The Untouchable Ex-Wife

"Mommy, look – Uncle Stuart took us to a treasure cove today! We caught a lot of fish and colourful starfish! Aren't they beautiful?" Abby was carrying a small bucket, her round face flushed like a red apple.

"Look, Mommy! It's a colourful starfish! Isn't it beautiful?" The little girl took the starfish by its two arms and excitedly showed it to Renee.

"Yeah, it's so pretty." Renee forced a smile, looking distracted.

Little Abby put down the colorful starfish and hugged Renee tightly. She looked up and asked worriedly, "Mommy, what's wrong? Are you unhappy? Did someone hurt you?"

"No. I'm happy. You're amazing, Abby. Did you collect many good things?" Renee tried her best to keep her spirits up and share her children's joy. Unfortunately, her depression was like a dark cloud in the sky – it was so obvious that Adie, Xavier, and Leia felt it too.

"Ren, what's wrong?" Leia put down the bucket full of fish and took Renee's hand. She asked worriedly, "Is it him again? Did he profess his love to another person? Give me your phone. I'll call and scold him!"

Not long ago, Stefan officially announced that Seraphina was his current girlfriend. Even though the group had been on the isolated Sun Island, they heard the news right away. One could only imagine Renee's tremendous disappointment and pain.

If Xavier had not stopped Leia, she would have returned to Beach City and beat the crap out of Stefan! "It's not him.

I'm fine. I'm happy here." Renee forced a grin, but it looked worse than her crying.

"Why are you still so stubborn? It must be him! Don't try to protect him. That jerk has hurt you over and over again. He's nothing but a bully!" Leia got even angrier after saying that. She grabbed Renee's phone, ready to teach Stefan a lesson.

Xavier felt bad for Stefan and said weakly, "He probably has his reasons. Stefan is a loyal man, he won't change his mind for no reason."

"Oh, do men need a reason to change their hearts? He probably got tired of the relationship. Maybe he's bored of an independent woman like Renee, so he's trying to flatter someone else. Didn't you see the official announcement video? Did someone point a gun at him and force him to show his love for her?" Leia demanded.

"Uhm, well, about that..." Xavier looked away.

"Well? Am I wrong? The facts are clear. Stefan is just a huge jerk who has been cheating on Renee repeatedly. I say he should be punished and humiliated for what he's done!"

Unable to handle Leia's wrath, Xavier raised his hands in surrender and backed off. "You're right. I'm sorry."

Xavier and Leia had always been at odds, but they got along better after taking care of Adie and Abby together. Sometimes, they understood each other like they knew each other for years, but they would quickly fight and argue whenever Stefan was involved.

"Are you really sorry? Go on then, give him a call." Leia handed the phone to Xavier, her eyes narrowed. "He's your good friend, isn't he? Give him a good scolding and show me your loyalty."

"Are you sure? Isn't it inappropriate?" Xavier wanted to bury a hole in the sand and disappear. He added softly, "Besides, I haven't been able to reach his phone. I don't know where he's gone."

"Excuses! You're either a coward or a cheating scumbag like him!" Leia burst out furiously.

"No way, I'm not like him. I'm better than him. He has yet to do better," Xavier defended himself quickly.

Renee had been silent the whole time, but when she saw the two arguing, she interrupted them, "Stop fighting. We'll go back now, so you both can scold him in person."

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Renee was not joking; she figured her brother was right. She

should go back. Soon after, the group took a flight back to Beach

City.

Quinton came early to pick them up. His gentle and elegant appearance made him look like a kind and knowledgeable scholar. No one knew he was the notorious and fearsome Night Demon who had spilled the blood of many people.

Quinton leaned against a large black SUV and kept his eyes on the exit. When he saw Renee and the two little ones, he waved at them excitedly. "Sis, over here!"

"Sis?" Leia and Xavier exchanged glances confusedly, then turned to Renee. "Who is he? Why is he wearing a mask in broad daylight?"

"He's my brother," Renee replied honestly, a smile on her face. She had been talking to Quinton on calls lately, but Leia and Xavier had been unaware of his existence.

