

Ex-Wife 1711

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"Oh..." Nodding, Justin relaxed.

"So it's not Stefan. It doesn't matter then." "Why not?" Renee looked puzzled.

"It's because I have nothing to fear if it wasn't from Stefan, even if it's flowers, gold, or cash," Justin said confidently.

Renee was speechless. Justin seemed to be quite dumb even though he looked smart.

He would've gone mad if he knew that Stefan brought food to Renee every night and stayed in her ward for more than an hour.

"Regardless, I think he's a kind man since his gift is just what Ren likes," Leia declared brightly, happy if the number of Renee's pursuers grew.

"Stop that. What's going on with you?" Renee, however, was more worried about Leia's relationship and asked hesitantly, "Did you get back with that person? Don't let us affect your relationship..."

"I... I'm not in a relationship with him, so it's fine." Leia was happy to talk about Renee's relationships, but became nervous when it came to hers.

She stammered, "I've ended things with that person, and now I've got a new target that I'm going to start something with... Just wait and see!"

"Okay, I'll wait for your good news." Renee stopped asking questions; she knew that

Leia would tell her immediately if there was any progress.

If she didn't, it meant that there was nothing substantial there yet. After that, Leia walked out of Renee's ward, holding a sunflower and sniffing it happily.

She was so distracted that she walked straight into someone. Surprised, she looked up to find the very person they had just been talking about — Xavier Stuart.

She wrapped her clothes tighter around her body and growled at him, "What are you doing here? Are you stalking me, you pervert? Didn't I tell you that it was over between us?" Xavier looked at her and smiled gently.

"It's been a while, my ex- girlfriend." He had actually come to see Stefan, but coincidentally bumped into Leia.

Although they had broken up with each other, they still felt something stir inside their hearts when they saw each other.

"Don't say that, we're not that close." Disappointment overwhelmed Leia when she recalled the things that had happened in the mountains, and she immediately felt irritated with Xavier.

"How cruel! We slept together, didn't we? Of course that makes us close," Xavier said teasingly, finding Leia's behaviour cute.

He slowly got closer to her and stared deeply into her eyes.

"I don't mind reminding you if you forgot how close we were."

"How... are you going to do that?" Shaken by his nearness, Leia subconsciously leaned backward.

"I remember that my ex likes it when I kiss her against the wall. I don't mind helping you remember if you've forgotten..." Xavier murmured seductively as he backed her into a corner, leaning over her.

"Idiot!" Blushing, Leia tried to slap him but he grabbed her hand and pulled her into his arms, whispering softly into her ear, "Aren't we close?"

"I..." Leia's heartbeat quickened and she bit her lip, looking away.

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"I don't know."

"Don't make assumptions then. We're close." Xavier tapped her nose affectionately and let her go, smiling in satisfaction. Speechless, Leia gasped and clenched her fists.

She was angry with Xavier, but she was angrier at herself for giving in. He always knew how to break down her defenses, giving her no way to resist.

Maybe it was because of his confidence, but she always felt like she was at his mercy in this battle of love.

"What are you doing here? Don't tell me you're here to say such boring things to me." After calming down, she put some distance between them and asked coldly.

"I came to see my friend, but I think it's more important to talk to you since I've found you here." After checking his watch, Xavier asked,

"Are you free? Let's have a drink in the cafe downstairs."

"No, I'm busy," Leia said bluntly and wanted to leave, but Xavier grabbed her hand and pulled her to the elevator, saying, "No, you're free, trust me."

"Hey! Xavier, what are you doing? Let go of me!" Furious, Leia tried to pull away, but was ultimately dragged into the elevator with him.

"Waiter, I would like one iced Americano and one Cappuccino," Xavier called out to a waiter the instant they arrived at the cafe.

Although they had only dated briefly, he remembered all of Leia's preferences. Though he seemed carefree and uncommitted, that wasn't the case at all.

"What is it you want to talk about? Hurry up, I have things to do." After Leia sat down, she crossed her arms and urged him impatiently.

"What's the rush? There's nothing urgent we have to do. Isn't it nice to relax, have some coffee, and get to know each other better?" Xavier crossed his legs, rested his chin on his hand and watched her, smirking lazily.

"Don't you have anything better to do, Xavier?" Leia said through gritted teeth. Her patience was running out, and she wasn't as shameless as the man seated opposite her.

