Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 701 - 705

Lupine started taking things seriously. She had the dart in her hand and examined it carefully before she tossed it.

The dart brushed past the petals and cut a small section out of it.

She needed to avoid the branches and the leaves, so it was extremely difficult to achieve any of that.

"Is that it?"

Ben scoffed and picked up a dart before adjusting it in his hand. He aimed and let the dart loose.

The dart zipped over and knocked a huge portion of the petal down.

The cheers on-site became louder, and everyone was calling out Ben's name.

Zachary's lips curved into a small grin before he continued sipping his drink.

"Not bad," complimented Charlotte nonchalantly. She suddenly recalled something and said simply, "Mr. Nacht, we haven't discussed the terms of our bet."

"Oh?" blurted Zachary. He stared at her in amusement before asking, "What would you like to bet then, Ms. Lindberg?"

"If I win the bet, you will have to do me a favor," replied Charlotte as she narrowed her eyes at him with a sly grin on her face.

"Sure," answered Zachary without a second thought.

"Aren't you going to ask what that favor is?" asked Charlotte with a raised brow.

"I can do anything as long as it is not illegal or immoral," replied Zachary confidently. "Besides, I won't lose!"

"Is that so?" scoffed Charlotte. "Well, I'll look forward to our bet then."

"What do I get out of the bet if you lose?" asked Zachary as he inched closer to her while swirling his drink.

"Name whatever it is you desire," answered Charlotte boldly.

"I want you..." murmured Zachary as he slightly tilted his body to her. His gaze burned with the hunger of a beast when he continued, "To spend the night with me."

No one spoke.

The crowd gasped upon hearing those words.

Everyone knew that Zachary was wild and arrogant, but they didn't realize the extent of his arrogance. He actually made such an unreasonable request to the second-biggest shareholder of Lindberg Corporation who is equally powerful and on par with him!

Such arrogance!

The bodyguards of the Lindberg family were so angry that their faces were distorted as they glared at Zachary. If looks could kill, Zachary would be pushing the daisies by now.

Ben, Marino, and the other bodyguards of the Nacht family were all grinning happily to see their master in the lead.

These ladies had been pushing our buttons time and again. It's about time we give them a taste of their own medicine

Good job, Mr. Nacht!

"Mr. Nacht truly is my idol," said a businessman sincerely. "I am impressed once again."

"You're right. He really is bold. I won't even dare..."

The other businessman replied in a soft voice, but he quickly clamped his mouth shut. He realized that his words were extremely offensive toward the Lindberg Corporation.

"Mr. Nacht truly is something else..."

Everyone was excited, and they gathered to watch the show.

"Hah," sneered Charlotte. "Your reputation is just, Zachary Nacht."

"Why? Are you too chicken to gamble? Or do you think you'd lose?" taunted Zachary arrogantly as he leaned back on the black leather chair he was sitting on.

"Of course I won't lose," replied Charlotte, who refused to admit defeat. She then added, "Fine, I accept the terms. I'll teach you a lesson you'll never forget once you lost."

"I look forward to it!" said Zachary with a gleeful grin.

Charlotte's face was red with fury. She was glaring at Zachary when she instructed Lupine, "You must win this competition!"

"Understood, Ms. Lindberg," said Lupine. She grabbed a dart and knocked Ben away. "Get out of my way!"

"Hey, you..." growled Ben. His knuckles were cracking, and if it wasn't for the bet holding him down, he would've gotten into a fight against her.

Lupine grabbed a dart and narrowed her eyes to adjust her vision before she threw it. Zip!

At that crucial moment, Morgan suddenly moved, and the dart landed directly at the center, causing petals to fly everywhere. They landed on Morgan's face and clothes.

Morgan blinked. Seeing those petals got her to grin happily.

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"Hey! How is that okay?" blurted Ben as his eyes bulged. He complained, "That's obviously cheating!"

"He's right. This is too much," said Marino angrily.

"We never said that the target can't move," refuted Lupine with her head held high. She continued, "If you're not happy with the result, you can send someone to hold the target and work together as well. Anything goes as long as the objective is achieved."

"You..." growled Ben, his face scrunching up in anger. He turned to Zachary.

Zachary, on the other hand, simply looked at Charlotte with a calm look.

"She's right," said Charlotte nonchalantly while shrugging.

"How unreasonable can you get?" complained Ben as he cracked his knuckles.

The business tycoons were touching their noses and clearing their throats endlessly at the side. No one dared to speak up.

Lindberg Corporation was indeed being unreasonable, but this was just a game. It was not an official tournament, so there were never any actual rules set in place.

Whether or not it was fair would depend on Zachary's take on the matter.

That was why everyone had their eyes on him and was waiting for his response.

"Hmm... If Ms. Lindberg thinks it's fine, then I'm okay with it as well," replied Zachary. He nodded before turning to Ben and ordering, "Go on."

"But Mr. Nacht..."

Ben was stunned in place. He never expected that the renowned Mr. Nacht, who he and his friends respected and cared about, would actually stoop that low and abandon his values for a woman.

He wants me to continue even after we're being pushed to this extent? Has her beauty chased his brain out of his head?

"Go on," demanded Zachary.

Ben felt horrible, but he had no choice but to swallow all his fury and push forward.

Only half a petal was left on the rose. Ben had to hit it or the Lindberg family would definitely win the game.

Even though it wasn't a hard task for Ben to strike those petals, the fact that the other party had broken the rules made him wary. There is no saying if that b*tch will move the target at the last second.

If she moves even a little, I will miss the target.

Gah! That woman already has her brows raised like that and doesn't even bother standing upright now.

Fury burned within Ben, but he picked up the dart and adjusted his position.

"Careful now, this is your last chance," reminded Lupine arrogantly from the side. "I will break your hand if you hurt my people."

"Don't you think you're crossing a line here?" growled Marino. He was so agitated that he stepped forward to demand justice.

Zachary cleared his throat as a sign of warning.

Marino had no choice but to back away while glaring at those vile women.

"Mr. Nacht, I just had an epiphany," said Charlotte as she rested her forehead on her hand, looking as though she had just thought of something. She continued, "If I win, I want you..."

Charlotte inched closer to him. Her lips curved into a sultry and mischievous grin as she emphasized her next words. "To strip naked and dance in the banquet hall!"

Urk!

Mr. Potter was sipping red wine when he heard those words. That prompted him to spit everything out and cough nonstop.

The business tycoons widened their eyes in disbelief as they gawped at Charlotte.

Just moments ago, they thought that Zachary was being too arrogant, but it turned out that the Lindberg family was even worse.

Did she actually demand Zachary do a striptease in the banquet hall? I can't believe she uttered those words. I won't have the guts to do that, not even in my dreams.

On the bright side, those words got everyone excited. They rubbed their hands together in anticipation.

It didn't matter whether Charlotte would end up spending the night with Zachary or if Zachary would end up dancing naked in the banquet hall. Either result would be a historic event that would be something they had never seen before and would likely never see again.

Tonight is the night we witness a miracle!

"Mr. Nacht, this is getting way out of line," reminded Ben nervously with a soft voice. "Remember the old saying. A warrior's honor is more important than his life."

"Mr. Nacht, these women are playing dirty, so let's not play this game with them," said Marino, who was anxious as well.

If their boss was forced to dance naked in the banquet hall, they would be so ashamed that they would never be able to look another person in their eyes again.

No. We can't let this happen!

"Shut up!" reprimanded Zachary coolly. "I am a man. How can I go back on my words?"

He then turned to Charlotte. His gaze was gentle, and his lips carried a hint of glee when he said, "A striptease, huh? Not a problem!"

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Everyone gasped once more. Their minds practically short-circuited.

W-wow. Mr. Nacht is really going all out to court her. Guess the old wives' tale was right. Even heroes can't defeat a beautiful lady.

Looks like it doesn't matter how devoted he is to his company and career. He loves this woman more.

He's actually willing to perform a striptease just to make her smile?

Every thought passing through the spectators' minds highlighted their admiration for Zachary's dedication.

They were astonished. Looks like even the mightiest of men would fall prey to a vixen.

This is both sad and admirable.

Charlotte laughed aloud. She seemed pleased when she said, "Your reputation is just, Mr. Nacht. You're actually keeping your word, and I am truly impressed."

Lupine, Morgan, and the others giggled happily.

It seemed that everyone was certain of Lindberg Corporation's victory.

After all, they were the ones who made the rules. It was impossible for them to not win.

"Well then, let's continue," said Charlotte eagerly. She couldn't wait to see the end result, so she waved at Ben and reminded him, "Don't worry. You're not the one who has to dance naked, anyway."

Ben stared at the face that was once familiar and friendly. That same beautiful face was shining with arrogance and cruelty at that moment. Ben swore to himself, I will never be with a woman in this lifetime! Women are the root of all evil...

"What are you still standing there for?" urged Zachary. "Go on!"

Ben felt his heart oozing with disappointment, for the Mr. Nacht that they looked up to had lost all his dignity for a woman.

He sighed inwardly. Whatever... Here goes nothing.

Ben took a deep breath and picked up the last dart before walking into the right position.

"Hurry up already!" urged Lupine from the side. She was already holding her dart and was ready. She was certain that Ben wouldn't hit his target, so she was waiting for him to fail.

The Linberg family's bodyguards were all exuding confidence and were urging Ben to hurry with their gazes.

Every bodyguard employed by the Nacht family looked troubled. They felt hopeless because even their boss had sided with the enemy.

They sighed to themselves.

Ben narrowed his eyes and tossed the dart.

Morgan saw that the dart was about to hit the petal, so she moved away immediately. Just then, an ice cube flew over and hit her in the right cheek. That stopped her from moving away and got her to crouch down a little.

The dart flew past the rose petal and landed on the board behind it, quivering a little as it found its target.

The crimson red petal fell slowly, gliding down Morgan's black skirt, and landed in the wine glass.

It felt as if time had stopped, and the air seemed frozen.

Everyone's jaw dropped and they were holding their breaths as they stared intently at that rose petal.

It took some time before someone came around and shouted, "We won!"

"The Nacht family won!"

The business tycoons followed suit and cheered excitedly.

"We won!"

Even the Nacht family's bodyguards, who had always been quiet, became excited.

Marino walked over and snatched the flower stalk from Morgan. He showed it to everyone and exclaimed, "Look! There are no petals left on it. We won. We won!"

It was only then that Ben snapped back to his senses. He seemed pleased as he grinned. A moment later, realization dawned upon him and he turned to look at Zachary.

The former's eyes shone with respect and admiration.

Turns out, Mr. Nacht has never changed...

"Good game," commented Zachary as he wiped the water off of his hand gracefully.

"D-did you do something just now?"

Charlotte was frowning deeply as she stared at Zachary's hand.

He moved too quickly earlier, so she never registered what she saw.

There's no doubt about it. He must've done something. He picked up a piece of ice and threw it over at that crucial moment to hit Morgan's right cheek.

Morgan instinctively moved away, causing the dart to land perfectly...

"I did," admitted Zachary. He even grinned with his brows raised when he asked, "Like you girls, we worked together pretty well too, right?"

"You..."

"This doesn't count. You're obviously cheating!" growled Lupine angrily.

Zachary tilted his head and turned to her. His gaze was soft with a hint of hostility.

That frightened Lupine so much that she took a step back and didn't dare to say another word.

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"Aren't you the one who said that anything goes as long as the objective is achieved?" taunted Marino, "If you girls are allowed to move at will, then why can't we?"

"You..."

"Shut up!"

Lupine had more to say, but Charlotte cut her off.

"I will honor my word," said Charlotte before she picked up the wineglass and downed her drink.

"You truly are an incredible leader, Ms. Lindberg," said Zachary. His lips curved into a satisfied grin before he stalked toward her and reminded her, "Since you've lost, you are mine tonight."

"Oh my!"

Everyone started murmuring amongst themselves.

They were all excited and happy for Zachary because Lindberg Corporation was the one who kicked up the dust in the first place, then had the audacity to cheat.

Zachary, on the other hand, acted like a gentleman and kept backing away despite their constant unreasonable requests. In the end, he still won under those unfavorable circumstances.

Everyone was delighted to see an ending like this.

"Ms. Lindberg..." said Morgan. She had her hand on her swollen cheek and had stepped up to receive her punishment. "I did not do my job well. Please punish me."

"Leave!" instructed Charlotte grimly with a frown. She turned around and scoffed at Zachary before asking, "You'd better think this through, Mr. Nacht, so you won't regret it in the future."

"I've never regretted any decision I made," replied Zachary before he pulled Charlotte into his arms. He stroked her hair and whispered, "I'll give you a striptease once we're alone in the room."

His last sentence was extremely flirty and left many with room for imagination.

The business tycoons were all excited at that moment. They were cheering silently for Zachary, but they never said a word.

"Sure," replied Charlotte. She showed no signs of being a shy and awkward lady. Instead, she hooked her arm around his neck and leaned into him before she said, "I am curious to see how you look like doing a striptease performance."

"Wow!"

Everyone was howling and whistling excitedly.

That was especially true for the men. They were applauding Zachary so much that it was as if he had just fought and won a battle for the male species.

"What are we waiting for, then? Every second counts!"

Zachary held Charlotte's hand and rushed out of there, while their bodyguards hurried to keep up with them.

The business tycoons who had been watching the show were all staring enviously at Zachary.

Ben and Marino were also happy for Zachary.

The driver had already pulled the car up when Charlotte and Zachary left the banquet hall.

Just when Zachary was leading Charlotte into his car, she grinned seductively and suggested, "It's a beautiful night. Why don't we go for a walk?"

"You're wearing high heels. Will you be alright?" asked Zachary as he stared at her eight-centimeter heels.

"It'll be fine as long as I do this."

Charlotte took off her shoes and held them in her hand. After that, she hiked her gown up and led the way walking down the road.

Mixed emotions rose within Zachary as he watched her back. It felt as if he had suddenly returned to two years ago.

Back then, Charlotte was carefree and wild. She had since assumed another identity and became stronger, but she would still subconsciously show her cute and naughty nature.

That is who she is. It will never change, regardless of how much she pretends to be otherwise.

Zachary took off his coat and draped it over Charlotte's shoulder before he took a step back gracefully. He didn't try to take advantage of her or anything.

"I didn't think you were such a gentleman," commented Charlotte with a smile.

"Are you trying to say that you see me as a crude man?" asked Zachary with his brows raised.

"The kind of person you are is not important," replied Charlotte as she stared ahead at the beautiful street. She then narrowed her eyes and added, "The important thing is that the Lindberg family and the Nacht family are mortal enemies!"

Her words got Zachary's heart to sank. She's right. The Lindbergs and the Nachts had always been enemies. She has been provoking the Nachts ever since she showed up here. That could only mean that the Lindberg family is declaring war on us...

There was a time when they were worried that the Lindberg family would discover Charlotte's real identity and deliberately use her to get to the Nachts. That was the whole reason Zachary sent her away. Who would've thought that after all the twists and turns we took, we'd still end up here?

None of that matters, though. I don't care how tough the road ahead is. I will get her back...

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 705

"There is no such thing as an eternal enemy," said Zachary all of a sudden.

Charlotte was slightly taken aback. She then grinned and sneered, "Are you asking for a cease-fire, Mr. Nacht?"

"You can interpret it however you like," replied Zachary. He suddenly circled his arms around her thin waist and pulled her into his embrace before he added, "Either way, you are mine tonight."

Charlotte wasn't repulsed by him, nor did she deny him anything. She simply extended her slender hands and gently touched his chest before teasing, "We'll talk if you can keep up."

Charlotte shoved him away as hard as she could the second she finished speaking. She hiked up her dress and dashed forward barefooted.

Zachary grinned as he watched her run from him.

The refreshing night wind made Charlotte's hair danced while her white dress flew with the breeze.

Her beautiful figure was undeniably alluring under the moonlight.

Zachary's heart thumped wildly at that sight, and he sped up to chase after her.

Charlotte cast a long shadow under the moonlight, and she was right in front of him.

He was right behind her shadow and could have caught her if he just reached out, but he kept his distance.

He enjoyed the sensation of being a predator chasing his prey, and he was feeling contented at that moment. He also wanted to give her some time to relax and be carefree.

Charlotte turned around to face Zachary when she noticed that they had been running for a while, but he hadn't caught up to her. She grinned mischievously and teased, "Can't keep up?"

"Hah!" scoffed Zachary. He then sped up and reached out to hold her beautiful arm.

Surprised, Charlotte quickly moved away to avoid his touch before she pushed forward.

He continued chasing after her. However, he restrained himself and kept about three meters between them.

Charlotte's bare feet were running on the clean, even road under the moonlight.

He seemed amused as he stared at her back. He was like a predator looking at his prey, and it didn't matter how fast she ran. She would never be able to escape him.

The trees that were planted on both sides of the road cast a row of orderly shadows while the streetlights that illuminated the road showed two individuals hanging out and playing together.

The scene was so sweet and romantic that it looked like it was plucked straight from a movie.

"If you haven't caught me when I reach that streetlight, you will lose your opportunity to be with me tonight."

Charlotte was holding her dress when she turned around and grinned at Zachary. Her petite figure seemed especially adorable that night.

"Are you shamelessly going back on your words?" asked Zachary while narrowing his eyes.

"Don't you know that women are naturally shameless?" teased Charlotte with a smile.

Upon saying those words, she forged ahead again.

Her figure was as beautiful as an angel's, and under the moonlight, she looked ethereal.

Zachary grinned at her. His speed remained constant until she was about three or four meters away from the streetlight. That was when he suddenly zipped over and reached out to grab Charlotte's arm.

He was about to get ahold of her when a black, unidentified object with a menacing aura sped down from the sky.

"Mr. Nacht, watch out!" shouted Ben in a worried tone.

Zachary avoided that object quickly, but the back of his hand was still cut. The sharp wing brushed past his clothes and flew toward the men behind him.

Ben and Marino moved away in time to avoid being hit.

The unidentified object spun around in the sky before it flew back down and calmly landed on Charlotte's shoulder.

Zachary took a closer look. The hell? It's an eagle!

At that moment, the eagle's sharp and piercing eyes were glaring murderously at Zachary.

"Fifi, you're acting up again!" scolded Charlotte while caressing the eagle's wings. She smiled brightly as she introduced, "This is my pet eagle. I call it Fifi."

Back then, when Danrique gave her the bird, he let her give it a name. At the time, Charlotte instinctively blurted, "Fifi!"

She didn't know why she gave her pet such a stupid name, but at the time, that was the word that popped into her head.

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And she says she's not Charlotte Windt? She even gave her pet the same name!

Zachary raised his brows and stepped closer to Charlotte.

Charlotte stared at him, but she kept backing away as she reminded, "We said that you'd lose your shot tonight if you haven't caught up to me when we reach the streetlight."

"You're not there yet," replied Zachary with narrowed eyes. He then dashed forward to capture her.

The eagle suddenly attacked again and blocked Zachary's moves.

As Fifi did so, Charlotte turned around and leaned against the streetlight in a graceful manner. Her cheerful laughter was addictive as she gloated, "Haha, I won!"

Caw!

The eagle yelped in pain. Zachary had hurt its wings, which prompted the eagle to peck on his hand. However, he was faster, and he caught the bird by its neck at lightning speed.

With Zachary's strength, the annoying bird would soon be dead.

"No!" shrieked Charlotte.

Zachary paused for a moment before he loosened his hold.

The eagle broke free of Zachary's hold and flapped its wings to get back to Charlotte's shoulder. It was no longer as proud as it used to be.

Charlotte gave the eagle a once-over and noted that it had lost a lot of feathers around its neck. Its wings were also injured. Enraged, she huffed, "Zachary Nacht, you are such a crude man!"

"I am already merciful enough by sparing its life," refuted Zachary.

He got a handkerchief out of his possession and gently wiped the blood off the back of his hand.

"You..." complained Charlotte, but she soon realized that she didn't really have anything to say. She was the one who got out of line when she shamelessly backed out of her deal, and her pet was the one who ambushed him. Given Zachary's temper, it was uncharacteristically merciful of him to spare Fifi's life.

"I will let you off this once tonight. You won't be so lucky the next time!" warned Zachary.

He stared longingly at Charlotte before turning around and leaving.

Ben and the others followed along quickly.

Charlotte glared at Zachary's back as she gently stroked Fifi's wings.

"Ms. Lindberg, are you alright?" asked Lupine, Morgan, and the others who had quickly rushed over.

"That man is so crude. He actually attacked a pet," complained Lupine angrily.

"I know, right?" agreed Morgan.

"He would've been the one who is hurt if he didn't fight back," said Charlotte with a smile. "Fifi is no ordinary pet."

"That's true..."

"Mr. Nacht, are you really letting her go just like that?" protested Ben. "Those women really are shameless."

"Exactly. They keep changing the rules in their favor," said Marino, who was upset as well.

"What else can I do if not let her go? Rape her?" refuted Zachary in an annoyed tone.

"Uh..." Both Ben and Marino were speechless. That was certainly something they would not agree to.

When they returned to their room, Ben got the medical kit over immediately to treat Zachary's injuries.

Luckily, Zachary had reacted swiftly. If he hadn't, he wouldn't have just a scratch. After all, with how wild the eagle was, it could've crippled his hand.

"I've heard rumors about how Danrique enjoys keeping wild animals as pets. Seems like those rumors are true," commented Ben while frowning. "He must be the one who gave Ms. Windt... Ah, I mean, Ms. Lindberg that eagle."

"That eagle is ferocious and untamed," reminded Zachary. "You guys have to be careful."

"Ms. Windt really is something else. Back then, she kept a tiny parrot as a pet, but now, she actually has an eagle as her pet!" exclaimed Ben. "That woman changes so drastically that it's as if she's an entirely different person!"

"But is that really Ms. Windt?" said Marino, who couldn't believe it. He pointed out, "She used to be so sweet and so easily frightened that she would tremble at the sight of others fighting. How did she become so terrifying?"

"Women are even fiercer than eagles when they want to be," said Ben. He deliberately made everything sound scarier than it was when he warned, "Stay far, far away from those creatures... And keep your distance from the eagles too."

"Yes, you're right," agreed Marino while nodding. His impression of women had been crushed after meeting those female bodyguards who worked for the Lindberg family.

At that moment, Marino felt as if women were as scary as an untamable eagle and should be kept far away.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 707

Zachary was dealing with his injury when he suddenly heard an eagle screeching in the sky. A dark shadow zipped past the balcony and kept flying upward.

Ben hurried over to check things out. He saw Lupine on the balcony on the other side. She was shouting nervously into the sky, "Fifi, get back here!"

Unfortunately, the eagle didn't even bother listening. It simply flew ahead.

"Shoot!" said Lupine before she returned to the room to report, "Fifi flew away and won't fly back for anyone, Ms. Lindberg."

"Go look for it, you idiot," growled Charlotte angrily.

"Understood," replied Lupine before she took a few subordinates to go chase after the eagle.

Ben finished watching the show from the balcony before he returned to the room to report the situation. He later asked curiously, "Mr. Nacht, could it be that you scared the eagle away?"

"I wasn't that aggressive with it," replied Zachary calmly, "If I was, its neck would've already been broken."

"That's true..." murmured Ben while nodding. "Still, that eagle really is something else. It actually managed to injure you."

"It hasn't been fully tamed yet, so it is extremely sensitive toward others," commented Zachary, who had finished dressing his injury and pulled his sleeve down. He added, "If it were anyone else, it's likely that something terrible would've happened."

"That's true. I'm so glad that you were quick. If you weren't, the consequences would've been grave," said Ben.

He could still feel the fear in his heart when he recalled what happened.

"Mr. Nacht, everyone went out to look for that eagle, and that includes Ms. Windt... Ah, no, I mean, Ms. Lindberg., reported Marino

"Let them..."

Ben hadn't even finished his sentence when Zachary got up and rushed to the balcony.

Charlotte had changed into a more casual outfit and had a bodyguard with her. She was about to get in the car when Zachary called out from the balcony on the second floor.

"Hey!"

Charlotte instinctively turned around and demanded, "What?"

"Are you going to look for that eagle?" asked Zachary as he leaned on the railing in a relaxed stance. "Be careful not to let it hurt you."

"Why would it hurt me? It's my pet," replied Charlotte before she glared evilly at Zachary and complained, "And it wouldn't have flown away if you hadn't scared it!"

After saying her piece, Charlotte got into her car and left immediately.

Zachary stared at her, then at the forest nearby. He couldn't help frowning.

He heard the engine started up and watched as Charlotte left.

"Prep the car," instructed Zachary as he put on a coat and rushed down the stairs.

"What's the plan?" asked Ben while chasing after Zachary. "Are you going to help them find that eagle? It's not necessary, right? That eagle is their pet, so it is likely that it will go back on its own soon..."

"You talk a lot of nonsense, you know that?" commented Zachary as he glared at Ben.

Hearing that, Ben swallowed the rest of his words and didn't dare to say another word.

Marino had gotten the car ready, and the two men accompanied Zachary to find Charlotte.

The first thing Zachary did was use his phone to download the map to Ashenville Garden's surroundings. After that, he opened the window and paid attention to their location before he ordered Marino to drive to the South.

There's a forest there. It's likely that the eagle would fly over.

The gang had just reached the forest when they heard an eagle screeching from a distance. They could also hear a few women screaming.

The men got out of the car and rushed over.

The eagle was acting like a demon had possessed it. It was flying wildly in the forest and would attack the ladies from time to time. That prompted the bodyguards to duck and scream in fear.

Charlotte was blowing a whistle at the eagle to try to calm it down, but it refused to listen. It simply kept circling above her head.

Overwhelmed by anxiety, Charlotte reached out to grab the bird.

"Watch out!" shouted Zachary as he zipped over with the speed of lightning.

The eagle's claw had locked onto Charlotte's hand, and it was going to use its sharp beak to peck at her eye.

At that crucial moment, a brawny hand mercilessly grabbed onto the eagle's neck.

The eagle reacted quickly and shifted its target to Zachary. It attacked. Fortunately, he was faster and he threw a punch.

All that could be heard was a loud thud. The eagle was knocked into a tree before it fell and stopped moving.

"Fifi!" screamed Charlotte. She rushed over and picked up the eagle. When she saw that it was still alive, she sighed a breath of relief.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 708

"Are you alright?" asked Zachary. He had walked over to help Charlotte up.

"Fifi had always been an obedient pet. It has never behaved this way before." Charlotte frowned. She later complained, "You must've frightened it."

"I saved you. It's bad enough that you're not thanking me, but now you're even blaming me?" challenged Zachary with his brows raised. "Isn't that a little too much?"

"It won't have acted this way in the first place if it hadn't been for you!" insisted Charlotte, who looked furious.

Zachary turned speechless. He examined the bird and quickly found the cause for its rampage.

"This eagle is the most aggressive type of eagle. It may look like it has been tamed, but it would revert to its aggressive self if it saw human blood."

"You're right. My brother mentioned that it can't be exposed to human blood," blurted Charlotte as revelation hits. "It must have been acting so wild because it injured you and some of your blood got onto it!"

"You would've gone blind if it wasn't for me," reminded Zachary as he examined her wrist. "Go treat your injury once you get back. Don't let it get infected."

With that, Zachary spun on his heels and left.

Charlotte tilted her head down and checked her own wrist. That was when she realized that Fifi had clawed her and left a few deep cuts on her.

"Ms. Lindberg!" shouted Lupine and Morgan while hurrying over. "Are you alright?"

"Take Fifi home."

As Charlotte instructed her people, she heard a car engine starting. Zachary had left with his men.

Zachary was still staring at Charlotte from the car. The truth was that he was still worried, but he had suppressed his emotions. He understood that some things took time.

"Ms. Lindberg has such a terrible temper," commented Ben. "You rushed over just to save her, but she never even thanked you. She even put the blame on you."

"She is so different from Ms. Windt," said Marino who, at that moment, found Charlotte's former self to be much sweeter.

"Both of them are equally shameless and coquettish, though," said Zachary.

He recalled how Charlotte looked when she went back on her words all those years ago, and that got him to smirk.

Just then, Zachary suddenly thought of something and instructed, "Drive slower."

"Understood."

Charlotte and the others got into their car with the eagle. They were heading to the villa as well.

The forest's routes were confusing, and the navigation system couldn't get any signal. Morgan almost lost her way as she drove, but the Nacht family's car was right in front of them, so she simply followed them right out of the forest.

"Thank the heavens that the Nachts' car was right in front of us. We would've been lost otherwise," said Morgan. "Did they come all the way over just to help us?"

"Or maybe they're there to watch the show," scoffed Lupine. "Zachary was fooled by Ms. Lindberg, after all. Not to mention Fifi injured him. I bet he came all the way over to seek vengeance on Fifi. Yes, that has to be it."

"Uh-huh..." murmured Morgan. She didn't dare to say another word, so she simply glanced at Charlotte from the rearview mirror.

Charlotte had her eyes tilted down as she caressed Fifi's injured wings. No one could tell what she was thinking at that moment.

Back at the hot spring resort, Zachary showered and was wearing a robe while towel drying his hair.

His phone suddenly rang, so he picked it up. "It's two in the morning. Why are you still up?"

"I need you to go to Serene Hospital right away," ordered Henry anxiously. "Cynthia is in trouble."

"What happened?" asked Zachary calmly.

"She was in a car accident and is fighting for her life in the emergency room right now," replied Henry nervously. "She waited the entire night for you and got into an accident while she was on her way back. The Nacht family cannot deny our part in causing the accident, so you are to hurry over right away."

"Got it," replied Zachary before he hung up the call and instructed Ben, "Get the car ready. We're going to Serene Hospital."

"Understood," replied Ben before he quickly arranged for everything.

Zachary changed into casual wear and put on his shoes before hurrying down the stairs. That was when he bumped into Charlotte and her people. They were dragging their luggage along and were getting ready to leave.

"Mr. Nacht, what a coincidence!"

Charlotte had changed into a comfortable dress and had her long hair down. All that made her seem more approachable.

"Leaving so soon, Ms. Shameless Liar?" teased Zachary.

Charlotte harrumphed. She raised her brows and put on a grin before saying, "I can't sleep well knowing that a beast lives in the next room, so it's better to leave earlier."

"Ah, so you know that I am a beast," said Zachary as he approached her slowly. His sexy lips moved past her cheek and whispered into her ear, "Be careful. I might just eat you up."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 709

"Hahaha, you'd need to be a lot more powerful to get to me," replied Charlotte as she got into the car. She later rolled the window down and leaned lazily against the backrest before saying, "By the way, thank you for your help today."

"Oh? Seems like you finally found your conscience," joked Zachary. He shifted his gaze to her wrist and noted that it had only been dealt with hastily. He reminded, "Remember to disinfect your cut or you'll get an infection."

"I got it," replied Charlotte. She smiled and showed him her hand before saying, "I won't let my hand get hurt because I still need it to crush you."

"Good!" commented Zachary. He grinned mildly before he turned around and got into the car.

The two cars drove away at the same time and were side-by-side at the gate.

Marino and Morgan glared at one another before they accelerated at the same time.

In the back seat, Zachary and Charlotte grinned at one another. They rolled the window up simultaneously as if they could read each other's minds. We'll see each other again soon, was what they murmured to themselves.

It was half-past three in the morning when Zachary reached Serene Hospital.

He hopped out of the car and immediately saw Spencer waiting by the entrance.

"Spencer, what are you doing here at this hour?" asked Ben in a concerned tone.

"Ms. Blackwood got into an accident and she's still in the emergency room. Mr. Nacht is worried sick, so naturally, I have to follow him over," answered Spencer before he continued, "Mr. Blackwood is on a private jet and is rushing back to the country right now. His plane is estimated to touch down at dawn."

"How did she suddenly get into an accident?" interrogated Zachary with a frown. "Did our people drive her home?"

"No, the Blackwoods' bodyguard did," answered Spencer.

"Where is the driver now?" asked Zachary.

"He's in surgery as well," said Spencer grimly. "His wounds are worse than Ms. Blackwood's."

"Can you tell me more about the car that hit theirs?" asked Zachary as they walked into the hospital.

"We're not sure yet. The police are investigating the matter now, but the culprit escaped immediately after the accident."

Everyone rushed to the emergency room. They saw Henry sitting in his wheelchair and nodding off from exhaustion.

Zachary took off his coat and walked over to Henry to drape his coat over him.

That woke Henry up. When he saw that it was Zachary, the former frowned and demanded, "What took you so long?"

"I had to rush over from Ashenville Garden, so it took me some time to reach here," said Zachary. "Go home and rest. I will deal with everything here."

"I want to wait," replied Henry grimly. "Cynthia had been taking care of me for the past two years. She is a kind and sweet girl. Now that she is in trouble now, and her dad is not here with her, we can't leave her on her own."

"I understand." Zachary nodded.

Cynthia was an expert in the medical field. Over the past two years, she had been taking care of Henry and had given him a lot of acupuncture treatments. That was why Henry had remained healthy. When Ellie fell ill, Cynthia spared no effort taking care of the kid as well.

Hence, Zachary was appreciative of Cynthia even if he was not romantically attracted to her.

"I'm glad that you understand. Humans should have basic decencies," said Henry before he sighed deeply.

"Go home and rest. I'll call you once I receive the news."

After saying his piece, Zachary waved at Spencer.

The latter quickly headed over to push Henry's wheelchair, leaving with the elder man.

Zachary sat outside the emergency room and waited.

Ben, on the other hand, went to learn more about the matter. He returned soon after to report, "The police are still investigating the matter, but they learned that the culprit intentionally hit Ms. Blackwood's car and caused it to flip."

"Tell them to get to the bottom of it all as quickly as possible. Report to me when you hear any news."

"I've already informed them of that."

Just then, the door to the emergency room was flung open. The doctor exited and said, "The patient is no longer in danger."

"That's good to know," said Zachary before he sighed a breath of relief. He turned to Ben and instructed, "Stay here with her. I'll go look for my grandpa."

"Understood."

Henry was relieved when he heard the news from Zachary.

At first, Zachary wanted to take Henry home, so the latter could rest. However, Henry insisted that Zachary stay in the hospital to take care of Cynthia.

Zachary couldn't talk some sense into Henry, so the former had no choice but to stay. Still, he had Ben take everyone home.

Taylor arrived at the hospital a little after Henry left. The former ran the entire way to the emergency room and was only relieved after hearing that his daughter's life was no longer hanging on the balance.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 710

Zachary checked his watch before telling Taylor, "Mr. Blackwood, I'll head back now. I have an important meeting to conduct tomorrow morning."

"Okay, thank you for your help," replied Taylor politely.

Zachary bowed in return before he hurried off.

Taylor's expression turned grimmer as he stared at Zachary's retreating figure.

"Isn't Mr. Nacht being a bit too disrespectful?" complained a subordinate. "He left as soon as we arrived. It's as if he is just dealing with some corporate matter. Ms. Cynthia is wounded to this extent, and yet, he won't even pretend to care."

"Cynthia loves him dearly. It's such a pity..." said Taylor before he sighed deeply. "Sharon is aggressive and cruel in nature, so it's understandable if he's not into her. However, Cynthia is kind and sweet, so why must she end up like this?"

"She is too kind and too sweet. That is why she can't hold on to the man," replied the subordinate. "I think you should help them out and get Ms. Cynthia married into the Nacht family as soon as possible."

"These things can't be helped," reprimanded Taylor. "Let's just forget all about it. All I wish now is that Cynthia will recover soon."

Zachary rushed home and took a quick shower before he put on his clothes to get ready for work.

Henry was getting ready to take the kids to school at the time. He was shocked to see Zachary there, so he asked, "What are you doing home? Shouldn't you be in the hospital?"

"She's safe now, and Mr. Blackwood has arrived," replied Zachary as he buttoned up while walking out. "I have some things to work on, so I'll be heading to the office now."

"You..." growled Henry. He would've lost his temper then and there if the kids weren't present.

"Bye, Daddy," greeted the three kids while waving at Zachary.

"Mm-hmm." Zachary looked at the kids lovingly before crouching down to pick them up, promising, "I'll take you guys to the beach and play with you once I'm done with all my work, okay?"

"Okay," replied the kids. They were obedient and hugged Zachary before hopping into the car.

Henry pulled Zachary to the side and interrogated angrily, "What is wrong with you? Why are you back when Cynthia is still in the hospital?"

"She's safe now, and her life is no longer hanging on the balance. All that's left is for the doctor to do their jobs. There is nothing I can do anyway," replied Zachary calmly.

"You..."

"It's late, Grandpa," interrupted Zachary. He then checked his watch and informed, "There's something urgent that I need to handle and I have to go."

After saying his piece, Zachary hurried into his car.

Henry was turning red with fury, but there was nothing he could do. He definitely couldn't lose his temper in front of the kids, so he had no choice but to let Zachary be.

"Great-grandpa, what's wrong?" asked Ellie when she noticed how Henry's face was scrunched up. She was hugging her stuffed alpaca when she walked to him and comforted, "Did Daddy make you angry? I'll go scold him later."

"Ellie is such a good girl," praised Henry. His fury dissipated as he gazed at his great-grandkids. He claimed, "You three are the best. I am happy whenever I see you."

"Great-grandpa, what did Daddy do to make you angry?" asked Jamie curiously as he cocked his tiny head.

"It's nothing," replied Henry before he changed the topic by asking, "Is everyone settling alright in school? Are you getting along well with your teachers and classmates?"

"Yeah, I made so many new friends."

"I'm sharing my desk with a mixed-blood."

The two kids started sharing stories about their school, and they did so excitedly.

Robbie, however, was sitting at the side and operating an app on his tablet. He was focused on the image on the screen.

His mechanical dove was flying near Rokan Hill and was video-taping that region. Unfortunately, the mechanical dove couldn't get too far up in the sky, so he couldn't capture the video of the entire place.

Robbie planned on retracting his dove that night and giving it an upgrade.

Meanwhile, Fifi the parrot was perching on Robbie's tiny head and was dozing off.

Just then, a Rolls-Royce zipped past them, and everyone heard an eagle's screech.

Fifi the parrot was so frightened that its entire body trembled.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 711 - 715

Robbie felt a stream of warm liquid flowing down his head. He instinctively shuddered and shifted his gaze up.

"Ah! Fifi went number two on Robbie's head!" shrieked Jamie as he pointed at Fifi.

"Eww!" said Ellie. She closed her eyes immediately and commented, "That is so gross."

Robbie's face was red with anger. Gritting his teeth, he growled, "Fifi!"

Fifi sobbed and quickly flew to the other side before landing on the sofa. It looked fearfully at Robbie and said, "Scared. Scared."

"Scared? You went number two on my head!" complained Robbie as his tiny face flushed red with anger.

"Fifi was probably frightened by that screech just now, Robbie. Don't be mad at it," cooed Henry. "Let's go clean up for now."

After that, Henry waved, and someone hurried over to get Robbie to the side. They washed his hair.

Fortunately, they were using the better car that day, and it had everything they needed.

"Fifi, come here," ordered Ellie as she extended her hand to the bird.

The parrot flew into her arms immediately and rubbed her cheek with its furry head. It seemed like the parrot was trying to butter the girl up.

"Never go number two on someone else's head again, okay?" taught Ellie patiently. "Robbie takes his personal hygiene very seriously, and he'll get mad if you do so."

"Scared. Scared," repeated Fifi endlessly.

"What was that, anyway? I was frightened too," asked Jamie curiously. "It sounded like a monster."

"I think it was an eagle?" replied Spencer after considering the situation. "It's strange, though. Rokan Hill may have a variety of species, and we have seen the occasional wild animals, but there shouldn't be any eagles around..."

"I think that screech came from that car," said Henry. He was getting older, but his senses were still more sensitive than most. He hypothesized, "Could someone be keeping an eagle as a pet?"

"Who would keep an eagle?" said Spencer while frowning, "Wait. Erihal is a warrior clan, and rumor has it that Mr. Lindberg likes to keep wild animals as pets. Earlier, we suspected that the residents in Northridge were from the Lindberg family. It seems that the rumor might be true."

"Have Bruce investigate the matter," instructed Henry grimly. "I don't want to risk those barbarians hurting the kids."

"Understood," replied Spencer, who then gave out the instructions immediately.

On the other side, Robbie had washed his hair and was now drying it with a hairdryer.

He examined his head via the mirror. There wasn't any stain left, but he still felt uncomfortable. It was as if the smelly poop was still on his head.

"Don't worry, Robbie. You're all clean now," comforted Henry.

"I don't want to go to school anymore. Let me go home with you," requested Robbie with a frown. He couldn't stand the idea of having the stink of poop on his head while he was at school.

"Okay," replied Henry. Robbie is just like Zachary. They are both germaphobes. He'll feel uncomfortable until he went home and is cleaned up properly.

Robbie towel-dried his hair before returning to the sofa and continued working on his tablet.

He overheard what Henry and Spencer said earlier, so he wanted to know if that screech earlier was indeed from an eagle.

He turned on the navigation system and located the Rolls-Royce quickly. He then sent his mechanical dove over.

At that moment, the car had traveled down the main road and was parked outside the villa.

Two ladies got out of the car and opened the door before hauling a cage out of it. An aggressive eagle was resting inside.

Screechl

The eagle's screech came from the tablet and scared everyone in the car.

Fifi flapped its wings nervously and hid in Ellie's arms. It was calling out fearfully.

Ellie was in a similarly awful shape. She was so scared that she was crouching in the corner and her cute face had turned pale.

"Don't worry. It's just a noise coming from my tablet," informed Robbie instantly.

"What's going on?" asked Henry, perplexed.

"I had my mechanical dove go spy on that villa. They are indeed keeping an eagle as a pet!"

When Robbie shifted his attention back to his tablet, he saw that the ladies had already entered the villa with the cage.

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"This is preposterous" growled Henry angrily. "There are dozens of options for pets, and those people chose to keep eagles? Can they even control it?"

"I know, right?" complained Spencer, who thought that it was crossing a line as well. He said, "I'll inform Mr. Zachary right away. He will deal with the matter accordingly."

"Robbie, take a closer look. Can you tell who's living in that villa?"

Henry wanted to find out if the Lindberg family was staying there.

"Just a bunch of ladies..."

Robbie checked his screen again. That was when he realized that someone was staring right into the camera installed in his mechanical dove.

Panic surged within him. He quickly turned the mechanical dove around, but it was too late.

Bang! A shot was fired from a gun, and Robbie's screen turned into nothing but static and white noise.

"My dove!"

Robbie was so angry that he jumped to his feet. His tiny fists clenched while fury donned his face.

"What's wrong?" asked Henry.

"Someone shot my mechanical dove," answered Robbie. He was beyond agitated when he growled, "That is too mean!"

"Such insolence!" said Henry while frowning. "How dare they destroy my great-grandson's invention!"

Henry turned to Spencer and ordered, "Send someone over immediately to teach them a lesson!"

"Understood," replied Spencer. He picked up the phone to send his men to do the job. He even specified, "Tell them that the monster they keep as a pet has frightened our kids and our pet. Also, they damaged our kid's invention, and their owner must apologize in person for it."

After hanging up, Spencer turned to Henry and asked, "Will this do?"

"What do you think?" asked Henry as he shifted his attention to Robbie. Henry saw this as a chance to get closer to Robbie, and the former was adamant about helping his great-grandson who had been bullied.

"This will do for now," said Robbie while frowning. He was furious, but he was still a reasonable person. He pointed out, "I spied on them with my mechanical dove, so I was at fault, too. It's just that they didn't need to shoot it. They could've spoken to us about it first."

"You are right," commended Spencer while nodding.

