

The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

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That would make sense, but she still felt like something was off because it was too much of a coincidence.

"If you've got nothing to hide, then come clean to Leia about your relationship with Briar. If she takes it well, I won't say anything else on the matter," Renee demanded.

Her biggest worry was that she was the reason why Leia was caught up in all this. Every time she met that woman, things went downhill.

"I know what you're worried about, and it's not something that I need to be reminded of. I will make sure to talk it out with Lei." William promised Renee, his tone sincere.

"Fine, you better be honest about everything, and remember what you just told me. If you try any funny business, I'll make sure you regret it!" As Renee hadn't caught William slipping up, she warned him again for good measure.

William walked away from the room. Leia, who had been waiting outside, rushed up to him. "How did it go with my best friend? Did you pass?"

"I think I got more than 80%,M William said honestly.

"That's pretty good, you got this!" Leia cheered. No one understood Renee like her. If William managed to get 80% of her approval, he had already passed her expectations.

William then held onto Leia's hand, and suddenly asked, "Lei, if one day, you were forced to choose between your best friend and me, who would you choose?"

"Is that even a question?" Without a moment's hesitation, Leia responded, 'Of course it would be my dearest Ren. Don't even try to go for that spot, because you won't win!"

She didn't look like she was joking at all - she sincerely meant it. Even though Renee always called her a lovesick fool, she was well aware that she needed to prioritize her best friend over any relationship.

If she had to choose, Leia would definitely pick her best friend over everyone. This was because there was a possibility that the men she dated would betray or hurt her, and her best friend would never do something like that.

"If Miss Everheart were to ask you to break up with me, would you do it?" "I

would."

"You'd believe whatever Miss Everheart told you?" "I

would."

A hint of dejection settled into William's features as he replied, "Oh, I see."

"You're acting weird today, why would you suddenly ask that question? What did Ren tell you?" Leia asked, noticing William's odd behavior.novelxo.com fast update

"Nothing much, I was just curious." William's eyes shifted, secrets still hidden away in his heart, making him feel uneasy.

After William and Leia went their separate ways, he reached the basement parking lot. Sitting in his car, he dialed Briar's number. "I've already given you what you want. So when are you going to keep your end of the deal?" He asked in a hushed tone.

Briar's voice over the phone didn't sound like her usual crazy self, nor did she sound weak or pitiful. Instead, a chilly voice responded, "What's the rush? Keep up the charade, I need to know where exactly those two brats are!"

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William's expression seemed troubled. After a moment, he said, "Could you let me know what you plan to do to them?"

"Why are you asking so many questions!" Briar's gaze turned frosty and she snapped, "You know what I've been through! You were the one who told me you loved me, and would do anything for me. This is your chance to prove yourself, so don't you dare drop the ball on this. If this plan succeeds, I will give you anything you could ever ask for!"

'I... ' William took a deep breath, his fists clenching as he responded, "I understand. My love for you is unshakable - even if the entire world turns its back on you, I will always stand by you."

Briar smiled in approval, her tone arrogant as she declared, "Don't you dare go back on your word. I, Briar Desroisers, despise men who make empty promises."

"Oh yeah, since you've known that woman's best friend for so long, what other information have you learned apart from her having two kids?"

"There's no new info for now. Leia's being tightlipped about everything. She and Renee have a bond so tight that she would do anything for her. If I

start digging too much, I'd make her suspicious..."

Briar scoffed, a devious smile appearing on her face. "There is no such bond between friends. Whenever a guy enters the picture, they would turn on each other in an instant. What do you think she would say if her dearest best friend were to be caught trying to seduce her boyfriend?"

"What do you mean?"

"You know damn well what I mean!" Briar's hands fisted tightly, her eyes full of hatred.

"I wouldn't have given a damn had that witch not shown up. Now that she's here, you bet I'll be taking my revenge. Anyway... Just hurry up and get to work already, stop beating around the bush. I can't keep sitting around waiting for her to get with Stefan again."

For these past four years, she had acted like a madwoman, even going so far as to slit her wrists multiple times. She did all of this to gain Stefan's pity and compassion, which allowed her to stay by his side, fair and square.

Little did she know that Renee Everheart would come waltzing back. Hence, she decided that she would not show mercy this time.

