The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

Chapter 81

The next day.

Renee headed for Floating Cloud Villa in a casual beige suit. Her hair was tied into a neat horsetail. She looked young, like a fresh college graduate.

Floating Cloud Villa was located in a primeval forest more than 50 kilometers away from the urban area of Beach City.

The place had dense vegetation, high level of oxygen concentration, natural hot springs, golf courses, and natural fishing grounds. It was the first choice holiday destination for many wealthy people.

Due to a bit of traffic on the road, Renee arrived at Floating Cloud Villa at exactly 10:01 am, she was a minute late.

SO

Upon arriving there, she saw a group of people enthusiastically gathered around someone who was walking out of Floating Cloud Villa.

That person was Jerome South, chairman of the South Group and the person Renee was going

to meet.

South Group was a powerful company with a strong background. It was one of the top investment companies in Beach City and a loyal partner of H Group for many years.

H Group's customer data leak this time resulted in a significant loss for South Group as well. Therefore, South Group had terminated their contract with H Group and was currently seeking a new partner to cooperate with.

Renee walked over with quick steps to stand in front of the group of tall, powerful men. The smile on her pretty face was perfect. She said confidently, "Hello, Mr. South, I'm Renee Everheart. So happy to finally meet you. Can we speak privately?"

Although her figure was slender and delicate, her aura was not weak at all. With such a strong conviction in her voice, ordinary people would find it hard to refuse.

However, Jerome South was no ordinary people.

Ever since South Group terminated their contract with H Group, he had been like a huge piece of juicy meat. Every day, there were countless people like Renee who would come to him, wanting to "talk". He hardly ever paid attention to any of them.

"Renee Everheart. I know you. The daughter of the Everheart family who has fallen on hard times and the dignified daughter-inlaw of the Hunt family..."

+15 BONUS

Jerome looked Renee over from top to bottom with complicated eyes, then smirked. "Looks like my good friend Stefan is really desperate. He's even sending his wife to make me change my

mind. He's ruthless."

Renee thought that Jerome South must have misunderstood. She calmly explained, "Stefan

Hunt is Stefan Hunt, and Renee Everheart is Renee Everheart. I came here today on behalf of

Azure Group. I have nothing to do with H Group."

"That means you're the mysterious person that brat Liam has been pestering me to meet?"

Jerome raised his eyebrows slightly. He was showing a bit more interest in Renee now.

He vaguely remembered meeting this woman at a family party two years ago.

Back then, she was just a vase standing next to Stefan Hunt, pretty but useless. She was quiet, dignified and obedient, but Stefan did not pay her much attention, so she did not leave much of an impression on Jerome.

But now... she looked like a completely different person!

In the distance, a golf cart drove over from the Four Seasons Golf Course.

Jerome told Renee, "I'm curious about you, but you're late. I hate people who are late. You can go home now."

Renee expected this.

She knew that Jerome South was difficult to handle. Otherwise, Liam would have gotten the deal done long ago and she would not have had to come personally.

"I'm sorry to have kept you waiting for a minute, Mr. South. To express my apology, please accept this gift."

Renee took out a brown paper bag from her handbag and handed it to Jerome South.

Everybody there looked on in disdain.

Who did she think Jerome South was? Plenty of people had given him all kinds of valuable gifts. There was no way he would think much of... whatever that was.

Jerome South's assistant immediately stopped Renee and said coldly, "I'm sorry, Mr. South never accept gifts from others casually. Please be mindful of your actions."

But when Jerome South saw the words on the paper bag, his face abruptly changed. "That's..."

The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

Chapter 82 "Give it

to me!"

Jerome South grabbed the brown paper bag and pulled out the documents inside, his fingers trembling slightly due to excitement.

It was a freshly-issued winning verdict for an appeal.

Except for Renee, no one there knew how significant this verdict was to Jerome South. After a

long time, Jerome South finally turned his gaze away from the verdict.

He looked at Renee. His shrewd eyes had a hint of barely noticeable wetness in them. He said, Come with me!"

And so, as everyone watched on in disbelief, Renee successfully obtained the opportunity to meet

with Jerome South, the chairman of South Group, alone.

In the high-end luxury box, Jerome South was very emotional.

"The appeal is successful. Finally, the appeal is successful. Five years... I've waited way too long for

this moment!"

He repeatedly read the contents of the verdict. Even now, he could still hardly believe it.

