

Bumpkin 831

Chapter 831 Watch Your Manners

Veronica stood where she was, clenching her fists as fury raged inside her. "In the end, they still did something to our children." "That's within expectations." Matthew's behavior was extremely calm. "Let's go."

The two didn't talk much, but they seemed to have silently agreed not to mention this again. After entering the palace and proving their identities, Zac, Veronica, and Matthew were led into the palace's east wing.

In the east wing, Xavier, Hendrey, Tiffany, and the others were present. Everything was just as Veronica and Matthew had expected. "You're finally here, Master Iron. We've been waiting for ages."

When she saw Matthew walking in, Eleanor, who was wearing a red dress, jogged up to him in welcome. Her long hair was draped over her shoulders, and she wore a silver hat that looked like a flower crown. As she ran, the silver ornaments decorating the circumference of the hat rang like silvery bells, and it was quite a melodious sound to hear.

In the hall of the east wing, seats were arranged in two parallel rows at the sides. A small table was placed between each pair of seats, and an assortment of desserts, fruits, and wine was laid out on the tables.

outstretched hand. Seeing that,

to call me Princess." Eleanor noticed Matthew's rejection but didn't express it in the slightest. Instead, she casually reached out and took Veronica's arm, saying, "I haven't

moved her gaze past Eleanor. The look in her eyes seemed to say, 'Thanks

for your consideration, Princess Eleanor,"

the side, Tiffany glanced at Veronica and said huffily, "That's amazing,

she had been disgraced during the

saw how close Veronica was

Veronica appeared, she had stolen everything from her. Only Veronica's

I have to ask for your permission to get close to

but she could only lower

hand, Dominik was seated at the head position. He reprimanded Eleanor, "All visitors are guests. Eleanor, mind

Chapter 832 Plot of the Hidden Clan

"Of course. The hidden clan's annual fall hunt is just around the corner. I've summoned all of you here so that I can invite you to participate in the fall hunt."

The hidden clan had retained their tradition from the past. They would hold the annual Prayer Ceremony, as well as a hunt during spring and fall.

Most men in the wealthy families of the hidden clan had learned to fight since young. They were skilled at archery on horseback. Since the technology was progressing, both bows and guns were allowed in hunts.

When Eleanor had finished speaking, Dominik added, "The hunting festival will be held for five days, and the winner will be greatly rewarded."

"It's just a hunt, so why extend it to five days?" Hendrey expressed his confusion.

"The hunting grounds are located between Mount Manos and Mount Gazette. Since the land between the mountains is huge, this time round, the hunt tests speed and survival skills in the wild and self-preservation. Not counting the time allocated for the hunting festival, the hunt itself will take only four days. Also, the prey will be revealed on the morning of the festival, and whoever hunts the target and arrives at the finishing line first will be crowned the winner."

added, "If anyone can find the prey and return to camp within the first day, the game will end right finished speaking, the crowd exchanged glances and

clan's hunts always

thoughts echoed in the minds of

she said quickly, "Hunts are reserved for skilled people, right? I'm just a weak woman, so perfect for slipping in a murder or two. If she

up for everyone present. If Hendrey participates in the festivities alone, he can't stay by that, she completely refuted

a

has a point." Antheena nodded

she cast a meaningful glance

Antheena was looking at Veronica, the latter looked at her as well. The two met each other's gazes and could feel the murderous intent

recently. I do not wish to

Chapter 833 Replace the Chef

They left the palace in the afternoon. Matthew was driving while Veronica sat sullenly in the passenger seat. Matthew said, "Tanya is a cunning old fox. She would invite all the hidden clan officials to the hunting festival, so Hayley was asked to attend along with you. This is an opportune chance for Hayley to publicly introduce you to the hidden clan, and it would also serve as a foundation for you to fight for

the throne. Hayley definitely won't decline the invitation. There's no reason to." Matthew sighed forlornly.

