Chapter 2014 Support

"It was pretty successful. Otherwise, I wouldn't be talking to you right now." Francesca chuckled. "Are things well on your side? I saw the text where you mentioned that things are fine at the orphanage, and Lacy is no longer in danger, right?"

"Yes," Layla replied, "I spoke to you the other day, and I told you not to head outside. However, you avoided the subject and kept asking me about the orphanage, so I sensed that something was amiss. Later, I heard gunshots, and the call was cut off. I couldn't contact you again, so I knew something bad had happened. I was really anxious at that time, and I thought of contacting Danrique to save you and getting Mr. Lincoln to contact the police of H City..."

Layla continued, "However, Mr. Lincoln reminded me that you've always been an intelligent and cautious person. Thus, you couldn't have been duped by Chrono so easily, unless you were threatened by him. However, he doesn't have a hold on you apart from the orphanage. You were far away from Chrono, so he couldn't use something else to manipulate you unless he had planted a bomb inside the orphanage... Therefore, we spent two continuous nights scouring the orphanage in order to locate the bomb, so that you wouldn't be threatened by Chrono..."

Layla got emotional as she talked about what had occurred on that day. "However, the bomb had been hidden in a secure location, and we couldn't find it. Mr. Lincoln contacted the police, and they helped us to look for it. After a while, we managed to find it. I contacted you immediately, but no one answered. Later, a bodyguard from the Lindberg residence phoned me. I was surprised and also rather emotional. Although your identity is exposed, at least, the issue is finally settled…"

She paused, then added, "Now, Lacy's no longer in critical condition and will remain in the hospital for observation. The police are keeping an eye on the

orphanage and have increased the number of patrols around the area. We're very safe, so you don't have to worry about us."

"Good to know that you're okay." Francesca frowned. "Chrono's escaped, but he was bitten by Sam, so he can't do anything drastic for a while. Still, if he survives, I'm afraid he wouldn't let me go. Currently, I'm under the protection of the Lindberg family. Since he can't get close to me, I fear he might target the orphanage again."

"We've beefed up our security since this incident," Layla assured her, "Mr. Lincoln has recruited a few more bodyguards. They will work two shifts every day and take turns to protect the children. Don't worry."

"Okay." Francesca nodded. "Once I've recovered, I'll pay you a visit. If anything happens, you must tell me."

"Understood," Layla replied, "Now, I have something to discuss with you."

"Shoot."

"Earlier, Mr. Lincoln and I believed that the people of Riz Corporation wouldn't interfere in matters between you and Chrono. After all, you have Danrique behind your back. However, after this incident, we aren't so sure about that now."

She continued, "If he could enter the orphanage undetected and plant a bomb there, he must be a top assassin. Chrono's accomplice must also be from Riz Corporation. At this point, we don't know if he only has one accomplice or more. Anyhow, the problem is even more complicated than we thought. Mr. Lincoln is also trying to contact Darcel Nacht, the head of Riz Corporation, to see if he can negotiate with him and ask the organization to stop meddling in this affair..."

"This is quite tricky," Francesca said hastily, "The head of Riz Corporation is a domineering fellow and never interacts with the outside world. Nobody has been able to contact him, either. Even if we do, he's not an easy person to negotiate with. Hence, I think it's best that Mr. Lincoln doesn't waste his effort on him."

"We'll just give it a try," Layla said, "Francesca, it's great news that your surgery is successful. Now, you must focus on getting a proper recovery. Once you've recovered, nobody can harm you."

"I know, Ms. Layla..."

"We won't interfere in your marriage to Danrique. We'll always support you, regardless of your decision. Once you've made a decision, just let us know."

"Okay. Thank you, Ms. Layla..."

Chapter 2015 Inexperienced

After hanging up, Francesca pondered over what Layla had said. If Riz Corporation helps Chrono to get his revenge, I won't be able to escape their clutches...

Riz Corporation was a powerful organization and had branches in every country. It employed numerous assassins, and every one of them was highly skilled and possessed all sorts of abilities.

Francesca already had a hard time dealing with Chrono. If the latter had more accomplices, she would be in big trouble.

Moreover, she had to deal with him alone, for she could not bring harm to Layla and the orphans.

As she thought of that, Francesca began to feel glum. She had been so engrossed in spending time with Danrique that she had forgotten about such an important issue.

Therefore, she must recover quickly and return to S Nation.

That night, Francesca did not have a peaceful slumber. She kept having nightmares.

