

Ex-Wife 1951

Chapter 1951

Leia complained, "Ren, I get that you're in love with the iron hook, but we have to get out of here." Renee's attention had been fixed on that iron hook all night.

"Iron hook..." The dark figure stopped, his voice shaky as he mumbled, "My Jayla died miserably. I've got to kill you... I've got to kill all of you!" Seemingly triggered by the mention of the iron hook, the figure held up the chainsaw and rushed towards them. He roared at them, "Give me the iron hook! Give it to me now, or I'll cut you with my chainsaw!"

"Why do you need it?" Leia swallowed, about to hand the hook to him.

"No, don't give it to him!" Renee snatched it from Leia and hid it behind her. "Since he insists on having this, it must be important. Maybe it's the key to clearing the levels. We can't give it to him."

"But he'll kill us if we don't give it to him!"

"Let's think of something. There has to be another way!"

"There's no other way. If we keep thinking about it and not doing anything, we'll be cut into pieces. It'll be game over for us then!" Leia wanted to give up the hook to survive, but Renee felt that it was too important to give up. The figure looked at Renee and said, "Since you refuse to give the hook to me, I'll start with you-"

"What are you going to do?" Renee calmly faced the dark figure. "Why don't you keep me here and let them go? I'll fight you one-on-one. If you can snatch the hook from me, I'll let you have it. If you can't, it means you're weak. What do you think?"

"One-on-one?" The figure thought about it briefly, then nodded. "You're bold. I agree."

"Let them go then." Renee knew that more members meant a higher chance of winning. She needed to let the others escape.

"Fine!" The dark figure quickly cut the net open with his chainsaw. Justin was the first to escape from the net, and he was quickly followed by the others.

"Why are you being so nice and letting us go like this?" Leia grumbled, feeling like her thrills had been cut short.

Xavier held her hand and reasoned, "How can the game continue if he didn't let us go?" If they cooperated, they would certainly be released so the game would keep going.

"Go now. I'll deal with him!" Renee told the others.

"No, we can't leave you here alone." Leia shook her head, insistent on sticking with Renee,

The dark figure raised his chainsaw and charged at them. "If you don't leave by the count of three, you'll all die here!"

Chapter 1952

"Let's go!" Xavier yanked Leia and said seriously, "The probability of us beating this is higher if we separate. Once we've gotten enough clues, we can regroup and figure it out."

"You're right." Leia agreed after thinking about it. All of them quickly ran off, with Xavier and Leia going upstairs while Justin and Jeffrey went downstairs. Renee was left in the registration lobby with the dark figure.

The figure chuckled maliciously. "What a pathetic display of human nature! All your friends just left you and ran away,"

"What's pathetic about it? We're just working in different groups for now. Each of us has our own strengths." Renee tried to figure out how to escape, but the figure was always watching her and blocking her path. She figured the escape room management was paying him well.

"You're too naive. I'll teach you the cruelty of this world today..." The dark figure continued, "You have two choices -complete my task and leave, or give the iron hook to me and leave. Pick one."

"Of course I'll pick the task!" Renee said instantly. "What do I have to do?"

"This task should be easy for you..." The dark figure lowered his head, his voice taking on a passionate tone. Honestly, I was Jayla's boyfriend, and we were very much in love with each other. Unfortunately, she chose to break up with me due to a misunderstanding, then she got ill and stayed here. I thought we would get back together, but I never saw her again after that... I miss her so much that I stay in this hospital to protect her. I always imagine walking with her hand-in-hand, hugging and kissing each other under the moonlight...

Renee felt uneasy, having an idea of what he was going to say next.

"If you can act as Jayla and reenact a romantic scene with me, I can let you go." As expected, the dark figure made a difficult request.

"Is that your request or is it really the rule of the game?" Renee shuddered and threatened, "If you want to make use of public funds to take advantage of female customers, I'll complain about you to your boss."

"Like I said, do the task or leave the iron hook behind. If you say no, I won't go easy on you!" The dark figure turned on the chainsaw again and approached Renee slowly, looking menacing even though he was just an actor.

"I wonder if there is a third choice..." Renee touched her chin, trying to reason with the figure.

"What's the third choice?" The dark figure asked Renee suspiciously.

Chapter 1953

"For example, I can fight you one-on-one. If I win, I'll get to leave. What do you think?" Renee asked seriously. It had been her plan from the beginning since she was a professional fighter, having once been the top assassin.

"No, we can't do that!" The lips of the dark figure twitched in annoyance. "The first rule in the handbook is that you can't beat up the actors. If you do, you'll be disqualified."

