

Ex-Wife 1741

Chapter: 1741

After a few letters were read out, it was determined that Xavier and Santiago were the most popular male guests. Xavier got letters from Megan and Luna while Santiago got a letter from Angel.

Leia was the only one whose letter hadn't been read yet.

[It must be Xavier since they had such a fervent kiss on the boat. I'm sure they're a couple!]

[I think it's Santiago. Don't you know that Leia is Santiago's top fan?]

The netizens were arguing online, and the guests were very eager to see who her crush was too.

Skylar took out Leia's letter and grinned. "Hah! Let's see who Leia's taken a fancy to."

"Darling, I was charmed by your agility the first time I saw you. My heart beat fast every time I saw your radiance on TV ..." Skylar was reading out Leia's letter when everyone looked at Santiago.

Santiago was an actor, so he was probably the one Leia saw on TV. At that moment, Santiago's expression was soft, but Xavier's expression had turned murderous.

He was clenching his fists, looking like he was seconds away from strangling someone.

"I want to say that my first crush is you... Skylar. I hope we can get closer to each other in the next few episodes!" After Skylar read out the last few words, he looked flustered.

He scratched his head awkwardly and looked at Leia.

"Lei, I didn't expect you to be interested in me."

Everyone there was staring at Leia in disbelief. In the end, Leia's crush wasn't Xavier or Santiago... but Skylar? They'd barely even spoken!

[No, she must be fooling us!]

[She's just making a scene...]

[No, I'm all for XavLeia love!]

[But Leia likes Santiago more...]

The netizens were arguing again because they felt like Leia was just trying to fool everyone. However, Santiago was the calmest among them all, and he even looked a little happy.

Xavier's features were also more relaxed now, and he turned to Skylar with a fake smile.

"Well, well. I didn't expect you to swoop in when my back was turned."

Chapter: 1742

"Mr. Stuart, Lei's obviously making a joke. There's nothing between us. Please don't harm the innocent..." Skylar laughed nervously, desperately trying to get himself out of this mess.

Everyone knew that Xavier was targeting Leia, and anyone who got in his way would surely be in trouble.

Skylar couldn't afford to pay the price of snatching away a big shot's woman.

"Lei, I'm begging you. Please have mercy on me and write another letter," Skylar begged as he shoved the letter back into Leia's hands.

“You’re breaking my heart here, Skylar. I’m not messing with you. You were the Roacross Champion, and my heart raced when I saw you win that swimming match. Plus, the crew asked us to find someone we had taken a fancy to, so I didn’t do anything wrong,” Leia explained seriously.

It wasn’t a lie-she really did find Skylar mesmerizing when she watched his match, and she did admire him.

“Well, I can’t argue with that.” Skylar scratched his head awkwardly and sighed.

“I just did my best. If you like, I can take you swimming in the sea.”

“Sure! Let’s go snorkeling in front of my villa early tomorrow morning, okay?”

“Alright. You don’t have to worry about drowning since I’ll be there to protect you,” Skylar said with a confident grin.

“Yeah, it’ll be great having a merman like you around,” Leia said teasingly.

They started talking to each other like old friends, and it was clear to everyone there that the two got along well.

“Ahem!” Xavier didn’t see Skylar as a threat, but got jealous when he saw Leia happily chatting with Skylar.

Skylar immediately cleared his throat and said politely, “I’m sorry, Lei, I like someone else. Please pick another person.”

“It’s okay, we’re still in the process of choosing the person we like. Your crush can join us for snorkeling, I won’t mind,” Leia explained with a smile. She found Skylar very cute, so it was easy to flirt with him.

Besides, he was the safest bet since it wouldn’t complicate things with Santiago and Xavier.

“Really? Miss Osborne, you don’t mind going snorkeling with my crush and I tomorrow morning?” Skylar looked at Leia and asked innocently

“Of course not! I’m a generous person, you know. We’ll be a good trio,” Leia remarked mischievously. statement would make people hate her, but that was just how she was-outspoken and fun-loving.