Jerome South's reaction reminded Renee of her late father. She sighed. "Justice is always

present. I believe Miss Chase can definitely feel your fatherly love in heaven."

"Jerome South suddenly stared at Renee with vigilance and asked, "How did you know about this? And how did you manage to reopen a case that was already finalized?"

"Because I admire you and wish to become your most trusted partner, I spent some time trying to get to know you..."

Renee's expression was calm as she said without any hesitation, "Everyone knows Jerome South has a beloved daughter called Jane South, but very few people know that... in a remote northern city, you have another daughter called Nancy Chase."

"Miss Chase was two years older than Miss South. She was more outstanding than Miss South in

appearance, conduct, and talent. However, as an illegitimate daughter, her destiny was very

different from Miss South's ... "

Listening to Renee's words, Jerome South was lost in memories. His stern face now contained a bit of

softness and a bit of sadness too.

"Yes, Nancy was much more outstanding than Jane,. She's a lot more mature too. If it weren't

because she was so considerate and was afraid it might affect me, she wouldn't have ... " Jerome

South could not go on anymore. He had a very painful expression on his face.

Renee silently looked at the man without saying anything.

No matter how unfairly Jerome South had treated his two daughters in the past, at least his regret now was real. His mourning was real too.

This was the heaviest love in the world

the love of a father for his dead daughter!

Jerome South took a deep breath to calm himself down. He put the verdict back into the paper bag and put it away carefully.

"To get a judge to revise a wrongful verdict from five years ago, it must have taken a lot of effort. It's a bit late, but my daughter's name is finally cleared ... "

Jerome South looked at Renee with appreciation and gratitude in his eyes. He went straight to you

want?" the point. "Your gift has gone straight to my heart. Tell me honestly... what do

Renee smiled and took out the contract she had prepared along with a pen, then handed them to Jerome South. "Mr. South, I told you I hope I can become your most trusted business partner. I also hope that in the next five years, South Group can become our Azure Group's largest investor and distributor."

"Your largest investor and distributor in the next five years?"

Jerome South was momentarily stunned. Then, he smiled and said, "Young woman, you have a tiny body but such a big appetite. In the entire Beach City, does anyone except for H Group have the right to say something like that?"

"In five years, Azure Group will be more qualified than H Group to say that," declared Renee. "Oh,

really?"

Jerome South lifted his eyebrows slightly.

Those were arrogant words, but spoken by the young woman, it did not feel conceited. "You're

Stefan's wife, yet you're speaking for Azure Group. This is rather interesting."

Renee decided to press the issue while she had the momentum. "So, what do you think, Mr. South? Would you take the gamble and cooperate with Azure Group?" Suddenly, a girl's voice rose outside. "Get out of the way! Let me in!"

The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

Chapter 83

The next second, a beautiful and boisterous figure burst in.

"Daddy, I heard a slut is trying to seduce you, so I came to see what the shameless woman

looks like!"

Jane South was wearing black high heel boots and carrying a limited edition bag. She was shouting and making a scene like a typical spoiled rich girl.

She instantly saw Renee sitting across from Jerome South. Surprise crept into her willful face.

"It's actually you.... the woman that Stefan has hated for four years but is still shamelessly clinging onto him!" said Jane South through clenched teeth. She looked at Renee with contempt and jealousy. Her attitude was full of hostility.

Renee's smiled faintly and extended her hand to Jane, unperturbed. "Hello, Miss South. I'm honored that you still remember me."

She had met Jane before. She knew Jane was Stefan's number one fan. Because Jerome doted on Jane, Jane had grown up spoiled and willful.

Generally speaking, Renee had always tried to stay as far away as possible from that kind of

person.

But this time, it seemed like the encounter was impossible to avoid.

Jane showed no consideration for Rence's feelings. She yelled, "You shameless woman! How dare you try to seduce my father behind Stefan's back? I'll call Stefan and tell him all about it!"

"Jane, stop this nonsense!"

Jerome frowned. He glared at his precious daughter sternly, which was something that he rarely did. "Miss Everheart is here to talk business. Go wait for me outside!"

"She's a housewife! She doesn't know anything about business. Did you fall for her seduction? How could you do this? Mommy's watching in heaven!"

Jane South stomped her feet and started sobbing and shouting, "I knew you didn't love Mommy! You don't love me either! I don't want to be your daughter anymore!"

