The Untouchable Ex-Wife

Quinton Everheart turned sullen as he once again cleverly avoided the

subject. "..."

Renee, too, had no desire to pursue it. She did not want to put any more pressure on Quinton, as she felt that he was already under enough. Besides, no matter what, she would find a way to get to the bottom of the truth and find out what actually happened herself anyway.

She swore that the Everheart family would be avenged!

It ended up being a dinner that was filled with warmth and happiness for Renee. Her heart was bursting with so much bliss and joy that she was almost moved to tears a few times.

"I have a brother now! I actually have a brother!"

What a wonderful feeling it was to find that she had a close family member again! No longer was she duckweed floating aimlessly without any roots to anchor it down.

"The Everheart Residence is in a sorry state right now," she told Quinton, "but I'm determined to rebuild it, and when it's done, you and I, along with Adie and Abby, will move into the house and live together as a family."

Renee raised her glass towards Quinton and excitedly ardently said, "Welcome home, brother!"

"Yes," Quinton replied, also raising his glass, "I'm finally home. Soon, Beach City will belong to the Everheart

family!" By that point, tears had been streaming down Margaret's cheeks. She wiped her tears with a tissue

and said, "General

Everheart, Mr. Everheart, Madam... You're seeing this too, aren't you? God has been watching over us. Master Quinton is still alive! Glory awaits the future of the Everheart family! All of you may rest in peace now..."

As the dinner was about to come to a close, Chase Cheever stood at the dining room door shuffling on his feet, looking as if he was hesitant to say something.

Quinton had long noticed the man's presence and so asked him in a vexed tone, "What are you doing standing at the door like a clown?! What's happening? Stop wasting time and give me the report!"

Chase entered the dining room with his head hung low. He was so nervous that his fists were balled tightly.

"Forgive me, boss. I've tried my best, but that impostor is too cunning. He didn't take the bait, so I think I... I won't be able to lure him out."

"Useless *ss!" Quinton hurled his wine glass violently at Chase's head, looking disgruntled. "So your eyes aren't the only worthless part of your body. I think I should just scoop out your brain and feed it to the dogs!"

In the past, Chase Cheever had always been resolute and decisive, nothing at all like the timid and fumbling man that resembled the feeble and sensitive poet he had become. Evidently, that impostor must have been so inept that he turned a slick jackal into a lazy lapdog. What a pitiful waste of a rare talent!

Chase dropped to his knees with a loud thud in front of Quinton and once again placed himself in a perilous position right on the cusp of a deadly storm.

"It's all my fault, Boss! I fully admit to it. You may punish me however you see fit, so long as it calms your anger!"

But Renee merely sipped her wine nonchalantly and asked Chase in a meaningful tone, "Were you really unable to lure him out, Chase? Or were you just unwilling?"

"…"

Chase fell silent and made no effort to refute Renee.

She was right, he could have lured the impostor out if he wanted to, but he was simply reluctant. He had developed an attachment to the impostor in the last four years, and even if he was not the real Mr. Q, his talents and capabilities were definitely real, so how could he have the heart to lure him out to die?

"This bastard is clearly a traitor! How could you still plead for me to let him go, my silly sister?"

Quinton slammed the table furiously and shouted an order to his men outside, "Get in here! Drag this turncoat out and feed him to the fish! I don't ever want to see him again!"

"Calm down, Quinton! Why are you screaming for blood all of a sudden?"

Renee sighed helplessly. She was completely unaccustomed to the cruel and vicious side of her brother, having only known him as a gentle and polite man. But then she thought of the arduous life he must have had to suffer through since he was a child, and the violent outburst failed to anger her. Instead, she just felt sorry for him.

In this situation, the only thing she could do as his sister was to tolerate and try to understand him. Later, at a more suitable time, she would be his "tranquilizer" and try to keep him under control.

"Actually," she said, "I think the fact that Chase is unwilling to lure out the impostor proves the strength of his character. It shows that he isn't just an emotionless and unthinking robot who can only follow orders. This is the type of person that we must treasure, Quinton."

As she spoke, she walked up to Chase and assured him, "Don't worry, Chase. I can promise you that even if we do manage to catch the impostor, we won't take his life. All we really want from him is an explanation..."

