

When Hit by a Stroke of “Luck Chapter 13

Chapter 13

He turned and walked away, leaving Kate looking at his cold, indifferent silhouette. She stomped her feet in frustration as she swore darkly, “Hmph! I’ll just keep pestering you until you take me as your student.” When Bradley met with Samuel again, they talked about developing the medicinal wine. After that, he went back to the village. It was already afternoon when he reached the village. As soon as he got back home, he passed the new cell phone to Emily. Emily held the new phone in her hand and said excitedly, “Brad, where did you get the money from? This phone is really nice.” However, Craig didn’t seem too excited about it. “Brad, what kind of herbs are you actually selling? How could it be worth so much? You’d better not be doing anything illegal now.” “Relax, Dad! After spending such a long time in jail, I’ve understood the ways of life and will never get myself into illegal dealings ever again,” Bradley reassured. Still, Janice continued worryingly, “There has been a lot of gossip around the village. I think I need to find you a wife as soon as possible.” Bradley felt a headache slowly creeping up on him so he commented, “Mom, don’t worry about these petty things. Marriage is all about fate.” Upon hearing that, Emily scrunched her nose. “Brad, when you say fate, do you mean you and Erin?” Truth was, the words just spilled out of her mouth without much thought. “Emily, none of that nonsense! Can you imagine the kind of scandal that you would have caused if someone were to hear that?” Janice scolded. “Since it’s still early, I’m going to go up the hill for a while. You guys don’t have to wait for me for dinner.” With that, Bradley took the spade and left for Erin’s house. When Erin saw Bradley appear in her courtyard, she called out cheerfully, “Brad, you’re here! I haven’t seen you the whole day, so I figured you went into town.” “I did make a trip there.” Bradley took out the new cell phone from his pocket and passed it to her. “I bought this for you. Do you like it?” Looking at the phone, Erin was touched. Even though she had no idea how much the phone cost, nonetheless, it was a gift from Bradley. She stared at the phone for a long while before saying, “Brad, this is too valuable. I can’t take it.” With that, she pushed the phone back into his hands. In this feudal village, gossip would arise if a man and woman were to get too friendly with each other. However, Bradley placed the phone back in her hand. “Erin, you don’t have to care about what everybody else thinks. While some people may think you bring misfortune, I think that you are a gentle and kind ordinary woman.” Deeply moved by his words, she kept the phone. “I’m sure you’re not here to just give me a new phone, right? What do you need my help with?” “Erin, the last time we picked that Soul Sunweed herb,

where does it normally grow?" he asked. "Ah, you've come to the right person then. There's a whole lot of it at the back of the hill of my house. I'll take you there in a bit," she happily replied. After she had kept the phone in the house, she took a spade and led Bradley to the back of the hill. As they were walking toward the hill, they bumped into Julia and a few other villagers. "Oh my! Brad, where are you taking Erin to? Could it be..." One of the villagers, Aaron, saw them walking toward them and asked ambiguously without finishing his sentence. "We're just going to the back of the hill to pick some herbs," Bradley replied coldly. Tom, a fellow villager, quickly chimed in, "There's quite a lot of aphrodisiac herbs there; getting some would be good." "Exactly! Young people should know how to replenish their bodies," said Julian, looking at them meaningfully. Erin's face turned scarlet as she lowered her gaze, and the two men drooled at the sight of her blushing face. Bradley reached out to tug at Erin's hand. "We better hurry up! It's getting dark soon." The tittle-tattle of the villagers never bothered him, but as he looked at the quiet Erin, he remembered that these villagers used to bully her from time to time and for some reason, it angered him greatly. Even though they had walked quite a distance, they could still hear the chatter of the villagers. As such, Bradley pulled Erin and fastened their pace. There were a lot of Soul Sunweed growing at the back of the hill, but it looked messy as no one was taking care of it. At that moment, Bradley was contemplating whether to bring the Soul Sunweed back and transplant them at home. It was as though Erin read his mind. "Brad, I may not know how valuable this herb is, but I just want to remind you, you shouldn't reveal too much information about this herb. Not many people in the village have their hearts in the right place." Upon listening to her advice, Bradley immediately discarded the idea of bringing the herbs back home. It was not time for him to reveal the benefits of the Soul Sunweed herb. He could only wait until he had found a land big enough to grow and cultivate the herb. It was slowly turning dark when the both of them returned. "Why don't you have dinner at my place before you go back?" Erin offered. "I have some fresh eggs at home." Bradley's stomach grumbled at the thought of food so he nodded eagerly. "Sure! I look forward to trying out your cooking." As Erin pushed open the door, she switched on the lights. To her dismay, the lights that had been working fine yesterday had now completely stopped working. "It was fine yesterday; why is it not working now?" she asked anxiously. Bradley walked over and said, "Let me have a look at it! You can go ahead and cook for us. This is a man's job, so of course you wouldn't understand." Feeling moved and grateful, Erin pulled a bench over. "I'll help you hold the bench. Could you check and see whether the bulb has burned out?" Standing on the bench, Bradley changed the light bulb. When the lights turned on, his eyes that had just gotten adjusted to the darkness were suddenly pierced by the bright light, causing him to lose his balance and fall down from the bench. "Argh!" He felt a throbbing pain from his leg and let out a grunt of pain. But suddenly, he realized that the pain was from hitting the bench. Come to think of it, he didn't actually fall onto the ground; he had landed on top of Erin. "Brad, are you okay? Are you hurt?" Erin's soothing voice rang out. It was at that moment that Bradley realized that

they were in an awkward position, with Erin still lying on the ground. Nervous, he tried to explain, "I didn't mean to, Erin! Did I hurt you?"

