

Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 71

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Veronica shrugged and then she bowed deeply to Elizabeth. "Grandma, I'm very sorry for that."

"Ha! It's alright."

Elizabeth's reaction was totally beyond Veronica's expectations. Meanwhile, Elizabeth was elated and she grabbed hold of Veronica before studying the latter as she circled her. "Gosh! I read on the news two days ago that you're the Larsons' daughter and I didn't believe it then. I can't believe that you're actually the one. If I hadn't gotten the preemptive information from the news, I would have definitely been shocked."

"Grandma, aren't you angry with me?"

Veronica had initially assumed that Elizabeth would be unhappy to see her reveal her actual look. However, Elizabeth wasn't the least bit upset at all.

"Gosh, I'm more than happy for you! Why would I get angry?"

Just then, Elizabeth held Veronica's hand tenderly. "Come to think of it, you look exactly like Tiffany. The only difference is the mole on your nose. Your eyes look bigger, and are more expressive and prettier than hers. You little brat! You're so pretty, yet you disguise yourself as such an ugly-looking person!"

Just then, Elizabeth had so much to share with Veronica and the former conveniently overlooked Tiffany. Tiffany was significantly displeased about it, but she didn't dare to reveal her displeasure.

"Veronica, where have you disappeared to lately? Do you know that Mom and I have been searching for you all this while?"

Tiffany, who was the best at putting on an act, stepped forward and grabbed Veronica into a tight hug. "I knew it! It's no wonder that I felt a sense of familiarity when we first met. It's obviously because you're my younger sister. Did you know in advance about our relationship? Did you put on that ugly disguise because you didn't want to come back home with me?"

The tears suddenly streamed down Tiffany's face as she sobbed. Her 'heart wrenching' performance pained those who saw her.

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Meanwhile, Veronica stood there with a stunned look as Tiffany hugged her. The former's entire body was stiff and she felt as if she had been struck by lightning. The

uncomfortable sensation she felt right now was utterly unbearable.

However, Veronica knew that her acting skills were as good as Tiffany's, so she reached out to push Tiffany aside. The former contemptuously refused to continue this act with the latter, so she coldly mentioned, "Yes. I purposely put on a disguise to avoid going back home."

As such, she managed to come up with a great excuse for her decision to put on a disguise.

Despite her strong urge to uncover the Larson Family's true colors, she realized that Elizabeth had just recovered from a stroke not long ago and couldn't sustain any shock. Hence, Veronica didn't dare to reveal the truth.

Otherwise, if anything happened to Elizabeth from the shocking revelation, Veronica was unable to suffer Matthew's wrath.

By then, without Elizabeth's protection, Veronica would definitely be in a precarious state.

Just then, Tiffany's eyes were reddened and she swallowed. With trembling lips, she muttered, "Why? Do you know how much Mom missed you all of these years? She has been searching for you everywhere while you were gone these past few days."

"No particular reason. I just didn't like it. Is this a sufficient explanation?" Veronica harshly retorted, her expression cold.

Anxious to locate me? They're just anxious to locate me so that they can get rid of me in the shortest time possible!

"Goodness, that's enough. Tiffany, it's great that Veronica's been located, but she has been brought up by her adopted parents all this while so she would naturally be close to them. You can't rush things."

Elizabeth pulled Tiffany aside and advised, "Now that Veronica's been located, you should quickly go back and inform your parents. It's just nice too, because I've got some things to share with Veronica as well."

It was obvious from Elizabeth's words that it was time for Tiffany to leave.

With reddened eyes, Tiffany lifted a finger to wipe off the tears on her face. Subsequently, she walked to stand in front of Matthew and said softly, "Matthew, thanks for helping to locate my younger sister

Though Tiffany expressed her gratitude verbally, she was in fact extremely jealous deep down. *This annoying b*tch! Why couldn't she have died when she was out there? How did she manage to get back alive?!*

"She's Grandma's god-granddaughter, so it's just something that I should do," Matthew coolly replied.

His words sounded quite formal to the point that he seemed indifferent.

"Matthew, where did you find Veronica?" Tiffany continued to ask.

Meanwhile, he glanced at Veronica before replying to Tiffany's question, "Actually, she went to the countryside to take a break, so there was nothing to worry about. Since we've located her, you should inform your parents as soon as possible."

"Exactly! This means that Thomas can send you home and then bring your parents over too. Let's have dinner together," Elizabeth commented as she basked in joy, elated beyond words.

Meanwhile, Tiffany clenched her fists tightly to the point that her fingernails became deeply embedded into her palms. She was extremely jealous to see Elizabeth being so fond of

Veronica, but she could only put on an obedient front and nod her head. "Alright, grandma. I'll go back first. Veronica, stay on and keep Grandma company. I'll go now."

At that moment, Veronica couldn't even care less about responding to Tiffany, as she was mainly concerned about Elizabeth. "Grandma, when did you get discharged from the hospital? How are you feeling?"

"I'm feeling great! Although the blood clot in my brain has dissolved, the doctor has still given me instructions to take a good rest."

The two of them continued to chat with each other as Matthew turned around and walked off to make a phone call.

Meanwhile, Tiffany seemed to be the odd one out as she stood there in the huge living room.

Just then, Tiffany glared at Veronica ferociously and she turned around to leave, her expression furious.

Inside the living room, Elizabeth held on to Veronica's hand as they sat on the couch. Elizabeth used her wizened hands to cup Veronica's face and then the former took a close look at it. It was as if the older woman couldn't get enough of the girl's looks. "Actually, you're very good-looking after removing your disguise. Although you look similar to Tiffany, you're in fact much prettier. Gosh! You're a sight for sore eyes indeed."

Elizabeth patted Veronica's hand and was significantly in happy spirits.

On the other hand, Veronica seemed quite bashful as she asked, "Grandma, aren't you mad at me?"

"What's there to be mad about? I just think that Matthew, that little brat, must have been blind. If he hadn't been disdainful of your looks back then and married you directly, it would have been awesome!"

Just then, Elizabeth glared at Matthew, who had just walked over, and turned to Veronica. "Don't worry, though. Bloomstead is huge and there are plenty of great guys too. Once I announce to the public that you're my granddaughter, I'll also start to sort out a date for you."

Since the first time that Elizabeth had met Veronica, the former had been exceptionally fond of the latter.

Furthermore, Veronica had saved Elizabeth, and this also deepened the old lady's good impression of her.

Elizabeth's biggest regret was perhaps that Matthew didn't manage to marry Veronica. Now that he was engaged to be married to Tiffany, there was nothing else Elizabeth could say.

Upon hearing that, Matthew became thunderous and he coldly exclaimed, "Even if she's your granddaughter, ultimately, she comes from the countryside so no one in Bloomstead will be interested in her."

Somehow, he was quite annoyed to hear Elizabeth mention introducing a prospective date for Veronica.

Suddenly, he seemed to find Veronica's flawless looks extremely annoying, and he didn't find her as likable as her previous darker and uglier self.

"Shut your mouth! You're her elder brother from now on and if you dare to bully her, I'll definitely break your legs!" Elizabeth chided Matthew angrily, and then she pointed at him. "There's one more thing-send the details and photos of those handsome, rich guys that you always hang out with to me. Make sure to pick the responsible ones. I'll personally pick a date for Veronica."

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Elizabeth's words caused Matthew's expression to darken significantly

However, he recalled the doctor's repeated instructions of avoiding angering her before she was discharged from the hospital, so he could only nod his head perfunctorily. "Okay."

Meanwhile, Veronica was extremely gleeful to see Matthew getting told off.

However, she stopped smiling and turned to Elizabeth. "Grandma, Matthew's right. My background is indeed not a good match for them."

"Well, it's good that you know your position." Matthew agreed with her words.

However, as soon as he said that, there was a loud 'bang' that sounded, as Elizabeth had immediately flung the cup in front of her at Matthew's feet. "I told you to shut up! Are you deaf or what?"

Just then, Elizabeth had a thunderous expression as she stared at Matthew. However, as soon as she turned to Veronica, she showed a warm and inviting smile. "Silly girl, what are you on about? Why are you considering whether you're a good match for them or not? You're a kind and obedient child who's very pretty too. Besides, you have a university degree, so you're definitely a worthy match. Self-confidence is important in a girl. Trust me, I have good judgment so if I reckon that you're good enough, then you definitely are!"

At that point, Veronica could feel Elizabeth's kindness and the former was significantly touched.

Veronica shot a look at Matthew, who was sitting off to one side with a cold expression on his face, and she noticed that he was seated quite stiffly on the couch. From his expression,

she could tell that he seemed quite resigned toward Elizabeth's actions. Truth be told, Veronica had never seen such an awkward expression on his face.

Just then, she was rather tickled by the situation. At the same time, she also realized that Matthew was indeed very filial toward Elizabeth.

"Grandma, you're the best!"

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Veronica didn't want Elizabeth's efforts to be in vain, so the former didn't directly reject the latter's suggestion.

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"There's no need to be so courteous with me." Elizabeth smiled.

Suddenly, her expression turned stern and she moved closer to Veronica to ask softly, "By the way, I never got to ask you-why do you loathe Tiffany? Are you actually that reluctant to go home?"

