#### **Bumpkin 91**

## **Bumpkin's Rich Handsome Husband**

#### Chapter 91

Xavier was now waiting for her at the company's entrance. Seeing her coming over in a light gray sportswear, he immediately went up to her and said, "Roni, I'm sorry I couldn't help."

Feeling a bit guilty, he felt that what he did wasn't appropriate.

Although he really wanted to accompany Veronica to Almeida, he had something to

wasn't a bad idea to send her there alone so that he could get to know her all over again.

Xavier believed that after two weeks of mingling with her, Hendric would definitely accept her.

After all, he had previously ridiculed Veronica about her ugly looks, but now that her true identity was revealed and she had the same gorgeous face as Tiffany, it would definitely work to her favor. =

"It's fine. I'm now one of your staff members, so it's my duty to serve the company." Veronica raised her brow and smiled, looking relaxed.

Standing in front of her, Xavier gave her a huge embrace.

While holding her tightly in his arms, he whispered, "I'll wait for you to return. When you come back, I'll give you a big surprise."

"What is the surprise?" She pushed him away while her eyes brightened. "Are you going to give me my bonus?"

The moment she heard the word 'surprise, all she had in mind was money, which was why she looked so excited.

Looking at her expression, Xavier didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Yes, you're so smart."

If I'm going to propose to her, I must prepare a huge gift that she will definitely like.

"You should have told me earlier. I would have been gone by now. Haha..." Veronica said cheerfully.

"The mountain roads there are bumpy. Be careful." He reminded her while pointing all a minivan next to them, "Everything that we have prepared for the children in Almeida is all loaded in that van. They will drive the vehicle to the place. As for you, I've prepared a plane ticket for you to fly over there. After you have alighted from the plane, there will be someone to pick you up."

Since Almeida was located far away from Bloomstead, they could only take the plane to the nearest destination before traveling to Almeida by car.

"Alright. I understand." Veronica nodded.

"When you arrive at Almeida, there won't be any roads for the car to drive through, so you will have to walk up the mountain by foot. It'll be arduous, so you must take care of yourself."

forget to repeatedly

Trust me." She raised her brow again

and Veronica took a picture together with the other colleagues who were also assigned

van drove the other colleagues off while Xavier

gave Veronica a hug. "If anything happens, you must remember to

with an obvious hint

only leaving for two weeks. Why do you have to make such a big deal out

around to leave before waving

checked in the boarding area, she boarded the

was next to a window, she was able to see the beautiful scenery

few hours later, the

to pick her up. She entered the waiting car and it drove all the way to

need to walk for about 4 to 5 hours to reach Almeida. We should be able to arrive there before

up and

followed

name was Quincy Neelson, who was an extremely enthusiastic dark-'. skinned and

laughing as they made their way up

to pour from the sky. It came so quickly and

kind of weather is

her luggage while he had an umbrella of his own. While carrying their stuff, the two

on their umbrellas, it made a crackling sound. At the same time, a layer of mist had risen from the mountainside,

"Ahhh!"

slipped and almost fell to the ground. Luckily, someone had

Quincy. What a scare.

her feet, but then, Quincy responded, "It wasn't me.

pointed at the man behind

back. When she had a clear view of

her, her eyes lit up as

meet him

with sports shoes of the same color while holding a gray-striped umbrella. His face was bland while standing

couldn't help but give a slight smile

Chapter 92

"Matthew, wasn't it your man who carried my luggage? Where is it?" Veronica furrowed her brows and questioned Matthew.

The man closed his umbrella and carefully buckled its belt before coldly glancing all her as he opened his thin lips. "I'm not related to you at all, so why should I help you carry your luggage?"

This guy is so petty. Her expression darkened as she rolled her eyes at him. He must have gotten angry when I introduced him to Quincy, but I didn't expect him to be so petty.

"Fine, our friendship is now over." She grunted coldly and said to Quincy, "Please wait here for me. I need to take my luggage and will be back shortly."

After that, she turned around to retrieve her luggage. While walking past Matthew, she fiercely nudged his arm before dashing off.

As the road down the mountain was muddy, it was still too slippery and caused her to be extremely slow.

