## Chapter 2263 Shocking News

Sloan instantly gave Gordon a call. This time, it went through. He told him about the current situation and also mentioned William's guess that the first lady had gone to jail with a doctor. They feared she was planning to poison Francesca.

Upon hearing that, Gordon was enraged. "How preposterous. Do they really think that Mr. Lindberg is dead?" "What do you mean? Is Mr. Lindberg still alive?" Sloan asked emotionally.

"Obviously," Gordon thundered. "Go and stop them first. I'll discuss this with Sean to see what we can do. Don't let word get out that Mr. Lindberg is still alive. Don't tell anyone that you contacted me, either."

"Understood," Sloan replied. "But Ms. Layla, Prince William, and Ms. Atkinson have probably known..."

He then proceeded to recount William's plan and told him about why Hazel was in hiding at the Lindberg residence.

Gordon didn't say much. He only warned him to keep it a secret, then hung up to go look for Sean so that they could discuss saving Francesca.

Sloan gave William and Layla a simple elaboration on the situation. William asked, "So, you managed to contact Gordon? That's good, then."

It was then that Layla realized that he was not as anxious as before. She belatedly realized that he might have done all that with the intent of finding out whether Danrique was alive or not.

If that were the case, William would invest everything into saving Francesca. If not, he might have some reservations.

At the thought of that, Layla couldn't help but sigh to herself. He's such a crafty man.

"What do we do now? Are we going to save her or not?" Sloan asked.

Layla simply looked at William without saying a word.

"Get things ready first. We'll make a move when we hear from Gordon." William pondered for a moment. "Why did Mrs. President go to prison with a doctor at a time like this?"

"Exactly." Layla found it odd as well. "If she wanted to make a move on Francesca, she could have just used one of the prison guards or brought a subordinate of hers. Why did it have to be a doctor?"

"Ms. Felch can't be sick, right?" Sloan asked anxiously.

"If that's the case, then they can just get the medical staff in prison to deal with it," Layla argued. "There's no way that vicious woman would be so kind to bring a doctor to see Francesca. Did she bring a doctor there to threaten Danrique by cutting Francesca's limbs off?"

"Don't scare me like that, Ms. Layla." Sloan was so terrified that the blood had drained out of his face. "If that's how it is, then we should hurry up and do something. Let's save her."

William remained silent. He seemed to be contemplating something. "Everything has been prepared, Your Highness. Shall we leave now?" Monica asked, observing William's expression.

Everyone looked at him, awaiting his reply. Hazel didn't get it. He had been so anxious earlier, but right then, he was totally calm.

After a long while, William finally spoke. "I don't think we need to do so. I believe we're about to receive some shocking news soon..." "Shocking news?"

In the prison, the first lady was leaning against the bars as she stared at Francesca icily. Francesca was sound asleep. She did not know that there were people surrounding her.

For the past few days, she had been throwing up everything that she ate. She didn't have an appetite at all, but she was incredibly fatigued. Even in an environment like that, she could fall asleep in no time and she could sleep very soundly.

"Are you sure she's pregnant?" the first lady murmured to the female prison guard beside her.

"I've been observing her for a few days. Ever since she came here, she's been vomiting every morning. Whatever she eats, she vomits. On top of that, she's always tired," the guard whispered. "The female prisoners who exhibited the same symptoms were always pregnant."

"Give her a checkup," the first lady ordered the doctor next to her.

"Okay." The doctor brought his assistants in to draw some of Francesca's blood.

### Chapter 2264 Pregnant

Abruptly, Francesca's eyes shot open. She flipped over and sat up in a hurry. "What are you doing?" The assistants were startled. The doctor explained, "Don't worry. We're not going to hurt you. We just want to do a blood test."

"A blood test? For what?" Before Francesca could go on, a few prison guards came in to hold her down. Sam, who was coiled around Francesca's arm, was about to bite them. However, Francesca stopped it.

It wasn't the right time for Sam to show itself. "We're doing a test to see if you're pregnant," the first lady stated coldly. "Pregnant?" Francesca was dazed. "Are you kidding me?"

"You throw up every day, and you're constantly tired. Those are symptoms of pregnancy," the guard said feebly. "Mrs. President brought a doctor to give you a check-up. You should be thanking her."

