

Ex Wife 1531

Chapter 1531

Jovan was getting more and more agitated. He had gotten what he wanted, but somehow, it felt like a loss.

However, Stefan just ignored Jovan. While packing up his things, he fished his phone out and called Renee. His expression softened the moment the call was answered. *

Hello, dear. How are you feeling today? What would you like to eat? I'll cook for you after I get home from work."

Renee said something, making Stefan smile very sweetly.

Before he hung up, he blew her a kiss, and he looked like a young boy in love.

Jovan stared at Stefan in shock, watching his aloof cousin acting like a lovestruck fool. As Stefan was about to leave,

Jovan blocked his way. "I heard that you've made up with Renee. Didn't you forget about her? Why are you back with her so quickly? Are you going to hurt her again?"

Stefan and Renee had fallen out with each other, but in only one or two months, they had gotten back together and were more lovey-dovey than ever. Jovan found it unacceptable.

He had tried to earn that by giving up his eyes, blood, and future, but Stefan had gotten it so easily. He couldn't bear to see it.

"I don't think I need to explain my time with my wife to you. If you're jealous, you can always find a woman you like, get married to her, and have a family. But..." Stefan looked around the conference room and sighed. "You have a more

"I don't think I need to explain my time with my wife to you. If you're jealous, you can always find a woman you like, get married to her, and have a family. But..." Stefan looked around the conference room and sighed. "You have a more important goal to complete. I'm sure that kind of life isn't suitable for you."

Stefan's arrogant tone angered Jovan, and he said icily, "You think you've won, Stefan? Do you actually think you can have a peaceful life after you stop being the president of Hunt Enterprise? How can you protect her and let her enjoy her life without your mighty position? Don't tell me someone like you who's been in business for years hasn't realized such a simple truth."

"So, you're saying you want to fight me even if I don't want it? Can't you just let me be?" Putting both of his hands in his pockets, Stefan gave Jovan a sympathetic look.

"Have you ever tried to figure out what you really want? You always seem to want what I want in life. I wanted business in the past, so you fought me in that field. Now that I want to spend time with my family, you want the same thing too. You're an adult now, so why not listen to your heart and live for yourself?"

They were cousins who had competed against each other from childhood. Stefan had always been Jovan's competitor, and though Jovan admired him, he was also the source of his trauma. Jovan had sworn to surpass source of his trauma. Jovan had sworn to surpass Stefan and become better than him, but he always failed. Now, it had become something of an obsession to surpass Stefan.

"I don't think about it too much—I just want what you want. So, I want to make your beloved mine. It's fine if you don't want to fight me, but you'd better be prepared to lose her!" Jovan said challengingly.

Stefan raised his brows and smiled at Jovan patronizingly. *

You overestimate yourself. You can snatch everything away from me except my beloved... You will never take her away."

Chapter 1532

Stefan returned to Everheart Manor right after the minute the meeting was over. He used to be a workaholic who always worked overtime until midnight, but now he was a good family man who didn't want to work overtime for even a minute. Since the president behaved that way, all his staff stopped working overtime too, creating a very good working environment for the company.

On his way home, Stefan bought a bouquet and a good steak because he wanted to have a candlelight dinner with Renee that night. Although he was away for only half a day, it felt like half a year to him, and he missed Renee dearly.

Coincidentally, Abby and Adie were away for two days because of a school trip, so Renee was alone at home with a female caretaker called Tess Perez, who was responsible for taking care of Renee.

"Mr. Hunt, you're home." Tess was only a part-timer, so once Stefan got back, she packed up to leave.

Stefan looked around the living room and the manor, but there was no sight of Renee. He turned to Tess and whispered, "Where's Renee?"

"She's sleeping in the bedroom because she was tired. Do you need my help to get her downstairs?"

"No, it's fine. Thank you for today," Stefan spoke gently.

"Okay, Mr. Hunt. I'll see you tomorrow." Tess nodded, then

Stefan and Renee were now the only ones left in the spacious manor, but Stefan didn't want to wake Renee up.

