#### Chapter 2223 Remember The Lesson

Layla shook her head in exasperation. "You're still too young. Do you not understand that it's best not to have anyone else involved when it comes to romantic relationships? A lot of married couples today live a happy life at first, but the moment the in-laws get involved and the husband has to sacrifice a lot, problems start creeping in sooner or later."

"That won't happen." Francesca broke into a smile. "Danrique is not so petty. Besides, all that he's doing now is well within his power."

"You are still too naïve..." Layla smiled bitterly. "A lot of things might look like it's within his power, but it could potentially be life-threatening to him in the future. For example, let's say one day the properties of Lindberg Corporation are split, causing all the shareholders to gang up against Danrique. At that moment, five percent of the share will be the key to tip the scale."

"So you're saying that the five percent of shares that he gave Federico might be his demise in the future?" Francesca gaped.

"Exactly." Layla nodded solemnly. "Also, now that he's trying to save Mr. Lincoln and has offended Riz Corporation, they might add fuel to the fire if he ever gets into trouble."

Francesca was becoming increasingly unsettled by each word spoken by Layla. "So you're saying that all of these could have serious complications..."

"Too many complications." The frown on Layla's forehead grew tighter. "Danrique must care for you a lot. Otherwise, he wouldn't get himself into so much trouble, considering the fact that he's well aware of the consequences. What he's doing now

is no different from installing multiple ticking-time bombs that could go off at any second!"

"Now that you've told me all of this, I—"

Guilt overwhelmed Francesca like never before. She had never known that the things Danrique had done for her would lead to so many discreet issues.

Consumed by worry, she quickly asked another question, "Ms. Layla, the chances of those complications happening are not high, right?"

"I can't say." Layla shook her head slightly. "The stakes are like a predisposing factor to a disease. Can you tell, as a doctor, when the disease will present itself?"

That single question left Francesca without a retort.

"If the consequences blow up in his face, they will have a negative impact on your relationship." Layla gave Francesca a kind warning. "Only when the lives of two people are going smoothly can they date in peace. If life is not going well and they spend most of their time worrying about staying afloat, how could they go on dates at all? Moreover, the two of you are carrying so much on your shoulders. When trouble really comes, you'll have to take care of your own responsibilities. Love would have to be set aside by then."

When Francesca heard that, she fell silent. She had been too naïve in the past to think that love was enough to maintain a relationship. She finally realized how much more complicated marriage would be.

"If it weren't for us and for the problems we're facing, things would have been so much simpler for you." A hint of guilt pinched Layla's heart. "It would be easier for a person to leave a relationship if there's no feeling of guilt, but now, you're becoming more and more indebted to him."

"That's fine," Francesca replied immediately. "Even if I didn't owe him anything, I still won't leave his side if he gets into trouble. I will still face the problem with

him! It's just that, I've never imagined that he would bring so much trouble upon himself for my sake..."

Layla sighed heavily. "And that's why I've always taught you to mind your own business. You never seem to heed this advice."

"You're right..." Francesca mumbled as guilt and shame continued to weigh on her heart. "I owe Danrique too much this time for helping William."

"I'll still give the same advice. Stay far away from politicians and members of the royal families," Layla reminded once again. "Think about it carefully. Prince William has brought you nothing but trouble after trouble since the very beginning. Was Chrono not enough of a lesson for you? You have Danrique behind you right now, which was the sole reason you could escape danger again and again. If not for Danrique, you wouldn't even have made it out of Danontand alive."

"Yes, I know." Francesca bobbed her head up and down. "I'll remember the lesson. I promise not to do it again."

## Chapter 2224 Security Alarms

After a pause, Francesca thought of something else. "But I was not the one who initiated the treatment plan for the president's daughter. The president and Danrique have a close relationship. I couldn't say no to that."

"Things have already gotten this far. Let's take it one step at a time. We'll cross the bridge when we get to it." Layla patted the back of Francesca's hand as she advised, "Remember, always, always, always, be careful when doing anything!"

"Mhm." Francesca nodded fervently.

Just then, Norah led the maid into the room to bring them their dinner. Francesca and Layla ate together as they gave Anthony a video call.

Anthony was elated and relieved to find out that Layla had gone over to Francesca's, believing that it would bring guaranteed safety.

Anthony also asked about Lincoln. At the mention of Lincoln's name, the light behind Layla's eyes grew dim.

They were all worried about Lincoln, but the Lindberg family was already doing everything they could to help. They could not bring themselves to press the Lindberg family for more information.

After dinner, Francesca brought Layla to visit her office and also prescribed medication for the latter.

