Chapter 171

The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

"You want to know about Madam?" Margaret asked, looking at Renee and sighing. "I'm afraid you'll be disappointed. I don't really know her either, and I've never met her properly."

"Really?"

"Yes," Margaret replied as she took a trip down memory lane and answered honestly. "I grew up and was homeschooled in my family. My family has always served the Schneider family, so when Madam found me and told me to apply to become a nanny. to care for your pregnant mother and eventually you, I listened to them unconditionally."

"She was very mysterious. She never appeared publicly and always wore a veil when she met me. That's why I said I probably. never met her properly..."

Even after decades, Margaret could still vividly remember the day she had met Madam Everheart.

The woman had been unique. There was no word to describe her, and 'beautiful' was not enough. Even the veil she wore

could not cover up her exceptional charm.

When I came to the Everheart family, she had already left. As to where she might've gone... Master, Sir, and even Ma'am were silent, and no one ever mentioned it."

Renee hung her head and said, "Yeah. Grandpa and my parents never told me about Grandma. There are also no pictures of her at home, but I know they miss her a lot. I always wanted to know what happened to Grandma that made her leave her family."

Renee had hoped that Margaret would have some useful information, but it seemed like her nanny was also about the same level when it came to this!

From various sources, she had pieced together a picture. She knew that the Schneider family, from the side of her grandmother,

Lilliana, was one of the oldest and most mysterious families in the distant North City. The once glorious family had disappeared into the wind for some reason, and no one dared mention them.

"If you really want to understand anything about Madam, I'm afraid you'll have to personally make a trip to North City."

Margaret suddenly thought of something and asked Renee, "Did you find the quilt, Miss Ren? I vaguely recall Mrs. Everheart saying that Madam specially sewed this for you before she left. She also personally embroidered the pattern, so perhaps you. might find some clues."

"I found it, but... there's been a situation," Renee said with a deep frown.

While mentioning the quilt. Renee got so angry she wanted to slap Briar in the face.

She slowly pulled the quilt from her bag and handed it to Margaret, who took it

eagerly. "I didn't think I would see it again! I knew you'd find it, Miss Ren!"

Margaret was overjoyed and immediately spread the quilt open, but when she saw the curses written all over it, she almost

screamed and tossed it.

"W-was this written in blood? Who did this? How could

they?!" "It doesn't matter. I don't believe in those things

anyway."

Renee wasn't afraid. She only felt disgusted at the disaster on her quilt.

The most important thing now was to restore the quilt to its original state.

It took some effort, but Margaret quickly cleaned the words off the quilt, and the pattern embroidered on it became clear.

There were two things on it, the same combination of a phoenix and flowers. Some stripes connected together to form a map. as though guiding Renee to someplace.

*Judging from the shape of the map, it looks to be North City. Perhaps Madam purposely left this behind so you could look

for her?" Margaret guessed, which was also in line with Renee's thoughts.

However, Renee didn't think too deeply about it as she kept the quilt and jade pendant

away. "We'll talk about it later!"

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Margaret looked at Renee's belly and nodded in understanding.

"You're right. The most important thing right now is to nurture your baby and have a safe birth."

The older woman didn't ask who the father of Renee's baby was, and the latter didn't say a word about it either. The two women had an unspoken understanding of the situation.

Renee was completely assured that Margaret would keep her mouth shut. As long as Renee didn't permit it, her nanny

would take this secret to her grave.

Renee put off all activities in the next few days and stayed in bed, nursing her baby under Margarent's meticulous care. It was clear that Margaret had come from a great line of doctors, as Renee's previous minor illnesses were cured with just a few

doses of medicine.

She no longer felt fatigued, and her appetite improved. She could now stomach several meals a day without feeling nauseous. Today. Margaret went out early to do some grocery shopping, and Renee slept in bed. The sun bathed her skin with warm light, and she felt at peace and comfortable.

Renee secretly planned to take her child and Margaret to live abroad once her business was settled. By then, she wouldn't need to worry about money and could laze around all day.

Her relaxed state didn't last very long, as she heard noises from downstairs.

"What are you scared of? Just smash all of it! I don't believe that the dead can bully the living! If you guys don't smash this

place to bits, I'll make all of you eat shit!"

Renee's brows furrowed slightly, and she opened her eyes with an unhappy look.

The noses got louder as the minutes ticked by, accompanied by the obvious crashing of things getting broken which told her it

wasn't a hallucination but an actual intrusion.

She silently got up and casually dressed, wearing her slippers, before going out to see what was happening.

Renee came down to see a man in a white suit directing four to five gangsters holding steel pipes and smashing the

furniture and appliances in the hall.