"Fine!" Renee nodded. After some contemplation, she said reluctantly, "Okay, I'll do the task. How should we hug? Hurry up, I need to keep playing." She found the game rather interesting and didn't want to be disqualified so fast. She couldn't give up the iron hook either, so she had to make some sacrifices and complete the task. After all, it was just a hug.

"Okay, you promised." The dark figure sounded satisfied with Renee's choice. He laughed wildly, then threw off his black robe and giant hat.

Renee's eyes widened in horror, and she felt nauseous as she stumbled back. "Ugh, what kind of monster are you? I'm going to vomit!" The dark figure's skin was covered in pustules and sticky green liquid, and his revolting face was deformed and covered in blood and pus. Renee had watched a lot of cult films and could tolerate a lot of things, but this was almost unbearable. Trying to motivate herself, she babbled, "Wow, your boss really put in a lot of effort for this! I'm sure he spent a lot of money on makeup and is a huge fan of films like *The Hills Have Eyes* and *Wrong Turn*. You're more frightening than the mutants in those! Hmm, no wonder this place is the top escape room in Beach City. People could go mad seeing this!"

"Hug me, Jayla. I've been waiting for you for more than two decades..." The dark figure looked disgusting, but his lines were unexpectedly romantic. "I remember that the moon was full the night we broke up. You said you would be mine, and we would be together on the next full moon. From that day, I've waited for you on every full moon. I waited until I died and my body rotted. I waited until maggots ate my face, but I still didn't see you. I miss you so much that my soul can't leave this place, and now, you're finally here. Just come into my arms, and everything will be like it was..."

Based on his lines, Renee figured that he must have died while waiting for Jayla, which was why his body was in such a disgusting state. "Your love story is very touching, but I'm afraid you're not my taste. I can't date a rotten corpse. Bye!" Renee tried to escape from the corridor behind him while he was talking. She bypassed him to go upstairs, but accidentally slipped and fell...

"Don't run away, Jayla!" The figure grinned wickedly, running towards Renee as sticky liquid dripped from his body.

Chapter 1954

The dark figure was about to pounce on Renee when Stefan dashed out from a corner and grabbed Renee's wrist. "Let's go!"

"What are you doing here?" Renee looked up in surprise, but let Stefan pull her to her feet. They quickly ran towards the basement, and the light grew dimmer. Luckily, they were fast, and the figure couldn't go past the lobby. When they ran downstairs, the dark figure stopped chasing them.

"I'm exhausted! Let me rest for a bit." Renee gasped, shaking off Stefan's hand as she bent over with her hands on her knees. She kept taking in deep breaths.

"Take this." Once Renee had calmed down, Stefan quietly handed a drink to her.

Renee took the drink and immediately gulped it down, then looked at the cup in her hand. "Wait... Where did you get this drink? It isn't poisoned, is it?" She looked up and asked Stefan suspiciously.

"I bought it from the vending machine just now, how could it be poisoned?" Stefan scoffed in disbelief. While the others were stuck in the net, he had gone to get drinks from a vending machine at the entrance. He figured that they would be tired while playing the game, and sure enough, he came back to see one of the non-player characters chasing Renee.

"How selfish can you be? You didn't do anything when we were trapped under the net!" Renee snapped at him.

"I told you-I went to get drinks." Stefan sighed and squatted down to rub Renee's ankle. "You fell earlier. Does your ankle hurt?"

Renee's body tensed, and she didn't dare move. She swallowed and said, "What are you trying to do? My ankle is fine, so stop messing with me!"

"Don't get me wrong, I was just worried that you sprained your ankle." While talking, Stefan carefully felt around her ankle. Once he confirmed that there was no swelling and the ankle wasn't dislocated, he relaxed.

"This is something only my boyfriend can do. You doing this is inappropriate!" Renee pulled her leg back and put some distance between them. It was a firm reminder for Stefan and also for herself. She had finally made up her mind to get rid of that dysfunctional relationship, and her current romance was going smoothly. She knew she had to keep her distance from Stefan or risk falling into that abyss again.

Chapter 1955

"Boyfriend..." Stefan stood up. The dim light in the basement made it hard to see his expression, but his stiff figure filled Renee with coldness. He slid his hands into his pockets and asked Renee calmly, "Are you being serious?"

I'm always serious because I'm not like certain people. I've always been serious and loyal in my love life-I have no intention of playing with people's hearts. I don't believe in giving people false hope," Renee said critically to Stefan's back.