"Jane, there you go again ... "

Jerome sighed helplessly.

The more unreasonable Jane South was, the more Jerome South missed his deceased eldest daughter, Nancy Chase, and the more he felt guilty about Nancy.

Jerome felt embarrassed and told Renee, "Miss Everheart, I'll consider your proposal for the cooperation between South Group and Azure Group carefully. If you don't mind, can you give us a bit of space?"

"Okay, Mr. South. I'll await your good news."

Renee nodded and withdrew from the box without hesitation.

Before she left, she cast a sympathetic look at Jerome.

At the same time, from the bottom of her heart, she felt a deep pity for Nancy Chase's unjust

death.

That foolish woman sacrificed her own life and reputation to save the reputation of the South family, but Jane, a terrible human being, became the biggest beneficiary. What a pity!

Renee did not leave Floating Cloud Villa. Instead, she waited in a coffee shop outside the private box.

As long as Jerome South had not signed the contract, things could still change, so she could not leave yet.

Half a day passed. The sun was setting.

Renee could sit still no longer. She was ready to return to the private box to talk to Jerome South again.

Jane South walked out with folded arms and a triumphant face. She looked at Renee proudly. You can stop waiting now. Daddy has left through the VIP channel. He promised me he'll never see you again!"

"Really? Let your daddy tell me that in person."

Before Renee had even finished her sentence, she had nimbly walked past Jane to go into the private box behind

her. It actually was empty.

Dammit, Jerome South was really going to throw away his principles just to please his daughter!

"I've seen the contract. I can't believe you're helping another man look for investors even though you're Stefan's wife. I feel so bad for Stefan!"

Jane seemed to be defending Stefan against an injustice, but her arrogant face was filled with delight and cunning. She added, "But, I can help you..."

The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

Chapter

84

Gourmet

Pavilion.

A top class restaurant in Beach City. The preferred place for many businessmen to socialize and entertain guests.

Currently, in their most luxurious dining hall, the Swan Hall, Stefan was sitting at the main table, receiving praises and flattery from everyone. He was undoubtedly the center of attention.

"You're definitely the most outstanding individual in the entire Beach City, Mr. Hunt. You repeatedly lead H Group to achieve new heights! The likes of us can only look up to you!"

A steady stream of toasts accompanied by flattery would make anyone dizzy.

But not Stefan. He remained steadfast, his cold eyes unreadable. The regal air he exuded

was a far

cry from the crude air around the other businessmen.

At that moment, a young voice cautiously said, "Although Mr. Hunt is incredible, there are many rising stars lately. Take Liam Osborne, the young son of Geronimo Osborne, for example. The Azure Group he runs is on a roll right now!"

In the midst of all the flattery, the voice stood out like a sore thumb, and could almost be considered blasphemy. As a result, the person who said it was mercilessly ridiculed.

"What the hell do you know? Liam Osborne is just a playboy. He does nothing but pick up girls all day. How can he compare to Young Master Hunt?"

A slight frown crept onto Stefan's face. He finally opened his mouth to say something. "Azure Group?"

The young man quickly said, "Yes, Mr. Hunt. My family runs a venture capitalist business, so I've specifically studied that company..."

"Although Azure Group was only founded recently and it's not that large, it has been

developing rapidly. It's not a shell company that Young Master Osborne uses to pick up girls like everyone thinks it is. It has a very bright prospect!"

The crowd was about to berate him again but Stefan said coldly, "Tell me more."

The young man continued, "My claim that Azure Group has a bright future isn't groundless... Do you know that their business partners are all clients who terminated their contract with I! Group some time ago?"

This information instantly caught the attention of many sly old foxes in the crowd. They began to show interest in this emerging company.

Stefan also fell into deep contemplation.

Elijah had told him about the company before, but he did not think

much of it. To be precise, he did not take that brat Liam Osborne

seriously.

But now, not only was that brat trying to steal Stefan's woman, he was trying to steal Stefan's clients too. Stefan was seeing him in a new light!

The young man glanced at Stefan and said cautiously, "There's something else besides that, but I'm not sure if I should say

it..." Stefan coldly said, "Say it."

"This morning, your wife suddenly appeared in Floating Cloud Villa to talk to the chairman of South Group. We all thought she came on behalf of H Group..."

