

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 861

Charlotte glanced over. A green parrot was flying behind the car, its wings fluttering quickly while it glanced around.

It looked dumb and weak, completely unlike her ferocious eagle.

However, for some reason, Charlotte felt a strange feeling of familiarity with that parrot.

"Why is there a parrot here?" asked Morgan suspiciously. "There are only two families in Roka Hill. Could it be..."

"We saw this parrot at the hospital the other time." Lupine recognized it at first glance. "It's the pet of the Natch family's children."

Charlotte's expression changed instantly as she quickly pushed the car door open and got out. "Let's see if the children have come!"

"Understood." Lupine and the other bodyguards started searching the area.

"Mommy!" When the little parrot discovered Charlotte, it immediately became excited. Flapping its wings, it kept shrieking, "Mommy! Mommy! Mommy!"

Then, it flew over and landed on Charlotte's shoulder. Rubbing its furry head against her cheek affectionately, it mumbled, "Mommy, I miss you..."

It sounded like someone lamenting how much he missed his family.

Charlotte's heart melted. She reached her hand out and stroked Little Fifi's feathers. A familial feeling started to surface within her.

"This parrot has such sentience!" Morgan could not help but praise.

At the same time, Robbie was sprinting toward her excitedly. As he ran, he could hear Little Fifi's voice coming from his phone's surveillance system. "Mommy! Mommy!"

He immediately stopped in his tracks. Still panting, he opened the surveillance system and took a look. As expected, he managed to see his mother, whom he had missed dearly, from Little Fifi's view.

"Mommy!" Robbie was excited. Mommy's really at Northridge!

Charlotte heard his voice coming out of the surveillance device on Little Fifi's head. She trembled while her heart pounded rapidly against her chest...

"What's that sound?" Morgan moved closer to hear it. "There's a mini surveillance device on the parrot's body! Who installed it?"

"Robbie! Robbie!" shrieked Little Fifi excitedly as it flapped its wings.

Charlotte was filled with excitement. Her child's voice revived the motherly instincts that had been concealed deep within her. It was an instinct that was embedded within her.

"It's Mr. Robinson, who barged in the previous time." Lupine understood immediately. "He is talking to us and running here right now."

As she spoke, she passed the laptop to Charlotte.

Robbie had just entered the surveillance parameters and was running over excitedly.

"Mr. Robinson is simply too smart." Morgan was delighted. "He actually discovered where Ms. Lindberg is staying and even came here!"

"Do you want to meet him, Ms. Lindberg?" asked Lupine softly.

Charlotte was slightly hesitant. To be honest, before the truth was uncovered, she did not plan on meeting her children so early. She did not expect that her children would look for her first.

"Mommy, I'm Robbie! Don't hide from me. Let me see you!"

Robbie's voice sounded from the surveillance device, sounding like he was on the verge of tears. His voice was charged with anxious longing.

He was afraid that her mother would leave again. By the time he reached there, all he could see was the isolated villa.

Charlotte was moved. Just when she was about to speak...

"Argh!"

Suddenly, a child's fearful shriek sounded from the surveillance device.

At the same time, the surveillance video on the laptop revealed a tall man clad in black suddenly rushed over and kidnapped Robbie.

When he screamed in fear, the man slapped a hand over his mouth and shoved him into a car.

There were three modified black cars, which were filled with men in black. Two women seemed to be in their company as well.

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"Robbie!" Charlotte ran toward the back of the hill anxiously.

"Ms. Lindberg!" Lupine immediately followed her.

Charlotte quickly rushed toward a military jeep in the garage and instructed her subordinates. "Change the vehicles and follow me."

"Yes, ma'am."

With the rest, Charlotte quickly drove to the back of the hill and saw three black cars speeding downhill.

"Chase them now!" she ordered anxiously.

"Yes, ma'am!" The three jeeps chased after the three black cars as quickly as they could.

Charlotte clenched her fists tightly. A murderous glint flashed across her narrowed eyes.

No matter who those people are, I'll never let anyone who dares to harm my children off the hook.

"Release Fifi and let it track their escape route," instructed Charlotte.

"Yes." Lupine immediately instructed those in the villa to release the eagle.

"Screech!"

The loud shriek of an eagle suddenly sounded.

Shocked, Little Fifi flew out of the car in a hurry.

"The parrot!"

Charlotte called out after it, but it flew away without any hesitation.

When she noticed that it was flying back toward the Nachts' residence, she stopped being worried. "It probably knows how to go home. Let's save Robbie first! Quick!"

"Yes, ma'am!"

Meanwhile, Jamie and Ellie were frightened by the eagle's screech and quickly hid behind Marino.

"Don't be scared! I'm here."

Marino shielded the two kids as they got into the car. Turning around and glancing at the sky, he saw the eagle at Northridge soaring in the sky and speeding downhill.

"Those women at Northridge released that ferocious bird again. Are they trying to scare Mr. Jamison and Ms. Elisa?" Kyle asked indignantly. "How despicable!"

"Stop talking. Let's go!"

Marino had a feeling that something major had happened. Feeling anxious, all he wanted to do was to leave as soon as possible.

However, when he got into the car, he realized that Robbie was gone. He searched everywhere anxiously. "Where's Mr. Robbie?"

"He was in the car just now!" The other bodyguards joined the search worriedly.

"Quick, retrieve the surveillance footage from the car," urged Marino.

"Okay." The bodyguards quickly went to retrieve it.

Marino searched the surroundings for Robbie but to no avail. However, he found a trail of footsteps on the other side. Recalling what had happened earlier, he immediately understood. He quickly went into the car and asked Jamie and Ellie, "Jamie, Ellie, do you know where Robbie went?"

"I... I don't know." As Ellie did not know how to lie, her eyes sparkled when she spoke.

"I don't know either," denied Jamie eagerly.

"Tell me now! Otherwise, something bad will happen!" Marino became anxious. "Didn't you see the eagle flying just now? If Mr. Robbie meets it, he'll be in danger."

"Really?" Ellie became terrified when she heard it, her face turning pale. "Let's look for Robbie now!"

"You must tell me first! Where did he go?" asked Marino anxiously.

"He went to Northridge to see Mommy..."

"Ellie!" Jamie wanted to stop her, but he was too late.

As Ellie was too worried about Robbie, she blurted out the truth. After realizing that she had said something wrong, she immediately covered her mouth.

"Um..." Marino frowned. Looks like the kids already know Charlotte's identity.

"I'll look for him now." He returned to his senses and instructed Kyle, "Bring Jamie and Ellie back first while I go to Northridge to look for Robbie."

"This doesn't seem right..." Jamie looked at his watch and exclaimed, "Robbie's not at Northridge! He's heading downhill at a rapid speed."

"Let me see..." Marino quickly checked Jamie's watch. "Robbie installed a GPS on your watch. It's true that he's heading downhill! Judging from the speed, he's probably in a car..."

He ordered, "Kyle, send them back while I look for Robbie."

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"No! We want to look for Robbie!" insisted Jamie agitatedly.
"Bring us with you!"

"Stop making a ruckus!"

Before Marino could finish his sentence, a green figure suddenly flew toward them.

"It's Little Fifi!" yelled Ellie excitedly.

Jamie rolled the car windows down and stretched out his arm. Little Fifi flew over, landed on his hand. With its wings flapping quickly, it shrieked, "Robbie! Robbie! Save Robbie! Bad guy! Bad guy!"

"What does that mean?" asked Marino anxiously.

"Robbie's been taken away by a bad guy!" Ellie understood immediately and urged the others, "Quick! Save Robbie!"

"Could it be Ms. Lindberg?" mumbled Marino as he frowned.

"Bad guy! Bad guy! Black! Black!" Little Fifi kept repeating those few phrases.

"Those bad guys are clad in black," translated Ellie.

"Men in black..." A look of terror crossed Marino's face. "Could it be..."

"Oh no!" Kyle was worried sick. "Get into the car now!"

Everyone clambered into the car and sat there solemnly.

Marino carried Jamie into the Maybach. Using his watch as the GPS, he drove downhill to chase after Robbie.

"Mr. Jamison, buckle up! I'm going to accelerate."

Marino drove the fastest amongst the bodyguards. Now that he had to rescue someone, he went all out.

"Don't worry, I'm a man... Argh!"

Before Jamie could finish speaking, the car zoomed off.

He quickly buckled his seatbelt, grabbed the handle and frowned with a serious expression.

How exciting! How thrilling! Looks like the scenes in the movies are real!

He clenched his fists secretly. I'll be a hero today and save Robbie!

Hugging Little Fifi, Ellie sat in the car. Her face was pale from shock and her eyes glistened with tears.

"Princess Ellie, don't be scared. We'll definitely save Mr. Robbie."

While consoling her, Kyle called Spencer. However, as Spencer's phone was switched off, he had no choice but to call Ben.

The line was constantly busy. Feeling like he was about to go mad from anxiety, Kyle called Bruce. Still, the call did not go through.

What should I do?

"I'll call Daddy and tell him to save Robbie!"

Ellie immediately called Zachary, but the line was busy. She tried a few more times to no avail, so she had no choice but to send him a voice message.

"Daddy, Robbie's been taken away by bad guys! Save him!"

Marino had just reached the foot of the hill when he spotted three cool-looking jeeps chasing the three black cars.

The eagle was circling above the black cars while shrieking threateningly. The drivers were so scared that their cars swerved unsteadily.

"What the heck? Whose limited edition jeeps are those?" A subordinate exclaimed.

"Judging from their driving skills, it's probably those women."

Marino had battled Morgan a couple of times, so he knew her technique well. When she drove, she liked to charge forward rapidly and ram into the car in front.

Her direct and confrontational style always made him lose his temper.

However, Marino was applauding her internally this time.

The jeep at the front charged forward like a wild bull, ramming forcefully against the black modified car in front.

A loud crash sounded. The car that had been rammed into shook for a while before driving forward unsteadily.

However, it was still blocking the jeep, stopping it from catching up with the black car at the front.

It was obvious that the driver of the jeep was furious. She accelerated and crashed into the black car forcefully again.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The black car lost its direction and swerved out of the curb. It flipped over a few times before toppling over on the roadside.

Meanwhile, the jeep sped forward. The second black car attempted to stop it again, but the jeep drove around it and chased after the car at the front.

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“Wow! That’s some amazing driving skills!” The bodyguard was excited. “Marino, I think the driver’s better than you.”

“Shut up!” yelled Marino before accelerating to catch up with them.

At that moment, the jeep turned around and sped forward rapidly. It stopped horizontally on the road, forcing the black car to come to a halt.

Marino stopped the car nearby, preparing to watch how the scene would unfold before taking action.

The car door opened and Charlotte walked out with a gun. Clad in black, she exuded a cold aura while a sharp glint flashed across her eyes.

Behind her, seven female bodyguards stood in a line and pointed their guns at the opponents' cars.

In the meantime, Morgan sat in the car and gripped the steering wheel tightly. If they dared to play any tricks, she would kill them all with her jeep.

The jeep was huge, towering over the others like a ferocious beast. The three black cars were nothing compared to it.

At that moment, Charlotte was just like her car. She pointed at the people in front threateningly and ordered, "Get out of the car."

Inside the car, Shirley was staring at Charlotte in utter astonishment.

"It's her?" The driver widened his eyes and stared at Charlotte in disbelief. "She's not dead?"

"Keep an eye on the child," Shirley instructed the female subordinate at the backseat before getting out of the car.

The other bodyguards followed her out. Including Shirley, there were a total of ten people.

As they outnumbered Charlotte and the rest, they had nothing to fear.

Charlotte narrowed her eyes and stared at the woman coldly. For some reason, there was a sense of familiarity, as if she had seen her somewhere. There were also a few men in the woman's company that made her feel a weird sense of resentment.

"It's really her!" A burly man said in a foreign language. "She didn't die even after getting poisoned by the flame poison?"

"She's part of the Lindberg Corporation now," replied Shirley in a deep voice. "Didn't she lose her memories? Why did she chase after us to save her son?"

"So you're the ones who poisoned me." Charlotte understood what they were saying. Narrowing her eyes viciously, she walked toward them. "What a coincidence! Let's settle our past and present scores all at once!"

"Do you understand what we're saying?" Shirley was surprised.

When Robbie spotted Charlotte from inside the car, he quickly pulled the hand over his mouth away and yelled, "Mommy!"

Charlotte glanced at Robbie, who was being restrained in the car by the bodyguards, and felt a pang of pain in her heart. Instantly, a sharp look appeared in her eyes and a murderous aura spread over her...

"How dare you touch my son? Do you have a death wish?"

At Charlotte's command, the eagle soaring in the sky shot over like an arrow and attacked the opponent ferociously.

Shirley quickly raised her gun and shot the eagle.

However, a second earlier, Charlotte had already fired.

A silver bullet shot toward Shirley like a white flash of light and pierced through her wrist.

Blood splattered in the air immediately.

With a loud shriek, she staggered backward and yelled furiously, "Attack!"

The men immediately fired their guns. However, the eagle merely flapped its wings and swept the guns away.

At the same time, Lupine and the others charged forward and attacked the men.

A distance away, the bodyguards of the Nacht family were watching quietly. "Marino, should we help them?"

"Don't move yet. It's more important to protect and Ms. Elisa." Marino frowned. "Keep an eye on them while I rescue Robbie."

With that, he got out of the car and ran toward the rest.

"I want to go too!" Jamie was about to get out of the car when the bodyguard pulled him back. "Mr. Jamison, don't fool around! This is a matter of life and death. It's not a joke!"

"I want to save Robbie..."

From Jamie's position, he could not see Charlotte clearly. Although he knew that there were some people saving Robbie, he did not know who they were.

"Marino has already gone, so you should just stay in the car. Please be good!"

The bodyguard kept an eye on him closely as he was afraid of Jamie leaving the car.

Meanwhile, Marino dashed over hurriedly, hoping to find the right opportunity to save Robbie.

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The others were still engaged in an intense fight.

Like a fierce eagle, Charlotte sprung toward Shirley with murderous intent.

Although Shirley was injured, she did not show any signs of weakness and started fighting Charlotte.

However, she had underestimated Charlotte...

After exchanging a few blows with Shirley, Charlotte aimed a kick at her and sent her flying away. Shirley collapsed on the ground, clutching her stomach and rolled around in agony.

A man charged toward Charlotte, attempting to attack her. However, the eagle immediately sped over and clawed at his face.