"Also, it is illegal for them to keep an eagle as a pet in this country," complained Robbie angrily. "Its screech scared Fifi today. What if they accidentally meet in the sky? That eagle would've eaten Fifi."

"Scared! Scared!" called out Fifi. It quickly dove into Ellie's arms. It was so scared that it was trembling all over as if an eagle was actually there to eat it.

"That's right!" protested Jamie with his fists clenched as well. He huffed, "I am a good fighter, but I've never fought an eagle before."

As for Ellie, she got so scared that she cried.

"Don't be scared, Ellie. I will protect you," promised Jamis as he stroked her tiny head.

"Robbie's right," commented Henry while nodding, "Don't worry. I will deal with this matter and keep everyone safe."

"Thank you, Great-grandpa."

Ellie and Jamie flew into Henry's arms to thank him.

"Thank you, Great-grandpa!"

Robbie thanked Henry as well. The two of them had been distant in the past, but they finally managed to turn things for the better.

"I should call and inform Mr. Zachary about this."

Spencer felt uneasy, so he walked to the side to call Zachary.

The call was connected soon after. "Mr. Spencer," greeted Zachary.

"Mr. Zachary, you've heard about how I called Bruce to deal with the residents in Northridge, right?"

"Yes, I will deal with it accordingly."

"They shot and destroyed the mechanical dove that Mr. Robbie invented, and he is furious. Mr. Nacht plans to deal with it in person to placate Mr. Robbie..."

"No, don't!" shouted Zachary quickly.

"Huh?"

"This is just a minor matter, so I can deal with it. Why would Grandpa go in person?" said Zachary as he thought of an excuse and added, "He's too old to run around and getting into fights for the kids' matters. It's so embarrassing."

"I think so too," replied Spencer softly before he added, "But I can't stop him."

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"Why don't I do this? I'll ask Bruce to talk to them and make sure they keep an eye on the eagle. I'll settle the rest of the matters when I'm back. Please stop my grandpa from going over there to teach them a lesson."

Zachary did not want Henry to meet Charlotte, or else things would take a turn for the worse.

"Understood." Right as Spencer ended the call, Henry urged, "How is it? Is he there yet?"

"Mr. Zachary has sent someone there, but he'll need some time. Let's not rush him."

Spencer was afraid that things would turn into a huge mess. Whenever the elder man's grandchildren were involved, Henry would start acting like a child. If he could walk, Spencer was sure that Henry would have gone there to beat them up.

"Okay." Henry nodded. He then consoled Robbie, "Don't worry. I'll definitely stand up for you."

Seeing that, Spencer could not help but sigh inwardly.

Henry had always been an arrogant man; he never needed to try his best to appease someone in this way in the past.

Now that he was old, he had spent a lot of effort on these three children. Not to mention he still had to find ways to improve his relationship with Robbie.

"Mr. Nacht, you're really giving your all to this!" Meanwhile, Ben was also thinking similar thoughts. "You're trying to get Ms. Windt back while hiding it from Mr. Nacht at the same time. Most importantly, they actually moved to Northridge and turned into our neighbors. Now that we're all using the same road, we'll bump into her eventually!"

"That's why I have to get Grandpa back to M Nation." Zachary could even sense an oncoming headache.

"Mr. Nacht has returned on the pretext that the children are enrolling into school, but what he wants to do is to improve his relationship with them. Moreover, he's also trying to supervise your relationship with Ms. Blackwood," Ben mumbled. "I don't think he'll leave that easily."

"You reminded me something," Zachary blurted out. "Make some time. We'll be going to Serene Hospital tonight."

"Understood." Ben nodded.

Right then, Zachary's phone rang. He picked it up and greeted, "Hello?"

"Mr. Nacht, Sir Louis has arrived at the airport. Mr. Sterk and I are waiting for him here. However..." Lucy trailed off before she covered her mouth to whisper. "I saw someone from Lindberg Corporation."

"My my, they're everywhere, aren't they..." The corner of Zachary's lips lifted. "Is Charlotte Lindberg there?"

"I don't think I saw her—" Lucy suddenly stopped. "Wait, I see her now! She just arrived."

Immediately, Zachary furrowed his brows. "I'll be right there."

"Okay."

After ending the call, Zachary gestured to Ben and ordered, "To the airport."

Ben nodded. "Understood."

Louis from F Nation was an old client of Divine Corporation, and he was also an old friend of Zachary.

Their many years of business cooperation had been pleasant.

This time, Louis was here in H City to discuss a project with Zachary, and Zachary saw their meeting as something immensely important. Yet, to his surprise, the men from Lindberg Corporation had arrived at the airport before he did.

Lindberg Corporation had already snatched away several projects from Divine Corporation. This time, there was no way Zachary was going to let Lindberg Corporation have their way again.

This was not only for the company but it was also for his pride. He wanted to stop Charlotte.

Marino easily swerved the car around the traffic like a fish in water, and before long, they arrived at the airport.

With a group of men behind him, Zachary rushed toward the doorway to see Louis walking out of the private walkway.

Louis was a man with a perfect face and blue eyes, looking like a prince who walked out of a mythology book.

He was also a lover of music, and he was a renowned pianist.

"Mr. Nacht, over here!" Lucy rushed over. "The moment Mr. Sterk found out you were coming, he left. The men from Lindberg Corporation are waiting at the exit."

"Got it." Right as Zachary was about to walk over to Louis, a melodious voice traveled into his ears.

"Louis!"

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"Charlotte!"

Louis' gaze swept past Zachary and landed on Charlotte. He was pleasantly surprised.

Then, he strode over and hugged her.

Charlotte did not reject him. Instead, she was being so intimate with Louis to the point they seemed like a couple madly in love.

Watching them, Zachary frowned.

Without him realizing it, he was clenching his hands into fists.

"What's going on?" Ben widened his eyes in shock. "Sir Louis knows Ms. Lindberg?"

"I'm afraid it's not as simple as that," Marino pointed out.

Soon, Zachary recollected himself and strode toward them. "Louis!"

It was only then that Louis let go of Charlotte, but one of his arms remained draped over her shoulders. Turning around, he flashed a bright smile at Zachary before speaking in his language. "Zachary, let me introduce you to a good friend of mine, Charlotte Lindberg."

"When did the two of you become friends?"

Zachary was speaking to Louis, but his eyes were staring at Charlotte.

"We've known each other for two years now," Louis said with a smile. "Charlotte, this is the good friend I mentioned—Zachary!"

"We've known each other for a long time," Charlotte replied as she leaned into Louis' arms, making her looked even more petite. "We even met yesterday."

"Oh? Is that so?" Louis was surprised. "How did you know each other?"

"We met at work."

Charlotte's Ferropenian was fluent, and it was a stark contrast with the Charlotte Windt from two years ago, who could barely speak Ustranasion.

"Louis, it seems like you don't know her that well," Zachary started as he stared at her. "She's the daughter of the Lindberg family and the younger sister of Danrique."

"What?" Louis paled as he abruptly retracted his arm away from Charlotte's shoulders. "You're Danrique's sister?"

"That's right." A sweet smile grew on Charlotte's lips. "Didn't I say that I have a secret to tell you the next time we meet?"

"But..." Louis gazed at her as he frowned, not knowing what to say. He had suffered from Danrique's plans in the past, and from then on, he had been keeping his distance from that man. Never had he imagined that Charlotte would be Danrique's sister.

"What's wrong? Do you not want to be friends now that you've found out I'm Danrique's sister?" Charlotte chuckled.

"No." Louis quickly shook his head. "I told you we'll be friends forever, but..."

"All right. I'll stop intervening in your business conversation," Charlotte interrupted.

After giving Zachary a glance, she turned to leave.

"Charlotte," Louis called out reluctantly.

In response, Charlotte turned and gave him a bewitching smile.

"That's enough. She's gone," Zachary scoffed, his tone terrible from feeling irritated.

"I never thought she'd be Danrique's sister."

Louis was still stunned and trying to compose himself from the realization.

"You know her, but you don't know her identity?" Zachary asked as he towed Louis along. "How did you come to know her?"

"I met her two years ago at a banquet. Her piano performance was excellent, and I fell in love with it immediately. When she was playing on stage, her music sheet was missing half a page. I even went on stage to help her out with her awkward situation. Oh, yes! I think you were there too. In fact, I think you were the one who hosted it. It was at Ashenville Garden."

As Louis recalled the past, he let out a long, quiet sigh.

"Two years ago..."

Zachary immediately recalled said banquet. He had a project cooperation with Sharon, and he had hosted a banquet at Ashenville Garden. Back then, Charlotte had performed on stage as Olivia's substitute, and Louis did go on stage to help her out.

I should've stopped him from bearing further thoughts of her then and there.

I can't believe he's trying to steal my woman from me now!

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 715

"She was wearing a mask back then. How did you recognize her?" Zachary wondered.

"Her eyes were one of a kind..." Louis mumbled as he lost himself deep in his thoughts again.

"To be honest, before she performed the piece, I've already seen her. She was exceptionally eye-catching when she came down from the car. I even took a photo of her."

At that, Louis took out the photo in his wallet to show Zachary. Indeed, it was Charlotte from two years ago.

Back then, Charlotte was forced by Sharon to wear a sexy evening dress. When the night breeze blew, the edge of her skirt flapped, and she was trying to keep it back down.

It was a seductive yet pure pose she had at that time.

Right at that moment, Louis had sneaked a shot of her.

Staring at the photo, Zachary's forehead creased. He never thought the banquet from two years ago would have helped Louis and Charlotte get together.

"She later wore a mask when she performed on stage, but when I saw her eyes, I guessed that it was her," Louis crowed. "However, to make sure I was right, I followed her backstage after her performance and saw her take off her mask."

"What great eyesight you've got! Zachary cut him off, not wanting to hear more.

"The funny thing is that when I met her at Pillere's Royal Theater, she doesn't remember anything about it," Louis continued, disregarding Zachary's interruption. "I took out the photo and showed it to her, but she told me that wasn't her."

"Maybe she doesn't want to admit whatever she's done back then," came Zachary's half-hearted reply.

"That's not it." Louis shook his head. "She was sick, and she lost her memories."

"What?" Zachary halted in his tracks. "Really?"

"Yes." Louis was certain. "Even until now, she has yet to completely recover. She has to take her meds every day, and she only remembers things from her childhood. She remembers nothing from her adulthood."

Upon hearing his words, a solemn look crawled onto Zachary's face as thousands of thoughts raced in his mind.

If what Louis says is true, then Charlotte really doesn't remember me anymore. That means she doesn't remember her family and friends too.

Does she not remember the triplets too?

Right then, Zachary realized something major. Charlotte loved her children dearly, but since her return, she never talked about her children, much less looked for them. That was indeed strange behavior of her.

Moreover, she was close to Mrs. Berry. Yet, she never mentioned Mrs. Berry's horrible death that happened a while back.

There was no plausible reason to explain her odd behaviors other than her loss of memory.

Did she really lose her memory? Is that why Danrique is using her against me?

"Zachary... Zachary!" Louis' voice pulled Zachary's mind back to reality. Zachary then said, "Let me bring you to rest at the hotel first."

"What's the matter with you? You seem distracted," Louis gueried.

"I didn't sleep well last night," Zachary replied. Then, he added, "That woman's a complicated character. You should stay away from her."

"I don't think she's complicated; I think she's mysterious," crooned Louis, who did not agree with Zachary's words.

"I encountered her again at F Nation's Royal Concert last year before I confessed my love to her and began courting her there. However, she told me that we could only be friends. I thought I didn't have any opportunities anymore, but look at how passionate she was toward me earlier! I'm feeling my flame of hope burning anew!"

"This is how women seduce men," Zachary coldly stated. "In other words, she's a scheming b*tch."

"What beach?" Louis did not understand what he meant.

"Anyway, she's nothing but poison, so don't get close to her," Zachary uttered, planning to mislead him. "There are plenty of pretty, sweet girls in H City. I'll introduce them to you tonight."

"No way! I'm not that kind of person," Louis rejected promptly. "We from the F Nation are loyal people who stick only to one."

•••

At ten o 'clock in the evening, Louis followed Zachary to Sultry Night. Staring at the fluorescent lights and crowd of beautiful women, his eyes lit up in excitement. "I can't believe there are places as thrilling as this!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 716 - 720

"There are more to come," Zachary tempted with a grin. "After you leave this place today, you won't think that woman's any good anymore."

"You mean Charlotte?" When Charlotte's face appeared in Louis' mind, he suddenly felt as if he was making a mistake by coming here. "I still think she's great. If she finds out I've been here, I'm sure she'll be upset. Forget it. I'm going back."

With that, Louis spun around and was about to leave when a pretty woman in a sexy cat-themed attire crashed into his arms. She whispered, "Hey there, handsome. Where are you going?"

Louis' eyes widened instantly as his gaze trailed from her collarbone and downward. When he saw her bosoms, his eyes widened further, and blood began streaming down his nose.

"Pft!" The young woman giggled as she covered her mouth. "Oh my, maybe some wine will freeze that nosebleed of yours."

With that said, the young woman then motioned for the other women to lead Louis into Zachary's private room.

"Sir Louis reminds me of the first time I was here at Sultry Night," Ben sighed. "Like him, I was so shy and uncomfortable. But later on, you doomed me."

Glaring at Zachary gloomily, he complained, "Now I'm completely unfazed by everything."

"Isn't that good? You've developed an immunity to it." Zachary grinned. "Although you frequent this place, you're still a virgin. That must be tough."

"Mr. Nacht, h-how can you—" Ben blushed.

Zachary's grin widened before he walked into the room.

Marino, who was beside Ben, inquired, "Ben, are you really a virgin?"

"Shut it!" Ben glared daggers at him. "Out of everything you learn, why are you learning how to gossip?"

Marino stood transfixed as he watched Ben entered the room. When two girls dressed in bunny outfits came close to the latter, he skillfully maneuvered his way around them, completely unperturbed by their advances.

At the sight of that, Marino found his respect for the other man growing.

Now, Ben was his role model.

I have to be principled and incorruptible like him!

In the VVIP room was a sight of an indulgent lifestyle.

There were all kinds of hostesses—from bunny girls to mature, sexy women.

By now, Louis had already lost himself to this paradise. As a group of gorgeous women surrounded him on the couch and fed him wine and gapes, Ben averted his eyes away from him.

Louis was like a prisoner caught in between his desires and morals. His fingers sunk into the leather couch as he struggled with all his might in his heart.

"Don't... pin me down. Get down from me— Hey, don't unbuckle my belt! Stop touching my thigh! Ah! Don't sit on me! Zachary, save me!"

It was difficult for Louis to speak the local language, and he was struggling both mentally and physically.

As Zachary gazed at the pleading Louis, he realized the latter had teary eyes and a miserable look.

Restraining himself from laughing, Zachary then made a gesture.

Instantly, Ben and Marino got rid of the young women, who were swift to make themselves scarce. Within seconds, the room was quiet again.

Louis lay slumped on the couch as he wiped the sweat beading on his forehead. Even after minutes of taking deep breaths, he still could not recollect himself.

"Are you okay?" Zachary glanced at the other man's reaction before glancing at the bulge between his thighs.

"I-I'm fine." Louis hurriedly grabbed a pillow to cover his front. "Those girls are ferocious."

"You don't like it?" Zachary intentionally asked. "Then I won't ask them to enter anymore. Let's drink instead."

"No, no. That's not it," Louis hastily explained. "It's tough for them to work this job. We should support them as much as we can."

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"Then why did you cry for help earlier?" Zachary lifted a brow at him.

"I..." Once again, Louis found himself swaying back and forth between succumbing to his desires and listening to his rationality.

"Honestly, that was just the appetizer. It's nothing worth mentioning." Zachary patted his shoulder before revealing a mysterious smile. "The highlight is what comes after."

"What is the highlight?" Louis' eyes lit up in eagerness again.

"Hmm, maybe we should forget it," Zachary muttered abruptly before returning to his usual serious state. "You said people from F Nation are faithful people who stick to one. I can't taint you like this."

"Wait," Louis blurted out. "How can this be called as tainting me? I'm just curious; I want to experience this colorful, interesting world. Don't worry, I'll remain faithful on the inside."

"Is that so?" Zachary rubbed his temples, making it seem like he was trying to wrap his head around Louis' answer. "But you said you'll do Charlotte wrong by doing this. If she finds out about this, won't she blame me for being a bad influence?"

"Just don't let her find out about this, then," Louis quickly pointed out. "I won't do anything bad, I swear. I'm just curious. I won't go all out."

"I still think we should forget about it," Zachary rejected. "It's best that you continue this back in F Nation. If your father finds out about this, he'll blame me for being a bad influence."

"That's the problem. I've lived under his strict parenting, and I've never broken a single rule since I was a kid. That's why I don't know anything," Louis mumbled, feeling downhearted. "I only found out that there was such an exciting place on earth after coming here today."

"Exciting? You look like you were suffering." Zachary gazed at him, feeling amused. "It was as if those girls were demons and monsters who'll gobble you up."

"I-I was just nervous." Louis tugged at him, looking anxious. "Stop dilly-dallying and start the highlight!"

"All right, then. Since you're so anxious to see it, let me show you the world."

Zachary then clapped his hand, and exotic music began playing in the room. Next, a group of young women in veils and white dresses walked into the room while surrounding another young woman in red.

The girls in white parted before the girl in red began dancing Ibican dance.

As the music rhythm changed, her hips shook at a quicker pace as she cast her seductive gaze at Louis.

Her red dress was the perfect contrast against the surrounding young women who had white dresses on.

Moreover, their veils were thin, and Louis could vaguely see their nimble bodies moving under them.

The sight dumbfounded him as he froze in his spot. The entire time, his gaze kept following the girl in red's movements as his heart palpitated. It was as if his blood was heating up in excitement

Right then, Zachary handed him a piece of tissue, signaling him to wipe his bloody nose.

However, Louis' eyes were fixed on that young woman, and he did not realize Zachary's action.

It was only when Zachary tapped his elbow that he came back to his senses. After taking the tissue to put it under his nose, he returned his focus back on the girl and continued staring.

Patting Louis' shoulder, Zachary smirked. "What do you think about this highlight?"

"I-It's great."

Louis nodded his head in a daze. This was the first time he had experienced such shock. As someone who had grown up under the rule of strict parenting, he had never seen a sight like this before today.

Enlightenment was instantly bestowed upon him to experience such an exciting show on his first time here.

"Why don't I make some arrangements?" Zachary tempted. "She's pure and skillful. I'm sure she'll serve you well."

"I-I don't think that'll work." The meager remnants of Louis' rationality were telling him not to do it. "I'll just have a look. I can't do anything serious."

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"Ah, that's true."

Zachary nodded without saying anything else. However, he leaned back on the couch and began sipping on his wine with an arrogant look on his face.

The girl in red slowly danced her way toward Louis. With a quick wave of her hand, her veil landed on Louis' face, and he could smell a faint fragrance from it.

Louis continued to stare at her, his heart thumping until it was about to beat out his chest.

He gulped.

After glancing at him, Zachary then gave a look to Ben.

Instantly, Ben retreated from the room silently.

The girl in red continued dancing and tempting Louis.

She slowly moved her way toward him before spinning around and falling into Louis' arms in a perfect arc.

Almost immediately, Louis shuddered. Then, he stiffened. When his gaze landed on her beautiful face, he could not tear his eyes away anymore.

Reaching out, the young woman hooked her hand around his neck and brushed her red lips past his cheeks. Once she was close to his ear, she gently nibbled his earlobe.

A shudder wracked through Louis' body before he began trembling in nervousness. Subconsciously, his hand reached out to hold her waist.

Her slender fingers softly brushed across his chest before moving down and coming to a stop at his vital parts. Then, after giving him a wink, she twirled away.

"Hey—" Louis subconsciously cried out, but she was already gone.

The group of girls in white followed her out. Like fluttering butterflies, they disappeared in a blink of an eye.

Louis stared at the doorway for a long time before he managed to return to his senses. Tugging Zachary toward him, he asked, "Why are they gone?"

"I said I'll make arrangements, but since you don't want them, it's only natural that they'll have to leave," Zachary replied with a helpless shrug. "After all, they have other missions to do."

"Missions? What missions?" Louis asked, looking anxious.

"There are more waiting to see her dance other than you," Zachary informed. "She's the top hit in Sultry Night recently."

"Ask her to come back. I'm getting her for the night," Louis blurted out.

"Hm? For the night?" Zachary raised a brow.

"I-I..." Louis stuttered as his face flushed red.

"Are you sure? I'll make the arrangements, then." Staring at him, Zachary then asked, "Looking at your shy demeanor... Don't tell me, are you a virgin?"

"Of course I'm not." Louis blushed a shade redder. "I have had relationships!"

"I see." Zachary nodded. "Then why are you so reluctant? A man's got to be decisive."

"I am decisive!" Louis panicked. "Ask her to come back."

With a gesture from Zachary, Marino instantly left to make the necessary arrangements. Soon, the girl in red was back.

"Enjoy yourself." Zachary put down his glass and rose to his feet, about to leave.

"Hey." Louis stopped him. "Are you leaving?"

"Am I supposed to be watching the show here?" Zachary grinned. "Don't worry. She's no monster, she won't gobble you up. Have fun."

With that said, he tugged his shirt away from Louis' grasp and strode out.

His subordinates followed behind him and left the room to Louis and the girl.

When the door closed, the girl tiptoed toward Louis before parting her lips to whisper, "Sir Louis, I'm Ember."

"H-Hello, E-Ember!" Louis' entire body began shaking again. "Y-Your dance was magnificent."

"Is that all? Just my dance?"

Pouncing onto him like a feral kitten, Ember sat on him.

By the doorway, when Zachary saw the scene, the corner of his lips lifted. He knew a rule-abiding nobleman like Louis would not be able to withstand a temptation like this.

"Mr. Nacht, Ms. Lindberg's here."

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"Mr. Nacht, Ms. Lindberg's here," Ben whispered behind him.

"Okay." Zachary nodded before leaving. "I finally realize how fun it is to do bad things."

"It is quite despicable," Ben mumbled under his breath.

"What's that?" Zachary frowned.

"I mean..." Ben hurriedly explained. "Mr. Nacht, you're breaking your back just to help your friend have a woman."

"That isn't right, is it?" Zachary pointed out. "Did you mean to say I stabbed my friend in the back just to have a woman?"

Ben fell silent, not daring to utter anything to that.

All he did was roll his eyes discreetly.

"However, this is a good thing," Zachary crowed. "Louis will grow up after this."

"Yes, he should thank you for this," Ben replied sullenly.

"Are you being sarcastic?" Zachary peeked at him.

"Absolutely not," Ben uttered as he promptly straightened his back. "I'll always be on Mr. Nacht's side. Everything Mr. Nacht does is right."

"That's right." Zachary nodded in satisfaction.

"Ms. Lindberg..." Seeing the familiar figure, Ben could not help but stop in his tracks. "Why is she here?"

It was then that Zachary raised his head. Not far from them, several female bodyguards were clearing the path in the crowd. The one who walked down the cleared path was none other than Charlotte.

Instantly, Zachary entered the private room by the side. Similarly, Ben and the others entered as well.

"Ms. Lindberg, this place is too noisy. Shall we go back?"

"She's right. This is paradise for men, not for us."

"The two of you talk too much," Charlotte voiced in a frigid tone.

Instantly, Lupine and Morgan zipped their mouths shut.

The group continued walking down the corridor until their gazes landed on the black and golden private room's mysterious label.

As Charlotte stared at the private room door, a strange image emerged in her mind. The image of a man in a mask flashed past, and his eyes seemed like they were trying to tell her something.

Charlotte closed her eyes. When she opened them again, the image was gone.

However, everything around her seemed oddly familiar.

As her steps faltered, she looked around and tried to recall when she had visited this place. However, her efforts were to no avail.

"Ms. Lindberg, that looks like Sir Louis' men."

Lupine pointed in front.

Outside the VVIP room were two F Nation bodyguards.

"Sir Louis is really here?" Morgan exclaimed. "I've always thought he's a noble and moral man. I never thought..."

"Maybe he's only here to meet a friend." It seemed like Charlotte was unperturbed by the new knowledge as she continued forward.

"Ms. Lindberg!" When the two F Nation bodyguards saw her, they flew into a panic. As their eyes flitted around, they nervously asked, "W-Why are you here?"

"Is Louis inside?"

Sweeping her eyes past them, Charlotte's gaze landed on the room's window.

With the dim lights, she could vaguely see Louis' stiff form on the couch and the girl in red on him.

It seemed like Louis wanted to push her away, but at the same time, he wanted to embrace her.

For a moment, it was as if Louis was a girl being forced by someone.

Lifting a brow, Charlotte raised her leg to kick the door open.

Bang! The loud noise frightened the living daylights out of the two in the room.

When Louis saw Charlotte, a shudder ran down his spine, and he swiftly pushed Ember away before crawling up from the couch. Then, he hurriedly took a cushion to cover up the bulge between his legs.

At that very moment, embarrassment overwhelmed him to the point he wished he could bury his head in the sands.

"Who are you?" Ember frowned as she looked at Charlotte.

Charlotte shot a sharp look at her, prompting the girl to jumped in fright and quickly escaped after picking up the red veil on the ground to cover herself.

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"Charlotte, I-I..."

Louis wanted to explain, but droplets of sweat were rolling down his cheeks from his forehead, and he could not manage to speak a proper sentence.

"Who brought you here?"

Charlotte was not angry and her tone was calm. After her question, she began giving the place a once-over. That's strange. Why does this place look so familiar?

"About that..." Louis was about to reveal Zachary's name, but he realized that would mean he was a bad friend. Hence, he said instead, "Charlotte, I didn't do anything just now. I was holding my ground, and I've yet to... You know."

"Oh?"

Charlotte glanced at his pants. His belt was unbuckled, but his pants were still on.

So, despite all her efforts earlier, that pretty girl in red hasn't gotten her way yet.

How pitiful.

"Don't be angry." Louis moved forward, about to tug Charlotte's sleeve.

However, she took a step back and avoided his hands. "I'm not."

"Then why are you..." Louis trailed off, feeling hurt by her apathetic demeanor.

"You touched someone else earlier," Charlotte muttered as she maintained a distance from him. "I'm going to leave first. We'll meet another day."

"Charlotte—" Louis was about to speak, but Charlotte had already turned and left.

Looking at her retreating figure, Louis felt his heart sink in disappointment. At the same time, he felt remorseful for what he had done earlier.

Just then, two bodyguards entered and quietly consoled, "Sir, don't be upset. Ms. Lindberg's reaction means that she's concerned about you."

"Really?" Louis' eyes lit up with hope.

"Yes, that's right. She's clearly jealous," the other bodyguard added.

"Right. She's jealous." Recalling Charlotte's reaction from a moment ago, delight entered Louis' heart. "She must be jealous!"

"Maybe this is good news," the bodyguard continued. "She used to swing between being enthusiastic and aloof back then. That means she was unsure of her feelings toward you. After this incident, she's starting to think of her feelings for you as something important."

"So, I guess this is... How do you say this in C Nation's language? Something is disguise?"

"A blessing in disguise."

"Yes, yes. That's the one I was going for."

Hearing their reassurances, Louis' light blue eyes were bright with hope. He suddenly felt that he had managed to get on the right path despite all his wrong turns today.

Meanwhile, Charlotte had not left the place. Seconds after she walked out of the room, she instructed Lupine, "Find out who that room belongs to."

"Understood." Lupine instantly left to work on it.

"Ms. Lindberg, are we leaving now? Should I get someone to prep the car?" Morgan asked.

"No." Looking at her surroundings, Charlotte felt a wave of familiarity bombarding her. She was sure she had been here in the past. "Let's have fun in one of the private rooms."

"What?" Morgan was taken aback by her words.

At her reaction, Charlotte frowned.

Instantly, Morgan lowered her head and uttered, "Yes, I'll work on it right away."

She then left to look for Sultry Night's manager to get a private room.

Charlotte then brought the remaining six bodyguards out to the public area. Another wave of familiarity struck when she looked at the young women dancing on the stage and the young people swaying with the beat off the stage.

It seems like I used to frequent here.

Right then, Zachary, who had been watching Charlotte from a hidden corner, narrowed his eyes. He, too, would like to know what was going on.

Is she feeling nostalgic, or has she really lost her memories?

"Mr. Nacht, the manager said someone is trying to check the information of our room," Marino reported quietly. "I've instructed him not to let anyone know about it."

"Good job," Ben praised as he patted his shoulder.

"Has Louis left?" Zachary asked.

"He just did," came Marino's reply.

"My things are still in the room, right?"

After glancing at Charlotte's figure, he suddenly turned toward the area of the private rooms.

"Yes. I've kept it in your room's safe."

"Good."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 721 - 725

Lupine brought Sultry Night's manager, Peter Jones, to Charlotte.

The moment Peter spotted her, his lips parted wide in disbelief. "It's her?"

"Do you know her?" asked Lupine curiously.

"[..."

Peter blinked, utterly shocked. For a moment, he thought he was seeing things.

Two years ago, he heard how Olivia, Charlotte, and Mrs. Berry perished after an accident.

Back then, he dared not ask any questions.

However, it was obvious that the Nacht family wanted to keep the kids and got rid of Charlotte and Mrs. Berry.

For the past two years, he was careful enough not to offend Zachary.

From then on, Zachary never showed up in Sultry Night anymore.

Hence, he was able to remain here as the manager.

That day, to Peter's utter surprise, Zachary showed up. He served the man personally, and nothing out of the ordinary happened. When Lupine asked Peter about the Noir Room, he tried to brush the former off, but Lupine revealed her identity.

After getting to know Lupine's identity, Peter dared not offend her and said he would explain to Lupine's employer himself.

He never expected that Ms. Lindberg was none other than Charlotte Windt.

Peter was puzzled. How is it possible that she doesn't know who that room belongs to? Why did she send her subordinate to sound me out?

"What's wrong?" Lupine glanced at him.

"Oh, it's nothing." Being a seasoned veteran, Peter thought that the reason Charlotte didn't reveal her identity was because she didn't want to admit what she had done back then. Hence, there was no need for him to explain things.

He pretended not to know Charlotte and greeted her politely, "Hello, Ms. Lindberg!"

Charlotte's head whipped around. She found him familiar, but she couldn't recall where she had seen him before.

"Ms. Lindberg, I've arranged a booth for you. Please come with me."

After leading Charlotte and her entourage to the booth, he served them a bottle of liquor on the house. "Ms. Lindberg, please wait for a moment. Your private room will be ready soon."

Instead of replying to him, Charlotte gazed at Lupine.

At once, Lupine reported, "I've asked about it, but Mr. Jones said—"

"I'm really sorry, Ms. Lindberg," Peter immediately apologized profusely. "We can't reveal our clients' information to others. I'm sorry about that!"

Charlotte didn't probe further. "How long have you been working here for?" she asked.

"Around two-and-a-half years," replied Peter with his head hung low.

"Have you seen me here previously?" Charlotte continued.

"Well..." Peter froze, at a loss for words.

"Looks like you have."

Charlotte realized then she had been to H City and Sultry Night before. It seems like I've lost part of my memory.

Peter stood aside fearfully. He had heard about the Lindberg family, who was as powerful as the Nacht family. Even the Nacht family had to give way to them, so he reminded himself to be on caution.

However, he was wondering, How did Charlotte Windt become a Lindberg?

Right then, his staff came to inform them that the private room was ready. Peter hurriedly declared, "Ms. Lindberg, your private room is ready. Please come with us."

Charlotte put her glass down and followed behind Peter.

Lupine, Morgan, and the others trailed behind her.

"Ms. Lindberg, if you need anything, just let me know. I'll arrange for it ASAP," said Peter earnestly.

"What services do you provide here?"

Charlotte's glance swept across the club. There were elegantly dressed middle-aged ladies frolicking around with handsome hunks.

"Normally, men would pick a few hostesses to drink with them. As for our women clients..."

"Such insolence!" reprimanded Lupine.

Peter looked down and fell silent.

"Women will pay for hosts to accompany them?" Charlotte arched a brow.

Peter coughed lightly before answering carefully, "Yes, that's usually what they do. But you can relax by drinking and listening to music here, too."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 722

Charlotte snorted with disdain.

Peter caught her disdain immediately and offered, "I'll serve you some liquor from my collection."

Charlotte nodded. She was about to step into her private room when a familiar figure appeared in her line of sight.

Immediately, she came to a stop in shock.

For some reason, her heart started pounding.

This figure was etched in her brain as though she had seen him in her previous lifetime.

Charlotte dashed after him, but the man strode ahead swiftly.

Quickening her pace, she was just about to catch up to him when he turned into a long hallway before turning around to give her a glance.

He was wearing a mask covering half of his features, which gave him a mysterious air.

His smoldering gaze sucked her into its dark and mysterious depths.

Stunned, Charlotte realized the man had disappeared in a blink of an eye.

She stood rooted to the spot. It took her a while to regain her senses.

The man's figure popped up in her mind. She racked her brains, trying to recall anything about him, but there was nothing.

"Ms. Lindberg!" Lupine, Morgan, and the others caught up to her soon.

"Are you alright?"

"Get that man for me." Charlotte spun on her heels and ordered Peter. "Right now!"

"Huh?" Peter saw that she was going after someone, but he didn't manage to see who that man was.

"He's tall, clad in black, and wearing a mask covering half his face. He has a blazing gaze, too." Charlotte described the man to him. "Oh, there's also a mysterious emblem on his mask."

"He's wearing a mask? I think he's one of our hosts, then," responded Peter. "I'll do my best."

Both Lupine and Morgan were astonished. Ms. Lindberg just scoffed at the idea of hiring hosts earlier. Why is she asking for one now?

Charlotte headed into her room, where a few servers were preparing their drinks and snacks.

Haughtily, Charlotte took her seat and accepted the glass of wine Lupine handed her. She swirled it slowly, still preoccupied with the man's figure.

How strange. Many people in H City seemed familiar to me... Zachary Nacht, Sharon Blackwood, and now this manager, Peter Jones.

Every one of them made me feel a plethora of emotions—heartache, vengeance, and calmness—when I saw them.

However, that figure was different. I felt my heart soften at the sight of him.

It was as if we shared a blissful past together.

I need to find him now.

Lupine and Morgan exchanged glances and frowned without a word.

Charlotte leaned on the sofa and crossed her legs. She sipped on her wine lazily.

As time ticked by, Charlotte slowly lost her patience. Her brows furrowed up.

Sensing her impatience, Lupine offered, "Let me ask about the progress."

Right then, Peter led over a dozen hosts into the room. The hosts were clad in black leather jackets and they were all over one meter and eighty-five in height, with various masks covering half of their faces.

Most of them matched Charlotte's description.

The bodyguards could barely believe their eyes. This was the first time they had seen so many hosts in their lives.

The hosts gazed at Charlotte helplessly before gazing at Lupine and Morgan.

Both Lupine and Morgan froze awkwardly.

"Ms. Lindberg, I've gathered the hosts who fit your description. Is the person you're looking for among them?" Peter pointed at the thirteen hosts and introduced them earnestly. "They are highly educated and well-mannered. We made sure they received rigorous training. Their health reports—"

"Shut up!" Charlotte bellowed as her brows knitted up.

Peter quickly clamped up.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 723

After glancing at the men, Charlotte's frown deepened. She dismissed them with a flick of her fingers.

"It's not them?" Peter uttered in disbelief.

"Just leave," growled Lupine.

Peter led the hosts out hastily. He came in alone afterward and asked wearily, "Ms. Lindberg, those were the hosts who matched your description."

"Maybe he change his clothes?" Lupine suggested.

"That might be possible. I'll go look for him again." Peter was about to leave when Charlotte stopped him.

"Wait!"

"Yes?" replied Peter as he came to a stop by the door.

"Could it be that he's not a host here?"

Charlotte thought back to the man. He doesn't seem like a lowly host...

"If he isn't a host, why would he be wearing a mask?" Peter refuted.

He continued, "Our clients are mostly wealthy people and business owners. The others are higher-ups in their companies. They want to relax here, served by our hosts and hostesses. None of them will wear masks."

He added, "Besides, our hosts have received strict training before starting work. Everyone has their own personality and character. Some of them don't even look like hosts and can pass off as domineering presidents. That's their concept."

Peter stopped and studied Charlotte carefully, afraid of offending her.

Charlotte said nothing and drank her wine coolly.

"Keep looking," Lupine commanded and made a gesture.

"Understood!" Peter left to carry out her order.

Slowly, the bottle of wine reached its bottom. Charlotte lost her patience and flung her glass out abruptly.

Crash!

Startled, the servers in the room dashed aside.

Charlotte wiped her hands clean and stood up with her coat in her arms.

Lupine and Morgan flanked her while the other bodyguards followed closely.

They had just left the room when Peter rushed over with a few other hosts. At the sight of Charlotte, he exclaimed, "Ms. Lindberg, I've brought our top hosts here. Please take a look at them."

Charlotte cast them an indifferent glance before stalking away.

One of the top hosts came to her and uttered gently, "Ms. Lindberg, you're drunk. Why don't I—"

"Scram!" Charlotte knitted her brows and growled.

"Why don't you take look at me first? I'm sure you'll be satisfied with my looks."

The host then took off his mask, revealing his handsome face.

Looking up, Charlotte realized he was telling the truth. Strangely, however, she felt repulsed by the sight of him.

As Charlotte was staring at him, delight flitted across the host's face. He reached out to help her. "Let's go—"

Crash!

Before he could finish, Charlotte gave him a forceful kick.

He was sent flying instantly. His body crashed into a door before he fell to the ground. Clutching his belly, he screamed in agony.

The other hosts paled visibly and tried to hide behind Peter's back.

Peter's lips parted in shock. Back then, Charlotte used to be a weak and defenseless woman. She used to be bullied a lot. How could she be this strong?

Ms. Lindberg looks exactly like Charlotte. Is she really the Charlotte that I know of?

Charlotte gazed at the wounded host coolly before rubbing her heels on the carpet as though wiping the dirt off before striding away elegantly.

Lupine handed a check to Peter and gestured toward the host. "This is to cover his medical bill and your fee. Split it among yourselves."

"Thank you," answered Peter as he accepted the check. His eyes immediately widened in bewilderment.

Ten million?

Charlotte used to fight with others over a thousand.

There's no way she'll compensate ten million after kicking someone.

Did I get it wrong?

Could it be that Ms. Lindberg isn't Charlotte?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 724

Peter was still in a daze when Charlotte left with her bodyguards.

"Peter, help!" the host wailed in pain.

Upon hearing his wails, Peter and the other hosts helped him up hurriedly.

"D-Don't move my body!" the host cried out. "I think my waist's broken. Call the ambulance!"

"Huh?" Peter was stunned. "Is it that serious?"

"Yes!" The host burst into tears. "She's no wealthy heiress. She's a devil in disguise!"

"Shut up!" Peter commanded anxiously. "Do you have a death wish? Don't drag me into your mess!"

"Don't implicate us, too!" The other hosts were terrified. "Her bodyguards were armed."

"Oh, dear! That's terrifying!"

"Peter, I'm scared!"

"Stop it. We need to send him to the hospital now."

"No! Don't touch me! Just call an ambulance!"

"It's not like you're dying. If we call the ambulance, our clients will be startled!"

The host howled, "Peter, you're a heartless man!"

"Shut up!"

"How much did they compensate us? I think I'm going to be paralyzed for the rest of my life. The money should belong to me."

"Nonsense. We'll split it into half."

"Hey!"

Meanwhile, Charlotte was frowning in displeasure.

That man appeared, stirred up my emotions, and disappeared without a trace.

Who is he?

Lupine, who had been studying her employer all the while, suggested carefully. "Ms. Lindberg, calm down. I'll send someone to search for him now."

"You must find him..."

Charlotte trailed off suddenly, for the familiar figure was standing a distance away.

"Ms. Lindberg, the car is ready. As the entrance is crowded, why don't we leave through the back door..."

Morgan was still talking when Charlotte darted forward. Before Charlotte could reach the man, a drunk man grabbed her hand out of a sudden. "Hey, gorgeous. Where are you going? Come and have a drink with me."

"Let go of me!" Charlotte bellowed angrily.

"No way. You're the prettiest around here..."

The drunkard reached out to touch her chin. Charlotte was about to attack him when a gust of icy wind brushed across her ears and struck the drunkard.

Thud! The drunk man dropped to the ground as blood gushed out of his nostrils.

Instinctively, Charlotte turned at her shoulder. The man who had her in his arms was none other than the man whom she spotted in the corridor earlier.

Right now, he was towering above her in a protective stance. Something indecipherable flashed across his gaze as he stared at her without a word.

The mask covered half of his face, but there was a sense of familiarity about him.

It was as though they were lovers in their past life.

"Were you looking for me?" he rasped sexily in his deep and lilting voice right beside her ear.

"Who are you?" Charlotte gazed at him blankly.

Hearing that, the man's expression clouded over. Looks like she has lost her memories for real.

"How dare you attack our boss?"

The drunkard's bodyguards roared furiously and rushed toward them, brandishing empty beer bottles.

The man wrapped his arms around Charlotte and spun around. He lifted his leg and sent a flying kick.

Crash!

The bodyguards were sent flying and crashed into a glass table in a booth, smashing it into pieces.

"Come with me!"

The man took Charlotte's hand and led her to the back door.

"Ms. Lindberg!" Lupine ran after her hastily.

Charlotte made a hand gesture. Lupine threw the car keys to her and stopped Morgan from going after her.

"Why aren't we going after her?" Morgan demanded anxiously. "What if something happens to Ms. Lindberg?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 725

"Didn't you see her gesture?" Frowning, Lupine explained, "If we go after her and ruin her plan, she'll get mad at us. You know how hot-tempered she is.'

"But that's a total stranger! What if he's up to no good?"

"We have to follow them in secret." Lupine headed to the back door as Charlotte and that mysterious man had exited the club through that door earlier. "We can't tail too closely or let anything happen to her."

"What happened to Ms. Lindberg? She had always been a cool and logical person. But after the man appeared, she seemed to have lost all her reason."

"Don't you know? Even the mightiest would fall at a beauty's glance..."

In a secluded corner, Marino watched as Zachary led Charlotte away. Delighted, he declared, "Mr. Nacht has succeeded!"

"Those women are a nuisance," remarked Ben with a frown. He was referring to Lupine and Morgan.

"So? Should we stop them?" Marino inquired anxiously.

"If we do, our plan will go bust." Ben sounded confident. "Don't worry. Mr. Nacht is capable enough of losing them."

"Yes, you're right," Marino replied proudly. "Should we follow them and see how Mr. Nacht does it?"

"We can see it from here."

Ben pushed the window open and revealed the parking lot behind the back door.

Immediately, they spotted Zachary, who was now disguised as a mysterious man, running out with Charlotte.

"Do you dare to come with me for a ride?" Zachary was about to retrieve his car keys.

"I should be the one asking that!"

Charlotte pressed a button on her car remote. Swiftly, a silver Pagani sped out of its lot and came to a stop beside them.

Zachary released his grip on his Volkswagen car keys silently.

To make up a perfect disguise, he told Ben to get a cheaper Volkswagen and pretended that was his car.

Little had he expected things to turn out this way.

"Get in!" Charlotte urged and pulled him into the car.

Before Zachary could buckle the seatbelt, the Pagani sped away swiftly. He grabbed the handle and put on his seatbelt hurriedly.

Charlotte glanced at the rearview mirror and sped up.

"Are those your bodyguards?" asked Zachary.

He could see both Lupine and Morgan dashing out of the back door in search of them.

"What's wrong? Are you scared?"