He put the flowers down and went to the kitchen to grill the steak. He had finally gotten some alone time with her, and he wanted to make it special for her. He cooked the steak until it was medium rare, then removed it from the pan and sprinkled it with pepper. After that was done, he got a bottle of good wine and poured the wine into a decanter.

"Why are you so romantic tonight, Mr. Hunt?"

Stefan heard Renee's voice from behind him, and immediately turned around. She was leaning against the door of the kitchen in her pajamas, a mischievous smile on her face. "Why did you come down? I'm not done yet."

"I missed you, so I couldn't wait any longer..." Renee walked over to Stefan and hugged his waist from behind, saying softly, "You used to love eating the steak I made for you back then, but every candlelight dinner only felt awkward because we weren't in love. We love each other now but I can't see such a romantic scene. It's such a pity... We're always one step behind."

"Silly, it isn't important whether you see it or not. What's important is that our hearts are together. I can make you a candlelight dinner every day if you want. This is the kind of romance that you can feel."

"That's true. I smelled the flowers you bought and felt the warmth of the candles. I can even taste the steak. This is already enough for me. Any more and I'll get scared of losing this bliss."

It was very easy for people to grieve when they were very happy because of the fear that the happiness might fade. That fear never left Renee. Yes, her days were warm but they felt unreal, and she always wondered when she would fall back into that dark abyss.

"Stop overthinking. I'm right here, and I'm not going anywhere." After getting the meal ready, Stefan led Renee back to the dining table.

Chapter 1533

Renee picked up the bouquet from the table and hugged it, smiling happily. "Are these roses? They smell so good. I'm sure they're very pretty."

"I saw them on the way here. Roses suit you well because you're as pretty and passionate as them," Stefan said charmingly to Renee.

"You're so different now—everything you say is romantic! You never said anything like this in the past," Renee complained shyly. In the past, Stefan was serious and reserved, and never even spoke much to her. Things had not been easy for them all these years, so Renee cherished these moments greatly.

Stefan helped Renee cut the steak up, knowing she might have a bit of difficulty with it.

Renee lowered her head to eat, and pretended to ask nonchalantly, "Was it difficult for you during today's meeting?"

Stefan paused and replied calmly, "Being president has never been easy. I'm used to it."

"They must have made things difficult for you. After all, the internal conflicts in your company are now on the news."

The media always focused on Hunt Enterprise, so Renee couldn't avoid getting updates on the company. She knew that Stefan would be facing many difficulties, but he never

She knew that Stefan would be facing many difficulties, but he never said anything about it and carried all those burdens alone. He even did so much to prepare a candlelight dinner for her, and it warmed her heart.

"As the president of Hunt Enterprise, I have to explain things to the shareholders. It's expected that they would make things difficult for me since Hunt

Enterprise's profits haven't been good lately, but you don't have to worry. If it comes down to it, I can give up my position. After all, I have enough to take care of you and the kids, and you're pretty rich yourself, so there's no way we'd starve," Stefan said jokingly.

However, Renee couldn't help but worry. "It's easy if it's only about the money but..." Financial freedom was one thing, but power was more important than money in this competitive world. If one lost their power, they would lose their protection. Even if they were rich, people with power could still plot against them easily.

"What are you saying?" Stefan asked slowly.

"It's nothing... I just don't want you to leave because of me. You'll always be targeted because of your identity, you know?" Renee didn't want Stefan to hold back for her and the children until he lost all his power. People who had fallen off their pedestal were the most vulnerable because anyone could trample on them.

"All I know is that I want to hold on to what's most important to me." Stefan ate his steak, sounding upset.

"Seraphina came to me today..." Renee confessed after a while. "It's obvious that she loves you very much.

Maybe you can go back to her and comfort her... Things may change for the better."

Stefan slammed the knife and fork on the table in frustration and demanded, "Why are you telling me this? Do you want me to go back to her, marry her, and have kids with her? Are you asking me to abandon you and the children?"

Chapter 1534

Stefan's reaction frightened Renee, and she realized she had gone too far. "I'm sorry. I just... didn't want you to regret it in the future," Renee mumbled. She knew he was a privileged man who was used to power and respect. If he one day became an outcast because of family and love, she would be heartbroken. She didn't want to see him sad.