Seeing the office Danrique had constructed for Francesca and how respectfully the subordinates treated her, Layla was both touched and grateful to know that Francesca was well taken care of.

No matter what would happen in the future, at least Danrique truly loved Francesca in the present.

Francesca treated Layla's injuries and watched her finish the herbal concoction before going to give William his treatment. By the time she returned to her room to rest, it was already late at night.

After showering, she lay in her bed. Layla's words continued to occupy her mind, causing her to feel more and more guilty. She sent Danrique a text: When are you coming back?

There was no reply from Danrique.

Thinking that he was busy, Francesca did not continue to press on the matter.

Ever since Monica had given her the advice the other time, she was beginning to learn to trust him. After the conversation with Layla, she was a lot more mature as well.

When Danrique comes back, I'll have a talk with him so that we can start planning. If anything were to happen in the future, I'll face it with him.

As the thoughts raced inside her head, Francesca drifted into a deep sleep.

Francesca was unaware of how long she had slept. All of a sudden, security alarms started blaring from outside the room, jolting her awake. She immediately got to her feet and went outside. "What happened? What's going on?"

"Nothing, Ms. Felch. Someone accidentally activated the alarms," explained Sloan. "Continue resting. Don't worry about it."

Francesca turned to look outside. All of the infrared automated lights were lit up. She recalled Gordon mentioning that the security systems of the castle were top-notch. The police would automatically be notified if the alarms went off.

But, why would all the alarms be activated when nothing has happened? This has never happened before...

"Francesca!" Just then, Layla ran out of the guest room. "Come here!"

Francesca hurried over without hesitation. Layla pulled Francesca to a side and lowered her voice into a whisper. "Quick! Call Danrique!"

"Huh?" Francesca was taken aback slightly. "Are you implying that he's in trouble?"

"Call him first," Layla urged.

Francesca immediately went back into her room and got her phone to call Danrique. To her dismay, the call could not go through.

She immediately dialed Sean's number, but there was no response either.

Francesca's expression changed drastically. Just as she was about to look for Gordon, Layla pulled her into the room. "Don't panic yet. The bodyguard told you that only the alarms have been activated, right?"

"Right." Francesca nodded. "But we've lost contact with Danrique right now—"

"Looks like I've guessed correctly." Layla's expression was serious. "Danrique must have a device with him that's connected to the alarm system in the house. Once he's in trouble, he can alert everybody by activating the systems, allowing all of his subordinates to gather and prepare for rescue!"

"What could have happened to him? He's still in M Nation, and there's no way for us to contact him..." Francesca was getting restless. "I'll go ask Gordon."

"It's no use asking him. He won't tell you. Besides, they should be commencing the rescue mission right now. You should not get in their way."

## Chapter 2225 Steadfast

Layla urged, "Listen to me. You have to remain calm and wait for the search team to try and rescue him first. If they are unable to do so or cannot find him, we'll think of another plan!" "All right..."

Francesca walked to the windows and peered down. As expected, Gordon had gathered all the bodyguards and was currently delegating duties to them.

She longed to go down and inquire about the situation. At that moment, someone knocked on the door. "Please come in," Layla called out.

Sloan pushed open the door and walked in. He bowed to Layla before addressing Francesca. "Ms. Felch, we require manpower to deal with Mr. Lindberg's situation. Gordon is going to rush over with some men while I remain here to protect you. You don't have to worry. Gordon is merely going over to help settle some matters. Please rest well, Ms. Felch and Ms. Layla."

"Okay, we got it." Layla smiled and nodded. "Thank you. Please go ahead and do what you need to."

Sloan bowed and left.

"Ms. Layla..." Francesca was very anxious and worried, so Layla comforted her. "If there's nothing wrong with him, you would have worried for nothing. If there's something wrong, you have to be strong and protect the Lindberg family. You can't panic and lose your cool."

"You're right." Francesca nodded her head.

"Listen to me. Go and rest. You still have a lot of things to do tomorrow," Layla said.

"Yes, I got it."

Francesca returned to the room in an absent-minded daze. She tried to call Danrique and Sean again, but no one picked up.

Something bad must have happened.

Danrique had brought twelve subordinates along with him this time. Including Sean, that number was thirteen. They would have been able to resolve the problem if it was not serious.

Danrique and his men were in M Nation, but they alerted the emergency alarm system at home, which meant that the situation was very serious. Hence, Francesa was afraid that Danrique was in deep trouble.

The more she thought about it, the more unsettled and anxious she got. After thinking about it, she decided to call Gordon.