“Okay, it’s a promise. We’ll go snorkeling as a group tomorrow. You’ll go, right?”

“Don’t worry, I’ll be there. I’ll be single forever if I don’t go.” Leia raised three fingers and vowed solemnly.

Chapter: 1743

Skylar nodded seriously and said, “Actually, my crush is Xavier. I’ll come out of the closet in front of everyone today.”

Leia’s jaw dropped. Raising his brows, Xavier beamed at Leia. “See you tomorrow.”

Leia gritted her teeth in frustration, wondering if this was another of Xavier’s schemes.

At that moment, Santiago spoke up, “Yes, a trio might be good, but it’s pretty boring. Why don’t I join you guys?” He looked at Xavier and smiled meaningfully.

“My crush is Miss Osborne, so I hope I can join tomorrow’s snorkeling.”

“Wow!” All the guests clapped enthusiastically.

“Things are getting serious... Mr. Dalton finally confessed his feelings!”

Leia’s carefree expression immediately disappeared and she blushed like a schoolgirl.

“Mr. Dalton... are you serious?”

“I never joke.” Santiago took out his love letter and read it passionately, “You’re like the full moon that I love, and your brightness never fades. I hope we can be with each other forever... Miss Osborne, you had me at hello. I’m not joking, and this isn’t for the show. I hope we can be a couple at last.” After that, he sincerely placed the letter in Leia’s hands.

It was supposed to be a romantic moment, but no one knew then that Leia was about to experience an unforgettable disaster...

There was a hazy kind of beauty to the island at dawn the next day.

Leia had a habit of going on morning runs, and tended to wake up when everyone was still asleep.

She ran around a hill surrounded by the sea for almost two kilometers, feeling good after sweating. She stood at the observation deck on the hillside and stared at the sea as she caught her breath. As she was stretching, Leia suddenly heard a voice behind her.

“Morning!” Leia turned around in surprise and saw Santiago.

“Mr. Dalton? What a coincidence! Did you come for a morning run too?” Leia waved at Santiago.

Inexplicably, Santiago’s fervent confession last night flashed in her mind, and her cheeks turned red. Leia pursed her lips and looked away, unsure of how to face him.

“It’s no coincidence...” Santiago looked charming with his white shirt, jeans, and messy hair.

He rested his hands on the railing and tilted his head to look at Leia, his intense gaze bewitching her.

“I learned the other day that you have a habit of going on morning runs, so I came out to meet you.”

He had woken up an hour earlier than Leia just to meet her, and the sun hadn't even risen when he climbed up the observation deck alone. When he saw the sun rise, painting the clouds orange and red from afar, he wished Leia was watching the enchanting scene with him.

Moved, Leia whispered, "But how did you know I would take this route? What if we didn't bump into each other?"

"Well, even if I didn't meet you, it would have been worth it to see this beautiful view." Santiago turned and stared out at the sea, then said gently, "I don't care about the destination, as long as I'm enjoying the journey. Plus... I did get to see you, didn't I?"

Tongue-tied, Leia felt her cheeks become warm as she smiled. He was right-the process mattered more than the result. She and Santiago seemed to share this mindset, while Xavier was the complete opposite. Xavier was a rich heir who enjoyed wealth and fame, and did well as a dominant figure in the business world. Everything he did had a purpose behind it. For him, the process didn't matter, as long as he got the result he wanted in the end.

"Mr. Dalton, the more time we spend together, the more I feel like we're very similar. It's almost like... we're soulmates." Leia smoothed her hair as she confessed her feelings for him.

She was no longer a fan admiring her idol-the feelings she felt for him were genuine.

"Well, that is a coincidence. I feel like we're soulmates too." Santiago beamed at Leia, looking like a handsome prince.

"Well, then we..."

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Leia scratched her head, not knowing what to do next.

"There's no rush, we have time. I know you wanted to mediate the conflict between Xavier and I when you chose Skylar last night, but I hope you'll follow your heart and pick the one you want tonight."