It was originally a ten-minute journey, but Veronica took more than twenty minutes to arrive there. When she had spent another twenty minutes to return, Matthew was the only one left as the others were gone.

She angrily placed her luggage on the ground before glaring at him to ask, "Where's Quincy?"

"He said that you are too slow, so he left first," he uttered coldly as he held his umbrella with one hand and rested the other hand in his pocket.

"Can't you be nice to me?!" An exasperated Veronica rolled her eyes at him. This b\*stard! Because of a few words that I said earlier, he left my luggage a few miles away and made me walk for almost an hour for nothing.

"I'm not related to you at all, so why should I be nice to you?" Matthew took out a cigarette from his pocket and lit it up before silently smoking it.

After that, Veronica walked past him to move forward while carrying her luggage.

The road up the mountain was just as treacherous and their journey along the muddy road was made even more difficult by the earlier rainstorm.

Therefore, it was extremely exhausting for her to carry the luggage up the mountain.

After climbing up the mountain and standing at the peak, she lifted her head and realized that Quincy and the other two men were already on top of another mountain in front of her and Matthew.

She could faintly see their figures.

Matthew, she angrily walked in front of him without saying

who was following closely behind her, saw that she looked a bit tired and asked, "Do you

related to you, so I don't want your

replied without saying anything else. Then, he continued to

descent. Even though Veronica was wearing a pair of non-slip shoes, the footwear couldn't withstand the steep and slippery mountain road, so she was close to falling a few times. In the end, she was able

was about to fall, Matthew would reach out and try to support her, but he would silently

the steep road down the mountain as she was afraid of slipping later on. She was standing on a rock with arms

moment, their

of them was calm and relaxed while the other was panting

luggage had been too heavy. It was already a miracle that she could

was raging, she decided to 'surrender' in

all, one should look after their interests at all times, so she chose to throw in

help me all the way here? Do you really think

just be nice to me? Serves you right for being single even when you are almost 30. I hope that you'll be lonely for the

brows. "Oh, is that so? Who was the one who told me earlier tha! I'm not related to her at

was just joking. You don't have to take it so seriously. Are you

Matthew nodded his head in a

la

is manne

"You..."

breath and closed her eyes to slowly calm herself down. I can't be angry!

hereby apologize for what

front of him and gave

bow, Matthew grabbed hold of her chin and probed, "Do you really think I would help you to carry your luggage after seeing you praying

the dead. This woman is explicitly and implicitly praying for me to have an early death. Does

no such thing. I'm just bowing three times to

willing to submit to him for the time being, Veronica revealed a flattering smile, but it wasn't sincere. That's right. I'm bowing three times to show my sincerity to God

do

answered, "I'm sorry, bro. It's my fault, alright? You're my real brother, and

### Chapter 93

Seeing that Veronica had finally 'surrendered', Matthew headed over to stand in front of the nearly vertical half—meter steep slope before reaching out to her.

After glaring at him, she held his hand and rose to his feet.

However, when she stepped on the slope with both feet, she immediately slipped. She let out a scream, but she found herself in Matthew's arms a second later as she now had a firm footing.

"Sigh... What kind of road is this? It's impossible to walk on it. Matthew, since you are so wealthy, you should do some charity and build a proper road here," she couldn't help but mutter while sympathizing with the people of Almeida.

"Alright," Matthew simply replied, but no one knew whether it was a perfunctory response. The next second, he swept his hand across her cheek to wipe some mud all over her face. "You have some mud on your face. Let me help you to wipe it off."

"Really? Then, help me wipe it off." Veronica believed his words.

Then, Matthew stretched out three fingers before sliding them across the left and right side of her face.

With that, he left whiskers that resembled Hello Kitty on her face with his muddy hand, making her look particularly adorable. "It's clean now."

He nodded his head seriously and looked at her with 'admiration. With a hint of joy in his eyes, he held her hand as they walked down the mountain.

Since the road was slippery and Veronica was afraid of slipping again, she tightly held his hand all the way forward.

It was originally a 4–to–5–hour journey, but because of the slippery road and the one hour delay from her, they only finished half of the journey that had now become treacherous due to the sudden rainstorm.

