

## The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

### Chapter 651

"Hehehe..." Renee had no choice but to take a bite for show. She then lowered her voice. "Stefan, did you have to do this? Isn't it a little too cruel?"

"It's your own doing. I'm just returning the favor."

The two pushed the chicken wing skewer back and forth while they bickered. To others, this seemed like a moment of intimacy.

Moses smiled foolishly before quickly retrieving his phone to capture this 'heart-warming' moment. "Looks like the rumors on the internet are true. Stefan and Miss Everheart really do share true love. This is such a sweet photo. I have to share it on social media!"

While saying this, Moses typed 'the couple I ship is real' before attaching a picture and publishing the post on social media. "Hey, don't do that..." Renee felt that it had gone too far and tried to stop him.

Unfortunately, Moses wasn't the only one who did this. The others did the same. Even if she wanted to stop them, it was too late. 2

Feeling helpless, she turned to face Stefan. "Why aren't you saying anything? Tell your friends to delete their posts. If word gets out that we're together, how will we clarify things?"

Stefan behaved as if he was an outsider who wasn't affected at all. "So what? When has our relationship ever been clarified anyway?"

"You're sick!" Renee couldn't stand it any longer. "Do whatever you want. I'm done playing your game!" She took off her apron and turned around to leave.

She never wanted to have anything to do with Stefan from the beginning. However, ever since she returned to Beach City, it felt as if she'd fallen into his trap. The harder she tried to steer clear of him, the more he clung to her. It was annoying!

When everybody saw how the joke had gone too far, they began toning it down. "I think Miss Everheart is angry. Let's delete our posts. She might not like it."

Stefan's gaze turned cold. "Whatever!"

Xavier could tell that things were turning sour. He tried to persuade Stefan to go after Renee.

However, Stefan responded as if nothing had happened. "It doesn't make any difference whether she's here or not."

"You're too dense for your own good!" Xavier shook his head and ran after Renee.

"Renee, don't be angry. We went a little too far with the joke and overlooked taking your feelings into account," Xavier said.

"It's not your fault..." Renee stopped walking and turned around to look at Stefan, who was still chatting and laughing. "I just don't want to have anything to do with that guy. Seeing him once shortens my lifespan by a few years!"

Xavier was confused. "What's going on between you two? Didn't you two spend the night together? Why are you still on bad terms?"

"Don't be nosy!" Renee paused for a few seconds. "Anyway... It's impossible for us to get back together. You guys need to stop meddling. Otherwise, it'll just get awkward."

"Alright. We're outsiders, and we don't know what's on your mind either. However, I can tell you with certainty that Stefan has become much happier since you returned. For example, he hasn't shown such strong emotions for a long time, but just now... It felt like he'd come back to life. He's soulful again. Are you sure you don't want to give him another chance?" Xavier asked carefully.

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Renee's facial expression was cold and emotionless. "I don't care if he's dead or alive. Did he care if I was happy or not during the most difficult period of my life? Did he ever care if I was alive?"

"Well..." Xavier felt a little guilty. He silently looked down.

Stefan had indeed gone too far back then. He cheated on Renee and forced her to get a divorce. His heart was practically stone-cold. Why did he have to get so close with a bitch like Briar?

Even if Renee loved him from the bottom of her heart, her feelings would eventually fade.

If he asked her to give Stefan another chance now, it would only be adding salt to the wound!

"I'll tell you again, and please take this seriously-my relationship with Stefan has ended, and we will never get back together.

Please tell your friends, Stefan included, to stop joking around like that anymore. If this happens again, I'll cut ties with all of you," Renee said sternly to make sure Xavier got her point.

Xavier nodded. "Alright. I know what's on your mind now. I'll tell my friends to take note..."

The two of them were talking when they suddenly heard loud chatter from Stefan and the others.

"No way. Seraphina's access to information is way too efficient. Did she already get upset about this?"

"Knowing her temper, she'd definitely be furious that we held a secret gathering without inviting her. Why don't we leave..." "What are you afraid of? Christopher and Stefan are here. She wouldn't dare cause a scene!"

Xavier appeared a little terrified. He looked left and right. "Oh no. If Seraphina shows up, this barbecue is over!"

