

## **Bumpkin 901**

### **Chapter 901 An Indirect Kiss**

Matthew, who was walking up ahead, stopped when he heard the sounds.

He turned around and saw Eleanor stumbling down the slope.

She rolled five or six times before her massive bag blocked her from rolling any further.

"Aah! T-That was scary!"

Eleanor remained on the ground as she looked up at the haughty man standing further up. He had his arms crossed as he surveyed her with an indifferent expression.

She stretched her pale arm out and waved at him. "It hurts so much, Master. I can't get up. Come and help me."

"You can still scream and move just fine, so I don't think there's anything wrong with you."

He then checked his watch. "I'm giving you one minute to come back up here, or I'm leaving without you."

Matthew had no patience for any woman besides Veronica.

His response nearly made Eleanor forget that she was trying to put on a pitiful act. She almost jumped to her feet at once.

her best to plead, "Oh, no! Master, my ankle... My ankle got twisted! It really hurts. Can you

Are you sure you're

didn't move at all. He had no intention

Boohoo, you're too heartless, Master..." Eleanor cried in

a man who doesn't

ahead and stay there. It'll save me a lot of trouble if you die." Matthew did not have the patience

as he finished speaking, he turned around and carried on

turn back to

a care in the

"H-Hey! Master! Master! Don't go.

and kicked the boulder by her feet, but she'd done it with so

hurts

teeth and stand on one foot as she gently rocked the

Matthew heard her cries, he assumed she was simply putting on an act, so he didn't stop walking or slow down

me—ouch! Wait for

was filled with indescribable anger,

and lock you up, and then I'll ignore you for the rest of your life so that you know what it's like to be ignored by me. I'll

### **Chapter 902 Her Little Trick**

Matthew's brows creased as he threw her a displeased glare before snatching the bottle back from her. He stuffed it back into his bag. "You won't die if you stop talking."

Eleanor had alabaster skin and prominent features. Her soulful eyes, bright red lips, and ebony hair tied up in a bun made her look both adorable and alluring at the same time.

Her beauty could be compared to that of Aphrodite.

Thus, she was confident that she could get any man she wanted.

She was indeed gorgeous, and few could withstand her wiles.

Her elusive smile, graceful manner, and bewitching gaze tugged on the heartstring of men.

However, no matter how beautiful she was, Matthew would never be attracted to her.

"I'm so tired, Master. Can't we take a rest?"

She grumbled, "It's been four hours since we started walking this morning. I'm hungry! Can't we rest for a while? There's a saying in Bloomstead, right? Something about not working your mule to the bone, or you might work them to death. Literally."

All along, Matthew had been feeling uneasy because he was worried about Veronica, but he couldn't resist chuckling at Eleanor's comment.

"Does your mother know you're a mule?" he quipped in a rare display of being in a good mood.

What mule? The saying is about a donkey. How did she turn it into a mule?

"Are you insulting me?! Hmph! My mother will cut your head off if she finds out!" Eleanor was genuinely exhausted.

She sprained her ankle earlier, but it was all better now and didn't even hurt anymore, but she was still tired.

They'd been walking uphill the whole time, and she'd used up too much energy.

All she ate this morning was a few wild fruits, which weren't enough to make up for the taxing journey thus far.

She grabbed Matthew by the wrist. "Let's rest, Master. Please? Can we just rest for a while?"

His footsteps came to a halt when he felt her hand latching onto him. His expression soured at once.

He shot Eleanor a frosty glare. "Let go."

It was just two words, but his tone was harsh and formidable. Even his gaze was enough to make Eleanor feel a little terrified.

"Why're you being so fierce?" She pouted. "All I did was hold your hand. It's not like you'd lose a finger."

Even though she grumbled, she acquiesced and let go.

However, she also rolled her eyes and huffed, "Hah! I wonder how a man like you made Veronica fall in love with you."

Truth be told, Eleanor was envious of Veronica.

