

## **Bumpkin 971**

### **Chapter 971 75 Million for Your Life**

"I was indeed at fault for injuring Shirley, but you don't have the right to question me." Crayson snorted coldly. Straightening his back, he stood upright and exuded the arrogance of an elder with his entire body, even the look he gave Skyler filled with pure conceit.

"You harmed Shir! How dare you be so cocky about it!" Skyler pointed at Crayson furiously. Then, he randomly picked up a vase from nearby and threw the vase in Crayson's direction.

At that moment, he barely retained any sense of rationality left in his mind. He only wanted to teach the old man a harsh lesson.

"I'll provide compensation for harming her. She was only disfigured, wasn't she? Medical cosmetic technology is so advanced nowadays. It will only take half a year to restore her appearance. I offered 7.5 million as compensation—an amount she will never earn even if she worked for her entire life!"

His arrogant tone and haughty attitude rendered Skyler madder than before. However, Veronica could not bear watching any longer, especially since Crayson was her master, and the person he harmed was her best friend and Skyler's girlfriend!

"Fine!" She put down her teacup and spoke in a crisp voice, "Fine. Since you want to value everything in terms of money, we should carefully calculate everything. You ruined Shirley's appearance for 7.5 million. Fortunately, I have 75 million here. That's more than enough to buy your life. Isn't that right, Master?"

She deliberately emphasized the word 'Master', enunciating the word slowly and raising her tone slightly so that her statement came out sarcastic. Although she looked calm and indifferent on the surface, she was utterly heartbroken inside. She felt as though she was parting ways with something very dear to her, and the invisible pain continuously sawed at her heart. The agony was so overwhelming that her heart clenched tightly.

Picking up a bank card with her fingers, she sent the card flying toward Crayson. As a martial art practitioner, the bank card flew toward him like a well-shot arrow. Moreover, there was great force accumulated in the card. If anybody were hit by it, their life would immediately be in danger.

Crayson swiftly retreated when he saw the card flying toward him. Thus, it flew past him and struck the pillar behind him with a bang, embedding several inches deep into the wood.

It was conceivable that she had not held back her strength at all.

He stared at the bank card embedded in the wooden pillar. Perhaps, she had exerted too much force into the strike, so the card vibrated at a high frequency for several seconds. There was a soft humming sound before it finally stopped trembling.

Silence fell across the entire room.

Knowing that Veronica was furious, Skyler wisely kept silent.

## Chapter 972 Abduction

That day, Skyler brought multiple comrades to the research center in the west zone. Many had died in the operation, with a total death count of twenty-two. Matthew and Skyler had been tight-lipped about the matter, and it was not until Veronica asked about the situation when Eleanor came over that she learned how many people had passed that day.

Among these people, some had been close friends of Matthew's and were talented individuals cultivated by him for many years. In the end, they sacrificed their lives because of one word from Crayson.

Veronica pushed the dagger into his chest, inch by inch, penetrating his thin shirt and piercing through the surface of his skin. Blood trickled from the wound, staining his clothing in maroon. He stood as motionlessly as a statue, unable to find the words to refute her deadly question.

"You've been involved in my life since I was a child. That's why I kept quiet when you attempted to take Matt's life the first time, but you shouldn't have continued targeting him without the slightest hint of repentance!"

While she was speaking, her eyes gradually reddened with tears. Every word she uttered was meant to agonize him, but she was also suffering from heartbreak. The torment in her heart was no inferior to the pain she felt as she stabbed the dagger into his heart.

"My children were my last straw, but you sacrificed me in the name of the greater good. You even used my children to threaten me. Did you think I'd accept being a puppet at your mercy?" She took a deep breath and forced herself to remain calm. "I'm asking you one last time. Where are my children?"

"Gosh. You're f\*cking pathetic." After listening to Veronica, Skyler was so furious that his face flushed with anger. He was tempted to kick Crayson in the head just to see what was inside that old head.

However, with every inch of the blade digging into Crayson's chest, Skyler dared not make another sound as the situation was about to explode. After all, both were masters in martial arts. If a fight broke out between them, it would resemble an eruption in the universe. Hence, it would be safest to stay away from interfering.

Crayson gritted his teeth and glanced at the dagger in his chest. Then, he looked up at Veronica with a benevolent smile. "Roni, I watched you growing up. I know you don't have the heart to kill me."

"Is that so?" she sneered. Although she exerted more strength into the dagger, she could not bring

herself to finish the job. He is right. I couldn't make myself to do it. I don't have the heart to do it!

However, the most important reason was that she needed to discover her children's whereabouts. They would be in greater danger if she killed him.

At that moment, Veronica and Skyler suddenly felt their vision turning dark. Then, they collapsed to the ground without warning.

Face as cold as the mountain, Crayson glanced at the two unconscious bodies and reached out to pull the dagger out of his chest. Since Veronica's reluctance to finish the job translated into her 'knife work', his wound was neither deep nor fatal.

Whoosh.

Suddenly, a strange sound came from outside the window, quickly followed by the pitter-patter of footsteps. Then, several people leaped into the room through the window.