"An explanation?" asked Chase as he stared at Renee with a puzzled expression.

"Exactly. That man not only owes Carmine Pawnshop an explanation, but he also owes me one. I have to know who he really is and why he played with my feelings by disappearing without a trace on the day that we were supposed to get married."

This mystery had been plaguing Renee's mind ever since it happened. She was convinced that it would haunt her for the rest of her life if she never got to the bottom of the matter.

"Ms. Everheart," said Chase in an earnest voice, "I can't promise you anything else, but I can confidently promise you that the impostor's feelings for you were genuine. He was a proud man who hated everything tedious and troublesome, but he worked very hard to learn how to cook just to leave a good impression. From a man who's never stepped into the kitchen before, he transformed into the perfect househusband just because of you. He couldn't have possibly done it if he didn't love you ardently!"

Chase had had the most contact with the impostor Mr. Q in the past four years. The man's whereabouts had always been mysterious and uncertain most of the time, and he would only pass his orders down to Chase via the phone. At times, Chase only saw him once a year. Yet ever since Renee barged into Carmine Pawnshop, he would show up every few days, almost turning the establishment into his own home.

If such a drastic change was not proof of true love, then what else would? "Shut up, you

traitor!"

Chase's words greatly upset Quinton. He flung a teacup towards Chase and yelled, "Any man who dared to deceive my sister deserves no forgiveness! I don't care if it was true love—the only thing that man deserves is to be fed to the fish—no, he deserves to be chopped up into pieces before being fed to the fish!"

Quinton was extremely protective of his sister. Anyone who dared to touch even a single strand of hair had to pay with their head! Initially, he merely wanted the impostor to die, but now that he learned that the bastard played with his sister's heart, he decided that the man had to suffer a fate worse than death!

"Quinton," Renee began, massaging her temple and visibly exhausted. "Please stay out of this and let me handle it, okay?"

"How are you going to handle it? Are you sure you won't just give in to him and let him go?"

"Listen to me," Quinton added earnestly. "You have to be harsh and firm when dealing with men; otherwise you'll just be setting off a time bomb that will one day explode, and you'll end up crushed and burned by him."

"It's my choice to handle it however I want," argued Renee. "I'm almost thirty now. I can deal with the consequences of my own choice..."

Renee clasped her hands and pleaded with her brother, "I'm begging you, Quinton. Let the impostor be a gift for me on the occasion that we finally reunited again, and let me handle it, please?"

Quinton was eventually persuaded, and he gave in. He turned his head and sighed. "You stubborn girl! Fine, do whatever you want!"

Hearing his words, both Renee and Chase finally sighed in relief.

The Untouchable Ex-Wife

Renee and Chase secretly discussed how to lure the impostor Mr. Q out of the study.

"Ms. Everheart," said Chase with emotion, "although you are his sister, you are nothing at all like Boss. You have a kind disposition, and I'm assured that, at the very least, the impostor Mr. Q won't be so cruelly tortured once he was handed over to you."

"You speak as if my brother is a savage beast and that impostor is some kind of angel of justice! Is that guy really worthy of your protection?"

"He is!" Chase nodded gravely. "I believe that everyone else who works in Carmine Pawnshop would make the same choice."

"Then... is there going to be a mutiny? What will happen to my brother? He built Carmine Pawnshop from the ground with his own hands! Is he going to be replaced?"

"Don't worry, Ms. Everheart. Boss won't be replaced. I'm sure that Carmine Pawnshop will soon resume its operations in the same way that it once did. It's just that we'll all miss the security and stability that we enjoyed these past four years."

"You're overthinking it! My brother promised me that for the time being, Carmine Pawnshop won't get involved with the questionable business it once dabbled in and that it would continue to operate in the same manner as it did for the last few years."

"It looks like you don't really know Boss at all..."

Chase smiled, then deliberately changed the subject by pulling out his phone and saying, "I've sent a secret signal to the

impostor, Mr. Q. If nothing out of the ordinary happens, very soon he'd be at the Carmine Pawnshop. All I ask from you is to let him live."

"Only a secret signal? Would that really work? Surely he's too smart to fall for it!"