"It's up to me if I'll regret it or not. I'm an adult, and I can tell what's important to me." Stefan held Renee's hand and said tenderly, "Our love is like a crystal-it's beautiful and pure but very fragile. We need to take care of it together; I don't want to see the love we finally found disappear. Can you have a little confidence in me?"

"Okay, I'll stop trying to persuade you. We'll face the storm together." Renee took a deep breath, wondering if she was convincing him or herself. Honestly, she was the one with the most doubts and fears. Back then, she was brave because she still had her sight, and she knew she could help Stefan face any challenges. However, now she was just a burden to him, and the pressure of it made her want to give up.

"I know what you're worried about, but don't worry. I won't let that day come..." Stefan promised softly as he hugged Renee.

They stayed like that in silence for a while.

Finally, Stefan took a deep breath, and looked at Renee seriously. "There's something else I need to ask you."

"Sure."

"Did you... give your eyes to Jovan?" Stefan sounded unhappy.

Renee sipped her wine, feeling a little light-headed as the wine burned her throat. "I did... Are you mad at me?" She smiled and asked Stefan innocently like a child.

Stefan's expression turned cold, and he asked, "Why would you do that?"

"Umm... how do I put this? I don't want to owe it to him." Renee sipped the wine again as if she wanted to boost her courage. "He gave up his eyes to you willingly because he didn't want to see me sad. I felt like I owed him a favor. Now that I paid him off, it's been transferred back to you again." At that point, Renee leaned against Stefan and hooked her arms around his neck, looking up at him with a loving smile. "So don't even think of breaking up with me, okay? You owe me a pair of eyes, so you have to be with me for the rest of your life."

"Okay, I promise." Stefan's anger immediately turned into heartache. Renee was clearly trying to pay off Stefan's debt even though it seemed like she was sacrificing for Jovan. The depth of her love for Stefan was beyond his imagination; it was almost like she had given her eyes to him instead of Jovan.

"I'm sorry... I did this to you. Why are you so silly? I'm not a nice person, and I've harmed you so many times. Why did you do this for me?" Stefan was overwhelmed by guilt, and his eyes watered.

Chapter 1535

As a man, he hated saying sentimental things and crying, but he had done both countless times because of Renee. Stefan felt that he would be at her mercy for the rest of his life...

"Hmph! It's good that you know it. Listen-I'm the best wife in the world, so you have to love me forever." After that, Renee held his neck and kissed him. The alcohol made her feel relaxed, and exposed her true desires. She had been wanting to kiss Stefan for ages, but was always too shy to. However, thanks to the wine, she could freely kiss him to make up for their long separation.

"Mm, you... you're drunk, right?" Stefan knew that this enthusiasm only appeared when she was dreaming or drunk. Stefan was flattered, but didn't dare to respond to her kisses for fear of scaring her.

"That's not important. I just want to kiss you today." Renee held Stefan's face and kissed him so intensely that they both tumbled off the chair.

"Should we... go upstairs?" Stefan asked hoarsely, breathing hard.

"Sure." Gripping his tie, Renee pulled him to her and smiled cheekily. "But if we go upstairs, it won't just be kissing going on."

"It's okay. I'll listen to you." After that, he carried her and strode upstairs to the bedroom. The children's school trip had happened at the perfect time because both Stefan and Renee had been longing for some alone time together. They made their way to the bed, and the air was thick with passion.

Meanwhile, a cold gaze was fixed on the manor from outside. The woman's face was full of scars, and her expression was twisted with hatred. "Renee, I've crawled my way out of hell, and I'm going to make you pay with your life!"

The sunlight was warm the next day. Renee slept in and woke up rather late. Her not being able to see made her lose track of time, and she slept more than usual now.

Stefan had to head to Hunt Enterprise to handle something, and after giving Tess a few orders, he reluctantly left.

Although he had made a choice, he could not lay idle. If he was overpowered one day, the situation could become dangerous.

