Chapter 2089 Revenge

"A single decision separates victory and defeat," said a solemn William with eyes narrowed. "All these years, we had endured countless acts of cruelty, humiliation, and intrigue from them. This shall decide whether we'll be able to turn our fortunes around for ourselves!"

"Rest assured, Your Highness. I know what to say." Robin nodded firmly. "I don't think we should try to discuss this over the phone. Instead, I should hurry over to the palace to explain the situation to Silas in person tonight, then request for an audience with His Majesty himself."

"Let's not get too far ahead of ourselves. We'll need to approach this with intentionality." William narrowed his eyes and dissected the situation in detail. "It isn't the first time that the other factions within the family tried to harm me, so do you really think His Majesty is still oblivious to it after so many years?

He definitely knows about it but being advanced in age, going all out to suppress those heartless beasts would likely come to him at a great personal cost, so he may have thought an isolated and useless cripple like me is not worth the effort. Hence, we must find the right opportunity if we were to convince His Majesty to take action against them. This here is exactly what we need."

He continued, "It is therefore imperative that we bring this matter to light through someone else's hand before attempting to take it up with His Majesty. It has to be done by a figure who is recognized and respected globally. Out of fear that word might spread and damage the royal family's reputation and without the option of silencing this person, he would be forced to investigate the matter."

"This is what makes Ms. Felch the perfect candidate." Robin realized. "Not only is the miracle doctor Francesco highly regarded in the field of medicine internationally, but she's also Mr. Lindberg's fiancée. Neither His Majesty nor the rest of them would dare lay a finger on her or simply dismiss any of the things she says..."

"Correct." William's eyes evoked a sliver of contrite. "Francesca would surely end up hating me should she uncover the truth one day, but I have no choice..."

"Don't be so hard on yourself," Robin said in consolation. "Actually, this matter won't cause Ms. Felch any harm. As the reputation of the royal family is at stake, no one would likely dare to breathe a word of it. Her cover will thus remain intact. On top of it, you'd tried everything you could to convince Silas to accompany me to the airport to receive her for her protection. Now, her safety is further assured since she will be staying close to you all this time. Even if they wanted to seek revenge on her afterward, her relationship with Mr. Lindberg as his fiancée would likely make them think twice."

"That being said, the fact remains that I have deceived her." William let out a helpless sigh. "We won't be able to keep this from her for long and with Danrique's personality, he'd probably find his way here very soon. As such, we must seek to resolve this quickly."

"Yes." Robin nodded profusely. "But what concerns me the most is the influence wielded by the other wives. Even if His Majesty were to investigate, would he opt to simply make a show of it before finding a few scapegoats to take the fall?"

"We haven't been preparing for this all these years for nothing," said William with a frown. "So long as he is willing to look into it, we'd be able to seize the chance to roll out all the evidence we've gathered over the years, and make them public if need be. That way, His Majesty would have no choice but to respond decisively!"

"I see." Robin gasped. "So, you've already had this all planned out all along. Why didn't you tell me about them sooner? I was worried."

"Francesca is too clever and would become suspicious if you were to give off any telltale signs. That was why I kept this even from you," William explained. "But

things are different now. Everyone knows about the poisoning incident, so it would be justifiable even if you were to bring it to His Majesty's attention this late at night."

"Then why did you insist that it was useless to report this to His Majesty when Ms. Felch suggested it just now?" Robin remained somewhat confused.

"In Francesca's opinion, I had always been a good-natured and meek fellow. If I were to order you to report the incident, when the other families are ruined in the future, she'd think that I'm vicious. Hence, I needed her to encourage me to go ahead with it. That way, she wouldn't blame me for whatever comes next," William explained impassively.

Chapter 2090 Tables Have Turned

"I see." Realization dawned on Robin. "You sure are meticulous, but I believe Ms. Felch is a reasonable person. She will not blame you for what you've done. Those people were plotting to harm you. Anyone with a right mind would retaliate."

"You might be right, but people will always sympathize with the weak, especially doctors." William was certain about what he had just said. "Francesca might be on my side now, but when she hears the piteous wails of those families in the future, she might waver..."

A bitter smile formed on William's lips as he spoke. "Just like my beloved grandpa. Does he really not know how my parents died?"

He knows. Nevertheless, when the other families begged and pleaded for mercy, his heart softened, and he decided not to punish them as they were his flesh and blood. After all, those who died can never be revived, but those who are alive have to continue living. As ironic as it is, it's part of human nature.

William raised his head and looked out the window, staring at the countless stars shining in the vast night sky. Mixed emotions filled his gaze.

Great sorrow was written on his face as he remembered something grievous.

Soon, however, the sorrow was replaced by a chilling sense of hatred.

Twenty years had passed. When he was five, he had been pushed off a horse by his cousin and was trampled on the ground by the horse, which resulted in him being severely injured and crippled. After the incident, he had overheard that it was all a scheme.