"But it's not an ordinary secret signal," Chase beat his chest and confidently assured her. "It's one I only send him during extreme emergencies. He always showed up soon after receiving the signal in the past, so as long as the news of Boss's return hasn't

reached him yet, I'm sure the impostor, Mr. Q would definitely be here."

Half an hour later, Chase stared at the reply he received, his face swollen after being punched so many times.

"Um, well... He said that he would never reappear again no matter what happens and that he gives full authority over Carmine Pawnshop... to me."

"He sounds really cautious..." Renee observed doubtfully. "You didn't warn him

earlier, did you?" "I swear to God that I didn't!"

"Then why the hell would he give up his authority to you so suddenly?"

"I wouldn't say it's that sudden..." Chase then came clean and told Renee, "Since he disappeared on the day both of you were supposed to get married, he never showed up at Carmine Pawnshop ever again. In fact, when he left, he made it clear that he would never show up again. It was obvious that he wanted to make a clean break with Carmine Pawnshop. Perhaps... He caught a whiff that Boss was going to return even back then?"

"But what is he planning to do?" asked Renee, still bewildered. "He's been running Carmine Pawnshop for the last six years! How could he give it all up just like that? It's like he's been working for my brother for free! Doesn't he have anything better to do?"

All the questions that were playing in Renee's head only deepened her resolve to find a way to lure the man out.

Seeing Renee's firm determination, Chase clenched his fists and suggested, "I've got an idea, but it's the last resort, and it requires your cooperation. Do you want to... give it a try?"

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The Untouchable Ex-

Renee slapped Chase violently across his face, her patience worn thin to the bone.

"Spit it out, will you?!" she demanded. "Just tell me your idea and stop sputtering like that! It's like you're teasing me!"

Chase smiled awkwardly and replied, "The impostor, Mr. Q is indeed a cautious man, and he would only contact me through text messages. There's also no way to ascertain his address or whereabouts through his phone number, so unless he's willing to voluntarily show up, we have no way of finding him. So far, the only person who can make him turn up willingly is you, Ms. Everheart."

"I'm afraid I'm not that powerful..." said Renee dejectedly. "Ever since he stood me up, I couldn't contact him at all. If he really cared about me, he would've been a little more to say goodbye before he left."

"I believe the impostor, Mr. Q, must have a good reason for it..." "So?

Get to the point. What should I do to get him to show up?"

"It's really simple." Chase curled his finger in a beckoning gesture at Renee. "Follow me, Ms. Everheart."

In the dead of the night, Chase and Renee weaved through the vast and labyrinthine Carmine Pawnshop. After a long journey through twists and turns, they finally stopped at the most remote courtyard. The place looked as if no one had stepped into it for centuries, and the door was covered in thick wads of cobwebs, cementing in an air of decay and ruin.

"Chase Cheever, what... what are you trying to do?"

Renee pursed her lips and instinctively took a few steps back.

"Don't be afraid, Ms. Everheart..."

Chase dusted off his long coat and calmly explained, "This is the area where water torture, one of the ten worst torture techniques employed by Carmine Pawnshop, is conducted. It has been four years since the last person was tortured here, so it might look as if it's in disrepair, but back in the day, people filled this place all the time. It was a much livelier place back then."

"Uh... ten worst torture techniques? A lively place?"

Renee was so taken aback that she almost choked on her own saliva.

"Are you sure you guys weren't filming a movie here? Torture techniques? I've only heard of that in movies!"

"What you've seen in movies is probably much tamer than what we actually do here in Carmine Pawnshop. Because some of them might be too atrocious for your taste, I won't elaborate and go straight to the water torture..."

Chase then continued, "Water torture is the mildest among the ten worst torture techniques. The victim is first tied up inside the water prison, where they will then suffer all manner of tribulations. At first, the water level reaches just around the victim's waist, but every half an hour, there will be other things added to the water. Firstly, all kinds of venomous snakes, centipedes, and loaches will be released. Then, slowly, boiling water will be added. After that, boiling oil will pour in, and finally... sulphuric acid!"

"Stop! I don't want to hear it anymore! Whoever thought of such a heinous thing must've been a complete psychopath!"

Renee could hardly bear to even imagine such a scene. Forget about the boiling oil and acid; she was covered in goosebumps even thinking about the snakes! Even worse was the thought of how the snakes would writhe and flail around wildly in a panic once the boiling water was added—she could not imagine how horrifying such a situation might be!