She would give anything to teach her a lesson, and ruin her life.

A thought suddenly occurred to William. "Speaking of Stefan, I heard some news about him from Liam. I'm not sure, but have you caught wind of it yet?"

Briar scowled deeply. "What's the situation?"

"I've heard that when Stefan went to save Renee, he took a bad fall and is apparently in the ER. But when I dropped by the hospital to get an update, his whereabouts were unknown. Did you know that?"novelxo.com fast update

"I wasn't aware of this. I don't think the Hunt family knows about this either, or else they'd have caused a riot by now."

"That's a bit weird..." William stroked his chin and said thoughtfully, "Stefan Hunt is so famous that if anything had happened to him, society would definitely be buzzing by now, not to mention the Hunt family. Unless..."

"Unless Renee and her gang are up to something behind the scenes!"

Briar's face lit up with glee. "This is great info, just give me some time to do some research on this. If that woman really is behind this, her life will be over!"

At the Hunt residence, the sun was just right, and the flowers in the garden were in full bloom. Francine was in quite a good mood, a watering can in her hand as she watered a lily plant

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"Edith, don't you think that the lilies in our garden look especially beautiful this year? They look bigger too!" Francine asked the housekeeper beside her, who was currently waiting on her.

"Huh?" Edith wanted to say that the lilies bloomed the same every year, as was the case now. However, she did not want to ruin Francine's mood so she agreed, "Yes, there are a lot this year, and they are quite lovely, like last year!"

Francine's gaze slid over Edith and she protested indignantly, "How are they anything like last year's flowers? They clearly look better this year! Oh, and... do you want to know the symbolic meaning of lilies in full bloom?"

"Uh, what do they symbolize?"

"Lilies symbolize a lasting happy marriage. Since this year's flowers are blooming so beautifully, it's a sign from the heavens that my son and my daughter-in-law are about to get together and stay with each other forever! ' Francine exclaimed in joy. She then picked one of the flowers and admired it in her hand, as if she could see Stefan and Renee's bright new future in the flower.

"Do blooming lilies really symbolize such a thing?" Edith's head was full of doubt as she muttered under her breath softly. She had never heard of such a thing.

"Who cares, it does as long as I say so. Now snip some of the best blooms and tie them up into a bouquet. I need them for later." Francine instructed the housekeeper in a mysterious tone.

"Alright!" Edith took out a pair of scissors and did as told. She snipped off some lilies at the stem and put it into the flower basket she had with her.

Still snipping, she cautiously asked Francine, ' Madam, I see that Miss Everheart's return has made you more happy than Master Hunt this time. Do you not mind any of the things Miss Everheart had done to Miss Desrosiers?"

Francine's jubilant grin faded. She replied tonelessly, "Ugh, you're such a wet blanket! Why are you even bringing up such unpleasant matters?"

'I'm sorry about this, Madam, but I just think that there is a huge difference between your attitude towards Miss Everheart now compared to before. I can't understand what Miss Everheart has done to make you like her so much."

This question had plagued Edith for the longest time, but she had always been too afraid to ask it.

"Well, about that, I can't tell you what it is exactly... I just think that this girl is rather capable and caring. When my son was nearly paralyzed back then, she wouldn't leave his side and cared for him constantly. That really made me change the way I viewed her."

"Oh, and her cooking skills are amazing, especially her lemon-glazed chicken feet. I've missed it for the last four years, even in my dreams. She looks quite nice too. Charming, sweet, elegant, but not too much, and also... IV

Edith only asked her a simple question, never expecting Francine would start a rant about Miss Everheart, even going as far as to show Edith the recent video of Miss Everheart that went viral online.

"Just look at her agility... She's amazing! She reminds me of my younger self. How could I not like her?" Francine exclaimed.

"The important thing is that my darling son likes her. That idiot has taken too long to understand love, and he's never really liked anyone before this too. Now that someone has captured his heart, of course I'd wish that they will both settle down together."

Edith nodded. "That is true. Ever since Miss Everheart left all these years, Master Hunt has been so miserable. I haven't seen him smile genuinely for so long. Hopefully this time, when they reconcile, they won't break up again."novelxo.com fast update

"That goes without saying. But my son doesn't seem interested in taking action this time. That's why, I, as his mother, will have to take matters into my own hands. I just can't let those two miss each other again!"

