

Ex-Wife 1991

Chapter 1991

As expected, Joanne woke up after a while. Her head was bandaged, and she looked weak and pale. Renee was too afraid to let Quinton see her in case he might upset her. She gently opened the door and walked in, carrying a tray of fruits and smiling. "Joanne, what a coincidence to see you again so soon!"

Joanne looked past Renee to make sure she was alone, then glared at her coldly. "Is it? Didn't you cause this?"

"Umm..." Renee kept her head hung as she nudged the carpet with her foot awkwardly, too ashamed to face Joanne. "It's not what you think... You know how crazy my brother is, and you can't stop him when he goes mad. I didn't expect this to happen either."

Joanne imagined people tackling Quinton to the ground to stop him, and her body relaxed in amusement. However, she couldn't laugh in front of Renee, so she took a deep breath and whispered, "Where am I? Your brother... won't disturb me again, right?"

"Actually... this is my house," Renee confessed. "My brother also lives here."

"What? He's here too?" The blood drained from Joanne's face and she immediately became nervous. She pushed the blanket off her and tried to find a place to hide, her fear of Quinton overwhelming her. Hearing that she was in his house made her even more desperate to run away.

"Relax..." Renee hurriedly tried to comfort her. "Although he lives here, my house is pretty big. If you don't want to see him, I'll forbid him from approaching this floor. You guys won't have to see each other." Renee knew that she needed Joanne to trust her. If Joanne let her guard down, the issue between her and Quinton could be resolved. If not, they would argue with each other when they met, and things between them would never get better.

"Can I leave?" Joanne's eyes were watery as she asked Renee.

"Sure." Naturally, Renee would not force Joanne to stay, but she didn't want to see things end like that for Joanne and Quinton. She shamelessly tried to persuade Joanne, "But you've just woken up and your body is still very weak. The doctor suggested that you rest for at least ten to fourteen days before you start moving around again."

"I can't stay here for long." Joanne shook her head, looking uncomfortable and anxious.

"Don't worry, I'll keep my brother away. I won't let him disturb you."

"It's not because of him."

Chapter 1992

Renee couldn't understand it. "If it's not because of my crazy brother, what's your reason?" It seemed that the only thing in the whole manor that made Joanne uneasy was Quinton.

"I need to go back to my school to handle my affairs." A long sigh escaped Joanne. "Mr. Hunt got me that job, so I'm very thankful to him. It's like he's given me another chance, but I've let him down. After today's mess, I'm sure the parents will find fault with the principal, and I'm afraid it'll

affect Mr. Hunt... that's why I want to go back to the school to settle it." Joanne felt like the only person in her life that truly cared for her was Stefan. He had rescued her so many times, but she hadn't repaid him for it. She didn't want to burden him either, so she wanted to resolve this issue even if she had to die.

"Oh, that's it..." Renee sighed in relief. "Don't worry. Just rest here; I'll help you settle it. Plus, don't feel like you owe Stefan something. You helped him back then, so he should help you settle in too." Renee wanted to calm Joanne down. Stefan had sowed discord between Quinton and Joanne before he seized Carmine Pawnshop, and even ruined Quinton's face. If not for their relationship, Renee would have avenged Quinton, so she couldn't accept how grateful Joanne was to Stefan.

"You can't say that." Joanne frowned. "Mr. Hunt wanted to save me. He didn't manipulate me. I betrayed your brother because I hated him-it had nothing to do with Mr. Hunt. Plus, if I hadn't been so ruthless back then, Quinton wouldn't have held such a big grudge against Mr. Hunt. I wouldn't have nearly gotten Mr. Hunt killed either. I really owe him a lot!" Although Joanne hadn't seen how Quinton had taken revenge on Stefan, she had heard of it. She heard that Quinton nearly killed Stefan, and Stefan only managed to survive because of his cousin's blood. Joanne felt that she could never repay him for what he had done.

"Ah, there's no point in trying to figure out who's right or wrong. Everyone is at fault." Renee waved her hand dismissively. There was no way they could move on if they remained stuck in the past. It was better that they figure out how to reconcile instead. "Don't worry. The head of the mighty Hunt Enterprise wouldn't be affected by such a small thing. An elementary school is nothing to him," Renee patted Joanne's shoulder and said lightly.

Chapter 1993

"Yes, the school won't find fault with Mr. Hunt, but the parents aren't easy to pacify," Joanne added worriedly, Lone Pine Elementary is an important school in this city, and its students come from either rich or noble families. Now, my class's parents know that I'm a teacher without any academic qualifications or experience, and that I have terrible scars all over me. They won't let it go. They'll demand an explanation, and then they'll find out that Mr. Hunt played a part in this. It'll affect Hunt Enterprise, and Mr. Hunt too."

