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William pat Renee on the shoulder after seeing her panicked reaction. "Don't worry. You're Leia's friend. She'd be upset if something were to happen to you, so I won't run my mouth either."

Renee seemed conflicted, taking a deep breath as she looked toward the man. "You have to promise you won't tell a single soul, and I mean it. I know I did something bad, but I want to wait till the right time to put an end to it all."

"Miss Everheart, you don't have to tell me anything. I don't think you're wrong at all. Desrosiers deserved it! Let's just pretend none of this ever happened. We'll bring this secret to our graves," William said coldly and resolutely.

The woman didn't doubt William's words at all. A frosty expression like that indicated that his love had completely run cold. However, she just couldn't understand how people could behave so indifferently after they've had a change of heart.

She knew just how much William used to love Briar after all. He was even willing to trick Leia just for her sake, offering himself to become the absolute jerk in their stories.

"I don't get you, Jones. Wasn't Desrosiers your one true love? How could you be so calm when you know I have something to do with her death? And you aren't going to take revenge for her? You're even... willing to hide the truth from me?" Renee asked after some pondering.

She wasn't afraid that William was trying to fool her, but she just wished to obtain an answer, as this had been a thorn in her heart for the longest time.

If the man called the cops on her now or used this as an excuse to threaten her, she would be willing to accept it as well, as she was well prepared to face the consequences.

"One true love? You must be joking. I was just obsessed because she wouldn't love me back..." William squinted his eyes and sighed. "Briar Desrosiers has committed far too many crimes, so she deserved to die like that. You were doing the world justice, so don't be too harsh on yourself."

"I don't care if you believe me or not, but I've never wanted her dead. It was just an accident. But even if I could rewind time, I'd still do the same regardless. I will never allow her to harm Leia, let alone my children." Renee said, slightly agitated.

Thinking back to that stormy night, she felt her heart clenching tightly, her expression growing twisted from the pain.

The accident happened over three months ago. Briar, who had been missing for quite some time, suddenly contacted her with an unregistered number, requesting to meet up.

Initially, Renee intended to ignore this woman. After all, they were both victims of what happened back then. Continuing fighting in this lose-lose battle would be meaningless, as they would only be hurting each other further.

However, the malevolent madwoman sent her a video instead. It was footage of Leia and William having intercourse.

"If you refuse, I'll publish this video all over the internet right now. Let's see how your best friend can live on after this!" Briar threatened, ordering her to do as told.

They then scheduled to meet up at a remote cliff within Strix Island.

The storm was quite heavy that night, illuminated by giant sparks of lightning and loud, rumbling thunder.

Renee was not senseless; she knew that Briar must harbor malicious intent when she forced her to meet under such circumstances.

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Despite that, Renee had no choice but to meet with Briar, all for Leia's sake.

"I was actually pretty shocked at the state she was in. Her hair was a mess, and she looked malnourished. And I felt sorry for her..." Renee balled her fists up, a lump rising in her throat. She was inexplicably upset.

"That's nothing but a facade. That woman is used to acting fragile to gain sympathy. She's actually an evil sociopath deep down. I thought I could fix her if I showed her some genuine love, but... she dragged me down to her level instead!"

"Hah, you sure are quick to shift all the blame to her. You men are the same. You're just mad because you couldn't handle her."

"Looks like Desrosiers is a pitiful woman after all. To think the man who claimed to love her with everything he's got abandoned her in the end regardless." Renee shook her head, sighing.

Due to their similar experiences with men, Renee somehow empathized with Briar at some point in time, despite being rivals.

"She used my tape with Leia to threaten you. Isn't that enough evidence to show that she is a bad person through and through? She doesn't deserve your sympathy. It's not your fault you pushed her off the cliff! She crossed the line first," William said calmly.

"So you were there too? You saw our fight that night and how I pushed her off?" Renee replied in a composed tone. At this point, she could finally face the accident with a fresh new perspective.

Technically speaking, she was indeed a murderer in this case.

Briar made many insulting remarks that night. Her goal was simple. She wanted Adie. If she didn't get him, she would publicize the video to the entire internet.

Not sacrificing either her child or best friend was a no-brainer. She would never send them in harm's way.