However, the line was busy, and she could not reach him. An hour later, Gordon called her. "Ms. Felch!"

"Gordon! Has something happened to Danrique? What's going on now?" Francesca asked hurriedly.

"Well..." Gordon hesitated for a moment before asking, "Ms. Felch, do you want to hear the truth?"

"Hurry up and tell me," Francesca urged.

"We've lost contact with Mr. Lindberg, Sean, and the twelve men he brought there. Even Ms. Atkinson and her subordinates remain uncontactable." Gordon lowered his voice and continued speaking grimly. "The emergency alarm has been activated at home, so it indicates that the situation is very dire. Mr. Lindberg's smartwatch is linked to the alarm system in the Lindberg residence. Since the watch measures his heartbeat, the alarms in the Lindberg residence will automatically go off if his heart stops beating."

"If his heart stops beating?" Francesca almost jumped up in fear. "It can't be...

Don't scare me!"

"We are praying for the best. Perhaps there are other circumstances..." Gordon's tone was somber. "Ms. Felch, I've already gotten some men to rush to M Nation. We are on the private jet that is about to take off. I have to go. I've left Sloan and the rest at home to take care of you. Please be careful when you are out and about."

"I'll go with you!" Francesca was panicking. "Or... You can set off first and send the address to me. I'll reach soon!"

"It's best if you don't. This matter is very complicated. Even if you go, you can't do anything to help either. Furthermore, there are some injured people here who need your help. Please be at ease and wait for my update, Ms. Felch. The plane is going to take off soon. I'll hang up now."

With that, Gordon hung up.

Francesca's heart palpitated crazily in her chest. However, she reminded herself to stay calm. As Layla said, once news of Danrique's situation spread, there would be internal chaos.

She had to remain calm and steadfast. Steadfast...

Francesca was lost in her thoughts when, all of a sudden, her phone started ringing. It was William. "Hello?" she said into the phone. "Francesca, are you free? Let's meet." "Now?"

"Yes."

## Chapter 2226 Teaching Her

Francesca arrived at William's place fifteen minutes later. The condition of William's injuries had improved tremendously after the recent bout of treatment. He was able to sit up now, and color had returned to his cheeks.

"William, why did you call me over?" Francesca had thought that William was feeling unwell and brought her medical kit along. However, he did not appear unwell.

"I heard the alarm and roughly guessed what was going on." William anxiously leaned forward. "What's the situation like now? Have you lost contact with him, or have you ascertained that something bad has happened to him?"

"We have lost contact with him." Francesca realized that William was extremely intelligent. Most of the time, she did not even need to say anything, yet he could already tell what was going on at a glance.

"Well, that's not as serious as the other scenario." William relaxed slightly before asking, "Has Gordon rushed over with his men?"

"Yes." Francesca nodded. "I wanted to go with them, but they did not allow me to."

"It's best if you stay behind at a time like this." William kept his cool. "Frannie, listen to me. Something big might happen tomorrow. Many people will probably go to the Lindberg residence and inquire about the situation. You have to remain composed..."

"Is that so? What kind of people will come?" Francesca asked anxiously.

"Donald, people from the three great families, and even the first lady," William listed them out one by one. "No matter what they ask you, you should just say that you are not clear on the details, but you believe that L should be fine. If they mention the company, tell them that you'll wait for L to come back before making any decisions. Apart from you, no one else can make decisions on his behalf now, or he will find out who's responsible for it when he returns and hold them accountable. If they say that there's something urgent that needs immediate decisions, you'll make the decisions. Don't let anybody else take control. If they are not willing to listen, we'll get the president to come over to support you. You have to remember that you are L's fiancée. He has announced this fact to the public. No matter what others say, you are the only one who can make important decisions concerning the Lindberg family and company now."

William did not hold back as he taught Francesca what to do in great detail. He reminded her again, "At times like this, you have to remain steadfast and imposing. You don't have to be too reasonable. If someone says that you are not married to L yet and therefore cannot make the decisions, you should ask him if he wants to overstep your authority. No matter what, you have to make them listen to you, even if you have to be unreasonable. Do you understand?"

"Yes." Francesca nodded. "However, will such things really happen?"

"Yes, they will." William chuckled coldly. "I've seen this happen for myself. There have been many instances when something happens to a large organization, and many people come over to try and usurp the position of authority. Thankfully, L revealed you to the public before this happened, and you've been staying here all along. The Lindberg family's subordinates recognize you as their only master apart from Danrique. If this was not the case, the Lindberg family would have descended into chaos the moment something bad happened to him."

