

The Untouchable Ex Wife by Mizuki Sei

Chapter 321

Renee had not anticipated the wardrobe to be stuffed with branded clothes, shoes, and bags in her size. It looked like they had bought the entire collection of a luxury boutique for her!

Again, she felt guilty when she saw how much the Baldwin family cared about her. She decided that after sending Francine away, she would come clean to them and ask for their forgiveness!

She cut out a few black and white shirts, and soon enough, she had managed to stitch together an outfit that closely resembled the uniform of the Baldwin family's employees. After she changed into the clothes, she sat in front of the makeup table and put on makeup that made her look older, then tied her hair in a low ponytail.

"Not too shabby, Renee!" Renee couldn't help but grin with delight when she realized she resembled the Baldwin family's workers.

It was late at night.

A few servants had gathered in the Baldwin residence's East garden to exchange gossip.

"I heard that the girlfriend that Master Baldwin brought him is the future mistress of the house. Old Master Baldwin adores her a lot."

"But I heard that her previous husband divorced her because she couldn't give him children. Does this mean that our handsome and gentle Master Baldwin is going to marry a divorcee?"

"Exactly! I think there's something wrong with them - they're treating her like she's a treasure!"

Renee hid behind the pavilion and was furious when she heard this. "That's right. The Baldwin family is so prominent, and Master Baldwin is so outstanding, so how could he so blind to marry a divorcee?"

"Who's there?" The servants were caught off guard and huddled close together.

Renee walked out slowly, looked at the young servants with a sarcastic smile and said, "I think Master Baldwin should marry one of you instead. Look at you! Each of you is so pretty and young. How precious!"

"Who are you and why were you eavesdropping on us?" The servants looked at Renee warily. "I'm

a new servant, so please guide me in the future." Renee bowed her head humbly.

"Oh, she's new!" Their attitudes changed immediately, and they became arrogant. "The Baldwin family is usually picky about who they hire as servants because they must be beautiful and educated. You look old and ugly, with no education. You're ruining our image! What are you in charge of?"

"I'm not too sure either..." Renee acted dumb and scratched her head as she pretended to think. "I'm supposed to guard a woman. I think she disrespected the Baldwin family and was locked in the confession room. I can't find the room though, can any of you take me there?"

"Oh, no wonder!" The servants nodded in understanding.

Renee's lies were so perfect that none of them suspected her at all.

"Come with me. I'll take you there." The leader of the servants lifted her chin and said to Renee.

Renee trailed behind her, surprised that the whole thing had gone so well.

However, not long after, the leader came to a halt and scowled as she observed Renee. "I just realized something... Your uniform doesn't match ours!"

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Renee felt her pulse quicken but she kept calm and said, "Really? I don't see the difference. It's the same style but different material."

"Same style but different material..." The servant touched Renee's clothes and scoffed, "This is actual silk. There's no way such a luxurious material would be used to make a servant's uniform!"

"What incredible eyesight! It's no surprise that even a servant of the Baldwin family is so clever," Renee thought, thoroughly impressed.

However, she didn't panic. She remained composed and said confidently, "Maybe it's an upgrade. The Baldwin family is a powerful family with a high social status, so it's not surprising that they want their servants to have good clothes. Are you trying to question the Baldwin family's decision?"

"No. That's not what I mean!" The servant immediately explained, "The Baldwin family is the most powerful family in the world and I am loyal to them. I'm simply cautious when it comes to certain things."

"Should we see Madam Sophia to confirm whether she could afford it or not?"

"No, there's no need for that!" The servant didn't dare to bother Sophia for such a small matter. She waved her hand and urged, "Stop wasting time. Let's go!"

The two walked in the dark for a long time until they arrived at a courtyard on the outskirts. There was a hut somewhere behind the forest. On the door of the hut hung a board that said 'Confession room'.

"This is it. Guard this place with your life. No matter what she says or does, don't open the door. Don't give her anything too. Just wait until the superior gives further orders," the servant told her solemnly.

"She's in here?" Renee glanced at the simple hut dubiously. She didn't think that the confession room would be a small room with nothing inside. It looked like something from ancient times.