Seeing that the sky was becoming dark and Almeida was still far ahead, Matthew suggested, "Let's rest here and continue our journey tomorrow."

"Sigh, alright. After the rain, the road has become much harder to walk on and the slopes are also much steeper. If we fall down the mountain, the consequences will be devastating." Veronica agreed with Matthew's words.

The two of them then set up camp on the mountain, but there was only one tent that she bought at the alley.

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"How are you going to sleep without a tent?" she asked while looking at him.
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Then, he pointed at her tent, "This tent is for two people."

you know it's inappropriate for us

your brother and you're my sister. We are both family,

covered her chest with both. hands and scowled at him with vigilance. Why

day that we have slept under the same roof." The man

over 2000 square feet while this tent is only 20 or

believe

good as Tiffany's, anyway. I'm not..." At the same time, he swept his

on Veronica and went into the

lips, Veronica

mumbled, "Is he blind? How is my body

a slim body. However, Tiffany's chest was a

she also headed

tent, so Veronica proceeded to lay next to him. Somehow, she always felt a strange and

tent with mosquitoes outside, so she felt bad to kick him

zip, Veronica lay down before sitting up again to unzip

she unzipped it, there was a transparent mesh that allowed them to

that. The stars in the sky are so beautiful. I've rarely seen such a beautiful starry sky after

his eyes, Matthew saw the night sky outside through the waterproof mesh. Sure enough, the group of stars in the sky were dazzling and

down and placed both her hands on her belly while gazing at the

she enjoyed

and saw that there wasn't any signal. It felt

signals on the mountain,"

are no signals at all. I'm

use her phone, she kept it aside

to rumble, so she finally realized something. "Matthew, I don't think we ate

She was hungry.

bag he carried as he handed it to Veronica. "There are many wild animals on the mountain. We should try to avoid starting

he took out, she pouted her lips and mumbled, "Sigh,

sudden rain today, they wouldn't have needed to camp on the

PssssssssSSSSSssssch!

Chapter 94

In this world, there were some things that did not have a rewind button once initiated.

It did not matter whether it was the Larsons who had provoked them first or if it was her own overestimation of herself that led her to retaliate, for it was already too late

for her to back out.

Her only worry now was her foster parents.

Failing to understand Veronica's thoughts, Matthew only figured from his own point of view that Veronica's only use for the Larsons now was as a bone marrow donor for Randy.

"I won't let you die.".

The words came out of the man's mouth after a long period of silence.

Hearing his words, she was dazed for a short while before smiling. "You really treat Grandma well."

What a filial grandson he was, she thought. Just because she knew how to humor and keep Old Mrs. Kings company, he would ensure that she would stay alive.

Even though Old Mrs. Kings was already at a ripe age, it would still be a long time before she could celebrate her centennial birthday, but she could still accomplish a lot during this period.

Both of them continued to remain inside the tent.

Although they were in an area with slight shelter from the wind, the billowing wind could still be clearly heard as it slammed into the tent mercilessly, making it shake since they were on the mountain top.

Since there was nothing to act as a distraction to pass the time, Veronica felt extremely bored as she kept tossing and turning. However, she just could not fall asleep

The space inside the tent was not gigantic, so Matthew could detect her every movement.

"Can't sleep?"

The man's genule yet hoarse voice emerged from the dark.

"Yup."

Veronica had really struggled to fall asleep..

Ever since from eight o'clock to ten o'clock and ten o'clock to twelve o'clock, she had spent every agonizing second of it tossing and turning around.

