

Ex-Wife 1751

Chapter: 1751

Renee's eyes widened in surprise, and she slowly stopped resisting. She stared up at Eloise solemnly as she strangled her, and her vision soon started to blur.

"Hmph, I won't let you die so easily," Eloise let go of Renee and said coldly. "I brought you here to atone for your sins."

Renee coughed as her lungs filled with air again. Gasping, she asked Eloise, "How... do you want me to do that?"

"It's simple-I want you to give your eyes to him," Eloise said directly. "I've been trying to find him a pair of eyes that his body would accept, and finally, I found the answer when I saw your medical report. Turns out your eyes are pretty special, and since you owe him a favour, I'm sure it's not too much to ask for you to give them to him, right?"

Renee was silent for a long time, then she finally whispered, "Can my eyes really match his body?"

When Stefan was blind back then, she'd also tried to find a pair of eyes that suited him, but Jovan's were the only match since they were related. At that moment, she had wanted Stefan to recover so desperately that she had harmed Jovan for nothing.

Jovan's sacrifices weighed on her conscience so heavily that they suffocated her, so she was more than willing to give her eyes to Jovan in exchange for her peace of mind.

"Of course, the doctor checked your medical information thoroughly. Your success rate is the highest, which is why I went through all that trouble to kidnap you and bring you here." Staring at Renee icily, Eloise asked, "I'm curious... Are you really willing to give up your eyes to him?"

"Yes, I am," Renee replied immediately.

Eloise raised her brows in surprise. "That was fast. I wouldn't have spent so much effort to get those numbing drugs if I knew you'd agree that easily. They were quite pricey, you know."

"When is the surgery?" Renee asked bluntly.

"In three days," Eloise answered.

"Okay." Renee nodded and added, "Can you give me back my phone?"

"Your phone?" Eloise scoffed. "Do you think I'm stupid? I'm not going to give you the chance to contact someone; I can't expose this secret manor."

"Then you'll have to think of a way to tell my family and friends that I'm safe. If you don't, they'll search all over the city to find me... and then things will get out of hand."

Eloise looked at Renee suspiciously, not believing that someone could be that foolish. "Are you really willing to give up your eyes for him and help cover for us?"

"Willing or not, I owe it to Jovan." Renee sighed and added, "I don't have to let them know if you don't trust me, but you'll just have to figure out how to deal with them when this becomes a bigger mess."

Renee wasn't bluffing Eloise-she genuinely wanted to resolve this. She'd always felt guilty because of Jovan's sacrifices, and when night fell, that uneasiness would play on her mind. She always wondered if he was living in despair or had fallen into his enemies' hands ... or if he was dead. Thinking of all those possibilities hurt her and gave her restless nights. She no longer wanted that kind of life; she wanted to repay Jovan.

"How are you going to tell them that you're safe?" Eloise asked carefully.

"I'll post on Facebook..." Smiling, Renee explained, "People in danger wouldn't think of posting something on social media, so I'm sure my family and friends won't suspect a thing."

Chapter: 1752

"Is that all?" Eloise felt that she could accept that.

“Yes, that’s more than enough.” Renee nodded. Quinton was busy looking for Chase at sea, Leia was shooting a reality show on an island, and Justin had returned to North City to handle some family affairs... Renee felt that they wouldn’t notice something was off. If they saw her post something online, they’d definitely assume she was safe.

“Sure. I’ll let you post a status.” After brief contemplation, Eloise added, “Til use my phone to log into your social account. Give me the picture and caption, and I’ll post it as your status. Is that okay?”

Raising her brows, Renee replied, “No problem.” Looking around, Renee pointed at the sunflower bouquet by the bed and suggested, “Give me those flowers. I’ll snap a photo of them.”

Knowing that Renee couldn’t trick her, Eloise agreed and gave Renee the bouquet.

Renee held the flowers and made a peace sign as she beamed and took a selfie. “The picture is on your phone. As for the caption... Just write ‘you’re the only one I love’,” Renee said slowly.

“What does that mean? Is it some kind of code?” Eloise demanded suspiciously.

