

## Bumpkin 221

### Chapter 221 The Creature's Dead

Matthew originally thought that by stretching his hand out, he would experience the same thing as Veronica—unknown creatures crawling under his skin. However, he reached out and nothing happened at all.

The crystal clear water became tinged in red due to his blood and the water continued to splash all over the place as if there was a torrential rain going on.

He placed his hand by the side of the bowl and waited for quite some time; still, nothing happened. After some hesitation, he placed his hand into the bowl directly.

Water's cold.

It turned out that the cold water was the only thing that stood out, leaving it to be the same as any other plain water.

He waited for quite some time and not only did he fail to experience the pain that he was expecting, the water in both the bowls and jar also stopped splashing around. The noise gradually died down and so did the ripple on the surface before it gradually returned to a calm state.

At that point, Matthew's expression turned somber as he frowned deeply because the situation had made him perplexed. What the heck is going on?

Veronica had merely touched the edge of the bowl with her hand, after which some creatures immediately latched onto her skin and burrowed themselves into her body.

So, Roni touched it and she got hurt, but when I do it, nothing happens? Or did I just accidentally kill off all these creatures with my blood? Blood that destroyed their ecosystem of living.

Everything was merely a guess and before it could be confirmed, no one would know the exact reason.

He removed the necktie from his neck and wrapped it around the place where his thenar muscles were heavily bitten by Veronica.

He turned around and went back to her side but she remained unconscious on the ground.

"Roni? Roni?"

Matthew gently patted Veronica on her cheeks but she gave no response at all.

that this would continue, he took a seat on the ground and gently placed her

seconds went by before the unconscious woman showed signs of regaining consciousness. Her eyes twitched and her eyelashes fluttered as she slowly came to

and opened her eyes to look at him

trapped in a chamber and

dazed due to the intense pain in her

a moment before she

head while lamenting, "Goodness. I'm so lucky to be alive.

on. I think it would take more than this to kill you," he teased

that the wound on her head—from the excessive banging—was now bleeding, he

doesn't hurt. I

hand and sat upright. Her head was hung low as she tried to get back into

stood up from the ground, but perhaps it was because of the earlier ordeal that she stumbled slightly.

Matthew reacted fast enough and quickly went forward to assist her.

"I'm fine, I'm alright."

she headed toward the side

the table, Matthew dragged

hands off. "I wanna

into her body, it first started off as a tingle; then, the tingle turned into hell. It was so excruciating that

Bang!

but suddenly there was a loud noise

find that Matthew was thrown far back into the distance. His body landed against the bookshelves with a thud and each row

didn't even exert any force. Y-You better

as she lowered her head to look at her hands. She

stood up amongst the pile of books while covered in dust, looking

searchingly. He could somewhat sense that something was different with her,

really have nothing to do with me? Earlier on, she had only gestured by moving her hands, but he could clearly sense that her force

Chapter 222 Matthew's Infected Wound

As soon as Matthew mentioned that, the previously unaware Veronica instantly realized that he had a necktie wrapped around his hand while his wound was bandaged half-heartedly.

"What happened to your hand?"

She was full of doubt as she headed to stand in front of him and pulled his hand toward her to take a closer look. "Did I bite on your hand earlier?"

"I'm alright."

He withdrew his hand to prevent her from further worrying and he did not want her to feel guilty or blame herself either. However, he seemed to have been presumptuous.

“You deserve it!” she snorted coldly. “This is just a minor bite wound. In the past, I was forced to the point of mis...”

The incident of her miscarriage popped into her mind and she could not help feeling annoyed all of a sudden.

Veronica experienced a bad hemorrhage during that miscarriage and nearly lost her life. If it was not for her luck, she would quite likely have died ages ago at this point. Nonetheless, this was all in the past, so she no longer wanted to bring up unnecessary matters.

She looked at the two bowls of water tinged with blood and suggested, “Let’s make a mark here and once we leave this place, get someone to analyze it to figure out what’s exactly inside.”

“I was just about to do that.” Matthew’s voice sounded exceptionally tender.

Perhaps it was because there were some feelings of guilt and self-blame that arose within him after hearing Veronica’s unfinished sentence.

“Let’s go.” She turned around and walked out of the study room while Matthew trailed closely behind her.

