## Chapter 2099 Break Up

"That's great." William let out a long sigh. "Robin risked his life to meet His Majesty for my sake. If something bad happens to him, I'll never forgive myself." "He's fine. Stop blaming yourself." Francesca patted his shoulder. "Go and rest earlier Now—"

The phone in her pocket vibrated before she could finish the rest of her sentence. She quickly answered the call and walked away. "Hello. Do you finally remember me? I thought you were dead."

Listening to the tone of her voice, William immediately figured out the identity of the person on the other end of the call. When he saw Francesca walking away in a hurry, the lights in his eyes dimmed.

Francesca hastened upstairs while holding the phone, growling, "Why didn't you pick up the phone when I called you earlier?"

Danrique asked, "Why are you calling me when you already went all the way to Danontand to take care of another man? I told you to come to Xendale, but you were reluctant. The next moment, you traveled to Danontand. I do wonder who is actually your boyfriend?"

"I came to Danontand to treat a disease. This is my professional obligation—"

"All right, then. I'm sick too. I want you to come over at once to treat my illness," Danrique interrupted her.

"What happened to you?" she hastily asked.

"What do you think?" Danrique's tone softened a little after sensing that she still cared about him.

Only then did Francesca realize he was deliberately teasing her. "You're crazy. Why are you pretending to be sick when you're fine? William is really ill at the moment—"

Danrique was at the limit of his patience. "William, William, William. All you care about is William!"

"No. That's not—"

"Just be with him if you like him so much. Goodbye!" Danrique did not wish to listen to any more of her explanations.

"What do you mean, Danrique?" Francesca snapped at once.

"You don't understand what I'm saying? You have your medical-related goals to realize, children at the orphanage to take care of, and so many other male friends. Since I mean nothing to you, we should just break up."

"What did you say?" She thought she had misheard him.

"Am I not making myself clear?" Danrique repeated his words and enunciated, "I said we should break up! I wish you all the happiness in the world, Francesca. Goodbye!"

"D\*mn you—"

The call ended just as she was about to speak.

Silence ensued after the beeping sound ended.

Francesca held her phone and stood rooted to the spot in a daze.

What's going on? Are my ears playing tricks on me, or did I remember wrongly? Did Danrique say he wants to break up with me? No. This is impossible. From the beginning, he has been pursuing me, scheming to marry me, and trying his best to stay by my side. No matter the tantrum I threw or how unreasonable I behaved, he had always tolerated me. But now... he's breaking up with me?

Francesca's hands shook in agitation. She anxiously dialed Danrique's phone number, but no one picked up after the phone rang for some time.

She called again, and this time, the call was cut off.

Francesca noticed the line was busy when she attempted to contact him again.

Evidently, he had blocked her number.

She was dumbfounded as her mind became utterly chaotic.

Why is this happening? No matter my outburst or conniption in the past, Danrique has never mentioned breaking up with me, regardless of how angry he might be. But this time... I did not do anything wrong, right? I came to Danontand to give treatment to these patients, so why is he so furious? Also, I wanted to discuss this matter with him that day, but he went to meet Hazel without informing me, so I did not talk to him about this because I was displeased. It is not as if I committed a terrible sin. I don't understand why he is breaking up with me.

Pandemonium reigned in Francesca's mind as she slumped into the couch with her hand still wrapped around her phone.

She had always been arrogant and confident, but at that moment, she was devastated and at a complete loss following the unexpected turns of events.

## Chapter 2100 Provoke

That night, Francesca lay on the bed, repeatedly tossing and turning in her bed, unable to fall asleep. She could not fathom Danrique's sudden request to break up with her.

He had always accepted and tolerated me whenever I did as I pleased in the past, so why can't he put up with me now? Is he falling for someone else, or did he misunderstand my relationship with William?

Francesca's thoughts were a tangled mess. She wanted to clarify that matter with Danrique, but her calls would not connect. In the end, she tried sending him a message: B\*stard, you better explain further. What did I do wrong? Why are you breaking up with me?"

However, after typing that message, she changed her mind. Thus, she immediately deleted and amended the last part of the text: Fine. If a breakup is what you want, then so be it. I hope you'll be happy!

She sent the message afterward but regretted it instantaneously.

Francesca hurriedly tapped on her screen to recall the message, but that function was unavailable for short message service.