"I understand." Francesca nodded again. "I will help him to protect this family and Lindberg Corporation."

"If there are any unforeseen circumstances, you can contact me anytime. Although I don't have many abilities, I have seen and experienced power play often enough to know how to deal with it!" William stated.

"I got it," Francesca said with a nod.

"Also, when the first lady asks you to treat Ms. Avery tomorrow, you should not go. Tell her that there are many things you have to deal with at the moment and you can't leave. Besides, Ms. Avery's condition is stable enough now that a professional doctor should be able to deal with her."

"I intended to do so too."

With what was happening now, Francesca had no energy to deal with that matter. It was not a life-threatening situation, and other doctors could take over Avery's treatment easily enough.

"Don't worry. He'll be fine," William comforted her gently. "Go back and have a good rest. You'll have to handle many things tomorrow."

"Yes." Francesca nodded. "Thank you, William."

Just as she was about to leave, William called out to her. "You don't have to come and treat me tomorrow. My condition is also stable. You should prioritize dealing with the Lindberg family matters for the next three days."

## Chapter 2227 Fight

"Okay. I understand." Francesca nodded and left hurriedly. William gazed at her retreating figure and only tore his eyes away after a long time.

Monica saw Francesca out and immediately noticed the complicated look in William's eyes upon her return. She couldn't help but ask, "Your Highness, do you think that something has happened to Mr. Lindberg?"

William frowned deeply as he replied, "It's hard to say. He's very arrogant and thinks that no one can do any harm to him, which was why he only brought a few people with him to M Nation. To be honest, the situation there is extremely disadvantageous to him. Frank and Pastor are working together, and the Nacht family just entered the picture. Any one of them is a formidable enemy on their own. By only bringing about a dozen of his subordinates to fight against them, he's practically entering a lion's den! It's too dangerous!"

"It's probably because he hasn't faced many obstacles before." Monica sighed before continuing, "What if something happens to him? What will Ms. Felch do? W-What will we do?"

Although Monica was not familiar with tactical strategies, she knew that Danrique was someone who could protect them.

If something happened to him, Francesca and William would be finished.

William sighed. "Sometimes, life is just a gamble. I knew there were risks when I betted on L back then. However, I believe in my judgment. He won't collapse just like this. This is just the beginning!"

"So, is there anything we can do now?" Monica asked.

"Two things. One, continue investigating the first lady's secret. Two, protect Francesca and help her to stabilize the Lindberg family," William ordered.

Monica nodded in response. "Understood. I just asked Dominic for an update today. He's still looking into it, but there have been a few leads."

"It shouldn't be difficult to find out who Avery's ex-husband is. However, her lover may pose some problems unless he's just an ordinary person. Tomorrow, you will go to where Francesca is and protect her. Notify me immediately if anything happens," William surmised.

"No problem, but Ms. Layla is here as well. I get the feeling that she isn't really fond of us and always has her guard up around us," Monica said.

William chuckled bitterly. "That's to be expected. I've brought nothing but trouble to Francesca ever since I met her. I've also repeatedly used her, so it's normal for the people around her to be wary of me. Just ignore it. You must treat Ms. Layla with respect and decorum. She knows we are there to help, so she won't make things difficult for you."

"Yes, I understand."

Everyone had told Francesca to get some rest, but she was completely unable to fall asleep.

As soon as she closed her eyes, scenes of Danrique being in trouble would flood her mind, and her heart would start aching terribly.

She wanted to fly to M Nation to be by his side so much.

Running around looking for him was a lot better than staying at home.

Although everyone told her she needed to stay and protect the family, Francesca knew that this was not her forte.

She would rather be like Gordon, fighting to the death on the frontlines with the enemy to save Danrique. That was what she was like.

Her imagination ran wild, and before she knew it, dawn had already broken.

Francesca was awake the entire night, staring at the phone and hoping to get some good news. However, the good news never came...

She got out of bed, washed up, and changed out of her pajamas. Layla was already having breakfast in the dining room while idly chatting with Norah.

The atmosphere in the house had been tense and gloomy, but Layla's witty humor managed to tickle Norah and a few other maids.

Even Francesca couldn't help but smile at that. She felt a lot calmer with Layla by her side.

She went downstairs and was about to dig into her breakfast when a subordinate came rushing in. "Ms. Felch, Mr. Donald is here!"

"Let him in." As she spoke, Monica entered through the side entrance with a bunch of freshly-made desserts in her hand. "Ms. Felch, I'm here on His Highness' orders to help you."