

Mistaking A Magnate For A Male Escort Chapter 2248

Chapter 2248 A Talk

After Francesca was taken away, a somber atmosphere took over the Lindberg residence. Norah would sob quietly and wipe her tears from time to time.

Sloan was anxious and kept trying to contact Gordon. Previously, Gordon would call every day to get an update about the situation in the castle, but after what happened recently, he suddenly cut off contact.

Despite feeling something was amiss, Sloan didn't know what else to do. He could only text Gordon to inform the latter about Francesca's situation.

Robin arrived the next day. Sloan sent someone to pick him up and bring him over to the castle. William talked to Robin behind closed doors for the entire afternoon before Robin got to work.

No one knew what he was busy with. After learning they found a legal team, Sloan told William that Danrique had a legal team of his own that was trustable.

However, William said they couldn't use their own legal team without explaining the reason. Sloan felt unsettled, but Layla told him to trust William.

Seven days went by in the blink of an eye. There was no activity on William's side, but the news about Francesca poisoning Gerard had blown up everywhere.

An anonymous netizen provided evidence that an attendant in the hotel saw Francesca releasing her venomous snake to bite Gerard. There was also a blurry video showing their backs.

The video didn't show Francesca's face, but it was a scene showing Francesca releasing her snake to bite Gerard. It wasn't edited or faked; it was real.

Clearly, there was a camera in the private room that had recorded the entire scene. The person who posted this must've cut out one part of the video to post this online.

Seeing that, Sloan and the rest were furious. It was pretty obvious by now that the first lady was behind this. After all, she was the one who picked the place and would've examined the place thoroughly before entering it. There was no way an attendant could've recorded that secretly.

Hence, she must've deliberately ordered her men to set up the camera so that Francesca would get blamed.

As Sloan rambled about how despicable the first lady was, he got increasingly furious. However, William chuckled.

Layla frowned. "Why are you laughing?"

"Hazel will be contacting me soon," William replied confidently.

"Why?" Monica was curious. "For the past few days, I tried all means to ask her out but got rejected every time. She even threatened me. Why would she change her mind suddenly?"

"She should've read the news," came William's calm answer. "It's pretty easy to understand what happened. Even Sloan realized what happened, let alone her."

Monica and Sloan were stunned, but Layla promptly understood what he meant. "Are you saying that Hazel has realized it was a trap set by Mrs. President?"

"Yes." William nodded. "She's a smart woman."

Layla was still worried. "But Francesca is her love rival. Will she help Francesca? Or will she take the chance to get rid of Francesca?"

“She won’t help us.” William was pretty sure of that. “However, she wants to know the truth. We can use that to our advantage. Besides, she won’t want L to be in trouble.”

“All right. We’ll rely on you, then. This is giving me a headache.”

Right after Layla finished her sentence, Monica’s phone rang. She took a look at the screen and grew excited. “It’s from Hazel.”

William gave her a look, and she went aside to answer it. A while later, she returned and reported, “Your Highness, Ms. Atkinson wants to meet you tonight.”

“Okay.” William nodded. “Sloan, please make the arrangements.”

“Sure.”

Sloan made the arrangements according to William’s wishes and drove him to the meeting spot.

As William had difficulty moving around, Hazel got into his car after he arrived at the meeting spot. She went straight to the topic and asked, “Your Highness, do you have something to tell me?”

“I think you have a question for me, Ms. Atkinson.” William gave her a pleasant smile.

“You’re indeed smart, Your Highness.” Hazel gave him an intense look. “I’d like to know your opinion about the video that appeared in the news today.”

Chapter 2249 An Experiment

“I have the same opinion as you, Ms. Atkinson,” William answered. “Mrs. President is a careful person. Why would she allow an attendant to record a video in secret?”

“Ha! I knew it!” Hazel sneered. “She manipulated my father, created a scandal between me and Mr. Lindberg, and blamed her daughter’s illness on me. I endured how she made me a scapegoat for her deeds over the years. I knew she had been using me, but I didn’t want to offend her and invite trouble. Nevertheless, my endurance only caused her to push her limits.”

“That’s how the world works.” William could understand her feelings. “The weaker you are, the more they will take advantage of you.”

