

The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

Chapter 511

Leia gripped Renee's shoulders, staring intently at her. "Unless you forcibly slept with him, what you're worried about couldn't possibly have happened ... So tell me, did you sleep with the escort? If you did, I'll probably have to pay him more than seventy thousand!"

Renee's cheeks turned red. "I-I don't think so." To be honest, Renee wasn't sure if they slept together or not, but the kiss definitely happened. She knew it because she felt the same way when Stefan kissed her!

Despite being in her twenties, Renee had only ever kissed and had sex with one man - Stefan. That's why she wasn't sure... Was that how all kisses felt?

"What do you mean?" Leia instantly felt something was amiss. "Did you really sleep with him after getting drunk? If you did, I'll believe you've truly moved on from that scumbag!"

Renee had no choice but to come clean. "To tell you the truth, I think we kissed while I was drunk. It felt like I was kissing Stefan - it was so familiar... IV

Renee stared at her best friend and asked hesitantly, "You know that I don't have much experience in all this. Does kissing feel the same with every person?"

"Umm, about that..." Leia trailed off, not sure how to explain. "It's pretty different. Honestly, I'm not that experienced either - it's all theoretical knowledge. Like you, I've only ever done it with one person!"

Birds of a feather really did flock together. These two often talked about watching handsome men, but in reality, they were as naive as one could get!

Renee frowned. "I'm beginning to suspect that the male escort might actually be Stefan. After all, it felt too familiar!"

Leia couldn't help but sigh as she patted Renee's shoulder. "I knew it... You still haven't moved on. You're even hallucinating! I admit he does resemble Stefan somewhat, but how can a dead person come back to life? Besides, he's the CEO of a big company, so why would he work as a male escort? It's impossible! To me, he may look like Stefan, but it doesn't feel like him..."

To Renee, last night felt like a gentle dream. She was determined to get to the bottom of this. "Instead of making wild guesses, why don't we just ask him? I don't think he'd lie if we're paying him."

"Good idea!" Leia agreed eagerly, and pulled Renee to the back of the bar to look for the male escort, Isaac. At that

moment, Isaac was fixing his hair in front of the dressing table. His mask was on the table.

When Renee and Leia walked in, they saw him from behind. He was wearing a black shirt, which showcased his broad shoulders, and his hair was thick. There was a charming masculinity about him that Stefan also shared.

Renee stopped walking. Suddenly, she felt a little nervous. She had mixed feelings - a part of her hoped he was Stefan, but another wished for the opposite.

Leia, on the other hand, was getting impatient. She strode over to him and slapped his shoulder. "Did you do anything to my friend last night?" "You're here." The man smiled and turned around. He looked at Renee intently. "Did you have fun last night?"

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The moment Renee saw the man's face, she felt a great sense of loss.

He was definitely attractive. He had soulful eyes, a pointy nose, sexy lips, and a defined jawline... Everything about him was perfect. Although he looked like Stefan in almost every aspect, he wasn't Stefan. She really had hallucinated him!

Renee wanted to laugh.

She should be glad that Stefan died because it saved her a lot of trouble. On top of that, she no longer had to worry about her children being taken from her. She probably only hoped he was alive because she was drunk!

'Thanks for making me feel better last night. It really helped.' Renee smiled politely at Isaac, then turned to Leia. 'Let's go.'

'Huh? Are we leaving already?' Leia asked in surprise. Her friend was so unpredictable sometimes! A second ago, Renee had insisted that the man felt familiar and gave her a sense of security. However, when she was in front of him, she tried to run away. He was almost as handsome as Stefan, so what was the issue here?

Leia stared at Isaac's handsome face for a long time. Finally, her eyes lit up, and she snapped her fingers. "I know what it is!" "What... is it?"

Renee asked with a confused look on her face.

'I know why you've lost interest!' Leia eagerly started to explain. 'His facial features are perfect, but his eyes make him seem a little too feminine.'

That's why you didn't find him masculine enough. Look, once he puts on his mask, his femininity instantly disappears. Do you feel anything for him right now?" Leia exclaimed, urging Isaac to put his mask on.

