

Ex-Wife 1961

Chapter 1961

"I'm fine." Renee was calm as she patted Stefan's arm. "But you might break my ribs if you don't get off me."

At that moment, Stefan was clinging to Renee like an octopus. He had even buried his head in her neck timidly. He cleared his throat, quickly detaching from Renee as he muttered awkwardly, "I'm sorry. I forgot my manners." Putting on a poker face, he told Renee, "You're quite strong."

Yeah, I've been hitting the gym lately." Renee suppressed her smile as she observed him." But you seem a little spooked. It's just a prop, so why were you so scared?" She'd thought he was an unaffected expert who would win this easily, but in the end, he was just a coward. In fact, he was more terrified than her! However, it felt good turning the tables and having the lady protect the man instead. "You can stay behind me if you're scared, boy. Young men like you aren't experienced, so you need strong women like us to protect you. You should be gentler, since strong women don't like fierce men.... If you're good, I'll buy you two sexy white T-shirts after the game is over, then you can show off your muscles!" Renee joked and touched Stefan's arms, realizing why men loved showing off their muscles.

Stefan touched her forehead. "You're not having a fever, so you must be possessed."

"Cut it out!" Renee smacked Stefan's hand away and said breezily, "That's the kind of thing men always say to women. There's no need to get upset."

"I'm not upset." Stefan watched her and said suggestively, "I don't mind men and women switching their roles in society. I found it rather nice to hide in your arms just now."

"Oh, get lost!" Renee pushed him away and kept looking around. She grabbed the white figure and found that it was just a doll in white clothes. Its eyes and mouth were open, and it had a creepy smile, so Renee quickly threw it away.

Most of the tables in the morgue were empty except for a half-covered freezer in the inner part of the room. There was a fabric on it that looked like a hospital gown.

"Look at that, Stefan!" Renee pointed at the freezer. "Do you think Jayla is in there?"

"It's very likely." Stefan frowned. "We'll know once we check it out."

"Okay.." Renee swallowed. "Okay, let's check it out together."

"You're scared again?" Stefan smiled in amusement. "I'll check it out then!" He went to open the freezer, but found that it was stuck on something. He couldn't pull it out at all. He stared

at the freezer for a while, then his eyes widened in realization. He turned around and snapped his fingers at Renee. "It's finally time for us to use that iron hook!"

Chapter 1962

"What do you mean?" Renee watched Stefan fiddle with the freezer, not knowing what he wanted to do.

"Give me the iron hook." Stefan turned around and urged Renee.

"Okay!" Renee handed the iron hook to Stefan.

Stefan took it and groped for the spring of the lock of the freezer. With a gentle tug, he managed to pry open the freezer lock.

"Wow, you're even skilled in things like this?" Renee asked in admiration. "You're really an all-rounder-you can do business and even pry open locks. Even thieves would have to acknowledge you as their master!"

"Oh, stop it. Just tell me if you're scared, you don't have to make jokes." Stefan smiled, realizing she became chatty when she was scared. It was rather... cute. "I'm going to open the freezer now, and there might be something horrible inside. Do you want to step away?" Stefan asked carefully.

"No way!" Renee said defiantly, and walked over. "Don't underestimate me! I want to see what's inside." Then, before Stefan could do anything, she reached out and pulled the freezer open. The freezer opened, and to her horror, there was a corpse in a hospital gown lying inside. "Ah!" Scared, Renee turned around and hugged Stefan tightly.

Stefan was scared too, but when he saw Renee so unusually scared, he gathered his courage and observed the corpse. After a while, he turned to Renee and said reassuringly, "Don't be scared, this corpse is pretty normal. It's a woman, and it looks like she's sleeping. It isn't scary or gross."

*Is... Is that so?" Renee took a deep breath and tried to calm herself. She whispered, 'Is it... Jayla?"

"I think so." Stefan frowned and carefully turned over the label on the corpse's wrist. His eyes widened when he read the name. "It's Jayla!"

Suddenly, they heard a mournful voice in the empty morgue. "You finally came. I've been waiting for you for a long time. I died so miserably..."

Renee immediately clung to Stefan again. "Who's talking? Is it Jayla?"

"Yes, I'm Jayla." Jayla's voice sounded ethereal and eerie. It would give anyone chills.

Stefan patted Renee's shoulder comfortingly, then asked Jayla coolly, "What do you need our help for?"

"I died tragically..." Jayla's gloomy voice echoed above them. "I want you to avenge me. I want all the people who killed me to die!"