"Did you also head to sleep at around four or five in the morning?"

as both of them were having trouble sleeping, Matthew then

close distance in this cramped

so when they shared the same sleeping bag because her hair would sometimes smack his face while emanating the

Then, I would wake up at seven or eight." Recounting the previous situation, she then made a simple deduction, "Maybe it was

herself had no idea why she was not having enough sleep

while facing the sky before turning to her side to sleep. However, her habit of pressing her legs against something made her curl her

of her mouth twitched before

#### reti

to be driven mad by

people to sleep

ahead and get some rest. I'm going outside

the zipper open before

instantly stretched her limbs and rolled in the tent to relax her muscles, which made her

turning, she was still not drowsy, so she went out of

lentin defiar.

cold, the windy weather outside

would not be around as the wind would

Veronica saw Matthew on top of

she walked over, she took a seat beside him and looked at the stars above. "Whenever that was a power outage when I was a little girl during summer, my mom would

as she spoke. "Hey, Matthew, did

"No."

his mouth, the

out on a lot

to climb trees, catch fishes and lobsters, and even stole my neighbor's watermelon once. In the end, Mom gave

interesting things about her childhood. He had quietly listened while enjoying her stories since he could feel her happy

past at lightning speed until she finally grew tired and dozed

allowed her to lean in his embrace as he

when the cold wind blew on her hair and

fingers, the man raised his head to look at the stars. The numerous stars paired with the big,

had only wanted for her to be a bit more comfortable,

to touch it, he discovered that the woman was actually drooling

though Matthew slightly frowned and had a solemn face, he couldn't

her, he

the interior of the tent was small, Veronica behaved like an octopus that tightly latched onto him and wouldn't

through a torture session as

until morning.

woke up

was already nowhere to

Chapter 95

"Oh, you have them? Okay, wait for me here then. I'll go and brush my teeth now, so do not eat before I'm done, you hear me?"

Entering the tent, Veronica found a tube of toothpaste, a toothbrush and a bottle of water.

She had all of these things too, but the water in her box was only for one day, which she had already finished drinking yesterday.

Who could have predicted that they would be trapped on top of the mountain due to the torrential rain?

After rapidly brushing her teeth, she returned to her seat beside Matthew. She had only discovered the fact that there were two spoons but only one pot when she was about to dig in. "How about you eat it first? You have mysophobia, so you might not want to eat after I'm done."

Veronica, who had some semblance of self–awareness, knew that Matthew had worked hard to cook the porridge at the mountain base before bringing it up.

If she ate the dish first, it would be unfair to him.

"Seems like you still have some conscience left in you."

Matthew's handsome face had a slight smile as the wind blew on his bangs, which only served to accentuate his charm and handsomeness.

Holding his spoon, he only ate a few mouthfuls before saying, "It doesn't taste that good, so you should have all of it."

Then, he handed the pot to Veronica.

Looking at the pot that was half filled with porridge, she frowned. "Is it really that bad?"

Scooping a mouthful, she gave it a taste and commented, "It tastes quite okay, actually. It tastes just like the one that I have been eating at home these few days. I think..." A dazed Veronica suddenly looked at Matthew. "Does this mean that all the porridge was cooked by you?"

Although she also knew how to cook, even she had to admit that the porridge she had

been eating these few days tasted delicious.

Even today's morning bowl of porridge was extremely flavorful.

Veronica knew that Matthew had brought some ingredients, but she did not expect that he actually could cook since all the breakfast at home was not prepared by him.

have an American Breakfast, but there

from head to toe with judgmental eyes. "Is it because you have impure thoughts about

wicked and ruthless

would help others out of sheer kindness since they always wanted something

her coldly, the man entered the tent without saying anything

silence made Veronica feel a bit

after she had finished the breakfast made from blood and sweat. Only did she the tent to pack the pot into a plastic bag before placing it

on his side, she closed in on him as she lay behind his back while tapping on his shoulders.

you."

can continue ahead. I'm going to sleep for

replied with

We're war buddies now. That means that we advance and

rejected his suggestion. "Hey, Matthew, I'm talking to you. Can you hear

so why are you

here for public welfare and not to

up."

you don't wake up at this

for a long while, Matthew did

that he was really

can pretend to sleep after

nose, Matthew simply used his mouth to

her right hand to block his mouth, wondering how long

away, there was still no response from him when suddenly, he turned around and bumped his shoulders into

ended up in a

at him, while

bit awkward yet ambiguous as they

nose and mouth covered by the woman's slightly cold hands, was in a mysteriously good mood as

him seem hypocritical as they behaved like princesses

had a genuine character, which made him enjoy the time that he spent

It is... relaxing

eyebrow. "What are you doing by serving

at the end made him sound just that

Chapter 96

"Hello, I'm Titus Peel, the Dawnpol Village's chief's son. My father is a bit busy at the inoment, so I'm here to greet you on his behalf."