Veronica sighed as well. "In other words, Tanya's plot is to let me have a taste of my own medicine. She wants me to join in the hunt, then she would get rid of me during the event. After all, those who enter the hunt have to sign a mortality contract."

She clicked her tongue and shook her head, lamenting, "Tanya is gaining the upper hand. She will lure Hayley to get me to join the festivities, and when everyone knows of my existence, I won't have a reason to decline the hunt. If I say no, the people would be disappointed in me right away, and I would be a disgrace to the Elrods. When the Elrods fight for the throne in the future, even Hayley's supporters might switch sides."

There was an unwritten rule in the hidden clan that during the hunting festival, the princes and young lords of the hidden clan were obliged to participate under most circumstances.

Only the brave could be the head of the hidden clan and lead the clan to prosperity.

the hearts of every hidden

the hidden clan members were trained in combat,

you have to participate in the hunting event, but you also have to win it." Matthew was greatly

itself earlier than

all top hunters. How many of them were assassins sent by Tanya, and how

with only a tiny

The two fell silent.

two had just entered the hall when they saw Hayley sitting

out on the table, yet to be cleaned up. It was apparent that

"Master Waylen, Madam Hayley, I'll

bodyguard, Matthew still had no right to listen to their

"You may go."

Chapter 834 Crayson Finds Out the Truth

Coincidentally, Crayson was looking at her as well. His muddled eyes were dark with unfathomable depths, where treachery lurked. Veronica quickly averted her gaze and glared at Mateo. "Crayson is right. You'd be better off protecting yourself with your half-baked skills."

Even though she said that, Mateo's words resounded in her mind. 'He won't let me protect you no matter what. He even said that Iron Pillar will put his life on the line to protect you.'

Crayson had always kept a low profile, and he never exaggerated his words. Those words of his were intriguing.

“Veronica, you went to the palace today, right? Did they mention anything about the hunting banquet of the hidden clan?” Hayley came over in the morning and had been waiting for Veronica ever since.

smiled and said, “They asked me to

the hunting banquet this time, Veronica didn’t have a choice and was obliged to attend. However, she wanted to see how Hayley

hunting event that happens every ten years. All the officials of the hidden clan

just have to attend the event without joining the hunt, right?” Veronica feigned

“Well—”

by Veronica, Hayley

pleading look at Crayson,

you’ll have to win the hunt as well. You may not know this,

in the hidden clan.” Hayley sighed, anxiety written all over

an uneasy gaze. “But that means Roni will be in danger, right? Tanya and the others are thinking of ways to get rid of her, so during this hunting event, Tanya’s elite army can easily remove her from the

Chapter 835 Puppet

“Tiffany may look like she’s working with Hendrey and Zac, but according to what I know, she has been in frequent contact with Dominik and Liam lately. She might have her plans. She’s too ambitious and uncontrollable.” Crayson frowned deeply, the thin smoke spewing through his breath and barely able to hide the worry on his face.

It hadn’t been a month since his return to the hidden clan. Everything was beyond his control, and that made him feel extra helpless and exhausted.

“Yes, Tiffany is totally out of control. No matter what we arrange for her, she won’t agree to it.” Hayley sighed, but her legs were neatly placed together as she sat on the couch, her back as straight as a ruler. No matter how troubled she was, she still presented herself as a noblewoman.

“Since she’s out of control, how do you deal with her?” Veronica asked curiously as she gazed coolly at the two people sitting opposite her, awaiting their reply.

In reality, Veronica had always felt pissed, but she tried her best to hold it in. The two kept talking about Tiffany being out of control, and it sounded like they thought she was easier to control.

