Chapter 2164 Cold Blood

Knowing there was no point talking to Danrique at that moment, Francesca tugged at Monica to leave. However, the latter shouted in panic, "Mr. Lindberg, please! I'm begging you! Please help Prince William!"

Alas, Danrique only continued studying the documents, unmoved by her pleas. "Ms. Flech, please talk to Mr. Lindberg. Please…" Monica implored anxiously, grabbing Francesca's hand.

"I've been asking him every day. It's no use. Come on, get some rest first. I'll think of something else," Francesca said softly.

Still holding Francesca's hand, Monica said anxiously, "But Prince William doesn't have much time left. If things get delayed any further, he'll die."

"Monica—"

Before Francesca could say anything, Monica suddenly slumped to the ground from her wheelchair and begged emotionally, "Mr. Lindberg, I'm begging you. Please..."

"Monica..."

"Ms. Monica, why are you doing this to yourself?" Sean rushed forward to help her up.

Regardless, Monica refused to leave. She clung to the doorframe, crying, "Prince William was harmed by those heartless people! He's been transferred to the hospital, but the castle's now on lockdown. There are about eighty people in there, and they're all poisoned. No one can leave or even enter the castle. All they can do

is just wait for death to knock on their doors. Mr. Lindberg, Prince William has always viewed you as his good friend. He's in trouble now. All I'm asking is for you to make a trip to Danontand. This will all be solved if you go there. Please! You can take this as an act of kindness. I'll do anything you want as long as you save him."

Francesca was moved by Monica's speech, but Danrique was still unfazed. "Everyone has their own fate. I have no right to interfere with them."

"Mr. Lindberg..."

"Take her out," Danrique ordered impatiently.

Sean hurried forward and lifted Monica into the wheelchair. The latter was still pleading, but Sean pushed her out without any delay.

Francesca watched the scene with complex emotions.

She could not understand why Danrique was being so heartless. At the same time, she had no right to scold him.

There were no rules in the world where one must help another. Wronging them for not helping would be an act of guilt-tripping.

Thus, Francesca could not blame him.

Even so, she could not ignore William's plight, which left her all the more conflicted.

"Are you mad at me?" Danrique cast her a cold glare.

"No." With that, she walked out without saying anything else.

Danrique stared at her back, his expression turning grim. Whenever she argued with him, he would act adamantly. However, he would get worried when she kept quiet.

The truth was, he did not think there was anything wrong with his decision, but making her unhappy left him feeling uneasy.

Things between them were quite awkward at that point, and Danrique did not know how to resolve it.

Hence, he decided to not return to the room.

Meanwhile, Francesca returned to the room and fell back into the bed, pondering the matter in silence.

She felt extremely lost. What should I do?

Just then, her phone vibrated again. It was a call from Monica.

Seeing Monica's name on the screen then made Francesca feel pressured. She held her head, not wanting to look at the phone. However, her guilt got the better of her, and she answered the call, "Yes, Monica?"

"I'm sorry, Ms. Felch. I was too reckless just now. I shouldn't have done that. Did I put you in a difficult position?"

"No..."

"I know I shouldn't have troubled you, but I'm really worried about Prince William."

"It's okay."

"I'm so stupid. I shouldn't have gone looking for Mr. Lindberg. I don't have anything to bargain with him, nor do I have the skills to convince him. I only made

him more annoyed." Monica took a deep breath and recollected herself, saying chokingly, "Ms. Felch, I can see that Mr. Lindberg really loves you. You're the only one who can save Prince William now. Please. Please think of another way."

Francesca sighed. "I really don't know what else I can do. I can't convince Danrique anymore. Anyway, I've decided to go back to Danontand tomorrow to rescue William."

Chapter 2165 What Am I To You

Monica was stunned by those words. It took her some time to return to her senses. "You're going alone?" Francesca felt utterly helpless. "Yes. You may not know Danrique that well, but no one can make him change his mind. Not even I. Besides, he's always suspected that there's something going on between William and me.

Danrique's extremely bothered by it, so there's no way he'll help William. But you're right. William is in terrible danger. I'm afraid he doesn't have much time left if I don't take any action. So, I've decided to return to Danontand tomorrow and come up with a plan to rescue William. By the way, did you get any information from your people? Send them to me."

