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Chapter 151

Veronica had a vague feeling that there was a plot underway. She had the impression that Matthew bore no good intentions toward her and was always plotting something against her.

That one sentence of hers rendered Matthew speechless. Hence, they stopped talking

They had no idea how long they had walked when they arrived near the Twilight Club. Seeing that Veronica was about to cross the street to return to her rented apartment, Matthew immediately said, "You have some things left in my condominium."

"What's that?" Veronica couldn't recall what she had left in Twilight Condominium.

"Clothes."

"All those clothes are bought by you, aren't they?"

"Yes, but you have already worn them, so now who should I give them to? If you do not want them, I'll just throw them away." This man knew Veronica's personality well, and he knew exactly what to say to make her succumb.

"Are you sure you do not want them?"

Those clothes were all limited edition from high—end brands. Throwing them all away would be such a waste. Thinking of what he said, she reckoned that Matthew was really a wastrel. All the clothes were in good condition, but he had no qualms about throwing them away.

Matthew kept silent and merely nodded slightly.

"Well, then I'll go to your house and take them away." Veronica pouted before saying, "But I better warn you, those are given to me by you and I want to record this down as proof."

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Once bitten, twice shy. After the previous experience, she didn't want to be used by him again.

"As you wish," Matthew said nonchalantly.

They then entered Twilight Club's lobby, swiped the entry card required for its

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Ding

The elevator had arrived at the upper floor. When both of them exited the elevator, Veronica activated her phone's video recording function at once and pointed her phone at Matthew's face. She then said, "Come on, evidence in the form of video recording. I am going to record everything down in case you later turn around and sue me for theft, and I would have nothing to explain by then."

In the past, Matthew was disgusted and enraged by people pointing their phones at him. However, Veronica's mischievous look in doing this made him smile instead. Such a smile was unusual, and his cool–looking face seemed to warm up.

"What are you smiling at?"

Raising her phone, Veronica looked at Matthew, who was being recorded on her phone. His smile was so mesmerizing that it drew her in and made her fall into it in an instant.

Such a lovely face. God must have pampered him so much that he was given a perfect face with no flaws, which was so attractive that it made people forget to breathe.

Veronica swore that if the person before her was not Matthew, she would have gone after him for his attractive face and asked him to be her boyfriend. But, remembering the odious heart beneath this good–looking face, she couldn't allow herself to think any further.

Seeing that he did not answer her question, she continued saying, "You're the one who told me to get the clothes, correct? You have to leave some proof; if not, how am I going to get them?"

"Yes, I will give you all the clothes in my wardrobe."

"This is merely a broad statement of yours. Come with me."

She then held his hand, pulled him to the room, and opened his wardrobe. She filmed him again, followed by the clothes in the wardrobe, and asked, "These are the clothes to be given to me, correct?"

"Yes."

"Free of charge, no regrets, and you wouldn't demand any payment from me, right?"

"Yes"

Veronica laughed. "Good, as long as there is evidence."

Smilingly, she saved that video recording into her phone gallery and kept her phone.

However, just when she was about to tidy up the clothes, Matthew's eyes lit up. "Um... I've been playing a game recently, and you're skilled in games, right? Could you share some experience with me?"

"What?"

A game? When she heard what he said, her jaws dropped. She had previously assumed that it was impossible for him to play games since he was so busy with his work, and it had never occurred to her that he would seek her guidance. "Gaming is based on experiences; hence, it's impossible for me to teach you for free."

Needless to say, her response was well within Matthew's expectation, with only variations in a few words. He remained calm and asked, "How much is your fee to guide me on training three heroes, from now to tomorrow?"

"From now until tomorrow, that's one full day and one night. Such a fee would be... Hmm...

Let me think..."

Thinking of what to say, she pursed her lips with one arm crossed before her and another touching her jaws, and her gleaming eyes looked at him every now and then.

Recalling the time in Twilight Club where he took one million from her, and another time when he called the police to arrest her, she figured that she would not waste such a scarce opportunity to deal with him. After considering all these, she said, "At least fifty thousand. No discount. My capability is worth it."

"Forget it, I'll ask Thomas to find someone else tomorrow, and most probably there will be others with a cheaper fee."

Leaving these words, Matthew turned around and left. Yet, his steps were small with a slow speed, as if he was anticipating something.

"Huh? Hey, wait a minute. We can discuss this."

How could she let go of such a golden opportunity? Veronica pulled him, walked past him, and stood before him. Smilingly, she said, "Tell me how much you're thinking of. I'll give you a discount in light of our relationship."

"Ten thousand."

"Sh*t, Matthew Kings, you're going overboard. I merely said I will give you a discount, but not to this extent. The most I can deduct is... ten thousand."

"No, ten thousand to be the entire fee."

"Well, then thirty-five thousand."

"Ten thousand."

"Thirty thousand!"

"Fifteen thousand, nothing more."

"Nay, twenty thousand. Twenty thousand—and that's final. It cannot be any lesser."

"Ten thousand."

"Matthew Kings, what do you mean? You said fifteen thousand moments ago, and now it's ten thousand again? Can you be more reasonable?"

"Fifteen thousand seems to be a little expensive."

"Expensive, my foot! You're so stingy! Forget it, I'll take fifteen thousand. Transfer this amount to me first and remember to refer to it as 'the fees for learning games."

Being so defensive against him, Veronica felt that she was living in trepidation. He transferred fifteen thousand to her on the spot. Happily receiving the money, she felt that he appeared more appealing to her eyes now.

"Come on, let's play the game on the sofa. I'll teach you."

Pulling him to the living room, she sat on the sofa happily and forgot she had a wound on her right hand. He then sat beside her and turned on the most popular game at the time: Honor of Kings.

Sitting close to each other, she tilted her head toward him, looked at his phone, and asked, "Why are you suddenly interested in playing games?"

"Because..." You like them.

Throughout her stay in Twilight Club, he had always seen her playing games. Sometimes she played the computer version, while other times she played with the

phone version, and no matter which version, she was good at them. And, having no idea when this thought started, he wanted to play with her, thinking that it might be a fun experience.

"Because of what?"

He paused his answer midway and began to keep her guessing. This piqued her interest.

"I play them to kill time. Work is dull and boring, you know."

"Oh, such a workaholic like you would find working dull too, huh."

Veronica didn't know how to react. Nevertheless, she proceeded to ask him about his view and understanding of the game. Initially, she was merely sitting beside him. But as they conversed, she began to lean on the edge of his shoulder. When she felt uncomfortable with her position, she simply placed her hands over his shoulder and rested her jaw on it.

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She could see his phone so much better in this position.

"Matthew, are you dumb? You can't play Angela like this."

"You're so stupid."

"For Angela, you can use her second skill first, then only the big move. Or, you can use the second skill first, followed by the first skill, and lastly the big move. If you use her first skill directly without using the other skills first, your opponent will run away upon seeing it. She's a crowd-control hero. You do know that right?"

"Further, you're up against the supporting hero, Da Qiao. Her second skill is the ring there, and after completing a full circle with it, she can take away all of her opponent's heroes within it."

"You have to get yourself familiarized with all the heroes and their skills before you can play them better. Know your enemy as well as you know yourself, and you can win a hundred battles without losing a single one."

Veronica was so engrossed in the game that even the tone of her voice increased by a few decibels.

Throughout the entire game, Matthew sat quietly listening to her instructions. His delicate fingers scrolled the phone display slowly, controlling the hero, but his gaze was fixed on Veronica, who was almost entirely engulfed in his embrace.

He could faintly smell her scent, as well as the fragrance of her shampoo from her hair.

As a result of his inattentiveness, his Angela was instantly killed by a hero who jumped out from the bush nearby.

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"Flicker, flicker now! Hey, I've already said to use the flicker move! What are you doing?"

Veronica was furious. She turned around and glared at him, saying, "If I knew earlier that you were so stupid, I wouldn't have agreed to teach you. No, I should've raised the fee."

"... don'i really know how to play this."

Despite her shouting and scolding at him, Matthew didn't seem to be angry.

Instead, it was Veronica who was enraged.

"Come on, I'll sign in my account and guide you around."

She did not realize that she was getting too close with him, to the extent where they appeared to be intimate.

Upon finishing her sentence, she stood up, intending to take out her phone and log into her account to play the game with him.

And the moment she stood up, his embrace felt void, and the elation he felt earlier faded instantly

His eyes dimmed in that second.