"They say this villa is haunted, and the surrounding people have left out of fear! Our boss doesn't believe in those things. We're trashing this place as much as we want today, boys! We're eliminating evil for the sake of the public!" The man in the suit didn't notice Renee standing on the stairs as he spoke to the gangsters arrogantly.

These rascals had accepted payment for a job, so they naturally didn't hold back, smashing everything they could. Soon,

the entire villa looked like it had just survived a hurricane.

"Who are you people, and what are you doing?!" Margaret shouted.

She had returned with a basket full of groceries and was appalled to see the scene before her. Her shock soon fueled her with anger, and she screamed. "The Everheart residence isn't somewhere you rascals can do as you please! Get out of here, or face my wrath!"

When the man in the white suit saw Margaret, he froze and turned pale with fright before spluttering incredulously, "I–it's you! T - that fierce old lady...! Didn't I... bury you alive?! How are you still alive? A–are... Are you a g–ghost?!"

"Oh? So it's you! A lackey of the Sunders', hmm? Seems our paths inevitably cross again!"

Hatred filled Margaret's face as she stared at the man who had almost driven her to her death. She lunged at him like she was completely deranged.

+15 BONUS

"That's right! I'm a ghost, and I'm here for your life!" "N-no! D-

don't come near me! Get away!"

The man in the white suit screamed in fear and backed away on trembling legs.

"T-the person who wanted you dead was Jeremy Sunder! I was only following his orders! If you want to claim a life, go after

it! Not me!"

The white suit man covered his head with both hands as he stammered and begged for mercy.

"I won't let any of you off! Not you, Jeremy, or anyone else who harmed the Everheart family!" Margaret hissed as she

tightened her grip around the man's neck.

"S-spare ... me! Please ...!"

The man's pants had a damp patch at his crotch, indicating he had wet himself in fear. But soon, he realized that something

was wrong.

Margaret's hands were warm around his neck, but... ghosts didn't have physical bodies or body heat, did they? "Y-

you're not a ghost ...? You're not dead!"

At the realization, the man became enraged and yelled at the gangsters. "What the hell are you doing? You didn't finish her off back then, so you better get rid of her today!"

"Let's see who dares touch her. hmm?" Renee spoke from where she was on top of the stairs. She casually flexed her fingers. ready to unleash a killing spree

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"I was planning to settle the score with you when I felt better, but I never thought you would serve yourselves up on a silver platter..."

Renee wore a calm expression as she walked down the stairs, her knuckles cracking as she clenched and

unclenched her fists. She had discovered earlier that the person who tried to bury Margaret alive four years ago

was Jeremy's close friend, Charles, and for that, she decided that the man would pay with his life...

And that man was standing right before her right now.

Charles turned to Renee, and disdain flashed on their faces.

Charles mockingly said. "Haha! What a bold statement! Here I was, wondering who it was... Turns out it's a

remaining Everheart maggot! Our boss has wanted to eradicate you for a long time, but he let you off because of the Hunts! You're just a despicable. housewife who has been demoted, and no one will protect you! I might as well take your useless life to my boss for a reward!

Renee sneered. "If you're a dog wanting to ask your master for a bone, you first have to have the ability to do so! If you can run your mouth so well, why don't you try taking care of your clothes first, hmm?"

"I've recorded how you pissed your pants, you know? I wonder what Jeremy would think if he saw how his close friend was so wimpy in a critical moment, and even worse, selling him out so easily?"

When Renee finished speaking, she turned the volume up to maximum on her phone, repeatedly playing the video of Charles wetting himself when Margaret entered the door.

"Pfft... Haha!"

Some of the men couldn't help but break out in peals of laughter, holding their hurting

stomachs. "What a wimp!"

Margaret couldn't help but laugh too. This was probably her first time laughing so hard after suffering for

four years! Charles' face twisted into an ugly expression, and he swung his fist at Renee.

"Damn you! How dare you play me for a fool! I won't stop if I don't cripple you today!"

To Charles, Renee was just a weak little girl, and it would be as easy as stepping on an ant

to kill her. His attack was quick and heavy, and Margaret was frightened as she screamed,

"Look out, Miss Ren!"

Renee was quick to react and caught his fist. With a smooth motion, she easily flipped and dropped him to

the ground. "Ow!"

Charles couldn't react to Renee's counter and fell straight on his ass. He looked at Renee

incredulously. "W-what ...? What did you just ...?!"

Charles was considered to be a person well-versed in martial arts, and he was well aware that the skills Renee had just displayed couldn't be pulled off by someone with barely any training. She had to have at least a decade of training under her belt to have done that! How could a weak woman like her do that?!

