

Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 223

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

"Matthew, wake up! Matthew? Hey!"

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

"Matthew, get up right now! Gosh, forget it!"

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

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

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

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

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

"Phew!"

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

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

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

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

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

She took out her phone and opened the message function to draft a message. 'Stay right here for me. I'm going to search the way out.'

After drafting the message, she changed the setting on her phone to remove the password option and placed it in his hand. Subsequently, she took Matthew's cell phone with her.

Matthew's phone was also hardly used after they discovered the lamps as they had completely turned their phones off, so their battery levels remained quite full. His phone was specially custom-made and he had paid more than a hundred thousand for his special phone; to be precise, it was anti-theft, water-resistant and shock-proof.

Veronica took his phone and left the room to search the areas nearby. At last, she managed to find a hidden river that flowed underground.

She left some markings along the way as she explored the area and she lit up all of the lamps that were located downstream. Finally, she stood at the end of the stream and found that the water continuously flowed in the direction outside .

This has to be the exit!! However, she was unaware of the exact situation outside.

After some hesitation, she finally plucked up her courage and removed her clothes to submerge underwater. She intended to see if there was a way out underwater.

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

However, just as she was about to enter the water with her phone's flashlight, a voice suddenly rang out from behind her, "Roni!"

The unexpected shout reverberated in the empty maze and for a moment there, she was frightened out of her wits.

She turned around to find that Matthew was standing not too far away while making his way in her direction.

Veronica was merely clad in her underwear and despite feeling slightly embarrassed, she did not bother much seeing that there was a much bigger problem to deal with. "Why did you come out?"

Matthew waved her phone and revealed a slight smile on his sickly face. "I saw the message you left for me and I knew that you would definitely end up here."

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

Her excitement resembled a child who had just made a wondrous discovery.

“You’re very smart.” He walked to stand next to her, then stood by the edge of the hidden stream to look at the moving stream as he spoke, “Last night, I discovered this place while you were fast asleep and I can confirm that there is an exit here. However, we’re about two hundred meters away from the exit, so you won’t be able to get out.”

Tenderness dipped in his obsidian-colored eyes and his pale lips spoke, “I didn’t leave before because I was waiting to share this situation with you once you are awake. Then, I’ll make my way out to seek help.”

As Matthew said this, he paused for a moment. “There is a cliff at the end of this stream and a hole that measures twenty meters in height on top of it. It would take some time to climb out. Besides, there is no phone signal at the bottom.”

“Two hundred meters?”

A professional swimmer would take about one to two minutes to swim two hundred meters. As for a non-athlete but with great swimming skills, it would take the person at least five to six minutes to complete that.

The current location they were standing at was the entrance to the hidden stream from the water source, so that meant that they would be unable to catch their breaths once they submerged themselves; they would have to hold their breaths until they were out of there.

Matthew had an infected wound and injured hand; therefore, it would be difficult for him to make his way to the end of the stream and climb up twenty meters tall.

“Even if you manage to get out, your wounded hand won’t be enough to help you climb out,” a worried Veronica advised.

“What’s wrong? Are you underestimating me?” He lifted his brows and revealed a smile; his smile was as heartwarming as a spring breeze.

There was some stubble growing under his chin after not being able to shave for two days. Surprisingly, he exuded more masculine charm and sexiness than usual.

“I’m not doubting you, but I just don’t want you to overwork yourself. If you end up dead, then I will probably die in here too!” She was in no mood to joke around when faced with such a life-and-death situation.

Although Matthew had managed to make his way to the end of the stream last night and it clearly indicated that he had great physique and stamina, it was also highly possible that he had overexerted himself from the ordeal last night. As a result, this worsened his infection and hence, his high fever today.

When one was running a high fever, their stamina and physique would naturally be affected largely, so it would be illogical to compare to their usual self.

“Roni, you—”

“Stop all this dilly-dally. Let’s leave together,” she interrupted his sentence and continued, “There used to be a barge right in front of my house and I grew up with my master, so I’m great at swimming.”

