

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2084

Chapter 2084 Conflicts In The Palace

After hanging up the phone, Francesca checked her call log and saw a missed call from Danrique. She missed the call because she was still on the plane. He didn't even leave me a text.

Francesca was contemplating whether to call him back. He didn't explain anything to me about his meeting with Hazel. Why should I explain anything to him?

Upon that thought, Francesca kept her phone and walked out of the airport with her luggage.

"Are you Ms. Felch?" Suddenly, a few suited men stopped Francesca in her tracks and said, "His Majesty sent us. Please come with us."

Before Francesca arrived, William had already told the king about her. The king then sent her an invitation, so she went to Danontand as a doctor for William.

Hence, it was normal for the king to send men over to fetch her.

However, Francesca sensed something amiss. Before she could ask them anything, those men had surrounded her, and they were rushing for her to get to their car.

Francesca immediately knew something was up. She wouldn't get into their car, and she said, "Prince William said he was going to send people here to fetch me. I'd better give him a call first."

"That's not necessary. Please hop in." One of the bodyguards was pushing Francesca into the car.

Francesca furrowed her brows, and she was about to fight back. Right at that moment, a familiar voice sounded. “Dr. Felch!”

She turned toward the voice and saw Robin. He was accompanied by a few palace guards and an old military officer.

Robin bowed and smiled before saying, “Everyone, this is the doctor His Majesty had invited over for His Highness. I’ll bring her to His Highness right away to save you guys the trouble.”

He was extremely humble and courteous to those bodyguards.

Those bodyguards didn’t want to cause a scene in public. However, they had their orders, so they said, “We’re just obeying orders from—”

“Orders? Whose orders?” The old military officer stepped forward and asked sternly, “Did His Majesty order you guys to bring this doctor back to the palace? Why didn’t I hear anything about it? Should I call to seek a confirmation?”

Those bodyguards’ expressions changed immediately when they saw the military officer. After they bowed, they hastily left with their heads hung low.

Robin heaved a sigh of relief and bowed to the old military officer. “Thank you, Mr. Faulkner!”

“His Majesty is a busy man, so he wouldn’t have the time to pay attention to trivial matters like this. Who knew that someone would take advantage of the situation? Fortunately, you found me in the nick of time. Otherwise, Prince William’s treatment would’ve gotten delayed. That would be bad,” Silas Faulkner uttered in a helpless tone.

“You’re right. Luckily, you’re here.” Robin heaved a sigh.

“His Majesty had been worried about His Highness’ health.” Silas patted his shoulder. “Nonetheless, His Majesty is of age, so there are a lot of things he can’t oversee.”

“I understand.”

After a brief small talk, Silas left with his subordinates. Before he left, he threw a glance at Francesca.

“I’m sorry for the trouble you had to go through, Ms. Felch. Let’s get into the car.” Robin didn’t wish to invite trouble to themselves, so he quickly dragged Francesca into the car.

“It seems like there are still a lot of conflicts in the palace.” Francesca checked the rearview mirror and noticed that they were being tailed.

“Quick! Let’s leave!” Robin urged. After that, he uttered helplessly, “These people just won’t quit!”

“Let me.” Francesca switched seats with the driver and said, “Set the destination.”

“Okay.” The driver quickly set the destination on the GPS navigator in the car.

Francesca started the car and floored the accelerator.

The driver lost his balance and almost smashed into the windshield. At the back, Robin fell off his seat, and he was frightened.

Francesca was unfazed. She drove fast through the traffic and arrived at William’s castle in no time.

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2085

Chapter 2085 Savior

Robin and the two bodyguards descended the car on wobbly feet, their faces pale.

William was already waiting at the door for Francesca. Initially stunned by the sight, he laughed a second later. “Hah! Did Francesca drive?”

“Somebody was following us. We had to shake them off quickly.” Francesca got out of the car and threw her key at a subordinate. “Ms. Felch’s driving was sublime.”

Robin finally regained his composure and exclaimed to himself. “Haha! You are old, Robin,” William teased with a smile before a bout of coughing overtook him.

“Your Highness!” Robin stepped forward at once to pat his back.

“Why are you so pale, William?” Francesca walked closer to examine William’s condition and reached out to feel his forehead. “You have a fever.”

“It’s been a week, and this has been going on since the third day after coming back. My body temperature keeps fluctuating but never seems to drop back down.”

“It all depends on you now, Ms. Felch,” Robin said anxiously.

