

Bumpkin 81

Chapter 81

Standing in front of Veronica, Xavier couldn't help pausing for a moment as he studied her pale, delicate face. "So, this is the real you."

No doubt, the phrase 'natural beauty' referred to women like her.

Veronica's natural appearance, without her freckles and dark complexion, was so pure and beautiful that it made his heart race even to the point of swooning.

"Mhmm. There's no need for me to pretend to be ugly in the future." She chuckled at that.

In response, Xavier inclined his head. "Good. You look better like this anyway. Women should be prettier and more delicate."

"Is that so? Ha!"

"You look too thin, though. Come on. Let me take you for a meal." With that, he grabbed her hand and led her in the direction of the One Piece Restaurant.

Although it was a chain restaurant, the One Piece Restaurant was costly and not open to non-members. Even if an ordinary person were to enter the restaurant, they would not be able to secure a table.

After entering the establishment, the duo went to sit down at a table next by the window on the second floor, whereupon they began ordering.

D

As Veronica scanned the price list, she couldn't help gripping the card in her pocket and thinking to herself,

My goodness! A cabbage stew costs 252? Isn't that just stew made using the heart of a cabbage? What ridiculous pricing!

Yet, it was the cheapest dish.

The starting price for other dishes like the pigeon stew or pork shoulder was upwards of 600 apiece.

a waiter printed them a copy of their order and left it on the table.

know who on earth kidnapped you, Roni?" Xavier finally asked her

seemed like an accident. What's past should be left in the past. I have to thank

felt like she owed him so much

need for such courtesy

him because it

the Larsons, Xavier was extremely angry on her behalf. However, he also blamed himself somewhat for not handling a lot of

were chatting. "What a

the former's arm. The pair was handsome and beautiful, and they looked well-matched. Yet, the duo was inexplicably

and wearing an expression of him catching her in the act, as if she was doing something shameful behind

and I are here to eat as well, Veronica. Since we've bumped into each other, why don't we... eat together?" Tilting her head to look at Matthew next to her, Tiffany thought of something and

was acting of her own volition and completely not seeking

"You,"

was about to say something, Xavier interrupted, "Sure, but we're not

to be hinting at something with every sentence, but it wasn't clear who she was directing her insinuations at apart from herself. After

fine with that, aren't

Calmly, he answered, "Sure."

sat down next to Veronica. A waiter was hailed to add more

the original group of two now became a group of

day, Tiffany was extremely lively at this moment. "Mr. Crawford, after your argument with your dad about Veronica at my engagement party, how

hitting below

cold glance, Xavier answered impolitely, "Would a father and his son hold any grudges between

embarrassed Tiffany, and she pursed her lips pitifully before continuing, "I-I simply think you like Veronica and worry that your

to each other,

hair and slapdash attire of a white shirt, pale blue jeans, and canvas shoes, Veronica had all

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As time went on, the atmosphere became increasingly awkward. Thankfully, the waiter happened to deliver the food at this moment.

Only after serving everyone and pouring them each a glass of wine did the waiter finally leave.

Feeling more inclined to ignore her tablemates, Veronica took a huge gulp of her wine and prepared to begin eating, only to realize that Xavier had placed a large chunk of pork shoulder on her plate.

"You're too thin. Put some meat on your bones." Like a good man, he was gentle, attentive, and incomparably delicate.

“Thank you.” Without further pomp and ceremony, Veronica picked up the hunk of meat and began to eat. The meat was tender, juicy, and fragrant, melting on her

tongue the moment it entered her mouth. In short, it was exquisite.

While it was expensive, she had to admit it was truly very delicious.

Instantly, she was in a better mood. “It’s fantastic, Xavier. You should try some yourself.” So eager to share the tastiness of the meat with him was she that she reached out with her own cutlery to fetch him some from the common platter. “Try it!” With that, she looked expectantly at him, waiting for his evaluation.

Veronica was clearly coming from the perspective of a foodie eager to share something delicious with a friend, but her actions caused Xavier to pause before nodding with a happy smile. “Alright, I’ll try it.”