### **Chapter 973 Warrior**

Eleanor and Matthew were barely on the same wavelength.

"Just go with the flow. No matter what happens, I, Eleanor Ledger, will do everything in my power to protect you and Veronica." She raised her hand with unwavering confidence like a determined and faithful warrior.

"Thank you, Your Highness." His lips curved into a relieved smile as he gave her a toast with tea.

"Fake." She hushed him with a glare. "You need to act to show your gratitude. That will be more meaningful."

"You have everything you need and want as the leader of the hidden clan. I can't figure out what to give you."

"There is. Don't play dumb."

My heart is too small to fit more than one person. I'm happy with Roni." He took another sip of

"Fine, fine. As the leader of the hidden clan, I shall never force someone, shan't I? It'll be a disgrace to my title. Besides, I like Veronica. I hope we can get along and be sisters. How can I snatch my sister's man?

The woman before him had flawless skin, deep and round eyes, rosy lips, and defined features—her beauty was out of the world, especially the

be as gentle as the water—solemn and collected, yet as

something. Is there any doctor in your clan who can remove scars?" Matthew

worried so much that he lost a few pounds. After all, the accident partly happened because he asked Skyler to come to the hidden clan. Thus, Matthew deemed part of the

mean

"Yes." He nodded.

The wounds on her face are severe

that wants plastic surgery. Most importantly, only women have the right to be the clan leader, so women have higher status than men. That's why it's uncommon to see one of us undergo plastic surgery due to inferiority. As time

#### **Chapter 974 Miss Murphy's Missing**

"Before Nelson left, he asked Roni to save Lionel." Matthew smiled helplessly. "I bet this isn't a hard request for you. Is it, Your Highness?"

Eleanor scoffed and rolled her eyes. "We've just got a deal, and you're trying to get ahead of yourself. I expect nothing less from a businessman. You're a sly fox."

"Thank you so much, Your Highness." He showed his deepest gratitude.

As soon as he finished his words, the phone in his pocket rang. He fished it out and glanced at the dialer's name, Dean Gesner. "Please give me a moment." He turned sideways to answer the call. "Dean."

"Boss, Miss Murphy is missing." Dean's voice was trembling.

Meanwhile, Eleanor, reclining in the rattan chair, straightened her back upon his anxious reaction. Frowning,

"I'll be there soon." He terminated the call and faced

with you!" She

her. "We've just got a deal. If we get too close, people will get suspicious. It won't

a thought, figuring that he had a point. "Just tell me

"Okay."

are you waiting for?

chair. Anxiety was getting the best of her.

at the entrance, Matthew saw Dean scurrying from the inside and questioned with

#### **Chapter 975 Lost Consciousness**

"If everything's fine, it's not fine!" Matthew headed upstairs by the elevator. When he entered the living room, a faint fragrance wafted their nose. It was scarce to notice, but he managed to pick up on it. The wispy smell was that of a woman's perfume which one could hardly detect.

His brows knitted slightly as he stood right there to scan the area. Then, he walked toward the table, stared at the teacup, and touched the teapot. It got cold.

Other than those, another teacup was broken into pieces atop the table. There was no sign of physical struggle in the room, so he strode to the window to check every corner of it but in vain.

"Found anything?" asked Lazlo concernedly.

"Nothing." Matthew shook his head and left the living room to meet Shirley.

to look at Matthew. "President

searching for her, so don't worry. Did

but he took too long, so I went upstairs. By

Since there was no valuable information, he decided not to waste time there. He entered the room

him but

called Eleanor, who questioned agitatedly, "What

ask if you have any secret skills that can make

### **Chapter 976 Whip**

Matthew pushed the door and went to the living room in broad strides, yelling, "Waylen Elrod!" That was Crayson's real name.

The living room was empty, but someone appeared when he called. Mateo gazed down from the corridor upstairs. "Matthew? What are you doing here?"

Ever since Matthew and Veronica were injured, they never returned to Mountainside Gardens. That was why Mateo was surprised, especially seeing Matthew in such an aggressive state. He guessed that something had happened to drive Matthew into interrogation mode.

"Where's Waylen?" Matthew raised his head.

come back since yesterday. Why?" Mateo's brows

dumb, Matthew merely left. Only then did Lazlo catch up with Matthew at the lawn, all

descended the hill without sparing Lazlo

Through a phone call, he

Matthew was on the phone.

surveillance footage. No matter how many times they checked on it, nothing was wrong with it. At long last, he realized that

line. Half an hour later,

### **Chapter 977 The Incensed Matthew**

"Hmm... Argh!" Mateo groaned in pain, but it turned into a muffled sound because of the tape. Blood oozed from the wound and soaked the white garment on him.

An anxious Hayley jumped from the couch. "Are you outta your mind, Matthew Kings? I don't know where Veronica is. Mateo is innocent. Let him go!"

Matthew deemed that as nonsense, motioning Dean to fling another whip on Mateo.

"Mmm..." Mateo could not scream, yet it was enough to tell how much pain he was in from the protruded veins, widened eyes, and reddened face. "Hmm... Mmm..." He wriggled and groaned in agony. However, no one could make out what he was cursing because it was drowned by the tape.

his family's debt. Don't blame me for this."

