

# Bumpkin's Rich Handsome Husband

## #Chapter 1286

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Chapter 1286 White Jade

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Upon entering the church, they offered a donation and approached the altar, bowing and offering candles.

Skyler then turned to the priest beside him and pleadingly looked at Lozlo. "Won't you help me ask him how I can get a talisman?"

He wanted to ensure Shirley's safety by acquiring a talisman.

Shirley was quite timid, but with the protection of a talisman, she could gain courage and feel secure.

Lozlo took the opportunity to converse with the priest before he informed Skyler, "Simply offer more donation money, kneel before God, and pray for safety. In doing so, you will receive a talisman." He added, "The talismans in this church are all blessed and highly effective."

"Sounds simple enough."

Skyler released Shirley's hand and approached the altar. After he placed a generous amount of money, he lit a candle and knelt before the votive candle stands, bowing and offering the candle. The priest approached with a bowl of holy water, dipped his fingers in the water, sprinkled a few drops on Shirley's body, and handed her a red embroidered talisman.

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Shirley accepted the talisman and bowed to the priest.

Lazlo conveyed Shirley's gratitude.

"Allow me to put it on for you."

Skyler examined the silver lock-shaped talisman, a small ornament with delicate and beautiful patterns, devoid of any tackiness.

He stood behind Shirley and placed it around her neck.

Shirley felt touched by Skyler's gestures.

"Alright. Now that you have the talisman on, all those demons and ghosts will stay away from you. You don't have to be afraid anymore."

Skyler raised an eyebrow and smiled.

Whether the talisman had any actual effect or not, it at least provided a sense of security.

Shirley touched the talisman on her neck and smiled without uttering a word.

"Hahaha!" Lazlo suddenly burst into laughter and reminded them, "This talisman is packaged in a sachet-style bag. Open the bag. There's a piece of jade inside." "Really?"

Skyler was somewhat skeptical.

Standing in front of Shirley, he opened the sachet and found a sachet-style bag inside.

Upon opening it, he discovered a square piece of white jade with runes carved on its surface.

The thumb-sized white jade was engraved with golden runes. The runes were not large, but they resembled decorative patterns which exuded elegance and beauty.

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The two exchanged glances and smiled.

"Are we dumb or what?" Shirley covered her mouth and chuckled.

"It doesn't matter. We are new here and still have much to learn. There's no need to feel embarrassed."

Skyler suddenly realized that the hidden clan possessed abundant mineral resources, including gold mines, diamond mines, and jade mines. That explained why the price of jade here was relatively low, making it affordable for everyone.

No wonder Anthony and the others had always coveted the hidden clan.

He gazed at the translucent white jade on Shirley's neck. In his home country, it could easily fetch at least 15 thousand dollars. However, it was surprisingly inexpensive here.

Indeed, there was no harm in making comparisons.

Afterward, the three of them leisurely explored the church. It was already 9 p.m. then, and reluctantly, they returned to One Piece Restaurant.

Once inside their room, Shirley closed the door. As soon as she turned around, Skyler embraced her and leaned down to kiss her lips.

"Mmm... Skyler, what are you doing?" Shirley asked.

"You little troublemaker, can't you stay away from Lazlo from now on?"

## **Chapter 1287**

Chapter 1287 Been There, Done That

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"Lazlo and I are just friends. He has been very kind to me lately at One Piece Restaurant," Shirley explained. "Am I still hearing you explaining yourself?!"

Skyler pressed her against the door, silencing her so he wouldn't have to listen to her explanations anymore.

Lost in their passionate kiss, they were just starting to feel heated and restless when suddenly...

Knock, knock, knock.

Someone was knocking on the living room door.

Both of them, with their eyes closed, opened them at the same time and looked at each other.

Shirley's face turned red with embarrassment and she pushed Skyler away, wiping her red lips with her hand. "W-Who is it?"

"It's me."

Veronica's voice rang out from outside.

Immediately, Shirley's cheeks turned as red as a tomato.

Giving Skyler a reproachful look, she straightened her clothes and opened the door. "Roni, President Kings. Why...did you change back to your old appearance?"

"Mmm,"

Matthew responded without explaining.