The problem was that he had completely overthought her actions and assumed she liked him.

Meanwhile, Matthew watched on and his eyes flashed coldly. In the end, he picked up his glass of red wine to down it in one go.

After chewing the pork and tasting it carefully, Xavier nodded once again. “You’re right; it’s very good. Have some more too.”

As he reached out to get some for her, Veronica interrupted, “I can do it myself.”

With that, she served herself some pork and began to eat heartily.

To a foodie like her, such tasty meat was too good to pass off.

reviews of the meat seemed good, Tiffany got Matthew a piece. “You should try it as well, pushed it aside. “It’s greasy and

that, he put a piece of vegetable into his

was inexplicably turning

by his actions, Tiffany pursed her lips before lowering

he hadn’t humored her,

was for the ‘couple’ to showcase their ‘love’ so

move the meat over to her and Xavier’s side of the table. “They don’t want it,

platter, Matthew shot her a sharp look. “I might not want

edge of the platter and eyed Veronica,

a princess. Having something so greasy will make her fat and once she’s fat, she’ll be ugly. It’s

wasted on a woman the likes

suppressed the loathing in her heart and tolerated their presence at her table because of how expensive the meal was and how much

want it, Veronica,” Tiffany said demurely now, her soft
nearly made Veronica throw up
colors,
sudden, Veronica
day, he saw Tiffany’s true face after they married, would
pitiful. Wait a minute...
you sure?”
like the
honesty, the former wished she could shove an entire half of the platter onto Tiffany’s plate.
better choke to death on
Since you know how hard it is
her plate and her expression turned
said, “If you like it, you
stared at him, feeling rather
distress buoyed Veronica’s

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At this point, Veronica walked up to Tiffany. Lifting her hands, the former wrapped them around Tiffany’s neck and pinned her to the wall. “Also, if any of you touch my parents again, I’ll make sure to bring you to the grave with me when I die!” Veronica hissed.

Recently, for reasons beyond her control, Veronica had been forced to play nice with Floch and Rachel in front of the Kings Family, but that didn’t mean she got along with her enemy now.

“Ugh!” Caught off-guard by Veronica’s sudden actions, Tiffany could only feel the pain in her neck and the lack of airflow through her lungs. “L-Let go of me... Let go...”

She struggled and tried to resist to the best of her ability, but found that her strength was no match for Veronica’s.

Suddenly, Tiffany was terrified, as she was realizing only now that she had underestimated Veronica’s abilities.

“Let go of you? Of course I’ll let you go. But—” Veronica patted Tiffany’s cheek warningly with her free hand as she murmured, “—you’d best deliver my message. And by the way, I am now Elizabeth Kings’ god-granddaughter. So, step out of line again, and I’ll make sure that you *never* marry into the Kings Family.” With that, she suddenly let go.

Instantly, air rushed back into Tiffany's lungs and she took deep breaths as she held onto her neck. At that moment, she felt hurt, pained and furious as she thought to herself, *How is it that I can never outmatch Veronica?!*

Weakly, Tiffany leaned against the wall and glared at Veronica with red-rimmed eyes. "Don't get too complacent. I'll get my payback."

"Let's see who wins, then!" Veronica sneered before turning to leave.

Instantly, the smile on her face vanished, only to be replaced with a cold, sinister expression.

While she was, in fact, no actual threat to the Larsons, she would never admit defeat.

Even if she didn't succeed this time, there would always be a next time.

As long as she was still alive, she would make life hell for them.

Once Veronica returned to the table, she found Matthew to be aloof, so she sat down and began chatting with Xavier, completely ignoring the other man.

What she didn't notice was Matthew's expression darkening.

At that moment, Tiffany returned, sitting down opposite Matthew and keeping silent, all the while acting as if nothing had happened.

they were done eating, they paid,

the other two goodbye, Xavier and Veronica

.

