

When Hit by a Stroke of “Luck” Chapter 16

Captain Lawrence weighed the packet in his hand and chuckled. “Bro, I understand what you mean Rest assured, we’ll use the dirtiest trick to deal with the thug

Paul laughed and asked, “Dave, how will you settle with that fellow?”

“Till teach him a lesson since he loves showing off. Let’s see if his arrogance would be overpowered by my violence.”

An evil smile worked its way across Captain Lawrence’s face as he walked toward the interrogation room.

Beep! Beep! Beep! At that moment, Bradley’s phone rang just as he was pondering if he should make a call to Henry and the others. He was glad that the policemen did not know he had a phone with him and had not frisked him. He quickly took out his phone and answered the call.

Samuel’s anxious voice came across the line. “Brad, are you here yet? Zack and Henry are here and we’ve been waiting for some time.”

“There are some issues to be settled at my end,” Bradley murmured. “I’m now at Riverdale District’s police station and I’m afraid I won’t be able to come over so soon.”

“Did you run into trouble? We’ll come get you now!” With that, Samuel hung up.

Just then, Captain Lawrence walked into the interrogation room. Upon seeing Bradley holding the phone, he mocked wickedly, “Bradley Jackson, I can’t believe that a poor farmer like you can afford a branded phone. No one would be convinced that you’re not a thief.” He raised his voice and continued, “You’d better admit your wrongdoings before I resort to torture.”

Bradley laughed as he disregarded the threat. “Captain Lawrence, is there a rule which states that a farmer is not allowed to use branded stuff? Also, how can you affirm that I stole the 100,000?”

Captain Lawrence was stumped by these questions and rendered speechless. Pulling out his belt from around his waist, he lashed it at Bradley and growled, “I shall not show any mercy since you’re being such an obstinate brat.”

Bradley reached out and caught the belt accurately. Using the barest energy he tugged at the belt, causing Captain Lawrence to lose his balance and stumble onto the ground. Upon tipping, Captain Lawrence was even more furious. Immediately, he Teached toward a stun baton beside him and was ready to strike Bradley

However, Bradley only chuckled coldly. "Captain Lawrence, I honor you as a policeman. You should, however, keep your hands off me or I shall not show you any more respect."

"We'll see how disrespectful you'll be!" Captain Lawrence snarled as he waved the baton toward Bradley.

Bradley swiftly dodged and the stun baton hit the table hard, causing Captain Lawrence's hands to become numb from the shock and the baton to fall to the ground

Bradley smirked and scoffed at him, "As a civil servant, how can you lay your hands on a citizen? I think this lesson is too light for you."

Upon hearing that, Captain Lawrence blew a gasket. He grasped the chair and was about to smash Bradley on the head.

"Stop right there!"

A cold and dark voice came from outside the interrogation room. Bang! Following that, the door was flung open by a powerful kick.

Samuel, Henry and Zack appeared at the entrance of the room as they glared coldly at Captain Lawrence, who was holding the chair in his hand. Samuel went to Bradley and asked anxiously, "Brad, why did you not mention my name? Why bother fighting the lot of them?"

"President Newton, why are you here?" Captain Lawrence was seized by panic.

Bradley coolly laid his hand on Samuel's shoulder. "I've mentioned your name but Captain Lawrence insisted that he doesn't know you. You'd better explain to him where my money came from." Upon saying that, Bradley propped one foot on the table as he wore a relaxed expression.

By that time, Captain Lawrence was scared out of his wits. Smiling apologetically at Samuel, he said, "President Newton, I genuinely did not know that this man is a

friend of yours- I was blinded

Zack walked to him and spoke, "You're indeed blind. Seems like you've come to the end of your career as a team leader, you'd better be prepared to pack your things?" Upon saying that, he approached Bradley and said, "Brad, you must have been frightened. Let's go! We'll leave this scoundrel to Mr. Felix."

The few of them escorted Bradley out and left the police station. Meanwhile, the villagers who were gathered outside were astonished upon seeing this scene. Samuel, Henry and Zack were already well known and notorious as they were frequently featured on television.

