The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

Chapter 341

While Stefan was taking care of some business, Briar started to go crazy again after the sedative wore off. 'Let

me die! Let me die!'

Briar went crazy and hit her head against the wall hard. With a swollen bruise on her head, she screamed, "My baby is gone! I don't want to live anymore! Let me die!"

The nurses were frantic and called Stefan. When Stefan received the news, he dropped his business and rushed over as fast as possible.

Briar was out of control. Stefan grabbed her and comforted her repeatedly. "It's okay. It's okay."

Briar suddenly hugged him docilely. She kept crying and murmured," Stefan, the baby is gone... The only thing Tristan left for ms is gone..."

"They said my womb is no more! I won't be able to conceive anymore. What

should I do? My life is finished!"

Stefan silently laid Briar down on the bed. He put a hot towel on her swollen head and whispered, "Your life isn't finished. You'll have the Hunt family as your biggest support."

' Really?" Briar continued crying and said, "Did you know? Miss Everheart came to me and provoked me. She said the Hunt family was only treating me like a baby-making machine. I become worthless once I've given birth. The Hunt family will discard me heartlessly..."

"She also said Miss Francine liked her more because she was more valuable than me. Miss Francine wants her to remarry you. I was so upset I took her hand and tried to get her to explain clearly. That was when she pushed me to the ground in anger. And just like that, my baby is gone!"

Briar repeated herself over and over again about how Renee had hurt her. Stefan listened in silence and did not respond.

Stefan waited until Briar was done venting and said slowly, "I know you've suffered. I'm sorry. I couldn't protect you and the baby. It won't happen again."

Briar did not want to let this pass. In agitation, she took Stefan's hand and blurted, "Miss Everheart is so mean. She killed Tristan's only child. Because of her, I will never conceive a child again. Are you going to let her go without doing anything?"

"I'm not asking you to beat her up or scold her, but she should at least come and apologize to me in person, right?"

"I only cursed her a little, but she demanded me to apologize to her on my knees in public before. I refused, so she insisted on suing me and putting me in jail. She's a murderer now, but she'll be going scot-free... Stefan, are you really going to do this to your brother?"

Stefan still did not answer her. He brought some food to Briar and hushed her, "You didn't eat much today. Eat more and recover soon."

"Don't change the subject!" Briar shouted. As her tears fell, she looked at Stefan in pain and became hysterical again. "Stefan, that's unfair! You've got a double standard, but this is too much..."

"If your brother is still around, he'll make her pay for hurting me like this... You may be generous, but can you answer Tristan and your nephew?"

"You didn't see the baby when they took him out, right? He was already a developed fetus. He's a little boy, but your ex-wife killed him just like that. All I want is just an apology from her. Am I going too far for that?"

"I'd rather die! I'd rather be with my baby and his father. Let me die!"

Stefan felt a little tired and took a deep breath. Briar had to make a scene like this almost every day. He could only calm her down by using a sedative.

The nurses soon came in and secured Briar. Then, they gave her a dose of sedatives.

Briar suddenly lost all her strength and fell onto the bed. She looked at Stefan as she expressed her pain and disappointment in silence.

Stefan felt guilty seeing Briar in such a terrible state. He knew he could no longer run away. He needed to give Briar and his late brother and nephew an answer.

"Okay. I promise. When you recover, I'll make her apologize to you and confess her mistake!"

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The computer screen glowed with a white light in the dark room.

Stefan replayed the surveillance footage from Redwood Mansion over and over again. He wanted to see if the tragedy happened because of Renee's arrogance, as Briar claimed.

Stefan tapped the forward and backward buttons again and again. He repeatedly watched how Renee humiliated and pushed Briar. He watched how indifferent Renee was as she watched Briar lie in a pool of blood.

Stefan's eyes were glued to the screen. His face was tense with anger. At last, he hissed a low curse of disappointment in the silent darkness. "Damn it!"

Stefan never thought of Renee as someone evil. She was just a willful woman with a strong sense of self. However, this video really hit him hard. He never knew she could be so vicious and hurt an unborn child like that!

As Stefan struggled to restrain himself from losing control, he took out his phone and called Elijah.

"Bring Renee to Sutton at once," Stefan ordered coldly, "She must apologize to Briar and explain herself to my family and me!"

