Chapter 2049 Take The Initiative

The tablet smashed against the wall with a bang and fell to the floor, where it shattered into pieces. Sean was so frightened that he did not dare to say anything. He stood against the walls and lowered his head.

The air felt as if it had solidified. The room was as silent as the grave. The subordinates who stood guard outside could sense the chill in the house. Their foreheads were drenched in sweat, and they did not dare make a sound.

"Cancel the flight to S Nation. We're returning to Xendale," Danrique said after a long silence. "Yes, sir." Sean did not dare ask further and instead hastened to make the arrangements.

Knowing Danrique, he would have flown directly to S Nation to clarify matters face to face before dealing with Prince William and Francesca—one is a friend while the other is his fiancée.

Sean did not understand why Danrique did not do that but opted to return to Xendale instead.

Could he have given up on Ms. Felch?

As he pondered upon that possibility, Danrique's phone rang. His eyes closed dangerously upon a single glance at the screen and picked up after a moment's silence, placing it on speaker mode.

"Is this a good time, L?"

William's voice sounded.

Sean was stunned. He did not expect the prince to take the initiative to call. Is this an act of provocation?

"Yes." Danrique's voice sounded at ease as if he was not aware of anything.

"I am in S Nation," William declared abruptly. "I am here to get Francesca to heal my legs."

"Are you?" Danrique answered coolly.

"I have been thinking of ways to get in touch with this Dr. Felch to seek his help in healing me. In order to gain his approval, I have waited on Mount Phoenix throughout repeated visits, yet he rejected me. Then, he shut me out with the claim of being ill. That is why I could only beg Frannie for help."

The prince sounded very earnest, with touches of humility and despair in his plea.

Sean's heart twinged with pity upon hearing that. He finally understood the photos and videos must have been taken when Francesca was treating William. It's probably a misunderstanding.

"So?" Danrique was visibly unmoved.

"I have inadvertently discovered that your men were sneaking close to my home today and deduced that you sent them to keep Frannie safe from the shadows.

"I worry that it would cause a misunderstanding if they sent you updates, so I thought I would better call to clarify matters.

"Nothing is going on between Frannie and me. She is only treating my disease, with nothing between us thus far."

"Thus far?" Danrique did not register anything else but that phrase.

"As she is currently your fiancée, I will not harbor any inappropriate thoughts," William was good with his explanation.

"Now?" Danrique understood his meaning at once. William is telling me that he would court Francesca if she weren't my fiancée. He is just couldn't do that now.

"Frannie is a decent girl. I hope you won't misunderstand her," William added. "The care she provides me is only in fulfillment of her obligation as a doctor."

"You seem to be very thoughtful." Danrique's eyes narrowed dangerously.

"Of course. I do not want any misunderstandings to affect our friendship," William said. "You are a smart man. You wouldn't overthink it, right?"

"Right!" With a cold laugh, Danrique hung up brusquely.

Sean could feel a chill running down his spine. It appeared that he had underestimated William, who had an eye for detail in covering loose ends.

He specifically called to have the first say in explaining the situation. Whatever Danrique do next would appear petty.

At the same time, William had an implicit message in his call—he had nothing going on with Francesca at the moment; she was merely providing him medical treatment. Whatever updates the subordinates of the Lindberg family sent would also be a misunderstanding.

However, once Francesca was no longer Danrique's fiancée, he was going to court her openly.

Chapter 2050 A Mission To Be Proud Of

Though his words sounded like a disclaimer, how William handled the whole thing was a tactful one. Now Danrique would not know which course of action to pursue next. Knowing his temper, however, he would not let this slide easily.

After a long silence, Danrique looked like he had thought things through. "Prepare to leave for the airport," he ordered coldly.

"Yes, sir." Not daring to delay a second longer, Sean arranged for their journey to the airport at once.

They were actually supposed to return to Erihal. Well, Mr. Lindberg had spent so much time stabilizing the market over here, but there were a lot more to handle over at Erihal.

The president called several times each day to urge Danrique to return, but the latter purposefully delayed three more days because he wanted to drop by S Nation to bring Francesca home. However, they encounter the matter with the prince right before taking off.