Renee felt confused. Without realizing it, her curiosity took over. She looked at Xavier. "Who's Seraphina? Why would you guys be afraid of her?"

"Don't you know who Seraphina is?" Xavier began to rant away, releasing his pent-up feelings. "Seraphina is the only young lady in the Murphy family. We grew up together. Her name might suggest she has a demure personality, but she's actually wilder than all of us. Apart from Chris and Stefan, nobody else can escape from her. Every one of us has been beaten up by her in the past. That's why we're all so afraid of her..."

"It's not surprising that you don't know her. Her father sent her abroad to study a few years ago. She only returned last year. However, she's become even fiercer after spending some time abroad. She's much more masculine than a man!" Xavier exclaimed.

"Xavier, who are you talking about?"

Xavier suddenly felt a chill down his spine.

When he turned around, he saw Seraphina's glistening eyes. He was nearly beside himself. "S-Seraphina..."

Seraphina pressed her arms against her hips. She then ruffled Xavier's hair as if she was petting a puppy. "Tell me the

truth. Who organized this gathering? Why wasn't I invited? Did you guys create a group and leave me out?"

"W-well..." Xavier rarely showed this much fear. He was stammering.

After that, a thought occurred to him. He directly pointed at Renee. "It's her. I don't know anything about this. Just ask her if you have any questions."

"Huh?" Renee glanced at Xavier speechlessly.

She couldn't believe he'd make her the scapegoat. She was only a bystander. Why was this even her fault?

"So, you're Renee... The woman who won't leave our Stefan alone." Seraphina looked Renee up and down. There was a look of arrogance in her eyes. In fact, her facial expression made it clear that she wasn't the kind of person one would want to mess with.

It was only because she had the Murphy family to back her up.

Although the Murphy family wasn't one of the top eight families in Beach City, they were still a force to be reckoned with. In fact, the Murphy family was just as wealthy as the Hunt family and the Jacobs family.

Of course, Renee carried a similar vibe.

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The only difference was that Renee's aura of superiority originated from

her herself. "Your Stefan?" Renee asked with a playful look in her eyes.

Seraphina rolled her eyes. "Obviously, he's ours. Did you know that I grew up with Stefan? We also share the same birthday in the same month of the same year. I was born an hour ahead of him. That's why he's like my little brother..."

"So?" Renee replied calmly. She wasn't sure what Seraphina was trying to say.

"So, I'm warning you to stay away from him. You two are already divorced. I won't tolerate you pulling any tricks on him!" Seraphina uttered fiercely.

"I see... What a considerate sister you are!" Renee replied with a halfhearted smile while she looked Seraphina up and down.

Seraphina had a tomboy-like appearance, and her outfit was also casual. Although she didn't seem like the kind to harbor any ill intentions, her words seemed to be filled with undertones of sarcasm.

Only a woman could recognize such undertones.

Things were getting a little awkward, so Xavier tried to make peace.

"Alright, you two. Stop being so hostile to each other. In my opinion, your personalities are rather similar. I believe you can be good friends..."

"Renee, don't take things to heart. Seraphina has always been like this. She gets straight to the point, and she criticizes everyone she meets. To be honest, she doesn't have any bad intentions. Just think of her as a straightforward guy!"

Seraphina was enraged by what Xavier said, and she immediately chased after him and hit him.

"You're the straightforward guy. You all are. I won't rest until I beat the crap out of you today!" Seraphina yelled.

The two of them began kicking and punching each other like elementary school kids while Renee stood

in between. For some unknown reason, Stefan actually began to walk toward them.

Renee could clearly sense a change in Seraphina's facial expression. There was a special look in her eyes that suggested something romantic.

As a woman herself, Renee could easily see what was going on. Seraphina liked Stefan. In fact, she

liked him a lot! That explained why she was so hostile toward Renee. It almost looked like she'd eat her alive...

It turned out that Seraphina perceived Renee as her romantic rival.

"Stefan, you're an awful friend!" Seraphina joyfully threw herself against Stefan. She wrapped her arms around his neck intimately. "How could you not invite me to a gathering like this? Do you even think of me as a friend?"

Stefan smiled. It was rare that he even did so. He patted Seraphina on the back and apologized with a tone of endearment. "Sorry. I didn't plan this properly."

