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Two days later, Renee changed into a surgical gown and walked into the sterile surgery room of the manor with Jovan.

“Please lie down on the operating table.” The eye surgeon instructed the nurses to help them onto the table after a brief check-up and anesthesia testing.

Renee gave her full cooperation throughout the process, staying quiet the whole time. The image of her in the large surgical gown with her long hair wrapped up in a cap made her look like a little lamb off to the slaughter. She laid down on the operating table, the surgical light above her so bright that she couldn’t open her eyes. Halos of light swam in her vision, and she felt as if she was stuck in a nightmare.

“Do you regret it?” She heard Jovan’s indifferent voice nearby. “It’s not too late if you do.”

“No, I don’t.” Renee smiled pathetically. “I’ll never regret since I’ll be getting so much money.”

“Okay, then. I promise I’ll reward you generously,” Jovan promised firmly.

After the anesthesiologist finished preparing the anesthetic, he said to Renee and Jovan, “I’ll inject the anesthetic into your bodies now. It’s general anesthesia, and you’ll lose consciousness. The time it’ll take for you to wake up depends on your physical condition, but it should be around

three to six hours after the surgery.”

“Okay.” Renee nodded. “I’m ready.”

Jovan inhaled deeply and murmured, “You may begin.”

Renee felt something sharp poke her back, and the halo of light in her vision started to grow. Finally, everything went black, and she lost consciousness.

Renee didn’t know how long she had been out for, but when she woke up, everything had been plunged into darkness. It felt like she had fallen into an endless abyss, and her body trembled as she whispered, “Is... Is there anyone there?”

“You’re awake, Ms. Everheart. How do you feel? Do your eyes hurt? The doctor said that it might take at least a week for your wounds to heal.” It was a young woman’s voice, but it wasn’t Eloise.

“Who are you? Where is Eloise?” Renee asked nervously. She realized now how important sight was; she felt as defenseless and vulnerable as a newborn.

“I’m Lisa. Ms. Pierce asked me to take care of you since she’s busy taking care of Mr. Jovan now. You can tell me if you need anything,” Lisa said kindly. Lisa was an honest and simple person, and she felt very moved by Renee’s action of sacrificing her eyes.

“Oh, I see...”

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Renee sighed in relief when she sensed no hostility from Lisa, and immediately asked, "Is the surgery over? Was it successful? Can Jovan see again?"

"I heard from Ms. Pierce that the surgery was successful. Mr. Jovan will have his stitches and bandages removed in a week, and he can see again. But unfortunately, you..." Lisa let out a soft sigh as she looked at Renee, pale and weak in her surgical gown. Feeling sorry for Renee, Lisa asked hesitantly, "What are you planning to do in the future?"

"Don't worry. I might have lost my sight, but I'm not dead. I can survive this. There are many blind people in the world who have done great things..." Even though Renee was in a lot of pain, she still tried to reassure Lisa because she could tell Lisa genuinely felt sorry for her.

"I'll take good care of you for the next few days, Ms.

Everheart. Don't hesitate to tell me if you need anything. I'll help you as long as it's within my abilities." Lisa felt that Renee was a kind and positive person, and couldn't understand why things had to end up like this.

"In that case, I need a favor from you," Renee said slowly, grateful that Lisa was such a kind and helpful person. "Can you help get my phone and call a person named Margaret? It's been a few days since I contacted her, and I'm sure she's worried."

"Okay, I'll help you call her." Lisa found Renee's phone in the

bedside cabinet and unlocked it based on Renee's instructions, then searched for Margaret's contact number.

Margaret answered the call quickly, and she sounded like she was about to cry. "Ms. Ren, you finally called! Where have you been? I can't find you anywhere, and Adie and Abby are worried sick." Margaret had even gone to the police station to file a case yesterday.

"Don't worry, Margaret, I'm just spending time at my friend's house. Where are Adie and Abby? I want to talk to them."

"Yeah, they're here. They've just woken up, and they've been talking about you all day!" After that, Margaret immediately handed the phone to Abby and Adie.

"Where are you, Mommy? Why weren't you answering your phone? I want to have a video call with you." Abby whined, rubbing her eyes drowsily. She used to fall asleep listening to Renee's bedtime stories, but because so many things had happened lately, she hadn't been able to spend time with Renee, and she missed her mother very much.