She envied Veronica for being the sole beneficiary of Matthew's love.

### **Chapter 903 Resorting to This**

Matthew looked up when he heard Eleanor's shriek, and he immediately saw the green snake on the ground.

"Ouch..."

Eleanor was clutching her right hand with her left. Her brows were scrunched up in pain. "A knife! Give me a knife! The snake bit me."

The green snake struggled on the ground for a bit before slithering away into the bushes.

It was a snake with a triangular-shaped head, and the brighter its color was, the more poisonous it was.

Matthew tensed up. He jumped to his feet and brought a blade over to Eleanor. "It's a venomous snake. Do you have an antidote?"

"That's a septella snake, the most venomous kind in the hidden clan. It..."

She bit her lip and didn't continue speaking. Instead, she sucked out a few mouthfuls of blood from her wrist and spat all of it out on the ground.

Matthew swiftly filled a bottle with water. "Rinse your mouth. Don't do that to get the blood out. It's too slow!"

with a complicated gaze before

bite mark on her wrist with a frown. "Why did you want

dragged her over to a rock before crouching next to her with a

gritted her teeth and took a deep

began formulating the plan when she

such a risk as long as

to Veronica, and no matter how

to resort

gone all out just to get his

bandage tightly around her arm to stop the

"Ouch! It hurts..."

so tightly that Eleanor frowned in

danger if the venom spreads across the rest of your body." Matthew's expression

him, giving

looked most handsome when

of Eleanor had a disguise on to make him look uglier, her head was filled with the pictures she saw

#### **Chapter 904 Envenomed**

"I don't mind if you die, but we're on the same team right now, and I won't be able to leave this mountain if you die!"

From the moment Matthew was put on the same team as Eleanor, not only did he have to lug around additional deadweight, but he even had the added responsibility of protecting her.

He didn't know whether it was a wily setup on Tanya's part because she had found out who he was, or it had been Eleanor's decision instead.

Either way, Eleanor couldn't die here!

Eleanor leaned against his shoulder. Although the pain was torturous, all she could think about was Matthew.

She'd craved to be this close to him for so long now.

She soaked her hand in the water and dyed a patch of her hand red.

The red water that meandered down the stream was particularly eye-catching in the sun.

"Master, tell me. Am I... going to die here?"

it was

so dizzy that

at once, but after recalling the fact

up against his

eyes and stared at the face near hers. Her

Veronica... calling you... Matt. Can I... do that

Envy.

everything she wanted her whole

Veronica for getting

the first time, Eleanor understood what it meant to have feelings for someone and to

made her believe that there was such a thing

Matthew

you

his face with her pale fingers. "Master, if I... give Veronica the position as the head

injured hand in the water with one hand to make sure the venom

go, she would fall to the

### **Chapter 905 Firing the Poisoned Needle**

"Can you move me... to a sheltered spot? There's nothing but rocks here. It hurts." Eleanor turned to Matthew with a frail expression.

The fact that he'd shown her genuine concern made her feel that everything had been worth it.

Matthew was exasperated, but once he was done with her bandage, he picked her up and walked over to the grassy area beneath a tree before setting her down on the ground.

He checked his watch—it was already 2.00PM.

It'd been nearly a day since he lost contact with Veronica, and his heart was incredibly uneasy.

"It's getting late. I'm leaving. You can stay here by yourself," Matthew said to Eleanor.

"No! If you leave, then w-what about me?"

Eleanor was a little miffed. "I just saved you! How can you abandon me?"

"Since your mother let you up the mountain, she would've sent people to secretly protect you. Don't worry; you won't die here." Matthew had already considered this.