"Tess, help me get my clothes." Renee stretched as she woke up and called after Tess softly. Strangely, there was no response. "That's weird. Where did she go?" Renee felt her way out of bed in her pajamas, and suddenly bumped into someone.

Chapter 1536

"Tess?" Renee asked hesitantly. It could only be Tess, but Renee became cautious when there was no answer. She asked coldly, "You're not Tess?"

"It's me, Ms. Everheart." Finally, Tess spoke, but she didn't sound like her usual lively self.

Frowning, Renee asked, "Is something wrong?"

"Nothing. I... Something happened with my family." Tess tried to sound more cheerful as she asked, "What can I do for you, Ms. Everheart?"

"Oh, get the loose-knit sweater on the left side of the wardrobe for me."

"Okay." Tess nodded and walked over to the wardrobe and got the sweater, then handed it to Renee.

Renee took the sweater and put it on skillfully. Although she was blind, she could take care of herself just fine. In Tess' opinion, it was easier to work for Renee than other healthy employers. She also genuinely liked Renee, but... Tess sighed as she stared at her beautiful and kind employer. It was time to go downstairs for breakfast. She usually prepared a glass of milk, whole-wheat toast, and fruits for Renee.

At the dining table, Renee elegantly drank some milk and chewed her toast. She turned to Tess and asked, "Is there something troubling your family? Tell me if you need anything, and I'll try to help if I can."

"No..." Feeling conflicted, Tess bit her lip. "My family members usually fight among themselves... I'm used to it. Thank you for your concern, Ms. Everheart."

"You're welcome. You're my eyes now that I'm blind. I should be thanking you instead." Renee had full trust in Tess, who was smart, attentive, gentle, and kind. Renee liked to spend time with her, and when she was bored, she would often talk to her too.

"Well, I think a family can't be too harmonious. It'll be warmer with the occasional fight. It'll be fine as long as the family members love each other." Renee tried to console Tess. She recalled her occasional fights with Stefan and found that she usually discovered their problems during their fights. As they fixed their issues together, their relationship would become stronger.

"Ms. Everheart, you're so nice..." Tess looked at Renee with watery eyes, feeling torn. If she hadn't been forced, she would never have harmed Renee because she was the kindest employer she had worked for and the one who gave her the most respect.

"Haha! Tess, you're weird today. Why are you being so sentimental?" Renee asked with a laugh.

Chapter 1537

However, Renee knew that something must be troubling Tess, so she didn't want to ask her anything further.

In the afternoon, Margaret came home with the two children, and Tess clocked out of work. Tess carried her bag and walked on the empty street with a troubled mind. Every step she took felt heavy. When she reached the door of her house, someone blocked her way.

"Did you do what I asked you to?" The woman wore black clothes and a large hat that hid more than half of her scarred face.

"I did what you asked. When are you going to let my mother go?" Tess sobbed as she begged the woman.

"Keep doing it. I'll let your mother go in ten days." The woman grabbed Tess' collar and threatened her, "Don't you dare play any tricks, you hear? Your mother is doomed if you miss a day or add a lower dosage. Do you understand?"

"Y-Yes." Tess swallowed and dared not disobey her. Only then did the woman let her go, and turned to leave.

"Wait!" Tess stopped her.

"What do you want?"

"I want to ask what kind of grudge you hold against Ms. Everheart. She looks very kind, and she's blind now. She's very pitiful, so why... do you want to do that to her?" Tess summoned her courage and asked the woman. She felt guilty since she was technically helping the woman harm Renee. If she didn't even know why she was doing it, she was afraid it would be too much for her one day.

"Hmph! Kind?" The woman stopped, and her eyes gleamed with malice. "Do you think she's a good person? You can't even imagine the bad things she did and the people she harmed."

"That's impossible. She didn't look like a bad person. Is there a misunderstanding between you two? If there is, why don't you resolve it with her face-to-face? You'll be implicated too if you take revenge on her like this, don't you think?" Tess tried to persuade the woman so she could save her, Renee, and herself.

"I'm fine with it. After all, I died once. My only wish now is to see Renee fall into hell even if I go down with her." The woman said and laughed bitterly. She took off her hat and pointed at the scars on her face.