He let out a miserable shriek of pain.

Grabbing that opportunity, Shirley got back up to her feet and pointed her gun at Charlotte.

"Mommy, be careful!" exclaimed Robbie in fear.

Charlotte dashed over like a bolt of lightning and grabbed Shirley's neck forcefully, pushing her against the car.

She pressed so hard that the gun slipped out of Shirley's left hand and blood dribbled down the corner of her mouth...

"Close your eyes!" Charlotte ordered Robbie.

He immediately closed his eyes, not daring to watch anymore.

At that moment, Robbie was astonished. Never had he expected that after two years, his initially weak and foolish mother would become so strong...

"Speak! Who was the one who attacked me at T Nation?" Charlotte gripped Shirley's neck and interrogated sternly, "Tell me honestly and I might spare your life!"

Shirley's eyes rolled up to her head as she opened her mouth wide. She did not say a single sound.

At that moment, Lupine and the rest had already defeated the other men. Some of them had fainted, while the other two stronger ones were knocked unconscious and dragged to the car. They wanted to capture these men and interrogate them.

"So, you aren't speaking, huh?" Charlotte shoved Shirley onto the ground. "Fifi, she's all yours!"

The eagle immediately flew over and clawed at Shirley.

"Argh! Argh!"

She collapsed on the floor and tried her best to defend herself. Shrieks of agony escaped her mouth.

Meanwhile, the female bodyguard in the car with Robbie was already paralyzed in fear.

Marino was about to save Robbie when Charlotte walked over. Hence, he had no choice but to hide behind the car.

Charlotte kicked the female bodyguard out of the car, carried Robbie out and whispered softly, "Cover your ears!"

He immediately covered his ears with his hands and closed his eyes tightly, not daring to open them.

Hugging Robbie, Charlotte turned around and stared at Shirley on the floor. She warned coldly, "If you refuse to speak, it'll devour you."

"I'll tell you! I'll tell you!" wailed Shirley loudly. "Ms. Nacht is the one who instructs me behind the scenes, and she gets Sharon to do everything."

"Very well." Charlotte narrowed her eyes menacingly. "If I had known that it'll be so easy to get the answer, why did I waste all those efforts investigating?"

"Please spare me..." Shirley knelt on the floor and pleaded pathetically. "Please spare me! I'm just following orders. I'm not the one who injected you, nor am I the one who chased after you in T Nation. Please, spare my life!"

"Fine, I'll spare you."

Charlotte whistled.

The eagle released Shirley from its clutches reluctantly. Flapping its wings, it flew behind Charlotte and perched on her head like a dark guardian angel.

It scrutinized the enemies with a vicious gaze. If anyone dared to harm Charlotte, it would shred the person into pieces.

"Go back and tell Zara..." Charlotte stared at Shirley and warned sternly, "I'll be coming after her to settle the scores soon. Tell her to sleep and eat well for these few days while she's still alive."

"Yes!" Shirley nodded vigorously as she scuttled away.

Lupine and the rest cleared the scene up.

Morgan opened the car door to drive Charlotte away first.

She was about to get into the car when suddenly, she heard someone call her from behind.

"Mommy!"

After breaking free of the bodyguard's grip, Jamie ran over. He wanted to save Robbie, but when he spotted Charlotte mid-way, he was stunned. Filled with shock, he froze for a long time before yelling out in excitement.

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Charlotte paused in her tracks, turned around and saw the child who looked identical to Robbie. His eyes were filled with more emotions and his expression was more dramatic...

She knew that this was her second child.

A surge of emotions filled her heart. The feeling that had been buried deep in her heart was starting to return...

"Mommy..." Jamie ran toward her while crying. As he was too excited, he fell to the ground.

Charlotte quickly placed Robbie in the car before rushing over and helping Jamie up.

"Mommy, you're back! You're really back!" Jamie tugged Charlotte and started wailing, "I thought that I'll never see you again!"

"You fool!" She wiped the tears from his cheek gently. Looking at how adorable he was, she could not help but smile. However, tears glistened in her eyes. "Are you Jamie?"

"Yeah, I'm Jamie! Don't you remember me anymore, Mommy?" Jamie stared at Charlotte in surprise.

"I remember you, but you look different after growing up." She pinched his cheeks and carried him into the car. "Be a good boy and let's leave this place first."

"Ellie's still in the car..."

Jamie pointed at the Rolls-Royce behind him.

"Okay, I'll pick her up now."

She carried Jamie into the car.

"Robbie!"

"Jamie!"

When the two brothers met, they were exceptionally overjoyed.

"Sit here while I pick Ellie up."

Charlotte closed the door and was prepared to go to Ellie.

"Ms. Lindberg!" Lupine suddenly exclaimed, "There's a huge fleet of cars rushing toward us. They're probably Zara's men."

"Let me take a look." Morgan jumped onto the car. When she peered through the binoculars, a shocked look crossed her face. "There are a dozen cars armed with heavy-duty weapons! Let's go first, Ms. Lindberg."

"Okay." Charlotte made a signal with her hand. Immediately afterward, Lupine and the other bodyguards got into the car.

"Wait a moment..." At that moment, Marino rushed over and said anxiously, "Return Mr. Robinson to me!"

"What do you mean by that. He's Ms. Lindberg's child," bellowed Morgan furiously. "Get lost, or don't blame me for being rude."

"You..."

"It's not the time to argue about this," interrupted Lupine urgently. "Zara's rushing over with a lot of people. You should leave as soon as possible! It'll be foolish to stay here."

When Marino heard that, he had no choice but to leave.

"What happened? Where's Mr. Robbie?" Kyle rushed over.

"The Lindberg family took him away." Marino's expression was grim. "Didn't I tell you to keep an eye on him? Why did you let him escape?"

"I was looking after Princess Ellie..." Kyle was so angry that his face flushed. "Oh no! Not only did we fail to save Robbie, but we also lost Jamie!"

"Cut the crap and let's leave now," urged Marino. "Ms. Nacht's rushing over with a lot of men. I'm afraid that an intense fight will break out inevitably. Since Mr. Nacht's not here, we should leave first."

"Okay."

They got into the car and sped uphill.

On the other side, the jeeps fled toward the wilderness. Their jeep could traverse all sorts of environments, so even if there were no roads, they could still forge their own paths.

However, the Nacht family's cars could not.

Marino drove back hurriedly. At that moment, a dozen black modified cars drove up the hill. They surrounded the Nacht family's cars, trapping them there with no route of escape.

"Oh no! Call Mr. Nacht now!" urged Marino anxiously.

"I'm calling him..." Kyle was in such a hurry that his hands trembled. "Is their target us or the Lindberg family?"

"Obviously, it's us!" Marino's expression was very serious. Feeling extremely anxious, he said, "Ms. Nacht's risking it all. She probably heard that Mr. Henry is severely ill. Hence, she plans on kidnapping the three kids and holding them hostage, so she can force Mr. Nacht to give up his inheritance!"

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"This time, Ms. Lindberg barged into the situation without knowing what was going on. Ms. Nacht has never expected that

she would provoke her. Luckily, Ms. Lindberg came with her gang. Otherwise, the few of us would not be sufficient to save the kids. However..."

Marino's frown deepened as he watched as the jeep zoomed away. "Since they've already brought the two boys away, I'm afraid that they won't return..."

"Mr. Marino, what happened? Where's Robbie and Jamie?"

Ellie rolled the car windows down, poked her head out and asked anxiously.

"Get in quickly!" Marino yelled quickly, afraid that someone would discover her.

At that moment, the windows of the jeep rolled down. When Charlotte spotted Ellie in the car, she instructed, "Go back!"

"Ms. Lindberg, Zara's leading the team personally. There are so many people with her, so I'm afraid that we can't defeat them. Let's not jump into a dangerous situation. We should leave first instead!"

Lupine urged anxiously, "We've already saved the two boys. Next time, we..."

"I told you to go back!" growled Charlotte angrily.

"Okay." Lupine fell silent, not daring to utter a single word.

Morgan glanced at the rearview mirror and instantly made a U-turn.

The other two jeeps followed behind. Charlotte ordered, "Call for more backup!"

"Yes." Lupine immediately informed the rest.

Meanwhile, Marino's car was forced to a stop by Zara's fleet of cars. There were thirty black modified cars in front and behind them, surrounding them completely.

Marino had worked for Zachary for many years, but this was the first time he faced such a serious situation. However, he was well-trained, so he did not panic. Instead, he instructed the other six bodyguards, "Protect Ellie at all costs! Kyle, follow me out!"

"Huh? Only me?"

Kyle was so scared that his face turned pale and his voice trembled.

As he had always been working for Henry, things were peaceful and nothing major ever happened.

Hence, he was terrified now.

"You're working for Henry, so Ms. Nacht will naturally be warier of you."

Marino was very calm. When he was alighting the car, he sent an S.O.S signal, which would be received by Bruce and Ben quickly.

"Oh."

Kyle got out of the car, still scared.

Marino followed him down without holding any weapons.

The convertible top of the car opposite them opened slowly.

Zara was wearing a black suit, looking cold and arrogant. Sitting beside the driver's seat, she raised her eyebrows and remarked, "Since we're from the same family, I don't want to resort to violence. Hand us the three kids and get lost."

"Haven't you received the message, Ms. Nacht?" Marino retorted curtly, "Your subordinate, Shirley, has already been captured by the Lindberg family. They took the kids away too."

"What?"

Zara narrowed her eyes hostilely. It was evident that she was still oblivious to the fact that Shirley had been defeated by Charlotte.

“Ms. Nacht...”

At that moment, a miserable cry sounded from afar.

Zara spun around to look.

Blood was dripping from the wounds all over Shirley’s body. She stumbled over and wailed, “Ms. Nacht, save me! She’s back! She’s back to take revenge!”

“Who is she?” Zara frowned.

“She... She...” Shirley trembled as a look of utter terror crossed her eyes. “Charlotte Windt whom we have killed. She’s back!

“Are you talking about Charlotte Lindberg?”

Zara had already heard from Sharon that Charlotte Windt had returned as Charlotte Lindberg.

Previously, she had dispatched some men to investigate the truth of that matter, but Zachary intercepted them.

Hence, she did not know if the information was true or not. However, she was certain now.

At that moment, the loud screech of cars interrupted Zara’s thoughts. When she turned around, she saw three jeeps driving over.

A ferocious eagle perched on the hood, its eyes filled with murderous intent. Blood dripped from its wings, sharp beak and claws.

“Argh!” When Shirley saw the eagle, she fell onto the ground in terror and relayed Charlotte’s message, “S-She said that she’ll be coming after you to settle the scores soon. She says that you should sleep and eat well for these few days while you’re still alive!”

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"In that case..." Zara narrowed her eyes and asked coldly, "She already knows who's behind the attack at T Nation?"

"Y-Yes, she does..." stuttered Shirley.

"Very well." Zara turned around and stared at her with a vicious gaze.

"Please spare me, Ms. Nacht!"

Bang!

Before she could finish her sentence, Zara sent a bullet flying through her brain.

Everyone was taken aback.

Marino widened his eyes in surprise and stared at Zara in disbelief. Even though Shirley was her closest assistant, she still showed no mercy...

"People who betray me will end up like her!" bellowed Zara angrily.

"We will never betray you, Ms. Nacht," chorused her subordinates who were standing behind her.

At that moment, the jeeps arrived and stopped in the same row as the Rolls-Royce cars. It was obvious that they were determined to protect the children inside the cars.

Zara wiped her hands with some wet wipes before getting out of the car, exuding an arrogant aura. There was a cunning smirk playing on her lips.

At the same time, the jeeps stopped. Charlotte got out of the car with Lupine and the rest.

The rivals had finally met. The atmosphere was suffocating like the quietness before a tempestuous storm.

Charlotte narrowed her eyes menacingly as she stared at Zara.

Memories surged through her brain. Those scenes of being bullied flashed across her mind, like snapshots in a movie. All of them were now crystal-clear...

"Nice to meet you, Ms. Lindberg!" Zara raised her head and smiled widely. "I've just met Mr. Lindberg a few days ago-"

"The Lindberg family will never acquaint ourselves with despicable people," Charlotte immediately interrupted her and raised her eyebrows coldly, "Furthermore, we share an extremely deep grudge!"

"That b*tch's just spouting nonsense." Zara pointed at Shirley and explained, "When you got into an accident two years ago, I was in M Nation without even leaving the place. It has nothing to do with me. If you don't believe me, you can ask Zachary. He's been investigating it..."

"You don't need to explain yourself, Ms. Nacht," Charlotte smirked mockingly before she continued, "Since I don't have any evidence yet, I won't take any actions against you. But if I find out the truth one day, I will make everyone who had harmed me pay the price!"

"That's true..." With her tough mindset, Zara did not panic at all. Instead, she agreed indignantly, "Anyone who dares to harm someone from the Lindberg Corporation is seeking death!"

"Cut the crap." Charlotte could not be bothered to keep up the act with her. "Leave with your men right now!"

She was acting extremely arrogant right now because she knew clearly that Zara would not dare to make enemies with the Lindberg family.

Zara had already spent most of her efforts battling Zachary. If she offended the Lindberg Corporation now, she would be doomed.

Zara's grudge with Charlotte had to be resolved one day. However, before she secured the position as the heir of the Nacht group, she did not dare to do anything reckless.

Even if the rage was unbearable, she had no choice but to tolerate it...

"You're going overboard, Ms. Lindberg."

It was not easy to deal with a cunning woman like Zara. Raising her eyebrows, she said coldly, "I didn't say anything when you harmed my subordinates, but I'm teaching the Nacht family's subordinates a lesson now. Isn't it inappropriate for you to interfere?"

"I don't care what you're going to do with those men. However, the three kids are mine. No one is allowed to touch them!"

Charlotte made a gesture with her hand.

Immediately, Lupine and Morgan walked to the Rolls-Royce and were about to open the car door.

"What are you doing?" The Nacht family's bodyguards quickly aimed their guns at them.

"Let them take Ellie away!" Marino yelled anxiously.

Although Zara did not dare to go against the Lindberg family, it did not mean that she would not touch the Nacht family.

Furthermore, as Zara had also brought so many people with her, Charlotte could not resort to sheer force.

In this dire situation, Marino could not worry about anyone else including himself, he just wanted to ensure the children's safety.