"Yes, you're right." Renee nodded in agreement. "Well, people are always afraid of what society says, and Hunt Enterprise has had quite a bad reputation lately. The news more or less affects the enterprise's stocks and sales." Renee wasn't worried because large companies like Hunt Enterprise usually had a Public Relations department to handle any bad news that could affect the company's image.

"So, you should know why I insist on going back. As the person involved, I have to show up and take responsibility. I can't involve Mr. Hunt." Joanne had been thinking of how to repay Stefan for saving her. She tried to work hard to show the other teachers in the school that Stefan hadn't made a mistake by recommending her. The principal admired her very much because the class she taught had improved their grades in the Cienna language. Some of them even joined the national essay writing competition and won it, which was why the principal had appointed her as a class teacher. Joanne had wanted to share that good news with Stefan after the parent-teacher meeting, but unexpectedly...

"Wow, you really love him so much!" A voice said icily from outside the room. Renee and Joanne had no idea that Quinton had been standing outside the whole time, and had heard their entire conversation. At first, he could control his temper, but he lost it when he realized how much Joanne valued Stefan-the one man who had humiliated Quinton.

"Stop... Don't come near me!" Joanne yelled fearfully as she grabbed Renee, hiding behind her. Even after trying to kill herself, she couldn't escape him. He was like a curse she couldn't get rid of that haunted and tortured her.

"Don't be scared." Renee stood in front of Joanne and glared at Quinton who had suddenly barged in. "Quinton, didn't we agree that you would only come here if she asked for you? She's just recovered. Do you want to scare her and get her killed?" Although Quinton was her twin brother, she could not be biased toward him. He was too extreme, and Joanne was just a victim in all this. Renee had to make her feel comfortable.

"Hmph, she's not that weak!" Quinton steely gaze landed on Joanne. "She didn't even hesitate when she wanted to kill me.'

Chapter 1994

The atmosphere immediately became tense.

"Okay, both of you stop talking." Renee became helpless and exhausted. She had finally persuaded Joanne to stop being stubborn, but once Quinton appeared... Well, everything returned to how it used to be.

"Get out!" Joanne picked up a pillow and flung it at Quinton fiercely, then jumped out of bed and hurried to the window. "If he doesn't leave, I'll jump!"

"Hey, stop! Let's talk things out!" Renee had to stop Quinton from approaching and prevent Joanne from doing anything stupid, and she couldn't do both at the same time. "Don't worry, I'll get him out of here. I promise I'll stop him from entering this place, and if he does, I won't stop you if you want to leave," Renee said to Joanne, then quickly walked to Quinton and grabbed his arm. "Go out. You're not welcome here."

"I didn't do anything wrong. Why should I go?" Quinton demanded aggressively, not intending to leave. He sneered at Joanne, 'It's been so many years. Is that all you got? The only thing you can threaten me with is hurting yourself? If you hate me so much, why don't you come and fight me? Jumping off a building is nothing; forcing me to jump off the building is much more impressive!"

"How could you!" Joanne stood beside the window, trembling in anger. "I've never met a wicked and crazy man like you. Why did you save me? You should have just let me die. Maybe you can just kill me now, then maybe you might become a normal person!"

"Letting you die is too easy on you. I won't let you die that easily!" Quinton said fiercely, "Seeing you miserable is the only thing that will make me happy. If you don't like it, well... try to kill me."

"Hey, can you two quit it?" Renee's head pounded as she groaned. She felt like she was in the middle of a battlefield, with Quinton and Joanne on either side, constantly launching attacks at each other with Renee taking collateral damage. She finally understood what dramatic meant. In the past, she felt that things between her and Stefan were quite dramatic, but Quinton and Joanne's story was

like a period drama. "Just go. You can't stay here. And both of you stop talking about death because you have to live, do you understand?" Then, Renee forcefully pushed Quinton out of the room.

Margaret happened to hear the intense fight in the room and was shocked. "What happened? Why are they behaving like that?"

"Ah, it's a long story. Margaret, please help take care of Ms. Garcia. Leave Quinton to me." Renee sighed. She could only rely on Margaret to help persuade Joanne for now.

"Is that Ms. Joanne Garcia?" Margaret looked into the room and asked carefully.

"Yes, so it's a little complicated... Please talk her into staying."