"Look at my scars—it's all because of her. Do you know what it feels like to fall off a hundred-meter cliff and get internal bleeding and bone fractures?" She pointed at her crippled left leg and her right hand which was also scarred.

Coldly, she elaborated, "I experienced it once. It was very painful, both body and soul. I even wanted to kill myself... but I soldiered through it. I won't let her have it easy. If I die, I would've suffered for nothing."

Briar's eyes were bloodshot as she recalled those painful memories. She had wanted to push Renee off the cliff, but Renee had accidentally pushed her off the cliff instead. She thought she was doomed, but a fisherman had come along and saved her. After that, she had to stay in bed for half a year to let her body recover.

She didn't know if that made her lucky or not.

During that half a year, she bided her time until she could finally make Renee experience hell.

Chapter 1538

After falling into the pond and being bitten by a sea snake, Leia suffered from temporary shock and was hospitalized. She was lucky that she survived, but the show had to be paused. The netizens had many discussions about her love triangle with Xavier and Santiago—some liked her, some hated her, and some kept a neutral stand. Some liked Xavier, some liked Santiago, and some liked Leia, and those three groups had endless fights on the Internet, making the three people very famous. Leia was practically a superstar.

After being rescued, Leia suffered from a temporary sequela—she lost her voice and couldn't speak. During her hospitalization, both Xavier and Santiago took turns taking care of her, creating a strange battlefield in her ward. That day, Xavier went to Leia's ward early after settling his company's affairs, but Santiago was earlier than him. The generally quiet and handsome superstar behaved like a comedian, telling jokes while peeling fruits for Leia and making her laugh. "Lei, eat this apple. I'll tell you another joke." Santiago gently cut the peeled apple into pieces and put some toothpicks on them before handing them to Leia.

Leia nodded, looking at Santiago eagerly. Since she couldn't speak, her expression was soft and sweet as she smiled at Santiago. It was vastly different from her usual casual and rough behaviour.

"I met a priest once. He told me that ghosts are fiercest after midnight every Sunday. Do you know why?" Santiago asked Leia with a mysterious smile.

Leia used her phone to type out, "Why? Is it because of opposing forces or the five elements? Tell me!" Leia was a fan of metaphysics and fortunetelling, so she was very interested in Santiago's questions.

"Because then it'd be Monday, and the ghosts don't want to go to work!" "The ghosts... don't want to go to work?" Blinking, Leia's mind processed his words, then she broke out into an amused grin and

punched Santiago's arm playfully. "What a corny joke! Mr. Dalton, you told such a bad joke." "Haha! Isn't it interesting? I've got a lot more. Do you want to hear more?"

Santiago had almost exhausted all his jokes. He was used to others trying to please him, so he never had to come up with things to say, but this was different. Since Leia couldn't speak, he wanted to lighten the mood and take care of her, so he bought a book on jokes to amuse Leia every day. Soon, he realized he'd become more light-hearted and funny too.

"How boring!"

Chapter 1539

Xavier happened to hear their conversation outside the ward, and he rolled his eyes as he walked in with a golden velvet cake he had just bought. "What's the good of eating apples? They're cold and bad for your teeth... This, on the other hand, is a golden velvet cake I bought for you after much effort and lining up." Xavier stood between Santiago and Leia before handing the cake to Leia.

Although Leia scowled at Xavier, she had actually been craving that famous golden velvet cake, so she didn't reject it. Besides, the chef that made the golden velvet cake only made three of them a day, and they could only be bought if the person was sincere enough. Leia had tried lining up several times and begged the chef for ages, but hadn't managed to get it. Somehow, Xavier had managed to get it, which meant he had probably put a lot of effort into it.

"Apples are nutritious, and that cake is too sweet. Lei is recovering now, so she can't have too much sugar." With a cold expression, Santiago stepped in front of Xavier and reached out to Leia. "Lei, be good and watch what you eat. If you recover fast, you can be discharged early." Leia held the cake and swallowed nervously. She didn't dare to eat it.