"An apology isn't enough. Can't you do

better?" "What do you want then?"

Stefan asked.

Seraphina wouldn't let go of Stefan. "Roast a few skewers for

me. Otherwise, we won't be friends anymore."

"Alright." Stefan nodded.

"Great. That's the Stefan I know. Good boy!" Seraphina held his hand and walked happily to the barbecue grill.

At the same time, she glanced ever so quickly at Renee. There was a brief moment when she appeared pleased with herself...

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The worst part was Stefan's reaction.

He didn't even acknowledge Renee when he walked past her. It was as if she wasn't

even there. Things felt so awkward that Xavier nearly wanted to dig a hole and hide in it.

"Renee, don't get mad. You know how proud Stefan is. He's probably upset because you disrespected him earlier. That's why..." Xavier trailed off.

"It doesn't matter." Renee shrugged. She looked at Stefan and Seraphina while they walked away. "Didn't I tell you that I no longer want to have anything to do with him? Why would I get mad?"

"Are you really not upset at all?" Xavier cocked his head. He stared at Renee's face and teased her playfully.

"Why does your facial expression seem so different?"

Renee remained silent.

To be honest, Xavier wasn't making things up.

She really did get upset for a moment, but it wasn't because of Stefan. Instead, it was Seraphina's doing.

This woman was so pretentious. She might seem like a tomboy-like girl who got along with Stefan as a friend, but she actually had ulterior motives. They had only met for the first time, and she already tried to provoke Renee.

Renee was especially pissed by how she behaved like a victor when she and Stefan walked past.

"Does Seraphina like Stefan?" Renee asked. She stared at Seraphina and Stefan, who stood close to each other.

"Huh? Seraphina and Stefan?" Xavier responded as if he'd heard the biggest joke of all time. He directly burst into laughter.

"That's impossible. They're like brothers. Stefan doesn't even see her as a woman. She probably doesn't like men either. If they were to have feelings for each other, they'd have gotten together long ago. You wouldn't have stood a chance..."

Renee shook her head. "You don't understand women. This is the most sophisticated kind of trick."

"Come on, Renee. Don't over-complicate things with Seraphina. She's practically a single-cell organism. She doesn't have that kind of motive, and she wouldn't fight with you over Stefan. Otherwise, she wouldn't even be friends with us."

Xavier repeatedly highlighted that Renee was overthinking. He believed she was only thinking that way because of her internal bias.

Renee could tell that Seraphina was regarded very highly in the group. Clearly, Seraphina was good at managing relationships. Xavier suddenly realized something. "Oh! I know why you're hostile toward Seraphina!"

"Why?"

"Because you're jealous!" Xavier pointed at Renee and began to chuckle. "You think of Seraphina as your romantic rival. You're afraid she would steal Stefan from you, aren't you?"

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Renee was speechless.

"That means you still haven't completely moved on. You're concerned about members of the opposite gender being around him. Clearly, you're still in love with him... Tsk, tsk. You don't say what you mean, just like Stefan! You're made for each other!"

Renee rolled her eyes. "First of all, I'm not hostile toward Seraphina. She's the one who was hostile toward me. Second of all, I'm not jealous. Stefan can no longer influence my emotions."

"Yes, yes, that's right. You're not jealous. You no longer have feelings for him, and you don't care who he hugs..." Xavier suddenly grabbed Renee by her shoulder and began whispering affectionately in her ear. "Do you want to find out if Stefan still has feelings for you? Do you wonder if he'd get jealous over you?"

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Renee didn't say anything. She didn't agree, but she made no denial either.

"Hahaha! Alright. You don't have to answer me. I know what you're thinking. Just listen to me and do as I say." Xavier was determined to be the nice guy and go all the way. He decided he would try one last time to help this proud couple out.

If it still didn't work this time, he'd stop caring!

Back in the barbecue area, Stefan and Seraphina were roasting skewers.

As a result of them sharing the same birthday, they also had a similar outlook on life, and the two had always been close. One could even go as far as to say they were best friends.

However, Stefan merely thought of Seraphina as a friend. Seraphina, on the other hand, started developing romantic feelings for him when puberty hit.

Just as Seraphina was about to confess her feelings for Stefan, he and Renee suddenly had a flash marriage. Their wedding took the entire Beach City by surprise.

