

Bumpkin 881

Chapter 881 Still Alive

"Come in." Hendrey heard Zac's frail voice from the room. He entered and saw Zac lying on a high pillow and hooked to an IV drip. Zac was pale and lost any trace of his usual vitality.

Hendrey sighed thinking about how Matthew's deep love for Veronica pushed him to sever Zac's hand, simply because the latter had drugged her.

"What's up?" Given how Hendrey showed up right after breakfast early in the morning, Zac did not believe he was purely visiting.

his gaze to Zac, dropping hints. "You can leave now. I will call you in if there's anything," Zac ordered curtly at Zac before closing the door

He glanced at Zac's severed hand with a frown

severed hand was Zac's Achilles' heel, and his expression tanked after he heard Hendrey's question. A storm was brewing

behind this act, would I still be lying

anger, he grabbed the bolster beside him and threw it at

action jerked the IV drip and caused a backflow of blood. Pain arose from the needle inserted in his

the needle was pulled out, blood started trickling out from it. Zac habitually lifted his left hand to press against the wound, only to be reminded of the cruel reality

murderous gleam appeared in his eyes.

I will tear

looked down, his eyes sparkling. "I think I know... the

though he wanted to

Hendrey announced slowly and

Chapter 882 Collusion

Zac started combing through the timeline of events to recall his encounters with Iron Pillar. He thought of the night he drugged Veronica in the hotel, which was the same day someone took revenge against him.

Since he's Veronica's husband, he must have been vengeful about the fact that she was drugged. That explains his nighttime revenge. Everything fell into place.

"No wonder I always think he looks familiar. Even his eyes carry a murderous look every time he looks at me. No wonder... No wonder!"

bulging veins on the back of his right hand. Even though the blood dried up, his sudden use of strength caused some bleeding again, but it did

yelled at the door. "Zac!" Hendrey immediately cut him off. "Do not act on impulse. I know you want to kill him, but you do not have evidence proving that he was the one who broke your hand. I think the best time to confront

without proving the latter's crime, Hendrey feared that would only evoke widespread opposition. After all, they were in the territory of the hidden clan, and they would never overpower

eyes gleamed with slyness and ruthlessness, as

realized that he had redirected Zac's attention. He added, "There's something else. On my way here, I got the news that Tiffany Larson is missing. I suspect that her disappearance has to do with Matthew Kings as

and was merely using her because she

mistakenly believed that it was Tiffany's doing. That was another reason he decided to keep

his dismay, when Tiffany joined the hidden clan, she went against Veronica in every way possible. She even

know she would

Chapter 883 His New Appearance

At Mountainside Gardens, Veronica went to the study to continue learning after breakfast. Soon, Matthew joined her. She looked up at him and frowned. "You... Crayson and the others are coming back soon. Would it be bad to show up like this in front of them?"

Last night, Matthew had taken off the makeup. Just now, Veronica thought that he was taking a long time to put on his makeup, but she was shocked to see him showing up without his mask.

"Hendrey found out my identity at the entrance of One Piece Restaurant last night. What's the point of hiding the truth?" He was dressed in a black suit, his hair slick and shiny. He was back to the cold but handsome man from before, and she was slightly bewitched by his appearance.

from head to toe. "You look better and cooler as you." Ever since

waist. Then, he leaned over and gave her a peck on the forehead and

now, he will surely inform Zac. Zac would know that it was you who cut

she wondered why he had not made any move after having

waiting for his reply, "It's the hunting ceremony! He must be waiting to attack you at the ceremony without anyone knowing! Even if he kills you in the public eye, he could blame it

grim and clouded with worries. He smiled at her. "I should not call myself his opponent if

backing

go to your lessons.” He changed the topic of the conversation to ease with him on the second floor. At 6.00PM, Crayson, Mateo, and Destiny finally showed the memory seal, a secret skill of the

Chapter 884 Prayers and Churches

“I see.” Veronica smiled subtly. “So, what do I need to do during the hunting ceremony?” “Although we will arrange people to go with you, Matthew had still best become ‘Iron Pillar’ again and accompany you.” Crayson ate his porridge while stating this to Matthew.