Elijah could feel Stefan's raging anger on the other end of the line.

However, he could only report truthfully. "Mr. Hunt, it's too late... Mrs. Hunt ... Miss Everheart has left."

"She left?"

Stefan's eyes turned cold. "Where did she go? Where can she go?"

"I'm not sure about that."

Elijah said calmly, "She met me about a week ago to bid her farewell. She said she was leaving and might never return to Beach City again. She told me to say goodbye to everyone in H Group and prepared a gift for them. She left you a message..."

Stefan's heart rumbled with a sea of emotions when he heard this. 'Damn it! Did she run away from guilt? How could she run

away without saying anything?' Even so, Stefan vaguely remembered that Renee had previously mentioned that she would soon leave Beach City. He

thought she was joking at that time, but he never thought... She had been planning for this since then!

"What did she say?" Stefan asked, gripping the phone tightly.

Elijah sighed sadly and lamented, "Alas, what a pity. Many of the H Group employees have bet that you'll reconcile with her. Now everyone's going to lose their bet..."

"She said she's sorry. She hopes her grudges and feuds with you will end here. She doesn't want to meet you ever again!"

"Judging by Miss Everheart's tone, she seems distraught. She didn't want to leave you but had no choice."

"Sad? Stop joking, will you?"

Stefan's emotions were suddenly in turmoil. He couldn't tell if it was more of anger or fear. However, he knew he would never let Renee leave.

Absolutely not!

"She has escaped. In that case, send someone to investigate and bring her to me!"

Stefan held his forehead in annoyance and coldness in his eyes. For the first time, he felt that everything was beyond his control.

The moon was bright outside. The floor-to-ceiling window reflected Stefan's tall figure outside. He looked like a beast waiting to strike in the darkness, dangerous but full of charm.

"I did, but I couldn't catch her."

Elijah took a breath and said carefully, "I knew you wouldn't want to let go of Miss Everheart. As soon as you broke up with her, I had all the borders in Beach City closed. I wanted to stop her, but guess what... Miss Everheart simply vanished into thin air. There's no news about her whereabouts at all." "Are you kidding me?"

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Stefan was so angry that he wanted to choke Elijah to death. He narrowed his eyes and hissed, "How could she just vanish into thin air? That's ridiculous!"

"Right? We've tried searching all we could but failed to track Miss Everheart's whereabouts... By the way, Miss Everheart's nanny Margaret disappeared along with her..."

Elijah sighed repeatedly and apologized. "Mr. Hunt, I've tried my best, but I can't help. If you don't believe me, you'll have to do it yourself!"

Stefan didn't hesitate and immediately took a private jet back to Beach City.

Stefan firmly believed that anyone alive would leave a track of activity.' That's impossible. How could she have completely disappeared? Unless... She's still in Beach City!' thought Stefan. He did not mind using all the power he had to find her.

Stefan sent more men to search all of Beach City. He also had Christopher and Xavier use whatever method they could to search for her.

Xavier had recovered by this time and was discharged from the hospital. He then joined Christopher and met Stefan at the Hunt Villa

"Any news?" Stefan asked as he hurried to Christoper and Xavier, who had been waiting in the living room.

Christoper and Xavier exchanged glances and shook their heads in unison.

"Stefan, what happened between you two? Why did she leave again?" Xavier asked, frowning. Renee had risked her life to save him, but she disappeared before he could even thank her. This made him a little guilty.

"It's a long story. Stop wasting time and find her!"

Stefan was in no mood for small talk. He just wanted to find Renee quickly. Where in the world was she hiding?

"A long story? At least tell us something..."

Christopher was the calmest among the three. He patted Stefan's shoulder lightly and said, "We need to know what happened to solve the issue.

Otherwise, we'll be wasting our time searching everywhere and getting nothing in return."

"Chris is right. We don't even know what happened. Where do we find her? It'll be a waste of time!"

Xavier was upset and said in slight annoyance, "Stefan, what's wrong with you? You seem like a changed man. What are you doing? This is not cool. If you made her angry, you should apologize and coax her sincerely. What's the point of searching for her everywhere like this?"

"You should tell us. Why did she leave without saying goodbye? There must be a reason, right?"

Stefan took a deep breath and said with a cold gaze, "Because I almost choked her to death. I told her not to appear in front of me again."

"What?"