Charlotte had no idea it was Zachary. After all, his hair was slicked back, and with his black leather jacket coupled with a mask covering half his face, the man seemed like a rogue.

It was a different image from which the cool and stern Zachary presented.

Zachary knew she was smarter than she used to be. As such, he made sure every detail was perfect. For example, his current voice differed from his usual voice.

"Nope," Zachary joked. "You'll protect me!"

Charlotte burst out laughing. Glancing at him, she asked, "Are you a host at Sultry Night?"

"Mm!" Zachary inclined his head. "If you despise me because of my job, it's not too late to throw me out."

"State your price." Instead of showing her disdain, Charlotte lifted her brow. "How much per night?"

"Ten thousand for the entire night!" Zachary blurted out. "No discount given!"

I can't believe I just said that out loud. That's so embarrassing!

Charlotte chuckled again. "Then what can you do for me?"

"What do you want me to do?"

Zachary rested an arm on her seat and leaned closer to her.

"Do we know each other?"

Charlotte was wondering why she wasn't repulsed by his advances. He's flirty like the other hosts. So why does his action feel familiar to me?

My heart is even fluttering as he comes closer.

Zachary was baffled. Did it trigger her memory? Or is she merely feigning memory loss?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 726 - 730

"Looks like we do know each other..." Charlotte got the answer from his gaze.

"I can't believe you recognized me." Zachary played along. "I thought you've forgotten about me!"

"What do you mean?" Charlotte gazed at him curiously.

"You were my first client!" Zachary brushed his sexy lips across her cheek and whispered, "Six years ago, you selected me in Sultry Night and spent the night in a hotel with me."

"Six years ago?" Charlotte racked her brains, but it didn't ring a bell. "I don't remember doing such a thing."

"You're so forgetful." Zachary bit her earlobes and tried to sound her out. "We did it seven times that night..."

Charlotte swivelled out of his touch.

The electrifying sensation from his touch made Charlotte's body tense up.

"Do you want to do it tonight, too?"

Zachary's fingers brushed across her nape gently.

Instead of replying to him, Charlotte spun the steering wheel without warning.

The sudden change in direction caused Zachary's body to nearly hit the car window. Luckily, he propped his arm up in time.

Frowning, anger flooded his veins instantly. Back then, he used to do the same thing to her. Right now, she was letting him get a taste of his own medicine.

Is she subconsciously trying to get back at me?

"Scared?" Charlotte raised her brow. "If you are, stay put."

Zachary was rendered speechless.

History was repeating itself, but their roles were reversed.

Charlotte smirked and entered the expressway.

"Where are we going?" Zachary found the direction familiar.

"Somewhere nice."

Charlotte sped toward Rokan Hill.

It was a familiar route, so Zachary knew where they were heading soon. Is she bringing me home? He wondered.

Did she find out who I am? Is she trying to sound me out?

What is she hiding up her sleeves?

Zachary was lost in his train of thoughts when his phone rang suddenly. It was Louis.

He immediately rejected the call.

Soon, his phone rang again. It was still Louis.

Zachary scrunched his brows up. He was about to reject the call again when Charlotte snatched the phone out of his grasp and proceeded to fling it out of the window.

Zachary's eyes widened in shock. "What did you just do?"

"It's too annoying!" Charlotte responded coolly.

Right then, memories of the past surfaced in Zachary's mind.

If I remember correctly, I threw her phone away a few times when we first got together.

Her action, words, and arrogance were exactly the same as what I did to her back then.

Did she do that on purpose to take revenge on me?

Zachary started doubting that she had indeed lost her memory.

After all, someone who had lost their memories wouldn't be so vindictive.

She was obviously making him get a taste of his own medicine.

"Are you mad?" Charlotte glanced at him and whipped out a check. "Here. You can buy a ton of phones with the money."

Zachary felt offended by her action. It was as if he had become a gigolo for real this time.

"Will you take it or not?" Charlotte urged. "If you won't, I'm throwing it out!"

With that, she moved her hand toward the window.

Immediately, Zachary grabbed the check out of her hand. When he noticed the figure written on it, his lips parted in astonishment. "Ten million?"

Back then, Charlotte even got into a fight over one thousand. She tried to swindle money from me, too. I can't believe she's giving me ten million now!

Indeed, being rich has its perks. Look at how confident she is!

I'm now her kept man!

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"Find out how long I can hire you with the money," ordered Charlotte with a grin.

"One thousand nights," replied Zachary after a brief calculation. "No, it's nine hundred and ninety-nine nights after deducting the cost of a new phone."

"Deal." Charlotte announced arrogantly, "From today onward, you can only serve me alone. You can't go to other women."

"Anything else?" Zachary glanced at her.

"Be available at all times." Charlotte gave him her phone. "Save your number on my phone."

"Yes, boss!"

Zachary saved the phone number when he was still Gigolo on her phone. He hesitated before typing out "Gigolo In Debt" in the name column.

"What's with the name?"

Charlotte frowned at the somewhat familiar name.

"That was the name you gave me back then." Zachary recounted the past events. "Back then, I owed you money. So you told me to give you half of my daily earnings to pay you back."

Charlotte guffawed. "No way. Seriously? How much do you even earn every day? That bit of money is nothing to me."

"You were poor back then." Bitterness rose in Zachary's heart as the memories flashed across his mind. "You even fought with others over one thousand."

"Seriously?" Charlotte arched a brow doubtfully.

"That isn't important, anyway." Zachary pocketed the check. "You're rich now. Thanks for the money!"

"Mm," Charlotte grunted in acknowledgment. "If you do a good job, I'll reward you later," she told him in all seriousness.

"What service do you want from me?" Zachary inched nearer and breathed in her ear.

"I'll let you know when I need it." Charlotte gave him a slight push.

"Fine."

Every time desire coursed in Zachary's heart, the woman would put it out easily.

Charlotte slowed down and lowered the convertible top.

The chilly wind blew across them, easing the tension in the car.

Zachary placed one arm on the window and rested his chin on his hand. They were arriving at a brightly lit villa halfway up the hill.

Is she bringing me back to Northridge?

Me? Someone who she had just met?

Instead of coming to a stop, Charlotte sped ahead and reached the top of the hill.

As they were surrounded by the clouds, it felt like they were floating above the sky.

The sun was about to rise. Gradually, the sky turned a fiery red. It was a breathtaking sight on Rokan Hill.

Charlotte leaned into her seat and stared at the sky blankly.

Meanwhile, Zachary narrowed his gaze. His emotions were a complex mixture.

For the past two years, he had often come here alone and spent the whole night here.

Sometimes, even if it was raining, he'd sit in his car and looked at the horizon as Charlotte's silhouette filled his mind.

When she was by his side, he had never brought her out on romantic dates, let alone watch any sunrise or sunset together.

After she left him, however, he watched the sunrise here countless times.

It was quiet enough for him to lose himself in his memories and think of her here.

Why did she suddenly bring me here?

"Two days ago, I found out by accident that the sunrise here is stunning," explained Charlotte softly. "Besides, this very scenery appeared in my dreams repeatedly."

"You dreamt of this scenery?" Zachary was shocked.

"Yes." Confusion flashed across Charlotte's face. "I've been having weird dreams for the past two years."

"Did you dream of me?" Zachary asked nonchalantly.

"No." Charlotte met his gaze calmly. "But you feel really familiar to me."

"That means you saved a spot for me in your heart." Zachary reached out and caressed her hair gently. "It's just that you forgot about us."

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"You're right." Charlotte stretched her hand out and tried to remove his mask. "Let me see what you look like."

Zachary caught her hand in time as his lips curved into a grin. "Your sense of familiarity stemmed from the mask. There's no need to spoil the mood, right?"

"Oh, right."

If I find out what he looks like, perhaps I'll no longer feel the same way.

She retracted her hand and waited for the sun to rise silently.

Zachary took off his jacket and draped it around her carefully without touching her. He sat by her side wordlessly.

He had fantasized of this very scene countless times—that she would show up to watch the sunrise with him.

Finally, his dream had come true.

Soon, the first rays of sunlight cast a rosy hue across the morning sky. The dappled sun shone through the trees on Rokan Hill, creating a breathtaking sight.

Charlotte's spirits were lifted considerably. She stretched her arms wide and enjoyed the rare and blissful moment.

Seeing her reaction, Zachary nearly took her into his arms. However, he stayed still and didn't lay a finger on her. After all, he should take things one step at a time.

Slowly, the sun rose over the horizon as they basked in the warm sunlight.

Charlotte shut the convertible top and drove down the hill.

Halfway down, they ran into Lupine and Morgan who had come in search of her.

Both cars came to a stop.

Lupine got off the car and bowed politely in greeting. "Ms. Lindberg!"

Charlotte was slightly unhappy, but she said nothing. Turning to Zachary, she asked, "Can you drive?"

"Of course," Zachary replied with a firm nod.

Charlotte alighted from the car with her bag and told Zachary, "You can drive this car home. I'll call you soon."

"Okay." Zachary got into the driver's seat and floored the accelerator.

Morgan was about to reverse out of his way, but Zachary stepped on the pedal and did a stunt by driving the car on two wheels.

Half the car was hanging off the cliff, but he completed the stunt perfectly and sped away.

Everyone else was caught off guard.

"Damn!" Morgan leaned out of the window in astonishment. "Am I seeing things?"

"Wow, he's skilled in driving," uttered Lupine.

"Interesting."

Charlotte squinted at the disappearing car. She couldn't help but look forward to their next meeting.

"Ms. Lindberg, who is he?" Morgan was in awe of his driving skills.

"He's that mysterious man in the mask!" Lupine rolled her eyes. "Didn't you see him clearly?"

"No, well. I don't think he's just an ordinary host," explained Morgan excitedly. "He can be a professional racer. Why would he be a gigolo?"

Lupine immediately coughed to remind her to be careful of her words.

Morgan hurriedly explained, "No, I mean—"

"You're too talkative," Charlotte glared at her and chided.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Lindberg." Morgan lowered her head fearfully.

Charlotte got into the car without a word.

Both bodyguards immediately followed in her footsteps and drove home.

The moment the car reached entered the courtyard, a maid hurried up to her. "Ms. Lindberg, someone from the Nacht family came yesterday."

"Mm?" Charlotte raised a brow. "What for?"

"According to them, your pet eagle scared their little ones and pet. They demanded us to deal with your pet and asked you to..."

The maid trailed off nervously.

"Say it!" Charlotte stalked into her house and unbuttoned her top.

"They demanded an apology from you in person," the maid finished softly.

Charlotte stopped in her tracks and sneered, "Me? Apologizing to them in person?"

"How dare they say that!" Lupine declared furiously. "Fifi has been in its cage all the while. How did it manage to scare their little ones' pet?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 729

"Right!" Morgan chimed in. "I can't believe how arrogant that Zachary is. He kept provoking us back in Ashenville Garden and took Sir Louis away at the airport. How dare he kick up a fuss now?"

"It was Mr. Henry Nacht, not Mr. Zachary Nacht who sent the messenger."

"Mr. Henry Nacht?" Hatred rose in Charlotte's heart at the mention of this man. "He wants me to apologize in person? Fine, I'll be there soon."

"Huh?" Both Lupine and Morgan were shocked.

Charlotte headed upstairs and ordered without looking back, "Let Fifi out of its cage. I'll take a shower and head there with Fifi!"

"Yes!" Lupine giggled evilly. "Ms. Lindberg is back!"

"The Nacht family is doomed!" Morgan snickered. "I'll let Fifi out!"

"Ms. Lindberg, I've prepared a bath for you. Do you need me to prepare breakfast?" the maid trudged behind her and asked.

"Bring it to my room." Charlotte walked into her room and threw her coat onto the ground.

"Yes."

After taking a quick hot bath and drying her hair, Charlotte changed into a cool outfit and headed out with Fifi without even bothering to put makeup on.

Since Fifi hurt Zachary at Ashenville Garden that day, Charlotte fed it anesthesia and locked it up in a cage.

She wanted to lock it up for a few days more, but Henry's actions were too much. Hence, she decided to bring Fifi to meet that notorious family.

Henry had gone over the line by asking her to get rid of her pet.

Meanwhile, Zachary arrived home in the Pagani.

Ben, Bruce, and the others immediately welcomed him home.

"Mr. Nacht, whose car is this?" asked Bruce curiously.

"A woman's," answered Zachary as he got off the car. "Park it in the garage. Make sure no one else uses it."

"Got it!" Ben immediately sprang into action.

"Mr. Nacht." Bruce came over and reported to him in a low voice. "Yesterday, I sent someone to the Lindberg residence to remind them, but Ms. Lindberg wasn't home. Later, your grandfather sent someone there again."

"What?" Zachary stopped. "I told you to keep an eye, didn't I?"

"I did, but I couldn't stop Mr. Spencer's men." Bruce seemed stumped. "I wanted to report to you last night, but you weren't here."

"What did Spencer's men do?" Zachary inquired.

"If I'm not mistaken, he told them to deal with that eagle as soon as possible. Also..." Bruce glanced around before whispering in Zachary's ear. "He wants the Lindberg family to come and apologize to him in person."

Zachary frowned. Damn it. If Charlotte comes, she'll run into me.

Hmm, but she's so arrogant. I don't think she'll come and apologize.

Besides, it's so early. She'll probably take a bath, put on her skincare, have breakfast, and go back to sleep.

With that thought, Zachary relaxed and went back to his room.

"Good morning, Daddy!"

"Morning, Daddy!"

"Daddy, why are you dressed up?"

Right then, the triplets came out of their room. They greeted Zachary politely before scanning Zachary's odd outfit.

"I-I went to a ball last night." Zachary came up with a perfect excuse on the spot.

By now, Zachary had removed his mask and leather jacket. Compared to the full outfit he had on last night, he seemed normal now. Usually, he wouldn't be caught wearing such a strange T-shirt, pants, and boots, let alone slick his hair back.

"No wonder you stayed out all night," said Ellie with her lips pursed. "Bad Daddy! You're an adult, so please take good care of your health. Staying up all night is bad for you!"

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"Got it!" Zachary crouched down and gave Ellie a warm hug. "Alright. Time for breakfast!"

"Mmm-hmm!" Ellie planted a kiss on his cheek and went downstairs.

After Ellie left, Jamie came over to him and inquired softly, "Daddy, did you go on a date with another woman?"

"Shh!" Zachary hurriedly covered Jamie's mouth and whipped his head around to see if Ellie overheard them. This was a sensitive matter. He could talk to his son about this, but it would be a bad idea to inform his daughter.

After Ellie's figure disappeared from sight, Zachary moved his hands away and he tapped at Jamie's head gently. "You cheeky rascal. What was that?" he demanded.

"Was I wrong?" Jamie let out an evil giggle. "For the past few days, you're acting differently. Your eyes are sparkling with delight. Sometimes, you'll laugh without reason. Also, you've been home for the past two years. Now, you're staying out. That means you're dating another woman!"

"You're just a young boy, what do you know?" Zachary ruffled his hair.

"Hey, don't mess up my hair!" Jamie shoved him away unhappily. "Isn't dating another woman normal? Why are you being secretive?"

"I..." Zachary trailed off when he saw the blazing fury in Robbie's eyes.

"Robbie, Jamie! Come down and eat your breakfast!" Just then, Henry hollered from downstairs.

"Coming!" Jamie yelled in reply. "Daddy, I'm gonna head down first!"

"Go on." Zachary patted his butt and watched as he toddled away. He tried to take Robbie's hand, but the latter avoided his touch and strode down the stairs without a word.

Noticing his mood, Zachary furrowed his eyebrows.

Robbie is more matured than Jamie and Ellie. He has been waiting for his mommy to come home, so he probably wants me to do the same.

He doesn't want anyone to replace his mommy.

Zachary wanted to tell him that he was dating their mommy, but this wasn't the right time.

Forget it. For now, I'll deal with the pressing matter.

He was taking a shower when someone knocked on the door hastily. It was Ben. "Mr. Nacht!" he yelled anxiously.

Knowing it was something urgent, Zachary immediately wrapped himself in a towel and walked out with bubbles still visible on his head. "What is it?"

Ben rushed in and reported, "Ms. Lindberg is here!"

"What?" Zachary was stupefied. Swiftly, he regained his composure and ordered, "Stop them. Don't let Grandpa and the kids see them. I'll change my clothes and head downstairs."

"Yes!" Ben left promptly.

Zachary cleaned himself quickly and rushed down the stairs. Before he could reach them, he heard the eagle screeching and the kids screaming in terror.

At once, he closed his eyes in disbelief. Damn you, woman. Are you seriously scaring your kids with that eagle? Looks like you really have amnesia, huh?

Downstairs, Robbie's brows were knitted together. He was terrified but put up a calm front.

Both Jamie and Ollie buried themselves into Henry's arms in fear.

Henry gathered them in his arms and demanded furiously, "What is going on?"

"Mr. Nacht, they are from Northridge, here to offer an apology in person," one bodyguard came and informed Henry.

"How outrageous!" Henry huffed angrily. "They brought that eagle along to apologize to us? This is obviously a provocation."

"Yes!" the bodyguard replied and lowered his gaze nervously.

"Kill that eagle!" Henry slammed on the table and commanded.

"Well..." The bodyguard hesitated. Ben and Bruce were stopping them from doing anything, so it was obvious that Zachary didn't want them to get involved in this matter.

However, Henry was giving them contradicting orders. It was tough for them to be sandwiched between both employers.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 731 - 735

"What's wrong? Do I have to repeat myself?" Henry exclaimed in anger.

"No!" The bodyguard looked down hurriedly before saying, "Yes, sir!"

With that, the bodyguards grabbed their guns.

Outside, Ben and Marino had closed the gates, blocking Charlotte and her entourage outside.

Outside, the women were yelling, "Didn't Henry Nacht ask us to apologize in person? Here we are. Why are you refusing us entry?"

"Right! You kept warning us, saying our pet eagle scared your kids and pet. We're here now to apologize with our pet eagle in tow. Why aren't you welcoming us?"

"Open the door! Open the door!"

The women banged on the iron gates forcefully and shrieked.

In the car, Charlotte folded her arms smugly and watched the entire debacle with a smirk.

Henry knows I'm a Lindberg, but sent someone to warn me on purpose. If I do nothing, he'll think we're cowards.

He wants me to apologize in person, right?

Well, I'm here.

Let's see how the Nachts deal with this.

"They don't look like they are here to apologize," Marino declared with his teeth gritted. "They are here to gloat!"

"We need to make them leave now," Ben replied anxiously. "If Mr. Nacht sees Ms. Lindberg, we'll be in deep trouble."

"If they are men, I can start a fight!" Marino seemed furious. "But they are women. We can't convince them to leave or start a fight with them. Nothing will make them leave. This is seriously frustrating!"

"That's true..." The other bodyguards nodded in agreement.

"Cowards!" Ben glared at them indignantly. He went up to Charlotte's bodyguards and told them, "Apology accepted. You can leave now!"

He was trying to make them leave.

"We haven't met Mr. Henry Nacht. Who are you to say our apology has been accepted?" Lupine arched a brow and sneered, "What if Mr. Henry Nacht sends someone to reprimand us after we leave?"

"Yeah!" Morgan chimed in. "Ms. Lindberg is here to offer her sincerest apology."

"Yes. Well, we accept your sincere apology. So you can leave now."

Just then, Ben spotted Henry's men coming out armed with guns, so he pushed the iron gates frantically, trying to chase those women away.

Alas, the women stood their ground and hurled insults at them.

Marino and the other bodyguards balled their hands into fists, enraged.

Noting that Henry's men didn't appear, and Zachary deliberately avoided her by sending his bodyguards to dismiss them, Charlotte grew increasingly impatient.

She opened her convertible top and released her eagle.

The eagle let out an ear-piercing shriek which echoed across the hill before it headed straight for the Nachts.

"Be careful!" Ben deftly avoided the eagle's attack as he was behind the iron gate. Failing to attack him, the eagle swoop down and targeted the other bodyguards.

After successfully clawing Marino and the others, the eagle flew inside the villa.

"Hurry, shoot it!" Spencer's subordinates raised their guns and aimed.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

A few shots rang in the air. The eagle's wings were hurt, but it still headed straight into the villa without hesitation.

At the sight of the eagle, Jamie and Ellie were screaming at the top of their lungs and shivering in fear.

Spencer was standing beside Robbie to protect him, but after hearing the gunshots, the little boy dashed out to see what was going on. Instantly, his unprotected figure became the target of the eagle.

As soon as the eagle flew into the villa, it came for Robbie.

Robbie's eyes widened. He looked up and gaped at the eagle, aghast.

"Robbie!" Henry howled.

At the same time, Zachary stepped out of his room to witness this horrible scene. He wanted to rescue his son, but it was too late.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 732

"Robbie!" Jamie wailed desperately and tried to run to his brother, but Henry refused to release his grip on him.

"Ahh!" Ellie covered her face and screamed in terror.

The eagle was about to attack Robbie when a whistle sounded outside in the nick of time.

Immediately, the eagle came to a stop and hovered midair, gazing sharply at Robbie.

Robbie met its gaze, utterly petrified.

It was a stalemate between an eagle and a six-year-old boy. A tensed silence hung in the air.

"Robbie!" Suddenly, a high-pitched wail broke the silence.

A little green figure darted toward the eagle like an arrow and started pecking on the eagle's wings.

The eagle turned slowly and stared at the parrot coldly.

Both Jamie and Ellie were dumbfounded as they stared at their pet parrot, Fifi.

After all, Fifi was throwing its tiny figure in front of the predatory eagle without any hint of fear.

As expected, the eagle flapped its wings lightly and sent Fifi flying through the air.

"Fifi!"

Ellie dashed out to catch her beloved Fifi. She lost her balance and toppled to the ground. It didn't hurt, but when the eagle's sharp gaze landed on her, she burst into tears.

Upon hearing her wails, the eagle tilted its head curiously and flapped its wings to fly toward her.

"Ah! Ahh!" Ellie's shrieks turned louder.

As her face turned red, she trembled profusely in horror. Her grip on Fifi tightened, nearly breaking Fifi's neck in half.

Right then, Zachary sprinted downstairs in time and stood in front of Ellie in a protective stance. He flung his fist at the eagle.

The eagle narrowed its gaze and flew out at once.

It had learned its lesson after being punched by Zachary back then.

"Ellie, Robbie!" Henry called for his great-grandchildren anxiously. "Are you alright?"

Ellie couldn't stop sobbing as the dread remained in her heart.

Outside, the children's faint cries stabbed straight into Charlotte's heart like an iron shard, causing her to wince in pain.

Looking down at her chest, she realized there was a void in her heart, as though she had lost something important.

I think I forgot something significant in my life.

The eagle screeched noisily as it flew out.

Spencer's men were about to shoot it, but Bruce stopped them. "That's enough. If something happens, the consequences will be horrible!"

The eagle crashed into the car with blood seeping out from its wings.

"Fifi's hurt!" Morgan's expression contorted in anger upon seeing the blood. She entered the car and grabbed her gun. "How dare they bully us? I'll make sure they pay for it!"

"Stop it!" Charlotte roared suddenly.

Morgan froze in her tracks and turned back in bewilderment. "Ms. Lindberg!"

"Let's go back," said Charlotte as she pressed a hand against her chest. With her brows knitted together, she seemed to be in extreme anguish.

"Ms. Lindberg, what's wrong?" Lupine sensed something was amiss.

"Let's go!" Charlotte growled out lowly.

"Yes!"

Everyone got into their vehicles immediately and drove away.

Seeing their departure, Ben heaved a sigh of relief.

Bruce scurried over and caught a peek of Charlotte in the car. "No wonder you said she resembles Ms. Windt. This is Ms. Windt, no doubt!"

"I'm still wondering if she's indeed Ms. Windt. Otherwise, why didn't she recognize her kids?"

Ben frowned as he watched Charlotte's convoy sped off.

"That was weird."

Bruce was puzzled, too. It seemed strange that Charlotte would take revenge on the kids, no matter how mad she was at Henry and Zachary.

That was close!

That eagle might be her pet, but it's still a wild animal.

Mr. Robbie would have been hurt if it didn't stop in time just now.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 733

"Is it gone?" Spencer rushed out to check.

"It's gone, Mr. Spencer," reported Bruce.

"Mr. Nacht is furious, so you better lay low," suggested Spencer before he turned to enter the house.

"Well, I'm done for."

Ben knew that although Spencer had not explicitly mentioned it, Henry could still tell. His subordinates had failed to prevent the eagle from flying in because Spencer had blocked them on multiple times.

Thus, Henry was definitely going to unleash his wrath on Spencer.

"You'll just have to bear a bit of caning," comforted Bruce as he patted his shoulder. "Mr. Nacht is old enough to not have the strength to draw blood."

"Take the child to the room," Zachary said as he made a gesture.

Mrs. Rawlston and a few maids rushed to bring the three kids to the room.

Ellie was not crying anymore. Rather, her entire body was ice cold, and her face was devoid of color.

"Don't be afraid. I'm here. Everything is going to be fine." Zachary hugged her and gently soothed her. "Be a good girl and go rest in your room. I'll join you soon."

"Okay." Ellie's small face was still streaked with tears, but she nodded bravely.

Zachary shook his head and then looked at Robbie. His heart ached as he uttered, "Are you okay?"

Robbie seemed out of sorts as he shook his head silently.

"That eagle was so scary," whimpered Jamie who was clutching a shivering Fifi. "We were already scared when we heard noises in the car. I can't believe it flew into the house today."

Ellie whimpered, and she was on the verge of tears again.

"Don't be scared, Ellie. I won't talk about it." Jamie hurriedly comforted her.

"Daddy, who does the eagle belong to?" Robbie asked with a frown.

"I'll explain it to you later. Go to your room for now." Zachary said as he stroked Robbie's head.

"Mrs. Rawlston!" Henry shot her a look.

Mrs. Rawlston brought several maids with her as they coaxed the three children upstairs.

"When will Raina arrive?" Henry asked Spencer.

"I called her, and she said that she's bringing the child psychologist with her. They should be here soon," replied Spencer respectfully.

"Fine." Henry nodded and turned his attention to Ben. At once, he called out angrily, "Kneel!"

Ben was petrified, and he hastily dropped to his knees.

Following that, Marino and the eight bodyguards knelt in two neat rows.

"You too," barked Henry as he glared at Bruce.

"Me?" Bruce was completely taken aback. "Mr. Nacht, I didn't..."

Before he could finish speaking, he saw Spencer shaking his head and shooting him a look.

He immediately snapped his jaw shut and fell to his knees as well with a clean thud.

Likewise, his eight subordinates followed suit.

Henry's sharp gaze scanned the group. After a while, he turned to stare at Zachary and said, "Tell me the truth now. What's going on?"

Zachary frowned, and he lowered his gaze. He was trying hard to temper his emotions.

Previously, he hid the matter to avoid a confrontation with the Lindberg family. He did not want Henry to know Charlotte's identity.

However, Charlotte had charged into the house and caused such a commotion. Hence, Henry could no longer ignore the matter.

Henry had been in the business industry for some time and had learned to read people well. When he first saw that silver Rolls-Royce, he had suspected that they were from Lindberg Corporation. Later, he had sent someone to look into the matter, but Zachary had hidden everything.

He had long suspected that there was more to the story than what met the eye.

After Charlotte's incident, Henry had stopped micro-managing Zachary. He kept one eye closed on most matters. However, he did not expect that the Lindberg Corporation would use the opportunity to provoke them.

Besides, Zachary's people did not handle the situation promptly, and instead, they allowed it to become a mess.

There must be something wrong.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 734

Although Henry guessed that something was wrong, he would never expect that the person living in Northridge was Charlotte.

Perhaps he'll find out eventually, but I can only hide it for as long as I could.

"I have my plans. It's not the right time to have a conflict with the Lindberg family," replied Zachary.

"They're completely taking advantage of you! What do you mean by the right time?" Henry was quaking with anger at that moment. "If it wasn't for luck, Robbie and Ellie would be in trouble."

"You're right. They went too far this time. I can't ignore this anymore," said Zachary as he nodded.

It was out of character for Zachary to patiently explain as he did. He was not his usual argumentative and arrogant self.

Nonetheless, Henry was no longer as sharp as he used to be. He turned to glare at Ben and said, "You, continue kneeling outside. Make sure you keep watch so those disgusting things don't come flying back in. If even one feather makes it in, I'll chop off your hand!"

"Yes, sir!"

Ben's reply was forceful but bright. It indicated his resignation to receive his punishment bravely.

"Get out!" Henry bellowed.

Ben immediately led the rest of the men out. They dashed out the metal door and kneeled in neat rows.

Meanwhile, Spencer went to check and reported their actions to Henry. "They've assumed the kneeling positions and are currently as straight as arrows!"

Henry's enraged gaze fell on Bruce. "From now on, if I find out that you're keeping any secrets from me, you'll be immediately kicked out of the Nacht family!"

Bruce shuddered and shot a fearful look at Zachary.

My punishment is so much worse that Ben's!

Zachary silently looked away.

"Don't look at him," said Henry to Bruce as he coldly shot daggers at Zachary.

Bruce looked pleadingly at Spencer, and the latter nodded slightly.

Then, Bruce dipped his head and said, "You're right, Mr. Nacht. I understand!"

"Get out," sneered Henry.

Bruce immediately backed away with his men. Although he had not been punished, the threat was far more terrifying.

From that day onward, he knew his life was going to become even more challenging.

"Come with me to the study room."

Henry gestured for Spencer to push him into the study room, with Zachary following behind.

When the study room door closed, Henry fixed his baleful eyes on Zachary.

"If you have something to say, just spit it out. Why are you staring at me?" Zachary's brows were deeply furrowed.

"Are you being lenient with the Lindberg family because they're that woman's family?" Henry asked his grandson in a low voice.

Zachary froze. Wow. I was racking my brain for a passable excuse, but Grandpa delivered one right to me.

"I was right." Henry sighed heavily. "Although she's a member of the Lindberg family, she was never recognized as one of them. She doesn't have any emotional attachment towards them, so you don't need to make allowances for them."

Zachary kept his head low and his lips sealed.

It's better to say less now since silence is gold.

Grandpa will come up with a reason on his own if I just stay silent.

"You have to remember that the Lindberg family is our archenemy!" Henry reminded him earnestly. "You can't allow your feelings to cloud your mind. Business is business, and if you make allowances for them, you'll be treated as easy prey. Every life tied to the Nacht Group is your responsibility. You're in charge of the rise and fall of the company and the future of those three children!"

Zachary had heard those words repeatedly over the years. He had memorized them by now.

Any idiot would be able to recite the entire spiel by heart now.

"That woman is gone. You should let her go and start a new chapter of your life."

This was the first time in two years that Henry had brought up the topic.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 735

In the past two years, they had avoided the topic in order to preserve their relationship.

Although it had hit a nerve for Zachary, he still could not find it in himself to blame Henry.

What am I supposed to do?

It's not like I can kill Grandpa...

I can only exact my revenge through aloofness.

"I know you resent me." Henry let out a deep sigh. "However, hating me won't change anything. You can't bring her back. You can only pour all your emotions onto the three children, but don't waste any of it on the Lindberg family."

"I know! I know what to do." Zachary finally blurted out.

"Are you sure?" Henry was obviously not convinced.

Upon that, Zachary silently frowned at him. He seemed to be in silent protest.

"Okay." Henry sighed helplessly. "You better know what to do. Otherwise, I'll squeeze the life out of the Lindberg family if it's the last thing I'll do!" Henry warned threateningly.

After pausing for a moment, he turned to glare sharply at Zachary. "You know that it's not in my nature to show mercy."

"I know."

Of course, I'm aware. Grandpa started fighting with the Lindberg family during his era of power. He forbade dad from fraternizing with Isabella and resulted in that tragedy...

There's no way he'll be letting his guard down when it comes to me. He forbids me from making a connection with any of them.

I bet he never expected himself to fail after all the precautions he took.

When Zachary met her in Horington, she did not seem affiliated with the Lindberg family at all. Little did he know she was estranged from the family. Eventually, she even gave birth to three of his children.

This must be what they mean by being trapped by fate.

"Leave," ordered Henry sternly.

Zachary had intended on persuading Henry to return to M Nation. However, the words seemed to become stuck in his throat.

He knew Henry's temperament, and there was no way he would be willing to return after today's incident. His three great-grandchildren were all shaken to the core, after all.

I better give it some time.

Zachary walked out of the study room to see Raina charging in with the doctors. She bowed quickly to Zachary before rushing upstairs to attend to the three children.

Henry was worried that the children would be traumatized by today's incident. Hence, he told Spencer to ask Raina to come.

Zachary then ascended the stairs and watched the children from the entrance of the study room.

Once Raina and the child psychologists assessed the children's mental well-being, they instructed the children to describe the experience like they were telling a story.

Jamie and Ellie described the experience like they were talking about the plot of a cartoon they had watched. This method alleviated some of their fear as they vividly brought the incident to life.

Soon, the study room was filled with their laughter.

Hearing that, Zachary smiled and turned to leave.

The Nachts don't get scared so easily.

"Are you leaving, Mr. Nacht?"

Bruce hastily followed Zachary. Since he had been punished to kneel today, he had to stick close to Zachary.

"Louis is waiting for me." Zachary glanced at his watch. "Let's head to the Prince Hotel first."

"Yes, sir."

In the study room on the second floor, Robbie was standing next to the window. With a troubled expression, he watched Zachary's car drive further away.

"What's wrong, Robbie?"

Raina had noticed that Jamie and Ellie had recovered quickly, while Robbie seemed distracted. It was like he had put up walls to keep the child psychologists away.

"Nothing." Robbie turned and walked out.

"Robbie, where are you going?" Jamie asked.

"Back to my room."

When Robbie returned to his room, he took out a new mechanical dove and set it free outside his window. He maneuvered it to the north villa because he wanted to find out the identity of the person who had come to start trouble.

Why did the eagle have Mommy's ring on its leg?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 736 - 740

No one else noticed that there was a rhodium ring around the eagle's leg.

That ring was Charlotte and Zachary's wedding ring.

Perhaps no one else noticed that when the eagle swooped towards Robbie, a whistle could be heard. Right after, the eagle stopped and hovered in front of him.

He was posed at just the right angle to notice the ring.

At that moment, Robbie had felt a mixture of terror and astonishment.

After the incident, everyone was busy trying to handle the aftermath. Yet Robbie was consumed with thoughts about the ring.

He was not stricken by fear nor traumatized. He was just thinking about how his mother's ring ended up on the eagle.

What's going on?

That eagle belongs to the owner of Northridge. If I find out who he is, I'll be able to follow Thus, Robbie released a mechanical dove and sent it to spy on the owner of Northridge.

At that moment, the mechanical dove flew higher and further.

Suddenly, someone knocked on the door. Raina's gentle voice drifted in, "Are you there, Robbie?"

Robbie knew it would take some time for the dove to reach its destination. Thus, he went to open the door. "What's up, Dr. Langhan?"

"Can we chat, Robbie?" Raina squatted and gazed at him kindly. "I know you must have been frightened just now. You're just trying to put on a brave front..."

"I think you've misunderstood," said Robbie as he interrupted Raina. His tone was level and calm. "I was a bit scared just now, but I'm fine now. I'm just busy with my own stuff. I'm not trying to avoid anything, so you don't need to be worried."

Raina smiled awkwardly. "I'm glad you're fine."

"Thank you!" Robbie politely replied. "Is there anything else?"

"No." Raina hurriedly shook her head. "I'll let you get back to what you were doing."

"Thank you for taking care of Jamie and Ellie!"

Robbie bowed courteously and closed the door.

Raina felt rather vexed, but she had no choice but to return to Jamie and Ellie.

After that, Robbie walked up to the computer and continued tracking the mechanical dove. It was currently flying towards Northridge.

The camera on the mechanical dove recorded everything below it clearly and sent the footage to Robbie.

Robbie anxiously stared at the computer screen as he waited for the mechanical dove to reveal the answer he was searching for.

At this moment, someone knocked on his door again.

Robbie frowned in annoyance. "Who is it?"

"Robbie, I asked the kitchen staff to prepare some breakfast. Let's go eat together," said Henry gently.

Jamie and Ellie's voices followed.

"Did they really make hot cross bunnies, Great-grandpa?" Jamie asked excitedly.

"They did. I tasked Mrs. Rawlston to learn how to make them. Go eat them now and tell me how they taste," replied Henry with a grin.

"Yay, that's great," cheered Jamie as he ran downstairs.

"Where's Robbie?" asked Ellie.

"I'm calling him out now." Henry lovingly patted her head. "Go on. We'll join you soon."

"Okay, I'll go look for Fifi."

Ellie skipped downstairs.

In the room, Robbie stared unblinkingly at the screen. The pigeon had arrived at Northridge and was nearing the villa. He did not want to miss seeing the truth, but they were waiting for him outside. Thus, he had no choice but to open the door.

"Robbie..."

"Great-grandpa, I'm not hungry yet. You guys can start without me."

Robbie turned back to the computer. At that moment, his heart was pounding at a breakneck pace. If he was delayed any longer, he would miss his opportunity.

"Robbie, I want to talk to you..."

"I don't want to talk now," blurted Robbie.

Henry froze, and his gaze darkened.

Robbie realized how rude he was acting and immediately apologized. "I'm sorry. I'm just... really busy. Please start breakfast without me."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 737

"I'm sorry. I'm just... really busy. Please start breakfast without me."

Robbie then shut the door.

Outside the door, Henry was crestfallen. I thought Robbie and I were starting to mend our relationship. But it's clear that he still hates me.

Henry was extremely hurt by this notion.

Robbie was his beloved great-grandson. Hence, he greatly hoped that Robbie would become the next successor. After all, he had spent a large sum of money trying to nurture Robbie. Yet still, they ended up in such a state.

Meanwhile, Robbie felt guilty about his attitude towards his Great-grandpa. He must be so sad...

Suddenly, an eagle cry sounded out from the computer, and Robbie rushed over to check.

The mechanical dove had arrived at Northridge and landed on a large tree. The camera was pointed at the entrance of the villa.

A woman carrying the eagle climbed out of a car, and the eagle flapped its injured wing. After being chided by the woman, it settled contentedly in her arms.

The woman's slim figure was familiar to Robbie.

He continued to fix his eyes on the computer screen, eager to see her face. Unfortunately, she kept her head turned away from the camera. When she arrived at the door, she suddenly stopped and turned.

Robbie's eyes widened, and his heart almost stopped.

Alas, the eagle's wing obscured the woman's face.

The woman carried the eagle into the villa. Shortly after, a female bodyguard looked towards the mechanical dove with a pair of binoculars. She seemed to be looking for something.

In order to prevent it from being spotted, Robbie had fitted the mechanical dove with camouflage technology.

Hence, no one saw the mechanical dove hidden amongst the foliage.

As expected, the female bodyguard failed to notice anything out of the ordinary. She then walked away with the binoculars in hand, and the other bodyguards started attending to their tasks.

Nonetheless, Robbie was desperate to know the truth. Thus, he kept the mechanical dove hidden in that tree.

He would find out the truth the moment the woman walked out of the villa.

Despite watching the screen for some time, the woman did not appear. They even closed the door.

It looks like she won't be coming out anytime soon.

However, Robbie continued watching as he yearned for the truth.

At this moment, someone knocked on his door again.

Robbie was speechless. "Who is it?" he snapped.

"Robbie, it's me," said Jamie.

"Come in," said Robbie as he relaxed.

Jamie carried a tray in. On the tray was a plate of hot cross bunnies and a glass of milk.

"Robbie, Mrs. Rawlston learned how to make hot cross bunnies. I saved a few for you. Have a taste."

"Thank you." Robbie glanced up at Jamie before returning his focus to the computer screen. "Mrs. Rawlston finally succeeded after so many attempts!" Robbie muttered.

"What?" Jamie was stunned.

"You and Ellie go to school so early, so you didn't see Mrs. Rawlston practicing how to make hot cross bunnies every day. She fed the failed ones to the other maids, and they spat them out many times."

Robbie was still looking at the screen as he spoke.

"Ah..." Realization dawned on Jamie. "I praised Mrs. Rawlston just now, and she seemed embarrassed. She told us how she only succeeded after failing many times."

"Yep, thirty-eight times." Robbie nodded distractedly.

"Mrs. Rawlston is so nice. Robbie, don't you want to try one?" Jamie placed the breakfast tray in front of Robbie.

Robbie reached out and grabbed a hot cross bunny. He took a bite and exclaimed, "Hmm, yummy! Please thank Mrs. Rawlston for me."

Jamie's mouth fell open, and he could not help but ask, "Why are you acting like this, Robbie?"

"What?" Robbie was stunned.

"Great-grandpa and Daddy really love us. Mrs. Rawlston and Dr. Langhan also treat us well. So why are you shutting them all out?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 738

It was Jamie's first time discussing this matter so seriously with Robbie. Indeed, Robbie was an entirely different person from his usual frivolous self.

He'd suddenly grown stern. Looking into his brother's small face, Jamie felt that Robbie exuded an aura of manliness.

"I haven't..." Robbie began, then reflected. "My personality's always been rather neutral. I'm not as lively as you."

"No," Jamie shook his head, saying solemnly. "You were always wiser and more mature than I was even when Mommy was still with us. But you'd still laugh and joke. You were close to Great-grandpa too. I haven't seen you smile in a while."

"Now that Mommy's not around, I can't bring myself to smile," Robbie replied in a low voice, his eyes reddening.

Jamie bowed his head in grief. He was silent for a moment, then said, "Ellie and I are sad, too, that Mommy's no longer around. But we can't take it out on Great-grandpa. It has nothing to do with him."

Robbie frowned but said nothing. He was the only one who had borne witness to the last time Mommy had been with them. She'd clearly been threatened by Great-grandpa. Robbie hadn't stopped blaming himself for trusting Great-grandpa.

If only I'd stopped him! If only I'd never left her side! Robbie despaired with all the benefits of hindsight. Perhaps tragedy would not have struck then.

There was no way he could tell all this to Jamie and Ellie, though. He swallowed the truth in silence, and it weighed heavy on his heart like a stone.

Let them live in blissful ignorance! That's the only way they can continue to be happy.

"Great-grandpa's eyes were red, and he wasn't listening all the time I was talking to him, staring off into the distance," Jamie pressed. "He was trying so hard to get you to like him! Why did you treat him that way?"

"I had something urgent to deal with just now..." Robbie began. He suddenly sat up in dismay as raindrops began pelting down outside the window.

His mechanical dove was still hidden in that tree! It was in no danger of being discovered at the moment. At present, it faced an even greater risk of short-circuiting.

Robbie had installed a waterproof system for it, which was effective for warding off drizzles. However, this torrential downpour was another matter altogether.

"What was so urgent?" Jamie demanded.

"I'll tell you later," Robbie replied distractedly. He frantically turned toward the computer in a bid to hastily transfer his mechanical dove to another place of refuge from the rain.

"Robbie!" Jamie cried in annoyance. "I'm talking to you. Aren't you being a little rude?"

"I'm busy. I'll tell you later! Go and get some breakfast first," Robbie pleaded, his eyes fixed on the computer screen.

"I'm getting really mad!" Jamie declared, his arms akimbo. He stalked out of the room.

Robbie glanced at Jamie's departing figure, then turned back to his computer. Wait till I get Mommy back! You won't be mad then.

Charlotte returned to her room after attending to Fifi's wounds. She drew back the blinds and gazed out at the gloomy skies. Her heart grew as heavy as the dark clouds that gathered on the horizon.

She recalled the wails she'd heard at the Nachts' residence previously. Charlotte's heart ached for the children.

