

## Ex-Wife 1681

### Chapter 1681

Leia could tell that something had happened to Stefan, but their priority right now was to detoxify Renee. "That's enough! Let go!" Leia pulled Xavier's hands off Elijah's collar, then told Neil and Elijah, "Go give the dragon's saliva to Dr. Wagner."

"Okay!" Elijah turned around and gave Xavier a look, then sighed and rushed into the manor with Neil.

When Owen saw the dragon's saliva, he was in disbelief. It was practically an elixir in medical textbooks and was rumoured to bring people back to life, and Stefan had actually found it. "Great! We have the items-Ms.

Everheart can be saved!" Owen didn't waste anytime and immediately went to his laboratory to make the antidote for Renee. After a day of research, he finally came up with the antidote and gave it to Renee.

After a while, Renee felt much better. Her pain had lessened, and she didn't feel so weak anymore. "It's magical... | feel like I've come alive!" Renee leaned against the head of the bed, her eyes bright. Before this, she needed painkillers to even have the energy to talk to others, but now, it felt like energy was surging through her veins.

"That's wonderful, Ren! You don't know how scared | was seeing you like that!" Leia burst into tears and hugged Renee tightly.

"Hey, I'm cured, not dead. People will get the wrong idea if you cry like this..." Renee said teasingly as she hugged Leia and patted her back comfortingly.

"You must be better if you can tease people like this. Thank God for Stefan! " Leia said sincerely, sniffing and wiping her tears. If Stefan had given up, Renee might never have recovered. He had saved Renee's life.

"Yes, it's all thanks to Stefan. But..." Renee paused, then asked hesitantly, "Where is he? | didn't hear his voice when Elijah came in. Is he not home yet?"

"He..." Elijah clenched his fists, wondering if he should tell the truth.

"He went to the company!" Quinton interrupted Elijah. "He's been away from Hunt Enterprise for too long, and the company is a mess, so he had to go back to handle it. If he hadn't, Jovan would have made the company his. N

"Yeah, Mr. Hunt came, but he got a call from the board of directors. They asked him to return to the company for a meeting right away, so he had no choice but to go," Elijah continued slowly, glancing at Quinton. Renee had just escaped death, and her health and emotions were unstable. If they told her the truth, she might be too weak to take it..

"| see..." Renee nodded thoughtfully. "He certainly is amazing. I'm sure everything went smoothly, so the most important thing right now is to manage Hunt Enterprise well."

Everyone exchanged worried glances, knowing they were only delaying the inevitable.

Chapter 1682 Thankfully, they had managed to fool Renee.

After Renee chatted with them for a while, Owen suggested that they let Renee rest. "There are three courses of treatment that she'll take over a span of two weeks. She'll get better with each treatment, but she also needs to rest. Let's not disturb her."

"Okay, let's go then." Leia immediately stood up and asked everyone to leave Renee's room.

When they reached downstairs and confirmed that Renee was asleep, everyone called Neil and Elijah over and asked them to explain what had happened.

Neil had wanted to set off for Dragos immediately with the remainder of the dragon's saliva, but decided he owed them an explanation. Taking a deep breath, he said to everyone, "In order to get the dragon's saliva, Mr. Hunt climbed our dragon statue, the most sacred thing in my clan. What he did

infuriated the villagers, and if they're going to punish him by clan laws... They'll cook and eat him, sacrificing him to the ancestors to pacify the dragon's wrath."

"What?! They're going to cook and eat him?" Xavier yelled, leaping out of his chair. "What kind of crazy clan are you from? Are they cannibals from Zambawi? Shouldn't they consider the legal consequences of doing something like that?"

Leia was still bewildered, but when she saw Xavier heading towards Neil to beat him up, she immediately stood between them and shouted at Xavier, "Can you sit down quietly and listen to him? He's the one who brought the dragon's saliva here, so we should be thanking him!"

"You think this is all because of him?" Xavier's expression was icy as he glared at Leia. "Didn't you hear? Stefan risked his life for this, but you so easily forgot about that. Do you all want him to get into trouble?"