“No problem.” Nodding, Matthew regained his usual cold demeanor. Then, they started to discuss the hunting ceremony. At the same time in One Piece Restaurant, Skyler had been playing games with Shirley for two days, which nearly drove them mad.

Thankfully, Skyler requested Matthew a capable makeup artist to help them apply makeup and change into the Hidden Clan’s garments. Then, they left the restaurant to explore the bustling city center.

Due to the two not being able to speak the local language, they brought along some people. “Where should we go?”

Shirley held Skyler’s hand and walked out of the restaurant before looking around, not sure which direction they should walk in.

After they became a couple, they naturally got closer. Skyler replied gently, “I wanted to bring you to church to pray, didn’t I? Let’s go then. This is a nice chance.”

it was a hassle for them to go outside, hence the delay until now. “Okay.” Nodding, Shirley smiled sweetly to a young man that

and was skinny, making him look more like a woman. Nodding, he replied,

at the car situated in the parking lot before walking

whispered, “Lazlo? You sure

mean? He’s helping us, so I just wanted to be nice to him.” Shirley thought that Skyler was being

as he pretty much ignored him. Meanwhile, Shirley got along quite well with

between their conversation. As the two were chatting along merrily, Skyler, with a solemn expression, asked, “Lazlo,

Skyler through the rearview mirror. The gossip inside Shirley awoke. “What? Lazlo, you’re so handsome, and yet you still don’t have a significant

suitable,” he stated. Suddenly, Skyler hugged Shirley’s waist and kissed her on the cheek without any intimacy made Shirley glare

looking at them through the rearview mirror. “Please don’t mind

“Ky, you mean.”

Skyler corrected him.

Shirley to call him by his

“Eh?”

the jealousy that practically oozed

Chapter 885 Abundance of Excess

It was a very visually impressive church with golden roof tiles, red walls, and sculpted pillars, making it look very imposing. As the two walked up the steps hand in hand, they could hear the tolls of the bell and the chanting of the priests.

Inside the church, they offered donation money before lighting incense and praying to God. Then, Skyler went to the priest and used a pleading gaze to look at Lazlo. “Could you ask how we can get a talisman for safety?”

He wanted to get a talisman of safety for Shirley. Since he thought that she was timid, with the talisman, she might unearth newfound bravery while keeping herself safe.

Lazlo then exchanged a few words with the priest before stating to Skyler, “You just have to make a small donation, kneel before God, and offer your prayers for safety. It’s that simple.”

He then added, “The talismans here have all proven to be quite efficacious.”

“Easy.” Skyler then let go of Shirley’s hand before going to the offering table and inserted quite the sum inside the box. Then, he lit some more candles before placing them on the provided votive candle stands.

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bowl of water in his hand. After dipping his finger in the bowl,

“Thank you.”

bowing courteously to the priest

me help you wear

engraved on it,

and helped her to wear it

his actions, Shirley could not help but feel a

supernatural beings will never bother you again. You won’t have to be afraid anymore,”

talisman did not really have any effects, the placebo effect it had was

her neck, Shirley smiled and did not

suddenly laughed and reminded them. “This talisman has something inside. Open it.

“Really?”

Skyler was skeptical.

in front of Shirley, he put his hand inside the talisman pouch

it out, they found a rectangular white piece of jade inside with scriptures inscribed

Chapter 886 Venomous Insects

Skyler bit her lips as a punishment, and Shirley drew a sharp breath in pain. She elucidated, "Lazlo and I are friends. He's been nice to me at One Piece Restaurant."

"Excuses!" He pinned her against the door and silenced her with a kiss, not wanting to hear her explanations.

They had been so engrossed in the intimate moment that their body temperature rose. Suddenly—

Knock. Knock. Knock.

Someone knocked on the door to the living room. The duo, who were immersed in the kiss, opened their eyes and stared at each other. Her face flushed red from the embarrassment. She shoved him away before wiping her lips. "W-Who is it?"