Sean knew Danrique very well, he knew it was already difficult enough for Danrique to take the initiative to call Francesca. However, they would begin quarreling before they could say much. To make matters worse, Danrique then saw the rumors between her and William.

It must have been difficult for him to control the impulse to rush over and stab Prince William. Sean and everyone else were all alert and treading on thin ice. We would better watch our back. Danrique did not say a word. He did not even take any action against the slander involving Francesca, nor did he make any comments.

After boarding, Danrique settled down to deal with his documents before retiring for a nap. Throughout the whole time, he remained silent.

Sean felt rather uneasy. Danrique throwing a tantrum and taking action was his typical response. However, it spelled danger if he did not say a word or do anything.

After getting off the plane, Sean found an opportunity to call Sloan behind Danrique's back. "Mr. Lindberg knows about Ms. Felch and is very angry. The consequences are dire. You must quickly find the opportunity to talk to Ms. Felch. It would be best to convince her to give Mr. Lindberg a call to sweet talk him."

"Er..." Sloan's scalp tingled unpleasantly at those words. "It's not easy to get Ms. Felch to sweet talk, Sean."

"I'm letting you handle it because it's not an easy task. How will you prove your persuasive skills otherwise?" Sean said encouragingly. "I really value you, Sloan. Besides, Ms. Felch and you are very close; hence, only you can accomplish this."

"Is that so? Ms. Felch and I are close?"

Sloan did not hear anything else other than that.

"That's right. Why else were you sent to protect her?" Sean was stroking his ego. "You have faced life and death with her in the forest. She is much closer to you compared to the other bodyguards. Talk to her. She will listen."

"All right. I'll look for Ms. Felch tonight."

"All the best! We're counting on you!"

Sean sighed after hanging up. Having gone through many life and death situations over the years with Danrique, he had the confidence to solve any problem that came their way.

However, Sean had to admit that any issues regarding Danrique's love life were the toughest challenge for him.

He found it exceedingly tricky because Francesca's thought processes were usually against common sense and could not be easily understood and predicted like other issues.

It was already past nine at night when Francesca emerged from William's villa.

Gazing at her shabby pickup truck, she put on some country music and pulled out to the road where not another soul was in sight. She felt rather relaxed.

Danrique's face occasionally flashed across her mind and made her heart twinge painfully, but she would regain her composure quickly.

Women destined for great accomplishments must not be tethered by emotions.

Suddenly, a car drove toward her direction from the opposite direction and blocked her path.

Francesca stopped her car and raised her eyebrows. Who is this blind idiot who dares to block my path? Is he seeking death?

Just then, Sloan led a bodyguard down the car and bowed respectfully at her. "Ms. Felch!"

"Sloan?" Francesca was stunned. "It's you!"

"We've been here for a while. We just didn't dare bother you," Sloan explained. "Is this a good time? Can we talk?"

Chapter 2051 Still Angry

Francesca glanced at her watch. "Ten minutes." "Thank you!" Sloan followed Francesca to her car. "Mr. Lindberg sent us to protect you, Ms. Felch," he added nervously. Francesca nodded. "Hmm. And?"

"A man in black intended to assault you two nights ago but we beat him." Sloan spoke as if he was making a report to Sean.

"So it was you who have been helping me from the shadows! I've been wondering why it has been so peaceful lately. It appears that Chrono and his friends did not leave S Nation." Realization dawned on Francesca.

Sloan nodded. "That's right. That is why you must be careful and watch out for your safety."

"I will, thank you," Francesca said. "Did Danrique not summon you back?"

"He didn't," Sloan answered seriously. "We have been following you since the day you left and only found your whereabouts after several days of digging."

Francesca's expression hardened. "Who asked you to investigate me? Danrique?"

"Not at all!" Sloan explained hastily. "Sean had us protect you from the shadows, but we did not know where you are, so we just—"

"All right," Francesca interrupted him. "Your mission is complete. You may return now."

"No, we have not received the order to return," Sloan protested solemnly. "Besides, our mission is not complete."

"What mission?" Francesca asked casually.

"To... protect you." Almost letting slip something secretive, Sloan changed tact at the critical moment. "Please don't be angry with Mr. Lindberg, Ms. Felch. He seems to care for you very much."