"What? Listen- I know you're worried about Stefan, we all are. Ren will have a mental breakdown if anything happens to him, so at least for Ren's sake, I don't want to see him in trouble!" Leia sighed exasperatedly. She thought that Xavier was calm and rational, but he always went crazy when it came to Stefan. It made Leia wonder if he had a secret crush on Stefan.

"Yes, Mr. Stuart, please calm down." Elijah continued helplessly, "Ms. Osborne is right-we're all worried about Mr. Hunt, and we don't want anything to happen to him. However, this matter was out of our hands, which is why things turned out this way. Let Neil finish before we come up with a plan."

Xavier took a deep breath and tried his best to calm down. Then, he said to Neil, "Go on."

Neil timidly swallowed and continued, "Mr. Hunt urged me to bring the dragon's saliva to Mr. Young no matter what happened, so after thinking about it, I went to find Mr. Young, instead of rescuing Mr. Hunt... I exited the village late at night and reunited with Mr. Young, who was waiting at the foot of the mountains, then we came here."

"What did you say?" Xavier bellowed and grabbed Neil's collar. "You mean those barbaric villagers captured Stefan when you left, and you both didn't go back to save him?!"

"Ugh..."

## Chapter 1683

Neil lowered his head, trembling in fear. He glanced at Elijah pleadingly. "Mr. Young, please help me. I did what you all told me; I didn't do anything wrong."

"Mr. Stuart, it was my decision, not Neil's. Punish me if you want, but leave him out of this." Elijah closed his eyes, preparing for Xavier's attack. He had expected such a reaction when he made that choice. Stefan and Renee had both been on the verge of death, and Elijah had chosen to save Renee because he knew that was what Stefan would do. If he chose to save Stefan and lost the dragon's saliva, he would have lost the chance to save Renee, and Stefan would have suffered even more. Elijah didn't want to see Stefan have such regrets.

"Elijah, you're Stefan's most trusted subordinate. How could you betray him? Why?" Xavier's fury turned into confusion. He knew Elijah's loyalty towards Stefan was stronger than Xavier's friendship with Stefan; Even if everyone had abandoned Stefan, Elijah would never do such a thing.

"I did it because I knew that Mr. Hunt would ask me to make that choice. Plus, I believe he's capable of handling the villagers," Elijah confessed honestly, but now, he wondered if he had been too optimistic. After all, the villagers in Dragos were beyond the reach of the law, and their mentality was quite primitive because of their location.

"There's no use talking about that now," Quinton said finally. He turned and instructed Chase, "Get ready and find some reliable men. We're setting off."

Xavier narrowed his eyes at Quinton suspiciously. "What are you up to now? n

Quinton shot Xavier a contemptuous look. "That's none of your business. You're all talk and no action, even when it concerns your friend. You're not useful at all."

"That's right!" Leia immediately echoed Quinton's words. "Why don't you go save Stefan instead of picking fights here? Quinton is much better than you in that aspect."

"How dare you!" Leia's words had bruised Xavier's ego, and he refused to admit defeat. He immediately picked up his phone to call his men. "All of you will see who's truly capable here!"

## Chapter 1684

Quinton and Xavier rushed to Dragos with their men, and soon surrounded the tiny village from all directions. They came in large groups of professionals and elites, and had weapons aimed at the village from the sea, land, and sky. It looked like they would annihilate the village if the villagers refused to let Stefan go.

Dragos' villagers regarded themselves as the descendants of the dragon, so all of them, regardless of age, stubbornly protected their village.

Just as both parties were about to fight, Neil cried and got down on his knees between them. "Everyone just calm down, okay? We don't have to do this. Please don't fight!"

Silas Drago, the head of the clan, led the villagers. All of them held spears, and they waved their weapons as they shouted, "Kill! Kill! Kill!"

"Dad, you're the head of the clan and the most rational person here. Please listen to me... We can't afford to offend them. Just let Mr. Hunt go. They'll also put the dragon's saliva back, so just forget about all this!" Neil grabbed Silas' leg and begged him, prepared to face his clansmen's wrath.