Xavier and Christopher were stunned.

Xavier almost fell off the chair in shock. He argued with Stefan immediately, "Stefan, are you crazy? You're a man. How could you hurt her like that? That's domestic violence. Obviously, she had a reason to run away! Did you expect her to stay? You might've killed her!"

Xavier was very agitated because he had begun to acknowledge Renee without realizing it. Renee was such a strong, independent, clear-minded, and brave woman. Not only that, but she was also cute and beautiful.

However, his dearest friend almost choked her to death. How could he accept that?!

Just as Xavier was about to punch Stefan for Renee's sake, Stefan added," Because Renee pushed Briar down and killed my brother's only child."

"W-what?" Xavier's fist stopped midair. He could barely understand Stefan's words. "Briar? Your brother's child? What the hell is going on?!"

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"I mean it literally," Stefan confessed with an expressionless face and steady breath.

Anyway, the baby and Renee were gone. It did not matter anymore whether the secret was kept or

made public. "W-what?" Xavier gapped in shock.

Christopher had a similar reaction to Xavier's. He spent about ten minutes sorting out the whole story. After a good while, he finally let out a long sigh. "Fan, you're such a fool. It must be aggravating."

Stefan said coldly, "I'm fine. My late brother saved my life. I have to give my all to fulfill his last wish, but unfortunately... I can't do anything!"

Stefan slammed his fist hard on the table. His eyes were slightly red. It was clear that he felt very guilty

about Tristan. "Of course you're fine. It's your wife who suffered!"

Xavier could not help but fight for Renee. "If you feel responsible for Tristan's death, so be it, but why did you have to hurt

Renee? You did so much for Briar and her child, but what about Renee? She was married to you for four years, but you drove her away as soon as she made a mistake. You..."

"Enough!" Christopher glared at Xavier, telling him to stop.

"Weren't you urging Fan to divorce Renee? Isn't it too late to say all these now? Do you want to make the situation worse? Hasn't Fan suffered enough?'

"I didn't mean it that way. I just feel bad for Renee. What has she done

wrong? She's...' "I can understand Fan!"

Christopher felt bad seeing Stefan's handsome but sullen face. He said," Stefan wanted to give Briar a proper name so her child could have a legitimate identity and grow up in a healthy family. Besides, he didn't love Renee at that time. Renee didn't seem to love him either. A marriage without love is destined to fail. It was inevitable that she'd leave. Briar and her child might be the reason that set her early departure in motion..."

Xavier nodded and rubbed his chin. "That's reasonable. Everyone is a victim and hurt... However, I don't agree with what you said about Renee's feelings for Stefan. Anyone could tell that Renee was in love with Stefan before!'

"Let's not talk about the past. Think about how to solve the present."

Christopher turned to Stefan, who had been silent. He asked, "Fan, have you thought about it? The child is gone. You probably won't marry Briar anymore. Will you remarry Renee?"

"Never!" Stefan answered without hesitation. He would rather be unmarried and alone forever rather than marry the murderer who killed his late brother's only child. If he remarried her, he would never live the remainder of his life in peace!

"If so, why bother spending so much effort to search for her? You two have a big grudge among yourselves. It's probably best for you to forget her and never see her again."

Christopher instantly empathized with Renee and said impartially, 'No wonder she simply vanished. If it were me, I would've done the same."

Xavier raised his hand in agreement. "Stefan, maybe you shouldn't bother looking for her anymore. It's impossible for you two to get back together. If you get involved in her again, you'll only suffer more!"

Stefan seemed to be deaf to their words. He suddenly raised his cold eyes and asked them in a deep voice, "Did I go too far?" "Huh?" Xavier was confused by the question.

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"I almost choked her to death. Did I go too far?" Stefan

asked. "Yes and no.1'

Xavier was an outsider and said impartially, "Considering your usual behavior, choking someone wasn't the worst thing I've seen you do, but... I think hurting Renee was a little too much."

Xavier had never seen the usually sober and sensible Stefan in such distraught in all their years of friendship, heartbroken to see the state Stefan was in despite finding his actions maddening. Therefore, he toned down his words.

"She deserved it!" Stefan's calmness evaporated instantly like a long- dormant volcano that erupted suddenly. His voice was cold. "It's only fair to repay a life with a life!"

