

The Untouchable Ex- Wife

Chapter 911

Jovan coughed lightly from another corner of the balcony, and walked over with a fake smile on his face. He was wearing a tidy suit and a pair of frameless glasses, and was the epitome of a wolf in sheep's clothing.

"Honey, you've got what you wanted. It's time to get ready for the main show!" The man reminded Renee with a smirk as he tapped his expensive wristwatch.

"Yes, it's time for the show." Renee took a deep breath and beamed radiantly at Jovan, no trace of her disappointment from earlier. She patted Stefan on the shoulder, and said briefly, "Take care, Mr. Hunt."

She linked arms with Jovan, and they headed into the banquet hall.

Stefan was speechless for a while, but the shock was soon replaced with amusement, and a soft smile appeared on his face. He thought to himself, 'Yes, this is how Renee Everheart is supposed to live. I don't care if she wants revenge, or anything else... I just don't want her to be sad because of me.'

Renee and Jovan attracted a lot of attention the minute they appeared in the hall, but it was mostly just disdainful stares. After all, Jovan was known as the right-hand man who failed in betraying his own family, whereas Renee was known as a useless, abandoned woman whose family had fallen from grace.

To many, it was unthinkable that they would willingly attend an event like this given their reputations.

Meanwhile, Seraphina soon noticed that she was no longer in the limelight. Everyone was looking somewhere else, which made her quite upset. She followed everyone's gaze to the spiral staircase, only to find Renee and Jovan under the spotlight.

Seraphina sneered as she approached Renee and said mockingly, "Miss Everheart, are you attending this summit as Mr. Hunt's plus one? You might not know this, but only people with significant contributions to the industry were invited to attend. Thus, Mr. Hunt is not qualified to be here, and neither are you."

"Oh, there were requirements? Sorry, but I had no idea!" Jovan grinned cheekily and replied, "Sorry to burst your bubble, but this lovely lady isn't my plus one – I'm hers! You might not know this, but my sweetheart here is the president of the Electronics Technology Association. I just came here to broaden my horizons, you know?"

Hearing this, some of the people in the crowd immediately became enraged.

"How dare you even mention that?! Have you no shame? All of us voted for this woman as president because we trusted her, but she decided to just up and leave her post! Don't you know how we were mocked because we had no leader?!"

"Who even made the attendance list? Allowing them to attend is an insult to our industry... Security! Kick these two out right now!"

"I was wrong back then, and I sincerely apologize to everyone for it," Renee said solemnly as she bowed deeply. She knew that her sudden departure had brought harm to the association, so she had long expected that she would be the main target for their resentment.

"However, I actually came here with a very important goal in mind. It was also the current president, Mr. Frederick Yarrow, who personally invited me to this summit. So, my plus one and I are more than qualified to participate," she continued with a confident smile.

"Frederick Yarrow personally invited you? How is that possible?!" Shocked, everyone immediately turned to their current president.

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Frederick adjusted his glasses as he faced the crowd calmly, looking distinguished in his well-tailored suit. “Calm down, everyone. I sent Miss Everheart an invitation because she has a special identity – one that is very significant in our industry. She is more qualified than anyone here to join this summit, so for the good of our industry, please respect everyone here as equals.”

The man’s words instantly enraged the older individuals in the hall.

“Yarrow, what are you saying? She’s just an inexperienced little girl! How could she possibly contribute more to the industry than us? Did you fall for that temptress’ tricks, youngster?! Did you exploit some loophole so you could invite her here?”

“Don’t forget that we can remove you from your position just as easily as we put you there, so don’t get cocky with us!”

Frederick smiled sadly. “By the time the conference starts, all of you will understand that I was only speaking the truth. If you still think Miss Everheart has no right to attend by then, I’ll be willing to resign immediately.”

When everyone saw how serious Frederick was, nobody dared to make the situation more difficult for him. The crowd soon dispersed, not even giving Renee or Jovan a second glance.

However, Seraphina did not want to let the matter go so easily. She took a glass of wine and handed it to Renee with a fake smile. “Miss Everheart, you’re here for Stef, aren’t you? I must say, you have amazing timing – we’ll be announcing our relationship to the public today! You’ll give us your blessing, won’t you?”