"Get lost, you traitor! The 874 villagers of Dragos will cut you up too to pacify the dragon's wrath!" Silas growled as he kicked Neil away, and aimed his spear at Neil's heart.

"Dad, no!" A pretty lady stepped forward and stood between Silas and Neil, and said pleadingly, "Dad, I'm sure that Neil didn't betray US on purpose. Maybe... Maybe that man forced him to do it, so punish him

instead. If Neil dies, I'll have to die with him given our clan laws.' The lady was Sabrina Drago-Silas' only daughter as well as Neil's newly-wed wife. Sabrina was a kind woman, and she was the one who begged for the villagers' mercy when they tied Stefan up and were about to cook him. If not for her, Stefan would have been turned into a human sacrifice despite his status and capabilities.

Silas was known for doting on his daughter, and could not bear to kill Neil when Sabrina stood in his way. He heaved a long sigh. "Sabrina, you're too naive. You don't know how wicked people can be. I told you that Neil shouldn't go out to earn money, but you didn't listen to me. You wanted to respect his choice and let him fulfill his ambitions, but do you see what happened? He conspired with outsiders to steal our most precious dragon's saliva. How could you beg for mercy for such a man? You've let me down!"

"Dad, I know I was wrong, and Neil knows it too... But I feel that he might be right. We can find a solution that can benefit both parties..." Sabrina glanced at the men Quinton and Xavier had brought, and her eyes welled up with tears as she tried to persuade her father. "Dad, the people here have never left the village, and you all don't know what the world has become. They're holding guns with bullets inside, and if they really were bad people, we wouldn't even be talking right now." Sabrina was smart, and knew that their enemies had the upper hand. The villagers were attempting the impossible, and if their enemies had wished it, they would all be dead by now.

"Sabrina, I'm not a caveman. I know what they're holding..."

## Chapter 1685

Silas angrily looked ahead. "Not only do they have guns, but they also have cannons and other terrible weapons. I know our village will be doomed if they aim even one of those at us... but we've always been living on top of the mountains away from the world. We never start conflicts, but there are always wicked people coveting our village treasures. If we compromise this time, they'll push their luck next time, and then our village will really be doomed. We're the descendants of dragons, so we must protect it. They've disrespected our dragon, so we have to fight to the death. We won't let them step into the village unless they kill all of us!" At that point, Silas turned and ordered his villagers, "Get ready to fight! Attack!"

The hundreds of villagers yelled and roared, shooting arrows with fire towards Quinton and Xavier.

Chase quickly blocked Quinton from the onslaught and said desperately, "Mr. Everheart, they're crazy! We can't reason with them. Just go back first, and let US handle them. After that, you can come out!"

Xavier, on the other hand, was impatient to save Stefan. He waved his hand and ordered the mercenaries in camouflage clothes, "Shoot!"

However, before they could shoot, Quinton yelled out, "Don't shoot!" Quinton glared at Xavier coldly and growled, "Stefan is still with them. He's doomed if we fight them head-on!" "Do you want them to kill US first?" Xavier snapped at him. He clenched his fists and said, "I think we should enter the village by force to save Stefan." Although he was stubborn, he did not dare to act impulsively. He asked his men to hold their fire, and quickly dodged the arrows. Secretly, he agreed with Quinton—he was worried that the villagers might harm Stefan if they were not careful. A lot of Quinton's mercenaries fell from the villagers' attacks.

Suddenly, Silas held up his hand and bellowed, "Stop!"

Neil heaved a sigh of relief and said to Silas carefully, "Dad, I didn't lie, did I? They're not bad people. Even though we attacked them first, they didn't resist. They sincerely want to talk to US, so let's talk to them and come to a compromise."

After a brief contemplation, Silas said to Neil, "Yes, I can talk to them. Ask the two leaders to come. We'll talk in the village." Silas had observed that there were two teams led by Quinton and Xavier, so he requested to speak to Quinton and Xavier alone.

Chapter 1686 Chase and Elijah objected to Silas' suggestion.