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Although Zara was unwilling to back down, she did not dare to oppose Charlotte. Scoffing coldly, she said, "Ms. Lindberg, does Mr. Lindberg know that you have three kids?"

"That's none of your business."

Charlotte did not want to entertain her at all. If the three kids were not there and she had enough manpower, she would have attacked Zara there and then!

"Mr. Lindberg doesn't know that the three kids are part of the Nacht family too, right?" A meaningful smirk played on Zara's lips. "What would he do if he were to find out?"

When Lupine and Morgan heard that, their expressions changed and they shot Charlotte a conflicted look.

Although Charlotte seemed calm on the surface, a turmoil of emotions was surging within her.

Danrique was cold and merciless. When he interacted with others, he only cared about how he could benefit from them, and never about his relationship with them. In order to secure his position as the heir of the Lindberg Corporation, he even harmed his own brother!

This was an unspoken secret in the corporate world.

The only reason why Danrique was nice to Charlotte was that her mother, Isabella, had brought him to the Lindberg family when he was abandoned on the streets.

Although everyone in the Lindberg family looked down on him and insulted him, only Isabella tried her best to protect, nurture and guide him.

Unfortunately, Isabella got into an accident when he was only ten years old.

As he could not repay her favor, he could only transfer his gratitude to Charlotte.

However, this did not mean that he would tolerate it if Charlotte fooled around, especially since the three kids were part of the Nacht family...

The conflict between the Lindberg and Nacht families was unavoidable.

With the three kids, the relationship between the two families would be even more ambiguous. The next generation would be affected and more trouble would arise...

In order to prevent future troubles, he might...

When these thoughts flashed across Charlotte's mind, she got panicked for a while. However, she soon calmed herself down and stared at Zara coldly.

"I'll naturally inform my brother about this, so you don't have to care about it. Instead, you should think about how to snatch the inheritance from Zachary."

As she spoke, she made a gesture.

Lupine carried Ellie, who was trembling in fear, out of the Rolls-Royce and was about to place her into the jeep.

Ellie was so scared that she covered her face and sobbed softly in Lupine's arms.

"Don't be scared, Ellie." Robbie and Jamie got out of the car to welcome her.

Lupine and Morgan quickly carried the three kids into the car.

Zara watched as Charlotte brought them away. Now that she had lost her last bargaining chips, she could only clench her jaw in fury.

When Charlotte turned around to get into the car, a gunshot suddenly sounded behind her.

A shiver ran down her spine as she spun around and widened her eyes in surprise.

Zara actually killed a bodyguard from the Nacht family!

A young man, who was barely twenty years old, collapsed in a pool of blood.

“Argh!”

When Ellie witnessed this scene, she was so scared that she screamed and trembled uncontrollably.

Even Jamie was terrified. His knees buckled and he crumpled to the ground, tears streamed down his cheeks.

Meanwhile, Robbie widened his eyes as he gaped at that bodyguard in utter shock. He was so aghast that he went stiff on the spot.

These bodyguards had been with them for a long time. Now that one had died in front of their eyes, the three kids almost had a mental breakdown.

“You...” Marino was so stunned that his jaw fell open. “You actually...”

“I might not dare to touch the Lindberg family, but I can kill these bast*rds from the Nacht family.”

Zara’s expression was twisted with menace and hostility.

“You’ve crossed the line!” Kyle shuddered in shock. “I’m going to tell Mr. Henry.”

With a loud bang, another gunshot sounded.

Zara shot Kyle’s right leg.

“Argh!”

Shrieking in agony, Kyle fell to the ground. He was in so much pain that his cheeks turned pale, but he gritted his teeth and refused to make a single sound.

"You'll be next!" Zara raised her gun and pointed at Marino.

"No!" Jamie suddenly climbed to his feet and dashed over agitatedly.

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"Jamie..."

Before Charlotte could react, Jamie shielded Marino and spread his arms apart. He yelled angrily, "You're not allowed to kill or touch anyone from the Nacht family!"

Gazing into Jamie's clear eyes, Zara could not help but feel stunned.

She suddenly remembered that more than twenty years ago, the younger Zachary had once protected her like this before...

"Daddy's going to come soon! If you dare to kill anyone from the Nacht family, he won't spare you."

Robbie rushed over bravely. Standing beside Jamie, he glared at Zara defiantly.

"There's Great-grandpa too! If he finds out that you're doing something so horrible, he won't forgive you!"

"Bad guy! Bad guy!"

Ellie was so terrified that her face turned pale and she burst into tears.

Flapping its wings, Little Fifi mimicked her cries. "Bad guy! Bad guy!"

"Mr. Robinson, Mr. Jamison, please leave! It's dangerous!"

Marino was so touched that his voice cracked. He shielded the two kids behind him, afraid that they would be affected.

"They're young but brave." Looking at the two kids, Zara smirked coldly. "It's a pity that they're too dumb to see through the situation."

"Who are you calling dumb?" Charlotte walked over slowly and stared at her coldly.

"It's none of your business." Zara raised her eyebrows frostily. "I didn't touch the three kids out of courtesy for you. Now, I'm going to kill the bast*rds from the Nacht family. If you still try to intervene, don't blame me for getting hostile."

"Hypocrite!" Charlotte was disgusted by her fake pretenses. "You shot them right in front of me so you can force me to intervene, right?"

It was true. Only then could Zara find an excuse to fight with Charlotte. Even if Danrique confronted her about it, she could say that Charlotte had intervened in the Nacht family's matters first. If she exaggerated Charlotte's ambiguous relationship with the Nacht family, she could excuse herself from all responsibilities.

"After changing your last name, you've become smarter, huh?" Zara smirked. "Since you understand everything, why don't you leave right away?"

"Ms. Lindberg..." Lupine persuaded her softly, "This evil b*tch is trying to provoke you. Don't fall for her trap! Let's leave with the kids first."

Morgan, who would always chime in, was surprisingly silent. When she saw Marino in danger, she felt sympathetic.

"Mommy, save Mr. Marino!" Jamie tugged Charlotte's shirt and stifled a choke. "He trains with me every day and is my friend. I don't want him to die!"

Naturally, Charlotte knew how to weigh the situation, and look at the bigger picture. However, when she met the children's pleading gazes and thought about the young lives that might be lost, she relented.

"Get into the car first." Charlotte shot the rest a glance.

Morgan and two female bodyguards immediately carried Jamie and Robbie into the car.

"Mommy..." Jamie stared at Charlotte with tears welling up in his eyes, which were filled with a pleading look.

As Robbie knew that she was in a difficult position, he did not say anything despite his urge to save Marino.

"Trust me." Charlotte patted Jamie's head gently. "Be a good boy and get into the car."

Only then did Jamie enter the car with Robbie...

"Jamie, Robbie, I'm so scared!"

Ellie jumped into their arms when she saw her brothers.

"Don't be scared! Mommy's here, so we'll be fine."

Robbie quickly hugged her and consoled her patiently.

Meanwhile, Morgan closed the car doors so the kids would not be scared.

After seeing that the kids were safe in the car, Charlotte raised her gun and aimed it at Zara arrogantly. "Looks like this is my business, after all."

"Interesting!" An exciting look glinted in Zara's eyes. "Do you know that initially, I thought that you're too weak to even put up a battle? Now, things are getting so exhilarating! This is truly a battle between two power towers!"

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"I know that you outnumber us, but the bodyguards from both sides can keep you busy for a while. I don't know about Zachary, but my subordinates are already rushing over. I'd like to see how long you can keep up with this!"

When Charlotte waved her hand, Lupine immediately got into position, while the rest stood behind her orderly. All of them pointed their guns at Zara.

On the other hand, the Nacht family's bodyguards had positioned themselves behind Charlotte to fight alongside her.

They were all Zachary's elite bodyguards. Two years ago, they had witnessed Charlotte and Zachary's journey together and knew that they were a family.

Furthermore, while Zara harmed her own people so viciously, Charlotte protected them, despite being an outsider.

Even without anyone to instruct them, they would naturally choose to side with Charlotte.

"Very well..." Zara nodded with a cold chuckle. "You traitors! Looks like I've been too kind."

"Who's the traitor?" Marino yelled angrily. "For your own selfish desires, you kidnapped your family members and killed your own people! You'll bring your demise upon yourself with such despicable acts!"

"How impudent!" Frowning, Zara raised her gun to kill Marino.

However, Charlotte quickly kicked her gun away.

Although Zara was caught off guard, she reacted quickly. She spun around agilely, grabbed her gun mid-air and pointed at it Charlotte as quickly as lightning.

At the same time, Charlotte had pointed a gun at her too.

Both of them had a face-off, while the atmosphere around them became increasingly tense.

Everything happened in a few seconds—so quickly that no one around them could catch a clear glimpse of what was going on.

“Not bad,” Zara smirked. “Looks like Mr. Lindberg has taught you well!”

“Cut the crap.” Charlotte raised her eyebrows. “Back then, you poisoned me and instructed Sharon to kill me in T Nation. The torment from the illness was just unbearable! Not only have you killed Mrs. Berry, but you have also tried to kidnap my sons! It’s time to settle the scores from the past and now.”

As she spoke, Charlotte cocked her gun.

“Do you think that you can defeat me?”

With a wave of her hand, hundreds of people behind Zara pointed their guns at Charlotte.

“Before you can shoot, you and your subordinates will be ridden with bullet holes!”

“Even if we die, we’ll drag you down with us.” Charlotte did not back down at all.

“Don’t worry! We’ll act as Ms. Lindberg’s shields!”

Holding his gun, Marino stood in front of Charlotte bravely.

The other bodyguards from the Nacht family also stepped forward, willing to risk their lives to bring Zara down with them.

“Very well.” Zara gritted her teeth in fury. “You have a death wish, huh? I’ll fulfil it for you!”

With that, she waved her hands and her subordinates were prepared to start shooting...

At that moment, they heard the loud rumbling of cars and someone yelled, "Mr. Nacht is here!"

Stunned, Zara raised her head and glanced over. Indeed, there were a few luxurious cars speeding over, with the Rolls-Royce at the front being Zachary's...

Dozens of police cars followed behind it.

The grandiose of the scene made it seem like an apocalyptic war!

As Zachary was now a businessman, he had to follow the laws no matter what he did. He never killed anyone and if someone offended him, he would seek the police's help.

As a result, Zara did not dare to do anything reckless.

"You're outnumbered now," mocked Charlotte coldly. "If you know what's best for you, you should just get lost. Otherwise, you'd become a lowly prisoner!"

"Da*n you!"

Zara clenched her jaw in fury and escaped with her subordinates.

Meanwhile, the police chased after them frantically.

Zachary and his men rushed over. When he saw the scene in front of him, he frowned. After instructing his men to clear the venue, he walked toward Charlotte. Despite the multitude of things that he wanted to say, all he could muster were two words.

"Thank you!"

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Charlotte just glared at him. She didn't say a word but turned around and got in the car...

When the door to the car opened, Zachary saw his kids there and vice versa. They were quick and eager to greet him, "Daddy..."

"Go stay with your mommy for a few days. I will go pick you up in a couple of days."

Zachary was calm and rational. He would not fight with Charlotte in such a place and under those circumstances.

He knew that Charlotte loved the kids like him, and it had nothing to do with what happened between them. She will never hurt them...

It was never wise to argue in front of the kids anyway because that would hurt them emotionally and potentially traumatize them.

"Be careful, Daddy," reminded Robbie.

"Yeah, stay safe," said Jamie.

"Daddy, I'm scared..." said Ellie with teary eyes.

"Don't worry. Your mommy will be there with you," cooed Zachary with a warm smile on.

Charlotte closed the door. She never gave him an extra second with the kids. She ordered, "We're leaving!"

"Understood," replied Morgan before she started the car and drove away.

Ellie finally had the chance to examine Charlotte closely since they were all in the car together. The mommy she had been missing day and night was finally beside her, and that got Ellie to cry. Her baby voice trembled a little as she asked, "Mommy... are you really my mommy?"

Ellie was not as brave as her big brothers. She didn't have the exceptional IQ and EQ that Robbie had, nor was she a bold fighter

like Jamie. Instead, she was just as immature and innocent as any kid her age.

Charlotte didn't reply. She simply picked Ellie up and hugged her.

"Mommy..."

Ellie's tiny lips parted, and she cried. She couldn't speak because her emotions were too wild and complex at the time.

"Mommy, Mommy..."

Fifi the parrot called out from the side. It hid its tiny head with its wing, and it seemed like it was secretly crying as well.

"Don't cry, Ellie. Mommy is back, and our family will be reunited soon," said Jamie to soothe Ellie.

Robbie, however, didn't say a word. He understood that their mom was back, but...

It'll be difficult for the family to get back together.

Robbie noticed that his parents' gazes were hostile when they looked at each other earlier.

The conversation between Mommy and the bad lady also suggested that there is some sort of conflict between the Nacht family and the Lindberg family. Hence, it will be difficult for Mommy and Daddy to get back together or for the family to reunite...

"Be good, don't cry," cooed Charlotte sweetly as she stroked Ellie's back. She promised, "I am back and will never let anyone bully any of you again."

Her eyes glowed with firm determination. She used to be weak and helpless, and that was why she was bullied. But that is not me anymore. I will never allow myself to fall like that again!

I, Charlotte Lindberg, will never let anyone hurt me again, and anyone who attempts to hurt my family will pay with their blood.

At the front seat, both Morgan and Lupine turned to one another. They had a complex glow in their eyes.

"Everything is ready, Mr. Nacht," reported Bruce in a hurry before he added, "The police will keep pursuing Ms. Nacht. Let's leave for now. Our men will deal with the paperwork and the loose ends."

"Make sure that Alan's funeral goes well," instructed Zachary grimly.

"Understood. I will settle everything."

Bruce was actually heartbroken. Alan was the bodyguard that Zara had killed earlier. He was only nineteen years old and was an orphan who had been working for the Nacht family for six years. Nothing had ever happened to them, but...

"This is all my fault. He's dead because of me," murmured Marino, who felt guilty.

"This is not on you," said Ben as he tapped on Marino's shoulder before adding, "You're still too young. It's impressive that you are able to accomplish as much as you had."

"Kyle is injured too. How is he?" asked Marino with teary eyes.

"He was taken to the hospital right away," answered Ben.

"Let's go, Mr. Nacht. We shouldn't stay here for too long," urged Bruce.

"Okay," replied Zachary before he walked to the car. He turned around and saw that his wife's car was already out of sight. They're probably home now...