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However, when she took out her phone and saw the battery level, she muttered, "Oh no, out of battery. Matthew, do you have a charger for an Android phone?"

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"No."

"What shall we do, then?"

"I'll ask Thomas to send one over later."

"That's fine. Send him a message after you finish this round."

"Okay," Matthew answered.

She then continued to guide him, with Matthew learning diligently.

After ending this round, he began to talk to divert her attention, and by the time she remembered that he needed to text Thomas, the next round had already begun.

This went on for tens of rounds.

They went on until about five in the morning. By then, she was already so sleepy that she fell asleep on his shoulder; her head tilted as if it was about to fall. Noticing this, he raised his hand to support her head, but she unconsciously lay down in his arms.

He locked his phone and put it aside. The entire living room fell silent in an instant.

She was sound asleep in his arms, and he let her do so while crossing his legs and placing them on the coffee table.

Being so noisy usually, she was finally quiet now. Looking at her face which was almost identical to Tiffany's, he felt that they were similar, but not entirely alike.

Her facial features were delicate, and her complexion was fair. Together with the fine contours of her face, she looked beautiful.

While she was lying down, the raven hair of hers slid across her face and covered her beauty.

Seeing this, Matthew swept her bangs aside with his fingers and kept them behind her ears.

However, her skin was so delicate and smooth that he couldn't take his fingers away from it when he touched it.

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Only when she was in a deep sleep did he stand up and carry her in his arms to the *r*oom, where he placed her on the bed.

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Then stop himself from leaning over and kissing her lips.

Her lips were soft and tender, and had a faint sweet smell. He was completely engrossed in this feeling.

"Uh..." Veronica felt someone blocking her airway and groaned uncomfortably.

Hearing that, he let go of her instantly.

It was just that her silly-looking face looked too cute at the moment.

"Do you like her?"

In that split second, this question flashed through Matthew's mind.

This guy, who was smiling just seconds ago, was taken aback by his own thoughts. He stared blankly at the woman in front of him.

Like her?

How could this be possible?

He had spent his entire life focusing solely on his career, and he couldn't possibly like such a country girl now.

His face turned cold when he thought of these.

He then stood up and left the room quickly.

It was as if he was running away from her.

Standing in the living room, he sent a message to the group of Bloomstead's four young masters. 'Let's drink at our old place.

He then went downstairs and entered the club's private room, Number 8888.

Twenty minutes later, two of his friends, Caleb and Skyler, entered the seemingly empty room.

Caleb Shaw, the only successor of the Shaw Family. But his mind was set on upholding justice. Hence, he enrolled in a police university despite his family's objections and was now an inspector in the police station.

And Skyler Robins, the youngest and the most unusual doctor in Bloomstead.

His suave and unrestrained appearance gave the impression that he was indecent, but instead, he was a gifted doctor at the top of the country's list.

However, he had left the medical field to pursue his career in business.

"Matt, why did you suddenly want to drink?"

With an arm around Caleb's shoulder, Skyler walked toward Matthew and teased, "We haven't seen you in a while, and we thought you had forgotten about us now that you've gotten yourself a wife."

Caleb was the quieter of the two. He simply inquired indifferently, "Is there anything bothering you?"

"Stop saying the impossible, Caleb. Matt is now having a good time with his wife. What could possibly be bothering him?" Skyler patted his shoulders and made fun of him. "Not everyone is as unromantic as you, a wooden block."

The two of them sat next to Matthew, one to his left and the other to his right.

Matthew raised his glass and had a sip. "Where's Miguel?"

"He couldn't come as he had something on," Skyler replied. At the same time, he, too, raised his glass, and they all clinked their glasses, finishing whatever that was left in them

After finishing his drink, Skyler set his glass down and moved forward to select a song. The volume was turned down so that it wouldn't affect their conversation.

As he took the microphone and began to sing along with the music, he overheard Matthew asking Caleb, "What is the behavior of loving someone?"

"What the heck are you saying?" Shocked by what Matthew asked, Skyler who was ready to sing dropped his microphone.

He quickly turned around and sat beside Matthew. "Matt, please repeat what you just said. What? Behavior of loving someone? Oh my God, don't tell me you've fallen in love with that girl, Tiffany?"

"Miss Larson possesses both beauty and talent. As such, it's no surprise that no man could resist her," said Caleb, the unromantic guy.

Matthew took a sip of his wine while holding his glass with his delicate fingers and said, "You haven't answered my question." As he spoke, he cast a glance at Skyler.

Skyler and Xavier were birds of a feather who flocked together, both being playboys.

However, as Skyler was now in charge of a multimedia agency, he was no longer surrounded by a diverse range of women from various industries, but rather by celebrities.

"The behavior of loving someone? A day apart with her would feel like years. You want to be with her all the time, and kiss her as well as being intimate with her whenever you see her. Even doing nothing with her is wonderful."

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Skyler, a love expert, shared his views.

Matthew glanced at him doubtfully, feeling what he said was meaningless. He then turned to look at Caleb, the boring guy, as if he believed Caleb more.

Unexpectedly, Caleb nodded seriously, and said, "Basically... correct."

Receiving such a positive response, Matthew frowned slightly. He went silent for a few moments before raising his glass and finishing the wine in it.

Caleb and Skyler looked at each other, puzzled.

"What is this reaction of yours, Matt? Have you really fallen in love with Tiffany?"

"Miss Larson is his wife, and it's natural for him to love her. It would be unusual if he didn't."

Veronica's face showed up in Matthew's mind as he listened to what they said. "It's not her," he said, gripping his glass tightly as if he was unable to accept the reality.

Matthew was still doubting himself before this, but after hearing what Skyler said, he confirmed his suspicions. Such as the night when he didn't stop Veronica from leaving the condominium, he was restless and irritable for the entire day. That was the reason he came up with ideas for her to appear before him. Moreover, he wanted to hug her the moment he saw her, and even when she was sleeping, he kissed her silently. It was only out of moral obligations that he didn't do anything else to her.

But what Skyler said, especially the last part about doing nothing with her being wonderful—that was spot on.

"What, not her? You're saying it's not Tiffany?" Skyler was stunned, and he couldn't believe that Matthew said that. He immediately pursued, asking, "Who would it be if it's not her? Don't tell me you're hiding another woman?"

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Caleb was equally surprised. Skeptically, he looked at Matthew, waiting for his answer.

But Matthew remained silent. He simply raised his glass with his slender fingers and silently drank his wine.

Both of them, as outsiders, were more anxious than Matthew.

Ater a while of suspense, Skyler slapped Matthew's back and uttered, "Come on Matt, answer us. I'm getting anxious here. How long do you want to keep us waiting?"

Sull, Matthew remained silent.

Instead, it was Caleb who broke the suspense. He looked like he was seriously pondering over something and asked, "Don't tell me it's the god-granddaughter that Old Mrs. Kings said she was going to take?"

Clever enough to be perfectly accurate, him being a policeman came as no surprise.

"What're you saying, Caleb? That's impossible."

Skyler believed Caleb's guess was incorrect and proceeded to analyze the situation before explaining to Caleb, "Look, the god-granddaughter that Old Mrs. Kings wanted looks exactly like Tiffany. Further, that girl is just a country girl who is not presentable at all. Matt doesn't even like Tiffany, so how would he like another girl who resembles her? It's too far-fetched."

He shrugged and gave a confident smile, before raising his glass and clinking it with Matthew's. "Am I right, Matt?" He took a sip of his wine.

However, while he was drinking, he heard Matthew answering in a deep tone, "I guess it's her."

"Pfft- Cough... cough..."

Hearing that, Skyler spurted out the wine in his mouth while coughing nonstop. "Cough... What the f*ck. I nearly choked myself to death. Matt, what nonsense are you saying?"

"And you're still unsure about this?" Caleb sensed Matthew's hesitation and reservations in his words.

Matthew shook his head slightly. "I was uncertain before I came here, but now, I'm pretty sure."

"I assume she's the girl you risked your life to save from the fire? Oh my, when I heard that from Thomas, I wondered since when you became such a great man, It turns out that you were saving *that* girl!"

While drawing tissues to wipe the spills on his clothes, Skyler murmured in his heart, Who is this fory lady who enchanted Matt? I must meet her. I must!

"Since you like her, why did you sleep with Tiffany then?" Leaning on the sofa, Caleb asked nonchalantly with his legs crossed.

Caleb was tanned, and his hair was cut in a standard buzz cut. Nonetheless, as he was a policeman who had to face hardships every day, he gave off the impression of being very healthy, pleasing to the eyes and attractive. Particularly, he was a man of few words. Further, he appeared very decent, and people could sense his righteousness by just a glance.