Hence, she lunged over to Briar in order to snatch the phone out of her hands, losing all rationality. As they continued to struggle, she accidentally pushed the woman off the cliff...

"Actually, I'm not sure if she's still alive, but I'm pretty sure she's not. Her corpse was probably washed away by the waves. Else how were these past three months so quiet? No one came looking for trouble at all!" Renee smiled sadly.

Renee returned to the Carmine Pawnshop after destroying the tape thoroughly. She headed to bed with a heavy heart. She

In her dreams, Briar crawled out of the sea with messy hair, with her limbs dislocated and her bones penetrating through her flesh. She then cackled eerily, her face completely drenched in blood.

"Hahaha, Everheart, your days are numbered... I may not have been able to compete against you when I was alive, but I can drag you down to hell with me as a ghost!" Briar screeched as her bloodied face inched closer to Renee, to the point she seemed to be hovering right above her.

The suffocating pain consumed the woman's chest. She flung her arms around in panic, screaming, "No! Don't come near me!"

"Miss Ren! Miss Ren! Wake up! The sun is up!" Margaret worriedly held her hand, sitting by her bed.

was especially restless for the entire night, with several dreams popping in her head during her slumber.

"Argh!" Renee felt like she was pulled out of an abyss as her eyes snapped open. Her heart was pounding rapidly in her chest.

"Miss Ren, you look pale. Did you have a nightmare?"

"Mhm." Renee nodded, panting.

Her nightmare was just too vivid, as she remembered how Briar's gory face was right in front of hers and remembered just how despairful the sensation was. It felt like she was drowning.

"It's alright, you woke up..." Margaret patted her on the back, visibly concerned. "You must've been stressing yourself out, Miss Ren. That's why you had a weird nightmare."

"I'll make you a small scented bag later. It can help get rid of germs and reduce anxiety, so bring it around with you. Then you won't get those nightmares anymore."

"Thanks, Margaret." Renee took a deep sigh, then asked in a whisper. "Hey Margaret, do you think really evil ghosts exist in this world?"

"Ah, I don't know..." Margaret's expression turned serious, reminiscing her past. "I've learned medicine from my grandfather, and I've seen a lot of weird stuff too. Traditional doctors usually believe in these things since life and death, when viewed from a medical standpoint, are great mysteries. So I can't really say for sure...

"Evil ghosts may exist in some other realm, a realm we can't see or touch. Or maybe, its existence is a form of energy, a magnetic field. When the energy or magnetic field is too strong, it might affect our realm as well.

"For example, Miss Ren, you don't get nightmares back then. But you suddenly dreamed of something that was so scary that it woke you up in cold sweat. It is possible that you were affected by those types of negative energies. So it's best to be more cautious," Margaret explained, her cryptic message sending chills down Renee's body.

She gulped, carefully responding. "So you mean some kind of evil spirit with high negative energy might be attached to me?"

"Hush hush! You shouldn't say things like that! You're a nice person, Miss Ren. It's not like you offended or provoked anyone. So there's no way you would encounter evil spirits!"

Margaret was very superstitious, quickly nagging her like how most elderly would. After that, she got busy preparing the scented bag as promised.

Renee looked towards the mirror at her dressing table, noticing her pale complexion. Briar Desrosiers, if you really are haunting me, I advise you to reincarnate soon, she thought as she clenched her fists.

'You couldn't win against me while you were alive, so don't assume you'd ever have a chance at death either!'

After having breakfast, Renee checked the time and noticed that she should be leaving soon. She then got up from her seat and turned to Quinton, Margaret, and the children. "You guys take your time, I have to head out for a bit."

"It's still so early in the morning. Where are you going?"

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Quinton was reading the newspapers at the time, and as he lowered his hands, a sharp glare was revealed.

"I... I'm just going to tend to some work in the company. There's going to be a lot of new projects coming in, so I figured I should head back to work after such a long vacation."

"You're my sister. As long as I'm here to provide for you, you can have a lifelong vacation if you so, please. Besides, it's been quite dangerous lately, so I'd say you should rest a little longer before returning to yourwork."