Renee nonchalantly clinked glasses with her, flashing her an equally fake smile. “If my blessings could help reassure you, I’d be happy to offer them... but I’m sure you already know that you could never keep him at your side. If I were you, I wouldn’t even dream of taking such a huge risk. Try to cherish this feeling while it lasts, because you’re going to be heartbroken and ashamed once he’s done with you.”

Her words instantly triggered Seraphina, and the woman’s eyes widened in rage. Uncaring of her image, she screamed at Renee, “Shut your mouth, Everheart! Stef and I will be together forever, and the only heartbroken person here will be you! You were abandoned four years ago, and now, you’re being abandoned again!”

Seraphina let out a snarl and splashed her wine at Renee’s face, her eyes wild.

Jovan quickly shielded Renee, and warned Seraphina coldly, “Miss Murphy, you are crossing a line. If you keep behaving like this, I’ll have no choice but to have you escorted out!”

Seraphina glared at him arrogantly and scoffed, “You’re just a good-for-nothing assistant who was banished by your own family, so you have no right to speak to me. The Hunt family’s fate is completely in my family’s hands now, so how dare you act like you own this place?! I should be the one kicking you out! It’s amazing how you can’t even see how worthless you are!”

Jovan was fuming, and he splashed his own wine at Seraphina, not holding back at all. “Don’t push me! I won’t go easy on you just because you’re a woman, I’ll hit anyone who deserves it!”

“Ah, you... you...” Seraphina was gaping at him in shock, red wine dripping down her face. The delicately beautiful makeup she had put on earlier had been ruined by this madman.

Seraphina was furious, but she knew how ruthless Jovan could be, so she didn’t dare to provoke him any further. Instead, she decided to target Renee again. She turned to the security guards and shrieked, “What are you waiting for? Kick both of these freaks out! I’m ordering you as the eldest daughter of the Murphy family! If you don’t get it done now, I’ll have my family retract their sponsorship for this event!”

“Uh... well...” The guards looked rather conflicted. The Murphys were not involved in the electronics industry, and Seraphina wasn’t exactly a professional either. However, the Murphy family was still the biggest sponsor of the event, and were also the biggest shareholders of the legendary H Group. Thus, the security guards didn’t dare disobey her.

“Miss Everheart, Mr. Hunt, please cooperate with us...” One of the guards finally said as he approached them.

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After all, Renee had no money, while Jovan had no skills. Since they were both practically outcasts, the guards figured it would be safest to side with Seraphina.

Jovan lost his temper, and grabbed the guard by his collar furiously. “Do you have a death wish? How dare you ask us to leave?!”

Renee, however, shrugged dismissively. “Let him go. If they want us to leave, we will.”

“Why should I? This is clearly an abuse of power! We got an official invitation fair and square, so what makes them think they can just take that away from us?” Jovan snarled defiantly. Being a pampered son of the Hunt family, he had never been treated like this before.

Renee smirked and said mysteriously, “It’s alright. Even if we leave now, they’ll be begging us to come back.”

Seraphina laughed mockingly and sneered, “Just who do you think you are? Apart from the heads of this summit, everyone here is replaceable, especially people like you who only got an invite through their connections!”

Ignoring her, Renee grabbed Jovan by the arm and pulled him out of the banquet hall. She went to the hotel’s parking lot, got into her luxurious car, and started casually playing a mobile game.

Jovan stared at her in disbelief, then covered her phone screen and said impatiently, “Why are we giving up now? It wasn’t easy to get that invitation, you know? I can’t let this opportunity slide, especially since we haven’t even shown them who’s boss yet!”

“Stop that, you’re getting in the way!” Renee pushed his hand away crossly and continued playing her game. A smirk slowly curved her lips as she said softly, “I said they’d be begging us to come back, didn’t I? What’s the rush?”

“How can I not panic? The conference is starting in ten minutes, and the new chairman of KCL Group is attending too!” Jovan protested agitatedly. “Do you know how amazing the new chairman is? They invented the G6 chip all on their own, and managed to become the largest shareholder of KCL in just two years through a creeping acquisition! They even overthrew the original chairman, Mr. Y, and acquired complete command of KCL...”

“So?” Renee seemed unbothered.