"That was an unwanted incident."

As he spoke, Matthew recalled that time when he was overseas. He got drunk after socializing because of his job and had no idea what happened later that made him sleep with Tiffany.

But she got pregnant after that, so he had to take the responsibility.

"Tsk-tsk, you don't appear to be such a responsible man. But this is a simple matter to resolve. Even though Old Mrs. King wants to have great-grandchildren and you need to marry Tiffany, you can just spend some money and keep your godsister as your mistress. You know how it is with women; they can be easily pacified by gifting them luxurious cars and expensive bags."

Skyler raised his hand and patted Matthew's shoulder lightly. "Besides, being such a handsome man like yourself? Any woman will be throwing themselves at you! There is nothing difficult in handling just one of them."

"Shut up!" The moment Skyler finished his sentence, Matthew glared angrily at him.

That night, Matthew drank a lot, so much that he had no idea what was going on around him. He had no idea why he felt heavy—hearted upon realizing his true feelings for Veronica. It was more depressing than what he felt on the day he knew that Veronica "liked" Xavier.

They drank until dawn, and Matthew was already passed out while lying down. Skyler, who was slightly drunk, shrugged and spread out his hands while looking at Caleb, who was wide awake. "Tsk tsk. Matt's really fallen for the girl now."

Hearing that, Caleb merely took a glance at Matthew who was sleeping on the sofa. He understood Matthew's feelings, but he kept silent.

Skyler took his phone out and called Thomas. "Thomas, send me the phone number of your boss' godsister."

Thomas was confounded by such a call in the wee hours, with Skyler asking for Veronica's contact. "Young Master Skyler, what do you want Miss Murphy's number for?"

"Stop asking so many questions and just send me the number quickly!"

"Uh, yes sir. Please give me a moment." Thomas hung up the call and immediately forwarded Veronica's contact to Skyler.

At the same time, Skyler and Caleb were both supporting Matthew as they entered the elevator. They were both sending Matthew back to his private condominium on the upper floors of Twilight Club.

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The elevator reached the upper floors and stopped.

They swiped the entry card, entered the condominium while holding on to Matthew, and placed him on his bed in his room. They exited the room only after settling him.

Upon entering the living room, Skyler saw the bottle of Romanée–Conti of the year 1945.

That was the expensive wine in Matthew's car that Thomas had delivered the night before after driving Matthew's car back to the basement parking lot.

Matthew was learning about games from Veronica at that time, and thus, when Thomas brought the bottle over, he merely left it on the table.

"Oh my, Caleb, look. Is this the bottle of wine from New York's Sotheby's auction that someone had given to Matthew a few years ago?"

Skyler had excellent taste. He recognized the wine by just one look at the bottle, and he couldn't help but be intrigued.

Suddenly, the door of the second bedroom swung open. Veronica, neatly dressed but wearing slippers, stood in front of the room, and was stunned upon seeing the two guys in the living room.

Alarmed, she asked, "Who are you two?

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Skyler was so startled by Veronica's sudden appearance that he nearly lost his grip on the wine bottle. Matt's such a badass! He's really keeping the woman as a mistress. Since he's already keeping her as a mistress, why would he drink like a fish? What is he acting so mawkish for?

Keeping silent as usual, Caleb looked Veronica up and down without saying a word, whereas Skyler put down the wine bottle, sized her up with an evil leer, and flirted, "Wow, what a pretty babe we've got here." Having met Tiffany in person, they had to admit that Tiffany did have the mild disposition and easy manner of a well-bred young lady from a respectable family. On top of being gentle and demure, Tiffany exuded the qualities of a pampered and refined young lady of note. This woman, on the other hand, was dressed plainly. Despite her striking resemblance to Tiffany, she had a coldly elegant air about her that made her attractive somehow.

"I'm asking you who you guys are! How did you get in here without permission?" Veronica asked while looking around, but she didn't see Matthew anywhere.

Folding his arms across his chest in a raffish manner, Skyler motioned at the door, saying, "I walked in here, of course. The door's right there."

"Isn't that bullsh*t? Could you have crawled in here?" Veronica gave Skyler a disdainful look. "Who are you guys looking for?"

Skyler's curiosity was piqued by the woman. He couldn't help but joke, "Hey, babe, isn't your attitude a little too much? We're sworn friends with Matthew, so that attitude of yours won't do."

Veronica shot back, "What kind of attitude do you want, then? Do you want me to worship you and make offerings to you like you're a god or something?" What a lunatic! As expected,

birds of a feather flock together. Matthew's buddies are like him; they're condescending, as though they're anxious to be spoiled by people all over the world. He's simply **nuts**.

Skyler didn't expect Veronica to talk back to him. Dumbstruck at first, he then looked back at Caleb and couldn't hide his amusement. "Ah, you're quite interesting, babe. Wanna consider making friends with me?" He raised an eyebrow at her with interest.

Veronica shot a scornful look at him. "Cozying up to me like a toady right now after talking down to me just a moment ago, huh? What a quick change of attitude." With that, she turned toward Matthew's room without bothering to continue entertaining such a frivolous man.

Skvier was quite slippant on most occasions, but he had never been dissed like this by a woman besore. Inwardly displeased, he decided to pretend to teach this fiery tempered woman some manners, so he grabbed her shoulder, saying, "Stop right there! Take back what you said just now, babe, or I'm gonna kill you."

Veronica paused in her tracks before turning her head slightly to give Skyler a: disdainful look out of the corner of her eye. "You're the one who showed me how to be a toady and a stuck—up snob at the same time. You're condescending to me one moment and playing up to me the next. Weren't you the one who said those words yourself? If somebody has to take back what they said, you're the one who's gonna do

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it."

Rendered speechless by Veronica's words, Skyler was simmering with anger. After all, when had he ever been trifled with like this by a woman? He felt that he had been challenged. *F*ck, to think that I'd be challenged by a woman!* "I'm gonna count to three. If you don't apologize to me, I'll make you crawl out of here!" he warned in a stern voice.

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Caleb looked at Skyler before turning to look meaningfully at Veronica. After raising his eyebrows with interest, he settled back on the sofa right away, folding his arms across his chest—while watching the man and the woman with great interest.

"Get off me!" Veronica warned in displeasure.

"Three..."

"Let go of me!"

"Two..."

Skyler was still counting, but he didn't notice that Veronica's little face had darkened in anger with deep furrows in her brow. The next instant, she grabbed the hand he placed on her shoulder and threw him over her shoulder right away with one swift movement, flinging him heavily onto the ground with a loud thud.

Skyler felt like the world had spun around him. Before he could realize what had happened, he had been flung onto the ground by Veronica without the opportunity to resist. "Hiss..." he gasped in pain while boiling with rage. "Damn it! Didn't Matt say you're from a remote backwater place or something? Why would you know some self-defense? Ouch, that fall almost killed me..."

"That's a lot of nonsense. Is someone from a remote backwater place supposed to know nothing? You're simply nuts!" Veronica let out a snort. "What an idiot."

Auhe sight of the scene, Caleb couldn't help but laugh inconsiderately. "Pffft..." Unlike Skyler, he found this icy-looking woman quite impressive. All of a sudden, he more or less understood why Matthew would be interested in this woman.

Veronica withdrew her gaze and stepped over Skyler, who was lying on the ground... Just as she was heading toward Matthew's bedroom, his bedroom door suddenly opened.

Stunned, the little lady stood in place without moving.

Matthew was drunk, but he had been woken by the loud noise in the living room long ago thanks to his vigilance. He merely lay still in bed, but when he heard a dull thud, he came out of the room, worried. He opened the room door, only to see Skyler lying on the ground as Veronica stepped over him. *This woman... she really wouldn't let anyone bully her, eh?* His lips curled into a faint smile as a flicker of amusement flashed across his eyes.

Skyler complained, "F*ck, Matt, you came out at last! Aren't you gonna teach your woman some manners? She attacked me physically despite me being your buddy. Ouch, it hurts like hell." Of the four sworn buddies, Skyler was the weakest at fighting, but not even he expected that he would be knocked flat by a woman one day.

Just then, however, Veronica said coldly, "You're home? It's nothing, then. I thought your home had been broken into. You guys go ahead and chat. I'm leaving." Then, she turned around and left right away.

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"Hold on a minute," Matthew called out to her. Seeing that the woman was leaving, he asked, "Is our deal yesterday no longer valid today?"