Quinton was considered the current head of the Everheart family, hence somehow taking up the father figure role. He couldn't help but wish he could place Renee under lockdown forever just to ensure her safety.

After all, Beach City was currently in an ever-changing state. Moreover, he had made many enemies in the past and was very worried that his sister would be dragged into his mess.

"Oh, now you're just being dramatic. I'm not a weakling! If anyone dares to try something on me, that just means they've got a death wish! Don't worry!" Renee waved nonchalantly, then kissed Adie and Abby on their cheeks.

"Be good, you two, and listen to your uncle and Aunt Margaret. I'll be back in a jiffy."

"Alright, be careful, Mommy, and stay safe!" The little ones pecked her back on the cheek, not worried about their mother's safety.

'Uncle may not have seen how great Mommy is, but we have! Many, many times! She can do anything!' They thought to themselves.

"Ah, Miss Ren, wait!" Margaret got up and caught up to her. "Take this medicinal pouch with you. I just feel like your nightmare is some kind of bad omen. Anything that might prevent it counts."

"Relax, Margaret, I'm not scared of anything or anyone! I'm confident that I can take down any monsters or demons in my way!" Renee replied confidently as she tucked the pouch into her pocket.

However, the woman wasn't heading toward the company but instead a filming location.

When she returned from the hospital last night, she could contact Shirley through certain methods.

Shirley seemed overjoyed after realizing it was her and immediately agreed to meet.

Coincidentally, the venue was in Strix Island, exactly where she and Briar fought.

"Talk about bad luck!" Renee gulped as she parked her car, staring at the familiar space in front of her. She had a bad feeling about this.

"Hello, Miss Everheart. I'm Shirley's manager. She's still busy with the film at the moment, so I'll be taking you to the waiting area first. Is that alright with you?" The manager came up to Renee with all smiles. Her enthusiasm felt odd to Renee.

"It's okay. Let her finish up with her work first. I'm not in a rush." Renee responded courteously, as she wasn't one to shut down friendliness.

The waiting area was around a sheltered flat ground, and she had a clear view of the film set.

"Miss Everheart, here are some snacks." The manager came over with a few slices of various fruits and then

rambled. "You know, I've admired you for the longest time! I actually didn't want to take in any more newcomers

when Mr. Stuart

mentioned he had someone he wanted to recommend. I was planning on retiring after all. I already have superstars like Miley, Yasmine, and many others too. But the moment I saw Shirley, I immediately changed my mind... Want to know why?"

"Uhm, why?" Renee asked awkwardly. She had no problem socializing but was still somewhat wary of overly friendly people like these.

"Haha, why else? It's because Shirley is practically your clone!" The manager slapped the woman on the back excitedly. "You just look so alike! Everyone in our industry is saying how Shirley is your stand-in too."

"Shirley's debut film was the one that starred the famous Mr. Hunt and was inspired by the trending short story 'Hunt my Everheart.' People absolutely loved it, and that was Shirley's big break..."

Renee brushed her hair out of her face and continued replying awkwardly. "Yeah, I've kind of heard of it."

"It's a shame that Mr. Hunt is currently going out with Miss Murphy. Looks like everyone's ship sank..." The manager let out a long sigh, her eyes filled with regret and sympathy.

Renee watched as Shirley worked from afar, unable to contain her curiosity. "Is Miss White still single?"

"Oh her?" The manager turned to look at Shirley as well, smiling. "She has someone rich, but you can't tell anyone this, okay?"

"Who is it? Is it Xavier Stuart?"

"No, no, think bigger."

"Bigger?!" Renee felt like she was getting closer to the truth and continued questioning. "Who could it be? Wasn't Xavier supporting her this whole time? Did something happen between them?"

The woman assumed that the two had gotten into a big fight, so much so that it gave Xavier anxiety towards love and relationships.

'So this is why he turned out this way! He's so hesitant when it comes to love, even when he really wants to commit to another!'

"I'm not quite sure about that. I just know that..." The manager intended to continue her gossip due to her admiration for Renee.

However, Shirley had just finished up her scenes and was walking towards them with her assistant holding an umbrella at her side.

