

HBH 831

Chapter 831 Watch Your Manners

Veronica stood where she was, clenching her fists as fury raged inside her. "In the end, they still did something to our children." "That's within expectations." Matthew's behavior was extremely calm. "Let's go."

The two didn't talk much, but they seemed to have silently agreed not to mention this again. After entering the palace and proving their identities, Zac, Veronica, and Matthew were led into the palace's east wing.

In the east wing, Xavier, Hendrey, Tiffany, and the others were present. Everything was just as Veronica and Matthew had expected. "You're finally here, Master Iron. We've been waiting for ages."

When she saw Matthew walking in, Eleanor, who was wearing a red dress, jogged up to him in welcome. Her long hair was draped over her shoulders, and she wore a silver hat that looked like a flower crown. As she ran, the silver ornaments decorating the circumference of the hat rang like silvery bells, and it was quite a melodious sound to hear.

In the hall of the east wing, seats were arranged in two parallel rows at the sides. A small table was placed between each pair of seats, and an assortment of desserts, fruits, and wine was laid out on the tables.

cleverly dodged Eleanor's outstretched hand. Seeing

to just call me Eleanor. You are my master, so you don't have to call me Princess." Eleanor noticed Matthew's rejection but didn't express it in the slightest. Instead, she casually

Eleanor's kindness, then glanced at Matthew as she moved her gaze past Eleanor.

you for your consideration,

"That's amazing, Veronica. Since when did you become so close

how she had been disgraced during the last gathering, she hated Veronica

she saw how close Veronica was

first, she was the most captivating person, but ever since Veronica appeared, she had stolen everything from her. Only

to ask for your permission to get close

having been insulted in public, Tiffany was furious, but she could only lower her head and

Dominik was seated at the head position. He reprimanded Eleanor, "All visitors

Eleanor stood next to Veronica and Matthew, a hand taking Veronica's arm while her other gripped Matthew's wrist.

The man wanted to struggle free, but Eleanor appeared relaxed and calm. She even responded to Dominik's reprimand with an 'okay', but she gripped Matthew's hand in silence as she fought against his efforts, reluctant to let go.

She was expending effort in her left hand, so her right hand, which was holding Veronica's wrist, also applied some force without meaning to do so.

Sensing something odd, Veronica turned to look at Eleanor and realized that Eleanor was holding Matthew's wrist while smiling at him. At once, she understood what was going on.

Eleanor dragged the two to the upper section of the hall. She sat next to Dominik while Matthew sat on her right, followed by Veronica. Next to Veronica sat Hendrey and Tiffany.

Sitting across them were Zac, Xavier, Antheena, and Troy.

"Princess Eleanor, have you summoned us for a reason?" Zac leaned against the armrest as he asked straightforwardly.

Chapter 832 Plot of the Hidden Clan

"Of course. The hidden clan's annual fall hunt is just around the corner. I've summoned all of you here so that I can invite you to participate in the fall hunt."

The hidden clan had retained their tradition from the past. They would hold the annual Prayer Ceremony, as well as a hunt during spring and fall.

Most men in the wealthy families of the hidden clan had learned to fight since young. They were skilled at archery on horseback. Since the technology was progressing, both bows and guns were allowed in hunts.

When Eleanor had finished speaking, Dominik added, "The hunting festival will be held for five days, and the winner will be greatly rewarded."

"It's just a hunt, so why extend it to five days?" Hendrey expressed his confusion.

"The hunting grounds are located between Mount Manos and Mount Gazette. Since the land between the mountains is huge, this time round, the hunt tests speed and survival skills in the wild and self-preservation. Not counting the time allocated for the hunting festival, the hunt itself will take only four days. Also, the prey will be revealed on the morning of the festival, and whoever hunts the target and arrives at the finishing line first will be crowned the winner."

the prey and return to camp within the first day, the game will

finished speaking, the crowd exchanged glances and began

looked at Matthew next to her, then said in a small voice, "According to what I know, the hidden clan's hunts always ended within two or

in the

instantly panicked as she said quickly, "Hunts are reserved for skilled people, right? I'm just a weak woman, so

perfect for slipping in a murder or two. If she joined, she feared that her life would be at she said, "I have already signed up for everyone present. If Hendrey participates in the festivities alone, he can't stay by your side to protect you, so it'll be even more dangerous she completely refuted place, faced with a threat and a warning, Tiffany could Princess Eleanor has a point." Antheena nodded in looking at Tiffany. However, when she finished speaking, she cast a her as well. The two met each other's Veronica could feel the murderous intent in Antheena's recently. I do not wish to Veronica declined straight out, and she wasn't negotiating with Eleanor. Even though their plots were written obviously on their faces, Veronica still needed a reason to decline. Being able to decline was one thing, but having the intent to decline was another. However, she had underestimated how low the Ledgers could go.

