Chapter 2044 Being Lured

Back home, Anthony sidled up to ask, "So? Did you agree to treat that prince?" "Yeah." Francesca received a text and clicked on it. At once, she beamed. "Oh, that's fast. I've already received the money."

"What money? How much?" Anthony glanced at her phone. "What the f*ck? This is a lot! Did the prince give you this much money?"

"Mm. For the medical fee and other stuff," came Francesca's answer. Her lips curved as she asked, "I remember a luxurious villa is put up for sale around seven kilometers away from us. Has it been sold?"

"Of course not. It's big and expensive. No one in their right mind would buy it," Anthony replied. He then demanded, "What do you mean by other stuff? Did you agree to other conditions?"

"I agreed to help buy a property for him and set up a clinic inside so he can receive treatment for the long run." Francesca instructed, "I'll go and view the villa tomorrow. Help me buy the medical equipment. We need to do this as soon as possible and start treating him."

"I'll come with you. I can call to order the medical equipment you need but I won't let you view the villa alone."

"Why not?" Francesca responded carelessly. "If you don't have to go to the medical equipment company, then stay at home and keep an eye on Lacy. We're busy and short of staff."

Anthony tried to protest. "But—"

"All right, then. It's decided," Francesca cut in, her tone allowing no room for negotiation.

She then hurried up the stairs.

Anthony felt helpless as he couldn't refute Francesca. He went to Layla and complained to her.

"Yes, Francesca shouldn't view the house alone. However, we need help at home too." Snapping her brows together, Layla ordered, "Stay at home and keep an eye on Lacy. I'll ask Francesca to take the bodyguard with her."

"But-"

"That's enough." Layla knew what Anthony was thinking about. "When the villa and medical equipment are ready, Prince William will move in. You can follow Francesca there every day to find out more about him."

"All right, then." Anthony nodded. "It should take at least six months to cure him."

"Yes." Layla gave him an encouraging pat on the shoulders. "You need to consider the bigger picture instead of acting recklessly."

"I understand."

Back in her room, Francesca wrote out a list of the medical equipment she needed and sent it to Anthony so he could buy them.

She then took a shower. After stepping out of the bathroom, she glanced at her phone, which remained silent. No one else contacted her besides the texts she received from Anthony.

Danrique didn't call or send any texts. Even Sean didn't contact her at all.

Disappointment overwhelmed her heart. It looks like the b*stard is indeed a hypocrite. He gave me his word but did otherwise.

She was deep in thought when Anthony knocked on her door. "Can I come in?"

"Come on in." Francesca placed her phone aside.

Anthony brought along a cup of warm milk, a bowl of soup, and some sliced apples. "You didn't eat anything today, so I brought some food."

"I ate something earlier." Francesca glanced at the tray. "Leave the milk. You can finish the rest."

"Did you eat with the prince?" Anthony asked. There was a tinge of jealousy in his voice.

Francesca couldn't be bothered to waste time with him. "Anything else?"

"Here you go." Anthony proffered a stack of paper. "I got the information about the villa and printed it out. There is a contact number, so you can call it before going there tomorrow. There might be no one there, and your trip might be in vain."

"You're quite helpful." Francesca took the papers from him. "Thanks!"

"Sleep early. I'll leave now." Anthony spun on his heels to leave. At the door, he turned over his shoulder and flushed. "By the way, remember to put on your clothes properly when you're alone in a room with a man. You don't want to lure me into committing a crime, do you?"

Chapter 2045 Stubborn

"Uh..." Shocked, Francesca lowered her head to stare at her outfit. She was wearing a spaghetti strap and shorts. How will this lure him into committing a crime?

"Look at you. You are blessed with fair skin and have an ample bosom. How could you wear so little clothes? Luckily, you're with me. What if you're with someone else—"

"Scram!" Francesca grabbed a pillow and tossed it to him. Anthony slammed the door shut and fled the scene. Francesca was breathless with anger. To her, Anthony was unisex, so she didn't bother about her attire. How dare he say that to me? That's preposterous!