Santiago didn't want to pressure Leia, but he didn't like the vague relationship they had right now. He wanted to be with her in the open, and he also didn't know if Leia could withstand Xavier's flirtatiousness for much longer.

"Okay." Leia nodded firmly. "Til follow my heart tonight and won't waver again."

After spending this time with Santiago, she was more certain of her feelings. She wanted a relationship that was safe and peaceful, not an unstable roller-coaster ride.

Xavier was already awake when Leia and Santiago came down from the hill. Currently, he had the most points, and had chosen to exchange his house with Leia.

He had already moved his luggage to Leia's large villa, which came with two floors and four bedrooms facing the sea. If Leia was nice to him, he didn't mind giving her a room. That way, they could live under the same roof, and the thought of it made him grin.

However, his grin instantly disappeared when he saw Leia and Santiago walking over, sweating and chatting happily.

He scowled and demanded, "Where did you guys go?"

"That's none of your business, is it?" Leia sneered coldly.

"Fine, be that way. I was just wondering if I should give you a room in this villa, but now..." Xavier rubbed his chin, pretending to look thoughtful.

Confused, Leia retorted, "Are you a child? I don't mind the cottage since I'll only be staying there for a few days. After all, it has a nice view of the sky." She shrugged, amused by Xavier's childish behavior. He was acting like a rich kid who wouldn't befriend people who didn't pamper him.

Instantly, Xavier's confidence disappeared, and he didn't know what to do. He had planned to hold the villa as a bargaining chip, but now, Leia wasn't interested.

Annoyed, he smirked and said lightly, "That's true. To be honest, I can't bear to give that cottage up because that was where we laid in bed and watched the stars together. It was pretty romantic."

"Xavier!" Leia's jaw dropped and she glanced at Santiago guiltily.

However, Santiago just smiled and touched Leia's hair gently. "Come on, let's go and have breakfast before we go snorkeling. I heard that it's beautiful under the sea, and I hope that we can enjoy it together."

They went to a clear area near the island for snorkeling based on their agreement last night.

As they arrived at the island, Billy explained, "This island is called Heart Island because it's heart-shaped, and thanks to its crystal-clear water, a lot of coral reefs and tropical fish are visible while snorkeling. It's a breathtaking view, and if you're lucky, you might even find the special moonstone of this island. Yes... it's the kind of moonstone that lights up at night that we thought only existed in movies."

"Is there really a moonstone here?" Leia became excited when she heard that, and couldn't wait to go snorkeling.

She'd heard that Heart Island housed oysters that made beautiful pearls that could be sold for sky-high prices, but the moonstone Billy talked about had always been just a legend.

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According to the tales, people who found the moonstone on Heart Island would live a smooth and happy life, and if it was true, Leia wanted to find it and give it to Renee.

"Of course! An islander here saw it many years ago. Although it's very rare, it's there," Billy patted his chest and said confidently.

"What are we waiting for? Let's go!" Leia couldn't wait any longer and boldly suggested,

"Hey, why don't we go scuba diving instead? If we dive around five or six meters deep, we'll have a greater chance of finding the moonstone."

“Agreed.” Xavier raised his hand and said, “Snorkeling is fun and all, but we can explore more of the area if we go diving.”

“Same here. My lungs are pretty good, and I can hold my breath for a few minutes underwater.” Skylar raised his hand in agreement too.

He had earned the nickname ‘The Flying Fish’ from winning many swimming matches, so naturally, he wasn’t afraid of underwater activities.

Santiago was the only one who remained silent throughout the discussion.

“What do you think, Mr. Dalton? Do you want to go snorkeling or diving?” Billy asked Santiago, who was frowning uncomfortably.

“I... I’ll go with whatever Lei wants.” Santiago was worried because he’d had a middle ear surgery before and couldn’t withstand strong pressure. If he went any deeper than five meters underwater, it might be dangerous for him, but he reluctantly agreed to it because he didn’t want to miss a moment with Leia.

He’d always wanted to hold Leia’s hand and watch the starry sky with Leia in the sea, so he’d have to do this sooner or later.