“I endured her actions in the past, but my father lost his life this time.” Hazel grew emotional. “Despite his evil deeds, he was still my father. Besides, he loved me. He was the only family I had...”

Her voice choked. William handed her a tissue and comforted her, “My condolences.” After a pause, he got down to business. “Now that we know Mrs. President is behind this, then—”

Hazel interrupted him by saying hatefully, “You don’t have to persuade me to change my mind. Even if it was Mrs. President’s plan, the real murderer was still Francesca. She knew the snake was venomous but told it to bite my father! That was murder!”

William asked, “Are you sure the snake bit your father? Could it be someone else who poisoned him?”

“After leaving the hotel, we got into the car. Nothing happened after that. Less than two hours after my father got home, he started feeling unwell. When the doctor arrived, he was already...”

She trailed off as her eyes turned red. “The forensic pathologist examined him and said he died from snake venom. Who else could it be? It must be Francesca’s doing!”

“We can only be sure after examining him personally.” William wound down the window and called out, “Sloan!”

“Yes.” Sloan gestured for his subordinate to drive a truck over to them. He then opened the door to reveal a pig inside. “Huh? This is...” Hazel was baffled as she didn’t know what they were getting at.

When Sloan released Sam into the truck, Hazel finally understood what was going on. She immediately got out of the car and went nearer for a better look.

Initially, Sam didn’t want to attack the pig. The subordinates started hitting the truck to create noise. Growing irritated by the noise, Sam flew in the pig’s direction and sank its fangs into the pig’s neck.

The pig immediately let out a horrible shriek and collapsed. It began frothing at the mouth and twitching uncontrollably as blood trickled out of its mouth and ears.

Less than ten minutes later, the pig stopped moving. Its blood was black, and its skin slowly turned green. It was a horrible sight. Hazel gaped in disbelief when she saw the pig’s death.

Beside her, Sloan explained, “Sam is Mr. Lindberg’s snake. Besides Mr. Lindberg, it only listens to Ms. Felch’s orders. If Ms. Felch ordered it to stop, it would

definitely stop. I wasn't sure what would happen when Sam was to bite someone, but Gordon reminded me before he left that Sam's venom was lethal.

Anyone it bites would die immediately. After seeing the experiment, I'm sure you know Mr. Atkinson wouldn't wait until two hours later to die if Sam had bitten him. Just like the pig, he would've..."

When he realized the inappropriateness of his words, he quickly apologized, "I'm sorry. I mean, he'll die from the venom on the spot."

He didn't need to explain anything, for it was pretty obvious what the experiment meant. Hazel had been with Danrique long enough to know what his snakes were like.

Back when she left the hotel with Gerard, he seemed fine. Hence, she assumed Sam didn't bite him and that he was merely imagining things when he claimed his neck felt cold and numb.

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Chapter 2250 Realization

After her father died, the forensic pathologist insisted his cause of death was snake venom. During her moment of shock and grief, she promptly lost all reason and focused on seeking revenge for her loved one.

It's obvious that I've been used. Someone else must be behind my dad's death!

"Someone must've arranged for the forensic pathologist to say that," William reminded her. "If you don't trust him, you can hire a trusted forensic pathologist to examine your father's body again, but..."

"But what?" Hazel demanded anxiously after regaining her composure. "I'm afraid it's too late," William revealed with a frown.

Hazel turned pale in shock. She pulled her phone out to call her assistant hastily. "Go to the police station and get my father's body back now! Hurry!"

"Yes!" Her assistant got to work immediately. "Your Highness, please excuse me." Hazel took one last look at William before leaving in a hurry. William watched her back as she left. He knew his plan had succeeded.

Sloan came over to him. "Your Highness, are you saying that they would deal with Mr. Atkinson's body earlier than expected to avoid Ms. Atkinson examining his body again?"

"Yes." William nodded. "I'm afraid it's too late even if she rushes back now." "What should we do?" Sloan panicked. "Will she still trust us?"

“Of course.” William’s lips curled into a smirk. “The more they try to cover things up, the more it proves that something is wrong.” “Oh, I see.” Realization dawned upon Sloan. “All right, then. Let’s go.”

William knew the first part of his plan had succeeded. As long as Hazel trusts me, Francesca will be safe. Sloan drove him back to the castle.