Elizabeth's consecutive questions were ones that Veronica refused to answer.

Elizabeth clearly sensed Veronica's attitude too, so she spoke up. "Darling, I'm not trying to make you go back home. I just wanted to let you know if you don't want to go back, you..."

And so, Elizabeth paused for a moment and patted herself on the chest. "With me around, no one can force you to go back!"

Elizabeth's words struck a chord within Veronica and the latter could no longer contain her emotions. The tears welled up in her eyes, causing her eyes to turn red and she was quite touched. "Grandma, you're awesome..."

Because of her relationship with Elizabeth, Matthew had saved Veronica during the fire. Then, he had saved her once again when she had been kidnapped onto that cruise ship.

Right now, Elizabeth even went as far as to be Veronica's strong support to fend off the pressure very likely to be inflicted by the Larsons?

This was completely beyond Veronica's expectations because Elizabeth was merely a stranger to her, yet the older woman treated her so well merely after a few interactions.

"Gosh! Why are you tearing up all of a sudden?"

Just then, Elizabeth was frantic upon noticing the tears that threatened to spill over Veronica's eyes. Glaring at Matthew, Elizabeth muttered, "Why are you still standing there? Hurry up and hand me the tissue on the table!"

Meanwhile, Matthew glanced from Elizabeth to Veronica, and there was a slightly displeased look that flashed across his eyes. *This despicable woman is so good at putting up an act!*

At that moment, he reached out for the tissue box and handed it over to Elizabeth,

Elizabeth hurriedly pulled some tissue out and handed it to Veronica. "It's fine. Don't cry. With me around, I won't let anyone bully you. Even if the Larsons are my future

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in-laws, I won't allow them to do whatever they want."

"Grandma, I don't want to go back home. Can you really help me?"

Just then, Veronica sniffled and took the tissue to wipe off her tears.

Ever since she had arrived in Bloomstead, the person who had helped her the most, other than Xavier, was Elizabeth.

The presence of the two of them was like a glimmer of light in her darkened life in Bloomstead, and they lit up her way, ensuring that she didn't descend into despair.

Also, Elizabeth's kindness made Veronica think of her late grandmother.

Her grandmother had doted on her the same way and would always provide Veronica with nothing but the best.

Besides her grandmother, her grandfather had also regarded her as his precious treasure too.

"I definitely mean it, but you have to tell me honestly-why are you reluctant to go home?"

Truth was, Elizabeth had merely made a guess that Veronica didn't want to go back to the Larsons. After all, it was all quite evident from Veronica's ugly disguise and her dislike of Tiffany. Furthermore, the Larson Family had publicly announced their intention to welcome Veronica back home, but she had run away instead.

Hence, Elizabeth was quite curious as to the reason for Veronica's actions.

Just then, Veronica gripped tightly onto the tissue in her hand before she pursed her lips. She turned her head slightly to look at Matthew, her expression thoughtful.

"Why are you looking at him? You can be frank with me. I'll definitely trust you!" Elizabeth replied resolutely.

"Is that true?"

"Why would I lie to you?"

"They..."

At that moment, Veronica had some hesitations. She wanted to reveal the Larsons' various misdeeds but right now, she didn't have a single piece of evidence at all.

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However, if she didn't reveal it, then the Larsons would definitely try all sorts of unscrupulous ways to target her and force her to go back. By then, it would be a piece of cake for them to lay their hands on her.

After some consideration, Veronica ended up mentioning a single incident. "The Larsons have known about my presence for quite some time now and they wanted me to go back. It was because they actually wanted me to donate my bone marrow to Randy. Right now, though, it's likely that they want me back because the press had previously revealed that they have another daughter that was abandoned, so they must have done this because of the pressure from all of the speculations."

Although Veronica didn't have any evidence to prove the Larsons' misdeeds, she had arranged for the press to reveal the incident with the bone marrow donation. Therefore, her current words made sense.

"What?!"

Just then, Elizabeth sat up from her seat and the look of anger on her face was evident. "Is everything reported on the news previously true? But Tiffany is Randy's elder sister too. Isn't she an eligible donor?"

"Their bone marrows are incompatible."

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"That explains it, then." Elizabeth nodded her head as it dawned upon her.

Just then, she turned her head to glance at Matthew. "See! That's the woman that you're attracted to!"

Significantly speechless, Matthew thought, *Who's the one biologically related to Grandma, huh?*

"Randy has leukemia, so it's not a disease that can be cured in such a short time. I'm afraid that they want you back so that you'll be able to donate to Randy in the future."

Elizabeth considered the situation before she heaved a deep sigh and shook her head. There seemed to be a lot on her mind.

Meanwhile, Veronica wasn't quite sure of the Larsons plans, but she mainly wanted to let Elizabeth know that she didn't want to go back. Hence, she had achieved her purpose by doing so.

"You poor child!"

Elizabeth was quite distressed about Veronica's predicament. Just then, the former

patted the latter on the back of her hand. "Don't worry. You're now part of the Kingses, so there's nothing to be afraid of. I'll protect you!"

"Thank you for helping me, Grandma!" Veronica was very grateful.

After that, Elizabeth descended into a short bout of silence before she got up to say to Matthew, "You, come with me." With that, she turned to smile kindly at Veronica. "Veronica, take a seat over here for now."

"Sure thing, Grandma!" Veronica nodded in agreement.

Just then, Elizabeth got up and left. Meanwhile, Matthew shot a cold look at Veronica before trailing after Elizabeth to the room next door.

The Kings Residence was centuries old and it was a building that had been passed on from generations back. The building was rustic with plenty of nicely-carved beams, and there was even a traditional pavilion that was quite unique.

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Furthermore, most of the items in the residence were preserved in their original style and design. Everything gave out a strong retro vibe. One would feel as if they had taken a step back into the past as they became immersed in the surroundings.

There was a door by the wall to the right of the large living room that led to the room next door.

Meanwhile, Matthew trailed after Elizabeth and entered the room. Subsequently, he shut the door after him.

Elizabeth stood in front of Matthew and lifted her head to look at him. "Did you hear that? Do you realize what sort of woman you've chosen?"

"Grandma, what are you trying to say?"

"What am I trying to say?! Did you hear Veronica's words? The Larsons' are despicable!"

"Grandma, can't you tell that Veronica's trying to use you?"

In regard to this, Matthew was quite sensitive about it and he was very displeased.

"I'm her grandmother, so how can it be considered as making use of me? Furthermore, I was the one who asked her about it!" Elizabeth retorted.

"She already knew that you had a stroke and can't sustain any shock, yet she chose to tell you so much. Her motives are impure."

He stood regally tall and his handsome features were full of coldness.

"That's bullsh*t!" Elizabeth couldn't help spewing profanity at that point. "Since when did telling the truth is equivalent to impure motives? I don't care about anything else, but I'll have you know that you'd better make sure you keep Tiffany under control; otherwise, don't blame me for forbidding her from entering our home."

Elizabeth didn't force Matthew to annul the engagement because she took into account that he liked Tiffany. Also, the former was worried that the Kings Family's reputation would be affected if they called off the engagement with the Larsons at this point.

After all, the Kingses were a major family, so any slight action would directly affect their company's profits and further development.

Similarly, Matthew cared about this too, but he cared much more about Tiffany's act of saving his life in the past.

The rumors out there were that Matthew was a cold and merciless guy but unbeknownst to everyone, he was an extremely loyal and grateful man.

"Alright, you can leave now. I need to make a phone call." Elizabeth waved him off and walked to the couch in the room and took a seat.

Meanwhile, Matthew walked out of the room and shut the door behind him.

He strode into the living room and he coldly shot a look at Veronica, who was sitting on the couch, before grabbing her by the wrist. "Come with me."

"What?" Veronica was startled by his sudden actions. However, it seemed within expectations too.

Matthew dragged her out of the living room and made his way to the pavilion in the little garden at the back. Subsequently, he turned his arm and held her against a pillar. He then grabbed her by the collar and growled in a low voice, "So, you've achieved your purpose, huh?"

His well-sculpted features accentuated his handsome face, and his expression clearly exuded coldness at the moment. Coupled with his ferocious expression, he looked as if he was about to devour her and it was quite terrifying indeed.

However, Veronica maintained a calm expression and smiled at him. "Matthew, why are you so angry all of a sudden? She's my grandmother, so I told her about my troubles. Isn't that reasonable?"

She blinked her clear eyes and there was a slight amusement in her gaze that looked quite annoying to him.

Indeed, she admitted that she had an ulterior motive for saying those words to Elizabeth earlier, but that didn't mean that she had plotted the initial encounter with Elizabeth and to save Elizabeth's life later on.

Just then, Matthew narrowed his eyes and reached out to hold Veronica's chin up before moving closer to her. "Are you challenging me?"

She responded with a scoff and the smile on her face disappeared all of a sudden.

"Challenge you?"

She raised her brows and met his cold look. "You were the one who brought me back from overseas. You managed to locate me, so surely you would know the reason for me being kidnapped. As for the fire last time, I'm sure that you know who's involved, right? Matthew, you're the one who's intentionally pretending to be clueless about everything. You're also the one who hid the truth from your grandmother."