"I'm at my friend's house, so I can't have a video call with you two. You and Adie should be good and listen to Margaret. I... might need some time before I can come home," Renee bit her lip and lied, gripping her phone tightly. If her children saw her like this, they'd surely get scared, but ... they would have to know the truth eventually.

"Why not? Mommy, is your friend a bad guy? Is that why your friend doesn't want you to do a video call?" Abby pouted unhappily. "Or do you not want to see us anymore? Are you going to leave us behind?"

“No, that’s not it. I can’t explain it for now, but you and Adie should know that I’ll always love you two the most no

matter what!” That was the only thing that she could say.

Adie instantly sensed something was off, and asked sharply, “Something happened to you, right. Mommy? Is that why it’s inconvenient for you to pick up your phone?”

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“No, that’s not true!” Renee said in panic, worried that Adie would investigate her whereabouts. “I’m safe, and nothing has happened to me in years. So, don’t worry, take care of Abby, and listen to Margaret. Understand?”

Before Renee could end the call, Adie said bluntly, “No, Mommy, you’ve gotten into a lot of trouble in the past few years, and you still get into trouble. I think something’s happened to you, and that’s why you don’t want to video call us... How about this, Mommy? Turn your camera on for a second and let me see you; I’ll believe you if there’s really nothing wrong.”

“Umm, well...” Renee stammered, then blurted out, “What are you saying, Adie? I’m hiking with my friend, and the signal is bad. I’ll hang up first!” After that, she quickly ended the call, feeling guilty.

“You’re so lucky, Ms. Everheart! Your children are cute and smart, and they love you so much!” Lisa remarked, looking wistful.

“I’m lucky, but they’re not...” Renee sighed miserably and explained, “They’ve been having a difficult and frightening life with me. They’ve suffered a lot because I’m not qualified to be a mother.”

“No, you can’t say that. I think they’re lucky to have a kind and accomplished mother like you. You might think it’s difficult for them, but I think they’re happy being with you.”

Although Lisa was young, she loved children, and was jealous of Renee’s happy little family. However, their family had suffered a great misfortune, and the children would be heartbroken once they realized their mother was now blind.

“What’s your plan now, Ms. Everheart? Do you... need me to drive you home?” Lisa asked Renee gently, compassion in her voice.

“I can leave?” Renee turned to Lisa and asked in surprise.

“Of course! You’ve donated your eyes to our master, so we’ll do anything you want. If you want to leave, you can, but... I suggest you wait for a month until your injuries are healed to avoid any infection after the surgery. Plus, Mr. Jovan hasn’t woken up yet, and I’m sure he’ll want to thank you in person. It’ll be a waste if you leave now.”

“No, we can’t let him know that I was the one who donated the eyes to him.” Renee sounded firm. “I know him—he gave up his eyes to Stefan for me, and if he learns that I’ve given up my eyes for him, I don’t think he’ll accept it that easily. All of you have to keep it from him.”

“But your sacrifice will go to waste then!” Lisa protested. Eloise had warned Lisa not to say things like this, but Lisa felt that the situation was unfair for Renee. Renee had sacrificed so much, but she wouldn’t even get a thank you!

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“This isn’t a sacrifice, it’s a repayment.” Renee forced a calm smile onto her face. “Thank you for thinking about me, but this had to be done.”

Lisa pursed her lips and said reluctantly, “Okay, I’ll keep it a secret since you asked me to. Are you sure you want to leave now though? If you do, I’ll talk to Ms. Pierce for you. I think she’ll be okay with it.”

“There’s no rush.” A sigh escaped Renee. “You said that Jovan is still in a coma, and we don’t know how he’ll feel when he wakes up. I think it’s better for me to sneak out after it’s proven that he can see again. That way, if anything happens in between, I can still help.”

“Oh, Ms. Everheart, you’re so kind! Even now, you’re worried about Mr. Jovan. You must love him a lot, don’t you?” Lisa smiled warmly and said, “Don’t worry-you’re the only one Mr. Jovan likes. Once he’s recovered, he can snatch Hunt Enterprise from Stefan, then he can take care of you and make it up to you.”