Xavier took a step backward in shock and grimaced. He ridiculed, "Okay, okay. It's fair. So are we spending so much effort to find her for you to continue choking her to death?"

Stefan hissed coldly, "We'll talk about that when we get her back!"

Xavier and Christopher exchanged a glance, smiling. They shrugged and shook their heads helplessly. They knew Stefan's personality very well.

Stefan was just an arrogant guy who hid his deep emotions behind a veil of

coldness. "Let's not waste time and find her."

Christopher analyzed calmly, "I've tracked Renee's movement based on the available data. She was at Everheart Residence, West Hill Cemetry, Azure Group headquarters, H Group headquarters... and finally, Hunt Villa."

Stefan furrowed his brows. "Are you saying she was last seen in Hunt Villa before her

disappearance?" "From the data, yes. It has been 51 hours since then."

Christopher projected the data on the projector and showed it to Stefan.

Xavier said, "51 hours. That's a little over two days. We still have the chance to track her down. Let's hurry. We'll find her for sure!"

Xavier looked around and suddenly snapped his fingers. He said, "I think she may be in the villa. She's a bright girl. Maybe she's confusing us by deliberately hiding here. She'll take the opportunity to escape the moment we look elsewhere!"

Christopher nodded. "It's possible. Why don't we get more people to surround the villa and start searching in

detail?" Stefan looked at Renee's trail of whereabouts on the projector and said coldly, 'Let's begin."

Stefan thought there was no way Renee could really disappear under his nose!

Hunt Villa was huge and covered a wide area. The three men joined the search party before additional help arrived. Stefan was in charge of searching in the villa. Meanwhile, Christopher and Xavier searched outside the villa.

Stefan strode upstairs and went to Renee's bedroom. When he opened the door, a faint scent of gardenia surrounded his senses. It was a smell that belonged exclusively to Renee.

Stefan couldn't remember the last time he noticed this smell. It was said that someone deeply in love could smell the scent of their beloved.

Stefan was unsure if he loved Renee, but the faint scent of her body was like a calming fragrance that would immediately put him at ease.

Seeing the empty room, a hint of loneliness flashed in his eyes. "Renee, where the hell are you!"

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Truthfully, Stefan knew all too well that Renee couldn't possibly be living in Hunt Villa.

Even so, he still had the faintest hope that a miracle might happen.

It's a little funny. In the past, he used to be decisive and never hesitated about anything. Why had he become so indecisive and illogical?

Stefan walked into the bedroom. He sat on the edge of the bed and carefully ran his fingers across the duvet. It was as if he was caressing her hair, her face, and her soft, fair skin...

All he could think about was Renee.

He thought of the times she smiled at him, when she was angry, when she yelled at him, when she was embarrassed, and finally, when she turned around and left without looking back.

There was an emptiness inside him. It was like an endless spiral that devastated his

soul! "Damn it!" Stefan took a deep breath. He couldn't go on like this.

His life shouldn't be affected so drastically just because a woman left him. He shouldn't be suffering like this.

Besides, that woman happened to be an evil and merciless person!

Feeling somewhat remorseful, he stood up and prepared to leave the place that reminded him so much of

Renee. However, the moment he turned around, a notebook with a vellum cover on the bookshelf caught his

attention.

This notebook had a lock on it. It looked a little like a diary and seemed to contain many

secrets. Could this be Renee's diary?

Stefan's interest was piqued. He immediately reached for the notebook and tried to unlock it.

Unfortunately, though he tried multiple times, he failed to enter the correct passcode.

Without luck, he decided to break the lock apart with force.

Snap!

Stefan paused briefly before flipping the diary open.

After all, a diary encapsulated an individual's privacy. It was rude to peek at another person's diary. However, he wasn't exactly the most reasonable person right now.

Having made up his mind, he proceeded to read the entire diary... Anyway, he'd already made the first wrong move. He might as well commit to the end!

However, Stefan was a little surprised. It wasn't a diary, after all, but a novel script.

This novel was none other than the one about him and Renee that he used to read.

He even recalled that the link to the novel was deleted just as he was getting to the thick of it.

No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't retrieve the link. Consequently, he wasn't able to read the remaining chapters of the novel.

Although Stefan had found out long ago that Renee was the author, he never exposed

her. He never expected to one day read the script of the novel!