Isaac obediently did as he was told.

It was true - he did look like a different person after putting on the mask. There was a sense of coldness and arrogance about him, and the lower half of his face looked like Stefan's.

'What do you think? Has the sense of familiarity returned?' Leia asked.

Renee glanced at him, but still didn't feel anything. Honestly speaking, Isaac looked a lot like Stefan with the mask on. She nearly mistook him for Stefan, but she no longer felt the same way about him like she did last night

"I had too much to drink last night, which was why I lost control. Now that I'm sober, I won't act so crazily. Let's not waste Isaac's time, I'm sure he needs to get back to work!" Renee's head was pounding as she pulled Leia away.

The two walked out of the bar and hailed a taxi back home.

Leia was miserable throughout the journey. She had finally found someone who could help Renee move on, but now that Renee was sober, she was suppressing her emotions again. Leia was truly worried about her.

She needed to find a way to make this male escort more attractive!

Back in the apartment, Adie was watching cartoons on the couch, but he was clearly distracted. He frequently looked at the door, and he seemed anxious.

Beep, beep!

As soon as Adie heard the door being unlocked, he hopped off the couch and dashed to the door. "Adie, why are you

up so early?

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Renee felt warmth bloom in her chest when she saw her son waiting for her. She bent over to hug Adie, but he took a step back and put his hands on his hips sternly.

"Mommy, you didn't come home last night. You misbehaved. Tell me the truth! Where did you go?"

'Umm, about that...' Renee felt a little awkward and didn't know what to say. She couldn't tell Adie that she got drunk at a bar and spent money on a man, could she? Adie would definitely lose all respect for her!

"I finished work late, so I decided to spend the night in the office. Sorry for making you worry, Adie." Renee picked up Adie and muttered an excuse, feeling a little guilty. After all, Adie wasn't exactly gullible.

As expected, Adie took a deep breath before taking a few sniffs. His eyes narrowed suspiciously. "Mommy, you're lying. You reek of alcohol! You went drinking last night, didn't you?"

When Leia heard this, she immediately came clean about what happened." That's right! I asked your mother out for a drink last night because she's been a bit down lately. Work has been exhausting, and she needed to relax a little."

"That's ridiculous!" Adie scowled angrily. "It's dangerous out there, and Mommy is so pretty. Not only were you drinking, you even stayed out the whole night. What if you bumped into bad guys?"

Adie knew he was only a child, and adults wouldn't listen to him, so he decided to get help. "Looks like I'll have to call Daddy Liam and ask him to keep an eye on his wife!"

Renee was a little sad when she heard this. She squatted down and ruffled his hair. "Baby, I haven't told you yet, but Daddy Liam and I are no longer together. However, it doesn't affect you in any way - Daddy Liam will still love and protect you as he always has."

"Did you two break up?" Adie blinked. "Will Daddy Liam still love and protect you too?"

"Well...' Renee didn't know what to say. After all, relationships between men and women were complicated. Even if she tried to explain it, Adie might not understand.

However, Adie was very smart. "Mommy, I know Daddy Liam will fall in love with another woman and protect her instead. He will no longer love and protect you. Isn't that right?"

Renee smiled at her son warmly. "That's right. You'll have to love me and protect me instead."

Liam had done so much for her over the years. Now that their relationship had officially ended, she genuinely hoped that he could meet someone who deserved his love and protection.

Leia was worried Adie might feel disappointed, and she quickly tried to comfort him. "That won't happen. They might not be together anymore, but they still have feelings for each other. Don't worry, Adie. My brother will always put you and Renee first. He'll do his best to protect you both!"

"It's different now because they've already broken up. I'm not as gullible as other kids, so don't try to trick me." Adie frowned contemplatively. "If that's the case, I'll have to do something for the sake of Mommy's happiness."

Renee and Leia exchanged concerned glances. "What are you talking about?"

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Adie pouted and said firmly, "From now on, I'll do my best to find Mommy a husband. He'll share Mommy's workload, love her, and protect her!"