"Hmph!" Stefan chuckled bitterly. "I didn't expect you to think so badly of me..."

"I wasn't talking about you, but you admitted it." Renee didn't want to argue with him, she had just been telling the truth. She felt that there was no right or wrong to how their relationship ended, and she didn't want to let it affect her. She thought it best to just regard him as a stranger who was once her most loved person; She would not let him have the luxury of her feelings. However, she was still human, and she couldn't contain her feelings while speaking to someone she had loved so deeply.

"Whatever. I don't care what you think of me since I can't hurt you anymore. I'm just worried that you were too hasty in choosing Justin. Stefan turned around and stared at her in the dark. He wanted to go to her, but he had no right to do so. He forced himself to look at her as an old friend that he cared for. "I think Jovan is a more reliable option." Stefan suppressed his pain as he spoke. Jovan was cunning, but his feelings for Renee were genuine. He had sacrificed his blood to save Stefan so Renee wouldn't risk her health to do it instead. Besides, it was because of Jovan that Renee could see again. Stefan felt that he would be less worried to see Jovan date Renee if she were to begin another romance.

"You're out of your mind!" Renee rolled her eyes, more disgusted than when she saw that dark figure's true form.' Who do you think you are? How dare you pick a man for me? Do you see your family as top-notch?" Renee clenched her fists angrily and glared at him. "You really think I care about your opinion? You abandoned your family, but in front of everyone, you pretend to be a nice guy. What right do you have to doubt Justin? He and I have the same tastes and hobbies-we're truly soulmates, and a much better couple than you and I ever were. If my grandpa hadn't made the mistake of leaving me in your care, I might have married Justin long ago instead of wasting all

those years with you!" She had learned from Justin that her grandfather did consider both the Hunts and the Baldwins, but unfortunately, Renee fell in love with Stefan at first sight. Besides, Justin had been in love with Phoenix, so they missed the chance to be together. However, fate was giving Renee another chance to choose, so she had to be brave enough to try.

"Soulmates?" The word pierced Stefan's heart like a knife, and his eyes glinted icily. "Stop being naive. Do you know what soulmates are?"

Chapter 1956

Renee felt unspeakable satisfaction when she heard the envy in Stefan's voice. She lifted her head high and said, 'Maybe I don't quite understand what soulmates are, but I know very well what resentment in a relationship means, I want nothing but happiness now, so I'll be with people who make me happy and avoid those who bring me pain,'

"So, you're saying that Justin can make you happy?" Stefan slowly approached Renee, his expression blank. "I'm curious what kind of happiness he can bring you."

Renee stepped back and frowned when her back hit the wall. "That's none of your business, and I'm not obligated to tell you either."

"Yes, you're not, but I have the right to ask, don't I?" Stefan caged her against the wall, gripping her wrist to pull her closer. "After all, you're the mother of my kids, so it's natural to be concerned about your life. I need to make sure you're not faking it, because my kids will only be happy if you are."

"You're out of your mind! That's unreasonable!" Renee spat incredulously, feeling like Stefan had lost his mind. They were already separated, but he was spouting nonsense, thinking he still had the right to.

Tell me... How far have you both gone?" Stefan leaned close to her and whispered in her ear, "Did you hold hands, hug, or kiss each other?"

"Like I said-I don't have to tell you anything. Let go of me!" Renee snapped, feeling ashamed and angry at the same time. She wanted to beat him up, but she was worried it would make him think she still cared about him. She calmed herself down, trying to look relaxed and indifferent. "Since you're so desperate to know, I don't mind telling you. Justin and I have been going on dates every day. We really hit it off and our relationship is moving fast, and we've done everything a couple would do. It felt great."

"Is that so?" Stefan faked a smile, knowing she was lying. "Tell me about his kissing skills then. Is there any difference between his and mine?"

That's our privacy. Why should I tell you that? Renee leaned back against the wall. Although it was cold in the basement, she felt like she was in a sauna. Her body felt like it was burning, and her palms were sweaty.

"It has nothing to do with privacy. You're lying to me." Stefan gently caressed her dry lips. "Your lips don't look like they've been kissed by another man."

"You pervert!" Renee smacked his hand away and said indignantly, "Yeah, I guess I'm not as good as you. You kissed others and slept with them, so I guess you're very experienced. How proud you

should be! Should I reward you? Let's see... I'll reward you with the title of top scumbag in Beach City, then you can boast about the number of women you've kissed and slept with to everyone!"