Veronica in his car. He then left the driver's seat to open the

laughing. "Oh—Xavier. Surely you're too

shutting the door, Xavier looked back at Matthew with a raise of the eyebrows, as if showing off, watching the car leave,

Xavier, whereupon she took until 6 PM to

together, he told

"It's okay; I'll go back by myself and see you at work tomorrow. You've been working very hard lately, so make sure to go

Goodnight." He

car door, the cab slowly pulled away and headed off into the

Veronica took the dedicated elevator

IS

entered the penthouse, it was inky dark

switch, someone pulled her into their arms and pressed her against the

are you?" she shouted, but the words came out mumbled as her

to speak. Her kisser

could smell a familiar musk that immediately let

him away and

before a loud thud

turned on the lights, only to see him

What

up to him and looking at him lying unmoving on the ground, she lifted a foot to kick him. "Hey. Wake up, Matthew. Wake

no response, even after

squat down and gently pat his cheek. "Are you

If anything, there was only the audible sound of

"What the hell? Is he drunk? Why would

and threw his arm around her neck. Using all her strength, she helped him up before dragging him into the master bedroom and depositing

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"Well, that's what happens when you drink too much. You don't have a good alcohol tolerance, so don't drink so much in the future, okay?"

Since Veronica was staying at Matthew's place, she was somewhat nicer to him now.

Inclining his head, he answered, "Okay." After going to sit down behind the desk, he asked, "Did I do anything after I got drunk?"

"Do anything?" she echoed. Recalling the kiss he had forced upon her the moment she entered the door, she said, "Don't tell me you forgot who helped you to your room."

In response, he lifted a hand to rub his nose while thinking about it in apparent seriousness. "Vaguely... I remember it was... Tiffany."

"Oh" Veronica drawled before nodding. "That's fine, then."

From the look of things, Matthew had mistaken her for Tiffany.

If that was the case, he was still someone she could rely on.

For as long as Veronica could rely on him, she would, since she would be able to save up her money while guaranteeing that she slept safely every night. After all, in the coming days, the Larsons would no doubt try their best to get rid of her.

As long as she was alive, her foster parents would be just fine.

Veronica was certain that, now that she was Elizabeth's god-granddaughter, the Larsons would not dare to lay a hand on her foster parents.

Of course, if she died, she would not be able to guarantee her foster parents' safety.

That was why she fully intended to stay alive—just to spite the Larsons!

Back in the present, after closing the door of the study after her, Veronica retreated to her bedroom and played with her phone for a while before finally falling asleep at 4 AM

The next day at 7 AM, Veronica woke up.

As she left the bedroom after washing up, she smelled something delicious in the air.

It was the aroma of tasty food.

betrayed her

in the dining room, she stretched and walked over to him. "What tasty food are you eating and why didn't you invite me to have

you?"

a glass of milk and

stared at

dare he make food

he answered before picking up the

saw

and asked, "Where did you get the food from? I didn't

only mom-and-pop restaurants would open so early in the morning, but the oatmeal she was eating didn't seem to

no way someone like Matthew would stoop to buying such cheap

unhappy glare, he said, "If you don't want it, you can put it

meaning, Keep your mouth shut while you're

Veronica lowered her head to eat. However, she didn't get too far before she couldn't help sighing, "Ah—it's fantastic. It's so delicious. Would you like to try some?" She scooped up a spoonful and held it up to Matthew's mouth. "It's the best oatmeal

the penthouse wasn't particularly large, she only had to lean forward slightly to

her with a complicated gaze. As their eyes met, each could see that the other

pause made her exclaim as she came to her senses, "Oh—you're fastidious about cleanliness. You

spoon, preparing to put
of Veronica's wrist and leaned
his chewing motions were enviably
then, he let go of her
"Aren't... Aren't you a clean freak? Did you really put something with my saliva on it
so surprised that her jaw nearly
getting used to the
repeated, "Getting
on her birthday, you'll be moving into the Kings Residence. When that happens, we'll have to share a
dinner table every day. Don't you think I'll need to get used to the
true," she said
would undoubtedly come a point when they would be helping themselves from the same platter. Once
that happened, Matthew would likely be eating the same food Veronica's cutlery touched, anyway,
which would be no different from him
why his
her head at him and asked expectantly,
the oatmeal, he
words made Veronica's face fall, and she frowned unhappily before sneering. "Rich people really have
too much good food. I can't believe you'd call such delicious

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Never did Veronica think that Matthew would arrange for her to work at the Spinfluence Group
"There's no need to be so surprised. It's what Grandña wants," Matthew told Veronica, looking at her
with disdain as if afraid she would overthink his decision.