Mateo's whereabouts!" Hayley shouted in their

he was not bothered in the slightest. He placed the phone atop the table, focusing the camera on Mateo. A while later, the bound man had over ten red stripes on his body. His

tape,"

do as Matthew told him to. Fighting through the drowsiness, Mateo kneeled on the ground as the rope fettered him so tightly that his skin was scraped. Blood covered his lips, and he hung his head low.

"Matthew

two hours, tell Waylen to be prepared for his grandson's funeral." Then, he terminated the call and stood up. Looking at the pitiful man, he waved his hand. "Take him

boss." Dean subsequently ordered a few men to

### **Chapter 978 Xavier's Help**

Matthew left the backroom and One Piece Restaurant. Before he entered the car, someone was calling his name. "Matthew?"

He turned around to see Xavier approaching him, after which he asked coldly, "What's the matter?"

With a grim expression, Xavier flung a punch at Matthew. "Why can't you take good care of Roni?"

Matthew held Xavier's fist before it could reach him. "You're not the only person worrying about Roni. I am too, but I'm not a prophet. Things can go out of control sometimes. Not everything can be prevented." He swung Xavier's hand away. "And right now, I don't wanna put up with this pointless fight with you."

He pulled the car door and hopped on, whereas Xavier took the passenger seat. Matthew looked sideways at the unbidden guest, slightly surprised.

"Don't get the wrong idea. I haven't forgiven you yet. I'm just worried about Roni. I don't wish to see her getting hurt," claimed Xavier, who gazed at the road and buckled the seatbelts.

dashed to One Piece Restaurant to get to the bottom of it as soon as he found out about Veronica's disappearance. Who knew that he would bump into Matthew there? Since Veronica's safety was paramount, he contemplated

they started their journey. Matthew piped up, "Thanks." It was difficult to hear those

scoffed and cut to the chase. "What

that influenced Veronica's decision to leave the hidden clan. That's why he wanted to eliminate me. Now that his plan had failed, he decided to kidnap her. I guess he wanna seal her

"Where are we supposed to find

will give us

"Who?"

"Dominik," claimed Matthew confidently.

certainty. "How are you so sure he'll know where

### **Chapter 979 Driving A Wedge**

Speaking of impartiality, Xavier felt that it was not fair. He began his pursuit for Veronica first, yet she ended up with Matthew.

"My honor," exclaimed Matthew.

Xavier did not say anything because he knew everything in detail about what happened when Matthew was in danger and how much Matthew sacrificed for Veronica. He hated Matthew most of the time, but that did not stop him from admiring him; both contradictory emotions were torturing him. In addition to those nightmares about Melissa that plagued him every night, exhaustion caught him up.

Matthew was driving the car while dialing Dominik's number. Dominik's phone rang a few times before he picked it up. "Who is it?"

ask how you

stunned by the sudden question. "I... don't

would not

wasn't going after the leader's title when she first came to the hidden clan. Waylen forced her to. The original plan was to leave in a few days, but he kidnapped her. Now, he will seal her memories to control her so that she

lie with the truth, not even Xavier could discern the validity in his

use of telling me this?"

be her match, not even when you join forces because she's that smart. So, I'm hoping you can tell me where you saved Tiffany so I can find Roni. Once we save her, we'll leave

### **Chapter 980 Walking Into a Trap**

Dominik fell silent.

There was no way for him to verify the authenticity of Matthew's statement, but he had to admit that Zac was a very paranoid man.

Zac had been spending long evenings discussing his plans with Dominik. His speeches painted a grand blueprint for a perfect future that swayed Dominik, who eventually chose to work with Zac.

Matthew did not wait for Dominik to reply. After a moment of silence, he said, "If this is the case, I'll talk to Princess Eleanor."

His implicit message was that if Dominik refused to work with him, he would work with Eleanor instead.

The moment those two worked together, Dominik would stand a very slim chance of becoming the head of the clan.

"D-Don't," Dominik quickly rebutted. "Eleanor was heavily punished by Mom after she saved you last time. I do not want to see her hurt again."

On the surface, it sounded so much like he was protecting Eleanor.

For a moment, even Dominik believed in his own lie.

"Does that mean you are willing to aid me, Prince Dominik?" The tension in Matthew's body faded slightly as a glimmer of hope presented itself.

"I can help you, but you have to promise me one thing."

"What is it?"

must leave the clan." Dominik

moment something happened to Veronica, he asked for help from

only because he knew where Veronica

was another

love was not reciprocated. That meant Veronica's kidnapping and the potential memory

meant Matthew only asked Dominik for help because she refused

was no harm at all in

then, it would be easy enough for him to get rid of Eleanor

mention that to you, Your Highness," Matthew said. "After we rescue Roni, I was hoping you could

surely be incredibly disappointed by Waylen after what happened. There was no way she would

Unless...

will send my man to work with you. He will bring you to where Veronica is most

"Thank you."

hung up

heaved a sigh of relief. Then, he asked Xavier,



care of

was a harsh tone in