Without the slightest bit of hesitation, he began to read it.

Renee's writing was neat and easy to read. He had no trouble recognizing

it. He recalled reading about the first time they met.

The second chapter was titled 'Falling.'

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Chapter 347

"I never thought 'love at first sight' actually existed in this world. We met in the most beautiful way possible, but we spent our time together in the worst way imaginable... I knew he didn't love me, but he had no choice but to marry me. That's why I can understand why he treated me so coldly the way he did...

"I guess he must have had a lot on his mind—dreams, poems, songs, ambitions, the girl he loved... everything but me. Even so, I still cried tears of joy when we exchanged vows in front of the priest and put the ring on each other's fingers. I fantasized about the day I'd finally find a place in his heart... even if just a tiny part!

"I cried my lungs out. He was petrified when he saw me in that state. Although he was disgusted, he still wiped my tears away and put the ring on my finger. He was cold yet gentle... At that moment... I started falling."

Chapter Three, The Long Wait.

"I've imagined us doing things together after getting married...watching variety shows on the couch, building complicated castles from Lego bricks, playing games together as a team, feeding kittens together, and even watching him eat all the food I make. After all that, we'd hold each other's hand and fall asleep in each other's arms. Little did I know, he would always say, 'Wait.' Wait for him to come home. Wait for him to have a meal together. Wait for him to be free... Sadly, I could count on my fingers the times we actually did something together.

"On countless seemingly endless lonely nights, I fell asleep on my own. Life was slowly slipping through my fingers, and so was my love for him. Whenever I felt the love was drying up, he'd suddenly smile at me or call out to me. It might even be a microexpression on his face. That was enough to make my heart race again. I was too weak. I loved him too much!"

Chapter Four, Chapter Five, Chapter Six...

Stefan maintained the same posture as he read on. He was like a statue.

As he flipped through the pages, his heart began to ache. His vision was turning blurry too...

He never knew Renee was capable of writing in such detail. In just a few words, she managed to describe their cold marriage with great accuracy.

It was evident how much she loved him from the way she wrote.

It was a one-woman show about her selflessly giving, repeatedly getting hurt by him, and continually healing herself! "Bulls*it!"

Stefan couldn't resist cursing halfway through the novel.

It wasn't surprising that this novel became so popular. The fans would all shout, "This is torture!"

The storyline was too realistic, and the characters were very well-developed. Even though Stefan knew he was the male lead and he was the one who did all these awful things, he still clenched his jaw and felt sorry for the female lead!

Fortunately, the story took a sweet turn after that.

The male and female lead had sex, and the female lead became pregnant. After the baby was born, the male lead gradually started

developing feelings for the female lead while they raised their child... "After the baby fell asleep at night, I decided to make myself something to eat in the kitchen since it was still early. I bumped into him when I opened the door. It was dark, but his cheeks were red. He was probably out drinking. I was in shock. Before I even said a

word, he pressed both hands against my cheeks and began kissing me passionately. I..." Stefan's lips felt dry while he read this part. He even became a little excited.

Although it was only a kissing scene, Renee's writing made it feel so realistic. Stefan could totally picture it happening. He quickly turned the page, hoping to read even more exciting content.

It turned out this was where the novel ended!

"Damn it! Why isn't there more? Did she hide the rest of the novel?" Stefan was hooked. He kept flipping through the notebook. He was afraid he'd miss any 'restricted' content.

Unfortunately, the novel had, in fact, come to an end. Renee didn't write anything else.

Stefan closed the thick notebook. It felt like he'd just experienced four different seasons of the year. The novel had taken him on an emotional roller-coaster ride...

He had no idea Renee loved him so much. He also had no idea he used to be such a detestable person. Just as

it took time for the sun to set, it would take time for human emotions to fade.

Suddenly, Stefan understood why Renee could move on so quickly...

"Stefan, I've got news for you!" Xavier suddenly barged in and exclaimed excitedly.

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"Are you serious?" Stefan looked at Xavier with a cold gaze. His eyes instantly lit up.

"My men just sent me a message. They said they saw your wife at an antique market in Water Dock. Here are the photos they sent me," Xavier gushed.

He quickly switched on his phone and zoomed in on a photo for Stefan.

This was a photo taken from the side. The woman's tall nasal bridge and collar bones looked perfectly identical to

Renee's. That wasn't all. She even had on the same white dress Renee once wore.