What if Hayley Elrod's people came over to kill me? W-What'll happen to me?" Eleanor cried out as she lay limp

think about right now

If anyone comes close, all you need to do is press down on this button, and you'll fire the poisoned needle. You can use this to keep

him this watch before he

you. When you need to fire the poisoned needle, clench your fist

do so

instructions Crayson emphasized when he gave the watch to

it on. Just keep it in

up

would've expected him to be

the watch at herself. "Y-You can't leave,

head around and looked

scared. C-Can't you stay here with

here will dare to kill you, but Roni is in a lot of danger. I have

only one he

### **Chapter 906 The Poison Takes Effect**

A single needle shot out with an almost undetectable sound.

Eleanor was lying under the shade of the tree, whereas Matthew had taken a few steps and was out in the sun.

Just as she waited for the needle to strike her, she noticed a tiny sliver of silver against the sunlight.

Amid her startlement, Matthew froze.

"W-What's going on?"

Eleanor was in a daze. Her weak body managed to shoot up straight.

She bent down to look at the watch in her hand before staring at Matthew. She shook her head and exclaimed, "No! No! I... I had it pointed at myself!"

Matthew felt a stinging pain in his back. He turned around in disbelief and walked over to Eleanor.

"It wasn't me! I really pointed it at myself! I swear!"

Eleanor panicked; she never thought this would happen.

effect yet. Matthew felt his body growing numb, but he had enough

his left and the button to

A needle shot out.

it was fired from a tiny hole beside the

hole to eject

his eyes. His expression was stormy as a

gripped the watch, and at the very next

Master! W-What's

turn of events

minute since she fired the needle, and Matthew was already lying unconscious on the

effect in a shockingly short amount of

out a special whistle from her bag and blew with

a bird call that

same time, she took out a signal flare and used

that clung in the air for

minutes later, she fired off

the peak of the mountain. The trees rustled heavily from

### **Chapter 907 Friend or Foe**

"Why are you sighing? You look just as dejected as you did when I saw you at Mount Chillad," Xavier teased.

Veronica was standing under a towering tree, looking at the river further down the mountain. Memories of everything that happened back at Mount Chillad the last time resurfaced.

"Back then?" She chuckled. "I wasn't just dejected. I was also pretty pathetic."

Now that she thought about it, it had been two years since then.

"Hah. You were with Matthew, but he didn't even keep you safe." Xavier scoffed as he crossed his arms and stared out into the distance.

He knew Veronica liked Matthew, but he couldn't accept the fact that Matthew didn't do a good job protecting her.

"He can't be blamed for what happened at Mount Chillad."

Veronica wanted to stand up for Matthew, so she explained, "At the time, I—"

As she spoke, she spotted Nelson limping over with a few fruits in hand.

His silhouette matched perfectly with the one that popped up in her mind.

felt her head

little pale as her hair stood on end, and chills

It's that

to her. All this time, she couldn't recall where she'd seen

Dawnpol Village back at Mount Chillad two years ago? The one who had half his face covered in a mask and walked with

pretended to have a limp back then, but his limp was

was indeed permanently injured after she fired a bullet

my true identity two years ago and sent someone to assassinate me but had to give

The thought terrified Veronica.

moments, her forehead was covered in

"Roni? What's going on?"

was staring unblinkingly at Nelson, so

reverie and withdrew her gaze. "Oh.

thoughtfully at

Let's all eat

passed the fruits to Veronica and

she'd stared at him a little too long

### **Chapter 908 Figuring Out What Happened**

Two minutes later, six people appeared from different places and walked over to Zac.

"Matthew Kings got injured, Your Highness. Princess Eleanor took him away in a helicopter. Our plan fell through," one of them reported.

"How useless!"

Zac glared murderously at the man who spoke and walked over to kick him. "What's the point of keeping you around?!"

"Princess Eleanor kept following Matthew Kings the whole time, and her hidden guards were in the vicinity as well. We couldn't find a suitable opportunity to make our move."

"Are you saying that she's protecting Matthew?"

Zac found it suspicious.

If Eleanor was trying to protect Matthew, it meant that she knew who he was.

However, Zac couldn't figure out how Matthew would be of any value to Eleanor.

"Yes," the man replied.