"It's too risky for Mr. Everheart and Mr. Stuart to go into the village. The villagers might even hold them hostage. It's too dangerous!" "Yeah, we'll lose our advantage once they enter the village. We can't even fight back if anything happens. I think we'd better not take the risk..."

Xavier frowned and wondered if he should agree. Their concerns were valid -the villagers were barbarians beyond the reach of the law, so promises and morality would mean nothing to them. If he impulsively went with them, he would be at their mercy. It was a great risk.

"TH go with you," Quinton said to Silas calmly. He bypassed the crowd and approached Silas. "Are you willing to?" Silas was taken aback, not expecting them to be that trusting and sincere.

"I've got nothing to fear-| believe that the descendants of dragons aren't cunning people who would go back on their word," Quinton remarked. He had escaped death many times and was not afraid of dying. Besides, if this helped save Stefan, his sister would be happy. As Renee's brother, he had done a lot of bad things, and had failed to protect his sister. In a way, he could make it up to her through this.

"Great! You're a true man!" Silas gave Quinton an approving look, then turned to Xavier. "How about you? Do you want to go with US?" "I can..." Xavier looked at Silas coldly. "But | have one condition."

Silas became enraged and demanded, "What right do you have to negotiate terms with me?" "Why not?" Xavier was not as easy to talk to as Quinton. He had a bad temper, and his easy life made him reckless. He was not afraid of infuriating Silas, and said firmly, "I'm not your villager or your slave, and my weapons are better than yours. You all are the ones who have no right to negotiate terms with me. If you don't behave, | might destroy your entire village." He felt that he had endured enough today, and having an aggressive enemy triggered him. His years in business taught him that he should never be too tolerant towards an opponent, or else they would walk all over him.

"How dare you..." Silas and the villagers became furious when they heard that.

"There's nothing to talk about. Let's fight him!" "Yeah, let's fight him!"

Enraged, the villagers wanted to fight Xavier, but they couldn't do anything other than shout because they knew how dangerous Xavier's men were.

Xavier rubbed his temples in frustration. "Okay, stop shouting. We both have something the other needs, so we're in the same boat. Let's just take a step back and try to resolve this."



Chapter 1687 Silas was still angry, but remained silent because Xavier had intimidated him.

Seeing that, Neil continued, "You're right, Mr. Stuart. We have our differences, and I think the best course of action right now is for everyone to calm down and take a step back."

Everyone remained silent, in agreement with Neil.

Then, Neil added, "We ask that Mr. Stuart and Mr. Everheart come into the village to talk to us alone. I know you both are concerned, and it's normal for you to be. Mr. Stuart, please tell us what your condition is, and we'll try our best to fulfill it if we can." Then, he carefully looked at Silas. "Dad, what do you think?"

Silas didn't want to make a scene. If these men destroyed the village, Dragos' centuries-old legacy would end because of him, and it would be a great sin. Hence, he finally yielded. "Fine. What's your condition?" "I can go into your village with you, but your daughter has to be kept as a hostage on our side until we reach a successful negotiation," Xavier said simply. He was someone who always had a backup plan, and was not as trusting as Quinton.

"Excuse me?" Silas' eyes widened in rage. The thought of Xavier keeping his beloved daughter as a hostage was both infuriating and humiliating.

"I'd rather not negotiate then. We'll fight and see who wins." Silas straightened and held his head high. He would rather sacrifice his clan's dignity than his daughter's safety.

"Dad, calm down!" Sabrina stopped Silas. "I think Mr. Stuart's condition is acceptable. They trust me, and we should trust them too. You all just need to negotiate well. I don't mind going to their side until the negotiation is over." Then, she ignored Silas and walked towards Xavier, unbothered by the guns aimed at her. She said to Xavier calmly, "My life is in your hands. If my dad and clansmen break their word and try to harm you both, feel free to kill me."

Surprised, Xavier gave Sabrina a thumbs-up. "I think you and your husband are the only normal people in your village."

At that point, both parties ceased fire.

Xavier and Quinton chose to hike up the mountains to enter the village with Silas and his men while Elijah and Chase kept Sabrina as a hostage. Elijah and Chase looked at each other in dismay as they watched Xavier and the others leave.