It was Veronica who looked at Shirley's flushed cheeks and her swollen lips from being kissed. "Mott, I told you not to come in now. Look, you've interrupted them." He punished her by biting her lip, causing Shirley to gasp in pain.

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It was Veronica who looked at Shirley's flushed cheeks and her swollen lips from being kissed. "Matt, I told you not to come in now. Look, you've interrupted them." Veronica immediately blamed Matthew.

Facing her teasing, Shirley immediately covered her cheeks with her hand. "Oh, Roni, please don't make fun of me."

Skyler had already walked over to the table and sat down, saying, "Roni, Shirley will hide in a burrow if you say anything more."

"Hahaha, alright, I'll stop."

Veronica hugged Shirley's neck and encouraged her, "It's okay. Been there, done that."

While the two were talking, Matthew had already walked over to sit next to Skyler.

At this point, Veronica lowered her voice and handed something to Shirley. "Here, this medicine might come in handy for you."

"What is it?" Shirley asked quietly.

"It's contraception, of course," Veronica whispered. "One dose lasts for half a month. It doesn't harm the body. You don't have to use it if you don't want to."

"Wow, Roni, you're amazing."

Shirley hugged Veronica tightly, feeling deeply moved.

"What are you two talking about?" Skyler took a sip of water and looked over.

Shirley stuffed the things into her pocket and pouted. "It's a secret; I'm not telling you." She then held Veronica's hand and urged, "Come on, Roni. Let's go to my room. I want to chat with you." "Okay."

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Veronica knew that Matthew and Skyler had something to discuss, so she went to the next room with Shirley.

Now that there were only two people left in the living room, Matthew's expression was serious as he mentioned, "Zac already knows my identity. He will definitely come after me and Roni on the day of the hunting ceremony. So, you need to join us that day."

As Skyler was a doctor, it would be safest with him around.

"No problem. But can I come in?" Skyler was a bit worried.

"I will make the arrangements."

After Matthew finished speaking, he furrowed his brow and pondered for a while before asking, "Do you remember the underground chamber in Kings Residence last year?"

"Yeah? What's wrong?"

"At that time, an invisible and tasteless substance entered Roni's body. She had a splitting headache, but then there was no reaction. I still haven't figured out what it was. It's been bothering me."

He had thought that he could investigate this matter after coming to the hidden clan, but so far, he had gained nothing.

He continued, "However, I suspect it might be the venomous insects of the hidden clan. However, very few people in the hidden clan have seen these insects, so it's hard to be sure."

## Chapter 1288

### Chapter 1288 Preparation

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Skyler realized the gravity of the situation and couldn't help but worry. "Does Roni know about this?"

Despite Matthew's insistence on calling her "sister-in-law," Skyler was accustomed to referring to Veronica by his nickname for her and found it difficult to change his habit.

Matthew no longer insisted on that anymore.

He shook his head, his gaze becoming more intense. "I can't bring myself to inform her."

"Then let's continue our investigation and inform her once everything is clear," Skyler suggested.

Matthew agreed with the suggestion.

The two sat together and discussed the plan for the hunting ceremony before Matthew and Veronica eventually left together.

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The hunting ceremony.

Although the hunting ceremony took place twice a year, this time it coincided with the grand ceremony that only occurred once every ten years. Additionally, a month later would be the significant day when the new head of the hidden clan would ascend the throne. Therefore, this year's hunting ceremony was particularly grand.

Following Croyson's instructions, Matthew disguised himself once again, almost completely concealing his true identity with the art of disguise.

Croyson had prepared special costumes for the hidden clan to wear during the hunting ceremony and asked Matthew and Veronica to change into them.

After they finished getting ready and came downstairs, they sat at the dining table to have their meal.

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After they finished getting ready and came downstairs, they sat at the dining table to have their meal.

The atmosphere at the dining table was solemn, with everyone eating quietly.

It wasn't until after the meal that Crayson looked at the two of them and uttered, "Come with me. I have something to tell you."

Hearing that, the two followed Crayson to a small study next to Crayson's bedroom on the first floor.

In the study, Crayson took out a miniature translating device. "Veronica, you have only been learning the hidden tongue for a month since you came to the hidden clan. You can use this translating device." Veronica looked at the miniature translating device and glanced at Matthew, nodding. "Okay."