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chapter 873

"This is the footage from the car Marino was driving. It recorded everything."

Ben had already sent the footage to the tablet.

Zachary took the tablet and got into the car. He watched the footage as he listened to Marino's report on the matter.

Zachary, Bruce, and Ben were all shaken to their core when they finished watching everything.

"Holy moly, Ms. Windt is so strong now," praised Ben from the bottom of his heart, "She is completely different from the woman she used to be two years ago!"

"I know, right?" blurted Bruce, who was a little excited as well. "I feel so fired up after watching this footage. It's too bad I wasn't there earlier. If I were, I would've stood beside Ms. Lindberg and fought Zara with everything I have."

Bruce was no longer addressing Zara in a formal or respectful way because he thought that she was no longer worthy of it.

Kidnapping her nephew's kids, killing her own people... She is not worthy of being treated like a human after everything she did.

"Ms. Lindberg could've left earlier, but she ignored the bad blood between us and risked her life to save us..." shared Marino before he added, "I feel so bad now. If the opportunity ever presents itself, I will surely repay her kindness."

"I have told you this. Ms. Lindberg might have changed her name, but she is still the kind and honorable person she has always been. It's worrisome, though. She helped us today and will probably get in trouble because of it," said Bruce.

"Yeah, the consequences will be dire if Danrique finds out about this..."

Ben's eyes glowed with worry as he stared at Zachary.

Zachary kept quiet and seemed burdened...

The three men stopped talking because they worried that they'd disturb him.

Just then, the rain started pouring. The water droplets slid down and drenched the green around them. The surrounding trees also swayed as the wind blew at them. It seemed that even nature itself was anxious about the future.

Zachary kept staring out the window without saying a word.

Beep!

Bruce's phone suddenly rang. He picked it up, and that got his expression to turn grim. He immediately reported to Zachary.

"Zara fled. The police said that they have to investigate the matter and find clues before they report to the higher-ups. Only then will they be able to apply for a warrant."

"It'll be too late by then! If Zara actually inherits Nacht Group during this period, she will destroy all the evidence, and there will be nothing they can do!" growled Ben while frowning.

"That is why she has the guts to act so recklessly," said Zachary, who had been quiet the entire time. He was calm when he pointed out, "We can't really blame the police, though. This is way beyond their pay grade, so it's understandable that they are cautious."

"Then... what do we do now?" asked Bruce carefully.

"There are internal problems and external threats looming over us," commented Zachary before he sighed and added, "We'll just have to solve the issues one by one."

"We've already handled the media, and the news about you and Ms. Blackwood has been taken down from the internet."

Unfortunately, the netizens are now claiming that you are trying to dump Ms. Blackwood because you fell for someone else. In short, this incident has caused a huge problem for you and Divine Corporation,” reported Bruce softly.

“Taylor called once more. He wanted to talk to you. I think the Blackwoods are going to stick to you like parasites,” informed Ben while frowning.

“Darn it, things would be bad regardless of what you do now,” replied Bruce, who couldn’t help dissing, “I can’t believe I thought that Taylor is a reasonable man. Turns out, he is pretty devious.”

“Send our men to check up on Sharon,” instructed Zachary all of a sudden.

“Huh?” blurted Bruce before he nodded and replied, “Understood.”

“Call the headquarters and have them send the funds over to help Synder Group out,” ordered Zachary again.

“Huh? But...” blurted Ben. He thought he had misheard his employer at the time.

“Just do as I say,” demanded Zachary.

“Understood,” replied Ben. He quickly did as requested. The board of directors was surprised when they heard the news.

It didn’t take long before Johann called in person to confirm the instruction from Zachary. The latter simply replied, “Yes, that is my instruction.”

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“But why? Is the Blackwood family blackmailing you or something?” asked Johann in an agitated tone.

"I hold the most shares in the company, and I get to make that decision. Just do as I say," said Zachary calmly before he hung up right away.

He could imagine just how angry Johann would be at that moment. He's probably stomping away now...

"The hospital called to inform us that Sharon has a broken rib and a broken leg. She also has some scratches, but other than that, she's fine. She's resting in the hospital as of now," reported Bruce.

"Get someone to share what happened today with her," commanded Zachary.

"Understood."

Only then did Ben and Bruce realize what Zachary had in mind.

"For now, we will head to the Blackwoods' residence," instructed Zachary.

"Understood. Should we inform them?" asked Ben.

"There's no need for that. Just head over."

"Okay."

The Blackwoods' residence was close to Henry's Garden Villa because Taylor wanted to build a rapport with Henry. The former deliberately bought a place near the vicinity to do just that.

The air was fresh, and the environment was quiet.

It was as if they were living in heaven, and that was a great place to stay after retirement.

When Synder Group got into trouble, the Blackwood family sold a lot of their foreign assets to make up for the loss incurred by their company. Yet, they never even considered selling that villa because it was located near the Nachts' residence.

The Blackwoods were surprised when Zachary dropped by. Taylor, in particular, was rushing down the stairs to welcome him.

"Welcome, Zachary. Why didn't you tell me that you are dropping by? I would've gone to the gate to welcome you."

"There's no need for that. We're friends, after all," replied Zachary before he grinned and added, "I hope I'm not intruding."

"No, of course not. Please come in," said Taylor as he led Zachary, Ben, and the others into the house. After that, Taylor turned to the housemaid and instructed, "Serve our guests some tea."

The housemaid immediately went to prepare some exquisite tea.

"Ah, I am so forgetful. I forgot that you don't drink tea," commented Taylor before he changed his instructions quickly, "Open up a bottle of red wine. Hurry!"

"I heard from Cynthia that you have a lot of excellent wine with you. Is that true?" asked Zachary.

His tone was warmer that day.

"I don't actually drink much. Those wines are only for serving valued guests. Cynthia is in the backyard picking some flowers. I've already had someone get her over, so she should be here soon," replied Taylor with a smile.

"I actually came here to talk to you. Didn't you ask to see me? I'm here now, so let's cut to the chase," said Zachary, who wanted to speed things along.

"Uh... Let's go talk in the study room," replied Taylor awkwardly. He didn't expect Zachary to be that straightforward.

"Okay."

The two men got up and went to the study room. By then, the maid had already opened up a bottle of exquisite wine. She poured Zachary a glass before she moved away.

"I have twenty minutes left," said Zachary as he checked his watch, then swirled the wine in the glass.

"Oh, right. You run a huge corporation, so you are busy all the time. It's nice that you are willing to spare, even just twenty minutes, to talk to me today. I'll keep things short," said Taylor, who suddenly felt nervous.

"Okay," answered Zachary before he sipped some wine and waited for Taylor to speak up.

"I don't actually have much to say. I just want to know what your plans with Cynthia are," said Taylor in an ambiguous tone.

"My plans? Didn't Cynthia tell you that we are just friends? The news shared by the media is fake," replied Zachary while wearing a confused expression.

"She told me that the two of you were drunk," said Taylor, "Listen, even if nothing had happened, the news still spread like wildfire. This is bad for her reputation, and her feelings for you are true. I wish..."

"We're living in the twenty-first century," interrupted Zachary, "Even if we had slept together, it would still just be a one-night stand with consent from both sides. Moreover, we didn't even do anything in reality, so do you actually expect me to marry her?"

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Hearing those words got Taylor's expression to take a sharp turn. He commented, "I thought you are sincere and are here to solve this issue today."

"What issue do I need to solve? I don't owe your family anything, do I?" challenged Zachary with his brows raised.

"Zachary Nacht, that is too much!" growled Taylor, who was completely infuriated.

He scolded harshly, "The Nacht family is the one who asked for Sharon's hand in marriage, but you changed your mind at the last

minute for the sake of some other woman! That humiliated my family and traumatized Sharon.

"Then, to cover up your lies, you had Cynthia pretend to be Charlotte and acted like your wife. She had been serving Henry like she was a maid and had been taking care of your children all this time.

"How could that effort count for nothing? Also, you could've just told her that you don't like her. Why did you have to put on a show and ask her to help trick your grandpa?

"You are so heartless. You did all that just so that you can keep Henry at bay while you court Charlotte. Is that it? "You treated both my daughters as pawns and ruined their reputation and happiness!

"Also, why do you think the Lindberg family is coming after us? It's all because Charlotte is jealous of Sharon, and that means that you are the root of all these problems! How can you still sit here and say that you don't owe us anything?"

"Huh, so from your perspective, I do owe your family a lot," scoffed Zachary as he nodded.

"But let me ask you something. Did I have anything to do with the engagement to Sharon? Aren't you and my grandpa the ones who schemed behind my back this entire time?

"I've never agreed to it, and you know that I am not in love with her. Yet, you let your daughter come after me. At the end of the day, aren't you just trying to ride on the Nacht family?"

"You..."

Zachary raised his hand and continued, "Let me finish. I'll admit that I was wrong. It doesn't matter if I was willing or not. At the end of the day, I didn't fight hard enough to refuse you. Still, I paid your family thirty billion for canceling that engagement. That is a sizeable sum.

"As for Cynthia, I do owe her, and I've promised that I will repay her when the opportunity presents itself in the future. That is why I've asked the company to redirect some funds to help Synder Group out..."

"Really? When?" blurted Taylor, who was instantly excited. He hadn't even finished speaking before his phone rang. He picked it up immediately and heard the report of how Synder Group's share prices were rising again. That prompted him to hang up quickly and turn to Zachary to thank him. "Thank you, Zachary."

"This is the last time I will help you. Take it as repayment for Cynthia's help," replied Zachary as he stood up to leave.

"Zachary, wait," said Taylor to stop the guy, "I know that there is a lot of misunderstanding between you and me now, but Cynthia really does love you. She is the best person for you, so please think about it."

"I can't control my heart and I am not in love with her," replied Zachary calmly before he added, "She's an amazing person, and I am sure she'll find someone right for her."

After saying his piece, Zachary walked ahead to leave.

He was taken aback when he opened the door.

Cynthia was standing behind the door and was staring at him with teary eyes.

It was obvious that she heard everything he said earlier.

"I'm sorry," murmured Zachary before he circled around to leave.

"Slow down! You're hurting me, you stupid mutt. Are you trying to kill me?" growled someone angrily from outside.

Taylor heard that, so he hurried over and asked, "Why are you back?"

"Someone is trying to kill me, so it's not safe for me to stay in the hospital..." said Sharon. She paused suddenly because she saw

Zachary there, and that stunned her. She asked, "Zachary, what brought you here?"

Zachary glared over without saying a word. He left right away.

"Daddy, why is Zachary here? He's not caving in because he's under the media's pressure, is he? Don't tell me he's going to marry that mute," demanded Sharon in an agitated state.

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"Shut up! Do not talk about your sister like that!" scolded Taylor angrily.

"Why are you yelling at me like this? You didn't use to treat me this way. Is Zachary really marrying that mute?" asked Sharon in astonishment.

"I will deal with you when I get back!"

Taylor glared over before he sped up to chase after Zachary.

"Zachary, let me walk you out. Thank you so much for helping Synder Group out. I'm guessing you spent a lot of resources on this. Thank you..."

Hearing those words worried Sharon even more. She was a businesswoman, so she understood how the incident from the night before could put pressure on Nacht Group.

However, she felt that given his skills, Zachary could've solved the matter via a different method. Yet, he didn't. Instead, he came over in person to help Synder Group out. I guess he really is going to marry Cynthia...

Just then, Cynthia walked out of the study room with a bouquet of Alocasia. She was sad initially, but when she saw Sharon there, she quickly readjusted herself. She acted calm as she walked past her younger sister.

“Hold it right there!” demanded Sharon arrogantly.

Cynthia paused and turned to Sharon. The former’s eyes shone with distance as she did so.

“You really are something else, you sl*t,” insulted Sharon as she went over in her wheelchair. She was right in front of Cynthia when she interrogated through her gritted teeth. “Getting Zachary drunk then stripped to seduce him and getting the paparazzi to barge in at the right time to shoot those photos. You got them to spread the news just to force Zachary to marry you. Is that it?” demanded Sharon.

Cynthia glared over angrily before she turned around to leave.

“Oy, I didn’t say you can leave!” said Sharon, who chased over and used her wheelchair to block Cynthia’s path. The former roared angrily, “You are so shameless. Hell, you are just like your mom and will do all sorts of despicable sh*t to con men...”

Hearing those words prompted Cynthia’s expression to change instantly. A murderous aura shot out of her eyes...

“I knew it. Your true colors finally presented themselves,” said Sharon. She was even angrier when she saw Cynthia’s expression. Sharon pointed out, “You conned me to go to Storm Hotel that night, didn’t you? You used me to distract Ben and his men so that you can go after Zachary. I bet you’re also the one who got the car to hit me. You b*tch! You are as evil as your mother... Ah!”

Sharon didn’t even get a chance to finish her sentence. Cynthia suddenly turned over and kicked the wheelchair as hard as she could.

The wheelchair lost control and zipped forward.

Bang! A loud noise signaled how it crashed against the wall. Sharon fell from her wheelchair and hit her foot, which was in a cast. She also hurt her injured rib.

“Ah!”

Sharon screamed in agony, and her voice echoed.

The maids and the bodyguards heard that, so they rushed over from the other side...

Just before that happened, Cynthia put on a surprised expression. She rushed over to help Sharon up, and her eyes shone with tears. It looked as if she was worried and heartbroken for her baby sister...

Yet, when Sharon turned around to look at Cynthia, the latter grinned evilly and mouthed, "I am the queen of the house now, and you will be my lap dog if you wish to stay here!"

"Y-you evil b*tch!"

Sharon was so angry that she was losing her mind. She raised her hand to slap Cynthia.

"Stop it right there!" shouted Taylor who came in and happened to see that. He hurried over and shielded Cynthia behind him before yelling, "How dare you try to slap your sister like that? Do you really think you'd get off the hook?"

"Daddy, why are you protecting her? Do you know that she is the one who got me in this state? She hired the driver to run his car into mine, and she kicked my wheelchair earlier," informed Sharon as she stared at Taylor in disbelief.

"Sharon, how can you say that? I would never hire someone to hurt you, and when have I ever kicked your wheelchair?" signed Cynthia nervously and with teary eyes.

"You pretentious b*tch!"

Sharon was so angry that she was going crazy. She lunged over to try to slap Cynthia again.