At that moment, Paul was startled too. He caught up to Samuel goofily and pleaded, "President Newton, I genuinely did not know that Brad is a friend of yours. Please have mercy and forgive me!" He then turned to Bradley and begged, "Brad, you have to help me out. After all, we are living in the same neighborhood."

Bradley, however, glared at Paul haughtily. "Neighbor? I'm just a country bumpkin and dare not to claim ties with you. Look at the difference in our outfits; we're obviously from different social classes."

Right then, Samuel growled furiously, "Secretary Hudson, you don't have to report to work from tomorrow onward. Go claim your salary from the finance department and get out!"

At that moment, Bradley looked extremely outstanding as he stood among the big shots, his ragged clothes seemingly as cool as those tailor-made suits.

On the other hand, Captain Lawrence and Paul were not only greatly humiliated in front of the crowd, it cost them their job too. Emily and Kate happily ran up to Bradley and exclaimed, "Brad, I was so frightened just now! I hope that fierce man Captain Lawrence did not bully you."

"He wanted to, but didn't have the guts to do so," Bradley answered confidently before Kate asked, "Bradley, you must be hungry after all the hassle. Why don't I buy some breakfast for you?"

She was stunned that Bradley knew all these big shots-never in her wildest dreams had she thought that Bradley would be so awesome. However, he turned around and rejected her offer. "Dr. Nicholson, please stop pestering me. I'll never take you as my disciple so please leave!"

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"Brad, how can you say that? Dr. Nicholson was just being kind. Moreover—"

"What do you know, you silly girl? Go home and accompany Dad and Mom. I'm going to the county town to run some errands." Of course, Bradley knew what his sister was about to say, so he interrupted her before she could finish her sentence.

"I'm not a silly little girl anymore. I hate you, Brad!" Emily complained reluctantly as Bradley walked away, leaving her behind.

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At that moment, Paul and Captain Lawrence were hoping the ground would open up and swallow them as it was their first time being shamed in front of all the villagers

The villagers became excited as they started to whisper among themselves about what had happened, giving all kinds of comments.

Boston Layman, who came from the same neighborhood as Bradley, started to brag. "I've told you Bradley is no ordinary guy-even big shots like Henry and Samuel have to treat him with respect."

"Exactly! Julia and her family were so mean. They accused Bradley unreasonably just because their son made a small fortune, and now their son is being treated like a dog by his boss."

Paul wanted to refute the accusations yet he had no choice but to quietly sneak away upon seeing the furious glare from the villagers.

Patrick, who had come along to be a spectator of the scene, angrily left as he witnessed Bradley's victory. Mrs. Parlor, who stayed in the same neighborhood as Bradley, approached Emily and said sweetly, "Emily, your brother is amazing. Paul is nothing but a b*stard!"

"Of course! My brother is obviously a good guy; he must have a certain level of credibility and ability to be able to associate with those big shots," Emily beamed as she remarked proudly before dragging Kate away from the police station.

Meanwhile, Bradley followed Zack as they drove toward the northern suburbs of Riverdale District. Soon, the branded sedan arrived at the entrance of a European style bungalow.

Upon reaching, Zack spoke up, "Brad, this is my cousin's house. She is a little bit of a weirdo, so please don't be spooked when you see her later."

Bradley nodded as he observed the surroundings of the bungalow and could not help but be amazed by the exquisite and perfect design of the building. Walking into the main hall, the two were greeted by the sight of a woman with a good figure and refined make up sitting on the sofa, switching back and forth between TV channels.

Upon seeing their arrival, she put down the remote control and walked toward Zack. "Hey Zack, your dad just told me that you were coming over and here you are."

Zack smiled as he introduced them to each other. Brad, this is Yasmine lumer ty

Then, he turned to Yasmine and said, "Yasmine, meet my friend, Bradley ! specifically invited him over to treat your illness."

"Nice to meet you, Ms. Turner!"

Bradley reached out to shake her hand, but Yasmine did not even look at him, much less shake his hand. He awkwardly put down his hand and smiled at her. "Ms. Turner, I heard that you are not feeling well and so I've come to offer a consultation."

"I'm totally fine; I merely hate guys like you. Please leave at once after my cousin and I are done chatting." Yasmine responded to Bradley in a lukewarm manner, not wanting to accept his offer at all.

