

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2104

Chapter 2104 The Charade

Even though Robin didn't comprehend the meaning behind William's words, he knew that they had no choice but to take the risk.

Knock! Knock! Right then, there came a knock on the door. A subordinate came in and reported, "Your Highness, Mr. Faulkner has arrived."

"Come in." William and Robin exchanged glances. The subordinate opened the door, and Silas strode into the room.

After bowing to William, he said straightforwardly, "Your Highness, His Majesty has instructed me to take you and Dr. Felch to the palace."

The words triggered a drastic change in Robin's expression, but William—who managed to remain calm—replied with a faint smile, "I'm ready to go at any time upon His Majesty's summons. As for Francesca, let me talk to—"

Halfway through his reply, Francesca swung the door opened and entered. She was dressed in a white coat and holding a medical kit in her hand.

Surprised by the sight of Silas, she turned toward William.

"Francesca, let me introduce you." After briefly introducing one to the other, William added, "Francesca, His Majesty has sent Silas to take us to the palace."

"Isn't he coming over tomorrow?" Francesca asked directly. "Why are we going over now?"

"About that—"

“Dr. Felch.” William was about to explain when Silas stepped forward. “His Majesty has learned of your impressive medical skills and is filled with admiration. He would like to invite you to the palace and he hopes that you’ll grant him the honor.”

As one of the king’s close aides, Silas had shown Francesca great respect by the graciousness he had displayed.

Unfortunately, it failed to work on her. “I don’t like to be a guest. If His Majesty has any questions, he can come here himself and ask them.”

“Francesca...”

“Dr. Felch.” This time, the solemnity in Silas’ voice deepened. “You’re probably unaware because of your youth. His Majesty’s invitation and the fact that he has sent me is an unprecedented display of sincerity. Please don’t put me and His Highness in a difficult position.”

“Me putting you in a difficult position?” Francesca asked curiously. “I’m here to provide medical treatment and I have not committed any crimes, so why does the king insist on seeing me? And how does me not seeing him put you in a difficult position?”

“Dr. Felch—”

“Mr. Faulkner,” William interjected before Silas could say anything further.

“Francesca is a good friend of mine and also my savior. All this while, she hates to be restricted and doesn’t enjoy socializing in political circles. Since she doesn’t feel like going to the palace, let’s not pressure her into it. As for Grandpa, I’ll explain it to him myself.”

“Your Highness—”

Silas was about to say something when William bowed to him. “Please.”

Given William's response, Silas couldn't bring himself to press the matter any further. He let out a deep sigh and said, "All right. I'll wait for you outside, then."

With that, he strode out of the room.

Francesca—who was already in a foul mood—was further annoyed by the drama. However, the miserable look on William's face triggered mixed emotions within her that led her to apologize. "William, I'm sorry. I don't want to make things difficult for you, but I really don't feel like going to the palace."

"It's fine if you don't want to go. It has nothing to do with you anyway." William was always gentle with Francesca. "I already feel bad for getting you involved. Whatever it is, I'll deal with it myself. I don't want to place any burden on you."

"But how are you going to explain yourself at the palace?" Francesca was concerned about him.

"It's no big deal. I'll take care of it." William patted her on the shoulder. "All right, I'll be off now. I don't want to keep Silas waiting. Anyway, don't push yourself today. Once you have examined Robin, you should get some rest."

"Okay." Francesca nodded before watching William leave.

Robin let out a sorrowful sigh. "I thought we could turn things around smoothly, but it seems we are finished."

"What do you mean by finished?" Francesca asked curiously.

"It's my fault. It's all my fault," Robin continued to blame himself. "I shouldn't have appealed to His Majesty and revealed your identity. More importantly, I shouldn't have exposed Mr. Lindberg and your relationship."

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Chapter 2105 The Scheme

“What are you babbling about?” Francesca could not wrap her head around his words. “I understand if you revealed my true identity, as the king wouldn’t believe you if I were an ordinary doctor. But why did you bring up my relationship with Danrique?”

“I didn’t plan on mentioning it at first. But when His Majesty learned that you were Francesco, the miracle doctor, he insisted on seeing you. He wanted you to personally describe how you tested the poison and to show evidence of it. At the same time, he planned to send experts from the palace to validate your work...

“I remembered that before your arrival, His Highness had instructed me not to get you involved in politics no matter what. He said that you didn’t like socializing or showing yourself in public, let alone mingling with the royal and political circles of the nation.