"Brother? Is he your godbrother?" Xavier frowned and complained in disgust, "What age is this? That's such an old-fashioned way to hit on girls. I'm going to throw up."

"No! He's my real brother!" Renee rolled her eyes at Xavier and said, "Do you think everyone is like you? All you think about is flirting with girls!"

"Real brother? That can't be!" Leia was in shock. "Ren, aren't you the only child? Why do you suddenly have a brother? Were you fooled?"

"He's really my brother. We're twins, just like you and Liam!" Renee raised her chin and explained proudly. It was nice knowing she still had family and someone who doted on her.

"Quinton!" Renee called out to Quinton, then ran over and jumped into his arms like a little girl. Her brother's embrace was warm and steady.

What was happiness? Happiness was getting off the plane and then seeing your family waiting to take you home.

"Little girl, I haven't seen you in a while. Have you lost weight? Are you not eating well?" Quinton hugged Renee firmly, then began to nag like a father, "Didn't I tell you? There's nothing more important than eating well. Even if you're unhappy, you mustn't starve yourself. Your health is important. Don't let your anger affect your health. If you fall sick, that'll make your enemies happy. This won't do. I'll cook for you from now on. You have to eat two bowls per meal before leaving the table, do you hear me?"

Renee was overwhelmed and protested weakly, "Quinton, are you serious? Two bowls per meal? I'll become fat! What if no one wants to marry me in the future?"

"Then don't get married! I'll take care of you. Marriage is not for all women, you can stay unmarried and always be a young girl. If you get married, your husband's family will only take advantage of you. Why bother getting married?" Quinton said reasonably.

"Right. I want to stay as a young girl all my life and never marry again..." Renee nodded absently.

"That's the way to go. Women don't have to get married or have children in this modern era. I'll support you and keep you safe and happy all your life." Quinton smiled at Renee affectionately.

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The dialogue between the two siblings made Leia feel a little jealous. Their conversation touched her.

Leia wiped her tears and bumped Xavier with her elbow. "Look at them! How touching... Ren rarely relies on other people, so her brother must be a really good person. I'm so envious!"

Xavier was the only child and could not understand such sibling love. He frowned, looking confused. "Don't you have a brother? Isn't your brother the same?"

"No way. I've been fighting with my brother since we were young. He always insults me and calls me names. He always says no one will ever want me, and I will never get married. He says I must equip myself with more skills, or I'll starve to death!" Leia whined.

Leia could not stop whenever she complained about Liam. "Did you know he used to trick me when I was a kid? I handed my pocket money to him for safekeeping, but when I asked him for it, he asked me to pay a service fee. I had to give him two dollars to retrieve a dollar of pocket money. In the end, he took away a big chunk of my pocket money, and I ended up owing him money. Have you seen such a terrible brother?"

"Pfft!" Xavier could not help laughing. "You were stupid enough to give your pocket money to him, so how can you blame anyone else for it?"

"How dare you! You may not sympathise with me, but how can you laugh at my misery? Do you know how much I suffered in my miserable childhood?" Leia burst out, pouting.

"Hahaha. It's okay, I'm here now. He can't hurt you anymore." Xavier rubbed the woman's head, a soft and doting smile on his face.

Leia fell silent. Her cheeks flushed as the two looked at each other bashfully. Leia and Xavier had worked together to take care of Adie and Abby on Sun Island. During that time, they seemed to have developed feelings for each other, but neither confessed or took the initiative to make a move.

Xavier had been flirting with her daily but never made a proper confession. Leia constantly warned herself not to fall for him. She kept telling herself that Stefan was a jerk, so his best friend Xavier would not be any better.

"Hey, what are you two doing? Come here! Let me introduce you!" Renee called Leia and Xavier over eagerly. "This is my brother Quinton. Brother, this is my best friend and closest friend. Meet Leia, the seventh daughter of the Osborne family."

"And this..." Renee looked at Xavier, unsure how to introduce him. After all, Xavier was Stefan's good friend. If Quinton knew this, Xavier might be in danger.

Xavier, however, had a bright smile as he introduced himself without any concerns. "Hi. I'm Xavier. I'm a good friend of your brother-in-law Stefan. I'm also very close to Renee!"