"What were you expecting?" The servant scoffed, then continued proudly, "Old Master Hunt said that the highest level of punishment isn't physical, but mental. By putting her here, she'll lose her freedom and connection to the world. Eventually, she'll forget time and yearn for death."

"It makes sense, but there's something I don't understand. How will she lose connection with the world and forget time?"

"The hut may appear to be run-down from the outside, but the walls are soundproof. Apart from air, she'll only be surrounded by white walls. The most terrifying aspect is that sound cannot be transmitted inside," the servant explained.

"Normal people would feel like an eternity had passed if they were locked in there for even half an hour. They'll definitely lose their minds if they're locked inside for more than three days!"

When Renee heard this, she couldn't help but shudder. "That's terrifying!"

She imagined the despairing feeling of being locked up in a room with four walls, unable to hear a single sound.

'With Francine being so impatient and short-tempered, she'd definitely lose her mind in three hours,' Renee thought to herself. She had to save Francine as soon as possible!

"You'd best believe it, so don't you dare betray the Baldwin family. If you do, the next person to be locked up inside will be you," the servant warned her.

"Don't worry, I'm loyal to the Baldwin family. I would never betray them,' Renee lied and urged the servant to leave.

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The servant left afterwards because she saw the honest look on Renee's face and was certain she wouldn't do anything daring.

Right after she left, Renee ran to the hut.

It looked like a shabby hut from the outside, but the material used was very advanced. The walls were made from frosted glass.

She could see everything that was happening inside the house. She saw Francine screaming furiously, hitting the door, and stomping her foot angrily. Renee even saw Francine picking her nose.

However, Francine couldn't see the outside world at all - she couldn't see anything besides the white walls around her.

"Hahahaha. Miss Milford, now you know what suffering is. Who told you to come here and pick fights? You deserve it!" Renee leaned against the wall and observed Francine, amused at the woman's actions.

Although she had seen Francine in a terrible state before, this seemed to be the worst. However, there was something quite funny about the whole picture.

Renee took her time to record Francine's crazy behavior, and after that did she start to analyze how to open the lock. The lock had a complicated security system that required a password. For others, it might be difficult to unlock, but to a genius hacker like Renee, it was child's play.

She took out her phone and a Bluetooth device. After a while, a keyboard was projected in the air. As her slender fingers danced over the keyboard, her phone buzzed with notifications as she decoded every block. Suddenly, she heard a beeping noise coming from the door - she had successfully bypassed the security system and retrieved the password.

She calmly entered the password into the lock and the door opened.

Francine instantly turned to look at the door. When she saw Renee, she couldn't believe her eyes. She started crying in relief and gasped, "Jinx-1 mean, my beloved daughter-in-law, you're here to save me! I would have died here if you didn't come to save me. It's so boring here, and I really need the bathroom!"

Francine didn't care about her image at all and hugged Renee tightly and eagerly complained about her suffering in the confession room.

Renee rubbed her temples in annoyance and whispered sarcastically, "Why don't you scream louder and wake the Baldwin family so we don't have to leave?"

"I'm not scared of them!" Although Francine said that, she ran outside immediately after.

Meanwhile, Renee calmly closed the door and acted as if it had never been opened before.

She took Francine away from the hut and pointed at a dog-sized hole. "I've observed the surroundings, and this seems to be the only exit since there are guards guarding the front gate. You must leave now - it's dark and there are not many guards on patrol!"

"I don't want to!" Francine said defiantly, "I'm not scared of the Baldwin family. I'm not leaving unless you come with me! How can I let Sophia get her dirty little paws on a good daughter-in-law like you?"

Francine might have despised Renee before this, but after Renee saved her, she loved Renee with all her heart.

"Stop fooling around!" Renee sighed helplessly and said, "The truth is that the Baldwin family had always wanted to go to war with the Hunt family, but they never had an excuse to do so. Your sudden appearance has given them exactly that. The Hunt family has the upper hand when it comes to business, but when it comes to military force, they can't match up to the Baldwin family at all!" "You've only got one chance to leave. If you don't, you'll just be causing Stefan trouble. Can you be mature about this?"

