

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2154

Chapter 2154 Agendas

The presidential couple seemed quite reasonable. Upon knowing that Danrique had brought his fiancée along, they held their daughter back from creating trouble.

The poor woman, on the other hand, must have suffered from some kind of shock, given how mentally unstable she seemed. That being said, the family seemed relatively reasonable.

Upon thinking about this, Francesca cared little. She turned on her heel and walked toward the hall as well.

By then, the banquet had already ended. The president suggested that they go to the hunting grounds, which was met with the approval and anticipation of the men in attendance.

“I’m not going. But please, carry on without me.”

Danrique looked at Francesca, who had just entered. She was holding her skirt up as she walked over, her face seemingly clueless and dazed. Danrique found this adorable.

“Danrique, it’s only nine! Why don’t you stay for a bit?” asked Harrier with a smile. “Besides, Cece is here too. You can keep her company. She must be so bored, cooped up in the castle all day.”

“What’s going on?” Francesca had caught wind of the conversation.

“Do you want to go hunting on the hunting grounds, Cece?” asked the president warmly.

“No thanks.”

Francesca did not like hunting animals. However, she realized she could not change anything and could only choose to stay away.

“Then we won’t go hunting. Let’s head to the basement parlor and play some board games!” The president smiled and continued, “There are some simple games there we can play. The women can also join in then.”

“That’s right, Cece! I’ve asked the kitchen to prepare some Chanaean snacks and tea. You have not sampled them yet!” chimed the first lady warmly.

The presidential couple had all their attention centered on Francesca, intending on following her wishes. Thus, the rest looked at her face expectantly.

At that moment, no matter how arrogant a person Francesca was, she would have still felt somewhat embarrassed. Besides, Danrique still needed to be on good terms with them, so she had to get along with high society eventually.

Thinking of this, Francesca turned to look at Danrique. He, too, returned her gaze, as if questioning her intent.

“Very well then.” Having seen that Danrique was not insisting on leaving, she thought that he did have the desire to stay after all. She then said, “Thank you, Mr. President, Ma’am.”

“That’s splendid!” Harrier clapped happily. “I can show off my card skills to Danrique tonight!”

“Didn’t you lose enough the last time?” quipped Kevin.

“You’re talking as if you’ve never lost,” retorted Harrier, rolling his eyes.

“Haha!” The president was all smiles. “I didn’t realize that Danrique was skilled at playing cards too!”

“He’s got a photographic memory. It helps him remember where the cards are!” chortled Gerard. “We three constantly lose terribly to him!”

“Then I must see this for myself!”

Having said that, the president ushered everyone to the basement.

The first lady was also ushering the female guests to the basement. From the corner of her eye, Francesca noticed that the bodyguards remained in the hall. Apart from Sean, nobody else followed.

Monica then waved at her from afar.

Francesca felt a little embarrassed. Monica had specifically asked her if she could come along, but she ended up staying with the other bodyguards. It was as if she barely participated.

The group of people filed into the basement. The men started to gather around a table to play cards while conversations about both banal and important things began to flow.

Francesca thought that the game was just a distraction since they were actually discussing crucial matters.

The president seemed genial, but his sharp eyes did not miss anything. He was carefully observing everyone’s words and deeds.

He seemed to be assessing everyone’s capabilities while he had the chance.

Danrique did not say much, but he was concise. Everyone present was observing his demeanor, including the president himself.

Where the women gathered, everyone seemed to have their own agendas. Everyone was carefully currying favor with the first lady, yet at the same time, they dared not offend Francesca. Instead, they observed her every move in secret.

This time, Sean did not join the men at the table. Instead, he stayed to chat with the women, leaving them dazzled by his impeccable eloquence.

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2155

Chapter 2155 Pretty Woman

Francesca found it difficult to fit into this environment. She decided to find a quiet corner and busied herself with playing darts alone. “Not a bad technique!”

Just then, a voice came from behind her. Francesca turned around and saw that it was Harrier who spoke.

He held a glass of wine and gracefully strolled over, eyeing the darts on the board. With a smile, he said, “You’ve hit a number of tens. You’ve got some skill, Ms. Cece!”

“It’s all right.”

Francesca glanced at Danrique. He was betting against the president under the watchful eyes of everyone else. It was quite a tense and heated round.

As such, Danrique wasn’t paying attention to her.

“I heard Prince William mention that you’re loyal to your friends and quite skilled too. I’m glad I got to see this today.”

Harrier stood about a meter away with a smile etched on his face, speaking in a hushed tone.

Francesca was slightly taken aback. She turned around and asked, “You know William?”