“Ugh, I didn’t think of that...” Renee groaned, just realizing that her actions would undoubtedly start internal conflict in Hunt Enterprise. Jovan was cunning and persistent, and he surely had been using this time to come up with ways to defeat Stefan. Stefan would be busy then, and maybe Renee would finally get the chance to retire since she had lost her sight.

She smiled bitterly. Even though she was in hell, she could still see the bright side of it.

Meanwhile, Stefan’s brain surgery was scheduled to start soon, and he had already changed into a surgical gown and entered the operating room.

Francine, Seraphina, and Elijah were waiting outside.

“Madam Francine, it’s not too late for us to stop the surgery. Stefan has just recovered, so it’ll be dangerous if something goes wrong during the surgery.” Seraphina glanced at the door of the operating room nervously as she tried to persuade Francine to stop the surgery. Stefan would obey Francine, and she had the power to stop the surgery if she wanted to.

“I don’t want him to do this either, but he’s a stubborn man. He said he didn’t want to live in ignorance, and wanted to gain his lost memories...” Francine sighed and said, “I understand though. It’s better that he takes a risk for the sake of regaining his memories instead of living like a zombie. After all, he doesn’t even remember his two kids. What will happen as time goes on?” Francine had given it much deliberation, and eventually decided to support him. Even though she was worried about the risks, she felt sorry for Abby and Adie. Their father hadn’t spent much time with them when they were young, and now, he had even forgotten about them. She really couldn’t see them suffer!

“So, you’ve made up your mind?” Seraphina turned to

Francine, clenching her fists.

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“No, it was Stef who made the decision, I just saw it through. It’s his life, so I can only respect his choices,” Francine said with a melancholic sigh. Back then, she was overbearing and used to control every aspect of Stefan’s life. She even used to meddle in his marriage, until Stefan’s relationship with Renee took a turn for the worse. Maybe she should have just let them be since Stefan cared so much about Renee... Maybe she shouldn’t have given Briar a chance.

Naturally, she didn’t want to make the same mistake again.

“But do all of you respect me? Have you ever thought about the consequences if something does wrong? Have you thought about what would happen to me if he really does regain his memories?” Seraphina’s eyes watered as she asked them desperately. She turned to Francine, looking aggrieved. “You know about my feelings for Stef, Madam Francine, and you know what I’ve suffered for him. I’ve been with him when he was blind, on the verge of death, and even when the executives of Hunt Enterprise suppressed him. I tried my best and used all my resources to help him soldier through those hardships, but all of you are willing to toss me aside so easily!”

“Calm down, Seraphina,” Francine told Seraphina reassuringly. “It’s a minor brain surgery, not a death sentence or a potion to make him forget about his love for you. I’m sure he’s aware of your sacrifices for him—we all

are. He’s not an ungrateful person, you know that.”

“Yes, it’s not a potion to make him forget me but it will make him remember Renee. Doing this will give him the chance to get back with Renee and get rid of me... isn’t that right?”

Francine frowned. “How could you say that? Renee is already in the past...”

Seraphina shook her head and smiled bitterly. “No, Renee will never be in the past. He just forgot about Renee temporarily and mistook me for her. He’ll go back to being cold towards me after he’s regained his memories, and his love for Renee will return!”

“I can’t rule that out...” Francine admitted, feeling sympathetic as she watched tears roll down Seraphina’s cheeks. “But don’t worry—even if he wants to get back with her, she’s already cut him off. Stef can’t do anything if Renee ignores him, so it’ll be okay.”

“Are you kidding? Everyone knows what will happen once he gets his memories back! I guess I’m the only fool who sacrificed so much for nothing!” Seraphina sobbed, then wiped away her tears and ran away.

Francine raised a hand to stop her, but couldn’t find the words to say.

Frowning, Elijah asked, “Should I go get her, Madam?”

Francine shook her head and murmured, “Let her be. It might be unfair to her, but I can’t do anything about it since Stef insists on having the surgery.”

“Yeah, we can’t stop him. Even if the surgery was postponed, Mr. Hunt and Ms. Everheart will somehow find each other again... it’s practically written in the stars. It’s better to get it over with instead of seeing him in pain all the time.” Elijah had thought about it, and finally decided that the surgery had more benefits than disadvantages. Someone was bound to get hurt in the process, and unluckily, it was

Seraphina. However, Elijah did believe that Stefan wouldn't forget about Seraphina's sacrifices once he regained his memories, and Stefan wouldn't let Seraphina down either.