"We want to help you too, but can you at least tell us how you died and who killed you?" Stefan asked Jayla carefully.

However, Jayla didn't say anything else. She just kept sobbing, repeating the same lines about her tragic death. *Forget it. Stop asking her, she won't tell us. Feeling calmer, Renee tugged on Stefan's arm and shook her head.

Chapter 1963

Renee turned around and looked at the corpse in the freezer. She said firmly, "I guess we have to check the corpse to find out how Jayla died."

"You're saying..." Stefan paused, his palms growing sweaty. "Are we going to do an autopsy on her?"

"No, we don't have to do that. But we can look around and see if we can find any clues." Renee flexed her fingers and stretched her legs enthusiastically. "Let's do it. I think we can win this!"

"Okay!" Stefan nodded and started inspecting Jayla's body with Renee. Jayla's body was made of a silicone material that looked like skin, and there were many clues about Jayla's death on the body.

"Look at her neck..." Renee immediately noticed some bruises around Jayla's neck. "Do you think someone strangled her?"

"Not necessarily!" Stefan added thoughtfully, "She might have struggled before she died. Someone gripped her neck and left those bruises. This place is really odd..." While talking, he solemnly pointed at the place between the corpse's legs.

"Where are you pointing?" Renee glared at him and scolded angrily, "Are you really trying to be funny with a silicone corpse? You're such a pervert!"

"No, that's not it!" Stefan protested indignantly, not expecting her to see him that way.

"What is it then?" Renee turned around in disgust. "It's just a fake corpse, but you keep looking at it funny. If you like it so much, you can just buy one online and observe it up close."

"Are you trying to drive me mad?" Stefan took a deep breath to calm himself, then repeated slowly, "I asked you to look at the place between her legs because there are bloodstains there. It could be the reason for her death."

"Bloodstains?" Interested, Renee turned around and saw a pool of blood between the corpse's legs, and a fleshy object lying in it.

"Oh, that's so gross. What is that?" Nausea gripped Renee. She found it more disgusting than the dark figure's pus-filled body.

"I've got an idea..." Stefan stared at that fleshy object, looking unusually serious.

"What is it? Tell me?" Renee urged eagerly.

Suddenly, the door of the morgue opened, and two figures rushed in.

"Is that you, Phoenix?" It was none other than Haze and Jeffrey, who had run downstairs.

"Haze?" When Renee saw him, she was delighted. "Come quick, you're just in time! We're in need of people." Haze strode over and instantly gave Renee a hug. "Do you know how worried I was? I'm so glad you're okay!"

Chapter 1964

The temperature in the room suddenly dropped.

"It's too crowded here. We don't need you around." Stefan glared at them, clearly wishing he could disintegrate them with his gaze.

Slowly, Justin let go of Renee and looked at Stefan coolly. "You're right. It is pretty crowded here, so you should leave, Mr. Hunt. After all, escape rooms are more suitable for couples."

"Couple?" Stefan scoffed disdainfully. "Can you two even call yourselves that?" Xavier had told him that Renee and Justin were just dating, trying to see how things would go. Technically, they were not a couple yet, so Stefan felt confident enough to ask.

"We..." For a moment, Justin was speechless. He didn't know how to argue since he didn't know what his current relationship with Renee was. He wanted to say they were a couple, but Renee hadn't confirmed it yet. However, they had gone on dates, held hands, and hugged... So could they be considered friends? At the end of the day, the decision was Renee's.

"Phoenix, why don't you tell Mr. Hunt about our relationship, Justin said finally. He knew that even if he wanted to move their relationship forward, it was pointless. She might just see him as an ordinary friend, or at most, a companion.

"We..." Renee started, then hesitated awkwardly.

"It's okay. Just listen to your heart." Justin tried to smile, but he knew he had lost. His tone was bitter as he said helplessly, "We've been dating each other for a while now. I always knew your thoughts but was too timid to ask you about them. Today, at least I'll have the opportunity to know. If you still don't feel that way about me, I can leave and never disturb you again."

"It's not the time to talk about that now." Renee glanced at her watch, then frowned and added, "The game will end in twenty minutes. Shouldn't we finish the game first?"

"I agree!" Jeffrey blurted out, feeling uncomfortable in the tense atmosphere. He took a deep breath and added brightly, "Plus, I think this morgue is big enough for all of us; it isn't crowded at all."

Jeffrey's words filled Renee with relief, and she quickly chimed in, "Yeah, I'm pretty sure I can even do somersaults in here. Just stay. We'll be stronger with more people, and we need to finish this game soon!"