"If he cared for me, he wouldn't have interminable ties with that Hazel." Francesca grew angry at that thought. "If he cared for me, he would have flown to me long ago to explain instead of sending you to be his messengers."

"No, it's not like that—"

"Enough." Francesca did not wish to speak further with Sloan. "Bring these men back to Xendale. Stop wasting your time here."

"Ms. Felch—"

"Get out of the car." Francesca curtly chased him away.

Sloan did not dare to argue with her so he got off the car grumpily.

Then, Francesca added, "If Danrique asks, tell him I forced you to return. He wouldn't blame you then."

"Ms. Felch—"

Sloan was about to say something else but Francesca sped away, leaving him to sigh helplessly while looking at the departing silhouette of her truck.

The bodyguard beside Sloan could not resist but remark, "Didn't Sean ask you to convince Ms. Felch to apologize to Mr. Lindberg, Sloan? How come you were kicked out after saying barely two sentences?"

Sloan appeared morose. "I can fight on command, but it is exceedingly difficult for me to convince women, especially Ms. Felch."

"Err..." The bodyguard seemed to pity him. Having learned her temper after following and protecting Francesca for a while, they knew their mission was more difficult than fighting.

Francesca glanced at Sloan and his companion through her rearview mirror and felt rather frustrated

What does it mean for Danrique to send Sloan instead of explaining himself in person? Did he do something he's not supposed to and dare not face me? Or does he not care about me at all? I suppose it is both.

Finding her anger grow the more she thought about it, Francesca made a silent vow to never speak to Danrique again.

Spurred by that thought, she added Danrique's number to her blocked list along with Sean's.

After parking the car upon reaching home, Francesca planned to visit Lacy when Layla beckoned at her. "Lacy is asleep. See her tomorrow morning instead. Come to my room. I would like a chat with you."

"Oh. Let me change out of these first."

Francesca returned to her room to change into her home clothes before returning downstairs.

"Has Danrique contacted you?" Layla asked bluntly as soon as she brought out the tea.

Chapter 2052 Guidance

"He called. We fought." Francesca felt rather uncomfortable when she thought of their last conversation. "He did not want to apologize properly and has his men come and persuade me. There was not a shred of sincerity in him."

"What do you plan to do?" Layla asked.

"Plan?" Francesca was stumped by the question as she never considered it.

"Over the years, I have taught you many things. The only I did not teach you was how to deal with love. I had thought that you were still young, and it was still early. Before I was ready for it, you have turned twenty-one and already dating."

Layla felt a little regretful lately and she was determined to pass on to Francesca everything she had learned throughout her life.

"Such a matter should take its own course." Francesca did not mind.

"You are right to let it run its course, but knowing some principles will save you from many hassles." Layla then straightened up. "You must first know what your heart wants, Francesca. Do you like Danrique or not? Do you know for sure that you want to be with him?"

"I like him."

Francesca answered the first question without hesitation. However, she faltered at the second question.

"I have decided to be with him after mustering all my courage, but now he has unsevered ties with another woman. I have no way of being sure."

"There are many uncertainties in the world," Layla said gravely. "There is a saying in Zarain: God is always one step ahead of men. That is why we must learn to be strong and brave in the face of change."

"Hmm." Francesca listened attentively, though she could not empathize at that moment as it was something she had not yet experienced.

"Whether it is about feelings or some other matter, the first thing we face is making a choice to take the right path, then trudging forward bravely.

"Instead of allowing the slightest pitfall to get in the way, you must think of a solution in the face of difficulty. At the same time, defend yourself from the threat posed by other people.

"Of course, if you are certain that the path is wrong, you must turn back before it's too late and stem the damage."

After expounding upon some principles to Francesca, Layla paused before asking a question.

"So, have you made up your mind that you want to give up on Danrique?"

"Give up on him?" Francesca was taken aback. Though she was still angry at him, she had not thought of actually giving up.

If you won't give up, then give him a chance to explain himself or ask him in person. Don't hold it in," Layla chided severely. "People may change. Treasure the time you have together."

Francesca was indignant. "He has not appreciated me at all! Despite being the one bugging me to get married, he got himself tangled with another woman. He chased me away and has not given me any explanation or come to me."