"You're the only woman I've ever had." Stefan lowered his head and whispered in disappointment, so soft that only he heard it.

Chapter 1957

Others might misunderstand Stefan, but he knew very well that Renee was the only woman he had been with.

"What did you say?" Renee's voice was louder than his, so she hadn't heard him.

Stefan took a deep breath and shook his head sadly. "Nothing... I just hope that nobody else touches your hands, lips, and body." Unfortunately, he couldn't stop himself from being possessive.

Renee was speechless. She had no idea about Stefan's struggles, and found his words ridiculous. "Stefan, don't flatter yourself. You abandoned me and your kids, and now when I'm finally ready to start again, you want me to avoid all men? Do you think you're a king? You can't just send someone away and expect them to keep waiting for you! I never expected such a ridiculous statement from you!" When she was his wife back then, she didn't mind his possessiveness, but they were separated now. Saying something like that was too shameless!

"I'm sorry," Stefan said miserably, "I did lose control of myself. It's my fault for now understanding my position. Maybe... I shouldn't have come." He let go of her and stepped back, putting some distance between them. "I'll go now. You all should enjoy yourselves. If you sincerely think Justin is right for you and that he can make you happy, go for it. I won't give you two my blessing, but I'll wish you well!" Stefan had to admit that his mind had been running in circles when he was separated from Renee. It was so painful sometimes that he just wanted to abandon everything and get back together with her, but he knew they could never go back to how they used to be. He had harmed Renee too many times and had no right to ask for her forgiveness...

"What the hell? Renee watched Stefan avoiding her like the plague, and was utterly confused.

"Stefan, are you suffering from schizophrenia? You're acting weird. Why do you want to leave when you're already here?" Renee looked around and said angrily, "I don't care what you're thinking about, just finish this game with me before you leave. They were in the basement alone, and something might pop out to scare them. "Come here!" Renee strode towards Stefan and grabbed his arm. "Don't overthink it-I just want to play the game and clear the levels. There's no need to be so serious. Just stand in front of me and get killed so I can survive!"

Stefan was speechless. "Oh... Sure, I guess."

Chapter 1958

Hence, they temporarily forgot about their resentment and focused on clearing the levels. They were currently in the hospital's basement, and the lighting was dim and there were many comers. A ghost or monster could rush out at any point.

"Did you find any clues in the lobby just now? Stefan turned around to ask Renee.

"An iron hook." Renee held onto that iron hook and walked behind Stefan. "Did you find anything strange just now?"

Stefan had been standing outside the hospital and had escaped being trapped under the net. Logically, he should have found a lot of clues. "No, I didn't," Stefan answered honestly, "I just went to buy drinks, and when I came back, I saw that dark figure chasing you. I didn't have the time to find any clues."

"How useless!" Renee scoffed, "I thought you stayed behind to do something useful, but I got more clues than you."

Tell me what clues you got." Stefan paused and looked at her calmly.

"Didn't I tell you? This iron hook is the clue. Plus, it's the main clue!" Renee sounded confident, not giving that iron hook up.

"Let me see it," Stefan said finally, holding his hand out with a frown.

"Go ahead. Let's see if you can figure anything out." Renee handed the iron hook to Stefan.

Stefan held the hook and studied it under the dim lights, then sniffed it. It smelled like blood.

"Maybe this iron hook is what caused Jayla's death."

"I think so too!" Renee's eyes gleamed with excitement. She was happy to have finally found someone who shared her thoughts. "I'm sure it's Jayla's blood on it. If we find out who killed Jayla, we can win the game... I think the murderer must be the doctor in this hospital!"

Stefan asked, "Why do you say that?"

"Didn't the handbook tell us that the doctors were involved in selling organs? Jayla might have discovered their crimes, so they killed her. Or... maybe Jayla was caught up in their dealings?" Renee said firmly, "That must be it. After all, no one else had the motive to kill!"

Stefan stared at the iron hook and shook his head. "If it were a doctor, they could use something cleaner and smoother to do it. Why would they use a rusty hook?"

"That's right..." Renee agreed, then thought about it for a while. "But if they used scalpels or medicine, people might find them out easily. No one would be able to link an iron hook to them, so maybe that's why they used it."

"Regardless, we've got to find things related to Jayla." Stefan figured they needed more evidence. He scanned the basement and found two large closed doors ahead of him. It was a mysterious and eerie sight.

Chapter 1959

Renee looked in the same direction and saw the doors. Heart pounding, she moved closer to Stefan. "What... What's in there?"