"However, she actually gave a generous gift to Mr. South on behalf of Azure Group. Mr. South was very happy and is supposedly ready to cooperate with Azure Group now!"

This information again surprised everyone.

Stefan's wife had actually helped out Liam Osborne's company. Now this... was a bit awkward!

Someone boldly took the initiative to soften the atmosphere. "That sounds like a whole lot of nonsense. There must be some misunderstanding. Mrs. Hunt is known as a model wife. There's no way..."

Stefan slightly swirled the glass of red wine in his hand. There was not much emotion in his cold, handsome

face. "It doesn't matter. She can do what she wants."

He spoke indifferently.

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Right then, the young man took out his phone and typed out a sentence: "I've told him the things you wanted me to say, you can come in now!"

The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

Chapter 85

About ten minutes later, a waitress in a cheongsam led Jane South into the Swan Hall.

"I finally get to see you again, Stefan. You can't avoid me this time!"

She went straight to Stefan's left side. The person sitting to Stefan's left was very tactful and immediately offered his seat.

Everyone in Beach City knew that Jane South, the future heir of South Group and the pampered only child of Jerome South, was crazy about Stefan Hunt.

H Group and South Group were strategic partners that had cooperated for many years.

The two young people were comparable in age and family background. A marriage between them seemed like a matter of certainty.

But a certain Renee Everheart suddenly appeared out of nowhere...

"Stefan, you've grown even more handsome since the last time I saw you. You have no idea how much I've missed you. All I could dream about was you..."

As soon as Jane South came in, her eyes had never left Stefan. She intimately grabbed his arm and said coquettishly, "How could you be so cruel? We're childhood friends, but as soon as you got married, you stopped hanging out with me. How could you?!"

Stefan's face was cold. His sharp gaze swept through the banquet as he asked in an unhappy tone, "This is a private dinner. Who told her about it?"

Everyone lowered their heads and remained silent.

Jane South felt humiliated, her cheeks burning red with anger. "Stefan, is this really necessary? I'm not a monster. Why do you try so hard to avoid me?"

A smile full of schadenfreude suddenly appeared on her face. She said hurriedly, "You have the awareness of a married man, but the same can't be said for your wife unfortunately. She looks dignified and dutiful on the outside, but she's not an honest woman at all. If she hadn't admitted it herself today, I wouldn't have known she's such a promiscuous woman. It's unbelievable. I feel bad for you, Stefan!"

Stefan asked, "What did she admit?"

"Well…"

Jane South looked at the crowd, pretending to hesitate.

Everyone instantly understood. They all stood up and said goodbye.

Soon, only Stefan and Jane were left in the spacious hall.

Jane was very excited. She had been waiting for this moment for a long time. She wished she could just jump onto Stefan. "Stefan, I finally get to be alone with you again. I..."

"Five minutes."

Stefan's voice was cold and impatient.

It's not that he had anything against Jane South personally, he was just not too fond of being overly intimate with women. He especially hated to be touched by wornen.

And he found Jane South, who was really clingy and liked to make all kinds of contact with him, very annoying.

Jane was so mad that she wanted to curse, but she tried to calm herself down.

Because she believed that Stefan's attitude towards her would do a complete 180 soon.

"Stefan, I have a video here. You'll understand everything after you watch it."

Jane took out her phone and played the video she recorded.

It was actually a video of Renee.

Stefan stared at the phone screen, his eyes getting colder and colder.

The Renee in the video said, "As long as you're willing to persuade your father to sign the contract with Azure Group, I'll agree to your request to divorce Stefan, and I'll never see him again."

Jane carefully observed Stefan's reaction and added, "I don't know what Miss Everfrost was thinking. I just casually mentioned that I could help her, and she immediately agreed to film this video. She never considered how you would feel at all. This also shows how much she loves

Liam Osborne. She's willing to go to such lengths for him!"

Stefan's expression was cold and he remained silent. His deep eyes showed no emotion. He just kept staring at the phone screen.

Jane continued, "But she's such a fool. I'm not actually gonna help her. Since I like you so much, if I were going persuade my father, of course I would persuade him to keep cooperating with H Group. There's no way I would let her benefit...'

"Moreover, because I just can't stand how disloyal she is to you, I taught her a lesson. She's probably scared out of her wits right now while regretting some of her life choices!" Stefan's eyes turned cold and he snapped, "What did you do to her?"