As Francine and Edith were discussing how to get Stefan and Renee together, a servant announced, "Madam, Miss Desrosiers is here to see you."

"Oh, her. Tell her that I am busy at the moment and cannot meet her." Francine's expression was one of annoyance. "But... Miss

Desrosiers said that she has very important news she needs to tell you!

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"Alright, alright, let her in!" Francine said reluctantly.

In reality, she wasn't very pleased with Briar Desrosiers. If that woman hadn't gotten pregnant with a child of the Hunt family, then ended up in such a sorry state, she would have abandoned her long ago.

After a while, a servant guided a plainly dressed, frail Miss Desrosier into the garden.

"Look at her, outsiders would think she was here to mourn the dead! She's going to bring us bad luck!" Francine frowned as she looked on with scorn, ranting to Edith.

"Miss Francine!" Briar slowly approached and started sobbing as soon as she was in front of her, "Miss Francine, I think I've ruined everything! You have to help me this time! If you don't, Stefan might never forgive me and he'll ignore me forever..."

"Really?" Francine's first thought was, 'Could this really be true? My angel of a son is finally going to get rid of you?'

Regardless, she kept up a regal facade out of courtesy, and feigned concern. "Stop crying first. Tell me what happened. I will help however I can."

Briar wiped away her tears pitifully, whimpering. "This is all my fault... You know how Miss Everheart is back in the city, right? I felt extremely upset when reminiscing about the past, so I hoped she could visit my child's grave, and sincerely apologize for what she's done, so that my baby can finally rest in peace..."

Francine nodded solemnly. 'That sounds reasonable. No matter if she intended it or not, she did in fact indirectly cause the death of that child. She must visit the grave at the very least!"

'I thought so too, but you know how Miss Everheart is. She's prideful and headstrong, so she doesn't even think she was in the wrong! She refused to apologize, and it was up to Stef to step up... It took a lot of time and effort to convince her..."

"What then?" Francine looked rather upset now, urging Briar to continue.

Although she wanted Renee and Stefan to make up, she could never forgive someone so immoral. After all, Renee did murder an innocent baby, and it would be absolutely horrid of her if she refused to apologize for it.

"After that, we headed up the mountains, but she kept talking nonsense! She openly disrespected my baby, which made Stef very angry."

"He was so mad that he kicked her out of the car, and soon he started ignoring me out of frustration too! I couldn't get a hold of him

ever since we separated from that trip!"

Briar started tearing up at this point, looking back at Francine sadly. "Miss Francine, I... I just wanted to beg you... to give Stef a call. Please tell him to forgive me, and tell him I'll listen to his every word from now on! I'll stop forcing Miss Everheart to visit my baby's grave too! I just want him to forgive me!"

After hearing all that, Francine was furious as well. "If what you said is true, why are you even apologizing? Everheart should be the one apologizing in this case. She literally killed a baby, so how was her reaction warranted? How is it unreasonable to ask her to visit the baby's grave?"novelxo.com fast update

"Of course it wasn't, I'd say that Miss Everheart was the one overstepping here... She killed a child of the Hunt family! We were being merciful by letting her off so easily!" Edith sounded annoyed after listening in on their conversation.

She had long heard about Renee's antics. However, she never expected her to be this bad. She just didn't understand why the Hunts were so fond of her, to the point where the usually picky Francine had succumbed to her supposed charms.

In her opinion, Briar was far better, the best even. She figured that a fragile woman like her wouldn't have any bad intentions in her heart.

Honestly, Francine didn't fully believe Briar's word regarding this matter. From what she knew of Renee, the woman might be wild, but she wouldn't be such an inconsiderate person

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Thus, Francine took her phone out and dialed Stefan's personal number. 'I'd like to ask Stef about the entire situation. I really don't believe that the girl would be so insolent!"

However, it turned out that she couldn't reach Stefan as well. Not even Elijah knew about his whereabouts.

"That's weird, why can't I reach him? That kid's usually at work at this hour, and H Group is facing quite a lot of challenging matters that require his attention. Where has he run off to?" Francine's face was painted with concern as she realized the severity of the situation.

After that, she contacted everyone she could, trying her best to find Stefan, only to find that they were looking for the man as well.