Bradley remained silent as he focused his eyes on her. Then and there, he could tell that this woman suffered a syndrome which caused her to despise men, and that explained the cold reaction from her. He dragged Zack aside and asked, "Has your cousin been hurt badly in a relationship before?"

Zack stared at him in disbelief as he blurted, "How did you know? She has indeed been in a relationship before, and she's never had a second one ever since that guy cheated on her."

"Looks like my guess was right! Later on, you may leave first and I'll stay on to treat her illness," Bradley said with great confidence.

Panic-stricken, Zack asked worriedly, "Brad, have you thought of a way to treat her? Is it going to work?"

Bradley laughed as he reassured, "Don't worry! I promise you'll see a totally different person tomorrow."

Though Zack was not completely convinced, he still took his leave upon seeing the confident look on Bradley's face. As he was about to leave, he gave 100,000 to Bradley before approaching Yasmine and said, "Yasmine, my dad has always been worried about your sickness. Please be cooperative and receive Bradley's treatment."

Yasmine nodded as she brushed her cousin off. Nevertheless, she completely ignored Bradley thereafter. She gave him the cold shoulder and went upstairs after Zack had

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left, not wanting to have any communication with him.

Bradley quickly caught up to her and made a suggestion. "Ms. Turner, please allow me to check your pulse. I might be able to diagnose the root of your illness."

Yasmine turned to Bradley and glared at him disgustedly. "And what if I refuse?"

"Then I'll have no choice but to give your uncle a call. As you already know, your family's business has been oppressed by many other parties ever since you fell sick. Would you rather be a coward for your whole life?" Bradley chose an aggressive approach and tried to threaten her in a subtle way—he knew for women with this illness, their hatred toward men would gradually subside as long as they were physically touched by men.

“The business issues are trivial; I just hope that you will not make additional comments in front of my uncle.” Upon saying that, Yasmine lay down on the sofa and stretched her hand toward Bradley.

Bradley reached out to Yasmine’s snow-white hand and gently stroked it before he started to check her pulse. “Ms. Turner, your body is functioning well according to my observation. I’ll need to give you a full body massage so I hope you can cooperate with me.”

Yasmine became impatient upon hearing the request. “I’ve told you I’m totally fine. Why bother?”

Bradley pretended to be professional and said, “This body massage does not only dredge your meridian, it also has detoxification and beautification effects. Not to mention it helps regulate the body temperature.”

Yasmine snorted in disagreement as she heard his explanation. “Hmph! What a lousy doctor my cousin has employed.”

“Ms. Turner, you can doubt my skills but you shouldn’t let your uncle down.”

Upon hearing those words, Yasmine stopped arguing. She took off her jacket and obediently lay on the sofa. Looking at the beautiful figure, Bradley’s face became flushed and hot. His calloused hand slowly reached out to her smooth skin, and the both of them were shocked by his touch, as though being electrocuted.

Yasmine had never been touched by a man before-her cheeks were flushed and her

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whole body felt uneasy. “Uh... please stop. I’m not used to this,” Yasmine murmured.

Nevertheless, Bradley gently touched her skin and used his strength to massage her. After all, the best way to dispel her hatred toward men was to make this woman realize that men were not despicable, but could actually bring her warmth.

“Ms. Turner, wouldn’t you like to have a taste of the pleasures of life?” Bradley asked in a charming voice. Upon saying that, he looked into the woman’s eyes and started to hypnotize her.

Instantly, Yasmine went into a lethargic state. A moment later, the tension in her expression was eased and her body let down its guard too.

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Bradley tried to control his burning lust as he touched her moist skin, finally focusing on the task at hand.

After the therapy was done, Yasmine gradually came around. She instantly blushed upon seeing Bradley's calloused hands which were still massaging her skin. Feeling bashful, she shoved his hands away. "W-What are you doing?"

Bradley removed his hands and conducted himself in a mature manner. "Ms. Turner, did you feel as if you were in paradise just now?"

The blush on Yasmine's face became even obvious as she heard the question. Sitting up on the sofa, she came into contact with his burning skin and immediately turned away. Moments later, she murmured shyly, "Just address me as Yasmine in the future."