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"But where's Dr. Wagner? There's only half an hour left until the surgery, but he's not here yet. How unprofessional!"

Francine tutted disapprovingly as she glanced at her watch. Brain surgeon or not, how dare he neglect the heir of Hunt Enterprise?

"Let's wait a little while longer. Dr. Wagner usually arrives right on time, and besides, he only agreed to do this surgery because of his friendship with Mr. Hunt."

"Hmph! Let's see how great he is then! He'd better cure my son, or it's over for him." Francine huffed as she sat in the corridor, forcing herself to be patient. 1

Meanwhile, Seraphina stood in an isolated area, wiping away her tears as her gaze turned cold. She fished out her phone and called an unregistered number. "Turns out they don't care about me at all, so I don't have to hesitate. Do it—

I'll bear the consequences!"

After a while, it was time for the surgery.

Anxious from the wait, Francine demanded, "What's the matter? Isn't he going to start the surgery now? He's supposedly the best brain surgeon around, but he's nowhere to be found."

"Hmm... Did something go wrong?" Elijah immediately called Owen's assistant. A panicked voice was heard on the other end of the line, and Elijah's eyes grew wide in shock.

"What's going on, Elijah? Where is he?" Francine asked quickly.

Taking a deep breath, Elijah turned to Francine and said hesitantly, "Dr. Wagner's assistant said... they've gotten into a car accident, and Dr. Wagner is in critical condition."

"What?" Francine gasped in horror. "What bad luck that it happened right before the surgery! Is this just an excuse because he doesn't want to do the surgery?"

"I don't think so." Elijah shook his head and added seriously, "Dr. Wagner always follows the contract; he wouldn't say yes if he didn't want to do it."

"What should we do now? Should we get Stef out?" Francine was secretly relieved that the surgery couldn't be carried out. "I'm glad because it's less risky, but Stef may get mad." 1

"Has the surgery started?" Seraphina walked over from the other end of the corridor, her eyes watery. "I'm sorry, Madam Francine. I couldn't control my emotions earlier, but now I realize that this surgery is necessary because he can't be living a life of lies, and I wouldn't be comfortable accepting love that's meant for someone else. I know I should be more open-minded..."

"Something happened to the surgeon." Francine sighed, looking agitated. "I'm afraid the surgery can't be carried out."

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Seraphina stepped forward and hugged Francine, patting her back reassuringly. 'Don't be upset, Madam Francine-this might be a good thing. Now, Stefan doesn't have to take so many risks. It's meant to be, don't you think?'

"I'm not sad, but I find it strange that the doctor got into an accident right before the surgery..." Francine glanced at the operating room worriedly. "Stef will be furious when he finds out, and he'll definitely look into it."

"Umm..." Seraphina swallowed, her anxiety obvious.

Putting both of his hands in his pockets, Elijah turned to Seraphina with a fake smile. "Didn't you want to stop the surgery earlier, Ms. Murphy? Why do you look so worried then? To be honest, I'm not sure whether you want him to have the surgery or not."

"What are you trying to say, Elijah?" Seraphina glared at Elijah and snapped, "I don't care about the surgery-I just want Stefan to be safe and healthy. I'll support whatever he does as long as it helps him get better."

"Really? Don't forget what you said then," Elijah said lightly, smiling knowingly at Seraphina.

"What are you saying?" Seraphina scoffed, not worried at all. It was best if she pretended to be considerate and loyal.

Elijah nodded solemnly. "I'm sure Mr. Hunt can be at ease now. Besides, I know you're sensible since you're a noble

lady..." Elijah suddenly picked up his phone and said brightly, "We're ready, Dr. Wagner. You can start at anytime."

Seraphina's eyes widened and she demanded, "What did you say, Elijah? Who did you just speak to?"

Elijah flashed her a wide smile and said casually, "Oh, that was Dr. Wagner. I have to be in contact with him since he's the head surgeon for this operation."