"Why can't I contact that child? Did something happen to him?" Francine seemed uneasy.

Lately, H Group was gaining quite a lot of traction, as they were about to mass produce their new smartphone model, the ME2350. Once they successfully signed a contract with KCL Group, the entire technology industry would be entering a new era.

If the plan went smoothly, the industry would face a complete cleanse, with many of their rivals going out of business. In the next ten to twenty years, H Group would be on the absolute top, with an unreachable position in the field.

Yet, Stefan went missing just as he was supposed to sign this important contract with KCL Group... 'Could it

be that their opponents are trying to take revenge, so that they could stop this project?!"

That assumption made Francine very frightened. She knew about the horrors and cruelty of the business world more than anyone, as that was exactly how she lost Tristan.

"No, let's call the police. Stef has to be safe... he has to!" Francine trembled as she punched in the numbers, her eyes reddening.

She only had two sons after all, and she viewed them more important than her own life. If she lost Stefan too, she simply had no reason to live on.

"Miss Francine, don't panic just yet. Stef is a strong man, so he shouldn't be in danger. If I had to guess... Could it be that he went looking for Miss Everheart? They argued a lot on the way to the cemetery after all. So maybe he was regretting his actions, and wanted to ask for her forgiveness. They might be together right now," Briar said in a kind voice.novelxo.com fast update

"The cemetery?" Francine was suddenly reminded of something. "Stef ran out as soon as I mentioned the cemetery last night. Did he really go looking for that girl?"

"I heard Miss Everheart fell down a cliff around the cemetery and hurt herself. Maybe she knows about Stefan's current condition."

"What are we waiting for then? Which hospital is she at right now? We have to find Stefan!" Francine rushed out without any hesitation, not even taking anything with her.

After taking a few steps, she returned and grabbed the bouquet of lilies that Edith had previously made. "I was going to give this to her anyway. Let's go!"

Briar followed her, grinning slyly as if her scheme had worked. Hmph, I'd like to see how you're going to get out of this one, Everheart!"

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Francine and Briar soon arrived at the hospital Renee was at.

Liam had to handle some matters regarding Azure Group, so Renee was the only one present in the ward at the time. She was currently on a video call with her daughter. "Abby, is your brother still busy with his research? Is that why he won't see Mommy?"

"Yes, Mommy. Adie is very focused on his research, so he can't have any distractions. You might not see him for a while..."

"Not even for a second?" Renee poked Abby's adorable cheek on her screen, pouting. "Abby, please... Just secretly point the camera at Adie, okay? Let Mommy see your brother for a bit!"

"No no!" Abby shook her head profusely, seemingly determined. "Abby pinky -promised Adie that I won't let anyone see him before his research is successful! I want to keep my promises, or else my nose will grow long like Pinocchio's!"

'Ah, okay then..." Renee sighed, as she had failed once again. Her heart always naturally melted in front of her two babies, no matter how powerful and skilled she was.

The little ones had many ideas, and they were even more stubborn than she was. That was why she wouldn't even be able to force them if they refused.

However, under Margeret's care, along with the isolation on Sun Island and the advanced security system, she wasn't all that worried.

"Mommy, does your leg still hurt? Abby will give you kisses so you can get better soon..." Abby said sweetly, blowing kisses at the camera.

"Oh my sweet Abby, how are you so cute! I think I'm completely cured now because of your kisses!" Renee felt her heart melting, and she wished she could recover soon so she could bring her children back to the city.

"Come here and give Mommy another kiss. Mwah mwah!" Renee puckered up her lips as well, kissing her phone over and over again.

At the same time, Francine barged into the room with the bouquet of lilies in her hand, and seeing Renee do that stunned her. "You..."

She gulped, her expression rather awkward. "Did I come at the wrong time?"

"Huh?" Renee held onto her phone, still maintaining her kissy face as her entire body stiffened. She had never expected Francine to enter her ward!

"Mommy, who's there? Are you going to introduce them to Abby? Abby loves making new friends!"

On the other end of the line, the little girl, who was truly a social butterfly, begged for her mother to introduce this new 'friend' to her.

"Bye for now, baby!" Renee quickly hung up and took a deep breath, remaining as calm as she could. "It's been a while, Miss Milford."