Why am I feeling this way? Charlotte wondered. She was baffled by how emotionally attached she was.

As her mind drifted, Charlotte was suddenly drawn to a faint red glow emitted from a tree not far off. She immediately fished out her binoculars. Peering through them, Charlotte realized that she was looking at a dove.

Her mind flashed back to the bird that had been felled with a single shot. Upon its dissection, she had discovered that it was actually a mechanical dove. Charlotte presumed that this must be a similar specimen.

Divine Corporation specialized in technology. Such creatures were mere playthings to them.

Charlotte scoffed. Is Zachary using these toys to spy on me? How childish of him!

She raised her gun and prepared to condemn it to the same fate its predecessor had suffered. However, another thought struck her. If Zachary's so intent to spy on me, perhaps I should take him for a ride!

Charlotte lowered her gun.

The rain was still falling steadily. There was a knock on the door, and Lupine entered with a pot of hot tea. "Ms. Lindberg, have a cup of hot tea to warm yourself up."

"Go and get someone to close all of the windows," Charlotte ordered. "Today's itinerary is canceled. I'm taking a break today."

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 739

Robbie remained in the room, his eyes never leaving the computer. He was waiting for the resident of the villa to appear in order to get a good look at her face. After a long while, however, she was nowhere to be seen. In addition, the villa's windows had all been shut.

The only sights the mechanical dove was privy to were the villa's stone walls.

Robbie felt his stomach growl. He picked up the hot cross bunny on the table and ate it, washing it down with milk. Then he continued watching the screen intently.

Before he knew it, it was noon, and Mrs. Rawlston was rapping on the door, calling, "Mr. Robinson, time for lunch."

Robbie's eyes were sore, and he was starving. However, he wasn't about to squander this opportunity. He yelled through the door, "Mrs. Rawlston, can you bring the food up here? I'll eat in the room."

Mrs. Rawlston exchanged looks with Henry, who was standing behind her.

Henry nodded. With his permission, Mrs. Rawlston replied agreeably, "Alright, I'll get it ready then."

Robbie glared at the screen. They can't possibly stay in there forever!

Mrs. Rawlston soon reappeared with lunch. Upon entering the room, she saw Robbie planted in front of the computer. "Mr. Robinson, you'll hurt your eyes if you keep staring at the computer screen. Come and have lunch first," she chided.

"OK. Thank you, Mrs. Rawlston," Robbie swiveled in his seat to face her. "Can you bring it over here for me, please?"

Mrs. Rawlston had been about to set the food down onto the table. She believed that the study table was not an appropriate place for meals but obeyed nonetheless.

"Thank you, Mrs. Rawlston." Robbie reached for his food and began eating with gusto.

"Take smaller bites. Don't rush through your food," Mrs. Rawlston said tenderly. "Try the juice too. It's freshly squeezed."

"OK," Robbie nodded absently. "I'll call for you when I'm done with the food. Don't worry about me."

"All right," Mrs. Rawlston said and exited the room.

Robbie continued his vigil at the computer. All was still quiet at the villa. In spite of that, Robbie was unfazed. He was firm in his conviction that whoever was within would have to emerge sometime.

The rest of the day came and went without much fanfare. When at last night fell, Robbie sprawled onto the table in weariness and slept.

The sound of a car revving startled Robbie awake. He rubbed his eyes and squinted at the screen.

The rain had subsided, and the door of the villa opened. Eight female bodyguards lined up before the door bearing black umbrellas. In their tidy rows, they formed a shelter from the rain.

A woman wearing a black suit marched out of the villa.

Robbie's heart skipped a beat. He quickly leaned forward and nearly bore through the computer screen with his gaze. The figure he had seen that morning had looked just Mommy's. His desire to get another glimpse of her had superseded both exhaustion and hunger.

The entire day Robbie had spent waiting had been an absolute torment.

Now that his objective had finally appeared right before his eyes, Robbie refused to blink for fear of missing something.

However, the umbrellas shielded the top half of her face from Robbie's eager eye. There was nothing he could tell from the single sliver that was exposed.

Robbie grew frantic. He hastily adjusted the angle of the mechanical dove, trying to get it to fly lower in the hopes of catching sight of the woman's face.

It wasn't the most subtle thing to do, but Robbie could care less. He'd think about the consequences afterward.

The mechanical dove loftily descended, landing on a tree just by the entrance of the door. Bit by bit, it revealed the woman in an almost dramatic fashion. If only I could just see her face...

Robbie held his breath. He stared so intently at the screen that his face was mere inches from it. His little hand curled up into a fist as he muttered furiously to himself, "Quick, quick!"

The frame kept dipping lower and lower, closer and closer. Robbie saw her mouth, the tip of her nose...

Suddenly, Robbie heard an eagle scream overhead. It swooped down, directing its piercing gaze straight towards the camera. It wore a look of murderous rage.

Robbie recoiled instinctively in terror.

At the same time, the screen fizzled out into a blank white.

Robbie's eyes widened and he gaped at the screen, aghast.

That eagle attacked my second mechanical dove!

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 740

Robbie wasn't as vexed as he had been the previous time. The feeling that rose within him was more akin to a sense of loss.

However, this seemed like a promising lead to Mommy's whereabouts. Hope rekindled within Robbie's heart, and he felt a renewed sense of vigor surge through him.

Robbie was young, but he knew that the more something was shrouded in secrecy, the more there was waiting to be uncovered.

He was determined to get to the bottom of things. What did that woman from Northridge have to do with Mommy?

Why did her figure look just like Mommy's?

Most of all, why did she have Mommy's ring?

Robbie's actions had alarmed her now, however. He couldn't afford to be reckless.

As he was deep in thought, there was a banging on the door followed by Zachary's voice hollering, "Robbie, can I come in?"

"Daddy!" Robbie dashed to the door and opened it. "Please come in."

Zachary entered the room. He draped his jacket over the small sofa and surveyed his surroundings. "Raina did up this room for you when you were three and a half years old. Now that you're older, would you like a revamp?"

"No, I like it like this," Robbie said, handing a cup of fruit juice to Zachary. "I only have fruit juice, milk, and yogurt. There's no alcohol here."

"Ha!" Zachary chortled. "Wait till you grow up. I'll install a mini-bar here for you."

"How old must I be?" Robbie queried, pouring himself a glass of milk.

Zachary clinked his glass of fruit juice against Robbie's milk. He glanced down at Robbie fondly and said, "Mentally and intellectually, you're already pretty grown up. But your body is still that of a child's, so you're still one."

"Thank you," Robbie said, taking it as a compliment.

"Jamie and Ellie complained that their rooms were too childish for them. They're insistent on renovating it. Are you really fine with keeping yours the way it is?" Zachary quizzed.

"Yes," Robbie answered, looking around his room. His gaze landed on the family portrait hanging on the wall. "This room still has traces of Mommy and Mrs. Berry."

At this, Zachary fell silent. When Charlotte had left all those years ago, Robbie was the only one who had ever seen her. Robbie was thus privy to much more nostalgic sentiments than Jamie or Ellie.

Robbie was already a lot more mature than other children his age. He was able to piece things together even when the event had been incomprehensible to him when it happened. Robbie was thus aware of the fact that it was Henry who had forced Charlotte to leave.

Robbie's resentment towards Henry was therefore perfectly reasonable.

"Why did you come back so early today?" Robbie asked, changing the subject in an attempt to lighten the mood.

"Mr. Spencer called to say that you'd shut yourself in your room all day without taking a single step outside. Great-grandpa was very worried about you. He hasn't eaten or drunk anything," Zachary replied, looking meaningfully at Robbie.

"Huh? Why didn't Great-grandpa eat or drink anything?" Robbie asked, stunned. "I was busy doing something in my room. I had lunch."

"Great-grandpa was just concerned about you. At the same time, he also feels a sense of guilt towards you..."

Zachary trailed off. This was the first time he'd confronted Robbie about this matter. However, Zachary was never really good with words. He was at a loss on how to finish what he had impulsively started.

Zachary felt bitter towards Henry and usually kept his distance as well. How could he then expect Robbie to put on a facade of affection for Henry when even Zachary could not bring himself to do so?

"So?" Robbie frowned. "What are you trying to tell me?"

"Treat it as if you're doing Daddy a favor. Go visit Great-grandpa," Zachary said, gently ruffling Robbie's hair. "He's getting along in years and if he doesn't eat, he'll destroy his body."

"All right, I'll go," Robbie said smoothly. "But there's something I've been meaning to ask you for a very long time, Daddy."

"What is it?" Zachary asked warmly.

"Why didn't you protect Mommy?" Robbie's clear gaze seemed to penetrate right through Zachary. "Why did you abandon her?"

Zachary lowered his gaze. Memories of the past crowded into his mind, clamoring. "It's not that I didn't protect her. I just didn't do it well enough. I didn't abandon her either."

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"If Mommy ever comes back, will you love and protect her?" Robbie asked again.

"Of course I will," Zachary replied without hesitation. Then he asked curiously, "Why do you suddenly ask?"

"It's nothing," Robbie said shortly. He didn't want to tell Zachary anything without confirming it for himself first.

"All right. Wash your face and go down to see Great-grandpa. We'll eat together," Zachary concluded, patting Robbie's little head.

"OK," Robbie nodded obediently.

Zachary returned to his own room and changed his clothes, preparing to join his family for dinner. Just then, Ben appeared with the report: "Mr. Nacht, the hospital just notified us that Ms. Blackwood has woken up."

"OK," Zachary acknowledged. "We'll visit her later tonight."

When Robbie came to Henry's room, he found Henry sitting in a wheelchair, staring blankly out at the storm. He looked utterly forlorn.

"Mr. Robinson, be a good boy and bring this cup of hot tea over to your Great-grandpa," Spencer whispered placing a steaming cup in Robbie's hands.

"OK," Robbie said. He walked over to Henry, calling softly, "Great-grandpa!"

The old man remained motionless.

Robbie crossed over to his front, then repeated in a louder voice, "Great-grandpa!"

Henry finally came to his senses. His eyes fixed on Robbie, bewildered for a moment. Then Henry cried elatedly, embracing Robbie, "Robbie, why are you here?"

"To visit you," Robbie replied, handing Henry the cup of tea. "Drink this, Great-grandpa."

"Sure, sure." Henry was delighted. He took a big swig from the cup and exclaimed, "Wonderful, wonderful!"

"Great-grandpa, I was working on my mechanical dove today. It was rather urgent, so I may have been impolite to you. Don't be angry," Robbie apologized meekly.

"No..." Henry patted Robbie's head, looking at him fondly. "Robbie, you can tell me anything. If you're unhappy, let it out. You can argue or debate with Great-grandpa, no problem at all. Just don't keep it to yourself, OK?"

"Got it," Robbie replied gratefully. Great-grandpa's really so good to me. What more could I ask for?

"Let's have dinner together. Daddy's back. We can all eat together as a family," Robbie declared, tugging at Henry's frail hand.

"Sure, sure." Henry nodded.

"Great-grandpa!" A shout suddenly came from outside the room. Jamie and Ellie ran in right after.

The room suddenly grew vibrant from Jamie and Ellie's excited squabbling over who would get to talk to Great-grandpa first.

"It's time to eat! Mrs. Rawlston prepared lots of delicious things for us today."

"Daddy's even squeezed juice for us!"

"Ha, how hard is squeezing juice?" Henry replied, chuckling.

"Great-grandpa, let me give you a hand," Robbie announced, taking over the handles of the wheelchair.

"And I'll hold the cup for you!" Jamie added, grabbing the said item.

"I'll get your blanket!" Determined not to be outdone, Ellie fetched the blanket and covered Henry's legs with it.

The three children surrounded Henry, a perfect picture of a happy family. Time seemed to fall away, and the house reverberated with the warmth and good cheer of old.

"You're still so hungry for attention even at this age?" Zachary demanded. Even as he spoke, however, Zachary had already stepped forward and pulled out a chair. Henry was smoothly wheeled into his place.

"What nonsense are you saying?" Henry said reproachfully with a twinkle in his eye.

As Jamie moved to take his seat, Zachary instinctively lifted Jamie up into his chair. Bemused, Jamie remarked, "Daddy, I've grown up! I'm not a little boy anymore."

"You'll always be Daddy's little boy," Zachary said, patting the top of his little head. He moved on to Robbie.

"No need, Daddy! I can handle myself," Robbie said, hurriedly clambering onto his seat.

Zachary froze. Ellie, however, shimmied over and cried, "Daddy, pick me up! No matter how old I am, I'll always be your baby!"

"What a good child you are, Ellie!" Zachary turned to her, beaming.

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It had been a long time since the house had heard such joyful laughter, much less the jovial chatter that presided over dinner that evening.

For the past two years, whenever Henry came over, Zachary would excuse himself for work.

Robbie had likewise remained aloof and distant.

Jamie and Ellie were the only ones who'd consistently remained on good terms with Henry.

Over time, Henry had stopped visiting.

Henry had only flown all the way back from M Nation this time in order to celebrate Jamie and Ellie starting elementary school.

He'd spent even more effort this time getting to know the children and hoping to resolve the tension between himself and Robbie.

Henry had all but given it up for lost. He definitely hadn't anticipated that this night would come to pass.

He was thus overjoyed. Henry believed that his efforts had not been in vain. At the same time, he began to harbor hopes for the future.

It was Henry's wish that Zachary's marriage would stabilize while Henry was still alive. The three children would acknowledge Cynthia, and they'd all embark on their new life.

After dinner, when the three children had gone out to the garden, Henry turned to Zachary, saying, "Cynthia's awake. Come with me to visit her at the hospital later."

"I'll go. You've been up and about for the whole day. Rest at home," Zachary replied.

Zachary had no qualms about going but thought it rather awkward to be accompanied by Henry.

"That's fine too," Henry said, exhaling. He didn't want to seem too overbearing to Zachary so soon after the ice between them had thawed. "I'll accompany the children here. You go and visit Cynthia."

"OK." Zachary waved to the children and set off.

Along the way, Zachary received another call from Louis. Zachary grimaced when he saw the number flashing luminous across his phone but gritted his teeth and answered. "What is it now?"

"Zachary, I'm just about to meet Charlotte. I'm so nervous! What should I say if she asks me about what happened last night?" Louis' anxious voice came from the other end of the line.

Louis was like a bashful schoolboy who had never been in love, always running to Zachary for the slightest bit of advice.

"Do I have to teach you this as well?" Zachary was speechless. "Why don't you just make up an excuse?"

"I've thought of one. I'm going to say my friends brought me that and forced a woman onto me. I had no choice..." Louis rattled off his plan.

"Why are you still asking me then?" Zachary said curtly.

"But she asked me yesterday who had brought me there. Should I tell her the truth?" Louis asked cautiously.

So this was what Louis was leading up to.

"Up to you. You can tell her if you want," Zachary said easily.

"I'll be honest with her then," Louis decided. "When she was questioning me yesterday, I didn't think that it would be right to sell a brother out behind his back. I had to ask you first."

"So you're going sell me out in my face?" Zachary retorted.

"Uh... well..." Louis stammered.

"Fine, take care of it yourself," Zachary replied.

He hung up the phone. There was no discernible expression on his face to indicate that anything was wrong.

"Mr. Nacht, why didn't you ask Sir Louis to keep it a secret? If Ms. Lindberg finds out that you were the one who brought him there, won't she misunderstand you for a player?" Bruce broke in. His reservations were evident.

"She's already misunderstood me enough. Once more won't make a difference," Zachary scoffed. "Besides, even if Louis didn't tell her, don't you think Charlotte wouldn't have found out on her own?"

"She didn't get anything out of Sultry Night," Bruce said, pondering.

"I'm the only one that Louis knows in H City. Other than me, who would dare bring him to a nightclub? Who else would be able to persuade Sultry Night to cover up what happened in

the private room?" Zachary said evenly. "Charlotte's smart. She'd surely have thought of that."

"That's true," Bruce said, nodding. "But aren't you at all worried about Sir Louis and Ms. Lindberg's date tonight?"

"What's there to be worried about?" Zachary rejoined coolly, raising an eyebrow. "That woman's totally intolerant towards straying of any sort in her relationships. Even if I was the one who brought Louis there, Louis wouldn't have touched another woman if he had indeed resolved to be loyal. He succumbed to temptation and was ultimately caught by her. That has nothing to do with me."

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"I get it." Bruce nodded in realisation.

"I'm pretty surprised, though, that Charlotte was willing to meet Louis," Zachary remarked.

Zachary appeared nonchalant but was fretting inside. The Charlotte he knew two years ago had been an absolute fanatic about loyalty in a relationship, particularly that of the man's.

It was two years since, and Charlotte had evolved from an innocent, naive girl into a cold and haughty woman. Could that domineering woman still have the same outlook as the sweet girl of yesteryear? Zachary didn't dare to say for sure.

"Actually, the fact that Ms. Lindberg even agreed to meet with Sir Louis is proof enough that she doesn't love him," Bruce analyzed. "The more affection you feel for someone, the less accepting you'd be of such behavior. Do you think she really got over it within a day? She doesn't love him!"

"That makes sense," Zachary said with a sigh.

"But that's not to say that she still won't get together with him," Bruce continued. "Sir Louis is a member of F Nation's royalty. Lindberg Corporation has been cultivating close ties with F Nation. A marriage alliance for business relations isn't unheard of."

Zachary's face instantly grew dark.

"The Ms. Lindberg we see now is no longer the Ms. Windt we knew, but another person entirely," Bruce said, completely diffident to Zachary's growing displeasure. "Perhaps over time, love has taken a backseat to politics for her. It's very possible..."

"Shut up!" Zachary bellowed, cutting short Bruce's contemplations. He immediately picked up his phone and dialed Louis.

"Zachary?" Louis answered, puzzled.

"Where are you?" Zachary demanded in return.

"I'm at a restaurant here at South Sea, what's it called... Seacrest or something like that."

Just as Louis blurted out the name of the restaurant, Zachary hung up. Turning to his chauffeur, he commanded, "To Seacrest Restaurant."

"Sure," the chauffeur replied, immediately turning the car around.

"Uh..." Bruce faltered. "Mr. Nacht, are you..."

"You're right," Zachary said, narrowing his eyes. He fiddled with the wedding band on his left hand. "If she's really changed that drastically and is going to get together with Louis for a marriage of convenience, then where am I going to find a mother for the children?"

Bruce could not muster any response. He cursed himself for having said anything at all.

They'd promised Henry that they were going to the hospital and even confirmed it with the Blackwoods. However, they were now racing towards a seaside restaurant.

Old Mr. Nacht's going to be pissed! Bruce thought, wincing to himself.

Another thought followed quickly on the heels of that one.

Bruce suddenly remembered the warning that Henry had issued only that morning. He'd threatened to boot the next person who kept any secrets from him out of the Nacht family altogether.

Shuddering at the thought, Bruce quickly pointed out, "The Blackwoods are still waiting for us at the hospital. Besides, Henry has already ordered us to visit Ms. Blackwood at the hospital. If you suddenly change your mind, won't it..."

"We can go to the hospital later," Zachary said dismissively, glancing at his watch. "Tell them that we'll head over later."

"This..." Bruce was about to speak, then caught himself when Zachary turned an icy glare to him. Lowering his head in acquiescence, Bruce replied meekly, "All right, got it."

Bruce thus gave Taylor a call, citing urgent matters that were currently delaying them. Bruce reassured him that they would definitely be there later on.

Over the phone, Taylor concernedly told them not to worry. Zachary was to focus on his own matters first.

Bruce hung up the phone with a look of resignation on his face.

Zachary, meanwhile, was fixed on urging the chauffeur to drive as fast as he could.

"Sure," the chauffeur nodded. They flew towards Seacrest Restaurant.

In the meantime, Louis texted Zachary a string of several flustered texts.

Why did you call me just now?

You're not coming to look for me, are you?

You'd better not come to look for mel I'm on a date with Charlotte. Do not bother us!

She's here. I'm not going to reply anymore. Don't bother us!

Louis ended it off with a photo.

The restaurant was a cozy, intimate affair. Pink roses and heart-shaped balloons were scattered all around. Louis, in center stage, was decked out in a white tuxedo that made him look even more dashing and distinguished than usual.

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Louis was even smiling charmingly at the camera with that kind of smile that countless women would definitely fall for.

On the contrary, Zachary frowned, and his face darkened as he stared at the picture and asked Bruce, "Ppfftt... Just look at his face! He thinks he's so good-looking and all that, huh?"

Bruce was at a loss for words and looked at Zachary rather submissively. "Eh-hem... Are you jealous, Mr. Nacht? Might I remind you that he's your only friend?"

It was true that Zachary had been aloof and arrogant since young. His unapproachable temperament left him with very few friends, and because of that, Louis was his only true friend.

Louis was two years younger than Zachary. From an early age, he had been cautiously protected and unduly pampered. Hence, he grew up in a strict household, where there were all sorts of rules imposed on his life, studies, and even his social circles.

He was raised in the castle and seldom explored the world outside. Everyone he knew was but the noble and prominent men from the upper echelon of the society. Due to conflicts of interests, others from the royal family were somewhat scheming against him.

Apart from that, some businessmen were too mercenary and guileful, and Louis couldn't really associate with them.

Thus, Zachary was the only one whom he could actually confide in. Even though he appeared a little distant, he would never plot against Louis at the very least.

Besides, they were like the two poles in dualism. While one was reticent, another was expansive. They contrasted each other like ice and fire.

Nevertheless, contemporaneously, the glaring polarity between them was also complementary. Hence, by degrees, a seedling of friendship grew between them.

"And you, Mr. Nacht, are also his only friend," Bruce added.

Zachary frowned in bewilderment. "What do you mean by that?"

"The two of you always hang out with each other... It makes me wonder if you guys are, perhaps..."

"Bruce!" Zachary cut Bruce off and asked very solemnly, "Do you know why I've always arranged for you to work outside?"

"Is it because I'm not a smooth-talker like Ben?"

Bruce himself was also curious about this. He came to the Nacht family together with Ben, and both of them started working for Zachary ever since. Nevertheless, he was always stationed outside, and Ben always seemed to get to stay around Zachary.

He broke his back, but the outcome was often unenviable. On the other hand, Ben could please Zachary effortlessly.

In his opinion, Ben was always in the desired position, and if they were not brothers, he might have long been dissatisfied with such differential treatment.

"You're bullheaded and not versatile enough." Zachary eyed him detachedly. "Ben is much more agile than you."

"I get it now..." Bruce lowered his gloomed face.

"From now on, stay quiet and don't talk when you're not required to," Zachary ordered menacingly.

"Yes." Bruce lowered his head and went silent.

Soon, their car arrived at South Sea Restaurant.

From afar, Zachary could see the Rolls-Royce of the Lindberg family and the black Maybach, which he had lent Louis.

Getting off the car, Zachary walked toward the restaurant with his bodyguards.

One could hear a romantic piece played on the piano just outside the door, whereas the air was filled with fresh floral fragrance and a hint of sweetness.

As he walked into the restaurant, Zachary paused in his tracks when saw the scene in front of him.

At the piano by the window, Louis and Charlotte were having a piano duet. Together, they were performing Beethoven's fifth symphony – the Symphony of Fate.

Alongside their remarkable skills, they were so seamlessly and perfectly in sync that they sounded utterly flawless.

The waiters and other diners in the restaurant couldn't help fixating their eyes on the performing duo. Not only that, but some of them even started snapping photos to capture such a memorable moment...

On the other hand, Zachary was bitter as he looked at them detachedly.

It's just the piano...

What's so great about knowing how to play it?

I, too...

Fine, I can't!

Finally, when the piece ended, tumultuous applause flooded the restaurant.

Right then, some of the diners and waiters were engaged in exhilarated discussions.

"They must be some of the greatest pianists in the world. That was spectacular."

"That's right. It's just that we have totally no idea about their background. I don't think I've ever seen them covered by the media."

"A truly great maestro doesn't need any publicity."

"Not only their skills are phenomenal, but they both look like real-life characters from the fairytales – so beautiful and charming!"

"Exactly! What a perfect match!"

"Judging from the harmonious way they're interacting with each other, they're probably a couple!"

"I heard that these roses and balloons in the restaurant today were put up by this man. Maybe he's planning for a proposal."

"Wow, that's great. Who would have thought that we would be able to witness such a beautiful love story today?"

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These utterances brought about an even sullen look on Zachary's face. With his eyebrows closely knitted together, he strode over...

At that moment, the duo at the piano was smiling tenderly at each other.

Louis' keen blue eyes were looking at Charlotte with a doting gaze. On his face, his lips curved into a sweet half-moon which portrayed the gratification within his heart.

As with Charlotte, there was also a broad, genial smile on her face. The glint in her eyes was particularly gentle when she looked at Louis.

Side by side, they were sitting on the piano stool, looking so intimate and affectionate toward one another.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Out of the blue, they heard someone rapping their knuckles on the piano.

Everyone in the restaurant shifted their gaze at this mysterious, arrogant, and indifferent dark-suited man.

There was inherent savagery emanating from him, which propelled others to stay away in fear.

Not only that but there was also a piercingly cold glint in his eyes. It was as though he was Lucifer who had risen from hell just to shatter the relationship between these two lovebirds.

In that instance, the dreamy atmosphere dissipated...

All the onlookers retreated timidly and didn't dare to get too close for fear of being involved in the forthcoming peril.

"Zachary?" Charlotte looked up and showed a long face as soon as she saw that it was him. "What are you doing here?"

"He- He's coming for me."

Louis didn't know the complicated relationship between Zachary and Charlotte and thought that Zachary had indeed come to the restaurant to look for him. Hence, he yanked Zachary to the side and spoke in a hushed voice, "Haven't I told you not to come? Why are you here?"

"I told you..." Zachary took a glance at Charlotte and reminded him in a solemn manner, "This woman is not a kind soul."

"Don't worry about me. I know what I'm doing." Louis sighed and elbowed Zachary anxiously. "Leave now. Otherwise, Charlotte would be chiding you. She already knew that it was you who brought me to Sultry Night last night-"

"So what if she did?"

Zachary raised his eyebrows and stared at Charlotte dispassionately.

In return, Charlotte was also glaring bitterly at him.

The two of them regarded each other as enemies, and none of them would yield before the other did.

"I know you're doing this for me, and you've come to warn me because you're worried that I might be deceived..." Louis put his hand around Zachary's shoulder and added in a low

voice, "But I'm already a grown-up. I'm able to discern the difference between what is good and bad."

"You're too naive. You don't understand..." Zachary leaned over and whispered in Louis' ear, "Not only does this woman have a dangerous identity, but she's also sulky and violent. Plus, she keeps a wild animal as her pet. It's said to be an eagle which specifically feeds on men's eyes!"

"What?" Louis paled in an instant as he was terribly frightened. "It can't be."

Bruce, who was watching by the side, lamented in silence. Sir Louis is really a kind and simple soul! Meanwhile, Zachary was not relenting yet.

"Why not? Why don't you ask her yourself if you don't believe me?" Seeing that Louis started wavering, Zachary continued persuading him, "There's one more thing. I heard that she's sadomasochistic!"

"No!"

Louis' eyes widened in horror, and he turned around, taking a gander at Charlotte, and quickly turned back as he said hurriedly, "Where did you hear all these things? That's impossible! Charlotte is such a virtuous and impeccable girl. She's not that kind of person!"

"You're such a silly man. Why would she reveal this hidden side of her to you?"

"But..."

"Alright, let's cut this out." Not giving Louis the chance to say anything else, Zachary held his wrist and was about to take him away, "Come with me!"

"Hold on..."

Louis turned around to look at Charlotte and then at Zachary again. He was in two minds.

Right then, the onlookers couldn't stand by in silence anymore and started lamenting...

"My goodness. All this while I was under the impression that this blue-eyed handsome was a couple with the lady. And it turns out—"

"I thought this fine young man in the dark suit was here for the girl. Who would have expected he's actually here for the guy!"

"I know!"

"You people are way too conservative. I've seen it coming. This is true love!" A pretty young girl in the crowd rolled her eyes and continued with a smug on her face, "These two handsomes are a glaring contrast which also complements one another. They're like yin and yang – one is stand-offish when the other is amiable. They are a truly perfect match together!"

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Listening to these tittle-tattles rendered Bruce in relief. I told you so.

These two men are more like a couple than Louis and Charlotte.

Zachary glowered upon hearing the whisperings. This gossip happened to back Bruce's suggestive remark earlier.

"Goodness! What are they talking about?" Louis was so embarrassed that his cheeks flushed. "They actually thought that you and I..."

He pointed at Zachary and then at himself. Right after that, he covered his face bashfully.

Zachary couldn't help but roll his eyes. Ugh... this is just great. How typical of you to use such exaggerated body language.

"Louis!" Charlotte called out.

"Here!" Louis was just about to rush to her side, but Zachary held him back. Tense, Louis tried to push Zachary away. "Hey, let go of me. Everyone is thinking that there's something fishy going on between the two of us, and yet, you're still holding my hand. We're never going to be able to clarify this."

"You trust her instead of me?" Zachary asked with his furrowed eyebrows.

"No..." Louis was hesitant to make a choice, so he returned, "Well, you can stay and dine with us. Whatever there is, let's leave it until after the meal, alright?"

"Okay!" Zachary released his grip on Louis.

The three of them took their seats, with Zachary and Louis sitting on one side while Charlotte sat on the other side.

The restaurant was still abuzz with the murmurs and chatters of the onlookers.

Tentatively, Louis asked, "Charlotte, can I sit with you?"

"Sure." Charlotte agreed heartily.

Immediately, Louis changed his seat to the other side and sat next to Charlotte.

His movement was so swift that it seemed like he was running away from some sort of threat.

Meanwhile, Zachary shot him daggers and took the menu handed over by the restaurant manager. He quickly ordered a bottle of wine and then passed the menu to Louis.

"I've pre-ordered the meals for Charlotte and myself." Louis added as he took the menu over, "Are you sure you don't want anything?"

"I've had dinner." Zachary raised his glass and took a sip.

"Then why are you here?" Charlotte raised her eyebrows and glared at Zachary surlily.

Zachary shot an indifferent glance at her but didn't say anything.

"Charlotte, don't be like that..." Louis quickly defended Zachary, "Zachary is my best friend!"

"Then what about me?" Charlotte asked purposefully.

"You..." Louis was a little nervous as he continued, "You're my favorite girl."

"I see!" Charlotte raised a glass of red wine and asked Louis, "If this were a glass of poison and in between him and me, one of us had to drink it so that the other could survive, how would you decide?"

"I..." Louis was in a distressing predicament and couldn't make a choice.

Right then, Zachary took the glass from Charlotte directly and downed everything in one gulp.

Both Charlotte and Louis were utterly stunned.

Charlotte's expression turned inexplicably complicated, and she frowned, glancing at Zachary...

Louis was astounded at first, and then, he was sensibly touched.

Zachary put down the glass and looked up at Charlotte. "Are you satisfied now?"

"What do you mean?" Charlotte was plainly puzzled.

"I won't let you be in danger again..." Zachary splurted out, but he diverted hastily, "Women are made to be protected. Hence, it is men's duty to be gentlemen."

"That's right! Well said, Zachary!"

Louis couldn't stop complimenting him and cast him a grateful look in appreciation of Zachary giving him an out.

"You must understand that it was supposed to be a glass of poison. You'd die for taking it." Charlotte gave him a displeased stare. "Did you really pay attention to what I said?"

"Yes, I did." Zachary looked at her with a deep gaze and answered in an earnest manner, "I'd rather die myself than to let you die, okay?"

A sudden brief chill came over Charlotte, and for some reason, she was a little moved upon hearing those words.

It was as if she had been waiting a long time just to hear these words...

"Zachary, you..." Louis was baffled as he looked at Zachary. "Wh-What did you say?"

"That should solve your problem." Zachary was quick-witted as he added promptly, "So what do you think about this friend in me?"

"What a great friend you are!" Louis nodded his head repetitively.

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Looking deeply into Zachary's eyes, Charlotte understood perfectly that his words were clearly some fibs that a lecher would use to lure and woo girls...

But strangely, she was touched.

It was a weird feeling for her.

Zachary could feel Charlotte glancing at him, but he didn't turn to her. He continued savoring the wine in silence and engaged in a casual chat with Louis.

Meanwhile, Louis and Zachary had a lot in common, so the exchanges and interactions between them were frequent and relaxed.

Zachary was also much friendlier around Louis compared to how distant and overbearing he was in front of others.

As they chatted, a sumptuous dinner was served.

Charlotte ate in silence while Louis was taking care of her very considerately. Even so, she could feel that he was paying closer attention to his discussion with Zachary.

That made Charlotte rather speechless as she felt like she was unwelcomed at this dining table when the only person who was supposed to have this feeling was Zachary.

At the same time, other diners and waiters at the restaurant also started another round of hushed gossiping when they saw what happened at the table.

"See? Among them, he's really closer to the other man than the woman. Goodness, it looks like she's unwanted. How sad is that?"

"I know, right? I have a feeling that these two men are setting her up for a sham marriage. Ugh, how shameless!"

"Well, it's not really shamming though. That girl seems to know about their relationship..."

"Gosh! It's too tangled and complicated."

"I know..."

Surely, none of these subdued tattles were overheard by any of the persons in question. Instead, it was the bodyguards – Bruce, Lupine, and Morgan, who caught every word of the chitter-chatter distinctly.

Bruce didn't care as he was mentally tough and impervious. Besides, he knew the actual intention of Zachary so he wasn't affected at all.

However, the same could not be said about Lupine and Morgan. Both their faces flushed red with anger, and they were disgruntled for Charlotte.

Ring-Ring-

Zachary's phone chimed all of a sudden, and upon seeing the caller identification shown on the screen, he waved at Louis and Charlotte and went out to answer the call.

Finally, only Louis and Charlotte were left at the table.

Seeing as such, Louis quickly took out an exquisite gift box and handed it to Charlotte. "Charlotte, open it and see if you like it."

"Thank you." Charlotte took the box and lifted the lid. It was a sparkling diamond necklace. "It's beautiful. I like it very much. Thank you."

After that, she placed the lid back on the box, put it aside, and continued eating.

"You don't seem to like it." Louis glanced at her with a hesitant look. "Is it the diamond or the necklace? What is it that you don't like about it? I'll buy you something else next time."

"She just doesn't like you." A young good-looking man from the table next to them couldn't hold back his rage anymore and lashed out, "What a shameless person you are! Fooling with other girls when you already have a boyfriend."

As soon as others heard this, they started gesticulating again...

"You shouldn't hoodwink a young girl just because you're good-looking."

"Yes. That's immoral!"

Louis was notably dismayed and looked at them perplexedly as he hurriedly explained, "No, you've misunderstood..."

Unfortunately, his voice was soon drowned out by the chatters around.

Louis was on the brink of tears. If he had known things would turn out this way, he would have booked the entire restaurant.

He thought the more the merrier, and such a romantic and memorable moment between him and Charlotte should be blessed with a cheerful and lively atmosphere. Thus, he did not proceed with booking the entire restaurant. However, never would he have expected things to unfold into such a regrettable embarrassment.

At that moment, Charlotte restrained herself from laughing and asked Louis deliberately, "No wonder I've always thought there's something fishy between the two of you. Be honest and tell me. Are you two really in a relationship?"

"No, I swear." Louis raised his hand as he exclaimed, "Zachary and I are just friends. We're not in a relationship."

"Then why did you ask him to come?" Charlotte asked rather sullenly. "I thought it was only you and I."

"I really didn't invite him. He came on his own..." In a hurry, Louis blurted out, "He was afraid that I would be deceived, so he came to warn me."

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"Deceived? What do you mean by that?" Charlotte gave him a dubious look.

"Um..." It was only then that Louis realized that he had let it slip out, and all of a sudden, he was at a loss for words.

Right in that instance, Zachary came in from outside.

Louis uttered hastily, "Charlotte, we'll talk about that later."

Charlotte didn't press him, but the gaze she cast at Zachary turned even more piercing. This filthy man took Louis to Sultry Night on purpose and even slandered me in front of Louis, huh? I'll take care of this. Just you wait.

Earlier, Zachary received a call from Henry, who questioned why he wasn't accompanying Cynthia at the hospital and where he was.

Zachary told him that he had some business to deal with Louis and would be visiting Cynthia later.

As a result, Henry compelled him to be at the hospital before ten o'clock.

At that, Zachary agreed.

Looking at the time, it was already past nine o'clock, and it would take some time for him to get to the hospital. Hence, he was only left with around ten minutes before he had to leave.

"Zachary, your wine is ready. Let's taste it."

Louis felt guilty for letting it slipped earlier, so he tried to please Zachary.

The waiter had already poured half a glass of wine for him.

Zachary took a sip and returned placidly, "Not bad."

"Mr. Nacht, stalking is against the law. Are you aware of that?" Charlotte started suddenly.

"What?" Zachary squinted.

"Why? Do you want me to show you the evidence?" Charlotte scrolled for a picture on her phone. "Isn't this a gadget from your company?"

Zachary turned and saw two mechanical doves which had been blown up completely. Isn't that the prototype of Robbie's research project? How did it end up with her?

"It's been twice in a row that you infiltrated my house with this sort of inferior technological products to film and stalk me." Charlotte took her phone back and added detachedly, "I'm considering taking legal action against you."

"Stalking? Is that true?"

Louis looked at Zachary with an appalled expression. It seemed as though he didn't think that Zachary would actually commit such an act.

"Sue me then." Zachary didn't seem to be bothered. "I can sue you for trespassing and triggering your pet's prey drive to attack others. Oh, right, that pet eagle of yours is one of the nation's protected species of which breeding is prohibited!"

"Oh, what do you know? I've obtained a permit, and I'm a legal breeder." Charlotte glowered at him indifferently.

"Are you really keeping an eagle?" Louis paled upon listening to that.

"I do keep one," Charlotte answered placidly.

"[..."

"That eagle is predacious. Here's what it did to me."

Zachary raised his hand and showed the few deep scars on it which had yet to fully recover.

"My goodness, are these left by the eagle?" Louis was utterly perturbed. "Even a person like you have been hurt, let alone me..."

"That time at the forest near Ashenville Garden," Zachary looked at Charlotte indifferently as he continued, "if it wasn't for me, your pretty big eyes would have been long gone."

"I didn't ask you to save me." Charlotte returned crankily.

"Fine." Zachary nodded and solemnly warned, "Your pet eagle frightened my children at home today, and I have yet to settle this score with you. This is the first warning. If it happens again, I'll be sure to rid it of its feathers and braise it!"

"How dare you!" Charlotte raised an eyebrow.

"Try me." Zachary shot her daggers and rose from his seat to leave. "I'm leaving. Take care, Louis."

"Zachary, Zachary!" Louis called out to him.

But Zachary didn't respond.

Louis watched as Zachary's figure slowly disappeared from his sight, and he then turned to Charlotte agitatedly. "Charlotte, why are you keeping an eagle as your pet?"

"I like it, so I keep it," Charlotte replied coldly. "Is there any problem with that?"

"No..." Louis continued to look at her meekly. "I just think that an eagle is too ferocious, so I have a suggestion. Why don't you keep some other small pets? If you like birds, I'd recommend keeping a little parrot!"

A little parrot?

For some reason, those words sounded inexplicably cordial to Charlotte.

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"Charlotte, I've bought tickets for an opera. Shall we go see it together later?" Louis asked tentatively.

"I can't. I have other things to attend to." Feeling bored, Charlotte got up and left.

"Charlotte, Char-"

Watching as Charlotte left, Louis didn't feel reluctant; instead, he heaved a sigh of relief.

Looking down, there was a scar on the purlicue of his right palm.

It was a bite mark left by the pet snake kept by Danrique. He almost died then.

Hence, even until now, he was still terrified of feral wild animals.

Initially, he thought that Charlotte would be different from her brother, but he didn't expect that...

Thinking about ferocious beasts sent a chill down his spine.

At that time, Zachary was still driving on the road when a dash of silver darted forward at the speed of lightning by his car.

Eyeing the silver glint in front of him, his lips curled up into a half-smile.

"Is that someone from the Lindberg family?" Bruce saw the silver dash, and he was greatly astonished. "Such staggering driving skills!"

"Yeah," Zachary responded and then added, "Go after it."

"Yes." His bodyguard floored the gas pedal and chased after it.

Nevertheless, the speed of the car in front was too fast for him to catch up.

Zachary frowned and ordered, "Move. Let me drive!"

"Yes, Mr. Nacht." The bodyguard activated the cruise control and shifted to the passenger seat.

Zachary took over the driver seat from the backseat, and with several smooth operations, the car accelerated immediately and shot ahead at the speed of light toward the car in front.

In the blink of an eye, Zachary's car had already caught up with the silver one.

Staring at the rearview mirror, Morgan shouted anxiously, "Damn, they've caught up."

"It can't be. They were so far behind just moments ago."

Lupine quickly turned around. There it is. The car has really caught up to us.

Very soon, both cars were in parallelism and unison. They were like two flashes of lightning, one black and one silver, which dashed forward at a heightened speed.

Morgan turned around and gasped. "The driver seems to be Zachary!"

"Not the bodyguard?" Lupine turned around again.

Charlotte followed suit, and from the blurred sight outside the window, she saw the familiar figure.

At the same time, he was also looking this way.

"Drive faster!" Charlotte ordered.

"Yes." Morgan was still speeding up, but no matter how she accelerated, the Rolls-Royce next to her could always keep up without slowing down by even a wee bit.

She was so flustered that she broke into a sweat, and her grip on the steering wheel tightened. At that instant, she dared not slack at all.

"It seems like Zachary's skills surpassed that of his bodyguards greatly." Lupine was very concerned for Morgan.

"You're stating the obvious!" Morgan's eyebrows were almost knitted together. "His bodyguard's skill is on par with mine, but Zachary's adeptness was far beyond my level."

"Is he really that incredible?" Charlotte stared at the car beside them and uttered all of a sudden, "Get off the highway from the side exit."

"What?" Morgan was very surprised. That's a sudden change of route.

"Just do as I said," Charlotte growled out lowly.

"Yes." Morgan immediately changed lanes and slid down the ramp.

The sudden departure of the silver Rolls-Royce left its black twin deserted. It was back on its own again.

However deft he was, without any competition and comparison, there was no one to witness his pre-eminence.

Back in the black car, Zachary was rendered utterly speechless. He could never understand how the mind of a woman worked.

He thought that it could be another match for him to showcase his driving skills, but never would he have expected that they were playing foul again...

Women are indeed naturally shameless!

Zachary was disinterested and didn't even feel like driving anymore, but since the speed had already been heightened, there was no way he could return to the backseat and let the bodyguard drive anymore. Thus, he could only continue driving.

Soon, they arrived at Serene Hospital.

As soon as he got off the car, Zachary saw Spencer, which caught him by surprise. "Mr. Spencer, you're here?"

"Mr. Nacht was worried and insisted on coming, so I had to accompany him," Spencer explained. "He asked me to come and wait for you here when he sees that it's about time."

"That's even better than how he treats me."

Zachary was a little surprised. He knew that Cynthia had been taking care of Henry in these two years, which created a bond between them. Nonetheless, Zachary didn't expect that it would be so strong.

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"Mr. Nacht is a decent man who cherishes the people around him," Spencer lamented. "Ms. Blackwood has been sparing no effort in taking care of Mr. Nacht these two years. Now that she met an accident, it's only normal for Mr. Nacht to be concerned."

"Yeah." Zachary nodded and didn't say anything else.

Reaching the ward, they were about to knock on the door and enter when they heard Henry's voice from the ward. "Just stay with us with some peace of mind in the future. It so happens that a small building there has been modified into a clinic, which will be convenient for you to recuperate."