“Hush.” William frowned at Robin before gazing tenderly at Francesca. “It’s not as serious as he says, Frannie. It’s only a mild fever, and it might be the fluctuating weather to which I have not grown accustomed.”

“Get inside first. I’ll examine you.”

Francesca wheeled William indoors while Robin gestured at the servants to bring Francesca's luggage and backpack in their wake.

Bodyguards and palace folk filled both sides of the castle. All of them bowed at Francesca upon her entry as if she were the castle's savior—the goddess who would decide their fate.

After all, a devastating fate awaited them if William died.

Once in the royal chambers, Francesca washed her hands before thoroughly examining William.

She drew a conclusion after over an hour. "You have been poisoned again!"

Robin was shocked. "Huh? How could that be? We have been exceedingly careful this time. We have tested all food and drinks before His Highness' consumption."

"This speaks volumes of the skill of our enemy in administering the poison." Francesca took out a vial of medicine from her backpack and handed it to Robin. "Three times a day, before meals. We'll use the first one now."

"At once." Robin dashed off to fetch water for William.

William did not feel any different after taking the medicine. "Is it that serious, Frannie?" he asked Francesca.

"The enemy intends to kill you. What do you think?" Francesca retorted. "The one who administered the poison is an expert."

"What do you mean?" William urged.

"You have exhibited symptoms within several days. It shows that it's not a slow-acting poison. However, it is not killing you outright. The enemy must be controlling the dosage to have you die by poisoning at an opportune moment."

Francesca studied the markings on the needle and provided an assertive analysis.

“How despicable!” Robin was enraged. “Our prince does not fight nor conquer; he wants only to lead a quiet life. Why are we harassed to such a degree?”

“It’s no use lamenting now. The first order of business is to track down the origin of this poison as soon as possible.” Francesca gazed over the surroundings before addressing William, “You need to clean your castle up, William.”

“As you say.” William nodded and raised his voice. “Everybody, adhere to Ms. Felch’s arrangements!”

“Yes!” chorused Robin and the group of subordinates and servants in unison.

After obtaining William’s permission, Francesca ordered decisively, “Man all the entry and exit points, Robin. Nobody shall pass through within the next twelve hours. And nobody is allowed to have contact with the outside world.”

“Yes, Ms. Felch.” Robin conveyed the order.

“Solve the problem at the source,” Francesca added to Robin as she glanced at her watch. “Have everybody gather at the door an hour from now. I will conduct an examination then.”

Chapter 2086 The Interrogation

“Yes, Ms. Felch.” Robin left at once to execute her orders. “Now, I wish to examine the master tap of your water source, the tap in your room, and the storage room.” Francesca picked up her backpack. “I’ll come with you.”

William made a gesture, and a servant stepped forth at once to wheel him to accompany Francesca in her investigation. “Are you suspecting somebody of poisoning the water source, Frannie?” William asked.

“You should have already guessed that you’ve been poisoned and had quietly conducted an investigation,” Francesca inferred. “You are so clever.” William sighed.

“Through your prior investigation, it’s plain that the kitchen and everywhere else contained nothing out of the ordinary. If that’s the case, the problem lies in the dark,” Francesca surmised. “Aside from the water source and the storage room, I can’t think of anywhere else.”

“We have considered the water source actually,” William said. “Everybody in the castle drink from the same source I do. How would they be fine if the water source is contaminated?”

“How do you know they are fine?” Francesca argued. William was taken aback. The servants began to panic.

“All of your brows are unnaturally dark,” Francesca declared gravely. “That is a symptom of mild poisoning. The poison showed upon your brow because of the nature of your constitution and your consumption of medication. That explains why your reaction is more visible. To be blunt, if I came over in another few

months, I'm afraid that not a single living thing would be left in this castle. It will have become a ghost town!"

At those words, everybody turned pale with fright.

"How vicious of them!"

William shook with anger. Usually calm and assertive, he could not control his emotions at that moment.

"Fortunately, it's not too late."

Francesca then examined the water source and discovered something. The poison was subtle and difficult to trace but would become fatal after a long and gradual accumulation within the body.

William's bodily reaction to it appeared quickly, firstly because he was a yearlong invalid of a weak constitution and secondly because he had been consuming Francesca's medicine.

The reaction arose because the medicine clashed with the poison.

It was also due to the reaction's speed that precautions could be taken on time.

Otherwise, William would only exhibit symptoms several months later like the others. By then, Francesca would not be able to do anything, no matter how prodigious her medical skills were.

Before accompanying Francesca to investigate the storage room, William had somebody turn off the water supply. She looked around closely and found a box of sealed essential oils.