Veronica lifted a finger to poke him in the chest as she interrogated him. "You hid the whole truth from her because you're in love with Tiffany, so don't you think you're the one who actually is purposeful in your actions rather than me?"

"You put on such a great act of being deeply in love with Tiffany and yet, you went behind her back to engage in an illicit relationship with me. Is she aware of all this? Besides, why do you live in the penthouse of Twilight Club? Is it actually because of its close distance to your office? I don't think so! It's all because there are plenty of women with various figures at Twilight Club for you to pick and choose from, so it's like your personal harem! Matthew Kings, don't you dare regard yourself so highly! Is your grandmother really aware of your behavior?" Just then, Veronica blurted out everything in her mind as she was quite angry with him.

"You keep saying that I have ulterior motives, but I'm quite suspicious right now. Back then, you suggested for me to give birth here, but you purposely got engaged with Tiffany in a

haste and made me realize this so that I would miscarry. Did you not know about my identity back then? Otherwise, why would you, the President of Spinfluence Group, jump into bed with such an ugly girl like me more than once?! You're not blind, are you?"

Previously, Veronica had never considered all this.

However, right now, she suddenly realized that Matthew's actions were definitely suspicious.

She suspected that he had known about her identity since the start and he knew that she was Tiffany's sister, so he had forced himself on her and then hastily gotten engaged with Tiffany before announcing it to the world.

Veronica was clearly aware that he had no intentions of allowing her to bear a child with the Kings' family name. Furthermore, he had sent her to the operating room directly.

She also wondered that perhaps it was because of the pressure from Elizabeth that she had managed to keep the child.

In the end, Matthew had no other option but to get engaged with Tiffany, and forced Veronica to give up the child to Tiffany to raise. As such, she had miscarried because of this.

All of this sounded very reasonable after further consideration,

Meanwhile, Matthew was stunned in place as he heard her words. He couldn't come up with any comeback.

He could clearly see the unmistakable anger and hatred in her eyes. *Does she hate me?!*

"Why are you keeping silent? You must be feeling guilty, *huh?*"

Veronica curled up her red lips and smirked coldly. "Don't you dare speak so highly of yourself and don't assume that I should be extremely grateful just because you saved my life! If it wasn't because of your grandmother's fondness for me, would you have saved me at all? Ultimately, you just think of me as a plaything that can cheer her up!"

"Matthew—*oh*, wait. From now onward, I must remember to address you as my darling brother!"

With that, Veronica placed both hands on his shoulders and tilted her head slightly to smile at him. "Bro, we're just making use of each other for our own motives, so we should just play our own role well. Do you agree?"

Despite Veronica's words, she was, in fact, truly fond of Elizabeth.

The former was also one to show her gratitude, so she was very mindful of Elizabeth's kindness.

On the other hand, Matthew turned ashen as soon as he heard her words and he clenched his hands, which were hanging loosely by the side, tightly into fists.

He felt an unexplainable tightness in his chest and it made him feel slightly out of breath. He could even feel a slight ache. *Is this my body's reaction due to extreme anger?*

He could clearly feel his raging anger but unbeknownst to him, the anger he felt actually masked the pain in his heart.

His sincerity toward Veronica had ended up being regarded by her as all sorts of plots and misunderstandings.

Just then, he pulled his lips up into a cold smile. "That's great."

He held her onto her chin and lifted her head before enunciating carefully, "Since you know your place, then make sure you perform your part as a good granddaughter."

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"Bro, you should also address me as your dear sister." There was a slight smile on her flawless face.

Just then, Matthew's eyes met hers. "Are you even worthy of that?"

"Well, regardless of whether I'm worthy or not, I'm now Grandma's god granddaughter and your sister. There's no difference as to whether you admit it or not. Don't you think so, brother?"

Their eyes met each others' and although both appeared to be smiling happily, in actual fact, they were secretly having it out and neither of them wanted to give in to the other.

Matthew wasn't tolerant of others' flaws. Moreover, it was related to Elizabeth-the person he respected the most-so his attitude toward Veronica took a complete turn the moment he realized that she had used Elizabeth.

"Life and death are no different too. That's because..."

He paused for a moment before caressing her chin with his index finger. Then, he calmly mentioned word by word, "It's all within a flick of a finger."

"Tsk! I'm really scared of your threats, darling brother!"

Veronica frowned and she purposely showed a frightened expression before suddenly bursting into laughter.

She lifted her head to look up at him. She continued to smile but shortly after that, her smile dissipated bit by bit and her expression turned cold. "As long as your grandmother is

around, you'll spare my life for the sake of her happiness. Come to think of it, you're such a filial grandson."

Just then, Veronica made a thumbs-up gesture at him.

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"Bro, I do feel drained seeing you make so much effort to be a great fiance and a filial grandson at the same time."

She lifted her hand to push his hand aside and before poking him on the chest with her slender finger. "Good luck to you!"

With that, Veronica smiled meaningfu

nd turned around to leave.

Meanwhile, Matthew remained stuck in his original position and it took him quite some time before he shifted his body. He glanced at the woman who had already walked off and his dark brows became furrowed. At the same time, he had mixed emotions.

To her, I'm actually such a despicable and scheming person?! Matthew thought to himself, but he didn't realize that he also regarded her as a scheming woman similarly because she had made use of Elizabeth.

That was also the reason for his change in attitude toward Veronica.

Just then, she went back into the living room and sat down to chat and make small talk with Elizabeth.

One hour later, Floch, Rachel and Tiffany turned up at the Kings Residence.

The couple came bearing gifts and they fawningly greeted Elizabeth as soon as they saw her. "Old Mrs. Kings, how are you feeling? Are you fully recovered?"

"Floch and I are here to visit you and we've brought you some supplements."

The duo handed over the supplements to the servants as they spoke.

Elizabeth glanced at them and there was a flash of annoyance across her face, but she maintained a calm front. "You shouldn't have. There's no need to be so courteous."

The three of them exchanged polite pleasantries while Veronica sat on the couch. Just then, she calmly glanced at Floch and Rachel.

Ever since they had asked for 2 million from her previously, this was the second time that they came into contact with each other.

She looked at the two of them looking like lap dogs wagging their tails in front of Elizabeth, and she felt a rush of contentment.

"Ah! You... You're... Veronica, aren't you?"

Suddenly, it was as if Rachel seemingly had her eyesight restored, as she finally discovered Veronica sitting by the side. And so, Rachel instantly walked over. "Tiffany told me earlier that you were here with Old Mrs. Kings, but I didn't trust her words at first. I can't believe that it's true!"

Rachel put on an exceptional act and she couldn't contain her sobs as the tears welled up in her eyes.

Her acting skills were indeed as good as Tiffany's.

"Veronica, where have you been all this while? Ever since you left Bloomstead, we've been searching high and low for you!" Floch also revealed a pained expression.

Meanwhile, Tiffany shot a look at her parents, and there was an extremely displeased look in her eyes.

Initially, they had intended to invite Veronica back and this was totally unacceptable to Tiffany. Right now, even though the latter knew that her parents were just putting on an act of being concerned, she couldn't contain the intense jealousy she felt as soon she saw the way they behaved around Veronica.

In the end, Tiffany could no longer stand it. "Grandma, Mom, Dad, you guys should spend some time with Veronica. I need to use the washroom."

She scanned the surroundings but didn't see Matthew, so she came up with a random excuse and wanted to go and look for him. She didn't want to stay there any longer.

Floch and Rachel nodded at Tiffany and then they moved forward to stand in front of Veronica. "Veronica, you must have experienced so much suffering all of these years. Come on over and let Mo... let me take a good look at you."

In terms of acting, Tiffany must have learned it from Rachel.

At that moment, tears streamed down Rachel's face and her eyes were red-rimmed. Furthermore, she couldn't quite stop her chin from trembling. In all honesty, her touching, poignant look seemed utterly sincere.

"Stay away from me." Veronica sat on the couch and shot a cold look at the two before responding coolly.

She spoke in an arrogant tone without showing any respect to the two.

Instantly, the duo's expression darkened and because they had their backs facing Elizabeth, they revealed ferocious, terrifying looks on their faces but ultimately, they didn't lose their tempers.

Rachel was dressed in a dark purple maxi dress and she had her hair swept into chignon. Furthermore, she had some light makeup on and she carried herself with an air of elegance befitting a lady of affluence. "My poor child!" she sobbed. "It's my fault for all your suffering all these years! Now that Floch and I have finally located you, you must come back home with us, alright?"

After she had asked the question, Floch, who was slightly plump and dressed in a suit, added, "It's fine even if you refuse to acknowledge us as your parents. We just want to compensate for the past, that's all."

"Compensate for the past?" Veronica crossed her feet and shot a look at the two. "Do you really want to compensate me?"

"Of course!"

"You've suffered so much all these years while you were living apart from us," the both of them responded.

Meanwhile, Veronica nodded slightly. "Okay. How much do you plan to give me? Since you want to compensate me, then give me some money. I'm only keen on that." Just then, Veronica did what she did best and she expressed her scorn with an innocent expression.