“No!”

“Are you underestimating me now?”

“This is a matter of life and death and it’s not a joke.” Despite knowing well that Veronica was a brave and smart lady, Matthew could not help but feel sorry for her. As a man, he felt that he should be able to do more.

“This is bullsh*t. I’m not joking either!”

Her expression turned thunderous as she prodded him on the chest. “Matthew, let’s wager a bet. If I succeed in crossing the stream, what do you have to offer?”

“What do you want?”

“Uhh... If I succeed, then I want you to stay away from me. Stop saying sh*t like you’re in love with me or something. I don’t like you at all, so you can give up.”

At that point, he thought to himself, This wretched woman’s actually rejecting me by wagering a bet with her life?!

All of sudden, he felt a wave of insult washing over him. Yes, Veronica’s insult. All these years, there had been plenty of women who had thrown themselves at him, but she was the only one who hated his guts so much. Not only did she dislike him, she even avoided him like a plague. Seriously?! D*mn it!

“What’s wrong, Matthew? Scared to be a loser?” Veronica shook her head with a sneer.

At this point, it would be difficult to reject after challenging a man’s ego like this.

Matthew hesitated but he knew there would only be one outcome. Even if I stop her from joining me now, I’m pretty sure she will still come after me after I jump in. As such, he might as well bring her along and find the way out together.

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Chapter 224 Veronica’s Drowning Episode

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“I’m off.” She leaped into the water instantly after the simple ‘farewell’.

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

The temperature of the water in the hidden stream was extremely cold.

Veronica could not help shivering as soon as she entered the water, but she clenched her teeth and continued to swim on.

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

In no time, Matthew caught up with her and guarded her steadfastly behind her.

She silently calculated the time in her mind as she counted down slowly.

Four minutes had gone by, but she was still feeling energized enough to continue.

Furthermore, she was mentally in great condition and reckoned that she could persevere for another two minutes. Though it would be hard on her, she was sure that she could manage.

However, just when she was lost in her positive thoughts as she found success within reach, there was suddenly an intense pain in her head.

Quick but deadly as a lightning, she felt the same pain she experienced in the maze. You know, the feeling of your skull being ripped into two, then yanked around.

Veronica tried her best to stifle the pain as she continued hard to swim forward.

Keep going! Keep going! Veronica, you can’t die here! Think about your parents who adopted and cared for you! You still have a long life ahead of you!

She continued to cheer for herself in her mind.

Meanwhile, Matthew could see every move she made from the flashlight of her phone. Although she was swimming along, she had slowed down significantly. He sensed that something was off, so he quickly swam to her side and grabbed her around the waist to swim forward with her.

“Umph... Umph...”

She could no longer withstand the intense pain in her brain and at last, she inhaled. Next thing she knew, a rush of water was gushing into her nostrils and mouth. Gulp... Gulp... With every chug of water, she was starting to choke.

As soon as Matthew noticed that, his heart skipped a beat as he immediately wrapped his arms around her. Without much hesitation, he planted his lips on hers and transferred a breath of air.

At this very moment, everything around them—the moving waters and the passing time—seemed to have come to a halt.

He continued to look at Veronica struggling painfully in his arms as he kept his lips tightly pressed against hers. He held his gaze intently and continued to pass on a firm message with his eyes. ‘Roni, stop struggling. I’ll get you out of here.’

After receiving the breath of air, she felt some slight relief. Despite the overwhelming torture that could easily diminish any human spirit’s for survival, she saw his firm gaze and managed to stifle the pain.

Matthew was afraid for this to drag out more than a second, so he pulled her along while swimming outward.

However, Veronica did not manage to keep going any further and the intense pain in her skull was tormenting her to the point that her entire body convulsed from the pain.

“Glug. Glug...” As more water entered her mouth, her body started to twitch.