“So we have to cherish this opportunity! Let’s go back to our original plan and find a way to win KCL’s chairman over so that they’ll work with Azure Group! With that, we can crush H Group, and finally win against Stefan Hunt!” Jovan was exhilarated, his eyes gleaming with determination.

“Back then, Stefan used his connections with Mr. Y to stay at the very top of the industry. Now that KCL has changed chairmans, it’s rumored that they might start looking for a new business partner too. Since H Group is in trouble, they’re no longer the best candidate to work with... Basically, whoever gets to take H Group’s place and sign a contract with KCL will be able to rule the industry!”

“That’s true.” Renee smiled, amused at how naive and straight-laced Jovan

could be sometimes. “Ah, the conference is starting in five minutes!” The man

whined miserably.

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The most important part of the event was starting soon, and several important figures were already seated at the round table. This included Stefan, Frederick Yarrow, and many other powerful leaders of the industry.

The rest of the participants could only observe their meeting from a large meeting room outside the hall. Even the biggest sponsor of the event, Seraphina, was not allowed to attend the conference.

To start the conference, the eight industry leaders would have to press the activation button, located in the middle of the conference table, simultaneously. This activation button was shaped like the Earth and divided into eight pieces, representing the eight regions that contributed most to the technology industry.

The conference was scheduled to start soon. Some people had even brought automated translators, and they counted down excitedly.

“Five, four, three, two...”

There was a long silence. Nothing had happened, and the attendees were visibly confused. The activation button should have been pressed by now.

“I’m sorry, everyone, I’m afraid we’re experiencing some technical issues.” Frederick Yarrow, the president of the Electronics Technology Association and the host of the event, suddenly announced in a panicked voice.

“Huh? Technical difficulties? What happened?”

Everyone outside the conference room was confused, and they all started discussing possible reasons for the delay. In the end, only the industry leaders would know what was happening, all... seven of them?

“As you can see, there are only seven leaders sitting here. There is still one very important member who is absent, and the piece they represent is second to H Group. Without them, we are unable to light up the button, which is why this conference cannot begin yet.” Frederick then pointed at the empty seat next to Stefan. “The person who will join us shortly is the newest chairman of KCL, someone who has made remarkable contributions to our industry”

Frederick inhaled deeply, then explained, “KCL is fortunate to have quite a skilled research team that constantly brings us many surprises, leading our industry to greater heights... This new chairman is a fellow researcher too, just like their predecessor, Mr.

Y. This person is also the genius who invented the renowned G6 chip! Once this chip is officially introduced to the public, it will revolutionize our current industry, potentially changing everyone’s lives!”

Frederick’s words piqued everyone’s interest, and the people there grew more and more curious about the chairman’s identity. They didn’t really mind that the chairman was late, considering how influential the person was, but they were worried that the chairman might not show up at all.

“President Yarrow, everything you just said is practically common knowledge at this point. We’ve been waiting for so long to see who this mysterious KCL chairman is, not to hear about how great they are! We hope this legend can help lead our industry to greater heights!”

“Yeah! We just want to see who this new KCL chairman is! Can’t you use your position as the president to summon them here?!” Many people were starting to feel impatient, and they started pressuring Frederick.

Frederick was feeling quite anxious as he turned to the crowd. “Calm down, everyone. I’ve already made some calls to the new chairman of KCL. They might be busy at the moment, because they’re not picking up any of my calls...”

“What? Can’t you get anything right, Yarrow? As the president of the Electronics Technology Association, you should at least be able to do this much, right? If you can’t, you should really consider resigning!”

“That’s right, you couldn’t bring over the one you were supposed to invite, and instead ended up inviting not one, but two unwelcome strays! A useless president like you should have resigned long ago!”

Frederick repeatedly dialed the new chairman’s number, feeling so stressed that he was close to tears.

On the other hand, Stefan was sitting in the very middle of the conference table, looking remarkably composed. His cold gaze made it seem like he wasn’t involved in this summit at all.

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Next to him was Akio Higashino, a legend of Aeos who specialized in artificial intelligence. The man was the third most influential individual in the room, after Stefan and the new KCL chairman.

Akio was very ambitious, and wanted to diversify his business to different technological domains. Not only did his company excel in artificial intelligence, they were also researching electronic chips as well. However, they were unable to make a breakthrough

in their research, resulting in their inability to produce the electronics they wanted. Hence, they were stuck in third place.