Monica said hurriedly, "I'll go with you. I have all the information here. In fact, I have more. Besides, two is better than one."

"But your leg is injured. There's no use in you going back. On the contrary, I'll even have to take care of you. Why don't you just stay here and recuperate? The bodyguards won't hurt you as long as you don't mess with Danrique."

"No way. I have to go back with you. Don't worry; I won't be a burden to you. I might be injured, but I can at least provide you with information. Besides, my partner is still in Danontand, and I have some connections who will surely be of help."

"All right, then. Pack your things. We're leaving in a while." Francesca got up to look for her travel documents.

"Will Mr. Lindberg let you go?" Monica sounded a little worried.

"I'm free to go wherever I want. He can't stop me!" Francesca declared.

"Really?"

A voice suddenly came from behind her.

Francesca jumped in shock. By the time she turned around, Danrique was already standing in the room, staring at her with a sharp gaze under the dim lights.

He looked like a raging beast.

"Monica, I'll call you later." Francesca hung up and reprimanded him, "Why are you eavesdropping?"

"This is my room. There's nothing wrong with me listening to the conversations in my room. What's this? Are you really going to Danontand to carry out a rescue mission?" Danrique sat on the sofa, gazing at her nonchalantly.

"Since you're not willing to help, then I have no choice but to do it myself. Tsk. Where's my backpack, anyway?" Francesca continued fumbling through the drawers.

"Did you even ask me?" Anger was surging within Danrique, but he did his best to suppress it.

"What do I need to ask?" responded Francesca, still looking around for her things and paying little attention to him.

Seeing that, Danrique pulled her over, causing her to stumble and fall into his embrace. Just as she was about to move, Danrique locked his arms around her. He placed one hand around her waist while the other held her chin, forcing her to look at him. "Look at me, Francesca!"

Francesca, who was forced to look at him, noticed the fury in his eyes. Even so, he was doing his best to control his emotions.

"Tell me. What am I to you?" he hissed.

"I..." Francesca was stumped by the question. She did not understand why he was asking such a question at a time like that.

"Answer me!"

Danrique was so furious that he pinched her chin harder, causing her pain.

"Let me go. It hurts..." Francesca shoved him away angrily.

Danrique gritted his teeth. "Oh, so you know what pain feels like? Remember how you wanted to stay at S Nation because of the orphanage, Anthony, and even the two elders back then? Sure, I can understand all that, but you and I are officially dating each other now. Yet, you still want to fly to Danontand to save William. What exactly am I to you? You prioritize all those nonsensical people, but what about me? What am I to you?"

Chapter 2166 Ran Away

"Danrique, I have a lot of things to deal with right now. I don't have the time or the energy to think about all this. Let me go this instant. I have to go to Danontand. I promise I'll definitely come back to you once I'm done with everything." Francesca was starting to get frustrated.

All she could think of at that moment was to rescue the people in the castle. Naturally, she had not considered Danrique's feelings.

Her reaction left Danrique more frustrated. "So, William is more important than me? You'd rather rescue him yourself after failing to get my help?"

Francesca had officially lost her patience. "What else am I supposed to do? I can't possibly sit back and do nothing! I've done everything I could to beg you, but you still refused. Of course, I have no choice but to do it myself."

With that, she shoved Danrique away and continued searching for her backpack. This time, she finally found it. As she dug through its insides, she found all her traveling documents, including her purse.

She heaved a sigh of relief. After sending Monica a text, she started to get changed.

"You can't do anything without me. Besides, you'll only be getting yourself killed if you go there," Danrique uttered coldly, looking at her busy figure.

Sadly, Francesca ignored his words. She changed into a set of suitable clothing and put on her socks. "Get someone to send us to the airport."

"Francesca..." Danrique was on the verge of exploding with fury. "Did you not hear what I said?"

Francesca raised her head and looked him in the eyes. "I heard you. You said I can't do anything without you and that I'll only get myself killed if I went there. Well, I don't think there's anything I can do about that. After all, I always keep my promises."

With that, she picked up her backpack and her coat and walked toward the door.

Danrique bellowed, "Francesca! If you step out of this room, then it'll be over between us!"

Francesca halted in her tracks. Even her hand that was pulling the door handle froze. After several seconds of silence, she murmured, "If I die, please find yourself another woman. I'd hate to waste your time."