The blood drained from Seraphina's face."How is that possible? Didn't he get into a car accident? How did he come here for the surgery? Is this a joke?"

"Oh, turns out it was just a misunderstanding. The person who got into an accident was Oscar Wagner, Doctor Wagner's younger brother, who's a doctor too..."

"What? H-He has a brother?" Seraphina stammered, her face deathly pale. She looked dumbstruck, as if her world had just collapsed.

"Oh yes, he has a brother who looks very much like him. I didn't expect that his brother would suffer that calamity instead..." Elijah suddenly raised his brows and asked curiously, "Ms. Murphy, didn't you just get here? We didn't tell you that Dr. Wagner had gotten into a car accident, so how did you know?"

"I... I guessed it." Seraphina turned beet red as she quickly made up an excuse.

Elijah and Francine immediately knew she was lying, but neither exposed her. Francine had known for a long time that Seraphina could be rather scheming and malicious.

Seraphina loved Stefan deeply, which was why she took such extreme measures sometimes. However, Stefan was about to undergo surgery, so it wasn't the time to demand an explanation from her.

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"Good, the surgery can proceed as planned then. Where is he?" Francine asked curiously.

"Oh, he..." Elijah glanced at the surgery room. "He entered the room using a staff card. I think the surgery has already started."

"What? It's already started?" Francine quickly put her palms together and prayed, "God, please protect him, I beg you... As long as he's safe, I'll do my best to separate him from Renee!"

Elijah frowned, looking perplexed. "Madam, why do you want to break up the couple after you agreed to the surgery? Didn't you say that you wouldn't meddle in his life anymore, and you'll let him make his own decisions?"

"I did say that, but a fortune teller told me that they're incompatible, and they'll be in serious trouble if they get together. So, I've got to be the villain here to keep them safe," Francine answered honestly. Of course, it was also up to them whether or not they could overcome the obstacles in their path and be with each other forever.

"Madam, when did you become so superstitious?" Elijah was amused by Francine's reply. When Francine was young, her love life had been dramatic and exciting, much like Renee and Stefan's love story. Back then, she used to think that everyone was the master of their own fate, but now, she had decided to turn to God. If Francine didn't want Stefan

and Renee to be together just because a fortune teller said so, Elijah really didn't know what to say.

"I think Madam Francine is right. Think about it-didn't Stefan always get into trouble when he was with Renee? When they were together, he lost his sight and was on the verge of death, so maybe they really are incompatible.

Separating them might be good, as the fortune teller said. A lot of celebrities believe in fortune tellers now, you know..." Seraphina blurted out, eagerly trying to ruin any possibility of Stefan and Renee being together.

"We'll talk about it later. Maybe he won't be so obsessed with Renee even if he remembers who she is. We'll just have to see how the surgery turns out..." Elijah said curtly, forced to say something to keep the crazy woman at bay.

"Yes, you're right. His safety is the most important thing right now." Francine stopped worrying about other things, just wanting her son to make it through the surgery safely.

Hours passed, but the door to the operating room stayed shut.

Francine asked nervously, "Why isn't it over yet? Did something happen?"

“No, don’t worry. This surgery is very difficult since it involves the brain. I’m sure it’s going well since it’s taking this long.” Elijah tried to comfort Francine, but he wasn’t that confident about the outcome since brain surgery was the most complicated surgery. Even the slightest mistake could cause serious consequences.

After a while, the door to the operating room finally opened...

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Owen was immediately surrounded by people.

“How did the surgery go, Dr. Wagner? Is my son okay?” Francine asked Owen agitatedly.

“Don’t worry. The surgery was very successful, and everything will be okay as long as he gets good rest for a few days.” The long surgery had exhausted Owen, so he didn’t speak much and quickly headed to the changing room to change his clothes. There had been a lot of weird things about Stefan’s brain surgery, and he needed to talk to Stefan once he’d woken up.

“Great! He’s finally out of danger.” Francine breathed a sigh of relief. To her, the most important thing was her son’s safety.

Seraphina stood nearby with a complicated expression, feeling conflicted. She was relieved that Stefan was safe, but she was also worried about the aftermath of this surgery.

“Are you okay, Ms. Murphy?” Elijah walked up to Seraphina and whispered, noticing Seraphina’s odd reaction.

