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Anxiousness creeped into Renee's heart instantly. 'This is weird, it's so early in the morning, and that guy is in an unfamiliar place! Besides, he's blind, so where could he have run off to?!'

She swung the door open as she intended to look for the man, bumping right into the vice dean. "Good morning, Ren.

You're up early. Did you have a good rest?" Yulia asked with a gentle smile.

She then pointed towards the employee behind her, who was pushing a white cart. "I had the dietary department make some nutritious breakfast according to both of your physical conditions. Quick, have a taste."

Renee, unfortunately, was in no mood for this, her expression sorrowful. "Thanks, Mrs. Walker, but I have a bigger issue to deal with now."

"Don't panic. What is the problem? Can I help?"

"Well..." Renee seemed conlifted, uncertain if she should tell the truth. After all, it was embarrassing to admit that she couldn't keep an eye on a seriously injured, blind man. It was no different from admitting to her sheer incompetence.

Yulia could tell that Renee was in a tough spot, comforting her. "It's okay if you can't tell me, but... just remember to treat this place like your home. The sanatorium is willing to be at your command, we will do everything we can to help."

The old woman's sincerity helped ease Renee's doubts. She let out a dry cough and whispered, "Umm... Have any of you seen Stefan?"

"Hasn't Mr. Hunt been with you the entire time?"

"When I woke up this morning, I saw that he wasn't in his room. I don't even know when he ran out!" Renee pouted as she huffed. "Can you believe that guy? He's injured and blind for crying out loud, but he's still trying to escape! Does he have a death wish or something?!"

"Calm down, Ren. Public areas within our sanatorium have surveillance cameras, so we'll be able to find out where he's gone after checking the footage. He should still be nearby," Yulia consoled and quickly found security to dig out their surveillance history from last night.

The cameras had captured Stefan making his way out of his room at around 3 AM. He stumbled into many things, but was somehow still able to find an exit out of the west wing.

"Mr. Hunt sure is determined. He fell so many times, but refused to give up. If this were anyone else, they'd be bawling their eyes out and asking for help." Yulia couldn't help but gasp in awe as she continued watching.

"I'd say he lost his will to live, he's not driven by determination at all!" Renee glared at the stubborn man, wishing she could punch him through the screen.

'Damn it! Does he miss Seraphina so much that he has to get back to her right away? He's still going on even though he's risking falling to his death!'

They continued watching the footage, and noticed that Stefan walked around for a while after exiting the suite. He was able to find his way out of the sanatorium, and chose to go down a narrow winding path, heading straight towards the deepest ends of the forest.

Soon enough, he was out of the camera's field of vision.

"No! Mr. Hunt is heading straight towards Dragonmount!" One of the security guards shrieked all of a sudden. "Dragonmount?" Renee seemed

confused.

"Dragonmount is the most dangerous area within the forest, as it is infested with venomous snakes and savage beasts! We normally wouldn't even allow the average person to enter, and Mr. Hunt is an injured blind man... If he's been gone for so long, I'm afraid..." The guard gulped, not daring to say anything further.

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Yulia shot the guard a dirty glare and comforted Renee once more. "Don't worry, our sanatorium hires professional forest rangers to clear out Dragonmount regularly. There shouldn't be that big of an issue, so I'm sure we can find him."

"I know, and he's not an average person either. He's going to be safe." Renee took a deep breath, her gorgeous face lacking emotion. "Mrs. Walker, you can head back for now, I'll go look for him."

"No way!" Yulia refused immediately. "Dragonmount is a complicated area, there are just too many dangers out there, with dark pits and ponds, and occasional sightings of wild boars and wolves too! You have no experience in dealing with that, so let's just have a forest ranger look for him instead."

"Didn't you say there shouldn't be that big of an issue, and that you're sure we can find him?"

"Ah..." Yulia seemed awkward. She wasn't exactly lying when she said finding him wouldn't be an issue, it's just that they would likely find him... dead.

"Don't worry, Mrs. Walker, I'm a tough girl, I've been through worse. You have nothing to worry about." Renee said, ignoring Yulia's protests and left for Dragonmount alone.

