

The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

Chapter 331

Austin was fired up when he heard this and said, "That's right! We have to worship the God of War. Consider it our pledge of allegiance. Let's get to the helicopters, we shall leave at once!"

"Yes! Let's go right now!" Renee waved her arms and cheered.

Inwardly, she finally felt relieved. As expected, Grandpa Baldwin was a very impulsive man, even to the point of narcissism. He had actually believed her completely when she asked him to go and worship the God of War.

This time, the Baldwins and Stefan would not meet. Later, she could just find a random reason to stop the two families from fighting. It was perfect!

Renee smiled lightly and thought about her plan happily. She really was a genius who could adapt to any situation!

At that moment, the butler entered the room with a concerned look on his face. "General Baldwin, sorry to interrupt, but there seems to be someone... a big shot outside asking to meet you!"

Austin said coldly, "Don't be such a coward. Who is this big shot you're talking about?" "H-He is..."

Before the butler could answer, a tall, upright man barged into the room, completely ignoring the security guards.

Stefan, donning a black suit, strode forward determinedly. His perfectly carved features made him look like a dashing movie star in a blockbuster film.

Because of his powerful aura, he managed to subdue the armed security guards though he came alone and unarmed. The guards were shivering and did not dare to even move!

"How did this guy get here so quickly?! Can he teleport or something?" Renee looked at Stefan in shock, the blood draining from her face.

Beach City and Sutton were thousands of miles away, and it took hours by plane to get here. There was no way he could reach here so fast, which could only mean one thing : He must have come to Sutton earlier!

To her utter dismay, Renee had failed to stop the worst case scenario from happening. She really wanted to grab the man and tell him, 'Stefan, are you an idiot? You know that this is a very dangerous place, and yet, you still came. You are indeed Francine's son!'

Renee felt very helpless. She had just sent Francine off, and now, an even more difficult person had shown up. It seemed like she could not stay in Sutton any longer or else these people would never stop!

The Baldwins sized Stefan up immediately.

Stefan did not back down though, and instead, his gaze became colder as he met their gazes arrogantly. It looked like a battle was about to break out.

Renee took a deep breath and moved forward, standing between the two parties. She pulled the cold man to her side and forced a smile. "Everyone, this is my black-hearted ex-husband, Stefan Hunt... I'll be honest with you - I still have some matters to settle with him, which is why he anxiously came to look for me. Please forgive him!"

At the same time, she constantly signaled Stefan in hopes that he would cooperate with her to avoid conflict.

Stefan's expressionless face suddenly showed a hint of playfulness as he smiled. "Indeed, I still have some unfinished matters with my ex-wife."

Justin's eyes turned cold and he asked sternly, "And just what might that be?"

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Stefan stood in front of everyone and replied slowly and firmly, 'I'm here to settle our remarriage, of course.'

He stepped closer to Renee and pulled her into his arms, then smiled at her. "Darling, you're so disobedient. You ran off with another man, and that's not very nice."

"Dar...ling?" Renee met his eyes in bewilderment.

'Even if he is acting, he doesn't have to go overboard like this, right?'

When she thought about her nightmare last night, the only thing playing in her mind was that Stefan was going to murder her.

By this time, the Baldwins were staring at Stefan like they were a pack of starving wolves and he a juicy steak, but they did not dare to act impulsively because of Stefan's strong aura.

Austin even took out the revolver he carried with him and placed it on the table, saying sternly, "It seems like the offspring of the Hunt family is rather daring - he actually came all the way here to snatch something of ours. I heard that you're the only heir left, boy. If you die here, wouldn't that old man, Timothy Hunt, die of anger?"

Stefan glanced at the revolver and smiled calmly. He didn't seem scared at all, and even hugged Renee more tightly. "That's the wrong term, Mr.

Baldwin. 'Snatch' is a word used for things that do not belong to oneself; however, my darling and I love each other very much and she is also my legitimate wife. She was originally mine, so how can you say that I am snatching her from you? The correct term would be 'take!'