Recognizing how Yasmine did not despise him anymore, Bradley felt a great sense of accomplishment. He walked toward the casement windows and said calmly, "Actually, not all men in this world are trash; it's just that you haven't met a loyal one."

Yasmine stood up and replied slowly, "Truth is, I've thought about it, but I just can't seem to get rid of the scars left by my past. Alright, enough about that. I've instructed the housekeeper to prepare some clothes for you. Please get changed and I'll show you to your room later on." With that, Yasmine walked briskly into her room and did not show up for a long while.

"Mr. Jackson, these are the clothes that I've prepared according to Ms. Turner's instruction. Please try and see if it fits." The housekeeper's sweet voice floated over as she came to stand in front of Bradley, the clothes in her hand.

Bradley took the clothes and went for a shower. Finally, he felt relieved as the burning heat in his body ceased.

During dinner time, Yasmine mumbled while she was eating, "Brad, my parents arranged a blind date for me tomorrow but I'm extremely anxious. Why don't-"

"Yasmine, you've completely recovered now and you are not disgusted by me anymore. Perhaps the guy at blind date tomorrow will look more handsome than me and you'll definitely not find him despicable." Bradley knew what Yasmine was going

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forese could finish her sentence

"G Can we become the best of friends?" Yasmine asked titlly a few moments later

“Of course! Zack and I are friends, and you’ll definitely be a good friend of mine too. If you need any assistance in future, you can call me at this number,” Bradley replied as nudged a card toward her with his contact number on it

Yasmine looked at him with her bright eyes and asked shyly, “Can you perform another hypnosis on me again tonight?”

“Sure!” Bradley nodded. “Go take a shower after dinner and wait for me in the room.”

Although he answered her in a casual manner, it sounded much deeper to Yasmine, Bashfully, she laid down her chopsticks and went up the spiral staircase. At that point, she had gradually fallen in love with this young man from the village, but she could not express it as she was a lady, after all.

Once he had finished his dinner, Bradley went upstairs to Yasmine’s room, only to find her lying on the bed after a bath. He knew what was on her mind. Hence, he did not hypnotize her but gently massaged her back.

“Brad, what if I’ve already fallen for you?” Yasmine asked timidly.

“Yasmine, I’m just a guy from a village. Please don’t pin any hopes on me; you can just keep our sweet memories to yourself.”

They then cuddled each other but still decided to not be together in the end. Nevertheless, the night left a strong aftertaste in Yasmine.

The next morning, she reluctantly bade Bradley goodbye. Before his departure, she even asked shyly, “Can I call you in the future if there’s anything?”

“Definitely! I’m heading back to the village now. Do give me a call if you need anything.”

Then, Bradley hopped into the car and arrived home after a two-hour journey. He could hear noises coming from his house upon stepping into the yard-the noises came from a bunch of gossiping women from the village.

“Janice, how amazing Bradlev is! Not only is he friends with the big shots from the

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city, he even put Captain Lawrence and Paul to shame in front of the crowd!” The bint of flattery was obvious in Mrs. Parlor’s voice as it flowed out from the house.

“Exactly! You’re so blessed to have a son like him. Do you think Brad can get a job in the city for Boston?” Mrs. Layman chimed in but Janice replied awkwardly, “I’m actually not aware of the matters regarding Bradley. Why don’t you ask him personally?”

“Mom, I’m home!” Bradley pushed the door open and went into the house. He then nodded to the crowd who came to flatter his family. He knew that it was normal for the villagers to purposely approach and flatter them given the current situation. Had he been thrown into jail, they would put him down for sure.

Ignoring the crowd, he went straight into Craig’s room. “Dad, there’s an issue that I would like to discuss with you.”

Even though Craig did not understand how capable his son was, he was tickled pink upon hearing the praises from the others. He put his tobacco on the table and said, “Brad, let’s not talk about the issue now. First of all, tell me what’s going on between you and Kate.”

Bradley scratched his head upon hearing his father’s question. “Dad, there’s nothing to explain. Nothing is going on between us.”

However, Craig did not buy the story. “Nothing is going on between you? Then why would she bring along her luggage and come to our place?”