They made their way around the massive chamber. In fact, it was better described as a maze than a chamber.

There were many rooms inside; there was a huge clubhouse, a study room, a bedroom and a room for producing pharmaceuticals. Furthermore, after exploring the place further, they found an armory too.

However, the weapons stored inside the armory were mostly from the ancient days. They seemed meaningful but due to their age, it was pretty much worthless even if they were auctioned.

They continued to explore the place for quite some time until Veronica finally ended up exhausted. She waved before she could proceed further. “I can’t keep going. I’m knackered! I need a rest.”

used up a lot of her energy, she was quite exhausted and stumbled weakly before sitting on

“I’ll find you a room to take a rest instead.” Matthew

tired. I don’t

her hands at him. Right now, all she wanted was to take a long

on, get up. I’ll give you a piggyback ride.” He had his back facing her when he turned

asked with anticipation, “Are you really going

“Yeah.”

then signaled to her to hop

his back. "Since you're keen on giving me a piggyback, then I'll be nice and give you the chance to do so. I have to remind you, though. You're the one who offered, so

or half-hearted, Veronica would never let go of the chance

the outside world with their cell phones at the moment, their watches

been walking around in the chamber for twelve hours straight. They were in a dehydrated state and could no longer find

rose to his feet. Not only did he not find her heavy, he actually felt that she could gain more

him like a koala with one hand around

searched the place carefully several times and finally found some candles that came with a candle

really don't know when we'll be able to leave this place. If we get out of here, I swear that I'll live a decent life from now on and maintain doing good

That's the perfect description of you, so

agree with that." Her spirits

fall asleep on Matthews' back as they

lamp on her hand, causing the lamp shade to bump against his body and he could somehow still make do

bobbed up and

could use to gently lay Veronica down.

condition there was, they were still faced with a dire situation right now, so they had to make do with what they had. He quickly placed

by her bedside before lighting another lamp to search

up lost without his presence, so he clicked into the note function on his phone and wrote, 'I've gone to look for a water source. Don't leave this place

phone settings to remove the password option. Subsequently, he opened the page to his note function, so

remained in deep sleep for

to wake Veronica up but despite his efforts, she remained deep asleep. He was worried that something would go wrong with her health, so he felt her forehead from time

Chapter 223 Let's Make a Bet to Not Be Together

"Matthew, wake up! Matthew? Hey!"

Veronica reached out and tapped his cheeks, but even with her gentle movement, he remained unconscious.

“Matthew, get up right now! Gosh, forget it!”

She failed to wake him up despite several attempts; her hand was raised high in the air as she intended to give him a tight slap, but she later realized that she did not have it in her to do so.

Just as she was in a dilemma on what to do, she noticed that there was a container on the table filled with water.

Matthew must have known that this water was safe to drink; otherwise, he would not have placed it on that spot.

At this point, she did not bother much and all she could instinctively think of was to quench her thirst with it.

She lifted the container of water before checking its condition. It was crystal clear and odorless, so she instantly tipped the entire container of water into her mouth and finished it.

“Phew!”

Wow, I feel like a fish on the shore being thrown back into the sea. I finally feel more alive!

Veronica finished the water and she felt energized instantly. Just as she was about to put down the container, she suddenly realized an important question.

Water? Where does this water come from? Could the way out be connected to the water source, then?

With this epiphany, Veronica’s spirits were immediately lifted as the glimmer of hope for survival shone upon them. She placed down the container and rushed outside.

It took only a few steps before she stopped and recalled the still unconscious Matthew. Worried that he might wake up and panic without her presence, she suddenly thought of her phone after some deliberation.

took out her phone and opened the message function to draft a message. ‘Stay right

password option and

completely turned their phones off, so their battery levels remained quite full. His phone

nearby. At last, she managed to find

the way as she explored the area and she lit up all of the lamps that were located downstream. Finally, she stood at the end of the stream and found

exit!! However, she was unaware of the exact

and removed her clothes to submerge underwater. She intended to see if there was

dressed in a gown, so it was hard for her to submerge underwater. As such, she had no choice but

she was about to enter the water with her phone’s

maze and for a moment there, she was

turned around to find that Matthew was standing not too far away while making his slightly embarrassed, she did not bother much seeing that there was a much bigger problem to deal with. “Why

revealed a slight smile on his sickly face. “I saw the message you left for me and I