Hearing that, Quinton's gentle smile turned strained. He had a complicated look on his face. "Oh, Are you Xavier Stuart, the only son of the Stuart family? Stefan's good brother?"

"Yup, that's right! Do you know me?" Xavier started to talk about his achievements like an idiot, "Speaking of which, I may not be as famous as Stefan, but I've done some great things... Do you know Carmine Pawnshop? It's a powerful pawn shop. I spent a fortune and opened a similar company to compete against them. At last, I managed to capture at least half of their customers.

Stefan took advantage of this opportunity to beat up their boss back then..."

"Ahem!" Renee coughed hard, trying to stop Xavier from talking any further. Xavier was really good at digging a grave for himself. He went for all the dangerous topics and offended Quinton repeatedly. Did he really want Quinton to kill him?!

Xavier continued to hit Quinton's sore point. After that, he even added, "You look so gentle. What's your profession? Are you a college teacher?"

Quinton put his hands in his pockets and said with a half-smile, "I'm not a teacher. I actually run a small business."

"Really? What kind of business? Are we in the same line of work?" Xavier asked enthusiastically.

"I'm in the pawn business." Quinton added, "I run a small pawn shop - Carmine Pawnshop."

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Everyone was at a loss for words. There was a long silence.

Xavier's smile froze a little, but he eventually laughed and reached out his hand to Quinton cheerfully. "Ah, you're an old friend! I've heard so much about you!"

"We're indeed old friends." Quinton had a cold look in his eyes. He said, smiling, "After all, there were many times when I wanted to chop you up and feed you to crocodiles!"

"Hahaha! Quinton, you're such a funny man!" Xavier pointed at Quinton. "I thought Stefan had beaten you into depression. Is that why you've been hiding in Water Dock?"

"You must be joking, Mr. Stuart. Do I look depressed? You can try to

find out." "If I do, I'll die."

The two men were going back and forth with smiles on their faces, but it felt like they were fighting it out with their

words. Renee and Leia held each other's hands and retreated to the side, afraid of being accidentally injured.

"Okay. Have you had enough? Can you stop fighting? Don't block the entrance and hinder traffic." Renee held Adie and Abby and said to them, "My loves, he's the uncle I've mentioned before. Isn't he very dear? Call him Uncle Quinton."

"Uncle Quinton!" The two little ones greeted Quinton adorably.

"Oh, Adie, Abby. I finally get to see you! Come and let me hug you!" Quinton wanted to keep fighting with Xavier, but his anger faded when he saw the two little ones. He squatted down and picked them up in excitement.

"Uncle, why are you wearing a mask like Daddy Q? Do you know Daddy Q?" Adie asked Quinton curiously, trying to remove Quinton's mask.

"Hey, Adie! Don't touch my mask!" Quinton stopped him with a stern

expression. "Why?"

"My face was disfigured by some bad guys. I have a really big scar, so I don't want to scare you," Quinton explained honestly.

Little Abby said sweetly, "It's fine, Uncle Quinton. You're our dearest uncle, so we won't be scared. The scar isn't a big deal. It's just your unique mark – no one else has it!"

"Umm..." Quinton had a heart made of stone, but Abby's words softened him. He had not felt this way in a long time.

"Adie, Abby. Don't be rude to Uncle Quinton. He has his reasons for wearing a mask, so don't pester him. Besides, isn't it cool to wear a mask?" Renee lectured her children sternly.

Renee knew Quinton's face had always been a wound in his heart. It was normal for him to hide his scar, and Renee had always respected his decision.

"It's okay. If the kids are curious, I can take it off. We're a family. There's no need to be so secretive," Quinton said and took off his mask.

Quinton had a long and deep scar across his face. It was crooked and spread from the end of his left eye to the right corner of his mouth. It was as if the scar split his face in half!

Everyone was shocked but did not say much. They cared about Quinton's self-esteem and did not want to hurt him. However, the surrounding passers-by's responses were hurtful – they screamed in fright and retreated a few metres away.

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"Ah, monster!"

"That's so scary! Did someone cut off half of his face? That's terrible!"

The passersby's reactions hurt Quinton's self-esteem badly. He quickly put his mask back on and smiled bitterly. "Sorry for scaring you."