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Renee's words made Francine hesitate and she sighed. "You're right. As important as you are, my son is the priority at the end of the day. I can't cause trouble for him!"

"Finally you're thinking straight!" Renee let out a sigh of relief and pointed at the hole. "Go now."

Francine held Renee's hand and said seriously, "Let's go together. I'm not the kind of person that'll put others in danger. I can't let you stay here!"

"I'm fine here. It's a lot better than being in the Hunt family, to be honest. They won't hurt me, but I can't say the same if I ran away with you."

Francine's eyes softened in regret when she heard Renee's words. "The Hunt family mistreated you in the past and for that... I apologize. I wasn't mean to you earlier because I hated you, it's just that I thought you and Stefan wouldn't be happy together since you didn't have feelings for each other, so I wanted you to leave him... I'm not actually an evil person."

"I promise I won't be mean to you anymore. I won't push you to get pregnant or call you a jinx anymore. Please... just consider getting back with Stefan and coming back to the Hunt family. Well treat you better than the Baldwin family, and I'll stand by you no matter what happens!" Francine's eyes welled up with tears as she spoke determinedly.

Renee felt touched seeing Francine like this - she had realized her mistake and was now trying to make things right.

Suddenly, Renee felt that she had to let go of the past. She had never hated Francine, frankly speaking, and now she was seeing her in a new light. She smiled and said teasingly, "I don't mind being called a jinx - it's got a nice ring to it."

"Ugh, you're always so sarcastic. I already apologized to you, can't you forgive me?" Francine whined, pouting like a child.

Renee raised her eyebrows and said, "Sure, I'll think about it. Go home and wait for my news."

"Really?" Francine's eyes glowed with excitement. "If Stefan heard this, he'd be overjoyed. He's such a proud man that he couldn't bring himself to beg you to come back. So, I have to be the one to bring you back."

'Clearly, I was joking...' Renee thought to herself. She was just saying it to make sure Francine left. Deep down, she knew that her time with Stefan had ended and there wouldn't be any chance of them getting back together.

Finally, Francine obediently climbed out through the hole. Before she left, she mumbled, "This is the most embarrassing thing I've ever done. If not for all of you, I would've started a fight with them."

Renee stifled her laughter and said, "You're right. You're extremely magnificent and don't look undignified at all climbing out through that hole!"

When she was sure Francine was far away, she took some dirt and covered the hole neatly. "Done!"

She dusted her hands off and was about to head back and sleep. However, when she turned around, she was shocked to see Justin standing there.

Renee gasped and stumbled back. "When... When did you arrive?"

Justin wore a black sports outfit and had a headband wrapped around his head. He was sweating and breathing rapidly, and he looked very handsome. "I just got here. Are you here for a night jog too?"

"Just... jogging?" She questioned carefully.

"Yeah... What else would I be doing?" He frowned and stared at the place where the hole was earlier and asked curiously, "What are you doing sneaking around this area?"

"Nothing!"

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Renee thought for a while before she replied, "Your house is very beautiful, so I decided to take a stroll and look around. But during my stroll, I had to pee, so..." To avoid Justin's suspicion, she had to sacrifice her image.

"Oh, I see..." Justin smirked and said, "I should've come earlier then."

'You pervert!' Renee felt guilty for lying to him, so she tried to push the blame to him. "If you keep this up, I'll go home tomorrow and stop this whole act."

"I'm sorry, my bad. I won't joke around anymore. Why are you dressed like a servant though? And your makeup looks weird too..." Justin gave her an odd look.

"What do you mean by that? This is how I look with a bare face. Do you find me ugly? And I got this shirt from the closet, it looks nice so I wore it. Are you trying to say that I look like a servant?"

"No. I..." Justin was lost for words.

'There's no need to explain. I'm tired, so I want to rest now!' Renee exclaimed, and left immediately. Justin

watched as she gradually disappeared from view, and a smirk crept on his face.

'She actually guilt-tripped me even though she's the guilty one!' He mused, clicking his tongue in disapproval.

After Renee returned to her room, she changed her clothes, took off her makeup, and decided to go to bed.

