Chapter 1989 Escort

Francesca finally calmed down at Sloan's sincere demeanor. On second thought, Francesca realized that Sloan had a point. Danrique was a stubborn and hard-headed man. One woman was more than he could handle. Hence, why would he trouble himself to look for another one?

Could there really be a misunderstanding?

However, it was most likely true that he gifted Hazel Moon River's Heart. Francesca fidgeted uneasily at the thought.

She then decided it was not a good time to be throwing a tantrum. I'd better wait for Gordon to bring Dr. Felch down from the mountain and undergo the surgery first.

Feeling a weight lifted off her chest, she lay on the bed comfortably.

Even though Sloan had put a SIM card in her phone, she did not turn on her phone.

Is he going to call me if I turn on my phone now? He is a man with few words, but he's oddly good at arguing, the type to never concede defeat.

Then, she set her phone aside and decided to just leave it as it was.

However, she was afraid that Layla might not be able to contact her and would be worried.

Hence, she turned on her phone in the end.

She was even thinking that if Danrique were to call, she would block his phone number so that he wouldn't be able to bother her.

Nonetheless, hours passed by, and still, he did not call. There was not a single text from him either.

To her surprise, Layla was the one who called.

Francesca hurriedly answered it. "Ms. Layla!"

"Are you all right? You did not leave the Lindberg residence, right?" Layla asked anxiously.

"Yes, I'm still here," Francesca smiled bitterly. "How did you know that Anthony called me?"

"That brat needs to be taught a lesson," she chided. "I've asked him to not tell you, but obviously he had paid no heed to my words and gone on to tell you. Francesca, if you truly like Danrique and want to be together with him, you have to be mentally prepared for more of such gossip to surface in the future. Even if he is a loyal man, women will just flock to him and causing rumors to fly around. They're just trying their luck with him. You have to toughen up and be prepared for what may come. Don't simply throw your tantrums at him without substantial evidence."

"I finally understand the reason you were so against me dating him," Francesca lamented.

Layla was a wise woman, and she had weathered many storms to be able to see things from a clear perspective.

"Francesca, you are smart, but you lack experience in life."

Layla then continued in a solemn tone, "Lincoln and I will help you out in this. Your priority right now should be to prepare and focus on your upcoming treatment. Don't delay your plans because of anyone. Do you understand?"

"I understand." Francesca nodded. "Thank you, Ms. Layla. Also, do convey my gratitude to Mr. Lincoln as well."

She had lost her parents when she was a child. Dr. Felch had raised her and taught her basic skills to survive. However, she knew little about everything else.

Francesca was a smart girl and had innate talent. However, she was young, and her life was just starting; hence, she lacked experience in a lot of things.

She was grateful that she had someone like Lincoln and Layla to guide her along the way.

Without them, she would not have been able to survive.

"You silly girl. We are a family. Why are you saying thanks? Do remember my words and focus on your upcoming surgery. Do you understand?" Layla repeated.

"Yes, I understand," Francesca replied seriously.

"The surgery has to be carried out as soon as possible. You can't delay it any longer. If the Lindbergs have not yet found Dr. Felch, why don't you just be upfront with them? I'm sure that he will forgive you if you apologize sincerely."

"I think they're going to be able to locate him soon. I'll ask around later."

Francesca was following up closely on the matter as well. The thing was, Dr. Felch was unwilling to get off the mountain, and Gordon's hard-headed attitude had scared him off.

Chapter 1990 Agreed

After ending the call, Francesca looked for Sloan and asked about Gordon's progress.

Sloan told Francesca that he was about to report to her that Gordon had already found Dr. Felch. However, Dr. Felch refused to leave the mountain. Now, Gordon was trying his best to persuade him.

After Francesca heard that, she felt both excited and uneasy. They found Dr. Felch. Will he come down from the mountain? What if Gordon reveals my identity by mistake?

Upon that thought, Francesca hurriedly asked Sloan to call Gordon. She wanted to remind him personally. So, Sloan quickly called Gordon on his phone.

It took a while for the call to be connected. "Hello!"

"Gordon, Ms. Felch wants to have a word with you." Then, Sloan handed his phone over to Francesca. Gordon greeted her, "Ms. Fel—" However, Francesca cut him off and said, "Is there anyone beside you?"

"I'm at Dr. Felch's house now," he responded. "Go to the backyard. Don't let anyone hear you," Francesca said immediately.

"Okay." Gordon went to the backyard with his phone. "Ms. Felch, there's no one around now. Please go ahead."

Francesca asked reluctantly, "So, you saw Dr. Felch?"