She covered her forehead in frustration, despising herself for putting on a tough front.

However, it was too late for her to take back her words or say anything to justify her statement now.

Discomfort churned within Francesca's chest as she was at a complete loss. If Layla had been there, Francesca could have discussed that matter with her, but now, there was no one around to talk to her.

Francesca was losing her composure in the face of a problem she was utterly inexperienced in handling.

At that moment, her phone rang. Assuming that it was Danrique calling, Francesca hurriedly picked up the call. "Hello!"

"Ms. Felch, it's me, Monica."

"Oh. It's you." Francesca was slightly disappointed.

"I heard you're in Danontand. Coincidentally, I'm in the country too. Please let me know if you need my assistance."

"Okay. Thank you," Francesca replied halfheartedly.

"What happened to you? Why do you sound a little upset? Am I interrupting you?" Monica asked concernedly.

"No..." Francesca yearned to express her feelings and doubts at that moment, so she could not help but ask, "Monica, I have a question for you."

"Please, go on," Monica swiftly responded.

"If a man suddenly suggested breaking up with a woman. What could be the reason?"

"Is there any conflict between the two people, or perhaps a misunderstanding?"

"There is a minor conflict, but not something very significant. There's also a slight misunderstanding, but that man would not listen to the girl's explanation. He

demanded a breakup without communicating with her properly. And now, the girl is baffled."

"If that man suddenly wanted a breakup, perhaps he already has another option."

Francesca panicked after hearing that. "What? Do you mean he's seeing another woman?"

"If there is no major conflict between the couple, that may be a probable reason. Why else would he request for a breakup?" Monica questioned Francesca.

Francesca was immediately reminded of Hazel upon listening to those words. She recalled the previous ambiguous interaction between Danrique and Hazel, not to mention how he had never explained that matter to her.

Anger surged within Francesca at once as she felt she was being cheated.

Monica uttered tactfully, "This is just my speculation. I suppose only the people concerned would know what has actually happened. Why are you asking this all of a sudden, Ms. Felch? Are you referring to yourself—"

"No. I saw this scene from a television show." Francesca quickly switched the topic of conversation. "It's getting late, Monica. You should rest earlier."

"All right. Goodnight."

Francesca remained furious after hanging up the phone. She wanted to contact Danrique and demand an explanation from him, but her pride would not allow her to do so.

She texted him earlier and he did not reply either.

Perhaps he has already decided to ignore me and draw the line between us so that he can be together with Hazel.

Francesca's wrath intensified as she dwelled further on that matter. She wanted to fly to Xendale immediately, seize Danrique, and interrogate him before tearing him apart.

But I can't leave now... Hold on.

Francesca thought of a possibility. Is Danrique deliberately provoking me so that I will go to Xendale to look for him?

Chapter 2101 Engaged

Francesca recalled the moments she shared with Danrique. She was certain he was not someone who would easily suggest a breakup.

Thus, she reckoned he was just trying to goad her into going to Xendale because he missed her too much.

Francesca felt a little guilty at that thought. She decided to meet up with Danrique as soon as possible after she dealt with the matters on William's end.

Her mood brightened up after she made that decision. Subsequently, she switched off the lights and drifted into a slumber.

"Ms. Felch just turned off the lights," a maid reported to William at the clinic downstairs.

William uttered hoarsely, "She's only going to sleep at four in the morning. It seems like she's in distress."

The maid added in an undertone, "Ms. Felch seemed to be talking on the phone just now, and she sounded agitated. She was conversing in Ustranasion earlier."

William nodded. "Okay. All right. You should go and rest now."

"Yes, Your Highness." The maid bowed and left the room.

William leaned against the couch while pensively gazing out of the window.

After a while, his phone finally vibrated. He hastily answered the call. "How was it?"

"Ms. Felch asked me about matters related to a breakup," Monica reported.

"Breakup?"

"That's right. She inquired about the possible reason for a man's sudden request to break up with a woman."

Monica recounted her conversation with Francesca in detail to William.

William furrowed his brows after listening to Monica's account. "Francesca said L broke up with her?"

"Ms. Felch did not specify anyone's name. Instead, she told me she was describing a scene from a television show, but it was obvious that she was talking about her relationship with Mr. Lindberg."

"Okay. I got it. Thank you."