"It's me." Veronica's voice resounded beyond the door.

glared at Skyler and adjusted

tinge on Shirley's cheeks and those swollen lips from all the kissing. "Matt, I told

face at Veronica's

"Roni, say another word and Shir's gonna dig up a hole

I'll stop." Veronica chuckled and wrapped an arm around Shirley's

they were conversing, Matthew already took a seat next to Skyler. Veronica seized the chance

is it?" asked Shirley in

for two weeks. It won't harm your body, but it's all

best!" A touched Shirley hugged

guys talking about?" Skyler took a sip of water and raised

proudly, Shirley stuffed the pills into her pocket before holding Veronica's hand. "Come

along, knowing that the men had something to

Chapter 887 Crayson's Preparations

"It seems like things are scarier than we thought." Skyler could not help the worry upon sensing the solemnity of the situation. "Does Roni know about this?"

Even if Matthew had been asking Skyler to refrain from addressing Veronica as Roni, it was hard to break a habit. Still, Matthew was not a forceful one. He shook his head as his glint grew dull. "I just can't tell her."

"The investigation mustn't stop. Let's tell her after we find out the truth," Skyler suggested. Matthew saw eye to eye on that. Following that, the conversation continued around the plan for the hunting ceremony before Veronica and Matthew left.

Although the hunting ceremony was held twice annually, the ceremony this time round caught up with the 10th anniversary. In addition to the accession day of the head of the clan three days thereafter, this year's hunting ceremony would be an exceptionally grandiose one.

on makeup, which perfectly covered his real face. Matthew and Veronica put on the clan's

Solemnity

finished their food did Crayson gaze at them. "Come with me. I have something to

to the study room abutted the bedroom. He took out a miniature translating device. "Veronica, you might need this. It's been only a month since

at the device before glancing at

placed a piece of wristwatch atop the table, pointing at it. "It looks like a watch, but there is a hidden compartment instead. When danger comes, press the key on both

serious attitude made

the golden watch up. It was just an ordinary watch with a blue

have the same design. Put them on. Don't use it unless it's necessary," Crayson advised sternly. "Put them on

Chapter 888 Trouble Defending Yourself

Even though Crayson knew this hunting ceremony would be full of danger, he had to bite the bullet and allow Veronica to attend the event.

After all, she would have to compete for the position of head of the clan in the future. If she failed to emerge as the winner in this event, then it was likely that she would not be able to garner support from the public in the future.

With a somber expression, he sat back on the chair and heaved a sigh. "You have to win in this event!" Crayson spoke commandingly, and there was a firm look in his eyes.

At that point, Veronica furrowed her brows slightly. "What if I lose?" Bam! Just then, he banged the table angrily, and his expression darkened significantly. "You don't have a choice! You can only win!"

Veronica was startled by his sudden bang on the table. She clearly expressed displeasure on her face and remained silent.

Meanwhile, Crayson continued to instruct her on the things to watch out for before departing. Destiny and Mateo entered the car along with them too.

Mateo was the driver while Destiny took the front passenger seat. The other three took the back seat as they left in the car toward the location of the hunting ceremony.

Everyone was exceptionally silent throughout the journey.

was fuming silently at the others because of

Destiny and Crayson

at the hunting ceremony, so they

hands openly in public. From time to time, they

the place where the hunting ceremony was

parking lot of the chosen location was filled with SUVs; there were more than a hundred in various colors, and it felt as if

number of

was labeled with the respective

they walked out of the parking lot, they bumped into

Veronica had gone to Hayley's house and bumped into Randy and the girl known as Lamia there.

However, Veronica had not encountered Lamia again after that, so

"Hmph!"

at her angrily before

"Randy, don't run! This place is quite

today, and don't let

Lamia nodded and greeted Veronica

this outfit suits

the silver hat distinctive to the hidden clan Veronica was wearing. The silver hat was adorned with silver tassels all over. Veronica also wore a silver necklace

Chapter 889 Final Resting Place

"Don't worry, everything is according to plan." Crayson kept both arms behind his back, and as he looked at Matthew's figure in the distance, he said, "He definitely won't get to leave this place alive."