“Okay, let’s sign the consent forms since you’ve all agreed to it. Anyone who finds the moonstone will get a thousand points and enjoy a beach dinner with his or her crush!” Billy declared excitedly.

Leia rolled her eyes and grumbled, “You guys really know how to spike the view count.”

After that, they went to the diving area and changed into their diving suits.

The diving instructor explained, “As you all know, we use a buddy system when diving because anything can happen underwater. In case of an accident, our buddy might just save our life, so make sure your dive buddy is someone you’d trust with your life.”

Xavier glanced at Santiago and sneered, "Til see you on the battlefield."

They had been fighting over Leia subtly, but this was the first time they would compete openly for her.

Dive buddies would rely on each other completely, and both of them wanted to be that person for Leia.

Naturally, Xavier wouldn't lose such an important position.

"I want Skylar to be my diving partner," Santiago ignored Xavier and said to the coach calmly. His words shocked both Xavier and Leia, Xavier even more so.

Chapter: 1746

"What the hell are you doing? You're trying to advance by retreating? What kind of strategy is that?" Xavier glared at Santiago and demanded,

"Why did you pick Skylar? We've finally got a chance to fight each other head-on, so why are you backing out now?"

Santiago glanced at Xavier in disdain and murmured, "I'll leave Lei in your hands for now, but you have to make sure she's safe."

Puzzled, Xavier watched as Santiago dove into the sea with Skylar after they had changed into their diving suits.

"He's mad!" Xavier scoffed, peeved that he was the only one on this metaphorical battlefield.

Santiago didn't even want to fight against him. He sighed and walked over to a dazed Leia, then said casually, "Let's get going then, dive buddy."

“I must be very unlucky to be paired up with you,” Leia grumbled, upset that she couldn’t go diving with Santiago.

She had wanted to explore the sea with him, hand in hand, but now she was stuck with Xavier. How could she entrust her life to an unreliable playboy like him? Why had Santiago backed away when they had just confessed their feelings to each other?

“Hey, don’t look down on me! I was once a diving champion, okay? Wait and see, I’ll find that moonstone for you!” Xavier growled,

figuring that if the moonstone really did exist, Leia would find it very romantic if he got it for her.

They dived into the sea one by one, and were spellbound. It was like a whole other world, and they could see many fish and coral reefs. If they were lucky, they might even encounter a jackfish storm.

Leia adjusted her mouthpiece and slowly dived deeper. As her dive buddy, Xavier followed her closely, keeping an eye on her. Santiago was also a few meters away from them, guarding them. He had kept his ear surgery hidden from the public, and as he dived deeper, his eardrums hurt terribly. Dismayed, he didn’t dive any deeper.

As Leia dived deeper, she suddenly saw a coral reef with many oysters. Some of them were slightly open, and she could see the warm luster of pearls gleaming inside them. Leia stared at the coral reef in awe, and suddenly saw something shining in the corner of the reef between some stones.

“Look!” Leia couldn’t speak clearly because of her mouthpiece, so she waved at Xavier excitedly. “It’s the moonstone!”

When Leia saw the moonstone, she quickly dived deeper.

“Slow down!” Worried, Xavier swam after her. The coral reefs were beautiful, but they were also sharp, and some were dangerous to touch.

However, Leia was behaving like an irrational child, excitedly pushing aside the corals like she had found a fun new toy. In her eagerness to find the moonstone for Renee to ensure her friend's peaceful life, she failed to see the silver creature lurking in the crevice above the moonstone.

Just as Leia was about to touch the moonstone, the creature emerged from its hole and bit the back of her hand. Leia shrieked and pulled her hand away quickly.

"It's a snake! It's a sea krait!" Xavier's mind went blank when he saw the sea snake bite Leia and swim away. He immediately swam to her and grabbed her hand.

Leia pointed at the moonstone excitedly, thinking it was just an insect that bit her. Not realizing the seriousness of the situation, she waved the moonstone at Xavier proudly, showing off her achievement.