"Your Highness, I have you to thank for my current achievements. Please feel free to let me know should you require my assistance."

"I will seek your help one day."

"I'm willing to do anything for you, Your Highness."

After hanging up the call, William looked at Robin, who was lying in bed, and muttered, "Why did L suddenly express his wish to break up with Francesca? What is he trying to do?"

Then, William widened his eyes in astonishment as a thought popped into his mind. "Don't tell me..."

Early the next morning, Francesca checked her phone right after she woke up.

She was crestfallen when she noticed Danrique didn't call or send her any message.

It seems like he's determined to force me to go to Xendale. He may not take the initiative to contact me if I do not go. Still, the situation here on William's end is grave. I cannot just abandon my obligations here.

Just as her head began to hurt, her phone suddenly rang. She promptly picked up the device and was utterly dispirited to see Anthony's name on the caller ID instead of Danrique's.

Francesca answered the call in annoyance, "Hello."

"Did you see the news, Francesca?" Anthony anxiously asked.

"What news?" She rubbed her eyes.

"Danrique is getting engaged. You need to hurry up and check out the news," he said at once.

"What?" Francesca was momentarily dazed before she added with delight, "Did he say all those things yesterday to force me into marrying him?"

Having just woken up, she thought Danrique was getting engaged with her.

Anthony grew impatient. "What are you talking about? Do you know Danrique is getting engaged with Hazel?"

"What?" All traces of Francesca's sleepiness vanished instantaneously as she shot upright on her bed. "With Hazel?"

Anthony said, "Take a look at the news yourself. Francesca, did you quarrel with Danrique? Why is he suddenly getting engaged to another woman? How long do you plan to stay in Danontand? The two of you should meet up as soon as possible and have a proper discussion."

"I—"

Someone knocked on the door just as she was about to speak. The next second, William's voice sounded, "Are you awake, Francesca?"

"Just a moment," Francesca replied. Then, she said to Anthony, "Anthony, I'll talk to you later. William is looking for me."

With that, she hung up the phone.

## Chapter 2102 The Plan Has Been Disrupted

After waking up and putting on her clothes, Francesca walked over and opened the door. "Good morning, William!" "Francesca, did I wake you?" William looked at her with a conflicted expression.

"No, I was already awake." Francesca noticed the paleness on William's face and the fact that his eyes were bloodshot. "Did you not sleep the entire night?"

"I was worried about Robin, so I had been staying by his side," William replied with a smile. "He woke up at six and looks a lot better. He's having his breakfast now."

"I'm glad to hear that. I'll go over later." Francesca yawned. "I'm going to shower first."

"Francesca," William called out to her. "Hmm?" She turned her head around to look at him. "Are... you all right?" William's eyes were filled with concern.

"I'm fine. Why wouldn't I be?" Francesca chuckled. "All right now, I'm going to wash up."

With that, she closed the door. Left alone in the room, she wiped the smile off her face, then anxiously took out her phone to check the news.

Just as expected, the announcement of Danrique's engagement to Hazel filled the headlines. Almost every media outlet was publicizing the matter.

Tagged to the headline was a loving picture. In it, Danrique was sharply dressed in a black suit. As he stood in the shadows, the play of light accentuated the mystery of his chiseled features.

As for Hazel, she was wearing a white gown with a mermaid tail that highlighted her sensuous figure, and the white veil draped over her low-hung ponytail brought out the elegant aura within her.

Despite the simplicity of the picture, it very much resembled a wedding photo.

In addition, Hazel was flashing a blissful smile in the picture. Although Danrique's expression was hidden in the shadows, the contrast between one's warmth and the other's frostiness made them look like the perfect couple.

At the sight of the picture and the writeups that described how loving those two were, Francesca could feel rage being ignited within her.

As the pictures from the previous incident were taken without permission, she still believed that it was nothing but gossip. However, she somehow felt that this time was different.

They seem to be posing deliberately in the photo. Also, compared to the previous incident where only certain media outlets reported the news, every major outlet is doing so this time. Even the official spokesperson of Erihal shared the news. From the looks of it, Danrique is serious this time.

Francesca then remembered Monica's words from before. If a man proposes to break up suddenly, it must be because there's someone else. It looks like Monica is right. Danrique must have broken up with me because he got together with Hazel. And yet, I foolishly believed that he was forcing me to go see him. How deluded can I be? It now turns out that his heart has been stolen by someone else. He clearly dumped me to marry Hazel.

