

Chapter 2253 Retaliation

She seemed to have recalled something and had a look of terror on her face.

“Where’s my baby? Where did my baby go? My baby...”

“Avery...” The first lady hugged her daughter immediately and tried to comfort her. “You’re overthinking. You don’t have a baby. You’re still young.”

“That’s not true...” Avery cradled her own head and said in agony, “I have a baby. She’s really adorable, but someone killed her...”

“No. That’s not true...”

The first lady quickly consoled her daughter while shouting for help. “Someone, get the doctor here at once. Quick, get the doctor here!”

The maids summoned the doctor at once. Soon, the doctor arrived and gave Avery an injection, making her fall asleep within seconds.

The first lady could feel her heart aching as she stroked her daughter’s cheek and said, “My poor girl, don’t be scared. I will definitely avenge my grandchild.”

“Mrs. President, look! Hazel is...” the first lady’s assistant pointed at the screen and exclaimed suddenly.

The first lady turned to look at the screen at once.

Hazel was narrating the events of that day with tears streaming down her face.

“That day, it was the first lady who had asked my father and me to meet Ms. Felch. Mrs. President left halfway through the meeting, and after that, my father and Ms.

Felch had an argument. Ms. Felch's snake had almost bitten my father, but she had summoned her snake back in time. My father did not feel any pain at that time. When we left, he was still all right. However, two hours after we reached home, the poison in his body started acting up... I called our family doctor at once, but the doctor took a long time to arrive. When he finally arrived, my father had already passed away. I called the police right away. After examining my father's body, the forensic pathologist concluded that my father had died from snake venom. When I heard that, Ms. Felch came to my mind at once. However, I have just found out that the doctor was under someone's control, and that's why he was late for half an hour. Moreover, the forensic pathologist was also working for the first lady. Last night, I sensed something amiss and wanted to reexamine my father's body. However, I was informed that my father had already been cremated! The circumstances of my father's death are just too suspicious. I don't know who I can seek justice from, but I hope to find out the truth and make sure that the real culprit gets their deserved punishment so that my father can rest in peace."

"Ms. Atkinson, are you trying to say that it wasn't the future Mrs. Lindberg who caused your father's death?" a reporter asked at once. "Are you suspecting that someone else was behind it?"

Hazel replied tearfully, "I shall leave that to the police to investigate. I just wanted to share what happened that day. As for who the real culprit is, I really have no idea."

"Hazel, what are you talking about?" Kevin stopped Hazel from speaking further. "You're insinuating that it's Mrs.—"

Before the man could complete his sentence, he was interrupted by Harrier.

Harrier glanced at Hazel thoughtfully before standing up and announcing, "Everyone, Ms. Atkinson probably doesn't know what she's talking about as she's still grieving over her father's death. Please forgive her and ignore everything she said just now."

While speaking, the man gestured to his subordinates to stop the live broadcast immediately to prevent the news from spreading.

However, that made it more obvious that he was trying to hide something. At once, the reporters swarmed forward to take pictures of him while asking him some difficult questions.

“Mr. Harrington, given that Ms. Atkinson was personally involved in the incident, she would surely know what happened. Why did you claim that she didn’t know what she was talking about? Are you trying to cover up something for someone?”

“Exactly. Are you trying to cover up the truth for Mrs. President?”

“Mr. Harrington, it doesn’t seem like Ms. Atkinson wants to end the press conference. Why would you want to end it? Are you scared of offending someone?”

“Mr. Harrington, it was rumored that you’re very close to the first lady. Is that true?”

“Mr. Harrington, since Mr. Lindberg is no longer around, are you taking over his position? Are you hoping that he will never return?”

“Mr. Harrington...”

“Shut up, everyone. Just shut the f*ck up!”

Harrier, who was usually calm and composed, flew into a rage under the reporters’ relentless questioning. It was only then that he noticed that the reporters who were present that day were all unfamiliar faces. It seemed to him that someone had deliberately

it was someone’s intentional doing.

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Chapter 2254 Acrimony

The press conference and livestream were quickly put to an end while the news channel was immediately switched to another entertainment-based channel. It was as if they were trying to conceal something.

Even though someone was trying to stop the news from spreading, the news was live. Hence, whatever Hazel had said earlier was broadcast directly to everyone through the cameras. The first lady was enraged. She called Hazel, but Hazel's phone was switched off.

Thus, she immediately called Harrier and demanded to know what was happening. "What's going on? Is Hazel crazy? How dare she spout nonsense in the live stream?"

"Mrs. President, I have already terminated the press conference. We're trying to prevent the situation from escalating. Please rest assured. I will take care of this matter," said Harrier in a low, consoling voice.