When Matthew was still absent—mindedly looking at Veronica, a dark—skinned, lanky and radiant man walked toward them to introduce himself.

Titus, who looked to be just a bit over his twenties, spoke standard English as he go. off an honest and kind aura.

Reaching for a friendly handshake, Matthew also responded in kind. "I'm Matthew. Matthew Kings." 11

After Veronica had finished distributing the snacks, the children all skipped away happily as they were replaced by the villagers starting to gather around them.

"Hello, I'm Veronica Murphy."

She walked to Titus and shook his hand.

"Welcome to Dawnpol Village."

The honest Titus smiled while greeting her.

"I'm here as a representative of the Konig Company. There's more stuff for the kids that will soon arrive," she explained.

"Thank you, thank you. I sincerely thank you on behalf of my village. Come, I've prepared lunch at home. You two should come over and we'll have lunch together," he stated to the both of them.

As the onlooking villagers did not possess much fluency in the language, they all silently stood by the side. Although they did not converse with Veronica and Matthew, each villager still had a warm smile on their faces.

After that, Veronica and Matthew followed Titus to where his home was.

On the way there, Titus passionately introduced the ongoings of the village so that the two of them could better understand the situation of the village.

When she arrived at Titus' home, Veronica saw Quincy and Matthew's two... bodyguards?

Veronica wasn't fully sure about the two men's identity, yet judging from their fit and muscular bodies, she knew that they weren't ordinary people.

Tinus' home and the village were both located at the base of the mountain. Even though his family was the richest in Dawnpol Village, they only had five mud brick houses with all of their roofs lined with green tiles. Behind their house was a huge bamboo forest while a pond was situated at the front of the entrance.

they would feel like they had traveled to an unknown piece of paradise as the stunning scenery and gentle weather

not for the fact that a few great mountains had blocked the way from here to the outside world, it was possible for the place to be developed into a

all sat and started to chat. It wasn't before long

His attire consisted of a thin sleeveless white vest, baggy black pants and a pair of flip—flops made from grass while a dark blue towel was wrapped around his head

my house. I'm sorry for the delay as I had something

English wasn't extremely fluent since it was mixed with the local dialect, one could still guess what he

chief, they all sat down and

chief had prepared a goose

my home as you are a girl. I have a spacious room with a door, so I hope it'll be much more convenient for you. As for the

chief. We'll follow with

Veronica felt extremely grateful.

luggage with her, she entered her

that it was dimly lit. However, she had to admit that the room

by the door as soon as she turned

even going to fight

smirked. "Let's go and

saying that, she dragged Matthew out

Titus, they all went over to Mrs. Ritz's home, which had three rooms

I've already tidied

main hall was often the living room while the house itself was

# LIE

in

up a bed in the cow shed. We'll be

caused them to become

but due to the villagers' sheer insistence, they had no choice

siesta, another group of people came

that Veronica discovered that it was the Crawfords who had arrived-namely Xavier's father and sister,

has ever visited Dawnpol Village before. So, why are there so many people here all

coldly before

saying that, he turned and was preparing to

Chapter 97

Since the chief had already said so, Veronica could only accept the fact calmly.

After all, this was not the city where they had plenty of choices to choose from.

She took out her towel and body wash from her luggage and proceeded to head out to the pond by the entrance with a flashlight. Sitting on the stone used for washing clothes, Veronica dipped her foot in the cool water before swinging her legs, making the water splash about.

Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit.

The sound of the frogs croaking paired with the grasshoppers chirping made for a relaxing scene.

Suddenly, small balls of green light appeared in the dark, to which Veronica looked at dazily.

When she was young, fireflies were a common sight. However, now that she was an adult, she rarely saw them again, so she didn't expect such a large number of them here.

Splash.

Veronica jumped into the pond and took a satisfying bath since there was nobody around in the dead of night. –

The pond at the entrance was deep with cobblestones underneath while its water all came from the mountain.