Passing through the crooked muddy roads into the narrow mountain valleys, the only sounds she heard were the rivers flowing lightly, occasionally partnered with the calls of wild animals. It was indeed rather frightening.

'That guard really wasn't exaggerating things, Dragonmount is way too dangerous. No normal person would be able to handle it at all. And Stefan is blind... He would have died long ago... Heck, some tiger might be chewing on his bones right this minute!'

"No, no way, Stefan isn't just an average guy, he'll be fine!" Renee held her breath anxiously, forcing herself

to stop overthinking. 'As long as I don't see any blood trails or bones, that means the situation isn't as bad

as I think. He must still be alive!'

With her sharp observation skills, the woman had been searching far and wide for any trace of the man. Throughout the entire journey, she could see footprints within the wet mud, and they were no doubt left by Stefan.

Hence, she figured that she could find him as long as she just followed those footprints.

However, after about a few miles deep into the forest, the footprints disappeared out of nowhere. Moreover, there was a clear sign that something heavy had been dragged away, accompanied by a faint trail of blood.

Seeing this, Renee's heart sank from the shock. Clenching her fists tightly, she followed the bloody trail, only to be met with the worst scenario possible, leaving her completely frozen.

There was a large black bear chomping down on something. It was just a pile of gory flesh at this point, with its bones and organs exposed.

'I-Is that Stefan?!' Stumbling backwards slightly, Renee lunged at the bear without thinking. She yelled hysterically, "Get lost, you damn bear! How dare you attack my man?! I'll kill you!"

If this were a movie scene, many within the audience would judge Renee's rash decision behind the screen. That was because she was currently up against a 7-foot bear that could kill her with just one slap from its paw, especially when she wasn't armed.

It was no different from a death wish, but it was true that Renee no longer felt the will to go on living after seeing it...

The Untouchable Ex-Wife Chapter 1053 The large bear was enjoying its meal at the time. However, hearing some noise coming from behind it, it paused and turned to look at the woman.

Its mouth and fur were drenched in blood, and it was holding onto a piece of bone, with a few smaller pieces of flesh still attached to it.

"Ah!" Renee broke down right there and then.

'That... That's Stefan's bone... Stefan's flesh... And it's right in front of me!' Roar!

The bear howled at Renee, and the woman was unsure if it was excited, or trying to provoke her.

"I'm going to kill you! I'll shred you to pieces!" Renee shrieked as she attacked the bear's head with a spin kick.

Despite her petite figure, she was a very agile and strong person, and immediately sent the black bear stumbling backwards. The bear had never met such a

bold person and was frozen in place. The bone in its hands was no longer as appealing now. It just stared at Renee blankly, as if it was trying to ask: "What

the hell is wrong with this woman?!"

"What are you looking at?! You ate my husband, so why are you playing the victim here? How would you feel if I made your wife into stew?!"

The wife of the bear would certainly find this ordeal ridiculous as well, if it were here.

Renee was so sad that she sobbed while punching the bear maniacally. "I'm warning you, puke him out right now! I'll cut your stomach open if I have to! Don't you know how important he is to me?! How could you eat him? Are the deers and boars not enough for you here?! Their meat is clearly more tender, so why did you have to eat him?! It was such a cruel way too – you didn't even leave his bones alone!"

If any deer or boar were here to witness this, they would be speechless. Roar! Roar!

The bear could no longer endure Renee's ramblings and started growling at her, revealing its sharp teeth. It swung its large paw towards her head.

Renee wasn't powerless either. As the number one bounty hunter, she was able to dodge the bear and retaliate once more. She landed several harsh punches and kicks to its face, as if they were competing against each other in a fighting ring.

However, humans and beasts were still rather anatomically different.

After a few moments, Renee was starting to feel tired. Her face was flushed bright red, and her hair was covered in sweat. Even so, she didn't want to admit defeat just yet. She had to seek revenge for Stefan.

Roar!

The bear angrily bared its teeth, digging its claws into the ground and lunging towards Renee with malicious intent.

Unable to counter in time, the woman ended up falling to the ground with the bear standing on her shoulders. It roared once more, causing its disgusting saliva to drip onto her face.

Just as it was about to bite down on her neck...