Feeling bitter about her feelings that were not reciprocated, she decided to study abroad.

A couple years back, she found out that Stefan and Renee had gotten divorced. The incident gave her the courage to return to the country, where she would pursue Stefan.

She spent as much time as she could around Stefan, gradually making him accustomed to her, trust her, and depend on her... She was getting ready to confess her feelings.

In the end, Renee came back.

It was obvious how much Seraphina hated Renee. Renee was practically the thorn in the flesh for her. This proved Renee's hypothesis. She wasn't overthinking because of her own internal bias...

Unfortunately, these simple-minded men couldn't sense this at all.

"Stefan, how's it going between you and your ex-wife? You're not planning to get back together, are you?" Seraphina asked carefully while she

brushed oil against a skewer. She tried to make her question sound casual.

Stefan pursed his lips. He didn't seem too chirpy, and he was flipping the skewers without being fully present. "We've never been together. How do we get back together?"

"That's true. You didn't marry out of love anyway. So many years were wasted. It's so unfair to you. Besides..." Seraphina stared at Xavier and Renee, who were whispering to each other. "I think your ex-wife is a bitch. Although you two don't have feelings for each other, you were once husband and wife. Why does she seem so close to Xavier? What is she even thinking? Does she even care about your feelings? I'm so upset... I want to beat her up!"

Stefan glanced at Renee. He flipped the skewers even more impatiently. "We're all free to do whatever we want. I don't care what she does."

"But Xavier and Shirley are still a couple. Doesn't that make your ex-wife the third wheel in their relationship? Even if she's not doing you wrong, it's not right for Shirley. This isn't morally acceptable... No way. I can't control my temper. I need to teach her a lesson!"

Seraphina rolled up her sleeves and prepared to

go to war. This was when Renee and Xavier

started walking toward them.

"How's the barbecue going? Do you need our help?" Xavier asked with a chuckle.

"You two..." Stefan noticed how close Renee and Xavier seemed when they stood next to each other. "You two seem to be getting along!"

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Xavier felt a little awkward. He felt the need to do some explaining.

Renee, on the other hand, nodded proudly. "Of course. Xavier and I shared significant life experiences together and a similar outlook on life. We also have the same hobbies. Of course, we get along well!"

"..." Stefan's gaze turned cold. He pursed his lips and remained silent.

Seraphina hopped onto her feet and pointed at Renee. 'Miss Everheart, even if I end up offending you, there are things I have to say. We're both women. We may be heartless, but there are still limits to what we should do. Don't you think you're being a bitch? You bring shame to all women!'

"Oh, why say so?' Renee nearly laughed.

Seraphina was really good at this game. Renee hadn't even exposed her for being pretentious, and she already took the first move to defame Renee.

Just as she thought... Seraphina was as tough a woman as she was smart!

"You and Xavier were being too intimate just now. I don't care what your relationship with him is. If you're a couple, where does that leave Stefan?"

"Also, did you know that Xavier already has a girlfriend? If you get romantically involved with him, that makes you the third wheel!" Seraphina exclaimed in a righteous tone.

"Seraphina, actually..." Xavier felt Seraphina was being a little too harsh. He wanted to clarify things.

However, Renee didn't seem bothered. "I wonder what makes you think Xavier and I are romantically involved with each other.'

"That's nonsense. You two seemed so close to each other. Your shoulders were joined, and your faces were practically touching. I won't believe for a second that you're not a couple!' Seraphina intentionally used a masculine tone to defame Renee. Other people couldn't even point out her own mistake.

Stefan continued to flip the skewers while he spoke. "Just admit it if it's true. Don't bother hiding it.'

Renee calmly wrapped her arm around Xavier's shoulder. "Who says we're a couple? We're the best of friends.

Got it?" Seraphina sneered. "Best of friends? Men and women can't possibly be best friends. Your body language says it all..."

"Is that so?" Renee's gaze landed on Seraphina.

At that time, Seraphina's body was very close to Stefan. They seemed very intimate.

Renee chuckled. "If that's the case, you must be romantically involved with my ex-husband too. From the looks of your body language, you two are even closer than Xavier and I!"