"What do you think?" Stefan calmly replied.

We're at the hospital, and this is the basement, so I guess... it should be the morgue." Renee swallowed, getting goosebumps on her skin.

"Yeah, this should be the morgue." Stefan smirked at her. "Do you want to check it out?"

"The morgue?" Renee cleared her throat and pretended to be calm. "Well, I don't mind since I'm pretty fearless, but you're delicate. You've never experienced hardships before. What if you see a corpse and faint?"

"It's just a dead body... I think I can handle it," Stefan scoffed.

"Maybe corpses are okay, but if this place used to be a hospital, then I'm sure there are a lot of unhappy spirits and ghosts here. If we bump into them, it'll be unlucky."

"Are you scared?" Stefan raised his brows. "If you're scared, we don't have to go in. It's just a game anyway."

"No, I'm not! Ghosts are nothing, I've seen worse. I'm just worried about you. After all, you're weak and you faint so easily at the sight of blood. I'm concerned you'll be scared out of your wits," Renee said patiently.

"That's fine. If there's blood, I'll just close my eyes." A long sigh escaped Stefan. "But I think there must be some clues about Jayla in the morgue. If we don't go in there, we might not be able to solve this mystery and win the game."

What are we waiting for then? Let's go!" Renee suddenly felt motivated by Stefan's words, and reminded herself not to be timid as she pushed Stefan forward. "Lead the way."

"I'm okay with that but..." While walking toward the doors, Stefan said teasingly, "I heard that ghosts love standing behind people!"

"Shut up!" Like any other woman, Renee got spooked by such things. She hurriedly walked forward and brushed past Stefan. "Fine, you bring up the rear then!"

"Don't be scared. I'll always be by your side whether I'm walking in front of or behind you. Stefan murmured, then gripped Renee's hand and pulled her into a tight embrace. He said cheekily, "See? Now you're protected from all angles."

"How dare you..." Renee trailed off. She knew he didn't have bad intentions; he was just trying to make her feel safe. If she remembered correctly, Leia and Xavier had done the same thing earlier. This was why youngsters were willing to spend money to get frightened-it was a good way to strengthen relationships.

"Cut the crap, and let's go!" Renee took a deep breath and huffed impatiently.

They slowly approached the doors. Stefan shielded Renee and swiftly opened them...

Chapter 1960

As expected, it was a morgue. The air-conditioning was on full blast in the room full of tables and freezers, and the place was around two hundred to three hundred square feet. A dull blue light illuminated the area.

"Oh, it really is a morgue. Are we... going in?" Renee grabbed Stefan's clothes and asked, trying and failing to sound brave.

"Of course! We're already here. Maybe... Jayla is in there?" Stefan smiled and entered the room.

"You seem to be enjoying yourself, Stefan. I always knew you had a twisted mind!" Renee hid in his arms and criticized him.

Thank you, but my mind is perfectly fine." Stefan rolled his eyes, then explained seriously, "I think everything in this world is a medium, be it humans, animals, or spiritual beings. Their existence is natural. You're afraid of them, but maybe they're afraid of you too. So, just calm down and take things as they are. You don't have to be scared at all."

"Hmm.... you're right. We're all on Earth anyway. At most, our latitude is different. I don't have to be afraid." Renee nodded, sounding enlightened. She stopped clinging to him like a koala, and slowly let go of Stefan's hand. "Let's go! I feel brave now; I can even talk to the ghosts!" Renee patted her chest confidently.

"That's good." Gratified, Stefan nodded. "Take my advice-the most important thing is your attitude. If you're calm, you'll be unstoppable."

"That makes sense..." Renee agreed and nodded. "You're calm, so no one can hurt you. It's always you hurting others." Despite her resentment of him, Renee sincerely admired Stefan. At such a young age, he had achieved so much, and created so many business opportunities while managing Hunt Enterprise. He was a strong person; other people his age couldn't compare to him. Of course, someone with such a strong mind would never get scared from something like this.

Suddenly, a white figure dropped down in front of them, swaying back and forth eerily.

"Ah!" Terrified screams resonated in the morgue, echoing throughout the hallways and rooms. The white figure eventually stopped swaying, but the screaming remained.

"Can you stop yelling? My ears hurt!" Renee covered her ears and snapped at Stefan, who kept screaming. "You were just lecturing me about being calm! If you keep this up, the owner of this place might call an ambulance for you."

Finally, Stefan stopped screaming, but didn't dare look at the white figure. He stared at Renee intently and acted like nothing happened. "Are you alright?"