

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2228

Chapter 2228 Visit

“Mm. Come over here and have breakfast,” Francesca said to Monica. Monica greeted Layla respectfully and took a seat next to Francesca. Layla noticed that Monica was wearing an earpiece.

“Don’t lie to me. The security system in the house was going crazy, yet you’re telling me nothing is wrong? I don’t believe you!” Donald burst into the dining room, clearly frustrated. “Um, Ms. Cece, you know about Danrique’s situation, right? Quick! Tell us how he is doing now.”

“Have you eaten breakfast yet, Uncle Donald? If you haven’t, please join us,” Francesca said nonchalantly.

Donald’s face and neck were red from how agitated he was. “I’m not in the mood for breakfast at a time like this! Are you even aware of how dire the situation is?”

“Sir.” Layla interrupted him and growled in irritation, “It’s still early in the morning, and the first thing you did once you came in here was to yell at Francesca. Where are your manners?”

“And who are you?” Donald glared at her angrily. “This is Ms. Layla,” Norah answered in a small voice.

Donald yelled furiously, “You’re not even married yet, but you’re already bringing your people to stay with you in this house! Do you take this place to be a refugee camp?” “You...”

“Someone get him out of here,” Francesca instantly called out. “Uh...” Sloan hesitated for a moment, then immediately replied, “Understood!”

With that, he gestured to his subordinates, and they promptly dragged Donald out of the house. “What are you doing?”

Donald didn’t expect Francesca to be that bold. Even Danrique had never treated him this way. “How dare you do this to me? Have all of you lost your minds? This is the Lindbergs’ property, not the Felches’!” he hollered lividly.

Unfortunately for him, his cries fell on deaf ears. Without Danrique around, everyone present was loyal to only Francesca. After getting thrown out, Donald tried to rush in again but was stopped by the bodyguards.

Flying into a rage, he began screaming about telling Danrique about this. He went on a rant about how Francesca was asserting authority she didn’t have and behaving as the lady of the house even though she wasn’t married yet.

As soon as Sloan saw the frown on Francesca’s face, he knew that she was annoyed. Hence, he went outside and did everything he could to chase Donald away.

“Don’t mind them, Ms. Layla.” Francesca poured Layla a cup of milk. “Who was he? He’s so arrogant,” Layla asked. “He is Danrique’s uncle. He’s the only relative left in the Lindberg family, and he’s quite annoying,” Francesca answered casually.

Layla nearly spat a mouthful of milk out. “He’s a relative of the Lindberg family? And you chased him out just like that?”

“My sentiments exactly, Ms. Felch.” Monica was on the verge of tears. “His Highness spent a long time talking to you yesterday in hopes that you would fight people with words and win them over with kindness. If they bully you, you could always use another method then—”

Francesca interrupted, “He was being difficult. I don’t have the patience to reason with him. It’d just be a waste of my energy.”

“Um...” Monica couldn’t refute that. I get it now. Everything His Highness said to her yesterday was all for naught.

Francesca simply did not possess the patience to reason with others because she was accustomed to using violent methods. If they did not listen to her, she would have them thrown out.

Layla, on the other hand, remained silent. She knew that Francesca’s methods were not ideal, but she was very aware that Francesca would not change her personality.

Who cares what method she uses? All that matters is that it gets the job done. “Ms. Felch, what if more of them come...”

Monica wanted to talk some sense into Francesca, but at that moment, Kevin and Gerard arrived. They must have run into Donald on the way in because they were behaving properly and not making a fuss.

“Ms. Felch, I heard something happened to Mr. Lindberg. Do you have any news about him?” Kevin asked politely.

Francesca replied evasively, “We’re still not sure. Gordon took some people with him to look for Danrique last night. He’ll inform me once he has any leads.”

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Chapter 2229 Demanding The Seal

“This means something must have happened.”

The colors drained from Kevin’s face as he exchanged a glance with Gerard, asking again, “What’s the situation now? Is Mr. Lindberg hurt, or did something happen to him?”

“I don’t know,” Francesca said, shaking her head. “Could you reach him?” Gerard asked immediately. “I couldn’t.” Francesca shook her head again.

“But you at least know if he’s dead or not, right?” Kevin was on tenterhooks. “I have no idea.” Francesca was putting on the perfect definition of obliviousness. “You...” Hearing the answer, Kevin was so angry his face flushed red.

The frown on Gerard’s face showed he was equally displeased when he demanded, “Do you even know anything? Even if you can’t contact Danrique, you should at least be able to get in touch with his subordinates. Don’t tell me you can’t even do that!”

“They will inform me if there is any news,” Francesca replied calmly. “Have both of you taken breakfast? Would you like to eat together?”