“Yes, it’s a code, but it’s what the sunflower means. People will just ignore it since it’s a very popular statement,” Renee explained patiently, wanting to post an ordinary status so she wouldn’t raise anyone’s suspicions.

“Okay, I’ll post your status later. Log in to your account first.” Eloise fished out her phone and let Renee log into her social account.

After taking Eloise’s phone, Renee logged in to her social account and gave her full cooperation. She could’ve easily called for help, but didn’t feel like doing so.

Eventually, Eloise grew to believe Renee, much to her surprise. “I didn’t imagine that you would really give up your eyes. No wonder my master loves you so much... A woman like you really is worthy of the sacrifices he’s made.”

"Is that a compliment?" Looking at Eloise, Renee smiled. "I'm not a good person-I just hate the idea of owing someone."

"Maybe he wants that... but I won't let him be a fool any longer." Heaving a long sigh, Eloise continued, "It doesn't matter who owes who, he's the only one suffering here. If this surgery is successful, I hope he'll be more ruthless and force you to be with him. That was how he used to do things."

Eloise had been trained by Jovan's parents since she was young and would only serve Jovan alone. She was willing to do anything for him, especially since he knew that a neutral person like him would only be successful if they were ruthless.

When he decided he wanted to do something good, he always went overboard, which was what had happened when he gave up his eyes. Eloise felt that she was at fault because she hadn't kept a close watch on him, so she couldn't let him go down the wrong path anymore.

She had to push him to become the person he used to be- cunning and confident.

Renee looked rather forlorn as she asked Eloise, "How did Jovan spend his days?"

"Hah! What could a weak, blind man do?" Eloise scoffed and shook her head.

"Mostly, he just likes spending time in the garden, quietly enjoying the smell of the flowers. He used to be so bright and active before this."

"It's all my fault." Renee kept her head hung. "I hope he can get better."

Chapter: 1753

At night, Eloise left the room Renee was in, which was actually the basement of the manor. The manor was built on high ground, so sunlight could still get in from the window, but the people living upstairs couldn't hear anything from the basement because they were three stories above it. That was why Jovan had no idea that he had been living under the same roof as Renee for the past three days.

The moon was shining brightly on that cold night, and Jovan was sitting at the manor's balcony, feeling the cool breeze on his face.

As always, sadness weighed deep in his bones, and time seemed to have stood still during these days without light. The only way he could tell if it was morning or night was by the wind that blew through the manor.

"It's getting late, Mr. Hunt, and it's quite cold tonight. Should I help you back to your room to rest?" Eloise placed a blanket on Jovan and suggested tenderly.

"Let me sit here for a little longer," Jovan murmured and raised his face to the sky.

"Can you tell me if it's a full moon today?"

"It is, and the moon is shining bright."

"It's a shame I didn't watch the moon more before I lost my sight." Jovan sighed regretfully, thinking back on all the things he had lost.

Sadness engulfed Eloise at the sight of Jovan, and tears silently rolled down her cheeks. "You've changed so much because of that woman, Mr. Hunt. You weren't this pessimistic in the past..."

"No, I didn't change because of her. This is how I am, and I just became more like myself after I met her." Jovan's blank gaze seemed to soften at the mention of Renee.

"You're wrong!" Eloise argued frustratedly, "You once said that love was the most meaningless thing in the world, that it would only tie you down and weaken you! You had actually defeated Stefan back then, and if you had just been more ruthless, you would have been heading Hunt Enterprise, but... you became a fool for that woman, and gave up your blood and eyes to Stefan. He's out and about now, but we have to cower in a corner and lick our wounds. Even something simple like looking at the moon is unobtainable, and it just makes me so mad!"

Jovan slowly clenched his fists, unable to deny it. Eloise was right-in the past, he was rational and never let love blind him. In fact, he used to laugh at all those lovestruck fools, feeling that they would amount to nothing because they gave up so much for the sake of love.

Unexpectedly, he had now become the very person he had once despised.

"Would you make the same choice if you were given a second chance, Mr. Hunt?" Eloise asked carefully.