"How dare you!" Austin cocked the revolver in a flash and aimed it at Stefan's head. He snarled, "I don't care if you want to snatch or take her away, but if it involves me, it's a death wish! Your grandfather should have told you that I never miss my target - my bullets are never wasted!"

Seeing this, Renee hurriedly opened her arms, stood in front of Stefan, and shouted, "Grandpa Baldwin, please stay calm. My grandfather didn't give you this revolver to suppress the weak!"

Everyone gasped as soon as she said that.

Sophia's eyes widened and she mouthed, "Enough... Don't interfere!" She knew the old man's personality better than anyone else. If he was irritated, even Renee might not be spared!

"What did you say?" As expected, Austin's face turned red and his anger shifted from Stefan to Renee.

Renee gulped, but her determination intensified. "Since my husband has come to fetch me, I am not going to fight with him anymore. At the same time, I need to confess to you that..."

"Renee!" Justin said warningly, feeling like something very bad was about to happen.

Unfortunately, Renee had no other way to stop this war, so she could only sacrifice herself.

She first gave herself an emotional backstory. Covering her face, she started sobbing, "My darling and I love each other very much, but he cheated on me and had an affair with another woman. I was very angry, so I divorced him and used Justin as a tool to make him care more about me! Now that my darling came alone to Sutton for my sake, I'm very moved. Though he knew that he would surely die in the hands of the Baldwins, he still came. So, I'm not going to be angry with him anymore... I want to go back with him!"

Her heartfelt words stunned everyone. Even the sharp-witted Stefan was so taken in by her performance that he subconsciously tightened his embrace.

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Austin knitted his eyebrows and was immersed in his thoughts for a long time. Then, he fixed his fierce wolf-like eyes on Renee. "So, what you're saying is... you've been using Justin and us this whole time, and you were acting from the very beginning to deceive the Baldwin family?"

Renee inhaled deeply and nodded guiltily. "I'm very sorry. I was wrong."

"Don't-!" Justin wanted to stop her but it was too late. He hit his forehead on the table and groaned. "She can't be saved. Renee, you idiot! It's not worth it!"

It was too foolish for her to risk her life for this cheater!

Justin knew Austin very well - the old man detested lies and was very stubborn. Once he lost his temper, he could even kill others. How would this end now?

"Well, isn't that just great?" Austin had obviously lost control of his emotions. He pointed his revolver at Renee and said icily, "I like you, and admire you very much. I would have even used all my resources to nurture you because you are Maurice's granddaughter, but this is just too disappointing... The first rule of the Baldwin family is that anyone who dares to betray the family shall die!"

Seeing Austin was about to fire the gun, Justin jumped in front of Renee in the nick of time and said nonchalantly, "Grandpa, that's our family rule.

What does it have to do with an outsider? If you really want to fire the gun, you can just aim it at me!" "Do you think I

wouldn't dare to do that?" Austin sneered.

"Of course, you would. You can kill all of us without even batting an eyelid. How cool is that?" Justin said cheekily. Sophia was so

anxious she jumped to her feet. "Shut up, brat! Isn't the situation messy enough already?"

Jack also feared that Austin would really shoot his son and bravely interrupted, "Please calm down, Father. These young people are still immature. They don't think before they speak. As adults, we should educate them and give them a chance to turn over a new leaf."

His words somehow moved the arbitrary man. Austin slowly put away his revolver and said to Renee, "Child, I still believe you're very talented. Your achievements can be greater than mine and your grandfather's if you get the right training. It would be a waste if you're sacrificed like this, so I want to give you a chance. As long as you cut ties with this man once and for all and stay with Justin, I will forgive you."

Renee frowned slightly and asked, "Are you saying that you're willing to let Stefan go?"

"I had no intention of letting the Hunts go, but if you are willing to marry Justin, I can consider it..." Austin believed that he was being very generous in this situation. It was partly because Renee was the only granddaughter of his respected Maurice - any other person who dared to do this would have already been dead.