Upon hearing that, Zachary pushed open the door and stepped in.

"Zachary, here you are!" Taylor greeted him enthusiastically, "Quick, come and take a seat."

"Alright." Zachary nodded politely and greeted Henry, "Grandpa!"

"What took you so long?" Henry glowered at him in displeasure.

"Something's up with Louis, so I went over," Zachary explained again patiently.

"That's fine. Come and sit." Taylor beckoned him with great warmth.

Zachary walked over to the side of the hospital bed, and it was only then, did he finally look at Cynthia and ask, "Are you alright?"

"I'm fine, thanks." Cynthia gestured in sign language.

She had recovered a lot even though her countenance was still pale. Generally, there was no problem with her situation anymore.

"That's good. Get treated and recover soon," Zachary uttered courteously.

"Alright. Thanks." Cynthia nodded and smiled at him.

Rather awkwardly, Zachary sat by the bed. He was at a loss for words, and such was the situation he was most afraid of dealing with as he had nothing to talk about.

"Cynthia would be discharged tomorrow." Henry announced directly, "I've already told them to let her stay at your house. It's more convenient for her to receive treatment."

"I'm afraid that's not really appropriate." Zachary frowned.

"What's wrong with that? It's not like she has never stayed there." Henry was very insistent. "When Ellie was sick, Cynthia stayed there for a month and spent all her time taking care of Ellie. Have you forgotten about that?"

Zachary was speechless, but he refrained from saying too much in front of Taylor and Cynthia.

Besides, Cynthia did take care of Ellie previously, and she deserved credits for that.

After the incident with Charlotte, Ellie had been falling sick very frequently. At first, it was still manageable for Raina. However, as time passed, the drug resistance accelerated, and most of the medication was rendered ineffective.

Ellie fell sick again, and even Raina was panicked. At that time, Henry arranged for Cynthia to treat Ellie. She applied the acupuncture treatment in traditional Chinese medicine, physiotherapy, and massage to help cure Ellie.

Under her attentive care and treatment for a month, not only did Ellie recover, but her body had also grown stronger.

Because of that, Zachary always felt indebted to Cynthia.

"It's settled then." Seeing that Zachary didn't object to it, Henry proceeded with affirming his decision. He said to Raina, who was waiting by the side, "Arrange to send Cynthia over next morning."

Raina took one look at Zachary and replied to Henry respectfully, "Yes, Mr. Nacht. I will."

"Wouldn't that be too much of a hassle for you?" Taylor only showed courtesy after it had been decided.

"Of course not. It's such a spacious house with so many maids around. What hassle is there?" Henry laughed as he added, "Besides, we're like a family. Don't worry about that!"

"Thank you so much." Taylor nodded with a smile and continued, "Mr. Nacht, it's too stuffy in here. Let me wheel you outside to get some air."

"Sure, I need some fresh air as well." Henry tapped Zachary's leg with his crutch and uttered, "You stay here and accompany Cynthia."

There was nothing Zachary could do but only remained silent.

As soon as the two men left, he suddenly remembered something, so he asked, "What happened in that car crash? Was it accidental or intentional?"

Listening to that, Cynthia's expression turned nervous, and the glint in her eyes flickered with guilt as she gestured in agitation, "It was an accident!"

"Really?" Zachary looked at her with a long gaze and sensed that there was something wrong. Despite that, he didn't say anything.

Cynthia nodded and didn't dare to look at him.

"Rest well then." Zachary got up and leave.

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Cynthia wanted him to stay, but he had already turned around and couldn't see her sign language. Her silent call for him to stay was in vain.

She could only look at his back and watch him leave with a dejected feeling.

When Zachary walked out of the ward, Spencer was baffled. "You're out so soon? Shouldn't you be chatting with Ms. Blackwood for a little longer?"

"There's nothing to talk about," Zachary replied placidly. "Oh, right, Mr. Spencer, there should be news from the police, right? What actually happened with this car crash?"

Spencer looked at Cynthia, who was in the ward, and took Zachary to the other side before he replied in a hushed voice, "It was said to be intentional."

"Intentional?" Zachary raised an eyebrow. "Who's behind this?"

"It might be..." Spencer toned down again, "Ms. Sharon."

"So it was her."

Zachary had seen it coming, and he had asked Ben to investigate it. The incident happened at a T-junction, which was only two kilometers away from the Blackwoods' residence. That location had multiple surveillance cameras installed. Hence, it was impossible that the case couldn't be solved.

How could the Blackwoods just let it be when the perpetrator had escaped?

Something didn't seem right.

That was the reason that Zachary had asked Cynthia that question previously.

"But I'm not too sure either." Spencer added lowly, "Mr. Blackwood refused to talk about it, so I didn't press him."

Zachary recalled the night when the incident happened. Sharon was maddened by Charlotte in Ashenville Garden. Given her temper, how could she have just let it be? Nevertheless, she had nowhere to vent her rage, and she ran into Cynthia on her way home, so she ran her car over...

"Mr. Blackwood was worried that Ms. Sharon would bully Ms. Cynthia when she goes home, so Mr. Nacht asked Ms. Cynthia to stay with us." Spencer added, "Mr. Blackwood doesn't usually stay in H City. He's concerned about Ms. Cynthia's safety when he's not around, and that's understandable."

"If that's the case, why doesn't he punish Sharon?" Zachary couldn't reason with it. "She could do this even to her own sister. It's deliberate murder. Cynthia could have been killed if she wasn't lucky."

"You're right. That's what I've been thinking as well." Spencer heaved a sigh. "Nevertheless, both of them are his daughters. Mr. Blackwood may have his own concerns. I heard that in the past few days, they have locked her up and are ready to teach her some lesson."

"Taylor is too gentle. Sooner or later, his parenting style would cause him troubles." Zachary was lazy to comment further, so he turned to leave. "Tell Grandpa that I'm leaving first."

"Aren't you going to stay a little longer? Mr. Nacht is going to get mad again when he doesn't see you around later..."

Before Spencer could finish his sentence, Zachary had already entered the elevator.

Spencer let out a sigh and turned around to find Henry.

As soon as Zachary got in the car, his other phone rang. Even though that person had changed their number, he immediately recognized that it was Charlotte.

Gesturing, he signaled Bruce and the rest to stay quiet as he picked up the call...

"Hello?"

"Come pick me up." She was like a queen giving her command.

"Where are you?"

"Sultry Night."

"I'll be there in thirty minutes."

Hanging up the call, Zachary ordered Bruce instantly, "Ask Marino to drive the Pagani over, and we shall meet up at somewhere near Sultry Night."

"Got it." Bruce immediately contacted Marino.

Meanwhile, poor Marino was still on his knees. When he got the call asking him to meet up with Zachary, he leaped excitedly, but his knees weakened, and he almost slumped to the ground.

"Are you okay? Can you still drive?"

"Yes, I can. I'll get there right away."

Marino hurried over to the underground garage.

Looking at Marino's joyful figure leaving, Ben was both envious and dejected. Mr. Nacht is heartless. How can he forget about me? I've been kneeling here for the entire day. Why isn't he making up any excuse to let me go?

"Ben!" Suddenly, Marino turned around at Ben.

Ben immediately straightened his back.

"Mr. Nacht asked you to head over to Sultry Night with the rest."

"Sure. I'll be there in a minute!"

Ben and the other bodyguards were exhilarated.

They could finally stop kneeling and would even have the opportunity to see the pretty women at Sultry Night. Mr. Nacht isn't that heartless after all...

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Twenty minutes later, both cars met after going down.

Zachary commanded when he boarded the car. "Squad One, follow me to the Sultry Night. Squad Two, head back."

"Sure." Ben was elated when he heard that.

On the contrary, Bruce felt a little upset.

Whenever Zachary went to Sultry Night, Ashenville Garden, or other fun places, he would bring Ben and Marino, who were both in Squad One. Whereas he always had to do tiresome yet fruitless work since he was in the other squad.

"Have a good rest." Zachary gave a casual reminder.

Bruce straightened his back immediately. It was as if he gained a huge amount of strength.

"Thank you." Ben patted Bruce's shoulder and brought his men to the car.

Bruce watched them leave, and his subordinates behind sighed. "When would Mr. Nacht take us to Sultry Night too."

"There'll be a chance!"

When they reached Sultry Night, Zachary got changed and fixed his hair. He then checked himself in the mirror before getting down the car.

Sultry Night had always been flooded with clubbers who were mostly young and attractive people.

Zachary squeezed his way into the crowd, trying to get into the private room. But he was stopped by three rich plus-sized ladies.

The three of them scrutinized him in excitement, and one of them said in surprise, "It's really you. I really didn't expect to meet Mr. Gigolo here after two years, hahaha..."

"We were regretful for the longest time ever since we lost our chance to sleep with you," another one piped up.

"Hey, handsome, name your price. We can afford anything. As long as you manage to please us greatly, you can request as much as you want!"

The three ladies were getting more excited, and they got even closer when they spoke.

Zachary didn't want to deal with them, but he saw a familiar silhouette looking at him nearby. So he didn't avoid them and said nonchalantly, "I already have plans!"

Then, he wanted to walk past them and left.

But one of the women grabbed onto his clothes and refused to let him leave.

"Don't go, handsome. We can afford tenfold of what the others can give you."

"Yes, there's three of us here, and that would be thirtyfold in total."

"C'mon, please consider it. We're very experienced..."

At the same time, the three rich ladies were reaching out to Zachary, craving thirstily for him...

Zachary frowned and quickly stepped back to dodge them. But the three women came up to him immediately...

When the three of them were about to pin Zachary down on the couch, a hand suddenly grabbed Zachary away from the back...

Zachary turned his head and saw Charlotte, who was in a white outfit, looking cool yet alluring. Pulling him behind her, she shielded and protected him like a queen.

On the other hand, the three women were sprawled out on the couch, looking disheveled.

They got up angrily and yelled, "Which one of you b*tches dares to steal our man away!"

"Mind you language." Lupine growled.

"He is my man." Charlotte rested an arm on Zachary's shoulder and announced domineeringly. "Are you guys trying to hit on him? Are you tired of living?"

Zachary curled his lips, his eyes glistening with bizarre radiance.

Even with a different personality, this woman is quite charming!

The three ladies finally stood up. One was calling someone on the phone, one was adjusting her dress, and the other one was cursing at Charlotte. "You b*tch, how dare you..."

Before she could finish her words, she was stunned and looked at Charlotte in a daze. "It's you?"

Charlotte frowned at her response. What's going on? Do they know me?

"You again?"

"That's outrageous. You b*tch. Two years ago, you sold him to us for a million, then drugged us and ran away with him, together with the money. Luckily, we canceled the cheque in time, or we would have fallen for your tricks!"

"We're not letting you go today!"

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As she spoke, the bodyguard of the three rich women had arrived. They were all tall and heavily built.

Zachary took a glance. Aren't these the same people two years ago?

The same group of people, the same location, and the timing seemed to be the same too...

But the current Charlotte was completely different from Charlotte in the past.

"Is there anyone else?" Charlotte pointed at the six muscular bodyguards. She raised her brows and jeered, "Just the six of you?"

"What do you mean?" The three rich women became furious. "They're enough to deal with you."

"That's right! After her!"

As soon as he spoke, the six muscular bodyguards charged towards Charlotte.

Charlotte smirked and made a gesture with her hand.

Upon that, Lupine and Morgan moved swiftly. In just a split second, a few flying kicks had sent the six burly men crashing onto the floor immediately, and they moaned in pain while holding their stomachs.

The three rich women were left dumbfounded at the scene. They definitely did not expect the two girls could have such great moves and strength!

"Who's next?" Charlotte made a gesture.

"You... you better watch out!"

Color drained from the three women's faces, but they continued to attack with their words for the sake of their ego.

Lupine and Morgan balled their fists, and that immediately scared the three of them away. Before they head out, they even kicked their bodyguards and reprimanded them, "Useless trash. Get up!"

The six bodyguards quickly got up and left in a fluster.

"Are you alright?" Charlotte turned her head to check on Zachary. "Did they manage to do anything to you?"

"Do I look that weak?" Zachary pulled her into an embrace and leaned closer to her. "Hmm?"

"Let go!" Charlotte struggled, but she couldn't break free from his grasp. "You're quite strong," she raised her brow and said.

"Did you forget who saved you the other time?" Zachary's luscious lips caressed her cheeks lovingly and growled into her ears. "Well? Are you having dinner tonight?"

His alluring breath lingered at her ears, leaving her with tingling sensations. It was as if she had been electrocuted, and the heat was radiating from her.

Charlotte's body tensed up, and she placed her hands upon his chest anxiously, stopping him from leaning closer. "Stop fooling around. Let go of me!"

Behind her, Lupine and Morgan exchanged a look with their brows knitted, clearly conflicted.

They had never met a situation like this, so they did not know if they should help.

"Alright." Zachary let go of his arms, then wrapped them around her shoulder and walked towards the private room. "What would you like to do today?"

"Do you seriously think I'm that free?" Charlotte rolled her eyes at him. "I'm meeting a client. Wait for me next door, and we'll go out after I'm done."

"You're meeting a client here?"

Zachary's eyes narrowed. In fact, he often met his clients here, but they dealt with shady businesses.

Could it be that Lindberg Corporation had such deals too?

"Yup." Charlotte raised her head and looked towards the other side of the corridor. A few foreigners with unfamiliar faces came in. Their expressions were stern and cold, looking fully guarded.

Charlotte motioned at her bodyguards, and Morgan came up to Zachary. "This way please."

Stealing a glance at the foreigners, Zachary then followed Morgan into the private room next door.

At the same time, Charlotte walked into another private room with the foreigners.

After the door closed, they didn't do anything but stood aside.

Lupine poured a glass of wine for Charlotte and whispered, "You mentioned before that he had a problem?"

"You'll know by his reaction if there're any problems."

Charlotte swirled the wine in her glass and stared at the glass door coldly.

"That's right," Lupine said angrily, "Just this morning, he exhibited mad driving skills at the mountains. Yet, tonight, we also found out that Zachary's driving skills were of the same standards as well. Is it really that coincidental?"

"I don't think Zachary is dumb." Morgan stood beside the door and peeked outside. "If that's really him, why would he give it away within a day?"

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"That's true." Lupine nodded in agreement.

"Stop with the nonsense." Charlotte gestured.

Lupine immediately switched on the laptop and pulled up a video. Not long after, everything that was happening in the private room opposite was shown on the screen.

From the screen, Zachary was leaning on the sofa lazily while smoking a cigar.

At the same time, a waitress was seen crouching down beside him, mixing up some drinks.

Although this looked like nothing much, it somehow gave people a sense of oppression.

"Is he really a gigolo?" Lupine stared at the laptop screen in disbelief. "His aura is no joke!"

"Zachary indeed has an intimidating aura too. But both of them are completely different." Morgan analyzed. "Also, Zachary is self-centered, so I don't think he'll give up his ego and pretend to be a gigolo."

"Yeah." Both of Charlotte's subordinates felt that it could not have been Zachary.

Nonetheless, Charlotte continued to stare at the screen, watching the way he smoked his cigar, the way he drank, and even the way he tousled his hair. Everything felt oddly familiar...

But the feeling of familiarity felt friendly and warm.

This was different from the mixed feelings she felt from Zachary.

Hence, she felt like she should believe him even if it was just by instinct.

Charlotte was about to call it when the gigolo in the private room opposite stood up...

Lupine and Morgan quickly stared at the screen. It couldn't be...

"Sir, what would you like?" The waitress asked politely.

The gigolo took out a pile of cash and passed it to her. He then added, "You don't have to serve here. Go and stand outside the private room right across the hallway."

"Huh? Why?" The waitress asked softly.

In the meantime, Lupine gritted her teeth with anger in front of the laptop. "I should've known!"

"Even if he's not Zachary, he still has ill intentions," Morgan said furiously, "How dare a scumbag like him scam Ms. Lindberg!"

Charlotte knitted her brows tightly, her eyes staring at the screen with a complicated gaze. Just who is this man?

"Go and stand watch by the door." The gigolo pointed at the outside and instructed, "If you hear any screams, cries, or calls for help from a woman, signal me immediately."

At that, Lupine and Morgan exchanged a glance, looking confused. What does this mean?

Similarly, Charlotte found it weird as well. Why would he ask for such an odd request?

"I'm sorry, Sir. I wouldn't dare do so if you don't explain it to me properly." The waitress was smart, and it was expected of someone who received money from both sides. "Those people in the other room are all big shots, and they're not to be offended."

"That host in the other room is my girlfriend. She is having a business meeting with her client, but I'm afraid that she would be taken advantage of." The gigolo was getting anxious by the second. "Are you going? If not, I'm going to find someone else."

"Alright, alright. I'm going now."

The waitress quickly took the money and left with her tray.

After she left, the gigolo walked to the door and took a glance outside, looking worried.

"Now that's more like it!" Morgan was moved instantly at his gesture. "We've totally misunderstood him. He is not Zachary, and he doesn't have any ill intentions. He only wants to protect Ms. Lindberg."

"Yeah, I feel so guilty..." Lupine was touched as well. "Even though he is a gigolo, he is sincere towards Ms. Lindberg."

"Alright!" Charlotte switched off the laptop and ordered, "The test is over!"

After that, she turned to leave...

The waitress outside was unprepared and almost collided with her. Instantly, she was met with Charlotte's cold gaze and quickly apologized, "I'm so sorry..."

Without saying a word, Charlotte strode away and opened the door of the room opposite.

"You're done?"

Zachary glanced outside and into the room. The foreigners were nowhere to be found. It seemed like he was right, it was all just a test...

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"Yeah, I'm done." Charlotte's gaze soften when she looked at Zachary. "Let's go for a drive."

"Sure." Zachary picked up the car keys on the table, wrapped his arms around Charlotte's shoulder, and walked towards the back door.

Lupine and Morgan, together with all the other six female bodyguards, followed behind.

Zachary waved his hands and said, "Don't follow us. Go have some fun."

"But..."

When Lupine was about to speak, Charlotte cut in and ordered, "Do as he said."

"Alright." Lupine and the others stopped in their tracks.

"Where would you like to go tonight?"

Zachary enjoyed such a night. He could even give up his sleep if he could spend time with her like this.

"The beach..." When Charlotte was speaking, a sexy girl in a bunny costume was heading towards her. The girl's eyes widened in shock upon seeing Charlotte. "Charlotte?"

Charlotte stopped in her tracks and looked at her in confusion. "Do you know me?"

"How could I not know you?" The sexy bunny girl grabbed Charlotte's hand and exclaimed, "I'm Kristi. Kristi Duffy. Do you not remember me?"

Charlotte furrowed her brows in confusion.

Meanwhile, Zachary narrowed his eyes and scrutinized this girl meticulously. Judging by her outfit, she should be a hostess from Sultry Night. I think Charlotte used to be a hostess in Sultry Night as well. Is she her ex-colleague?

"Did you really forget who I am? Aww, that's too bad. Charlotte, we used to be colleagues." Kristi was saddened. "I even pretended to be you and helped you lied to your boyfriend."

"Boyfriend?" Charlotte was even more confused.

"It's the... Uh..." Before Kristi could finish her words, someone stepped on her foot. Her eyes welled up from the pain that instant. "Who stepped on my foot?"

Just then, a group of girls dressed in cat costumes came in in a swamp from the back and shoved Kristi away...

"Let's go."

Zachary took the chance and brought Charlotte away. It was a close call as Kristi almost let everything out.

However, Zachary had recalled everything. Charlotte used to sell liquor here. When he heard about that, he became furious and came all the way there. Then she found a girl with a mask to cover her, and that girl was Kristi.

Thus, Kristi knew Charlotte's boyfriend was Zachary.

If she had a slip of the tongue, it would have been troublesome.

But luckily, she didn't know about the existence of that gigolo, or everything would be exposed right then and there.

"Charlotte, Charlotte, don't go..." Kristi turned her head and called out for Charlotte. "Even if you don't remember me, you should at least remember Olivia, right? She had been looking for you..."

After hearing what she said, Charlotte froze in her tracks and turned around...

Unfortunately, Kristi was forced back into the club by the rest of the girls.

Charlotte frowned and thought long about Olivia. The woman's name felt so familiar as if she was her long-lost close friend...

Before they knew it, they had left Sultry Night and boarded the car.

Even so, Charlotte was still lost in her thoughts.

"What's the matter?" Zachary buckled her seatbelt for her.

"You said that we used to be together, yes?" Charlotte pondered. "Do you know that Kristi girl?"

"Nope." Zachary adjusted the seat for her as well.

"Then what about Olivia?" Charlotte's brows drew together.

"Nope." Zachary tousled her hair. "What happened to you? You couldn't remember anything?"

"I've lost part of my memories..." Charlotte mumbled to herself. "I knew that there were blanks here and there, but I can't remember anything at all. Ever since I came back, I visited some familiar places, and bits and pieces of my memories would come back occasionally..."

"What do you remember?" Zachary cupped her face in his hands tenderly.

"I remember you." Charlotte raised her head and looked at him. "My memories about you are the clearest!"

"Are they good memories?" Zachary caressed her lips with his thumb gently.

"Yes." Charlotte nodded. "Tenderness, warmth, and happiness – they were all good feelings..."

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"That's good!"

Zachary smiled. At least his identity as a gigolo had made a positive impression on her.

"Let's go." Charlotte pushed his hand away lightly.

"I can make you feel even better," Zachary said quietly as he wrapped a hand around the back of Charlotte's head and inched closer to her.

"What-" Charlotte got cut off by Zachary's lips landing on her own.

Zachary's kisses were as gentle as dewdrops landing on flower petals, showering her with love and affection.

Charlotte was reluctant at first and pushed him away feebly, but she soon melted into his embrace.

She felt strangely familiar with his touch. It was as if her body had already gotten used to him, like her instincts were already tuned in with his.

Thus, she didn't feel repulsed at all. On the contrary, she wanted even more.

However, Zachary didn't keep going. He pulled away quickly and caressed her cheek with his large, warm palm. He used his thumb to wipe away the stains next to her mouth, looking at her with a gaze full of tenderness.

Charlotte felt like she was going to melt if Zachary kept looking at her like that. "We must have really been in love back then."

"We sure were," Zachary said softly as he pressed his forehead to hers.

"What happened to us?" Charlotte asked in confusion.

"It's a long story." Zachary didn't know how to begin explaining their messy past to her. All he could do was change the subject for now. "I want to take you somewhere."

"Okay." Charlotte nodded.

"Aren't you going to ask me where I'm taking you?" Zachary smirked. "What if I was going to sell you off or something?"

"No one would dare to buy me anyway," Charlotte rebutted with a cocky raised eyebrow.

"True."

Zachary started driving.

At the same time, Charlotte could quietly enjoy the nighttime scenery since they were on the highway.

For some odd reason, the bright neon lights and hustle and bustle of the city all seemed so familiar to Charlotte.

Soon enough, they arrived at a pretty, green street.

The street was encased by two rows of tall green trees. Behind them stood two red brick walls which seemed comforting and homely.

That familiar feeling started becoming stronger and stronger in Charlotte's gut. She looked around and noticed a tall green sign that said "Happy Avenue."

Charlotte's heart started feeling warm and cozy at the sight of that name.

"Where are we?" Charlotte asked.

"This is Happy Avenue," Zachary introduced as he slowed down. "We used to live here."

"The two of us?" Charlotte said in surprise. She hadn't expected the two of them to have had that serious of a relationship.

"And also-"

Zachary quickly cut himself off before he could say, "...our three children."

"What?" Charlotte asked halfheartedly. She was paying too much attention to the scenery around them to notice anything else.

"Do you remember anything?" Zachary quickly changed the topic.

"I feel like I've been here before, but nothing concrete yet."

Charlotte frowned as she looked around at her surroundings.

Right then, Zachary stopped his car in front of the first building on Happy Avenue and pointed toward a window on the sixteenth floor. "Look. That's where we used to live."

Charlotte lifted her head and looked toward the window that was lit brightly, giving her a sense of warmth.

She suddenly felt some fragments of memories flashing past her eyes. It looked like a large family having dinner cheerfully and noisily, but she couldn't make out anyone's features.

All she could gather was that she once had a family.

Charlotte tried her best to piece together the fragments, but her head started aching sharply. She held her head in her hands, trying her best not to think about it so much.

"What's wrong?" Zachary immediately hugged her.

"My head hurts," Charlotte groaned in pain.

"It's alright. Don't think about it anymore." Zachary immediately drove off.

As Happy Avenue disappeared behind them, so did the familiar sensation that Charlotte was feeling. Her headache was slowly dissipating as well, but a strange subtle sadness started to take its place.

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Zachary felt immensely conflicted at the sight of Charlotte in pain. He wanted her to remember her past, but it hurt him to see her in pain.

If she couldn't remember, she wouldn't be able to step past their families' feud and be together with him. Even more importantly, she wouldn't be able to be with the kids again.

If she remembered her past, that meant she would remember both the good and the bad things, including that heartless wedding and the bloody attack that had happened to her in T Nation.

It didn't really matter who attacked her since it all started because of the Nacht family anyway. She would never forgive him if she knew.

Hence, Zachary felt torn between the two possibilities.

At that moment, he caught a glimpse of a few armored black cars tailing them in his peripheral vision.

His gaze narrowed in on them, and he started speeding off.

"Someone's following us."

Charlotte noticed them quickly as well and stared at the rearview mirror coldly. She was trying to figure out who they were, but she couldn't catch a proper glimpse.

"Are they your enemies or something?" Zachary couldn't see anyone properly either. After all, they had to be heavily armored for a reason.

"Probably," Charlotte replied.

She continued staring into the rearview mirror as she tapped on her watch and sent her location to Lupine.

Lupine immediately sensed that she was in trouble and started heading her way.

"Don't worry. I can get rid of these small fry."

Zachary sped up even more, preparing to leave those cars behind in the dust.

"Drive slower," Charlotte suddenly commanded.

"Why?" Zachary asked in confusion.

"If they can't catch up to us, how am I going to see who they are?" Charlotte smirked. "Us Lindbergs don't just run away from something like this. We're well-versed in going with the flow after all."

"None of your subordinates are here. Aren't you scared that I won't be able to hold them back?"

Zachary was starting to suspect that the people chasing them was just a test that Charlotte had set up for him.

"Obviously you won't be able to," Charlotte said as she started breaking down what she could see.

"There are four people in each of those cars. That makes twelve people who have been able to tail us in those armored cars without us noticing until now. That calls for high investigation skills which means they'll be prepared for a fight too. Someone as sentimental as you may know some moves, but you won't be able to compare to professional assassins."

"Sentimental?" Zachary chuckled at Charlotte's use of the word.

"Am I wrong?" Charlotte rolled her eyes at him. "Slow down. They're about to lose us."

Zachary slowed down again.

"You're a pretty good driver. Where did you pick up your skills?" Charlotte started chatting with Zachary as she continued staring into the rearview mirror.

"I'm self-taught," Zachary said as he glanced at her. "You've changed quite a lot. It seems like you've learned quite a lot these past two years."

"Obviously," Charlotte scoffed with a raised eyebrow. "You can only protect yourself if you get stronger."

I can protect you too. Zachary murmured inwardly. He had failed to do so two years ago, so he was going to make sure he protected her now that he had her again.

"It's not like I can depend on anybody," Charlotte scoffed coldly. "They might end up hurting me in the end."

Zachary fell silent at that. She was right, after all.

The three cars managed to catch up to them, and they immediately started rushing toward Pagani.

That didn't even faze Zachary, who managed to dodge casually.

Those cars continued to chase them nonetheless.

Zachary kept playing cat and mouse with them, except he was more cat-like as he managed to stay just out of their way every time.

No matter how those cars changed lanes or tactics, they didn't manage to bump into the Pagani.

In this cat-and-mouse chase, the cat failed to catch up to the sly mouse. In fact, the cat was obviously starting to get frustrated.

Charlotte smirked. "Your driving skills are pretty impressive."

"Just wait and see. They're about to start getting angry."

Right as Zachary spoke, the car windows opened, and some masked people started shooting at the Pagani's tires.

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Zachary immediately started dodging the bullets nimbly. Despite so, the three cars continued to stick close to them.

They kept shooting at the tires but never aimed toward either Zachary or Charlotte.

It was obvious that they were told to bring the two of them back alive.

On one hand, Zachary was busy driving and dodging their bullets.

Charlotte, on the other hand, was watching their every move in the rearview mirror. She realized soon enough who they were. "They're from the Nacht family!"

Zachary was taken aback and looked into the rearview mirror as well.

From the guns they were using, it did seem like they were from the Nacht residence.

Apart from that, he could tell the race of the two leaders even under their masks and caps.

These were Zara's subordinates.

"How dare he," Charlotte muttered as she gritted her teeth. "How dare that jerk, Zachary, send people after me?"

Zachary frowned. Why did she only think of me when she thought about the Nacht family?

Zara was the one doing all the ruthless, cruel things.

Suddenly, Zachary thought of something.

Two years ago, after Charlotte got into trouble, Zachary had gone up against Zara and hurt her pretty badly. Henry had even stopped Zara from stepping into H City as long as he was alive.

Charlotte had only shown herself two days ago and hadn't even revealed herself to the public yet. How did Zara found her and managed to send people after her?

Did Charlotte manage to catch the eye of one of Zara's informants these last two days?

Suddenly, a loud bang sounded.

One of Pagani's back tires had gotten shot. Luckily, it was a luxury car and had automatic emergency braking system.

Zachary immediately parked by the roadside.

"Wait in the car-"

"Wait for me in the car, okay?" Charlotte instructed. "Don't worry. I won't let anything happen to you!"

"Are you sure about that?" Zachary felt like laughing. He was just about to say the exact same thing.

"Duh," Charlotte said as she rolled her eyes and got off the car.

Zachary didn't get off. Instead, he shifted into parking mode and watched the action unfold.

Twelve people came down from the cars, all of them as tall and muscular as the next one. The man, who was in charge, walked in front of all of them and looked at Charlotte coldly. "She really does look like her," he said in Ustranasion.

"What do you mean?" Charlotte narrowed her eyes dangerously.

The man in charge didn't say much more. He simply commanded, "Come with us."

"I'm surprised you pieces of trash think you can defeat me," Charlotte scoffed coldly. "I dare you to let Zachary come for himself!"

Zachary suddenly sneezed at the mention of his name. So that myth about sneezing when people are talking about you is really true, he thought helplessly.

"Enough with the small talk," the man in charge said as he waved a hand.

One of the bodyguards immediately stalked toward Charlotte but didn't even get close before she punched him in the nose. He immediately stumbled backward with his nose spurting fresh blood.

Obviously, that bodyguard hadn't expected Charlotte to fight back and definitely hadn't expected that she would be so fast and deadly.

The bodyguard started growing red from both anger and embarrassment and ran forward ready to beat Charlotte up.

Charlotte welcomed his attack calmly. After ten or so rounds, the both of them were still going at it.

Zachary had to hand it to Danrique. I can't believe he managed to change someone as simple as Charlotte into a fighter like this. How did he even train her? I have to say that's pretty impressive.

Soon enough, the bodyguard got defeated.

Next, two of them came toward her at once. Charlotte continued fighting, but she couldn't go against both of them at once and soon stepped down.

Zachary had already expected that to happen. No matter how much Danrique whipped her into shape, skills only got better with time. Being able to defeat a Nacht family bodyguard was already good enough, but it was clear that Charlotte couldn't take so many of them at a time.

Right then, Charlotte got punched and stumbled backward. At the sight of that, Zachary ran out of the car and aimed a sweeping kick toward the both of them that sent them collapsing on the floor.

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When the man in charge saw that Charlotte had help from a professional, he immediately sent all his men against him at once.

They weren't a match for Zachary's skills, however. In just a few minutes, they all collapsed under Zachary's hand. One of them even flew and landed heavily on their windshield before sliding onto the ground below.

Charlotte hadn't expected Zachary to be such a good fighter. Amidst her surprise, she started feeling suspicious about Zachary's true identity.

Once the man in charge noticed how things were no longer going in his favor, he quickly pulled out his gun and aimed it at Zachary. "Don't move, or I'll shoot!"

"Wait, don't-" Charlotte stepped forward, but Zachary immediately pushed her behind him.

"Are you going to shoot me?" Zachary narrowed his eyes dangerously and walked close to the other man. "I'd like to see you try."

"Who are you?" the man cocked his gun.

Charlotte's eyes widened in fear, and she quickly sent a signal to Lupine.

"That's not important," Zachary said as he closed in on the man. His eyes flashed with a murderous glint. "All you have to know is that you can't afford to mess with me."

"You-" the man stammered in anger. He was about to shoot when he caught a closer glimpse at Zachary's eyes. He instantly recognized who it was. "Z-"

His hands started to shake as his gaze started becoming panicky.

Right at that moment, Zachary snatched his gun away swiftly and pressed it against the other man's temple.

"Mr. N-" the man started but changed as soon as he saw Zachary's warning glare. "Don't shoot!"

"Get out of here!" Zachary jerked his head in the direction of the fallen men.

The man in charge called for all his subordinates, and they ran off with their tails between their legs.

They had only just left when Lupine reached. The team of women rushed off their cars and ran toward Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg, are you alright?"

"I'm fine." Charlotte shook her head and reached a hand out to Zachary.

Zachary tossed the gun toward Charlotte and patted his clothes down, which had been messed up by the fight.

Charlotte observed the gun closely and said in slight confusion, "This gun is from M Nation. Zachary's subordinates seem to obey the law enough that they don't often use guns. Could those men be under someone else?"

Finally! Thank God I got my hands on a gun so you could check for yourself.

Instead of saying that out loud, Zachary chose to ask, "How complicated. Who exactly did you mess with?"

"None of your business." Charlotte glared at him and tossed the gun to Lupine. "Wait for me in the car."

"Understood." The bodyguards all got back into the car.

Charlotte turned to look at Zachary. "Thank you for the help."

"No biggie," Zachary said with a smile. "So is our beach date still on or what?"

"Sadly, I have other things to take care of." Charlotte checked her watch and pointed at the Pagani's tire. "Should I call the insurance company or-"

"It's fine. I'll deal with it," Zachary said. "Don't worry and do what you need to do."

"Alright," Charlotte said as she looked at him. Suddenly, she felt like hugging him but held herself back and walked away.

"Hey!" Zachary called out.

Charlotte turned. "What?"

"Did you forget something?"

Zachary's eyes softened with love, and he reached out to pull her into his embrace. Then, his warm lips landed on hers.

A rush of emotions overwhelmed her like a tornado, and she melted into his arms once again.

"Huh?"

In the car, Morgan was watching them with wide eyes.

"Gosh!" Lupine marveled and shook her head. "They move fast, don't they?"

"Love really is fast and furious," Morgan said in admiration.

"Did you suddenly become some love expert?" Lupine rolled her eyes at her and frowned. "If Mr. Lindberg hears about this, he'll be furious."

"You're right," Lupine said in realization. "He did mention that Ms. Lindberg was only allowed to date Sir Louis."

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At the sudden change of topic, both Lupine and Morgan's expressions started darkening. They turned back and no longer thought the kissing couple was romantic; rather, they started worrying for them.

In the meantime, Zachary wasn't willing to let Charlotte go for a long time. He held her cheek in one hand gently and ran his thumb over her lips. "Go do what you have to do. If you need any help, I'm always here for you," he said gently.

"Okay." Charlotte nodded and turned to leave.

Zachary watched her leave as his gaze slowly became undecipherable.

Soon, Charlotte disappeared from his sight.

Ben rushed over with Zachary's subordinates right at that moment. "Mr. Nacht, are you alright?"

They had been secretly following Zachary while keeping their distance.

It was obvious that a fight had taken place based on their surroundings, and the bullet hole in the Pagani's tire was pretty obvious.

"I'm fine," Zachary tossed the Pagani's keys to Marino. "Park this car at Happy Avenue after getting it fixed."

"Understood." Marino drove the Pagani off. Its automatic protection system meant it could still be used for a short amount of time even after one of its tires flattened.

After they got in the car, Ben asked carefully, "What happened just now? Was someone chasing you?"

"They were probably sent by Zara," Zachary said with a frown.

"How could Ms. Nacht have gotten wind of Ms. Lindberg's arrival so quickly? What was she thinking? Why did she want to send people after her? Also, does she know that Ms. Lindberg is actually Ms. Windt?"

Ben shot a string of questions, all of them similar to what Zachary was thinking at that moment.

After a moment of silence, Zachary commanded, "Tell Bruce to keep an eye on Zara and her subordinates as well as Sharon."

"Sharon?" Ben asked in surprise. "Does she have something to do with all this?"

"Apart from the auction, Charlotte has only publicly attended the gala at Ashenville Garden these past few days. There might be some of Zara's informants among the people who joined, but Sharon is the most suspicious right now."

Zachary narrowed his eyes and started to analyze things.

"Two years ago, the Coldbridge police told us that before she got in trouble, Arthit told them that the person who organized the attack on Charlotte was a tall and pretty lady from C Nation. I had already had my suspicions about Sharon then, but I couldn't find any actual evidence. If we put those pieces together and she was actually the woman Arthit saw, she would definitely have gotten furious that she was embarrassed by Charlotte defeating her. She couldn't defeat Charlotte on her own, so she reported to Zara instead."

"So you're saying that the people behind Charlotte getting attacked are Sharon and Ms. Nacht?" Ben asked in shock.

"Sharon is vicious, but she's not physically capable enough. Besides, she doesn't know anything about the drugs, and there's no way she could have found Charlotte in such a short amount of time. Zara is under our surveillance, so she can't do anything personally. That's why Zara is commanding Sharon from behind-the-scenes to do the work!" Zachary concluded.

"That's highly likely," Ben said with a frown. "But as of right now, we don't have any proof."

"That's why Bruce has to keep an eye on them," Zachary said.

"Understood." Ben instantly made the call to Bruce.

Zachary toyed with the wedding ring in his hand as he frowned, trying to remember what happened two years ago. "What exactly is Danrique trying to do?" he mused.

"What?" Ben had just hung up and asked in confusion, "Does Danrique have anything to do with this?"

"If my previous theory proves itself to be true, then why weren't there any records of Sharon's departure? The only explanation is that Danrique wiped the records clean, but why would he do that?"

Zachary couldn't wrap his head around it. "As her brother, he should have gotten revenge for Charlotte right away. Even if he couldn't do it right then and there, there's no reason for him to help Sharon wipe her records. What exactly is he thinking?"

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"We can go against Ms. Nacht and Sharon, but Danrique..."

Ben trailed off. Just then, his expression darkened with the words he didn't say.

The Nachts and the Lindbergs had always been equally matched.

However, the Nachts were burdened with Zara, who kept butting heads with Zachary. She had already caused so many problems for him, and now Danrique had the ultimate trump card on hand – Charlotte.

Thus, Ben was extremely worried.

If Danrique was planning to use Charlotte against Zachary, things would go very badly.

"Let's take it one step at a time," Zachary sighed with a frown. "Even if Charlotte hates me, she'll still have the children in mind. She probably won't become just another one of Danrique's pawns."

Zachary could barely believe his own words.

"Of course," Ben nodded hurriedly. "If Ms. Windt learned the truth about what happened that year, she'll definitely forgive you."

Zachary stayed quiet and looked down. Would she really?

He might be able to explain most things, and she might be able to forgive him for a lot of other things. However, Mrs. Berry's death and the torture that Charlotte faced were definitely going to be hard for her to forgive.

Despite that, Zachary knew he had to worm out the perpetrator so they could give Charlotte a proper explanation.

Zachary looked outside the window. Charlotte's cars were already halfway down the mountain, which meant they were almost home.

In one of the cars, Charlotte started studying the gun. "Find out who owns this gun ASAP," she told Lupine.

"Okay." Charlotte nodded.

Charlotte looked out the window at the pitch-black night sky. Right then, her head suddenly pulsed as the image of a woman leading a big group of black-clothed men to kill her started flashing in her mind.

She closed her eyes and tried to make out the woman's features, but she couldn't put the pieces together.

A strong emotion started burning in her heart – vengeance.

She could already guess that the person who sent those people after her had to have something to do with what happened two years ago.

Two years ago, she woke up in immense pain after being heavily poisoned.

She had also woken up to the sight of Mom's ashes and cried until it felt like she was wrung out.

Her brother had told her that someone had poisoned her and had ruined her poisons. They killed Mom and ran her to the ground until she didn't have an ounce of dignity left.

He had also said, Charlotte, you have to become strong enough to beat those people on your own.

Apparently, that person had something to do with the Nacht family.

That was why she returned to H City.

She thought she would have to put in some effort to worm those people out, but to her surprise, they had practically volunteered themselves up.

Good. It saves time. Hopefully, all of them will come and find me on their own so I can get rid of them at once.

She really had to start picking up the pace, though.

With that in mind, Charlotte commanded, "During South Sea's opening day on the thirteenth, invite as much press as you can. We will make sure everyone hears and sees this event taking place!"

"Understood." Lupine nodded.

It was already late when Zachary reached home. He walked upstairs as he told Ben what to do and heard Spencer call out, "Mr. Zachary!"

"Mr. Spencer, it's pretty late. Aren't you tired?" Zachary turned to look at him.

"We also just returned," Spencer said with a smile. "We've just put Cynthia to bed."

"What?"

Zachary was feeling confused when he spotted Raina coming out of the guest room with two medical staff members behind her.

"You brought her back already?" Zachary said with a frown as his tone slowly got annoyed.

"Why did you let her take that room?"

That was the room that Charlotte lived in before they got married. It had been kept empty since Zachary hadn't allowed anyone to go in there.

Raina saw Zachary's mood worsen and quickly explained, "Cynthia felt unwell when she came in, so Mr. Nacht allowed her to use that room since it has a ventilator and a detector."

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"There's a clinic in the building at the back," Zachary cut her off with a cold glare. "You could have taken her there."

"I'm sorry, sir." Raina bowed her head, not daring to say anything else.

"What's the issue here?" Henry's voice piped up from behind. "You're going to wake our guest up. If you have something to say, say it in the study room."

Zachary was feeling angrier by the second, but he still followed Henry to the study room.

Raina, on the other hand, was feeling nervous, but Ben gestured to her that she didn't need to worry.

Once they reached the study room, Zachary asked angrily, "I thought we agreed to leave her in the building in the back! I don't mind that you brought her here to help, but she doesn't have to live here. Not in that room."

"You agreed that you would spend time with her, so why did you leave early?" Henry asked instead.

"That's completely unrelated!" Zachary said in anger.

"Since you can do whatever you want, I can too," Henry said matter-of-factly. "That room has the best conditions for Cynthia to get better." "This is my house," Zachary blurted out.

"As if you would have this house without me," Henry said with a raised eyebrow. His pride was coming to the forefront again.

"You're just being unreasonable now." Zachary was enraged, but he was trying his best to control it. "I keep trying to close an eye, but you keep pushing things."

"Cynthia saved Ellie's life. The Nacht family owes her that," Henry said. "It doesn't seem right for you to complain so much now that she's heavily injured and is recovering at our house."

"It's not like I'm asking her to leave. I just don't think she should use that room."

"She's in it already. What are you going to do about it?" Henry started in an almost cheeky manner.

"You-" Zachary couldn't finish his sentence in his anger.

"Please calm down, Mr. Zachary," Spencer piped up hurriedly, trying to mediate things. "Mr. Nacht wasn't planning to put her in that room at first, but Ms. Cynthia started having breathing difficulties once she reached and needed oxygen at once. The building at the back wasn't ready yet, so we decided to place her in the guest room for the time being."