After swimming for a while, she took a bath as she sat on the washing stone with soaked clothes before washing her hair. Basking in the night wind, she felt a tad bit cold yet she wasn't drowsy at all and didn't want to sleep either.

Crack.

The sound caused Veronica to turn her head behind as she saw a man lighting a cigarette. From the dim light illuminated by the lighter, she recognized at once that the man was Matthew.

"When did you arrive?"

Was he actually peeping on her when she was taking a bath?

Although she was wearing activewear that consisted of a pair of shorts and a T-shirt, she didn't accidentally reveal anything. Rather, it was because he already knew that she was there and still chose to linger around.

a shameless

from his cigarette; the sight of his cigarette becoming dark before lighting up again made it seem like there was a glowing

notified Veronica that he was annoyed about her scolding him

she didn't care enough to coax him; she

### room,

door, she changed into another set of

and closed in to ask, "So, you're my brother's girlfriend. I heard from Dad that you intentionally made yourself look ugly. What was that all about? Was it because you looked like

who had exposed Veronica's identity, repeatedly claimed multiple times in front of the media that they were going to bring her back to

it wasn't strange that the Crawfords knew about

like a gossipy middle–aged woman, Melissa continued to ask enigmatically, "Why did the Larson Family abandon you back then? Was there something wrong

but what I do know is that something's wrong with your

You're

she was resting face down on the bed, Melissa swung her legs and propped her face up with her hands to look at Veronica. "No wonder my brother likes you so much. I fancy your personality

the upper echelon would often spread

you asking something that you know the answer

the mood to

"So, it's real?"

Melissa tugged on her elbows and probed, "That's great

Veronica replied, "You're not

her mobile out and continued, "I'll add you on Whatsapp then

took a bag by the corner of the bedside and handed a wad of cash to Veronica after digging through it. "Here, this is for you. So, can you now tell me the things that I want to know about

new notes and wrapped

printed on the note, a baffled Veronica

in deeply in the midst of her explanation. "If I had known that this god—forsaken place would not even have a supermarket, I would not have brought it along. It nearly killed me, carrying

were heard by Veronica, whose eyes sparkled upon

looked extra pleasant in Veronica's eyes. "Everything's up for negotiation, actually. This includes me telling you all about him. Heck, I could even arrange a date

she reached out to rub her thumb and index finger

was

you really set up a date for

eyes glimmered brightly upon hearing

Chapter 98

As she had only fancied Melissa's ability to give money, she instantly surrendered to Melissa.

"Haha, Veronica, you really are too kind."

Melissa tilted her head and made a heart shape with her fingers at Veronica's direction.

Such a gesture had caused Veronica to feel queasy as it only gave her goosebumps.

After wearing her shoes, she then took a flashlight with her before heading to the house next door. She immediately went to Matthew's bedroom after opening the front door. Knocking on the door, she asked, "Matthew?"

Because the villagers had mingled with each other well, they didn't close the front door on account of the swarm of outsiders who arrived for the sake of convenience. As such, Veronica merely allowed herself in.

No reply came from the other end.

After waiting for a while, Veronica was going to call for Matthew again when the bedroom door opened.

Matthew stood in front of her in the dark and asked coldly, "What?"

His cold tone had a hint of distance to it.

It was like he still held a grudge about what happened earlier that day.

Veronica thought that he must have been a super petty person in his past life, which explained why he easily became angry.

"About that... Um... I've something urgent to talk to you about. Could you come with me?"

Lowering her voice, she had said it in such a tone that only both of them could hear

1. it.

After a short period of silence, the man agreed and followed her outside.

After walking to the courtyard outside, Matthew stopped and turned around to look

at Veronica. "So, what is it?"

Although it was at the dead of night, the moon cast its bright light to the ground and illuminated everything in a thin veil, barely allowing them to make out each other's silhouette.

Suddenly, Veronica held onto her stomach. "Ahhh, my tummy. Ouch, it hurts..."

onto Matthew's arms while

distant look earlier, immediately asked in worry after seeing her in discomfort, "What's wrong? Did you get food

"N-NO..."

even squeezed out the words

What is it?" a caring Matthew

Veronica whined, "I just...".