"N-Nonsense!" Seraphina didn't expect to shoot herself in the foot. Her cheeks turned red. "Stefan and I are like siblings. How can you even compare us to you?"

"Well, I can also say that Xavier and I are good friends. What's so different about that?" "You..." Seraphina was suddenly at a loss for words.

She thought Renee was a weak young princess from a fallen family and ought to be easy to deal with.

After the incident today, Seraphina realized that she'd underestimated her enemy. In fact, she ended up putting herself in a passive state.

Feeling helpless, she acted like a tomboy by punching Stefan twice. 'Stefan, your ex-wife is being unreasonable. I can't mess with her!"

"Don't even bother trying to argue with her," Stefan said coldly.

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Seeing how the situation was getting intense, Xavier tried to make peace yet again.

"Alright, alright. I hereby announce that Renee and I are merely friends. There is nothing else going on between us. As for Stefan and Seraphina, they're definitely like siblings and nothing else. Shirley and I aren't exactly together yet. Therefore, everyone's still single. We're free to be romantically involved with anyone we like!

"It's rare for us to get together like this. Let's just enjoy each other's company and not cause a scene. That's something only elementary school kids would do. If everyone's on board, let's bump fists and call it a day. Alright?" Xavier extended his fist after that.

Seraphina was the first to respond by bumping her fist against his.

If she still held a grudge against Renee now, she'd seem too calculative. That was why she decided to change her tactic.

"Miss Everheart, since it's a misunderstanding, I'll apologize to you. I'm sorry for jumping to conclusions..."

"I'm actually real easy-going. I like making new friends too. Since you're Xavier's bestie, you're also my friend!" Seraphina grinned cordially, giving off the impression of a down-to-earth kind of person.

Renee raised her brows. She also extended his fist and bumped against theirs. "Sure. Friends are always welcome. It's my pleasure."

When it was Stefan's turn, he uttered the word 'boring' before getting up and leaving. The three were left there looking at each other.

"I think Stefan is having his period. His mood hasn't been good these days," Xavier said. Seraphina clenched her fists. "That's rude of him. He deserves a beating."

Renee shrugged nonchalantly. "As expected."

Seraphina looked at Xavier. "You should chat with the others. Miss Everheart and I will roast the skewers. I'm sure we'll become the best of friends!"

"Sure. I hope you can become friends too. That way, we'll have more girls in our group." Xavier patted Renee on the shoulder. "Don't worry. Seraphine might seem scary, but she's actually very easy to get along with. You two will get along just fine!"

With that, Renee and Seraphina were the only ones left in the barbecue area.

With nobody else around, Seraphina dropped her act. She placed a few skewers on the barbecue grill and turned to face Renee. "Since you left previously, why did you come back? Don't you know your presence is annoying?"

Renee wasn't surprised by Seraphine's sudden change in attitude at all. She looked at the burning coal and replied

calmly, "Didn't I already tell you?"

Xavier and I are best friends. I'm only staying because of him."

"Hmph! Stop pretending. You know this isn't what I'm talking about!" Seraphina

uttered angrily. Renee was stunned for a moment. She then understood what

Seraphina meant.

"That's because there's something in Beach City I can't let go of. That's why I came back," Renee answered truthfully.

"What is it? Stefan?" Seraphina's glare was like a sharp knife. "You were kicked out by Stefan four years ago. Do you really think you can reclaim your spot now? You should know better than anyone that you don't deserve him!"

"That aside, even if I can't reclaim my spot, it won't be yours for the taking either..."

Renee said. "Shut up!" Seraphina was enraged by what Renee said.

With a single push, Seraphina flipped the barbecue grill over, sending the white-hot charcoal tumbling all over them...

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"Oww!!! It hurts!" A piece of hot charcoal landed on Seraphina's foot and she yelped in pain.

The men, who were chatting out in the open, heard the noise, and they all came running. Everyone surrounded Seraphina.

"What happened? Why did the grill suddenly topple over? Were you two roasting skewers or yourself?" Xavier was confused by the chaotic scene.

"Stop your sarcasm already. Can't you see that I burned my foot? Hurry up and help me out! What if it leaves a scar?" Seraphina grabbed her foot and clenched her jaws. She was nearly crying.