The more Francesca thought about it, the more emotional she became. She even felt the urge to fly to Xendale and confront Danrique about it.

No, what's the point of asking? I should just shoot him in the head!

Meanwhile, at the clinic downstairs, William—with an increasingly grim expression—was still reading the news.

"What's wrong?"

Robin, who had just taken his medication, dismissed everyone else when he noticed the change in William's expression.

After the medical staff and subordinates left, only the two of them remained in the room.

"Danrique has announced his engagement to Hazel," William revealed in a deep voice. "It's all over the news now."

"What?" Robin's eyes widened in shock. "Does that mean Ms. Felch is no longer Mr. Lindberg's fiancée? In that case, wouldn't our plan be—"

Before he could finish, he was interrupted by the look in William's eye. Peering out the window warily, he lowered his voice and asked, "Does Ms. Felch know about this?"

## **Chapter 2103 How Ruthless**

"She probably does," William answered in a grim tone. "It was just last night that Danrique broke up with her, and this morning, he has already announced his engagement to Hazel. Everything is happening too fast!"

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"Really?" Robin was filled with doubt. "I thought Mr. Lindberg has deep feelings for Ms. Felch. He did so much for her previously, so why would he break up with her all of a sudden? Besides, if he really likes Hazel, they would have already gotten together from the very beginning. Why did he only agree to it now? Considering his character, is his hand being forced by the circumstances? What's really going on?"

"I'm afraid he's trying to corner me." William's brows furrowed. "It's obvious to him that I'm using his name to achieve my goals. That's why he has struck back at me this way. To be honest, I can't deny how ruthless his methods are!"

"I don't think he would go that far." Robin still found it unbelievable. "If Danrique noticed something, he could've used some other way to stop us. There's no need to sacrifice his relationship with Ms. Felch, and to even marry Hazel? He doesn't strike me as someone whose decisions are driven by his emotions."

"I still don't know what he has hidden up his sleeve, but it's certainly directed at me." William's brows were still tightly knitted. "I have underestimated his decisiveness by assuming that I could strike before he realized it. I was hoping to just apologize once the matter was resolved. It never crossed my mind that he was one step ahead of me—he was already investigating me when Francesca was in Danontand and had formulated his countermeasures. And now, his plan has taken me by surprise."

"Danrique is such a ruthless man," Robin commented with a frown. "All we did was just borrow his influence, nothing more, but he counterattacks as if he's going to kill us!"

"He wouldn't be Danrique if he wasn't ruthless." William let out a sigh. "Besides, I was the one who offended him first, so I can't complain about him striking back at me."

"What should we do now?" Robin looked at him anxiously. "After putting in so much effort and with victory within our grasp, we can't just give up now, can we?"

"I'm working on it," William responded with a grave expression. "Do you remember what I told you in the morning?"

"I do." Robin nodded repeatedly. "Don't worry. I know what to say. As for Ms. Felch—"

Before Robin could finish, a frantic knock was heard at the door. "Your Highness, Your Highness, Mr. Faulkner is here."

Stunned by the news, Robin gave William a nervous look. "Why is Silas here now?"

"His Majesty has probably sent him after reading the news." William's expression changed. "Danrique's move is a truly decisive one. Just when we were cruising toward victory, his sudden maneuver derailed our plan."

"Exactly..." Robin was filled with anxiety. "According to the original plan, His Majesty is due to visit our castle to investigate the water source and arrest the ones responsible. Unfortunately, our plan—previously on track—has now been thrown into disarray in a single day. Say, do you think His Majesty will change his mind about pursuing the matter?"

"He will not only let the poisoning incident slide but also start to doubt our intentions." William's eyes narrowed. "In fact, he'll begin to suspect that I framed those people and faked Francesca's relationship with Danrique just to leverage Danrique's name for my own objectives."

"Are you sure?" Robin's eyes widened in disbelief. "If that's true, wouldn't our plan be—"

"There wouldn't be much of a plan left," William interrupted him. "I should be counting my blessings if he didn't charge me with lying and scheming."

"What should we do now?" Robin was stricken by panic.

"The only thing we can do now is to hope." William furrowed his brows. "We have to hope that Danrique and Francesca's bond isn't strong enough to withstand this."