As soon as she finished speaking, she swung the door open and marched off.

"Y-You..."

Danrique could not believe his eyes. She left. She actually left!

He had taken a gamble. In the end, he still lost.

In truth, Danrique was totally capable of locking Francesca in the house, not letting her leave or have any contact with the outside world. He could even send Monica away and prevent anyone or anything related to William from getting in between him and Francesca.

However, he did not do so because he wanted to know what she truly wanted to do.

Although he had said those unkind words about Francesca constantly putting others before him, he still chose to believe in her feelings for him.

Thus, he did nothing to interfere with the situation's development.

He wanted to know what she would do if she followed her heart.

And now, the truth had proven him to be overconfident, for Francesca had chosen to leave.

In fact, she walked away without turning around, even after he said those words.

Even worse, she told him to find another woman because she did not want to waste his time.

The image of her retreating figure and the words she said kept replaying in Danrique's mind. How indifferent of her...

At that moment, he was filled with intense disappointment as if a pail of ice-cold water had been dumped onto him.

So, I was the one who was too naive and childish. Perhaps her purpose for coming back this time was to ask me to save William. And maybe all that affection she gave me for the past few days was for William's sake.

The more Danrique thought about it, the angrier and more bitter he felt.

Knock! Knock!

Right then, several knocks sounded on the door. Sean reported nervously, "Mr. Lindberg, Ms. Felch wants to leave with Monica, and she ordered us to prepare her a car. I've ordered some men to stop her before coming up here to report to you."

"Make her—" Before Danrique could finish, the rumbling sound of an engine could be heard from the outside, followed by the sound of a car speeding away.

Danrique immediately hurried to the balcony to have a look. It turned out that Francesca had stolen a car and driven off with Monica.

She drove so fast that the car vanished from his sight in the blink of an eye.

Chapter 2167 Go All Out

"I'll get someone to chase after them." Sean was about to give the order when Danrique responded, "No." Sean was stunned. "Huh? Mr. Lindberg—"

"There's no point making her stay when she's set her heart on leaving. Let her go if that's what she wants. She'll definitely come back to me for help once she's in trouble." Danrique seemed oddly calm.

"Should we send someone to protect her in secret, then?" Sean asked softly.

"No." Danrique was determined to teach Francesca a lesson. He uttered through gritted teeth, "Since she can be so fearless for William's sake, then we shall let her see what it truly means to be digging her own grave."

"Got it." Noting Danrique's eyes that were glinting with hostility, Sean hurriedly left the room with his head lowered.

Meanwhile, Danrique did not move away from the window. He kept his gaze fixed on the direction Francesca had left for a long time.

Intense disappointment was the only thing he felt at that moment.

Francesca had crushed his passionate love for her.

He could not help but imagine what Francesca was feeling at that moment. She must be cheering over the fact that she escaped successfully. Very well. I shall grant her wish. Go on, Francesca. I'd like to see if you can rescue William without my help.

Francesca sped all the way to the airport, not daring to slow down for fear of someone catching up with them.

However, even when they had arrived at the airport, completed the procedures, and gone to the departure hall, Danrique's men were nowhere to be seen.

Monica looked around uneasily, whispering, "Will Mr. Lindberg send someone to follow us? Are they going to attack us before we board the plane?"

Francesca glanced at her ticket, looking rather calm. "No. He didn't send anyone after us, which means he's well and truly mad this time."

Monica froze for a second. She then said frustratedly, "I don't understand. Why isn't Mr. Lindberg willing to help Prince William? Saving Prince William won't do him any harm. I'm sure the prince will definitely return the favor when he inherits the crown in the future."

Francesca sighed. "He must have his reasons, though I don't understand it either."

"You actually understand him quite well. It's a pity that no one understands Prince William." Monica sighed.

"You do." Francesca stared intently at Monica. "It's rare to have a confidant who's willing to do anything for us in this life. He's a lucky man."

In a panic, Monica stammered, "N-No... Prince William is an extremely prestigious person, while I'm just a plain nobody."

Francesca smiled. "You're not plain. Look at you. You're good-looking and have become a senior Interpol detective at such a young age. Most importantly, you have sincere feelings for him. That alone is a rare trait."