“Prince William’s conglomerate had worked with Lindberg Corporation before. There have been business dealings, and he even attended Mr. Adams’s banquet. Have you forgotten?”

Harrier smiled gently at her.

“Oh, you appear to be right.”

Upon hearing him bring up the subject of William, Francesca could not help but feel guilty. She thought of how she initially came to Xendale to rally soldiers to save him, but she was so focused on her relationship with Danrique that this matter soon slipped through the cracks of her mind.

She wondered how he was at the moment.

“I’ve heard that Prince William was captured and is being held at the palace. His situation is unclear...” Harrier inched closer to Francesca and sighed. “It’s a shame. He’s a good prince and an exemplary person...”

“What do you mean by his situation is unclear?” asked Francesca, clearly shocked by the revelation.

“Think about it.” Harrier brought the glass to his lips and murmured, “Prince William’s cousins have always wanted him dead. This is the perfect opportunity to do so. Why wouldn’t they act?”

Harrier took another sip and continued, “I heard something else. Before he was placed under house arrest, he went to plead his case before King Federico. However, old wounds run deep. I think they have venom deep in their hearts. I fear that Prince William won’t live past Christmas.”

Hearing this, Francesca trembled. Christmas was a mere seven days away...

She had truly not considered this at all. Now that Harrier had brought this up, she suddenly realized that the longer she tarried here, the closer William inched toward danger.

“Mr. Harrington!” Just then, Sean suddenly walked over. “Mr. Lindberg has summoned you.”

Harrier immediately stepped back, bowed toward Francesca, then hurried back to the cards table.

In a low voice, Sean asked, “Ms. Felch, is everything all right? Did he behave indecently?”

“I’m fine.” Francesca turned to look at Danrique. He returned her gaze, and she beamed at him before turning to look at Sean again. “I’m going to the restroom. You go ahead and have fun. There’s no need to worry about me.”

“I’ll ask Monica to accompany you then.”

Sean was not too keen on Francesca going alone, so he went upstairs to fetch Monica.

As Francesca made her way to the restroom, thoughts of William weighed heavily on her mind. I have to find a way to save him, but how can I manage this alone? I can’t possibly pull this off by myself. Also, how am I going to convince Danrique?

She was deep in thought when suddenly, a figure emerged from the storage room in the restroom.

Francesca was startled. When she turned around, she found herself face to face with a beautiful young woman.

She had milky white skin, beautiful features, and a pair of bright eyes. Her beauty was so surreal that she could have walked out of an oil painting.

Dressed in resplendent clothing, she seemed quite frantic as her hair was ruffled. Nervously, she apologized to Francesca, saying, “I’m sorry! I’m so sorry! I did not mean to frighten you. I was worried Mom would find me, so I hid here.”

Francesca gave the woman a once over, thinking that she looked like the person she had seen outside the banquet hall. Is this the president’s daughter?

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2156

Chapter 2156 Despair

“Are you here to attend the banquet?” A pair of lovely eyes were affixed onto Francesca as the woman asked again, “Have you seen Danrique?”

“Uh...” Francesca sputtered. “Y-yes!” “Is he outside?” The woman frantically pointed toward the door. “Yes.” Francesca nodded. “You...”

“I’m going to see him.” The woman lifted her skirt and was about to run out. Just then, the door to the restroom opened, and a tall, slender figure blocked the entryway. “Ms. Riker!”

“Hazel!” The woman held Hazel’s hands and happily said, “Bring me to Danrique! Isn’t he outside?”

“He is outside, but...” Hazel stopped herself from saying anything further. With a pointed look at Francesca, she gently went on, “Be good and stay here. I’ll bring your mother over.”

“No! I don’t want to see Mom! I want to see Danrique!”

The woman immediately became agitated again, wanting to burst into the hall to seek out Danrique. However, Hazel held her in a vice-like grip and refused to let her out. Hurriedly, she said, “Ms. Riker, be good and stop causing a scene. Otherwise, your parents will be displeased.”

“Let go! Let go of me!”

The president’s daughter pushed and struggled with all her might before finally becoming enraged.

“I remember now! You were constantly competing with me over Danrique! You did awful things and tried to sabotage our relationship! If not for you, I would not have ruined my relationship with Danrique, nor would I have married that wretched man!”

“It’s not that...” Hazel was about to explain, but the other woman suddenly gave Hazel a hard slap. “I said, let go!”

The sound of the slap reverberated through the corridor, and a red mark soon appeared on Hazel’s pale skin. Soon, her cheek turned red, but she simply tilted her head aside and refused to fight back, managing to keep her cool.