Renee was silent. She closed her eyes and thought, 'Well, this is it, I guess. At least I get to meet Stefan in this bear's stomach later.'

After that, she heard a few loud gunshots, and the expected bite never came. Moreover, the weight on her shoulders disappeared instead.

"What... happened?" Renee carefully opened her eyes, noticing that the ferocious black bear was now laying next to her, unmoving. Its head and back were filled with gunshot wounds, with warm blood forming a pool around its corpse.

"I think... you've misunderstood." A familiar voice came from above her, clearly teasing.

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Renee looked towards the direction of the voice. Even though she just caught her breath, she leaped up and hugged the man tightly. "Stefan! But... weren't you torn to shreds?"

"Can't you wish me some good?" Although Stefan seemed disdainful, he allowed the

woman to hug him. Renee shook her head, still in disbelief. "You... Were you the one who

shot the bear?"

"What's wrong with that?" Stefan was indeed holding a hunting rifle, with wisps of white smoke still coming out of the muzzle. It was clear that he was, in fact, the one who opened fire.

His aim had always been quite accurate. Even though he hadn't been training for a long time, he was still able to hit a bullseye with a blindfold on. All he needed was sound to dictate which direction he had to shoot in.

"You're amazing, and almost as amazing as me! If the bounty hunter organization knew about you, they'd definitely spend

millions just to hire you!" Renee rejoiced excitedly, looking at the man with more admiration than before. She thought the man would have turned into a harmless infant after losing his sight, but he was still able to shoot a bear regardless.

'He's still quite cruel and capable!'

While the woman was still immersed in the joy of finding what she lost, she was still rather confused. "But... you walked around for an entire night. What happened? Where did you get a gun? And who died under that bear?"

"I just so happened to find this gun. And as for the person who was attacked by the black bear, that night be the owner of this gun," Stefan replied calmly.

"You managed your way through all that? Damn, you really are a lucky one! You're no ordinary person at all!" Renee exclaimed again.

'Stefan truly is a toughie! He's tougher than cement! Besides, he's so calm and collected. Escaping through a dangerous place with no vision, surrounded by wild animals, and he's not fazed at all! It's like a walk in the park for him. I'm absolutely impressed!'

"You're not that bad either. A woman, coming to such a dangerous zone and beating up a bear with her bare hands? Looks like I got to know you a little more." Stefan smiled softly.

"Umm, well..." Renee felt extremely embarrassed, and asked, "When did you notice me? You... You probably didn't hear anything, right?"

Thinking back to how she lost her cool earlier, she just wanted to dig a hole and hide

herself like an ostrich. "From when you were crying over my death." Stefan answered

truthfully without any hesitation.

Renee gasped and thought. 'Oh god, that means he heard everything I said! Someone please just end me now, I can't live on knowing I embarrassed myself this much!'

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"But..." Stefan's cold voice echoed through the silent woods, striking her heart. "I've changed my mind.

"What do you mean?" Renee looked back at the man, her lonely gaze glinting with anticipation.

"I've decided to stay," Stefan replied.

"Really?" The woman beamed, her eyes sparkling with joy. "You've finally decided not to run away? You've finally realized that you can't, haven't you?"

"Not exactly." Stefan's expression was plastered with natural confidence. "I can leave as long as I want to, none of you will be able to find me."

"Pfft!" Renee burst into laughter. 'Just look at him! Even with his current state, he's still the stubborn man I know.'

"Yeah yeah, you're the strongest guy out there. You even chose the most dangerous path in these woods because you wanted a difficult challenge, I'm sure. If you're so great, let's make a bet then. If you can find your way out of Dragonmount, I'll send you back to Seraphina. You'll be free."

Stefan raised an eyebrow, seemingly intrigued. "Really?"

"Yeah, but if you don't dare to, don't push yourself either. Just be good and stay here as my prisoner baby. I won't mistreat you." The woman teased, pinching the man's cheeks boldly as if she was talking to a child.

"Alright, let's start." Stefan lifted his head and took a deep breath, as if he was trying to picture his surroundings. After that, he slung the rifle over his shoulder and walked in the opposite direction.

"Hey, hey! No, wait... You were serious about that?" Renee asked, thinking he would have admitted defeat right then. She never would've expected him to accept the challenge.