"I don't know," Jovan replied honestly. "People will only do stupid things for love once in their lives. I've already done it, and I don't know whether I would do it again if given the chance. Who knows? Maybe I'd become a villain and defeat Stefan so I could make Renee mine. Haha!" Jovan chuckled, knowing that was how he used to be.

He had no idea why he had chosen to save Stefan back then, willingly throwing himself into this endless abyss just to give Renee peace of mind.

"Umm... Would you be willing to try if you had the chance?" Eloise continued slowly.

"What do you mean?" Jovan frowned and turned to her.

"I've been keeping something from you lately. Your parents and I were looking for suitable eyes for you all over the world, and recently, we just found a pair. If you'd like, we can arrange the transplant for you," Eloise explained.

She had to get his consent for the surgery, because if he disagreed, everything would be pointless. He was different now, so Eloise and Jovan's parents didn't know if he would agree to such a drastic change.

Chapter: 1754

"I'm going to have eye surgery?" Jovan's face lit up in eagerness, and it was like watching a wilted flower come back to life.

"Yes, it's scheduled to take place in three days, and a specialist will come to the manor to perform the surgery. What do you think?"

"The eyes are a match to my body?" Jovan was still in disbelief. "My parents have been searching for ages, but they never found anything. Did they really finally succeed?"

"Maybe fate feels that you've suffered enough," Eloise said vaguely.

"Can you tell me more about the donor? Is it a man or a woman? Is the donor a Hunt too?" Although Jovan was elated, he was still cautious. Nothing in life was free, after all.

"Well... that..." Eloise trailed off, not expecting Jovan to be concerned with who the donor was. She thought about it for a while, then casually lied, "It's a poor female student. When she saw our advertisement, she submitted her check-up report, and we found her suitable." If Jovan learned that the donor was Renee, the very person he risked his life to protect, there was no way he'd agree to the surgery.

"Oh, a poor female student..." Jovan didn't doubt it-there were many people who were forced to give up their bodies or organs just to survive.

"Pay her well if she really agrees to do it. In fact, I'm willing to be responsible for her and her family for the rest of their lives," Jovan declared righteously. Although he wasn't generous by nature, he would repay others kindness so he wouldn't owe them anything.

"Don't worry, we'll get it done. Does that mean you're willing to undergo the surgery?" Eloise didn't expect things to go so smoothly, and her eyes shone with delight.

"Why not?" Jovan frowned. "I'm not a masochist, and who would want to be blind? If I regain my sight, I'll have the confidence to go back and make her stay with me!"

"Umm, the first thing you'll do when you regain your sight is snatch Ms. Everheart back, right?"

"Of course!" Jovan said firmly, then continued, "I've become more certain of my feelings for her, and I don't regret my decision. I won't give up a chance to be with her."

“Well... I hope everything will go well.” Eloise tried to keep her tone calm, wondering how he would feel if he knew that the donor was Renee. He’d definitely go mad and regret having the surgery, but Eloise had no choice.

She and Jovan’s parents couldn’t bear to see Jovan in such low spirits anymore. Jovan could only make it up to Renee after he grew stronger.

Besides, Renee owed him his sight since she had been the reason he lost it anyway. Jovan’s sacrifices for Stefan had caused him a lot of suffering.

“Can you arrange for me to meet that female student before the surgery? I would like to thank her in person.” Jovan was looking forward to the surgery, and sincerely wanted to thank the benefactor who would give him a new life.

“Umm...” Eloise hesitated, not knowing how to turn Jovan down.

Jovan immediately picked up on Eloise’s hesitation and asked, “What’s wrong? Is it inconvenient?”

“No, it’s just that... Is it really necessary that you meet her?” Eloise initially wanted to come up with an excuse to reject his request, but he would surely get suspicious if she kept saying no.

“Of course,” Jovan said earnestly. “She’s going to bear the suffering I’ve been going through for the rest of her life if she gives her eyes to me. She’ll practically be giving me a new life, so of course I have to meet my benefactor.”

Chapter: 1755

“Okay, I’ll arrange a meeting for the both of you then...” Eloise felt it was best that she let Jovan meet Renee for a while before the surgery to erase any suspicions.