In the car, while Monica put a blanket over William’s lap, he sighed. “I wonder how Francesca is doing inside. Did they torture her?”

“I don’t think they dare to do that,” Monica assured him. “Mr. Lindberg hasn’t shown up, after all. What if he shows up and settles the scores with them? Besides, Ms. Felch isn’t someone who will suffer silently.”

“You’re right.” William broke into a smile. Right then, William’s phone rang. Monica handed his phone to him hastily. He answered the call and put it on speaker mode. “Ms. Atkinson.”

“I just received a call. They had already cremated my father’s body,” Hazel told him in a low voice. “I’m sorry. I should’ve reminded you earlier,” William apologized softly.

“It looks like the culprit behind my father’s death was Mrs. President.” Hazel finally realized the truth. “She used my father’s death to convict Francesca. She also wants to use Francesca to draw Mr. Lindberg out so she can kill him!”

William sounded pleased. “You finally realized what is going on. Don’t be someone else’s pawn anymore.”

“Yes, I finally realized the truth.” There was a hint of sadness and fury in Hazel’s voice. “She used me so many times, and I endured her actions patiently. I can’t believe this is what I get in the end.”

William advised, “That’s why you have to fight back. Helping Francesca is akin to helping L now.” Hazel chuckled bitterly. “I know. Your Highness, Francesca is blessed to have a good friend like you!”

William said meaningfully, “L is also blessed to have a great assistant like you. I think he selected you to follow him to M Nation not only because he trusted you; he also wanted to protect you.” Hazel was stunned to hear that.

Yes, Danrique should’ve brought Harrier to M Nation, but he brought me there instead. Harrier was sent to H City. I assumed it was because Danrique didn’t trust Harrier enough, but he must’ve known that someone wanted to go against him.

The person who followed him to M Nation will get to escape danger. If my father hadn’t fallen into a trap and gotten used by someone else, my family could’ve escaped unscathed.

Chapter 2251 Future Rival

However, my father was a fool. Before I left, I reminded him not to create trouble, but he didn't listen to my advice. He kept falling for Kevin and Harrier's instigation and did what Mrs. President told him to do. No matter what, Danrique protected me and my family. He will spare my family as my father is dead.

Hazel belatedly realized what Danrique had done for her. He was a loyal and caring man despite his indifference. That was precisely why many people were willing to work for him at all costs.

He would never ignore his subordinates even in the most critical moment. As his assistant, she was also under his protection. So...

Something occurred to Francesca as she asked hastily, "Does Mr. Lindberg have another way to protect Francesca?"

"That isn't your concern." William had expected that, too. "What we need to do now is to help Danrique turn the tables." "Okay. I'll do as you say."

Hazel trusted William completely. She knew he wanted nothing more than to save Francesca and Danrique as they were the ones who would protect him. William smiled. "Good. Now, listen carefully." "All right."

Throughout the journey, William didn't hold back in teaching Hazel what to do next. After hearing his plan, Hazel said in admiration, "Aside from Mr. Lindberg, you're the most astute person I've ever seen!"

"You flatter me, Ms. Atkinson," came William's calm answer. "Let's work together to help L and Francesca weather the crisis together."

"Okay!" Back at home, Sloan told his subordinate to settle everything else and went to Layla, informing her about everything that happened.

Layla remained at home to stay guard there, but she reminded Sloan to update her if anything important had happened.

She knew William was doing his best to help Francesca and Danrique, but that didn't stop her from keeping an eye on him. After all, lives were at stake.

Sloan revealed every single detail to her, including William's conversation with Hazel in the car. Those who received special training like him had a good memory.

After hearing that, Layla praised, "Oh, how clever of William. He knew I had my guard up and put Hazel on speaker mode so you could listen to their conversation. It looks like he genuinely wants to save Francesca and Danrique. At the same time, it also shows how astute he can be. I think he is as good as Danrique. Never mind if they remain friends. If he becomes Danrique's enemy one day, the consequences will be horrible."

"They won't become enemies, will they?" Sloan asked meekly. "After all, there isn't any conflict of interest between them." "You're right." Layla nodded. "Competition in business is nothing to them. I'm just afraid that..."