"Yes," Gordon reported. He continued, "I'm trying my utmost to persuade him to leave the mountain. However, Dr. Felch is adamant about staying put. Also, he said that he hadn't performed an operation in many years, so I should look for someone else."

"Did you tell him about my identity?"

Again, Francesca cut him off and asked anxiously.

"I only told him the patient is Mr. Lindberg's fiancée. As per your instruction, I told him about your condition and age. And that there's no medical record. I didn't tell him anything else other than these."

Gordon became vigilant and glanced at the cabin.

"Did you tell him my name?" Francesca asked.

"No." Gordon shook his head.

"That's great." Francesca breathed a sigh of relief and reminded him, "When you call next time, don't refer to me as Ms. Felch. Just say, Ms. Cece. All right?"

"Understood." Gordon nodded. "Previously, I only called you when I was inside the car. I don't think Dr. Felch knows that you both share the same surname."

"That's great to know. Well done." Finally, Francesca felt at ease. Then, she reminded him, "All right. Go and persuade him again. Don't negotiate with him but tell him saving a life is of boundless beneficence. And that Ms. Cece got injured while she was saving someone else. She's only twenty-one years old. She's so young. It's a shame for her to lose her life just like that. Ask him to show her mercy."

"Um, is that what I should say?"

Although Gordon was only a subordinate, he only followed orders from Danrique. He was only polite to others but never submitted to anyone other than Danrique.

Now that he needed to beg an elderly that humbly, he felt slightly uncomfortable. Besides, he was hesitant to describe his future lady of the house so pathetically.

"Also, you have to be more respectful to Dr. Felch than to Danrique," Francesca emphasized solemnly. "Think of him as Danrique's father. Now, do you know how to deal with him?"

"Ah?" Gordon was dumbfounded.

"What? Just do as I say!"

Francesca ordered domineeringly.

"Understood."

Since it was an order, Gordon didn't dare to go against it. Before he left, Danrique told him to treat Francesca like his boss. Also, he had to listen to her instruction as long as it didn't cause conflict for him.

"I'll be waiting for your good news!"

With that, Francesca hung up the phone.

Gordon walked back into the cabin with his phone in his hand. He behaved like a completely different person from before. Previously, Gordon negotiated with an insistent attitude. But now, he acted respectfully and bowed ninety degrees to Dr. Felch.

He said, "Dr. Felch, I'm sorry for my impertinence. I am here to apologize to you. My lady of the house had just given me a good round of scolding. She's a doctor too. She got injured while saving someone. However, doctors can't heal themselves."

After half an hour, Francesca received a call from Gordon.

Gordon sounded ecstatic on the other end of the phone. "Dr. Felch had agreed. Finally! We're leaving the mountain tomorrow afternoon!"

"That's great!"

Chapter 1991 Arrangement

Gordon delivered the good news to Sean and sighed in amazement. "Ms. Felch is amazing. She taught me how to persuade Dr. Felch, and it worked instantly." "Really?" Sean asked curiously. "What did she say?"

Then, Gordon told Sean everything that had happened. Halfway through, he paused and realized something.

He said, "Wait. How does Ms. Felch know that Dr. Felch has a backyard in his house? She told me to go to the backyard to speak to her on the phone. Besides, she seemed to know Dr. Felch very well from her words."

"She doesn't just know him but respects him," Sean said analytically. "Seems like they had known each other from before. But, if they knew each other, why didn't Ms. Felch say so? We are doing this to save her life."

"I know, right?" Gordon was confused. "Now that I think of it, when we had just arrived at H City, and while I was on my way to find Dr. Felch, Ms. Felch reminded me that a genius doctor like Dr. Felch usually lives in seclusion in the mountains. I didn't think much of it and searched the mountains just like she said back then. Soon, I found him."

"Well, this means Ms. Felch's reminder was of use." Sean quickly concluded. "It seems like Ms. Felch does know Dr. Felch. Maybe they have a special relationship, and she doesn't want others to know about it."

"Yup, yup. That's right." Gordon nodded vigorously. He continued, "Ms. Felch reminded me repeatedly not to let Dr. Felch find out about her identity. And that I can't even mention her name. But, Dr. Felch is going to treat her soon. How is she supposed to hide this?"

"Don't worry about that. Ms. Felch will give you the instructions." Sean smiled. "Since she's so worried about that, she'll naturally find a way. You only need to cooperate with her."

"Mmm. That's true." Gordon exclaimed, "You're more meticulous than I am. No wonder Mr. Lindberg prefers to have you than by his side."