"You're too faint-hearted, Ms. Everheart. I told you that water torture is the lightest among the ten worst torture techniques. Besides, Boss was the one who came up with these punishments."

"My brother came up with these?" Renee could not help but sigh. "Wasn't he a little too aggressive?"

"His original intent for these things was to deter would-be dissidents," Chase explained, "whether it be the employees of Carmine Pawnshop or the customers. Anyone who disobeyed the rules must face the punishment. Yet, when faced with the grim possibility of being punished with the ten horrifying torture techniques, almost no one dared to cause any trouble, so strictly speaking, the actual number of people who were tortured is very low."

"I can understand that," said Renee. "Historically, rulers must have an extremely strict punishment system to maintain order. I'm sure my brother must've seen a lot of period movies and read lots of books about history to come up with such a thing.

Otherwise, no normal person could ever think of doing something so insane."

Renee was highly empathetic by nature. Although she disagreed with Quinton's method, she could still understand why he had to take such extreme measures. After all, Quinton must have had to work exceedingly hard to reach his current position, seeing that he came from a humble fishing village. Without taking some extraordinary measures, he would never have made it this far.

"By the way, why did you take me here? Is someone getting punished?"

Renee asked Chase the question in confusion.

"You're right, someone's getting punished, and it's you!"

Chase smiled and pulled out a key to open the door to the water prison before bowing slightly and making an inviting gesture towards Renee.

"Go ahead, Ms.

Everheart!" "???"

Renee gulped, her hair standing on end.

The water prison wasn't even large. It was about the size of a small bedroom with a height of about six and a half feet, more than deep enough to completely submerge a human being. The walls were smooth and polished, but they were dotted with numerous holes of different sizes. These were possibly the cavities from where the snakes, centipedes, boiling oil, acid, and whatever else were let out into the water prison.

Because no one had been in there for a long time, the water prison gave off a nasty rotten stench, like the smell of dead rats or even human corpses. She could not bear to be inside the water prison for long, because as soon as she took a breath, she

would be overcome by an urge to vomit!

"Don't panic," Chase assured her. "My idea is to let you stay in the water prison for a while and act as if you'd been tortured. Then I'll send a picture of you here to the impostor Mr. Q and tell him that the real Mr. Q had returned and demanded that he come here to save you. Even the impostor knows how terrifying water torture is, so I'm convinced that as soon as he sees a picture of you here, he would come to your rescue at full speed!"

"This way," Chase added, "not only can we make him show up, we can also prove if he truly loves you. It's a brilliant plan, don't you think?"

At that moment, Chase felt that he was simply a genius for having thought of such a perfect plan that managed to solve two problems at once.

"I think..." Renee stroked her chin as she was lost in thought. "Your plan sounds pretty good!"

She really wanted to know who in the world the impostor actually was, and whether his feelings for her were

genuine. "Great! Then let's start right away, because the sun is coming up soon..."

Chase then proceeded to test every switch and mechanism of the water prison with full enthusiasm, looking as if he was eager to try them all out.

Meanwhile, Renee stood in front of the water prison in a seemingly dejected mood.

"Is this really going to work?" she asked, full of hesitation. "He's… He's such a cunning and cautious man! Perhaps he wouldn't even show up!"

"That's fine too," replied Chase. "If he doesn't show up, then it proves that his feelings for you were all lies, and it also proves that I have a poor eye to judge a character. In that case, you may just scoop my eyes out because I won't have any use for them!"

"Then I hope he doesn't show up!" whispered Renee.

She really did wish that he would not show up, because if he did risk it all and turned up just to save her, and in the process putting himself in grave danger, she would regret it for the rest of her life.

"He will decide for himself whether or not he is going to show up," said Chase. "All you have to do now is to act as convincingly as possible. My guess is that... he's going to be here within thirty minutes, because in half an hour, all kinds of snakes and centipedes will be released from the holes in the walls. He would never let you suffer such a gruesome fate!"

"Okay," Renee nodded and gritted her teeth before going into the water prison. "Let's do it then!"

Right now, the water level in the water prison merely reached her ankles, but the water was flowing continuously into the water prison through the holes. Renee's hands were then chained to the walls, making her look frail and extremely pitiful.