At that moment, the speaker above them boomed, "Players, you have twenty minutes left to finish the game. If you succeed, you'll get a mystery gift. If you fail, you'll get a horrible punishment. We hope you enjoy the game!"

After a brief pause, Stefan said, "If that's the case, let's finish this. You two can eventually revisit this topic once this is over."

Justin scowled in displeasure and demanded, "Hey, what do you mean? Do you think my relationship with Phoenix is just something casual?" He didn't like the way Stefan implied that his relationship with Renee was barely progressing.

Chapter 1965

Justin wanted Stefan to hear Renee acknowledge their relationship. Right now, it looked like Stefan wasn't threatened because he felt Renee and Justin were not deeply in love with each other.

"That's enough, Haze. Stop making a scene. Why do you always insist on winning like a kid?" Renee gripped Justin's ear and rebuked him helplessly. "There's no need to get affected by insignificant people, okay?"

"Okay, I'll listen to you," Justin said obediently, then shot Stefan a triumphant smirk. "I'll listen to whatever my baby says."

"Mm, that's good!" Renee touched his head and smiled tenderly. Although Haze could sometimes be playful, he would listen when he had to. Renee could easily control him, which she was very satisfied with.

Jeffrey nodded in approval. "Renee, you behave like a kindergarten teacher."

Renee looked proud of herself as she added, "Yeah, and you're my student too."

The atmosphere became less tense... but Stefan's expression didn't get better.

"Okay, tell us what clues you found. We have to hurry." Renee went back to the main topic and urged Justin.

"We found these in a secret compartment." Justin fished out a stack of dusty documents.

"Surprisingly, there's a pregnancy report in here. It's Jayla's, and it says that she was two and a half months pregnant!"

"Jayla?" Renee blinked in surprise. "Jayla was pregnant... Who was the father of the child?"

"Where did you find this report?" Stefan asked icily.

"In an office." Justin looked solemn. "There were other strange documents there too. They were all young women's check-up reports."

"I see." Stefan looked cold. He opened his hand, revealing the iron hook. "Didn't you want to know what this iron hook was used for?"

"Do you know?" Renee asked, looking puzzled.

"If my guess is right, Jayla might have used this to abort her child... And her cause of death was severe blood loss or an infection after the botched abortion." Stefan sounded firm as he continued, "When she was sent here, the head of the hospital took advantage of her. She got pregnant and was locked up. But she loved her boyfriend deeply and couldn't stand the thought of having her rapist's child, so she used this iron hook to get rid of the child on her own."

Chapter 1966

"What? Did she use the iron hook to..." Renee looked horrified, and asked in disbelief, "How is that possible? Only you could come up with such a crazy idea!"

"Actually it's possible." Justin observed Jayla's corpse and was shocked at the sight of flesh between her legs. I've read about such a thing in a book called *Amenia Horror Stories*. The heroine did it because she didn't want to give birth to the villain's child. I guess whoever came up with this theme was inspired by that scene."

"How could there be such a thing?" Renee's eyes grew wide in shock. She didn't know how someone could think of something so terrible.

"We'll know if it's true or not once we test the composition of the bloodstain on the iron hook and the pool of flesh. If they're a match, then the theory is confirmed. While talking, Stefan walked around the room in search of something.

"What are you looking for?" Renee asked.

"If our guess is right, there has to be equipment somewhere to test it. If it isn't here, it must be somewhere else. If the blood samples are a match, we'll know the reason for Jayla's death. We can also confirm the identity of the father of the child. Then, we'll know who the murderer is and win the game," Stefan remarked calmly.

"Agreed!" Justin approved of Stefan's idea and started looking for the equipment.

"Are you sure?" Doubtful, Renee watched Stefan and Justin discuss with each other, then muttered, "You two sure are getting along well." At first, she was worried that the arrogant heirs of the Baldwin and Hunt families would fight, but it was nice to see that they had hit it off. If she did date Justin, it would be good if he and Stefan got along, at least for her children's sake. She started looking around for the machine with them, but they couldn't find it.

'Players, there are only ten minutes left. Please hurry up!' The speaker above them boomed.

At that moment, Xavier and Leia ran into the room. "Ren, you guys are here! We found something!" Leia rushed into the morgue and hugged Renee excitedly. They had only been apart for less than half an hour, but Leia felt as if she had just escaped death.

Xavier followed closely behind her. He had a piece of equipment with him as he announced, "We found this blood test equipment in the office of the deputy director upstairs. We had to complete a lot of tasks to get it. I don't know whether it's useful or not."