“I’ll ask her to come to the manor at ten o’clock tomorrow morning so the both of you can talk.”

“You’ve done well, Elly.” It was the first time Jovan praised Eloise openly. He turned his face towards the sky and took in a deep breath, feeling like freedom was already in his grasp. “I’ll be able to see the moon in a few days.”

Eloise pushed Jovan back to his room and waited for him to fall asleep, then went to the basement again.

Renee was still paralyzed from the waist down, but remained calm. She looked as if she was patiently waiting for the surgery.

“I’ve just spoken to Mr. Hunt, and he’s agreed to undergo the surgery in three days. However, I... didn’t tell him that you’re the donor,” Eloise explained to Renee.

Renee opened her eyes and looked up at the white ceiling, smiling bitterly. “Of course, you can’t tell him. He won’t say yes if he knows it’s me. After all, he only agreed to give up his sight for my sake.”

“You’re right. You’ll just be returning Mr. Hunt’s favor. As for the rest, it’s between you and Stefan. He should be held responsible for you since he owes you a pair of eyes,” Eloise said rather sharply. Although she was surprised by Renee’s consent, she hadn’t forgiven her entirely. After all, it was Renee who had put Jovan in this position in the first place.

“I don’t need anyone to be held responsible for me because I caused it. I’ll be responsible for myself.” Renee had never thought of asking Stefan for help after giving up her eyes.

In fact, she had already studied Braille in case she ever needed to return Jovan’s favor one day. She had been through many hardships, so even if she lost her sight, she knew she would still make a name for herself.

“You’re quite a rational person. No wonder Mr. Hunt is so obsessed with you.” Eloise stared at Renee curiously, feeling that she was quite an exceptional person. Many people would have gone crazy at the thought of losing their sight, and they would surely try to run away, but it seemed like Renee had accepted her fate and would take charge of her life nonetheless.

“With all this bad luck I have, I have no choice but to be optimistic,” Renee smiled and said calmly.

Eloise felt her suspicions fade, and told Renee, "Mr. Hunt wants to meet the donor and talk to her. I already set the time for tomorrow morning, so could you... pretend to be a poor female student?" Eloise could always get a female student to act, but she felt that it would be a great regret if they didn't meet.

"Sure." Renee was looking forward to it. "I'll lose my sight in three days; I won't have any regrets if I get to see the outside world before then."

Pity engulfed Eloise when she saw how despondent Renee was.

"Listen, I don't want to do this either but the problem is there aren't any suitable eyes for Mr. Hunt except yours. It's our only option."

"Don't worry about it. I told you that it's what I owe to Jovan, and I'm willing to return the favor."

"Fine, you both will meet tomorrow morning then," Eloise said and breathed out a weary sigh.

Renee had a restless night, her mind plagued with worries, and on the other side of Beach City, the same thing was happening to Stefan.

Xavier had told Stefan that he couldn't get through to Renee's phone, so Stefan had tried calling Renee too. When he couldn't reach her either, uneasiness filled him. However, he soon saw her Facebook status-a photo of her holding sunflowers and smiling tenderly with the caption 'You're the only one I love'.

Chapter: 1756

Stefan knew that was what sunflowers meant, but he couldn't help but feel like it was Renee confessing her love for him on the Internet.

Why had she posted that? Was she trying to give him a hint? Being the arrogant person he was, Stefan commented on Renee's status for the first time.

[Where are you?]

However, Renee didn't reply to his comment. Stefan knew it was logical since they were no longer a part of each other's lives, but Stefan couldn't accept it. He felt that something was amiss. It was two o'clock in the morning, but he still called his assistant.

"Elijah, help me track down Renee's current location."

Rubbing his eyes, Elijah stifled a yawn and said helplessly, "I'm an assistant, Mr. Hunt, not a hacker. How am I supposed to find her location from a Facebook status?"

"I don't care what you do, but I want her location before dawn." After that, Stefan ended the call and went to sleep.

Elijah stared at his phone, wondering what he had done wrong.