"Haha! Don't be sarcastic." Sean laughed.

By the way, when will Mr. Lindberg be coming?" Gordon asked impatiently. "I heard from Sloan that Ms. Felch was feeling restless for the past two days. She was emotionally stable too."

"The two of them still haven't reconciled after their fight," Sean said. "But now that you have successfully persuaded Dr. Felch, he'll be there soon. Although Mr. Lindberg is mad at Ms. Felch, he's still concerned about her."

"Well, then you should go and report to him now. I'll arrange for a private jet."

"Okay."

After Sean hung up the phone, he went straight to find Danrique to report the situation in detail.

"Arrange for a private jet now. I'm leaving for H City," Danrique immediately ordered after he heard about the situation.

"Now?" Sean swiftly reminded, "Sir, have you forgotten that Mr. President is visiting the company this afternoon for an inspection? The three great families, as well as Donald, went there early to do the preparations."

"I totally forgot about it."

Danrique glanced at his watch, and it showed nine-thirty in the morning. He was handling some work at home that day, so he wasn't in a hurry to go to the company.

"What time is the conference in the afternoon?"

"Three o'clock." Sean continued, "It's estimated to end a little past four. Then, it'll take around forty minutes for us to travel to the airport from the company. Should I arrange for a private jet at six thirty?"

Danrique frowned. "That means I have to wait for another seven hours."

"Previously, you were absent when Frank went to inspect the company. In the end, it caused a series of incidents. This time, Mr. President is coming. Mr. Lindberg, you can't be absent again."

Sean reassured Danrique, "It'll take some time for Gordon to escort Dr. Felch to H City. Also, the hospital needs time to make arrangements for the surgery. We should be able to reach there in time."

"All right. Try to shorten the time as much as possible," Danrique ordered. "Tell Gordon to prepare everything first, but wait for me to arrive before they proceed with the surgery."

"Understood." Then, Sean hurriedly reminded Gordon what to do and proceeded to arrange for a private jet for that evening.

Chapter 1992 Another Explosion

Meanwhile, it was midnight at H City. Francesca had been tossing and turning all night after she knew that Gordon was going to escort Dr. Felch to H City at daybreak.

The thought of meeting her master again made Francesca both excited and nervous. After all, she hadn't met him for more than five years. So, she was curious as to how he was doing.

Francesca thought of her rebelliousness and stubbornness back then, which broke her master's heart. Therefore, she felt nervous and wasn't sure how he would react when he saw her. And if he would punish her or walk away as soon as he saw her.

At the thought of that, Francesca couldn't help but feel restless.

As Francesca got lost in her thoughts, her phone buzzed suddenly. She looked at her phone and saw the notification that she had just received a few texts from an unknown number. Francesca was paled with shock as soon as she saw the text.

Attached to the text was a video of an explosion that happened at an orphanage. In the video, the orphanage was in a mess, and many staff members and children were injured. The children stood barefoot on the field while crying in fear.

All three consecutive texts were regarding the orphanage in S Nation an hour ago.

Francesca dialed Layla's number promptly. However, to her dismay, Layla was unreachable. Then, she dialed Lincoln's number, but the line was busy. So, she had no choice but to call Anthony. After a long while, the phone finally got connected.

[&]quot;Yes, Francesca."

"Anthony, what happened to the orphanage?"

"Hmm, how did you know something happened to the orphanage?" Anthony blurted out. Then, he immediately changed his words after realizing he had said something he shouldn't have. "It's nothing. Nothing worth mentioning. Don't worry about it."

"There was an explosion! So many people got injured, but you're telling me it's nothing worth mentioning?" Francesca was furious. "Tell me the truth now."

"I-" Anthony was flustered. "How did you know about the explosion? Who told you that?"

"I saw the video." Francesca panicked. "So, something happened to orphanage 001, orphanage 002, and orphanage 003?"

"Yes."

Anthony saw no point in keeping Francesca in the dark since she could even tell the numbers of the orphanages where the explosion happened. Since he couldn't hide it any longer, he decided to tell the truth.

"An explosion happened at these three orphanages again tonight. Some employees and children got injured. They were all sent to the hospital. So, you shouldn't worry too much."

"Again?" Francesca got caught off guard by this word. "You mean there was an explosion before this?"

"Um..."

"Stop stuttering. Just spill it out." Francesca roared furiously.

"Well, an explosion happened a few days ago. But only a few social workers got injured. The children were unscathed. However, this time round-"

Anthony paused for a moment before he whispered, "From these three orphanages, seven children got injured while one of them was in a rather serious condition. Ms. Layla is at the hospital now."