"Oh, nothing much. Just taking out the trash!"

Renee was going to continue teaching Charles a lesson when her abdomen suddenly cramped up. She immediately hunched forward and curled into herself.

'Tsk... What a time to be naughty, little one!'

Although she had intended to find a way to get them out of there first, it appeared that she wouldn't be solving this

with force.

Hence, she straightened up, kept her composure, and said to Charles, "Consider yourselves lucky that I spared your life today. Hurry up and get lost, or I'll send this video to Jeremy for entertainment!"

Charles didn't dare to do anything rash because of the move Renee had displayed, but also because he was afraid that she would really send the video to Jeremy. If she did, he would be a dead man.

So, he also played along and said, "Hmph! You're also lucky. It so happens I don't have enough energy today,

which is why I couldn't kill you!"

Then, he waved his hands at his underlings. "Come on! We're

leaving!" The men dragged their steel pipes and followed him out.

But suddenly, Charles realized that he might've been tricked. Wouldn't it be safer if he'd just grabbed the phone

and destroyed. the video?

They were big, burly men! How could they let two weak women boss them around?!

"Damn it! Grab that phone and kill her!" Charles roared. He wanted to teach Renee a lesson for deceiving him.

But suddenly, a strong force came from behind him, and he suddenly felt someone kicking him so hard that he

inadvertently began flailing his arms as his feet left the ground...

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Seeing the simple, absolutely brutal, and cool style, Renee knew instantly that she was facing the most oppressive man in Beach City, the crazy young master Stefan.

But she didn't understand. Why would this aristocrat come to this dilapidated haunted house?

Charles had just been dropped on his ass by Renee, and now someone else had kicked him so hard he felt it to the bones. He could barely restrain his anger, and he was about to start cursing when he turned to meet Stefan's burning eyes. He immediately went pale and almost wet himself again.

"M-Mr. Hunt! W-why are you here?!"

Stefan stared down at Charles, who was prostrating on the ground. His brows were furrowed, and he asked in an obviously upset tone. "Are you one of Jeremy's people?"

He could vaguely recall the man beside Jeremy from a business deal before this, where they had met. Ah, he was Jeremy's top bodyguard, wasn't he? Jeremy was very close to him too.

"Yes, that's right, Sir! My name is Charles. I've been working with Mr. Sunder for many years. Meeting you when you signed the long-term business deal with Sunder Group was a great honor. I've always admired you, and today's formal encounter is a real privilege!"

Charles was practically bending over backward for Stefan, and he looked like he would grovel on the ground and worship Stefan if he could. This was because he knew Stefan had a status above Jeremy, and he couldn't afford to offend him.

Stefan looked indifferently, and without bothering to spare Charles another glance, he looked around the villa. He took in the

smashed furniture and the mess, and his frown deepened.

"What's going on here?" Stefan asked. "Well ... "

Charles gulped before stammering. "B-because... Mr. Sunder heard that the Everheart villa was haunted. The neighbors around here, including his close friends, expressed their fear... H-he's a righteous man he said we should clean up this unclean place for everyone's sake!"

"That's bullshit!"

Renee could feel her brain cells deteriorating from the man's nonsense. Was he insulting their intelligence?

Enduring the pain in her abdomen, she coldly snorted, "Do you think I'm an idiot? Or are you saying Mr. Sunder is stupid? You're boldly using his name and portraying him as a fool. You seem to be really tired of living, don't you?"

"Miss Everheart, calm down. Mr. Sunder really did say..."

Charles was also in disbelief at his own words, but what else could he do?

He couldn't say that Jeremy knew that Renee had moved back into the Everheart residence and had deliberately sent

Charles to get rid of her, right?!

After all, Renee was still Stefan's wife. Even if the two were divorced, the man wouldn't stand back and watch his ex-wife

get bullied, that's for sure!

"What did Mr. Sunder send you here to do again?" Stefan asked nonchalantly, attempting to display an attitude of

indifference. "H-he asked us to clean up this dirty place..."

"So, you're saying that my ex-wife is dirty?"

"N-no! That's not what I meant!" Charles was sorely tempted to bury his head in the ground. At this moment, he was only

+15 BONUS

digging a deeper grave for himself.

"Y-you misunderstand, Mr. Hunt! I was only... I just ...!"

Charles carefully studied Stefan's face, at a complete loss at how to answer the man. Whether they were divorced, Charles was even more insignificant to Stefan than Renee.

He felt that whichever way he answered would be wrong.

Renee was uncomfortable as she listened to the conversation. Somehow, she felt like Stefan was indirectly insulting her.