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Startled, Veronica looked back at Matthew. "Can't you be a decent human being, Matthew? Yeah, we've got a deal whereby I'm supposed to teach you how to play games. But the normal working hours are eight hours per day, and it's been eight hours from the moment I taught you at about 12:00AM yesterday until now." With a straight face, she pointed at her wristwatch, which showed that it was exactly 9:30AM.

"What the hell, Matt? I'm an expert at—" Skyler said to Matthew while massaging his aching butt, only to be silenced mid-sentence at once by Matthew's piercing glare.

"You went to sleep at about 4:00AM yesterday," Matthew said.

Veronica replied, "Well, 1 did go to sleep at the time, but you didn't wake me up either. You're the person in charge here. Since you didn't wake me up despite knowing that I was sleeping, it meant you'd silently given consent. So, the hours

didn't conflict with our deal. Goodbye!" She turned around and picked up several bags of clothes before strutting out of the room under the three *m*en's stare.

However, as soon as she reached the door, she saw the delivery guy from One Piece Restaurant showing up outside the door. "Good morning. Here's the breakfast you've ordered." The delivery guy handed a large food insulation box directly to her in a deferential manner.

Veronica was startled, but she couldn't stop her stomach from rumbling just then. After giving it some thought, she took the food insulation box from the delivery guy.

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"Thank you," the delivery guy said, before he turned around and left.

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Veronica turned back into the living room while carrying the food insulation box. "He he, Matthew, since you ordered so much food for breakfast, I'd better finish them before leaving. Otherwise, it'll be a waste," she said while heading toward the sofa with the food insulation box in one hand and the paper bags in the other.

Skyler was sitting on the sofa and groaning in pain when he saw Veronica coming back. However, before he could call her to account for her excessive use of self defense just now, he was kicked lightly by Veronica, who said, "Get up! Move aside a little."

Skyler's lips twitched violently. He wanted to say something, but when he saw the unsympathetic smile on Caleb's face and how Matthew showed no intention of standing up for him, he voluntarily moved aside to make a place for Veronica.

Veronica put the paper bags containing clothes on the sofa and the food insulation box on the coffee table. As soon as she opened the box, she was greeted by a savory smell. "Wow, it smells so good! I happen to be hungry," she said while taking out the sumptuous breakfast inside the box: "Aren't you a bit of a spendthrift, Matthew? Why order so much for breakfast for both of us?" Her heart ached terribly at the sight of the various dishes in the food insulation box. *This meal is damn expensive*.

At the sight of the scene, Skyler was astounded. Not only did Veronica address Matthew by the latter's first name without the use of honorifics, but she even spoke to him in a rude and even somewhat cocky manner. Is this what people mean by "spoiling"? She simply fears nothing, he thought. In Bloomstead, Skyler had rarely seen anyone who dared to call

Matthew by his first name or even haughtily chastise him for being a "spendthrift." He felt like his world was being turned upside down.

On the other hand, Caleb's impenetrable gaze shifted back and forth between Veronica and Matthew, making it impossible to figure out what he was thinking.

"Let's eat together," Matthew said. Then, he went to the master bathroom to wash up.

Seeing that the man had entered the bathroom, Skyler immediately moved up to Veronica. "Babe, do you always speak to Matthew in such a haughty way?"

"Haughty? How? Wasn't that just normal communication? Matthew is a spendthrift in the first place, so I was only stating the fact," Veronica replied while sitting cross legged on the carpet. After opening the container containing the porridge, she

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lowered her head and started to dig in with no intention of waiting for Matthew at all.

"Aren't you gonna wait for him to join you for breakfast?" Skyler asked.

"Why should I wait for him to come and eat with me? Don't tell me that I have to wait for him to feed me."

Skyler was rendered speechless by her reply. What a conversation killer. Without saying another word, he slowly walked to Caleb's side and nudged the latter in the arm, exchanging looks with the latter. F*ck, this little babe is no ordinary woman, he conveyed with his eyes.

Caleb gave him a look in return. I noticed that long ago.

Skyler shot him a glare. If you noticed that long ago, why didn't you stop me just now? Do you know how much my butt hurt just now?

Caleb threw him a disdainful look. Serves you right. You were the one who asked for it.

Skyler glared at him. Get lost!

The two men kept making eye contact while thinking the same things.

After a little while, Matthew came out of his bedroom, having washed up, taken a shower, and changed into a set of clean clothes. After looking at the two buddies sitting on the sofa, he darted his eyes toward Veronica, who was sitting on the carpet. Seeing that she was eating breakfast with relish, he sat down beside her habitually and pushed the glass of specially—ordered milk toward her. "Drink this."

"Okay." Veronica picked up the glass of warm milk and took a sip from it before furrowing her brow. "Matthew, did you poison the milk or something? Why does it taste so weird?" The milk she drank the other day tasted somewhat weird as well.

"It's specially-made milk by One Piece Restaurant. Costs 888 per glass," the man replied nonchalantly.

"888?" Veronica was flabbergasted. Looking at the milk in the glass in bewilderment, she muttered, "Is this milk produced by a golden cow or something? Why is it so expensive?" As she spoke, she held her head up and drank up all the milk up to the very last drop.

Veronica simply thought that the milk was expensive, but she didn't know that Matthew merely had the medicine that the doctor had prescribed for her added to it,

and that the glass of milk wasn't that expensive at all.

A faint smile appeared on Matthew's stony face when he saw that Veronica had finished the glass of milk. He then raised his eyes to look at the two buddies across from him, only to find two pairs of eyes staring fixedly at him. The looks in their eyes were strange, with a hint of astonishment; it was as if they were in disbelief.

Matthew's smile froze, and the corner of his lips twitched slightly. "What are you guys waiting for? The food's gonna get cold if it's left uneaten."

Caleb glanced at the dining room nearby with a faint smile. Then, he rubbed his nose with an affected smile on his taut face. "Okay, okay." He was truly astonished, for Matthew would never have made do with having meals on a coffee table in the past. As a cultured man, Matthew always carried himself with the dignified air of a noble and was very particular about his lifestyle. How could he possibly have meals on the coffee table in the living room?

Skyler, on the other hand, was appalled.

Matthew opened a meal box containing shrimp and cheese ravioli.

As soon as the meal box was opened, Veronica smelled the aroma of the ravioli. In an instant, she no longer found the porridge before her appetizing. "Let's swap our meals, Matthew. This is shrimp and cheese ravioli, right? He he, having eaten quite a lot of the porridge you made, I find this porridge bland," she said while holding out her half—eaten bowl of porridge to Matthew, taking the opportunity to take the ravioli before him away.

"Mm-hmm. You can have it if you like," Matthew replied naturally.

Nodding vigorously, Veronica picked up a ravioli and ate it. In an instant, her eyes widened, and she gave a thumbs up. "It's yummy!" She slurred her words as her mouth was stuffed with ravioli. The ravioli was superb, though. It was especially delicious; the shrimps were tender and full of umami, whereas the cheese tasted savory but not overwhelming. Veronica rarely got to eat such delicious ravioli, so she couldn't hold back her desire to share her joy. She picked up a ravioli with a fork and handed it to Matthew. Seeing that he didn't take the fork, she held the ravioli to his mouth right away and said excitedly, "Here, have a bite. It's delicious, really. Hurry up and try it."

Matthew wasn't surprised by Veronica's abrupt move. The day he found her in the forest after she went missing in Dawnpol Village, she had shared food with him in a natural manner; it was just that she didn't go to the extent of feeding him herself. He looked at the ravioli on her fork, as if enjoying the wonderfulness of this very

neut.

However, Veronica thought the man was spurning her. "Don't wanna use the fork that has my saliva on it? Never mind then."

Just as she was about to take back the fork and eat the ravioli herself, Matthew grabbed her hand and brought the ravioli into his own mouth, munching it slowly.

Her head tilted to one side, Veronica stared at Matthew with a look of anticipation, anxiously waiting for him to praise her, as though she had made the ravioli herself. "How is it? Isn't it super-duper delicious?"

"Not bad," Matthew replied.

"Not bad, you say?" Veronica knitted her brows as the smile on her face vanished at once. "You're too picky, don't you think? Seriously, I wonder how you grew up while being such a

picky eater. You can cook nothing but porridge, yet you keep whining about your food every day. What kind of a person are you? Tsk."