"Nope, the most important thing for me to do is to be with you," Xavier said flirtatiously as he sipped his coffee.

"You're crazy!" Leia pretended to vomit at his cheesy line.

After a brief silence, Xavier asked casually, "I heard you're going to join a love reality show that's scripted to have you dating Santiago?"

"It's a rumor!" Leia declared.

Xavier's joy lasted less than a second as Leia added proudly, "I'm going to date Mr. Dalton; it's not scripted at all!"

"Leia Osborne!" Xavier called her by her full name for the first time, his tone threatening.

"What's the matter, Mr. Stuart?" Leia asked smugly, overjoyed at having pissed him off.

"Are you trying to make me mad?" Xavier glared at her icily. "It's normal for couples to fight, but if you insist on bringing in another person, the damage will be irreversible."

"A couple?" Leia raised her brows in amusement.

"You and I? Or do you mean Mr. Dalton and I? If it's the former, I think you'd better go see a

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neurosurgeon about your memory. Didn't we break up?"

"Couples only break up if they stop loving each other, but you and I care so much about each other. This is just a small argument, we haven't broken up yet," Xavier said confidently.

"Egomaniac!" Angry, Leia got to her feet. "I'm not in love with you anymore. You're just a disloyal scumbag, and I have no respect for you at all. You'd better go back to your beloved Shirley. Bye!" She stopped herself from splashing her coffee on him, and stormed out of the cafe.

But Xavier was right. Leia had gotten pretty close to Santiago, and she happened to be on her way to an entertainment company to sign a contract with Santiago today. As the most lowkey top actor, Santiago never joined variety shows, especially if it was a show that wasn't challenging. However, he had accepted a love reality show with only one condition: that he be Leia's partner.

After leaving the cafe, Leia called Santiago. "Hi, Mr. Dalton. Where are you? I've just left the hospital."

"Turn around, Miss Osborne," Santiago said gently.

Leia turned around and saw Santiago wave at her from under the lush shade of a tree. He was wearing a mask, but his gaze was passionate and gentle. Leia's heartbeat quickened, and a blush tinted her cheeks.

“Mr. Dalton!” Leia looked at Santiago with sparkling eyes and eagerly trotted over to him. Standing under the shade of a tree, Santiago was much more handsome and charming than any idol. Leia was completely focused on him, and failed to see the motorbike speeding towards her.

“Be careful!” Santiago called out anxiously as he grabbed her and they both tumbled away from the bike. They dropped to the ground, locked in each other’s arms intimately. Time seemed to have stopped as Leia and Santiago gazed at each other for a few seconds, immersed in their own world. After a while, they pulled away from each other and stood up awkwardly.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Dalton. I wasn’t being careful and made you fall.” Leia blushed and smoothed her messy hair, not daring to look at him.

“No, it was my fault for not going to you immediately,” Santiago said tenderly. His attire was simple, with a blue jeans shirt and a pair of khaki pants, but his mysterious and charming aura put him in the spotlight wherever he went. Even though he was wearing a mask, his charms attracted the attention of people around him, which was why the female motorcyclist hadn’t seen Leia earlier. She had been looking at him, which was why Santiago felt that he should be the one apologizing.

“Haha! Don’t mention it. After all, we’re going to be a couple in a show.” Leia laughed nervously, trying to lighten the awkward atmosphere.

“That’s true... my future girlfriend,” Santiago murmured as he smiled at her teasingly.

Naturally, Leia became flustered. “Ahem, w-we should go to the company now, or Mr. Jiminez will get worried.” She immediately turned around, calmed her racing heartbeat, and took a deep breath. She could flirt easily, but she would retreat as soon as the other person flirted back.

They soon arrived at Star Entertainment, the entertainment company Adam worked for. The company was relatively new, and had only gained popularity in the last two years. It had produced several popular shows and promoted a few young stars in that time, and had profited greatly from it. In five years, it had successfully become the top fifth entertainment company around, and was considered a legend in the entertainment industry. Star Entertainment had purposely signed a contract with the prestiged Adam to improve its standards. Adam was a director in shooting movies, but after going downhill for several years, he became a director of variety shows. His latest show was “Happy Days” which had become a bit.