“Dad, Kate asked me to teach her medical skills but I rejected her because all I have is some surface knowledge. That’s all!” Bradley explained. After all, the market for herbs was a unique one and for that very reason, he would never take on a disciple.

Craig contemplated for a moment before commenting, “Kate is indeed a decent girl. She’s probably out of your league anyway”

Bradley was not affected by his father’s words. “I’m thinking of renting a plot of land in the village to cultivate herbs. What do you think?”

Upon hearing that, Craig immediately opposed, “Brad, herb cultivation does not only involve high costs but also requires technology for artificial cultivation too.”

“Don’t worry about that, Dad! I’ve learned all the necessary skills from prison. All I

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need is land to start the project.”

Truth was, Craig had confidence in his son’s capability too, so he agreed instantly, “I’ll go to the village chief tomorrow and ask if we can rent the land at the northern part of the village.”

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After discussing it with Bradley, Craig prepared some gifts and the both of them left for the village chief's house. The village chiefs stayed at the edge of the village, and from their house they had to pass through the middle of the village to reach their destination.

As Bradley walked through the village, he realized the villagers were all gazing at him with great respect. Mrs. Lennon, the village's matron, went up to Bradley and grasped his hand excitedly the minute she saw him. "Brad, I never would have thought that you picked up a few things throughout the low years behind bars. What a blessing in disguise!"

Bradley knew that Mrs. Lennon was the most eloquent person in the village, and she valued money more than anything else. She must be up to 110 good to initiate a conversation with him. Nevertheless, Bradley did not dare to offend her, or else the rumors in the village would drive him crazy. "They're really not a big deal and aren't worth mentioning."

"Brad, you're not young after all. I have a niece from the maternal side of my family who is extremely beautiful. I shall arrange a meeting for the both of you and if everything goes well, the two of you can get married!" Mrs. Lennon glanced toward Craig fawningly as she spoke to Bradley.

"Mrs. Lennon, you sure have a lot of nieces! You said the same thing to my brother yesterday. It's rather odd that the maternal side of your family only has daughters."

Just then, a sweet voice called from the side and everyone turned toward the source. Ashley Becker, the daughter of the village chief, stood at a distance. Her graceful appearance was adorable and she had blossomed into a beautiful young woman of 18.

Upon hearing Ashley's words, there was a sudden change in Mrs. Lennon's expression as she became awkward and embarrassed. Stunned, it took her a few moments before she mullered, "I have something else to attend to. We'll talk about this next time." With that, Mrs. Lennon turned around and left shamefully. However, she still managed to look exceptionally coquettish among the old ladies of the same age with her swaying hips as she walked.

Ashley went up to Bradley cheerfully after seeing Mrs. Lennon leave. "Brad, I wanted to visit you to catch up but I heard you went to the county town."

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Bradley nodded and commented, "Oh! I just came back today. Is Mr. Becker at home?"

"My father just left for a meeting in the village. Come on over; he should be back soon," Ashley extended the invitation as she walked in front and led the way, her twinkling eyes glancing at Bradley from time to time.

When they had arrived at the village chief's house, Bradley left the gifts on the table and sat on the sofa, at ease. Ashley poured two cups of tea and offered, "Mr. Jackson, please help yourselves to some tea. My father should be back soon."

A short while later, there was a sound of a door opening followed by the appearance of the village chief, Hans Becker. Immediately, Bradley greeted him courteously, "How was the meeting, Mr. Becker? Were there any good policies proposed?"

Hans smiled at Craig upon noticing him, then turned to Bradley and answered, "Currently, the country is greatly supporting the development of the agricultural sector. I'm thinking of establishing a demonstration point in our village 100."

"This is a brilliant ideal My dad and I came exactly for this matter," Bradley seized the opportunity as he made his proposal.

"So you've heard of it before? I see that you're quite interested in this area," the village chief praised before turning to his daughter, "Ashley, prepare a few dishes for us. Mr. Jackson and I are going to have a drink."

"Sure!" Ashley responded, going into the kitchen.