Renee felt her heart warm when she heard this, and she couldn't resist kissing Adie's cheek. "Adie, you're the best, but work isn't that tough, and I have you to love and protect me. That's more than enough, so you don't have to find someone for me."

"It's different!" Adie clenched his fists, trying to get his point across. "I'm your son, not your husband. What you need now is a husband, and that's why I need to find you one."

Renee stared at Adie, at a loss for words.

Leia burst into laughter, and grinned at Renee. "In my opinion, you should just let Adie find you a man. If he does find you a knight in shining armor, he'd also be finding a father for himself. Wouldn't that be killing two birds with one stone? I'm sure Adie's judgment is better than yours; whoever he chooses can't possibly be any worse than a certain someone, don't you think?"

Renee didn't take what Adie said seriously and nodded absently. "Alright, Adie. I'm counting on you to find the man of my dreams. I'm very vain, so I need a man who's tall and handsome. Good luck!"

"Don't worry, Mommy, I'm vain too. I'll definitely find you a handsome man!" The two bumped fists in agreement.

Renee had a little too much to drink last night, and she was having a pounding headache. While Adie watched cartoons in the living room, she entered the kitchen to make herself some soup for her hangover. She cut a pear into pieces, soaked some white fungus, and added both into a pot of water. She then let it simmer for an hour.

Leia entered the kitchen with a bowl of ice cream, and leaned against the kitchen island as she said to Renee, "Renee, to be honest, I think breaking up with my brother was a good move for you. You didn't love each other, so instead of getting married, you two should just remain friends. It's better for both of you that way."

Renee smiled faintly as she cut a watermelon. "I know there isn't a man alive who will love me and my children more than your brother does."

Losing him was my loss, but I genuinely hope he can find a woman who deserves him. As for myself, I don't plan on getting married. Being single isn't that bad. I don't have to deal with people I don't like, and I'll have so much more freedom. All I want to do is to raise my children. Once they're old enough to have their own families, I can do whatever I want. I'll be able to travel the world, read books, or even become a nun!"

"Become a nun?" Leia was taken by surprise. "You're barely thirty! You don't have to get married, but you can still get into relationships. There are plenty of fish in the water!"

Renee focused on cutting the watermelon, and just smiled without saying anything.

"In my opinion, the male escort from last night wasn't too bad. At the very least, he can make you happy. You don't have to be stressed all the time..." Leia recalled how Renee had screamed for the male escort from below the stage last night.

She just wanted Renee to feel young and free like that again

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Leia wholeheartedly believed that life should be lived to the fullest, without stress or misery. That was all she wanted for her best friend. At the very least, she didn't want Renee to give up on romance at the young age of thirty all because of a selfish scumbag!

'Isaac has another performance in a few days, so why don't we go back then and have a good time? Also, I heard that The Blue Inn hires handsome new performers every few days or so. They always fight for the top spot, so if you get bored of Isaac, we can always find you someone else. You know, I think we should try to view relationships the way men do. We should only care about their appearance, and never get emotionally invested. That way, well never get hurt, right?"

Renee chuckled, her eyes gleaming with mirth. "Leia, what happened to you? In the past, all you talked about was undying love; you'd even pray for a man who loved you with all his heart. How did you come to this sudden realization?"

"Well, I guess it was when I got fooled by that scumbag." Leia let out a long sigh.

"William is a pretty good actor. He was playing me like a fiddle the whole time! Did you say that poison was fake? Why didn't it kill him? I can only blame myself for not shooting him and killing him back then!" Leia growled, stomping her foot in frustration.

"Alright, don't get upset. I think he's realized what he's done wrong, and he risked his life to make up for it. If you still can't move on, give him another chance. You don't have to worry about me - I won't mind." Renee could tell that Leia still hadn't moved on despite how much she claimed she hated William.

That's because the opposite of loving someone wasn't hatred, it was indifference.

The more Leia said she hated him, the more obvious it was that she loved him. William still had an important place in her heart, and his betrayal had hurt her deeply. However, Renee knew Leia was a devoted friend, and she would feel bad getting back with William after what he did to Renee; that was why Leia had cut off all ties with William.