For over a decade, the man had been trying to destroy the partnership between H Group and KCL Group, in hopes of replacing H Group as KCL's business partner. If his company, Higashino Corp, could sign a contract to work with KCL, he was confident that they would surely surpass KCL in the future.

"Mr. Hunt, you're so calm! Could it be that you've already signed a contract with KCL in private? If that's the case, congratulations are in order!" Akio nodded as he naturally flashed Stefan a fake smile. Truthfully, he had no idea about the man's relationship with the new chairman of KCL, and was just trying to pry information out of Stefan.

"No, I'm not close to the new chairman," Stefan replied indifferently.

"Oh? You aren't?" Akio's eyes lit up, and his lips curved into a grin. "Looks like we'll be having a fair competition then, Mr. Hunt. KCL might choose to work with Higashino Corp now, or even someone else entirely."

"Indeed. As long as the person is genuine about working with them, they'd probably have a chance at signing a contract with KCL," Stefan said honestly. Back then, due to his special relationship with Julian, H Group was the sole company that formed a partnership with KCL Group.

However, now that Julian had been replaced by the new chairman, he wasn't quite sure if he'd be able to successfully win KCL over.

He had tried to find out about the new chairman's identity from Julian, but his nephew had no idea who the person was either. This only made Stefan even more curious about the person's identity.

"Oh no, that's simply too inconsiderate! If Higashino Group were to partner up with KCL, wouldn't that make us H Group's biggest threat?" Akio maintained his smile, pretending to be kind.

"Besides, isn't H Group facing a lot of issues right now? Not only has your primary research team left, but your investors, with the Murphys in the lead, intend on withdrawing their investments as well. If your most important G6 chip project fails, H Group might even face bankruptcy. We're really worried about you!"

Stefan chuckled coldly. "If you're so worried about us, Mr. Higashino, why don't you just voluntarily give up on working with KCL?"

"That won't do!" Akio's expression shifted instantly. "How could we miss out on such a great opportunity?"

At that moment Frederick's call had finally gotten through, but the person on the other end of the line gave him a rather odd request.

"Umm..." The president put down his phone and looked at Seraphina, who was in the meeting room outside of the conference. "Miss Murphy, whether the new chairman attends and whether our conference goes successfully... is up to you! We're counting on you!"

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Everyone immediately turned to Seraphina.

“Huh? Is... Is it really up to me?” The woman was stunned. Although the Murphys were the biggest sponsor of the event, the family was actually not familiar with the electronics industry. Seraphina had only been acknowledged because of all the money her family had spent, so she felt a bit insecure attending such an event. However, hearing that she would be the sole reason behind the success of this event, she felt pride bloom in her.

“Yes, Miss Murphy, the newest chairman of KCL, requested you, specifically, to cooperate with them...”

“I’ll do anything for them! It’s an honor for me to be of assistance!” Seraphina was even more excited after hearing that the new chairman had personally requested her. After all, if she managed to befriend this new director, she would become a renowned figure within the technology industry as well. Powerful and rich businessmen would have to put effort into getting on her good side if they wished to work with KCL.

If that happened, Stefan would definitely have more respect for her, and rely on her even more.

“Well, uh...” Frederick adjusted his glasses, seemingly awkward. “The new chairman of KCL said they really like Beach City, and wish to have a goddaughter. So, their request is for you to say ‘Daddy, I was wrong, please forgive me just this once and attend this conference!’ in front of all the cameras.”

After hearing this, everyone gasped.

Seraphina’s expression turned stiff. “The chairman is... so funny...” Six of the seven leaders in the conference room burst out laughing.

Akio even started clapping enthusiastically. “Hahaha, amazing! I like this new chairman, they have spunk! I must get the chance to work with them!”

On the contrary, Stefan was the only one who seemed extremely solemn, and he frowned deeply. ‘Why do those words sound so familiar? Could it be that...’

After a few moments of hesitation, Seraphina decided that she should go all out. She stood up from her seat with a bright smile and declared, “It is an absolute honor to be their goddaughter. I’m more than happy to do as they say! Why wouldn’t I cooperate?”

After that, she turned to the cameras and said obediently, “Daddy, I was wrong, please forgive me just this once and attend this conference!”