The bed was so comfortable - it felt like she was sleeping on cotton because it was so soft. Soon enough, she drifted off to sleep.

She slept so deeply that she had a dream... or more accurately, she considered it a nightmare because Stefan was in it. In it, Stefan had held a whip, tied her to a chair, and threatened her, "Brave, aren't we? So brave that you dare to betray me and marry another man! Come back now, or else I will punish you!"

The whip hit the floor with a loud crack. Then, he took a hot iron rod and was about to hit her with it...

"Ah! No, I'll come home immediately!" Renee screamed, waving her arms and kicking her legs.

"What happened? Are you having a nightmare?" A gentle hand stroked Renee's back and a soothing voice comforted her, "Don't be scared, you're alright."

Renee instantly woke up from the nightmare and opened her eyes drowsily. She saw Sophia staring at her kindly. In her sleepy state, she saw her mother's image flash before her, and she subconsciously clung on to Sophia. "Mom, I miss you... Can you and Dad stay with me forever?"

In front of outsiders, Renee appeared to be strong and brave, as if she could overcome any obstacle that came her way. However, she was still only in her early twenties - like a beautiful and fragile flower. She would only be vulnerable around people she was close to. 1

"What did you dream about to scare you like this?" Sophia liked Renee, and when she saw Renee in such a helpless and vulnerable state, she couldn't help but feel sorry for her. "Don't be scared, no one would dare hurt you anymore. The Baldwin family will protect you."

Slowly, Renee regained her senses and realized what had happened. She instantly sat up. "I'm sorry, Aunt Sophia."

The two began chatting, and eventually, a phone call interrupted them.

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Renee's instincts told her it was from Stefan since the screen showed that the call was from Beach City. She wanted to ignore it at first, but her phone wouldn't stop ringing.

Sophia looked at her fondly and gestured for her to pick it up. Renee did not want to make her suspicious, so she pretended to be calm and answered the call.

'So, you finally decided to answer the phone!' Stefan's icy voice from the other end of the phone made her shiver.

It brought back flashes of her nightmare earlier, but she played dumb and said, "What? An insurance company? I'm sorry but I don't need insurance. Goodbye!"

'Renee, don't you dare hang up. You-'

Stefan's threat was promptly cut off as she ended the call.

"Hmm, my phone number must've been leaked. I've been receiving tons of calls from these kinds of companies. It's so annoying!" Renee calmly explained to Sophia while subtly blocked the number.

However, another number called soon after, and then another. Every time Renee blocked one number, another one would call. It was so frequent that she had to make an excuse to go to the toilet to secretly call him back.

'Are you crazy, Stefan? Why do you keep calling me? Please keep in mind that you are my ex-husband who shouldn't even be on my contact list!' Renee scolded in a low voice.

After a few minutes of silence, the man at the other end said icily, 'It's not my intention to disturb you. I just want to ask if my mother went to you and if she is currently alright.'

'Hasn't she gotten back yet?' Renee was surprised. Beach City and Sutton were not very far apart from each other, so Francine should have arrived at Beach City ages ago. How could she be missing? Did something happen during her journey back there?

'From what you're saying, my mother did go to Sutton to look for you, didn't she?'

'Yes, she did, but I helped her go back that same night. There's no way she hasn't reached yet!' Renee hissed.

'Damn it!' He cursed furiously, then growled, "I'm going to the Baldwin residence now to ask for her. You'd better pray that she's alright, or I won't spare you, or anyone in the Baldwin family!"

'What? You're coming here? Are you crazy?! You-' Before Renee could protest, Stefan ended the call.

Meanwhile, Sophia knocked on the door of the bathroom and asked in concern, "Ren, is anything wrong? Do you need help?" Renee sighed softly, opened the door, and walked out. "It's nothing. I was only calling my nanny to tell her I'm alright."

Renee was secretly worried. What would happen if Stefan really came to the Baldwin residence? The two families would surely go to war then, and the consequences would be unimaginable!

She couldn't let him come to the Baldwin residence... or, at the very least, she could not let him meet the Baldwins.