Moses risked taking a beating and continued to mock her. "It's rare to see Seraphina in such a weak state. The charcoal has really done justice for us! N

Seraphina swung her fist in his direction. "Moses, how could you say that? Just you wait. I'm going to

beat you up!" Everyone quickly stopped her. They were all worried about her burned foot, and

everyone was focused on her.

Christopher silently observed for a moment. "Seraphina, your wound looks serious. You should tend

to it right away." "Exactly. Christopher, it hurts so bad..."

"Can you still walk?"

"I can't. It hurts whenever I move. Forget about walking. Can anyone carry me?" Seraphina didn't even give anyone the chance to volunteer. She directly pointed at Stefan. "Stefan, you and Christopher are the most reliable ones in the group. I wouldn't dare order Christopher around. That's why you'll have to carry me!"

Stefan was initially looking at Renee, and he couldn't hide the look of concern in his eyes.

It felt like he was caught cheating and quickly looked away. After that, he bent over and grabbed Seraphina's arm. "I'll tend to your wound."

The others nervously followed along.

Apart from Xavier, nobody else asked about Renee's situation.

"Renee, are you sure you weren't burned?" Xavier took a few steps before turning around. He was a

little worried. "No." Renee smiled and shook her head calmly.

"That's great!" Xavier watched Stefan, and the others leave. His tone was somewhat affectionate. "In that case, I'll go and check on Seraphina. We'll all be in trouble if she gets upset. I'd better move quick!"

"Go ahead. I want to stay in the sun for a while.' Renee urged

Xavier to leave. When she was finally alone, she couldn't help but

frown.

She carefully rolled her sleeves up. There was a patch of skin the size of an egg on her left arm that was burned. It was just as bad as Seraphina's foot.

"Damn! It hurts like hell!" She exclaimed through clenched jaws.

She was so unlucky today. Not only did Stefan blackmail her into staying for the barbecue, but she even had to meet the crazy Seraphina and get scalded for no reason!

Being around Stefan only ever brought her bad luck!

Renee hesitated. She was thinking if she should leave while the rest were away. She'd then go to the nearest clinic to tend to her wound.

Suddenly, she was handed a tube of medicinal cream.

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Renee looked up expectantly, but a look of disappointment and surprise soon

filled her eyes. "Christopher?"

Christopher had his back to the sun. He looked like Prince Charming from the novel. "This is quite effective. Hurry up and use it. You don't want any scars to form!"

"How did you know I..." Renee had an awkward expression on her face.

She was trying hard to hide the amount of pain she was in earlier. It wasn't because she was mentally strong, and it also wasn't because her skin was too thick to feel any pain.

Instead, she just didn't want to appear too insignificant next to Seraphina while everyone surrounded her.

"I noticed your facial expression wasn't natural earlier. I figured that you were probably burned too, but I'm sure you have your reasons for not wanting it to be known," Christopher said gently, like how an older brother would. He made Renee feel very safe.

Renee sighed and laughed bitterly. Without realizing it, she was opening up to him.

"You were all so worried about Seraphina. I didn't want to steal her limelight. Besides, I'm not the kind of woman who'd cry over pain." Years ago, when she lived in an environment full of love, she would openly express her vulnerability.

However, over the years, and after numerous experiences, she'd gotten used to being tough. She'd help herself

feel better without needing a show of concern from others.

"Silly girl. Only babies who cry will get milk. If a girl is too tough, life gets very difficult..." Christopher sat next to Renee. He was like a gentle autumn breeze. "Don't think Seraphina is just a fierce girl. She's actually very smart. She knows how to show her vulnerable side, and she's also good at expressing her needs. That's why we all spoil her rotten."

"I can tell you all do spoil her rotten. In fact, I'm a little envious of her personality. She can find friends wherever she goes. It's too hard for me," Renee said.

"Yeah. You're very kind, but there's always a feeling of distance. During the years you were married to Stefan, we might have met very often, but we never got close. It's such a shame, really." Christopher, who was the oldest in the group, was much more experienced and mature. Although he rarely spoke, he was the best at judging a person's character.

"You and Stefan are actually quite alike. You're both very stubborn. Once you make up your mind, it's hard for you to change it. What a pity you two broke up..." Christopher could tell that neither Stefan nor Renee had moved on from the other.