"It's just a cake; the doctor didn't say she couldn't have it. And cakes can bring her more happiness than your corny jokes, so stop butting in," Xavier snapped at Santiago.

"If you want what's best for Lei, you should consider her health first. Yes, she may be happy now, but who's going to take responsibility if it affects her recovery?" Santiago said firmly, refusing to let Leia indulge in the cake.

"Of course I'm going to take responsibility for her life. She's my girlfriend, and we're going to get married in the future. We don't need comments from a superstar like you..." Xavier scoffed and turned to Leia. "Don't worry, you can eat it. It's just a cake."

While they were arguing, Leia's attending doctor entered the ward. Immediately, Leia waved at the doctor and pointed at the cake before pointing at her mouth eagerly.

"You can eat it." The doctor smiled and said, "Your body can process a bit of sugar. Plus, eating a cake isn't a big deal if it brings you joy. It'll even help with your recovery."

Xavier turned and shrugged at Santiago. "Did you hear that? Stop controlling Lei's choices with your self-righteous opinions. What you think may not be right for her."

Santiago ignored Xavier and said to Leia, "Go ahead and eat it since the doctor said it's okay."

At first, Leia was full of eagerness, but suddenly, she stopped and put the cake aside.

Frowning, Xavier asked, "Why aren't you eating it?" "I can't eat it because I'm trying to slim down." Leia typed a few words on her phone and showed them to Xavier, trying to control her expression. She had been craving the cake for a long time, but she didn't want to disappoint Santiago.

Xavier's expression turned cold because he was hurt. "Do I mean so little to you? Are you really forcing yourself to give the cake up even though you want it?"

Chapter 1540

Xavier's words made the atmosphere tense, and Leia felt like she was going to go crazy with the two men constantly fighting over her. Furious, she typed a message on her phone and showed it to Xavier and Santiago. "You two don't have to come and take care of me from tomorrow onwards.

I don't want to see either of you." "I'm sorry, Lei, it's my fault. I shouldn't have forced you." Santiago immediately apologized to Leia. His innocent gaze made him look like a college student, and it could soften any woman's heart.

The brash Xavier knew he couldn't win against that boyish face. He gritted his teeth and glared at Santiago, muttering, "Sissy boy!"

However, Santiago didn't get mad, and just hung his head sadly. "I'm sorry, Mr. Stuart. I know I should be friendly towards people who love Lei sincerely, but I'm very much into her. My possessiveness got the better of me and I said something rude. I'll go now; I don't want to make Lei unhappy.

"Stop pretending! You're just faking it for brownie points." "Take care, Lei. I don't want my love to burden you. Goodbye." Santiago stood up to leave, and his words made Leia feel bad.

Leia tugged on his shirt and shook her head at him. "You stay. He goes!" Leia pointed at Xavier and typed out on her phone.

"What?" Xavier protested incredulously. "Leia, can't you see that it's all just an act? He's pretending, and I'm sure his intentions aren't right! I'm the only one who's sincere towards you, and you'll be in danger if I leave. Don't you realize that?"

Leia shook her head. "He means well, and you're being short-tempered and rude. Please go!"

Frustrated and aggrieved, Xavier stormed out. After all, he had a temper and couldn't accept being driven away by Leia so many times. Once he was gone, the ward was peaceful again.

Santiago kept trying his best to tell Leia jokes, but she seemed distant.

When he realized it, he picked up that cake and said to her, "Eat it if you want to. Don't hold back. Yes, Xavier is a scumbag, but he was right about this... It's fine as long as you're happy." "I'm sorry, Mr. Dalton. I still can't forget about him." Leia's eyes were watery as she typed the words on her phone gloomily. The reason she had chased Xavier out was because he was annoying and had offended her idol.

Besides, she was afraid she might fall for him again if she spent more time with him.

"You don't have to apologize. It's normal that you can't forget about him because you're a loyal and loving person. If you do forget about him, I'll feel like I've fallen in love with the wrong person."

Although Santiago was disappointed, he wasn't angry. Gently, he touched Leia's head. "Well, you chose him when you woke up after the surgery. I'm just lying to myself and refusing to accept it." "What do you mean?"