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Xavier was furious at her for being so carefree, but he was also terrified because he knew how poisonous kraits were. Anxious, Xavier held Leia around the waist and quickly swam to the surface. Both Santiago and Skylar also realized that something was wrong, and followed them to the surface.

"I need help! Get a speedboat to send her to the hospital!" Xavier's face was pale as he yelled at Billy on the beach.

"What happened?" Santiago quickly swam to Leia and asked worriedly.

"Ugh, it's nothing. An insect bit me..." Leia showed him the bite mark, feeling like Xavier was overreacting. The truth was that she wouldn't feel anything yet because the venom took a while to act.

Ignoring their concern, Leia held up the moonstone and showed it off to everyone on the beach.

"Look! I found a moonstone... I..." Suddenly, her vision started to blur, and her hand started to feel numb. "What's going on? I... I can't feel my hand," Leia whimpered, starting to panic.

"Oh, now you're scared! It's the snake venom," Xavier snapped as he took off his diving suit and carried Leia.

“Snake venom?” Santiago was following them closely, and his body tensed up when he heard that. “Lei was bitten by a snake? Didn’t I ask you to take care of her? What did you do? I wouldn’t have given you the opportunity if I knew you were so unreliable!” Santiago was regretting letting Xavier be Leia’s dive buddy.

He thought that Xavier was reliable, but clearly he was wrong. Thanks to his error, Leia was in trouble. Xavier was walking quickly towards the beach, but he stopped when he heard Santiago’s words. He spun around, his eyes blazing.

“Who do you think you are? What right do you have to speak to me like that? Leia is my woman, and I’ll handle it if anything happens to her. I don’t need an outsider like you to judge me.”

Santiago’s eyes narrowed.

“Outsider?”

Santiago felt like Xavier was the most opinionated and arrogant man he had ever met. “Have you ever asked Lei what she wants? Who is the outsider here, you or me?” He approached Xavier angrily, wanting to take Leia from him.

At that moment, Leia was feeling weak, and her lips were pale. She looked at them and groaned, “Can you two stop fighting? I’m dying here! Hurry up... and get me to the hospital!” Too weak to hold on, she blacked out and lost consciousness.

When Leia woke up, she found herself lying on a hospital bed. Both Xavier and Santiago were sitting in front of her bed, and she could feel that the atmosphere between them was tense. However, the most important thing was that she was alive.

“Lei, you’re awake! Are you thirsty? I’ll get you some water.” When Santiago saw Leia open her eyes, his eyes lit up.

“Of course she’s thirsty, she’s been in a coma for two days! If you didn’t talk so much, she’d be drinking water by now,” Xavier snapped as he handed Leia a cup of warm water.

Leia wanted to reach out and take the cup, but found that she couldn't move her right hand. She looked at her hand in horror, realizing she couldn't feel it.

"My... My hand..." Numerous possibilities dawned on her, and her face went pale. Did the venom enter her bones and ruin her hand? Would it need to be amputated?

"Don't worry, your hand is okay. The numbness hasn't gone away because there's still venom in you," Santiago comforted Leia gently.

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"Oh, thank goodness... I was so scared." Leia breathed a sigh of relief, grateful that she could keep her hand.

Xavier carefully held the cup of water to Leia's lips for her to drink, and casually added, "Your hand could still be amputated if the venom isn't out of your system in twenty- four hours, or if the venom enters your nervous system."

"Pfft!" Leia spat the water out and gasped, "What... What did you say?" She stared at Xavier with wide eyes. She'd rather die than have her hand amputated!

"Didn't I make myself clear? You need to take care of yourself because there's still venom in your body." Xavier put the cup down and patted her head. He then huffed and scolded her, "You even cared so much about that moonstone. Don't be so careless next time."

People said it was tiring to take care of children but Xavier felt that it was more tiring to take care of Leia after that diving trip. He couldn't keep an eye on her at all, and she didn't even have the sense to keep her distance from the corals that could be housing poisonous creatures. Of course, she would be bitten by the sea snake.

"Oh yeah, where's my moonstone? I want to give it to Ren. Did you take my moonstone?" Leia asked anxiously, worried her efforts would have gone to waste.