Matthew was the largest obstacle preventing Veronica from staying on with the hidden clan. Once this obstacle was removed, it would be a piece of cake to manipulate Veronica.

"Matthew's a very intelligent man and he's always on guard, so it would be quite difficult to execute the plan." Hayley was slightly worried. "Yes, naturally, I'm aware of that."

Crayson was well aware of Matthew's capabilities, so to get rid of Matthew entirely, Crayson had several plots up his sleeves to ensure that Matthew would not get to leave this place in one piece.

Hayley knew that Crayson was a conscientious man, so she knew that he was not one to exaggerate. As such, she absolutely trusted his words. After going up the mountain, they left to go to their respective tents.

The ceremony would start officially at eleven o'clock in the morning. Veronica and Matthew remained in their tent and sat there for some time. Finally, Matthew indicated with his eyes, and then they walked outside together.

They strolled along the valley and were surrounded by people from the hidden clan. Matthew walked over to stand next to Veronica with a frown on his face. "Are you afraid?"

course I'm

engrossed in listening to the cuckoo bird chirp as she enjoyed the slight breeze. Suddenly, she said ruefully. "Well, it's death on the other side if

her hometown, and her two

your side. I'll do everything I can to protect

to talk in the tent because they were worried that the place was bugged. Both of them had their guards up against Crayson and the

defending yourself, so how are you going to protect me,

Matthew before smiling teasingly. He's offended Zac, so there is no way Zac would let him off the

and lifted his head slightly to indicate for Veronica to look up ahead of them. "That is where Mount Manos and Mount Gazette lie. It would definitely be great if we get to leave this place. If we don't, then

Mount Gazette were the two mountains where the hunt would be

looked from this distance, the two mountains appeared to be quite very far

"This is just the first challenge we face,

dangerous place for us, and if we succeed

and naturally, there were a lot of unpredictable

a lot of wild beasts and venomous snakes on the mountain." Veronica heaved a slight

Chapter 890 The Announcement of Her Identity

As soon as Hayley saw Veronica walk over, Hayley took a few steps toward Veronica and stretched out a hand affectionately before saying gently, "Take my hand, and I'll lead you there."

Today, she would announce to everyone that Veronica was her biological daughter and the future successor of the hidden clan. In fact, no one would know this, but Hayley had waited for this moment for ages, and she had looked forward to it so much.

“No, that’s not necessary. I am fine going there by myself.” Veronica disliked Hayley and didn’t want to hold hands with the latter. Besides, Veronica had no intention of putting on a loving mother-daughter act in front of the crowd.

“Alright. Let’s go then.” Hayley was fine with that and didn’t force Veronica. The group left together and headed toward the hunting ceremony event.

There were a lot of people in attendance at the hunting ceremony, and the venue of the event was a large, football field-sized stadium that had been manually leveled.

The hunting ceremony was an annual event, so the stadium was well-equipped.

There was an empty patch in the middle of the stadium with tables and chairs arranged all around. There was also a reinforced parasol on each table which served as a sunshade and could also shelter the people from the rain.

Meanwhile, on top of the stage were the Ledger Clan, followed by senior officials of the hidden clan, distinguished families, and various important businessmen taking their spots on stage according to their ranks.

large screen behind the stage, and everything on the

felt

and

the venue, there was some staff assigned to lead them to their seats. Hayley and Veronica

Dominik on both sides of her. There were also a few princes and princesses that Veronica hadn’t seen before. Finally, Liam was at the end of the line with Veronica, Hayley,

“Psst.”

soon as Veronica took her seat, Liam whistled at her to attract her attention. He seemed very keen to

a while since we last met.” Liam winked at her with

I think it’s been

we last saw each other, and I

and Mateo to take a seat in the

right side of the stage was closest to the stage, so Zac, Hendrey, and Xavier took their seats there, followed by Crayson, Matthew, and the rest

of the stage were the senior officials of the hidden clan, the distinguished families, and

rounds of the bang of drums going off, the hunting ceremony officially

on stage to say a few words, and

official speech