Seconds later, she started cursing inwardly. ‘Damn that chairman, I’ve never been so humiliated in my entire life! But... I’m doing this to win Stefan’s heart, so I’ll bear with it.’

Frederick finally let out a sigh of relief. He spoke to the other party over the phone, then turned back to the crowd. “Thank you for your passionate speech, Miss Murphy, the chairman said they are very happy to have a daughter like you. They will enter soon, so let’s welcome them with a round of applause.”

Soon enough, the entire venue was drowned in cheers. Everyone was craning their necks, hoping to catch a glimpse of this mysterious and unique new chairman.

The door to the conference room was opened by the staff, and the new chairman walked in casually. Instantly, the area erupted into chaos.

“Oh my god! Is this some sort of mistake?! What is she doing here?!”

“Impossible! My eyes must be deceiving me!”

Ignoring the people’s doubtful stares, the chairman beamed and nodded. “Hello everyone, I am Renee Everheart, the new chairman of KCL Group. Sorry for the wait.”

Then, she slowly walked towards Stefan and sat down next to him.

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“What a coincidence, Mr. Hunt... we meet again.” Renee nodded at Stefan, a prideful smile on her face.

“Indeed. You’ve been planning this for a very long time, haven’t you? What a great performance!” Stefan said, raising an eyebrow.

‘Tsk tsk, it really was her!’ Stefan didn’t seem shocked in the slightest. Instead, he felt strangely content. ‘Oh, Renee Everheart, of course it’s you. You took quite a huge risk this time, huh? I have to admit that I’m impressed.’

The woman’s status left him feeling much more relieved than before. At the very least, as the ‘new chairman of KCL’, he wouldn’t have to worry about her being taken advantage of. Moreover, her wealth was now enough to give four generations of her family a life of luxury.

“Yarrow, what is the meaning of this? Why is this woman here?! Don’t tell me she really is the new chairman of KCL?” “Exactly, Yarrow, you have to give us a reasonable explanation. Is KCL Group toying with us elders?!”

The attendees immediately voiced their concerns. They just couldn’t accept the fact that this woman, who they looked down upon, could possess this much power in their industry. They were convinced that it was all a grave mistake, or that KCL Group was playing a prank on them.

Seraphina was also throwing a temper tantrum in the meeting room, and was trying to barge in to confront Renee. Her rage seemed to have consumed all of her rationality, and her lovely image from before was no more.

“Let me in! If you don’t, my family will hear about this!” However, no matter how much she protested now, she and her entire family had already been ridiculed live on television.

Facing the crowd’s pressure once again, Frederick explained hastily, “Please calm down, everyone. Miss Everheart really is the newest chairman of KCL Group, and the one who invented the G6 chip. She was able to become the biggest shareholder in KCL through her own efforts, and has single-handedly pushed the entire industry forward by nearly a decade. It definitely isn’t a stretch to call her our hero, so please, respect and support her!”

Despite this, Frederick’s words were still unable to convince the group of elderly men.

“Cut the crap! This woman must’ve manipulated her way into this position! KCL Group is definitely corrupted, and our association will never be united! We should vote on whether we should allow this woman to be a part of this conference!”

“Exactly, we have to! Every member of the conference carries an important responsibility in our industry – not just anyone can join our cause!”

The people were quite agitated, and their fierce attitudes made it seem like Renee was a witch they wanted to burn at the stake.

It was basically a typical showcase of sexism and age discrimination; they just refused to believe that a young woman like her would ever possess such skill and knowledge, let alone the right to obtain a higher status than themselves.

“This isn’t quite right though. The new chairman of KCL Group should naturally be a part of the conference. It would be unfair to Miss Everheart if we were to change the rules...” Frederick protested, clearly in a difficult position.

He genuinely admired Renee. In his opinion, the woman was an absolute prodigy in technology, and was clearly much more knowledgeable than these old men who loved flaunting their wealth and status.

It would be unjust for them to doubt her just because of her gender and age...

Just as the atmosphere was becoming tense, Stefan raised his hand calmly. “I’m fine with her joining.”

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Everyone turned to look at Stefan, falling silent right away. They didn't dare to utter a single sound.

Renee stared at the man as well, her beautiful eyes clouded with confusion. The man's support was understandable, but also extremely unexpected.