The only way to completely destroy the last hope of William's family was to kill off everyone in the household. They had wanted William dead.

Fortunately, he did not lose his life. Instead, he became disabled.

Because of that, they had spared his life.

However, ever since that incident, William knew that the sole reason he was still alive was to take revenge.

William had always kept a low profile, but recently, he had intentionally revealed to the public that the company he had founded had made it to the list of wealthiest companies to make his enemies feel threatened.

Following that, he returned to Danontand to pay respects to his late parents when his treatment came to a temporary halt.

He did that to give his enemies an opportunity to strike.

Nevertheless, William met Federico upon return, his grandfather whom he had not seen in a long time.

Federico was proud to learn that the company William had founded obtained such brilliant achievements and had hinted to everyone in the extended family that they were to live peacefully with one another.

Therefore, they did not dare to harm William flagrantly, but rather in secret.

That gave William the perfect chance to turn things around.

After all, he had Francesca as his trump card in hand.

"Rest assured, Your Highness. I will get the job done."

Robin had grown up with William's father and had witnessed every tear and every laughter in the household. He was also with William every step of the way when the latter crawled his way to the top.

It was truly a journey filled with blood, sweat, and tears.

From the bottom of his heart, Robin hoped that William could get the revenge he so righteously deserved.

Wheeling his wheelchair to the side of the window, William narrowed his eyes as he stared at the people outside. "Those lot has been staring at us for a while now. If you leave now, you would most likely be murdered before you even made it to the palace."

"I owe my life to your father, Your Highness. If I have to sacrifice myself for the sake of your revenge, it would not be counted as a loss!"

Robin had decided to risk it all.

"You're not going to die. If you die, who's going to help me?" After a moment of pondering, William took out his phone and scrolled through his contacts. "I'll give His Majesty a call right now. He should ask Silas to pick you up."

"Would His Majesty agree?" Robin was a little concerned.

"Ever since I became disabled when I was five, I have borne the humiliation until now. For twenty years, I have never asked him for anything. I did not even speak a word about those who bullied me. Right now, I'm only requesting that you go meet him in my place. It would only be polite to accept such a request."

William was full of confidence.

"This is the first favor you've ever asked from His Majesty, and you're using it on me? Don't you think it's a waste, Your Highness?" Robin asked quickly.

"I told you, a single decision separates victory and defeat. Right now, you are the key that will determine the outcome. I need to make sure that you stay safe."

With that being said, William dialed Federico's number.

Within seconds, Federico answered the call, sounding pleasantly surprised. "William? You haven't called me in so long."

Chapter 2091 Trump Card

"You're right, Grandpa." William's voice sounded weak over the phone. "What's wrong? Are you sick? Your voice sounds different," Federico inquired out of concern. William did not speak as he brewed his emotions.

Robin stood aside and watched as William clenched his fists so tightly that his veins popped out, his eyes bloodshot. He got so anxious that he thought his heart was about to jump out of his throat.

Holding back tears, William swallowed the lump in his throat. After a long moment of silence, he choked out through clenched teeth, "I'm just a cripple whose death will not be missed, but please, Grandpa, protect the eighty-three lives in my house!"

Tears streamed down Robin's face when he heard what William had said. Whether or not William's emotions were genuine or faked, what he said was true. That simple sentence held the weight of twenty years' worth of humiliation and grief he had suffered.

Anyone who knew what had happened would be moved to the core. Half an hour later, Robin and two servants snuck out from the back of the castle. By then, Silas had already been waiting for them along with the other men sent by Federico.

Outside the palace, someone witnessed everything. Just as the person was about to strike, they were stopped by their comrade. "Are you blind? Those people work for His Majesty!"

Inside the castle, William sat by the window, staring at the car as it sped off into the night until it vanished out of sight. A victorious smile soon formed on his lips.

He knew that the first part of his plan had succeeded. With Francesca as his trump card, he would win for sure.

Meanwhile, Francesca returned to her room. The moment she stepped foot inside, she immediately whipped out her phone to see if she had any new missed calls from Danrique.

To her surprise, there was none. There was only one missed call from him before she boarded the plane.

Just as she was contemplating whether or not she should return his call, a few maids came into her room to prepare a milk bath for her.

They also brought her freshly-made dinner. All the dishes on the tray were her favorite. One glance at the food was enough to let her know that William had cooked it for her himself.

Just then, her phone began to vibrate. Francesca rushed forward to pick it up but was a little bit disappointed when she found out it was Anthony on the line.

"Francesca, I've sent you a lot of messages. You didn't reply to any of them. Are you okay?"

"I've been busy. I've just gotten some time to myself a couple of minutes ago."

"Good to know you're fine." Anthony heaved a sigh of relief. "Is Prince William really sick?"