Star Entertainment had invested a lot of manpower and resources to shoot a love reality show called “The Choice of Love”. Undeniably, the mysterious and aloof Santiago would be the focus of the show.

As soon as the news was released, it became the top search on the Internet for days. The media and fans were hungry for news on the show, and Star Entertainment was on guard because today was the signing ceremony for Santiago and Leia. Almost all the members of the company’s management department were waiting eagerly for their arrival.

Countless party poppers were fired the moment Leia and Santiago stepped into the company, as if the people gathered there were welcoming a newlywed couple.

“I’m so glad to see you, Santi, Lei... Let’s go to the conference room so you both can sign the contract.” Tense, Adam led them to the conference room.

There were two men and three women sitting in the conference room, all guests of the love reality show. Some were celebrities, while others were either elites or ordinary people. However, all of them had one thing in common: they were all breathtakingly attractive.

“Wow, you’re so handsome, Mr. Dalton. I’ve heard so much about you!” Megan Flores, a famous young female star, stood up and enthusiastically spoke to Santiago.

The other two women were Luna Carter, a senior from a famous college, and Angel Baker, an interior designer. They were more reserved than Megan, but also couldn’t stop staring at Santiago.

“Hey, look at these two! We haven’t even started the show, but their feelings for each other are already clear. Buddy, we’re definitely going to be the side characters.” A man in sports attire patted another man nearby and sighed dramatically. The man who spoke was Skylar Rivera, a former World Games swimming champion, and the other man was Hugh Mitchell, a famous actuary.

“Why do you say that, Sky? You’re certainly not a side character, and nothing is certain until the show starts. After all, it all comes down to one’s character. Plus, the crew picked everyone based on their MBTI personalities. You’ll find the person most suitable for you, and all of you will be in the limelight!” Smiling, Adam tried to ease the tension, and everyone relaxed a bit.

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"I have an I personality, and I like to be with the same kind of people..."

"I'm an E, a sociable extrovert. Don't worry, it'll always be lively with me around."

"What's your personality type? Don't tell me you're an INFJ, you look so aloof!"

Everyone was talking to each other happily, including Leia.

"Okay, everyone." Adam gestured for them to stop talking, then stood in the middle of the room and announced, "Everyone is here now, and I can see you all have great chemistry. I believe one or two couples will surface in a month, so let's see how things go."

"Mr. Jiminez, may I know if we're going to eat and stay together this month?" Megan raised her hand and asked.

"Technically, yes, but we'll change the shooting site halfway." Adam nodded.

"Can you tell us where our shooting site is?"

"Not at the moment, but don't worry... It's a dreamy place perfect for falling in love!" Adam grinned and said mysteriously.

At that moment, an executive of Star Entertainment walked into the conference room and whispered something in Adam's ear...

Adam's expression changed and he started wringing his hands nervously, looking conflicted.

"What's wrong, Mr. Jiminez?" Leia asked hesitantly.

The happy chatter died down and everyone turned to Adam curiously.

“There’s going to be a small change to our show. Initially, we only had three men and four women, but we now have another male guest joining us, giving us a total of four men and four women,” Adam announced solemnly as he placed his palms on the desk.

“Ah! Well, I think it’s a good thing to have another male guest because now well have exactly four pairs. It’s much more interesting this way!” Megan said eagerly.

“Yeah, she’s right. No one will be left behind, and it won’t be that awkward either,” someone else chimed in.

“Yeah, he said that too, but this guest is a bit special. I’m afraid we can’t shoot the show normally if he’s here,” Adam mumbled and sighed deeply.

“Which big shot is it? How popular is he that he can even affect the shooting?” Arrogantly, Skylar added, “I’ve met quite a lot of big shots but I can’t imagine who this person could be. Who’s this guest joining us? Tell us!”

As she stared at Adam’s nervous expression, Leia suddenly had a bad feeling about all this. There had to be something special about this guest to make Adam this worried, and from the looks of it, he was probably a troublemaker.

“I... It’s hard to say. He’ll be here soon though, so you can see for yourself.” Adam sighed again, staring at the floor anxiously as if he was on the battlefield facing an enemy he couldn’t defeat.

“Hey, he’s here. Let’s give him a warm welcome!” The head of the PR department of Star Entertainment informed everyone excitedly. At the same time, a group of executives enthusiastically opened the door to the conference room for the guest.