"Our industry doesn't solely rely on experience – skill is a very important trait as well. Since the attendees of this event are all top contributors, I'm sure you've seen her capabilities from four years ago..." Stefan's indifferent gaze traveled over the crowd as he spoke calmly.

"She managed to pass every test and earned her position as the president of the Electronics Technology Association, which proves that she is more than capable. Now that she has invented the G6 chip, I think she definitely has the right to be a conference member."

"I think Miss Everheart is quite admirable too!" Akio bowed deeply and smiled at Renee. "Welcome, Miss Everheart! New talents are always welcome. Let's get to know each other better!"

Frederick sighed, turning to the other members. "What do you all think?"

Seeing the two most influential figures in the room taking Renee's side, the others naturally didn't dare to object. With that, they quickly changed their attitudes towards the woman, and started sucking up to her.

"My my, of course we welcome her! Our industry needs young prodigies like you!"

"Miss Everheart is a talented young woman and a feminist icon! The future of technology lies in your hands! I can see all the unlimited possibilities you will bring us!"

Renee flashed them all a fake smile. "You all flatter me. I'm just a lucky young lady who still has a lot to learn from all of you! The industry is blessed to have all of you here..."

Beside her, Stefan couldn't help but smirk. 'This woman is actually pretty fluent in sarcasm.'

After handling the old men, Renee found a chance to talk to Stefan, and asked him softly, "Why did you help me?"

The man didn't answer, and instead asked her, "So you disappeared for four whole years just to research electronic chips?"

"Well, that is part of it, but my end goal was to gain control over KCL Group, then use advanced technology to take over H Group as well. When we got a divorce, I rejected your offer of 40 million and only requested for the law firm because I wanted those three lawyers to help me with my equity transfer cases..." Renee happily explained her plan.

She had never once regretted her choices, no matter how many obstacles she encountered. Everything had brought her to this moment, so she could safely say that her plan had been a success.

"That's right, I even gave birth during that entire process. According to inheritance laws, Abby and Adie are now legally the heirs to H Group!"

Stefan nodded and clapped softly. "That does sound like a perfect plan. I'm impressed!"

He realized that he really did underestimate Renee. The woman had been planning for four years, and each step had been carefully calculated, giving him nowhere to go.

"Miss Everheart, I'm very curious, did you truly invent the G6 chip all on your own? Can you tell us about the research process?" As the host, Frederick asked the question that had been on everyone's mind.

Renee replied calmly, "The G6 chip was a success because of my friend's support as well, and that friend is none other than Liam Osborne, the sixth son of the Osborne family. He provided me with the best laboratory facilities I've ever seen, and gave me everything I needed for years..."

Her speech was simple and professional, and it impressed all the people there.

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“So here’s another question... Since the G6 chip is about to be publicly listed on the market, can you perhaps reveal which company KCL Group will choose to work with? This will decide who’s the leader of our industry for the next decade, after all!” Frederick asked yet another question that piqued everyone’s interest.

“Miss Everheart, don’t think about it too much, just partner up with Higashino Corp! Nearly seventy percent of the artificial intelligence technology in our industry was created by us, and our yearly profit is basically immeasurable! If KCL chooses to work with us, I’ll give you twenty percent of our shares!” Akio said eagerly to Renee.

Twenty percent of shares sounded quite generous, but a partnership with KCL would certainly bring Akio much more profit.

“Miss Everheart, you should work with DR Group! We are currently earning a lot of profit too, and I’ll be willing to offer up to fifty percent of our shares to you...”

The other members couldn’t stand by and watch any longer, and quickly fought to get her attention.

The whole time, Renee didn’t respond. Instead, she looked at Stefan, as if she were waiting for his answer.

Everyone soon understood the situation. Due to Renee and Stefan’s past relationship, KCL Group was likely going to continue working with H Group.

‘Looks like the Hunt family’s position in this industry is irreplaceable after all!’

At that moment, Seraphina rushed angrily into the room, a few security guards right behind her. “I’m

sorry, Miss Murphy, you can’t go in there...”

“I can go anywhere I want! My family sponsored this event, so shut up!” The woman yelled at the guards behind her. “If you don’t keep quiet, I’ll make sure you never step foot in Beach City ever again!”