“So, in a moment of desperation, I mentioned you were Danrique’s fiancée, hoping that His Majesty would change his mind. That way, he would show you more respect, or at the very least, not put you in a difficult spot by validating your work.”

After relating what happened in a single breath, the weakened Robin took a deep breath and continued, “Just as expected, His Majesty’s attitude toward you changed the moment he heard that you were Mr. Lindberg’s fiancée. Although he still wants to see you, it’s from the perspective of a guest instead of trying to interrogate you. Back then, I thought I had done the right thing, but I didn’t expect that...”

Robin sighed.

At that moment, Francesca finally understood. “That Danrique would announce his engagement to Hazel, causing the king to think that William and you were lying. That’s why that old man invited William and me to the palace.”

“That’s right.” Robin let out another deep sigh. “I didn’t expect it too. And now, I’m afraid His Majesty will not only not investigate the matter about the poisoning but also hold His Highness and me accountable for lying.”

Pausing briefly, Robin asked cautiously, “Ms. Felch, what in the world is going on? What happened between you and Mr. Lindberg?”

Instead of replying, Francesca dropped her medical kit and turned around to pursue William.

“Ms. Felch, Ms. Felch!”

Despite his shouts, Robin failed to stop her. As he watched Francesca’s running silhouette disappear, the look in his eyes quickly changed.

He knew that they were currently put at a disadvantage. Nevertheless, they still had a chance of turning things around if Francesca were to side with them.

Francesca wanted to reach the car before it left so that she could travel to the palace together with William.

Amidst William’s shock, Silas invited her into the car.

Once they were on the road, William asked, “Francesca, what’s going on? Didn’t we agree that I’ll deal with it alone? Why did you change your mind and come along?”

“I can’t allow you to face this alone.” Francesca was resolute. “Since I’m the one who detected the poison, I’m ready to answer the king if that’s what he wants. It’s better to clarify the matter in person than to have the old man asking for me continuously.”

Silas cleared his throat at the sound of Francesca's words. "Ms. Felch, please don't speak this way to His Majesty at the palace."

"How, then, should I speak?" Francesca retorted. "I'm not a criminal. Why should I lower myself in front of him?"

"Um..."

"All right, all right." William quickly defused the situation. "Mr. Faulkner, even though Francesca is headstrong, she's still someone well-mannered and respects the elderly. His Majesty is my grandfather. She knows what's appropriate."

Having heard William's response, Silas didn't say anything further.

After all, it was a smart comment that not only defended Francesca but also eased the tension in the air.

Francesca, too, kept mum. Looking out the window with Danrique in her thoughts, she felt the knot in her heart. All she wanted to do was to resolve the matter at hand so that she could fly to Xendale and confront Danrique about the truth.

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Chapter 2106 The Expectations Of Love

Meanwhile, Danrique had just learned that Francesca was heading to the palace with William. Consumed by rage, he smashed his phone. “That foolish woman!”

I have already threatened her with a breakup. And yet, instead of compromising, she ends up protecting William. Is she just stupid, or does she love William instead of me?

The more Danrique thought about it, the angrier he became.

“Mr. Lindberg, calm down,” Sean consoled him. “I think Ms. Felch is either too kind or naïve. That’s why she is being manipulated by Prince William. Soon, the truth will find its way to her.”

“That’s not being naïve. It’s pure stupidity!” Danrique exploded in anger. “This time, I must teach her a lesson so that she learns once and for all how insidious men can be!”

“But...” Sean decided to swallow his words instead.
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“What do you want to say?” Danrique saw through him. “You think I’m being too cruel to William?”

“Prince William’s comeback will only benefit us. He’s one of our partners after all. Once he succeeds as king, the future of our collaboration will be bright. On the other hand, if one of his cousins ascends the throne, we will lose one of our key interest groups. Since we have just expanded to the Epean market, it would be in our interest to broaden our network and gain a foothold instead.”

At that moment, Sean—worried about angering Danrique—paused to observe his reaction.

“Continue.” Danrique gestured.

“I know you’re angry, mostly because Prince William has used Ms. Felch and taken advantage of your identity to achieve his objectives. So all you want to do now is to put him in his place. That, I can understand. But I feel that there’s no benefit in us destroying him. Not only would we lose a partner, but we might also end up antagonizing Ms. Felch.”