"I'm so sorry, Miss Everheart. I hope I didn't keep you waiting for too long." Shirley interrupted their conversation with a soft smile, elegantly sitting on the chair her assistant pulled back.

As Renee observed the woman before her, she was reminded of their first encounter four years ago. The natural simplicity in Shirley's beauty was long gone by now, especially after being influenced by fame and fortune.

She thought to herself. 'What a pity that she became like this...'

"You look prettier since the last time we met, Miss White. Looks like the life of a celebrity has been treating you quite well." Renee greeted politely, hoping to quickly ease away the awkward atmosphere between them.

Shirley lowered her head and grinned, then hushed her manager away. "Louis, can you please help me discuss the details of the upcoming commercial with our business partners?"

"Alright, Shirley, have fun talking with Miss Everheart then." The manager got up as told and gave the women some space.

"Do you have something urgent to tell me, Miss Everheart? You went out of your way to contact me after all. Since there's no one around us, you can be honest with me," Shirley said as she looked towards Renee with a sharp gaze, holding a cup of coffee in her hands.

She was well aware that most people wouldn't contact her without holding certain intentions. Moreover, just like Renee, she didn't like beating around the bush either.

"Alright, I'll be honest with you..." Renee sat up straight and cleared her throat. "What's your current relationship with Xavier Stuart? Did something bad happen between the two of you?"

Shirley paused, clearly surprised. "I thought you came for Mr. Hunt, Miss Everheart. I didn't expect you to be concerned about Stuart at all. Seems to me that you have a special relationship too!"

Renee frowned. 'Why does she sound so sarcastic?'

Her expression turned cold, her tone slightly sharper than before. "I suppose you're right. We do have a special relationship. That's why I hope to lend him a hand."

"Does that mean you like Stuart?"

"That's not the only relationship a man and a woman could have, you know..." Not intending to stall any longer, Renee told her everything.

"Basically, my friend likes him, and I think he's fallen for her too. But he's just acting so weird! He likes her, but he doesn't dare to make a move."

"So I was wondering if he has some kind of unresolved issues and if it has anything to do with

you." "Fell for your friend?"

A glimpse of jealousy flashed within Shirley's gorgeous eyes for a split second. She then let out a cold chuckle. "I think your friend must have been assuming things. Stuart loves me very much, and he'd never move on so easily.

"I did reject him in the past, but something happened later on, and it helped me confirm my feelings towards him. That's why I've decided to be with him. So I'm guessing he rejected your friend because of this."

"R... Really?" Renee was dejected after hearing this. After all, everyone knew just how head over heels Xavier was towards her. Hence, it didn't sound like a lie at all.

"I'm so sorry our troubles have affected someone else. We'll make sure to give her a proper apology later on..."

"You don't have to." Renee let out a long sigh, feeling quite sorry for Leia. "It's good enough that we cleared things up, and I wish you and Xavier a happy relationship."

"Wait," Shirley called out to her all of a

sudden. "What is it?"

"You care so much about your friend's love life, Miss Everheart. But do you really not care about your

own?" "What does that mean?"

"I heard Mr. Hunt got into an accident. As his ex-wife, aren't you concerned in the slightest?"

"Oh... that!" Renee figured that the conflict between Stefan and her brother had been spread to the public, so she pretended to be nonchalant. "Well, that's just life, isn't it? We all have ups and downs. What's important is that he's still alive."

"How cruel, Miss Everheart; even I'm starting to feel bad for Mr. Hunt. Don't you even feel an ounce of guilt towards him?"

"Why would I? He was the one who provoked his enemy, so he definitely deserved it. I wouldn't shed a tear even if he were to die."

She likely wished to convince herself the same, which was why she purposefully spouted such heartless words.

Before leaving, she picked up the cup of coffee on the table and lightly sipped on it, then turned to Shirley. "Thanks for your concern, though, Miss White. Oh, and the coffee's great."

Shirley watched as Renee walked far, shifting the small microphone she tied to her waist, and whispered. "Auntie, I asked everything you wanted me to ask. Miss Everheart really is cruel! I feel so bad for Stefan!"

On the other end of the line was Francine, about to explode in rage. She had heard every single word Renee said earlier, and that was enough to crush the last sliver of hope she held in her heart.