I saw the bowl of water that you left in the room and I suspected that there must be a hidden stream nearby, so I ended up discovering it here. Look, the water is flowing so that means there should be an exit here. I want to go underwater to check it out,” she told him about her

excitement resembled a child who had just

by the edge of the hidden stream to look at the moving stream as he spoke, “Last night, I discovered this place while you were fast asleep and I can confirm that there is an exit here. However, we’re about two didn’t leave before because I was waiting to

said this, he paused for a moment. “There is a cliff at the end of this stream and a hole that measures twenty meters in height on top of it. It would take some time to climb out. Besides, there is

“Two hundred meters?”

two minutes to swim two hundred meters. As for a non-athlete but with great swimming skills, it would

hidden stream from the water source, so that meant that they would be unable to catch their breaths once they submerged themselves; they would have to hold their breaths until they were

would be difficult for him to make his way to the end of

wounded hand won’t be enough to help you climb out,” a worried

Are you underestimating me?” He lifted his brows and revealed

being able to shave for two days. Surprisingly, he

Chapter 224 Veronica’s Drowning Episode

“Okay, a bet it is.” As he was worried for her, Matthew had no choice but to agree to the bet. As long as Veronica endured the swim and made her way out, then he would gladly agree to anything she proposed.

“I trust that you’ll keep your words. I’ll definitely make my way out alive for the sake of our bet!” She patted herself on the chest smugly while being full of confidence.

“Yeah, I trust that you’ll succeed.” He nodded slightly and reminded, “Have a go first, I’ll follow closely behind you. Remember the phone.”

“Sure.” She nodded in agreement and soon after, she stood in place and did some warm-ups.

When Veronica was a child, her master had taught her plenty of knowledge that she comprehended everything perfectly.

It was especially so after she had watched the movie 'A Letter to Dad' that starred Johnny Depp, which sparked her interest in learning how to hold her breath underwater. Ever since then, she had been learning it from her master.

However, the longest she could hold her breath underwater was five minutes. The two hundred meters swim should be manageable for her as long as she persisted slightly longer.

Veronica, in fact, was betting on her life. After all, she knew that Matthew had sustained a serious injury; with the lack of equipment and strength to overcome the slippery cave and climbing condition, that itself was enough of a reason for Veronica to step in. It would be worrisome to ask Matthew, who was wearing leather shoes in a cave with a high fever and injured hand to even do anything. No matter how much she thought about it, she could never come around the idea for him to swim alone. Can a person running a high fever even swim two hundred meters, let alone getting out alive?

"Matthew, if the two of us succeed in getting out, then we're life-and-death buddies from now on. It would be virtually impossible for me to date a player like you, but we can become great buddies; that would be quite nice." She was stretching her thighs while doing warm-up moves for her entire body.

Although it was not nice to be called a player over and over again, Matthew had somehow gotten used to it.

He nodded slightly and glanced at the woman by his side. There was a faint smile in his ocean-deep eyes. "Whatever you say."

After two minutes of warming up, the two of them stood by the edge of the stream. Veronica stood by the edge of the stream and took a deep breath with the phone in her hand.

"I'm off." She leaped into the water instantly after the simple 'farewell'.

As soon as he saw her leave, he waited for thirty seconds before entering the water.

of the water in the hidden stream was

the water, but she clenched her teeth and continued to

five minutes distance felt like an eternity to her. She recomposed herself and swam forward at a consistent speed while trying

time, Matthew caught up with her and guarded her steadfastly

silently calculated the time in her mind as she counted down

but she was still feeling

was mentally in great condition and reckoned that she could persevere for another two minutes.