"N-No..." Renee felt sorry for Quinton and comforted him, "I think you're very handsome. Your eyes are very much like Mom's – gentle and determined. Your mouth is very much like Dad's. You have beautiful lips. You're really my brother. If we weren't blood- related, I would've fallen in love with you at first sight!"

"Really?" Quinton's eyes brightened immediately. Quinton had always wondered what his mother looked like. He had imagined it countless times, but it never felt real. However, when Renee described her, her image immediately came to his mind and his heart softened.

"Of course. You can ask Lei too. She's Mom and Dad's goddaughter and often visited us. She knows Mom and Dad's faces very well... Right, Lei?"

"Y-Yes!" Leia had been startled by Quinton's scar earlier, but when she thought about it, Quinton actually had a handsome face. His handsomeness was no less than Stefan and Xavier's. In fact, he was even more perfect than Stefan and Xavier.

Quinton's eyes, which he inherited from his mother, looked like they held many stories. Renee's mother had been as famous as Francine back then. She had been the most beautiful person in North City!

"Quinton's eyes are exactly the same as Godmother's eyes. I was stunned, I thought I saw my godmother..." Leia said with a sincere look on her face.

"That's great." Quinton finally regained his self-esteem. Renee and Leia's praises had put a smile on his face, and he glowed like an elegant prince.

Xavier, on the other hand, said coldly, "Gee. Stefan was ruthless back then and cut his face so badly. He's like a monster. Who wouldn't have a nightmare after seeing him?

Renee and Leia were at a loss for words.

Xavier asked, "Why are you both glaring at me? Did I say something wrong? He knows what his face looks like. Otherwise, why would he wear a mask? He may lose himself because of your excessive praise. If he stops wearing the mask, he may scare the children. Even if he doesn't scare the kids, what if he scares innocent passersby?"

Leia could not take it anymore and punched Xavier hard in the stomach. "Xavier, just shut up, will you?!"

"Oww! It hurts!" Xavier covered his stomach and grimaced in pain. He blurted out, "Leia! Damn! Are you trying to murder your husband?"

Immediately, Leia froze. Her cheeks flushed slightly, and she stopped talking.

Xavier took a while to calm down. After that, he said solemnly, "Don't be angry! I'm saying it for his own good!"

Then, he turned to Quinton, who had an icy expression on his face. "Quinton, haven't you considered getting a plastic surgeon to restore your handsome face?"

"No!" Quinton gritted his teeth and replied in annoyance. Quinton was already at the limit of his patience. Xavier was just a frivolous man and another rich kid like Stefan. If it were not for Renee, he would have killed him!

"No? That doesn't matter. Universal Entertainment may not be familiar with all kinds of business, but we're renowned for our plastic surgery services. Nine out of ten artists in our company have undergone plastic surgery. I know a highly-skilled plastic surgeon called Ghost. He can surely save this face of yours!" Xavier said enthusiastically.

"Really?" Quinton frowned. Xavier's words sparked a glimmer of hope in him. Who would not want to have a normal face if they could?

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"Why would I lie to you?" Xavier draped his arm around Quinton's shoulder and patted his chest with his other hand. "Don't worry, bro. You are Ren's brother, so you are also my brother. I only want the best for you!"

"But you are Stefan's friend, so how good can you be?" Quinton frowned and looked at the man's arm in disgust, restraining the urge to cut it off. Years of bloody battles had made him wary of people and unfamiliar with intimate interactions.

"No, no, no. I am no longer his brother. From now on, I will cut ties with that cold-blooded and heartless man!" Xavier crossed his arms, and smiled earnestly. "I am now your brother, so I will listen to everything you say. And I wasn't joking earlier. If you want, I can bring you to the plastic surgeon and let him see if your face can be reconstructed."

"Sure." Quinton nodded, the defensiveness in his eyes fading slightly.

They got into the car and started talking happily. Quinton even warmly invited Xavier to Carmine Pawnshop to have tea with

him. Watching them from the backseat, Renee and Leia exchanged glances in confusion.

"What is going on here? Why are they suddenly so close? Did I miss

something?" "What's so strange about it? Xavier is very sociable."