"Exactly." The first lady sneered. "If you're pregnant with Danrique's child, I have to tell him the good news."

Mixed feelings surged in Francesca's heart. When the first lady said that, she suddenly remembered that her period had been late by a month. Besides that, her behavior had been abnormal as of late.

Could I really be...

Francesca hurriedly took her pulse, and her expression changed drastically.

As a traditional medicine practitioner, she was well aware of what her pulse meant. Even then, she could not believe that she was pregnant at a time like that.

The doctor had already come with medical staff to hold her down and draw her blood.

"I'm making you get a check-up for your own good," the first lady said haughtily. "Just stay still and cooperate with us. It'll be bad if we have to use force and end up hurting you."

"Okay." Francesca decided there was no point in resisting. She turned to the doctor and said, "You want to draw my blood, right? I'll do it myself."

The doctor glanced at the first lady, who nodded in response. He handed the equipment over to Francesca, who then drew a vial of her own blood. "Go ahead and do the test. Let me know when the results are out."

"I'll wait here for the results with you," the first lady uttered as she took a seat on the chair outside. The doctor and his assistants left with the blood sample.

The prison guard served the first lady some tea. The first lady made a gesture, then the guard made a pot of tea for Francesca as well and even gave her some exquisite snacks.

"The food here is absolutely horrible. It should have been changed a long time ago."

Francesca didn't hold back. She drank the piping hot tea and began eating the snacks. "Aren't you afraid that they're poisonous?" the first lady asked while staring at her icily.

"What is there to be afraid of?" Francesca was totally unbothered. "If you poison me, you won't have any leverage over Danrique."

"You're smart." The first lady didn't deny it. "Since you're that smart, why don't you take a guess why I captured you?" "To deal with Danrique, is it not?"

"That is one of the reasons." The first lady shot her an eerie look. "Everything you're going through right now is to repay your past sins."

Francesca was stunned. "I don't remember having done anything bad. What sins could I have committed?" "So, you've forgotten." There was a hint of hatred in the first lady's voice.

Francesca was totally confused. What did I forget? She tried to remember. Indeed, she had done nothing unforgivable before, nor had she made any enemies. The only exceptions would be Hazel and—

It was then that a figure flashed across Francesca's mind. Chrono! "Are you talking about Chrono?" She stared at the first lady in shock. The first lady's gaze flickered.

"Is Chrono your illegitimate child?" Francesca made a bold guess. "As if!" The first lady was so full of rage that her face went purple. "What nonsense are you spouting, you brat?"

### Chapter 2265 Take Care Of The Baby

Seeing how angry the first lady was, Francesca immediately dropped the issue. "Looks like I made a wrong guess. If you're not talking about Chrono, then I honestly have no idea who else there could be."

"Speak any more nonsense, and I'll rip off your mouth," the first lady threatened. She was livid, feeling as if she had suffered the humiliation of a lifetime.

"Go ahead and try. Let's see who'll be the one ripping someone's mouth off." Francesca wasn't intimidated at all. "You..." The first lady trembled with rage.

"Calm down, Mrs. President," the female bodyguard murmured, holding a phone. "We received a call from home saying that Ms. Avery is awake. She's throwing a tantrum right now..."

"Get them to hurry with the test results," the first lady ordered. "Understood." The bodyguard hurriedly went to urge them.

"How unfortunate." The first lady was frustrated. "If not because Danrique's whereabouts were unknown, I would have gotten rid of you."

Francesca didn't pay her any mind and continued eating. "How can you be eating at a time like this? Aren't you worried about what you're going to do if you're pregnant?"

"What are you talking about?" Francesca responded nonchalantly. "If I'm pregnant, I'll have to go out and take care of the baby."

"Can you go out?" The first lady smirked. "You'll just end up dying here." "I look forward to it." Francesca wasn't scared at all.

"You're so full of yourself." The first lady found it ridiculous. "This place is impenetrable. Nobody can save you, and you won't be able to escape, either."

"The air quality here is pretty bad. I think you should cut the crap." Francesca couldn't be bothered. "You..." It was impossible for the first lady to win against her in an argument. All she could do was suppress her fury and continue to wait.