Though it would be hard on her, she was

just when she was lost in her positive thoughts as she found success within

she experienced in the maze. You know, the

pain as she continued hard

your parents who adopted and cared

for herself in her

every move she made from the flashlight of her phone. Although she was swimming along, she had slowed down significantly. He sensed that something was off, so he quickly swam to her

“Umph... Umph...”

inhaled. Next thing she knew, a rush of water was gushing into her nostrils and mouth. Gulp... Gulp...

as he immediately wrapped his arms around her. Without much hesitation, he planted his lips on hers and transferred a breath

very moment, everything around them—the moving waters and the passing time—seemed to have come to

as he kept his lips tightly pressed against hers. He held his gaze intently

that could easily diminish any human

this to drag out more than a second, so he pulled

her skull was tormenting her to the point that her entire

entered her mouth, her

but he clenched his teeth and continued to their destination. They were getting closer to the exit

most of his energy, but the fact that Veronica was on the brink of death persistently popped into his mind. He swam on

Chapter 225 Succeeded in Rescuing Veronica

Finally, Veronica took a long-needed breath and opened her eyes after three minutes of resuscitation, which felt like eternity.

“Roni, you’ve finally woken up!”

“Ah!”

Before Matthew could finish his sentence, Veronica instantly clutched her head with both hands and rolled on the ground in utter pain. “It hurts... My head... My head hurts... Help me...”

Earlier on, Matthew had noticed Veronica’s odd behavior in the water, but he assumed it was because she had run out of stamina.

Watching her torment before him made him realize that her condition was triggered and her head was hurting badly once again.

A generally resilient woman like Veronica was now clutching her hand and screaming in pain. What she was experiencing now was way above her tolerance threshold and her tears could not help rolling down her face.

It was the first time that Matthew had felt such helplessness upon seeing the woman he loved suffering out of torture. She... looks like she is suffocating...

He had always regarded himself as invincible up until this moment; he looked at her in torment as she struggled on the ground and he was at a complete loss of what to do for her.

With her hands still clutching over her head, Veronica began hitting her head onto the ground.

As soon as Matthew saw that, he quickly reached out and placed his hand in between the ground and her forehead to create a cushion-barrier.

The ground surface here was not flat at all and the rocks had jagged edges all around, so she would immediately bleed and be injured if she continued hitting directly on the surface.

The spot where he placed his hand was covered with jagged rocks that protruded out beneath.

Meanwhile, Veronica was in so much torment and she repeatedly banged her head on the ground. In fact, she hit her head against Matthew's hand and after several attempts, his hand was pierced by the jagged rocks and blood trickled down his hand.

"It hurts... Help me... Matthew, sobs... Matthew, I'm in pain... Sobs..." She hugged her head and squatted on the ground as she hit her head against the ground repeatedly. In the end, she sobbed helplessly.

state. He had never felt this much despair in his life

constructive idea had popped

"We're about to get out of here," he comforted her while freeing his other hand to grab his phone. He opened it and lifted it high as he tried

slightest bit of phone

bear to witness this for another second,

had been previously sobbing hard suddenly felt darkness descend upon her as she fell into an unconscious

realized that she had actually been successfully resuscitated during his continuous CPR attempts. After regaining her heartbeat, she

the

just now, would she have tagged along without me knowing? And if she had done so, wouldn't she have died if her condition was triggered in the middle of her swim? With this in his mind, he was left with nothing but shock and

He placed his phone in his pocket and headed over to scan the area as he tried

the opposite

edges of the wall were a perfect climbing spot and he stepped on the protruding rocks while grabbing hold of the crevices on

did Matthew have his right hand torn by Veronica, his left hand had also just been smashed by her on time he exerted pressure, blood would trickle down his wrist to his elbow and his white suit shirt would be stained with

get a phone signal to call for help and send Veronica

moment, his spirit to succeed

then slip due to the leather shoes he had on. At times, he nearly fell but he managed to

realized he was surrounded by a

his side, he noticed that the Kings Residence was located very far away from

as he thought, How big is

quickly took out his phone to find that the phone signal

run quite low, it could still

Buzz. Buzz. Buzz.

restored to his phone, his phone vibrated continuously from all the text messages and notifications

went straight into

“Doo—”

end to answer the call as soon as he dialed it. “Boss? Boss, is that you? Where are you

the cliff of a mountain opposite the Northern face of Goldie Mountain. I’ll hang a white shirt on the side of the cliff and once you’ve confirmed the location, come with some men and bring some climbing equipment to perform a rescue mission inside the cave. I also need an anti-leak container to store about

Chapter 226 No Abnormalities

“Inside? Where are you going?”

Thomas was momentarily stunned before it suddenly dawned on him. “Is there a cave inside?”