'This man is just so competitive!'

"Do you know where this is? This is Dragonmount, the most dangerous area within this forest! Even if there weren't any wild animals around, the complicated terrain is enough to put your life at risk! If you're not careful, you might end up falling into a deep pit! That's quite enough, okay? Why are you trying to acttough?"

Stefan was rather determined, having walked quite some distance already. He "Sorry, I never play games, I always mean what I say."

"You... You'd better not regret this!" Renee was infuriated by the man's obstinate attitude. 'Why is he putting in so much effort just to escape me and see Seraphina? I'd like to see how long this egotistical man can last!'

With that, the two walked silently, one in front of the other, leaving around 30 feet between themselves.

Renee's entire body was tense the entire journey. She was furious, and afraid for his safety at the same time. However, she noticed how clever the man was, as he walked along the cliffs, effectively avoiding any dangerous pits. Moreover, his sense of direction was incredibly strong. Every step he took was indeed the way back to the sanatorium.

'This man... Why do I feel like I'm going to lose? He's blind and in such a dangerous place! How can he navigate around so well, as if he were walking on flat land? Could it be that... his vision was restored long ago? Has he been toying with me the entire time?!'

Deep in her thoughts, Renee felt even more suspicious of the man's behavior. She immediately sped up and caught up to him, spreading her arms to block his way.

Stefan felt something appearing before him and halted. "What is it? Are you going to admit defeat?"

"You're toying with me, aren't you Stefan Hunt? You've been able to see all this time, right?" Renee questioned with a sharp gaze.

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The man's expression stiffened. His gorgeous eyes still remained unfocused as he replied, "I wish."

"You..." Renee felt rather helpless after noticing his pitiful appearance. She waved her hand slowly in front of his face. "Can you really not see?"

"I have no reason nor interest in pretending to be a blind man," Stefan responded coldly, his elegant face plastered with visible pain.

"I'm so sorry, you're just way too smart. I couldn't help but doubt you. I... I'm such an idiot!" Renee gave herself a couple of light slaps out of guilt.

Stefan was quite a prideful man. He was already feeling quite depressed because of his disability, and yet he was being doubted for it regardless...

'This was no different than trampling all over his insecurities. I'm such a disgusting person!'

Stefan maintained an expressionless face, still facing forward as he spoke dismissively, "So are we continuing the bet?" Renee

bit on her lip, feeling rather uneasy. "Only if you want to."

"Then please step aside." Stefan signaled, as if he had his heart set on leaving the gorge all on his own. Renee

was silent as she lowered her head helplessly, walking behind him once again.

Since the two were unbelievably headstrong, neither of them wanted to call it quits.

In the end, Stefan was able to safely exit Dragonmount relying on only his senses and strength.

At the same time, they bumped into a large rescue team, who all wore disbelief all over their faces. "Mr.

Hunt, Miss Everheart, you're... you're okay?"

"Oh my god, how is this possible? Even professional forest rangers like us need to work in pairs, and we're always armed on every trip down the gorge too! How did you two do it?"

"Umm, well... It's a little complicated." Renee felt quite awkward when faced with the barrage of questions. She had no idea how Stefan did it either, and she was waiting for him to explain himself too.

"You lost." However, Stefan ignored everyone else and halted, turning around to face Renee.

"Yeah, I did." Renee smiled sadly. "I admit defeat, and I'll keep my end of the deal." She knew that if he was determined to return to Seraphina's side, this wouldn't be the last time he tried to run away. He might have been lucky enough to have come out alive this time, but there was no guarantee that it'd be the same on his next attempt.

She didn't wish to put his life at risk anymore. She only ever wanted to help him after all.

"Sir, please have someone take him back to Seraphina Murphy." Renee made a simple request to the head of security after thinking things through.

"Huh... Wasn't Mr. Hunt admitted here just yesterday? Why is he leaving now? Greenwood Sanatorium is one of the best sanatoriums in the world! There's no better place for him to rejuvenate." The guard expressed confusion.

"Maybe to him, being with his beloved is much more helpful than any sanatorium out there. So... I'll fulfill his wish," Renee replied, her words stinging her heart with a deep pain only she knew.