"And this."

Crayson placed a watch on the table and pointed at it. "It appears to be an ordinary watch, but it actually has a hidden mechanism. When you encounter danger, press the side button with both hands. It will shoot out poison needles then. There are only six poison needles which are for your self-defense."

The rare sight of Crayson being so serious made Veronica emotional.

"Okay," she replied.

She picked up the gold watch with a dial designed like a blue starry sky. It looked extremely ordinary as a watch, but she didn't expect it to be a concealed weapon.

"Matthew, this watch is for you. It has the same design as the other one. Both of you should wear it, but use it only in case of emergency."

Crayson instructed solemnly, "Put it on now."

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Crayson instructed solemnly, "Put it on now."

He stared at the two of them with sharp eyes until he saw them pick up the watches and put them on their wrists. A cunning glint flashed in his eyes then.

"These two boxes of medicine, too."

Crayson placed the round, flat medicine boxes about the size of a thumbnail on the table. "These are secret medicines made with the hidden clan's secret formula. When you are seriously injured, take one pill. It can save you. Each box only contains five pills."

He leaned forward and placed the two boxes of medicine in front of them, repeatedly reminding them, "These will save your life. You must not lose them."

"Thank you, Master Crayson."

Matthew gratefully put away the medicine.

Regardless of the purpose of this trip, Crayson's willingness to prepare these things for them was a heartfelt gesture.

Veronica held the medicine box in her hand, feeling uneasy.

Facing the unknown dangers in the next few days, she didn't know how much chance of success she had.

"And this."

Crayson opened a drawer and took out a topographic map. "This is a map of Mount Manos and Mount Gazette. Take pictures of it with your phones and familiarize yourselves with the route. Once you enter the mountains, there will be no signal on your phones due to the geographical reasons of the mountains. There are also many dangerous wild beasts and poisonous snakes in the mountains. I'm not exaggerating when I say that it's a matter of life and death."

## **Chapter 1289**

### Chapter 1289 Arrival

Despite being aware of the dangers involved in the ceremony, Crayson had no choice but to send Veronica to participate.

After all, she would be competing for the position of the head of the clan. If she couldn't stand out in this ceremony, it would be difficult for her to gain the support of others in the future.

He sat on the chair with a serious expression and sighed. "You must win this event!"

With a determined look, he insisted in a commanding tone.

Veronica furrowed her brow slightly at those words. "What if I can't win?"

Bang!

Crayson angrily slammed the table, his face suddenly darkening. "Even if you can't win, you must win!"

The sudden table slam startled Veronica.

She wore an unhappy expression without saying another word.

Crayson continued to give some more instructions before they set off.

Destiny and Mateo also got into the car.

Mateo drove, while Destiny sat in the passenger seat. The other three sat in the back seat and drove to the venue of the ceremony. It was a quiet journey.

Mateo, who was sulking because of Matthew, didn't speak to them.

Destiny and Crayson also remained silent.

Presumably, the hunting ceremony would entail many dangers. The two of them were too worried to be in the mood for conversation. Veronica sat next to Matthew, holding hands out in the open. They occasionally glanced at each other but didn't say much.

Three hours later, they arrived at the venue of the hunting ceremony.

The parking lot at the venue was filled with hundreds of off-road vehicles. The colorful sight was comparable to an auto show. Of course, many people arrived on horseback.

Not far away, there was a large horse stable where each horse was marked with its owner's number to distinguish whose horse it was.

A few people got out of the car, and as soon as they walked out of the parking lot, they saw Hayley, Randy, and Lamia. Veronica had seen Randy and Lamia when she visited Hayley's house that day, but they hadn't met again after that. Veronica almost forgot about Lamia.

"Hmph!"

As soon as Randy saw Veronica, he rolled his eyes at her and turned around to leave.

Lamia immediately called out, "Don't go, Randy. The terrain here is complicated. It's dangerous."

Hayley immediately instructed her, "Lamia, you should follow Randy today. Make sure he doesn't get lost." "Got it, Aunt Hayley."

Lamia nodded and waved goodbye to Veronica and her group before she hurried to catch up with Randy. "Veronica, this outfit suits you well."