Matthew stood up and instructed the men, “You guys can send Roni to the hospital and Thomas will stay here with me.”

“Copy.” The men responded affirmatively and yelled out to the other men on top of the cliff.

Subsequently, a rope ladder was flung down and one of the men tied a rope around Veronica to carry her on his back. He clung to the rope ladder and allowed the men on top to pull him out.

The others left the cave too while Matthew took the opportunity to share with Thomas about the secret chamber below. However, it was two hundred meters away from their current location.

They submerged into the water once again and brought the container with them.

Finally, they returned to the bedroom where Veronica had been attacked by the unknown creatures. Just as they planned to take the mysterious water from the jar, they strangely discovered that the objects in the jar had disappeared and there was not a single droplet of water left either!

Matthew stood in front of the bedroom and stared coldly at the two bowls and jar in front of him. He was positive that someone else had entered the place.

However, the maze was much bigger than they thought, so it would be virtually impossible to search for a person here. As such, he placed the two bowls into the seal-proof container and left the place.

When Matthew made his way out once again, he was totally worn out as his stamina had reached its peak. If this was under normal circumstances, he could have completed the swim within four minutes and fifty seconds, but due to a myriad of factors—injuries, high fever and hunger—it took him five minutes and thirty seconds to complete the swim out instead; he even choked along the way.

Thomas remained by Matthew's side the entire time and was shocked beyond words. Never in his wildest imagination would he have expected that there was such a huge secret chamber underneath. At that point, he finally caught on to the reason why Matthew and Veronica had disappeared without a trace.

"Send some men to guard this place. Let's keep this chamber a top secret for now," Matthew instructed. He was adamant about keeping this place unknown until he found out exactly what was going on inside.

Who's the other person in the secret chamber? He had no idea about that, but he was definitely going to figure out the truth.

...

was sent over to a private hospital in an unconscious state and the doctors quickly ran several tests on her. Meanwhile,

on his right hand was badly bitten, so he had to get four stitches for each side of the bite marks. Subsequently, he had an infusion administered to bring

woman sound asleep next to him while waiting for her medical result; it

Matthew held in his hand Veronica's medical report regarding the various

saw the analysis report, he was enraged. "Is this the outcome of your tests? There's nothing wrong with her

upon noticing Matthew's enraged expression. "Young Master Matthew, we've done the most extensive body check for her. Besides, you have to trust our capabilities. We've indeed examined her and run all the tests carefully, but we can't identify anything wrong

that night, he felt that it was indeed strange and full of

something in the jar of water, but it was invisible to the eyes. Furthermore, he had seen a bulge on

This was an indication that someone deliberately prevented him from uncovering the truth. He was confidently sure that there was something in there that

room!" He waved his hand and slammed the document onto the table as  
room for quite some time before finally grabbing his phone to call his buddy, Skyler. "Drew, come over  
to the  
you at the private hospital? Sure, we'll be there  
that had happened in the underground maze. Subsequently, he turned to Skyler and requested, "You're  
great at holistic therapy, so please, examine Roni to  
the actual situation? I'm creeped out by your words." A  
quite creepy. We do need  
"In regards to that maze, are  
archaeologically, therefore, it should logically be reported  
responsible, Matthew could not help but smile resignedly. Nonetheless, Matthew was not angry. "I  
would definitely report this to  
that Matthew was a righteous man, so he was not too surprised by Matthew's  
Skyler moved a foldable chair and sat next to Veronica. Then, he placed his hand on her wrist and shut  
his eyes to feel  
this field. If  
he glanced at Matthew and shook his head. "Other than  
frowned and sat up with an anxious look  
Chapter 227 Bet? What Bet?

Thomas was considered to have met countless people before, but he was used to encountering women  
from well-off families ever since he worked for Matthew; these women tend to be aware of their  
reputation in front of Thomas.

Veronica, on the other hand, was exceptionally different from most people and she was rather  
unabashed before him.

She remained in bed as she tilted her head to look at Thomas. "Why would you think that I can't finish  
all of them? Even if I can't, I can just keep them for my dinner." As a thrifty person, she did not condone  
wasteful behavior, so she definitely meant her words.

However, at the moment, she was craving something that contained meat.