Stefan looked at Charles coldly, then suddenly raised his foot to step on Charles' head. "Go back and tell Jeremy that there's nothing I hate more than bullies! The deal between H Group and Sunder Group has been terminated!"

"Y-yes, sir!"

Charles didn't dare protest or say more. Gesturing wildly to the other men, the group scrambled and left the villa.

What a mess! Charles hadn't expected that his luck was so bad that he'd run into Stefan, now like a knight riding in on a white horse to save the damsel in distress.

Didn't divorced couples usually not get along? What the hell was up with those two?! Was it normal to meet up so

often?! On the other hand, Stefan had both hands in his pocket and a stern look on his face as he asked Renee,

"How are you?"

Renee was not a fool. Even though her ex-husband had just asserted his dominance, and she went starry-eyed over his display for a moment, she was clear-headed and sneered.

"One doesn't visit for no reason, Mr. Hunt. You came to my house with your condescending attitude, so you shouldn't expect a pleasant welcome. Why don't you get to the point?"

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Stefan didn't reply to Renee's question but proceeded to survey the villa.

"The layout doesn't work. The hall is too cramped, the dome looks awful, and the staircase is too steep. It needs a complete renovation. The decorations are so ancient they look like leftovers from the Republican era. The carvings on the pillars at the entrance aren't exquisite enough, either. It's best you knock it down and start from scratch."

Stefan continued to nitpick on everything about the villa in an arrogant tone, and Renee was thoroughly confused.

Was there something wrong with this man? He still thought of himself as her husband, did he?!

"Do you have that much free time on your hands, Stefan? Did you get a degree in interior design when I wasn't looking? You don't need to point out anything about my house!"

Stefan was currently standing in the middle of the living room, staring hard at the landscape painting hanging on the wall and ignoring Renee's moody words.

"This is a nice painting. It's the famous painting of a young shepherd boy singing a song in the evening, isn't it? If this were authentic, it would be very valuable."

Renee was surprised at how perceptive Stefan's eyes were when it came to art. She thought he was a businessman through and through and never expected that he'd be knowledgeable in literature and arts.

The painting was indeed the most valuable item in the entire villa, but no one knew that. Because of that, the painting. Evening Song of the Shepherd Boy, was never taken even though the home had been ransacked many times. It was also her father's favorite painting, and Renee would think of him whenever she looked at the painting hanging in the hall.

It was mystifying as she felt a sense of security she usually associated with her father when she looked at Stefan's strong back. He was like a silent, unmoving mountain. She felt that her world was safe as long as he was around. Even if the sky fell, she wouldn't need to be afraid.

Oh my god. Renee was going out of her mind! What was she even thinking?!

Margaret looked at Renee, then at Stefan, and she couldn't help but smile. This was the first time she saw Stefan in person, and he was nowhere as cold–blooded or heartless as Renee had portrayed him.

Based on his heroic rescue and how he looked at Renee, it seemed this man was not as apathetic as Renee claimed.

'Perhaps a misunderstanding led to their divorce...' Margaret thought as she watched the two.

"Are you done? If you're done, you should leave!" Renee said rudely, trying to get him to leave.

Though she wasn't sure why the man had visited her, she was certain he didn't have any good intentions, so she might as well

chase him away as soon as possible.

"Miss Ren, you can't be so rude!" Margaret admonished. "Mr. Hunt is a guest, and he just saved us. We should at least have

him stay for a meal."

Then, the older woman turned to Stefan and said, "Mr. Hunt, it's afternoon now, so why don't you stay for lunch? What do you usually eat? I can make almost any kind of cuisine, even Western! Just spill your preferences."

Stefan turned and observed Margaret for a few moments. After a while, he seemed satisfied and started to make uninhibited orders. "I like seafood. Do you know how to make pan-fried salmon with watercress? Crab linguine is fine too. If you make soup, make sure it's not too thick..."

Renee clenched her fist as Stefan continued.

"Have you had enough, Stefan? Do you think my house is a restaurant, ordering food like that?!"

She wouldn't stop herself from waving her arms wildly like she was chasing flies away as she tried to usher Stefan outside. Go, leave! You're not welcome here! I'm going to close the door!"

Stefan was unmoving as he said coldly. "I don't need you to welcome me."

Then he turned to Margaret and continued, "It's fine as long as you welcome me, Madam."

Margaret was slightly stunned. She didn't expect the rumored cold and heartless man to have such a childish side and

immediately played along.

"Yes, of course! You were once the family's son-in-law, either way, and you've also protected Miss Ren for many years! Let me show you what I can do for you today!"

After saying that, Margaret picked up the forgotten bag of groceries and walked into the kitchen, leaving Renee and Stefan to stare at each other awkwardly....