Francine narrowed her eyes, staring at Renee's phone that she had just put down. "Who were you calling? Why did I hear someone calling you Mommy?"

"You must be getting old, Miss Milford. Your hearing must be deceiving you ... Were you hallucinating?"

"Impossible!" Francine seemed absolutely certain. "My hearing is completely fine! I'm sure I heard a little girl calling you Mommy... Could you have given birth in secret when you disappeared four years ago?"

"Uhm..."

Just as Renee was having trouble thinking of an excuse, Briar spoke up while standing next to Francine.

"Miss Francine, you did mishear Miss Everheart! She was clearly talking to her friend just now. Don't you know that it's a trend for girls to talk in sweet voices like that now? Am I right, Miss Everheart?"

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'Yeah, exactly!' Renee agreed quickly. "My friends are all weirdos - we even call each other Mommy in private!"

'What in the world... your friends are just as weird as you are!' Francine exclaimed. Although she did find it odd, she didn't press her. After all, this wasn't the reason she was here.

She placed the beautiful bouquet of lilies on Renee's desk, then pulled a chair over to sit down next to the bed. Her natural movements made it seem like she was a close loved one to the injured woman.

"Tell me. Where have you been hiding after making such a big mistake? Did you get married? Any kids?" Francine behaved like an elegant rich lady, and every question sounded like an interrogation. She knew her idiot of a son wouldn't ask such questions, especially with his temper and ego, which was why she had to do it in his stead.

Renee smiled coldly. "Miss Milford, why do I need to answer your questions? Do you think we're close?"

It had been four years, and yet her ex mother-in-law was still just as stubborn and self centered. She thought to herself, 'She really is Hunt's mother, I suppose. Like mother, like son!'

Surprisingly, Francine didn't get mad this time, and guessed, "So from what you're saying, I can tell you're not married. That means you have to take responsibility for Stefan!"

"Excuse me? Take responsibility for Stefan Hunt?" Renee frowned lightly.

She wondered, 'Why can't I figure out her intentions? What is she even trying to say?'

'Of course!' Francine huffed in a justified tone. "Four years ago, no matter if you intended to or not, you made Stefan lose his child."

"Now that you've had the guts to come back, you should've prepared yourself to give Stefan another child as compensation. As long as you get pregnant, we will ensure you a life of luxury. However... if you won't, we, the Hunt family, will not let you off so easily!"

Francine felt quite smart. With the guilt tripping and threats, she would get both an amazing daughter-in-law and a grandchild too. Not just that, her son would be happy again.

It was the perfect plan.

"Hahaha!" Renee didn't know whether she should get mad or laugh at the sheer ridiculousness of the suggestion. Logically speaking, a life for a life was totally reasonable. However, Stefan and her were not machines, and she couldn't pop a kid out just because she wanted to 'compensate' them.

Amused, she decided to play Francine's game and shrugged. "Alright, I don't mind. But does your son agree to this? Oh, and does his little lover agree to this too?"

"Really? You'll do it?" Francine's eyes lit up, not expecting Renee to reply so swiftly. She'd even prepared a few million dollars to sway her, but it seemed that she had no use for the money now.

'I have such a good eye! She's quite decisive!'

"Okay, now look into the camera, and say that you're willing to give birth to Stefan's child as compensation." Francine was worried that Renee would go back on her word, so she immediately took her phone out to record a video of the woman.

"Miss Milford, are you really not going to ask for Miss Desrosiers' opinion? She's the woman your son loves most, you know?" Renee glanced at Briar, who was standing in the back.

Briar, however, was pursing her lips, looking as if she was about to burst into tears.

Although she had no idea why Briar would help her hide Abby's identity, Renee knew for a fact that all of Briar's mental issues were just a ploy to manipulate Stefan.

'Her opinion doesn't matter!' Francine brushed that off, speaking in a mysterious tone. "You don't have a clue now, do you? Who told you that Stefan loves her the most?"

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Francine collected herself, preparing to go on yet another rant.

Just then, Briar interrupted her with a darkened expression, turning towards Renee. "Miss Everheart, we actually came to ask if you know of Stefs whereabouts. It's been an entire day, and we've tried everything we could to contact him. For some reason, we just couldn't reach him, and he wouldn't pick up the phone! We're worried something might've happened to him..."