Meanwhile, Hans asked, "Brad, which area are you thinking of investing in? Apparently our water resources are not good enough for agricultural activities, and our village is located in mountainous terrain; I have no idea how to start a plantation with these situations."

Understanding the village chief's concerns, Bradley instantly spoke up, "Mr. Becker, it's true that our landscape is not a good fit for plantation, but it's still doable if we develop the land diligently."

Craig carried on and said, "Mr. Becker, that's exactly the reason Brad came here today. He would like to rent land for the purpose of plantation. What do you think?"

"Perfect! His idea is good. Among all the lands in this village, Erin's land is the most

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suitable in terms of size and location. I have no problem with it, but you'll have to discuss it with her." Hans subconsciously glanced toward Bradley as he had heard about the rumors in the village.

Bradley replied immediately, "This won't be an issue. I'll discuss with Erin about the details and you'll just have to prepare a lease agreement."

"Dad, the dishes are ready. Have Mr. Jackson and Bradley come over for a drink." Ashley's voice came from the room next to them.

Hans offered courteously, "Let's have a meal first. I have no issue with preparing the agreement and the project will become a prototype for villages nearby if you manage to pull it off."

It was late night when they came home from the village chief's place. Lying on his bed, Bradley could not fall asleep so he took a few strands of Soul Sunweed and observed them closely as he sat up from his bed. He wondered, This Soul Sunweed must have some other functions besides invigorating men's sexual performance.

Just as he was in deep thought, he put a piece of Soul Sunweed in his mouth and chewed on it. Within five minutes, he realized the acı had caused sexual arousal in his body. The vigorous man had shown reaction toward the herb and he could feel the heat burning in his body. Resigned, he shook his head, took two pieces of clothing and left the house. Only a cold bath in the river could reduce the heat in his body now.

Upon reaching the riverside, Bradley heard joyful laughter, followed by sweet chattering voices.

“Ashley, you have such a beautiful figure. You should get married soon!” Mrs. Layman’s daughier, Helen, praised as she sat by the riverbank.

Ashley replied bashfully as she took off her jacket, “I can’t marry anyone; of course I’ll have to look at his character.”

Bradley heard the conversation between the two women and quickly hid behind a huge poplar tree.

Telen leased, “Ashley, I know what’s on your mind, but Bradley is not a good match Tor you Morcover, he was pui behind bars before. Don’t you mind that?”

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“It doesn’t matter if he committed wrong in the past, as long as he has turned over a new leaf. No matter what, I fancy him.”

“Helen, your father has summoned you; the matchmaker from the neighboring village is here. Come and make your own decision!”

Helen turned to Ashley and said, “Ashley, you have to shower on your own. I have to leave; my mother is calling me!”

Ashley nodded and took off her shirt. Her body was revealed except the parts which were covered by an extremely short underwear and bra. Suddenly, she sensed an intense stare from behind the tree so she whipped her head toward the poplar tree.

Bradley smiled awkwardly as he did not manage to hide in time and was caught red handed by Ashley.

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“Brad, why are you here?” Ashley asked embarrassedly. Her face flushed as it occurred to her that Bradley could have overheard her conversation with Helen.

Bradley did not mean to peek, but now he was forced to come out of his hiding spot as he replied awkwardly, "It's too stuffy tonight and I thought I should come for a bath. I just arrived; I didn't see anything at all."

Upon hearing his reply, Ashley was instantly reminded of her nudity and she quickly covered her body with her hands. However, as she did so, she slipped and fell into the river. The timid girl cried out at once, "Brad, help me!"

Bradley did not hesitate at all. He immediately jumped into the river and brought Ashley to safety. At that point, Ashley was drenched and her beautiful figure could be seen clearly under the moonlight. Upon seeing Ashley's charming look, the heat in Bradley's body became even stronger and he was so scared that he nearly dropped Ashley onto the ground.

Ashley spoke up awkwardly, "I-I have to get going or else my mother will lecture me again for going home late."

Bradley was tortured by the heat and desire in his body but he remained rational as he knew he had to control himself. "Take care. I shall not send you home then, in case the others gossip about us."

Ashley nodded and walked past Bradley, her hand accidentally brushing his burning skin. She was so nervous that she quickly grabbed her clothes, put them on and left the scene in a hurry.