“I... I’m fine !” Seraphina swallowed and averted her gaze in obvious guilt.

Elijah tilted his head slightly, observing her closely. “Why do I feel like something is weighing on your mind? Are you unhappy that the surgery was successful?”

“No! Of course I’m happy but...” Clenching her fists, Seraphina said, “It’s over between him and me once he regains his memory, so don’t expect me to celebrate this.”

“Is that the reason why you’re so disappointed?” Elijah frowned, finding her reasoning a bit strange. She looked more panicked and helpless instead of gloomy and disappointed, so there was a possibility that Seraphina had done something without Stefan’s knowledge. However, it wasn’t the time to investigate—all they could do was wait for Stefan to wake up.

Francine calmed herself, then looked at Seraphina and said directly, “Be frank with me, Seraphina—was the car accident involving Owen’s brother your doing?”

“What are you talking about, Madam Francine? I don’t understand.” Seraphina’s eyes grew wide in panic, not expecting Francine to ask her about it.

“You know exactly what I’m talking about.” At first, Francine didn’t plan to investigate the issue, but she felt that it was necessary to make some things clear. “I know you’re worried that Stef will abandon you once he regains his memory, which is why you chose such an extreme method to prevent him from regaining his memories. I understand your intentions...” While speaking, Francine observed Seraphina’s reactions.

Seraphina remained silent and ducked her head, silently admitting to it. Although it had been a rather cunning plan, Seraphina didn't see anything wrong with it. She felt her only mistake had been underestimating Owen since he had managed to distract and evade her successfully.

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"I won't hold you responsible for that because I know you only did it out of love for Stefan, but I hope you can understand my intentions too," Francine said slowly.

Seraphina looked up, her eyes teary. "What are you saying, Madam Francine? What do you want?"

"Calm down..." Although Francine seemed to be reassuring Seraphina, she looked disapproving and solemn. "I won't force you to leave my son, but I'll respect his choices. It's his business if he picks you or someone else. However, I do have one request-that you stay away from Stef while he's recuperating."

"What?" Seraphina was stunned, and protested, "Isn't that too much, Madam Francine? You know what I've suffered and sacrificed for Stefan, but now that he's got his memories back, you want to get rid of me. You're not even letting me see him! Don't you feel bad doing this to me?" Seraphina wasn't used to such treatment having been pampered and spoiled her whole life. She was once the only heiress of the Murphy family before her father cheated on her mother and had illegitimate children. She had always been given everything she wanted and had been doted on her whole life.

"I can't trust that you won't do something extreme. This is the only way I can protect my son during this critical period." Francine stayed calm despite Seraphina's accusations. After all, Seraphina dared to cause a car accident just to stop that surgery; there was nothing stopping her from doing something extreme to prevent Stefan from regaining his memories. Hence, Francine felt that it was the safest to separate Seraphina and Stefan for now. She turned to Elijah and ordered, "Keep an eye on her, Elijah."

A few days had passed since the surgery, and Renee was slowly getting used to being blind. She was still recuperating in the basement because to her, it was the same wherever she was. After she became blind, she became more aware of what mattered to her. She called her children often, but

whenever they asked for video calls, she would always refuse. However, she knew that it would be hard to fool the children for long, and even Margaret might eventually think that she had been kidnapped. If she called the cops, things might become troublesome, so Renee couldn't stay there for long.

"Lisa!" Renee called out as she got out of bed and felt around.

"I'm here, Ms. Everheart. What can I do for you?" Lisa immediately got up and asked. She always stayed by Renee's side.

"How's Jovan doing? When will his stitches be removed?" Renee was worried about Jovan, and could only leave with peace of mind after ensuring that he had recovered his sight.

"Master Jovan is recovering very well, and the doctor said the stitches can be removed by tomorrow. After that, he'll

just need a bit of rest to recover," Lisa answered honestly.

"Tomorrow..." Renee nodded. "Okay, update me on his condition after his stitches are removed. If everything goes smoothly, can you drive me home?"

Feeling sorry for Renee, Lisa sighed softly. 'Are you sure you don't want him to know that you were the donor?'

Renee took a deep breath and said firmly, 'No, this is what he's owed. The last thing we need is for him to find out and make a fuss.'