When she woke up the next morning, she was drenched in sweat. She looked out of the window and realized that it was still somewhat dark outside. In fact, it was hardly seven o'clock.

Nevertheless, Francesca could not fall asleep again. Danrique had to leave that morning, so she decided to get up and accompany him for breakfast.

As she was about to get out of bed, Kerrie's soft voice resounded from outside the room. "Ms. Felch, are you awake?"

"Yes, come in," Francesca answered.

Kerrie brought two maids with her to assist Francesca with washing up and getting dressed. After that, they helped her down the stairs to have breakfast.

Danrique was already seated in the dining room, and a cup of black coffee was placed in front of him. Danrique was holding a newspaper in his hands, but he was answering a phone call via a bluetooth earpiece and saying something in Erihalean.

Francesca did not understand it and asked Kerrie, "What is he talking about?"

"I think it's a phone call from Mr. President. He's asking when Mr. Lindberg would head back. Mr. Lindberg said he would head to M Nation first..." Kerrie translated the words.

"I see." Francesca did not say much, but deep down, she knew Danrique had gotten himself involved in a major crisis.

Francesca came to the dining room. Danrique ended the call and got up to adjust Francesca's seat for her. He placed a napkin on her lap and asked tenderly, "Did you sleep well last night?"

"It was fine." Francesca noticed the passport and documents beside his hand. A car was already waiting for him outside, and the subordinates were busy loading the car with luggage. Obviously, Danrique was about to leave.

"What do you want to eat?" Danrique did not seem to be in a hurry, and he even brought some food for Francesca.

"Are you going to leave?" Francesca wished he would stay.

"It's all right. I'll have breakfast with you." Danrique brought her a glass of milk. "While I'm away, take good care of yourself. Once I've settled my matters, I'll come back to pick you up, and we'll return to Erihal together."

"Okay." Francesca figured that he would only be preoccupied for a few days and would not take too long. Thus, she said in an understanding manner, "They are waiting for you. Go."

"Don't you miss me?" Danrique pinched her cheek.

"What's there to miss?" Francesca replied stubbornly, "It's not like you aren't coming back."

"You've got a point." Danrique set his cutlery down and got up to put on his coat. "I'll get going now."

"All right." Francesca looked at him longingly.

Sean came over to take Danrique's documents and phone. After bidding farewell to Francesca, he went out with Danrique.

Kerrie wanted to help Francesca up, but the latter refused her assistance. She did not like goodbyes, so she decided to let Danrique leave quietly.

Before Danrique got into his car, he turned around and stared at Francesca through the glass window. He had assumed she would send him off and kiss him goodbye or something, but she did not do anything.

He felt disappointed, so he lowered his head and got into his car silently.

When the car cruised away, Danrique even stared at the rear view mirror. Still, Francesca was sitting in the dining room and enjoying her breakfast, seemingly unaffected by his departure.

Danrique was a bit upset and sighed. "What a heartless woman!"

"Haha..." Sean laughed. "I can tell Ms. Felch doesn't want you to leave, but she's probably inexperienced and has a different way of expressing her feelings."

Danrique heaved a long sigh. He felt that Francesca had much more to learn about dating and romance than he did. She was completely inexperienced.

Chapter 2016 Becoming Successful

When Francesca heard the car outside, she could not help but turn to look. The woman had to slowly move her entire body since she could not turn her neck because of the severe injury.

Hence, she missed Danrique's car. The vehicle was already gone when she finally managed to turn around.

At that point, Francesca was filled with utter regret because she did not get to kiss the man goodbye or even hug him. The two had parted without a proper farewell.

Why did I have to be so proud? It's too late for me to regret it now. Frances felt terrible when she thought about the way she acted.

"Don't worry, Ms. Felch. Mr. Lindberg will be back very soon." Having served Francesca for so long, Kerrie could immediately tell what was going through the woman's mind.

"I don't care when he'll be back. I'm better off without him anyway." Francesca continued with her pretense.

"Aren't you going to miss Mr. Lindberg?" inquired Kerrie with a smile.

"Of course not!" Instead of eating her oatmeal, Francesca stirred it so much that she nearly spilled all of it.

"Okay, let's forget about him and focus on your recovery," suggested Kerrie with another smile. "You should try this soup, Ms. Felch. It's delicious!"

"Sure."

In the following days, Francesca wanted to recuperate in peace, so she came up with an excuse to send Helen and the others away while promising to keep paying them as usual.

Helen was a respectable physician. Even though she loved money, she would not accept it for doing nothing.