"But isn't he too quick to defect to Quinton, knowing that my brother and his best friend are deadly

rivals?" "You're right... he's acting weird. What's he up to?"

"There must be a

conspiracy!" "Yeah, it must

be!"

Soon, they arrived at the Carmine Pawnshop.

Quinton announced that he would personally cook for them, and Xavier acted like a loyal follower as he said, "Brother, I'll go with you. Please teach me how to cook."

So, the two men talked in the kitchen again. They were like long-lost brothers, and their excitement was very peculiar.

Renee and Leia sat on the sofa near the table with a bunch of fruits and snacks. The children were running around in the courtyard, casually playing with priceless antiques with a panicked Chase running after them.

"Ah, please be careful with that, Master Adie. That is not an ordinary soccer ball but one used by royalty in ancient times. It's made of pure gold and ancient jade and is very very expensive, so please don't break it!"

"Ah, Miss Abby, p-please don't touch this vase. It's a high-quality product from an imperial kiln and Mr. Everheart's favorite..."

Leia, like the twins, felt like she had entered a foreign world and found everything very new. "Ren, look at this snuff bottle. I have seen it in a museum before. I remember that the price is estimated to be around fifteen million dollars. How could you treat it like a common ornament? Isn't it a bit wasteful?"

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"This is just my brother's hobby. There are dozens more in his display case. If you like them, I can ask him to send you a few."

"My gosh, Ren, you are simply too rich!" Leia pretended to wipe away tears as she complained. "Ren, you're literally living the perfect life! You were born into a rich family, you're skilled at practically everything, and are currently the president of KCL. Not only that, your children are pretty and clever, and even your brother who appeared out of nowhere is a magnate. How are common girls like me going to live? Oh, but I forget about the scum from the Hunt family that tainted your life. Anyway, it doesn't matter. You have cut ties with that pathetic being, so you can live a beautiful life alone in the future..."

Renee was amused by Leia's dramatic monologue. "My dear Miss Leia, aren't you born into a rich family? Don't you have a powerful brother? And the most precious thing is that you have a reliable man. I am the one who should envy you."

"Man?" Leia frowned in confusion. "Where is the man? How come I don't know about him?"

"Stop acting. Where do you think he will be?" Renee glanced at the kitchen, hugged Leia, and said teasingly, "Tell me honestly. How far have you and Xavier gone? When will you get married?"

"What? Stop talking nonsense!" Leia blushed immediately like a shy young girl. "I only worked with him to take care of the kids. We are not from the same world, and we're not even friends."

"Why does he address himself as your darling then?" Renee smirked.

"He's always been like this, flirting with all women he encounters. He's simply a playboy addicted to sex!" Leia recalled the recent days they spent together and inexplicably felt annoyed. Truthfully, he had not said or done anything. It was she who had been

making a fuss out of it, so he did not deserve her anger...

"I see." Renee got serious and patted Leia's shoulder comfortingly. "It's not your problem, it's his. Don't feel pressured about it."

"What should I do now, Ren? Sometimes I feel like an idiot whose emotions are easily manipulated by him. I feel so powerless!" Leia confessed to Renee miserably. "You know that I only have theoretical knowledge about romance. I have very little practical experience, and the only one I had was a failure. I really have no resistance toward a love master like Xavier."

"Don't worry, I know just how to deal with this kind of man. Just wait and see." Renee smiled ambiguously at Leia and went to the kitchen to look for Xavier.

Xavier and Quinton were no longer chatting happily in the kitchen and started poking fun at each other.

"Hmph, don't think that I don't know what is on your mind when you try to flatter me. I advise you not to waste your time here... I won't agree to it!" Quinton scoffed as he chopped the meat.

Xavier was washing the vegetables beside him. His noble demeanour made the greens in his hands look very expensive as he smiled and said, "What do you mean? I don't understand."

"Stop pretending to be weak. We're men, so you should understand what I mean..." Quinton smiled and glanced at the man sharply. "Are you shamelessly staying here because you like my sister and fear that I will later estrange her from you, so you want to show your loyalty to me in advance?"