After she left, Bradley swiftly dived into the river and swam around. Soaking himself in the icy cold water, the heat in his body reduced greatly. He turned around and glanced at the bank. Ashley had long since left, and there were only gigantic trees swaying under the foggy moonlight.

After the swim, he went ashore and put on his clothes. Just as he was about to head home, he suddenly recalled that Erin's land was just located beside this river. Upon closer inspection, the piece of land was indeed a perfect spot to cultivate Soul Sunweed. The river alone would be a good resource for the plants to thrive.

"Bad, why are you standing here alone at midnight? Does this piece of land remind

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you of Erin?" Just then, Boston's voice came from behind, a hint of teasing in it.

Bradley turned around and glanced at him. "Don't assume everyone has filthy thoughts like you."

Boston walked over to him and smiled as he said, "Don't get agitated; I was just kidding! It would be normal even if there is really something between you and Erin. After all, what age do we live in?"

Bradley laughed upon hearing these words. "Stop overthinking. I help Erin because I think it is hard for a young woman like her to live on her own."

"I understand. Sometimes I wish to help her too but I'm not as fearless as you. After all, people in the village might gossip."

“Boston, what do you think if we utilize this piece of land for plantation?” Bradley asked as he walked up to Boston and patted him on the shoulder.

Boston carefully examined the land and said, “My dear brother, we have the exact same idea! I’ve thought of this long ago, but did not know how to exploit it.”

At that moment, Bradley felt that he had finally found someone like-minded so he immediately proposed, “I’m planning to plant some herbs on this land. We can be partners if you’re interested.”

“That’s awesome! I’ll discuss it with my wife tomorrow. How much do I have to invest?” Boston asked excitedly while Bradley answered in a serious manner, “Don’t worry about investing in the herbs. You’ll just need to manage the land and I’ll be responsible for improving sales in the town.”

Boston agreed joyfully, “No problem! However, you’ll have to talk to Erin regarding the lease of this land.”

After discussing things with Boston, Bradley figured out some ideas in his mind and went home.

The next morning, he could hear noises even before he woke up. Getting out of bed, he walked out of his room, only to find Janice and Julia having an argument.

“Julia, Bradley has not done you wrong, so stop gossiping about him in the village!”

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“I didn’t!” Julia rebuked furiously. “I’m not lying-I have witnesses and evidence.”

Bradley walked up to Janice and inquired, “Mom, what happened?”

“Brad, were you at the river last night?” Janice anxiously asked.

“Yeah. What’s wrong?” Bradley answered with a puzzled expression as she stared at Julia.

Upon hearing that, Julia immediately put on airs and exclaimed laughingly. “I was right! Even your son has admitted it. Poor Ashley; she was an innocent young woman who is now ruined by him!”

Bradley’s mother was confused upon hearing Julia’s accusation, and she instantly reproached her, “Julia, you’d better explain things clearly. How exactly did Brad ruin Ashley?”

Bradley was stunned as he recalled Julia’s claim. Did someone witness the episode where I saved Ashley from drowning?

Julia continued relentlessly, "Last night, your precious son Bradley was scrcily dating Ashley by the river when he ruined her."

Meanwhile, a crowd formed outside Bradley's yard and they were gossiping among themselves. Suddenly, Boston dashed through the crowd and objected, "Julia, stop accusing Bradley! I was with him last night."

"Bradley Jackson, come out right this instant! How dare you bully my daughter!"

Right then, Katherine Becker, the village chief's wise, walked into the yard with her daughter. Bradley walked up to Ashley and asked, "Ashley, what on earth happened last night? Why were you,"

"Brad, since we have already done such a thing, please just marry me!"

All the spectators burst into chaos upon hearing Ashley's statement, and the voices in the yard carried on incessantly,

"How surprising! So it's true! Well, Ashley is a good match for him anyway."

"It's such a shock that he used these tricks since he failed to get a wife. What a

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disgusting man!" Mrs. Parlor chimed in.

Feeling perplexed and puzzled, an expression of doubt showed on Bradley's face.

Janice was enraged as she walked up to her son and slapped him on the face. "Brad, I'm so disappointed in you!"