“Ms. Riker, please calm down! I’m going to fetch your mother!”

Having said this, she looked at Francesca, pushed the unstable woman into the restroom, and hurried away after closing the door.

A clicking sound could be heard from the other side of the door, indicating it had either been locked or barred. With all her might, the woman pushed and tugged in vain, but the door did not budge.

However, this series of actions, which only lasted a minute or two, had happened very quickly.

Seeing how fast Hazel acted, one could tell that Hazel was used to doing such things.

“Let me out! Let me out!”

In her agitation, the woman started banging against the door while screaming, “Hazel Atkinson! You vile, shameless, coward! Back then, you were the one who locked Steve and me in the same room! You set me up! It was you!”

Francesca looked upon all this in astonishment, her mind completely blank.

From what she could infer, this woman and Hazel both liked Danrique back then.

In order to have Danrique to herself, Hazel played a dirty trick to have this woman and another man locked in the same room. Perhaps this resulted in the woman losing her virginity and being separated from Danrique, and she was then married off to Dartan.

However, the marriage did not work out, and she came back.

If this was true, then Hazel was truly a terrifying person. This woman was simply a poor victim of Hazel's schemes.

However, there was something Francesca did not understand. As the president's daughter, her status was much higher than that of Hazel. How could Hazel do such things to her and get away with it?

On the other hand, it was not impossible. Hazel was deeply manipulative, while this woman seemed quite innocent. It could be that she was indeed framed.

Even so, if this woman was telling the truth, why did the president and first lady not deal with Hazel? In fact, they seemed to get along quite amiably.

As such, the finer details of the situation remained unclear.

As Francesca pondered this, the woman suddenly slumped to the ground, crying in despair.

Francesca felt so sorry for the woman in this state that she could not help but want to comfort her. However, the woman suddenly took out a blade and sliced a part of her hand.

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2157

Chapter 2157 Scary

Francesca was instantly scared out of her wits and rushed over to stop her. However, the woman's actions were quicker as she slashed at her wrist.

In a split second, Francesca grabbed the woman's hand, wrestled the knife away from her, and ripped off part of her dress to bandage the cut. "Let go! Let go of me!"

The woman was struggling so hard that the blade cut Francesca's hand. Even so, Francesca could not be bothered about it as she tried to hold the woman down so she could treat the wound. "Diana..."

Just then, frantic voices were heard from outside the door. "Hurry up! Open the door!" Very quickly, someone opened the door of the restroom. When they saw what had happened, they were shocked.

The first lady came in with a shout, asking her subordinates to subdue her daughter before frantically asking if Francesca was okay.

This confused Francesca. Shouldn't the first lady be more concerned about her daughter? Why does she seem more worried about me instead?

"Let go of me. Let me go! Mom!"

The woman was kicking and screaming for dear life, but suddenly, a man's voice could be heard yelling, "What the blazes is happening here? Take her away!"

It was the president.

His reaction seemed to be out of anger rather than pity toward his own daughter.

Very quickly, the anger dissipated to concern as he shifted his gaze to Francesca.
“Ms. Cece, are you all right?”

Francesca shook her head, her expression wary.

Just then, a pair of hands reached out from behind to hug her. Subconsciously, she turned around, only to come face to face with Danrique’s gentle expression. “Are you okay?”

“I...”

“Danrique! Danrique...”

Francesca barely had time to speak when the woman wrenched herself free from the maids and lunged at Danrique. Her hands were soaked with blood as she reached up to gently touch his face. “Danrique...”

“Seize her!”

At the president’s orders, a few bodyguards stepped forward to promptly drag the woman away. She seemed like she wanted to scream, but she was then gagged.

Suddenly, silence befell the scene.

Francesca stared blankly at the woman, her eyes full of astonishment.

“I apologize for causing you distress, Ms. Cece.” The first lady did not excuse herself to pacify her daughter but instead tried to calm Francesca down. “I’ve sent for a doctor. He’ll be here soon to take care of your wound. Are you all right?”

“I’m fine, Ma’am.” Francesca returned to her senses and immediately said, “There’s no need for a doctor. I can take care of myself. You should see to Ms. Riker instead.”

“I...”

“Go on,” said the president.

The first lady nodded at both Francesca and Danrique before leaving with an entourage.

“I want her watched!” hissed the president, his expression full of fury.

When he turned around, the anger was replaced by warmth and remorse. “You have my most heartfelt apology, Ms. Cece, Danrique. It must have been distressing.”