Zac came up the mountain because he wanted to witness Matthew's death for himself before breaking the news to Veronica. He wanted to see her anguish and torment with his own two eyes.

he wasn't going to get the chance

was the point

"Kill Veronica Murphy!"

announced darkly,

"Yes, Your Highness!"

men nodded at

turned back. Someone would come and escort

who went down the mountain seemed to be relaxed and enjoying each other's

both Zac and Nelson, so after mulling things over, she decided to leave them and head

It was safer for her if he didn't

"Ugh..."

she clutched her abdomen and let

what happened and quickly asked in concern, "What's

You guys go ahead. I'll deal with nature's call," Veronica replied with a sheepish

so much

his head. "Come. Let's go down

Xavier was

go, Nelson." Liam waved Nelson

Nelson agreed as he limped along behind Liam and followed the

**Chapter 909 Heading Off Separately**

Thus, no matter what happened, Matthew would've done his best to protect Eleanor.

So... who was the injured one taken away on a helicopter?

Veronica's chest constricted as her eyes flew over to the direction where she'd seen the helicopter. She was terror-stricken.

It was most likely Eleanor who got injured and needed the helicopter. Matthew is definitely on the same team as Eleanor. He wouldn't stand idly by and watch her get hurt without helping, but since the helicopter came over, it means that her life is in danger. In that case, Matthew...

Veronica stumbled and nearly fell. At the same time, she detected unusual movement behind her.

She whipped around and pressed the dagger in her hand against the person's neck. "Don't—Xavier?"

Veronica was about to order the person not to move when she realized it was Xavier.

"Something's on your mind."

Xavier was grim-faced as he surveyed her with a complicated look in his eyes. "Do you not trust me?"

He knew Veronica had been lying when she said she had a stomach ache, so he followed her.

frozen in the same spot for quite some time as if

that, she stumbled and nearly fell,

go

sheath. "If I'm right, the helicopter earlier has taken Eleanor and Matthew away. Eleanor has known about Matthew's identity all along, and she

eyes

"Yeah, she does."

wounded, or maybe even both. You're

journey into the mountain was cut short after only

happening faster

his

he ran into Matthew here, but fate didn't open

find Antheena and

off right

watched her trekking back in the direction where

he didn't find her and protect her, she

it was Antheena's arrival that brought light into his world. His conscience wouldn't allow him to leave

"Take care, Roni!"

the options, Xavier decided to look for

### **Chapter 910 Asking About the Past**

When Liam turned around, Nelson was nowhere to be seen.

"What the heck?! Where's he?"

Liam was startled for a moment as he looked around.

"Hello? Nelson? Nelson?" He called out a few times but didn't get any response.

"Darn it! What happened? How'd we get separated so easily?" Liam stomped his foot in a huff and turned back. He planned on searching for Veronica and Xavier before meeting back up with Zac.

However, as he retraced his path, not only did he see no sign of Nelson, but he didn't see Veronica or Xavier either.

When he got back to the spot where the group had first split up, he found that even Zac had gone missing as well.

"What's going on? Where's everyone else?" Liam kicked a tree in anger. "I went through all that effort forming this group to enjoy the show, but you punks ditched me!"

Though it was true that he was just an aimless prince living an idle life, no one born into royalty and surrounded by the fight for power would be genuinely naive.

motives, so he came along

he'd ended up

"No fun!"

longer interested in heading into the

to become the head of the hidden clan, so there was no reason for him to try

had only parted ways for less than 10 minutes when she heard

but her hand was clutching her dagger, and she threw furtive glances

at her, she

groaned and stumbled backward while clutching his

at

him. "Hey, old friend. How much longer do

Nelson was also clutching a dagger with one hand

What matters is the fact that despite not having any kind of grudge between us, you tried to kill me twice at Dawnpol Village. Not only

still vividly recall the many things that happened at  
at the time and decided to let him off the hook, but she ended up setting herself up for