"Very good!" Chase pulled out his phone and began to direct Renee on how to act as he recorded a video, "Now just maintain this posture and try to squeeze out some tears and cry for help..."

Soon afterwards, they successfully shot a ten-second video, and it was immediately sent to the impostor Mr. Q.

Chase's guess was right on the money—Stefan did indeed plan to completely distance himself from Carmine Pawnshop, so he would never turn up anyway under the guise of "Mr. Q" ever again. He even intended to discard the SIM card with the hidden IP address. But as soon as he saw the video of Renee being tortured in the water prison sent by Chase, he instantly lost his mind, retaining not the slightest trace of reason.

At the moment, he was accompanying Seraphina as they attended a very important family banquet of the Murphy family where they discussed the cooperation between the Hunt family and the Murphy family for the next season.

Seraphina's father, Ethan Murphy, was fully satisfied with the agreement he had reached with Stefan, and all throughout the evening, he had been dropping hints every now and again that they should start planning for the wedding between Stefan and Seraphina.

"You must be aware of how I've treated you all these years, Stefan. You and my darling Sera have been childhood sweethearts— both of you basically grew up sharing the same pants, so it's only natural that you'd be sharing the same bed now!"

"Daddy!" With face flushed red, Seraphina hastily stopped her father from continuing on, fearing that if she was not careful, Stefan might suddenly stop keeping up the act. "Stop it! You're drunk! How can you say such embarrassing things? Didn't I tell you that Stefan and I are only dating now? We'll only think about marriage when the time comes."

"What embarrassing things? I worked my *ss off my whole life to turn the Murphy family into what it is now, and I intend to hand it all over to you one day. If you're with Stefan, then it means that the Murphy family will be in Stefan's hands one day too. Stefan's a talented man, so I'm sure that with him at the helm of the Murphy family, we'll certainly get richer and richer..."

Ethan patted Stefan's shoulder with eyes full of admiration and added, "My son-in-law, the Murphy family's future is in your hands. Just think about it, with the joining of the two great families—the Murphys and the Hunts. Who would even dare to touch us?!"

"That's right! Who else in the whole of Beach City besides Stefan is worthy of becoming the Murphy family's son-in-law?" "Come on, let's stop talking and start drinking!"

The other Murphy family members started joining in, each of them eagerly raising a toast to Stefan. "Excuse me," Stefan

began with a stony face. "I have to leave now."

And then, without even glancing at the glasses raised in his name, he got up and was ready to leave.

Seraphina quickly grabbed his wrist and tried her best to put on a gentle smile before persuading him, "But the banquet has only started, Stefan! Everyone's still drinking happily! It might be inappropriate to get up and leave in the middle of everything, don't you think?"

"I've got an urgent business to attend to."

"What could be so urgent that you have to leave now?" Seraphina asked with a lowered voice as she smiled and continued pleading, "Please, I beg you! My daddy is a proud man. You'll embarrass him if you leave now! Just endure another ten minutes, okay? Just ten minutes!"

"I can't stay even for another minute," Stefan replied sternly as he shoved Seraphina's hand away and immediately left the banquet hall.

"Stefan, wait! Stefan, please don't go!"

At first, Seraphina was still able to keep her composure, but now she could not pretend anymore and just started to sob uncontrollably with her face buried in her hands.

The lively banquet now suddenly became so silent that only the sound of breathing remained.

"This is ridiculous! The Hunt family is clearly on the brink of collapse and he still has the audacity to be so arrogant! He's clearly stomping on the honor of the Murphy family! I'll never forget this!"

Ethan Murphy was so enraged that he saw red. In one violent shove he overturned the table as he threatened to fight the Hunt family.

But Stefan ignored all this as he hurried out of the Murphy residence and headed straight to his supercar. He put the pedal to the metal and sped towards Carmine Pawnshop as quickly as his car could take him.

"Where is she? Where is Renee?!"

Still wearing Mr. Q's black and white mask, he headed straight to the water prison courtyard and sharply questioned Chase of Renee's whereabouts as soon as he saw him guarding at the door.

"She's inside," replied Chase cautiously. "Our boss said he wants you to unlock the chains yourself and exchange your life for Ms. Everheart's."