"That is his fault. You just do your part. Even if you don't end up together, you wouldn't have any regrets." Layla smiled. "If you lose this relationship due to stubbornness, you will lament this loss when you look back upon it."

Francesca fell silent at those words. Perhaps I should give Danrique a chance to explain and hear him out properly.

"One more thing," Layla said solemnly. "Though I disapprove of your treatment of Prince William, you told me he is your friend you cannot leave to him die. Hence, you have my support.

"However, if you want to be with Danrique, you must keep a distance from Prince William, or things will be difficult to deal with if misunderstandings arise."

"William and I are just friends," Francesca explained.

"You think of him as your friend. What about him?" Layla argued. "Though I have never met him, his intention is clear when I see you return with exquisite Chanaean snacks and a bunch of flowers daily."

Chapter 2053 More Than Meets The Eye

"Those flowers are all from his garden, and he only made the food because he was too free." Francesca was still brushing it off.

"He's a fallen prince, and yet he has so many assets to his name. His parents died when he was very young, and he has health issues. Most importantly, his cousins had been trying to set him up and kill him, but he still managed to leave unscathed. Besides, he even has dealings with Lindberg Corporation. He's definitely not a simple man, all right!"

"How did you know he has dealings with Lindberg Corporation? Also, how did you know he has assets?" Francesca was confused. Have I ever brought all that up with Ms. Layla? When I got affected and got injured back then, Ms. Layla found out about the family issues William was facing. However, I don't think I've ever told her anything else.

"One of them is in Erihal, while the other one is in M Nation. Danrique is such an arrogant man, so why would these two men have any interaction with each other if they aren't working together? Besides, Prince William just casually paid you one hundred million for the medical fee, right? He's a man on the run. If he could come up with so much money, he must have a lot of assets," Layla answered.

Upon hearing that, Francesca fell into deep thought.

"You're a smart person, and you always let your guards down with your friends. It's a good trait to have, but it could also give you trouble." Layla advised, "Prince William is sincere toward you, so you ended up seeing him as a friend. However, he's a man with a complicated background, so a lot of things aren't up to him to decide. Even if he were to keep treating you sincerely, he won't be able to prevent

you from getting dragged into his personal matters. Hence, you should keep a distance from him!"

"That wouldn't happen, right? We're just friends." Francesca thought Layla was merely overthinking. "Danrique is a dangerous man as well, but he had never caused me trouble."

"Initially, we were worried about him as well, and that was why Lincoln went to Xendale. There, he noticed that Danrique was a simple man. He took over Lindberg Corporation when he was still young, so he has a lot on his shoulders. If he were to accept the president's offer to link up with him by a marriage back then, he would be able to enjoy life now. Instead, he's still busy trying to penetrate the Epean market." Layla sounded like she was very impressed with Danrique.

"What? The president wanted to make alliances with him through a marriage?" Francesca was dumbfounded. "I didn't know about that."

"The president's daughter is of the same age as Danrique, and she had always liked him. The president brought it up with Danrique personally, but Danrique rejected his offer because he already had someone else in mind. Some of the subordinates of Erihal's president were Lincoln's friends. Hence, he found out about it shortly after he arrived in Xendale." Layla then laughed and continued, "I guess he meant you when he said he has someone else in mind."

"It seems like he's in great demand..." Francesca pursed her lips. Why do so many people want to marry him?

"That's not important now. The president's daughter got married early last year. She married a wealthy businessman from Dartan. What I'm trying to say is Danrique may have his shortcomings, but I know he only has you in his heart. Besides, he would rather work harder in life than compromise. That shows that he's a man with principles. Moreover, he chose to be with you and announced the marriage to the public without knowing your real identity. Doesn't that show his determination? This man is worth-"

"Is he really that good?" Francesca mumbled.

"Only you would know." Layla rolled her eyes at Francesca before advising, "On the other hand, I hardly see a flaw in Prince William. He's perfect. He's so flawless that it makes me feel uneasy. Obviously, he has never hurt you, so I'm not going to badmouth him. Judging by how resilient he is, I feel that he's a man who's very set in his way. It seems like he's been willing to sacrifice everything for something he believes in. One day, you could end up being the person he sacrifices."