only puppets were the easiest to control. What did

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leaving this hunt alive.” Crayson’s tone was grave as he kept puffing his cigarette to ease the turmoil in his

a pity to give up on the seeded player you’ve raised so carefully for more

sarcastic smile pierced through Hayley's

doing her best to fill in the blanks in their mother-daughter relationship. However, she hadn't expected determines all." Crayson frowned as he spoke sternly. "Veronica, I know you find this unfair, but we're doing this for your own

to discard the 'pawn' they had raised for more than 20 years. "In that case, I guess I should thank the pipe, knocking it heavily against the table. "Madam Hayley has been waiting an entire day for you, but

a few steps when she paused, then slowly turned around. The fury on her face was replaced by a smile as she said,

to discuss with you about the hunting festivities,"

the day itself. I trust

Chapter 836 Don't Worry, I'm Here

Veronica wasn't in a good mood. She reached up and brushed Matthew away, then circled him to sit on the rattan chair. She placed her elbow on the handle, then held her hand to her forehead as she said gravely, "Matt, Crayson might have figured out your identity already."

When she finished speaking, she looked up at Matthew, her eyes filled with worry. Seeing the gray clouds over her face, Matthew walked up to her and took her hand. He pulled her up, then proceeded to sit on the couch so that Veronica could sit on his lap.

"If he doesn't even have observational skills of that level, it'd be kind of scary," he said. Veronica sat sideways on his thighs, frowning in confusion. "To put it simply, if Crayson can't figure out your identity, it would mean that his observational skills and alertness are subpar, and he's probably not fit to bear important responsibilities?"

"Smart." The man rubbed the back of her hand with his right hand, then said, "Since he's supporting Hayley, he must be more skilled than the average person. It's only a matter of time before he realizes my identity, so it's not a surprise."

"But now that he's found out, why hasn't he exposed you?"

real problem Veronica

Zac, Xavier, and the others to underestimate their enemy. Then, he would work with me to deal with them, catching

analysis was logical

extremely calm reaction

and involved, and that was why she got

a balloon that had run out of air, she leaned weakly against his chest, mumbling, "They're letting Tiffany attend the hunting event this time. When that happens, Tiffany most probably won't come out of it alive. Say, Crayson and the others have raised this pawn for more than

to scratch the skin on her face. "You already know the

doing this to Tiffany, but they haven't

it. Moreover, the ascension ceremony of the head of the clan is just around the corner. We

seemed to calm Veronica immediately, and her

Chapter 837 Great Ambitions Shall Not Be Bothered by Trivia

Meanwhile, Veronica was done with dinner as she was about to head over to Elysium Hotel with Matthew after resting at Mountainside Gardens. Since Zac's contact number was in her call log, she was able to call him directly. "I'm here. Where are you?" "Room 507. I'm waiting for you." Zac gave a terse reply and hung up the call.

Right after staring at her phone, Veronica turned her attention to Matthew, who was standing next to her, and entered the elevator. As the elevator headed upstairs, they both arrived on the fifth floor and proceeded to make their way toward room 507 before knocking on the door.

After the duo stood at the door for a few moments, Zac finally answered the door, tilting his head while looking at Veronica with a smile. "I've been expecting your arrival." The next second, he stood aside and opened the door further. "Please come inside."

an icy glare and headed inside the room. However, when Matthew followed right behind her, Zac stuck out his arm and stopped him from taking a step further.

Matthew's presence and wasn't going to let him spoil his fun, considering the trouble he

looked back and gestured to Matthew with a wink, thinking there was nothing to worry about because Matthew could just barge in should

Alright, then," Matthew responded, giving Zac a hostile stare, as if to warn him not to create any trouble. As soon

were you trying to say when we were outside the palace earlier today? Was it about my child? What happened?" Veronica asked

into them. "You're somewhat passive in the hidden clan. I also knew you were reluctant to come here, but if you agree to help me, I could let you leave the hidden

the unfortunate incident that befell Yvonne earlier while sitting in front of Zac. After all, she would never be able to forget the evil deeds that Zac and Conrad did together. "I don't think my conscience will

Chapter 838 She Outsmarted Herself

Veronica curled her lips upward, unsurprised by Zac's words. "I only came here because I thought I could hear about my children, but if you don't say anything about them, I guess there's nothing else we both can talk about."

She then paused for a few seconds and added, "As for the deal you mentioned, do you think I'd work with someone who killed my husband?" Only a fool would work with a wolf in sheep's clothing. Veronica wondered if she was so dumb in Zac's eyes that it made him think she would agree to work with him.