"Can I choose not to go?" Truly, she didn't wish to enter the Spinfluence Group.

After all, it meant she would have to see him at work during the day and at home in the evenings. She
couldn't possibly imagine how awful it would be to have to face this dour man every day.

Moreover, she truly hated him..

Spending too much time with him would likely affect her mood.

Ding!

Right at this moment, the elevator doors opened and Matthew strode out on long legs, answering once
he was far away from her, "No."

It was in an absolute tone of voice, leaving Veronica with no space to argue.

Staring after him, she rubbed her head. "What the f*ck?"

As she exited the elevator, she saw him getting into his car. Thomas was in the driver's seat, but the backseat door was left open.

Thinking Matthew was so used to having Thomas wait on him that he couldn't even remember to shut his own door, Veronica walked over and kindly reminded him, "Your door's still open." And then, she slammed it shut before waving goodbye to them. "See you!"

Keep the peace at all costs, Veronica told herself.

Now that she was living under Matthew's roof, she had to at least appear cordial so that she wouldn't anger him and be forced to rent her own place.

Food, water, electricity, and property costs were all quite expensive.

could save, she

way, she could mail the money she saved up to her foster parents to improve their quality of life. It

the car, however, Matthew was glowering at

boss looked through the rearview mirror and coming to an understanding, Thomas rolled down the car window to say to Veronica, "Where do you wish to go, Miss Murphy? Do get in the car; I can

Mr. Ritter,

found out she was working at Xavier's

how to reply, Thomas glanced beseechingly through the

told him

course, Young Master Matthew." With that, Thomas rolled up the window, started the car, and drove out of

penthouse did reach the Twilight Club lobby, the club was still locked up at this moment as it had not yet opened for the day. With no way of exiting through the front doors, Veronica could only leave the building through the basement

his own parking space and a driver to wait

hand, Veronica was in a

on her phone and rented a bicycle to take

office at Xavier's company, she met up with

him for a bit, she went to the secretariat to learn the skills she needed from

Veronica familiarized herself with the company rules and regulations before reading up on the company background

she was busy for the entire morning, it turned to noon in the blink of
engrossed with her work, a whistle caught her attention. Upon looking up and glancing over, Veronica
saw Xavier standing at
on." Looking up at the clock,
she packed up her things and walked
of a distant CEO. Once he smiled, however, he had the handsomeness of a young professional and the
roguish air
he asked
wanting to avoid being caught by said person, Veronica decided to drag Xavier along for some fast food.
Only at a fast-food restaurant could she avoid bumping into Matthew. "Let's go to
That sounds like a good
walked in the direction of
Matthew and Tiffany were seated in the car as
moment, Tiffany caught sight of two people by the roadside, and so she said to Matthew, "Isn't that
Veronica?" As Tiffany's eyes flashed, she sighed deliberately, "They have such a good relationship. Look
at them talking and
Tiffany's pointed finger, Matthew looked over to see Xavier and

Chapter 86

As Xavier leaned back against the executive chair, he stared at her with an unfathomable gaze. "You can
arrange it that way too since I've been quite busy lately. However, don't worry about your parents.
Leave them to me; I'll ensure their safety."

The charity event this time was organized by the local government of Bloomstead, so all the major
companies had to send representatives to the event.

This time, Xavier's father, Hendric, would be joining the event as well.

As Hendric had always disliked Veronica, Xavier intentionally sent her to Almeida to allow Hendric to get
to know her better.

Xavier's intention was to let Hendric know that Veronica was not a simple, naïve girl, as he really wanted
Hendric to accept her. Hence, Xavier had been cracking his head over this issue.

Xavier was fully aware that if he were to tell Hendric that he would be going to Almeida together with
Veronica, his father would only think that they were merely putting on a show.