"Yes, it's useful!" Stefan took the equipment and started following the steps written on it. He took blood samples from the iron hook and flesh before placing them in the equipment.

After five minutes, a green light flashed on the machine, confirming that the two substances were of the same composition.

'It seems like our guess is right. The murderer who killed Jayla was the deputy director of the hospital!' Justin declared excitedly.

Chapter 1967

At that moment, the speaker sounded again. "Congratulations, players-you've won the game! Please come to the registration counter to get your mystery gift!"

"Yeah, we did it! We're so smart!" Leia held Xavier's hand and jumped up and down happily.

Renee, however, still looked unsatisfied. "Is that all?" Although they had won the game, she found the plot too unrefined. The ending was too abrupt.

"You didn't enjoy yourself?" Justin smiled at Renee fondly and said, "Why don't we come again another day? They have other themes that are pretty interesting too."

"Forget it, I won't come again. Maybe I'm getting old... I'm not suited for things like this." Renee chuckled.

"Well, what should we do next time then?" Justin started planning their next date. After some contemplation, he suggested, "Why don't we go to the forest for a paintball game?"

"That's not suitable for her either," Stefan abruptly commented from behind them.

Renee turned around and glanced at Stefan disdainfully, then grabbed Justin's arm. "Anything will do. Any game is interesting as long as I'm with you."

"Ew, how cheesy!" Leia giggled, then added teasingly, "You two are getting more clingy every day, it must be love!" Xavier glanced at Stefan worriedly, then scoffed, "No, it's not. Didn't you tell me yourself that they're not in love? Well, I think love shouldn't be forced. If you two don't have feelings for each other even after so many dates, it means something is off. It might not work out."

The atmosphere suddenly became tense, and everyone went silent.

"Shut up!" Leia glared at Xavier. "Do you have a death wish?"

They all exited the escape room quietly. The receptionist welcomed them back enthusiastically and told them that their prize was an expensive photography session.

Leia scoffed, "Tsk, what's so great about taking photos? It's boring."

"Miss, don't get upset. We have many interesting themes like traditional costumes, dramas, magic... Oh, we even have a wedding theme! You and your boyfriend look lovey-dovey, and I'm sure you guys will get married soon. You can try the wedding theme!"

"No need!" Embarrassed, Leia blushed. "I don't want to marry a playboy like him."

"The wedding theme is collective. Many of our players picked this theme and took group wedding photos, and most of them actually did get married after. Young people like this theme a lot."

"We'll take that!" Stefan and Justin said in unison.

"Umm..." The receptionist looked at the attractive men in shock, then smiled hesitantly.

"Gentlemen, what good taste you have! Many male couples picked this theme too."

Chapter 1968

"Excuse me?" Stefan frowned and looked at Justin incredulously. Justin stood there with his mouth agape like a goldfish, gaze moving from Stefan to the receptionist. Everyone was stunned into silence.

*Pfft! Haha!" Leia burst out laughing, bending over and holding her stomach. "Good call-I think they're a perfect match given their similarities and history."

"Leia!" Stefan hissed threateningly, shooting Leia a vicious glare. If looks could kill, Leia would be dead by now.

"Oh, how scary. I think he's scarier than those characters earlier. He's looking at me like he wants to kill me," Leia hurriedly hid behind Xavier and said dramatically. "Xavier, the day has finally come to choose between your buddy and me-who will you side with if he wants to kill me?"

Renee walked to Leia and hugged her, then patted her head dotingly. "Don't worry, I won't let anyone harm you. If anything happens to you, I'll avenge you, okay?"

"I knew you always treat me well! These useless men are just temporary, only my baby and I will be together forever!"

The worker gaped, then swallowed and said, "Well, our wedding shoot is not only popular with male couples, it's also popular with female couples!"

"What are we waiting for then? It's free, and I want to take beautiful wedding photos with my baby!" Leia hugged Renee and refused to let go.

Hence, they all took wedding photos together. When Stefan and Justin took a photo together, they had their backs to each other and a cold expression on their faces.

Stefan snorted and said, "It's impossible between you and her. Taking these photos is just a reminder of something that will never happen. Is it really worth it?"

Justin faked a smile and said coolly, "Well, it was once possible between you two. Why did you join this photoshoot anyway? Don't tell me you two didn't take proper wedding photos when you were married."