She had somebody open it, then personally examine a sample with a silver needle, only to discover something wrong with the bottle of oil.

“These essential oils are specially for my use,” William explained. “As I suffer from insomnia, I require lavender to induce sleep. I have been ordering them from an old friend, and he probably wouldn’t harm me...”

“I don’t know who it is that is harming you. The bottom line is that there is something wrong with the essential oils.” She was sure as she went on, “I am only responsible for identifying things laced with poison. As for the person who did it, you need to figure that out yourself.”

“Understood.” William nodded.

At that moment, a servant came to report that the crowd had gathered at the door in wait.

Francesca and William headed toward the door. “Have there been any newcomers to the castle of late?”

“No, it’s always been the loyal servants left by my parents,” William lamented.

“Only some close bodyguards around me were hired two years ago. The rest have been around for a while. I don’t think they would harm me.”

“I hope so. But man’s motives remain unfathomable.”

Francesca did not say much else as she followed William to the entrance.

Bodyguards, soldiers, maids, and servants who totaled up to seventy to eighty stood in a neat row at the entrance to await Francesca’s interrogation.

The bodyguards and the soldiers appeared relatively calm as they were used to significant events.

On the other hand, the servants and the maids stood shivering in nervousness and fear.

Chapter 2087 It Would Not Kill Them

William and Robin were both curious as to how Francesca might opt to approach that. Though aware of how remarkable her medical expertise was, they were surprised that she also knew how to oversee an interrogation.

Francesca looked those people over before she declared with finality, “You’re all in the clear and may leave now.” Everyone was stunned to hear that.

The maids exchanged befuddled looks amongst themselves, and even the bodyguards and soldiers were quite confounded. None of them were unable to comprehend how Francesca managed to arrive at that conclusion. Could it be that the answer was written on all of our faces?

On Robin’s face was a look of bafflement as well. “Are you saying that you are letting them go, Ms. Felch?”

“Yeah. You are all dismissed. Go on back to your posts.” Francesca clapped her hands. Looking toward William who nodded in assent, Robin could only follow through accordingly and disperse them.

“What are we to do next?” Robin asked Francesca respectfully.

“That is for the two of you to decide.” Francesca then turned to William. “Now that we have found the proof, would you like to invite Federico over? Shall we let him have a look at the evidence so that we could find the real culprit and set things right for you?”

“It wouldn’t help.” William put on a bitter smile. “In spite of having identified the problem, we still haven’t found the perpetrator, and even if we did, it’ll be pointless if we aren’t able to ferret out whoever is behind all of this.”

“Then what do you intend to do about it? Keep allowing yourself to get pushed around?” Francesca asked.

“I won’t. I know what I’m doing. Since they won’t let me off even if I stayed away, I might as well take the fight straight to them,” replied William in a low voice, narrowing his eyes.

“That’s the spirit,” Francesca said encouragingly. “Even though we don’t want to hurt others, we can’t let them walk all over us either. Otherwise, the people around you will wind up suffering as well.”

“You’re right about that.” William nodded firmly. “I won’t be a sitting duck, but I have to consider this matter at length.”

“Take your time and think it over.” Francesca kept it brief. “I’d advise you to gather the evidence and resolve the issue with the water as soon as possible. And...”

Francesca then looked toward Robin. “We still have eleven hours. You may want to keep an eye on the sluice gate to see if anyone shows up there or makes any attempt to establish contact with outsiders.”

“Understood.”

Only then did Robin come to the realization that what Francesca did previously was merely a strategical retreat to lure the mole into the open.

“I don’t think that there is a spy among us,” William said with a frown. “Since the water source could just as likely have been poisoned from the outside, it might not have been done by one of our own.”

“I have no doubt that the poisoning has been done by someone from the outside, yes.” Francesca nodded. “But they must have had a collaborator on the inside passing on information to them. How else would they have found out about my arrival in Danontand and showed up at the airport to intercept me?”

“You’ve got a point there.” William concurred with a nod.

“Could they have gotten the information from within the palace?” Robin suggested. “Then again, the palace was merely aware that we’ve brought in a doctor. Only our own people knew about the flight information.”

“You guys ought to understand these things better than I do, so why do you still need me to remind you of this?” Francesca sighed and shook her head. “No wonder you’re getting picked on to this extent, William.”

“You’re right, Francesca. I need to be a lot smarter going forward,” William replied with a smile.