"I..." Renee was in a dilemma.

'Great. Clearly, they see me as some sort of peace-making princess. Can I say that I don't want to make a choice?' However, she and

Stefan might die on the spot if she did not choose the Baldwin family.

So, deciding to submit to the circumstances, Renee took a step forward and said, "I will choose..."

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Before Renee could finish, Stefan gripped her wrist firmly. "She does not need to make a choice - she's coming with me." As soon as he said that, he turned around and walked away, pulling Renee along.

"How dare you!" Austin lost his patience and instantly aimed his revolver at Stefan's head. "You're asking for death, you impertinent brat!"

The guards around them also aimed their weapons at Stefan. As soon as the old man gave the order, the two of them would be shot to death!

Renee panicked and struggled to get her hand free. "Let go of me, Stefan. There's nothing wrong with giving in sometimes! You may want to die, but I don't!"

Stefan snorted coldly. "I, Stefan, am not so weak that I need a woman to save my life."

Renee was speechless. 'This stubborn man... How many times have I saved you? Stop acting like you're the hero here!'

Stefan turned around and looked at Austin with a smirk. 'Mr. Baldwin, you can shoot me if you'd like, but the second you do, your entire army will turn into ashes... Are you really okay with that?'

Austin scowled. "Rubbish! The Baldwin army is invincible. Why would they be threatened by you?"

Stefan said calmly, "My grandfather has long been prepared for the day you will go crazy and cause trouble, so a large amount of explosives is buried under every training center of the Baldwin army. It would only take the press of a button for the bombs with enough power to destroy a whole city to explode at the same time. If you do not believe it, you can see it for yourself!"

'What?'" Austin and the rest of the Baldwins were shocked. The Baldwin army consisted of sixteen legions. They were spread across the globe, undergoing the most rigorous training.

The locations of the training centers were confidential information. How did the Hunt family find out about them and bury explosives right under them?

Those sixteen legions were the reason why the Baldwin family was so powerful. They were so invincible that no land they went to could survive. If the Baldwin army was destroyed, Austin's lifetime pride would also be ruined, and the whole Baldwin family...

He could not act recklessly!

'Hmph, I did not expect that Timothy is still as cunning as before... The old fox was two steps ahead of me, as usual!'

"Mr. Baldwin, my grandfather is not cunning, he is just taking precautions. Unlike you, he prefers peace, but he has his limits.

Since you picked a fight, he will naturally retaliate." After that, without giving Renee a chance to say anything, Stefan dragged her along and left the Baldwin residence unhindered.

They drove to a five-star hotel and checked into the presidential suite. Only when they were in the suite could Renee finally relax.

'Finally, I have finally left the Baldwin residence. It was really like living in the dark ages there! If I stayed in that tyrannical demon cave any longer, I would have gone mad!' She took a deep breath and thought to herself.

However, when she looked up, she saw Stefan staring at her intently, as if he could devour her at any moment. This... did not seem to be very safe either, right?

'Did I just jump from the frying pan into the fire?' "Well, if there's nothing else, I'll head back!"

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Renee tidied herself up quickly, wanting to leave. 'Oh, right. I released Miss Milford last night, so she should be safe by now. Why don't you try to contact her to see if she's okay?"

"There is no need for that" Stefan, no longer exuding his usual cold and intense aura, looked very relaxed. He took off his jacket and threw it onto the chaise lounge casually, leaving only a white shirt partially covering his perfect muscular body.

Renee's heart fluttered seeing this, and she gulped subconsciously.

The man then took off his valuable diamond watch and put it on the table. He propped his long arm on the edge of the table, and said lightly, "My mother arrived in Beach City last night, and should be having afternoon tea with her friend now."

"She arrived last night?" Renee was confused. "Then why did you go to the Baldwin residence so early in the morning?" Stefan looked up and met her gaze, the corner of his lips curving into a playful smirk. "What do you think?"