Danrique, brimming with emotions, exclaimed, “Are you saying that Francesca will have a fallout with me because of William? After all that I’ve done, can’t that foolish woman see what’s going on?”

“With Ms. Felch’s intelligence and wisdom, I’m sure she’ll figure out sooner or later. But...” Sean pondered for a fleeting moment. “Mr. Lindberg, you have neglected an important point—Ms. Felch is still a doctor!”

“So what if she is?” Danrique was truly clueless.

“As a doctor, she’s born with an inherent sense of justice,” Sean analyzed. “Besides, aren’t Prince William’s enemies real? I’m sure someone has really poisoned him and the inhabitants of the castle. Now that she’s trapped in Danontand, she will want to hold the perpetrator accountable no matter what. Even if she knows that Prince William is using her, I’m afraid she’ll understand his motivations. After all, he’s carrying the burden of a blood feud and has the blood of eighty men on his hands.

“Compared to the heavy responsibilities on his shoulders, his manipulation of her is nothing at all. Long story short, Ms. Felch has nothing to lose. She might get disappointed in Prince William, but she would never have a fallout with him over it. As for you, insisting on teaching Prince William a lesson is the same as squashing any hope of justice for the eighty lives lost in his castle. Therefore, how do you think it looks through the lens of morality?”

Sean's words cause Danrique to fall into deep thought. Despite seeing the logic in it, he still felt indignant. "Am I really not that important to her compared to William?"

"No, Ms. Felch is fiercely loyal. She's someone who wears her heart on her sleeve. Hence, her feelings for you are true. As for Prince William, she sees him as a friend at most and sympathizes with him. Nonetheless, she has high expectations of you because of her love for you. That's in contrast to an ordinary friend from whom she doesn't expect anything at all."

After finishing his soliloquy in a single breath, Sean advised, "Didn't you say that Prince William would call you tonight and beg you for mercy? I think it's a good opportunity for you to consider whether to give him another chance."

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Chapter 2107 Within Expectations

After a momentary silence, Danrique replied flatly, “That will depend on his performance.”

“As of now, you’re his last hope. In order to exact revenge and make a comeback, he’ll definitely agree to any of your conditions,” Sean said.

“Yes. That includes Francesca too,” Danrique sneered. “Perhaps she might plead on his behalf in order to help him out.”

“Uh...” Sean didn’t dare to comment any further, as he could sense that everything seemed to be falling into place for Danrique, including leveraging this opportunity to take out the Atkinson family.

As long as Francesca didn’t make any further mistakes, they would be the ultimate winner in the end. Unfortunately, all that his employer cared about was Francesca.

Meanwhile, Francesca could feel her ears burning. Feeling as if someone was talking about her, she checked her phone but didn’t see any notifications on it.

Nevertheless, she had no time to be distracted, for they had arrived at the palace.

Dressed in her white robe and wearing custom-made medical spectacles, Francesca looked inexplicably attractive with her messy hair, which she didn’t have time to comb in the morning.

Her carefree appearance made her stick out like a sore thumb within the opulent decorations of the palace. “Dr. Felch, this way please,” Silas invited.

Following William from behind, Francesca strode into the inner halls confidently.

As he hadn’t been there in a long time, William scanned the surroundings with his narrowed eyes and lamented, “It’s been ten years since I last came here.”

“That’s right. You were still a teenager back then,” Silas recalled. “It was His Majesty’s birthday then, and you came to attend the banquet.”

“Yeah.” William flashed a self-deprecating smile. “That was the time I embarrassed myself by rolling down the staircase. While everyone was laughing at me, only Grandpa reached out to help me up.”

“It wasn’t your fault. Someone sabotaged you.” Silas couldn’t help but feel his heart ache at the mention of the topic. “In His Majesty’s absence, they used the opportunity to goad you into standing up. Despite knowing that your legs were crippled, they insisted on forcing you to get on your feet. When you failed to do so, they grabbed you up from your wheelchair and let go, causing you to fall down the staircase.” Recalling the past enraged Silas. “They truly are b*stards for taking advantage of their parents’ position to bully you. After that, the few nobles even dismissed the matter as just children fooling around.”

“They really were children. All of them were younger than me.” The calm William broke into a faint smile as if he was unaffected by the past. “Those who were older simply stood aside and abetted them without laying a finger on me.”