"There's no need to explain anything to him," Mr. Nacht said in anger. "It's just a room, for God's sake! Rooms are made for staying in! Are you going to withhold even that from me?"

"Please calm down, Mr. Nacht-"

"Zachary, this is the last time I'm telling you this," Henry thundered. "I gave you everything you own now. Without me, you're worth nothing. If you dare act so recklessly again, I'm going to give Chris all the shares to the Nacht Group. If that happens, Danrique will be able to get rid of you as easily as an ant."

"Are you threatening me right now?" Zachary said with a darkening expression. His gaze became cold. "Do you really think I need you to make a living?" "You can try." Henry jabbed a finger at him fiercely.

"Alright then-"

"Please calm down, Mr. Nacht." Ben quickly stopped Zachary from saying something he would regret.

At the same time, Spencer also advised, "Mr. Henry, please calm down. He's still young."

"Young? He's already thirty!" Henry roared. "The only younglings here are those three greatgrandchildren of mine. He's stuck in the past for some selfish reason and never thinks about his own kids' futures!"

"Who's the selfish one here? If you weren't selfish from the start, would our family turn out like this?"

"How dare you!"

"Please keep your voices down, or the kids will wake up," Spencer hurriedly said. He then indicated for Ben to pull Zachary out of the room.

However, Ben couldn't calm Zachary down enough to do that.

Without a choice, Spencer ended up pushing Henry's wheelchair out. "You're too old to be quarreling with youngsters, Mr. Nacht. If the kids saw you, they'd start talking again."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 763

"Why did you push me out?" Henry growled angrily, "Stop! I haven't told him off enough yet-"

"If you keep going, the kids will wake up, especially Robbie. He'll know what's going on the moment he hears you. By then, it'll be hard to fix your relationship again. Do you want it to go back to how it used to be?"

That served incredibly effective to calm Henry down.

"Mr. Zachary shouldn't have talked back like that. Go back and rest. I'll tell him off for you."

"That cheeky, rude rascal. You better teach him a lesson!"

"I will. Don't you worry."

Spencer finally wheeled Henry away with his smooth words.

Back in the study room, Zachary was so angry that he kicked over the coffee table.

Ben hurriedly advised, "Mr. Nacht, please calm down. The kids might wake up."

Yet Zachary was still huffing in anger.

Ben suddenly thought of something and said, "You mentioned before that Cynthia could help advise Mr. Henry to go back to M Nation, right? This is a good opportunity." Zachary finally calmed down at that. He had almost forgotten.

Charlotte was finally back in H City. Besides that, she was living in Northridge while the Lindberg Corporation was entering the local market steadily. They would start promoting themselves, and Charlotte herself would soon come into the public eye.

By then, he could no longer keep the secret from the kids and Henry.

That was why he had to get Henry back to M Nation as soon as possible before everything else could fall into place.

Suddenly, someone knocked on the door. Raina's voice piped up, "Mr. Nacht, I have something to report."

"Come in," Ben answered.

Raina entered cautiously. "Please don't be angry, Mr. Nacht. The medical staff are already helping Ms. Blackwood move to the other building."

"Did she hear everything?" Zachary asked with a frown.

"Yes." Raina nodded. "She asked me to help arrange everything. The building has already been cleared out, so we just need to-" "She can stay here," Zachary suddenly said.

"Huh?" Raina said in shock.

"Let her stay in the guest room first," Zachary commanded.

"Understood," Raina quickly returned to pass the message. "Mr. Nacht said she can stay here. Hurry up and move her things back to the guest room so she can rest properly." Spencer had just come downstairs to mediate things with Zachary when he heard that and rushed back to report to Henry.

Henry said huffily, "My threat probably put him in place. Looks like he still knows who's the boss."

"Mr. Zachary may speak harshly, but deep down, he still respects you," Spencer said wisely. "You shouldn't push him too far. Just give him some time."

"I don't have the time for that," Henry managed before he started coughing violently. He clutched his chest, trying to breathe in distress.

"Mr. Nacht, you should really start getting some treatment." Spencer hurried over to pat Henry on the back.

"Treatment won't help much. I'm already 98." Henry smiled helplessly. "No matter how powerful I was when I was young, nothing can beat the disease of old age."

"You're not old, Mr. Nacht. You're just as lively as the rest of us," Spencer said with reddening eyes.

"This happens to everyone," Henry said mildly. "I just want to see that rascal put down his past and live a new life before I go."

"He doesn't seem completely heartless toward Ms. Cynthia," Spencer mused. "Now that Ms. Cynthia is staying with us, they'll have plenty of chances to interact. As time goes by, they'll definitely start falling for each other."

"I hope that's the case," Henry said with a sigh. "Once I see them together, I can finally return to M Nation in peace."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 764

Zachary went upstairs and walked past the room. Stopping his tracks at the entrance, he saw a few medical staff helping Cynthia up from the wheelchair and placing her on the bed.

Raina reminded, "Slowly."

Even though they were careful with transferring her onto the bed, the IV needle on the back of Cynthia's hand was pulled, and blood started gushing out.

"Get me the medical kit." Raina instructed the medical staffs before checking on Cynthia.

A few medical staffs took the medical kits and helped her in addressing Cynthia's wound.

One of them blurted out, "Ms. Blackwood was heavily injured, but he ordered us to transfer her to another place and stopped us in the middle of the process. Is he doing this on purpose to torment her?"

Another medical staff chimed in to express her dissatisfaction. "That's right. Ms. Blackwood is too pitiful."

"Shut up!" Raina scolded as she focused on treating her patient's wound.

Seeing how Raina lashed out at them, the two medical staffs lowered their heads and dared not to say another word.

Lying down on the bed, Cynthia was weak, but she wore a gentle smile all the while Raina was treating her wounds. After the doctor was done, she gestured with her hands to thank her.

"Don't sweat it, Ms. Blackwood." The medical staffs were worried about Cynthia.

Seeing everything unfold in front of him, Zachary couldn't help but feel guilty, so he walked into the room.

"Mr. Nacht," Raina hurriedly bowed, greeting him respectfully, while other medical staff followed as their hearts started racing.

They were worried that Zachary might overhear what they said.

The man waved dismissively for Raina and the medical staff to leave the room.

"Did I disturb you just now?" He stood at the end of the bed to put some distance between them.

"I wasn't asleep." Shaking her head, Cynthia smiled and explained using sign language. "My house's currently not safe for staying, and my dad is returning to M Nation. So, Mr. Henry asks me to stay here in the meantime. Sorry for intruding."

She was thoughtful, humble, and gentle that others couldn't bring themselves to hate her.

"Not at all." Zachary said politely, "I wasn't picking on you just now. Please don't mind it."

Cynthia smiled gently. "I understand. I've heard that this room belonged to Mrs. Nacht. Sorry for staying here, and I'll move tomorrow morning."

Zachary's voice was reassuring. "It's fine. The side house is covered in dust, and it isn't suitable to stay. You can stay here. No worries."

"Are you not angry?" Cynthia looked at him anxiously.

"There's nothing to be mad about." With that, Zachary glanced back to make sure that the door was closed. Then he cut to the chase. "I need your help with something."

"Me?" Cynthia widened her eyes in surprise as she pointed at herself. "What can I do for you?"

The man said, "Grandpa's too strict with me, and it's causing a break in our relationship. Plus, I wish he can return to M Nation to rehabilitate as soon as possible since his health isn't very well..."

After pausing for a brief while, the man asked, "Can you help me convince him?"

"Of course. However, my advice may not work. I'll try my best." Cynthia smiled faintly while looking at the man.

"Thank you." After thanking the woman, Zachary turned around and left.

As Cynthia watched him walk away, complicated feelings filled her heart.

Zachary returned to his room and took a bath. He lay down on the bed before taking out Gigolo's phone. Looking at the call logs of conversations with Charlotte, he couldn't help but text her: Are you asleep?

Charlotte didn't reply to his message.

Zachary was disappointed. What is she doing?

At night, Zachary had a weird dream. In his dream, Charlotte was pointing a gun at him as she bombarded him with a flurry of questions. "Why did you send me away and order people to kill me? Why do I have to be humiliated by others because of you? What about Mrs. Berry? Why did you get her killed?"

He wanted to explain everything to her so badly, but he couldn't seem to make a sound.

With a bitter expression, Charlotte was about to pull the trigger at him.

Right at that moment, Henry showed up. He came into view with his wheelchair and took all the blame. "I did everything. It has nothing to do with others."

Charlotte smirked wickedly. "Go to hell!" With

that, she fired at Henry's head.

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Bang! With a loud gunshot, blood splattered onto Zachary's face and got into his eyes.

The man jolted up from sleep as he widened his eyes at the ceiling while panting heavily.

I mustn't let this happen.

Just when he was pondering about it, an excited ear-piercing noise sounded from outside. "Mommy!"

Zachary was slightly startled. Soon after, he got up from the bed hurriedly and put on some clothes before going out to check what had happened.

The three kids woke up in the morning and found out someone was staying in their mother's room. They thought she had returned, so they couldn't control their excitement and rush to the room while yelling.

To their disappointment, it was Cynthia, who was staying in the room.

When they saw her exiting the room in a wheelchair with the help of a medical staff, they froze and stared blankly at her.

Jamie widened his eyes in shock and asked, "Ms. Cynthia, why are you here?"

Disappointment was written all over Ellie's face, but she greeted Cynthia politely. "Ms. Cynthia, are you hurt?"

Meanwhile, Robbie frowned and stayed silent.

Cynthia smiled and explained using sign language. "I got into an accident. There's a clinic at your house, so I was treated here. I'll be staying here for a short while. Sorry for intruding."

Jamie nodded and said, "Oh, so that's how it is. Get well soon."

Ellie gave the woman a smile and said, "Get well soon."

"Thank you, Jamie and Ellie." Cynthia gestured with her hands to thank the kids.

"You're welcome..." Right when the kids were replying to Cynthia, Robbie said seriously, "Ms. Cynthia, please call us by our names. It's inappropriate for you to call us by our nicknames. It's reserved for our parents."

Cynthia's expression turned awkward as she immediately changed her way of calling the kids. "Alright, Robinson."

"Get well soon!" Robbie bowed at her before turning around and left.

"Let's go downstairs for breakfast." Jamie followed Robbie downstairs.

Only Ellie was friendly toward the woman. "Ms. Cynthia, have you eaten breakfast?" Cynthia

shook her head while wearing a gentle smile.

"Then come downstairs with me. Mrs. Rawlston learned how to make hot cross bunnies." Ellie smiled and gestured in the air, outlining the image of a bunny. "They are shaped like bunnies and taste great."

"Is that so? I would like to try one." Cynthia motioned with her hands and her smile grew wider.

"Let's go. I'll take you there," Ellie invited the woman.

"Thank you, Elisa." Seeing how amiable the girl was, Cynthia ruffled her hair gently.

The two of them entered the lift and went downstairs. When they exited the lift, Ellie saw Zachary standing at the entrance of his room and waved at him. "Good morning, Daddy!"

"Morning." Noticing the kids were rather calm, Zachary closed the door and disappeared from view without sparing a glance at Cynthia.

The latter was in the middle of saying "good morning" with sign languages, but the man had returned to his room, so she could only smile bitterly and put down her hands.

Robbie and Jamie were heading toward the dining table.

Robbie's expression was cold. Jamie leaned in and whispered, "Don't be like this. She saved Ellie before. Just see her as a guest at our house."

"I didn't say anything." Reluctant to heed his brother's advice, Robbie sat in his seat.

"Alright." Jamie shrugged at his reaction. He knew Robbie's personality, and the latter was just like their father. Not only was he cold, he was also stubborn and did not heed others' advice.

Spencer pushed the wheelchair and brought Henry to the dining table, while the latter looked energetic when he greeted the kids, "Morning, Robbie and Jamie."

"Good morning, Great-grandpa!" Both Jamie and Robbie took turns to greet Henry. The former said it with a smile, while the latter was polite yet aloof.

Robbie's reaction was within Henry's expectations. However, he thought it was inevitable for the kids to feel this way, and soon they would get used to it.

Their mother's dead and their father would've to remarry one day.

He didn't speak about it to the kids. He wanted Cynthia to build a relationship with them before telling them the truth.

"Good morning, Great-grandpa!" At that moment, Ellie accompanied Cynthia as they headed toward them.

"Morning!" Henry was relieved. At least Ellie doesn't repulse Cynthia.

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Henry asked enthusiastically, "Cynthia, how was it? Are you comfortable staying here?"

"Everything's well. Thank you, Mr. Henry." Cynthia gestured slowly with her hands while she always wore a gentle smile.

Cynthia was just like a cloud in the sky. As she was always calm and kind, people couldn't bring themselves to badmouth her, even if they had some prejudice against her.

It was as if they would hurt her if they increased their volume when talking to her.

"Ms. Blackwood, this is your breakfast." Hanna served her breakfast and smiled at her.

"Thank you, Mrs. Rawlston." Cynthia smiled at her as she thanked her with sign language.

"You're welcome." Hanna and other maids in the house liked the woman very much, as she was always polite and humble.

In their opinion, Cynthia was perfect, except for the fact that she was mute.

Seeing how everyone was warming up to Cynthia, including the fact that Henry had instructed Hanna to prepare a set of breakfast for patients for her, Robbie frowned.

"Let's eat," Henry urged after everyone had gotten into their seats.

"Enjoy your meal, Great-grandpa and Ms. Cynthia." Jamie and Ellie greeted the elders before digging into their meal, while Robbie was silent as he furrowed his brows with thoughts in his mind.

Noticing something was wrong with him, Henry tried to test the waters. "Robbie, what's wrong?"

"Nothing." Robbie replied and ate his breakfast.

The old man didn't press the matter any further. It's already good that Robbie didn't throw a fit when interacting with Cynthia.

Maybe he'll open up to her after spending time with her for a while.

After breakfast, Henry sent the kids to school as usual. That day, Robbie went with them as there was a school celebration.

In the car, Jamie and Ellie were playing some games with Henry, while Fifi was watching their battle at the side. The atmosphere in the car was lively and everyone was having fun.

Except for Robbie, who was sitting alone in his seat while placing his hand on his stomach. He went to the toilet soon after and when he returned; he leaned against the sofa, looking weak.

"Robbie, come and play with us," Henry coaxed.

"I don't feel well." Robbie covered his stomach and furrowed his brows. "Maybe it was because of me drinking cold milk in my room this morning. It hurts."

"You must've eaten something bad." Henry grew concerned and hurriedly instructed, "Quick. Get Raina here."

Robbie said slowly, "I should go back home. Even after eating the medicine Ms. Langhan gives, I won't have the mood to join the celebration anymore."

"Alright." Henry frowned slightly and nodded while looking at the child. "I'll ask someone to send you back and Dr. Langhan will be there. Rest well at home, okay?" "Okay. Thank you, Greatgrandpa." Robbie nodded.

Henry immediately made some arrangements and instructed a few bodyguards to fetch him back home.

Hearing this, Robbie immediately suggested, "Great-grandpa, there will be many people at school. It'll be better to leave the bodyguards with Jamie and Ellie to ensure their safety. A driver should suffice to send me back home."

Jamie looked at Robbie deeply while a glint of confusion flashed across his eyes.

"I can't let you go with just a driver..." Before Henry could reject Robbie's suggestion, Jamie said, "Great-grandpa, during the sports day of our kindergarten, a group of people in black sneaked in and took me and Ellie away. I was so scared that time."

"Jamie, is this about the chip?" Ellie recalled the incident and her face turned pale. "I remember everything. That person was so scary. He flung us into the car and entered our house to steal the chip..."

Jamie replied, "Yes. Luckily, Mommy and Mrs. Berry protected us."

"Right. He's trying to steal the chip in Fifi's tummy..."

The two kids went on with their traumatic experience, and it left them shivering in fear.

"Sob, sob. Great-grandpa, I'm scared." Ellie hugged Henry and whined, "I don't want to go to school anymore. I don't want to join the celebration."

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"Don't be afraid. I'm here for you guys, and no one can hurt you." Henry quickly comforted the kids and said, "Then how about this? Cain, you send Robbie back while others protect Jamie and Ellie at school. You guys must never leave their side. You hear me?" "Yes, Mr. Nacht." The bodyguards bowed to Henry.

"Here is close to home, so nothing should happen." However, Henry was still worried, so he reminded, "Be very careful on the way back to the house. Ensure Robbie's safety no matter what."

"Please don't worry, Mr. Nacht," Cain replied.

After that, the car stopped, and they split up.

Cain alone drove a Maybach and fetch Robbie home while the others followed Jamie and Ellie to school.

Before they split up, Jamie reminded, "Robbie, rest well at home."

"Got it. Thank you, Jamie." Robbie looked at Jamie deeply, as he knew the latter was helping him with his plan.

"Drive carefully." Henry waited until the car Cain drove disappeared from sight before retracting his gaze and instructed the bodyguard to continue driving.

In the car, Robbie furrowed his brows while looking outside the window as if he was making up a plan in his mind.

Right when the car was about to pass through the area between Northridge and Southridge, Robbie covered his stomach and screamed in pain. "Argh! My stomach hurts..."

Cain hurriedly asked, "Mr. Robinson, what's wrong? Just bear with it a little more, we're reaching soon."

Robbie shouted in pain, "My stomach hurts so much. I can't bear it anymore, so please stop the car. I want to poo."

"Huh? Here?" Cain slowed down the car and scanned their surroundings. They were in the wilderness and of course, there wasn't any toilet available.

Mr. Robinson is still a kid, so no one will blame him for this. Plus, there's no one around. Seeing how much pain Robbie was in, the bodyguard changed his mind and decided to do as the child said.

"Alright." He stopped the car by the roadside near the woods to prevent Robbie from falling down the cliff.

Robbie carried his small backpack on his back before getting off the car. Covering his stomach while wearing his pain-etched face, he ran into the woods.

"Mr. Robinson, please wait." Cain immediately chased after him.

Robbie commanded, "Don't follow me. Stay in the car."

"But..." The bodyguard sensed that something was amiss, but he didn't follow Robbie as he thought it was normal for the child to be embarrassed if someone was to be near him when he was doing his business.

It should be fine since I'm just at his side.

Just as Robbie went into the woods, he didn't stop in his tracks. Instead, he stopped pretending to be in pain and ran forward while pushing aside the plants in his path. When he got to an open space, he ran toward Northridge.

I have to find some clues and get Mommy back as soon as possible.

Otherwise, some other woman is about to intrude on my home.

"Mr. Robinson, are you done?" Soon after, Cain grew anxious. "You didn't have tissues, right? I'll take some for you."

With that, he took a packet of tissues from the car and walked into the woods slowly while looking around, searching for Robbie. "Mr. Robinson, I'm not trying to peek. I'm just here to give you some tissues..."

After saying his words, only silence ensued in the vast forest.

Cain froze. Scanning his surroundings, his heart started racing as he yelled anxiously, "Mr. Robinson... Mr. Robinson? Stop playing and come out now. There are wild beasts here. It's too dangerous to play hide and seek."

He didn't receive any response from the child.

Cain started searching here and there in the vast forest, but Robbie was nowhere to be found.

Breaking out in a cold sweat, the bodyguard took in a deep breath and focused on his surroundings. On closer inspection, he noticed the thick bushes were messy as if someone had pushed them sideways while a trail of footsteps could be seen on the ground.

Following the footsteps, he quickened his pace and called Bruce. "Hello? Bruce, Mr. Robinson ran away!"

"What?" Bruce was in the middle of carrying out his mission. When he heard what Cain said, he immediately jumped and asked, "What do you mean by that? Explain." "It went like this..." Cain explained everything to him.

Meanwhile, Robbie followed the route he had investigated before and successfully reached the hill behind Northridge.

Right when he was about to take out his laptop and drone to carry out investigations, an earpiercing screech was heard from the sky.

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Robbie lifted his head and saw an eagle soaring above. The eagle didn't seem as intimidating as it would and was losing its balance, as if it was...

Robbie was letting his imagination run wild while the eagle suddenly made a downward glide toward him. Its speed was so fast that it was almost like an arrow.

The child was so scared that he immediately started running and used up every ounce of his energy to run for his life.

However, it would be impossible for a child to outrun an eagle.

Very quickly, the eagle caught up to him.

Glancing back at the eagle, Robbie quickened his pace and accidentally tripped over a stone. He fell to the ground with a loud thud. The child had no time to dwell on his pain, so he supported himself with his hands and wanted to get up.

However, the eagle was flapping its wings and launching its talon at him.

Right at this critical moment, the eagle glided past Robbie's head and crashed to the ground. As its speed was too fast, it tumbled down the hill.

Robbie sprawled on the ground and trembled in fear.

It was quite a while before he finally came back to his senses. When he lifted his head to scan his surroundings, the eagle was nowhere to be seen.

There were a few blood-stained feathers on the ground. The wind blew onto them, lifting the edge of the feathers.

Recalling the noise just now, Robbie looked at the long trial of bloodstain and finally understood what happened.

The eagle was injured initially, and it was trying to fly. When it saw Robbie, it wanted to attack him, but it used up all of its strength and fell down the hill.

The child hurriedly got up and walked toward the hillside to check on the eagle.

It fell onto a big rock, while blood splattered everywhere. Laying lifelessly on the rock, the eagle could only move its wings slightly.

Robbie took out a telescope from his bag and saw his mother's black gold wedding ring on the eagle's talon.

He immediately kept his telescope and climbed down the hill carefully.

Although the eagle was heavily injured, Robbie was still afraid of it. He took a small stone and tossed it beside the eagle to test its reaction.

Its wings moved slightly, but it couldn't stand up while its sharp eyes looked dull.

Robbie heaved a sigh of relief before picking up a twig from the ground and inched closer to the eagle.

When his distance from the eagle was just one meter away, the eagle flapped its wings suddenly.

"Ah!" He screamed in fear and backed away quickly.

When he calmed down, the eagle was still laying down in the same position and could only move its right wing for a bit, so it was harmless.

The child heaved a sigh of relief before hurling another attempt at moving closer to the eagle. Keeping his guard up, he assured, "Mr. Eagle, don't worry. If you don't hurt me, I won't hurt you. I just want to retrieve my Mommy's ring."

No one knew if the eagle understood a human child's words, as it didn't budge and stared at him coldly.

"That ring..." Robbie pointed at its talon and explained, "It belongs to my Mommy. You have to return it to me. Do you understand?" The eagle's stare was still cold.

Robbie tried to move closer to it. Seeing how the eagle was just looking at him, he took another step closer and tried to use the twig to hook the ring.

At this exact moment, the eagle fluttered its wings and let out a ferocious screech, as if it was reluctant to submit to the reality of losing its power and might.

I shall not be bullied by a mere child of humans.

The twig in Robbie's hands was flung to the ground while his hands were scratched. Taking a few steps back, the child looked at his wounds and was scared to try it again.

It seems impossible to take the ring back.

Robbie gritted his teeth and made up his mind. He found a rock and got ready to hurl it at the eagle. If it passes out, I can get Mommy's ring back.

However, when he was about to strike the animal, his conscience kicked in. Seeing the eagle's blood-stained body and broken wings, the child hesitated.

This eagle has a mother too.

If its mother sees him like this, it will be heartbroken.

What if I accidentally kill it? I'm going to be a murderer.

With these thoughts in his mind, Robbie put down the rock.

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"Ah, I'm just too kind-hearted." Robbie breathed out deeply and looked at the eagle.

The eagle was looking at him, but this time, its eyes grew warm.

The child furrowed his brows, as he had no choice but to risk getting hurt to retrieve the ring.

Mustering up his courage, he moved closer and tried to get the ring off the eagle's talon.

The eagle flapped its wings out of the blue, and Robbie jumped from shock. Then it retracted its wings and stop scaring the child.

Robbie continued pulling the ring and said, "Please don't move. I just want to get the ring and I mean no harm. This ring belongs to my Mommy and it must be returned." The eagle's talon was hurt, so it couldn't move as it looked at the human child.

After a while, Robbie finally retrieved the ring. Taking out a clean, wet cloth from his bag, he removed the bloodstains on the ring and kept it in his bag before leaving.

When he was about to leave, he looked at the eagle and realized he couldn't bring himself to leave it behind.

It cannot fly. Its owner might not be able to find it here. If other beasts attack it, that will be the death of it.

That thought made Robbie halt in his tracks. He took out the first aid kit from his bag and inched closer to the eagle carefully. "I'll bandage your wounds, so don't move. Do you understand?"

The eagle didn't seem to give any response while it looked at the child with a gentle gaze.

He used some iodine to disinfect its wounds and applied some medicinal powder before wrapping the wound with some bandages.

Robbie had been to the hospital often, and there was medical staff at his house, so he knew the simple steps of treating the wounds. However, he didn't put it into practice, so the way he bandaged was rather unsightly.

Looking at the eagle wrapped up like a tortilla, Robbie sighed in relief. "I wanted to carry out some investigation here. Just in case I get hurt, I brought the first aid kit with me, and it actually comes in handy."

Suddenly, the eagle let out a 'coo coo' and became docile.

Pfft! Robbie was stunned for a while before bursting into laughter. "You sound like Fifi."

When the eagle heard the name 'Fifi,' it became excited and continued to coo, as if it was well acquainted with the name.

"Fifi is a parrot. You've seen it before. It's the one that flew out and protected me..." Robbie talked to the eagle while treating its wounds.

However, the medicine he brought was not enough, and it ran out before he could finish treating every wound.

"Well, that's all I can do." The child packed up his things and tried to carry the eagle, but it was way too heavy for him.

"I'll have to carry you up the hill. Or else, you'll die here and your owner won't be able to find you." With that, Robbie found himself a big branch and placed the eagle onto the branch before dragging it up the hill.

The eagle lay on the branch obediently while its sharp gaze started turning gentle and warm.

Halfway up the hill, Robbie's hands were scrapped, but he paid no attention to the stinging pain and swung his hands before continuing with his climb upward.

At that moment, a familiar voice sounded from afar. "Mr. Robinson!"

"Mr. Robinson..."

"Robbie! Please come out now. Don't scare me."

A few bodyguards called out to Robbie, followed by Henry's worried voice.

Robbie glanced back at the eagle and hurriedly said, "Shoot! My Great-grandpa and the others are here."

The eagle cooed at him.

"Robbie..."

The shouts were getting louder and clearer. Robbie furrowed his brows and hesitated. "They mustn't see you. Or else, it will cause a misunderstanding. I have to leave but don't worry, I'll get your owner to save you. Trust me."

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After moving the eagle to a safe place, Robbie left hurriedly.

"Mr. Robinson, are you okay?" Right when Robbie got up to the hill, Bruce saw him and dashed to his front.

"I'm fine." Robbie shook his head. Before he could say anything, Spencer and a few bodyguards wheeled Henry toward them, while the old man was shouting anxiously, "Robbie, Robbie... We finally found you. You almost scared me to death."

"Great-grandpa..." Seeing how anxious Henry was, Robbie felt guilty.

"Let me look at you. Did you hurt yourself?" Henry took Robbie's hands and scanned his injuries. "What happened to your hands? Why are they scraped? And what happened to your knees? What's going on? Did someone bully you?"

Robbie hurriedly explained, "No. I tripped over and fell. I'm sorry for making you worry, Greatgrandpa."

"Silly child. You can tell me your problems. I'll help you with it. Don't keep everything to yourself and never run away from them." Henry was scared out of his wits.

Before he could even send Jamie and Ellie to school, he received a call from Cain informing him that his great-grandson had run away.

He immediately asked the driver to turn back and went to search for Robbie.

Jamie and Ellie were absent from the school celebration because of this. When they learned what happened, they were worried and wanted to look for their brother, but they were sent back home by Henry.

At the same time, Bruce received the news and rushed to meet with them. Together, they started the search for Robbie.

The search continued for half an hour, and they finally found him.

Robbie cooked up an excellent reason. "I'm just here to look for my mechanical dove. I released my second dove, but it didn't come back to me. It went missing somewhere here, so I came to find it."

"Alright. No matter what it is, it's fine as long as you're well. Let's go home now." Henry didn't insist on pursuing this matter in front of so many people. All he wanted was to bring Robbie back home.

"Okay." Robbie nodded.

Bruce held his hand and was about to help him into the car.

Suddenly, Cain shouted, "Bruce!"

Glancing back, Bruce saw a few female bodyguards of the Lindberg family armed with weapons rushing toward them menacingly.

"Are they from the Lindberg family?" Henry frowned and commanded, "Show them no mercy if they are to behave arrogantly."

"Yes, Mr. Nacht." The bodyguards of the Nacht family went forward.

Seeing how everything turned out, Robbie furrowed his brows and realized his mistakes. Shoot! I'm just here to find out some clues about Mommy, but it seems I had accidentally caused the conflict between the two families to erupt.

When Lupine saw them, she immediately questioned, "As expected from the Nacht family. Where is our pet eagle?"

Their pet eagle, Fifi, often soared freely on the hill behind Lindberg residence. It got hurt the day before yesterday and after resting at home for a while; it tried to fly again and disappeared later on.

They immediately went to check the surveillance for any trespassing into the Northridge's region. Fifi almost hurt Robbie before, so they thought the Nachts were here to capture Fifi, hence Lupine and others rushed to the scene.

Meanwhile, Morgan reported everything to Charlotte. She even added fuel to the fire and said, "They must've captured Fifi. Plus, that old geezer who always takes advantage of his old age is here. The men of the Nacht family are now on the hill behind our residence."

Upon hearing her words, Charlotte immediately put everything aside and walked out of the study while putting on her coat. "Let's go and take a look."

"Yes, ma'am." Morgan followed Charlotte, and they rushed outside.

"We're here to look for Mr. Robinson. No one saw your pet eagle." Bruce replied coldly and took Robbie's hand.

Right at that moment, Lupine added, "Then why are you guys here? This is the territory of the Lindberg family."

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Henry scoffed, "The Lindberg family's territory? How arrogant!"

When Lupine heard Henry's reply, she dared not to speak back, as she was terrified of the old man's presence.

However, she didn't have a choice to back down. Charlotte had instructed her to look for Fifi, and it was the Nachts' fault for trespassing into Northridge.

So, she took a step forward and bowed at Henry before speaking politely. "Mr. Nacht, I don't dare to defy you, but our pet eagle is missing and Ms. Lindberg had instructed me to look for it, so..."

Henry roared, "That eagle was untamed, and it almost hurt my great-grandson, so it's best if it is missing. Go back and relay the message to Ms. Lindberg. She'd better discipline her pet. Or else, if it scares my great-grandchildren again, I won't spare them!"

Not only would he not spare the eagle, he would be merciless toward its owner.

"You..." Although Lupine was furious, she dared not to talk back to Henry.

"Let's go!" Henry shot an icy glare at her before leaving with Robbie.

Henry was a powerful figure in the business world, so no one dared to offend him. Even if Danrique was there, he would still have to treat him with respect. Not to mention Lupine was just a lowly bodyguard.

The Nacht family had the upper hand, so the bodyguards felt proud.

Bruce didn't want Henry to come face to face with Charlotte, and he wished for the Nachts to leave as soon as possible. Carrying Robbie on his shoulder, he wheeled Henry toward the car. "Let's hurry home. Mr. Jamison and Ms. Elisa must be worried sick."

"Right." Henry nodded in agreement.

Right when they were about to get into the car, an arrogant command sounded from behind.

"Show no mercy to whoever dares to harm Fifi!"

Robbie widened his eyes in surprise when he heard the voice. It sounded so familiar that he couldn't help but turn around.

A jeep came into view from the hillside. Soon, a few female bodyguards stood in front of the person who was getting off the jeep and they marched toward them.

The figure was blocked by the bodyguards, so no one knew who it was.

Sitting on Bruce's shoulders, Robbie couldn't adjust his position, so he could only see things at an angle.

He wanted to get down to see who it was so badly, but Bruce shoved him into the car.

Robbie was struggling to get off the car, but Bruce held him in his position and said, "Be a good boy, Robbie. Go back with your great-grandfather first."

"What did that person said just now? How arrogant!" Henry heard a voice vaguely, but he couldn't make out the words as his hearing had gotten worse through the years.

"It should be one of the Lindbergs." Bruce evaded his question and hurriedly suggested, "Mr. Nacht, I'll take care of everything here. Please go back with Mr. Robinson first."

"Don't fear them. Beat whoever dares to act all high and mighty in front of us." Henry was furious at the Lindberg family.

To him, the incident of Robbie being scared by the eagle had something to do with him coming here. The Lindbergs are at fault for all of this, and they even dare to challenge us? Oh, I won't just sit by and be nice anymore.

"Yes, yes." Bruce nodded and urged, "Mr. Nacht, bring Mr. Robinson back home first. Don't let him be scared again."

With that, he helped Henry into the car and closed the door. "Drive!"

Cain immediately drove away.

Spencer frowned as he looked at the rearview mirror. Bruce was acting weird just now.

And Mr. Robinson...

Robbie poked his head out of the car window and glanced back as if he was trying to look at something.

Meanwhile, the head of the Lindberg family was standing on the hill. The bodyguards were standing behind her, revealing her face. However, Bruce's body was in the way of Robbie's view.

The child panicked and leaned out of the car window.

Spencer hurriedly pulled him into the car. "Mr. Robinson, it's dangerous!"

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Robbie missed the opportunity to see that person again because he was dragged back by Spencer.

Soon, anger welled up in his chest, but he couldn't throw a tantrum because he knew that Spencer was just concerned about his safety, after all.

At that time, Henry frowned and looked at Robbie, feeling anxious.

Back at home, they saw Jamie, Ellie, and Fifi waiting for them by the door. The two of them rushed toward the car immediately when the car entered their residence. "Robbie, Robbie!"

Just as Robbie stepped out of the car, Ellie threw herself at him and hugged him tightly. Then, she pouted and burst into tears.

"Robbie, are you trying to abandon us? Why did you run away from home? Where are you going? You promised Mommy that you would take care of Jamie and me!"

Robbie felt the urge to cry upon hearing that. Then, he hugged Ellie and patted her shoulder gently. "Ellie, don't cry. I wasn't trying to run away from home. I was just..."

"Don't do that anymore, alright? You almost scare Ellie and me to death. You should discuss with us if you have any problems. We are triplets. So, we must always stick together," Jamie pouted his lips and looked at Robbie with his teary eyes as he choked out the words.

"Alright. I'm sorry."

Robbie was overwhelmed with guilt at that moment. All this time, he did everything on his own because he wanted to let Jamie and Ellie live happily. He didn't want them to overthink things like him.

Besides, he didn't want them to get into trouble.

"Alright, let's go in."

Upon seeing this, Henry's brows dug deeper. Although the three of them have different personalities, they are always on the same page. If any of them has negative feelings, the other two siblings will be affected.

By then, it was approaching noon.

It was too late for them to join their school anniversary celebration. Henry asked the kitchen to prepare lunch for the children before calling Robbie to his study room and had a heart-to-heart talk with the latter.

In the study room, Henry asked Robbie if he was shocked by the eagle that day, but he said no. Then, the former asked if Robbie felt uneasy because Cynthia moved in, so he wanted to go somewhere far away to enjoy some peace and quiet. But, the latter denied too.

No matter how Henry tried to communicate and guide, Robbie insisted that he went there just to find his mechanical dove.

Henry was absolutely helpless. He could only give up and let Robbie go back to his room to get some rest.

After returning to his room, Robbie took out his tablet and played his parents' wedding video. Then, he enlarged a part of the video to see his mother's wedding ring clearer and took out a black gold ring from his bag to make a comparison carefully.

A-hah! As expected!

It's Mommy's wedding ring!

The discovery caused excitement to course through Robbie because he was one step closer to success. As long as I have the chance to meet the owner of the Northridge, I can ask her about Mommy's whereabouts.

But the incident that happened just now had alarmed everyone. I think it's hard for me to escape next time.

Robbie pulled the curtains apart to take a look outside. As he expected, Henry deployed more bodyguards to watch over them.

At that moment, the Nachts' residence was heavily guarded.

Every child had four bodyguards. The bodyguards took turns to watch over them. No matter where they went, the bodyguards must stay by their sides all the time.

Just as Robbie was busy figuring out how to go out, there was a knock on the door. A few seconds later, Jamie and Ellie's voices were heard.

"Robbie, I'm Jamie. May I come in? I bring you some food."

"Robbie, I'm Ellie. I want to enter your room too."

Upon hearing that, Robbie immediately kept the ring properly and opened the door. "Come in."

"Thank you," said Jamie as he pushed a food trolley into Robbie's room. There were lemon and herbs lamb skewers and some desserts on the trolley.

On the other hand, Ellie was holding Fifi. Her face was still glowing red at that time because she'd been crying just now.

"Take a seat," said Robbie as he put his clothes away from the sofa.

After the two of them sat down, Jamie questioned Robbie angrily, "Robbie, what the hell are you doing recently? Do you have some secret plans?"

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"Uh..." Robbie was stunned when he heard the former's words.

He had never expected that Jamie would realize it and had always thought that Jamie was a carefree person that always squandered his days on the pleasures of life and ogled at beautiful girls.

"Robbie, don't worry. We had already told the maid to leave. No one will eavesdrop on us. If you are worried that they'll hear it, you can lower your voice," whispered Ellie with a pinched voice.

"Yeah. Tell us if you have any secrets. We are of one mind. Let's face the problems together," said Jamie with a stern face.

Hearing that, Robbie pondered for a while before answering them. Hmm... They may not help me in other things, but it's about Mommy's whereabouts now. I believe that they'll listen to me.

Besides, Great-grandpa keeps such a close eye on me now. It's impossible for me to go out secretly to find out Mommy's whereabouts unless Jamie and Ellie help me... After all, to Great-grandpa, they are the most obedient children.

So I think he won't suspect anything if they do something out of line.

Moreover, she is our mommy. Therefore, the three of us must work together in finding mommy so that everything will go faster and smoother.

Having thought that, Robbie stood up to lock the door and close the curtains.

Seeing that, Jamie and Ellie exchanged glances. Robbie's actions made both of them feel nervous.

Then, Jamie inquired nervously, "Robbie, do you really have a secret?"

"What secret is that? Do you want to go on an adventure?"

At that time, an image of Robbie bringing them to go on an adventure like the pirates of the Caribbean flashed across Ellie's mind.

Robbie didn't answer their questions. He took out the ring from the drawer and asked in a mysterious tone, "Jamie, Ellie, do you know what this is?"

"This is a ring."

Jamie and Ellie inched closer toward Robbie to observe the ring and started to discuss among themselves.

"It looks like Daddy's ring."

"No. This is a woman's ring. I think I have seen it before..."

"Look at this." Robbie played the wedding video and showed it to Jamie and Ellie. Then, he pointed at the ring finger of Charlotte's right hand and queried, "What do you see?"

"Oh my God! The ring looks like Mommy's wedding ring!" Ellie

took the ring over and studied it closely.

"Is this Mommy's ring?" Jamie queried tentatively.

"Yes." Robbie nodded.

"What?" Jamie and Ellie's eyes widened in shock upon hearing that.

They only snapped back to their senses after a while. Then, they started to ask Robbie inquisitively.

"How do you get the ring? Did Mommy give it to you before she left? But I've never seen you take it out before. M-Mommy..."

Before Ellie could finish her words, she froze. Her eyes widened in shock, and she looked at Robbie in disbelief, "Mommy is back?"

"Robbie, is Mommy back?" Jamie grabbed hold of Robbie's hands and urged the latter to say, "Quick, tell us!"

Ellie fiddled with Robbie's sleeve and urged him anxiously, too, "Yeah, you are driving me crazy! What's going on?"

"Do you still remember that eagle? I found the ring on its feet..." Robbie started to recount the incident to them.

"What?" Jamie and Ellie were astounded at his words.

"It happened like this..." Robbie explained the whole incident to them in detail.

Upon hearing that, the two of them were very agitated.

Then, Jamie said, "No wonder you slipped away this morning. I thought you did it because Ms. Cynthia moved in, and you felt uneasy about it, so you ran away from home to scare Great-grandpa. I even played along with you just now."

On the other hand, Ellie queried apprehensively, "Robbie, what happened to the eagle now? Is Mommy living at Northridge?"

"I'm not sure. But even if mommy is not there, the people who live there will know where she is. For now, we need to figure out a way to go there and ask about Mommy's whereabouts!" Robbie said in a serious tone.

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"Okay. Robbie, I believe that we will be able to find Mommy as long as we work together!" said Jamie as he nodded his head vigorously.

"Yes. As long as we cooperate with each other, we can bring Mommy back sooner!" said Ellie as she held out her hand.

Then, Jamie and Robbie put their hands on the former's, as they pledged to find their mother back together.

At that time, Fifi flew toward them and put its feet on their hands too.

The three hands and an eagle's feet stacked together, exuding an air of unity.

"Robbie, when can we start our mission?" asked Jamie. He was burning with passion and wanted to start the search for their mother immediately.

"You must bring us along too when you go to find Mommy the next time. Don't go there alone." Ellie leaned forward, afraid that Robbie would leave her behind.

"We can't do that just yet." Robbie kept the ring properly as he said, "I have already alerted Great-grandpa today, and he sent many bodyguards to watch over me. So we can't do anything for now."

"Then what should we do?" Jamie hurriedly asked.

"Let's wait a few days before we start. It's rather inconvenient for us to find Mommy now that Great-grandpa is here. It will be troublesome if he learned of Mommy's whereabouts..." Robbie furrowed his small brows as he meticulously analyzed the situation.

If Great-grandpa knows mommy's whereabouts, he'll definitely try to send her away again. Robbie didn't say that out loud, of course.

Hearing that, Ellie had a gloomy expression on her face. She pursed her lips as she queried, "How long do we have to wait? I want to see Mommy and Mrs. Berry sooner."

"Me too. I wonder how they have been doing these two years. I hope they can come back earlier!" Jamie felt a little sad as he thought of Charlotte and the housekeeper.

"I think Daddy was already annoyed by Great-grandpa. He must be looking for a way to send Great-grandpa back. We don't need to worry about that. Daddy will settle it. We can start finding Mommy once Great-grandpa goes back to M Nation!" Robbie planned everything meticulously. He didn't look like a six-year-old child at all.

Then, he added, "These few days, we shall carry out our daily tasks as usual. Don't think too much about our mission and don't tell anyone about it, understand?"

"Yes!" Jamie and Ellie nodded firmly.

Fifi nodded too, "Yes, yes!"

"Let's give our group a name! Um... Let's call it 'The Triplets Reconnaissance Team'. Then, the name of our secret mission is 'Mommy Project'!" said Jamie.

"Jamie, you must've read too many comics." Robbie was rather speechless.

"This would make me feel more confident in completing the mission! Come on, Robbie!" said Jamie.

"Alright, alright! I'll do it!" Robbie could just follow the former's instruction.

The three of them stacked their hands again and shouted, "Triplets Reconnaissance Team, Project Mommy officially launched!"

When Zachary was on his way home, he received a call from Bruce saying that they had found Robbie and everything was settled. Hence, he ordered Marino to make a U-turn and return to the office.

These few days, Lindberg Corporation had widely publicized the opening day of South Sea, and the news had taken over the headlines of numerous platforms.

The shareholders of Divine Corporation were worried that this incident would affect the launch of the new tech products of their own company.

Hence, Zachary was busy handling these matters recently. Besides, he was busy setting up some plans for the Gymnasium Project that he collaborated with Louis.

Therefore, he was extremely hectic. Every day, he spent his time at Divine Corporation and the project sites.

He wanted to launch the new products of his company before Lindberg Corporation so that they could compete with the latter. Otherwise, the South Sea territorial waters project would steal the limelight.