'You can't reach him?' Renee frowned, visibly confused. 'That's not right. He already went through surgery, so he should've called you guys the moment he woke up.'

"What? Surgery?!" Francine jumped abruptly, her expression panicked as she continued, "What kind of surgery? Where is he now? What happened to him?"

"Uhm..." Renee read Francine's reactions and realized she might not know anything about the accident.

After a brief pause, she decided to tell the truth. "I fell down a cliff and injured my leg. He hurt himself while trying to save me, and I heard he actually suffered worse injuries than me."

"He underwent surgery not long ago, so he should be resting in one of the wards like me. Why don't you just... ask the hospital staff?"

"Really?!" The color drained from Francine's face, and she muttered to herself, "My son has to be safe! He has to!"

Stefan was her only child now, and her only hope. She was so overprotective of him that she would even panic the moment he got a paper cut.

Coincidentally, a nurse came into the ward to change Renee's bandages.

Francine rushed over to grab the nurse by the arm as if she were insane, her tone furious. "Which ward is my son in? How is he now?"

Is his life in any danger!?'

The nurse was petrified, staring back at Francine with cowardly eyes. 'I'm sorry... Who are you? And... who is your son?'

'You dumb thing! I'm Francine Milford, and my son is the renowned CEO of H Group, Stefan Hunt! Don't tell me you don't know who he is?!'

"I do, but..." The nurse turned even more pale, and stopped talking after glancing at Renee. This was because Liam had given orders to the house to never let Renee find out about Stefan's condition, or else she'd have to face serious consequences.

Hence, despite Renee's many attempts of trying to find out, the nurse, along with many other hospital staff, remained tightlipped. "Just say something if you know something! Why are you looking at her? Is it because something bad happened and she won't let you tell me?!" Francine glared at the nurse, asking harshly.

'I'm sorry, Miss Milford, I don't know anything! Even if I did, I wouldn't dare say anything either! I'm just a nurse, so please let me go!' The nurse was trembling, her words sounding slightly misleading.

Renee felt wronged, her expression darkened. "What do you mean by that? Do you see anyone pointing a gun to your head so that you'd stay silent, hmm?"

'I don't know! I don't know! Please stop asking me questions! I can't afford to offend anyone!' The nurse was tearing up at this point. She couldn't possibly provoke the Osbournes, but she couldn't offend the Hunts either.

Briar looked as if her scheme was going well, holding the nurse's arm as she fuelled the fire. "Don't be afraid of Miss Everheart, nurse. She might sound stern, but she's not that bad a person! If there's something she can't tell us, we'll stop asking. All we want to know is Stef's whereabouts, and his current condition."

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Renee felt as if she was about to explode after hearing Briar's words. She glared at her and thought to herself, 'Ha, good one, woman. You were clearly implying that I have something to hide, so don't act like you're helping me! Now I'm really going to be blamed for whatever this is!'

'Desrosiers, so you're saying I'm threatening the nurse on purpose, so she won't reveal Hunt's condition to you?' "I

didn't mean that, Miss Everheart, please don't assume things. Unless... you really are hiding something."

"What do I have to hide? I myself want to know of his condition too! I feel very bad that he injured himself while saving me, alright?"

"How would I know what you're thinking, Miss Everheart? There's a possibility that you want to avoid taking responsibility if Stefs condition is worsening, so..."

The two then started fighting with one another, each providing quite valid arguments.

'Enough!' Francine yelled furiously, causing the entire room to fall silent. Her face was frosty as she pointed at the nurse menacingly. "I don't care who's threatening you at this point, just tell us everything you know. Or else ... I'll make sure you'll understand the consequences of upsetting me!"

'I'll... I'll tell you everything!' Although the nurse was afraid of Liam's revenge, she knew that Francine would definitely kill her on the spot if she didn't talk.

"Honestly... Only Mr. Osborne and Miss Everheart know of Mr. Hunt's whereabouts and condition. I just received news... that..." The nurse glanced carefully at Renee once more.

This made Renee feel even worse, and she snapped, "Stop looking at me. Just tell us everything, and be completely honest!"

Briarchimed in as well. "That's right, tell us everything, no one would dare to harm you with us having your back!"