"Hahaha..." Dominik laughed heartily. "It's just an event, and everyone is just joining in for fun. However, Madam Hayley hasn't appeared in public for years, right? Tomorrow, my mother will be announcing the news that Madam Hayley and her biological daughter have been invited to the hunting festival. Of course, my mother has already talked to Madam Hayley about this."

At that, he suddenly questioned, "Do you not know of this, Miss Murphy?"

The unexpected query caught Veronica off guard. She subconsciously glanced at Matthew, then flashed a smile at Dominik. "She meant to inform me today, but since Princess Eleanor invited me to the palace, I couldn't wait for her."

She was referring to none other than Hayley.

Chapter 833 Replace the Chef

They left the palace in the afternoon. Matthew was driving while Veronica sat sullenly in the passenger seat. Matthew said, "Tanya is a cunning old fox. She would invite all the hidden clan officials to the hunting festival, so Hayley was asked to attend along with you. This is an opportune chance for Hayley to publicly introduce you to the hidden clan, and it would also serve as a foundation for you to fight for the throne. Hayley definitely won't decline the invitation. There's no reason to." Matthew sighed forlornly.

Veronica sighed as well. "In other words, Tanya's plot is to let me have a taste of my own medicine. She wants me to join in the hunt, then she would get rid of me during the event. After all, those who enter the hunt have to sign a mortality contract."

She clicked her tongue and shook her head, lamenting, "Tanya is gaining the upper hand. She will lure Hayley to get me to join the festivities, and when everyone knows of my existence, I won't have a reason to decline the hunt. If I say no, the people would be disappointed in me right away, and I would be a disgrace to the Elrods. When the Elrods fight for the throne in the future, even Hayley's supporters might switch sides."

There was an unwritten rule in the hidden clan that during the hunting festival, the princes and young lords of the hidden clan were obliged to participate under most circumstances.

Only the brave could be the head of the hidden clan and lead the clan to prosperity.

the

clan members were trained

around, not only do you have to participate in the hunting event, but you also

itself earlier than he had

hunting event were all top hunters. How many of them were assassins sent by Tanya, and

situation with only a

The two fell silent.

had just entered the

still laid out on the table, yet to

Matthew, who nodded and said, "Master Waylen, Madam Hayley,

a chef and part-time bodyguard, Matthew still had no right

"You may go."

Crayson nodded.

Veronica walked up to the couch and sat down. Before Hayley could say anything, she suggested, "Let's hire a new chef later. Things are getting busier these days, and you can't expect him to protect me on top of making three meals a day for us."

She was earnestly concerned about Matthew, but she endured until the right moment to voice her suggestion so that Crayson wouldn't suspect anything.

"Even though Iron Pillar is skilled, it isn't appropriate for him to work as both a chef and a bodyguard." Mateo agreed with Veronica's statement. Then, he grinned and said, "As such, Iron Pillar won't be following you around in the future. He just has to focus on cooking, or his cooking skills will be wasted."

Since his fight with Liam, Mateo was grounded by Crayson to rethink his actions. To prevent Liam from exacting revenge, Matthew was also sent to protect Veronica.

These days, no matter how much Mateo begged, Crayson never once allowed him to stay by Veronica's side.

When Mateo finished speaking, he asked Veronica, “Roni, just say yes, pretty please? I keep begging Grandpa, but he won’t let me protect you no matter what. He even said that Iron Pillar will put his life on the line to protect you. Tsk, he’s just underestimating me.”

Veronica, who was a little thirsty, poured a glass of water for herself. When she heard what Mateo said, her hand froze while holding the glass, and she subconsciously looked up at Crayson.

Chapter 834

Chapter 834 Crayson Finds Out the Truth

Coincidentally, Crayson was looking at her as well. His muddled eyes were dark with unfathomable depths, where treachery lurked. Veronica quickly averted her gaze and glared at Mateo. “Crayson is right. You’d be better off protecting yourself with your half-baked skills.”

Even though she said that, Mateo’s words resounded in her mind. ‘He won’t let me protect you no matter what. He even said that Iron Pillar will put his life on the line to protect you.’

Crayson had always kept a low profile, and he never exaggerated his words. Those words of his were intriguing.