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Xavier paused briefly and his playful smile turned stiff, but he admitted openly, "You're really smart. I indeed like your sister so I don't want to fall out with you or else I would have a thin chance of meeting her again."

"I know you are a hopeless romantic like Stefan who can betray your friends for the sake of a woman. If Stefan knows about this, I bet he will want to kill you."

Quinton smiled cryptically and continued. "Anyway, he might not be in the mood to care about this now, so it might be the best time for you to pursue my sister."

"What happened to Stefan... I mean, that scum... Isn't he enjoying his life now with a beautiful woman in his arms? How can he be in a bad mood?"

"Why are you so concerned about him now that you have betrayed him?" "No,

I'm just curious about whether karma will find the bad guys."

"Rest assured, it will."

Looking at Quinton's triumphant expression, Xavier knew that Stefan must be in some kind of trouble. Before he could ask about it, Renee pushed open the door and walked into the kitchen.

"Xavier, come out. I need to talk to you for a second."

"Me?" Xavier felt a bit surprised and nervous when he looked at the domineering woman.

"Yeah, you. Come with me." Renee waved at the man and went out without leaving him a chance to refuse. "Um,

Brother, I..." Xavier turned to Quinton to ask for permission.

"Just go. You won't be able to get her anyway," said Quinton dismissively as he waved his hand.

As far as he was concerned, all the men in the world, except Stefan, had no ability to move her sister's heart, so it was totally unnecessary to guard her from other men. They were just wasting their efforts.

On the contrary, he could make use of them.

Xavier was Stefan's best friend, so no one knew Stefan's weaknesses better than him.

Renee and Xavier arrived at a quiet and dark corner of the backyard of Carmine Pawnshop. No one would come here unless he was being punished.

"There's no one here, so why don't you tell me what it is you want?" Renee asked Xavier, her arms crossed over her chest. "What?

Damn, you and your brother are truly biological siblings, you both are so vigorous," mocked Xavier, smiling.

"Stop changing the subject. What do you think I'm asking you? I'm asking about you and my bestie!"

"Oh, her..." Xavier's playful smile faded and he said nonchalantly, "Nothing. I was just messing around with her like friends do."

"Friends?" Renee exploded and punched him. "Do you think you're a school kid? Messing around with a friend? Tell me now: do you like her?"

"Yes, I do. I like her, I like you, and I like every beautiful woman in this world. I like to joke with them, what's wrong with that?"

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"Bah, you really are the king of playboys and jerks. So, what you're saying is that you don't really like Leia, and you're iust

messing around with her out of habit?" Renee questioned sharply. She had to confirm Xavier's feelings for Leia before she could help Leia make her choice.

"I don't want to answer this." There was a subtle uneasiness under Xavier's nonchalance. He looked at Renee indifferently and said, "You're not my girlfriend, so I'm not obligated to tell you about my feelings."

"Don't try to evade this with your playfulness, Xavier. Answer my question if you're a man. I know you're not a real playboy, you're just disguising yourself." Renee had hit the nail on the head. She still remembered that he nearly died in the fire to save her. No matter how vile he pretended to be, he could not hide his true self as a brave and responsible man.

"What does it have to do with you? Your righteous indignation may make me misunderstand

you." "Huh? What do you mean?

"What do you think?"

Still behaving casually, Xavier advanced slowly toward Renee, then tilted up her chin and smiled slyly. "A man might misunderstand that a woman likes him if she cares too much about him... I had feelings for you once, you know. Now that you're single again, my feelings for you might be easily rekindled!"

"You... you're crazy!" His words gave Renee goosebumps and she pushed him away hard. 'Damn it, it's just like what Lei told me. He is just a playboy who likes to flirt – his mind cannot be read.'

"I'm warning you – I don't care about your reasons, but if you really have feelings for Lei, you'd better confess to her as soon as possible. She might look like a carefree person, but she is very sensitive inside. Her previous relationship was traumatic, so she can't afford to be hurt again. If you have no feelings for her, stop flirting with her. She will take it seriously and it will hurt her later on!" Renee warned Xavier seriously.

His eyes darkened and he asked, "What happened to her previous relationship? Tell me about it."