Chapter 1995

When Renee had first reunited with Quinton, Margaret found Quinton a dangerous and extreme person. That was why Renee had to explain Quinton's past with Joanne to Margaret. Margaret had felt sorry for both of them when she heard their story, so she didn't mind talking to Joanne. "Leave it to me. I'll take good care of Ms. Garcia," Margaret promised. She had wanted to meet Joanne for a long time, and as a member of the Everheart family, she had always wanted to repay Joanne. Since Joanne was there, Margaret could finally take the opportunity to do it. After some contemplation, she entered the room where Joanne was.

Meanwhile, Quinton was still angry that Renee had dragged him out of Joanne's room. He wanted to keep arguing with Joanne.

"Enough!" Renee finally yelled in frustration. "Quinton, can you stop making a scene and being so pretentious?"

"What did you say?" Quinton was shocked, and stared at Renee in disbelief. "What do you mean? Did you finally see my dark side and start hating me? You can't take me anymore?"

"No, that's not it. I just want you to stop making a scene." Renee knew that Quinton was a sensitive person, and even a small change in her expression was enough to make him overthink and question himself. Hence, she had always been careful and tried her best to not be mad at him, but he had gone overboard this time, and she couldn't let it go like she usually did.

"Am I pretentious?" Quinton sneered and looked at Renee with disappointment. "I thought my sister would take my side and understand my thoughts and pain... but instead, you think I'm pretentious?"

"I understand your pain, but I understand Joanne's too. You're not the only one who got hurt in this. She's hurt too, and she's suffered more than you in some aspects because she's a weak and young woman that went through so much misfortune... but does she blame everyone else and act like she wants to destroy the world?" Renee asked firmly. She was done trying to be gentle with Quinton; all that did was spoil him. He only ever cared about his feelings and how things would affect him. Joanne, or any other woman for that matter, wouldn't be able to handle such a self-centered person.

"You're saying that she's the victim even though she'd betrayed me?" Quinton never expected Renee to take Joanne's side, and it hurt. "I have to admit that she's good. You only met her a few times, but she already managed to get you on her side. She made you think I'm a sinful man with her innocent looks. Well, if she really was that pure and harmless, my face wouldn't have been ruined and I wouldn't have almost died in the sea!" "You brought it on yourself!" Renee's gaze turned sharp. "You should have never harmed her child!"

"What do you know?" Quinton's eyes turned bloodshot. "Do you know that child's background?"

Chapter 1996

"What background?" Renee dragged Quinton to the side and whispered, "How could you say that? Wasn't that child... yours?" As a woman and mother, she could empathize with Joanne. The man Joanne regarded as family and admired as a brother imprisoned her and took advantage of her. In the end, he even cruelly aborted their child ... It would be devastating for any woman.

"Hmph! Did she tell you that?" Quinton's gaze darkened with anger as he tried to suppress his emotions.

"Stefan said that, so I guess Joanne must have told him about it," Renee answered honestly. She knew that was the main reason behind Quinton and Joanne's resentment towards each other, but she couldn't bring it up in front of Quinton because it was a sensitive topic. If she spoke about it, she might end up cursing him or beating him up, which would affect their relationship as siblings. There were all kinds of scumbags, but Quinton was the

worst.

"That useless piece of trash!" Quinton clenched his fists, his hatred for Stefan growing. "I shouldn't have gone easy on him... I should have just killed him!" He had a million opportunities to take revenge, but he didn't do it because of his Renee. Stefan had hurt Renee and brainwashed the woman Quinton cared about the most, and it filled Quinton with regret for not killing him earlier.

"What does this have to do with Stefan? You told me you both made peace. Don't find fault with him again!" Renee panicked when she saw Quinton's loathing for Stefan. In the past, Quinton would do outrageous and inhumane things to take revenge on Stefan, and Renee would suffer from being caught between them. Finally, they had stopped fighting, and Renee had been enjoying the peace. She didn't want to start mediating their fights again.

"That scumbag hurts you time and time again, but you're still defending him!" Quinton added indignantly, "I chose to let go of my hatred and not sink to his level because you and him were a couple. I hoped you all could live happily as a family of four, but now he's betrayed you and your children... It's unforgivable!"

Chapter 1997

At first, Quinton could forget about his hatred though he had forced himself to do so, but now he felt it bubbling up again when it came to Joanne. Because he had suppressed those emotions for so long, he became even more extreme and cruel. He wanted to do the things he had always wanted to do.

"This is my business, so stop meddling in it. After so many years of loving and hating each other, we've finally parted on good terms and stopped being a part of each other's life. I'm liking the way things are right now. If you go to him again, you'll get Stefan involved in my life again, and that won't be good for me." Angry, Renee glared at Quinton. "If you want to see me in pain again, go ahead and attack him. I'll probably get killed from protecting one of you, then maybe you two will learn to behave."