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"Enough!" growled Taylor as he pushed Sharon away. He scolded through gritted teeth, "You are the only one who is capable of doing something as evil as that. Your sister is so kind and sweet that she can't even bear to kill an ant. How could she have hurt you?"

"You don't trust me? That is all an act! She's pretending to be kind and helpless, but she is a vile person underneath it all," insisted Sharon, who was going insane.

"Enough!" roared Taylor. He wasn't in the mood to listen to anything, so he pointed out, "You got drunk some time ago and almost ran her over! At first, I wanted to punish you for it, but she spoke up. She said that you were just too young and had a momentary lapse of judgment. That is how kind she is and how much she loves you. How can you repay her kindness by accusing her?"

Cynthia cried at the side. She looked ever so wronged and pitiful.

"What are you talking about? When have I run her over?" blurted Sharon, who was stunned, "Yes, I was drunk that night, and I almost hit her, but my car never actually touched her. My car zipped past her, and that coward got so scared that she fell onto the floor. I never even got close to her!"

"I knew you wouldn't admit to it. I truly have spoiled you by turning a blind eye to all the evil things you have done. You controlled the corporation from behind the scenes, tried to steal company shares, and almost run your sister over due to drunk driving. I never punish you for any of that, but now you have crossed the line.

"You're accusing her of something she never did, and that is too much." "We would all be in trouble if it wasn't for her. She sacrificed herself and let go of her pride to maintain a good relationship with the Nacht family. That is the only reason Zachary is willing to help us out.

"You are both my daughter, but one keeps causing trouble while the other is helping me solve my problems. I will have to be an idiot to not see things clearly!"

"Gah, why won't you believe me? This is all her fault. She's coming after me now, and soon, she will hurt you too," said Sharon. She crawled up from the floor and was roaring angrily.

"Shut up!" shouted Taylor before he slapped her hard.

Sharon fell onto the floor once more. Crimson red blood oozed out of the edge of her lips, and she was in a daze for a moment there. She never anticipated it. Her father, who had always loved and spoiled her, had turned around and slapped her.

Cynthia seemed surprised and scared. She quickly signed, "Daddy, how can you slap her? We can take our time and teach her right from wrong. You shouldn't have hurt her like that..."

Taylor also realized that he had made a mistake. Regret filled his heart...

Cynthia went to help Sharon up after that. The latter gritted her teeth and mercilessly threw a slap over.

Slap! A crisp voice echoed.

Cynthia was hurt so badly that she fell onto the floor. A palm print instantly showed up on her face.

Her tears rolled down her cheeks as she stared at Sharon in disbelief. Cynthia signed, "Why? I have always seen you as my baby sister, so why must you treat me like this?"

"That is too much!" growled Taylor. He lifted his hand once more and was going to slap Sharon again.

"Go on, slap me to my death. I'll just haunt your sorry a*s from the afterlife," roared Sharon. She had her head up and was glaring right at Taylor.

"You are truly hopeless. Show your sister some respect if you plan on staying here. I will chase you out if you ever bully her again," warned Taylor evilly after he retracted his arm and reached out to help Cynthia instead.

“Fine! I don’t want to stay in a place like this anyway.”

Sharon had truly given up by then. She no longer cried like she did earlier. Instead, she struggled up from the floor and commanded her bodyguards, “We’re leaving!”

The bodyguards were stunned for a moment there, but they eventually went over to help her get in her wheelchair. After that, they pushed her toward the exit.

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“Sharon Blackwood! If you set foot out of this house now, you will be banned from ever returning again,” threatened Taylor as he roared at Sharon. He even reminded, “You have made countless enemies out there, and leaving will just be equivalent to walking into your own grave. I will give you one last chance if you apologize to your sister right now!”

“Let’s think about this, Ms. Blackwood,” advised a bodyguard, “Your father is right. You have too many enemies, and it’s dangerous to leave the Blackwood residence. Apologizing to your sister and staying here will at least keep you safe.”

“Shut up!” ordered Sharon. She glared back evilly and informed Taylor, “You will regret this in the future.”

Taylor started regretting his words. He wanted to ask Sharon to stay, but Cynthia suddenly weakened and fell onto the floor.

“Cynthia...” said Taylor as he hurried over to help her up. That was when he heard the sound of the car starting.

“What the hell are you idiots still standing around for? Go get her back!” scolded Taylor quickly.

"Understood," replied the maids before they chased after Sharon and informed, "Sir is asking you to stay."

Sharon turned to the door. She saw how her dad never came to chase after her, and that got her to close her eyes in hopelessness. She gritted her teeth and ordered, "Drive!"

The bodyguard had no choice but to obey.

Taylor helped Cynthia to the sofa before he ran over to chase after Sharon. He was panting when he reached the door, but by then, Sharon's car was already long gone. He gritted his teeth angrily and cursed, "Gah, whatever. You'll come home once you've suffered and learned your lesson."

The heavy rain outside the window seemed to be a reflection of Sharon's hopelessness.

She never dreamed that her father, who had always loved her, would slap her and question her words like that.

She had always regarded herself as an intelligent woman, so she didn't anticipate being conned by Cynthia. That b*tch...

She's so arrogant even though she hasn't married into the Nacht family. If she truly marries Zachary, she will be even worse.

Our mothers had been competing against one another ever since we were kids and that hatred had passed on to us. I will be the first person Cynthia comes after once she marries Zachary.

Thinking that prompted Sharon to call the office right away. She asked, "Hello, how is the company now? Did anyone help us out? What? The Nacht family came to our aid? They invested twenty billion? Okay, got it..."

Sharon panicked even more after she hung up. She knew just how terrible things were for the Nacht family. Lindberg Corporation is coming after them while Zara is making a play to seize the company. Zachary doesn't have many funds left.

Yet, he fished out twenty billion to help Synder Group out. That proves that he truly is under a lot of pressure from the media and might marry Cynthia soon. He's buying time now, but even that will give the b*tch enough power to act up for a while.

It will be ridiculously easy for her to kill me...

Sharon thought about how her father had chased her out of the house even though the battle hadn't even begun.

Without the Blackwoods shielding Sharon, the enemies she had made in the past would likely go after her soon.

And Charlotte Lindberg is the most dangerous one of all. I heard that she lost her memories, and that is probably why she hasn't come after me yet. However, if she ever recalls what happened two years ago, she will surely skin me alive...

Thinking about that got Sharon to tremble uncontrollably.

No, I can't just sit idly by.

At that moment, the only person she could turn to was Zara.

I helped her out once, so she will probably protect me now that I am in trouble.

Unfortunately, Sharon had just received news of how Zara had sent her men to kidnap Zachary's children. She even killed the men hired by the Nacht family...

If she is capable of doing that to her own people, who knows what she will do to a pawn like me who has outlived her usefulness?

She will probably come and kill me before I even go to her...

That is why I went back to the Blackwoods' residence in the first place! I needed to hide from her.

Unfortunately, Sharon didn't know who she could contact if not Zara.

It took her some time, but she eventually decided to call Zachary's number again.

Just then, an armored car rammed into her vehicle.

Sharon turned around to check things out. That got her to scream, "Run! They're Zara's men."

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Sharon had nothing. All she had with her were two bodyguards whose skills were only average. There was no way they could chase Zara's men away.

She saw how the armored car was forcing them toward the bridge.

One more ram, and we'll all fall down the hill and into the river...

Sharon shouted in hopelessness, "Zara Nacht, you despicable b*tch! You are so evil."

A jeep suddenly showed up at that crucial moment. It knocked the armored car out of the way and forced it to spin a little. It almost fell down the hill and barely survived. That scared the driver and forced him to drive away.

Sharon gripped the handrest and was so scared that she was panting. She had turned ghostly pale by then, and she felt like her heart was about to thump out of her chest.

The two bodyguards were frightened as well, so they were disoriented.

That was when someone knocked on the window.

Sharon looked out before she opened the door quickly. "Bruce? Why are you here?" asked Sharon.

"Mr. Nacht sent me over to rescue you, Ms. Sharon. Just a heads up, Mr. Nacht already knows that Zara Nacht is the mastermind who commanded you to go kill Ms. Windt in T Nation," replied Bruce calmly.

He then added, "For now, we need you to stand as a witness at her trial and provide us with the evidence against her. If you're willing to do that, please follow me over. If not, please ignore my words."

"I..." murmured Sharon. She knew what it meant to be a witness. If she helped Zachary expose Zara's crime, then her own crimes would be revealed as well. She would be punished by the law.

That would also mean that she'd have to spend the rest of her life in jail...

I don't want that!

Unfortunately, if she didn't comply or cooperate with Zachary, she would die soon...

"Just take the deal," advised a bodyguard nervously, "The most important thing to do now is to survive. You can start over so long as you're alive, but if you die, you will lose all opportunity to do anything at all."

"T Nation doesn't believe in the death penalty. You will, at most, spend a few years in jail for the crimes you committed. We can come up with a solution afterward and shorten your sentence. That is certainly better than dying now," said the other bodyguard.

"You guys are right," said Sharon. She couldn't be bothered about anything else because she needed to survive. Hence, she replied, "Okay, I will do as Zachary asks."

"That's a wise choice," replied Bruce before he signaled his men.

Marino saw that and immediately helped Sharon and her two bodyguards into Bruce's car.

When Sharon got into the car, she suddenly realized something important. She demanded, "Zachary is never going to marry Cynthia, is he? He only dropped by to put on a show for me."

"He was also there to make things clear to Mr. Blackwood and put an end to everything," added Bruce.

"I see," murmured Sharon as the revelation hit her, "He did everything on purpose. He deliberately leaked the information to me and purposely dropped by to bump into me. He did all that to make me think that he would marry Cynthia."

"He knew that I wouldn't be able to resist hurting Cynthia and knew that my dad will chase me out of the house to protect her. That, in turn, gave Zara's men a chance to come after me and allow you to save me. With no other options, I will have to cooperate with him and stand as a witness in court."

"You're pretty smart," commented Bruce as he looked at her via the rearview mirror.

"Zachary Nacht is the intelligent one. He never did anything, yet somehow accomplished everything," replied Sharon in a self-taunting tone.

"He simply wants you to see the truth. It's for your sake as well," informed Bruce calmly.

"Yeah, it is a good thing for me," said Sharon bitterly, "If he hadn't put on the show, I would still be buying the lie that my father loves me. I actually thought that, regardless of what I do, I will always be the daughter of the prestigious Blackwood family."

"Now, I see how stupid I was. He only cared for me in the past because I have what it takes to help him out with his business. He protects Cynthia now because she can benefit the Blackwood family. "It was only about profit. There was no parental love whatsoever!"

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Bruce didn't reply. He simply sighed internally. The public regarded Mr. Blackwood as an honorable and kind man, but he is actually the most devious one. He would treat his own daughter as pawns just to benefit himself.

"That money is just a ruse," added Sharon, who finally saw everything clearly, "The Blackwoods would fall regardless because the family is trapped between three powerful entities, namely the Nacht family, the Lindberg family, and Zara Nacht."

"That is why siding with Mr. Nacht is the best option for you," replied Bruce.

"You're right about that," commented Sharon as a complex glow shone in her eyes. She shifted her gaze to Bruce and requested, "There's something I'd like to say to Zachary in person."

"Okay," replied Bruce before he dialed Zachary's number. The line was established soon after.

"Hello."

"Ms. Sharon has something to say to you, Mr. Nacht," informed Bruce before he put the phone on speaker and handed it to Sharon.

Sharon spoke into the phone and was firm when she requested, "Zachary, I am willing to be a witness at the trial and tell everyone that Zara is the one who ordered me to kill Charlotte. I can even provide you with all the evidence you need. However, I have a condition, and I want you to give me your word that you will do as I ask."

"Go on," replied Zachary calmly.

"I want you to promise me that you will keep me safe if Charlotte ever comes to me to seek revenge," announced Sharon clearly.

Hearing those words surprised Bruce. He secretly sighed in admiration. Sharon is a vile woman, but she is truly smart.

She saw through everything, even though she was only given the slightest hint. She also knows her situation well. That is why she made the right choice. She is even aware of the fact that Zara is not the biggest threat there is. Charlotte Lindberg is a lot more dangerous.

That is why she wants Mr. Nacht to make that promise.

Zachary, who was on the other end of the line, had become quiet.

He could've done everything early on and forced Sharon to hand the evidence over ages ago. He also knew that he could get Sharon to be a witness. However, he hesitated to do all that because he knew that Sharon would make that request.

If I agree to help her out, there will be yet another obstacle between Charlotte and me.

That was why Zachary didn't want to do that.

Unfortunately, his hands were tied at that moment. The Nacht family was facing both internal and external threats, so he had to play that card.

Sharon, however, had calmed down, and she pointed out, "That is my only condition. If you can't keep me safe, then there is no point in me being a witness. "Charlotte Lindberg will eventually kill me anyway, so why bother suffering in jail before that happens?"

"I've learned all about it. Charlotte is no longer the person she used to be. She is almost as cruel as Zara Nacht, and she will not grant me a quick or merciful death. I may as well flee overseas under such circumstances. At least then, I'd still have a chance of surviving."

"Fine, I give you my word," replied Zachary, "But I will only be able to protect you for one year. Once the matter with Zara is settled, I will keep you safe for twelve months. After that, I will give you some money, and you better run as far and as fast as you can. I will not be able to protect you if Charlotte finds you again."

"Deal!"

Sharon was extremely excited. She knew that no one could protect her for the rest of her life. Hence, Zachary's promise was legit.

Once the matter involving Zara was settled, the Nacht family and the Lindberg family would likely become so busy that they wouldn't have the time to worry about Sharon. I will leave H City while under Zachary's protection and flee to a place where no one would recognize me. There, I will start life anew...

"Stay safe!" replied Zachary before he hung up right away.

Bruce took Sharon to a secluded Villa and helped her settle down. After that, he warned, "The maids will take care of you, and there will be bodyguards protecting the place. You will be safe so long as you stay put. I will come to pick you up once the time is right."

"Okay. I'm still injured, so please have Raina come take care of me," requested Sharon as she examined the place. It's not bad.

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"Raina is caring for Mr. Henry now, but a doctor will be here tomorrow to treat your condition. That being said, you have to hand the evidence over before I do anything for you," informed Bruce sternly. There was no room for negotiation at all.

Sharon knew that she had no other choice, so she frowned and said, "Get me a laptop."

Bruce signaled and got Marino to head over with a laptop.