This unclear photo of her face from the side was enough to ignite Stefan's passion and

hope! He didn't even hesitate for a split second before standing to his feet. "Let's have a

look."

The two drove to Water Dock. Meanwhile, Christopher stayed at Hunt Villa in case of an emergency.

Xavier saw Stefan clinging tightly onto a notebook. He couldn't help but feel curious. "Stefan, is your notebook a confidential document? Why won't you put it down?"

"It isn't," Stefan replied coldly. He looked out the window and refused to explain further.

Xavier was bent on getting to the bottom of it. "If it isn't a confidential document, what is it? Why do you seem so nervous? Can I see it?"

He tried to reach for the notebook, but Stefan's glare made him retract his hand.

"This notebook clearly belongs to a girl. It even has a lock, but you picked it..." Xavier began to murmur.

Suddenly, an idea occurred to him. "I know. This is a diary, isn't it? Does it belong to your wife?

"Oh my god! Stefan, you actually peeked at her diary. That's so tasteless of you. Do you know it's illegal to violate someone's privacy like that? You're a righteous man—why would you do something so dark? Are you so in love with her that you've lost all sense of reason?"

"Shut up!" Stefan frowned unhappily. He felt the urge to sew Xavier's lips together.

"How could you do something so tasteless on your own? Show it to me too. I'll be your partner-in-crime. When we see your wife, I'll keep it a secret for you!"

"It's not a diary. Countless people have seen it. You don't have to keep it a secret for me," Stefan said coldly.

"If it's not a confidential document, and it's not a diary, what is it?" Xavier was extremely curious. He continued to beg Stefan. "Come on, Stefan. Show it to me. If other people can see it, why can't I? Aren't good things meant to be shared? Let me see it!"

Stefan turned to look at Xavier. "Do you really want to see

it?" "Yes!"

"Promise me something."

"What is it?"

"I'll tell you after you read it." Stefan handed the diary to

Xavier. Xavier quickly flipped through it.

"Damn. This male lead is such a jerk. What's wrong with his brain? Why can't he just die?"

"Woah! It's so sweet. They already have a baby!"

"They kissed. They kissed. They finally kissed!"

Xavier couldn't stop reading the novel. He was completely immersed in the story.

He was sometimes happy, sometimes angry, and other times like a teenage boy whose heart would flutter.

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The emotions Xavier felt were equally intense as those of Stefan!

"Huh. Is that all?" Xavier flipped through the notebook and began complaining loudly while thumping his chest. "It's getting to the fun part. Why did it stop here? Who is the author? We should have that person whipped in public!"

Stefan subconsciously moved a little further away for fear that Xavier might accidentally hit him.

Xavier read the novel multiple times before he realized something. "Stefan, are the male and female leads actually you and your wife?"

Stefan rolled his eyes at Xavier. "Who else could they

be?" "Did she write this? Are the things she wrote all

true?" "Half of it?!" Stefan replied.

"Although not all details were accurate, her description of how they treated each other in the novel was nearly identical to how their marriage went in real life.

Xavier seemed shocked. He held the notebook as if he was holding a precious treasure. "I never knew your wife was this good at writing! I was close to tears when I read it."

at writing! I was close to tears when I read it."

Stefan raised his brows as if he was the one receiving the compliment. "I told you. She's an academic genius. She's good in

"Amazing! I'm impressed!"

both art and science."

Xavier sighed. "Stefan, you shouldn't have gotten divorced. Letting your wife go is like dangling a juicy piece of steak in front of hungry wolves. Many men out there are lining up for her!"

Stefan sneered. "Not everyone can tame her. Do you think she's an easy target?"

"From the sound of it, you're willing to let her go if another man does manage to tame her?"

Stefan shrugged nonchalantly. "Why not?"

"What if I'm that man?" Xavier asked half-jokingly with a smile.

"Are you being serious?" Stefan's eyes narrowed as he looked at Xavier. "I don't remember you ever saying she's your type."

"Why wouldn't she be? I've always liked the cool and studious type of girl. Ever since you divorced, I realized that she's my ideal type. In fact... She saved my life once. I can only repay her kindness by devoting myself to her!"

" ... "

Stefan pursed his lips. His already cold expression turned even gloomier.