"Duh." Francesca tutted, displeased at the question.

"He's actually sick?" Anthony was surprised. "Okay then, ignore my question. However, I do advise that you give your fiancé a clear explanation. Don't cause any misunderstandings."

"Did the sun rise from the West today?" Francesca was taken aback. "Since when are you on Danrique's side?"

"Even though I despise him, I have to admit that he has always been the one to save you whenever you get into trouble no matter what. Even Chrono and his gang were taken care of by Danrique."

Anthony dropped his usual carefree manner and told Francesca seriously, "A man's actions are enough to tell whether or not he's serious about you. On the contrary, Prince William had only ever caused more trouble for you. Have you forgotten the time that an explosion happened on the cruise ship, causing you to almost die? Not to mention the metal pieces embedded into the back of your brain—"

"That's not his fault." Francesca was beginning to feel annoyed by Anthony's nagging. "If there's nothing else, I'll hang up now."

Anthony sighed. "I knew you wouldn't listen..."

He hung up the phone in exasperation.

Dismissing the maids, Francesca immediately called Danrique.

The phone rang for a long time, but no one picked up. Just as Francesca was starting to feel puzzled, her call was cut off.

She widened her eyes, dumbfounded by what was going on.

Danrique, that b*stard! How dare he hang up my call?

She immediately dialed his number again. Once again, her call was cut off almost instantly.

Francesca was livid. She stared at her phone in disbelief, furious that Danrique had the gall to hang up on her twice in a row.

Fine! Ignore me all you like! What's the big deal?

Switching her phone to silent mode, she tossed her phone aside and went to the bathroom for the milk bath.

Wrath consumed her mind when she recalled Danrique's attitude. Annoyed, she raised her hand to rub her face. The mild fragrance of the milk bath calmed her nerves slightly. Just then, she noticed the tap on top of the bathtub.

Out of the blue, an idea popped into her head.

Chapter 2092 Spy

It had only been half an hour since she had found out that the water source had been tampered with. How is it possible that the maids have already prepared a milk bath for me so quickly?

The maids had even prepared a water dispenser by the basin as well as a pail of clean water for her to brush up.

Furthermore, the water sources had all been cut off for the time being. Not only would it be a hassle to clean oneself, but cooking and drinking would be a huge issue as well. Yet, no one in the castle seemed to be panicking. Everything was still running like clockwork.

Something's amiss. Francesca found it odd, but she was unwilling to suspect William.

Perhaps it's because they have been so used to being targeted that they have a backup plan for everything. That way, they will most likely be more at ease...

At that thought, Francesca could not help but feel bad for them. She quickly got rid of the lingering suspicions.

Once she had freshened up, she returned to the bedroom and pick her phone up. Still no calls nor messages from Danrique.

From the looks of it, he truly was angry.

Francesca was speechless. Too tired to explain the situation to him, she decided to just go to bed with the phone still on silent.

The seemingly peaceful night was far from so.

In the middle of the night, a sudden bolt of thunder jolted Francesca awake. Narrowing her eyes, she gazed out the window. Bolts of thunder followed flashes of lightning as the howling wind caused the trees to sway from side to side. The rustling leaves on the quivering branches looked like a monster in the dark.

Despite the chaos outside the window, she was not in the least afraid. She simply covered her ears, rolled over, and continued to sleep.

When she fell asleep once again, she did not wake up till the next morning.

All of a sudden, somebody called out from outside the door, "Ms. Felch, Ms. Felch..."

Irritated that she was awakened from her slumber, Francesca hugged her pillow as she mumbled lazily, "What is it?"

"The results are out..." the man behind the door answered meekly.

Francesca's eyes immediately snapped open as she hurried out of bed. "Give me a moment."

She rushed into the bathroom to freshen up as quickly as possible and changed. Pulling her hair up into a ponytail, she opened the door. "What's the situation?"

"No one went to the main water tank, but someone sneaked into the storeroom to get rid of the evidence. We have already caught the person."

"Lead the way."

Francesca followed the subordinate into the basement.

William and a few of his trusted advisors were conducting an interrogation. A young boy was kneeling on the ground with both his hands tied up. His mouth was sealed by a piece of tape as he lowered his head, his body trembling in fear.

"Didn't you say everyone here has been working here for a long time, and the only young ones are your bodyguards?" Francesca observed the boy carefully. "Who's this?"

"Ms. Felch, this is Marc. He's Mr. Murray's—the gardener's—nephew. Because Mr. Murray is sick, he has been taking over his uncle's job and has been in the castle for three months now. He looks quite honest. No one would have thought that he would be bribed..." one of the subordinates answered.

"Mmmph!"

When Marc heard that, he widened his eyes and shook his head nonstop. However, with his mouth taped, he could not get a single word out.