She initially thought that this was all just some kind of misunderstanding, that Renee had no idea about Stefan and Seraphina's accident.

However, now it seemed to her that it was far from a misunderstanding. 'That woman is nothing but a vicious viper!'

"If that's so, I won't be showing any mercy either. Have them take action!" Francine said with an expressionless face, her eyes frosty.

This order was basically sentencing Renee to death.

As Renee headed towards the parking lot, she found her head heavy, and she was feeling more disoriented the more she walked.

"Alright, everyone, get in position! And... action!"

Behind her was the director giving orders, followed by the sound of the clapperboard.

Shirley had already left the waiting area by then, and she now stood by the cliff for yet another shoot.

Amongst her dizziness, she noticed Shirley's long hair and white dress. It was rather odd, but she found her looking quite similar to Briar, who she accidentally pushed down this cliff three months ago.

Shirley and Briar's faces started merging into one, passing through the group of staff with an eerie smile. She was staring straight at her as blood started dripping out of the corners of her eyes and mouth...

"Ah! No! Don't come near me!" Renee screamed as she blacked out, falling straight to the ground.

After some time, as she regained consciousness slightly, she felt a bucket of ice-cold water poured onto her face.

She opened her eyes in an instant, realizing she was currently lying in a dark, moist warehouse. She had a leash connected to a metal chain that left a red sore mark around her neck, as if she were a dog.

"So you've finally woken up, witch!" A cold voice came from somewhere higher within the warehouse.

Francine soon appeared in her field of vision, with Seraphina right by her side. Their eyes were filled with strong hatred as if they could shoot poisonous venom at any given time.

"Miss Francine, now that this wench has woken up, let's just get this over with," Seraphina persuaded the old woman, wishing she could cut Renee into thousands of pieces.

She couldn't forget the pain she felt when the group of men assaulted her. Hence, as Quinton's sister, she thought Renee should naturally be the first to experience karma and retribution for their sins.

Francine, on the other hand, was holding onto the metal railing in front of her. She stared at the woman with a scowl, her voice filled with disappointment as she questioned. "What do you have to say for yourself, Renee Everheart?"

She was actually quite conflicted when it came to her opinion of Renee. She disapproved of her at the start but slowly grew fond of her with time.

Yet now, she was consumed by resentment, unable to accept that the woman her son loved so deeply was such a vile, manipulative person.

Despite having 'evidence' on Renee's 'crimes,' she still hoped that there was a chance that they could be wrong. At the very

least, she wanted to hear Renee admit to every sinful deed before giving up on all hope.

The woman tugged on the chains, trying her best to struggle out, only to find these chains being made from a certain material. Not even a professional bodybuilder could ever dream of breaking them.

Hence, she knew that she had no way to get out of this situation, despite knowing many methods that could have potentially helped. She was just like a wingless bird, and she was completely at their mercy.

"Hmph, what else can I say when you two have already beat around the bush and made such a big commotion?" Renee's beautiful face was painted with a layer of ice. She didn't even bother looking at Francine and Seraphina.

"You're still as tough as before, Renee Everheart. I put in a lot of effort in capturing you, but nothing worked. You're always on high alert, and you won't let anyone near you."

"It's a shame that you still missed one little detail. You contacted my goddaughter Shirley on your own accord..." "I was indeed

foolish. I didn't expect you to have any relations with Shirley White..."

"Of course, you didn't. I intentionally found a woman who looked like you for my son when you disappeared for four whole years. I hoped that Shirley could replace you, but my son was stubborn. He only loves you.

"But I ended up taking a liking to that child, so I asked her to be my goddaughter."

Renee was able to catch on in an instant. She chuckled coldly. "So when I contacted Shirley, she contacted you too. If my guess is right, she even drugged that cup of coffee for you, didn't she?"

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Francine stayed silent, not denying these allegations. Renee had always been a smart woman, which was why she admired her to begin with.

"Hah, well, I can't blame anyone but myself for this. I was fooled by Star Actress Shirley's innocent demeanor. As expected from her, I suppose, her acting skills are immaculate." Renee gave a thumbs up as she shook her head, smiling sadly.