However, Zachary felt a headache pounding in his head upon hearing Bruce's last sentence.

"Mr. Nacht and Ms. Lindberg almost bumped into each other. Luckily, I managed to send them away in time. But I feel that Mr. Robbie was acting weird just now. I think he had discovered something. When we left Northridge, he kept looking in the direction of Ms. Lindberg."

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"What?" Zachary frowned. "Robbie saw his mother?"

"No," Bruce answered firmly. "I blocked his sight. He shouldn't have seen Ms. Lindberg." "Shouldn't

have?" Zachary growled.

"I'm sorry for my incompetence." Bruce was frustrated, but he didn't defend himself.

"Calm down, Mr. Nacht," Ben advised him. "You can't hide it forever. Ms. Lindberg is still going to make a public appearance on the South Sea territorial waters project's opening day. Even if the people from Southridge and Northridge aren't seeing one another right now, they'd know she's back on that day."

Zachary frowned after hearing the explanation. "When's the opening?"

"Thirteenth next month," Ben answered hastily. "It's already twenty-ninth today."

"So we have sixteen days to work with." Zachary tapped the armrest of his leather chair, then he told Bruce, "Call Cynthia. If she's holding up, tell her to have dinner with me tonight."

"Huh?" Bruce was startled by the request, but he quickly answered, "Right away, Sir. Give me a minute."

Zachary ended the call, but he didn't look relaxed. In fact, he was tense. I have to get Henry back to M Nation, or I'll get held back.

"Don't worry. There are about two weeks before that. We'll settle this before then," Ben calmed him down.

At the same time, Ben called back, "Ms. Blackwood isn't feeling well. She declined your invitation."

Zachary was surprised to hear that. He thought Cynthia would accept the invitation no matter what, but he never expected her to say no. "I see." Zachary hung up.

"Ms. Blackwood sustained quite a serious injury. I saw her yesterday, and she couldn't even get out of bed. Going out for a meal seems unrealistic for now," Ben explained. "We'll talk about this later. For now, let's settle some business."

"Yes."

...

Zachary worked for the whole day and refused all appointments for that night. He wanted to go home soon and spend some time with his kids, but it was already ten when he came home.

Henry and Cynthia were having a game of chess when Zachary came back. Henry seemed to be in a good mood, and he laughed heartily. "Good form, Cynthia. Good form. Not many people out there have the patience to play chess with me and win. You're the second."

Cynthia put her chess piece down and signaled, 'Is Zachary the first?'

"No." Henry shook his head and sighed. "It's his mother."

Cynthia froze up for a moment, then she apologized, 'I'm sorry. I shouldn't have talked about that."

"It's fine. It's all in the past now." Then Henry realized Zachary's return, and his gentle attitude was replaced by a stern one. "You're late."

"I tried my best to be early." He went upstairs, then he remembered something and asked, "Are you guys hungry? Wanna get supper together?"

Henry stopped drinking his tea, surprised that Zachary would ask them out for supper. Zachary was, after all, a cold man.

'Sure. I'm getting hungry now,' Cynthia gestured.

"Make some light supper, Mrs. Rawlston. I'll come back after I change," Zachary told Mrs. Rawlston.

"Yes, Mr. Zachary." Mrs. Rawlston quickly sent the servants to the kitchen, while Zachary went upstairs.

Henry looked at him for a while, then he turned to Cynthia. "Cynthia, did he talk to you over the last few days?"

'He asked me out for dinner tonight, but I declined because I'm not in a state to go out yet,' she gesticulated.

"Is that so?" Henry was delighted. "That's progress right there!"

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Cynthia bit her lip shyly, her face scarlet. 'Maybe he's just being polite. It couldn't have been romantic.'

"But he's a lot better now, so take the chance, Cynthia," Henry advised her. "He's a softie at heart. Yeah, he might look uncaring, but he's a loyal man. If you make him fall for you, he'll treat you like a queen."

'I know.' Cynthia nodded with a smile.

"Do you still like him then?" Henry asked again.

'Yes,' she answered without missing a beat. 'I have loved him the moment I saw him back when I was fifteen, and that hasn't changed.' "That's good to hear." Henry smiled warmly.

A short while later, Mrs. Rawlston had prepared lemon and herb lamb skewers and some oatmeal. The servants took Henry and Cynthia to the dining table, and Zachary came down after changing.

They sat around the table, and Henry asked about the company, while Zachary answered him. Henry criticized him, dissatisfied with Zachary's nonchalant attitude.

Zachary was getting impatient. "I've been working the whole day now. Can't you just let me have some peace and quiet at home?"

"Why you..."

Henry was about to fly into a rage, but Cynthia gave him a skewer and gestured, 'The skewer's really nice. Have some, Grandpa.'

Her gentle smile soothed Henry's fury. "You should take a leaf out of her page. She's so gentle, so nice." Henry pointed at Zachary. "You, on the other hand, growls at everyone." Zachary had his supper in silence. He wanted to get back to his room, but he needed to be there so Cynthia would calm Henry down, or he would have left otherwise.

'Grandpa, you seem to look tired these days. Did something happen?' Cynthia gesticulated.

"Nope. Just taking care of the kids. I'm still fit as a fiddle." He sighed. "But yeah, age isn't on my side, and this is one humid mountain. My whole body's sore and that tires me out easily." Zachary looked up at Cynthia. We're getting to the main topic now.

'It is quite humid here, but this is the best place to be in summer. It's cool, and the air is fresh,' Cynthia gesticulated with a smile. 'But you can't really stay here. I seem to remember seeing you in better shape back in M Nation.'

"Uh-huh." Henry nodded. "I got used to M Nation's weather."

'I'll give you a massage once I feel better. That should relieve a bit of the soreness,' Cynthia kept gesticulating. 'And your doctor back in Manhattan's a good one too. Why don't we get him here?'

"I don't think so." Henry shook his head. "He's in his eighties now, and his family won't let him go overseas because of his health. He called me last night, said he'd perform a checkup on me once I go back, but I might not have the chance anymore." Henry dwelled in his sadness, for his biggest fear was his old friends' passing.

'But Dr. Leonard looks well enough to me.' Cynthia was surprised.

"He used to be, but not after he tripped and fell." Henry had gotten more solemn. "I tripped once two years ago, and since then, I'm wheelchair-bound. I could kick the ball around with my grandkid before that."

'It's bad for the elderly to trip.' Cynthia frowned. 'I think Dr. Leonard could recover if he has plenty of rest. You should too. Remember to go for your treatment.'

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"Okay." Henry nodded. "Your clinic in M Nation's a nice one. Christopher frequents it since it's hard for a doctor to treat himself. He needs a professional opinion from other doctors."

'Oh, I'm just an amateur compared to him.' Cynthia smiled sheepishly. 'Your previous treatment has been going well, Grandpa. You should keep at it.'

"I think I should. My back's been really sore lately. I think I'll go back once everything's settled down here." Henry fiddled with the board.

"What business do you have here?" Zachary asked casually. "I'll handle the company, so don't worry about it." Finally. Zachary grasped the chance to talk about it.

"I know you can handle it." Henry gazed into him. "But what about your personal problems?"

Zachary froze. "What's that supposed to mean?"

"Cynthia's a good girl." Henry peered at Cynthia. "You should talk to her more."

Zachary frowned. He was about to fly into a rage, but then he remembered something. Henry will go back to M Nation if I pretend to date Cynthia, and he wouldn't bother me anymore. I can also take the time to settle business with Charlotte.

Zachary nodded. "Yeah, she's a nice girl. I can try dating her."

"Really?" Henry was overjoyed, and Cynthia was stunned. She had been waiting for him to say that for the longest time.

"Of course." Zachary didn't show too much enthusiasm, or it'd be too fake. "I can date her and see what happens."

"Good. Very good. Excellent." Henry nodded in exuberance. "You'll see how nice Cynthia is once you get along with her."

"Yeah, yeah, I know." Zachary gave her a shrimp dumpling. Touched, Cynthia smiled gently at him.

Henry was overjoyed to see that, and he didn't want to get between the 'couple,' so he said, "Whoops, I'm getting sleepy after I had something to eat. Must be my age acting up. I'll go to my room now. You guys go ahead without me." He patted Cynthia's hand and gave her a cryptic look.

Spencer took Henry back to his room, and Zachary put his cutlery down. "I'm done with supper, so I'm taking you to your room." He took Cynthia to her room upstairs.

Henry turned around and whispered to Spencer, "Go and see if that kid's doing what he said he would. He's one little trickster, that boy is. This might also be his lie."

"I don't think so." Spencer was confident in Zachary's promise. "The young master has always been an arrogant one. He can't pretend to like someone he doesn't."

"True." Henry nodded. "He hates putting on pretenses. That kid was cold to Cynthia, but he's changed quite a bit."

"Maybe he's sympathizing with her," Spencer analyzed. "Pity is the first step to love, you see. Well, some say friendship is."

"You have a point." Henry nodded. "Still, take a look just in case."

"Very well then. After I take you to your room." Spencer went upstairs in silence after taking Henry to his room.

At the same time, Zachary took Cynthia back to her room, placed her on her bed, leaned closer, and whispered, "Looks like Grandpa really wants us to be together. Why don't you work with me here? I want him to stop bothering me."

Cynthia stiffened up, but she quickly gave him a gentle smile. 'I see. I'll do it.'

"Thanks." He nodded. "I owe you one, and I'll be sure to pay you back."

'It's fine. I want to do this.' Cynthia suddenly hugged Zachary and kissed him because she saw someone outside her room.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 778

Spencer was looking through the ajar door and saw Cynthia lying on the bed, while Zachary leaned closer. Then she hugged him and they kissed

Ahem. Someone coughed, and Spencer scurried away, though not without casting a death glare at Ben. Ben only shrugged, and he went to close the door.

Their lips were about to touch, but Zachary instinctively pushed her away. He could pretend to be in a relationship with Cynthia, provided there was no direct contact with her, as he would be repulsed by any kind of skin contact.

Cynthia gesticulated, 'I didn't mean it. Someone was peeping on us, so I—'

"I know," Zachary interrupted. "It was Spencer." Shocked,

Cynthia bit her lip and nodded.

"Thank you." Zachary left the bed. "Sleep tight."

Ben was waiting for him outside. "Mr. Spencer has gone back to his room," he reported once Zachary came out.

Zachary closed the door, but instead of going back to his bedroom, he went to the study. Ben poured a glass of wine for him. "You're pretending to be in a relationship with Ms. Cynthia so Mr. Henry will leave you alone, aren't you?" "You

noticed too?" Zachary arched his eyebrow.

"I've been working for you for a long time now, so that much is obvious for me." Ben smiled. "The same thing goes for Mr. Henry. You can't fool him with half-hearted acting."

Zachary frowned. True. I did tell him I'd try to date her, but if I don't go a mile further, that sly old fox isn't gonna buy it.

"You might have to go to the extremes if you want Mr. Henry to leave you alone," Ben reminded him carefully.

"What do you mean I have to be aggressive?" Zachary barked, "Insolence."

"My apologies, Sir." Ben bowed.

Zachary glared at him, but Ben had a point. This is going to be a headache. I might have to turn to extreme measures to make him leave. But I don't really want to do that. Maybe I can get away with it without anyone noticing. After all, nobody's gonna know what we're doing behind closed doors.

"Good idea." Zachary squinted.

"But you'd have to make sure your kids don't bump into you guys when you're going at it," Ben suggested. "Especially Robbie. He's really sensitive, and it's going to hurt your relationship with him if he sees you getting intimate with Ms. Cynthia. That's probably why he ran away today."

"True." Zachary frowned and nodded. "That's important."

"So what will you do?"

"I'll be surveying Ashenville Garden for the next couple of days. Ask Cynthia whether she would like to come with me tomorrow morning." Zachary wanted to 'get closer' with Cynthia while keeping his children away from his business.

"I think she'll be delighted," Ben said. "But Mr. Henry can't see what you're doing then."

"He's no fool. I bet he'll have spies snooping around." Zachary knew Henry well. "He'd probably check in on us too."

"I see."

...

When they had breakfast the next morning, Ben asked Cynthia if she'd like to go with Zachary on a stay in Ashenville Garden. Of course, Henry was there to listen in. Ben even told her the hot spring there could help with her recovery.

Henry arched his eyebrow. "Go get some fresh air, Cynthia. Staying at home all the time isn't good for your health."

'Okay!' Cynthia was still hesitant, but not after Henry encouraged her to go. She smiled. 'Thanks for having me, Ben.'

"No prob. I'll tell Mr. Nacht about it, and Raina's going to go get prepared.

Ben was about to leave for the preparations, but Henry suddenly said, "I can't let her go alone. Take Cain and Kyle with you."

Just as Mr. Nacht has predicted. "Of course," Ben obliged.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 779

Raina came to pick Cynthia up that afternoon. Cynthia took two nurses with her because of her injuries and Henry sent two bodyguards with her. Ben sent another two bodyguards to tag along, making it a total of four bodyguards, one doctor, and two nurses escorting Cynthia around. It was a crowd.

Mr. Potter knew Cynthia was someone close to Zachary when he welcomed her at Ashenville Garden's parking lot as she had a lot of people protecting her. She was to stay at the same villa where a hot spring was in the backyard, just like how Zachary wanted.

It was already eight in the evening when everything was done, but Zachary was nowhere to be seen.

Even so, Cynthia didn't seem to show any form of anxiety. She told Mr. Potter to keep her arrival a secret, for she didn't want to worry Zachary. Mr. Potter nodded with a smile. Such a gentle lady. She might be a mute, but she comes from a good family, is knowledgeable, gentle, and gorgeous. She's perfect.

Raina treated Cynthia's wounds and told her, "You can't go into the hot spring just yet, Ms. Blackwood, but you can soak your feet in it."

"I see. Thank you, Dr. Langhan." Cynthia was a cultured lady who was polite to everyone, including the servants. She'd even smile at the waiters as a sign of gratitude for their service.

"Don't mention it. Rest up. I'll unpack."

"Of course."

After Raina went to the room beside hers, Cynthia quieted down and pushed herself to the window, and looked at the rain that was pouring outside. It's a downpour. I wonder if Zachary is trapped in the congested traffic.

Indeed he was, and congested traffic was an understatement. Zachary was stuck at the exit, and he couldn't even move an inch. Zachary was reading through the documents when Ben suddenly pointed at the rear-view mirror and gasped. "That looks like Ms. Lindberg's car!"

Zachary looked into the rear-view mirror and saw the silver Rolls-Royce that belonged to Charlotte. The traffic finally inched forward, and the Rolls-Royce moved up and stopped beside his black one.

"Goddammit! They're everywhere!" Marino glared at that car. Even though he couldn't see the interior, he could feel the woman inside glaring back at him.

"Tell me about it." Ben felt a headache coming up at the thought of that woman. "Wait, they can't be heading the same place as we are, can they?"

"What?" Zachary frowned. "Did Louis invite her too?"

"..." Ben didn't see that coming. "That's going to be a sticky situation. If Ms. Lindberg bumps into Ms. Blackwood, you're going to have a hard time explaining."

"I don't think they're heading to Ashenville Garden," Zachary refuted. "Remember what happened at the seaside restaurant? Things were pretty ugly, and I don't think Louis would be so dumb as to invite both of us at the same time." "You have a point." Ben nodded.

The traffic loosened up a short while later. Zachary's car was about to go ahead, but Charlotte's cut in, much to Marino's chagrin. "These women are barbaric." "Take it

slow. We're not in a hurry," Zachary said.

"Yes, Sir." Marino stopped grumbling.

They moved on at a snail's pace and had to wait for ten more minutes before exiting the highway. Instead of going to the hotel with hot spring when he arrived, Zachary went to the banquet hall instead.

Sir Louis' banquet was held there, and there were the partners from F Nation who came to talk about the upcoming project. The moment he came out of the car, Mr. Potter went to welcome him. "Mr. Nacht, Sir Louis has been waiting for you. Ms. Blackwood is all settled down. Shall I invite her?"

"No."

Zachary wasn't planning on having Louis know that Cynthia was there. Louis' villa was on the racecourse, which was some distance away anyway, so they wouldn't bump into each other.

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"Alright." Mr. Potter led them to the banquet hall without further ado. Zachary scanned the cars in the parking lot, but he didn't see the silver Rolls-Royce. Looks like Charlotte isn't here. His frown subsided. Now I can get into business.

An uplifting piano tune was heard upon their entrance, and thunderous applause followed. Zachary didn't pay any heed to it, since Louis was an outstanding pianist, and he just had to show off at every banquet.

But he was shocked to see the pair in front of the piano when he got close.

"Ms. Lindberg came!" Ben was stunned.

"But we didn't see their car." Marino was baffled.

"Ms. Lindberg came twenty minutes earlier. She went to Sir Louis' villa and came with him," Mr. Potter whispered.

"Damn woman." Marino glared at Morgan.

"This is going to spell trouble." Ben frowned at Zachary.

"Shut up," Zachary growled.

They lowered their gazes and said nothing more.

"What's wrong?" Mr. Potter had a bad feeling about it.

"Mr. Potter," Ben whispered something to him, and Mr. Potter nodded. "I understand. I know what must be done."

Another song had concluded, and thunderous applause filled the banquet hall. Sir Louis held Charlotte's hand politely and bowed at everyone.

Everyone praised them for looking like a perfect couple, while Zachary spared nothing but a cold gaze, though he clapped politely too, and his entourage followed.

Louis gave Zachary a warm welcome when he saw him. "You're here, Zachary!"

The guests only noticed him at that point, and they stood up to greet him. Zachary gave them polite nods, but he noticed a problem. All the partners brought their own date with them, and even Louis had Charlotte with him. Only Zachary came alone.

"Have a seat, Charlotte." After Louis had settled Charlotte down, he quickly welcomed Zachary. "What took you so long?"

"What is going on?" Zachary was asking Louis, but his eyes were on Charlotte. Charlotte had mingled nicely with the partners and their family. She even brought gifts for them, though Morgan and Lupine were the ones holding them.

"I have to tell you something." Louis took Zachary to the side and whispered, "Can we have one more partner for this project?"

"No," Zachary refused without any hesitation.

"Oh, don't be a party pooper, Zachary," Louis calmed him down. "Charlotte's acknowledged by the partners, and they agreed to it. I can't do anything about it."

"So you set me up? You're forcing me to agree?" Zachary frowned, looking serious. "Who asked you to do this?"

"I..." Louis glanced at Charlotte subconsciously, but he looked away moments later.

"Nobody. This talk was going to happen anyway. We're just having one more member here." "So who told them to bring their partners, and who allowed the Lindbergs to attend this banquet?" Zachary was upset. "And who told you to keep this a secret?"

"I did," Charlotte said coldly. She walked up to them with elegance and smiled at Zachary. "You seem to dislike this surprise, Mr. Nacht."

Zachary glared at her coldly and looked away. He couldn't bring himself to get angry at her.

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"This is our fault, Charlotte. We should have talked with Zachary about this." Louis looked guilty. "Please don't be upset, Zachary. Just see this as a normal dinner. We can talk about work later."

"I invested ten billion for my shares. This is a fair trade. Why should we delay the talk?" Charlotte shot back.

"That Koandrian offered fifteen billion for ten percent of the shares, but I refused him anyway." Zachary looked at her coldly and asked Louis, "How much did you give her?"

"I..." Louis whispered, "Fifteen percent."

"Fifteen?" Zachary was vexed. "What do you think this project is? Something you can use to hook up with the ladies?"

"What nonsense are you spouting!" Charlotte growled. "I might not have much in this project, but I have my resources! Lindberg Corporation can help this project tremendously!"

"Oh, really?" Zachary arched his eyebrow. "Fine then. We're planning on expanding this project to Erihal. We can talk about your participation after you show me Erihal's authorization letters."

"Why you..." Charlotte couldn't argue against that.

"Let's not fight, Zachary. At least for my sake, okay?" Louis tugged at Zachary, seemingly in a panic. "The partners are watching. We don't want to fight in front of them. It's just a gathering today. We can talk about the project later."

Charlotte didn't interject. She couldn't afford to enrage Zachary at that point. If he were to voice his objection, Louis and the partners wouldn't help her.

Zachary glared at Louis coldly, still irked about his actions. Zachary had a lot of projects on his hand, and he didn't need more. The only reason he helped Louis was on the basis of altruism. He didn't care about Louis' royalty status.

Louis had been too sheltered, and he knew nothing about the darkness of the world. He still acted like a child even though he was already twenty-eight. If he didn't deliver anything of value, he'd be the laughing stock of the other royalty members. Worse, he might be stripped of his title.

After what happened that night though, Zachary realized Louis was no more than an incompetent businessman. What he did was taboo for Zachary. He would not have tolerated it if the guy weren't Louis. But he couldn't bring himself to do it when the kid was pleading with him, and Charlotte being there didn't help. Left with no choice, he went along with Louis.

Charlotte was surprised that Zachary would relent. The rumors said he's cruel and merciless, but he looks like a nice guy to me. He kept relenting every time we met. What is he trying to do? Is this a trap?

"Be careful, Ms. Lindberg," Lupine whispered. Even she thought Zachary was being too amicable that night since Mr. Lindberg would have been yelled at if he was in the same situation.

"Hello, Mr. Nacht." All the partners greeted him and introduced their partners.

"Greetings," Zachary replied curtly. He hated formal situations like that, and all he wanted to do was get away from everyone.

And then one of the partners' wives asked, "Why did you come alone, Mr. Nacht. Where's your wife?"

Zachary froze and glanced at Charlotte, who was coming with Louis, and they sat down beside him.

"I saw the news of your marriage two years ago, and it was so touching. You have three beautiful children, don't you? Oh, that's so great." The lady smiled. "I heard they're triplets, yes?"

"Yes." Zachary glanced at Charlotte, whose interest was piqued at the mention of children. "Triplets?"

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"Ah, I don't think you know about this, Ms. Lindberg." The lady quickly huddled closer with Charlotte when she picked up the interest Charlotte showed. "He has two boys and a girl, and oh, how wonderful are they. They look just like the cherubs in those oil paintings we see. If I'm not mistaken, they're Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie, aren't they?" The lady beamed at Zachary.

"Yes." Zachary looked at Charlotte quietly.

A few scenes popped up in Charlotte's mind, and she wanted to immerse herself in them, but she started having a headache, and she held her head, trying to keep everyone from noticing.

"Oh, and they have a little parrot at home." The lady seemed delighted. "It's called Fifi." "Fifi?"

Lupine and Morgan looked at each other. That's the name of our pet.

"How do you know so much, Mrs. Morgana?" The other ladies were interested.

"Of course I do." Mrs. Morgana arched her eyebrow proudly. "I read everything about Mr. Nacht's wedding. His love story is so much more romantic than any romance movie, and I was moved to tears."

"I saw it too, but I didn't pay much attention to the content." another lady said. "All I know is that his wife is the young heiress of the Synder Group." Zachary froze and looked at Charlotte.

Synder Group? Charlotte stared back at him with a complex gaze.

"Synder Group's young heiress? Is she the one who stood against Ms. Lindberg?" Mrs. Morgana glanced carefully at Charlotte and stopped talking.

"No. That's Sharon, an illegitimate daughter. Mrs. Nacht is the lawful daughter of the Blackwoods. I'm sure she's—"

"I'll be leaving now if all everyone does is gossip," Zachary interrupted Mrs. Lorenzo and stood up to button his suit. "Go on ahead without me."

Mr. Lorenzo quickly stood up to apologize, "I'm sorry for my wife's behavior, Mr. Nacht. I'll have a long talk with her later."

"Yes, same here," Mr. Morgana apologized too. "Why don't we send the ladies back home and talk about the project?"

Everyone quieted down and looked at Zachary expectantly. At the same time, Charlotte knew she was powerless before Zachary in the business world. All he did was say he'd leave, and he had already forced her out of the game.

Zachary looked at her coldly. "The project, huh?"

"Mr. Nacht!" Charlotte beamed. "Why don't the three of us have a little chat?"

"We'll see." Zachary left, but not before giving her one last, emotionless glance.

Nice! Ben cheered quietly as he followed Zachary out. Marino shared his sentiment. For once, they finally managed to teach those wenches a lesson.

"Goddammit!" Lupine gnashed her teeth.

"Um..." Everyone looked at one another at a loss.

"I'm sorry, everyone," Louis apologized quickly. "This is an oversight on my part. I didn't tell him about my plan. He was just angry at me, not you guys."

Charlotte looked at Louis gently. He's kind. The first thing he thinks about is Zachary's reputation instead of his.

"Don't mind it, Sir Louis. We were in the wrong. We shouldn't have talked out of line and anger Mr. Nacht." Mr. Lorenzo and Mr. Morgana raised a toast in apology.

"Your wives said nothing wrong, Mr. Lorenzo, Mr. Morgana. Mr. Nacht is just too easily offended." Charlotte smiled. "To our friendship. Let's go on without him."

"Is that really the right thing to do?" Everyone was nervous. "Why don't you talk to Mr. Nacht, Sir Louis? We're fine by ourselves."

"Um..."

"Louis and I will see him later. Let's have our dinner for now," Charlotte said.

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Zachary went back to the villa feeling annoyed. He wanted some peace and quiet, but then he noticed Cain and Kyle observing him from the shadows. He knew they were tasked by Henry to observe him and Cynthia, so he had to keep the act up no matter how reluctant he was.

He changed into casual attire and came to the hot spring, where Cynthia was resting.

Cynthia was wearing a thin silk dress, her hair tumbling down her back, and she was soaking her feet in the hot spring. The nurses who were taking care of her praised, "You're beautiful, Ms. Blackwood."

"Yeah, you look so pure and innocent, Ms. Blackwood. You're like a fairy."

"Yeah, she does give off that vibe."

The girls chatted away, and Cynthia smiled. The breeze blew and her hair danced along, elevating her beauty to greater heights.

She was different from Charlotte. Cynthia looked pure and innocent, like she was a fairy from outside this world, while Charlotte was noble and elegant, just like an angel. Zachary looked at her for a few moments and approached the lady.

"Mr. Nacht!" One of the nurses quickly bowed when she noticed him.

"Mr. Nacht." Everyone else backed off. Cynthia was flustered at the sight of him. She tried to take her cape, but her movements were hindered by her wound, and she almost fell into the spring, but Zachary managed to save her in time.

She loosened up and fell into his embrace. Zachary noticed the smell of flowers coming from her as she leaned against his chest like a damsel in distress.

"Are you alright?" Zachary pushed her away easily and covered her with his suit.

'Thank you,' Cynthia gestured as she threw a loving look at him.

Zachary sat on the recliner and waved the servants down. At the same time, Cain was hiding in the bushes nearby, holding up a phone and turned it in their direction.

He was video calling Henry, and Henry was delighted when he saw Zachary and Cynthia looking so intimate.

'There was a downpour earlier. Did you get into anything on the way?' Cynthia tried to initiate a conversation.

"Would I be here if I did?" Zachary blurted, and Cynthia stiffened up. Well, how should I keep this conversation going?

She tried her best, but Zachary could shut her down easily no matter what she tried to say.

"How's the villa?" Zachary looked at the place.

"It's nice," Cynthia answered. "I quite like it."

"Glad to hear that." He nodded and pointed at the hot spring. "You should go in there more. It's good for you." Zachary then tried to leave, but Ben gave him a look. He knew Henry's spies were still observing him, and Henry was most probably watching him too. Dammit. I have to keep this up for a while longer.

He found it odd that he couldn't speak well with women. Well, technically he could, but he'd end the conversation quickly, since he'd get bored no matter what they had to say. Only Charlotte could hold up his interest.

'Are you upset about something?' Cynthia asked.

"Huh?" Zachary was surprised. "How did you know?"

'Because you're frowning, and your eyes tell me you're troubled.' Cynthia smiled and gestured, 'You saw Sir Louis, didn't you? Is it about the project?'

"How did you know I met Louis?" Zachary finally started paying attention to her.

'Mr. Potter told me you went to meet an important friend in the banquet hall. I heard Sir Louis is in H City recently, so I thought you might have gone to see him.' She smiled. 'And did you forget that I major in psychology? I can see when you're troubled.'

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"Oh, right." Zachary nodded. "Guess why I brought you here then."

'You want to keep up the act so Mr. Henry would assume we're dating. Only then would he go back to Mr. Henry.' Cynthia turned away when she gestured that in case the spies caught that on camera.

"Smart." Zachary smiled and was about to leave, but then he heard a car stopping outside.

"Mr. Nacht!" Ben trotted to him and whispered, "Sir Louis and Ms. Lindberg are here."

"What business do they have here?" Zachary frowned and quickly went out. At the same time, he said, "Tell Raina to keep an eye on Cynthia and don't let her come out. And keep an eye on Henry's henchmen. They must not see Charlotte."

"I understand." Ben quickly went to make the necessary arrangements.

Cynthia noticed Zachary was in a hurry, and when she saw the headlight outside, she knew someone had come, but she wondered who it might be. Zachary seems to think that the guest is important.

"Oh, you're done, Ms. Blackwood." Raina hastened to her. "I'll take you in." Raina waved his hand, and two servants helped Cynthia up.

Cynthia tightened Zachary's jacket around her and wore her slippers before going into the room. At the same time, a group of people came in, and she reflexively turned around. She saw Louis, of course, and there was another lady with him. She couldn't see too clearly because of the distance, but she knew the lady had a sexy figure and an angelic vibe that permeated the air.

"Let's go in, Ms. Blackwood," Raina urged her, and she looked away. Cynthia went into the room with Raina, albeit with some difficulty.

Charlotte noticed Cynthia too, and she smirked. "No wonder you were in a hurry, Mr. Nacht. I see you have a girlfriend here. I can understand that you want to spend time with her." Zachary looked where she was looking, and he frowned. Raina's really slow.

"Girlfriend? What girlfriend?" Louis looked around, but all he saw were the nurses cleaning up near the hot spring. However, he noticed the flowers and handkerchief on the chair, and he realized there was a lady in the hot spring before he came.

"Your girlfriend is here, Zachary?" Louis got excited. "You should have brought her out to meet us, you little rascal."

"She's just a friend," Zachary explained calmly.

"As if!" Louis looked excited. "I never saw you going on a date with any lady except your wife. This is the first in all these years."

"Ah, so you're cheating, huh?" Charlotte looked disgusted. "You keep a mistress despite having a wife? How crude."

"Someone sounds jealous." Zachary arched his eyebrow.

"Why you..."

"Alright, stop it," Louis stopped them. "Why do you guys keep fighting every time you meet?" Then he explained on Zachary's behalf, "I think I have to explain, Charlotte. Zachary's wife has been missing for two years, and he has been sparing no effort to search for her, but there's no news about his wife. Legally speaking, he's single, so having a girlfriend is normal."

"She's missing?" Charlotte was inexplicably uneasy after hearing that.

"Let's take this outside." Zachary didn't want his grandfather's henchmen to see Charlotte.

"Why the hurry?" Louis was upset. "Don't want us to see your girlfriend? Is she Medusa or something?"

Charlotte, too, wanted to know who the woman in Zachary's suit was. She wasn't fond of gossips, but for some reason, she wanted to know right away.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 785

"I didn't know you guys are such gossip lovers." Zachary was getting impatient. "Are you leaving or not?"

"Alright, alright, let's go." Louis relented after Zachary got angry. "But we want to talk about the project."

"Let's take this to your place." Zachary forcibly pushed them out, and Ben told the servants to close the door immediately.

Cain and Kyle finally managed to break free from being caught up by Marino, but when they arrived, Zachary was already gone like the wind.

"I told you it's just Louis and his girlfriend. You gossip lovers, you," Marino teased.

"Something seems odd." They thought something was off, but they didn't pry any further.

"Just go in."

"Mr. Nacht, your girlfriend would be left alone if you come with us, won't she?" Charlotte poked fun at him, but all Zachary did was look at her coldly.

"It's fine. He'll go back in a minute," Louis stopped their argument once again. "This'll only take a second."

"True." Charlotte smirked. "It's not even ten. We won't disturb their night."

"Someone seems jealous." Zachary approached her, his gaze passionate. "I can stay with you if you want."

"Why you..." Charlotte's face turned scarlet.

"What are you doing, Zachary?" Louis quickly sat between them, separating Zachary from Charlotte. "Stop this. She's my girlfriend."

"I wonder if that's the case." Zachary arched his eyebrow.

"What does that have to do with you?" Charlotte glared back.

"Of course it has something to do with me." He teased, "I want you."

What the heck? Louis was shocked. "Are you for real?"

Charlotte was equally shocked. She thought she was hearing things.

"Consider it, Charlotte." He shoved Louis away and closed in on her. "I know you better than Louis does."

"Zachary, what are you doing?"

"You're joking." Charlotte frowned, glaring back at him with doubt. "You can't have fallen for me, can you?"

"Let's see..." Zachary smirked. "If I hadn't fallen for you, how did you take down the South Sea territorial waters?

"If I hadn't fallen for you, why did I tolerated your behavior? And that I let you go despite the fact you lost that night? Do you really think an eagle's enough to stop me?

"If I hadn't fallen for you, why do you think I was in a hurry to save you back then?

"If I hadn't fallen for you, why do you think I didn't kill you when you came to my home with your pet eagle?

"If I hadn't fallen for you, why do you think you can still sit with us despite telling Louis to pull off all that offensive stunts? I would have kicked anyone else out of the partnership, but you're still here.

"Why do you think that is the case?"

Charlotte couldn't come up with any rebuttal for that, and Louis was aghast, while Morgan the driver was sweating from her palms. Lupine frowned as if an enemy was behind her.

Ben kept quiet, though he looked at his employer knowingly. He knew there were two reasons Zachary was doing that. One, he was worried that Louis might take Charlotte for himself, and two,

he was worried Charlotte might cause a lot of trouble for the Nacht Group if she kept it up. When that time came, he'd be hard-pressed to take action against her, except that he wouldn't be able to. That'd pose a big problem.

"You must be kidding, Zachary." Louis finally snapped out of it and was agitated. "I thought you have a girlfriend now. Why'd you fall for Charlotte?" "She's not my girlfriend," Zachary answered curtly.

"What a joke." Charlotte was infuriated. "You think you can kick me out of the partnership with that kind of cheap trick? I gave Louis my money, so I am not—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Zachary held the back of her head and kissed her.

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Charlotte was caught off guard by the kiss and stared at Zachary in wide-eyed disbelief.

She froze up, unable to react.

It all felt very surreal and yet so familiar...

At the same time, both Louis and Ben were taken aback and looked on in astonishment. Ben, however, quickly recovered and averted his gaze.

Morgan, who had witnessed it all from the driver's seat, was just as startled. She momentarily lost control of the steering wheel, causing the car to swerve violently.

The sudden swerve brought Charlotte back to her senses. She tried to push Zachary away, but he was just too strong.

The more she struggled, the louder the buzzing in her head was. In a moment of panic, she bit down hard on his lips.

Her bite drew blood and left a metallic taste in her mouth.

Though reluctant, Zachary finally let go of Charlotte. He cupped her face and gently brushed her lips with his thumb.

"B*stard!" Charlotte raised her hand, ready to strike him.

Zachary grabbed her wrist in time and pulled her into his arms. "What's wrong? Haven't had enough?"

"You... " Charlotte wasn't sure if she was red from anger or embarrassment.

"Zachary, you've gone overboard!" Louis exclaimed as he hurriedly pushed him away and shielded Charlotte from him. "Even I have never kissed Charlotte, how dare you... "

"That's good to know." Zachary nodded smugly. "We can remain as buddies."

"What?" Louis went berserk at his display of arrogance. "Who wants to be buddies with you? You're a girlfriend-stealing piece of sh*t!"

"Give it up. You aren't suitable for each other," Zachary replied sternly.

The rage built up inside of Louis rendered him speechless.

"Pull over!" Charlotte suddenly ordered.

Once Morgan stopped the car, Lupine immediately got out to open the door.

"Get out!" Charlotte bellowed as she continued to glare at him.

"Weren't we supposed to discuss a collaboration?" Zachary replied, his mouth curled into a shameless grin.

"I said – GET! OUT!" Charlotte screamed while trying to kick him.

Zachary managed to dodge her attack and got out of the car.

Ben swiftly followed behind, only to have Lupine surprise him with a kick to his butt.

The kick almost sent him flying, but Ben remained silent as he gritted his teeth in anger.

Lupine shot him a death stare as she got back into the car.

With that, the Rolls-Royce sped off.

The Nacht family car that had been following behind this whole time promptly pulled over. The subordinates stood around in bewilderment, unaware of what had happened.

Meanwhile, Zachary smirked as he looked at the Rolls-Royce in the distance.

"Mr. Nacht, what are you trying to achieve with this?" Ben whined.

"Isn't this good?" Zachary snickered. "Louis doesn't want me around Charlotte, and Charlotte now thinks I'm a pervert. Because of that, the chances of her backing out of the project are very high. Their interest in Cynthia seems to have died down too, so I can fully concentrate on my work."

"That's true." Ben nodded.

"The most important thing is... " Zachary cocked his eyebrow. "The kiss was so intense for her that Louis would always be second to me."

Ben was so impressed with Zachary's wit that he couldn't hide his excitement. "Killing three birds with one stone! Brilliant!"

In the meantime, Raina had been waiting in the yard when Zachary returned to the villa. Upon seeing him, Raina immediately rushed toward him. "Mr. Nacht, I have failed you."

Raina had heard from Marino that Charlotte and Louis had spotted Cynthia due to her negligence. She decided it'd be better to own up to her mistake first than to have Zachary find it out himself.

"Thankfully, it was from a distance, so they only saw a silhouette," Zachary replied coldly. "You've always been very conscientious, so I don't want you making any more mistakes.

"Yes. I understand," Raina said, her head bowed in apology.

"I'll overlook it this time. Don't let it happen again," Zachary warned, his voice still cold and hard.

"Yes, Mr. Nacht."

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Zachary walked past Cynthia's room, only to see the door left slightly ajar. Cain was alert as he stood in the corridor, guarding the place.

After some thought, Zachary decided against going upstairs and knocked on Cynthia's door.

Two nurses came running to open the door and greeted him.

"Is she still awake?"

"Yes, Mr. Nacht. Ms. Blackwood has been waiting for you." The nurses then smiled and excused themselves from the room.

Waiting for me?

Zachary's curiosity was piqued as he walked slowly in.

Cynthia was dressed in a white lace nightgown with her hair let down in the room. After fiddling about at the incense table, a wisp of purple mist slowly appeared, emitting a fresh fragrance.

The effect of the mist accentuated Cynthia's beauty even more. She broke out into a warm smile when she saw Zachary and gestured in sign language. "Grandpa said you haven't been sleeping well. I've mixed some lavender oil for you to place in your room. It will help you sleep better."

"Oh, thank you."

Ben waited for Zachary's order before he went in to take the lavender oil and aroma lamp from Cynthia.

"Rest early." Cynthia remained still and looked tenderly at Zachary.

After saying goodnight, Zachary glanced at Cynthia and left the room.

Cynthia continued standing in her spot, watching Zachary walk away until he was completely out of sight.

Ben finally heaved a sigh of relief when they got back to Zachary's room. "Do you want to light the aroma lamp?" he asked.

"Go ahead."

For the last two years, Zachary had had nightmares every night, which took a toll on his mental health. Henry told him that Cynthia might be able to help, but he never gave it much thought. Since she had already prepared it for him tonight, he decided to give it a try.

"It looks like it's going to rain tonight," Ben remarked as he lit the aroma lamp. "I'll close the windows for you. Have a good sleep after your shower."

Zachary nodded and went into the bathroom, completely unaware that his phone was vibrating.

Ben left the room after finishing his tasks, closing the door behind him. He got two subordinates to stand guard outside Zachary's before heading to his room to retire for the night.

At that moment, Zachary finished his warm shower and stepped out of the bathroom. The lavender scent from the aroma lamp had engulfed the entire room. He had to admit that it had a very calming effect.

After a few glasses of wine, Zachary sat on the sofa to towel-dry his hair.

Just when he thought he could sit back and relax, his phone started vibrating again. It was Louis.

"Zachary, I need to talk to you. The more I thought about it, the angrier I got," Louis barked over the phone. "You're aware of my feelings toward Charlotte, so why did you do that?"

"She won't like you," Zachary advised. "It's best to give up now before you waste any more of your time."

"How do you know she won't like me?" Louis got increasingly agitated by the minute. "She caught my hint yesterday and said we could date and see where it leads us. I even made preparations to profess my love to her tonight, but you've ruined all that... " "Oh really? That's wonderful news!" Zachary replied with a smirk.

That was the straw that broke the camel's back. "Zachary Nacht, I thought you were my best friend. But after the way you've treated me, we're no longer friends!"

Zachary was about to explain himself when a deafening clap of thunder rang out.

Soon after, he heard a blood-curdling scream over the phone.

That voice sounded so familiar that it stunned Zachary. "What was that?"

"I think that was Charlotte," Louis muttered. "I'm hanging up now. I need to check on her." With that, the call ended.

Zachary held on to his phone with furrowed brows. That voice definitely belonged to Charlotte, but why was there so much fear and panic in it?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 788

Zachary felt terrible unease and couldn't stop thinking about Charlotte. With that, he put his wine glass down, got dressed, and hurried downstairs.

"What's the matter, Mr. Nacht?" Marino asked, panicked by Zachary's sudden rush.

"Get the car. We're going to Charlotte's villa."

Marino nodded and carried out his orders immediately. Zachary was buttoning his shirt while still making his way downstairs. He was in such a hurry that he broke into a run.

Just then, there was a loud bang from downstairs.

In his rush, Zachary had knocked Cynthia down when he turned the corner.

The impact was so strong that the poor girl sat on the floor, trembling in pain.

"Ms. Blackwood!" the nurse exclaimed as she quickly helped Cynthia up.

"What is Cynthia doing here at this time of the night?"

"Ms. Blackwood had only just passed a gift to Dr. Langhan," the nurse explained.

Cynthia looked to be in so much pain that Zachary wondered if she had landed on her wound. Her face had gone pale, and beads of sweat were rolling down.

"Get Raina here now!" he ordered.

As the nurse ran off to get Raina, Zachary held his hand out for Cynthia. He wanted to lead her to her room, but her legs were shaking so much that she couldn't walk at all. Thus, he had no choice but to carry her back.

Once back in the room and with the lights turned on, it was now clear to see that Cynthia's leg wound had reopened. It was bleeding profusely, and a wave of guilt came over Zachary. "I was walking too fast earlier... "

Before he could finish his sentence, Raina ran into the room to check on Cynthia. "Oh no. The wound looks bad. Bring me my medical kit," she ordered the nurse.

"How is she?" Zachary asked, his frown deepening.

"The wound on the leg has reopened, so I'll need to stitch that up. I still have to check the other areas, but there shouldn't be anything too serious. Don't worry too much."

"That's good to hear." By this time, the car he asked for was all ready to go, and so was he. He once again reminded Cynthia, "Stay in the room and rest. Don't go wandering about again."

Just as he was about to leave, Cynthia suddenly cried out in pain.

Zachary stopped in his tracks and turned around. The wound on her waist had reopened too, and the blood seeping out had stained her white nightgown.

Raina's face changed. "Oh no! We have to get her to the hospital!"

Zachary doubled back in shock. "How did it get so serious? Quick, send her to the hospital."

"I'll get the hospital staff to come over immediately," Raina said, taking her phone out to make the call.

Zachary was steeped in guilt as he saw how much Cynthia was suffering. At that point, he could only try to reassure her that medical help was on the way.