“It’s a small matter.” Danrique held onto Francesca and said, “Why does Diana’s condition seem to be worsening? I think she should see a specialist.”

“You’re right. She was fine all this time. Two days ago, however...” The president let out a deep sigh, and his expression turned grave. “How did a simple banquet turn out this way?”

“It’s understandable. She is family, after all,” said Danrique warmly. “We’ll make our way home first. I think you should see to Diana. She needs urgent care.”

“Her mother is with her now, so it will be all right.” The president let out another sigh and said, “Let me escort you out.”

It was only as they left that Francesca realized the guests from the three great families, Hazel included, had not shown up. She reckoned that they had stayed in the recreation room to avoid seeing Diana in her current state and also to save the dignities of the presidential couple.

When the president brought Danrique past the recreation room, the guests then came over as if nothing had happened, still discussing the card game from earlier.

Hazel was also unusually calm, as if the incident earlier had nothing to do with her.

This made Francesca feel very afraid. Are the upper classes such cold-blooded and unfeeling people?

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2158

Chapter 2158 Not So Bad

Francesca felt uneasy up until she got in the car. It was only when Danrique tended to her injury that she came back to her senses.

“When you encounter something like this, don’t just throw yourself into it,” said Danrique unhappily. “Did the Chrono incident teach you nothing? Why do you like being a busybody?”

Having heard this, Francesca trembled, thinking of what had happened with Chrono and Candice.

It had brought upon her much trouble.

She still had lingering fears whenever she thought about it.

Francesca had constantly been reminding herself not to stick her nose where it did not belong, but every time someone was in danger, she could not resist the urge to help.

Like with what happened earlier—she had never considered how complicated the issue was.

Diana had slit her wrist in front of her. As a doctor, how could Francesca stand idly by?

“Scared out of your wits?” asked Danrique as he gently pinched Francesca’s cheek.

“Not quite.” Francesca came back to her senses again. “That woman... Did she like you before?”

“I guess so,” replied Danrique mildly.

“And then she married someone else?” Francesca continued. “But is now divorced?”

“Yes.” Danrique nodded and said, “Not too long ago, the first lady brought her back from Dartan. After coming back, however, her psyche seemed to be abnormal. I heard that she did not have a good life and that things were complicated there.”

After a pause, Danrique said, “It’s nothing to do with you, however. There’s no need to dwell on it.”

“I’d assumed that the person who put me under house arrest after bribing King Federico was the president himself,” Francesca blurted out. “I guess it’s not him.”

“Ha!” Danrique laughed. “So you were thinking about this all this while? I’ve underestimated you.”

“I’m not an idiot,” said Francesca, rolling her eyes. “I’m just not fond of playing games of intrigue. I know what’s happening, all right? William had mentioned that the King only socializes with people that befit his station. Since the three great families are not quite of the same rank, the only person who could possibly have a connection with both you and the King was the president.”

Francesca paused briefly before continuing to speak. “Since you brought me to the banquet, I’ve been quietly observing everyone. Given how the presidential couple is so genial, I think that your status must be higher than that of the president himself. As such, I thought the president wanted to win you over by betrothing his daughter to you, so he bribed the king to keep me in Danontand. But seeing the current state of his daughter dispelled my concerns.”

Danrique nodded and hummed in response. “I arrived at the same conclusion you did after mulling over this. Tonight was, in fact, meant for recon.”

“You thought the same?” said Francesca hurriedly. “I mean, Diana is already like this, so surely they wouldn’t dare to wed you two even if they wanted to? Based on their behavior today, I think they had no such intentions at all.”

“I think that was their intention initially.” Danrique had nothing else to say on this.

“I guess you’re taking this with a grain of salt.” Francesca did not understand.

“Unless you think something else was up?”

“I’m just used to having reservations.” Danrique smiled mildly and said, “A lot of things don’t really reveal themselves until the very end.”

“What do you mean?” Francesca still did not understand.

“Don’t fret.” Danrique reached over to pat her on the head. “You can just be your happy, jovial self by my side. I’ll take care of the rest.”

“But I have other questions.” Francesca thought of what Diana had said earlier and asked, “What does Diana’s marriage have to do with Hazel?”

“Diana is the president’s daughter, which means her status is not average. What right does Hazel have to interfere with her marriage?” retorted Danrique. “That being said, Hazel was in M Nation studying when Diana married. She only came back to attend the ceremony.”

“But I heard Diana say—”

“Things between women are complicated. You should not get involved.” Danrique immediately cut short was Francesca was about to say. “Also, Hazel Atkinson is not that bad!”