"I..." She bit her lip, her heart pounding in her chest. His passionate gaze was like a fire that burned her. She shook her head vigorously and growled, "I don't know what you're thinking, but this is the last bit of kindness I can offer to the Hunt family. Did you even think of what would happen to me when you dragged me away like that? I'm probably now on the Baldwin family's hit list, all thanks to you!"

Although the Baldwin family had strict family rules and was very unwavering, all the members of the Baldwin family had been very kind to her. Everyone in the household had treated her like a treasure, but they were probably so disappointed and angry that she just followed their enemy unhesitatingly!

"The Baldwin family and I wouldn't have gotten into such a stalemate at all if you did not come and mess things up. You really screwed me over this time!"

'Is that so?' His gaze, tinged with frost, was like a sharp knife cutting through her skin. The man was both hot and cold! "Are you blaming me for ruining your relationship with Justin and destroying your plan to become the future mistress of the Baldwin family?"

'What the heck?' Renee stared at him in bewilderment. This jealousy was completely unlike him!

She raised her chin and said defiantly, 'Am I such a cheap person in your eyes that I must be interested in a man if I talk to him? You're too narrowminded!"

Renee was like a proud swan, and after tidying herself up, she continued, 'I have told you very clearly that I, Renee Everheart, am an independent individual. I have my own thoughts, and I'm not a toy for you and the Baldwin family to fight over. If you want to fight, leave me out of it. I still have things to do, so goodbye!"

Stefan stared at the woman's beautiful figure as she turned around, then asked softly, "If you really did not care, why did you shield me from the gun back in the Baldwin residence? Don't you think you're being contradictory?"

Renee was stunned and didn't know what to say.

He was right. No matter how harsh her words were, her instinctual actions had exposed her true feelings. How could she not care? How could she just watch him die? That wasn't the kind of person she was!

Stefan moved closer to Renee, his expression serious. "I was not joking when I said that I want to remarry you. Think about it."

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Stefan instinctively reached to touch Renee's cheek, but stopped himself. He was usually a man of few words, but surprisingly, he was laying his cards on the table for her. "It's true. Think about it carefully; I'll come and ask for your answer early tomorrow morning."

Renee clenched her fists slightly, surprising him when she just nodded obediently. "Okay."

She would consider it for the sake of the two babies in her belly, as long as he sincerely wanted to start over with her.

After he left, she stood in front of the huge French window and looked down at the city quietly, seriously thinking about her future.

'Should I stick through with my plan of making a fortune and reviving my family with the two kids? Or, should I go back to my past life and live under the protection of the Hunt family? Do I really want to be a housewife whose life revolves around her husband and kids? It seems like both choices have their pros and cons, and there'll be regrets regardless.'

As she was pondering her fate, her phone rang. It was a strange contact number, originating neither from Beach City or Sutton, but North City.

When she answered the phone and heard a woman's voice, her heart soon sank. She wanted to curse her bad luck, but just tolerated it and chatted with the woman for a while. She also suppressed her anger and said coldly, 'Okay, wait. I'll go there now."

After getting her things settled, Renee rushed over to Redwood Mansion where she had agreed to meet Briar.

That mountain villa was located in North City. It was one of the few places that H Group had invested in, and it was a good spot for relaxation. Its environment and facilities were so good that it had never been opened to the public. Only a privileged few had access to the place, i

Once inside the mansion, one could see that it was surrounded by mist and plants. It was rich in oxygen, and looked like a fairytale palace. A white European-style building was visible from a distance, and it looked as magnificent as a castle. It was built in the middle of the mountains, silently demonstrating the great wealth of H Group.

Renee alighted from the car and saw an extremely large rose farm. The large and delicate red roses were in full bloom, and they dyed the sky red.

Briar was in a white dress, sitting on a lounge in the rose garden. She was leisurely trimming the roses and humming a song. What a relaxing and enjoyable life this woman had!

Seeing that, Renee was furious. She snorted. "It looks like you lead a pretty good life here being isolated and forgotten by everyone else!"