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Although Chase knew that the man in front of him was an impostor, he still instinctively became respectful and deferential when facing him, not least due to the naturally powerful aura that he exuded.

"In that case," said Stefan, "tell him to keep his word!"

Without hesitating for another second, he then pushed the door open and tried to head inside.

"Wait!" Chase stopped Stefan just as he was opening the door, frowning. "Think carefully before you barge in! This is the water prison. Once you go in there, you might never come out alive again, or worse, you might suffer a fate far worse than death!"

"As long as she's safe, I don't care."

Stefan took a deep breath and still pushed the door open without any hesitation.

Inside, the water level had already reached Renee's waist, and in less than five minutes, when it would reach her shoulders, at least 500 snakes, bugs, and rats would be released automatically through the holes. There would soon be plenty of venomous snakes in there, so the situation was dreadfully urgent right now.

"Renee!" Stefan's heart tightened as soon as he saw Renee all chained up, and it made him shout out her name at the top of his lungs.

"You... You really came?"

Renee had been waiting for so long that was about to doze off. She thought that the man was definitely never going to show up, so she was just about to give up when the man really came to save her! She was moved to tears. All the doubts about how he might have just been playing with her heart in the past vanished in an instant.

"I've been looking for you for so long! Why weren't you willing to see me? Why did you have to give me up to Stefan Hunt? I've got so many things to say to you, and so many questions to ask. I..."

"Stop talking! The water level will reach a dangerous level soon! You have to get out of there right now!"

Stefan knew more than anyone else how barbarous water torture actually was, so in the four years that he ran Carmine Pawnshop, he ordered for this area to be sealed off completely. If he had known that the psychopath Q would resume the torture technique so soon after he returned, he would have ordered for it to be destroyed a long time ago!

Without taking off his clothes, Stefan dived straight into the water prison and rushed to Renee's side. He then tried to unchain her with all his might.

By then, Renee was so cold that her lips had turned pale, and her whole body was soaking wet, yet her eyes were shining brightly as she looked at Stefan with great stirring emotions and told him, "You must've known that you're walking into a trap, yet you still came to save me! This proves that your feelings for me were genuine, so you must have a really good reason for not showing up when we were supposed to get married, right? Were you coerced by that bastard Stefan Hunt?"

Stefan remained silent, though he was breathing rapidly as he attempted to undo the chains that were trapping Renee in there. Despite being in the water, he was sweating profusely from anxiety.

"Don't worry too much! I'll be fine. In fact, it's all just a trick to lure you out. You..."

Renee was so moved that she was about to confess everything to Stefan, but just then, all the lights in the water prison turned on, and half a dozen burly men barged in.

"It's time! Chain him up!"

Quinton stood on the highest spot in the room and peered down haughtily at the two people inside the water prison. Meanwhile, Chase was standing by his side.

"Wh-What's going on here? Chase... Didn't you tell me that we'd be dealing with this matter alone? How..." "I'm

sorry, Ms. Everheart. There are some things that I can't control."

Chase sighed in regret.

Next, the burly men then chained Stefan up at the spot where Renee originally stood.

The Untouchable Ex-Wife

Standing at a high spot, Quinton looked down at Renee, who was still in the water prison and told her, "Hurry up and get out, sister. The water level is increasing, and soon, what's going to come out of these holes won't be water, but venomous creatures of all manner like snakes and bugs."

"No!" Renee raised her head and looked at her brother in panic. "Brother, you gave me your word! You told me you'd give me the full authority to deal with the impostor, didn't you? So what are you doing now?"

"I wanted to let you handle it yourself, but as soon as I learned the impostor's true identity, I knew I just had to break my promise to you. Please forgive me, Renee."

Beneath his mask, Quinton's eyes became dangerously ruthless, as if he could hardly restrain himself from tearing the impostor into pieces right then and there.

"This is my own personal vengeance. I have endured crushing humiliation for so many years just so I can avenge myself one day, so I can't just let him go."

"Personal... Personal vengeance?"

Renee turned around and stared confusedly at the man whose arms and legs had been chained up. In a lowered voice, she asked him, "So, who are you? Are you going to tell me yourself?"