"Okay, I believe you. How long do I need to be there, though? When am I departing?"

"You will be departing on the day after tomorrow, but you will be there for two weeks this time."

As Xavier spoke, he stared unblinkingly at her and added, "I can find someone else if you don't want to go."

Two weeks would be sufficient for Hendric to take a proper measure of Veronica's personality

Based on Xavier's understanding about Hendric, the latter would definitely keep an eye on Veronica if he knew that she would show up.

After observing her for two weeks, Hendric would certainly accept Veronica due to her kind and hardworking character.

When the time came, Xavier would confess his feelings to her when she returned.

"I can do it. No worries." Veronica agreed without hesitation because Xavier had helped her on many occasions, so she wished to at least return his favor by giving

him a hand in the charity event this time, not to mention the fact that she loved charity events.

discussion, Veronica returned to the secretary department

but she rejected his offer as she was afraid that he would find out that she was currently staying with Matthew. "I'll take the bicycle home. I want to

she insisted on it, he didn't press on, and the two

to the Twilight Condominium. There was nobody in the apartment and it

the couch, feeling a little drowsy. However, she couldn't fall

the study. Matthew wasn't inside either, so she played

PM when

playing computer games as she sat there. Then, he heard her mumbling, "What's so impressive to win ten times in a row in the

to finish a game. She removed her headphones

sudden appearance

gave me a fright! Why do you walk so quietly?" She patted her chest

of his blue suit with his sculptured

I'm still searching," she replied, avoiding his gaze. She immediately logged out from the game and rose up. "Are you going to work now? I

conversing any more with Matthew and returned to the living room. As she lay on the couch, feeling wide awake, she played

AM, Matthew exited the study, only to find an energetic Veronica watching a drama. "Why are you with a pillow in

man slightly frowned. "Did you

she sighed. "Maybe I'm just used to sleeping in my own bed. I can't sleep
he said, "Rest early." With that, he returned to his
glance at his door. "This man..." The way he had treated her felt cold, as though he was
thought, Veronica continued watching the variety show and intermittently chuckling at the
his gaze deepen when he heard Veronica's laughter from
4.00 AM, he could still hear her loudly
minutes later, everything
sleeping on the couch. She was sound asleep with a pillow in her
and took her to her room. He
she was wearing blue halter pajamas over her undergarments. When she lifted her leg and placed it on
top of her blanket, she revealed her fair and smooth

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Veronica entered the kitchen and served herself a bowl of oatmeal before taking a seat opposite of Matthew at the dining table.

The two of them had their breakfast quietly, fully practicing the decent habit of not talking when eating. After they had finished their breakfast and Veronica had put down her spoon, Mathew said, "The breakfast cost 300 per set, so it will be 600 in total for today and yesterday's breakfast. Consider the milk as a free gift. Remember to pay them to me together with the clothes."

His words made Veronica choke on her food. "Six hundred? Is the food embedded with gold? Why is it so expensive?"

"I've spared you the delivery fee considering the fact that you are my godsister," Matthew added with a straight face.

She disdained his actions inwardly. "You did this on purpose because I collected money from you after buying you breakfast."

"It's a fair trade. You may vomit all the food if you don't want to pay."

Matthew sat up straight, holding a napkin in his hands as he elegantly wiped his well defined lips. Even an action as simple as wiping his mouth inadvertently revealed his elegance that had been deeply instilled into him.

"Vomit?" *F*ck! They have all turned into poop, so how am I going to vomit them out?* Veronica was extremely pissed by his words.

After glaring at Matthew in rage for a moment, she immediately rose up and jogged into her room, exiting with a piece of paper in her hand shortly after that. "Here you go. This is the receipt of the breakfast that I have bought for you."

The next second, she tore the paper into two, folded them into halves and tore them again. She tore the receipt until it became tiny pieces of paper before placing the pile of papers on the table. With a loud voice, Veronica announced, "Look, I've torn the receipt that day. Since we are family, we shouldn't be so calculative. It's not right to do so. *Ha!* Since you have seen me tearing the receipt into pieces, will you forget about collecting money from me?"