Briar turned around and glanced at Renee, saying smugly, "Of course, great troubles will disappear if you stay in such a place."

"You're not staying here though, are you? You're just hiding like a rat that's too ashamed to be seen." Renee sneered, bringing up Briar's sore point instantly.

However, Briar was not angry at all. She slowly cut off a rose and sniffed it, then said with a charming expression, "I know you're just jealous of me since you never got what I have... After all, Stefan never adored and spoiled you this way even though you were his rightful wife!" "Oh, is that so? How did he adore and spoil you, exactly?" Renee crossed her arms in front of her chest in amusement, enjoying Briar's acting.

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"Can't you tell? Although Stefan asked me to move out of Hunt Villa, he gave me such a big castle. He removed the rose garden I planted in Hunt Villa, but he gave me this larger and more valuable one instead..."

Briar stared at the rose in her hand and said to Renee smugly, "All these rose seedlings were frozen and airlifted from Bui gal. A seedling costs tens of thousands, and this garden is more than a hundred square feet. I've got countless roses, which shows Stefan's endless love for me!"

Renee glanced at the endless rose garden. It was indeed stunning. "All that I can say is that the Hunt family is indeed rich."

Inwardly, she had to admit that this did affect her. 'Of course, I'd be jealous. I even pity myself. Now that I think about it, he'd never done anything for me even though I was married to him for so many years, so why was he indulging Briar like this? It's fine if I lost to someone else, but this is Briar, who's nothing but a cunning fox. I can't just let this go!'

"The Hunt family is rich, but Stefan is no fool. He won't be so generous with just anyone. It must be because I'm special to him that he's taking such good care of me, but you..." Briar looked Renee up and down, then shook her head. "I feel sorry for you. You were married to him for four years, but you never gained his love for even a day. How embarrassing!"

"That's enough, Briar! Is this why you called me here? You just wanted to show off, didn't you?" Renee sneered and continued, "Do you think he loves you? If he loves you, he wouldn't have asked you to go off the grid. In short... he just loves the baby in your belly. When the baby is born, you'll be worthless, and then, you'll be abandoned!"

"No, Stefan promised to take care of my child and I forever. He just asked me to stay here for the time being because of all the drama back home. Once the situation's calmer, he'll get me home and let me regain my identity, then he'll marry me."

"Hah! You're too naive!" Renee approached Briar slowly and patted Briar's cheek mockingly. She hated Briar because of how shameful and pathetic Briar was. "You don't know, do you? The Hunt family will never accept a vicious woman, let alone a worthless one. You don't have any status now, but at the end of the day, you're just a pathetic fool who tried to kill herself. Once you give birth to your child, the Hunt family will get rid of you as quickly as one would a nasty stain. Even Miss Milford, who always sided with you, nags me daily to remarry her son, so stop entertaining such naive dreams!"

Renee's words were sharp and unpleasant, but it was the truth. Francine was suddenly being very nice to her, and Stefan had even asked her to remarry him out of the blue. In short, they saw that she was more valuable than Briar, so they just chose the better candidate.

The pathetic ones were always those who could only wait for others to pick them. She pitied Briar, and hoped the woman could come to her senses.

Unfortunately, Briar took things too seriously, which was unexpected for Renee. Briar's eyes widened in outrage. "That's impossible! I'm pregnant with the child of the Hunt family. Miss Francine likes me, and Stefan

adores me. I'll be a part of their family sooner or later. You're just jealous of me, so you're twisting the facts to anger me..."

She was hysterical as she grabbed Renee's arms and cried out, "Tell me the truth! You're just lying, aren't you? Miss Francine hates you, so there's no way she'd let you remarry Stefan. You must be lying!"

Renee's patience was exhausted, and she pushed Briar away. "Go away!" Briar tumbled to

the ground. "Ah, it's so painful. My belly..."

Blood flowed from between Briar's legs, dying the soil red.

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"My belly hurts so bad. Save me... Please save me!" Briar laid in a pool of blood with one hand on her bulging belly and the other stretching towards Renee pitifully.