Hence, the woman told Gordon that she only needed to be paid for the services rendered. No more, no less.

Having confirmed Francesca was okay with that, Gordon paid Helen her due and sent her and the others to the airport.

After the medical team left, Francesca then had people ready the clinic and some medicinal herbs for her because she wished to treat herself.

Besides getting herself to recover sooner, the woman needed to prepare an ointment that could help her hair grow back quickly since she did not intend on staying bald.

Confident that Francesca's formula would become an instant worldwide hit, Kerrie excitedly suggested that the woman had it patented and marketed for sale. After all, most people in this modern age have hair loss issues because they think too much. This invention couldn't be timelier!

However, Francesca did not want her simple formula to go public or appear on the market. In her opinion, those who went bald should stay that way so people could tell how smart they were.

After letting out a chuckle, Kerrie commented on how unique Francesca's way of thinking was and mused that that was probably what made her a genius.

Francesca did not respond to the woman since she simply wanted to stay out of the spotlight, especially when Chrono and Riz Corporation were keeping a close eye on her. I better keep a low profile and focus on my recovery.

Just like that, ten days passed in a flash.

Even though Francesca's wound was almost completely healed, she dared not use the hair growth formula just yet. Otherwise, the injured spot would remain bald.

The time Kerrie spent with Francesca had taught her a lot.

Despite her poor aptitude and slow comprehension, Kerrie eventually became capable enough to help Francesca.

In the beginning, she had no idea what Francesca was talking about when the woman threw scientific names of medicinal herbs at her. Even after Francesca had taught her the names, Kerrie just could not seem to remember them.

Francesca got so annoyed that she scolded Kerrie and warned that the woman would remain a nurse with such performance.

All Kerrie could do then was apologize profusely.

Francesca, too, apologized when she realized that she had been too hard on the nurse, who reminded her of her old self.

Unlike Kerrie, Francesca could absorb almost all the knowledge her mentor had to pass down.

However, there were still times when she would fail to comprehend her mentor's teachings, warranting her a harsh scolding much like the one she had given Kerrie.

Francesca felt terrible then, but after she became a mentor herself, she realized that her teacher simply wanted her to become successful.

Chapter 2017 The Suspicious Trip

Even after ten days, Danrique still had not returned. The man seemed quite busy. At first, he would call Francesca every day because he missed her, even though it was only for a few minutes.

After a while, Danrique just stopped calling. Francesca forced herself to ignore the man, but that only lasted for two days before she started sending him messages.

The woman tried to convince herself that Danrique only ignored her messages because he was busy dealing with urgent matters and that he would contact her as soon as he had the time.

However, she still had not heard from the man even after another two days. That was when Francesca began to get anxious. Worried that something might have happened to Danrique, she reached out to Gordon to confirm the situation.

Gordon then assured Francesca that Danrique was busy but fine and that the man would contact her in a few days. Danrique also wanted Gordon to remind the woman to stop worrying about him and focus on her recovery instead.

Francesca immediately grew angry when she heard all that, so she had Gordon ask Danrique why the man had time to contact his subordinate but not her.

"If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave, Ms. Felch." Gordon was not a sensitive man, so he had no idea that Francesca was upset.

"Sure. You may leave," responded Francesca.

However, the woman would call for Gordon once again before long. Bored, Francesca was going through the news while lying on the sofa when she came across an article about Hazel visiting a branch of Lindberg Corporation in Summerbank, M Nation.

Hazel kept a high profile by having the media take photos of her attending local banquets and meeting with local politicians and wealthy businessmen. The press even hailed her as a capable businesswoman of the new generation and someone worthy of Danrique.

Francesca became upset again after seeing the news, so she immediately summoned Gordon back to ask if the article was true.

As a straightforward person, Gordon did not think twice before informing Francesca that Hazel had indeed gone to Summerbank to visit the branch and that the press was responsible for the comment on Hazel's compatibility with Danrique.

"So Danrique's in Summerbank too?" questioned Francesca, who was already boiling with anger.

"Yes," replied Gordon with a nod almost immediately.

With a stony expression, Francesca instantly threw her tablet out the window and into the swimming pool without another word. The device made a splashing sound when it plunged into the body of water.

"Uh..." Gordon was stunned when he finally realized that Francesca was mad, so he quickly added, "You mustn't misunderstand, Ms. Felch. Even though Mr. Lindberg and Ms. Atkinson arrived in Summerbank on the same day, it wasn't planned."