“Hello, ladies and gentlemen,” the man said with an air of casual confidence. “It’s an honor to shoot this show with all of you, and I hope we can learn from each other from now on.”

Leia's eyes widened and her mood immediately soured. She punched the table and cursed inwardly, recognizing Xavier's arrogant and condescending voice.

"Oh, it's... Mr. Stuart," Megan said in surprise. Given his identity and rank, he would most likely be the guest everyone focused on in this reality show. If she could link herself to him somehow, she would definitely be able to make it big in the entertainment industry. Even if she couldn't become his girlfriend, even a scandal would get everyone talking.

"Mr. Stuart, the cream of the crop! It's great to have you on board." The arrogant Skylar immediately behaved humbly when he saw Xavier. Grinning cheekily, he added, "Are boy-to-boy relationships allowed in this show? I call dibs on Mr. Stuart if they are."

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"Haha! Skylar, you're too much!" Everyone burst out laughing.

Adam could only sigh because this was exactly what he was afraid of.

Only Santiago could compete with a big shot like Xavier, and the other guests would eventually just fade into the background.

Additionally, the show's direction would have to change according to what Xavier wanted, and Adam had a feeling that he and the crew were in for a tough time. He would definitely face backlash from netizens if the show changed too much.

Adam's head began to hurt at the thought of it. Xavier glanced at the silent Leia and smiled charmingly.

"Can I call dibs on the woman I'm interested in then?"

"Wow, it looks like Mr. Stuart came here to capture his target! I'm looking forward to it!" Megan giggled, trying to get on Xavier's good side.

She was the most popular female star in the show for a reason, and she sensibly decided to befriend Xavier once she realized he was pursuing someone already.

"I wouldn't join something I can't win at. I'll definitely get what I want by the end of this show," Xavier murmured, staring at Leia intently.

Everyone immediately knew then that Xavier's target was Leia.

"You've got great instincts, Mr. Stuart— Miss Osborne suits you best out of all the female guests here. Both of your families are a part of the Great Eight of Beach City, plus, you guys are of the same age and have known each other since childhood. It's a match made in heaven! The show hasn't even started, but I'm already invested in you both as a couple," Hugh, the actuary, said with a smile.

"You can't say that! The possibilities are endless since it's a reality dating show. You might like someone in the beginning, but that might change as you spend time with other people. Nothing is fixed right now," Adam said desperately, trying to get the show back on track.

If everyone set their sights on someone from the very start, the show couldn't progress the way he wanted it to.

"You're right, Mr. Jiminez. And I'm curious too... Miss Osborne, is there anyone here who's caught your eye?" Xavier asked Leia with a mischievous smile.

Leia finally looked up at Xavier and said firmly, "Isn't it obvious? Of course it's my idol, Mr.

Dalton... He'll always be my only choice. The conference room immediately became silent, and the atmosphere became awkward.

Xavier and Leia were both very passionate and direct, but unfortunately, they were interested in different people.

Clearly, Leia didn't return Xavier's affections, and had no issue with humiliating him because of it.

Everyone looked at him anxiously, expecting him to fly into a rage since he was rumored to have a bad temper.

Usually, nobody would dare to provoke him.

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However, Xavier didn't seem angry at all; on the contrary, he broke into a wide smile.

"What a coincidence... I do love a challenge! I'm sure you'll change your mind once the show is over, Miss Osborne."

"Wow, Mr. Stuart is getting competitive! The other guests had better think of some strategies, or else they'll get left behind." The staff had started taking sides too, hoping to please Xavier.

The highlight of the show had now become Xavier and Leia's game of cat and mouse, and everyone was certain that the mouse would never be able to outrun the cat.

Xavier's sudden participation in the show unsettled Leia, and she even felt like withdrawing from the show.

Santiago noticed Leia's discomfort, and leaned in to whisper in her ear, "Do you want to leave? I can run away with you if you want to."

"Yes, I do... but Mr. Jiminez will kill us if we do."

Plus..." Looking up at him, Leia said shyly, "I don't want to lose this chance to spend time together with you." Santiago smiled warmly at her.

"Don't be afraid then. He's just another guest, and we can always ignore him."