A while later, the doctor finally came in with the results. "The results are out, Mrs. President." "Let me have a look." She took the report, and her expression changed drastically. "Indeed..."

"She's four weeks pregnant," the doctor announced. "Seriously?" Francesca quickly asked. "Am I really pregnant? Don't lie to me."

"Have a look yourself." The doctor handed the report over to her. Upon seeing the report, Francesca was dumbstruck. She had never imagined that she would get pregnant at a time like that.

"Is it Danrique's child?" the first lady questioned. Francesca came back to her senses. "Isn't it obvious?"

"Good, then." The first lady sneered. "You alone aren't enough to make him show himself. But now that you're carrying a baby in your womb—"

"Obviously, the baby is not his," Francesca added. The first lady was dumbfounded. "What did you just say?"

"I said the child isn't Danrique's. Don't bother thinking about trying to threaten him with it." "How could that be? If it's not his, then whose could it be?"

"Don't worry about that." Francesca didn't want Danrique to know that she was pregnant. If he had yet to show up, that meant something serious had happened. She didn't want to make things harder for him right then.

"Do you really think I'll believe you? Don't worry. Danrique will come to save you very soon." Then, the first lady ordered, "Don't give her anything to eat from now on. All she can have is water."

"Understood." The guard lowered her head in obedience.

"Good luck taking care of your baby." The first lady gave her a cold stare and turned to leave. "When she's on the verge of death from starvation, take a video and send it to me. I'll let Mr. Lindberg have a look to relieve his pain!"

"Understood." Francesca watched as the first lady left and gritted her teeth in anger. A few guards came in to take the tea and snacks away without leaving anything for her.

She leaned against the bed and stroked Sam, wondering when she could get out of there.

## Chapter 2266 Force Him To Show Himself

In the castle, Sloan soon received a message: Francesca was pregnant. He held the phone in his hand and gasped in shock. "What is it? What did they say?" Layla asked anxiously.

"They said Ms. Felch is pregnant." Sloan's face was filled with disbelief. "What?" Layla was dumbfounded. She did not expect Francesca to be pregnant at such a critical moment at all.

"Uh..." Hazel, too, was shocked. She hurriedly unlocked her tablet and checked the news. "Forget about it." William appeared rather calm as if he had already expected it. "The news is not announced to the public. They purposely inform the Lindbergs so that Sloan will convey it to Mr. Lindberg."

"What do you think they're doing? Are they trying to force Mr. Lindberg to show himself using this way?" Monica asked in confusion.

"There's indeed no such news online." Hazel stared at the tablet with a grim expression.

"Then what should we do? Is it true that Ms. Felch is pregnant? Or is it just a lie to deceive Mr. Lindberg?" asked Sloan, utterly stunned.

Just then, another text message came in. Upon realizing it was Francesca's medical report, he hurriedly passed the phone to Layla.

"Looks like it's true. Oh, no! Will they do anything to Francesca?"

"Not for the moment, I guess. But they will surely take action," said William.

"What action?" Sloan asked promptly.

"They'll cut her food supplies," William predicted. "It's the easiest way to overwhelm her without having to do anything,"

"What should we do now? Ms. Felch is pregnant. I'm afraid she can't hold much longer," Monica said anxiously.

"I'll give Gordon a call." Sloan was about to make the call when Gordon's call came in. The latter said that he had already boarded a private jet back to Xendale.

Sloan immediately told him that Francesca was pregnant. Stunned by the news, Gordon quickly notified Sean.

On the other end of the line, Sean, holding the phone in his hand, froze after hearing the news. That was when Danrique's voice rang out from the room. "Where's Sean? Get him here."

"Right away, Mr. Lindberg." The subordinate went to find Sean. Sean swiftly hung up the phone and hurried to the room. "Mr. Lindberg, you're awake."

"Get a private jet ready. We're going back to H City."

Danrique was injured in the explosion and had been in a coma for half a month. Once he regained consciousness, the first thing he said was that he wanted to return to Xendale.

He hadn't been back for a long time. Even though he asked nothing, he knew things in Xendale had probably changed.

"Mr. Lindberg..." Sean looked at him with a conflicted look. "We can't go back now."

"What happened?" Danrique asked.