Doubt crept into Francesca's heart as she looked at the boy's clear eyes. She found it hard to believe that he was the spy. With a step forward, she ripped the tape off of his mouth. "What do you have to say for yourself?"

The boy quickly explained himself but spoke in an unusual tongue. A foreign language echoed in the room. Francesca could not understand a single word. Without a choice, she turned to William. "What did he say?"

William shook his head as well before turning to look at one of his subordinates.

"He's still denying it. He said that he had been tricked. That was why he had helped transport the essential oils into the castle," one of the subordinates explained.

"He only transported the essential oils? Then who was the informant?" Francesca asked.

"Him as well," the subordinate answered immediately.

"That doesn't seem right." Francesca was perplexed. "He doesn't even know how to speak the language of Danontand nor the languages of the neighboring countries. How could he have been the informant?"

"It's true that he can't speak nor write the language very well. That's why he took photos on his phone and conveyed the information via messages."

The subordinate took out an old phone that had been smashed and handed it to Francesca. "Here. This is his phone."

Francesca had never been tech-savvy. She could use the newest gadgets that most people were using, but the phone she had been handed was an old model. Its functions were also fully in the language of Danontand. Thus, she could not make heads or tails out of it.

The subordinate opened the phone's gallery and showed her the photos. There were a lot of photos of the ins and outs of the castle, including a photo that showed Francesca arriving at the castle.

Chapter 2093 Hypocrite

Even though the evidence seemed solid, Francesca still felt something amiss.

However, that was not something she should interfere with. Therefore, she could only suggest to William, "William, you should investigate further. Don't blame an innocent person."

"Don't worry." William nodded his head before he commanded, "Lock him up for now. We'll deal with him after we found out the truth."

"Yes, Your Highness." One of the subordinates immediately dragged Marc away.

A maid wheeled William out of the basement as well while Francesca followed beside him, thoughts running wild in her mind.

After taking a few steps, she turned around to look at Marc, who was still sobbing and wailing as though he was trying to explain.

As she took note of the scene, she could not help but tell William, "Look at the way he's crying. He seems genuine. I don't think he's the spy."

"You're too kind, Ms. Felch. How many people in this world will admit that they've done something bad? Everyone will claim to be innocent," one of William's subordinates chimed in.

"Don't worry, Francesca. I'll ask Robin to investigate further." On the other hand, William appeared to be a lot more open-minded. "Speaking of Robin, where is he? Why hasn't he gotten here yet? Someone go and get him, please."

"Yes, Your Highness." A man immediately hurried off to find Robin.

William and Francesca chatted lightly as they made their way to the dining room. Just as they sat down, a subordinate rushed toward them to report, "Your Highness, Mr. Robin is missing! There's a letter on his desk."

"What?" William immediately accepted the letter and began reading. His face paled instantly in shock. "Robin has taken actions on his own without consulting me."

"What happened?" Francesca inquired curiously.

"He had gone to the palace in the middle of the night to report the findings last night to His Majesty..." William's face turned solemn. "I must have been too kind to him! How dare he do something so reckless?"

Francesca said with annoyance, "I don't think he made a mistake. It has already gotten to this point. Are you still going to sit around and do nothing? At this rate, all eighty or more people in this castle will die along with you!"

"I know that, but..." William frowned. A troubled look appeared on his face. "I don't want to drag you into this..."

Francesca blinked as she caught on fast.

Indeed, she was the one who had discovered the problem. Even if Robin avoided mentioning her name when reporting the incident, Federico would still obtain the information through interrogation.

If Robin were to convince the king by credentials, her identity would be revealed.

"Even though I don't want my identity to be revealed, I'm willing to allow that if it means giving you justice," Francesca stated nonchalantly. "Besides, His Majesty will not publicize such private matters."

"Indeed, the public would not know about it, but my relatives will." William's frown deepened as his voice was filled with worry. "I'm afraid that they will harm

you. You staying under my roof right now might protect you from harm for the time being, but they might take revenge on you after all of this. Just like last time. They did not even hesitate to bomb the cruise ship just to prevent you from healing my legs."

"Well, I'm still alive, aren't I?" Francesca wasn't the least bit concerned. "It's not the first time I have enemies. What's one more?"

"Francesca..."

"Things have already come to this point, so stop hesitating. We'll cross the bridge when we get there," Francesca comforted William. "Someone is targeting you. You can't keep tolerating them. I know you're gentle and kind, but you need to protect yourself and the people around you!"

"You're right..." William was touched and grateful at the same time. "Thank you, Francesca!"

"We're friends, aren't we? You've been kind to me too." Francesca flashed him a smile. "All right, that's enough. Let's have breakfast. I'm starving!"

All of a sudden, William asked, "Francesca, does Danrique know that you're here?"

"He probably does. Don't mind him. Once I've settled the issue here, I'll explain everything to him," replied Francesca casually.