"This crazy woman!" The first lady was livid. "Has she lost her mind? Make her pick up the phone!"

"Please wait." Harrier walked to the office next door and handed the phone to Hazel while informing her, "It's a call from the first lady."

Hazel took the phone and said "hello," but before she could continue speaking, the first lady's agitated yells traveled from the other end of the line.

"Hazel Atkinson! Have you lost your mind? How dare you utter nonsense on the live news broadcast? Don't you know how serious the consequences are?"

“The consequences? I’m only relating the events that have happened. What consequences are you talking about?” said Hazel coldly, interrupting the first lady coldly.

The first lady froze upon hearing that. She did not expect Hazel, who had always been timid and subservient around her, to speak to her with such a rude tone.

She’s behaving strangely!

All of a sudden, the first lady softened her tone. “Hazel, has anyone told you anything? They are trying to drive a wedge between us. You can’t fall for their tricks—”

Hazel retorted, “Fall for their tricks? What tricks? Whose tricks? Why is someone controlling our doctor? Who is controlling him? Why did the forensic pathologist in charge of examining Daddy’s corpse disappear suddenly? Why can’t we find him? Why was Daddy’s corpse cremated so suddenly yesterday night? Who gave the order to do so?”

She fired a string of questions in one breath. Even Kevin, who was beside her, was dumbfounded. Harrier’s expression changed drastically as well. He then ordered all subordinates to leave the room and personally closed the door to the office.

The first lady was utterly befuddled, for she did not expect Hazel to ask those questions at that juncture. She knew that the truth could not be hidden forever, but she was caught by surprise, for her lies were exposed far too soon.

“Mrs. President...” Hazel narrowed her eyes and asked gloomily, “Was my dad really poisoned by Francesca’s snake? Or was he poisoned by you?” When Kevin heard those words, he jumped in fright and almost fell off the chair.

The first lady berated, “Hazel Atkinson! Are you crazy? How dare you suspect me? I don’t know who planted this idea in your mind, but I had only arranged for Francesca to meet you and your father out of goodwill. What happened next has nothing to do with me!”

“Since it has nothing to do with you, why did you instigate me to hold a press conference? Why did you personally arrange for a forensic pathologist to conduct an autopsy on my father? Why must you give the order for my father’s body to be cremated in advance?” Hazel demanded agitatedly.

“I don’t know what you’re talking about.” The first lady refused to admit anything. “What evidence do you have to prove that I did all that? I’m just someone who has spare time on my hands, and taking care of my daughter is the only thing I do every day. I expressed my concern when I found out that your father had passed away, but you framed me with a groundless accusation...”

“You...”

“If you have any evidence to prove that I did anything illegal, you can go to the Ministry of Law to lodge an accusation against me. Otherwise, shut your mouth. How dare you slander the first lady? You must be tired of living!”

Upon admonishing Hazel harshly, the first lady hung up right away.

Gripping the phone, Hazel trembled with anger. She had long since known that the first lady would not easily admit to the crime, but judging from the latter’s antsy attitude, Hazel could tell that her father’s death was definitely related to the first lady.

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Chapter 2255 Terror

Harrier questioned Hazel, “Hazel, are you crazy? The fact that Francesca released her snake to poison your father to death was clear as day! What does it have to do with Mrs. President? Who brainwashed you to act like a lunatic?”

Hazel lifted her head to look at Harrier. “Harrier Harrington. “You weren’t present when the incident occurred, and you didn’t examine my father’s body or investigate the case after the incident occurred. Do you even understand what’s going on? Why do you insist that this has nothing to do with Mrs. President?”

“What reason does she have to do this?” Harrier threw the question back at her. Kevin chimed in, “He’s right. Why would Mrs. President want to kill your father? She has no reason to do so.”

“There’s no need for me to explain her motive for murdering my father because both of you know it better than I do. We’re all clear on the situation, so let’s not pretend to be dumb.” Hazel stared at them with annoyance. “You—”

Hazel uttered furiously, “You guys assume that by cornering Mr. Lindberg and placing the Lindberg family in the president’s control, you’ll reap more benefits. I think that’s just a foolish fantasy. Since the president used such unscrupulous methods to deal with Mr. Lindberg, he can use similar methods to deal with us in the future. Once the Lindberg family is completely under their control, we would have served our purpose, and we would meet our doom!”

Upon hearing those words, Kevin’s expression changed greatly as his eyes darted around amidst his state of panic.

“I think that there’s something wrong with your brain.” Harrier paid no heed to Hazel’s words. “Why are you spouting nonsense? Everything happened because

the two of you are competing over jealousy! Why must you drag the president and his wife into your sordid affairs?”