"Stefan, just tell me if you're okay with it. If you are, I'll go all out. If you still have feelings for her or are preparing to get back together, I'll stop right here. I'll tell myself to forget about my feelings for her!"

Xavier had a serious look on his face. It didn't look like he was joking at all.

He knew that he wasn't supposed to sleep with his friend's ex-wife, but if Stefan had already moved on, there was no harm in doing so, was there?

Stefan wore a long face. Clearly, he looked like he was about to kill Xavier, but he still pretended to be indifferent. "If you want to go after her, go ahead. You have my blessings."

"You said it. I'm going to record it!" Xavier quickly retrieved his phone and urged Stefan to repeat what he said.

Stefan smacked his phone away. "Are you done messing around? Do you think this is funny?"

Xavier stopped laughing. He had never looked more serious. "I told you. I'm serious."

The two had been friends for many years, and they'd never had a big argument like this. Xavier had always looked up to Stefan as his role model.

However, this time, neither was willing to back off. There was palpable tension in the air...

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Chapter 350

Amidst the tension, they arrived at Water Dock.

Xavier smiled ambiguously at Stefan. "Stefan, why don't we have a friendly competition? If you find her first, I'll accept the fact that she's yours and will forever consider her out of my reach. However, if I find her first... I'll make my move!"

"Whatever," Stefan replied nonchalantly.

"You're the most generous man in Beach City!" Xavier exclaimed before opening the door and hastily getting out of the car. He immediately started searching for Renee.

Stefan, on the other hand, slowly got out of the car and smoothed out the wrinkles on his high-end suit. Like an emperor on tour, he scanned the surroundings arrogantly.

Water Dock's antique market was the largest antique market in Beach City.

Since it was located at a strategic intersection between several countries, many valuable treasures were smuggled and sold there. As a result, many local traders became wealthy. Likewise, with an increased wealth came an increased crime rate. The area also lay host to various underground gangs.

Stefan walked through the bustling crowd like a tourist. He browsed around before finally stopping in front of a small stall.

The stall owner was a dark, old man with a white beard. A coarse linen cloth was spread on the ground, where various treasures were laid.

These included copper coins, jade wares, ancient paintings, and pottery figurines. Every treasure looked like it existed long ago. Evidently, these antiques were recently excavated from graves.

However, there were countless other stalls that looked alike—even the treasures they sold looked similar, catching the attention of only a few who'd stop to look at the goods.

"Looking for treasures, young man?" The old man asked while he stroked his beard.

"The things I sell are different from those that are mass-produced stuff you see around here. I personally excavated all these treasures. You can buy anything with your eyes closed, and it'd still be a good deal!" He added.

"I'm not here to buy anything," Stefan said.

"You're here to look for someone." The old man raised his brows and looked at Stefan. "You look like someone important. If you're willing to search for someone at a messy place like this, that person must mean a lot to you."

Stefan neither admitted nor denied it. "You seem like an expert who's been here for a long time. I'm sure you know everything there is to know."

The old man stopped stroking his beard briefly. "I wouldn't say I'm an expert, but I certainly know a thing or two about excavating graves and fortune-telling. If you're looking for someone, I could offer you my divination service."

"Thank you for your willingness to help." Intrigued, Stefan proceeded to sit on a bamboo chair in front of the stall.

The old man retrieved a bamboo tube with dozens of bamboo sticks inside.

"Each stick represents a different outcome. All you need to do is ask the question earnestly and shake the tube. The stick that comes out will give you the answer you're searching for."

The old man extended the bamboo tube to Stefan. "You may begin!"

Stefan focused his gaze on the bamboo tube. Just as he was about to shake it, Xavier suddenly showed up and pounced at him.

"Stefan, do you think you're on a vacation? How are you still in the mood for antiques? Are you not worried that I might find her first and steal her from you?"

Stefan sneered. "What's there to be afraid of? You'd only be wasting your time."

"Hehe. I don't like the sound of that. Why would I be wasting my time? Do you doubt my ability to pursue women?" Xavier was behaving like a child. He was determined to beat Stefan. "Don't forget: I was the one who taught you how to pursue women. It's only been a few days. Do you think you're better than me already?"

"Do you think she's an ordinary woman? Will your silly tricks even work on her?" Stefan asked almost effortlessly.

"Well..."