"Alright, we'll arrange the vehicle then." The guard noticed her sadness, looking at her with a sympathetic gaze. At

that moment, Stefan scowled after having been silent the whole time. "Who told you I was leaving?"

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Renee turned to the man, clearly confused. "Weren't you risking your life just to leave? Why the sudden change of heart?"

"I just wanted to show you that none of you could stop me if I tried to leave. So, if I do stay, it would be of my own volition," Stefan replied arrogantly.

"But... why?" Renee still couldn't understand. However, she now believed that Stefan was telling the truth, he did in fact have the ability to escape this place.

'But wasn't he missing Seraphina? Why is he so willing to stay now? This makes no sense!'

"You mentioned that I risked my life to leave, but you risked your life to save me as well. That shows that we aren't just hospital buddies as you said..." Stefan paused, then continued. "I want to know what kind of past relationship we had to have warranted your desperate efforts."

He wasn't sure if he had lost parts of memories, but he could tell that this 'Renee Everheart' had played an important role in his life. Otherwise, her existence alone wouldn't have been such an uncomfortable topic to Seraphina, and even his mother.

Since everyone else wasn't willing to tell him the truth, he had no choice but to look for answers himself.

Renee froze. After a moment of silence, she spoke up softly. "If you'd really like to know, then cooperate with us on your recovery. Once you regain your sight, you'll be able to see my face. Maybe then you'd remember who I am."

"That sounds good," Stefan said, displaying a genuine smile he hadn't shown since losing his sight. "I look forward to that day."

Renee didn't reply, mixed emotions stirred with her chest as she thought, 'Maybe... when you do see me, you'll realize how unworthy I am of being in your life!'

When Stefan returned to the sanatorium, he no longer disobeyed orders. Hence, Margaret conducted a full body check up on him, only to leave her shaking her head and sighing repeatedly.

Renee felt rather anxious as she stood nearby. She was worried that this might give Stefan unnecessary pressure, and requested Margaret to step outside for a moment. "Margaret, how is he now? Is it possible for him to ever see again?"

Margaret seemed troubled. She wanted to say something, but stopped herself. After some struggling, she finally explained, "Miss Ren, I'll be honest with you. His sight isn't the biggest issue here. His pulse indicates that his condition is worsening, especially his brain. He might have suffered severe trauma, which led to the blood clot in his brain. We should first think of ways to nurse him back to health, or else he..."

Margaret couldn't bring herself to explain further. Her diagnosis was similar to Layla's, in that Stefan was in quite a bad condition. She even made sure to spare Renee the horrific details.

"Severe trauma? Blood clot? Then... Can we still save him?" Renee turned pale, panicking since she merely thought Stefan sustained external wounds. She had always believed that his constitution was fine, and didn't think it'd be so severe.

"Calm down, it's a good thing you brought him here in time. We're not too late yet. My father, who I severed ties with, was an expert in curing blood stasis. I learned some skills from him back then, so we should let him try some medicinal tea for now."

"Once his brain has healed, his eyes might even recover along with it." Margaret patted her on the shoulder, consoling the woman gently.

"That'd be great!" Renee sighed in relief. She was secretly happy that she was shameless enough to have kidnapped him in time. Otherwise, healing him would have become mere wishful thinking.

"But... There is still a small issue..." Margaret seemed reluctant to speak again.

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"Oh come on, Margaret, spill everything out at once! You're giving me a heart attack here!" Renee felt her chest tightening as she nervously turned to the old woman once more.

"My father may have been a great doctor, but he has rather odd ways. The recipes he concurred up on his own aren't accepted within us traditional doctors. That's why I was hesitant in using his methods..." Margaret furrowed her eyebrows, visibly perturbed.

"What is it? What do you mean odd? Tell me."

"All my father's recipes require a special ingredient..." Margaret then whispered into Renee's ear, revealing the ingredient to her. Renee

remained silent for a short while, then responded, "It's okay. If you need any, then go ahead. I can provide you with it."

"But it'd be harmful to you. Is that heartless man really worth it?"