The man wore his usual impassiveness on his handsome face as he replied, "TIL consider it."

With that, he rose to his full height and returned to his room. He grabbed his things. changed his shoes at the foyer and left.

Truth was, Matthew's cold treatment frustrated Veronica. "Such a petty man. I don't understand what the heck is going on in his head."

and dining room, she hopped on

was another busy day in the office. She diligently learnt about her

to him, "I won't be having dinner with you tonight. I have to go and

see you tomorrow," Xavier replied unhesitatingly,

Veronica had left the office, she bought some fruits and dietary supplements from a nearby mall before

it was during the evening rush hour, it took Veronica

spotted Matthew's car parked at

with him to visit

vanished, so she turned on her heel to

coincidence! You are here as well." Tiffany exited the car and

then, Matthew alighted from the car as well. Tiffany walked up to him

Tiffany, silently warning her with a cold gaze. Have you forgotten about the lesson you learnt, as well as the warning I gave in the bathroom the

in the bathroom the other day had pissed Tiffany off. She had complained about it to

had repeatedly lectured her, "A moment of

reluctant to swallow her anger, Veronica was able to have her own way by relying on the fact that Elizabeth was her godmother. There was

matter how enraged

behind at the couple that looked great together. Although

a glance at Matthew, thinking about how the man

end, Veronica let out a cold snort

a bad mood?” Tiffany whispered a question, to which Matthew coldly responded as he stood firmly next to

stepped into the living room one after

was seen in the living room. Veronica handed the things to the servants and walked up to

me feel light and happy.” Elizabeth grinned

you come

took a cab,” Veronica responded with

Chapter 88

Elizabeth had accepted Veronica as her god-daughter because she liked Veronica. However, Veronica refused to take advantage of Elizabeth’s fondness of her by being arrogant and complacent.

Hence, she returned the car key to Elizabeth.

Meanwhile, Tiffany, who took in the scene, was burning in jealousy.

She was aware that Elizabeth was fond of Veronica, but never expected that it would be up to this extent.

Just because Veronica had taken a cab to the Kings Residence, Elizabeth had not only reprimanded Matthew but even gifted her a sports car that had an exorbitant price tag.

At the mention of this, the Kings Family’s status and influence then came to mind. As one of the largest families in their country, they had both the wealth and power, so a car that they purchased would never be one that cost less than 5 million! Although Tiffany didn’t know what type of car Elizabeth had gifted Veronica, Tiffany reckoned that it must have cost at least 5 million!

Yet, such generosity was exclusively for Veronica, which made it impossible for Tiffany not to be jealous of her.

Nonetheless, no matter how envious or jealous Tiffany was, she had to feign a kind and gentle attitude while smiling tenderly. “Grandma, you sure treat Veronica well.”

“Of course she is *my god-daughter*. When I become older and unable to walk, I’ll depend on *her* to take care of me.”

Elizabeth tucked a loose strand of grey hair behind her ear before she held Veronica’s hands and amicably asked, “Girl, you won’t just leave me here alone when I become so old that I can’t move around freely, will you?”

“Grandma, that’s nonsense. You are still as healthy as a horse. *Pfft!* Don’t spew nonsense.” Veronica pretended to spit on the floor to ward off the ominous words that Elizabeth had just mentioned.

“Take the car keys. It will make it easier for you to come and visit me more in the future.” Elizabeth handed the car keys to Veronica again, but Veronica rejected her offer. “Grandma, please keep it. It’s no use giving them to me since I can’t drive. I’ll

inform Matthew when I come and visit you in the future and have him take me here.”

“I see, you can’t drive.” Elizabeth nodded. “Alright, then. Let that brat drive you here after this.” As she spoke, she tapped Veronica’s head. “Why are you still calling him by his name, though?”