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Just as the couple were having a conversation, the plate that Skyler was holding slipped out of his grasp and dropped onto the coffee table with a loud clatter. What the hell? Is the guy before me still the germophobic Matt? He actually made breakfast for this little babe? He actually used the fork that this little babe had used? He actually enjoys being chided by this little babe?

Skyler felt that he must have gone insane. His mind must have been befuddled; he must have been dreaming about such a side of Matthew. He turned to look at the

equally stupefied Caleb next to him in a daze. "Caleb, hurry up and give me a slap! I must be dreaming."

Like Skyler, Caleb was so shocked by Matthew's behavior that he didn't come to his senses for a long time. Upon hearing Skyler's words, he nodded with a stiff neck, raised his hand, and slapped Skyler directly across the face.

The slap was so hard that it knocked Skyler down on the sofa right away, and the resulting pain instantly brought him to his senses. Covering his cheek with his hand, he screeched at the top of his voice, "F*ck, it hurts like hell! Were you trying to kill me with a slap to my face, Caleb? Ouch, my face!"

However, Caleb shook his hand and replied, "Well, my hand hurts too.. which means you're not dreaming."

Skyler winced in pain with a visible slap mark on his cheek. "Of course! How could your hand not hurt? My cheek has nearly swollen up! Were you taking the opportunity to take revenge on me? Damn it, Caleb, if my face is disfigured, this will be the end of our friendship!"

"Well, I just feared that you couldn't distinguish between dream and reality if I didn't slap you hard enough" Caleb explained.

"That being said, you shouldn't have slapped the hell out of me!"

"Do you think you'd still be alive if I had slapped the hell out of you?"

"F*ck! What the hell's going on here?" Skyler was quite annoyed.

Before he could get his anger off his chest, however, he heard Veronica mumble, "Matthew, does your friend have a screw loose or something? Should we call for an ambulance? The way I see it, he's suffering from some serious mental issues." Then, she turned to look at Matthew and whispered, "Did your friend just sneak out of a

mental asylum? Oh, dear! That'd be pitiful. He's quite handsome; it's just that something is wrong with his mind, which is a waste of his good looks. What a shame." She thought she was speaking in a low voice, but unbeknownst to her, Skyler heard her words very clearly and was so enraged that he was nearly unable to breathe.

Shooting an impassive glance at the two men sitting across from him, Matthew quite agreed with Veronica's words. "Perhaps you're right."

Caleb massaged his burning palm while eyeing Matthew and Veronica. Immersed in shock, even he was unable to recollect himself for a long time, let alone Skyler.

Veronica didn't put down her fork until she finished the ravioli. After wiping her mouth clean, she stood up, picked up the paper bags, and said to Matthew, "You guys have a chat, then. I'm leaving first." As she spoke, she walked past Matthew. Before she left, she even took a sympathetic look at Skyler and gave Matthew a worried look, signaling to him with her gaze.

Matthew followed Veronica's gaze to look at Skyler. Then, he saw her point at her head and mouth, 'He's not quite right in the head. You'd better stay away from him.

Unable to contain his amusement, Matthew nodded slightly with a chuckle and watched as Veronica left the apartment with the clothes.

Suddenly, his cell phone beeped with an incoming text message. He picked up the phone and glanced at its screen, only to see that it was a text message from Thomas. It read, 'Young Master Matthew, Miss Larson is here.

At the sight of the text message, Matthew's eyes darkened slightly, but he merely texted 'OK' in reply.

After Veronica had left, Skyler jumped from his seat and rushed toward Matthew in a flash. "Be honest, Matt-how long have you been in love with that woman?" This is simply the hottest news of the year! Skyler once thought that Matthew would never fall in love with any woman. Even though he knew that Matthew was going to marry Tiffany, he thought it was because Matthew lacked a woman. He thought Matthew was merely forced to get married because the position of Mrs. Kings couldn't be left vacant. Otherwise, he absolutely believed that Matthew would've chosen to stay unmarried.

"Does she know that you're going to marry Miss Larson?" Caleb asked thoughtfully.

Sitting on the sofa, Matthew lowered his eyes in deep thought. "Yeah, she does."

Skyler leaned on Matthew while wrapping his arm around the latter's shoulders in a

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brotherly fashion. "Answer me, Matt. Don't avoid answering my question."

Matthew replied, "I'm not sure." His thoughts were in a whirl as he gazed at the half caten bowl of porridge on the coffee table with fathomless eyes. He recalled the moments he shared with Veronica, but not even he realized when he'd started to care so much about her.

While the three men's conversation in the apartment was still going on, Veronica walked leisurely out of the elevator with several bags of clothes in her hands. At first, she had disdained taking these clothes from Matthew's apartment, but she recalled the one million she had spent in the bar the other day. Then, recalling how Matthew had deliberately embarrassed her yesterday by calling the police for a bottle of wine, she decided to keep these clothes.

She planned to put these clothes up for sale online and sell them at a discount. She figured that doing so would allow her to get most of her money back and recover part of her losses. Humming a little tune, she merrily walked out of Twilight Club's lobby.

It was already close to 10:00AM at this moment, and there were very few people in the lobby. Paying no attention to the presence of others, Veronica lowered her head and toyed with her phone, but after she left, a person emerged from a corner.

The person was none other than Tiffany. After glancing back at Veronica's receding figure, she turned to look at the private elevator, the floor indicator of which showed the digit "1." The elevator led to the top floor and was dedicated to Matthew's use. Besides Matthew, Thomas was the only other person who could use the elevator at will. But why would Veronica come out of the elevator with several bags in her hands?

Tiffany frowned with a vicious look in her eyes. Standing where she was, she pondered for a moment before making a phone call. "Help me check the surveillance footage of the private elevator lobby on the west side of Twilight Club over the past few days at once and see if a woman has shown up." After giving the instructions, she ended the phone call.

The private elevator went up before slowly coming down. When the elevator door opened, Thomas was standing inside. Upon seeing Tiffany, he gave her a slight nod. "Sorry to keep you waiting, Miss Larson."

The anger on Tiffany's fair and pretty face vanished all at once. She replied with a gentle smile, "Thank you for picking me up, Mr. Ritter."

"You're welcome, Miss Larson." Thomas sized Tiffany up with a meaningful look in ius eyes. Then, he asked, "Did you see anyone when you arrived just now?" He had sent Matthew a text message when Tiffany arrived. Matthew merely replied with an OK, which meant that Veronica was probably not upstairs. However, he knew very well that Veronica was upstairs last night. *Could Miss Murphy have left? In that case, could*. Miss Larson have run into her?

Tiffany's beautiful eyes froze slightly. For an instant, there was a look of surprise in her eyes, but it disappeared so quickly that Thomas didn't notice anything wrong at all. Her heart skipped a beat, and she couldn't help becoming nervous. *Could it be that Thomas also knew Veronica had come to Matthew's apartment?*

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"No, I didn't. Who do you expect me to see, Mr. Ritter?" Tiffany asked with feigned ignorance.

Thomas smiled at once. "No, nothing. I just wanted to ask if you had seen Miss Carson leaving." He cleverly made up an excuse. Miss Carson was one of the secretaries in Spinfluence Group's secretarial department, so it was normal for her to make contact with Matthew.

"No, I didn't." Tiffany stared fixedly at Thomas without blinking. When her keen eyes noticed the flicker of guilt in his eyes, she instantly realized that he was hiding something

Ding! The elevator reached the top floor.

Stepping out of the elevator, Thomas made an inviting gesture. "You may go in, Miss Larson. Young Master Matthew is inside. I'll be going down first." It would be improper for him, a personal assistant, to play gooseberry when the engaged couple were alone in a private space.

"Oh, okay." Tiffany nodded. Carrying her handbag, she stepped out of the elevator in high heels. After reaching the door to the living room, she knocked on the door, which opened automatically for her to go inside.

In the living room, Skyler was bombarding Matthew with questions about Veronica, whereas Caleb sat aside and listened quietly without saying a word. When the living room door suddenly opened, they looked at the door and saw Tiffany coming in.

Skyler's eyes widened involuntarily; he grabbed Caleb's arm and pinched it hard. "Holy sh*t, why's she here? It's lucky that Veronica's gone. Otherwise, wouldn't she have caught Matt in the act?" he whispered to himself.

However, as soon as he finished his sentence, Matthew immediately shot him a threatening glare, sending a chill down his spine while causing him to let out an involuntary gasp of fright.