Feeling drained, Francesca returned to her bed to sleep. However, she couldn't help but glance at her phone repeatedly. Still no news from Danrique, huh? Good. That's great! Forget him. I shall pretend that I've never met him. It's no big deal.

Francesca switched her phone to silent mode and placed it aside. Rolling to one side, she hugged a pillow and fell asleep.

At the same time, Danrique was working in his car. It was the afternoon in M Nation. After he read the file, Sean came to report to him, "Ms. Atkinson has completed her inspection today. According to her schedule, she'll be boarding the plane back to Xendale tonight."

"Mm," Danrique grunted in acknowledgment and continued reading the following file.

"Gordon has contacted Riz Corporation. They claimed that Emperor isn't meeting anyone recently. We need to schedule an appointment and wait for our turn," Sean reported carefully as he was afraid of invoking Danrique's wrath.

"He's quite arrogant, huh?" Danrique's lips curved. "I heard that Emperor isn't even eighteen years old yet. Where the hell does he get his confidence?"

"Uh..." Sean could barely hide his shock. "Seriously? Riz Corporation has been around since the last century and is the most prominent evil organization in the world. In recent years, it has conquered all the other organizations. I have always thought Emperor is an old man."

"The previous leader's name was Priest. He was an old man. Emperor is the godson of his apprentice, Cadel. Back then, the Four Overlords rebelled against Priest. Emperor was only a nine-year-old child, but he managed to kill Priest and called himself 'Emperor'. The Four Overlords then made him their new leader. Emperor is indeed a genius. He's capable and has divine-like ruling power. After acceding the position, he conquered the other evil organizations and expanded Riz Corporation to a bigger scale. We shouldn't underestimate it now. However, that doesn't mean it can do whatever it like," Danrique concluded in displeasure.

No one in the world could make Danrique make an appointment and wait, not even Zachary and the President.

He's so arrogant despite his young age!

"He's indeed arrogant, but we shouldn't offend Riz Corporation." Lowering his voice, Sean reminded, "I remembered someone told me that Emperor's father is a Lindberg too. He must be related to our family."

"Oh?" Danrique was surprised. "Is that true?"

"Yes. Emperor's father is a cousin of an old lady in our family."

"That's too far stretched. How many generations apart is that?" Danrique rolled his eyes. His lips curved up as he added, "But it also shows how amazing the Lindberg family's DNA is!"

"You're right!"

"Did she call you?"

They were chatting amiably when Danrique's expression turned stern without warning.

"She?" Sean was taken aback. "Oh, do you mean Ms. Felch? No."

"What a stubborn woman." Danrique's expression turned dark. "Forget it. I won't call her. If she refuses to change, she'll get worse in the future."

"Mr. Lindberg, don't do that," Sean advised softly. "Men should be patient with women."

Chapter 2046 Turning Point Of Life

Seven days later, Francesca successfully bought the villa for William and set up a clinic on the first floor. She then purchased the medical equipment and set them up inside.

Robin moved the furniture and electrical appliances he bought a while ago into the villa. The new house was ready after he purchased some decorative ornaments.

William was in a jovial mood as he got out of his car and looked at his new house. He knew he would only spend a few months here and return to Danontand after recovering completely. However, the next few months were the most important time of his life.

Francesca would be with him, which would be his life's turning point. He entered the house in his wheelchair but wanted to walk out with his legs! "Rest well and settle down. I'll come here tomorrow morning to begin the treatment," Francesca told him.

She was delighted at the thought of treating William so he could walk again. It would be a breakthrough for her in the medical field, too.

"You've worked hard all day, so go home and rest well. See you tomorrow!" "See you tomorrow!" Francesca left William with Robin and left in a haste.

Robin glanced at Francesca's car and blurted out, "Your Highness, why didn't you chat more with Dr. Felch? Every time she shows up, you'll ask her to head home to get more rest instead of asking her to stay."

"She worked hard these few days. Besides, she just went through surgery, and her head is still wounded. She needs more rest," William explained briefly. "She's also not talking to Danrique, so I shouldn't disturb her."

"They aren't talking, so it's the perfect chance for you to step in!" Robin exclaimed. "You shouldn't be a gentleman if you want to win her heart."