The next morning, Jovan had woken up early and let Eloise shave his beard. He changed into an expensive outfit, and looked so energetic and bright that you wouldn't be able to tell he was blind.

The appointed location was the outdoor garden on the top floor of the manor. It was quiet and peaceful, and had a nice view of the entire manor. It was also the place Jovan liked best.

"Is she here?" Jovan asked anxiously as he sat down on the chair.

"Yes, she's here." Eloise pulled Renee to the balcony. She wasn't worried that Renee would try to escape or expose her true identity to Jovan; she would have done that long ago if she really wanted to.

"Where is she?" Jovan asked Eloise eagerly.

"She's sitting in front of you. Just take your time and talk to her..." Eloise patiently explained.

There were two lounge chairs and a small tea table on the balcony. Both Jovan and Renee sat across from each other, tea and fruits on the table between them.

“Please leave us alone, Elly,” Jovan ordered Eloise, who was standing nearby.

“Just ignore me, Mr. Hunt. I won’t disturb you.” Eloise wasn’t worried about Renee, but she was scared Jovan might realize something, given how smart he was. Letting them meet was already very risky.

“It’s not about whether you’ll disturb me or not, I’m just not used to having a third person around if I’m going to chat with someone.”

“But...”

Chapter: 1757

“Are you going to disobey me?” Jovan’s tone was calm but menacing.

“Okay, I... I’ll go make tea for you both.” Naturally, Eloise didn’t dare to disobey Jovan. She retreated obediently but shot Renee a desperate look before leaving.

Renee nodded slightly to reassure Eloise.

After Eloise left, Jovan and Renee were the only ones on the spacious balcony.

The sunlight was warm because they were on the rooftop of the manor, and the occasional breeze was somewhat soothing.

“What’s your name?” Jovan asked softly as he faced her.

The breeze toyed with Renee’s hair as she looked at him and replied, “Brisa Stone. My name is... Brisa Stone.” During her time as a special agent, she’d learned how to change her voice, so she altered her tone to sound like an innocent female student so Jovan wouldn’t find her out.

"Brisa Stone..." Jovan said slowly, then smiled.

"It's a rather refreshing name. I'm sure you're a bright person. Have you ever considered what you'll face after you give your eyes to me?"

"Yes, of course." Renee felt relaxed as she stared at the mountains in the distance.

They said the eyes were the windows of the soul, so would her soul be trapped forever when she lost hers?

"I'm a person who's very curious about the world, and I want to see every part of it. If I lose my eyes, I'll spend the rest of my life in darkness. It's... it's a horrible thought."

Renee's tone was melancholy.

"Why do you want to sell your most important organ then? You can earn money through other ways, you know. You don't have to do something like this that will ruin your life." Jovan frowned, looking confused.

XxRenee smiled then said solemnly, "It's because I think poverty is more horrible than having one's soul trapped. The worst that could happen if I lose my sight is that I'd feel bored, but poverty can actually kill people!"

"How much do you need? I can give you the money, then you don't have to sell your eyes to me," Jovan said suddenly.

"Huh?" Renee's smile froze on her face, and she was caught off guard by his offer.

"Are you surprised?" Jovan clasped his hands together and said honestly, "I know how it feels since I'm experiencing it. I know how devastating it is to lose your sight, so I don't want anyone to suffer such agony unless they have no other option."

Renee cleared her throat and said awkwardly, "I heard that you're pretty aloof, so why would you rather stay in hell than have someone else suffer?"

"Don't get me wrong; I just don't want you to go down the wrong path since you're so young."

Chapter: 1758

"Then I won't," Renee said firmly, then added, "I want money, and I can get that money by selling my eyes. I won't turn down such an offer."

"I told you I can give you the money," Jovan said seriously.

"No, that won't do!" Renee felt anxious, wondering if Jovan had sensed something. Stubbornly, she continued, "I might be poor, but I don't need others charity. I'd feel guilty if I took your money without giving you something in return. I hate owing others."

"You hate owing others..." Jovan murmured, sadness tainting his tone. "An old friend of mine she was forced to owe me a big favor. If it's possible, I hope it'll stay that way."