"Calm down!" Quinton did not want to see Renee get hurt, and her teasing hurt him enough to make him regain his sanity. He hurriedly said, 'I won't go to him if you don't want me to. I also don't want

to fight anymore, but I really hate him. He's trapped both you and Joanne with his charms, and you both always defend him." The reason for Quinton's hatred toward Stefan was jealousy. They had both been born into similar families, but one of them had lived a superior life while the other was forced to struggle in hell at a young age. The only light for Quinton during those gloomy days was Joanne, but even that had been snatched by Stefan. He had even used her as a weapon to harm Quinton, and Quinton wouldn't let it go so easily.

"No, you got it wrong." Renee seemed to understand what bothered Quinton. Heartbroken, she hugged him. "We defended the both of you, and it doesn't have to be one or the other. I don't want to see anything bad happen to him, and I feel the same about you. I think Joanne feels the same too..."

"I believe you, but I don't think Joanne feels the same..." Quinton leaned into Renee's arms, his body going limp as tears ran down his cheeks. "She hates me very much. All she wants is to leave me, through her death or mine... but it's different when it comes to Stefan. She just escaped death, but she insists on going back there because she doesn't want to burden Stefan. I can tell how important Stefan is to her. What... am I to her?" Quinton rarely showed his vulnerability, but he would only do it in front of his sister because he knew she would not judge him or use it against him.

"I know that Joanne's betrayal made you hate Stefan very much, but her revenge on you is understandable considering the things you did to her." Renee gently patted his back to comfort him. "First, you were cruel and made Joanne hate you, so she chose to turn to Stefan to survive. Later, things didn't end well for the two of you. Do you think that makes things even? You two should stop hating each other and look for a happy ending instead. It doesn't mean you two have to get married; just stop hating each other and live good lives. You two can even become close friends." Renee just wanted them to let go of their hatred. "It's like how things are for Stefan and I. Yes, we had a hell of a romance and fought a lot, but it's all over now. We no longer love or hate each other, and I'm glad it's like this. I think he feels the same too," she said lightly with a laugh, but her smile seemed somewhat bitter.

Chapter 1998

Quinton gazed at Renee, sensing the sadness behind her smile. It broke his heart. "I'm sorry." Feeling guilty, Quinton apologized to Renee. "It's my fault for letting you recall those things, but don't worry. I won't find fault with Stefan or force you to pick sides." Although he never truly forgot about his hatred toward Stefan and dreamed of hacking him into pieces, he could suppress his feelings when he recalled how Renee suffered because of it. For now, he could only dream of making Stefan's life miserable.

"Thank you... I mean it." Renee's eyes were watery too. She knew how hard it was for Quinton to let go of his resentment for Stefan, and understood how he was compromising for her. Yes, he was a bad person, but he was trying hard to change for her sake. She hoped that he could one day become a truly nice person.

"What's your plan now?" Renee asked Quinton curiously after she had calmed down.

"I don't really know..." Quinton spread his hands, looking helpless. "You know how it is. Yes, I hate Joanne, but I would hate seeing anything happen to her. I hope she can be happier and forget about the past, but I can't control myself sometimes. When I face her, I'll always say things I don't mean, especially when she looks at me with so much fear and loathing. It really upsets me, and I don't

know what I should do. I'm a fool when it comes to relationships-I'll only make things worse and push her further away from me!"

Everyone had their shortcomings, and Quinton's was how he communicated with others. He didn't know how to foster or maintain relationships because he grew up in a crazy and cold family. All he saw was hatred, disgust, and oppression, so he showed others those same emotions too. "I've never felt love, so I don't know how to express love..." Quinton's eyes gleamed with misery. "So, I deserve to be lonely. You don't have to worry about me. I've come so far on my own, so I've learned to enjoy being alone."

"Oh, please. You're exaggerating. Renee sighed helplessly. It broke her heart when he behaved like a pitiful child, and she felt like pampering him unconditionally. At least when he was behaving aggressively, she could be mad at him and knock some sense into him.

"Did I say something wrong?"

Chapter 1999

Quinton smiled bitterly. "Do you think it's suitable for me to approach anyone given my condition? I'll only hurt them if I get close. It's been so many years since we last met, but she would rather die than be near me. What do you think I can do?"

"I know Joanne's actions made you feel hopeless, but both of you are too extreme. You both have serious issues you need to settle." Renee patiently comforted Quinton. "But you're a man. If you want to make things better, you can only start from yourself."Belongs to © n0velDrama.Org.