Despite being in so much pain, Cynthia still wore a smile as she gestured, "Do you have something urgent to do? Go ahead. Dr. Langhan is here for me, so don't worry. I will be okay."

The more she said, the more guilty Zachary felt. But he was also worried about Charlotte and was still in a hurry to go to her.

Raina was done with her call and came back into the room. "The hospital staff is on their way. It'll take around half an hour."

"Take care of her, Raina. I have to go out for a while."

Zachary was all ready to leave when his phone rang. It was a call from Henry.

He frowned before turning his attention onto Cain, who was standing outside.

Cain quickly lowered his head and scrambled to hide his phone behind him.

At that, Zachary had no choice but to answer his phone.

"What's wrong with you?" Henry hollered. "Why are you in such a rush in the middle of the night? And now you've even injured Cynthia, aren't you ashamed of yourself?"

"You really are all-seeing. We can't hide anything from you," Zachary replied bitterly. "It's not like I injured her on purpose. The hospital staff is already on their way as we speak."

"You..." Henry gritted his teeth in anger. "I want you to take full responsibility for this! I don't care what you have on hand. You are to put everything aside and take good care of Cynthia. Do you hear me?"

"There's something I need to do now."

"Even if the sky falls, you are to take care of Cynthia first," Henry roared, his anger ratcheting up another notch. "You knocked into her, so you have to be responsible!"

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Zachary was about to argue back at Henry when another call came in. This time, it was Louis. "I'm hanging up now. Louis has an emergency," Zachary told Henry before abruptly ending his call.

"Louis?"

"Zachary, are you on your way with Raina?" The growing anxiety in Louis's voice was palpable. "We need her help."

"What's wrong?" Zachary anxiously asked in return.

"Charlotte suddenly had a splitting headache when the thunder rolled earlier. I suggested calling for an ambulance, but her subordinates refused to. I know you bring Dr. Langhan out on your errands a lot, so I thought... "

Before he could finish his sentence, there was another clap of thunder.

Once again, Charlotte let out another piercing, spine-chilling scream.

Zachary's heart pained upon hearing her. "I'm coming over right now."

With that, he ended the call and turned to Raina. "Follow me to meet Louis. And bring your medical kit along."

Raina was dumbfounded as she looked at Zachary and then back at Cynthia.

"Didn't you say the hospital staff would be here soon? They'll tend to Cynthia's wounds." Zachary was running out of patience now. "Get your medical kit now. Hurry."

Raina had no choice but to comply. She then looked apologetically at Cynthia before heading off to get her medical kit.

"Mr. Nacht, please don't do this to Ms. Blackwood..." one of the nurses begged amid sobs. "How can you leave her behind in this state? And you're even taking Dr. Langhan with you? What will Ms. Blackwood do without her around?"

Cynthia interrupted before Zachary could say anything more.

She tried to hide the excruciating pain she was in as she gestured, "You have to help Sir Louis. Don't worry about me. The hospital staff will be here soon. I'll be fine."

"Thank you!" Zachary exclaimed. His guilt was eating him up alive, but he was also very grateful for Cynthia's understanding. Following that, he turned toward Ben and ordered, "You stay here. I want you to accompany Cynthia to the hospital and protect her the entire journey. Understood?" Ben nodded firmly.

At that time, Raina had gotten ready and called out for Zachary.

Zachary took one last look at Cynthia before stepping out of the room.

Instantly, Cynthia's nurse cried out, "This is outrageous! How can Mr. Nacht do this..."

Ben rushed forward to comfort her. "Alright. Alright. At least I'm still here."

"How is that the same? You aren't Mr. Nacht."

Ben was left speechless, and frankly, also a little hurt.

As Zachary and Raina made their way toward Charlotte's villa, the thunderstorm continued to rage on.

At that instant, Zachary's phone was ringing non-stop from Henry calling him, but he ignored them.

The car had only just pulled over at the villa when Charlotte's scream rang out again in the night. Hearing that, Zachary jumped out of the car and sprinted in, only to be blocked by the Lindberg's bodyguards. "Stop right there. This is Ms. Lindberg's villa. No outsiders are allowed."

"F*ck off!" Zachary unceremoniously pushed them away and raced up the stairs.

"Charlotte! Charlotte, what's wrong with you? Please don't scare me," Louis cried as he banged on her door. "Please open the door and let me in."

"Sir Louis, please pipe down. Ms. Lindberg has a relapse every time there's a thunderstorm. There's no medicine for it. We'll just have to wait till the storm passes," Charlotte's bodyguards explained.

Louis was about to retort when he saw Zachary come up the stairs. His arrival brought Louis a great sense of relief as he ran toward him and Raina.

"Dr. Langhan, please take a look at Charlotte... "

"Alright, I will. Don't panic," Raina reassured him.

Zachary tried the door, but it was locked from the inside. Thus, he turned to the bodyguards and shouted in frustration, "Open it!"

"We can't," she replied. "We aren't allowed to go near Ms. Lindberg when she has a relapse. Only Lupine and Morgan are in there with her."

In his fit of anger, Zachary took a step back and kicked the door.

A loud bang resonated through the house. His kick was so strong that the door and walls shook.

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Everyone around Zachary was startled by his sudden outburst. They knew he was a good fighter, but they weren't aware of his immense strength.

Bang! Another kick from Zachary, and the door was open.

"What do you think you're doing?" Morgan trained her gun on Zachary. "This is Ms. Lindberg's room. You aren't allowed to... "

Before she could finish, Zachary had rushed into the room.

Zachary traced Charlotte's voice into the bathroom and immediately made his way there.

Lupine, who was at the bathroom door, tried to stop Zachary. "How dare you! This is the Lindberg's... "

Nonetheless, Zachary had no patience for her either as he roughly pushed her away. He was so strong that Lupine fell onto the floor.

As soon as he stepped into the bathroom, he was shocked at the scene laid out in front of him.

Charlotte was lying naked in the bathtub, screaming at the top of her lungs as her hands covered her ears.

She was bleeding so much from her nose, mouth, and eyes that the water in the bathtub had been dyed red.

Zachary's heart almost broke at the sight of Charlotte. Despite the terrifying scene in front of him, he ran up to hug her tight as he shouted for Raina.

When Raina saw the state Charlotte was in, she decided to sedate her first.

However, Charlotte kept struggling and thrashing about like a wild beast on the loose.

Left without a choice, Zachary grabbed Charlotte's hands to hold her down. Yet she used her legs to kick Raina instead. No matter how hard Raina tried, she just couldn't get near Charlotte.

Thus, Zachary decided to step into the bathtub and used his body to press down on Charlotte, his hands on hers.

Charlotte continued to struggle, but she wasn't strong enough to break free from Zachary.

When she realized she couldn't move her arms or legs, she bit down hard on Zachary's neck.

Zachary screamed in agony. It felt like she was about to rip his flesh off, but he couldn't care less. "Do it now!" he ordered Raina.

"Ok, ok," Raina whimpered, her hands shaking as she injected Charlotte with the sedative.

Just then, Lupine and Morgan barged in and tried to stop them, but Louis stepped in to pull them away. "That's a sedative. It's the only way to ease Charlotte's pain."

Sure enough, Charlotte quietened down almost immediately. She went limp in Zachary's arms and closed her eyes. "Please, please don't kill Mrs. Berry. Don't kill her..." she whimpered.

Upon hearing those words, Zachary felt a throbbing pain in his heart. He couldn't imagine what Charlotte had to go through two years ago that left her with such a bad trauma.

With Charlotte asleep, Louis finally heaved a sigh of relief. "I'm so glad that's over. She almost scared me to death!"

"Sir Louis, please step outside." Lupine and Morgan urged. They had a scene to clean up, and they didn't want more people getting involved.

"I didn't see anything."

That was the truth. Louis had been standing by the bathroom door the whole time. Other than Charlotte's face, he couldn't see anything else.

"Mr. Nacht, please... "

Before Lupine could continue, Zachary had already carried Charlotte out of the bathtub. He wrapped a towel around her before laying her on the bed.

Zachary couldn't stand to see her in so much pain, but he knew he couldn't stay. Hence, he turned to Lupine and Morgan. "Wipe her dry and get her dressed." With that, he left the room.

Raina was about to follow suit when Lupine stopped her. "Dr. Langhan, please wait." Raina instantly stopped in her tracks.

"Can you please help us?"

"Of course."

Louis ran up to Zachary just as he was coming out of Charlotte's room. "Oh my god, your neck is bleeding."

"Where's your room?" Zachary replied curtly.

Quickly, Louis led him to his room, and Zachary stepped into the bathroom to clean himself up.

When Zachary stepped back out again in a bathrobe, Louis poured him a glass of wine. "Are you okay? Do you need to go to the hospital?" he asked with genuine concern.

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"I guess I'm going to need a rabies shot," Zachary simply replied.

Louis almost spat his wine out at that.

Just then, Raina came into the room. "Mr. Nacht, let me tend to your wound."

"How is she?"

"She has calmed down, and there are no serious injuries," Raina said as she cleaned Zachary's wound. "Lupine put a pair of noise-canceling headphones on her, so there won't be any worries of her waking up again to the thunder."

"Exactly," Louis chimed in. "They usually pay a lot of attention to the weather. If there were reports of a thunderstorm, they'd make sure to have Charlotte wear the headphones. But, for some reason, they forgot about it today."

Hearing that, Zachary grew silent. Charlotte got attacked two years ago, and they destroyed her last antidote. She must have gone through hell and back after that episode. It was a miracle that she even survived it.

Her memory loss and having a relapse every time there's a thunderstorm could also be the effects of that traumatic event.

"Your wound looks bad." Raina frowned. "You'll have to get a tetanus shot at the hospital. I'm afraid I haven't brought any with me."

"I'll do it later." Zachary didn't care about it right now. "You should go stay by Charlotte."

Raina nodded and left with her medical kit.

After she left, Louis looked at Zachary quizzically. When Zachary kissed Charlotte and even claimed to like her, Louis didn't believe him. He had thought it was all part of Zachary's plan to force Charlotte out of the project.

But now, it seemed like Zachary wasn't lying at all.

When Charlotte had a relapse, Zachary was far more anxious than anyone else in the room. He had no care for himself when he used his body to protect Charlotte. Even when she bit him, he still didn't let go.

With such a display of selflessness, Louis knew Zachary wasn't joking around.

Zachary was calling Marino when he saw Louis staring at him. "What are you looking at?"

"Do you really like Charlotte?" Louis blurted out. "When did you start liking her?"

Zachary didn't reply instantly. Instead, he barked his orders at Marino over the phone, "Where are my clothes?"

"Coming, Mr. Nacht! I'm downstairs right now."

"Hurry up."

"Yes, Mr. Nacht."

After ending the call, Zachary looked up at Louis. "Two years ago."

"What?" Louis widened his eyes in shock. It took him a while to recover from it. "You've known her since two years ago?"

Louis paused as he contemplated more about it. Something didn't add up. "Wait a minute. Didn't you have a wife two years ago? She went missing, and you searched for her high and low... "

"She doesn't belong to you. Go look for another," Zachary said sternly.

His words had only just sunk in when there was a knock at the door.

"Come in."

Marino came in with a bag of clothes before excusing himself.

Then, Zachary picked up the clothes and proceeded to change in the bathroom.

Louis, on the other hand, stood behind the door with panic in his voice as he asked, "What happened exactly? Tell me everything right now!"

Despite that, Zachary ignored him as he continued changing. When he was done, he made a beeline for Charlotte's room.

"Hey! Answer me!" Louis followed behind in exasperation.

When Zachary reached Charlotte's room, he was glad to see her sleeping peacefully in her bed, but at the same time, his emotions were all over the place.

"Mr. Nacht, thank you for your help tonight. We'll let Ms. Lindberg have a good night's sleep now. We can talk tomorrow if there's anything else," Lupine said calmly.

Both she and Morgan seemed guarded, as if afraid that Zachary might touch Charlotte again.

"Take good care of her." Zachary took one good look at Charlotte before taking his leave.

"Can I come in?" Louis decided to try his luck with Lupine and Morgan.

As expected, they denied his request. "Sir Louis, we're very sorry. We can't let anyone in to disturb Ms. Lindberg right now. You can talk to her tomorrow."

Louis still felt a little hurt by the rejection as he followed sullenly behind Zachary.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 792

It was already half past one in the morning when Zachary left Charlotte's villa. He checked his phone, only to find seven or eight missed calls from Henry.

Zachary knew he had to check in on Cynthia, or Henry would throw a fit and go after him.

After all, he couldn't afford to anger Henry any further, so he decided to head to the hospital near Ashenville Garden to see Cynthia.

He was well on his way when he spotted a car driving toward him from the opposite direction.

Both cars pulled over, and Ben got out of the other car. "Mr. Nacht," Ben greeted with a bow.

"What's going on? Where's Cynthia?"

"Ms. Blackwood is in the car," Ben replied softly. "Her wounds have been checked out. But she refused to stay in the hospital, so we got the doctor's permission to bring her home."

Zachary looked in the car to see Cynthia leaning weakly against her seat. Her face was deathly pale, yet she still smiled and signed at him. "It's just superficial wounds. I'm okay. Let's go back."

He then gestured for everyone to get back into the cars and headed toward the hot spring resort.

On their way back, Zachary contemplated calling Henry. However, he ultimately decided against it as it was already late, and Henry might be asleep. If his call woke Henry up, he might incur even more of that man's wrath.

As soon as they arrived at the resort, Henry came out from the courtyard in a wheelchair. His unexpected arrival gave everyone a shock as they hurriedly bowed to greet him.

Henry ignored them and stared daggers at Zachary.

"Why are you here?" Zachary frowned at him.

"I couldn't reach you on your phone. I thought you were dead," Henry said sarcastically.

Upon that, Zachary chose his words carefully. "Louis had an emergency earlier." "What

could be more important than Cynthia's well-being?" Henry bellowed.

"It was a life and death situation," Zachary rebuked. "Is that important enough for you?"

Henry kept quiet upon hearing that. After all, Louis was a man of distinction. Should something happen to him while he was on their territory, the Nacht family wouldn't be able to answer for it.

If Louis really had an emergency, it would be understandable for Zachary to tend to that first.

"Ms. Blackwood, be careful," the nurse said as she helped Cynthia out of the car.

Henry's face was fraught with worry as he turned to look at Cynthia. "Cynthia, how are you? Were you badly hurt?"

"They were just superficial wounds. I'm fine." Cynthia gestured. "Grandpa, please stop scolding Zachary. Sir Louis did have an emergency, so I had him tend to that first."

"Good girl." Henry was deeply moved by her words. "You're so understanding."

"It's only right to be," Cynthia continued in sign language. "It was my fault. I insisted on going along, and now Zachary is in so much trouble because of that."

Henry's heart ached when he saw how guilty Cynthia felt. "Don't say that. It's his fault for having neglected you. It's getting windy outside. Why don't you head on in first?"

Cynthia was being led back into the house when her knees suddenly buckled. She would have fallen if Zachary hadn't rushed up in time to support her. "Get the wheelchair!" he ordered.

The nurses searched high and low for the wheelchair but to no avail. Cynthia had gotten even weaker at this point and could no longer stand up.

At that moment, Henry got into a state of panic and looked close to blowing his top at everyone. Zachary anticipated that and quickly carried Cynthia back into the house.

Only then did Henry manage to calm down. He shook his head and sighed, "What a blockhead."

"You can't rush these things," Spencer coaxed gently. "He has to have his heart in it."

"What the hell do you know?" Henry barked. "If I don't give them a nudge, they'll never be together."

Spencer said nothing more after that.

In the meantime, Zachary carried Cynthia back to her room and laid her on the bed. "Take good care of her."

He was about to leave when Henry blocked the doorway with his wheelchair. "You're leaving after having injured her?" Henry asked coldly.

"Or what?" Zachary shot back with a frown.

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"Apologize sincerely, and ask about the injury. That's basic courtesy," Henry demanded.

"It's already so late..." Zachary was about to reject when he saw Henry glower at him. He had no choice but to agree to it.

After that, he turned and walked back toward Cynthia's bed.

The nurses got the hint and quickly left the room to give some much-needed space to Zachary and Cynthia.

The door was closed behind him, leaving them alone in the room. The combined effect of the dimmed lights, sway of the white curtains, and lavender fragrance gave a very romantic ambiance.

Zachary sat on the sofa, opened a bottle of wine, and started drinking on his own.

As for Cynthia, she lay on the bed and quietly looked at Zachary, her eyes full of warmth and tenderness.

"I'll rest here for a while before leaving so I don't get nagged at again." Zachary glanced at Cynthia. "Am I disturbing you?"

"No, it's fine." Cynthia gestured. "You can rest as long as you want."

When they locked eyes, Cynthia blushed and immediately tried to clarify. "What I meant was, to put Grandpa at ease, you can stay here longer... no, I meant, you can stay however long you want... "

The more she tried to explain, the more flustered she got.

Regardless, Zachary remained on the sofa, quietly savoring the wine while enjoying the silence.

All of a sudden, he glanced at the door. He could sense someone outside, watching them.

At that, Zachary promptly placed his glass down and made his way toward Cynthia.

Cynthia was very nervous as she gripped her blanket tightly. As a matter of fact, her nerves were so bad she didn't even dare to look at Zachary.

Soon after that, Zachary was already beside her and was leaning in towards her. She then instinctively closed her eyes.

Just as she felt him getting even closer... Zachary reached out and turned off the light switch behind her.

The room was now mostly dark except for the flickering light from the aroma lamp. The darkness gave the room an even more romantic ambiance.

At that point, Cynthia was so nervous she was shaking uncontrollably. Even her breathing had become erratic.

However, Zachary still didn't touch her. He went back to the sofa and continued to drink his wine.

Cynthia slowly opened her eyes and gazed at him sadly.

She thought he was going to...

But alas, he was only turning off the lights.

After a while, Zachary had fallen asleep on the sofa. It was either from sheer exhaustion or the effect of the wine.

He dropped the wine glass he was holding, and the wine immediately stained the white carpet.

Cynthia stole a glance outside before getting out of bed to walk toward Zachary. She then covered him with a blanket and joined him on the sofa, looking at him longingly.

The dimly lit room made his handsome face look weary. His brows were knitted even in his sleep, as though he was in deep melancholy.

Cynthia's heart ached for him as she carefully reached out to caress his brows.

Right then, Zachary suddenly twitched in his sleep.

Startled, Cynthia quickly pulled her hand back and clutched her chest in panic.

Once there were no more sudden movements from Zachary, Cynthia breathed a sigh of relief.

Seeing that he was in deep sleep, she gathered up her courage and slowly caressed his face.

Her fingers were slender, and her touch was gentle. Every brush against Zachary's face was soft like a feather and full of love.

The desire in her eyes gradually intensified as she slowly moved her fingers onto his lips. She brushed against it gently and was about to get up to kiss him when... Bzzzzz! The

vibration of Zachary's phone interrupted her.

Cynthia was startled and quickly backed away, only to fall flat on the floor.

Coincidentally, Zachary had also been startled awake. When he sat up and saw Cynthia on the floor, he immediately bent down to help her up. "What's the matter?"

"You fell asleep, so I wanted to cover you with a blanket." Cynthia gestured nervously. "Thank you."

Zachary led her back to the bed. "You should go to bed now. Goodnight." "Goodnight!" Cynthia gestured back.

Zachary checked his phone as he walked out. To his surprise, it was a call from Charlotte...

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However, she was actually calling that gigolo's number.

By the time Zachary came out of Cynthia's room, there wasn't anyone outside anymore.

But he could feel a pair of eyes watching him from afar. That must be Grandpa's informant.

I've been in Cynthia's room for almost an hour, and so I already did what I needed to do.

Grandpa should have nothing to say about this anymore.

Zachary quickly went back into the room but noticed that the call had already been disconnected. After locking the room door, he went into the bathroom and dialed Charlotte's number with Gigolo's phone.

"Hello?" the woman answered weakly.

"What's wrong? Why do you sound like that?"

His heart obviously ached for her, but he had to act like he didn't know anything.

"I want to see you," Charlotte said.

"Tell me your address."

After hanging up, he instantly called for Ben to gather his stuff.

Luckily, the latter was prepared. No matter where Zachary went, there would always be a mask and the rest of his stuff in the boot of the car.

Once he was done changing, Zachary got out of the room through the window. However, instead of driving, he jogged to the villa.

In the master bedroom on the first floor, Henry lay exhausted on the bed as he listened to Spencer's report, "Mr. Zachary only left Ms. Blackwood's room after seventy-five minutes. Are you feeling more relieved now?"

"It seems like that brat is tough on the outside but soft on the inside. I knew it. He wouldn't be so apathetic." The old man was extremely pleased with what he heard. "Cynthia isn't in good health right now. When she gets better, we'll let them spend time alone together, and all will be well."

"Yes, yes. It's very late now, so do get some rest," Spencer said. "It's not advisable for you to stay up this late at this age."

Henry was indeed tired now, but he suddenly thought of a question. "Wait, no. This could all just be an act the brat put on to fool me. We shouldn't let our guards down."

"Don't worry. I'll keep an eye on him."

Spencer finally left the room quietly after tucking the old man in.

He got to the second floor and took a look around. The door to the master bedroom was locked, and the lights inside were turned off. Then, he went into his own room and looked outside. He was convinced that Henry had been overthinking things after seeing that all the cars were still parked in the parking lot.

With his mask still on, Zachary climbed over the wall and got to Charlotte's window.

Lupine and Morgan had locked up all the doors and windows in the room, probably worried that Raina would affect Charlotte again.

He couldn't break the windows to get in, so he could only send her a text to let her know that he was there.

Charlotte instantly got up to open the window when she received the text.

Zachary climbed in and immediately saw her pale face. He wanted to hug her but refrained from doing so. After a while, he pretended as if he didn't know anything as he asked, "What's wrong? You don't look too good."

"I'm fine."

The woman was obviously not feeling well. Despite that, she was putting up an act as though she was healthy and strong as she dragged her weak body towards the bed. The former reached out to help her, but she pushed his hand away. "I'm not that weak." Her stubbornness and strong will contrasted with Cynthia's weak demeanor.

Charlotte only felt a little better after laying back on her bed. However, for some reason, she was feeling cold all over.

Meanwhile, Zachary stood beside her doing nothing except staring at her, his mind a mess. "What are you staring at me for?" she asked with a frown.

The man took off his coat and lay beside her before taking her in his arms. Charlotte didn't refuse, and instead, she leaned against his chest. Her body was sweating to the point that she was even shivering, but she tried her best to hide it.

After all, she didn't want him to notice.

"Your body is so cold."

Zachary didn't expose her, but he did use his warm hands to help warm her up.

"Do you know why I wanted to see you?" Charlotte closed her eyes and nestled in his arms. "Because you're warm. I don't feel as cold anymore now that I'm in your arms." The

former's nose began to tingle, and his eyes turned red upon hearing this.

You stupid woman... You're exactly like how you were previously – clearly feeling miserable yet still acting tough.

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I wonder how she's been living in the past two years. Does she bleed out every time there's a storm? Is her condition so painful that she'd curl up on the bed alone, shivering each time?

Who was there to warm her up when I wasn't there?

"What are you thinking about?"

Charlotte kept leaning into his embrace, clinging onto him as though she was an octopus.

"Do you want to feel warmer?" Zachary was starting to feel his heart fluttering by her actions.

"Yes..." She buried her face in his neck and indulged herself in his scent.

He suddenly rolled over and pinned her beneath him before kissing her gently on her lips.

This kiss was unlike all the previous kisses. It was as gentle as dewdrops landing on flower petals but also passionate and even a little cautious at the same time.

The rational part of Charlotte told her that this was dangerous, but her body was accepting it instinctively and was even playing along with him.

She found it weird that her body liked being so close to him and that it wasn't in control by her brain.

Every time he hugged her, kissed her, or even when they were doing something more intimate, her brain would tell her to fight back. Even so, her body couldn't help but reciprocate his gestures and would even want more.

Right then, Zachary slowly deepened the kiss as his hand moved downwards from her shoulder. An electrifying sensation ran across her skin wherever his hand was.

Charlotte seemed to have melted into his arms as she accepted his kiss. Both her arms were wrapped weakly around his waist, and she shut her eyes, enjoying his affectionate touch.

The room was becoming increasingly hotter, and her body was also slowly becoming warmer.

Zachary had achieved his goal.

However, his lust was just like a trapped beast clamoring, as though it was about to lose control soon.

The man tried his best to control himself and rolled over reluctantly. He took her in his arms but didn't touch her any further.

Even if his breathing was heavy and his was blood boiling with excitement, he still endured it and held back.

"What's the matter?" Charlotte asked as she stared at him in a daze.

"Your body is too weak. It won't be able to take it," he replied as he nibbled on her earlobe. His endurance was obviously strong based on his warm breath. "Once you're better, I won't be going easy on you."

Her lips curled into a smile upon hearing that, and she quickly leaned in to kiss him.

"Go and get some sleep," Zachary said as he cupped her face in his hands. "I'm here. Don't be afraid."

"Okay." Charlotte snuggled against his chest and slowly fell asleep to the rhythm of his heartbeat.

He was able to soothe the pain and discomfort she felt from a relapse just like that.

Every time a relapse happened, the pain was so unbearable for her that she couldn't sleep. Yet, that night, she was able to sleep soundly and peacefully.

Charlotte felt at ease and warm because she trusted him without any hesitation, and she believed that even if the sky collapsed, he would hold it up for her.

Seeing that Charlotte was finally asleep, Zachary was relieved. He gently brushed her lips with his thumb and stared at her fondly.

Although he was extremely tired, he couldn't sleep.

All he could think of at that moment was how he could help her get rid of the pain and have her back by his side.

I should think of a way to completely remove the remaining poison in her body.

Maybe when that happens, she'd finally get better, and her memories would even recover.

Perhaps it had been a tiring day, but he soon fell asleep with Charlotte still in his embrace as he thought of ideas.

Dawn came before they even realized it, and Charlotte jolted awake from a nightmare. She was covered in sweat, but she instantly felt at ease when she saw the man lying beside her. At that, she immediately went back to snuggling in his arms again.

However, she noticed the injury on his neck, and she couldn't help but freeze at the sight of it.

The woman could vaguely remember that she had bitten someone when she had a relapse the previous night.

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Even so, Charlotte didn't have a clear consciousness when it all happened. She couldn't remember who she had bitten. in fact, she couldn't even remember if she had actually bitten someone.

Nevertheless, she didn't think much of it as she buried her face in his chest and continued sleeping.

After a moment, the phone by the bed rang, and Zachary jolted awake. He realized that it was already bright outside and that the caller was Ben.

If I don't go back now, Grandpa is definitely going to notice.

He slowly shifted his body to get out of bed, afraid that he would wake Charlotte up in the process.

But she was already awake. The woman opened her eyes blearily and asked, "What's wrong?"

"Did I wake you up?" Zachary stared at her beautiful face and was reluctant to leave her when he said, "I need to go now."

"Alright," she replied as she turned around. She then continued sleeping with her back facing him.

He leaned over and gave her a kiss before taking a few steps back hesitantly. After that, he quickly put on his clothes and left through the window.

Charlotte didn't turn back to look at him, but she could tell that he was an agile person as she listened to his movements.

From a rational standpoint, he definitely isn't just an ordinary person.

But strangely, she trusted him without any hesitation.

Just let him be...

At the thought of it, Charlotte fell back into slumber again.

Zachary ran the whole way back. He climbed over the wall in the backyard into the villa and landed in front of the window to Henry's room.

The latter had already woken up and was sipping on his tea in his wheelchair.

In an instant, Zachary jumped up to the balcony of the second floor.

Alarmed, Henry looked up but saw nothing. Yet, he said worriedly, "What happened? I thought I saw from the window."

"It might be a cat," Spencer guessed. "I heard that Mr. Potter keeps a lot of cats and allows them to wander around."

"Go and check if he is awake." The former had a hunch that something was wrong.

"I went to check earlier. He's still asleep," Spencer answered. "It's only eight in the morning now. He was busy till late in the night yesterday. Just let him sleep for a little more."

"He would normally wake up at six every day to exercise no matter how busy he is," Henry said with a frown. "It's weird that he's not awake even when it's already eight."

"Alright then. I'll go take a look."

Just as he was about to leave, someone knocked on the door, and Ben's voice could be heard, "Mr. Nacht, Mr. Zachary asked if you're awake. He wanted to know if you would like to have breakfast together."

Spencer and Henry gave each other a glance before the former went to open the door. "Mr. Zachary is up?"

"He just woke up and is now washing up," Ben answered with a smile. "Ms. Blackwood is also awake. Should I get someone to prepare breakfast?"

"Alright. Go ahead." Spencer nodded.

"Understood."

Spencer looked up at the second floor's master bedroom and saw a maid knocking on the door, saying that she was there to send the clothes. "Come in," Zachary's voice sounded.

The maid then opened the door and went in.

Spencer closed the door and said to Henry, "Look at that. I was right, but you didn't believe me."

"What a relief," the old man said with a nod. "Well, it seems like I was too suspicious."

"Yes. Don't worry too much about it," the former nagged. "I think Mr. Zachary and Ms. Blackwood are getting along just fine."

"I hope so." Henry heaved a sigh before adding, "We'll head back once we had our breakfast. My great-grandchildren are at home, and no one's there to take care of them. I'm worried."

"Alright. I'll get straight to it." Spencer nodded with a smile.

Ben instructed a maid to prepare breakfast and headed upstairs after that.

Zachary was already done changing and was tidying up his hair as he said, "Was Grandpa suspicious of anything?"

"I don't think he is. I saw Kyle preparing one of the cars, so I guess he'll be heading back after breakfast," his bodyguard said before sighing in relief.

"That's great." He put on his shoes and was about to go downstairs, but Marino rushed in to report, "Mr. Nacht, Sir Louis is here!"

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"What is he doing here at this hour?" Zachary asked with furrowed brows.

"Is it because of what happened last night?"

Ben became worried. Sir Louis is too naive. It's going to be troublesome if he lets slip of anything.

"He's probably here to talk about the project."

Zachary had not agreed to Lindberg Corporation's project to settle in. Last night, Louis wanted to have a discussion on it, but there weren't any results yet.

The other five partners were still waiting for an answer while the latter was waiting to answer them, that was why he was here to talk about it.

Zachary got down and saw that Henry and Cynthia were already seated at the dining table. However, he quickly made his way outside instead of heading to the dining room.

"Where are you going?" the old man asked.

"Louis is here. I'm going to go take a look," he answered and continued walking outside.

At the same time, Louis had just gotten down from his car when he said, "Zachary..." "Why are

you here so early in the morning?" Zachary questioned.

"The business partners are waiting for an answer," the former replied with a frown. "I tried to convince Charlotte to quit for a really long time this morning, but she didn't want to."

Zachary was really shocked to hear it. He had expected her to quit on her own out of anger because of the kiss. Never would he had expected her refusing to quit.

It seems like her mental strength is much stronger now.

"I'm in a bind right now, Zachary. Can you just agree to it?" Louis' brows remained furrowed when he continued, "Charlotte said that if you think that she invested too little, she'll add more funds. But no matter what you say or do, she'll never pull back."

"You should head back first. I'll come to see you later." He

didn't want Louis and Henry to meet now.

"Why?" the latter asked in confusion. "I haven't had breakfast yet. I was thinking of having breakfast here too..."

"Grandpa is here. If he finds out about this project, he's sure to throw a fit," Zachary said in a low voice.

"I see." Louis's expression changed drastically as he said, "In that case, I'll take my leave now."

Just as he was about to get into his car, a silver Rolls-Royce sped towards them.

Charlotte is here!

Ben quickly rushed to close the gates.

Zachary furrowed his brows at the sight of that. What is she doing here now?

The car stopped, and the woman alighted from the car.

She was wearing a white suit, and her pale face was hidden underneath a layer of light makeup. The beautiful, cold yet charming woman was back.

"Sorry for the intrusion, Mr. Nacht." A smile hung on her lips as she spoke. It looked like a polite smile, but it also showed her fearless courage. "Since I haven't been able to invite you, I could only visit you myself."

"You were in so much pain last night, but it seems like you're much better now."

Zachary raised a brow at her. Although he looked icily arrogant, he felt extremely conflicted.

Back when he was messing with her, he could switch between his two personalities with ease. He would be so intimate with her at night but would treat her really coldly in the day.

Yet now, he had ignored his bottom line for her and breached his own principles because of his personal feelings multiple times.

If this continues...

"What?"

Charlotte had no idea that Zachary had gone to help her when she had a relapse.

"Ms. Lindberg..." Lupine whispered in her ears.

The woman's face instantly turned grim as she yelled, "Who allowed you to let him in?" "This is all

my fault." Lupine hurriedly bowed her head in apology.

"We'll talk about this later, Charlotte. Let's go," Louis said while pulling her away. "Mr. Nacht is here. If he knows you'll be attending, this project is sure to fail."

Even though he didn't know about Zachary and Charlotte's relationship, he was aware of the grudges between the Nacht and the Lindberg families.

"Mr. Nacht's here too?" Charlotte raised her brows upon hearing the name. "That's great. I wanted to meet him too."

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"The audacity!" A thunderous voice boomed from the courtyard.

Tensing up a little, Zachary quickly gave Louis a look.

"Charlotte, let's go..." Louis got the cue and began dragging Charlotte into the car.

"Louis, what are you doing?"

Charlotte felt rather displeased, but with the bigger picture in mind, she eventually complied.

Glaring at Zachary, she uttered, "Zachary, you'd better give me a proper response tonight!" Zachary

frowned at her and did a shooing gesture.

The moment Louis got on the car, he urged the driver to get going.

Screech!

Just as the car left the courtyard, the gates opened, and Spencer emerged with Henry in his wheelchair.

As they watched the car speed off in the distance, Henry's expression darkened. "Who was the woman who spoke just now? How arrogant!"

"Someone from Lindberg Corporation," Zachary replied curtly.

"How preposterous!" Henry was enraged. "She was so rude and insolent the other day at Northridge, yet she dares come knocking on our door? The sheer audacity of that woman! Spencer, go run a background check on that woman!"

"Understood!"

"There's no need for that." Zachary immediately cut him off. "She's Danrique Lindberg's sister and the second-largest shareholder of Lindberg Corporation." "I knew it! It's no wonder that she's obscenely rude!" Henry snarled.

Giving Zachary a scathing look, he then ordered, "Let me tell you this. Don't let her off so easily just because she's a woman. The next time she tries something like this, you're going to fight back on behalf of the Nacht family!"

"Yes, I understand." Zachary nodded profusely and even gave him words of reassurance. "Please don't worry. I know how to deal with people like that. I won't let it happen again."

She won't be able to act that arrogant once she marries me...

"Good." Henry nodded, feeling satisfied with his answer. "By the way, why is Louis with someone from Lindberg Corporation?"

"She wants to network with him..." Zachary gave a vague answer. "That's why I've been so caught up with work these days. I've been dealing with this matter."

"Louis gets swayed easily. And given his pure-hearted nature, you really need to have a good talk with him." Henry furrowed his brows deeper. "I'll make a call to Robert later. We mustn't let Louis get scammed. It'll hurt our family's reputation too if something happens in our own district."

"There's no need for that too." Zachary immediately tried to stop his grandfather. "I'll take care of the matter. Calling Robert might put Louis in trouble. He might even be forced to go back."

"Alright, then. I'll leave it to you. Now, go get some breakfast first," Henry said.

"Okay."

With that, Zachary began pushing Henry back into the house. He heaved a sigh of relief silently. That was close. If he had come to the courtyard just a minute earlier, he would have seen Charlotte.

He had just avoided a confrontation that would stir drama simply because Spencer could not move as quickly due to old age.

However, he knew that he had to get Henry to move elsewhere as soon as possible.

During breakfast, Henry continued to chide Zachary about being more caring toward Cynthia and spending more time with her.

He also preached to him about how the Lindberg family had to be treated as rivals. "The worst that could happen is our families confronting each other in the open. And that's fine. Let us compete under public scrutiny and see who wins!"

As Zachary listened on, he could not help but frown. While Henry had always been a cautious businessman who always had the bigger picture in mind and never employed extreme tactics, he seemed particularly hostile toward the Lindberg family.

It was evident that the conflict between the two families was deep-rooted and almost impossible to resolve.

After breakfast, Cynthia brought up the three little ones during their conversation. Henry immediately told Spencer that he would be going back to take care of his great-grandchildren.

That decision worked in Zachary's favor, and he saw them off.

As he watched Henry's car exit the hot spring resort, Zachary exhaled deeply, finally relaxing his shoulders. However, when he turned around to discover Cain and Kyle standing there, his brows furrowed once more.

It seemed that he could not let his guard down just yet.

Guess I have to keep up the act with Cynthia... What an

old, cunning fox!

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After sending Henry off, Zachary decided to visit Louis.

Before leaving, he spoke to Cynthia. "Have a good rest at the hotel. If you feel bored, just get someone to give you a tour of the area. The scenery here at Ashenville Garden is spectacular."

"Alright. Don't worry about me." Cynthia smiled as she gestured to Zachary.

Zachary left a few subordinates behind to look after her before hurrying off with Ben, Marino, and his other subordinates.

When they arrived at Charlotte's villa, Louis was still having breakfast. Zachary walked over, sat down, and began digging in without even saying a word.

"You didn't have breakfast?"

Raising an eyebrow, Louis called for a maid to give Zachary some cutlery to use. He also got them to bring the breadbasket, which Zachary adored.

It was almost as if he had forgotten about wanting to cut ties with the very same man for trying to steal his woman away just the day before.

Zachary was famished—he had not eaten anything since the previous night.

"How long have you been starving?" Louis frowned at him. "Don't tell me you haven't eaten anything since last night?"

"What else do you expect?" Zachary rolled his eyes.

"O-okay. Help yourself." Louis felt a little guilty. "I should have arranged a meal to be sent to you."

"Where's Charlotte?" Zachary asked.

"She's in her room. I'll go get her." Just as Louis was about to get up, Zachary grabbed his arm and said, "Let's talk first."

"Okay." Louis sounded nervous. "If you think that her addition would negatively affect your profit, I can..."

"You know that's not what I want to discuss with you." As Zachary looked Louis in the eye, he could almost feel his head throbbing. "I've come to regret doing business with you... You know, with that brilliant mind of yours..."

Zachary sighed deeply.

Meanwhile, back in her room, Charlotte's expression was downcast, and her gaze was sharp like a knife.

Lupine, Morgan, and the others were kneeling before her with their heads hung low, not daring to make the slightest noise.

"So, you're saying that Louis called him over?"

Moments ago, Lupine conveyed the events that transpired the night before to her. "What were you two doing? Why didn't you stop him?" She demanded.

"He broke in even though I pointed a gun at him. He simply couldn't be stopped," Morgan explained, looking at the floor.

"I tried my best, but Mr. Nacht shoved me away really forcefully. When I got back on my feet, he had already gone into the bathroom and..." Lupine dared not finish her sentence.

Charlotte stiffened. It was obvious that Zachary had seen her completely naked the night before.

"It was an emergency, and we tried our best. You were hurting all over. Even though Mr. Nacht acted a little rough, he did those things to save you..." Morgan continued softly.

"Acted a little rough?" Upon hearing those words, Charlotte furrowed her brows. "What do you mean by a little rough?"

"He was sitting by the bathtub while holding your arm so that Dr. Langhan could give you an injection, but you struggled too much. Dr. Langhan even fell over, so Mr. Nacht could only..."

Morgan blinked tentatively, unable to go on.

"Say it!" Charlotte growled.

"In the end, he entered the bathtub, mounted over your body, and pressed your wrist down so that Dr. Langhan could give you the jab..."

Morgan's voice was barely audible, but Charlotte caught every single word.

Her face turned as pale as a sheet.

"I wanted to rush over, but Louis stopped me. You might have misunderstood Mr. Nacht. All he wanted was to save you. He wasn't trying to take advantage of you," Lupine explained.

"Yeah. You were hitting him and kicking him all over. In the end, you even bit his neck, causing him to bleed, but he held it in..."

"What did you just say?" Charlotte cut Morgan off. "I bit his neck?"

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"Yes." Morgan nodded slowly. "You were quite rough with him as well. I was actually a little afraid that you would injure the artery in his neck. That would have ended badly."

"You almost bit off a piece of his flesh, but he tough through it and kept silent as Dr. Langhan gave you the injection," Lupine added.

"When you finally calmed down, he immediately covered your body with a towel and carried you out of the bathroom before placing you onto the bed. He was also kind enough to tell us to dry your hair and get you changed..."

As Morgan recalled the melodramatic scenes that had unfolded before her the previous night, she turned a little more emotional. "To be honest, I was quite touched by the things that he did for you."

"Me too. It was at that moment that I realized that his feelings for you were no joke..." Lupine quickly chimed in.

"Which side did I bite?"

Charlotte seemed to be really bothered by Zachary's injuries.

She clearly remembered seeing a bandaged wound on Gigolo's neck when she woke up that morning. However, she was unsure if it was a bite mark.

"The right." Lupine sounded firm. "I remember how he was on top of you and restrained your limbs. You couldn't move, so you bit his neck on the side facing me. I'm very sure of it..."

Charlotte furrowed her brows. Gigolo's wound is also on the right side.

It can't be...

Knock! Knock! Just then, one of her female bodyguards entered the room, saying, "Ms. Lindberg, Mr. Nacht is here. Sir Louis is asking for your presence." Coming back

to her senses, Charlotte made her way out.

Back in the dining room, Louis was looking rather apprehensive. "Is this really the way to go?"

"Either make her quit, or listen to me." Zachary was unyielding.

"Fine. But please remember to tell her that this is your idea, okay?" Louis mumbled.

"Why are you so scared of her?" Zachary stared at him with disdain.

"He's not scared. He simply knows how to treat others with respect."

Charlotte suddenly appeared in the dining room, sounding haughty and displeased.

Turning around to look at her, Zachary began scrutinizing her with an ambiguous but sharp expression, as if he was trying to read her mind.

"You're trying to say that I don't treat you with respect?" Zachary raised his eyebrows.

"Well, Mr. Nacht, you had always been the most stuck-up man on the planet." Charlotte shrugged. "But since I can't do anything about that, I'll just be the bigger woman." "Hah..." Zachary chuckled. He had to admit that Charlotte's debate skills had improved greatly after two years of training.

Whatever he threw at her, she would counter it with ease.

Furthermore, she could even turn the tables on him. Her gusto and wit were quite remarkable.

Sometimes, doing business is all about responding to the situation with speed and having a strong aura.

"So, how is it?" Charlotte sat down on the sofa opposite the dining table, tilting her head up as she stared at Zachary. "Have you two come to a final consensus?"

"I'll let you embark on this project with us, but on one condition." Zachary smiled at her nonchalantly. "You'll have to gain the support of the sports industry of Erihal!" Frowning, Charlotte glanced at Louis.

He immediately looked down with a nervous look.

"Aren't you being unreasonable? The other partners are simply putting their money into the project, so why do I need to fulfill an extra condition? Moreover, as the largest investor, what support have you even garnered for the project?" Charlotte expressed her doubts angrily.

"Well, about that... In the initial stages of the project, he had actually gotten a company in F Nation to support it. That's a feat even I can't accomplish," Louis replied gingerly.

"Then, what about the other investors..."

"The other investors have contributed the same amount of money as you in the project, yet they only hold a third of the shares you have." Zachary cut her off. "Do you think that's fair for them?"

Charlotte found herself at a loss for words. Even though the other investors dared not protest against her joining the project in fear of the forces behind her, she knew that she was doing real business, so she needed to prove her capabilities.