"Heh. I didn't expect you to be such an easy going person, Mr. Dalton," Leia laughed, and she and Santiago continued chatting happily, turning the atmosphere lively again.

Xavier was seated far away from them, but he could see everything that was going on. His indifferent expression morphed into a cold one, and his eyes narrowed menacingly.

"You guys are already whispering to each other? Aren't things moving too fast? You'd better save all that for filming and sign the contract first." Adam had long noticed how close Santiago and Leia were becoming, and wanted to use this show to get them together.

Unfortunately, Xavier had come out of nowhere, and Adam had no idea how things would go now.

At last, both Leia and Santiago signed the contract, and they would start filming for the show three days later.

Before leaving, Leia reluctantly said goodbye to Renee. She grabbed Renee's hand and said miserably, "I'll be away for a while, Ren. Take good care of yourself and wait for me to come back!"

"I know you like Santiago and that you're

going to be on a dating show with him. It's a great opportunity, isn't it? You should be happy; there's no need to cry. Enjoy it!" Renee's injury had almost healed, and she could sit up now.

She gently wiped away Leia's tears as if she was coaxing her daughter.

Leia whined, "I can't bear to part with you.

Plus, men aren't as important as my bestie.

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I might as well breach the contract than be apart from you for a month!" Renee smirked at her dramatic friend.

"Do it then. Stay with me every day and don't spend time with your idol."

"Heh... I was just joking, Ren! I've been waiting for this chance for such a long time, and I'm finally going to date Mr. Dalton! He's been my idol for such a long time, and now..." Leia said dreamily.

"Okay, that's enough. Hurry up and get going, and stop acting like a lovestruck fool."

"what? No, I'm not!"

"Yes, you are. You're a fool in love."

"Ren, stop teasing me!" The two friends started bickering with each other.

After Quinton had finished his work, he went to the ward to see Renee right away. He entered the ward and frowned at the two women as he approached them.

"Stop messing around, you childish girls. Why are you both acting like kids when you're almost in your thirties?" Quinton said helplessly as he stood between them.

Instantly, Renee and Leia both scowled at him.

"How can you say that, Quinton? Don't you know that age is a very sensitive issue to women?" Renee huffed as she put her hands on her waist.

"Yeah, what do you mean almost in our thirties? Ren and I are forever eighteen, okay?" Leia declared, ready to start a fight with Quinton.

Seeing the two girls gang up on him, Quinton immediately gave in and put his hands up in surrender. "Okay, I was wrong. Both of you will always be eighteen, at least to me... No, it's too much. At most, one of you is three and the other is five."

Blinking, Leia asked, "Who is three and who is five?"

Both Renee and Quinton smiled at each other, and Quinton chuckled. "Isn't it obvious?"

Renee groaned, "Ah, now that I think about it... What if someone bullies you during filming?"

"Bullies me?" Clenching her fists, Leia said confidently "Hah! They'll be lucky if I don't bully them!"

"Good. Don't forget to practice the self-defense skills I taught you." Renee felt like a mother sending her sheltered daughter off to college.

"Don't worry, bestie. I'm just going to shoot a show, I'm not going to war. I'll be fine."

After chatting with Renee a while longer, Leia eventually left to pack her luggage. Quinton was left alone with Renee in the ward, and he sighed. Finally, he said solemnly, "I'll be frank with you, Renee. I'm here to say goodbye too."

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Renee looked at him with an anxious frown. "Where are you going, Quinton?"

"I told you that Chase has gone missing, and I just can't let it go. I've got to do something about it." Quinton had been thinking about Chase. There was a high possibility that he had drowned at sea, but even if that was the case, Quinton at least wanted to find his body. He had to know for sure.

"Yeah, you're right. Chase was always loyal to you, and it's normal to be worried but... you've just recovered." Renee looked at her brother in concern.

"There's nothing to worry about-I know what I'm doing. He might have encountered some pirates, and if I offered them money. It's no big deal," Quinton said confidently.

"I know you've made up your mind, but please be careful and contact me if anything happens. I might not be a big shot, but I've got some connections and means too. I can help you."

“Okay.” Touching Renee’s head, Quinton smiled and said, “I’ll rely on my sister then.”