'Fat chance! I've seen through his facade, and I can't trust him anymore. With a place like The Blue Inn, I can meet handsome, young men every night. Why would I give up all that for one guy?" Leia hugged Renee's arm like a child. "I don't care, you're going there with me again! Friends have to share good things with each other, and looking at attractive men is one of those things!"

Renee couldn't say no. "Alright, alright. I'll go with you."

After drinking her soup, Renee switched on her computer to settle some matters related to Azure Group. Azure Group was now entering a period of rapid growth, and it needed more investments. However, the company was seriously lacking finances. With their source of capital cut off, she needed to find an alternative, or their four years of hard work would go down the drain.

Liam had been contributing far too much over the years, so Renee was too embarrassed to ask the Osborne family for more financial aid. Additionally, the families in Beach City that were capable of offering help were all on the Hunt family's side.

Naturally, they wouldn't help the Hunt family's rival. 'Ahh, what a

pain!' Renee grumbled inwardly.

Suddenly, Renee received a call, and she answered it cautiously.

The voice on the other end of the line was soft and magnetic. "Been a while, hasn't it? I heard you're in need of cash."

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The person on the other end of the line was none other than Jovan, the mad man who had been making headlines in the business realm as of late.

In the past, Renee used to think that he was an idiot who relied on his status in the Hunt family to live a lavish lifestyle. However, after that incident, her impression of the man changed.

Anybody who came from a rich family and managed to carve his own path in the cutthroat field of business couldn't possibly be an idiot. In fact, people like him who pretended to be fools were the hardest to deal with!

Renee didn't want to waste her time on him, and ended the call without saying a word. As usual, she

browsed financial websites to check the latest financial news.

To her surprise, Stefan, who used to be the business circle's favorite subject, was now the person everyone hated. Comments like 'H Group's CEO, Stefan Hunt, is suspected to be dead. What lies ahead for H Group?', 'Mr. Hunt is having a good time out there while H Group's employee morale diminishes, and the company is about to crash', and 'Stefan runs away with the company's earnings, the shareholders are left with nothing but debt and are being forced to jump off buildings' could be seen everywhere on the screen.

Since Stefan's death hadn't been announced to the public, there were all sorts of speculations out there. People who used to support Stefan didn't dare say anything, and those who hated Stefan used this as an opportunity to degrade him even further. Media companies were taking full advantage of the situation. They'd probably caught wind of Stefan's death long ago, and with the slanderous rumors being circulated, they were happy to portray Stefan as an unethical person who'd committed heinous crimes.

The most shocking thing was that a news website, which was founded and operated by paparazzi, was circulating rumors that Stefan had casual relationships with men. They claimed he had ended up contracting AIDS and died, and that he and his wife got divorced because of his sexual orientation! All this was just to get attention, but it was still frustrating to see.

"Damn it, which media company is this?! They're going too far!" Renee was furious when she read the article.

Stefan was once worshipped like a god, but the very same media companies that had once sung his praises were now insulting him ruthlessly. Didn't they feel guilty slandering a dead person?

'Oh, Stefan, aren't you the coolest and strongest person in the world? Your reputation is falling apart. Can you really just let this happen without doing anything about it? If you have what it takes, come out and put them all in their places!'

Ironically, now that Stefan's image was in tatters, everyone was now praising Jovan, the very same person they had considered a useless idiot before this. In fact, a few financial experts had predicted that Jovan, who apparently had a good mind for business, was the person most capable of leading H Group out of the precarious situation it was in.

Jovan, supposedly, would become the overlord who dominated the business realm in Beach City in the upcoming twenty to fifty years. An anonymous source had even spread rumors that Jovan and Renee were meant to be together, and that Stefan was the one who had come between them years ago. However, Jovan was now making a glorious comeback and reclaiming what belonged to him!

Renee had to admit that the business realm was just as fake as showbiz. When one was doing well, everyone would shower that person with compliments. However, when that person's business started going downhill, everyone would step all over that person. Even a random stranger would spit on them!