"Just get it. Caleb, Drew and Miggy are here too, so they will join us for lunch." Matthew purposely  
brought up his buddies as an excuse to stop Thomas from questioning any further.

After Matthew had said that, he signaled with his eyes to the men by the side and the trio instantly took  
the hint and went along with his words.

Caleb replied, "Yeah, I just so happen to be craving some pork sausages."

Miguel added, "Miss Murphy and I have similar palettes."

As for Skyler, he went all out. "What, you think we can't finish some little croissants and sausages? You're definitely underestimating us! Thomas, hurry up and get the food before I grow another strand of white hair. I'm starving and you better have the food here before I look another day older!"

Meanwhile, the rest of them were rendered speechless by Skyler's words.

A resigned Thomas could only nod his head. "Understood, I'll get the food right away."

This is my life, this is my quest. One word from these Masters and I've got to run around to complete their orders. Gosh, I 'love' my life!

He turned around to leave the room and shut the door as he walked out.

Veronica remained in bed for quite some time before looking at Matthew once again as he got up and walked to her side. "How are you feeling? Does your head still hurt?"

looked at him as well as the trio by the side. There were some things that she kept

can address him as Miggy. They're my close friends, so you can say whatever's on your mind." He

at ease as she asked, "Did you get the doctors to run

was the thing she was most concerned

object that had burrowed into her body,

any medical conditions at such a young age just to die at a

but he wore a calm front. "You're quite fortunate. After the doctors ran some tests on you, they managed to locate the creature; they made a

he lifted her left wrist and pointed at the medium-sized wound on her wrist. He described everything with a flair. In order to ensure that Veronica would believe his words, he

then?" She was quite persistent in

invisible insect and special equipment was needed to identify the creature. In order to avoid further

been disposed of? You should've saved it for me!" Veronica stared at Matthew intently and the more

took out his phone and showed her his well-prepared evidence. "I couldn't snap a good picture, so I told the person who saw that creature to draw

the screen in front of Veronica. She stared intently before she realized that the insect in the drawing

she could not bear

as she recalled that Michelin-looking insect making its way around

The doctor mentioned that the creature is harmless and poisonous, so there won't be any after effects," Matthew recited as he lied

going to happen again, he

said that, he glanced at the trio with his  
received his hint and instantly went along with his

a serious face. "Veronica, that thing was horribly disgusting! You should have seen it! I even nearly  
threw up my digested meal from last night. As soon as I heard that the creature was able to burrow  
itself into someone's body, I almost

and solemn look but he added, "The doctor said that you should monitor your

Miguel, he added, "Drew's just spouting nonsense, so ignore him! It wasn't that scary. That

their very best to put on an act as they

slightly doubtful earlier, but after hearing

it was her body that got hurt after all. But... Why didn't the doctor at least show

Chapter 228 Eternally Grateful for Your 'Help'

"The bet's over so you've lost."

Matthew simply said that and his words were final. He didn't give Veronica a chance to renege on her  
words.

She pouted unhappily but suddenly, a thought crossed her mind and she mentioned, "Yes, the bet's  
over. So, I admit defeat. Although we can't be buddies, we can be sworn siblings, right? What say you,  
bro?"

As she said that, she shot a look at the trio by the side. At that moment, the trio was staring at her  
intently and they were clearly engrossed in catching the conversation between the two.

As soon as Veronica's gaze landed on them, they instantly shifted their eyes and pretended to be deep  
in conversation with each other.

At that moment, she lifted her eyes and reached out to cover her mouth while whispering softly to  
Matthew, "Even if you saved my life, I would never forgive you for the fact that you drugged me. You're  
a horrible man. The fact that you're a horrible man doesn't change even if you saved my life."

He was significantly speechless. Instantly, the smile on his face disappeared and he was very tempted to  
open up this woman's head to check out her brain and find out what was exactly inside her mind!

He no longer bothered to talk to her, so he went to the side and sat down to chat with his buddies.

Shortly after that, someone from Delisio Restaurant delivered their meal with everything that Veronica  
had ordered. It was a sumptuous meal indeed.

Thomas took out the dining table and laid the lavish feast on the table as they sat down together to  
enjoy the meal.

They were currently in the hospital, so no alcohol was allowed. As such, they held glasses of orange juice  
in their hands and toasted Veronica with their glasses of juice.

