Chapter 2039 Explain

Sean felt aggrieved. Danrique could only take it out on him since he could not vent his frustration on anyone else. I still got a scolding from Mr. Lindberg even though I was cautious with my every action. He's been finding fault in everything I do today.

Judging from the current situation, he believed it would be unlikely for Danrique and Francesca to mend their relationship anytime soon. Mr. Lindberg will continue to throw a fit and test everyone's patience.

He flinched at that thought and instantly gave Sloan a call. "Sean!" "Have you managed to find Ms. Felch yet?"

"Not yet. We went to the hospital Ms. Felch visited earlier, but the hospital didn't have her address. However, we should be able to locate her soon since I've just gotten the address to the orphanage."

"Mr. Lindberg wants you to protect Ms. Felch, but she mustn't know you're observing her. Keep an eye on her and update me from time to time."

"Got it."

After ending the call, Sean scrolled through the news on his phone. Stories about Hazel were all over the internet.

The media even widely reported the incident that happened to Hazel at the banquet and coupled it with a few misleading photos, claiming that Danrique had rescued a damsel in distress. Oh, great. Ms. Felch is going to flip if she comes across these news stories. But since Mr. Lindberg is planning to wipe out the three great families, he has no choice but to lay low and not act impulsively for now!

"Son of a b*tch! Go to hell!" Francesca roared when she scrolled through the news site.

She exploded with rage when she read the news story on how Danrique rescued Hazel and saw how intimate they were in the photos.

Initially, she thought she had misunderstood Danrique, but now it seemed she had not been wrong. It's like he doesn't care that I've run away! Shouldn't he put his work aside and fly to S Nation to explain to me personally? He could have at least given me a call! Not only did he not do that, but he's still not distancing himself from Hazel either!

It had not been long since their first misunderstanding, and yet another intimate photo of him and Hazel had popped up on the internet again.

This only proves how unimportant I am to him and how little he respects me. It was stupid and gullible of me to assume that he was serious about our relationship. The feelings he said he has for me are all fake!

The more Francesca thought of it, the more flustered she grew. In a fit of anger, she lifted her tablet and tossed it out the window, but upon realizing the device was hers, she leaped forward and caught it in a swift move. Phew, thank God.

Francesca held the tablet close, patting her chest while heaving a sigh of relief.

"What are you doing, Francesca? Juggling?"

Anthony, who was playing a game on his phone while lying on a recliner on the balcony, was amazed by Francesca's agility when she leaped forward and caught the tablet.

"It's none of your business!" Francesca glared at him before returning to her room.

"You must have read the news again, right?" Anthony asked suddenly.

A vortex of anger swirled inside Francesca, and she tossed the tablet in Anthony's direction.

"F*ck!" Anthony managed to dodge the tablet. Thankfully, the device did not break into pieces as it hit his chair before falling onto the carpet. Anthony picked it up and exclaimed, "Hey! It's your tablet. You bought it with your money!"

Francesca got so annoyed that she drew the curtains and gave him the cold shoulder.

Anthony shook his head and continued playing with his phone while lying on the recliner. Suddenly, he heard a knock on the door.

"I'm coming in!" Layla opened the door and came in with a plate of fruits.

"Oh, come on, Ms. Layla. Couldn't you at least wait for me to respond before entering? I'm a man now, mind you." Anthony looked at Layla with a pair of puppy eyes.

"Stop acting shy. You've been with us since you were seven. We even know the number of moles you have on your butt!" Layla rolled her eyes at him.

"But I'm a man now. A grown man!" Anthony sighed and gave in. "Forget it. Take a seat, Ms. Layla. I'll get you a glass of water."

"That won't be necessary." Layla sat on the couch, crossed her legs, and gestured for the young man to take a seat. "Come here and sit quietly. There's something I need to tell you."

Chapter 2040 Protect Myself

Upon noticing how serious Layla was, Anthony walked over, drew the curtains, and sat opposite her. "Why are you acting so secretive? What is it?"

"Mr. Lincoln has shortlisted a few foundations and plans to embark on a field trip to inspect them, so he'll be away during this period. Meanwhile, I have to keep an eye on the orphanage to prevent Chrono and his men from laying their fingers on the children. That means you have to take care of Francesca."

"Sure. No problem!" Anthony agreed without hesitation as he had always wished he could stay by Francesca's side and protect her all day.