"Afraid of what?" Sloan probed. "I'm afraid someone will get jealous of Danrique for having such a strong helper and sow discord between them," Layla muttered.

"They are capable men, so I don't think they will fall for that easily." Sloan didn't think much about it. "Besides, Mr. Lindberg and Ms. Felch saved him many times. He should be grateful for their help."

"Forget it. You won't understand, anyway." Layla stopped talking about them. "Just put your guard up at all times. Remember to tell me everything that happened when I'm not around, okay?"

"Got it." Sloan nodded fervently. "I might be stupid, but I know you're Ms. Felch's closest relative. When she isn't around, you're in charge!" Layla burst out laughing. "You're not a fool after all!"

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Chapter 2252 The Plan

Moving forward, everything went according to William's plan. The next day, Hazel held a press conference at Lindberg Corporation. She intended to update the media on her father's poisoning and had even invited Kevin and Harrier to attend the event.

Everyone assumed that she was going to openly disclose Francesca's offense. After all, to that very day, none of the media reporters had reported the incident in detail, and none of the people involved had spoken about it publicly.

As such, it was natural for Hazel's press conference to cause a great stir. After all, she was the daughter of the victim, and she was about to share her side of the story.

One hour before the press conference, Hazel shared the event on her social media and urged everyone to watch the live broadcast.

The first lady even shared Hazel's post on purpose because she was the one who hinted at the woman to hold the press conference.

Verily, various media outlets were competing to report news about the first lady sharing Hazel's post. Currently, all fingers were pointed at Francesca, and everyone was waiting to see how she would be punished.

Word had also gotten to Francesca, who was detained at the detention center.

As judgment had not been confirmed yet, the woman was not yet imprisoned but was held at the detention center instead. She had a room to herself. Although it was rather shabby, it was at least clean and convenient.

The female officer who was on duty at the detention center that day had specially given Francesca a laptop so that she could catch the live broadcast.

Francesca was inundated with disdain when she found out that Hazel had called for a press conference, for she too, assumed that the purpose of the conference was to disclose her offenses.

However, at the same time, she was worried that Danrique would see the news and find out that she had been caught. If he ended up rushing back impulsively, he would fall into those people's trap.

Meanwhile, in the Lindberg family's castle, Layla, William, and the others were also waiting for the live broadcast to begin. The press conference started punctually at two o'clock in the afternoon.

After Hazel walked on stage, she bowed and thanked the reporters for their attendance before making a speech to commemorate her father. Then, she started to narrate that day's events.

At the same time, the first lady and Avery were also watching the live broadcast at the presidential palace.

Avery stared at the screen with a frosty expression and asked, "Mommy, would that dumb woman, Hazel, tell everyone that you were the one who had asked them out?"

"Nope," the first lady replied confidently. "I've already reminded her long ago that she should never mention my name. I told her to tell everyone that it was Francesca who had initiated the meeting with her and her father."

Avery sneered and said, "That's good to know. Being obedient is the only thing Hazel's good at."

“That’s right. She had never dared to retaliate no matter what we did to her.” The first lady snickered icily before continuing, “Yesterday, I told her that I had cremated her father, and she merely accepted it without asking any questions.”

“Haha. We have to teach that sl*t more lessons so that she would learn to obey us,” Avery said with a smug smile on her face. “But, Mommy, since Francesca had already been captured, why is there a need to complicate things further? Can’t we just sentence her to death straight away? After she dies, I’m sure Danrique will marry me.”

The first lady’s gaze flickered slightly before the woman quickly made up an excuse to placate her daughter. “You know how smart Danrique is. As such, we need to find a scapegoat. He would definitely investigate the matter to find out the truth when he comes back, and if he knows that I was the one behind it, he would definitely resent me.”

“That’s true.” Avery nodded before saying, “Well, we shall let Hazel be the scapegoat then. She seems to be the perfect candidate for that.”

“Exactly.” The first lady patted her daughter’s head and said, “Avery, just have a little more patience. Francesca is going to die very soon. Don’t worry.”

“OK...” Avery fixed her gaze on the screen as an infatuated smile appeared on her face. “Danrique is going to marry me after she dies. I’m going to marry him and give him lots of babies... Babies?” At the mention of that word, Avery’s expression suddenly changed.