Renee was getting angrier by the second, and at that moment, she received another call from Jovan. She immediately answered the call and snarled, "Jovan, are you crazy? Do you want to get beaten up again?"

Jovan was getting on her nerves! It seemed like she hadn't kicked him hard enough back at the cemetery. It'd barely been a few days, and he was already behaving like a lunatic again

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However, Jovan wasn't angry at all. On the contrary, he laughed in amusement. "Let's meet up. I can solve Azure Group's lack of capital.

Renee scowled at the sight of the rumors on her computer screen. "Sure. Clearly, we need to talk!" They agreed

to meet at an elegant little cafe.

Jovan arrived ahead of time. He was dressed casually in a beige sweater and apricot trousers. He seemed relaxed and approachable, unlike his usual mad and sinister self.

He smiled pleasantly when he saw Renee. "I ordered a Matcha Frappuccino for you. If I'm not mistaken, that's your favorite drink."

Renee was a little surprised that he knew this. She reached for a chair and sat down. There was even a bouquet of sunflowers next to her coffee that seemed to be a gift for her.

Jovan... He'd done a lot of research on her, hadn't he? How else would he know her favorite things?

"What are you up to? Why do you know all these things about me?" Renee asked, warily staring at the man in front of her.

Jovan was handsome. Compared to the aloof and moody Stefan, Jovan seemed more easy-going. He looked like the typical rich kid who'd spend his family's money unwisely.

Who would've thought that someone like him was a crazy fanatic?

Jovan took a sip of his coffee and smiled. "I thought you'd know how I feel about you after that night. I'm your loyal fan, so I don't need to do research to know the things you like. As for these flowers..."

His eyes were gleaming as he stared at her hungrily. He obviously wanted Renee all to himself. "When a man gives a woman flowers, it means he has officially decided to pursue her. You'll be mine sooner or later!"

"Ugh!" Renee felt goosebumps all over her body, and she subconsciously moved back a little. "Jovan, what's wrong with you? Do you really think you stand a chance just because Stefan is no longer around?"

She sneered, "Grandpa Hunt single-handedly built H Group, so without his permission, you'll have no part in it. Don't you think you're being too impatient by bribing media companies and falsifying rumors? Your cousin is no longer around, but that doesn't mean you can step all over him.

You've gone too far with those baseless rumors. If you still consider yourself a human, make it all stop. A man who bullies the dead is no hero!"

Renee only agreed to meet Jovan so that she could lecture him about this. She wanted him to stop bribing media companies and spreading those ridiculous rumors.

Jovan's gaze instantly became cold. "Looks like you're only here because you want to defend my dear dead cousin. He treated you like crap, and yet you still have feelings for him. I honestly don't know what to say!"

Renee gritted her teeth and bit out, 'I don't have feelings for him. Any sane person would find your behavior despicable! You could've made anything up, but you decided to spread rumors that he contracted AIDS. He's your cousin! Aren't you afraid of karma?"

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"Haha! AIDS?" Jovan burst into laughter. "Which media company did that? How

brave. My cousin would be turning in his grave if he knew."

Renee rolled her eyes. "You can drop the act. Just own up to it if you did it. I can tell

you're the kind of person who'd do something like this."

Jovan stared at her for a long time, then asked, "Do you really have such a bad impression of me?"

He let out a long sigh, and he seemed a little hurt. "I don't care if you believe me or not, but I really didn't start that rumor. All I did was spread one rumor, which is about fifty percent true."

Seeing how mysterious he made it sound, Renee couldn't help but feel curious. "What is it?"

"Didn't you read about how Stefan's ex-wife and Jovan used to be together? Back then, Stefan came between the two of them and separated them by force. Now that Jovan has made his glorious return, he swears to reclaim the love of his life..." Jovan smiled giddily.

"To tell you the truth, I'm the person who spread that rumor."

Renee was speechless. Who in their right mind would say that the rumor was partially true? It was clearly a hundred percent false!