"Does that mean you're admitting to all the crimes you have committed?" Francine asked as she tightened her grasp on the railing, her entire body trembling.

"What crimes?" Renee lifted her head and stared straight at Francine with her usual thorny attitude.

"What do you think? Do you feel no regret for what your demented brother has done to Stef and Seraphina? He ruined their lives!"

"You can insult me but don't you dare insult my brother. I was the one who made the decision to lure Stefan Hunt into the trap. So I'll take full responsibility for what happened."

Renee could guess that her brother had definitely crossed the line, knowing his personality. Hence, if someone had to pay for this to die down peacefully, she was willing to volunteer.

'Ugh, he's still my brother after all!'

"Fine then. I can't believe you feel no remorse, even in this state! How could you continue acting so stubborn!?" Francine nearly fainted from anger, shivering uncontrollably.

"What bad luck. It's my fault for having such poor judgment. I thought you were a kind child, and I secretly treated you like you were my own daughter. I told Stefan that he should never betray you, even if he had to betray the entire world!"

"But now... I can finally see that you're just like a viper. You're a cold-hearted, cold-blooded monster!"

"Miss Francine, let's stop trying to talk sense into her. She's very calculative, and it'd be troublesome if she were to get away. Let's... just do it." Seraphina quickly urged, worried that their plan might go wrong.

After all, Stefan had no idea about this. If he did, the man would no doubt forgive Renee unconditionally, which meant that she had the chance to turn the tables.

"Alright, since you've admitted to everything, I have nothing to say to you. I won't take your life because you're still Abby and Adie's mother, but I will make you pay twice as much as what you made Stefan suffer!" Francine howled, turning away slightly.

She then looked towards Seraphina. "I'm leaving her to you now. I'm getting old, and I can't stand gory scenes."

Seraphina beamed. "Don't worry, Miss Francine. I'll be sure to deal with her properly."

"Remember to keep her alive." Francine reminded the woman and glanced at Renee once more, giving her just enough time to beg for mercy.

However, Renee was resolute, seemingly unrepentant for what she had done. She didn't even bother to apologize for her wrongdoings.

'This is unacceptable! I may be generous, but I can't possibly forgive her!' The old woman thought and left the warehouse after some hesitation.

Now, Seraphina and Renee were the only ones left in there.

Seraphina immediately leaped down and approached Renee, giggling maniacally. "Well, if it isn't the arrogant, all-mighty Miss Everheart. Have you prepared yourself for hell?"

There wasn't even the slightest hint of fear shown on Renee's face. She even burst out laughing, as though she wasn't being held captive.

"You b*tch. How could you laugh in the face of death?!" Seraphina fumed, slapping Renee across the face as hard as she could. "What's so funny, huh? Are you not scared?!"

A red slap mark slowly appeared on Renee's fair skin, with blood dripping from the corner of her mouth. It seemed quite painful, yet she didn't even furrow her brows. Instead, the woman continued laughing loudly.

"Hahaha, I'm laughing because of your stupidity. You're the one staring in the face of death, yet you still act like you have the upper hand! Isn't that hilarious?"

"You... What do you mean by that?! I'm doing just fine! How dare you curse me?!" Seraphina was actually feeling quite guilty from the start, and hearing Renee's words took her aback.

Despite this, she still intended to slap Renee once more, but it was no match for the woman's great reflexes. She kicked her in the gut, sending Seraphina stumbling backward.

"Argh!" Seraphina yelped, her face twisted as she clutched her stomach as though her organs were ruptured. She pointed towards

Renee with a shaky finger. "You... You..."

"Seraphina Murphy, we shouldn't have any animosity towards each other. You don't have to kill me over a man."

"Besides, if something were to happen to me, my brother would be the first to come after you. My other friends too. For example, my best friends, Leia and Liam, would also do whatever it takes to seek revenge on you. So tell me, do you still think you're doing just fine?" Renee asked as she glared at Seraphina, who was still retching from the pain.

Even though she was still in chains, her unsympathetic boldness was enough to strike fear in just anyone.

Seraphina was alarmed, taking a few steps back to ensure Renee couldn't attack her again. She then continued speaking with a cocky attitude. "Sure, we didn't have anything against each other back then. We may have been rivals, but I never wanted to take your life either."