Tiffany said, "Matthew? Oh, Skyler and Caleb! So both of you are here 100?" She had been suspecting just now that something was going on between Veronica and Matthew, but her mind was put to rest when she saw Skyler and Caleb. She thought she had worried too much just now. Even if Veronica did come, it was a best because Matthew had something to give her. After all, Veronica was Elizabeth's god granddaughter, so it was understandable for them to be in touch with each other

Furthermore, what else could happen between them in the presence of the upright Caleb?

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Forcing out a chuckle, Skyler waved to Tiffany and flattered her against his conscience, saying, "Ho ho, our gifted lady is here! You've become prettier since I last saw you several days ago." Luckily, he flirted with women all the time and was often accompanied by gorgeous ladies, so these words of flattery came to him as easily as breathing. They might sound insincere, but he was used to saying them.

Caleb nodded to Tiffany in greeting.

Matthew asked, "What brings you here?" He looked unperturbed upon seeing Tiffany, but his fathomless eyes rested on her face with a touch of scrutiny, as if musing on whether she had stumbled across Veronica.

"I wanted to go to your office to see you at first, but Mr. Ritter said you weren't there, so I came here instead." Tiffany came to Matthew's side and sat down. Seeing the sumptuous breakfast on the coffee table, she asked, "Matthew, why are you guys having breakfast so late in the morning?"

"Drew and Caleb ordered these since they hadn't eaten breakfast," Matthew replied. Skyler was the fourth child in his family, so Matthew and the others called him "Drew," a nickname that originated from the word "quadruple."

"Uh... Y-Yeah, t-that's right. Caleb and I were a little hungry, so we ordered something to eat," Skyler chimed in as he eagerly played along.

Seeing how the two men echoed each other's words, Tiffany believed their story, and her bad mood just now instantly disappeared. Sitting beside Matthew, she pursed her lips slightly while turning to look at the handsome man who would soon become her groom. At the thought of this, she felt exhilarated. Holding Matthew's arm in a very natural manner, she said coquettishly in a soft and sweet voice, "Matthew, are you free today? Could you go with me to pick my wedding dress?"

Needless to say, Tiffany was a gorgeous woman with an exceptionally sweet voice, and she could make countless men feel their bodies go limp just by acting a bit like a coquette. However, Matthew wasn't one of these men. "I'm—" he began, before changing his tune mid–sentence upon smelling the overwhelming perfume that Tiffany was wearing. "Don't wear perfume anymore. You're pregnant."

He was only asking Tillany to stop wearing perfume on the excuse of her pregnancy so that he wouldn't detest her even more. However, when Tiffany heard those words, she felt she was being loved and cared for by the man. Deeply moved, she nodded heavily. "Okay, I'll do as you say, Matthew." It doesn't matter even if the perfume and

cosmetics I'm using are safe for pregnant women. As long as he dislikes it, I'll correct it, she thought. Finally she added, "I'll try not to wear makeup and high heels from now on."

"Uh-huh," Matthew uttered impassively with his stony face devoid of expression.

Skyler and Caleb sat on the sofa across from the couple with their eyes focused on them. Upon sensing the very different attitudes Matthew had toward Tiffany and Veronica, they couldn't help but raise their eyebrows and turn to look at each other. Even though they didn't say anything, they understood what each other wanted to say. Matthew doesn't like Tiffany at all. Doesn't he feel compromised about having to marry her? Did he only choose her because Tiffany, a young lady of note who carries herself with grace and gentleness and is accomplished in everything she does, is the best candidate for the Kings Family's future matriarch?

"Matthew, let's go pick out my wedding dress with me," Tiffany pleaded. Then, before Matthew could say anything, she turned to look at Skyler and Caleb across from her, saying, "Skyler, Caleb, both of you will be the best men at Matthew and my wedding. Shall we go and pick out our attire together?" As Matthew's buddies, Skyler and Caleb would be the best men at his wedding, of course.

Skyler had a warm personality. Now that a beautiful lady was inviting him, he wouldn't turn her down, of course, so he nodded and agreed without hesitation. "Sure, no problem. As it

happens, Matt, Caleb, and I are free today, so it might not be a bad idea to pick out our attire for the wedding," he blurted out without thinking.

As soon as he finished his sentence, though, he noticed Matthew's darkened face, and the smile on his face froze. Immediately, he realized he had said something he shouldn't have—he shouldn't have accepted Tiffany's invitation. That being said, what was said couldn't be unsaid. He scratched his head while lowering his head to avoid Matthew's piercing gaze. He couldn't help but wonder, *Oh, my God! What the hell does Matt mean?*

"Since you guys are free today, let's go together," Matthew agreed for the first time.

The fact that he would agree to go pick out Tiffany's wedding dress with her made Caleb frown slightly. It was a barely perceptible emotional response, but it was sufficient to show how astounded Caleb, a man who rarely showed his emotion, was.

On the other hand, Tiffany was filled with ecstatic happiness. "Okay! In that case, let's go right away." God only knew how long she had been looking forward to this moment. Now that her dream was coming true, this was even more surprising to her than winning the 50–million jackpot! After all, the Kings family's future matriarch was a position that had been coveted by countless women for a long ume By becoming Matthew's wife, she would beat thousands of women to the draw

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After leaving Matthew's apartment, the group of four headed for the largest bridal shop in Bloomstead by car.

The bridal shop was a branch of a hugely popular international wedding dress fashion label that was favored by many due to the novel and good–looking design of its wedding

dresses. By the time Matthew and the others arrived at the bridal shop, Thomas had called the shop's owner in advance and asked that the place be cleared of other customers. Therefore, when the group entered the bridal shop, there was no one else inside other than the staff members.

The bridal shop's staff members stood in the lobby in two rows while respectfully awaiting the arrival of the big shots. Upon seeing Matthew and the others, the manager immediately went up and greeted them. "You must be Young Master Matthew. Please come inside," she said. "We've prepared some snacks for you guys. Please come with me."

Matthew didn't want to waste his time in such a place, though. "It's not necessary. Just take her to try on the wedding dresses right away," he replied. Then, he turned and said to Tiffany, "Go take a look and see what kind of wedding dress you'd prefer."

"Alright!" Tiffany replied happily with unconcealed joy and happiness on her smiling

face.

At Milady Bridal Boutique, every wedding dress was designed by the top designers of a mainstream international wedding dress fashion label. Moreover, the bridal shop would release a new one-of-a-kind limited-edition wedding dress every month, making the shop the dream place for countless women.

"Please come with me, Miss Larson. Young Master Matthew, please have a seat with your friends at the lounge," the manager said to the group.

With that, Tiffany followed the manager to the second floor to pick out her wedding dress, whereas Matthew and the others sat in the lounge on the first floor while having tea. Despite the fact that Matthew was about to get married very soon, there was no trace of joy on his face.

Skyler exchanged a brief look with Caleb. Unable to hold back his curiosity, he leaned close to Matthew and asked, "Matt, marriage is for life. Have you thought this through?" Once the marriage was formalized, there would be no turning back. There were some things that mustn't be handled in a slapdash way.

Iloiding his cup of tea with a contemplative look, Matthew rubbed the cup's surface liginly with his slender fingers.

"Drew is right." The taciturn Caleb patted Matthew on the shoulder with a mournful sigh.

Matthew didn't respond to either of the two men's words for a long time. It wasn't until he finished his cup of tea that he put down the cup, rose from his seat, and said, "Let's go upstairs to pick out our suits." With that, he stood up and headed for the second floor.

Skyler and Caleb looked at each other, at a loss for what to do. After that, they shrugged and shook their heads in helplessness.

At Milady Bridal Boutique, Tiffany had a hard time containing her excitement as she basked in joy the whole time. This was the happiest day for her in decades. After bustling about from noon until 3:00PM, she finally picked a.global limited-edition wedding dress that was one of the most beautiful wedding dresses at the shop.

After settling on the wedding dress in satisfaction, Tiffany left with Matthew. She knew it would be too late to have a wedding dress made to order right now on short notice, so she had no choice but to choose a limited-edition wedding dress. A little impatience spoils great plans, so I can't make a fuss because of a wedding dress. Otherwise, if Matthew breaks off our engagement then, I'll regret it very much in the future.

Upon returning to Dragon's Creek Villa, Tiffany said goodbye to Matthew and went back to her home.

Rachel and Floch weren't home. Planning to tell them the surprise after they came back, Tiffany returned to her bedroom to take a rest. She went upstairs with a spring in her step while humming to herself. However, as soon as she lay down in bed, her cell phone rang. It was a phone call from the number that she had dialed this morning at Twilight Condominium to have the surveillance videos looked into. "Did you get your hands on the surveillance footage?"