"What can I do?" Quinton shook his head. "I told you-I have no love and don't know how to show love. All I ever do is harm others."

"You don't have love, but I do. You don't know how to show love, but I do!" Renee smacked her chest and said confidently, "Honestly, I'm an experienced kiss-ass. Stefan was the only man I loved back then, and when I married him, I tried my best to please him for many years. However, his reaction was worse than Joanne's-he didn't take me seriously and even ignored me..." Renee felt like slapping herself when she recalled how pathetic she was back then. "But eventually, I came to my senses and stopped fawning over him. After that, he started pestering me instead, then we ended up like this. We're separated now."

"But I don't think you two have moved on from each other." Quinton tore down Renee's pretense. "You're still all over him, even if it's not obvious. As for him... I can't really understand him. It looks like he loves you very much, but it seems like he's hiding something. I don't think he's a good person. It's good that you guys are separated." As an outsider, Quinton could understand the romance between Renee and Stefan better than his romance with Joanne. He never doubted the love between Renee and Stefan; he just felt that there were some obstacles between them they still had to overcome. That was why they couldn't be together even though they still cared about each other.

"Let's not talk about that. What should we do about you and Joanne..." Renee tried to divert the topic, wondering how they had started talking about her and Stefan instead.

"You and I have different lives. I lived in a loving family. I felt love, so I was good at expressing love... but sometimes wonder if I received too much love. Is that why I became a kiss-ass? My show of love seems never- ending." Renee laughed at herself, but recalled those memories fondly. The love her parents, grandpa, friends, and children showed her was fulfilling and unconditional, so she

had never been afraid of getting hurt. Undeniably, loving someone was an ability too. That pure love was what supported every time she boldly approached Stefan. She hoped that Quinton could feel that too.

"Tell me what I should do then." Quinton saw her confidence and wanted her guidance. He had never experienced love, but he wanted to learn how to show it.

"It's simple-don't be fierce to her, and think about how to be nice to her." Renee rubbed her chin and considered it for a moment. "You grew up with Joanne, so I'm sure you know her better than I do. What does she like best?"

Chapter 2000

"What she likes best..." Quinton frowned and tried to recall it. "The thing she used to love the most was... nice food.

"What?" Renee's eyes grew wide in surprise. Joanne was such a sensitive, timid, and world-weary person now... but maybe she used to be passionate and lively back then.

"When she was young, she loved eating and was chubby. Her favorite food was s'mores pops, Quinton recalled slowly, unable to hide the smile on his face. "My foster mother doted on her back then, and she would sometimes bring Joanne to the market to buy Joanne her favorite s'mores pops. Joanne would always enjoy them, and she'd stuff her mouth full of them. Even though it was her favourite food, she would always keep some for me in her clothes. When she came home, all of them would have melted..." Quinton recalled how Joanne would drag him to a corner every time she came home from the market, then dig in her clothes, telling him she would give him the most wonderful thing in the world. However, the s'mores pops would have melted and stained her clothes by then, and she would cry loudly. She looked adorable, and he'd always feel bad for her.

"How sweet!" Renee's heart warmed as she pictured it. "Joanne was a perfect sister, and I'm grateful she was there for you when I couldn't be. I'm also very jealous of your relationship with her." Renee found it a pity that they had ended up in such a fierce conflict with each other.

"That was the past. It's no use talking about that now." Quinton stopped smiling and waved dismissively, forcing himself not to dwell on the past. Reality, on the other hand, was cruel and merciless.

"But you can't get rid of what happened in the past..." An idea dawned on Renee, and she suggested to Quinton excitedly. "Why don't you make s'mores pops for Joanne? Maybe she'll understand your true feelings when she sees those s'mores pops, and she'll slowly start to forgive you."

"No way!" Quinton frowned. "No man would do such a girlish thing."

"You think you can't because you're a man... but you're not against the idea, are you?" Renee tried to suppress her amused smile. She wondered if men always said things they didn't mean. He said he was reluctant, but he actually wanted to try it. It looked like Quinton did care about Joanne and wanted to make it up to her, but he was too embarrassed to say so and had no idea how to do it. Renee felt that she should help him as his sister. "It's fine, you don't have to do much. Just stay beside me and hand me the ingredients. It won't affect your image as a man." Renee patiently tried to persuade him, talking to him like he was a child.

"No way!" Quinton raised his chin stubbornly and refused her. He was the infamous Night Demon- why should he cook to please a woman who had betrayed him? It would be very embarrassing. If word got out about it, his reputation in Carmine Pawnshop would suffer, and people in his circle would laugh at him. He felt he could never do such a thing.