As soon as she finished her sentence, the couple stiffened and they exchanged looks with each other before turning to look at Elizabeth, who was seated by the side. They had angry looks on their faces, but they couldn't quite lose their tempers.

"Yeah, that's right. Veronica definitely suffered a lot. Look at her. She can't even afford proper clothings and her dress is a present from her brother too!"

Elizabeth, who was seated by the side, spoke up at the right time.

She shook her head as she spoke and she heaved a huge sigh, looking as though Veronica's predicament pained her terribly.

Elizabeth came from affluence, so she was quite familiar with all of the designer brands and she knew that Veronica had on a limited edition dress that was from the latest season. It would definitely have cost way more than what Veronica could afford, so Elizabeth guessed that Matthew must have been the one who bought it for her.

"How can that be..."

Rachel lifted her hand to swipe off the tears on her face. Meanwhile, Floch patted her back comfortingly and said, "Stop crying. We've located our daughter now so there's plenty of chances for us to compensate her in the future."

As he said that, he reached for his wallet and rummaged inside for a card. Just then, he shot a cold look at Veronica and after some consideration, he handed over a card with the least amount of money inside to her. "I know that you've suffered a lot all of these years. There's some money inside this card. Feel free to use it."

Meanwhile, Veronica swept a look at the card and instantly asked, "How much money is in there?"

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"There's..."

Just as Floch tried to figure out a reply, Elizabeth suddenly pointed out, "At the very least, there should be a minimum of three to five million for it to be acceptable."

"Three to five...?" Rachel froze and her tears halted all of a sudden. She turned back to glance at Elizabeth, but she didn't dare to say a word despite her anger. On the contrary, she went along and nodded with an apologetic smile. "You're right, Old Mrs. Kings. You're quite right indeed."

However, Floch didn't pay much heed and he instantly lied through his teeth. "Yeah, I think so too. There is about three million in there. The money is compensation for the poor girl."

He was quite the two-faced person and at that moment, he was utterly tempted to wring Veronica's neck.

"You..."

Just then, Veronica lifted her hand to take the card and she was just about to say something when Elizabeth stood up abruptly and walked toward her. "Veronica, give the card to me and I'll check the balance for you."

Elizabeth was very insistent and she clearly showed that she was on Veronica's side. The former's action was an obvious indicator that she didn't trust the Larson couple as she snubbed them directly.

Meanwhile, Veronica was stunned at first and soon after that, a wave of gratitude flooded her. Elizabeth is too kind to me! I must have been an exemplary human being in my past life to have been granted this encounter with her in this current life.

"Mr. Randall, call and check for the balance on this card." Elizabeth handed over the card to her servant by the side and muttered, "We must be clear with matters that involve money. Otherwise, it would be troublesome if anything got mixed up."

"Yes, of course. You're definitely right!" Floch hastily agreed but he couldn't control himself from wiping off the beads of sweat on his forehead guiltily as he regretted his actions.

Meanwhile, the servant named Mr. Randall took the card from Elizabeth and walked off to find out the balance.

On the other end, Elizabeth took a seat by Veronica's side and she lovingly held the girl's hand. With a doting look, she asked, "Are you hungry? You've been running around the whole day."

Elizabeth's expression of concern was exactly like a loving grandmother doting on her granddaughter.

The Larsons were quite frantic about the card but as soon as they noticed the tender moment between Elizabeth and Veronica, there was a glint in their eyes as they exchanged looks with each other. This was the reason why Rachel had stopped Floch in the past.

Previously, he had been prepared to get rid of Veronica, but Rachel had interjected and said that since Elizabeth doted on Veronica, then they should just directly announce Veronica's identity to the public and bring her home. In the future, they would be able to make use of Veronica's identity as Elizabeth's god-granddaughter to foster closer ties with the Kingses.

After all, the Kings Family had an invincible presence in Bloomstead. If the Larsons managed to bring Veronica home, then her position as Elizabeth's god

granddaughter and Tiffany's position as Matthew's fiancée would definitely elevate their positions in the social circle of Bloomstead. In the future, this would definitely bring about an abundance of business opportunities and wealth to the Larsons.

As soon as Floch heard Rachel's analysis, he instantly clapped his hands with joy and agreed to it. Shortly after that, they announced Veronica's identity to the press and publicly stated that they were going to bring her back home to compensate for her suffering

"Old Mrs. Kings, the bank mentioned that this card has a balance of only fifty thousand."

Just then, the servant walked over and handed the card to Elizabeth as he spoke.

"Alright, I understand." In response, Elizabeth took the card from him. Although she was quite old, she looked utterly formidable when the expression on her wrinkled face darkened. She held the card and immediately flung it toward Floch. "There's only fifty thousand in there! Is this your compensation?!"

"No! No! I've made a mistake. It's a mistake. There used to be three million inside but I donated it to the Red Cross. I've been too forgetful and made a mistake."

Floch didn't expect that Elizabeth would actually make them look bad, but he also realized then that she seemed to be overly concerned about Veronica. Just then, he plotted in his mind and quickly took out another card for the servant, "Here. Could you check the balance on this card, please?"

Meanwhile, Rachel didn't expect such a situation and she was quite reluctant to part with the money. However, she could only apologize repeatedly, "Old Mrs. Kings, please don't be angry. Floch is usually too busy with work so he must have made a mistake."

However, Elizabeth scoffed coldly. "Why are you apologizing to me? I'm not the person affected here!" Elizabeth reprimanded them mercilessly.

Veronica nearly burst into tears upon seeing Elizabeth's actions. "Grandma, you're too kind to me!" She clung to Elizabeth's wrist and leaned closer to nuzzle herself against Elizabeth as she purred, "I'm so touched."

"Veronica, I've made a mistake. Don't get mad at me."

"Exactly, Veronica. Your dad's just too busy with work. Mistakes occur, so please don't mind him."

The Larsons tried to explain themselves and continued to put on an act. However, Veronica refused to accept that. "I only have one father and he's living in the countryside!" She rebuked mercilessly, blatantly showing her disrespect for the Larson Family.

Veronica was perfect at putting up an arrogant front by making use of Elizabeth's position.

"Hmph! What's wrong with the two of you? She just got back and yet you guys have upset her so soon!" Elizabeth reprimanded them once again.

At that moment, the servant came forward and said, "Madam, there's three million, one hundred and thirty thousand in this card."

Elizabeth took the card and turned to Veronica. "Veronica, I know that you don't have much money, but you shouldn't accept their money." After she had said that, she

flung the card to the table and signaled to the servant.

The servant instantly brought forward Elizabeth's bag. Elizabeth then took out a card from her bag before shoving it into Veronica's hands. "You're now my granddaughter, so it would be ridiculous if word got out that you received money from someone else. Here you go. I've got thirty million in here for you. Take it. From now on, your pocket money each month will be one hundred thousand."

It was alright to flaunt one's wealth, but Elizabeth's actions were a direct snub to the Larsons and it also seemed like an intentional move too.

Meanwhile, Veronica was significantly touched and she was at a loss for words. However, she turned to steal a look at the Larsons' expression, and she noticed that there were extremely ugly looks on their faces.

Just then, Matthew made his way into the room with Tiffany in tow. He had clearly heard everything so he voiced out, "How could you possibly take Grandma's money?"

Instantly, Floch agreed. "Yeah, that's right. Although you're Old Mrs. Kings' god granddaughter, you shouldn't be so greedy, Veronica!"

"Floch is right. Although three million isn't that much, once you're back home, we'll definitely give you some more money. If we give you a large sum all at once, you might find that money can be easily attained and this would not be a good thing for

you."

The Larsons' took the opportunity to voice out and they behaved as if they were trying to say that they weren't being stingy by merely giving Veronica three million. The way they put it sounded as though they were just considering what was best for her. After all, she was a country bumpkin, and she might become flighty with too much money all at once.

"Grandma, I know that you dote on me very much but this money... I..."

Veronica was about to say no to Elizabeth when she saw Matthew walk in. Subsequently, he questioned her domineeringly, "I gave you a card before you arrived. Is the money insufficient?"

Veronica frowned in response and took out a card from her pocket. "Do you mean this one here?"

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Chapter 76

Veronica took out a black-colored card which had a major bank's name embossed in gold. In fact, it looked quite classy.

As soon as the card was taken out, everyone was momentarily stunned and their eyes widened. There was no mistaking the shock on everyone's faces, especially Tiffany. As soon as she saw the card, she couldn't contain her anger and her delicate features were distorted with jealousy.

"This... Is this... the Centurion Card?"

Just then, Floch caught his breath in a deep gasp and he instinctively turned to glance at Rachel. At that moment, he was stunned beyond words.

"Ha! Now that's about right."

Elizabeth shot a look at Matthew with a happy smile on her face. "You're Veronica's brother, so that's the least you can do."

"But... Old Mrs. Kings, this is the Centurion Card and it's got unlimited credit. Matthew gave this to Veronica so casually, but what if she spends unnecessarily? After all, this card can be used to purchase anything and it can even be used to buy a plane!"