As the days passed, both Quinton and Leia left, making Renee’s ward feel quite empty. It made Renee feel miserable. Luckily, Margaret would bring Adie and Abby there to spend time with Renee after the children got back from school. Occasionally, Justin would also drop by to see Renee after work. When people visited, Renee didn’t feel so lonely, but today... she felt like something was off, as if someone was secretly watching her. She didn’t know if it was true or if she was just being paranoid.

“Miss, did anyone... come to see me today?” Renee hesitantly asked the nurse who came to change her IV drip.

The nurse looked at Renee and smiled. “No. Are you feeling a bit anxious, Miss Everheart?” Heaving a long sigh, Renee said glumly, “Maybe.”

Margaret came to the hospital with Adie and Abby in the evening. Adie held Renee’s hand warmly and stroked her hair the moment he entered the ward. “Mommy, we’re done with school for the day. Are you feeling better?” He asked gently.

“Yes, I’m much better. I’ll be leaving the hospital in no time.” Renee touched Adie’s cheek. The sight of her children eased her pain much better than any medicine.

Looking cute in pigtail braids and a pink denim jumper, Abby carefully handed a cherry tomato to Renee. “I grew a cherry tomato plant at the kindergarten, Mommy, and this is the only tomato that grew. I want you to have it; you’ll get better after you eat it.”

“Don’t you want to eat it since there’s only one, Abby?” Renee stared at the cherry tomato in Abby’s hand as if it was a treasure.

“No, Mommy, I want you to eat the best food there is. I watered this plant and watched it grow every day. It’s a magical cherry tomato, and I’m sure it’ll protect you,” Abby said seriously.

Renee could tell that Abby spent a lot of effort to grow that cherry tomato plant, which was probably why the little girl genuinely thought that the cherry tomato was some kind of magical pill that could cure all illnesses.

Naturally, Renee didn't want to rain on Abby's parade, so she took the cherry tomato and stuffed it into her mouth. "Wow, it's so sweet! It's the sweetest cherry tomato I've ever had, and I feel so much better after eating it. I don't feel any pain at all... Abby, are you a magician? You planted a magical cherry tomato!" Renee said enthusiastically.

"Ah, wonderful! Mommy will recover now, I'm so happy!" Abby danced around the ward excitedly. She had been holding the cherry tomato in her hand since she left the kindergarten, taking great care not to crush it, and she is now felt that her efforts had not been in vain. She had gotten what she had wished for.

Seeing that, Adie frowned thoughtfully, then said to Renee, "I've got another way to speed up your recovery, Mommy. Wait for me!"

"What do you mean?" Renee glanced at Adie curiously. Frankly, she was worried about Adie's sudden idea because he was too smart and his plans were always complex. She couldn't afford any trouble right now.

"Don't worry about it. Just wait for me, I'll be right back." After that, Adie ran out of the ward.

"Hey, Adie... Adie!" Renee called after Adie worriedly. However, Margaret waved her hand dismissively. "Don't worry, Miss Ren, he'll be fine. He knows you like flowers, and when we passed by the garden downstairs, he said he wanted to pick some for you. I think that's what he's going to do now."

Margaret was right-after Adie ran out of the ward, he went straight to the garden downstairs. Since the hospital was a high-end private hospital, it was equipped with a beautiful garden. There were only a few patients in the spacious garden, and it was not crowded at all.

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The person standing before him was none other than Adie's scumbag daddy.

Ugh... but it seemed like he wasn't really a scumbag at all.

“Why aren’t you answering?” Stefan studied Adie intently, then his features relaxed. “Oh, I know. You haven’t learned how to talk, have you?”

Rolling his eyes, Adie thought, ‘Well, there’s definitely something wrong with his brain. No wonder he needs surgery. I’m almost five years old, so how can he think that I still can’t talk?’

“You shouldn’t go around alone if you can’t talk, or else your parents will be worried...” Stefan reached his hand out to Adie, and ordered softly, “It isn’t safe there. Come here.”

However, Adie glanced at Stefan briefly and ignored him as he bent down and picked up the flowers on the ground.

“Ah, it seems you’re autistic too... You’re cute though.” Heaving a long sigh, Stefan glanced at Adie compassionately. Although he was usually quite aloof, he had a soft spot for children and furry animals, and would instinctively want to get close to them.