Renee didn't say anything. Instead, she unscrewed the medicinal cream and silently smeared some of it on her wound. The cool sensation stung her wound a little.

Renee didn't make a sound. Instead, she merely frowned.

"Ahh, didn't I just tell you that only babies who cry can get milk? You really need to know how to show your vulnerability," Christopher said with a sigh.

He had never seen a woman as stubborn as Renee. She was clearly in a lot of pain, but she didn't even make a sound.

"Of course, this is how I protect myself." After applying the medicinal cream to her wound, she stood up. "Thank them for me. I'll be making a move first."

Christopher didn't try to convince her to stay. "Are you sure you've given up on

Stefan?" "Didn't I tell you that I did that a long time ago?"

"I bet you can tell that Seraphina's feelings for Stefan aren't purely platonic. She's had a crush on him for many years. Now that she's returned, she won't give up easily..." Christopher was the only one in the group who'd discovered this secret.

Renee shrugged nonchalantly. "It has nothing to do with me. I wish her the best of luck."

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Renee didn't go home after leaving the Hunt family's mansion.

The ridiculous incident the night before, coupled with her burned arm, left her feeling a little troubled. Undoubtedly, it had left her in a sour mood.

She decided to only return home after calming down so that Margaret and her children wouldn't worry.

After calling Margaret to let her know she was safe, she opened her contacts and tried looking for someone she could vent to. However, apart from Leia, she couldn't find anyone else.

Thinking about how Seraphina was spoiled by everyone, she suddenly felt a little jealous.

The worst part was that Leia had gone to Tahato for a vacation to get over her recent break-up. She'd only return after two weeks at the very least.

While going through her contacts, she suddenly thought of someone. Her eyes lit up instantly.

"That's right. I can find him. He's a professional at this!"

At eight in the evening, colorful lights came on all around the city. The wonderful nightlife in the city had begun.

Renee had on a pair of black sunglasses and intricate makeup. Looking classy and cool, she walked into The Blue Inn, where women came to be served.

As usual, the atmosphere in the glitzy bar was very hyped.

A group of young women crowded around a stage while they cheered for the hot, dancing men above it.

Renee looked around the bar. She didn't see Isaac, the most popular escort there.

She patted the shoulder of a girl who was dancing excitedly in front of her. "Will Isaac be performing tonight?"

"Of course, Isaac is the most popular of the men of The Blue Inn. If he doesn't perform, how will The Blue Inn make any money? We're all here for him... These handsome guys are only the appetizer. They aren't enough to satisfy us!"

Renee frowned. "Does he dance here every night?"

"He does. It's quite a tiring job! A few other women also joined the conversation.

"I heard Isaac comes from a well-off family. He used to be a top student, but his parents died young, and he ended up dancing out here. He even signed a contract to sell himself to the bar so that he could financially support his younger sister in her studies. He can't leave even if he wants to

IV

"Ahh. I can only blame myself for meeting someone I want to protect forever at a time when I can't afford to do it!"

"Isaac is too expensive. I can't afford to look after him. I can only watch him dance and buy a few more drinks to support him. Aaahhh!"

Renee couldn't help but feel a sense of compassion after hearing all this.

"I didn't expect Isaac to have such a sorrowful background despite being such a cheerful person..." Renee made a brave decision on the spot.

She passed through the crowd and approached the bartender at the bar. "Where's your boss? I'd like to discuss business with him."

The bartender looked Renee up and down. "You look like a rich woman. Our boss likes people like you the most. I'll bring you to him right away." Renee followed the bartender backstage.

The owner of the bar and a few other men were smoking on a couch.

"Hey, you're here! Come here. Have a seat!"

The owner immediately stood up and welcomed Renee when he saw her.

Mr. Hunt had specifically instructed him to take good care of this esteemed guest. They were always prepared to welcome Renee, and they had to immediately inform Stefan should anything happen.

Renee had a strong presence. She sat down on the couch and cut to the chase. "I heard Isaac sold himself to you. He can't stop dancing even if he wants to. I feel sorry for him. He's still so young, but he's already stuck here. I can't bear to watch someone with so much potential wasting his life away... which is why... I want to find out how much it costs to free

him. Name your price!"

"Well..."