“Congratulations for escaping danger, Veronica and Matthew.”

“You’ve survived such a dangerous situation so things will definitely improve leaps and bounds from now on.”

“I hope that things will go smoothly for you guys from now on.”

“Get well soon.”

and Drew!” Veronica chuckled and she seemed to be

Elizabeth’s god-granddaughter and these people were Matthew’s buddies,

much older than her—by two years—so

juice in his hand down on the table. “Veronica, do

look on his face. There was also a slightly aggrieved

smiled and wrapped a hand around his shoulders. The smile on her face widened. “Since we’ve fought with each other and you lost to me in that fight we had at Twilight Condominium the last time so that’s why you’ll only be known as

then? You didn’t

and he used to be in the special forces too. Do you think I would be able to win a

interact with so she purposely bullied him. Subsequently, she lifted her glass of juice and toasted Skyler.

“Here, Drew. Bottom’s up. As your older sister, I will be there to back you up in the future

trying to take advantage of

it. You are the youngest

she spoke and clinked glasses with Skyler

a sharp look from the other side as she wrapped her arm around Skyler’s shoulders, she pretended to

her plate when she suddenly recalled something so she changed her mind and put it on Skyler’s plate.

“Hey, Drew. This is

that’s

look and his anger had

Cough. Cough.

Cough. Cough. Cough.

the pork sausage on his plate when he suddenly heard Caleb and

look at the two and saw them signaling at him frantically

that Matthew was currently

Skyler would

look in Matthew's eyes was murderous and it resembled the look in a lion's eyes when another predator attempted to take over the lion's territory.

I'm not a fan of it. I really don't like it." In his mind, he

favorite food in order to survive this precarious

pleased with Skyler's response. Subsequently, Matthew served Veronica some

meal earlier, she had in fact silently noted down the four men's silent interaction and their

Chapter 229 Xavier Struck by His Angry Father

The trio instantly turned to look at Matthew. They noticed that he was seated upright and he had one hand on the table while the other hand, which was bandaged, held on to a wooden spoon. Suddenly, there was a 'crack' sound and the wooden spoon broke into two. Frightened, everyone else didn't even dare to make a sound.

However, Veronica pretended to be oblivious to the situation. "Oh my gosh, Matthew! How did you even break your spoon? Gosh! Seriously?! This restaurant is a lousy one. This is unacceptable. How can a wooden spoon break so easily just like that?"

As she spoke, she reached out and took the wooden spoon from his hand before throwing it into the trash bin.

Subsequently, she took another spoon from the table and handed it to him. "This spoon here is fine. Okay, let's eat. Don't starve yourself to death because where else would I be able to find someone to freeload off?"

Her brazen words were intended to trigger his anger.

The other three guys looked from Veronica to Matthew. All of them felt that she was exceptionally brazen but for someone who was generally quite stern, he continued to condone her behavior.

Well, regardless of the situation, he was willing to accept such treatment from her, so it was entirely up to him.

Matthew placed the spoon down and he lost his appetite by then.

He stopped eating, so the other three guys silently placed their cutleries down and they didn't say anything either.

As for Veronica, she was busy chewing on her food and she looked at them with a confused expression at the same time. "Why have the four of you stopped eating? Is it because the food from Delisio Restaurant tastes bad?"

"I'm not hungry. Hehehe. I don't have much of an appetite."

"Yeah. Likewise, I don't have an appetite either."

"I ate too much in the afternoon so I'm too full."

...

Each of them came up with quite feeble excuses.

She held her utensils and served herself a croissant. She took a bite out of it and smacked her lips while tilting her head to look at Matthew, who sat there without moving an inch with a cold look on his face before a complicated look flashed across her clear eyes.

appetite, huh? Since they're not feeling hungry, then I'll

the four of them watched on and she enjoyed the sumptuous meal all

be grumpy when hungry so once satiated, naturally, their grumpy feelings

than half of the food on the table under the watchful eyes of the four men, she finally set aside

"Blergh."

as she revealed an

Their expressions indicated their thoughts. The woman

enjoyed a refreshing and different type after being used to

looks from his buddies and he coldly returned the stare with a warning look. Frightened, they

a slight shake of her head. "Look at you guys behaving so wastefully! We should

to be blamed for something that

her innocently. "I told you that I wasn't hungry

of

troubled look in his eyes. It was as if he was trying to say, You guys have said all that can be said. What else can I use

"Now that you've mentioned it, I'm starting to feel hungry right now. I could have

words were said, three voices rang out in

"Finish everything!"

