences not far

by. They had tanner complexions and were literally skin and

Chapter 717

Ever since arriving at the hidden clan, she had only ever been around the busiest parts of downtown, so she had to admit she was blind and ignorant.

Right then, she was reeling in utter shock, unable to come to herself.

"The gap between the rich and the poor in the hidden clan is drastic; the rich are loaded with money, while the poor can barely even feed themselves, and this is the result of Ledger's usurper. It's all peace and prosperity in the vibrant city center because those people live their best lives in the rich neighborhood by trampling all over these people." Mateo fixed his gaze on the slum not far away with a tense face while locking his fingers on the steering wheel. It was evident he was livid.

Right then, he was completely different from the young man he was a few hours ago. Even his aura had frosted over.

"Why would my grandfather wait for decades just for vengeance? He bore the humiliation just for these people with a bleak future. He simply hoped that he could do something to save them from this misery. As the head of the hidden clan, Tanya is tyrannical and ruthless, and she drains the people of their

money, but they are powerless despite having long been discontent with her ruling. The rich are using the least amount of money to enslave the people in the slum, but none of them ever experienced their misery. So we've been waiting..."

waiting until you're old enough to claim the throne. The people of the hidden clan hold fast to a conventional notion—they will only

enough to claim her place as the head

all the responsibility in hopes that the people can really live a happy, peaceful life free of poverty, and not this heart wrenching scene we're looking at." Mateo locked his brows into a deep furrow as he boomed. "I also hope that no

unsure of

protection in this peaceful era. As such, how could she possibly know there were still people in this world who had to worry

as it was chaotic inside, and he

silent on their way back, looking out the window the entire time. Her mind was burdened as if a boulder was crushing

saint, and she knew that well. How could she save them when she could barely save herself?! However, for some reason, a voice seemed to be calling

after returning to the bamboo house, and she decided to watch some TV after dinner. Alas, they were all local channels, and

she turned her computer on. Though she could change the websites to Spanish, all that was available was the hidden clan's local news, and it was impossible to be directly translated into Spanish, so

no difference between having

## Chapter 718

Mateo wanted Veronica's opinion on it.

Veronica, on the other hand, propped one arm against the door frame while holding the knob on the other as she pondered for a second. "I'll just stay here since I like the place. The view is nice, and it's easy to get to the market."

Most importantly, the place was close to downtown, making it convenient for Matthew to visit her.

"Alright, then. I'll bring the learning materials over."

With that, Mateo went downstairs to return in no time with a large stack of books and papers in his arms. "Here you go. These are everything you need to learn the hidden clan dialect. You can look through them first."

"You said it yourself; this is the hidden clan dialect, and in case you've forgotten, I know nothing about it."

"Grandpa long reminded me to prepare a local version. You'll be able to understand," he explained.

Veronica quirked a brow slightly in response as she took the learning materials from him. "How thoughtful of your grandfather."

man heard the insinuation in her tone. Nonetheless, he didn't respond to it and instead played dumb.

"Yeah, he

next second. Even the surrounding

Crayson a little, no longer wanting to hear anything

"That's all. Roni-"

Slam!

Veronica took a step back with

I hope you can understand him. He

came

came back from Bloomstead, and every time he talked about you, his eyes would light

kind of adoration, nor do

continue on, but he realized Veronica wouldn't respond at all. So

he left, Veronica looked through the learning materials at her desk and was intrigued since they were indeed in the

Veronica had trouble sleeping as it approached midnight, tossing and turning in bed, still wide

lights had been switched off, but as the moon hung high up in the sky, the moonlight was able to shine through the window,

Chapter 719

At that, Matthew asked, "Do you have a set of pajamas? I haven't showered yet."

"I do." Veronica nodded in affirmation, got up to fish for a set of pajamas in the dark, and handed it to him before leading him to the bathroom.

After opening the door, she switched on the lights, led Matthew inside, and closed the door behind them.

The lights inside were so brilliant that they blinded her eyes, but it allowed Veronica to take a good look at Matthew.

She stood looking at the man she missed so dearly in front of him as she held his cheeks while brushing her thumbs against them. "You've lost weight," she commented with an aching heart.



Though they had met the night before, she couldn't see him clearly in the dark, and now that she could, she realized he had lost a lot of weight. The stubble was visible on his chin, and it pained her to see him like this.

wrapped his arms around her waist, and pulled her into his arms when

about? I didn't change

was barely an inch apart, and because of the warm weather, they were both wearing thin clothing, so they could feel each other's warm bodies and

as she felt a lump in

was scared. It had barely been three years since they first met, yet he was loyal to her and even willing to sacrifice everything in

for themselves when faced with troubles. Thus, everything Matthew did touch her deeply. In fact,

from, and he pinched her cheeks with a gentle smile. "Not entirely. I never told you this; I'm sure you know the hidden clan

be a few lifetimes before they'd be able to spend it all. In other words, it was absolutely not necessary to risk obtaining the minerals here at all. That said, he could only come up with plans and devices to

a brow in

As he leaned closer, he nodded with a gentle smile. "Of course. How can I miss it when

Chapter 720

"Alright, I'll do as you say." Veronica nodded.

Now that serious business was out of the way, she looked at Matthew with a tilted head, wrapped her arms around his neck, and straightened her body a little to kiss him.

Matthew quickly got turned on as he savored her sweet, soft lips, and he pressed the back of her head to attack them back.

Beneath the warm bathroom lights, two shadows entwined, and the couple made love ceaselessly from the sink to the bathtub and back on the bed as they indulged without restraint, drowning in the moment, seemingly wanting to make up for all the time they had lost lately.

Eventually, Veronica lay spent in his arms. "I feel sleepy..."

Matthew smiled as he caressed her soft cheek with his fingers. "Go on and sleep. I'm here, so there's no need to be afraid."

Completely spent, the young woman lay lifelessly in his arms with closed eyes as she mumbled, "Are you not worried that they've put cameras in here and will catch you?"

was concerned, but at the same time, she thought she was worrying for nothing

"Relax, I came prepared."

the hand caressing her  
child to sleep. "Good girl, go to  
being absolutely sleepy, Veronica felt his ripped muscles, drawing circles with her  
worked out all year long, he was super ripped, looking even better than most hot models. Meanwhile,  
she developed  
up?" She  
against the pillow and held back the urge to laugh when he heard what she said. At that, he leaned  
blew against her ears, causing her fine hairs to brush her skin,  
and jolted as though electricity coursed  
had been switched off to prevent people  
snuggled in bed. However, Veronica's