Infuriated, Gerard and Kevin stormed out, but Francesca suddenly remembered something and called out after them, “Hold on, Mr. Atkinson.”

Gerard stopped and turned to look at her. “Did Ms. Atkinson reach out to you?” she asked directly. “She didn’t,” Gerard replied with a frown. “She’s with Danrique. We lost touch with both of them.”

“I see. Could you let me know if she contacts you? Thanks,” Francesca requested. Gerard glanced at her coldly and left.

Behind him, Francesca heaved a sigh of relief, saying to herself, “I thought those two would be tough to deal with, but it turned out easier than I thought.”

“Well, the trouble hasn’t even begun,” Layla commented as if she had seen through everything. “They came here just to pump you for information today. They don’t dare to do anything now because they don’t know what happened to Danrique, but they might start getting pushy if we still have no news about Danrique after a few more days.”

“You’re right. That’s what His Highness said, too,” Monica agreed, nodding. “Ms. Felch, you should rest well while you can. You’ll need to deal with much more in the next few days.”

Francesca was not in the headspace to consider anything they said, for all she could think of doing was flying to M Nation as soon as possible to look for Danrique.

The following three days elapsed uneventfully with no visitors bothering her, and Francesca stayed at the quiet house, waiting in agony.

She phoned Danrique every day, but all her calls went unanswered. The only exception was the one she made to Gordon, who called her back and told her she had nothing to worry about since he was looking for Danrique with his men.

Francesca could neither sleep nor eat peacefully due to her worry and helplessness as the day passed one after another till the fifth day.

On that day, Kevin, Gerard, Donald, and the rest came to the house again, bringing with them a few senior shareholders and members of the upper management from Lindberg Corporation.

When they arrived at the Lindberg residence, the lot made a grand entrance before grilling Francesca for information about Danrique’s whereabouts.

If one were to consider Kevin and Gerard polite toward Francesca during their last visit, they would be aggressive during the second, for they interrogated her right away to get information on Danrique.

When Francesca replied that she had no news about him, they ordered Norah to bring Danrique's seal from the study immediately with the excuse of needing it for urgent matters at the company.

Frightened, the housekeeper stared at Francesca, not knowing what to do.

"Who gave you all the right to snatch the seal here in our house?" Francesca fumed. "Do you think you all have free rein to do anything you like in Danrique's absence?"

"We're not snatching it. The company needs it. Don't tell me the company has to stop all operations just because Danrique is not around," Kevin retaliated confidently.

"Exactly. You're just a woman. What do you know? Just get out of our way," Gerard scoffed. With that said, he instructed Norah again, "Go to Danrique's study and bring us the seal, or we will go up ourselves."

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Chapter 2230 Gaining Control Of The Situation

“He’s right. We will go up ourselves if you keep dragging this out,” Kevin threatened. “Please don’t do this...” Norah pleaded, shaking in fear.

“Don’t you guys dare touch anything in this house as long as I’m here!” Francesca exclaimed, stepping in front of Norah.

“You’re ridiculous! You know nothing about how business works, and neither do you know the consequences of your behavior. I don’t have time for people like you. Stop us again, and you’ll get hurt,” Kevin warned.

“I’d like to see you try.” With an order from Francesca, Sloan rushed in with his bodyguards.

Kevin and Gerard were not afraid of Sloan and his men at all as they roared, “Get this straight: this is the Lindbergs’ property, not the Felches’! This is absurd!”

“Mr. Yarrow, Mr. Atkinson, and Mr. Lindberg ordered us to protect Ms. Felch before he left. He also told us that she is the lady of the house, and we should listen to her, so we won’t back down if any of you challenge Ms. Felch.”

Sloan’s words carried weight in that situation, enraging Kevin, whose face turned red with anger. “You!”

On the other hand, Gerard bent over and whispered in Kevin’s ear, “Don’t get on their nerves now. They might not have that many people here, but everyone is specially trained. That useless bunch of people we brought is not their match.”

Hearing that, Kevin decided to try another way of persuasion. “Since you won’t allow us to take the seal, will you take responsibility for the company’s losses?”

“He’s right. What will you do with all the urgent projects? We are all Lindberg Corporation’s shareholders, so we can’t just sit and watch the company go bankrupt,” Gerard added.

“Who are you guys trying to bluff? Lindberg Corporation is not a small company that can go bankrupt within days. Other operations can continue while we wait for Danrique to come back before resuming the urgent ones!”

“Pfft!” Gerard scowled furiously. “You make it sound like it’s easy. Do you even know how to run a business? You have no idea how much loss we will incur if we postpone these projects. Danrique might not be around, but we can still manage the company in his stead, so just get us the seal and stop getting in the way of our work.”