After the direct snub, Rachel intentionally came up with an excuse to maintain her image and she purposely analyzed Matthew's "kind move." From her words, she intended to put across to everyone that Veronica had, in fact, originated from the countryside so it was very likely that she would splurge frivolously with so much money on her hands.

"Yeah, Mom's right! Grandma, Veronica just came back to Bloomstead from the countryside, so she hasn't been exposed to the urban lifestyle. If she's given too much money all at once, it might not be a good thing for her." Just then, Tiffany echoed Rachel's words.

After listening to everyone's words, Veronica finally understood that the black card in her hand was in fact the renowned Centurion Card that could be used to buy anything, even a plane.

Initially, she had thought that this was a VVIP card because of Matthew's exalted status. It was no wonder that the salesperson had looked at her strangely when she went shopping, and they had also been especially accommodating.

big deal. I only have one god-granddaughter so she deserves all the best things on earth."

Meanwhile, Elizabeth was extremely happy and she turned to Veronica. "Next time you encounter any problems at all, come to me or your brother. You've got us supporting you, and I definitely won't allow anyone to bully you! As for this money, feel free to use it however you'd like. You don't have to be shy to use your brother's money. He's very rich."

For some inexplicable reason, Veronica could sense that Elizabeth was very happy. There was a sharp glint in the latter's clouded eyes as she was lost in thought.

Ultimately, Veronica couldn't quite comprehend the situation but she was quite sure that Elizabeth's words were intentionally directed at the Larsons, so Veronica was quite gleeful about it.

At that point, there was nothing else that could be done, so the Larsons' moods were fouler than ever. Meanwhile, Floch awkwardly put away the card in his hand and he no longer dared to mention a word about inviting Veronica back home.

In the end, they sat down for dinner together. It was then that Floch truly grasped the fact that Elizabeth was indeed very fond of Veronica, so he couldn't help himself and suggested for the girl to return home with them. However, his suggestion was met with Elizabeth's objection. As such, none of them dared to bring up that topic again.

After dinner, Floch and Rachel left with Tiffany in tow, while Matthew volunteered to send Veronica home.

Just then, Veronica clung tightly to Elizabeth and whispered her thanks into the latter's ears. "Grandma, thank you very much for everything today."

"It's no big deal. I'm your grandma so it's natural for me to dote on you. I'm happy enough as long as you come back regularly to visit me." Elizabeth was truly very fond of Veronica. This was even more so after Veronica saved Elizabeth's life. That made Elizabeth fonder of Veronica than ever.

Naturally, Elizabeth's fondness was partly mixed with gratitude toward Veronica for saving her life, coupled with other reasons too.

"Alright. Grandma, do get some rest. We'll be on our way now." Veronica waved at Elizabeth and turned around to leave.

Just then, the Larsons bade farewell one after the other to Elizabeth and walked out of the Kings Residence alongside Veronica and Matthew.

There was a short distance from the backyard of the house to the front and as they walked on the paved stone path, Floch mentioned to Matthew, "Matthew, you're already engaged to Tiffany, yet the two of you are still living apart. There's going to be speculation if word gets out."

"Yeah, you guys are already engaged so you should be staying together." Rachel also took the opportunity to chime in.

Although Tiffany and Matthew were engaged to be married, it was quite frustrating for the Larsons because the duo were not staying together.

However, they were no longer as wary of Veronica as before, because she was no longer a threat. Now that she was Elizabeth's god-granddaughter, she was no longer eligible to marry Matthew.

Just then, Tiffany lowered her head and remained silent with her lips pursed. At that moment, she was actually quite expectant and secretly joyful.

Suddenly, Matthew mentioned, "I'm just obeying the Kingses' family rule."

His words managed to render everyone speechless. After quite some time, Rachel voiced out again, "Then when do you two plan to get married?"

"We can discuss this at a later stage." His abrupt words were like an icy bucket of water thrown at Tiffany, and she felt a chill run down her spine at that point.

Floch couldn't contain himself and wanted to pursue the topic further, but Rachel signaled for him to stop. It wasn't the best time to ask about this right now.

Just then, the group made their way to the entrance and left after going into their respective cars.

After Floch and Rachel got into the car, Tiffany remained outside and looked on longingly at Matthew. Subsequently, she walked toward him and hugged him. Then, she lifted her head to look at him with dewy eyes. "Matthew, I really want to stay together with you."

Faced with Tiffany's sudden advancement, Matthew could only think of the cloying scent of perfume that hit his nostrils. Though she used a designer perfume, it was still too strong for his liking and he frowned slightly in response.

Instinctively, he turned to look at Veronica. Coincidentally, as he glanced over, she turned to look at him too, so their eyes met each others. Veronica suddenly felt a tight feeling in her chest, but she merely lifted an eyebrow before turning around to

enter the car. She didn't want to stand there as the loving couple publicly displayed their affections for each other.

"Have you forgotten my words?"

Matthew's body was stiff as he continued to keep a hand in the pocket of his trousers. The other remained by the side of his body. His cold words cut through Tiffany like a razor blade and she felt a piercing pain in her heart.

Just then, the tears instantly welled up in her eyes and she looked at him with an aggrieved expression.

When Matthew saw her pitiful look, coupled with a face that closely resembled Veronica's, he couldn't help lifting his hands with slightly trembling fingers before patting her lightly on the back. "Go home now and get some rest."

His sudden action of patting her on the back as well as the torn expression that flashed across his gaze earlier made Tiffany feel that he was deeply in love with her. Hence, she became as happy as a child who was awarded candy.

"Alright, Matthew. Good night." After saying that, she went onto her toes and gently pressed a kiss to his cheek.

At that instance, Matthew instinctively turned his face slightly but he didn't end up managing to dodge her kiss. However, he shifted his eyes to the side and happened to see Veronica's dark expression from the rearview mirror of the car. She appeared to be staring into the rearview mirror and looking directly at them.

Just then, Tiffany let go of Matthew and she entered the Larsons' car in happy spirits. Subsequently, the trio drove off.

Matthew watched as they drove off before he took out a limited edition handkerchief from the inner pocket of his suit. Then, he wiped off the area on his face that Tiffany had planted a kiss on before throwing the handkerchief into the bin with a disgusted look on his face.

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Chapter 77

After that, Matthew strode toward the car and pulled open the door to get into the car

Upon noticing Veronica seated in the front passenger seat, he instantly muttered, "Come to the back."

"I'm perfectly happy here. Why should I move to the back?" Veronica coldly snorted with a haughty toss of her head as she remained in her seat.

Meanwhile, Thomas, who was in the driver's seat, glanced at Matthew's darkened expression in the rearview mirror and he instantly offered, "The front passenger seat of this car isn't suitable for passengers."

"Why?"

"Because..." Thomas paused for a moment as his brain worked overtime. Thinking of an excuse, he rambled, "There is something wrong with the seat. I've been planning to get it fixed but I just haven't had the time to do so."

"Something wrong?"

Just then, Veronica intentionally rocked back and forth in her seat, but she didn't find anything wrong with it. However, she noticed that Thomas didn't seem like he was joking.

In the end, she had no choice but to open the door and get out of the car to go to the back seat. Then, she took a seat next to Matthew.

The car moved slowly and drove off to the Twilight Club.

Throughout the journey, Veronica and Matthew sat far apart from each other, and she turned her head in the direction of the window to look outside. She didn't bother to talk to him at all.

Meanwhile, Matthew maintained his silence too.

Suddenly, it was Thomas who voiced out and broke the silence in the car.

"Miss Murphy, there is a cell phone on the backseat armrest and your bank card and sim card are all sorted. I went to collect it for you in the afternoon.

In fact, Veronica had submitted her application for a reissue of her identification card on the day that the fire occurred, which was why she was able to get it sorted out now. Meanwhile, Thomas had already helped her to purchase a new phone and applied for another sim card for her on his way back.

"Oh—You're really efficient. Thanks!" Veronica was quite happy.

"You don't need to thank me, Miss Murphy. It was all under the Young Master Matthew's instructions. You should thank him." Thomas smiled at her.

Just then, Veronica suddenly stopped talking and she lowered her head to open the box to reveal the latest top-selling 5.7-inch widescreen 5G cell phone. It was a fashionable model that cost around seven thousand.

She inserted the sim card into the phone and turned it on.

Throughout the journey, she didn't speak a word to Matthew.

He sat stiffly on his seat and he glanced at her from the side of his eye. However, his expression turned increasingly thunderous as he noticed her keeping her silence.

After Veronica turned on the phone, it started to vibrate non-stop.

There were a lot of messages that popped up on the screen and she clicked on one of them. It turned out to be from Xavier. 'Where are you right now? Reply to the message as soon as you see it.'

Then, she clicked on another message and it was from Xavier too. 'Darn it! Why didn't you contact me when you were in trouble?'

'Answer the phone. Hurry up and answer the phone!

'Missed call notification: You have a missed call from the number 170***** on 27 September 2021

Cody and the private investigator have been bribed by the Larsons. The Larson Family has destroyed all of the evidence.'

'Where the hell are you right now?'

'Veronica, I'm really sorry but I have no other option. The Larsons threatened me with the safety of my family. I'm very sorry.