Sophia did not suspect anything. She held Renee's hand and said warmly, 'Today is your first day at the Baldwin residence. Grandpa Baldwin, Uncle Jack, and Justin have been waiting for you to have breakfast!'

"They are waiting for me?" Renee looked at the sun shining brightly in the sky, and felt embarrassed. She had slept until noon, but the whole Baldwin

family was actually still waiting for her to have breakfast. She felt really bad for troubling them so much.

It was a classic European-style dining room. All three generations of the Baldwin family were sitting around an antique round table with a traditional European breakfast in front of them.

The three men, from grandfather to grandson, were sitting so stiffly that anyone could guess they were military men.

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'Everyone's here now. Ren has slept enough, so let's dig in.' Sophia seated Renee at the table and said cheerfully.

'Good morning, Grandpa Baldwin, Uncle Jack, and Justin.' Renee greeted them politely and smiled broadly at them.

"Did you sleep well last night?" Austin looked at Renee fondly. The more he looked at her, the more he liked her.

"I slept very well last night. Thank you for your concern." Renee nodded slowly. She was very experienced in all this, since this was how she survived in the Hunt family for four years. She had emerged unharmed thanks to all the masks she wore.

■ Really?" Justin suppressed his laughter and asked, "Weren't you walking around in the courtyard in the middle of the night? You even energetically fixed a hole in the wall! I thought you couldn't sleep because you weren't used to the environment."

Renee glared at Justin, fighting the urge to reach over and choke him.1 Damn that troublemaker! He should know who I was trying to help and why I was forced to do this! What an ungrateful man...'

A hole?" Austin's gaze instantly turned cold, like the gaze of a soldier on the battlefield. It was terrifying.

Renee hurriedly explained, "I couldn't fall asleep because it's a new place, and I saw that the moon was very beautiful last night, so I went out for a stroll. At that point, I happened to see a hole in the wall, so I fixed it."

Austin nodded and did not ask further. "Today is your first day here, so you can sleep in, but you can't do it anymore. Everyone in the Baldwin family abides by military rules, and we keep to a strict schedule every day. This is to strengthen our minds!"

'Huh?' Renee was dumbfounded.

'Ren, you are a child from a military family, so you should be able to follow these rules. Maurice probably would be happy that I could make you stronger!'

"Um..." Renee gulped and wanted to say that it was totally unnecessary. Her grandfather had already taught her war theories and fighting skills when he was still alive. He also taught her how to assemble guns, how to make and defuse a bomb, and even how to train soldiers. However, he pampered her in all other aspects, and usually let her do whatever she liked.

'Calm down, Grandpa, these rules are for our family. The relationship between Ren and me isn't confirmed yet, so don't scare her away!' Justin finally decided to help Renee out.

'Don't listen to this old fogey. You can stay up late if you want to, or sleep in if you want to. You just have to live freely and happily as my wife. There is no need to be so disciplined!' Justin said dismissively.

His words received the enthusiastic support of Sophia. "Yes, he's right! Ren and Justin can live however they like as long as they are happy; We won't interfere."

Austin's face turned serious, but before he could say anything, a maid ran into the room. She looked around wildly and shouted, "Francine's gone!"

'She disappeared?' Austin slammed the cutlery on the table and demanded, "What happened?"

'When I went to start my shift this morning, there was nobody in the room. The lock wasn't damaged - it's like she disappeared into thin air!'

'What nonsense. Do you not want your tongue anymore?' Austin scoffed.

Jack asked, "Unless she was let go, how could a person disappear out of thin air?"

The maid suddenly realised something and shouted, "The new maid... It must be that new maid!"

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'What's all this gibberish? Talk properly!' Sophia said sternly.

The maid took a deep breath and explained, "There was a new maid last night, wearing a uniform of a better quality than ours. She said that she was sent over to keep an eye on Francine, so I brought her to the room and left her there alone... I did not expect that both the new maid and Francine would disappear like that! So the person who helped Francine escape must be her!'

'How dare she?!' Austin was fuming, feeling like the authority of the Baldwin family had been challenged. He said furiously, "Who is that reckless person? How dare she sneak into the Baldwin mansion and do this right under my nose?! She really does not take us seriously! Start an investigation immediately, and when you find her, break her limbs right away. She has to know that the Baldwin family cannot be messed with!"