“Yeah. Give us the seal!” “Give it to us!” The whole group started shouting vehemently, making all the maids at home panic.

Despite not being business-savvy, Layla knew enough to understand that they should, by no means, hand the seal to these people, so she kept shooting looks at Francesca, whose brows were stitched in a frown. Annoyance was written all over the younger woman’s face.

Meanwhile, Monica was squeezing through the crowd, trying to hand Francesca the phone since William wanted to talk to Francesca after Monica had told him about the latest development of the situation.

“Stap yammering and get out!” Francesca bellowed in vexation, wanting to chase all the people out.

Everyone froze for a moment but soon flew into a fit of rage as they lambasted her.

“Who do you think you are to shout orders at us? You’re the one who should get out!”

“Yeah! You’re just a woman Danrique played with. You two are not even married, so you have no right to decide on anything!”

“Exactly! Let’s get her out of the way!”

“Kick her out!”

In an instant, everyone started swarming over to force Francesca out of the house, but they could not go near her because Sloan and his men were blocking them off.

Still, the angry crowd continued clamoring in the living room, causing a distressing scene.

Just when Francesca was about to let fly her fury, the sound of cars came from outside, and a shout followed, “The first lady is here!”

Kevin, Gerard, and the others quieted immediately and turned, only to see the first lady coming from the outside with her men.

Taking in the situation, the first lady frowned and reprimanded, “Kevin Yarrow and Gerard Atkinson! What are you two doing? Danrique has only been away for a few days, but you’re already causing a stir at his house and bullying Francesca!”

Chapter 2231 Hope

“No, Mrs. President. This is a misunderstanding,” Kevin quickly explained. “There are a few urgent projects at the company that can’t proceed without Danrique’s seal, so we were just thinking about getting it.”

“Yeah. Since Danrique is not around, the two of us have to step up and take charge. We can’t just let things turn into a mess. We can’t move on with these projects without the seal, so we just wanted to retrieve it, but Ms. Felch—”

“I don’t know what’s going on in your company,” the first lady interrupted coldly, “but Danrique told the president and me before he left that Francesca is his fiancée, and she shall be in full command over the house when he is away. Since she refuses to hand over the seal, you all should discuss the issue calmly instead of causing a scene here. This is preposterous!”

“We’re so sorry, Mrs. President. We were too hasty that we let our emotions get the best of us.”

Kevin immediately changed his tone, but Gerard was still disgruntled about the turn of events.

“Why don’t you all go home first and talk about this later? For all we know, we might get news about Danrique in the next two days,” the first lady added before anyone could say another word.

“We...”

Kevin and Gerard exchanged glances and left with their men.

Everyone in the house breathed a sigh of relief, and Norah quickly got the servants to prepare drinks for the first lady while Francesca expressed her gratitude.

“Thank you, Mrs. President.”

“There’s no need for that. We’re in the same boat,” the first lady said gently as she held Francesca’s hand. “You look pale, Francesca. It has only been a few days since I last saw you.”

“I haven’t been sleeping well. Have a seat,” Francesca answered, smiling.

When the first lady was seated, she chatted with Francesca for a bit and presented to her the gifts she had brought. “Anyway, Francesca, do you know what the situation is like for Danrique now? Did he contact you?”

“He’s been unreachable for a while. I couldn’t get to him,” Francesca replied lowly.

“What about Gordon?” the first lady asked.

“He called, but he’s still looking for Danrique. I will inform you if I find out anything,” Francesca assured, feeling tired.

“All right. I did not want to disturb you initially because I knew you would be exhausted, but the president asked me to come over to inquire about the matter, so here I am.”

Speaking, she patted Francesca’s hand and added, “Don’t worry, Francesca. Danrique will be all right.”

“Thank you.” Francesca nodded at her.

“I will make a move first, then. You must be tired. You have my number, so just call if those people bother you again. I will come over if anything happens,” the first lady assured, feeling sorry for Francesca.

“Thank you so much!” Words could not express how grateful Francesca felt.

“You take care. I’ll make a move first.”

Without further ado, the first lady got up and said goodbye, but she had barely taken a few steps when she suddenly remembered something and turned back to Francesca. “By the way, I heard there was news from Hazel, so I’m planning to ask Gerard out alone to find out more about it. We might be able to find some clues from there.”

“Did you say there was an update from Hazel?” Francesca asked anxiously.

“I’m not sure how true that is, but that’s what I heard,” the first lady replied, frowning. “That’s why I want to confirm it with Gerard. Since Hazel went to M Nation with Danrique, and we lost contact with both of them simultaneously, any news from her means we are not far from knowing more about Danrique’s disappearance.”

“That’s true,” Francesca noted, nodding. “May I go with you tomorrow?”