In just a short moment, Veronica had received nearly thirty text messages on her cell phone. Some of them were from Xavier and Cody. There were a few from the automated customer service, and even some from Matthew too.

Veronica didn't expect this and she instantly dialed Xavier's number.

Beeeeep —

The phone rang several times before the other party finally picked up the phone.

"Veronica? Is that you? Where are you right now?"

Xavier's voice rang out from the other end and he agitatedly questioned her.

Veronica could clearly sense his concern and care for her despite them currently being miles apart. At that moment, she felt a warm, fuzzy feeling well up within her. Instantly, she replied, "I'm back. I'm safe and sound right now so don't worry too much. Thank you, Xavier."

All this while, Xavier had helped her so much and Veronica was sincerely grateful for

Meanwhile, Matthew, who was seated by her side, had a thunderous look on his face and his expression was indeed quite terrifying.

*This d*mned woman! Xavier didn't even do much, yet she expressed her thanks to him? I saved her life but she didn't even show her sincerity by thanking me! Matthew was significantly displeased deep down.*

"It's great to know that you're back. Was it... Matthew who rescued you?"

Xavier couldn't quite contain the disappointment in his voice as he brought up Matthew's name.

However, Veronica was oblivious to it and she nodded. "Yes. We just got back yesterday. What about you? Where are you right now?"

"I... I'm still around Pierson Harbor because I was looking for you. I didn't realize that you had gone back. I'll head back right away and I should be able to arrive in Bloomstead by tomorrow."

Xavier remained silent after saying that. Subsequently, he mentioned to Veronica,

"Roni, it's great that you're safe and sound."

Xavier had turned the place upside down looking for Veronica during the past ten days that she had been missing. Despite his abilities, he was no match for Matthew's capabilities, and Xavier was one step behind in her rescue.

Besides feeling guilty, Xavier also did a lot of self-reflection and he realized that he was not capable enough.

"Thanks, Xavier. Hurry up and get back. I'll treat you to a meal."

As soon as Veronica heard that he was still in Pierson Harbor, she couldn't contain the sad feeling that welled up within her.

In this large city of Bloomstead, Xavier and Elizabeth were the only ones who treated her kindly, so much so that Veronica had no idea how to repay them.

"Sure, wait for me," Xavier replied.

The two continued their conversation for a short while before hanging up the phone.

After Veronica hung up, she held the phone in her hands and dejectedly leaned against the car seat. Her fingers brushed against the screen of her cell phone and she had her head down as she remained deep in thought. Suddenly, she heaved a deep sigh.

"What's up? Do you sympathize with him?"

Just then, Matthew, who was seated next to her, sensed that she seemed to be quite worried about Xavier after getting into touch with him. In all honesty, Matthew was quite displeased.

LEHET

Meanwhile, Veronica turned her head slightly to glance at him lazily. "What has that got to do with you?"

Whoever I show concern for is my own business!

"Have you forgotten your identity so soon?" he reminded her sternly.

At that point, Veronica realized that Matthew was talking about his identity as her godbrother. Furthermore, Elizabeth had instructed him to take good care of her too.

"Were your language lessons taught by your physical education teacher? How can your comprehension be so weak? Grandma told you to take care of me but she didn't

ask you to restrict me in my daily life."

Veronica coldly snorted while she continued to mumble under her breath, "Besides, this is my personal matter."

"I'm not interested in your personal matters but since you're Grandma's god granddaughter, then you should be able to differentiate between what you're supposed to do and what not to. Don't bring disrepute to the Kingses."

Matthew then leaned against his seat and closed his eyes.

"You..." Veronica sputtered, feeling utterly frustrated.

In response, she frowned and retorted, "I'm just maintaining my friendship with Xavier. Is that considered to be bringing disrepute to the Kings Family?"

"Yes."

"That's bullsh*t!" She couldn't quite control the profanity that came out of her mouth.

Just then, the man who was resting with his eyes shut suddenly opened his eyes and turned to look at an angry Veronica. It seemed that she was angered because he had stopped her from maintaining a relationship with Xavier.

"Xavier has a bad reputation so you should stay away from him."

"I will not!"

Veronica turned her body and looked at Matthew squarely in the eyes, her stunning, captivating face flushed with anger. "Just because the Kingses are powerful and rich, my friendship with Xavier is regarded as bringing disrepute to the family name. What about the business dealings between your family and him, then? How would you regard that?!"

"Those are two separate matters."

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Chapter 78

"You're just finding all sorts of excuses!"

Just then, Veronica rolled her eyes at Matthew and she felt that he was being utterly unreasonable. She got the feeling that only his limbs had evolved since the Stone Age, but his brain was still stuck in the prehistoric age. In short, he was an utter moron.

However, Veronica didn't want to continue arguing, so she leaned against the window and remained silent as she closed her eyes.

At that point, the car descended into silence.

Finally, they arrived at the underground parking site of the Twilight Club. The two of them subsequently got out of the car and walked into the elevator, one after the other.

Thomas handed over the keys to Matthew before driving his own car back home. The former adamantly refused to get involved in the matters of the bickering couple.

In the confined space of the elevator, Veronica tried her hardest to squeeze herself into a corner to maintain as much distance from Matthew as she could. Every move she made clearly indicated her loathing for him.

"Why are you standing so far apart from me?"

Meanwhile, Matthew, who was standing ramrod straight, glanced at her with a frown and there was a significantly displeased look on his handsome face.

"I'm keeping my distance because I need to stay away from people like you. Idiotic behavior can be contagious," Veronica casually commented as she lifted her brows.

Matthew's expression instantly darkened the moment he heard that.

Just then, he reached out and pulled her toward him. Then, he held her captive in his arms as he growled, "Why don't you try repeating that again?"

ALL

Veronica struggled to get out of his embrace but despite her struggles, she couldn't seem to extricate herself from his tight hold.

In the end, after realizing that her efforts were futile, she decided not to struggle unnecessarily.

And so, she looked up and glared at him. "I said I need to stay away from people like you."

"What about your next sentence?"

"Idiotic behavior can be contagious."

"Do you have a death wish?"

He harshly pinched her on the cheeks. Her flawless, porcelain-like skin instantly bulged up, and she looked quite comical and cute just then.

"You're just making assumptions that I'm talking about you. Is that my fault? Besides, did I even mention your name?"

Veronica's pretty-looking brows were tightly furrowed and she reached out to swat the back of Matthew's hands. "Let go of me. Don't you know that it's inappropriate to touch the opposite gender?"

"We've been in the same bed, so don't you think that it's too late for all these?"

Matthew curled his well-defined lips into a smile and there was a hint of playfulness in his voice. Even his eyes were full of desire.

The look in his gaze resulted in a shiver down Veronica's spine and she gulped instinctively. "I'm warning you, Matthew Kings! If you dare touch me again, I swear I won't forgive you ever again in this lifetime!" Veronica meant all of her words.

Meanwhile, Matthew scrutinized her for a moment before coldly exclaiming, "You look exactly like Tiffany, so where did you get the confidence to actually think that I would want to touch you?" His underlying meaning was that he would rather touch Tiffany than her.

Veronica's heart was finally at ease the moment she heard that.

Ding!

Meanwhile, they arrived at the ground floor and the doors to the elevator slid open.

And so, Matthew relinquished his hold on her. Instantly, Veronica turned around to walk out of the elevator and headed toward the living room.

She stood in the living room and turned to him. "You can sleep in the master bedroom and I'll take the guest room. There's no need for any interaction between

us."

At that point, Matthew finally saw the fear on Veronica's face and she resembled a deer caught in headlights. Her expression triggered a wave of sympathy in him.

"Alright." He affirmed and turned around to walk into the master bedroom before shutting the door behind him.

As soon as Veronica saw Matthew walk into the room, she finally took a seat on the couch, her expression weary. Just then, she switched on the television to watch a drama.

Ever since Elizabeth had taken Veronica as her god granddaughter, Matthew no longer touched her. It was quite likely that he had some reservations now that they were supposedly siblings by name.

Furthermore, Elizabeth had warned him repeatedly, so he should be quite wary of touching her

As soon as Veronica realized this, she finally felt at ease.

She sat there watching the drama. However, she found that it was quite boring, so she went to the bar and took out a bottle of red wine. Subsequently, she took out a wine glass and walked toward the couch as she took a sip of wine. She relaxed on the couch and continued to watch the drama.

The time ticked by, and it soon went from 8 PM to 12 AM.

At one point, Matthew walked out of the master bedroom and went into the study room. After that, he didn't step foot out of the room.

Veronica continued to watch television for some time but she found it quite boring so she went into the guest room.

Just as she was about to take a shower, she suddenly realized that she didn't have any clothes to change into. However, she opened the cupboard in the room to find that it was actually filled to the brim with autumn wear.

She flipped through the labels on the clothes and noticed that it was all in her size. *Is this for me?*

Nonetheless, she didn't think too much about it and went into the bathroom to take a shower. After her shower, she put on a pair of pajamas and lay down on the bed as she scrolled through her phone.

She tossed and turned and 2 AM soon rolled by, but she couldn't sleep at all.