Jack nodded and said to the head of the soldiers stationed around them, "What are you waiting for? Send a team to barricade the whole place and carry out a thorough search. We must catch the woman who dares to fight against the Baldwin family!"

Renee buried her head in her arms the whole time, not daring to take a breath. She was afraid that the maid would recognize her.

She watched the soldiers leave in the armoured vehicles and gulped anxiously. 'Are these people for real? Must they be so

serious? If they find out that I was the traitor who let go of her, would they really break my limbs?'

Actually, when Renee thought about it, it wasn't that surprising. The Baldwin family were used to dictatorship, and used harsh punishments to reinforce their power in Sutton and the entire land of Jaseraux to expand their reign.

"Let's eat first. We don't want bad news spoiling Ren's breakfast," Sophia said quickly to the men.

The family agreed, and before they ate, they stood up and sang the national anthem in a loud and clear voice. 1

Renee was so frustrated by all their rules. 'No wonder Haze ran away years ago to become a hacker. I would escape as well if I were him!'

Renee was actually planning to confess to the Baldwin family after breakfast and ask for their forgiveness. After that, she would leave this place. The sooner, the better!

At the same time, the maid, who had been standing submissively with her head lowered, raised her head cautiously. As soon as she saw Renee's face, her eyes widened in realisation and she yelled, "It's her! She's the new maid. She's the one who released Francine!"

The Baldwin family was startled and looked at Renee.

The maid pointed at Renee and continued, "Although it was dark last night and she disguised herself well, I can tell that she's the new maid from last night. Her eyes are exactly the same, and there was a mole near her left eye!"

Renee lowered her head in embarrassment and inwardly groaned. 'Oh no, I forgot to cover the mole under my left eye! It's so faint, I thought no one would notice it!'

The members of the Baldwin family were certainly special - even a maid had such good observation skills.

"Ren, is there anything you want to say about this?" Sophia patted her shoulder gently and said, "Don't be scared. If it's you, you should just admit it - we won't blame you. If it wasn't you, this maid who slandered you will be at your disposal!"

"I..." Renee inhaled deeply, wondering whether to admit it.

At that moment, Justin, who had been watching everything silently, suddenly spoke, "Alright, we can stop the guessing game now -1 was the one who let her go."

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'What nonsense are you talking about?' Sophia glared at him. Given the old man's temper, he would mercilessly impose a harsh punishment on anyone who defied his orders. Was Justin asking for death?

Justin replied nonchalantly, 'I'm not lying, it was really me who let her go. Think about it - the password is so complicated that only the members of the Baldwin family would know it. Ren is just an innocent girl. Even if she wanted to, she'd never be able to figure out the password!' Justin purposely looked at Renee with a faint smile.

'Haha!' Renee avoided their eyes and laughed awkwardly. She was very grateful to Justin for taking the blame, but he was so cheeky that she wanted to punch him!

Justin looked around at his family and explained, "I just think that since we've already snatched Stefan Hunt's wife, it would be overkill to lock his mother up too. We know the power of the Hunt family, so we can't just provoke them because we have an army. The Hunt family is very wealthy - if we drive them into a corner, they can easily hire assassins from Aiqan or Malazio to fight against us. Let's not overdo it and leave some space between us so that things won't be too difficult the next time we meet."

'Well said!' Renee could not help but stand up and clap; it was like Justin had read her mind.

The entire Baldwin family was living so pridefully, except for Justin who had been out and about in the world. He was much more sensible.

Austin frowned and glared at Justin sternly. "You're simply lauding the other family's prestige at the expense of your own. If it truly is as you say, we'd be acting like our family is afraid of the Hunt family!"

"The Baldwins and the Hunts are bound to go to war. I had never started anything back then because Ren was in the Hunt family, but now that she's not, there's nothing holding us back anymore."

Renee wanted to hit her head on the table after hearing Austin's words. The old man was certainly a war hawk. From what she remembered, the three brothers parted ways years ago because of it. They held on to different principles, and it cost them severely when they went their separate ways and stopped contacting each other.