"Why are you curious about it?" Renee smiled thoughtfully. "When a man cares a lot about a woman, doesn't it mean that he has feelings for her?"

Xavier did not admit or deny it, and continued, "Was her ex a jerk? What did he do to her?"

"Um, how should I put it? He is a highly-educated elite, very gentlemanly and elegant, and very smart. Lei liked him a lot..."

"Hah, an elegant and smart elite..." He sounded very disdainful, and even his gaze exuded hostility. He sneered, "So, that's the kind of guy she likes?"

"Yeah... Come to think of it, I seem to have worried too much..." Renee pursed her lips thoughtfully.

"What do you mean?"

She said haughtily, "You are not her type at all. If she is not interested in you, she will naturally not be hurt by you." "Is that so?" A hint of frustration flashed across Xavier's handsome face, but it was quickly replaced with cynicism. "I'm sure that's also what she thinks... Right, dear Lei?" The man asked suddenly with a wry smile.

The man's gaze looked past Renee at the corner where Leia had been hiding for a while.

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Renee felt nervous when she turned around and spotted Leia. "Lei, when did you get here? Why didn't you say something?"

"I've been here for a while. It looked like you both were having a good chat so I didn't have the heart to interrupt." Leia slowly approached them, her tone indifferent and cold.

'Darn!' Renee knitted her eyebrows. She did not expect that Leia would overhear her conversation with Xavier.

As someone with high self-esteem, Lei must be very hurt!

"Don't listen to his crap, Lei. He is just speaking casually. He is not such a person, he..." Renee anxiously tried to make excuses for Xavier, but then realized that the man's words were simply unforgivable.

"You don't have to defend me, darling, I am that kind of person. It's good for Lei to know this early so that she will give up on her unrealistic fantasies." Xavier put his hands in his pockets. The corners of his lips curved upwards and his gaze was carefree and charming.

Leia looked at the man coldly and said disdainfully, "I admit that you are skillful in flirtation, Xavier, and I did have some moments of confusion during the days we were on Sun Island, but the confusion I had is still far from admiration. I would never love a man like you."

Xavier shrugged carelessly. "I know. I am not an elite or brainy man. I am just a jerk who lives casually. I won't ask for your love."

"I don't like you because I despise you. You are a coward deep down. You don't even have the guts to face your heart. You are the most cowardly man I have ever met, and you're even more cowardly than my ex!"

"Coward?" Xavier rubbed his chin, as if she had poked his sore spot, and laughed. "How am I a coward? What is wrong with not liking conflict?"

"Aren't you a coward since you don't even have the courage to face your own feelings?" Leia snarled,"I was wondering why I felt you were sad though you looked happy. It's the sorrow of unregulted love, isn't it? I understand now..."

"Um, what do you understand?" He was confused for real this time. Did she really know his true feelings?

"You like Ren, your best friend's girl." Leia had figured out his true feelings this time and pitied him. "It's a shame that you only dare to love her secretly and do not dare to pursue her. This is why you use your playfulness to hide your true feelings, then stay by Ren's side as her best friend. You even deliberately flirt with me to use me as a cover-up because you are afraid that your true feelings will be exposed!"

"Um... is that what you think?" His handsome face stiffened immediately. 'Why is this girl not reacting the way a girl normally would?'

Was she some kind of mind reader who could see into his heart?

Leia, on the other hand, continued to criticize him. "You're such a coward! You're old enough to stop having a crush on someone. Ren is already single now anyway, so act like a man and pursue her openly!"

"Um, you are right. Darling is single now, so maybe I really can try to woo her. But the thing is, I am only good at talking, so I don't know where to start!" He frowned slightly, then sincerely asked Leia for advice. "You are her best friend, so you should know her best. Why don't you teach me how to do it?"

"Hmph, maybe there's hope for you yet, since you asked the right person." Leia looked angry at first, but when she heard that he wanted to pursue her best friend, she suddenly got fired up. "It's easy. First, you must be handsome..."

Renee stood beside them, totally dumbfounded. 'Are these two alright? Why do I have to deal with this? Why are they openly discussing how to pursue me?'

What's more, they were very excited about it. It was like they were in their own world, and no one else was around.