“Why are you still putting on an act? What’s the point?” Hazel couldn’t be bothered to reason with them anymore. “It’s only natural that you think you’re the greatest beneficiary. After all, someone will have to take charge of Lindberg Corporation in the future. The Atkinson family has fallen, Mr. Lindberg is no longer here. and Mr. Yarrow isn’t presentable. Hence, you’ll be the one at the helm. However, do you really wield any substantial power? You’ll be a puppet at most.”

“You—”

Harrier wanted to retort her, but Hazel could not care less and had already walked away.

As Harrier stared at her retreating finger, his face turned red with rage. He then gestured at his subordinate to follow Hazel.

His personal subordinate immediately brought his men along and trailed after Hazel.

When Kevin saw that, he was flustered, and his expression grew all the more complicated.

Harrier patted Kevin on the shoulder and consoled him. “Mr. Yarrow, don’t listen to that brat’s words. She is trying to frighten you.”

Alas, Kevin was terrified and uneasy. “No, her words make sense. Think about it! Danrique is such a mighty person but has been destroyed by the president and his wife so easily. If the president wants to target us in the future, wouldn’t it be as easy as crushing an ant? We tried so hard to cooperate with them and target Danrique. However, when the president has control of Lindberg Corporation, will he kick us to the curb?”

Harrier chuckled. “You’re overthinking. Lindberg Corporation is a large company. Someone needs to take charge of it. We are the most familiar with the company’s operations, so how can it operate without us? That aside, even if the president wants to gain control of Lindberg Corporation, he would have to do so behind the scenes. We will still be in charge of it superficially. Otherwise, what will the public say about them?”

“That’s true.” Kevin heaved a sigh of relief.

Harrier patted the other man’s shoulder again. “Don’t overthink. I need to tie up some loose ends. You should find some time to go to the Lindberg residence to get their legal seal.”

“How am I going to pull that off?” Kevin’s face turned pale with fright. “That Francesca girl has got a bunch of flying and prowling beasts to look after the place. My men will be devoured by the animals before they can even step foot into the castle.”

Harrier did not hesitate to pressure Kevin. “Come up with a plan! I’ll leave this matter to you. I still have to meet Mrs. President. All the best!”

Thereafter, Harrier hurried away.

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Chapter 2256 Wheels Within Wheels

“Harrier... Harrier...” Kevin called out a few times. Harrier ignored him and walked out without hesitation. He even said to some of the people from the upper management outside, “Please find Mr. Yarrow for the matters regarding the seal. I’ll take care of the public opinion.”

“Yes, Mr. Harrington!” The senior executives all came to Kevin with documents in their hands, saying that they were urgent and needed approval from him to commence the project. Otherwise, they would lose over a hundred million every day.

Kevin was placed in a difficult situation because of Harrier, and he could only bite the bullet and say that he would try everything to get the seal.

However, after regaining his composure, Kevin felt something was off. Harrier had let him deal with the hot potato while he went to please the president and the first lady himself. In the end, all the benefits would go to Harrier while he would get nothing at all.

As he was pondering about it, his phone suddenly rang. It was a call from Hazel. He quickly answered the call. “Hello, Hazel...”

“Mr. Yarrow, help me,” Hazel shouted in panic.

“What? Hazel, what’s going on? Hazel—” Before Kevin could even finish his sentence, there was the sound of an explosion on the other end of the phone, and the call was disconnected.

Kevin was utterly stunned and only regained his senses after a while. He immediately called Hazel, but he couldn't reach her anymore. He tried to call Hazel's bodyguard, but to no avail as well.

He then called Harrier, whose phone was on hold the whole time. After that, he had someone go to the Atkinson residence to check the situation.

Half an hour later, his subordinate called and said, "Mr. Yarrow, Ms. Atkinson's car exploded on the flyover just now..." "What?" Kevin was shocked. "Where is she?"

"The car fell into the river after the explosion. The police are recovering the body..."

"The body?" Kevin was so frightened that he slumped down on the sofa. In just seven days, the father and the daughter of the Atkinson family were gone.

If Danrique's high position had threatened the president from taking the reins, what about the Atkinson family? What had they done wrong?

Gerard had always followed orders and had been unopinionated. He had always been under the thumb of the president and his wife, who had poisoned him to death in the end to convict Francesca.

Now, Hazel ended up in such a situation because she had discovered the truth, told the media everything that had happened, and confronted the first lady.

Kevin was worried that if he did not do as the president and his wife said in the future, he would die too.