"They arrived in Summerbank on the same day?" At that point, Francesca got even more upset. "I never should've trusted him. I thought he went there for work, but it turns out that he only did it for Hazel."

"No, no, that's not it."

"Shut up and get out!" Furious, Francesca refused to listen to anyone.

The woman was convinced that Danrique and Hazel were dating in Summerbank, and the more she thought about it, the angrier she got.

Francesca decided to call Danrique. The call went through but was outright declined, which served only to add fuel to the fire. Is that b*stard refusing to answer my call because he's with Hazel now?

The woman then texted Danrique: Return my call immediately!

Francesca was so furious that she could not wait for another second longer.

Before long, Danrique did as requested. "What's wrong? Did something happen?" inquired the man in an anxious tone because he was worried.

"Are you with Hazel now?" questioned Francesca straightforwardly.

Danrique kept quiet in response as if wondering why the woman would throw such a question at him.

Francesca almost second-guessed herself and was about to mention the news article when she suddenly heard the sweet voice of a woman.

"Danrique, I'm done changing. Let's go!"

Chapter 2018 Back To S Nation

That's Hazel's voice! Francesca grew so enraged that her hand began to shake as she clenched her phone. Like a bomb, the woman was ready to explode. "Danrique Lindberg!"

The shout was so loud that it almost deafened Danrique. With his eyebrows furrowed, the man was about to explain himself when he was distracted by a noise outside

"You better have a good explanation for that. Otherwise, I'll—" Before Francesca could finish her sentence, the call ended.

The woman stared at her phone with widened eyes because she could not believe what had just happened. Did he just hang up on me? At a moment like this? This means he must be guilty of seeing that woman!

Francesca's heart hurt even more when she thought about how Danrique had hugged and kissed her before leaving. The man had even proposed to her romantically.

Suddenly, everything seemed like a big fat joke to her. How naive and stupid can I be? Why did I believe his words?

When Francesca felt as though she was on the brink of losing her mind, she felt a sharp pain from the wound behind her head.

The woman then reminded herself to stay calm as she leaned back on the sofa while holding her head.

Francesca tried to convince herself that it was all just a misunderstanding. Maybe it's not what I think; maybe Hazel's trying to gain attention by fabricating a scandal; maybe it's just a part of Danrique's marketing strategy. I have to believe that he won't cheat on me.

With that thought in mind, Francesca suppressed her emotions and tried calling Danrique again. This time, her call was outright declined. When she tried again, all she could hear on the phone was a busy tone.

Obviously, her phone number had been blacklisted.

Wonderful! Francesca's face turned as grim as a graveyard as she mocked herself for trying to defend Danrique.

After tossing her reasoning out the window, the woman wanted nothing more than to fly over to Summerbank to strangle both Danrique and Hazel.

Just when Francesca was about to go crazy, her phone suddenly rang.

She hurriedly answered the call, thinking it was Danrique on the other end of the line. "Danrique, you—"

"It's me, Francesca," informed Layla. "Is this a good time? Can I talk to you?"

"Sure, Ms. Layla." Francesca did not want to worry Layla, so she did her best to control her emotions.

"How's your recovery?"

Even though Layla sounded calm, Francesca could immediately tell that something was wrong. "I'm much better now; I can move around without any trouble. What's wrong, Ms. Layla? Did something happen at the orphanage?"

"Lacy is suffering from complications, and it doesn't look good. There was nothing the hospital could do to help, so I had no choice but to call you," revealed Layla anxiously.

"Just hang on. I'll be right over." Francesca immediately began to collect her credentials.

"Are you sure?" inquired Layla worriedly. "I know I shouldn't have called you, but Lacy is hanging by a thread. You're the only one who can save the child."

"It's fine. I'll be back as soon as possible."

"Wait! You should have the Lindbergs' men escort you. Since Chrono and the others are still targeting you, it's not a good idea for you to travel alone," reminded Layla.

"Don't worry about me; I know what to do. I'm hanging up now."

After ending the phone call, Francesca was ready to do as suggested. However, she changed her mind when she remembered how Danrique betrayed her.

Besides that, Francesca was sure that she had recovered enough to defend herself should Chrono come looking for trouble.

The woman then booked a flight and quickly packed her bags before heading downstairs.

"Ms. Felch, are you... going somewhere?"

"I'm going back to S Nation. Tell Danrique that he and I are over and that I don't want to see him again. Goodbye!" uttered Francesca while putting on her sunglasses.