"You just what?"

so wait right here

Veronica hastily ran

that moment, her words were still swimming in Matthew's mind as he thought that the woman was too brash to say those kinds of

habit of hers. Otherwise, how can she be accepted into the Kings Family? Be accepted into

had an image of her wearing a bridal gown on their wedding

are you

pinched his eyebrows, Matthew then rubbed his temples, feeling as if he had been

into the Kings Residence as his

the moonlight

was not until the tip of a cigarette had been fully

from a few meters away since he could not make out who it was. "So,

thought that she must have been in a great deal of pain, which was why he had asked with

didn't reply and merely stopped when she

carried with it a strange scent along with

asked, "Who

"I-It's me, Melissa."

had intentionally sprayed perfume before coming over, hoping that Matthew would be charmed into looking directly

guy standing in front of her at that moment. She

you doing here?

hadn't been for Veronica, Matthew would have

to wait a bit longer as her tummy is still

to say those exact words to Matthew, so that he would stay there for a little

through this method that Melissa could

with such a plan just to

anything strange about all this. Otherwise, their deal this time would only end

you

out another cigarette, Matthew lit it before taking yet another

coincidentally smelled the

hint of tobacco, she found it

Chapter 99

Melissa was excited beyond belief by what she had heard and had no words to describe her feelings.

"Oh, wow. Matthew, look at the shooting star. Quickly wish for something. I've heard that wishes made under a shooting star often come true."

When she saw the shooting star across the picturesque night sky, she jumped with glee as she placed her hands together. As she tilted her head upward, she started to wish with closed eyes. Shooting star, please make it so that I'll be Matthew's wife in the future!

Standing by her side, Matthew suddenly thought that Melissa resembled Veronica's brash yet innocent and naive personality. The woman wasn't as annoying as he thought he would be.

"Why hasn't she come out yet?"

After standing there for a while, Matthew began to question Veronica's whereabouts as he looked around.

boot

"What? Oh, about that... Please wait here, I'll go and call her."

Being able to spend a bit of time with Matthew had already left Melissa feeling like she was lucky. Besides being elated, she was extremely nervous to the point where she did not know what else to say.

So, she turned around and fled the scene.

As she jogged to her room, she opened the door to the sight of Veronica counting the money with a serious expression.

"Oh my God, Veronica, you're the best."

When Melissa hugged Veronica, she had pushed the person onto the bed and happily gave her a peck. "Veronica, you're so smart. I'm elated right now. Here..."

She happily took out another wad of cash and pushed it into Veronica's hands. "This is for you. Just treat it as the bonus for our first successful cooperation."

"Yikes, this is kind of disgusting. There's saliva... Hahaha, really?"

After pushing Melissa aside, the disgusted Veronica wiped the saliva on her cheek with her sleeves as she saw the wad of cash being thrusted into her hands.

Stopping for a moment, she then grinned from ear to ear. "Melissa, you're a good friend. Just like your brother, you both are so likable."

No wonder they were siblings since they were both so likable.

This was especially so when it came to Melissa's willingness to simply give out money, which made Veronica extremely ecstatic.

naturally like you too. Now that you

blissful situation as

should quickly head out. Matthew's waiting for you. He'll know something's up if we wait

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"Oh, right."
Veronica immediately
where the money is. So, if it's gone by the time I'm
were said by another person, Melissa would have been
good mood, she simply replied, "Don't worry, I'll look after it for you. If it
this is why I like
then
pitch black in the courtyard, Veronica still managed
person, it would have been a bit scary considering the
"Why
was waiting for
voice made Matthew turn his
she also needed to do the same; otherwise, she would be burning her own
that you have
his hands in the pocket of his pants, Matthew stared at her through
rubbed her head as she thought of the best
bright and round moon, so she continued, "I just wanted to look at the moon. Yeah, let's look at
the
was growing up in the village, the thing that she did the
at the bright moon.
right, aren't
raised her
said to him, "Why don't you bring some chairs over? Aren't you tired of looking at the moon
ground of the village was all full of mud,
"Sure."
man went back to bring
at his back, Veronica felt a bit perplexed as she thought, What is happening? He's acting a bit weird
today. Why is he
boredom while listening to the croaking frogs. After
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with two additional chairs

by side, they looked at the moon while enjoying the

would be a long

was why the village chief had planted plants that

them just sat there in the

Chapter 100

Matthew didn't answer Veronica. He only felt that what she had said just now was full of holes, not least because the Larsons were directly related to her previous kidnapping. He wasn't interested in this matter back then, nor did he want to get to the bottom of it, but now... he really wanted to know what had happened.