"Do you think they'll be reckless?" Elijah asked finally.

"It's hard to say." Chase shook his head. "People are unpredictable, and it's hard to tell if they'll sacrifice this woman for the sake of revenge."

People could lose all rationality when it came to their beliefs. Dragos' villagers believed in the dragon, and Stefan had disrespected it. They definitely wouldn't let him off the hook that easily.

## Chapter 1688

Quinton and Xavier followed the large group of villagers and climbed up several slopes to reach Dragos, which was on the top of the mountains. The place of their negotiation was a flat ground at the entrance of the village, which stood at the top of a cliff. Both Quinton and Xavier had initially disliked each other, but now, they had become allies.

"Damn, these people really are cavemen! Be careful, I wouldn't know how to explain it to Renee if you fall and kill yourself." Xavier grumbled as he pulled Quinton away from the edge of the cliff.

Quinton glared at Xavier and whispered, "I was just looking for escapes in case they go back on their word and attack US. don't think they'd dare to. After all, the village head's daughter is in our hands!" "You forget that they don't think like US, and I doubt they'd be merciful considering Stefan has disrespected their God. They worship that dragon, so they might just sacrifice Silas' daughter to take revenge." "What should we do then? I wanted to fight them, but you insisted on negotiating with that old man..." Xavier whispered angrily. "Whatever. I have to rescue Stefan even if it costs me my life."

Quinton nodded. "Me too." "Hey, what are you both whispering about?" Brody Armstrong, who was responsible for the security of the whole village, yelled at Quinton and Xavier.

Xavier immediately rolled up his sleeves and went over to Brody. "And just who do you think you are? Yes, I'm whispering, but what can you do about it?" "You've got a death wish, scum!" Brody waved his machete, wanting to slash Xavier. He hadn't been afraid of Xavier's army back then, and he wasn't afraid of Xavier now. It would be easy to kill him.

"Stop, Brody! Step down!" Silas commanded, forcing the violent Brody to retreat.

"Come at me if you dare! How long do you want to act? I'm sick of it." Xavier was getting tired of them starting and stopping fights as they liked.

"IL asked you both to come here so we can reach a compromise. It's best if we can resolve the issue peacefully." Silas had calmed down, and pointed at the stone table and stools in front of him. "Do take a seat." Then, he instructed the people behind him, "Get some desserts and drinks for them."

The villagers were baffled. "Mr. Drago, they're friends of the person who profaned our dragon. Why do we have to serve them?" "It's fine. Since we invited them here, they're our guests," Silas explained calmly.

Chapter 1689 "Okay, Mr. Drago." Although the villagers could not understand Silas, they unconditionally obeyed him.

"If it weren't for you, I would have thought everyone here were cavemen!" Xavier casually sat on a stool, still looking like a rich CEO despite being in the wilderness.

Quinton looked around. He knew that they were being put on the spot, and fighting their way out would be courting death. Hence, he decided to see how things went. He said to Silas politely, "Mr. Drago, I'm sure you see our sincerity. We aren't bad people, and neither is Stefan. It was an urgent matter, and my sister was on the verge of death, which was why he violated your clan's sacred laws." "You don't have to talk to me about your innocence. All those who came looking for the dragon's saliva had an urgent matter, and wanted it either for wealth or health. I've seen many kinds of people at my age, and you both aren't the most innocent ones," Silas remarked casually as he sipped the tea served by his villager.

Quinton bowed his head as he thought about it. "Let's cut to the chase then -what do we need to do so you'll let him go?" Silas remained quiet as he drank his tea.

"Old man, he's asking you a question, so stop wasting time! When are you going to let him go?" Xavier smacked the table fiercely. "I'm sure you're aware that we can destroy your village. He has to return with US today!" "Did I say you can't take him away?" Silas said finally. "But you have to agree to my terms before I let him go." "What is it? Say it!" Xavier demanded eagerly. He felt that things would go smoothly as long as they could negotiate.