"It's against my principles to take advantage of the situation. I believe Francesca admires these qualities of mine. If I become someone like that, she won't be friends with me anymore."

William knew his place well.

"All right, then." Robin then changed the topic. "There's a garden behind the villa. I'll take you there."

"Mm."

Francesca hurried back home and changed her clothes before she went to Lacy.

Lacy had already woken up for the day. She was weak but could speak. "Francesca!"

Delighted, Francesca took Lacy's hand. "Lacy, you must recover soon. Let's go fly a kite after you recover."

"Okay!" Tears swam in Lacy's eyes. She looked forward to her future.

"Good girl. Don't worry for I'm here. No one can bully you." Cupping her cheeks, Francesca said gently, "You just have to stay at home and focus on getting better. Don't think too much, get it?"

"Got it." Lacy nodded tearfully.

Francesca stayed with her momentarily before leaving to talk to Layla. "Layla, I think Lacy has something weighing on her mind. Do you think we should find her a psychologist?"

"Orphans who live in orphanages are more mature than their peers. She only came to our orphanage last year and suffered a lot out there. She must be afraid after that ordeal. I plan to ask her friends from the orphanage to come and visit her. They can also spend time with her. There's no need to hire a psychologist. Lacy hasn't really gotten used to her new life at the orphanage, so she needs some time."

Layla was considerate enough to think in Lacy's shoes.

"Sounds great. Thank you." Francesca reminded her, "Chrono and his gang have stayed low. Perhaps Monica did help us out. William told me Interpol has been going after Chrono, so they won't dare to show themselves for the time being."

"Yes, that should be it." Layla nodded. "I've received the news too. However, we can't lower our guards. You need to be careful."

"Got it."

Life was busy but fulfilling, and everything was progressing smoothly. Danrique was the only exception. It had been seven days since he last contacted Francesca. He didn't call or send her any message. Even Sean didn't contact her.

Francesca would fiddle with her phone every night before she went to bed. She even checked the blocked numbers to make sure she didn't forget to unblock Danrique's number. Soon, she suspected that something was wrong with her phone.

Alas, she was just imagining things. He didn't contact her because he didn't want to. There was no other reason! Francesca read a saying on the Internet: Perhaps he doesn't love you that much...

She thought that it described their story perfectly. Francesca's heart ached at that thought. She kept reminding herself to ignore that b*stard and think of the whole thing as a dream.

I wanted to escape and avoid him, and now my dream has come true. There's no need to be sad. Well, this is the end! Francesca changed Danrique's name on her phone to "The End." She also changed his profile picture to one of a dog consuming shit.

It took her ages before she found the perfect picture! Every time she saw the name and photo, fury would overwhelm her heart. Feeling pleased, she would then curse inwardly, Danrique, have this!

It was callous and vulgar, but it was the true Francesca. Taking a few deep breaths, she balled her fists up and cheered herself up. Francesca, cheer up. Forget the scum and start anew!

Suddenly, her phone rang. The caller ID was "The End," and the profile picture was a dog consuming shit.

Shocked, Francesca thought she saw things. It took her a while before she regained her composure. Answering the phone, she greeted icily, "Hello, who is this?"

"Did you delete my phone number?"

Before making the call, Danrique reminded himself to stay calm and control his emotions. He was mature and should act like a gentleman. Alas, his temper erupted right after he heard her voice. Francesca pretended they were strangers. "Oh, Mr. Lindberg. What is this about?"

"Francesca Felch!" Danrique snapped. He was about to lose his cool. "If there's nothing, I'll hang up now," Francesca said deliberately.

"Don't you dare hang up!" Danrique growled. "You ungrateful woman, did you forget your husband just after a few days? Do you have a death wish? I finally finished work and gave you a call, but this is how you treat me? Apologize now, and I might consider forgiving you. Otherwise..." He trailed off in a warning tone.

Silence ensued.

Danrique moved his phone away from his ear and glanced at the screen to realize that the call had been disconnected a while ago. Gosh, did she just hang up on me?

He had wasted his time yelling at nothing!