Renee was frightened, and took a step back. "S-Stop pretending. I just pushed you slightly, so how could you have such a serious fall?"

She had only tried to push Briar's hand away. She did not expect Briar to fall to the ground with just a shove. Did... Did she not control her strength?

"Miss Everheart, my belly hurts so much. I'm going to lose my child. I don't care if you did it on purpose or not. Please send me to the hospital. Please save my child!" Briar looked pale as she begged Renee. She was in so much pain that she broke out into a cold sweat.

"I... I don't know how to save you either. I..." Renee tried her best to calm down and picked up her phone to call for an ambulance.

However, someone pushed her aside, sending her phone sliding away. She turned around and found that it was Stefan.

His handsome face was cold as he strode towards Briar quickly and carried her in his arms. "Briar, hold on. I'll rush you to the hospital now. You must hold on!"

He had always been calm and steady, so it was rare to see him so flustered. His hands were trembling, and his voice was hoarse too.

Briar grabbed Stefan with her bloodstained hands and wailed, "Stefan, you're finally here! Miss Everheart pushed me. She wanted to kill my child and me... Save us!"

Stefan could feel the hot and sticky blood flowing out of Briar's body, and was afraid that he would become dizzy from his hemophobia. He did not dare to look at her, he just remained silent and walked towards his car with Briar in his arms.

"Don't worry, I'll save you and the baby. You'll be fine!" Stefan's face was tense as he promised her shakily. Seeing that, Renee walked

over anxiously and tried to explain herself. "I didn't push her on purpose. I..."

"Go away!" Stefan did not even look at her as he snapped at her icily.

Renee was speechless. Even though she had a lot to say, she could not bring herself to say anything anymore. He had always been indifferent and aloof to her during their four years of marriage, but it was the first time she had seen him so serious. There was hatred in his eyes, and it frightened her.

Renee did not dare to say anything anymore. She automatically backed away and watched as Stefan carried Briar into the car and they left swiftly. Soon, they disappeared from view.

Hot tears flowed down her cheeks, and she looked in the direction where the car had left for a long time before she whispered brokenly, "But I didn't mean it..."

At the hospital.

Stefan carried Briar and rushed towards the emergency room. "Doctor, please save her and the baby. You must save them!"

The doctor and nurses on duty immediately rushed over when they saw him. They put the unconscious Briar, who was covered in blood, on a stretcher.

Stefan saw the blood, and his head started to spin. He could no longer hold on, and soon, everything went black.

Stefan didn't know how much time had passed when he woke up on the hospital bed. He clenched his fists anxiously, and shouted at the doctors, "Save them! You must save them, even if it costs me my life!"

Before his brother died, his brother had held his hand and entrusted them to his care, so he could not let anything happen to them. If not... He would have to die to apologize for his mistake, if he did.

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Stefan felt like he had fallen into an abyss. He felt like he was about to die, and his expression was strained. He wanted to crawl out of the abyss, but it was too dark, and he could not find anything to hold onto. Delirious, he muttered, "Hold me!"

Suddenly, a small, warm hand reached out and held his. It felt like his saviour had found him, and his tense muscles gradually relaxed.

He even heard a tender voice, as if someone was calling after his lost soul. 'Stefan, it's okay, I got you. You need to wake up now...'

Stefan followed the voice and slowly opened his eyes. The first thing he saw was Renee's beautiful features creased with worry. "You're awake! You scared me." She heaved a long sigh of relief.

Stefan had been unconscious for three days because of his hemophobia. The doctors had tried everything they could to wake him up, but nothing worked. Diagnostic tests had shown that many of his organs were failing, and if he stayed in that condition, he would have died.

Renee had rushed to the hospital after Stefan and Briar did and had stayed by his bedside. She had called his name repeatedly until her voice turned hoarse, and at last, she had managed to wake him up.

Stefan's gaze was frighteningly aloof. He abruptly sat up and demanded coldly, "Where are Briar and the baby? Are they okay?"