Matthew was pained to see her in such a state, but he clenched his teeth and continued to their destination. They were getting closer to the exit and he could already see the light shining in; it felt like a glimmer of hope.

At that point, he had used up most of his energy, but the fact that Veronica was on the brink of death persistently popped into his mind. He swam on maniacally and continued to move forward...

Whoosh!

Finally, he arrived at the long-awaited destination.

Matthew immediately popped his head out of the water as it made a huge splash. He took a deep breath before dragging Veronica toward the edge of the shore.

After rescuing her, he laid her flat on the ground and saw her abdomen bulging from all the water she had taken in. Seeing her face as pale as a sheet and her body motionless as a corpse, Matthew’s heart was in his mouth. There was a strong sense of anxiety and fear that rained over him and he suddenly found himself terrified beyond words; he had never experienced such terror before.

He patted her face in anticipation. “Roni?! Wake up! Don’t go to sleep!”

As he yelled out, he started resuscitating her. He pressed hard on her chest and used professional resuscitation techniques.

One! Two! Three! He continued to perform CPR for more than a minute, but there was only a little bit of water that came out of her mouth; she had yet to show signs of regaining consciousness.

As for Matthew, the wound on his thenar muscle had ripped open and blood spurted out once again. It was inevitable as his hands were immersed in the stream and he had been applying heavy pressure during the resuscitation. The blood from his hand was now trickling down Veronica’s alabaster-like skin and the sight was horrifying.

“Roni? Can you hear me? Wake up! Wake up!”

Time went by gradually and he had already been resuscitating her for the past two minutes, but to no luck, she showed no signs of recovery.

Matthew could feel his heart clench as he continued to call out her name with a trembling voice. It felt like someone was gripping his throat and his heart was sinking deeply.

This feeling... it feels like bit by bit, moment by moment, she is slowly leaving me.

At that point, he could not contain his anxiety as he pumped her heart and cried out, “I thought you wanted to become rich? Is that all the money you wanted? Didn’t you promise that we would be best buddies? How are you going to be my best buddy if you’re not here?”

The man who was usually calm and composed in every situation he faced had finally lost it.

He repeatedly called out her name while exerting pressure on his hand. His eyes were flushed red and he looked almost monstrous.

However, that did not stop his action of resuscitation. All he could see in front of him was her lifeless body and he could not stop thinking that this was it. This is it...

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Chapter 225 Succeeded in Rescuing Veronica

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

“Roni, you’ve finally woken up!”

“Ah!”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Her sobs felt like a knife lodged in Matthew's heart and it was heart-twisting for him to see her in such a state. He had never felt this much despair in his life as to watching his beloved woman tormented in front of him and yet, there was nothing he could do to help her.

Finally, a constructive idea had popped into his head—medics!

"Roni, just hold on. We're about to get out of here," he comforted her while freeing his other hand to grab his phone. He opened it and lifted it high as he tried to search for a phone signal around this area.

However, there was not the slightest bit of phone signal available at all.

As for Veronica, she continued to sob in pain. Matthew could not bear to witness this for another second, so he lifted his hand and ruthlessly attacked her on the nape of her neck.

The woman who had been previously sobbing hard suddenly felt darkness descend upon her as she fell into an unconscious state once again.

At that point, Matthew finally realized that she had actually been successfully resuscitated during his continuous CPR attempts. After regaining her heartbeat, she had merely been in an unconscious state.

Presently, she was no longer complaining about the pain while silently being unconscious on the ground.

Suddenly, Matthew had a random thought that crossed his mind. If I had stopped her from entering the water with me just now, would she have tagged along without me knowing? And if she had done so, wouldn't she have died if her condition was triggered in the middle of her swim? With this in his mind, he was left with nothing but shock and fear.

He removed his jacket and covered Veronica with it. Subsequently, he lifted his head to look at the steep way out. He placed his phone in his pocket and headed over to scan the area as he tried to find a suitable spot to climb out.