Stefan's expression turned icy because Justin was right. He hadn't wanted to marry Renee back then, so he didn't want to spend time with her outside of the wedding ceremony. Naturally, they didn't take any photos together, not even a group photo. After that, many things happened between them, and they never thought of having a wedding photoshoot. They had parted ways soon after, and the idea of taking wedding photos seemed like an impossible dream. He was not the kind of person who liked taking photos, but this was a golden opportunity for him. He could finally take wedding photos with Renee, so he didn't care if there were other people in the photos.

Chapter 1969

Justin shared the same thoughts as Stefan. Justin could tell from that day's incidents that it would be very difficult for Renee and him to move forward in their relationship. This might be his only chance to take wedding photos with Renee. Although it was not proper wedding photos, it was still something he could cherish. It was a crazy idea, but he would take what he could get.

"You're not a good match for her," Stefan said to Justin coldly as he changed his posture at the photographer's request.

"Thank you for the advice but..." Similarly, Justin changed his posture, staring into Stefan's eyes intently. "Save it for yourself. You're worse."

"Have you ever considered not disturbing her and letting her find someone who can truly make her happy?" Stefan asked sharply. Truthfully, Stefan was only saying such things because they were well-suited for each other, and it filled him with envy. He knew Renee well-she wouldn't get into a relationship easily, but once she did, she would throw herself into it. Then, it would be hard to change her mind. Besides, he secretly hoped that Renee would still cherish him even if she found someone new, and see him as her most important person.

"What's your definition of happiness? Justin asked uncertainly, now wondering if he could truly make Renee happy. He felt like he saw her sincere happiness when she was with Stefan, not him.

"There are many hidden dangers in your family. Your grandfather is like a ticking time bomb, so you'd either have to leave your family or not marry her to avoid her coming in contact with your family. A free-spirited person like her can't live in an autocratic family like yours!" Stefan rarely spoke so much, but when it came to Renee, he felt he needed to.

"You're being prejudiced!" Justin sneered. "I've brought Phoenix to my house a few times. My family likes her very much, especially my grandpa. He started to dote on her after knowing her background. He even gave her a mercenary group, which is how he shows love. Even I didn't get that!"

"Even if he likes and accepts her, it doesn't mean that the conflicts are resolved." Stefan rolled his eyes and added, "You know very well that I'm talking about your family's preferences. Your family wouldn't want a casual woman like Renee as your wife."

"Casual?" Justin looked at Stefan scornfully. "Is that how you see Renee? Is that why you'd rather give up the kids to divorce her?"

Chapter 1970

"That's none of your business. Stefan ignored Justin's question and said threateningly, "You just need to know one thing-if you or your family do anything to her, I'll make you all pay." Then, he walked out of the photoshoot and said to the others, "I need to leave."

Dumbfounded, Xavier grabbed Stefan's arm. "If you leave like this, what about Renee? Do you want to leave her with Justin?"

"That's her choice. I can't do anything about it," Stefan said expressionlessly as he walked past Renee to leave.

Flabbergasted, Xavier complained, "What the hell? You shouldn't have come then. Did you just come here to get attention?" He couldn't understand Stefan's actions. If Stefan was unconcerned, he wouldn't have come to play this childish game with them. It was obvious he couldn't tolerate seeing Renee and Justin deepen their relationship, but at a critical time like this, he was running away. If Stefan hadn't been his friend for many years, Xavier would have called him a scumbag.

Leia said sarcastically, "Don't you like him the most? Go with him then. After all, birds of a feather flock together." "What did I do?" Feeling embarrassed, Xavier mumbled, "We're different-don't put us in the same boat!"

"So, you admit that Stefan is a jerk. Are you going to defend him again?" Leia asked smugly. Finally, Xavier had admitted defeat. As the winner, Leia wouldn't let him off the hook easily.

"I don't know. Stop asking me," Xavier sounded annoyed. He was frustrated at Stefan and himself. Why did he have an unreliable friend like Stefan who constantly embarrassed him in front of Leia?

"What do you mean? So, you're saying that you and Stefan are both right?" Leia refused to let him go. She wanted him to admit that he at least disapproved of Stefan. If Xavier confirmed that Stefan was wrong and took her side, she didn't have to worry about him becoming a disloyal and heartless man like Stefan.

"That's not my call to make-it's Renee's. Why are you asking me?" Xavier avoided the question, growing impatient.

Renee tried to mediate the situation, sighing helplessly. "Stop fighting! It doesn't matter what kind of a person he is. Don't ruin your relationship by arguing over him, it's not worth it."

Justin adjusted his tie as he walked over to them, saying sarcastically, "Yeah, he left just like that, but you guys are still arguing about him. Are you both crazy?"