"He became this way because of me. I'm even willing to sacrifice my life for him, let alone this special ingredient." "Alright, I

understand, you don't want to owe him anything."

As the two came to an agreement, they turned all their focus onto nursing Stefan's body. Stefan was

oddly 'obedient' as well, as he consumed every single dish Renee gave.

After about a week, the injuries on his body had healed rather quickly. Moreover, when Margaret checked his pulse the second time, she no longer looked as solemn as she did before, and grinned happily.

"Mr. Hunt's pulse has finally stabilized, and his blood circulation has improved drastically. Just two more treatments and we'll be able to focus on curing his eyes."

Renee's eyes lit up, rejoicing. "That's amazing! Our efforts didn't go to waste!"

Her voice was soft, as she was obviously quite frail. Her face was as white as a sheet, and there were dark circles around her eyes. Despite all that, her genuine smile was still quite a beautiful sight to behold.

Seeing her state, Margaret felt heartbroken. "Miss Ren, let's stop using the special ingredient for the next few doses of medicine. Your life might be in danger."

She was starting to regret using her father's methods. It did help cure the patient at a rapid pace, but... the person providing the special ingredient had to suffer instead.

"If the medicine is working great, then keep using it, or else we're just going to lose all the progress we made!" Renee smiled as she turned to the man's room. "Like you said, I didn't want to owe him anything. This is my karma, so the more I have to give, the better I can forgive myself."

"Oh and... you must keep this secret ingredient thing just between us. Don't let him find out, okay?"

"Miss Ren, you may excel in everything, but you're too much of a hopeless romantic. He doesn't even remember you now. Even if you do cure him, you'll just have to watch him marry Miss Murphy later on. It's simply foolish..."

"Well, you know what they say, ignorance is bliss!" Renee smiled optimistically.

Stefan's health started improving day by day, and he was slowly growing more comfortable with Renee as well.

At the time, the two were enjoying the fresh air in the garden behind the sanatorium. The pavilions and terraces surrounding them made the atmosphere seem quite picturesque.

However, it was a shame that Stefan couldn't see anything, no matter how beautiful the scenery was.

On the other hand, Renee was lost in her thoughts as she silently gazed at the blooming azaleas. She even found breathing rather exhausting at this point.

"You've been acting a little strange lately." Stefan, who wasn't usually all that talkative, suddenly spoke up. Renee

snapped back to reality and took a deep breath, trying her best to sound energetic. "How so?"

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"You've been rather quiet lately, like you've become a proper lady," Stefan teased lightly. Although he had not spent much time with the woman, her incessant chattering had long made an impression on him. However, for the past few days, she had been

unusually quiet. Most times, they merely sat together in silence, not saying a word to each other. Her voice was starting to sound quite weak as well, as if she were a willow in the breeze.

'This is odd. Almost too odd!'

"That's because I am a proper lady," Renee replied, her voice exceedingly soft.

"Mmm, a proper lady who knows how to fight a bear. Now I'm really curious as to what you look like." Stefan smirked, his expression plastered with a hint of affection that he himself didn't realize just yet.

For some reason, despite having no memories of her, the days he spent with her became rather natural, as if they had known each other for a long time. Such comfort and ease made him feel happier than when he was with Seraphina.

If he had stayed initially to find answers, he was now staying with her for absolutely no reason. He simply wanted to follow his heart now.

"Soon, you'll be able to see what I look like." Renee stared at the man, who looked much more lively now, and her heart filled with hope.

'This is nice, that confident and dignified man is back.' She was especially happy to see the loneliness and despair fade from his eyes.

As the warm sunlight enveloped the two, and as the clouds drifted by lightly, they had already spent half

their day away. Suddenly, the woman's eyelids grew heavy. She didn't think much of it, and figured she

just hadn't slept well last night. "I'm going to make some coffee, would you like some?" Renee stood up

from her chair and asked.

"If you're brewing some yourself, I'd like to have a taste." The man seemed more than willing to try, acting as if they were rather close to each other. In fact, he even listed a bunch of requests. "I'm actually quite picky. It's best if the coffee isn't hotter than 58 degrees celsius, and I only want two teaspoons of sugar. It should be handground as well, so that it maintains its original flavor..."