Infuriated, Danrique soothed himself by patting his chest. He used to be calm and unfazed, but that woman managed to invoke his wrath every other day.

"Er..." Sean shot him a helpless look and was about to sneak away.

"Stand right there!" Danrique vented his anger on Sean. "Why didn't you stop me just now?"

"I-I dare not do so..."

"Why wouldn't you dare? You had the guts to persuade me to call her and arrange for a private jet to S Nation. What else can't you do?" Danrique barked furiously.

"Huh?" Sean gaped incredulously. "Didn't you ask me if it's right to call Ms. Felch? I told you there's no harm in trying. You also told me to arrange for the private jet..."

He trailed off after seeing Danrique's menacing look and corrected himself. "I shouldn't have done that. It was all my fault!"

Chapter 2048 Burning With Rage

Francesca was angry too. Despite waiting so long for his phone call, the first thing he did upon calling her was to place blame. He did not appear apologetic at all.

She hung up abruptly, not intending to entertain him. I am not one of his men. Who does he think he is to yell at me?

Francesca received a text message amidst her reverie. Initially thinking that Danrique had sent it, she unlocked her phone and discovered it was sent by William instead.

Thank you! The two simple words meant a lot to a man of few words like him. A complicated emotion comprising of tenderness, pity, and a sense of responsibility welled up within Francesca.

She silently vowed to cure William's legs so he could stand once more to find the life that belonged to him. Danrique did not call again that night. Francesca, too, could not be bothered to deal with him. She tucked herself in early after a shower.

She was going to examine Lacy's injury the following morning before rushing to William's to give him treatment.

A stubborn and complicated disease had afflicted his legs for years. Francesca could not guarantee a complete cure with her current medical skills, which necessitated her to invest vast amounts of research into developing a new treatment plan.

Layla and Lincoln had also been pushing her to invent defensive poisons and concealed weapons. Though confident that Chrono and his friends would not show up again in a hurry, it was still no guarantee when they would.

Francesca spent two hours every day on the research of those two items, so she had no time to deal with Danrique.

Dating is affecting the speed with which I could strike back. I'm not going to waste my time like that!

As her mind wandered, Francesca fell asleep.

In M Nation, on the other hand, Danrique was having trouble sleeping.

"Shall we take off as scheduled, Mr. Lindberg?" Sean asked tentatively.

Though the original plan was to fly to S Nation, he did not know whether to take off or not in light of his employer's quarrel with his wife.

Sean was initially too afraid to ask, but the airport required an answer. He was forced to bear the risk of getting an answer from Danrique.

"Any word from Sloan?"

Instead of answering, Danrique posed a question of his own.

"Er..."

Sean was stuck in a difficult situation. There was news, but not something he dared tell Danrique about.

"Tell me!" Danrique glared coldly at him.

"Yes, sir." Sean did not dare conceal it any longer and showed Danrique the information Sloan had sent. "Ms. Felch appears to be treating Prince William, Mr. Lindberg."

Danrique took the tablet for a closer look and found all sorts of photographs and videos.

The first photograph was of Francesca wheeling William in the yard of a white mansion as they engaged in a conversation and laughed.

The second photograph showed Francesca squatting before him like she was massaging his legs. William was gazing at her in such a manner that affirmed their intimacy.

The third photograph was Francesca descending from a shabby pickup truck with Robin wheeling William to receive her. The pair shared a look and a smile as she handed William a gift.

The fourth photograph was Francesca lying back on a deck chair in the courtyard like she was asleep. William was adjusting her scarf, with another hand touching her face.

His hand appeared to be touching Francesca's cheek, judging by the angle of the photograph.

A burning rage rushed into Danrique's head and seared his logic.

Resisting the urge to break the tablet, he continued looking at the photos.

There were also several short videos. The first clip was shot surreptitiously from a window of a room where Francesca and William were in. Francesca leaned over as if to kiss him with one hand on his face as he lay in bed.

The second clip was worse... William was sitting naked in a tub with Francesca seated on the edge touching his legs.

Danrique couldn't bear with it any longer when it came to the third clip and promptly hurled the tablet to the ground.