Santiago pointed at a small box on the bedside cabinet and said dotingly, "Don't worry, I put it away for you. Your hand will be okay after the snake venom subsides; you'll be fine."

Leia's condition wasn't very serious because she was rushed to the hospital in time, and most of the venom in her body had already dissipated. There was only a small amount left around the bite mark, and it would only take a one-hour surgery to get rid of the venom. On the bright side, she wouldn't have to amputate her hand.

Leia felt slightly calmer after hearing Santiago's words." Ugh... When is the surgery? I want to call Ren."

"In two to three hours," Santiago replied. "The doctor said they'll put you under anesthesia to clear out the venom in your body, and you can't drink any more water after this until the surgery is done."

"Well, there's still time left..." Leia looked around.

"Where's my phone? I want to tell Ren I'm okay."

However, Xavier gently pushed her back down onto the bed and said, "Don't worry about her, she'll be taken care of."

"By whom? Don't tell me it's your scumbag buddy, Stefan!" Leia retorted rudely.

"I'll be more worried about her if he's around!" Her words made Xavier snort.

"Why do you hate Stefan so much? They're a match made in heaven, but they have a lot of obstacles to face along the way. It's not fair to label Stefan as a scumbag, is it?"

"He obviously is!" Leia burst out furiously.

"He cheated on Ren while they were still married to each other and got another woman pregnant! In the end, when he finally won Ren back, he got engaged to someone else. Isn't he a scumbag?"

“Well, Renee didn’t lay idle either. Didn’t she have a relationship with your brother, and Mr. Baldwin now too? And didn’t Stefan lose his sight and memories because of Renee?”

“Those were accidents and have nothing to do with Ren! It must be his karma since he’s done so many bad things.”

Chapter: 1749

“Don’t push it, Leia. You can insult me all you like, but don’t insult Stefan!”

“What’s the big deal? You insulted Ren too!”

Xavier and Leia argued with each other fiercely, just like they did in the past.

This had always been an issue between them, and when they were in a relationship, Xavier usually just shut Leia up by kissing her when she started arguing with him about it. He couldn’t deny that Stefan was a scumbag sometimes.

However, now that they had broken up, he could only cross his arms and glare at her grumpily.

“What’s the matter? You can’t deny that Stefan is a scumbag, huh?” Leia smiled victoriously as if she had won the lottery as Xavier silently fumed.

“Yes, Stefan did something bad but Renee still loves him very much. We can’t do anything about it...” Looking at Leia, Xavier said sarcastically, “At least she’s not like some people who can’t let small mistakes go, then cut people off and push people who love them away.”

Leia narrowed her eyes at Xavier suspiciously, feeling like he was talking about her.

Meanwhile, Santiago just watched the both of them unhappily. He felt like an outsider when Leia and Xavier bickered with each other like this, and they looked like an old couple arguing with each other.

Somehow, Leia seemed to let down her guard and be her true self with Xavier, but whenever she was with him, it was like she was wearing a mask.

Although they got along well, she never seemed like herself. Even though Leia was affectionate towards Santiago, he was jealous of Xavier for getting to see Leia's true self.

"Your phone is here. I think you can call your friend if you're really worried about her."

Santiago handed Leia her phone, effectively interrupting Xavier and Leia's argument.

"Thank you, Mr. Dalton. You're the best!" Leia stopped arguing with Xavier and beamed, then used her left hand to call Renee.

"If you really think so, stop calling me Mr. Dalton..." Santiago muttered unhappily, then said, "You can call me Santiago or even Santi."

"Ah, I..." Leia could tell that Santiago was upset, and she didn't know how to respond.

"Mr. Dalton is how my fans address me, but you're not my fan anymore, so can you call me Santi from now on?" Although Santiago was asking Leia, his firm tone made it clear that he wouldn't take no for an answer.

"Okay... Santi." Leia turned beet red as she said it. Shyness overwhelmed her, and she felt like she was in a TV drama. Calling Santiago 'Mr. Dalton' was normal, but calling him 'Santi' suddenly seemed incredibly intimate.