"Sure, hold on." Renee responded, somehow listening to the man's words with a level of patience she had never shown in the past.

She thought to herself with a smile. 'Oh Stefan, you're still as difficult as ever!' However, despite not having many culinary talents, after being his wife for so many years, her coffee brewing skills were absolutely unmatched.

Besides that, she had always made coffee with the same type of coffee beans, the same temperature, amount of sugar and coarseness in the way he liked. Hence, she was confident that he would be impressed by her coffee once again.

As she arrived at the kitchen in the west wing, Renee took out a small jar of coffee beans from the drawer. After that, she opened the lid to the coffee grinder and placed some beans inside, grinding them thoroughly.

Unlike an automated machine, this was a manual wooden coffee grinder. Grinding even a single bean would require a lot of strength, but the powder it produced would best preserve the 'original flavor' that Stefan was especially fond of.

Bzz bzz bzz...

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As she continued grinding the coffee bit by bit, Renee felt satisfied, but also frowned deeply due to the pain in her wrist.

Just then, footsteps could be heard behind her. It was Yulia, and she screamed as soon as she noticed the wounds on Renee's wrist. "Ren, what are you doing? Just look at your hands! Let the staff do this for you!"

"I'm alright, Mrs. Walker, I'm not that fragile." Renee smiled weakly and proceeded.

"No, you're not. You're already bleeding through the gauze! Do you not cherish your own life?" Despite her usual gentleness, Yulia couldn't help but feel angered by Renee's recklessness.

She then snatched the grinder out of her hands and sighed. "Oh child, you're just so foolish. How could you use your own blood for his medicine? If your mother knew that you hurt yourself over a man, she would be devastated!"

"She won't," Renee replied softly. "I believe Mom would use her own blood if she knew Dad needed it to survive. And you would too, if Mr. Walker needed it, right?"

"Well..." Yulia couldn't retort, but still flashed her a concerned frown. "If you really need human blood as an ingredient, our sanatorium's blood bank has more than enough. You could have told me sooner! Why did you have to use your own? Now that you risked your own health, how could we possibly face your parents in the afterlife?"

"Mrs. Walker, I understand your concerns. But the medicine requires blood from a person who genuinely loves the patient to take effect, not just anyone's blood. And as you can see, it does work very well, so I don't regret my decision at all. In fact, I'm very happy about this."

Renee had always felt like she wronged Stefan in many ways. Hence, being able to use her blood in his cure, was quite an achievement for her. In a way, it had also proved that she still loved him deeply within her soul, or else the medicine wouldn't have been so effective.

Yuia, however, scoffed. "Don't try to trick me, Ren, I graduated from the world's most prestigious medical school as well. And I have never heard of such an odd cure. If you ask me, this is nothing but superstition that specifically targets innocent girls like you."

"Well, whatever it is, it works." Renee didn't want to argue, so she tried to take the grinder back from Yulia so that she could continue.

For the medicine, they had to collect blood from her wrist. Every single time they needed more, they had to cut the wounds back open, then bandage them back up.

Having done this many times, she felt like she was about to lose the motor skills in her hands soon enough. Making coffee usually wasn't so difficult, as she was in a lot of pain.

"You're still going at it? Can't you see your wounds have torn open!?" Yulia was adamant in stopping her. "I'll help you do it. Grinding coffee beans isn't a task required from someone who genuinely loves him now, is it?"

Renee gently rubbed her aching wrists and nodded. "Thanks, Mrs. Walker."

Even though she was the vice dean of the sanatorium, Yulia was patient enough to grind up these rough beans, so much so that she was starting to sweat.

The two women soon engaged in idle chit chat.

Renee abruptly remembered something and asked, "Mrs. Walker, you were my mother's best friend, so... you should know about my brother, right?"

Yulia froze upon hearing this, and visibly panicked. "Oh child, why are you asking this all of a sudden? You... You did have a brother, but he was a stillborn. That's why your parents hid it from the public, including you as well. How did you find out about this?"

"So that means you knew about my mother having twins, and that I have a brother, right?" Renee seemed excited and continued questioning her. "Then do you know what happened back then? Who was the damned culprit who wouldn't even show mercy to a newborn?"