After a while, Veronica got bored with sitting around, so she returned to the village chief's home and lay down in bed to sleep.

Melissa was already asleep. She was probably in a good mood; even in her sleep, she seemed very happy with a smile on her face.

Veronica didn't know how long it took before she finally fell asleep. The next day, however, she was woken up by Melissa. "What did you do with Matthew last night? I waited for you at home for such a long time, but you never came back." Sitting cross legged in bed with her chin in her hands, she stared inquisitively at Veronica, eager to get the answer from her.

"We went to watch the moon," Veronica muttered with her eyes closed.

"What? You watched the moon with Matthew?" Melissa cried out involuntarily as bitter jealousy surged up within her.

Veronica's sleep was scared away at once by her shrill cries. Sitting up in bed, she glared angrily at Melissa, chiding, "Aren't you wasting your breath by saying that? You wanted me to help you ask him out, which I did. If I didn't make up an excuse to convince him that I really had something to talk to him about, how am I supposed to ask him out again in the future?"

"Oh, you're right. Uh, in that case... Why does he indulge your every whim? My brother and the others said he's indifferent, cruel, and merciless, but I can't help feeling that he's treating you very differently." Melissa spoke her mind right away without reservation.

"Why do you think he's nice to me? Because his grandmother likes me and because I'll be his sister in the future, that's why." Veronica prodded Melissa's forehead hard with her finger. Then, correcting the latter, she said, "Also, you're really blind. Which eye of yours sees him indulging my every whim?"

"Ouch! It hurts..." Melissa massaged her forehead, which ached from being prodded. She muttered, "The way I see it, he's very nice to you."

something's wrong with your eyes!" Having gone to bed late last night, Veronica was vexed when she saw it was only about five in the morning. After throwing back her quilt, she got out of bed and walked

chief and his family were preparing

up. After straightening herself up, she noticed that

into sight was the cloud–shrouded sky. The pond's surface was covered with mist, whereas the flowers and plants on the roadside were wet with beads of glittering dew. In the gentle breeze, dewdrops rolled

scenery very much, Veronica strolled around the village in slippers to experience a different early

all the way southward from the village chief's home, she arrived at the rice field at the southern end of the village, where an ancient millstone still existed. Just when she felt curious about it, a limping man dressed

man's eccentric way of dressing, Veronica looked sidelong at the stooping masked man, who was also looking at her. His copper mask covered his forehead down to his

"Good morning, mister... Aaah!"

at the masked man, Melissa suddenly turned up and greeted the masked man cordially, only to be taken aback the instant he withdrew his gaze and turned to look at her. The man's frosty eyes seemed imperturbable, but they gave an eerie feeling, as though he was

tugged at her, not daring to speak for a long time. It wasn't until the stooping man hobbled out of their sight with the aid of his stick that she beat her chest with a

at her, Veronica asked, "Why are you following

frank by nature, Melissa replied right away, "Hehe, I just thought

you say you'd ask him out once

find it in herself to loathe such an honest and frank lady when she saw how innocent

strolled around the village before returning to the village

Since Dawnpol Village was the outermost village from the mountain, everything had to be moved to the village first before

took three full days to finish moving all of them. As a result, Veronica was exhausted. Seeing how hardworking and capable she was, Melissa heaped praise on

this again and again, he was really pissed off. Angrily, he glared at Melissa, saying, "Why have I never seen you being so nice to me? I'm your father!" Consumed with jealousy, he detested Veronica even more. He couldn't help thinking that this woman wasn't as simple as she seemed. Not only was Xavier very nice to her,

my bestie now. Since she's nice to me, I have to be nice to her