“Ever since that incident, His Majesty has never asked you to come back to the palace. Not because he’s ostracizing you, but because he doesn’t want to see you being bullied,” Silas said with a sigh. “Your Highness, His Majesty cares about you. It’s just that... there are plenty of considerations holding him back.”

“I know.” William gave a bitter smile before raising his head to look out at the green lawn. “Francesca, look, I used to go horse riding there... and that’s also where I fell.”

His words elicited a sympathetic squeeze in Francesca’s heart. “The same blood flows through all of your veins. Why do they have to treat you this way?”

“My father is the eldest, so he will most likely succeed the throne...” William said meaningfully before changing the topic. “It seems that there are other guests today.”

When he saw the luxury sedans parked nearby, his eyes dimmed.

“His Majesty has invited a few other families—your cousins,” Silas said softly. “Don’t worry. His Majesty won’t put you in a difficult position.”

William simply responded with silence.

“Actually, I’m looking forward to meet them.”

Francesca’s knuckles cracked as she clenched her fists.

After hearing William relate the stories from his childhood, she was filled with rage. She felt the urge to seek justice on his behalf.

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Chapter 2108 Relationships

Inside the inner hall, it was surprisingly warm, just like a luxurious home that didn't lose its sense of familiarity.

Hanging off the wall was a huge family portrait with many members of the family inside. Sitting in the middle was Federico, who was surrounded by his children and grandchildren.

From the picture, Francesca spotted the young William, who looked exactly the same as he was now. However, he wasn't paralyzed then and still had a sparkle in his eyes.

His clear and crystal-blue eyes glistened vibrantly, just like the stars in the night sky.

He was leaning against Federico's knees with a face that was filled with innocence. Anyone who saw him couldn't deny the happiness he was exuding then.

After all, his healthy parents were standing by the side in the picture.

"When I was young, I couldn't wait to grow up." William sighed. "How foolish of me!"

"One has to grow up sooner or later."

All of a sudden, a sonorous voice rang out from behind them. When Francesca turned around and was greeted by the sight of Federico, she realized that he looked just as warm and kind as he was on the television.

"Your Majesty." William bowed respectfully.

As for Francesca, she nodded at him out of courtesy.

“Welcome, Dr. Felch.” Federico looked at Francesca intently before shifting his attention to William. “William, you can dispense with the pleasantries. Just call me Grandpa as you have always done so in the past.”

“Yes, Grandpa.” William nodded.

“Please, have a seat.” Federico ushered them.

Without any hesitation, Francesca settled down on the sofa.

Subsequently, the palace attendants served some snacks and Epean tea before moving to the side.

As for Silas, he stood quietly behind Federico with his head lowered.

“Yesterday morning, Robin came to the palace with a report. Thus, I would like to verify it with you now.”

At Federico’s cue, a middle-aged woman who looked like a secretary came forward with a recording pen. After bowing at Federico and William, she began to play it.

The recording contained Robin’s report to Federico. He first informed Federico of how William’s illness acted up again before going on about how the latter had invited an exceptionally skilled doctor to the castle to treat him.

After diagnosing that he had been poisoned, the doctor followed the trails and discovered that the water source at the castle had been spiked, together with William’s essential oils.

Robin had even brought samples of the poisoned water and essential oils to be validated.

Throughout the entire process, Robin explained everything clearly. Never in his report did he mention who the suspect was or how much William had been humiliated over the years.

During the exchange, Federico had a few questions for him but didn't reveal his thoughts. In the end, he instructed Robin to bring the doctor to the palace so that he could question her.

However, it was then that Robin began to panic and became evasive.

Unfortunately, his reaction ended up raising Federico's suspicions instead. It was under those circumstances that he mentioned Francesca's identity.

Up till then, everything was consistent with what Robin had told them, and there were no problems.

However, toward the end, Federico began to focus on Danrique and Francesca's relationship.

Despite all that Robin had said earlier, Federico barely made a comment. It wasn't until Robin had mentioned that Francesca was Danrique's fiancée that he probed further to know if the information was true and if Danrique had openly admitted the fact.

Robin responded in the affirmative and even told him some stories about Danrique and Francesca.

After delving into the matter in detail and verifying that Danrique was serious about Francesca to the extent of getting married, Federico finally eased up. Subsequently, he told Robin that he would personally contact William to inform him of his decision with regard to the matter.

Having heard the entire exchange, the clueless Francesca realized the complex relationships that were involved. Compared to the political machinations against William, Federico seemed to care more about her relationship with Danrique.