Hayley looked at Veronica in a hidden clan dress. With a silver cap and silver tassels hanging around it, and a carved silver collar on her neck, she looked like a woman from the hidden clan.

It not only blended in perfectly but also seemed as though it was tailor-made for her, making it impossible to take one's eyes off her beauty.

"Yes."

Veronica responded with a casual hum and didn't bother to say more.

"I'll go up the mountain first,"

Mateo threw out and left immediately.

Since the ceremony would last for several days, their luggage was brought with them in the car. Someone would deliver it to the camp on the mountain.

People were constantly coming and going up and down the mountain.

Matthew resumed his identity as Iron Pillar and naturally kept a certain distance from Veronica.

Veronica and Matthew walked in front, Destiny walked in the middle, and Crayson and Hayley walked behind.

The bodyguards protecting Hayley were the last ones.

Noticing that Veronica and Matthew had walked far away, Hayley asked Crayson, "How are things?"

Their voices were kept so quiet they were only audible to the two of them.

## **Chapter 1290**

Chapter 1290 Commencement

"Don't worry. Everything has been arranged."

Crayson stood with his hands behind his back, observing Matthew as he walked away. "He will never leave here alive."

Matthew was their biggest obstacle in making Veronica remain in the hidden clan.

By eliminating this stumbling block, they could easily settle Veronica down here.

"Matthew is intelligent and cautious. It won't be easy to execute the plan," Hayley expressed her concerns.

"I understand."

Crayson was well aware of Matthew's power. To eliminate him, Crayson had made several preparations to ensure that Matthew would stay here forever.

Hayley knew that Crayson was composed and not one to boast, so she unquestioningly believed him.

Upon reaching the mountain, they each went to their respective tents.

The ceremony would officially commence at 11 a.m.

Veronica and Matthew were in their own tents. After sitting for a while, Matthew signaled her with a glance, and they both exited.

Surrounded by members of the hidden clan, they strolled through the mountains.

Matthew walked beside Veronica with his brows slightly furrowed. "Are you afraid?"

"Yes! Of course, I'm afraid."

Veronica listened to the cuckoo's call and felt the gentle breeze. She sighed. "It's a matter of life and death. How can I not be afraid?"

She had too many concerns.

She worried about her career in Bloomstead, her parents back home, her two children, and most importantly, she couldn't bear to leave Matthew who loved her deeply.

"I will protect you with all my strength,"

Matthew reassured Veronica.

They didn't dare to speak in the tent, fearing that there might be listening devices. They were always on guard against Crayson and the others.

"Protect me? How are you going to protect me when you can't even protect yourself?"

Veronica tilted her head and glanced at Matthew, teasingly smiling.

Zac wouldn't let Matthew off the hook after the latter had offended him.

While they were conversing, Matthew paused for a moment and raised his eyebrows slightly, gesturing for Veronica to look toward a nearby place. "Over there are Mount Manos and Mount Gazette. It would be good if we could escape. If we can't, that might be where we meet our end."

Mount Manos and Mount Gazette were where they were going to hunt.

But looking at them now, the two mountains were very far away, and they appeared incredibly massive.

Veronica's delicate face was filled with worry. "This is just the first test for us. If we can't pass this, it will only become more difficult."

"No," Matthew disagreed, "this is the most perilous place. If we can leave safely, we will have succeeded 99 percent."

All the dangers were present here.

Of course, there were still many unknowns.

"Master Crayson mentioned that there are many ferocious beasts and venomous snakes on the mountain." Veronica let out a small sigh and asked, "Do you remember what I told you?"

She was referring to the time she reminded him that he must leave without hesitation if there ever came a day when only one of them could survive. That was because their two children were waiting for them in Bloomstead.

Veronica had only hinted at it, but Matthew understood. "How do you know that they are in Bloomstead? Only if you are safe with me or if we can escape will you know whether our children are in Bloomstead or the hidden clan."

Matthew, like a mind reader, knew exactly what Veronica was thinking.

Their hearts were connected!

"You're right."

Veronica appeared calm, but her heart was in turmoil.

The two fell into silence.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

At that moment, the sound of drums echoed from not far away.

The hunting ceremony was about to commence.

The two turned around and made their way back to the camp. Outside the tents, Crayson and Hayley were waiting for them.