All the guards were quite conflicted, but didn’t dare to stop her this time.

Seraphina approached the conference table and pointed at Renee angrily. “How dare you ridicule me like that, you witch?! I’m going to kill you!”

After that, she lunged at Renee like a rabid beast.

“Aww, my little daughter is mad! Daddy was just joking, don’t be so petty!” Renee giggled and dodged swiftly. This made Seraphina lose her balance, and she nearly tumbled onto the floor.

“Careful.” Stefan instinctively caught Seraphina, preventing her fall.

“Stef! You have to stand up for me! You saw how this woman insulted me!” Seraphina took this chance to cling to the man, sobbing hysterically.

“I’ve been treated like a princess all my life, and I’ve never been so humiliated before! She made fun of me and my family, Stef! How can we ever face the public if we don’t do anything about this?!”

Stefan frowned. “You were willing to call her Daddy, so how exactly did she ridicule you?”

“I... I was doing it for you...” Seraphina clenched her jaw. “I thought the new KCL chairman really wanted me to be their goddaughter! Wouldn’t that guarantee that KCL would work with H Group?”

Renee stifled her laughter and put on a serious expression. “It’s not too late to call me Daddy, you know? As long as you’re willing, I promise KCL will sign a contract with H Group.”

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“I’m going to kill you, Renee Everheart!” Seraphina howled like a banshee, and lunged at Renee again. “Who do you think you are?! I’m telling you, I have something that could ruin your reputation! It might even cost you your life, so don’t you dare provoke me, or else...”

“Enough!” Stefan growled harshly, grabbing her and holding her firmly. His gaze was icy as he warned her, “You’ve been enough of an embarrassment today, so don’t make things worse. If you keep this up, not even your entire family’s wealth would be enough to pay for the consequences.”

After hearing this, Seraphina immediately fell silent.

Renee quickly took the opportunity to provoke Seraphina into giving her more information. “Oh? Ruin my reputation, you say? Tell me your plan then, my good daughter, Daddy won’t get mad at you. Unless... you’re bluffing!”

Seraphina hid behind Stefan, her mouth shut but her glare piercing. It was obvious that suppressing her rage was absolute torture for her.

“You should stop messing with her too. She just has a fiery temper, so I’ll apologize in her stead. Please stop trying to provoke her.” Stefan bowed gently to the woman. His politeness made it seem like there was a great wall between them, despite their previous intimate relationship.

At that moment, Renee felt defeated, and her heart twisted painfully. Facing his courtesy was far worse than fighting with him.

“And what’s your relationship with each other? Why are you apologizing for her? Are you close? Who is she to you?” Renee smiled coldly as she sneered.

When she heard this, Seraphina’s eyes lit up and she nudged the man’s arm. She smirked and said, “Stef, since Miss Everheart brought it up, shouldn’t you give her an answer? It’s time we officially announce our relationship to the public anyway! You promised.”

Stefan tightened his grip on Seraphina’s shoulder, silently reassuring her. “Seraphina and I...”

The gesture infuriated Renee, and she clenched her fists.

“Hold on!” Before Stefan could speak, Renee interrupted him in an icy voice. She stood up from her seat and approached them with slightly reddened eyes, staring at the man quietly. “Stefan Hunt, I’d advise you to think before you speak. You should know how important KCL is to H Group... it’s worth far more than the Murphy family, I’m sure. Not only does your choice concern you, it concerns your entire family too.” Renee couldn’t help but put pressure on the man, making her stance clear.

This was a battle between two women who wanted to have Stefan all to themselves. As potential ‘sugar mommies’, they were both equally willing to make sacrifices to win this pretty boy over.

Renee knew her skills were more valuable than the Murphys’ support. Anyone with a sane mind would know who to pick.

Feeling threatened, Seraphina started bluffing to compensate. “What’s so great about the KCL Group anyway? Aren’t you just some pathetic company that makes chips? How could you possibly be wealthier than my family? What H Group needs the most is cash! Does your lame company even have that?”

Renee looked at Stefan imploringly and responded, “Stefan should know the current market value of KCL Group. As long as you make the right choice, both H Group and KCL Group are yours.”

Seraphina, however, refused to admit defeat. “Oh, so what? My dad intends to hand our entire family business to Stef too! All our assets will be his, sooner or later!”