“Veronica, you went to the palace today, right? Did they mention anything about the hunting banquet of the hidden clan?” Hayley came over in the morning and had been waiting for Veronica ever since.

help but ask. “Oh, yes,” Veronica replied readily, then smiled and said, “They asked me to participate in the

Veronica didn’t have a choice and was obliged to attend.

little surprised, then she tilted her head to exchange glances with Crayson before hastily saying, “The hunting festivities this year is a large-scale hunting event that happens every ten years. All the officials of the hidden clan will be attending. Tanya invited me and your master to participate, and she even said that we can bring you along and announce your identity to everyone present. This is the perfect chance to

I just have to attend the event without joining the hunt, right?” Veronica feigned ignorance.

“Well—”

cut off by Veronica, Hayley suddenly didn’t know what

sent a pleading look at Crayson, signaling that

attend the event, you’re obliged to join in the hunt as well. Not only do you have to join, but you’ll have to win the hunt as well. You may not know this, but even though it’s a hunt, it also tests the capabilities of the young lords of the hidden clan. The young lords of the past all performed wonderfully in the hunting

hidden clan.” Hayley sighed, anxiety written all over her

up and looked at Veronica with an uneasy gaze. “But that means Roni will be in danger, right? Tanya and the others are thinking of ways to get rid of her, so during this hunting

The trap was laid out carefully, and the scheme was as obvious as it came.

Veronica lowered her gaze, silent as she picked up the teacup and took a small sip. She then put the teacup down and looked up to see Hayley and Crayson both staring at her with intent gazes.

“Why are you looking at me? I’m frail, and I probably can’t even win against Eleanor. How am I going to join the hunt like this? I can’t do it, I really can’t.” She hastily waved her hands in denial. As she spoke, she suddenly slapped her knees and said in realization, “What about Tiffany? She has been training and waiting for a chance. Isn’t this the best chance for her to display her skills? How can she miss this opportunity?”

It was a serious suggestion, and when Veronica spoke, both her emotions and tone were extremely normal. However, the two people seated opposite her could hear the sarcasm in her words.

Back then, under the loving care of Mr. and Mrs. Floch, Tiffany spent her life in luxury as she enjoyed treatment as a rich young daughter. In contrast, Veronica’s life was filled with injustice.

However, Veronica truly felt that Tiffany’s fate was quite cruel. Still, Tiffany didn’t deserve her sympathy.

Chapter 835

Chapter 835 Puppet

“Tiffany may look like she’s working with Hendrey and Zac, but according to what I know, she has been in frequent contact with Dominik and Liam lately. She might have her plans. She’s too ambitious and uncontrollable.” Crayson frowned deeply, the thin smoke spewing through his breath and barely able to hide the worry on his face.

It hadn’t been a month since his return to the hidden clan. Everything was beyond his control, and that made him feel extra helpless and exhausted.

“Yes, Tiffany is totally out of control. No matter what we arrange for her, she won’t agree to it.” Hayley sighed, but her legs were neatly placed together as she sat on the couch, her back as straight as a ruler. No matter how troubled she was, she still presented herself as a noblewoman.

“Since she’s out of control, how do you deal with her?” Veronica asked curiously as she gazed coolly at the two people sitting opposite her, awaiting their reply.

In reality, Veronica had always felt pissed, but she tried her best to hold it in. The two kept talking about Tiffany being out of control, and it sounded like they thought she was easier to control.

puppets were the easiest to control. What

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time isn’t just you; it’s Tiffany as well. If nothing goes wrong, she probably won’t be leaving this hunt alive.” Crayson’s tone was grave as he kept

up on the seeded player you’ve raised so carefully for more than 20 years?” Veronica leaned against the couch as she

sarcastic smile pierced

the blanks in their mother-daughter relationship. However, she hadn't expected

I know you find this unfair, but we're doing this for your own good. Of course, your mother and I

more than 20 years. "In that case, I guess I

put on a dark expression as he gripped the pipe, knocking it heavily against the table. "Madam Hayley has been waiting an entire day for you, but you're leaving just like that?

fury on her face

still have to discuss with you about the

repeated the word. "Is a discussion with me even necessary? You've already decided everything, so you only have to tell me what to do on the day itself.

With that, she turned around and went up the stairs without even looking back.

Mateo looked at her figure with a dark look on his face. Then, he turned to look at Crayson and Hayley. "I can understand why Roni is mad. It's unfair of you to treat her like that." He stood up from the couch as well, and as he was about to leave, he added, "No one in this world would willingly become a puppet."

Only puppets were controlled by people.

What was the definition of a puppet?

It was nothing more than a soulless doll.

Upstairs, Veronica returned to her room to see that Matthew was already there.

He was sitting at the desk, reading something. When he noticed Veronica's sullen expression, he got up and walked up to her. He put an arm around her waist and caressed her hair with another hand, asking, "What's the matter?"