“Of course! After arranging a meeting with him, I will let you know the time and venue.”

“Sure. Thank you!” Francesca was extremely grateful.

“Don’t mention it.”

The first lady smiled at her and left.

Seeing that there was finally hope, Francesca could not help but feel emotional.

When Layla went to ask her what happened, Francesca roughly told her what the first lady said, but Layla frowned, commenting, “This doesn’t feel right. It makes more sense to bring this matter up right at the beginning since it’s so important.

Why did the first lady suddenly mention it right when she was leaving and when you were alone at that?”

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Chapter 2232 Uneasiness

“Maybe she didn’t want the crowd in the hall to overhear her talking earlier,” Francesca postulated. “Especially when Monica was around. It seems that the first lady doesn’t quite like Monica.”

Layla weighed up Francesca’s reasoning and instantly acknowledged it, for the former, too, wasn’t that fond of Monica herself. From her perspective, Monica had always been acting shady, seemingly shrewd and cunning to the core.

Yet, she knew very well that Monica was merely working for William. Even if William had been harboring any sort of ulterior motive, he would still have to take Francesca’s side for the time being.

After all, both Francesca and Danrique could offer him the protection that he needed.

“Danrique has already been missing for so long. I’m really worried,” uttered Francesca with concern. “I’m not going to give up any chance, so even if it were a trap, I’d still go check it out.”

“All right, then. I’ll go with you,” said Layla as she held Francesca’s hand.

The latter shook her head. “No. I can handle it alone. You guard the house. Considering that we don’t have as many bodyguards with us, I’m afraid those two sc*mbags might send someone to steal the seal.”

“True enough.” Layla bobbed her head upon hearing that. “Sloan and the rest won’t be able to manage on their own. And if those two were to really come after the seal, it’d be a disaster...”

“But with you around, there’s nothing more for me to worry about.”

Just when Francesca was speaking, a call came through. It was William, requesting her presence. She then ordered someone to fetch her the medical kit and went on her way.

For the past few days, Francesca had been busy dealing with the horde of her enemies while having all her thoughts fixated on Danrique. She was understandably moody and preoccupied with troubles, thus failing to treat William wholeheartedly.

During the visit on that very night, she gave William a check-up right away. Given that William had been on his medication, his injuries weren’t affected, but at the same time, there weren’t any improvements either.

Thus, Francesca performed the treatment and even prescribed him a new course of medicine.

Looking at Francesca’s haggard appearance, William knew he had to offer some kind of comfort. “Don’t worry, Francesca. L will be fine…”

“Everyone keeps telling me that, but how can I not worry when he has gone completely radio silent, to the point where not even Gordon can locate him?” The worried look on Francesca’s face didn’t abate.

“Actually, have you ever thought about—”

William’s voice trailed off just when words began to leap out of his mouth.

“Thought about what?” questioned Francesca curiously.

“O-Oh, it’s nothing,” William blurted out, abruptly changing the topic. “Anyway, you shouldn’t act alone while L isn’t by your side. If you really have to go out there, take Monica with you.”

“Yes, that’s right! I can tag along any time,” Monica hastily chimed in. “By the way, what did the first lady talk to you about a minute ago? I only realized that she was still speaking to you after I left.”

“Nothing much.”

Truth be told, Francesca detested the way Monica had been behaving toward her. It felt like the latter was spying on her round the clock.

Furthermore, since the first lady found Monica distasteful, Francesca would never disclose to Monica her plan of meeting Gerard together with the first lady.

Needless to say, Monica noticed how Francesca was growing wary of her and immediately tried to explain herself, “Ms. Felch, have I—”

Unfortunately, she had to swallow her words when she saw William shooting her a meaningful glance.

With that, Francesca gave William a few pointers before spinning on her heels and heading home.

“I’m sure something’s up with the first lady,” Monica grumbled. “She didn’t say much when I was around, but when I stepped away to the car, I saw her chatting up a storm with Ms. Felch. And after seeing how Ms. Felch dodged my question earlier—”

“You’re right to think that Francesca doesn’t want to tell you more, but have you ever wondered why that’s the case?” retorted William with a frown. “You ought to act more naturally instead of making her feel like you’re spying on her, don’t you think?”

Monica straightaway hung her head low in shame. “I suppose.”

“Now that Francesca’s obviously keeping you at arm’s length, you should take this time to reflect on yourself. If this continues, she’s not going to bring you anywhere she goes,” fumed William.

“Please forgive me, Your Highness...”

“The situation isn’t looking good right now. The Lindberg family is short-staffed, and if Francesca does meet up with the first lady tomorrow, there’s a possibility that she might end up falling into the other party’s trap...”

William’s heart was filled with uneasiness as those words escaped from his lips.