"Hold on. Let me finish." Layla gave him another side-eye before continuing, "Listen carefully. I have two missions for you, and you must accomplish them."

Anthony pricked up his ears. "Go on."

"First, you need to find out Prince William's character. You'll also need to investigate the people around him to see if they have ulterior motives. Secondly, should Danrique's men come to look for Francesca, you must inform me before making any decision. I want to meet them personally." It was not difficult to tell that Layla was serious about these two missions.

"I'll have no problem accomplishing the first mission, but the second mission—is that necessary?" Anthony pouted to express his dismay.

He continued, "That dude says he wants to marry Francesca, yet he's constantly involved in scandals. He didn't even bother to come to S Nation to look for her personally. This means he doesn't even care about Francesca. Why do you still want to meet him?"

"You know nothing. Just shut up and do as I say." Layla was running out of patience.

"Fine." Anthony was reluctant but dared not go against Layla's instructions.

"Here, take this." Layla gave him an exquisite silver gun. "This will come in handy should emergencies happen."

"But I'm not good with guns," Anthony said sheepishly while retrieving the gun. "Besides, I've not killed anyone before. I'm scared..."

"Didn't you say you're a man?" Layla shot daggers at him. "Have you not learned a thing or two after living with us for so many years?"

"Give the young man a break." Suddenly, Lincoln walked in and defended Anthony. "He's good with computers, not guns. Why do you keep forcing him to do things he's uncomfortable with?"

"How dare you blame me? It's all your fault since you're the one who pampered him." Layla looked up at Lincoln with a scowl. "You two have fun talking. I'm going back to my room now."

Before leaving, Layla pointed at Anthony and said, "Remember what I said!"

"Got it," Anthony responded reluctantly.

"I understand you need to obey Layla and protect Francesca, but I want you to take good care of yourself too." Lincoln expressed his care more affectionately.

He gently patted Anthony's injured arm and said, "Look at you. What if the bullet had hit your body or brain instead of your arm? Have you thought of the consequences?"

"That didn't cross my mind at all. When I saw Francesca was in trouble, I knew I had to rescue her. It was purely instinctual!" Anthony responded with a smile.

"There are many ways to rescue a person. You don't have to use yourself as a human shield." Lincoln looked at him while knitting his brows. "Francesca is a living being, and you're a living being too. You two are my family, and I wouldn't want to see anything bad happen to either of you."

"It's different. Francesca's life is more precious than mine," Anthony blurted out with a chuckle.

"Don't you dare say that," Lincoln growled in a deep voice. "You two are equally important. It's your duty to protect her, but you must watch out for yourself too!"

Anthony was stunned for a bit as he had rarely seen such a serious expression on Lincoln's face. Eventually, the young man nodded repeatedly and said, "All right, all right. Got it."

Before leaving, Lincoln gave him another pat on his shoulder.

When he was about to step out of the door, he turned around, looked at Anthony, and reminded him, "The gun that Layla gave you is a custom-made weapon. Carry it with you at all times to protect yourself and Francesca."

"Got it, Mr. Lincoln!"

Chapter 2041 Gentle

The next day, Anthony worked hard to gather all the herbs, equipment, and blood supply that Francesca needed for the surgery. In the evening, Francesca started operating on Lacy. Anthony and Layla helped her from aside.

Around three hours later, she wrapped up the surgery. Removing her surgical mask, Francesca wiped her sweat away and announced, "She'll need to be monitored for twenty-four hours. If nothing out of the ordinary happens, she'll be safe."

"We can take turns to do that, so you should get some rest," Layla urged. "I'll take a shower. I need to meet William soon." Francesca hurried away.

Anthony wanted to go after her, but Layla stopped him. "Not today. We need to keep an eye on Lacy. Besides, Francesca won't let you follow her."

"All right. Next time, then."

After taking a shower, Francesca drove her truck to Café Grape.

The owner was walking his dog nearby. When he spotted her, he waved at her from afar. "The hunk is waiting for you inside."

Francesca waved at him in return. She parked her truck at the entrance and walked into the café.

Robin brought his own coffee beans today. He ground them and brewed a few cups of fragrant coffee. The entire area smelled really nice.

"My exhaustion disappears the minute I smell the coffee," Francesca commented.