Elizabeth’s sudden question, unable to make sense

next instant, Elizabeth replied, “You are now my god–daughter, so that makes him your elder brother. I’ll be upset if I hear you calling him by his

again.”

playfully stuck out

glared at Matthew. “Do

His attention seemed to be focused on the book, but the truth was that he had been paying attention

he hummed in agreement, but a subtle curve appeared at the corner

Tiffany’s eyes, Veronica, Matthew and Elizabeth seemed like a family whereas she herself was an outsider who seemed out of

go

full height before holding Veronica by her hand and heading out

treated as though she was invisible the

tag along, but she was worried that she might read the air wrong, so she

and Elizabeth left the room before she turned to him with a pitiful look that resembled a kid who had done something wrong. “Matthew, am I lacking in any way?

felt that her voice sounded unpleasant to the ear and even her

coldly replied, “You are being too

just worried that I’m not good enough in

good enough.” Matthew focused his gaze on the magazine in his hands while ignoring

a conversation with Matthew,

dinner was served and the few of them

greasyback shrimp on the table. Then, she said, “Grandma, give me a minute. I’ll make you

for you,” Elizabeth replied as Veronica

had placed her utensils down, Tiffany and Matthew had to wait

M

for a moment before she mustered the courage and asked, “Do you dislike

Elizabeth waved her hand, "My feelings

Chapter 89

"Grandma, I know that the prawns are delicious, but you should have some vegetables to have a balance of nutrition. It'll be better for your health" Tiffany rose to grab some vegetables for Elizabeth's plate and took some for Veronica as well. "Veronica, you should eat some too."

Tiffany had never thought that she would one day have to please Veronica too. Even though she was forced to do so since Matthew and Elizabeth were present, she still felt that her actions were demeaning.

"I'm sorry, but I prefer to eat meat since I don't like vegetables." While wearing her gloves, Veronica took the vegetables on her plate and thought about it before dumping them into Matthew's bowl. "It would be a shame if I were to throw away your fiancée's vegetables. You should have it."

She was deliberately annoying Matthew.

However, the man glanced at her with his cold eyes as his handsome face darkened a little. He then lowered his eyes to have a look at the vegetables in his bowl without saying a word.

As for Tiffany, she continued to stab the rice in her bowl while feeling that Veronica was being ungrateful, but since it wasn't wise for her to be exasperated in front of Elizabeth, she smiled in response. "Meat is quite tasty too."

During the dinner, Veronica and Elizabeth chatted happily whereas Matthew and

Tiffany were seated across from them and remained quiet, as if there was an invisible line between them.

The vegetables in his bowl were still left untouched even after the dinner had ended.

After the meal, Tiffany stood up to retrieve the utensils. "Grandma, since I don't know how to cook, why don't I help to wash the dishes?"

She had never washed the dishes when she was previously at the Larson Residence.

However, to please Elizabeth, she had to do her best—even if it meant dirtying her delicate hands.

Listening to her, Elizabeth nodded. "Okay, that's alright."

Therefore, Tiffany and the servants gathered all the dishes together before heading to the kitchen to wash the utensils.

the meantime, Veronica felt that Tiffany had really gone out of her way this

you full? Why don't we have a walk in

the same idea too." Elizabeth stood up and winked at Matthew, telling him to come. Even though he felt a little resigned, he rose to his feet and

the yard, Veronica held Elizabeth's hand and pointed to the west where the sunset was. "The

the sunset as she

she remembered her time with Tony, who loved to take her to watch the sunrise and sunset in which all were

on her own, so

into a deep thought, Veronica noticed the older woman's expression and furrowed her brows in confusion. After glancing at Matthew, she said, "Grandma, if you like to watch the sunset, I can bring you to the

Veronica, she emotionally uttered, "When my husband was still with me, he always loved to watch the sunset and sunrise with me. Now that he's gone for more than a decade, I've no longer

Grandma. I'll keep you company from now on," Veronica cajoled with a

alright. I'll wait

vigorously nodded her

held hands, the two of them

darkened when he heard their laughter in front of him. The moment he saw a long-lost smile on Elizabeth's face, he

been since he last felt this kind

suddenly felt that she was like a bright light shining on his black-and-white world while peppering everything with color and light. This feeling...

a while," Veronica said to Elizabeth while walking "I'm going to Almeida to do some charity work. It'll take about

and looked at her. "Almeida is so far away from Bloomstead and I

Elizabeth's shoulders and answered lovingly, "Grandma, you've underestimated me. I