In the end, she got out of bed in the middle of the night, intending to go to Matthew's study room to use his computer to find out some information.

However, as soon as Veronica put on her bedroom slippers and pushed open the door to the study room, she realized that Matthew was still at work.

"You... It's 2 AM already. Why are you still up?"

Veronica was slightly surprised. *Turns out the infamous domineering president is actually so busy with work that he doesn't even have enough time to sleep!*

Matthew was currently seated in front of his computer and he was on a conference call. The people on the other end were mainly several close business associates of his.

"Wow, Kings! Your pretty little wife seems to be quite anxious."

"*Ha!* It looks like we've taken up Kings' precious sweet time with his wife."

"Don't keep her a secret. Let us have a look at her!"

Just then, the men on the conference call teased Matthew relentlessly.

On the other hand, Matthew became thunderous and he instantly hung up the call.

He took a look at the time on the bottom right corner of his computer and found out that it was already past 12 AM. In fact, it was already 2.30 AM. "Why are *you* still up?"

Veronica shrugged in response. "I couldn't sleep."

"Even so, why are you here?"

"I couldn't sleep, so I wanted to use the computer."

She had caught up on everything on her social media and nothing was interesting on the television. Everything on the television was mindless lovey-dovey dramas with mediocre actors who lacked acting skills. They were constantly flirting with women, so it was quite pointless to watch.

"It's too late now. Wait till tomorrow to use the computer."

"*Hmph!* You're so selfish."

Veronica thought that Matthew didn't want her to use his computer, so she snorted coldly and turned to leave the room in a huff. Subsequently, she plopped herself onto the couch and turned on the television to find something to watch.

Shortly after that, Matthew walked out of the study room and saw that she was full of energy as she watched a reality show. She didn't seem the least bit tired.

And so, he murmured, "If you can't sleep, why don't you come over and have a drink with me?"

Having some alcohol could perhaps dull her senses and help her get some sleep. Earlier, Veronica had consumed some alcohol but she had put everything away. The ventilation system of the condominium was great that there was no scent of alcohol that lingered in the air.

"Sure," Veronica agreed without any hesitation.

Subsequently, she got up without putting on her bedroom slippers and went to the bar to grab a random bottle of wine and two wine glasses before walking over to him.

"Coincidentally, I was keen to drink some wine too," she mentioned with a smile.

Matthew stood by the couch and looked at Veronica, who was dressed in a slinky, black nightgown, with her hair falling around her shoulders. Her dainty collarbone and her slender neck were quite prominent. She dashed around the clean tiles of the room in her dainty, milky-white, clean feet, and she looked rather innocent and cute. She resembled an adorable young girl.

Matthew couldn't quite contain his laughter as he kept his eyes on her unblinkingly.

"Why are you still standing there? Come over and have a drink!"

Veronica waved at him and opened the bottle of wine before pouring it into the wine glasses.

Although the red wines available were vintage ones and required some time for aeration, Matthew didn't remind her about it because he wanted her to go to bed as soon as possible.

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Chapter 79

Veronica sat next to Matthew and he held up a glass of wine. Then, he sat there enjoying the wine.

The time ticked by gradually and they sat there enjoying their red wines. Meanwhile, Veronica continued to watch the reality TV show and it didn't take much to trigger a laugh from her. She laughed out loud from time to time, and she seemed to be in high spirits and she patted Matthew on the shoulders. "Look at them! *Ha!* This is too funny! That man's too silly."

"*Oh*—I can't stand this! This is so funny. My tummy aches so much from laughing too much!"

"The ice needs to be kept warm and using a blanket to wrap it up will only make it melt. Oh my gosh! Doesn't he have any common sense? This is too funny and cute!"

The huge condominium was generally quiet when Matthew was by himself and it was to the extent that one would not be able to sense any presence of a living person. However, Veronica's presence gave him a feeling that he had never ever experienced. He was very engrossed in this homely sensation filled with so much joy and laughter, which was completely devoid of all the silence and coldness from before.

Just then, Matthew glanced at a giggling Veronica, who seemed to have lowered her guard around him. The happiness she experienced was very infectious and he found himself quite relaxed and happy too.

After quite some time, she finally fell asleep and she dozed off on the couch.

She looked quite cute and she resembled a naughty little girl who had just nodded off on the couch.

Meanwhile, Matthew held up the wine glass and downed the entire glass before placing it down. Subsequently, he walked toward her and lifted his hand, wanting to gently stroke her cheek. However, he suddenly recalled the guarded look in her eyes in the elevator and in the end, he merely took her into his arms to send her into the guest room.

Matthew leaned forward and gently placed her down on the soft bed but before he could move into a standing position, Veronica suddenly placed both of her hands around his neck and hugged him. At that point, he couldn't move a limb.

Just then, he frowned and tried to move, but she ended up hugging him tighter than ever as she grunted. "You're so annoying," she muttered. "Stop moving."

As such, he couldn't bear to push her aside so he lay down next to her.

The soft bed sagged under Matthew's weight and Veronica suddenly sensed that there was something she could lean on next to her. In her mind, she thought that it was the huge teddy bear she had at home, so she instantly lifted her feet to place them over it.

Furthermore, she couldn't control herself and she nuzzled her face against Matthew's chest. Then, she found a comfortable position before falling into a deep slumber.

Just then, Veronica slept really well but Matthew found himself in an extremely uncomfortable position.

At that moment, there was a warm, soft body in his arms and the fresh scent of her shampoo filled his nostrils. He could smell the distinct scent of her body and it triggered his senses, so it was pure torture for him as he found it quite tormenting.

Finally, Matthew could no longer contain himself so he pushed her aside and attempted to leave the room.

However, his sudden move triggered Veronica to tighten her hold on him, and she held him in a vise-like grip. She instinctively wound her legs around his and hugged him tightly

Veronica was used to being alone, so she tended to place a huge life-sized plush toy on her bed so that she could hug it when she was sleeping. She enjoyed placing both legs on top of the toy and it was very comfortable for her. As a result, she assumed that Matthew was a life-sized plush toy in her sleep.

Meanwhile, Matthew looked on at her with passion burning within him, and he couldn't help muttering to himself, "You're such a seductive w*nch."

Ultimately, he couldn't stand this tormenting situation, so he mercilessly pushed her aside and left the room in an awkward state. Truth was, Matthew was worried that he wouldn't be able to stop himself from having her if he stayed any longer.

The next day, Veronica enjoyed a good night's sleep and woke up at 7 AM sharp.

She yawned a few times and stretched her limbs before opening her eyes to take a look at her surroundings. At that moment, she realized that she was in a bedroom.

Initially, she was caught by surprise and then she instantly felt her body to make sure

that everything was fine with her. After she had confirmed that she hadn't been violated by the despicable Matthew, she finally breathed a sigh of relief and felt at ease.

"It looks like that b*stard is afraid of Grandma!" Veronica couldn't help laughing and she finally felt at ease being around Matthew.

After getting out of bed, she freshened up before walking to the living room, only to find that it was empty.

She assumed that Matthew must be asleep so she didn't disturb him, but went ahead to rummage in the pantry as well as in the fridge to find something to eat. However, she didn't find anything edible.

As such, Veronica changed her clothes and went downstairs to grab a bite. She was about to leave when she suddenly thought of Matthew, so she ended up getting him some takeaway of noodles and soy milk.

After getting back to the condominium, she walked toward his room and knocked on his door. "Hey, it's time to wake up."

She knocked a few times but there was no response from inside, so she pushed the door open to peek inside. Just then, she realized that the room was empty and there was no one inside at all.

At that point, she scratched her head. "Where is he?"

"Why are you looking for me?" Suddenly, a voice rang out from behind her and it startled her.

Veronica turned around and glared at Matthew. "What is wrong with you?! It's dangerous to jump out at someone from behind!" Significantly startled, she patted herself comfortingly on the chest.

"Well, you shouldn't be frightened if you don't have a guilty conscience."

At that moment, Matthew was dressed in a dark shirt paired with dress pants, his short hair slicked up neatly. There were a few buttons undone on his shirt and there was a slight smile on his jaw-dropping handsome face that left one breathless. He was in the midst of unbuttoning the button on his left cuff with his right hand, and he rolled his sleeves up to his elbows.

It was a casual move but because it was Matthew who did that, it seemed much more precious and arrogantly cool.

Besides, he had the perfect height and he fit the description of the domineering president generally found in comic books. Each move he made and every word he spoke exuded the aura of a top model.

Although Veronica disliked Matthew or to be precise, loathed that despicable guy, she couldn't quite stop herself from being momentarily stunned by his attractiveness.

"You're such a massive bloke but how come you didn't make a sound at all when you walked over here? Did you float toward me?"

She snorted lightly and pointed toward the dining room. "I went downstairs to have some breakfast earlier so I got you something too."

After she had said that, she headed toward the study room. "Can I use your computer? Can I download some online games?"

Matthew hummed in affirmation.

"I'll go ahead and download some games, then."

Perhaps it was because Veronica had failed multiple times in her plan, so she no longer seemed as excited as before. On the contrary, she seemed to be quite dispirited and she was no longer as motivated as she was during her working hours.