Now that Danrique's survival was still hanging in the balance and Gerard and Hazel were dead, Kevin doubted if he could remain unharmed.

The more Kevin thought about it, the more afraid he was.

Soon, the news of Hazel's accident spread like wildfire.

Various major media outlets reported the news of the explosion with clear photos and videos.

The conclusion was that her life and death remained unknown, and her body was not found.

These words left rooms for the imagination of the people. How could her life and death be judged when her body was not even found?

This soon caused an uproar on the internet, and public opinions erupted like a volcano. After all, Hazel had just recounted the entire incident at the press conference. They believed that the first lady had something to do with this matter.

However, Harrier had interrupted her before she could even finish her words. After that, the press conference had been forced to stop and what followed in less than one hour was the news of her accident.

The entire thing seemed to be interrelated. It was not surprising that people would associate this matter with the first lady.

After all, the other suspect, Francesca, had already been arrested. It was impossible for her to make a move against Hazel, so all fingers were now pointed toward the first lady.

The enormous waves of public opinion could not be suppressed at all. Kevin was terrified. He hid in his home, not daring to see anyone.

Meanwhile, Harrier, who had heard the news, immediately went to the presidential palace. Upon learning about the entire situation, the first lady was shocked. “How could this be? I haven’t even done anything yet.”

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Chapter 2257 Wheels Within Wheels 2

“Well, that makes sense.” Harrier frowned. “She was involved in an accident immediately after giving her speech at the press conference. No wonder people would think it has something to do with you.”

“What on earth is going on now?” The first lady was distraught. “Have you found out who did this?”

“I sent someone to follow Hazel when she left the company, but they lost her very quickly...” Harrier furrowed his brows. “Soon after that, I heard something happened to her.”

“The news is spreading fast, and the public opinions are now against me.” The first lady started to panic. “Who is behind this? Could it be Danrique?”

“I don’t think so.” Harrier’s expression changed drastically. “His life and death are uncertain, and he can’t even take care of himself now. He can’t possibly get so many things done.”

“Then who could it be? Who else could it be...”

“Could it be him?” Harrier thought of someone.

“Who?” the first lady hurriedly asked.

“Prince William.” Harrier frowned. “Although I know very little about him, I always feel that he is not a simple man. Something happened to Danrique, Francesca went to jail, and Sean is not in Xendale. Sloan and the boys are incapable of doing such a thing. Only one person from the Lindberg family is capable of plotting this whole thing behind our backs...”

“How is that possible?” The first lady did not see William as a threat at all. “He’s just a wastrel who was kicked out by the royal family of Danontand. He’s not capable of making any remarks in Erihal at all. If he was truly that capable, he wouldn’t have been bullied by his cousins.”

“This...” Harrier could not respond for a moment. She’s right. William has always been bullied by his cousins. Everyone in the upper echelon of society knows that. Besides, Hazel’s accident requires not only planning but also asking for a favor from the media and arranging the explosion... Even if William is crafty and shrewd, he doesn’t have the connection and ability to buy off the media to fight against the first lady.

“Check it out and report to me as soon as there’s any information,” the first lady instructed.

“Got it.” Harrier immediately left to investigate this matter. As soon as he got into the car, he said to his subordinate, “Check with the prison if Francesca has escaped and if she has contacted anyone outside.”

“I’ve checked with them, and I was told that they’ve been monitoring her closely in the prison. Besides the basic living facilities, there are no communication channels in her room. She couldn’t possibly contact anyone outside. Although they have let her watch the news today, the computer is placed outside. She could only watch it through the bars of the prison...” the subordinate carefully recounted the results of the investigation.

Harrier was very confused. If it is neither William nor Francesca, who could it be?

Meanwhile, in the prison, Francesca was lying leisurely on the bed, crossing her legs and eating an apple.

It was true that she could not contact anyone outside. However, the female prison guard had deliberately shown her Hazel’s news today to make her angry, but who would have thought that there was an unexpected turn of events?

At that time, Francesca was shocked too. She could still vividly remember that Hazel hated her on the day she was arrested. Why did she change her mind all of a sudden?

After that, Francesca thought about it carefully. Perhaps William had found a way to reveal the truth to Hazel. She knew that her father's death had nothing to do with Francesca and that it might have something to do with the first lady, so she changed her mind.

As long as the tables had turned, that meant that things were looking up.

Francesca was in a bright mood now. She was waiting for good news and hoping they would release her straight away.

Meanwhile, in the Lindberg residence, Sloan was leading a woman who was wearing a black cloak to the study. Layla turned around, and the woman took off the hood of the cloak. Layla was stunned. "It's you."

"Ms. Atkinson." Monica was also surprised. "So you..."