Sharon typed into it and unlocked a folder before sending the folder to Zachary's e-mail. After that, she informed, "You can confirm with your men to see if they received the evidence."

Bruce called right away, and Ben replied, "We got it. It'll work."

"Okay," said Bruce before he hung up and turned to Sharon to say, "Rest well. Goodbye."

He turned around and walked away immediately after.

Sharon stared as they left. She sighed a breath of relief before she fell onto the sofa and grinned bitterly. "Who would've thought that I'd end up in this pathetic state?" said Sharon.

"It'll be fine. All we have to do is cooperate with Mr. Nacht, and we'll be free soon," replied one of the bodyguards who had followed Sharon over.

"I should never have listened to Zara and gone to T Nation to kill Charlotte if I had known that the latter is a member of the Lindberg family," said Sharon, who truly regretted her decision, "That evil b*tch! She conned me into doing her dirty work for her."

"Mr. Nacht has already promised to keep you safe, so you'll be fine," replied the bodyguard.

"That may be true, but I am still worried. You don't know how powerful Charlotte is right now. The aura she exuded at Ashenville Garden... That was downright terrifying. Plus, she has the Lindberg family backing her up now..." said Sharon as she trailed off with a frown.

Even recalling that past got her to tremble in fear.

However, she shook her head soon after and cooed herself, "No, there is nothing to worry about. It doesn't matter how powerful she is. She is no match against Zachary. I know him too well, and he will keep his words no matter what!"

Thinking that got Sharon to relax.

At Northridge.

A few renowned pediatricians examined the three kids before they grimly informed Charlotte, "The eldest boy is fine. He only has a mild fever; however, the middle child and the youngest girl are burning up and need to go to the hospital right away."

"Get the car ready now!" urged Charlotte.

"Yes."

Morgan got a custom-made Rolls-Royce over and got all the three kids into the car.

While inside the car, the pediatrician suggested, "The best hospital for kids is Kindness Hospital. I recommend heading over."

"Okay, go to Kindness Hospital now," ordered Charlotte without thinking too much about it.

"Yes."

It didn't take long before everyone rushed to Kindness Hospital. The medical team there didn't know who they were, and it was already half-past one in the morning. Hence, most doctors weren't in.

That was why no one came to help them when Charlotte and her team rushed to the hospital.

Seeing that, the pediatricians called Raina right away.

Charlotte was on the verge of losing her temper when Raina hurried over with her team. Raina called out excitedly, "Ms. Windt..."

Charlotte instinctively turned around and was taken aback when she saw Raina there.

She looks really familiar, and I am certain that I know her in the past, but... I just can't remember who she is.

"I'm Raina. Don't you remember me?" asked Raina.

"Dr. Langhan, is this your hospital?"

Lupine recognized Raina. When Charlotte's illness acted up in Ashenville Garden, Raina helped them out a lot.

Unfortunately, Charlotte was unconscious at the time, so she didn't see Raina.

"Yeah, it is," answered Raina while nodding. She added, "I got a call from the hospital and guessed that you girls were the ones here, so I hurried over. What's wrong? Who's sick?"

"The kids," replied Lupine as she pointed at the triplets in the ward.

Raina turned around and was taken aback. Huh? Aren't those the kids from the Nacht family? How are they suddenly with the Lindbergs now? Has the family reunited?

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Raina was smart enough to infer that since the Nacht family did not inform her about the three kids' disappearance, they were aware that were handed over to Charlotte amicably.

In that case, she should not create a ruckus over it.

She quickly arranged for medical screening for the kids.

Charlotte watched over them for the entire time. Although she had not regained all of her memories, her motherly love was an instinct embedded within her.

Now that her children became sick immediately after returning to her side, she felt extremely guilty.

At the same time, she reflected on why she had not reunited with her children earlier. Not only did they miss her a lot, but they also had to look for her secretly, making themselves vulnerable to those with ill-intention.

"Don't blame yourself, Ms. Lindberg. The kids will be fine," consoled Lupin, having read Charlotte's mind.

"Their body temperatures are back to normal." Raina took off her mask and said to Charlotte, "We'll observe them for another night. If their fever doesn't return tomorrow morning, they'll be fine."

"That's great..." Charlotte finally heaved a sigh of relief. Watching the children sleeping soundly, she smiled gently.

"It's already the middle of the night, so they must be tired." Raina felt a sense of affection as she gazed at the children. "I'll be watching over them. You can go back and rest!"

"I'll stay for the night to keep them company." Charlotte sat on the sofa. "All of you should leave so you won't disturb them."

"Sure. If anything happens, just ring the bell."

Raina made a gesture and the medical staff left quietly.

"I'll ask Morgan to bring a change of clothes for you," whispered Lupine.

When Charlotte nodded, she left as well.

Only Charlotte, the children and Little Fifi were left in the room.

Although Little Fifi was not ill, it kept the children company quietly.

When they were receiving their treatment, it watched at the side.

It flapped its wings anxiously upon seeing Ellie vomiting.

When Jamie was mumbling in his sleep, it would rub its furry head against his face to console him.

When Robbie could not fall asleep, it would pat his shoulders gently with its wings.

Now that the children were asleep, Little Fifi flew to Charlotte's shoulder and rubbed its head against her cheek. It mumbled softly, "Mommy..."

"What's your name?" She stroked its feathers tenderly.

"Little Fifi! Little Fifi!" screeched Little Fifi softly.

"Oh..." Charlotte was startled for a while before laughing. "No wonder this name flashed across my mind when I was naming the eagle."

It turned out that all of her memories were so deeply embedded in her mind that they could never be erased, no matter what happened.

Her so-called amnesia was only a temporary displacement of her memories. She had not actually forgotten anything...

"Mommy! Mommy!" Little Fifi flapped its wings and called out softly, "Mrs. Berry! Mrs. Berry!"

When she heard that name, tears welled up in her eyes uncontrollably.

In addition to feeling guilty, she was worried that the children would also ask her where Mrs. Berry was after waking up.

In that case, how should I answer? I've lost Mrs. Berry and she won't ever return?

At that thought, Charlotte felt her heart aching terribly.

"Mommy, don't cry..."

Little Fifi rubbed its head against Charlotte's jaw, consoling her.

Although it was only a pet, it was very sentient and could read human emotions.

Charlotte took a deep breath and collected herself. She patted Little Fifi gently before glancing at the children and making a decision...

No matter what the price was, she would keep them by her side and never leave them.

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After Raina left the ward, she secretly called Ben and told him what happened in the hospital.

When he heard that the children were sick, he rushed to the study room to inform Zachary, who was still working.

Upon hearing the news, Zachary immediately froze. "What happened? Did they get injured?"

"No." Ben shook his head. "Raina said that the children aren't injured. It's just that they had a high fever, which was probably caused by excessive shock."

"Get the car ready. I'm going to the hospital." Zachary grabbed his coat and dashed out.

"Marino, get the car ready."

"Okay!"

Meanwhile, in the hospital, Charlotte was hugging Little Fifi and leaning against the sofa.

She gazed at the three children silently.

Although they were in a deep sleep, they were frowning due to the discomfort.

At that moment, Raina knocked on the door and entered to take their temperature. She reported, "Their temperature is back to normal, so they are probably fine. I've already asked the others to clear out the room next to this. You should rest there!"

"It's fine. I'll keep the kids company here." Charlotte glanced at her watch and saw that it was already four in the morning. "Leave the room for my bodyguards. Tell them to rest there."

"Okay." Raina passed her a blanket before leaving quietly.

Charlotte draped a corner of the blanket over Little Fifi, who had just fallen asleep. Propping her chin up with a hand, she continued staring at the kids.

Although she was exhausted, she did not feel sleepy at all.

All she wanted to do was to gaze at them.

Just by watching them sleep peacefully, she felt extremely satisfied and at ease.

She hoped that time would freeze right then so she could spend more time accompanying them.

Suddenly, she saw a shadow emerge under the door. Turning her head around warily, she grabbed the gun on the table, stood up and crept behind the door.

The door opened slowly and in walked a slender figure...

Charlotte immediately aimed the gun at the person. However, the person snatched her gun away swiftly, choked her neck and pointed the gun at her head.

Everything was done within a second.

He was as swift as lightning.

However, when they saw each other's faces, they could not help but get stunned.

"Who's that?"

"How dare you?"

Outside, the eight female bodyguards from the Lindberg family and the eight male bodyguards from the Nacht family were pointing their guns at each other.

It was as if a battle would break out any time soon!

The nurse walking in between them immediately raised her arms. Trembling uncontrollably, she wailed, "Please spare me!"

Zachary released Charlotte. Twirling the gun on a finger, he returned it to her and instructed his men, "It's a misunderstanding! She's one of us."

The bodyguards from the Nacht family lowered their guns.

However, the female bodyguards still had their guns raised.

"Put them down!" ordered Charlotte.

Only then did the bodyguards place their guns down and step aside.

The corridor was flanked by eight male bodyguards on one side, and eight female bodyguards on the other. They glared at each other resentfully, as if a violent confrontation would occur at any moment.

The nurse was so scared that her legs trembled as she escaped frantically.

Zachary closed the door.

"Why did you come?" Charlotte glared at him coldly.

"To visit the kids."

Zachary walked to the bed softly and touched the childrens' foreheads. When he discovered that their temperature was no longer as high, he heaved a sigh of relief.

"Now that you've seen them, you can leave now," said Charlotte curtly.

Zachary ignored her. Taking off his coat, he walked to the sofa and was about to sit down when he almost squashed Little Fifi.

"Hey!" Charlotte rushed over. However, her feet slipped and she collapsed into his arms.

When Zachary hugged her, his hands brushed against her breasts.

Frozen, he stared at her in a daze.

He suddenly felt something pressing against his chest. When he lowered his head to take a look, he frowned and released his grip.

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"Sit there and stay away from me."

Charlotte was pressing her gun against Zachary's chest as she glared daggers at him.

Frowning, he moved to the single sofa on the other side.

Only then did she keep her gun and drape the blanket over Little Fifi again.

"I heard that you had an overwhelming victory today. That's impressive!" Zachary tried to curry favor with her.

However, Charlotte ignored him. Sitting on the sofa, she patted Little Fifi gently and coaxed it to sleep.

Zachary reminded softly, "Although Shirley is Zara's assistant, she's quite mediocre in fighting. It's only through sheer luck that you defeated her. If it were someone else, you'd be in danger. So, if you encounter such situations in the future, you have to be more careful."

"It's none of your business!" interrupted Charlotte curtly.

"How is it not? You're my children's mother." Zachary inched closer to her shamelessly. "If you get into an accident, what'll happen to the kids?"

"Speaking of which, I need to talk to you." Charlotte glanced at the children on the hospital bed and whispered, "From today onward, they will come and stay with me. You're not allowed to disturb them in the future."

"No way!" He refused immediately. "The children have already adopted my last name and are registered under my household. Legally, they should stay with me. Furthermore, they are already used to living with the Nacht family..."

"Since they can change their last name from Windt to Nacht, they can also change it to Lindberg!" rebuked Charlotte. "If they can adapt to the Nacht family, they can also adapt to the Lindberg family!"

Zachary frowned. "Charlotte, don't be reckless just for the sake of it! I am in full control of the Nacht family, but you can't dictate what the Lindberg family does."

"You are in full control?" Charlotte laughed mockingly. "So, are you the only one behind what happened two years ago? In that case, I don't need anyone else to take revenge for me. I will go after you instead!"

"What happened two years ago was very complicated. When there's a chance, I'll explain it to you slowly," said Zachary patiently. "However, this concerns the kids. You must approach it rationally!"

"I'm very rational." Charlotte stared at him coldly. "That's why I mustn't let my children get affected by their stepmother."

"What stepmother?" Zachary was rendered speechless. "The news is all fake! How can you believe them?"

"I've witnessed it personally and caught both of you in the act." Fury rose within Charlotte when she mentioned it. "Do you think that I'm blind?"

"Haven't you wondered why you had appeared there at that exact moment?" He frowned unhappily. "With your intelligence, you should understand what's going on!"

"Even if it was the result of someone's deliberate manipulation, you still have to fall into the trap willingly!" mocked Charlotte. "Did someone force you to go to the hotel, drag you into the room, take off your clothes and jump into your arms?"

Zachary was rendered speechless. It was hard for him to explain what happened and even if he tried to, he might make things worse.

"Are you at a loss for words?" She felt angrier at his silence. "Not only that, but you also tricked me by disguising yourself as another person! Is it addictive to put up an act? Are you experienced at pretending to be a gigolo?"

"Okay, just keep insulting me." Zachary gave up on explaining. "As long as it makes you happy, just scold me however you'd like. If that's not enough, you can beat me up too."

"I'll be letting you off the hook too easily by beating you up." Charlotte scoffed coldly. "Don't worry. I will not spare anyone who has ever bullied or harmed me!"

"I'll give you a proper explanation of what happened that year." Zachary suddenly became serious. "I'm collecting evidence now. When the appropriate time arises, I'll pass them to the police and personally oversee the investigation."

"You don't have to trouble yourself," retorted Charlotte disdainfully. "I have my way!"

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Zachary felt exasperated. No matter what he said, Charlotte refused to listen to him.

He knew that her trust for him had already been eroded. It was not something that he could solve through words alone.

Actually, he had never liked doing any explanation. He was simply too anxious now...

Upon that thought, he decided to stop disturbing Charlotte. Instead, he watched over the kids silently at the side. Occasionally, he would adjust their blankets and feel their foreheads.

As Jamie was an unruly sleeper, he kept tossing around and almost fell down the bed.

Zachary immediately placed his leg against the edge of the bed. After Jamie had stopped moving, Zachary flipped him to the side gently so as not to wake him up.

Behind him, Ellie suddenly sobbed.

Thinking that she had woken up, Charlotte rushed forward. However, Zachary made a shushing gesture, signaling her to remain quiet. He then shoved a small pillow into Ellie's arms.

Immediately, she stopped crying. Hugging the pillow, she continued sleeping soundly.

In the next moment, Robbie shivered, as if he was having a nightmare.

When Zachar patted his shoulder gently, he calmed down quickly.

Upon witnessing everything, Charlotte could not help but fall silent. Casting all grudges aside, Zachary is actually a good father.

After spending a while coaxing the children to sleep, Zachary was about to sit down when his phone vibrated. He immediately walked out to pick up the call. "What's the matter, Mr. Spencer?"