She took a deep breath and felt her entire being relax.

"You must be tired today." William gazed at her tenderly. "Your eyes are bloodshot."

"Yeah, I'm exhausted. The surgery lasted for five hours." Francesca massaged her brows. "I'm sorry you have to wait for me."

"It's fine. I knew you were busy today and came later than usual." William offered her a warm towel. "Put this on your eyes. You'll feel better."

"Thanks." Francesca took the warm towel and placed it over her dry eyes. At once, her exhaustion faded away slightly.

"Prepare some food for her," William ordered Robin. "Some simple pasta will do. Make sure it's not seasoned heavily. Hurry up!"

"Yes. I'll get to it right away," Robin responded.

Curious, Francesca asked with her eyes shut. "Can Robin prepare pasta now?"

"It's easy, so I got him to learn it." William chuckled. "You didn't have dinner yet, right? Your stomach must be feeling uncomfortable. Don't drink coffee. Here, have some warm water now. You can drink the coffee after eating some food."

"Mm." After Francesca was done with her eyes, there was already a glass of warm water in front of her. She finished it in one gulp and felt her stomach warm up.

Soon, Robin came over with a bowl of pasta bolognese. Flashing a shy smile, he explained, "Every Ustranasion chef has tomatoes and minced beef in their fridges. I used eggs and flour to make the pasta myself. There is no other vegetable, but I hope you'll like it."

"It's good enough." Francesca took a bite and praised, "It's delicious! Thanks, Robin."

"I'm glad you like it," Robin replied cheerfully and went to stand behind William.

Francesca was starving. She didn't have lunch as she had to be with Lacy the entire day. Busy with the checkups and preparation, she didn't even get to drink any water.

Thus, the pasta was a lifesaver.

William gazed at her tenderly and waited until she finished her dinner. He then offered her a piece of tissue silently.

"Thank you!" Francesca wiped her lips clean.

William noticed she was sweating and told Robin, "Lower the temperature of the air conditioner by two degrees Celsius. You can increase it back to normal half an hour later."

"Got it." Robin immediately did as told.

Francesca wiped her sweat away and commented, "William, you're gentle, attentive, and thoughtful. You're the perfect man every woman wants!"

William chuckled gaily and sighed. "But you don't like me..."

"Mm? What was that?" Francesca didn't hear him clearly.

"Nothing," came William's gentle answer. "You've filled your stomach, so it's time to drink the coffee now."

Chapter 2042 Treating Him

"Mm." Francesca sipped on the coffee and praised, "This is delicious!" Adoration flashed across William's eyes. "Remember, since you're not used to drinking coffee regularly, you need to drink some warm water and fill your stomach before drinking coffee. Otherwise, it might be harmful to the stomach."

"Got it." Francesca bobbed her head. "Did you do the checkup today?"

"Yes." Robin handed the medical reports to Francesca. Francesca read everything and frowned. "I was right. You've been poisoned. How could they be this cruel? They want you dead!"

"I'm used to it." William was unruffled. "I was only five when they first tried to kill me." "When you were five?" Francesca grew emotional. "They are nothing but beasts!"

"I was born a healthy baby but had to rely on the wheelchair to get around after that," William revealed with a bitter smile. "I thought they would spare my life, but six months ago, they took action against me again."

"By poisoning you?" Francesca huffed. "You're no longer a threat to them. Why won't they give up?"

"I wasn't a threat to them previously." William exhaled sharply. "I've kept a low profile over the years so I wouldn't attract any trouble. Six months ago, I couldn't help but express my opinions during an important conference. The King, His Majesty, lavished praises on me, so those people started targeting me again."

Robin added, "They used all sorts of despicable means to try to harm His Highness. Alas, he's too weak and doesn't have anyone to rely on. We couldn't confront them, so we had to wander around and dared not head home."

He got so emotional that his eyes turned red.

"Robin, stop talking," William chided in displeasure.

"Yes," Robin replied hastily. He lowered his head and moved aside.

"Don't worry. I'll treat your condition!" Francesca felt terrible for William, too. "You'll get to walk and return after recovering completely and give the b*stards the shock of their lives!"

William snorted in laughter. "You always make me laugh."

Francesca scratched her head shyly. "Heh, I was a little rough. Sorry for that."