"Please don't get me wrong, Ms. Felch. All I have for Prince William is admiration and gratitude—"

Francesca interjected, "That's not important. You don't have to explain it to me. Then again, I have to tell you this. I only see William as a friend whom I need to help. That's all."

"I know. The person you love is Mr. Lindberg. But with his temper, I'm afraid the relationship between you two might not go well..." Monica said in a low voice.

When she finished her sentence, she hurriedly clarified, "Uh... That's just my opinion. Please don't think too much about it."

Francesca let out a sigh. "That has crossed my mind, too. I've always been a carefree person. I have my dreams and responsibilities, but he hopes I can give up on all that and stay by his side..."

After a brief pause, she added to console herself, "Oh, whatever. I'll just go with the flow."

"I think it's time we board the plane."

"Yep."

With that, they boarded the plane heading back to Danontand.

The truth was, they knew this was a dangerous trip. In fact, they might not be able to do anything and even fall into the opponent's hands. Even so, they were willing to go all out for William's sake.

Chapter 2168 Limited Capabilities

Danrique had trouble falling asleep the entire night. Whenever he recalled the scene of Francesca leaving without looking back, a stabbing pain shot through his heart.

It was only last night when they were having an intimate moment on that very bed. He could still remember the way she curled up like a docile kitten and shivered in his embrace

No matter how hard he tried, he could not shake away the memory of how cute she looked.

I don't understand. She seems to like me a lot and looks happy when we're together. But why does she behave like an entirely different person when William is mentioned? She keeps saying she's doing it because she feels responsible and wants to keep her promise. She's just a kid. Why would she be responsible for a man—a prince, to be more specific—and even his family? And that nonsense about friendship. I really can't wrap my head around it. As if any kind of purely platonic relationship can exist between a man and a woman. What utter nonsense!

He could not understand, nor did he want to understand what was going on.

All he believed was that Francesca did not love him enough, for she had left him for another man.

She knew going to Danontand was no different from challenging death, yet she still chose to leave. Her last words for Danrique, telling him to find another woman because she did not want to waste his time, were like an insult to him.

Fine. If she's going to be this stubborn, then I shall let her learn this lesson the hard way. She's a stubborn idiot who won't give up until she realizes it's hopeless. I'm going to make sure she learns her lesson this time.

Back then, Francesca had always traveled without any worries. She could even sleep soundly when she escaped Danontand with pursuers chasing after her the entire journey.

This time, however, she could not fall asleep.

She kept staring out of the window, her mind occupied with thoughts of Danrique.

In the past, she could come and go whenever she wanted, even if they got into a fight and broke up. Even if it was the latter scenario, she could continue being stubborn or stand her ground.

However, their relationship had progressed to another stage, and their feelings for each other had deepened.

Deep down, she did not want to leave.

To be honest, she was hesitant the moment she stepped out of the room. She wished Danrique would stop her, and they could then talk things through properly.

Sadly, he did not do that.

All he did was warn and threaten her.

Threats were absolutely useless on Francesca, who had a stubborn character. Hence, hearing those ruthless words only made her leave without looking back.

In truth, she was actually feeling a little reluctant when she stole the car and left with Monica. And when she stared at the reflection of the master bedroom windows through the rearview mirror, hesitance crept into her heart.

However, Francesca did not see his silhouette there, and with Monica urging her on, the former had no choice but to slam on the gas pedal.

There was no turning back the moment they left in the car.

Since she had decided to walk down that path, all she could do was march forward bravely.

And now, Francesca could not bear to have other thoughts. All she wanted was to rescue William as soon as possible. Once she was done with William's matters, she would return and have a proper talk with Danrique. If, and only if, she were still alive at that point.

At that thought, Francesca took a deep breath.

As she turned around, she found Monica sound asleep beside her.

Monica had been worried about William the entire day, but she soon fell asleep after taking some pills for the wounds on her legs.

After putting a blanket over Monica, Francesca leaned back in the chair and stared blankly into space.

Her mind was still filled with thoughts about Danrique. Hence, she forced herself to dismiss them and started analyzing William's situation, coming up with plans to resolve it.

This is actually quite difficult. Even if I managed to rescue William, what am I going to do about those in the castle? I can't possibly take them all with me. Looks like there are only two ways to go about this matter. Either I rescue William and ignore the others in the castle, or sacrifice William and rescue them.

All those thoughts made Francesca realize how limited her capabilities were.