He paused for a while before replying, "I'll come over right now."

After ending the call, he gestured to Ben before he returned to the ward and told Charlotte, "They're sleeping soundly now and won't wake up till the daybreak. Go and rest!"

Charlotte ignored him coldly.

"I'll leave now." Frowning, he turned around and left.

Only after hearing the door closed did Charlotte turn around and glance at it. Listening to the footsteps outside, she knew that he had already left with his men.

She gazed at the children and fell into deep thought.

After a while, a determined look flashed across her eyes as she made a call. "Tell Mr. Williams to come here."

"Okay!"

Zachary left the hospital.

While Raina sent him and the rest downstairs, she explained to him how the children were doing. In the end, she added, "Don't worry. Looking at the situation now, their fever will definitely subside after daybreak."

"There aren't any reliable pediatricians over there with her, so she'll probably invite you there to take care of the kids. Watch over them carefully and inform me if something happens," instructed Zachary.

"Understood." Raina nodded.

After Zachary got into the car, he did not go home. Instead, he told Marino, "Go to Serene Hospital."

"Yes, sir." The car drove toward the hospital.

Ben asked uneasily, "Mr. Nacht, what happened to Mr. Henry?"

"He woke up." A lighthearted look finally replaced Zachary's gloomy expression that had been dominating his face for the past few days.

"Mr. Henry is awake? That's great!" Ben was overjoyed.

"We need to be on guard now. We must not let Zara grab any opportunities," ordered Zachary.

"Yes, don't worry." Ben nodded profusely. "Since Mr. Jamison, Mr. Robinson and Ms. Elisa are with Ms. Lindberg, we have more manpower now. I've already moved the bodyguards at home to the hospital."

"Okay." Zachary sighed. "Looks like it's a good thing that she took the kids away temporarily."

"I'm afraid that she'll bring them back to Erihal and we won't be able to find them..." blurted Bruce.

Ben glared at him. "How is that possible? Ms. Lindberg isn't someone like that."

"But she's still capable of doing it." Zachary frowned. "However, she won't do it. I'm afraid that Danrique won't tolerate the kids..."

"Doesn't that mean the kids will be in danger over there?" asked Ben anxiously.

"Not yet." Zachary glanced at the time. "But we should bring them back to us as soon as possible."

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Zachary and the rest rushed over to the hospital. When Cain, who was waiting at the entrance, saw their car, he quickly greeted them, "Mr. Nacht!"

"How is he?" asked Zachary.

"He woke up an hour ago. However, the doctor is afraid that it's only temporary. We told Mr. Spencer to inform you after observing Mr. Henry for a while and ensuring that he has really woken up," explained Cain.

Zachary walked to the special ward briskly.

The medical superintendent and the other doctors were waiting at the door. When they saw Zachary coming, they rushed to welcome him. "Mr. Nacht, can we speak to you at the side?"

Zachary shot a glance at the ward before heading to the adjacent corridor. "How's the situation?"

"Mr. Nacht..." The medical superintendent explained carefully, "The news I'm about to break to you might not be so optimistic. Please be mentally prepared."

"Speak!" Zachary frowned.

"Mr. Henry woke up earlier than expected through sheer determination. However, his body had already deteriorated significantly due to old age. As he had also fallen twice over the past two years, it has impacted him greatly. I'm afraid that this time..."

At that moment, he shot a timid glance at Zachary's expression and did not dare to continue his sentence.

"What?" growled Zachary unhappily. "Just tell me everything in one go!"

"I'm afraid that his days are numbered."

The medical superintendent finally stated the main point. He then stared at Zachary in fear and trepidation, afraid that he would fly into a rage.

However, Zachary was exceptionally calm, for he had already prepared himself beforehand. At an old age of ninety-eight years old, Henry had already lived a longer life than most average people. If he had not suffered a fall two years ago, he might still be quite strong.

However, he became frailer after that fall. Now that he had another fall...

It was already a miracle that he could wake up.

"How much time does he have?" demanded Zachary.

"Well..." The medical superintendent glanced at the doctors.

One of them replied tentatively, "If we're optimistic, half a year. Otherwise..."

After a slight pause, he continued tactfully, "It depends on the situation. If he's in a good mood and leads a healthy lifestyle, he might live for more than half a year. However, he must not suffer any provocations, nor can he be injured again. Otherwise, nothing else can save him."

Although his words were tactful, the point was clear.

Henry only had a few months left, and it depended on how good his mood would be.

In other words, he must not be triggered anymore.

"Okay, I understand," said Zachary solemnly. "Thank you for your efforts!"

With that, he turned around and changed into an isolation gown.

The medical superintendent and the doctors were stunned. They exchanged a confused look before feeling nervous.

One of them asked softly, "What's wrong with Mr. Nacht? In the past, he would've flown into a fit of fury after receiving such news. Why is he so calm now?"

"Perhaps, he's already made his mental preparations," guessed another doctor. "After all, Mr. Henry is already ninety-eight years old. It's already impressive that he's in such a state of health."

"Mr. Nacht's temper wasn't so good in the past..."

"Maybe he's matured after becoming a father of three kids!" exclaimed the medical superintendent. "Alright, let's stop talking. We'll be doomed if he overhears us."

After changing his clothes, Zachary walked into the ward.

Henry was staring at the door dazedly with his eyes narrowed as if he was waiting for something. When he spotted Zachary walking over, his hand twitched and his eyes lit up.

Zachary's footsteps quickened. He grabbed Henry's hand and called out softly, "Grandpa!"

Since young, he loved to bicker with Henry and always went against him. All he wanted to do was to flaunt his dominance and fight for his freedom. He wished to gain command of his own life instead of constantly being controlled by him...

However, Henry no longer had the strength to care about him, nor could he scold him, yell at him or hit him with the cane anymore.

All of a sudden, Zachary felt lost and a wave of sorrow engulf him.

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Henry's dry lips parted like he had something to say, but he couldn't make any sound.

"It's four-thirty in the morning, so the kids are asleep. I'll bring them over once you feel better," informed Zachary, who knew exactly what Henry was thinking.

Henry blinked and relaxed.

"They keep asking when you'd be back, and Robbie is especially sad. He feels guilty and claims that it is his fault that you fell..." said Zachary to trigger a reaction from Henry and get his emotions run wild.

"Uh, ah..." muttered Henry, who was instantly worried.

"Mr. Zachary..." said Spencer, who was getting nervous.

"Don't worry, I told him that it is not his fault," replied Zachary quickly to calm Henry down. He added, "You know how smart Robbie is though. He may act like he is fine, but he's secretly worried and praying that you will be home soon. That is why you must cooperate with the doctor and recover quickly."

"Hmm," replied Henry before he nodded with great difficulty.

"Rest well. I will stay here with you."

Zachary helped Henry pull up his blanket before stroking his arm gently. The former was cooing as if the latter were a kid.

Henry, who was nervous earlier, slowly calmed down and went to sleep.

The doctor came and examined Henry's condition before leaving.

Spencer got a chair over for Zachary and suggested, "Here, Mr. Zachary. Take a seat. It'd be tiring to keep standing like this."

Zachary sat down. He kept holding Henry's hand and stared at him quietly.

Back in the days, Zachary thought that Henry was a domineering ass*le and a control freak who had made tons of unredeemable mistakes.

The former was especially angry about how Henry dealt with Charlotte.

That anger lasted for two whole years.

Unfortunately, Henry was Zachary's grandpa and the person who raised him. That made it impossible for Zachary to hate the guy despite being furious at him.

All that anger and rage dissipated at that moment.

Zachary's only wish was that Henry would recover and scold him again. I won't mind even if he hits me with his cane.

He'd actually feel more at ease if that were to happen.

"Mr. Zachary, you should take a nap on the sofa. Mr. Henry is asleep, and he will likely be out for a couple of hours," said Spencer.

"Go rest up. I want to stay with my Grandpa for a little longer."

Zachary kept staring at Henry. The former started recalling how Henry used to be. That powerful man who managed a business empire has slowly turned gray and fragile.

There will come a day when he fades away completely.

Spencer got Zachary a coat before sharing sadly, "The doctor told me everything. I..."

Spencer couldn't finish that sentence. His voice became so thick with tears that he didn't sound like his normal self.

"I have been serving Mr. Henry for seventy years and have been by his side my entire life. In a way, I spent more time with him than his spouse and kids did. How I wish that I can keep serving him..."

"You can," replied Zachary with a smile before he added, "The doctor said that Grandpa will be fine so long as he remains happy and rests well every day."

"Huh? Really?" blurted Spencer in astonishment.

"Yeah," answered Zachary. He pretended to be at ease when he joked, "That is why I can't piss him off anymore. In fact, I'll have to coo him and be nice to him every day from now on."

"Hahaha," laughed Spencer immediately. "It'll be tough for you then."

"I have no choice. He's my grandpa, and he spent his life building me up. I simply owe him too much," replied Zachary as his lips curved into a warm smile.

"You've really grown up, Mr. Zachary," sighed Spencer.

"I'm a dad now, so I have to be an adult," replied Zachary before he grinned exasperatedly.

"A-are the kids really home?" asked Spencer, who couldn't help wondering.

"Kyle told you?"

At that moment, Zachary knew that he could no longer lie about the matter.

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"The issue is too grave, so he didn't dare to keep it a secret. Who would've thought that Mr. Henry's worst nightmare would come true, after all?"

"Yeah, sometimes, it feels like it is unavoidable..." murmured Zachary sadly.

"You're right about that. If we had known earlier, we would never send Ms. Windt away..." replied Spencer.

"Life is never predictable."

Zachary had calmed down at that point. In the past, he would get riled up when he talked about the issue, but he was at ease at that moment.

"I was shocked and saddened to learn the whole truth. Life truly is unpredictable. Who would've thought that the innocent and kind Charlotte Windt will turn into what she is now?" commented Spencer as he frowned at Zachary.

"It's like they're two completely different people, but her kind soul, the part that matters, remained," replied Zachary. Even thinking about Charlotte got his gaze to turn softer.

"You're right. If she hadn't shown up to help us today, Kyle and the other bodyguards would all be sacrificed. The family truly owes her a debt for what she did today," agreed Spencer.

"We owe her so much more than that. Mrs. Berry died because of us, and the pain and humiliation Charlotte had to endure all those years ago..." said Zachary. He grinned bitterly and looked like he was mocking himself.

"Yeah," murmured Spencer before he sighed and added, "I'm sure Mr. Henry will regret his past decisions if he learns about all of this. However, that is not the most urgent issue now..."

Spencer spoke in a meaningful tone when he said that last sentence...

"Don't worry, I'll take the kids over to visit Grandpa soon. Keep this a secret from him for now so that he won't be triggered," informed Zachary, who knew what Spencer was really talking about.

"Understood," replied Spencer before he nodded.

"I will deal with everything else. Your job is to take care of Grandpa. You're getting older too, so you shouldn't worry too much either," consoled Zachary.

"Right," agreed Spencer, who seemed a little embarrassed about getting Zachary worried.

"Go and get some rest. I'd like to be alone with Grandpa for now."

"Understood."

Spencer left soon after.

Zachary sat there quietly and guarded over Henry...

Before anyone knew it, it was already dawn.

Zachary was so tired that he ended up sleeping on the chair. He didn't wake up until the phone in his pocket vibrated. He groggily answered the call, "Hello?"

"Mr. Nacht, something happened to the company," informed Lucy nervously from the other side of the line.

"What's wrong?" asked Zachary while frowning.

"Someone hacked into the company's system, the new software that is about to hit the market suddenly malfunctioned, and the internet is suddenly flooded with nasty rumors involving Nacht Group. In short, a series of problems popped up last night, and everything is aimed at you.

"Please hurry over. Journalists have surrounded the building, and the shareholders are all nervous. Everyone in the office is also panicking. Mr. Sterk is rushing over as well..."

"I got it. I'll be there soon," informed Zachary before he instructed, "Lock the doors and stop the journalists from entering the headquarters. I will solve the issues when I get back."

"Understood."

Zachary narrowed his eyes and thought things through after he hung up.

He was the one who set up the security system for Divine Corporation, so there was no way an ordinary hacker could get into their system...

I paid extra attention to the new software as well, so it shouldn't have suddenly malfunctioned like this.

Moreover, every media corporation has profited off of Nacht Group, so no one would make us look bad...

Unless there is someone making demands from behind the scenes. No average Joe could accomplish all three, so...

Brrt! Bruce was calling from the other end of the line.

Zachary picked up the call and immediately asked, "Is Danrique here?"

"Yeah, how did you know? I was about to report the matter to you," replied Bruce in astonishment before he added, "I just received news that Danrique's plane has landed in H City. He will be attending the South Sea opening ceremony tomorrow."

"What date is it again?" asked Zachary. He was so busy that he couldn't keep track of the dates anymore.

"Tomorrow's twelve. They preponed everything by a day," answered Bruce.

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Zachary's expression shifted instantly. He had always known that Danrique would show up eventually...

But I didn't expect that to happen so soon.

Zachary definitely didn't expect the guy to attack so aggressively that he disoriented Zachary.

What a f*cking "nice" gift! That j*rk!

"Mr. Nacht, are you there?" asked Bruce from the other end of the line. His words disrupted Zachary's train of thoughts.

"Is there something else?" asked Zachary while frowning.

"Mr. Blackwood called this morning and offered to talk to the media with Ms. Cynthia. That would help make you and the Nacht family look better. He asked to know what your opinion on the matter is."

"I have to head over to the office now," answered Zachary as he checked his watch and added, "I can spare an hour to see them today."

"Understood. I'll relay the message. Oh, and Ms. Nacht is being chased by the police for the time being, so she probably won't do anything reckless for now. You can focus on dealing with the other crises," informed Bruce.

"Okay," replied Zachary before he hung up. He stood up to leave, but he suddenly heard a raspy voice. "Hey..."

Zachary stiffened a little. He turned around and saw that Henry had woken up.

The latter was too weak, so his voice too soft to be discernible.

Zachary hurried over to listen closely. "What is it, Grandpa?"

"I said to slow down. D-don't worry. I am here for you," replied Henry in bits and pieces after he parted his lips.

It was a piece of simple advice, but that was what Henry had said to Zachary all those years ago when the latter was just a kid.

When Zachary was young, he had always been eager and would rush into things.