Renee had a hunch of the man's true identity, but as long as she had not seen it with her own eyes, she simply refused to believe it.

"I'm sorry," said Stefan with his head hung low as he evaded the question.

Since he had chosen death, he was also prepared to have his identity exposed. It no longer mattered to him whether Renee would forgive him or despise him even more than she already did.

As long as... she remained safe and sound.

"You're a smart woman, Renee. You must've already guessed who he is, so stop deceiving yourself and get out of there immediately."

Quinton could never bear to see his sister be tortured, but the water level was rising fast, and there was no way that the mechanism in this torture chamber could be controlled manually, so if Renee still would not get out of there quickly, the consequences might be disastrous.

"I... I still haven't guessed it! I really don't know who he is! He..."

Renee's eyes were reddening. She looked like a stubborn fool, and the reason she was being stubborn was that she simply could not accept the possibility that she was just a fool who had been deceived and played with all along!

"You're still too emotional, Renee. I can't indulge you anymore..."

Quinton frowned and waved a hand before ordering, "Get her out of there now!"

The tall burly men then tried to pull Renee out of the water, but Renee effortlessly slipped through their fingers and escaped.

Then, she took a deep breath and, at lightning speed, pulled off the mask on Stefan's

face... "So it really is you!"

Renee's heart almost stopped beating when she came face to face with the man. She could hardly describe how she felt,

when she remembered her past interactions with "Mr. Q," how she used to bawl out her eyes in front of him, complaining to him about how much she hated Stefan Hunt, how she then opened her heart to him and decided to love someone again, how happy and secure she felt with him... she then realized how much of an idiot she was, how she was nothing but a living joke!

"I'm sorry!" said Stefan.

"Ms. Everheart."

Chase chased after Renee, who looked rather emaciated and lonely

from the back. "What is it?"

"Are you really going to

leave now?" "Why should

I stay here?"

"You should hurry up and stop Boss! He's not joking, you know. No one else in Carmine Pawnshop—no, no one else in Beach City can stop him except you! If you leave now, then Mr. Q... no, then that devil Mr. Hunt will surely

"Since you called him the devil yourself, then isn't it right that he should die anyway?"

"You can say that," Chase warned her with feeling, "but if he really dies, then he'll really be gone forever. Won't you be upset? Or rather... aren't you afraid of the consequences?"

Stefan Hunt had always been Carmine Pawnshop's deadliest enemy. Back then, when the two parties were at war with each other, Chase was one of the main forces fighting against him, and he even had his leg injured by the Hunt family, an injury from which he still suffered long-term effects even now. Naturally, Chase also hated Stefan Hunt with a passion.

But when he remembered his interactions with Stefan Hunt in the past four years, he realized that the man was not as heinous as he thought. He definitely did not deserve to die so easily.

"Hmph, upset? Why would I be?"

Renee turned her back against the water prison and sneered, "Should I be upset that he'd played me like a puppet? Or should I be upset that he raised up my hopes, only to once again obliterate them into pieces? Or should I be upset that he gave up on me again and again?"

She had always been a woman with high self-esteem and pride. The first time she got hurt, she was still strong enough to lick her wounds and heal herself. But now that she was hurt by the same person again and again, she would not just be pitiful if she forgave him again, but also pathetic!

"You're right, Ms. Everheart. He should never have deceived you, but... what if he was forced to do it? No matter what, his love for you had to be real, or he would never have rushed here without hesitation, even though he knew full well that he was running headlong into a dead end, all just to keep you safe and sound."

"That's because he's an idiot!" Renee gritted her teeth, her eyes reddening. "In that case, he's getting what he deserves!"

'What a foolish man!' she thought. 'You should've known that it's a trap! It's none of my business that you just run into it like an idiot!'

"I have nothing more to say, Ms. Everheart. Just think about it yourself. I only hope that you don't regret it later."

After saying that, Chase heaved a long sigh and glanced at his watch before speaking in a tense voice, "By this point, the snakes, bugs, and rats should've all been released. If it had been someone else, we would've heard them shouting and howling in pain, but this guy is still completely silent. He really is a tough one!"

"And those creatures are no ordinary creatures, you know. The banded kraits would be the mildest ones

among them..." "The... the banded kraits? Aren't they venomous?"