Upon contemplation, Sean briefly explained, "The president and his wife are currently in control of the situation. Gerard is dead, and both Harrier and Kevin have betrayed us. It's dangerous to go back now."

"Where's Francesca?"

Danrique did not care about those matters, or perhaps everything was within his expectation. He was only concerned about Francesca's safety at that moment, knowing that she would become everyone's target after something happened to him.

"Ms. Felch..." Sean dared not hide anything from him, but he wondered how he should deliver the news. "Speak!" Danrique growled.

"Ms. Felch has been arrested. She is accused of murdering Gerard. The police and the military department personally came to the castle to arrest her," Sean said softly. He did not tell Danrique that Francesca was pregnant.

"Francesca was probably worried that she would get me involved if she escaped; that was why she chose to surrender." Danrique clutched his chest and wheezed, "Otherwise, with her temper and ability, she could have fled."

"Yes. That was what Sloan said too." Sean nodded.

### Chapter 2267 Concern

"Prepare a private jet. We're going back now." Danrique tried to get up from the bed as he spoke.

Seeing that, Sean hurriedly supported him and advised anxiously, "Mr. Lindberg, you'll fall into their trap if you go back now. The president and his wife are trying to force you to show yourself. You can't be rash. Gordon has already brought some people over with him. He will definitely save Ms. Felch."

"Even if he does save her, I still need to go back and stabilize the situation. Otherwise, things will only get worse."

"But with your current condition, it will be perilous to go back now. Gordon can control the situation for a while. It's not too late to go back after you've recovered from your injury. Aren't you the one who taught me that a little impatience spoils great plans? Ms. Felch is enduring the humiliation for the greater good. You must remain calm and steadfast at a time like this."

Those words managed to convince Danrique to stay.

Indeed, I'm now seriously injured. I won't be able to deal with everything in this state. Perhaps I should slow down and wait for my wound to get better first. Those people won't dare to do anything to Francesca as long as I don't show up.

With that thought in mind, Danrique gradually calmed himself down. In Xendale, Francesca had not eaten anything besides drinking water for a whole day.

She began to miss the awful food back then. Even though it made her stomach churn, at least it could still fill her stomach, and she would not need to starve.

It was only the first day, yet she already couldn't take it. Looking down at her flat belly, she wondered how long she would have to suffer.

It's so strange yet wonderful. I still can't feel anything, but Danrique's baby is already growing inside...

Francesca was born with a congenital abnormality. Her master had told her that she had a hole in her heart, and her life force seemed tenacious but had a short cycle.

Even if she took good care of herself, she might not live longer than thirty years old. Childbirth was even riskier for her, and her pregnancy might end earlier than expected.

That was why she had never craved to get into a relationship, not to mention getting married and having children, until she met Danrique.

She lost all her rationality. She began not to think about the consequences of her actions and only cherished the present. Even a few years would be enough to make her life worthwhile.

However, she never thought that she would be pregnant with his child at that time. In other words, she only had little time left to be with Danrique.

She had never been afraid of death, but now, she suddenly became afraid. Every second had become precious to her. Without Danrique by her side, every passing moment was a waste.

At that moment, she only wanted to leave the damnable place, see him, and spend her last days with him. However, she knew she couldn't risk barging out and getting him into trouble. She had to wait for the right time.

At the Lindberg residence, Layla asked anxiously, "How long do we have to wait? It's been confirmed that Francesca is pregnant. We should go and save her now. What if that old hag hurts her?"

"Gordon told us not to be rash and wait for his return. They're already on a private jet and will reach Xendale in seven hours," Sloan replied grimly.

"Seven hours? Francesca could've died by then." Layla wished she could just rush out to save Francesca when she heard that.

"Ms. Layla, calm down. His Highness will eventually figure out a way," Monica tried to assure her. "Have you figured it out?" Layla looked at William.

Since Sloan contacted Gordon, William had been dilly-dallying. He had been sipping his tea quietly, seemingly thinking about something.

Hazel, on the other hand, was delighted after ascertaining that Danrique was safe. She returned to her room to rest, not caring about Francesca's life.

Perhaps she wished for Francesca's death. Only Layla and Sloan were concerned about Francesca at present.