"Umm... Why?" Renee blinked in confusion.

"It's a lifelong shackle if she owes me a favor." Jovan laughed at himself for being such a fool. "At least she'll never forget me that way."

"I see. Well, that's what you think." Renee felt uneasy. She didn't understand why Jovan loved her so deeply, and why he was willing to sacrifice so much just for the sake of having a connection to her.

"You think I'm stupid, don't you?" Jovan's gaze was complicated. "I had a lot of ways to make her mine, and I was by no means a gentleman, but... I don't know why I couldn't do it when it came to her. I couldn't bear to see her sad or desperate; I would be sad too if she were. It was so strange." Jovan shook his head in agitation, then reached for his cup of coffee. He felt around, not knowing where Eloise had put it.

“Here.” Renee took his cup and handed it to him kindly, and their fingers brushed. Jovan’s body jolted like he had been struck by electricity, and his eyes grew wide in disbelief. “It’s... you?”

Panicked, Renee pulled her hand back and accidentally knocked over Jovan’s cup of coffee.

“I’m sorry!” Renee hurriedly used a handkerchief to wipe up the spilled coffee, but in her panic, she forgot to modify her voice.

Jovan immediately became suspicious and grabbed Renee’s wrist. “Who are you?”

“Didn’t I tell you, Mr. Hunt? I’m Brisa Stone! Don’t get handsy with me—I’m just selling my eyes, not my body!” Renee said teasingly as she tried to pull away, knowing she had to stay calm. If she panicked, she would give herself away.

“Brisa Stone?” Jovan’s gaze was void but his expression was alert. “Is that a name you just made up? Are you really... not my old friend?”

“Which old friend of yours do you think I am, Mr. Hunt?” Renee calmly asked him.

“You feel like her...” Jovan frowned contemplatively, then shook his head. “But it’s impossible. She should be spending happy days with the one she cares about now. She wouldn’t remember a useless man like me.”

“Don’t say that.” Renee felt sorry for Jovan, and said earnestly, “I don’t think she’ll feel that way since she’s so important to you. Maybe she’s not being lovey-dovey with someone else, and you’re always on her mind.”

“I’m always on her mind?” Shaking his head, Jovan chuckled bitterly. “I know my place well—there’s no way she’d think about me. It doesn’t matter anyway; I’m just happy that I could have half a year with her in exchange for my eyes and health.”

An unusually tender expression softened his icy features as he thought about his time with Renee.

"Though it was brief, the time we spent together was so precious. I used to lie to myself and pretend we were a married couple back then." He let out a soft sigh, then continued forlornly, "Unfortunately, I was useless back then because I couldn't see or walk. There were even days when I wanted to kill myself, but her support and company made me realize how wonderful it was to be alive."

Chapter: 1759

"You..." Renee exhaled deeply and said, "You love her so much, but I don't think she deserves it." Jovan's passionate love scared her because she knew that she had only stayed with him out of guilt. Sometimes, she became impatient and wanted to leave, but unexpectedly, even those days were unforgettable memories for Jovan.

The thought filled her with shame and guilt, and she grew even more determined to donate her eyes to Jovan.

"It's getting late. We're going to have the surgery the day after tomorrow. You should rest well, and I'll... do the same." Renee wiped away her tears and got up to leave.

Sensing the direction of where she was standing, Jovan reached out and grabbed her wrist. "Are you really not my old friend?" He knew that the possibility was slim, but she felt so familiar.

The girl clearly had a different voice, but Jovan didn't know why he felt like he was talking to Renee.

"I would have come to you ages ago if I was, Mr. Hunt. I don't think your friend would hide her identity," Renee lied, her heart pounding in her chest.

"No, she might. That's why I dare to hope that... maybe you're her."

"You're overthinking—I'm not her. Plus, I'm willing to give up my eyes for money. What would your old friend want if she gave up her eyes for you?"

"She..." Jovan trailed off, not knowing how to respond. Renee had children, a successful business, as well as countless possibilities with Stefan. There was no way she would give up her wonderful life to save a villain like Jovan.