Renee gulped. Just thinking about it gave her goosebumps all over.

"They sure are! I hope they won't bite him for no reason, but still... when the water gets hot, who knows where it will go to hide away from the heat? And when the acid is added..."

"Stop it!"

Renee's heart was thumping in her chest like a drum. She wished she could just ignore her conscience and walk away, but her legs were as heavy as lead, and refused to move no matter what.

"Aaaaaaah!!!!"

Just then, Stefan's tormented wail rang out from the water prison.

The Untouchable Ex-Wife

Immediately following that was the sound of Quinton's roaring laughter.

"Hahahaha, look at you now, Stefan Hunt! I can't believe something like this would ever happen to you. Do you remember how I begged you to let me live all those years ago, and you refused me? Now you get the retribution that you deserve!"

"Don't stop!" He ordered his men. "Keep it going! Keep releasing more things into the water! I want this snob to taste what it's like to suffer a fate worse than death!"

Just then, Stefan's agonizing cry of pain once again rang out.

Chase was in such a panic that he stomped his feet and rushed towards Renee, who still stood coldly and frigidly there, "Ms. Everheart, he really can't hold on for much longer! I hope, and I wish, that you won't regret this!"

"Ugh! So annoying! How can you be such an annoying gnat?!"

After yelling at Chase, she then turned around and returned to the water prison.

As expected, the water had reached Stefan's neck, and snakes and insects could be seen floating and swimming in the water. Stefan seemed to be in excruciating pain. His handsome face, which had originally been fearless and gutsy, was now twisted by

agony. It looked like he must have been bitten by the snakes many times now.

"Stop it!" Renee shouted. She could not bear it any longer. "Stop releasing more things into the water!"

"Renee!" Quinton turned around. "What are you doing back here? Are you also here to enjoy the sight?"

He then smiled with smug satisfaction at Renee and told her, "I can finally enjoy the sight of this arrogant bastard suffering in such a sorry state! I've been waiting for this moment for so long."

"Quinton," Renee's voice was all choked up, and her eyes were reddening as she pleaded, "I beg of you! You've punished him

enough. Let him go!"

"What's wrong with you? You were so firm and decisive just now! Why are you suddenly turning soft for this garbage of a man again..."

"Let us not waste time talking. Just let him go! He can't hold on for much longer."

"So what if he can't hold on for much longer? I never intended to let him go anyway!"

"But I intend to let him go, so... you have to let him go."

"Have to?" Quinton's expression turned as hard as stone. "Renee, you can't force me to do anything just because you are my sister. I don't "have to" do anything here. You're just too emotional. The main purpose of what I'm doing now is to let you make a clean break from your feelings and discard any love or affection you have..."

"Fine! If you won't let him go, then I'll save him myself!"

Without saying another word, Renee jumped into the water.

"Renee!" Quinton had no idea Renee could be so impulsive. He quickly raised his hand and shouted, "Quick! Close the valves! Get her out of there!"

"Renee..." Stefan was already very weak because the snake venom had spread throughout his body, and he was barely conscious. "What are you doing? Hurry... Get out!"

He could hardly hold on any longer now, but when he saw Renee, he told himself not to pass out and began to struggle hard to break free from the chains.

"Listen to me! Don't be stupid! Get out!" "Shut-

Gulp! Shut up!"

Because Renee was shorter than Stefan, the current water level was more than enough to submerge her completely, and she inevitably choked on some of the water. It was so harrowing that she wished she could die in that instant. What was even more disgusting was how the creepy crawlies began to slither through her clothes...

But she had no time to care about anything else. She took a deep breath and dove into the water, trying her best to free Stefan from the chains.

The water was so murky that she dared not open her eyes. The iron chains were thick and heavy, and they were very tightly bound. Renee smashed a rock violently against the chains till her skin was chafed. The pain was unbearable...

"Hold on!" Renee shouted as she floated on the surface. She took a deep lungful of breath and told Stefan, whose lips were deathly pale and who was quickly losing consciousness, "You'll be free soon!"

"You, you idiot... You can't fool me..."

Stefan's whole body was cold, and although two-thirds of his soul was already in heaven, his snarky wit remained.

In the end, he used up all the might that he still had left to once again tell Renee, "I'm sorry."