Compared to Austin, her grandfather and Grandpa Hunt were a lot more objective. They would not fight unless it was absolutely necessary. That was why both of them left the military and entered the business industry instead!

Renee knew he wasn't an evil person - he simply preferred to solve problems using force and thought that order was above all.

In other words, though Austin usually looked kind and friendly, he would be merciless if she got on his nerves! It was like serving a king who was as dangerous as a ticking time bomb.

Renee knew that she was walking on eggshells, so she could not provoke him or she would get into trouble. She also could not let Stefan meet this old man, or else everyone, even those who were not involved, would be affected.

Since both options were undesirable, Renee made up her mind and went for Plan C instead.

'Let's fight! We must fight!' Renee shouted passionately, raising her hand and changing her attitude suddenly.

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Renee's unusual reaction stunned everyone in the room, especially Justin. He did not expect that she would react that way at all.

'Are you sure about having the two families go to war?' He raised his eyebrows and asked mischievously.

'Of course!' Renee continued enthusiastically. "My grandfather always hoped that one day I could follow in his footsteps and lead an army into battle myself. If the Baldwin and Hunt families are bound to fight, whether it's in business or war, I want to be the one to lead! Anyway, I also have a deep grudge against the Hunt family, and I hate Stefan so much that I long for a life-and-death duel with him!"

"Fantastic! You really are something, young lady." Austin stroked his beard and laughed heartily. "You are indeed the granddaughter of General Everheart - so confident and strong-willed. You are much better than my unworthy grandson! Justin, you should learn from Ren. If you are always giving in, how can you protect her in the future? Maybe she'll have to protect you."

Sophia glared at her son, extremely dissatisfied with his cowardice.

Justin tugged on Renee's coat and hissed in her ear, "What the hell are you doing? I had just fixed things! My grandfather and father were fooling around, but you actually agreed with their silly idea. Are you really thinking of starting a war?"

Renee laughed. "Stop acting like a peacemaker - you were the one who shamelessly threatened to expose my identity as Phoenix to Stefan if I did not join in the battle against the Hunt family, but now, you're the one who's withdrawing?"

"I was just trying to find out about your relationship with Stefan Hunt and his family. From what I see, you really care about them, but with you behaving like this now, I feel like there's some kind of conspiracy going on!" Justin hugged Renee's shoulders and rested his forehead against hers as he spoke so as to not raise suspicion.

Finally, he murmured, "Don't try to trick my grandfather or father to make the two families have a truce or collaborate from within. It'll be very troublesome if my grandfather discovers your schemes, and even I may not be able to save you then!"

"Hahaha!" Renee did not say anything and smiled brightly, acting as if she and Justin were very lovey-dovey.

Austin smiled happily and said to Jack and Sophia, "I take back what I just said - this kid is very promising. He found an excellent wife who will bring fortune to the family. I'm sure the future of the Baldwin family will be bright with her around!"

Renee suddenly said, "Grandpa Baldwin, as my grandfather's good friend and subordinate, you should know about his habit before he goes into battle, right?"

Austin frowned and shook his head. "What is it? I can't remember."

"Before he leads an army to war, he would worship the sky, the earth, and the God of War!"

"The God of War?" Austin was even more confused. "I've seen him worship the sky and the earth, but I've never heard him mentioning the God of War."

"That's only natural since it's his secret to victory." Renee explained slowly after arousing everyone's interest. "There was a stone statue of the God of War at the far end of the South Sea. Grandpa grew up believing in the God of War, so whenever there were any important battles coming, he would personally go to the South Sea to worship the god and receive blessings so that he could defeat his enemies!"

"Is there really such a thing?" Austin thought hard but could not recall when Maurice had ever worshipped the God of War.

"There is. Grandpa did not tell anyone, so nobody knows except for members of the Everyheart family," Renee sighed and said, "This time, I want to lead the army and fight against the Hunt family in place of the Baldwin family. Thus, I hope that we can all follow this custom and go to the South Sea now to ask the mighty God of War for his blessings to win!"