The nurse gulped. "The last news I received regarding Mr. Hunt's condition ... was that his life was at risk. Even if he were to survive, his leg would have to be amputated! As for his current condition, you'll have to ask Mr.

Osborne and Miss Everheart instead!"

"What?! His life is at risk? Am... Amputation?!" Francine felt light-headed, nearly losing her balance after hearing that.

"Careful, Miss Francine!" Briar quickly caught her, then shot Renee a dirty glare. "How are you going to gaslight your way out of this one, Everheart?! Just look at what you've done! What happened to Stef?! Why won't you tell us?! Where is he now?"

'I don't know of his condition either, let alone where he is now...' Renee was confused. "I just heard from Liam that his surgery was a success, and that his condition had stabilized!"

"I even thought you brought him to a better hospital to receive treatment! Why... How

could you not know anything about his situation?!"

"Sure, keep up that act of yours!" Briar snapped. "If we knew about his situation, why would we come all the way here just to ask you about it?!"

"You must be working with Liam to kidnap Stef! And I have reason to suspect that... everything was just your ploy! You pretended to be injured so that you could lure Stef over, since you knew he'd save you! You did all this just so you could have a chance to harm him!"

"I didn't!" Renee denied the accusations coldly. "It's not like I have a lot of free time on my hands! I don't even have a motive!"

"You do!" Francine had already lost all rationality, lunging towards Renee and shaking her. "Tell me where my son is now! Where is he?"

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"Calm down, Miss Milford!" Renee was having a hard time moving around with a cast and an IV drip connected to her arm.

Francine was quite a bad-tempered person. On the verge of a meltdown, she would've choked Renee to death if it weren't for the little bit of rationality she had in her.

"I'm giving you one last chance to tell me where Stef is! As long as you're willing to tell me, I can look past everything! I just want to know if my son is safe! Please, I'm begging you!" Francine was still holding onto Renee's shoulders, her insanity replaced with despair as tears welled up in her eyes.

As a mother, she was willing to risk her life for her child.

'I already told you - I don't know either! I didn't even expect him to come save me! I have no reason to harm him, nor do I have any reason to hide him from you, alright?' As a mother herself, Renee understood how Francine felt, so she didn't blame her for her actions.

If the roles had been switched, she wouldn't have been as level-headed as Francine. She would've taken down her suspect, even if it cost her life.

However, despite her understanding, she could not help the poor woman in any way...

Renee sighed inwardly and thought to herself, 'Agh! What the heck happened to you, Hunt?! Why are you making everyone worry about you?'

"Hold on, I'll give Liam a call right now! He might know something." Everything Renee heard about Stefan was from Liam, so she figured he should know the man's situation.

Just as she was about to make the call, Liam himself entered the ward. He had just finished up with work, and had rushed over to the hospital as soon as he could.

"Let go of her!" Liam noticed Francine gripping Renee's shoulders as he barged in. Infuriated, he strode over to them and pushed Francine away.

"Liam! No!" Renee quickly stopped the man with a sharp yell. She calmed herself before saying, "You're just in time. Quick, tell them what happened to Hunt, and where he is now!"

Liam's angry expression subsided, and was soon replaced with a strange one. His smile was cold and ambiguous as he asked, "How could you not know of Stefan Hunt's condition as his mother, Miss Milford?"

He had previously asked the mortuary guard, and found that it was Stefan's father who took his body. Hence, it was impossible for Francine to not have the slightest clue about the situation. Thus, he assumed that Francine came by to visit Renee with bad intentions.

"That again... Mr. Osborne, you seem to be talking from the same script as Miss Everheart. Do you really think we're stupid?!" Briar glared at the man. 'What have you and Miss Everheart done to Stef? Why won't you tell us where he is?'

Liam placed both hands in his pockets, looking dashing and elegant as he spoke, "I have no idea what you're saying, but if you keep upsetting my boss, I will not show you any mercy. I don't care if you're from the Hunt family, or if you're God himself!"

Hearing this, Briar quickly spread her arms and stood in front of Francine, acting as if she was willing to die for her.

"I knew you guys were up to no good! Now that you've been exposed, you're trying to get revenge on us! Fine then, take me instead! Don't you dare disrespect Miss Francine... I'll fight you to the death if I have to!