Twilight Club had surveillance cameras installed, but it was almost impossible for ordinary people to get their hands on the surveillance videos due to the high—end luxury club's excellent privacy. However, Tiffany didn't hesitate to spend a lot of money to find out the truth in order to investigate the relationship between Veronica and Matthew.

"The footage has been emailed to you. Check it yourself" the caller replied before hanging up.

Tiffany, who had been somewhat tired just a moment ago, was instantly wide awake. i caming against the head of the bed, she opened the email on her cell phone, and sure enough, there was a surveillance video attached. When she tapped on the video 10 play it, what she saw was the scene of Veronica stepping out of the elevator as the elevator door opened. However, when she continued playing the video, it suddenly cut to the scene where Veronica and Matthew entered the elevator together. The timestamp on the lower right corner of the video showed that the scene was recorded the night before.

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Initially, Tiffany had thought that the person had emailed her the entire video, but she didn't expect the person to compile all the scenes that had Veronica in them into the video. After playing the video for only about half a minute, she noticed from the video's timestamp that not only had Veronica gone in and out of Matthew's private apartment before, but she even had the access card to the private elevator. To the best of Tiffany's recollection, only Matthew and Thomas had access cards to the top floor, so she never expected Veronica to have the card as well.

Tiffany's face turned ghastly pale all of a sudden. Clutching the phone in her left hand, she clenched her teeth hard even while continuing to watch the video, and her eyes were ablaze with violent rage. One day, two days, three days... One week, two weeks... According to the time when Veronica had first appeared on the surveillance video, she had stayed in Matthew's apartment at Twilight Condominium for 17 days. 17 days!

Without Tiffany's knowledge, Veronica and Matthew had lived together for 17 days. Tiffany couldn't imagine what had happened during the 17 days Veronica and Matthew had spent living together. After all, Veronica had once been pregnant with Matthew's baby. Since they had slept together before, there was no way they wouldn't sleep together again while living together.

Tiffany only felt a suffocating pain in her chest. She felt as though she couldn't breathe; even her mind went blank, as though it had been deprived of oxygen. Clutching her cell phone in her hand, she kept gasping for breath as her chest heaved up and down. In the end, she even shivered uncontrollably. "That b*tch! That f*cking b*tch!" She swore to herself to vent her anger.

Suddenly, Tiffany's belly twinged. Clapping her hand over her belly, she thought to herself, I've got to calm down. I mustn't get angry. The baby is my only bargaining chip. If I miscarry the baby in a fit of rage, I'll pay too dearly for my whistle. Despite her towering rage, she chose to calm down for the first time, but tears of humiliation ran down the corners of her

eyes. She tried to calm down by taking deep breaths, but it took a long time before she recovered herself.

Knock! Knock! Suddenly, someone knocked on the door.

Rachel pushed the door open and came in. "So you're back, Tiffy! How is it? Did you get to try on your wedding dress with Matthew today?" Having learned from the servants that Tiffany had come home, she entered Tiffany's room, only to find how ghastly her daughter looked. "Oh, dear!" she exclaimed at once, before sitting on the edge of the bed and putting her hand over Tiffany's forehead. "What's wrong with you? Are you feeling unwell or something? Why do you look so pale all of a sudden?"

Upon feeling how much Rachel cared about her, Tiffany felt both aggrieved and resentful; she resented her mother for giving birth to Veronica after giving birth to her back then. If it weren't for Veronica, that b*tch, I would've gone up in the world long ago and become the happiest woman in the world by now. Not only does that b*tch rob me of my sense of security, but she also seduced my man and shamelessly slept with Matthew while I'm engaged to him! Struggling to control her emotions, she asked, "Mom, what would you do if somebody wants to rob your daughter of her happiness?"

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Although Tiffany was constantly trying to get her emotions under control, she eventually gave in to them. Every shade of malice that subtly surged in her deep eyes was perceived by Rachel. The latter was somewhat intimidated by the various atrocities—vexation, abhorrence, envy—fused in Tiffany's eyes.

"W-Who dares take your happiness away? I'll surely make them suffer!"

"Even Veronica?"

"Heh, what are you talking about, silly? Veronica will be going back to her hometown soon. How is she going to disrupt your bliss? Besides, she's now Old Mrs. Kings' god granddaughter, so don't pull anything reckless on her, okay? We can't afford to make a mistake or we're doomed."

Rachel's heart skipped a beat. She couldn't help but feel that Tiffany was somehow triggered. If it were her usual side, she would have started breaking things. Today, however, she was totally different; she was awfully petrifying.

"Really? I'd have assumed the reason you haven't touched her until now is because she's your daughter. Otherwise, how has she been able to get away from your countless schemes?"

All this time, the question had always been ringing in Tiffany's head, but she always got carried away by her desire to become the Young Mistress of the Kingses and would soon forget about the recurring issue. Now that she thought about that, she somehow felt that despite her parents' repeated hateful remarks regarding Veronica, they never took action to put her out of the picture. With their capabilities, eliminating a foolish country girl would be easier than singing the alphabet song.

At her questioning, Rachel's body stiffened, and her face froze. The only thing about her moving was her trembling eyes. After a while, she awkwardly laughed. "Oh, silly, what are you talking about? Veronica's just lucky to have escaped death. Now that she has become Old Mrs. Kings' god-granddaughter, of course I can't do anything to her! If the Kingses were to know we're plotting against her, how do you expect to be married into the Kings Family?"

Tiffany and Rachel stared at each other for a moment before the former suddenly grabbed her mother's hand with a grin. "Why are you so nervous, Mom? I was only asking because I was curious." For some reason, horrifying assumptions and suspicion against Rachel rose in Tiffany's heart. She even hid her true emotions from her mother.

"Is... Is that so?" Looking at her grin, Rachel smiled along, though her torced smile was obviously ingenuine.

"Of course! Forget it, Mom. Anyway, Matthew and I went to try out some wedding gowns earlier. I'm exhausted, so I'm gonna go take a nap."

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"Ah, tired, are you? Okay, okay, then. Better rest up if you're tired. I'll make you some food in the meantime."

"Thank you, Mom."

"Oh, save it, silly." Watching as Tiffany lay on her bed and slowly closed her eyes, Rachel got up and walked out of the room. Nonetheless, as the door was about to shut, she peeked at her daughter on the bed through the instantaneous crevice of the door, only to catch her suddenly opening her eyes. They were surging with malevolence, yet a smile was hanging on her face. In that instant, it felt like a nightmare. Although it didn't feel realistic, it certainly made Rachel anxious and paranoid. So traumatizing, those eyes...

Having shut the door, Rachel descended the stairs. As she was perturbed by the matter in her heart, she accidentally tripped on the staircase. Fortunately, Floch caught her in the nick of time, perplexedly saying, "You're an adult yet you can't watch your step? What should happen if you knock your head?"

"I'm fine. I just tripped." As much as she wanted to vent about the happening earlier to Floch, she eventually kept it to herself. –

Meanwhile, lying in the bedroom was Tiffany, who pulled out her phone and dialed a number she hadn't called in a long time.

"Beep, beep..." The call went through, but no one picked it up. As she was about to be sent to voicemail, someone answered her call.

"Wow, is it Christmas already? What made you call me?" On the phone was a devilish voice with a light chuckle.

"Take someone out for me."

"And who will it be?"

"Veronica Murphy."

"Veronica Murphy? Heh. Although I don't know who that is, how's Queen Larson gonna repay me, hmm?"

"As long as she dies today, I'll give whatever you ask for."

Ever since Veronica appeared in Tiffany's life, all hell had broken loose, and she couldn't wait for Veronica to disappear from the world. Once Veronica was killed off, no one else would compete for Matthew's love with her ever again.

"Hahahaha..." The man on the phone guffawed with his demonic, barbaric voice. Once he was done laughing, he softly answered, "Good. You're so straightforward, Queen Larson! But I love it.".

Having reached home from the Twilight Condominium, Veronica started reading a book as she lay in her bed, only to fall asleep while doing so. Some time later, she found herself waking up to her phone's ringtone. It was a call from Xavier. Slothfully crawled up in bed, she semi-consciously picked up her phone with her eyes still shut. "What's up, bro..."

"Since you're leaving tomorrow, I've got a present for you."