Jovan sensed Renee's anger, and explained patiently, "As the man in the rumor, it's true that I used to have a one-sided crush on you. It's also true that I want to make you mine again... So, strictly speaking, it isn't a rumor, but my way of announcing my intentions to the world!"

"Shut up!" Renee was fighting the urge to pour her coffee on him. Of all the men she'd met, Jovan was the most thick-skinned!

"I don't care if you spread the rumors or not, but I'm sure you had a hand in those nasty comments. I suggest you don't push it. Don't think you can bully someone just because they're gone. I'm his ex-wife, and I'm still alive. By insulting him, you're also insulting me. I won't let you off the hook!" Renee said threateningly.

After speaking, she turned around to leave, not even glancing at the coffee or flowers. She'd already issued Jovan the warning she wanted to. If he dared to do anything inappropriate, she wouldn't hold back!

Jovan smiled coldly as he watched her leave. "Do you really love him that much? What's so great about him? He clearly hurt you, but you still miss him. Why are you still protecting him even when he's dead?"

Renee stopped walking, but she didn't answer Jovan.

"Was it because he was handsome, or was it because he was immensely wealthy? Or was it because he was H Group's CEO?" Jovan couldn't figure it out no matter how hard he tried. He slowly got up and approached Renee. "Turn around and take a good look. I'm just as handsome as him, and I have money you can spend as you like. In fact, I'll be H Group's CEO in a week. I'm much better than Stefan, and I love you more, so why do you keep pushing me away?"

Jovan looked at Renee's slim figure, and recalled how she used to sing so passionately on stage. The memories of her under the spotlight stirred up feelings in him that he'd been suppressing for years.

He just couldn't take it

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"Renee, I don't care if you want money, fame, or even H Group. I can give you all of it... All you need to do is turn around and look at me!" Jovan begged, his eyes glistening with unshed tears. He reached out and pulled Renee to him.

The outcome was rather predictable.

Renee grabbed him by the shoulders and flung him to the ground forcefully. He landed on the ground heavily, and as he gasped for air, Renee placed one high-heeled foot on his chest.

It was like she was looking down at him from miles above.

"Jovan, you're an idiot. Do you think I fell in love with Stefan for his looks or status?" Renee looked at Jovan in disgust. "I loved him because of his kindness, integrity, and principles, which are things you'll never have. Even if he's dead, you won't ever be able to surpass him!"

"Haha! Kindness? Integrity? Principles?" Jovan laughed as if he'd just heard the funniest joke in the world. "I can only say that Stefan is a great actor. So many years have passed, and you still can't see through him. He's nothing but a cold-blooded snake. He even hurt his own brother to claim the position as H Group's CEO! Don't you think his death is God's way of punishing him?"

"What are you saying? Are you making things up again?" Renee hissed, stepping down on Jovan until he wheezed. "What did you mean when you said he hurt his own brother?"

Based on what Renee knew, Stefan loved his brother, Tristan, dearly. Four years ago, Tristan died in an accident, and Renee could still remember how devastated Stefan was when it happened. Jovan was clearly lying!

"I knew you wouldn't believe me. If you had access to the files of the shooting back then, you'd know the truth." Jovan's chest hurt from being stepped on, but he still smiled wickedly. "The person you slept next to was a scheming demon. Tsk, tsk... Just the thought of it makes me laugh!"

"Shut up!" Renee kicked him twice, still refusing to believe him.

"H Group will be holding an inauguration ceremony for its new CEO next week. Unfortunately, Stefan won't be there to see it. He's worked so hard every step of the way, but I'll be the one benefiting from all his hard work. So what if he's unable to rest in peace? He can't do anything to me anymore," Jovan said casually.

"I hereby extend an invitation to you. You have to be there. H Group would be very willing to work with Azure Group in the future. As a sign of my sincerity, I'm willing to fork out the forty-five million Azure Group is in dire need of. What do you say?" Jovan smiled at her charmingly.

His offer was tempting, but Renee just scoffed nonchalantly. "Don't celebrate just yet. H Group's CEO isn't an easy position to hold. If you dare do anything to mess things up, I'll be the first to hunt you down!"