"Haha." Zac swirled the glass in his hand while keeping his eyes fixed upon the wine in it, ignoring Veronica's response, as if he was absolutely confident about his proposition.

outside. However, as soon as she stood up, her vision suddenly

to move a muscle. "W-What did you do to me?" She glared at Zac and questioned the man, but despite using all her strength to talk, her voice still sounded so soft that

laughed. "You're a clever woman, which is why I'm using a fragrance that is odorless." He raised his

actually contains the antidote you need, but unfortunately, you threw away the chance that I just gave you." In fact, Zac put the antidote into the wine when

tried, she simply couldn't summon the strength to lift her hand. At that moment, she felt extremely vulnerable, like she was suffering from sleep paralysis. "M-My bodyguard is right outside the room, Zac. So, you'd better not do anything silly." The lady tried to warn the cunning

by now, so he is not coming to save

his glass. Upon placing it on the table, he ran his fingers through his blonde hair and smiled

Chapter 839 Xavier's Rescue

Zac gloated while unbuttoning his shirt. As he took off his clothes, Veronica soon lost the strength to even scream, overwhelmed and suffocated by disappointment and hopelessness. Not long after Zac took off his blazer and t-shirt, Veronica suddenly heard a loud thump that sounded like someone kicking the door. "Matt..."

Veronica tried to get the intruder's attention, but her voice was so soft that Zac couldn't even hear her. When the duo turned their attention to the door, they saw a silhouette in a black t-shirt and a pair of loose camo trousers. It turned out that Xavier had walked right through the door and was heading toward the bedroom.

brings you here—" Zac was stunned, but before he could finish his sentence, he was greeted by a powerful

Xavier was furious when he saw the camera, even the veins on his forehead were popping. As he radiated a strong murderous aura, he clenched his fists like an angry beast. Sensing Xavier's rage, Zac appeared a little panicky as he had never seen Xavier like that. "What do you think you're doing? You'd better stay

at him and landed a kick on the former's face as hard as he could. The next moment, Zac was seen bleeding from his nose as he found himself on the verge of losing consciousness. Soon, he continued to take a beating from Xavier, who wouldn't stop lecturing and cursing him at the same time. Nevertheless, Zac, who was weakened and exhausted by

Xavier come instead of Matthew? Her mind was filled with questions that she wanted

I'm going to get you out of here." Although the man acted like a merciless fighter a few minutes ago, he turned into a tender and sentimental gentleman when talking to Veronica. Carrying

the same time, when Xavier turned around, Veronica glimpsed Zac and realized he was knocked out. At the sight of that, she couldn't help

Chapter 840 Just in Time

With Xavier's help, Veronica was able to sit up straight, but since she was still weak, she could only lean on the man as the duo's interaction appeared a little too intimate. Holding Veronica's medication, the man carefully fed it to her mouth just when she opened it slowly and took a sip bit by bit.

Having the woman whom he loved right in his arms, Xavier felt the strong temptation to kill Zac for what he did back there when he saw Veronica's pitiful look. Somehow, that brought him back to the moment he kidnapped Veronica because of his selfish possessiveness, but as he had grown wiser and matured over the years, he recalled the incident in hindsight and felt like hitting himself in the face with the unforgivable deed he did back then.

so, he couldn't stop regretting his action. In spite of that, he was grateful that Crayson made it here in time, or he wouldn't

done." Despite the unpleasant bitterness, Veronica forced herself to swallow the medicine. After

placed the empty spoon on the table. Then, he grabbed a piece of napkin and wiped her mouth. "Have

hum, gazing at Xavier while thanking him gratefully. "Thank you so much, Xavier." Having been saved by Xavier twice, Veronica felt indebted to him as she was overwhelmed with

Iron Pillar's

calling him. He'll be fine." Although she had only just

his question. Instead, he grabbed himself a chair and sat right beside the bed.