Suddenly, Stefan felt rather melancholic. Renee had two children, but Stefan had none even though he was almost in his thirties. That made him rather pitiful, didn’t it?

“Aren’t you scared?” Stefan wanted to go but was worried about leaving Adie alone. He told Adie patiently, “Come with me. I’ll take you to your parents.”

Adie finally picked up all the flowers and tied them up into a bouquet again, sweating and panting. When he found that Stefan was still there, he stared at him suspiciously and asked, “Have you really lost your memory?”

“So, you can talk?” Surprised, Stefan smiled.

“You’re a pretty interesting kid. I think you’re harder to handle than most adults.”

“I asked you a question. Have you really lost your memory?” Adie ignored Stefan’s teasing and asked Stefan urgently. He needed to know the answer.

“How did you know?” Raising his brows, Stefan questioned Adie curiously.

“Because you don’t know me,” Adie replied naturally.

“Should I... know you?” Stefan’s curiosity grew as he stared at the strange little boy.

“Yes, you should... but I won’t force you if you don’t want to.” Shrugging, Adie said indifferently, “After all, it’s the same whether you’re around or not; you’re just an ornament in our family.”

“Ahem!” Puzzled by Adie’s words, Stefan said to him, “Tell me who your mother is. I don’t know you but maybe I know her.”

“Renee!” Adie shot Stefan a disdainful glare.

“Don’t tell me you don’t know my mother either! Whether you lost your memory or not, you’d be a scumbag if you’ve forgotten someone so important to you!”

“Renee?” Stefan snorted and smiled sarcastically. “Well, of course I know her. She’s the reason why I’m staying here. Do you see the mark on my neck? She nearly strangled me to death.”

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“Let me see!” Adie walked over to Stefan and stood on tiptoe to inspect the purple bruises on his neck. After that, he nodded solemnly.

“Mommy was pretty harsh but... you deserved it because you’ve betrayed her.”

“I betrayed her?” Stefan asked in bewilderment, wondering how that statement made sense.

“Adie!” A voice called out, and Adie turned around to see Justin waving at him.

"Coming!" Adie grinned when he saw Justin and ran towards him, leaving Stefan standing there in confusion.

"Didn't your mommy tell you not to talk to bad guys? Stay far away from him." Justin rested a hand on Adie's head and glared at Stefan.

He had heard from Renee that Stefan had lost his memories of the twins too, so Stefan had no idea that Adie was his son. Renee had begged Justin to pretend to be Adie and Abby's father to avoid trouble, so Justin purposely tried to sound like he was Adie's father.

As expected, Stefan got the wrong idea, and his gaze turned cold as he scoffed, "I would have stayed away from him if I knew that he was Renee's son. It seems like he's just as dangerous as his mother." After that, Stefan shoved his hands into his pockets and left the garden. He didn't want to admit it, but an unexplainable anger burned inside him at the thought of Adie being Renee and Justin's son. He couldn't understand it at all.

Glancing at Stefan's back, Adie shook his head. "My mommy made the right decision in breaking up with him. He has mood swings, and his injured brain is making him so dumb. He wouldn't be able to make my mommy happy at all."

The little boy's maturity and seriousness amused Justin, and he burst out laughing.

"Kid, you're not even five, how would you know what mood swings are? You're even better at choosing men than women are. No... you're better at choosing men than your mommy."

"That's for sure!" Adie continued proudly,

"Daddy Liam is the only man who's passed my test, so you need to work harder."

"Huh? I need to work harder?" Justin didn't expect this to circle back to him. Smiling, he asked, "What should I change to be worthy of your mommy?"

"Firstly, you should be more sincere because you're always so casual and carefree," Adie said sharply as he pointed the bouquet at Justin.

"I'm not sincere enough? I poured my heart out for your mommy, isn't that enough?" Justin queried, feeling somewhat affronted.

"No, it's not!" Shaking his head, Adie said firmly, "You said you love my mommy but you never really gave her anything, and I didn't see your sincerity."

"About that..." Justin scratched his head awkwardly. "You might be right, but the problem is... I never had the chance to do it."

"No, you do!" Adie exclaimed seriously.

"Can you give me an example, Master Adie?" Justin asked Adie eagerly, wanting to know what he could do for Renee.

"It's very simple. Do you know what my mommy needs the most right now?" Adie asked mysteriously.