Miguel looked at him and entrusted

Veronica, she nodded her head in approval. "Drew, you look quite gaunt and your bones are sticking out. I reckon that you must be the unwelcome child in your family just like what's written in the novels about affluent people having a least loved child. Your parents must only dote on your brother and they don't love you. They must have

novels she had read before that were the typical cliché romance novels about a rich and powerful man. In such stories,

Heh! Veronica, you've such an overactive imagination. You're so great at this it's a shame that

talents would not be

but she took it lightly and smiled at him. "Hurry up and finish the food. Don't waste anything. I've eaten too much so

said that, she stretched her hand and rubbed her full belly, and walked out of the room for a stroll

he saw her walking out of the room, he slammed his spoon

with us? Veronica's

"Yeah, Miguel's right."

wanted you to eat more for your

Skyler with a slightly complicated look in his eyes. The complicated look in Matthew's eyes caused a

Chapter 230 Conrad's Appearance

Even though she knew that he was never fully welcomed within the family, she had never thought that Hendric would say such cruel things to his own son.

Xavier did not rebuke his father and instead only fell into silence.

Yet, this only made Hendric angrier as he continued, "It's you who implicated your sister. If you had stated your relationship clearly with that b\*tch, Veronica, would your sister have gotten hurt this way? Even though she might be the god-granddaughter of Old Mrs. Kings, she hurt my daughter, and for that, I will make her pay in full!"

Veronica had seen him scolding his own son on the day of Matthew and Tiffany's engagement. It was not until she spent half a month with Xavier in Mount Chillad that she found out how biased Hendric was toward Melissa.

That was why when she struck Melissa, she had already foreseen Hendric targeting her from then on.

Sighing helplessly, Veronica did not go downstairs. Instead, she sat on the stairs and looked outside through the window before falling into deep thought.

"Melissa was in the wrong about this."

After a long silence, Veronica heard Xavier's rebuke.

His words seemed so weak, though. It was as if he knew he was explaining it in vain.

She knew that even though logic was on his side, all this was still useless in front of Hendric.

This was just like how Tiffany and she were both Floch's daughters, but Rachel and Floch only doted on Tiffany alone and treated Veronica as nothing more than a nuisance.

Their treatment of the two girls really could be compared to heaven and earth.

Slap!

A crisp and loud slap could be heard in the stairwell as Veronica clenched up.

Then, she heard Hendric shout, "You shut up! What do you see in Veronica to make you speak up for her? She is just a shameless hussy that stole her sister's boyfriend and is now leeching off Matthew! You better get that slut out of your head."

Such ugly words deeply penetrated Veronica's heart, but she felt more pity for Xavier.

to dash

she stopped after

Xavier. As they had problems in

now, what identity would she use to face

in the end

the sounds of footsteps came

that the father and

wall, Veronica took

stay away from wealthy families and not get involved in their disputes. Yet unfortunately, she had become one of them without even noticing. Even though she still wanted out, it was not as easy as just saying

as her best friend before, but on the day of the wedding, even though he knew the truth, he still

to find out she was the mastermind behind the scandal of the wedding, people from everywhere would be eager

you sitting

spacing out. "Be careful that you don't

then looked back at him. "How did you know

down, so I came here

said that you are still quite weak, so it's best that you lie down and

I won't kick the

playful like she was in the ward earlier and was now serious and

this, as his instincts told him that Veronica must have been agitated just now or thinking of some unpleasant

then followed her. At this moment, Xavier, who heard the distant footsteps, walked to the middle of the Veronica?

Why is she here?

suddenly appear at

was befuddled as he had no idea what Veronica had been through for two days, so all sorts of tests and the results revealed her body to be in a normal and stable state, tests came back showing she was normal, it was this result that made Matthew all the and Veronica had clearly seen the unknown object entering her body, causing the splitting headache to happen twice. Besides that, Her power surged after she recovered from was that the report