"Dragos has never been peaceful from the day I was born. Although the dragon's saliva is practically a myth, many people came here because of it. They used all kinds of means to get it, and Dragos would have been ruined if my dragon ancestor didn't bless US..." Silas' eyes glistened as he spoke, and even the fierce villagers bowed their heads sadly. It was obvious that the village had suffered many misfortunes, which was why they were so wary of strangers. "Fifty years ago, a group of robbers barged into my village. We risked our lives to fight them until only a little more than ten families were left. Then, we moved to a higher spot in the mountains. You saw many checkpoints on your way up because they used to be gathering points of the villagers..."

Quinton sighed. "Sir, I understand. I'd led a life of lying low and killing people back then." In the past, Carmine Pawnshop had managed to gain a firm foothold at Water Dock because Quinton's subordinates had sacrificed their lives for it. The villagers must have become ferocious after constantly seeing their clan on the verge of destruction.

"I thought you all were like those bad people who came for the dragon's saliva, but it seems that I'm wrong..." Silas looked in the direction of the memorial chamber. "You all returned the cauldron with the dragon's saliva, and it doesn't look like you want to exterminate my clan, so... I can forgive you and let him go. However, my condition is that you all have to protect my clan for a hundred years, and stop wicked people from harming us!"

Finally, Silas revealed his request. Dragos was beyond the reach of society, and had survived on its own with its own clan laws away from the rest of the world. They never caused trouble to anyone... but that didn't mean they could have peace. The dragon's saliva was their clan treasure which blessed their land, but its rarity and value had brought them a lot of danger. Over the years, the number of greedy people that tried to attack the village had increased, each more scheming than the other. It was clear that the dragon's saliva brought them more trouble than blessings, so the villagers of Dragos had to find something to protect them if they wanted to survive.

Silas had been worried sick about such things until he met Stefan.

Although Stefan was rude, he was different from the others who had come to the village. Silas could tell he was a refined person, and that had given Silas hope. On that day, the guards at the memorial chamber had caught Stefan, tied him up, and left him in the hall at the head of the village. The villagers raged, wanting him to be punished for what he had done to their beloved dragon- they wanted to cook him over a fire to pacify the dragon's wrath. Silas tried his best to dissuade them, and finally locked Stefan up in a dark room beside the memorial chamber. He figured someone would come to Stefan's rescue given his status, and when that happened, he could negotiate with them. As expected, Quinton and Xavier had come over with their men right away, and they were more powerful than Silas imagined. The fact that they chose not to destroy the village to rescue Stefan made Silas feel they could be trusted, and that perhaps they could have the power to protect Dragos and its villagers.

"My request might be a little unreasonable but... it's the price you have to pay for taking the dragon's saliva." Silas had stopped being aggressive, and his old face looked desperate and hopeful. "If you agree, Dragos will live on for a very long time." "That's it?" Xavier asked, looking perplexed. He thought they would ask for a lot of money, but their request was rather simple. He felt quite sympathetic for the people of Dragos after hearing their story, so he didn't find the request unreasonable.

"If you say yes, we'll need your thumbprint for confirmation. If not... we'll risk our lives to fight you!" The surrounding villagers immediately tensed up when Silas said that, and gripped their weapons tightly.

"There's no need for that. This guy and I have men- they can stand guard at the foot of the mountains or at the head of the village to protect you all throughout the year as long as you let Stefan go. It's completely free of charge." Xavier agreed quickly. It wasn't tough for him to arrange such a thing.

"I don't object either." Quinton looked at Silas. Compared to Xavier's casual attitude, he was more sincere. "I don't have many men, but they're bold and loyal. I believe they'll do their best to protect Dragos as long as I tell them to." "That's great." Silas sighed in relief.

Quinton added, "But my sister might need to use the dragon's saliva given her condition; I hope you can agree to that." "If you both sincerely protect Dragos, you'll be considered our saviors. We might be a little rough around the edges, but we're honest people. Yes, the dragon's saliva is rare, and we get less than fifty milliliters of it every year, but we're not so stingy to keep it when it can save our savior's life," Silas said straightforwardly.