Xavier frowned and scoffed enviously, "Did you guys forget I'm here? And Santi... How disgusting! Don't tell me this is some kind of game between you two."

"It's none of your business! Get lost if you don't want to hear it," Leia snapped at Xavier, then realized that Renee wasn't answering the phone. She called her a few more times, but still couldn't reach Renee.

Chapter: 1750

“What’s going on? Why isn’t Ren picking up my calls? There’s something wrong.” Leia’s frown deepened and she felt anxious.

Renee should be at the hospital now, and she would definitely have her phone with her to pass the time. If she wasn’t answering her phone, it meant something was wrong.

“I have to go to the hospital to see Ren. Something must have happened to her!” Leia pushed her blanket aside to get out of bed.

“Just stop! Please!” Xavier pressed her down onto the bed again. “Nothing will go wrong, okay? Renee’s good at martial arts, so you’re worrying for nothing. Besides, you’ll be going in for surgery in an hour.”

“But...” Xavier sighed exasperatedly. “I’ll ask Stefan to check on her if you’re that worried.”

Renee woke up in a large bed in a strange white room. She looked around in confusion, wondering if she was in a morgue.

“You’re finally awake. You were in a coma for three days because the drug I used was too strong. I actually thought you’d stay that way forever...” A woman’s indifferent voice came from the window, sounding as if life and death were nothing to her.

Renee immediately turned towards the woman standing at the window, then frowned. “It’s... you.” It was the woman who had snuck into Renee’s ward the other night.

“I’m honored you remember me,” Eloise scoffed sarcastically, as she tended to a bouquet of sunflowers beside the window. She took a pair of scissors and cut the stems of the sunflowers she had just picked, carefully placing them into the vase. It looked very beautiful.

“The master said sunflowers are your favourite, which is why he ordered me to plant sunflowers in the garden. Now, they’re all in bloom, but he can’t even see them. It’s just like his unrequited love-beautiful but unnoticed. What a shame...” Eloise said softly, her gaze cold as she cut off the stems of the flowers angrily.

"Are you talking about... Jovan?" Renee instantly knew who Eloise meant since there was nobody else she knew that fit that description.

"You still remember him? Hmph, looks like his sacrifices aren't wasted after all..." Eloise's hatred for Renee subsided a little when she heard that.

"Is it really Jovan?" Renee asked excitedly, wanting to move the blanket aside to get out of bed. To her horror, she found that couldn't move her body at all. She glared at Eloise and demanded, "What did you do to me?"

"Don't worry, it's just a numbing drug that will paralyze you for a while," Eloise said casually.

Sweat beaded Renee's forehead and she winced in pain. She couldn't move her lower body, no matter how hard she tried. Feeling defeated, she finally stopped struggling. "Did Jovan ask you to do this? Does he want to take revenge on me?"

"No, he loves you too much for that. He gave up his eyes and blood for you, remember? He can't bear to hurt you, so there's no way he'd want to take revenge on you. All of this is my idea." Eloise got up and walked over to Renee, wrapping her fingers around her jaw and lifting her head.

She stared into her eyes and sneered, "I can't bear seeing him hiding in this isolated estate for your sake, considering the kind of man he used to be. He just indulges in his despair now, like moss growing in the dark... But what about you? So many men dote on you, but have you ever thought about the one man who's in pain because of you?"

"I've wronged Jovan." Renee looked away, clenching her fists. "So many things have been happening lately, and I haven't had the time to look for him. It's my fault."

"Hmm... You didn't have the time to look for my master, but you had the time to meet Stefan every night. You had the time to bicker with Mr. Baldwin and chat with Mr. Osborne. You were really busy... so much so that you forgot about my master," Eloise snarled, wrapping her fingers around Renee's pale throat and strangling her.

“Did you know that my master came up with countless methods to kill himself while you were with Stefan? His wrists were full of cuts, and no matter where I hid the razor blades, he’d find them. He used to be so strong, but now he’s weak and fragile. Do you even know what he’s been through?”