She didn't think twice about being rough in front of someone else, but William was an elegant and polite gentleman. She couldn't stop blushing after realizing she had uttered crude words in front of him.

"Francesca, you should head home and get some rest." William was thoughtful as usual. "I'm not in a hurry. You don't want to overwork yourself, do you? You haven't recovered completely yet."

"I can't start treating you tonight." Francesca glanced at her watch. "I need more time to treat you slowly."

"Does His Highness have to move into your hospital?" Robin chimed in.

"I don't have a hospital," Francesca told him as she furrowed her brows. "I set up a temporary clinic today to operate on Lacy. There are only basic medical facilities and equipment, and it isn't that big."

"It's fine. We can ask our subordinates to stay somewhere else," Robin suggested hastily. "Ms. Felch, to be honest, those people are searching for His Highness, and we can't really remain in a hospital for too long. Uh, can you—"

"Don't make things difficult for Francesca!" William snapped.

"It's fine. Robin is really thoughtful." Francesca pondered over the matter. "I don't live alone, so I need to discuss with them. I'll call you tomorrow morning."

"No need for that. I don't want to trouble you," William rejected her outright. "I can buy a villa nearby and build a clinic inside. You can stop by every day. But you'll have to let us know what medical equipment and medicine you need."

Chapter 2043 No Qualms

"That sounds good." Francesca nodded in agreement. "I can buy the necessary medical equipment and medicine as I have the connections. Besides, your enemies won't find out where you are if I'm the one who makes the purchase."

"Great!" William flashed a smile and shot her a curt nod. "Thank you, Francesca." "How much does the equipment cost? I can transfer one hundred million in M Nation's currency to you first. Is that enough?" Robin asked politely.

"Of course. It can even cover the medical fees. Oh, no. It's too much!" Francesca was flustered. "We're friends, so I can't take that much money from you. Besides, you've got it hard."

William chuckled in amusement. "You love money, right? Why are you this polite?"

"Well..." Francesca blushed. "I love money, but I only make money in the right way. We're good friends, and you've helped me many times. I can't overcharge you."

It was just an excuse. Truth be told, Francesca couldn't bring herself to take William's money. He was a prince but had never been taken seriously. Thus, he had lived in the dark all the while. At this juncture, his cousins were trying to kill him. As a result, he couldn't even head back home.

Obviously, he wasn't a rich guy.

Francesca was willing to treat him for free if he didn't have any money.

"I might look weak to you, but I have made plenty of money using my secret identity. You don't have to worry that I cannot afford it," William told her cheerfully. "I'll transfer the money to you so you can buy the necessary equipment and medicine. If you refuse to take it, I'll feel bad to trouble you."

"Do you really have that much money?" Francesca asked incredulously. "Are you giving me all the money you have?"

"Of course not!" William shook his head and flashed a resigned smile. "Do I look that useless? Why don't you help us to buy the villa that we're going to stay in? I won't give you more money for that."

"That sounds great." Francesca had no qualms anymore. "I'll buy a few cars so you can use them."

"We have our own cars, so you don't have to do that," Robin chimed in with a grin. "Thank you for helping us."

"No worries. I'm making money from you, so it's no trouble." Francesca broke into a vibrant smile.

It feels like I'm doing something good besides making some money. That's amazing!

William relaxed when he saw her smile. "You should head home and get some rest."

She looks greedy, but she's gentle, kind, and thoughtful. That was why I racked my brains to make her accept the medical fee.

"I'll go home now. Tomorrow, I'll make the arrangements and call you." Francesca put on her hat and reminded him, "I believe the preparations will be done within a

week, and the treatment will begin a week later. Rest well and make sure you're always in a good mood."

"Got it." William nodded. "Robin, see Francesca to the door."

"Yes, Your Highness."

Outside, Robin made sure William wasn't looking before he tugged on Francesca's sleeves and whispered, "Dr. Felch, please get a bigger villa with a yard and good environment. I can transfer more if the money isn't enough. His Highness often stays at home, so he might feel depressed if the place is small."

"I understand." Francesca nodded vehemently. "Don't worry, I know what to do. That's a lot of money, so it's certainly enough. Besides, properties in the countryside aren't that expensive."

"Thank you so much!" Robin thanked her gratefully. "Also, there's no need to buy any furniture. His Highness prefers using custom-made furniture, so I'll make the arrangements."

"Sure, no problem."