"But ever since that night, I swore to send you straight to hell, even if it costs my life!"

"No, you wouldn't dare." Renee was confident. "Francine just warned you not to. She needed me alive."

"You're right. I can tell that Francine is still softhearted towards you. That's why she let me deal with you instead. That also means I am the one to decide your fate... Do you really think I'd ever let go of such a great opportunity?"

Seeing how Seraphina was determined to murder her, Renee didn't want to persuade her any longer. However, she couldn't understand what had happened 'that night.'

'What happened for her to hate me this much?' She wondered.

"Whatever. I'm not going to waste any more energy with you if you're so adamant. Just remember that this will bring you consequences. But I'd just like to know why. At least give me some closure before killing me off." Renee said nonchalantly, folding her arms in front of her chest. She looked as if she had actually given up.

"Hmph, I don't know why you're still putting up an act. You know exactly what I've been through. Don't think I don't know you're just using your demented brother to cover up your crimes and that hideous evil heart of yours!" Seraphina shrieked as her mind returned to that traumatic event, shivering with a pained expression.

"You're a woman too! How can you even sleep at night after using such a horrible way to seek revenge on me?!"

"I'll admit I used a lot of tricks to ruin your relationship with Stefan, but you could've just taken him back if you had what it takes! Why did you have to... make your brother hire those dirty men?! Did you know how miserable I felt when I was assaulted?!"

"That was when I swore to myself that I had to seek revenge. I wanted to find hundreds and thousands of dirty, disgusting men to kill you the same way you killed my soul!" Seraphina's eyes reddened with extreme resentment.

"Wh... What?" Renee was initially rather relaxed. However, hearing Seraphina's wailing, her face was immediately consumed by disbelief and sobriety.
"You mean... my brother... had some people do... that to you?"

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"Like I said, there's no use putting up an act at this point! I will never forgive you, no matter how much you pretend to be innocent! You can never undo the damage you've done to me. I will only find peace by making you suffer a hundred times worse than I have!" Seraphina yelled.

She then clapped her hands and turned her head to the door. "You may come in."

After that, several rows of burly men, an estimated hundred in total, walked through the entrance. They were all wearing the same clothing and were mostly tanned. Their expressions were rather fierce, and they looked like foreigners.

"What are you doing?" Renee asked Seraphina frostily.

"You're a smart woman. How could you possibly not know what I'm trying to do here?" Seraphina patted the tall man next to her, her smile twisted. "I specifically found these guys from a countryside far, far away, just for you."

"They're very rugged, you know? They have more than enough stamina to satisfy you. I'm sure you'd die happy even if you were to go to hell... Oh, aren't I just the best?"

"Murphy, believe it or not, I really had no idea about what happened to you. All I can say is... I'm very sorry." Renee was not afraid but instead felt rather apologetic.

She knew that her brother had been raised in a rough environment, which was why he always chose to go to extremes. He never left room for mercy, but she didn't expect that he actually go to such an extent.

'I can imagine how scary that experience was to her, especially when she had always been a prideful rich girl.'

'No wonder she wants me dead at all cost. Her hate is completely reasonable...'

"Haha, you're sorry?" Seraphina cackled. "Do you think your apology holds any meaning to me now? I won't forgive you even if

you have no idea about it! You will pay for your brother's crimes! This is your karma!"

"You're right. I have no right to apologize. If revenge is what you need, go ahead!" Renee closed her eyes and accepted her fate.

'I suppose this is my karma... Just like how I accidentally pushed Desrosiers down the cliff. This is my punishment.'

'The only people I still worry for are my children.'

'Poor Abby and Adie, you have to take good care of yourselves, okay? Mommy will be your mommy again in our next lives!'

"Are you all deaf? She said to go ahead! Stop standing around. She's letting you f*ck her for free, you hillbillies!" Seraphina shoved one of the men forward and ordered. "Starting with you! Get on with it!"

"Yes... M... Miss Murphy."

Along with his hesitant answer, the muscular man seemed to have a righteous expression, which indicated that he wasn't exactly a bad person.

He slowly approached the woman and reached over to her clothes...