His expression turned cold again, and he muttered, "Go then; we'll meet again the day after tomorrow. After the surgery, you can tell me how much you want. I'll be responsible for you and your family."

"Thank you, Mr. Hunt. I won't have to worry anymore thanks to you." Renee casually patted Jovan's chest and left the balcony.

Meanwhile, Eloise was wringing her hands and pacing worriedly downstairs. When she saw Renee descend the stairs, she immediately went to her.

"How did it go? Did he figure out who you were?"

"Almost."

"And then?"

"I managed to fool him." Renee looked at the balcony and sighed.

"He's a really loyal man, and I don't deserve his love. I'll always feel guilty if I don't return his eyes to him."

"Well... thank you then." Eloise's eyes glistened with tears.

"I'll return to the basement if there's nothing else for me to do," Renee said softly.

"I'm sorry..." Eloise said, feeling ashamed. She had used extreme means to kidnap Renee because she thought that Renee would be difficult and ungrateful, but it seemed like the woman Jovan fell in love with was no ordinary person. She had been overly critical and judgmental of Renee, who didn't deserve it.

Eloise sighed and said, "By the way, I think you should take your phone back. You have a lot of missed calls. You can either reply to them or not... You can always leave if you don't want to do this." After thinking it through, she felt that Renee had to do this willingly. If not, Jovan would dig his eyes out instead of enjoying his sight.

"Sure." Renee felt that her friends and family might get suspicious if she didn't speak to them. She had to let them know that she was safe so everything could run smoothly. Eloise returned Renee's phone to her, and it started beeping the moment she turned it on. Renee's eyes widened at the amount of missed calls and texts she received. There were missed calls from Margaret, Quinton, and Leia, but the person who had called her the most was... Stefan.

Renee felt her heart skip a beat, and then her phone suddenly started to ring. It was Stefan calling, and after hesitating briefly, she answered the phone.

"Finally! I thought you were dead!" Stefan bellowed through the phone, seething with anger.

Renee winced and put her phone away from her ear. "Why did you call me? Are we that close?"

"No, we're not close..." Stefan chuckled, then said smugly, "We're just friends who slept with each other once. You're right, I shouldn't be acting like a busybody."

"Clearly, you have nothing else better to do." Blushing, Renee snapped, "Tell me why you called, or I'm going to hang up."

"Wait!" Stefan blurted out, then quickly asked, "Where are you now? Who are you with? Are you safe?"

"How is that any of your business? All you need to know is that I'm safe. If I wasn't, I wouldn't have the time to speak to you on the phone, would I?" Renee tried to speak calmly to eliminate Stefan's doubts.

"Really?" Stefan was naturally cautious, so he didn't trust Renee. "No, I won't believe you... unless you have a video call with me."

"What? No way! We're not even friends, so what right do you have to check up on me?"

"I'm not checking up on you, I'm just worried about you." Stefan sighed, then said urgently,

"Just tell me where you are. Do you need my help?"

"Listen, I'll tell you one last time-I'm at my old friend's house. We have a good relationship, and I have a very good life. You don't have to worry about me. If you have that much time on your hands... you'd better worry about yourself. " At first, Renee wanted to end the call, but she soon remembered what Adie had said to her the other day.

"What do you mean? Do you know something?" Stefan immediately asked, sensing that something was wrong.

"No, I don't, but... I can tell you from experience that one's partner can be the one that hurts them the most. Master Hunt, I heard that you're a loyal and loving man. You love Miss Seraphina wholeheartedly, but I heard that she might not be the person you think she is. You'd better be careful." Renee felt that was the best she could do.

If something went wrong with Stefan's brain surgery, it would be a result of his deliberate ignorance, and he would just reap what he had sown.

"Seraphina?" Frowning, Stefan asked, "When did you meet her?"

"We didn't meet; this is just a reminder. Just forget what I said if you don't want to know." Renee felt like she was getting too involved, so she said indifferently, "Okay, I'm going to have tea with my friend now. Bye." She quickly ended the call and sighed deeply, feeling ashamed at how she had reacted to him.