At last, he decided to enter the water and swim to the opposite side before climbing out from the other side of the wall.

The uneven edges of the wall were a perfect climbing spot and he stepped on the protruding rocks while grabbing hold of the crevices on top, slowly but surely, he was reaching the top.

So, let's recap. Not only did Matthew have his right hand torn by Veronica, his left hand had also just been smashed by her on the edged surface.

Each time he exerted pressure, blood would trickle down his wrist to his elbow and his white suit shirt would be stained with bright-red blood.

Despite that, he was unperturbed as he was intent on getting out immediately to get a phone signal to call for help and send Veronica for medical treatment as soon as possible.

Everything hit him in waves and at that moment, his spirit to succeed was stronger than ever.

With each step he took to climb out, there were some wet rocks that fell from time to time, causing him to then slip due to the leather shoes he had on. At times, he nearly fell but he managed to luckily overcome the danger each time. With great success, he finally arrived at the exit.

He stood at the top of the cave and realized he was surrounded by a wide cliff with a huge rock nearby while still able to look far ahead.

After pin-pointing his current position and looking to his side, he noticed that the Kings Residence was located very far away from them.

Taken aback as he thought, How big is this underground maze?

While treasuring every second he got, he quickly took out his phone to find that the phone signal had been restored.

Although the battery level on his phone had run quite low, it could still sustain long enough for him to make a phone call.

Buzz. Buzz. Buzz.

As soon as the phone signal was restored to his phone, his phone vibrated continuously from all the text messages and notifications of missed phone calls.

Matthew ignored the messages and went straight into his contact list to call Thomas.

“Doo—”

It did not take long for the person on the other end to answer the call as soon as he dialed it. “Boss? Boss, is that you? Where are you and Miss Murphy right now?”

“It’s a long story. Send the helicopter right away to the bottom of the cliff of a mountain opposite the Northern face of Goldie Mountain. I’ll hang a white shirt on the side of the cliff and once you’ve confirmed the location, come with some men and bring some climbing equipment to perform a rescue mission inside the cave. I also need an anti-leak container to store about one liter of water. Get me a set of lady’s outfit that’s loose-fitting too.” Matthew gave the instructions calmly.

As soon as Thomas heard that, he realized that his boss must have encountered a dangerous situation. Without asking any further questions, he instantly sent some men to the location as he prepared the containers and departed too.

Matthew was brought up in this area, so he knew the mountains in this area well. However, he did not expect that the location connected to the hidden stream was in fact opposite Goldie Mountain.

He removed the white shirt he had on and fashioned a rope out of his sleeve. Subsequently, he tied it to a rock and made his way back into the cave.

Inside the cave, Veronica remained in an unconscious state. Matthew sat by her side and stood guard silently.

In no time at all, there was a commotion of a helicopter outside and the whirring of the blades could be clearly heard. Upon the long-awaited moment, he patiently waited for the rescue.

Thirty minutes later, he heard noises from the outside.

“Boss?”

“Young Master Matthew?”

“Is anyone down there?”

Several voices rang out and Matthew responded immediately, “Get down here.”

As soon as he said that, the people outside heard his command and quickly climbed down from the entrance of the cave.

As Matthew saw them descending from the top, he helped Veronica up and covered her with his jacket. He buttoned it up to prevent her from exposing her body.

After everyone had arrived at the cave, Thomas entered the water and swam toward them. At that point, he realized that Veronica and Matthew had sustained different levels of injuries respectively.

“Boss, what happened to you?” a shocked Thomas asked with concern.

He had been working for Matthew all these years, but he had never seen him in such a disheveled state.

“Hand me the clothes and face the other side,” he ordered coldly.

Thomas handed over the clothes and signaled to his subordinates. Subsequently, everyone turned around and had their backs facing Matthew.

He unbuttoned the clothes and helped Veronica into them. Just as they thought this was the end, Matthew said to Thomas, “Send Roni to the hospital right away to get a blood test done. I need to head back inside.”