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Erin's cheeks were flushed and her heart was pounding as she stared at Bradley. At this moment, she felt a strange tingle spread through her. On the other hand, Bradley felt like a fire was burning within him and it was scorching his entire being. He glanced at Erin with a feverish gaze, his imagination running wild with the position they were in. Knock! Suddenly, a soft, almost inaudible knock came from the door, jolting the two of them back to reality. Erin shoved Bradley off her as she got up from the ground. "There's someone outside," she said nervously. Bradley rushed toward the door and realized the door of the courtyard was wide open; it was obvious that someone had been inside. He turned around and said, "Erin, I think I better leave first. There will be new rumors around the village if someone sees us like this." He hastily left her house. Shortly after that, Julia showed up inside Erin's house. Erin was taken aback by her sudden appearance. Anxious, she asked, "Julia, what brings you here at this time of the night?" Julia looked around and sneered. "Oh! So only that ex-convict is allowed to come see you? We are from the same village after all, aren't we?" Erin's face fell. "Julia, please don't speak that way. There's nothing going on between Bradley and I." Julia squinted her eyes and threatened, "I don't care whether you're innocent or not. If you don't want me to blab about what happened tonight, you have to give me that jade of yours." Shocked, Erin staggered a few steps back and glanced at the box near her bed. Julia shoved her aside roughly and walked toward the box. Opening it, she placed the jade into her own pocket. Erin grabbed her hand and cried desperately, "Julia! You can't take this jade! My mother left this for me before she died." However, Julia scoffed and kicked her away. "Get lost! Unless you want new rumors about you and Bradley to spread in the whole village?" Erin was afraid to speak up so she could only sit on the bed, covering her face as she sobbed. On the other hand, Bradley had no idea what had happened after he left and went

straight to bed the moment he reached home. The next morning as he was heading out, Bradley grabbed his bag and said, "Mom, I'm going to town for a while. You and Dad don't have to wait for me for dinner." Janice, who was preparing breakfast, looked up. "Brad, I was going to bring you to your grandmother's house after breakfast because I've already told your aunt to arrange a match-making session for you. Why are you heading out again?" Bradley sighed helplessly. "Mom, didn't I say to not rush things like this? We'll talk about this when I get back later." He planned to head out soon to catch the first bus toward Zack's house to cure his cousin's sickness. Just as he was about to head out, there seemed to be a loud commotion outside and he could hear Julia's shrill voice. "Bradley Jackson! You get the hell out here now! You were so brave when you were hitting me; why are you so scared to come out now?" Bradley frowned and opened the door, only to find Julia's son and daughter, Paul and Pauline, standing outside with their arms crossed. When Paul saw Bradley, he rushed over and grabbed him by the collar. "Bradley, you think a few years in prison has made you some big shot, huh? You dared to hit my mother?" he yelled angrily. Bradley twisted his arm and shoved him away. "You better ask your mother the details of what happened first. Don't make me angry." Just then, a pretty girl walked over and called out, "Paul, is this the b*stard who hit your mother? You could tell right away that he's just a countryside thug." Julia added, "He had always been a misfit! After going to jail for five years, he still acts high and mighty even when he can't get a proper wife!" Paul grew more agitated by the second and immediately charged toward Bradley to give him a slap. However, just as Paul's hand was about to hit his face, Bradley twisted his hand and slammed Paul to the ground. Julia rushed over to help her son as she shrieked, "Bradley Jackson! Don't think I don't know that the 100,000 you gave Patrick was actually money stolen from somewhere! I'll tell my son to call the police and throw you in jail!" Pauline walked over to her mom and pointed at Bradley. "A five year ex-convict that still hurts people... No wonder you will never be able to find someone to marry and will never have children to carry your family line." "Hubby, who's that causing trouble in our home again? Just use a bat and chase them away." Suddenly, a soft, velvety voice rang out and everyone turned toward it. Kate Nicholson was dragging her heavy suitcase as she arrived in front of Bradley's house. She scoffed in disdain as she looked at Julia's family. Meanwhile, Julia and her family were stunned when they saw the stylishly dressed girl. Not only was the girl beautiful and petite, she actually called Bradley her husband. Was there something wrong with their ears? Just then, Craig and Janice came out of the house and were equally surprised to see Kate outside their door. Bradley turned toward Kate. "Why are you here? How did you manage to find my house?" he questioned. Kate showed the medical records in her hands. "How could I not find you with these?" Julia pulled Paul to the side and murmured, "Since you came all this way here, it would be a shame not to send him back to jail!" As she spoke, she sent a vicious gaze at Kate and smiled cruelly. At that moment, Janice rushed over to Bradley and asked anxiously, "Brad, you really made 100,000 by selling off those herbs?" Emily quickly chirped in, "Mom, don't listen to nonsense from an

outsider. You should believe Brad.” All of a sudden, there was a loud siren and a few police cars had driven into the village. After a uniformed policeman got out of the car and greeted Paul, he walked toward Bradley and said sternly, “Bradley Jackson, we have reason to believe that the 100,000 you gave to Patrick Hart was from an unknown source. Please follow us to the station for further investigation.” Bradley squinted his eyes. “Officer, you need evidence to make an arrest—” “We’ll have the evidence we need once you follow us to the police station.” The policeman interrupted Bradley before he could finish.