At the word "present," her drowsiness instantly dispersed as she ferociously sprung up sitting on her bed. "What gift?" <3

"Hehe..." Xavier gently giggled on the phone, and his voice was especially melodic. "Knew you'd be interested in it. It's three in the afternoon now. I'll be waiting for you at Zeem's at five." —

"Okay, okay. No problem," Veronica happily answered.

After getting out of bed, she started packing up her baggage. Thinking that she was about to leave her apartment the next day, she felt the one—year rent she'd paid in advance had gone to waste. Helplessly, she contacted her landlord and requested for a refund of ten thousand—losing ten thousand in the process—by using any way she could. Alas, she received a round of rebukes from her landlord before getting her refund. After packing up, she delivered her items to the post office to be posted to her hometown. By the time she was done with her moving preparations, it was already five.

While en route to Zeem's on her scooter, she stopped by a scooter store and sold her ride for a few hundred bucks. After all, she had no plans of returning to Bloomstead, so she decided to discard everything she owned to ensure an optimal profit. Ultimately, it was already half past five by the time she hastily arrived at the restaurant, and Xavier had been waiting for her for thirty minutes.

"I'm sorry. Something came up." She chuckled, seemingly embarrassed.

"Don'ı worry. I've just arrived too." Xavier benignly beamed at her.

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As the two got seated, they simply ordered some food and began a leisurely chat. After dinner, Xavier took Veronica out of the restaurant and suggested they go on a walk.

Walking by the road, Veronica quizzed, "You haven't told me what present you got for me yet."

"You'll find out soon."

Having reached a four—way crossroad, Xavier pointed to the opposite side of the road, hinting Veronica to go over with him. After waiting for a few seconds for the light to turn green, the two walked on the pedestrian crossing like normal people. At that moment, a black van charged at them. The van was as fast as lightning, and none could possibly dodge it.

"Watch out!"

"A car!"

Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 160

Chapter 160

Veronica was walking ahead with Xavier following her.

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They were walking and chatting when they suddenly heard a scream behind him. Instinctively, they darted their eyes sideways, only to see a black van with its headlights off speeding toward them. Instead of slowing down, the van sped up toward them!

"Watch out!" The danger was so sudden that Xavier had his heart in his mouth. However, just as he was about to pull Veronica aside, she kicked him away instead.

Xavier didn't have time to realize what had happened. Even though the kick sent him staggering a few steps to the side, his eyes were constantly fixed on Veronica, only that he no longer had the opportunity to save her, even if he wanted to. His mind went blank in the face of sudden danger; he only felt that Veronica might leave him just like that.

However, just as he was worried sick about Veronica, he saw her bend down sharply to gain momentum. Estimating the time when the van would hit her with absolute precision, she jumped up at the critical moment and landed gracefully on the hood of the van, using it to gain momentum before doing a front somersault. Just as she was about to land on the roof of the van, she placed her hands on it right away and took the opportunity to somersault off the van, landing on the ground steadily.

Astonished by her fluid movement, everyone gasped repeatedly, and they were fascinated by her cool action.

"Oh, my God! What quick reflexes she has!"

"Not only does she have quick reflexes, but she must be skilled in self-defense. Otherwise, if she had been a bit slower, she would've died with the van speeding so fast toward her.".

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"What a race against death in real life this is..."

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"Oh, my gosh! She's simply terrific."

"Is she alright?"

The onlooking crowd couldn't help speaking of Veronica in laudatory terms as they

talked about what had happened.

Rushing toward Veronica in big strides, Xavier grabbed her arms and checked on her from head to toe. "How are you? Are you alright? Do you feel unwell? Want me to send you to the hospital?" He was so worried about her safety that there was a slight . quaver in his voice as he spoke.

"Oh, I'm alright. I'm perfectly fine." Veronica shook her head with an understanding smile. "Are you kidding me? It was no big deal. There's no way I'd let the van hit me," she joked with laughter while turning to stare at the black unlicensed van that was disappearing into the distance. That van seemed to be coming at me. Who wants to kill me again this time? Who else could it be other than the Larsons? In some cases, it's easy to figure out the culprit behind the scenes without even thinking about it. But now that Tiffany's already about to get married to Matthew, why would she still not let me off?

"What are you looking at? I'm talking to you." Still in a state of shock, Xavier went limp with fright. God only knows how horrifying the scene just now was.

"Huh? Oh, nope, nothing." Veronica shook her head with a chuckle. "Why the hell was that van speeding so fast? It was like it was in a f*cking hurry because of an emergency or something," she chided with a casual air. She only said so deliberately because she didn't want Xavier to think that the van was coming at her. Xavier has helped me a lot ever since I came to Bloomstead. I can't get him in trouble anymore.

"An emergency, eh?" Xavier placed his hands on Veronica's shoulders while turning to look at the disappearing van with his head tilted to one side. For an instant, his eyes narrowed slightly with a murderous gleam. Just an accident? No way. The van was coming at Veronica, but this silly girl didn't realize it at all!

"Yeah, of course. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been in such a hurry."

"Well, that makes sense." Xavier's handsome face contorted into an awkward smile. Playing along with Veronica, he continued, "Glad to hear that you're alright, but... that was a pretty nice spontaneous response just now. Very cool." He praised her without reservation.

"But of course," Veronica replied with a self-satisfied smile before walking to the other side of the road with him.

As the pair left, traffic on the road returned to normal, and the cars were driving again as usual. The onlookers just now went about their business as if nothing had ever happened.

Upon reaching the square on the other side of the road, Veronica couldn't help but

ask Xavier, "What's the present that you said you'd be giving me?"

Seeing how eager Veronica was to know what the present was, Xavier took her hand and strode on with her. "Just come with me."

Next to the square was the river bank. After walking across the square, the two stood by the river, and Xavier took out his cell phone and sent a text message.

Veronica couldn't help but ask curiously, "What is it? You seem so secretive."

As soon as she finished her sentence, a sound that resembled that of a whistle sounded from across the river, and several rays of light reached high into the sky like shooting stars. The next instant, these rays of light exploded into spectacular fireworks with a loud *Boom!*

After bursting in midair, the colorful fireworks scattered in all directions like a meteor shower, and the lights slowly dimmed. Then, there were several whistling sounds again, followed by another loud *Boom!* as more beautiful fireworks exploded in the sky. With their rich display of lights and colors, the dazzling fireworks illuminated the initially dark sky.

"Oh, my! How spectacular." Despite being a competitive person, Veronica was a young lady, after all, so she liked fireworks very much. "Is this the present you wanted to give me?" Her eyes wandered before taking a glance at the fireworks in the night

sky. There were a row of fireworks along the river, which meant that at least 60 boxes — of firecrackers had been used.

"Uh-huh. Do you like it?"

"Yeah, of course! They're really beautiful. It's just that." Veronica couldn't help clicking her tongue while looking up at the exploding fireworks. "Tsk, tsk, tsk... You're not shooting off fireworks; obviously, you've spent a great deal of money. I would've been happier if you had given that amount of money to me instead."

"Haha..." Amused by Veronica's remark, Xavier smiled a gentle smile as he felt happy from the bottom of his heart. Just as expected, she's still her usual self. She's never changed; she's frank, unaffected, and adorable.

People rarely shot off so many brightly colored fireworks in Bloomstead except during festivals, so the fireworks displayed drew the attention of countless people who stopped to watch the fireworks. Some of them held up their phones to photograph the fireworks, whereas some took a selfie with the fireworks in the background. Tonight in Bloomstead, Instagram Stories was overwhelmed with photos that had the fireworks in the background.

Buzz... The fireworks were so loud that Veronica couldn't hear her cell phone ringing in her pocket, but she felt her phone vibrate for a second.

She took out her cell phone to take a look, only to see that it was a voice message from Melissa. When she held her phone up to her ear, she heard Melissa say, "Veronica, are you with Xavier right now? Today is his birthday, so I made a special effort to prepare a birthday dinner for him, but that shameless guy wouldn't answer my phone calls!"

Only then did Veronica realize that today was Xavier's birthday. However, he never mentioned it at all. Instead, he gave her a feast of fireworks as a present due to her

impending departure.

Instead of replying to Melissa's message, Veronica put away her cell phone and continued to watch the fireworks.

The fireworks display went on for 20 minutes before coming to an end. When Veronica and Xavier looked back, they realized that the river bank was already crowded with people. As it was very noisy around them, Veronica shouted to Xavier at the top of her voice, "There's no more fireworks, right? Come on, let's go. There are too many people here."

"Okay." Xavier nodded slightly.

The two of them pushed and squeezed their way out of the crowd one after another.