"How could this be?" Francesca sounded emotional. "Why didn't you tell me something bad happened?"

"Ms. Layla and Mr. Lincoln stopped me from telling you. They said it must be Chrono's doing and that his motive is to stop us from interfering in your affairs. So, we all stayed in S Nation and dared not leave. Only Mr. Lincoln went to M Nation but came back the next day. We thought the nutcase wouldn't cause any trouble to the orphanage again. However, tonight-"

While Anthony was explaining, Francesca's phone received another call. It was an unknown number.

"Just a moment, Anthony." Francesca stopped him.

Then, she connected the call to the unknown number. "Hello!"

"The Lindberg family can protect you. But can they protect your orphanage?"

Chrono's voice came through the phone with a tinge of eerie chill.

"You lunatic!" Francesca roared emotionally. "The children are innocent. How can you do this to them?"

"You're right. The children are innocent," Chrono said nonchalantly. "And so is Candice. She wouldn't have died if it weren't for you!"

Chapter 1993 A Lunatic

"What exactly do you want?" Knowing that she wouldn't be able to talk sense into him, Francesca asked Chrono frankly about his purpose.

"I told you, I want you to pay for Candice's death!" Chrono enunciated every single word clearly with murderous intent.

"The police are incompetent. There are several hidden bombs in the orphanage, but they have not found them. I can't guarantee there won't be another explosion if I'm in a bad mood. By then, it will not just be another few kids getting injured."

"You are crazy! You lunatic!" Francesca yelled agitatedly and almost jumped out the bed.

"It's all thanks to you." Chrono remained unfazed. "I wouldn't turn out this way if Candice were alive. She must be so lonely in heaven all by herself. I'm sure she wants some children to accompany her. Also, not to forget, a good friend like you."

"You-" "Come meet me now. Otherwise, I can't guarantee what will happen next. Remember to come alone and not to bring anyone with you. I'll kill a child if you bring one person with you."

Chrono finished his sentence calmly and hung up the phone. Mixed feelings stirred within Francesca as she listened to the disconnect tone.

She knew Chrono would do anything to avenge Candice. He was capable of causing an explosion at the orphanages in S Nation even though he was at H City. It was evident that he had an accomplice and that they had come prepared.

Francesca was worried about the safety of the children at the orphanage if she didn't compromise.

However, she would be in danger once she left the villa, away from the protection of the Lindberg family.

But now, the safety of the children at the orphanage clouded her mind.

At the thought of that, Francesca immediately changed her clothes and jumped out of the balcony.

After Chrono revealed his whereabouts and caused the police to track him down previously, he had not appeared nearby.

Nonetheless, Sloan and the other bodyguards were still very cautious. However, since Gordon was going to escort Dr. Felch down the mountain today, Sloan sent a few people to the hospital to prepare for the operation. Therefore, the villa was understaffed.

Although she did not have other extraordinary skills, Francesca was exceptional in climbing over the wall. Soon, she escaped the bodyguard's vision and slipped out of the villa.

After she ran a kilometer away from the villa, she screened through her surroundings. However, Chrono was nowhere in sight. Then, she realized he had told her to meet him but didn't tell her where.

Francesca was uncertain where to go next.

Just then, her phone vibrated. She thought it was from Chrono, so she immediately picked up the phone. "Hello!"

"It's me, Francesca." Layla's voice rang out from the phone with a hint of urgency. She continued, "Are you all right? Did you stay put at the villa?"

"I-" Francesca didn't want to lie to Layla, but she also didn't want to get scolded by the latter. Thus, she changed the topic. "Ms. Layla, something happened to the orphanage, right? How are the children doing?"

"Lacy from orphanage 003 is seriously injured. She's still in the emergency room now. The rest of the children are doing fine."

Layla went straight to the point. "It must be Anthony who told you about this, right? He really can't keep a secret."

"You should tell me everything. Or else, I'll be worried."

"Listen to me, Francesca. Chrono did all of this to take revenge on you. Do not ever be fooled by him. Never leave the protection of the Lindberg family."

"Ms. Layla, I-"

Before Francesca could finish her sentence, a gunshot suddenly sounded, directly hitting her phone.

Francesca's ears went numb from the sound of the gunshot, and her right hand's purlicue was grazed by the bullet. Then, blood started dripping down the floor.

Reflexively, she looked in the direction in which the gunshot came. At a distance, she could see a car. The person sitting inside was Chrono.

He was like a wolf in the dark as he shot her with a piercing glare.

There was a gun in his hand. Then, he motioned condescendingly for Francesca to get into his car.