In the end, she made her way into the study room and turned on his computer to download some games.

Meanwhile, Matthew walked toward the dining room and saw the noodles on the table. The noodles, which were initially covered in sauce, had dried up and it was all clumped together. By the side of it, there seemed to be something that resembled a takeaway cup.

Just then, Matthew glanced at the plastic cup that was slightly dented and he frowned upon seeing the childish design on the plastic seal.

He took out a straw from the plastic bag and poked through the seal to take a sip. Initially, he had thought that it was some dubious plain milk, but he realized that the smell reminded him of soy milk. In all honesty, it was more like a sugary drink.

He frowned and glanced at the item in his hand as he became lost in thought.

"What are you looking at?"

Veronica had some spare time because the game required some time to be

downloaded, so she had walked out of the study room. At that point, she noticed Matthew staring at the soy milk with a glazed look in his eyes.

"What's this?" he asked.

"It's soy milk. A cup cost me two."

"Are you sure that this isn't just some sugary drink?"

The packaging was not only of poor quality but there was only the slightest taste of soy in the drink. It tasted mostly of sugar water.

"What's wrong with it? Inflation has caused food prices to skyrocket over time, so the soy milk is much more diluted I guess," Veronica commented in a resigned tone.

Meanwhile, Matthew nodded his head intently and started to eat the noodles. At that moment, he took a scoop of the dry-looking noodles and tried a bite, but he found it

quite inedible. "Do you usually consume such inedible food?"

"Pfft!"

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Just then, Veronica tried to contain her laughter. "Matthew, don't tell me that you've never tried such noodles before in all your life? You have to mix it up before eating it. If you don't, I'm afraid there won't be any taste."

She was in high spirits so she suddenly felt that his current behavior was exceptionally comical. In short, he was her source of entertainment for today.

"I don't usually eat this," Matthew replied with a sincere expression and he didn't lie to her at all.

Upon hearing that, Veronica frowned and shook her head. "You're not a regular human being."

She walked forward and reached out to grab the cutlery from his hands before mixing the noodles. After she had mixed the sauce and the noodles evenly, she finally handed over the cutlery to him. "Try this again."

And so, Matthew took the cutlery and glanced at her before scooping another portion to take a bite.

The first mouthful tasted mediocre.

Then, the next mouthful was acceptable.

Subsequently, he tried it a third time.

“Not bad,” he commented while scooping some more noodles to taste them.

Matthew’s table manners were impeccable and he ate refinedly while chewing each mouthful slowly. He ate the bowl of noodles as if he was eating a three-course meal in a fine dining restaurant. Throughout, he behaved very refined and elegantly, and it was quite a pleasure to watch him eat.

Meanwhile, Veronica sat across the table from him and she stared at him unblinkingly as he ate.

Matthew, on the other hand, continued to enjoy the noodles while glancing at her. Suddenly, an inexplicable feeling rose within him and he felt as if he was already married to a pretty little wife, who specifically prepared breakfast for him and then sat there watching him eat. The scene in his mind was warm, peaceful, and lovely.

The current sensation dissipated quite shortly but somehow, he yearned for it to linger on.

In no time, Matthew finished his breakfast.

As for Veronica, she suddenly smacked the table and placed a piece of paper in front of him. “Here you go. Please settle the bill.”

Written on the A4-sized paper were the words, ‘Large noodles-eight; fresh soy milk

—two; delivery cost-ninety. Total-one hundred!

Although the large portion of noodles didn’t cost that much, Veronica had the makings of a cunning businessperson.

“Boss, I know that you don’t have cash but it’s fine because it can go on your tab. Here

- " She then handed a pen to him. "—sign on this."

"Where did you order this from? Why are the delivery charges so expensive?"

Matthew took the A4 sheet from her as he questioned her.

"Well, of course it would be slightly different. I'm your sister and I'm Grandma's god granddaughter, so my net worth has increased leaps and bounds, no? If it was in the past then I could charge you less but right now, I'm part of the Kingses so charging too little for running this errand for you would definitely reflect badly on the family reputation."

Veronica said this with a serious expression and her words sounded quite reasonable too.

At that point, Matthew couldn't find the words to rebuke her.

For some reason, there was a slight smile that flashed across his handsome face as he held the pen and signed his name on the A4 sheet.

Just then, Veronica took the sheet from him. "Thanks, boss. Here, let me clear the table for you. This is complimentary."

Soon after that, she got up and collected the disposable containers to throw them into the bin before wiping the table. She worked diligently, not noticing the cunning look that flashed across Matthew's eyes.

"I need to go to the office. You can stay here and call me if you encounter any problems."

"Sure. Go ahead." Veronica nodded her head earnestly.

She was quite happy to see the man leave and it would be even better if he didn't come back each day too.

And so, Matthew gathered his belongings and he left without saying another word.

He took the elevator to the second floor of the basement and Thomas was already waiting there in the car. As soon as Matthew entered the car, Thomas started the engine and drove off slowly in the direction of the Spinfluence Group.

Along the way, Thomas took a look at Matthew and realized that the latter seemed to be in an exceptionally good mood.

Meanwhile, Veronica spent her whole morning gaming in the Twilight Condominium.

Finally, at 11.30 AM, her cell phone rang.

She took it in her hand and glanced at the screen to see that it was a call from Xavier. As soon as she answered the call, his voice rang out instantly. "Roni, where are you? I'm back in town."

"I'm at..."

She was just about to mention that she was at Matthew's condominium, but she didn't want Xavier to misunderstand so she replied, "I'm at my friend's place. Where are you? I'll treat you to lunch this afternoon."

"Sure. Let's meet at the One Piece Restaurant, then."

"Uh... Okay, that sounds good."

Veronica hesitated for a split second because she knew that the food from One Piece Restaurant was quite pricey, but Xavier had helped her plenty of times and she was only treating him to a single meal. As such, despite being torn about it, she knew it was necessary to treat Xavier so she agreed anyway.

And so, she put down her phone but just as she was about to switch off the game, her cell phone on the table rang once again.

She picked it up to take a look and realized that it was from Matthew.

"What's up? I'm gaming right now."

In the game, Veronica had been shot by the other party earlier and now that she was resurrected, she was about to quickly finish it off and end the battle.

"Where do you want to go for lunch this afternoon?" Matthew asked.

"Although Grandma instructed you to take care of me, this isn't something that you should be concerned about. I won't starve to death. By the way, we were too busy for the past two days so I didn't get a chance to ask you, but where's Yvonne?"

Veronica had been quite busy ever since arriving back, so she had completely forgotten about Yvonne.

"She left after coming back to Bloomstead."

"Oh—okay. Is there anything else? If not, then I'll get off the line now."

"You—" Beep! Beep! Beep!

Just then, Matthew was significantly speechless and his expression darkened as he gripped his phone tightly. This annoying woman!

Suddenly, Matthew's cell phone rang. It was from Tiffany, so he answered the phone.

"Have you eaten, Matthew?" Tiffany's gentle voice rang out from the other end.

She looked exactly the same as Veronica, and their only difference was their voices.

Tiffany was gentle and soft-spoken, but Veronica's voice was more, melodious. Both of them had starkly different tones of voice.

"No." He didn't bother to say much.

"I haven't had anything to eat either. Do you want to join me for lunch, Matthew?"

After five minutes, Veronica managed to end the game by winning the battle, so she gathered her belongings and left the condominium before walking out from the lobby of the Twilight Club.

She took a cab to the One Piece Restaurant and waited at the entrance for quite some time before finally seeing Xavier.

Half a month had gone by and this was the first time that Veronica had seen Xavier

since. She noticed that he had gotten significantly thinner and darker than before.

Nonetheless, his tan seemed to make him look much more mature.

"Hi! It's been so long since we last met." Veronica walked toward him and greeted him.

As soon as Xavier saw her safe and sound as she stood in front of him, he walked up to her and instantly enveloped her in a bear hug. "Roni! Where have you been all this while? Did you even realize how worried I was the whole time?"

Ever since the demise of Xavier's mom, he had no longer experienced the sensation of being worried about someone else but after getting to know Veronica for such a long time, he realized that he'd gradually fallen in love with her straightforward and blunt personality.

Her disappearance for such a long time had undeniably been a tormenting period for him.

At the moment, Xavier pulled her into a tight hug and he used all of his might to do that. "I'm glad that you're safe and sound. I'm so, so glad."

"Xavier, let go of me. This is too suffocating."

On the other hand, Veronica didn't expect Xavier to react this way and she felt a warm, fuzzy feeling well up within her as she was quite touched by his reaction.

As soon as he heard her exclamation, he immediately released her from his tight grip and he revealed a wide, beaming smile on his handsome face. "I was just too happy! Are you alright?"

"I'm fine. Everything's alright. I'm safe for now."

She waved her hands at him and teased, "But if you had exerted more pressure then I would perhaps be on my way to heaven already."

At that point, Xavier finally relaxed and felt at ease upon hearing Veronica cracking a joke. After all, he had seen with his own eyes that she was perfectly fine, so that was sufficient for him.