“All right. I’m going back to my room to rest up. Work this out between yourselves and get a new water source as soon as possible. Otherwise, we’re going to start having problems addressing our basic needs. I’ll still need to shower and eat, you know.”

Francesca yawned and made her way toward the stairs.

“Ms. Felch...” Robin promptly called out.

“Huh?” Francesca stopped and turned around to face him.

“Uh...” Robin had something he wanted to find out but was too apprehensive about asking. Hence, he could only glance meekly at William.

“You said that the others were all poisoned, so would you be able to prescribe them some medicine?”

William spoke up on their behalf as he understood what was on Robin’s and the other subordinates’ minds.

“That, I am aware of, but I haven’t brought enough medicine along. We can discuss this again in a couple of days,” Francesca replied casually. “A mild case of poisoning isn’t going to kill them.”

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2088

Chapter 2088 Secret

With that, Francesca went upstairs, leaving Robin and the other subordinates rooted to the spot. If they were already nervous before, hearing what Francesca said only served to compound their unease.

She herself stated that they had all been poisoned, but her reaction puzzled them to no end. It was as though they merely caught something as trivial as fever or a cold.

“I know Francesca. She’s got a good heart, so she won’t let anything happen to you all,” William said reassuringly.

“Right. Of course.” Robin nodded profusely in agreement. “Don’t worry. Ms. Felch isn’t going to ignore us since she’s already aware that we’ve been poisoned.” “Understood...” The subordinates were finally able to relax.

“For the time being, don’t let the rest of them know about the poisoning, lest everyone panics,” Robin instructed. “Keep a close eye on the water source and the storage room tonight, and watch out for any suspicious characters.”

“Understood.” Once he had made the necessary arrangements, Robin wheeled William back to the room.

After he closed the door behind him, Robin opened a bottle of mineral water and passed it along to William. Then, he asked in relative unease, “I didn’t expect Ms. Felch to be this sharp. Do you think she would be able to expose our secret?”

“What secret? What is there to expose?”

William glared at Robin coldly in a manner that was a stark contrast with his usually gentle demeanor.

“Uh...” Robin hesitated, then hastily bowed his head. “I understand.”

“Someone did try to poison us, and there is genuinely a problem with the water supply. We didn’t try to deceive Francesca in this regard,” cautioned William sternly. “It’s just that this problem was known to me much earlier.”

“Yes. Of course.” Robin wiped the sweat off his brow as he nodded. “Since we aren’t able to deal with the poison, we’d sooner or later need to summon Ms. Felch. It’s just that things would be different if she were to uncover the problem herself. But It just occurred to me that Ms. Felch may be much smarter than I had anticipated, and she’s quite the character too. I’m concerned that she’d get upset and quit on us if she were to sense something amiss...”

“Firstly, I believe that Francesca is not only a responsible person but also a compassionate one. She wouldn’t leave us in the lurch even if she does get mad at us. Secondly, only you and I are in the know about this, so no one would find out so long as you don’t speak of it. Besides, I wasn’t seeking to harm anyone. I just found out about the problem with the water source much earlier but chose not to give anything away in order to lure the culprit out, that’s all.” William spoke resolutely and unapologetically.

“Yes. You’re right about that.” That helped calm Robin down somewhat. “But what’s our next step?”

“Did Silas see Francesca at the airport today?” William asked.

“He did, and he looked at Ms. Felch quite meaningfully before he left. I’m sure he would look into Ms. Felch’s background when he returned, and ought to have found out that she’s the legendary doctor Francesco by now,” Robin said. He was meticulous.

“Get in touch with Silas and let him know that Francesca has discovered the problem with the water source,” William instructed in a low voice. “Be sure to emphasize the seriousness of the situation and to highlight that all eighty-three people in the castle had been poisoned alongside me. Francesca also said all

eighty-over of the people living inside this castle would have perished had she arrived a few months late, and this castle could easily have been turned into a graveyard. We must have His Majesty be the judge of such a horrific act!”

“Understood!”

It was at that moment William’s true intentions became evident to Robin.

When William realized that he had been poisoned a few days back, he quickly took Robin with him to investigate the water source. They were able to uncover the underlying issue fairly quickly.

Back then, Robin was enraged and wanted to inform Federico about it right away, but the oddly calm William talked him out of doing so.

Afterward, William even got him to partake in an act to lure Francesca over.

Robin had thought William’s intentions were to let Francesca uncover the truth for herself so that she might empathize with him and, perhaps, develop feelings for him as a result.

It was only now that Robin realized that the prince who he served was more judicious and farsighted than he had previously imagined.