I'll support you since doing charity work is something good, but you need to be

worry, Grandma.

continued walking around the

after washing the dishes. She initially wanted to show off in front of Elizabeth, but the moment she came out, she realized that the living

Tiffany was informed that the three of them went on

instantly darkened as she felt both angry and aggrieved, but was unable to express her rage at

leave the living room for the garden

of

Chapter 90

Then, Matthew remembered that Veronica hadn't had a proper sleep in the last two days, so he couldn't bear to wake her up. After throwing a blanket on her, he proceeded to his study.

Even though the blanket had gently landed on her, it still managed to wake her up.

As soon as she opened her eyes, she instantly felt much better.

After resting for a little while more, she went to the bathroom to change her clothes. Then, she borrowed a book from the study and lay down on the couch to read it.

The whole process didn't feel like it took much time for her, but when Matthew came out of his study and saw that Veronica was still reading the book, he immediately snatched it and said, "It's 2:00AM. Time for you to go to bed." —

He ordered her as if he was an older brother being stern with his little sister.

"Give it back to me!" Just as Veronica was getting to the good part, her hands suddenly became empty as the book was snatched away from her. As a result of that, she glared at Matthew angrily.

"Aren't you going to Almeida tomorrow?" The man reminded her while hiding the book behind his back.

"It won't affect me. I can still wake up."

"Go to sleep." He wore a cold expression and took the book back to his room without saying anything else.

"Matt—" Before she could finish calling his name, he immediately slammed his door shut, so she couldn't help but yell, "You brute! You are just a selfish and arrogant b*stard!"

Without the book, she suddenly felt bored, but she suddenly remembered the book's name and used her phone to search for it on a reading app. After locating the part where she had stopped, she continued to read from where she left off.

And just like that, she read the book all the way until 5:00AM. When she began to feel sleepy and her eyelids could no longer move, she lay on the couch and fell asleep.

At the same time, Matthew went over to the side of the couch and stood there for a while. Watching Veronica sleeping on the couch, he couldn't help but feel a little confused. *Does she... always sleep so late every night?*

However, he didn't think much about it as he carried her back to her bedroom.

When he gently placed her on the bed and looked at her sleeping, he felt as though she was a quiet and lovely cat that was pleasing to the eye. *Only her quiet looks will make others feel cute unlike her usual fierce self.*

"Um..."

to push the strands of hair on her face aside, but the moment his fingertips touched

hugged her tightly like an octopus. While she was being hugged, she found

way to her red lips. In the end, he couldn't help but lean

no longer control his
her lips soft and slightly cold, there was also a hint of fragrance, causing him to lose
in his body, he immediately
felt as though he was playing
why don't I have any interest in Tiffany at all?
unique body scent
it made him feel relaxed, comfortable and
like that, he allowed her to sleep in his arms for a while before releasing her when her breathing calmed
and she was in a deep sleep. Then, he left her
to keep my distance away from her. Otherwise, it is hard
his own body made
uncomfortable.
few days. When Veronica woke up at
dining room to have his breakfast. However, after glancing at the delicious food on the table
the dining room, Matthew glanced at her
the water while shaking her head. "Nope.
can't believe the oatmeal I ate cost 300 per bowl. If I eat another bowl today, it'll cost me another 300!
It's
awkwardly touched her belly and immediately returned to the living room to sit
hard-pressed she was, he couldn't help but feel sorry for her. "I won't charge
hearing that he wouldn't charge her any money, her eyes immediately brightened as she put down the
glass of
she actually didn't have any money to pay Matthew back, especially when
"Yes."
as if her lips were filled with honey and called her 'bro' Then, she sat across from him and lowered her
head to look at the oatmeal in her
"Nutty banana oatmeal."
happily scooped a spoonful of oatmeal and brought it to her mouth to have a taste. "It's so delicious."
As she chewed carefully to taste the fragrance of the oatmeal, she sighed from the bottom of her heart.
"Which brand is it? The taste is amazing.
while eating his oatmeal