Renee felt a slight ache in her heart. At first, she thought that Stefan was just fooling around with Briar, but now it seemed like that was not the case. He loved Briar sincerely. She pulled her hand away and answered honestly, "Briar is still in the ICU because the doctors want to observe her condition."

"How about the baby? Is the baby all right?" Stefan quickly asked.

"The baby..." Renee lowered her head because she did not know how to answer that question.

"Tell me - is the baby okay?" Stefan's eyes were wild as he grabbed her shoulders and asked sternly. "Stefan, calm down.

You're hurting me!" Renee gasped, wanting to break free from his grasp.

"I'm hurting you?" He had lost control of himself. He stared at Renee coldly as if he was looking at a murderer. "If anything happens to the baby, I'll not just hurt you... I'll kill you!"

This upset Renee, and she snapped stubbornly, "Well, you might as well get it over with because the baby is dead..."

"What?" Stefan whispered, his face turning pale. At first, he was still hopeful. He thought that the doctors could save the baby with their excellent medical skills.

However, Renee's current words had destroyed all his hope.

Of course, Renee was hurt when she looked at his panic-stricken face. She felt like she had been wronged, and despite wanting to apologize and console him, her broken heart drove her to do the exact opposite. "You want to kill me, don't you? Why are you hesitating? Hurry up and kill me! I'm just a murderer, and you have to avenge your baby!"

It was like she was trying to see whether he really cared about her.

Stefan felt so guilty towards Tristan that hatred for himself and Renee consumed him. He abruptly grabbed her neck and stared coldly at her with a kind of ruthlessness she had never seen before. "Do you think I won't do it?"

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Stefan's grip on Renee's neck tightened as his emotions overwhelmed him. At that moment, he seemed to have lost control of himself. He just wanted an outlet to release his guilt and anger, so his mind wasn't thinking straight.

Renee was in too much pain to say anything. She stared at him calmly, but tears had welled up in her eyes. She could definitely fight back, but she did not struggle - she just suffered in silence.

It was because Briar had lost her child because of Renee's careless mistake. If Stefan wanted her to pay the price with her life, then she would make it up to them with her and her two babies' lives. She would rather die at his hand than spend the rest of her life living in guilt.

After a while, her vision started fading to black, and her eyelids fluttered. She closed her eyes in deep pain and bitter disappointment...

However, Stefan could not bear to do that. He pushed her away with the last bit of rationality that was left in him.

Renee gasped for air, coughing painfully as she took in deep breaths. 'You nearly succeeded. Why did you stop? Don't you feel sorry for your kid who died?' Renee choked out hoarsely, a desperate smile on her face. It was as if she wanted him to punish her and rid her of the guilt.

'Shut up!' Stefan clenched his fists, using all his willpower to hold himself back. It was true that he hated Renee's cruelty, but he hated himself more for being so incapable. He had failed to protect the only child his late brother left in this world, and did not even have the courage to avenge that innocent life.

He was really a coward.

Stefan stared at her coldly and said, "From today onwards, we're strangers. I don't want to see you again for the rest of my life!"

Renee's heart broke, and she fought to keep herself from crying. With the last bit of pride she had, she straightened her back and shrugged casually. "That's fine with me. We have to keep our word and never see each other again!"

After that, she turned around to leave. However, when she reached the door, she turned to look at Stefan as she said fiercely, 'Stefan, I gave you a chance to avenge the child, but you failed to do so. You won't get another opportunity like that again!'

He lowered his gaze and clenched his fists, then snarled, "Get lost!"

He never imagined that they would miss each other for so many years just because of those words they said in a fit of anger...

A few days later, Briar was out of danger, and she was transferred to a normal ward from the ICU.

Stefan took care of her meticulously out of guilt, but though her body had slowly recovered, she was now suffering from a serious mental illness. She refused to eat, drink, or sleep, and if Stefan was not around, she would make a scene and try to kill herself.