That was when Henry would scold Zachary. "Slow down. How are you going to accomplish anything if you rush all the time? Solve your issues slowly and don't worry. I am here for you. I will shoulder the sky for you even if it were to crumble on you."

Zachary had always hated it when he heard Henry saying that as he felt that the old man was just bragging.

Yet, at that moment...

The aging and weak Henry said those words once again.

That touched Zachary's heart and got him all teary.

However, he didn't want Henry to see that, so he quickly readjusted his expression. Zachary was pretending to be proud and annoyed when he said, "Got it. Geez, you're already on the hospital bed, so stop showing off."

"P-punk!" scolded Henry. Unfortunately, he was too sick to sound powerful.

"I have to go now. Rest up and heal well. The kids are waiting for you to go home," replied Zachary as he held the old chap's hand.

Henry nodded obediently after hearing those words. He wanted to go home soon too because he missed his great-grandchildren.

Zachary went to another room to change his clothes right away.

"The car is ready, Mr. Nacht. Are we heading over to the office?" asked Ben as he rushed over.

"Yeah," answered Zachary as he buttoned up while walking over to the elevator. He added, "Send the message along and tell everyone that the company will be having a press conference this afternoon at five."

"This afternoon?" blurted Ben in surprise, "But we haven't solved anything..."

"That is why we must deal with everything before five o'clock. Have Bruce call Taylor and Cynthia. Ask them to meet me at my office at three," instructed Zachary, who was still checking his watch.

"Understood," replied Ben before he rushed to deal with the matters.

Zachary had never allowed himself to slack off.

It was eight in the morning at that time. He only gave himself ten hours to solve every issue and settle the matter with the public.

I must deal with this first wave of attack skillfully or I won't be able to keep fighting against that guy.

Zachary had just gotten into the car before he received a call from Sharon. He frowned while picking it up.

"Zachary, save me. The Lindberg family is coming after me and...", yelled Sharon fearfully.

The line was cut off before she finished her sentence.

Zachary's expression changed once more. Danrique really is powerful. He managed to disorient me and find Sharon all in one go...

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"I will call Bruce right away," said Ben nervously.

"There's no need. I already have a backup plan in place," replied Zachary while waving his hand.

"Huh?" blurted Ben in confusion.

It didn't take long before Bruce called and reported, "We have rescued her. What do we...?"

"Take her to Southridge and lock her in a room on the farm for now," instructed Zachary.

"Understood," replied Bruce, before he started working on the matter right away.

"Ah, so you've already anticipated this," blurted Ben as the revelation hit him.

"I had it in place to prevent Charlotte from doing anything. Who would've thought that my backup plan will be up and running so soon?" said Zachary as he put a concerned expression on and added, "Danrique is truly powerful. I guess I have underestimated him."

"I don't understand," asked Ben carefully, "Sharon is Ms. Lindberg's enemy, right? So what's so bad about Sharon being taken by the Lindberg family? Won't it be more convenient to just have them solve the matter between themselves?"

"You're not seeing the big picture. Think about it. What will happen to Sharon if the Lindberg family catches her?" said Zachary in an annoyed tone.

"Naturally, they would kill her," replied Ben.

"Then tell me something. Why did Danrique let Sharon go when he could have killed her in T Nation? Moreover, why did he hide the truth and keep her safe?" challenge Zachary again.

"Uhm... I thought about this earlier. I think Danrique let Sharon go because he wanted to inspire Ms. Lindberg to become stronger.

He wanted her to exact revenge on her own," replied Ben after thinking about it.

"That is just one of the reasons. The most important bit is that Danrique wants to take advantage of the hatred Charlotte has for the Nacht family. He wants her to come after me so that he can bankrupt the company while I am distracted. He might even acquire the entire company," said Zachary as he frowned deeply.

"Ah, I see. That is why we can't let Danrique have Sharon. If he gets his hands on her, he would make her claim that the mastermind behind the incident wasn't just Zara. She would name you and Mr. Henry as the accomplices as well!" blurted Ben.

"You're finally seeing things clearly. Sharon will say anything Danrique told her to in order to survive. She might not name me as a mastermind though, because Charlotte is smart enough to see through that lie. However, Charlotte will definitely believe the lie if Grandpa is dragged into the mess," replied Zachary with a complex expression.

"That's true. If Sharon lies and claims that Henry worked with Zara to kill Ms. Windt in T Nation," muttered Ben as a chill ran down his spine, "Given Ms. Windt's current temperament, she will surely go after Mr. Henry, and you can't ignore that."

"Grandpa made a mistake as well, but his eyes were blinded by love," said Zachary grimly, "Besides, he doesn't have much time left, so I don't want anyone to hurt him."

"Then... why don't you let Ms. Lindberg and Sharon talk things out in person?" asked Ben, "I'm sure Ms. Lindberg already knows the truth after her encounter with Zara yesterday."

"Let them deal with the matter in person? What if Charlotte kills Sharon, and Zara makes up a story when she is caught afterward? No one will be able to refute Zara's story or tell the truth once that happens," replied Zachary.

"I see. I understand now. Every witness and every piece of evidence must be in place to show the whole truth," said Ben while nodding.

"Sh*t!"

Zachary suddenly thought of something even more important. He called Charlotte right away.

No one picked up, so he called Raina instead.

"Hello?" greeted the woman on the other side of the line after she picked up.

Raina spoke softly and didn't even dare to greet Zachary by his name.

"Don't worry. Just answer yes or no," informed Zachary calmly. "Are you with Charlotte?"

"Yes."

"Is Danrique there?"

"No."

"Are you on your way to Northridge?"

"Yeah," replied Raina. Ellie was sitting on the side and the girl suddenly asked, "Is that Daddy on the line?"

Raina was stunned. She stared awkwardly at Charlotte.

"You don't need to be on guard. It's just a call," said Charlotte, who was rather civil and understanding.

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Raina sighed a breath of relief and informed, "Mr. Nacht simply wants to know how the kids are doing."

Charlotte nodded slightly without saying a word.

"Hand the phone over to Charlotte," ordered Zachary.

"Understood," replied Raina before she handed her phone to Charlotte and said, "Mr. Nacht wants to talk to you, Ms. Lindberg."

"What?" asked Charlotte in an icy tone after she answered the call.

"Do you know that Danrique is in H City?" asked Zachary to get right to the point.

"Huh?" blurted Charlotte fearfully. It was obvious that she had no idea.

"Please take the kids to Southridge. I'll head over right now," said Zachary.

As Zachary spoke, Ben had Marino turn the steering wheel and head over to Roka Hill.

Charlotte hesitated over the phone. She had just gotten back together with the kids, so she was reluctant to send them back...

I never received any news about how Danrique is here, so who knows? Maybe Zachary is lying.

"I'll have to verify the news," said Charlotte before she covered the speaker and instructed, "Lupine, look into this matter..."

Charlotte hadn't finished speaking before the car suddenly swerved and stopped.

The kids screamed in fear and almost fell from the seat. Fortunately, Lupine and the others managed to keep the kids safe in time.

"Morgan, what are you...?"

Charlotte was stunned before she finished speaking. A luxurious car was parked right in front of them, and it showed up out of nowhere.

"Ms. Lindberg, i-it's your brother's car," reported Morgan in a trembling voice as her face paled.

"What happened? Take the kids to my place for now, Charlotte..." said Zachary nervously.

"It's too late for that," replied Charlotte while frowning before she hung up.

"Is that really Mr. Lindberg?"

Raina got so scared that she turned pale. Rumor has it that Mr. Lindberg's bloodlust is intense, and he is cruel. If he comes after the kids...

"What's wrong, Mommy?" asked Robbie, who had come around and was staring nervously at Charlotte.

"Did someone bar our path? Is that the bad guy from the other day? I'll call Daddy to come and beat them up," suggested Jamie.

"It's not them," replied Charlotte quickly before she cooed, "Be good, Jamie, and don't be rude, okay? We have to be polite. Wait here. I'll go check things out."

After saying her piece, Charlotte turned to Lupine and instructed, "Keep the kids safe!"

"Understood," replied Lupine in a trembling voice. She knew just how terrifying Danrique could be when he got angry.

Raina quickly moved next to the kids. She also sent a text message to Zachary to ask for help.

"Hurry!" urged Zachary as he gripped the phone.

"The car is already accelerating...."

"Go faster!"

"Understood!"

Charlotte approached the luxurious car and greeted in a fearful tone, "Danrique!"

The window rolled down and a pair of eyes that exuded an icy aura slowly shifted upward. The guy looked into Charlotte's eyes and commented, "Charlotte, you acted up."

One short sentence was all it took to send a chill down Charlotte's spine and get her worried.

"I didn't mean to keep it a secret from you, Danrique. I was just..."

"Let's head home for now. We don't want the kids to be frightened."

His soft voice sounded even, but it still instilled fear.

Danrique waved his hand a little and got the window to roll back up. After that, the car drove right to Northridge.

Charlotte regained her footing and turned around to get in the car.

"Mommy, what's wrong? Who was that? Is he really that scary?" asked Robbie immediately when he noticed how pale Charlotte looked.

"It's fine," answered Charlotte. She was already trying her best to keep herself in control, but she still couldn't hide her fear.

"Ms. Lindberg, why don't we stop the car at the side of the road for a while? I can take the kids to Southridge..." suggested Raina carefully.

"It's too late for that. Don't let him find out that you work for the Nacht family," warned Charlotte as she frowned at Raina.

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Raina trembled in fear and stopped talking entirely.

"Mommy, I'm scared. Is he a bad person? Will he hurt us?" asked Ellie, who was terrified and had crawled into Charlotte's arm. The former's eyes were teary as she asked.

"He..."

Charlotte was stumped. She honestly didn't know the answer to that question.

Many would regard Danrique as a villain, but some would refer to him as a good man.

His stance depended entirely on his mood.

Whatever the case, he is my brother and the person who saved my life.

Charlotte believe that blood was thicker than water and assumed that Danrique wouldn't hurt the kids.

Those beliefs got Charlotte to be more certain. She hugged her triplets and answered, "Don't worry. He's family, so he's not a bad guy."

"Scared, scared!"

Little Fifi the parrot flapped its wings and looked ever so pitiful.

Charlotte stroked its fur to calm it down.

Ellie gripped her mother's clothes and rested in Charlotte's arms. It seemed like that was the only place the former felt safe.

"But everyone seems to be scared of that guy," refuted Jamie, who noticed how Lupine and the other bodyguards had reacted. He pointed out, "The pretty ladies were all shivering from fear."

Lupine and the others wanted to laugh aloud, but they were not in the mood.

"I think Daddy is more approachable. I used to think that he is too grouchy because the bodyguards are all afraid of him. Thinking back, he is rather kind, especially when compared to that other guy," commented Robbie with a straight face as he analyzed the situation.

"Yeah, he's comparatively kind."

Charlotte thought about Zachary. He's probably rushing over now.

Thinking that prompted Charlotte to request from Raina, "Give me your phone."

"Huh?" Raina was taken aback for a moment there, but she handed her phone over soon enough.

Charlotte searched for Zachary's number and sent a message over before returning it to Raina.

The eagle cried aloud at that moment.

Both Jamie and Ellie got so scared that they crawled into Charlotte's arms.

Robbie, however, was less scared. He had a past with the eagle, after all. That bird even protected me yesterday.

"Don't worry, the eagle is just like Fifi and is my pet," cooed Charlotte, "It won't hurt you."

"But it looks so scary," pouted Ellie, who looked like she was about to cry.

"You are so cool, Mommy! You actually kept an eagle as a pet."

Jamie, on the other hand, saw that as something to be proud of. He even admired his mother at that moment.

"Haha," chuckled Charlotte before she turned to look out the window.

The eagle went home on the day before to recuperate. It probably knew that its master was back, so it flew over to welcome everyone.

Charlotte started regretting her decision. If I had known that Danrique will be here, I would not have taken the kids home. I wonder if they'd be scared of him...

It didn't take long before the car pulled up in Northridge.

A team of sixteen bodyguards with a white uniform on had split up among themselves and were standing at either side of the door. Those were Danrique's men.

Charlotte's bodyguard was the first to get out of the car after it was parked. She went over to open the door for Charlotte.

Charlotte helped the kids down one by one before they held hands and entered the place.

Raina wanted to follow along, but Lupine stopped her.

A man in a white outfit was sitting on the sofa in that spacious living room. His head was slightly tilted down, and he was sipping wine gracefully.

Sunlight streamed in from the front door, but it didn't shine on Danrique. It seemed even the sun was afraid of the guy.

It was still summer, but the icy aura the guy exuded had drastically lowered the temperature in the house.

"Mommy, I'm scared..."

Ellie gripped Charlotte's hand and hid behind her.

Jamie was also scared. He stopped walking, but he never complained aloud. Instead, he stared fearfully at the guy in front of him. The child's heart thumped fast as he did so.

Robbie clenched his tiny fists by then. He had a frown on as he looked bravely at the guy.

Little Fifi trembled as its tiny figure stood on Robbie's shoulder.

Charlotte took a deep breath before she put on a smile and instructed warmly, "Kids, that is your Uncle Dan. Go greet him."

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"Uh..."

All three kids were stunned upon hearing that. They tilted their heads simultaneously and stared at Charlotte.

"Uncle Dan?" blurted Ellie. Her big, round eyes bulged as her curly eyelashes fluttered in astonishment. She asked, "He's our uncle?"

"Which means... Is he your brother?" asked Jamie.

The fear he initially felt had dissipated and was replaced by curiosity.

"Is he related to us biologically?" asked Robbie.

His question was rather rational because he could sense that his mother was terrified of the guy.

The man sitting on the sofa slowly turned his head over. His eyes exuded an icy aura...

"Uh..." All three kids were flabbergasted when they saw his face.

Danrique was also taken aback when he saw the kids. It didn't take long before a small grin appeared on his lips. "So they really are members of the Lindberg family!"

"He really is our uncle. He even looks just like us," blurted Jamie, who was no longer scared. The child let go of his mother's hand and rushed over excitedly to take a closer look.

"Jamie..." said Charlotte. She wanted to stop him, but the boy had already crawled over to the sofa.

What was strange was that Danrique, who had never liked children, didn't stop Jamie from approaching.

"They look so alike," agreed Ellie as she nodded profusely. She even added, "He is basically the adult version of Robbie and Jamie!"

"That is true."

Robbie was shocked too. He once used a computer to age his picture because he wanted to know what he'd look like when he's an adult. We're practically identical... except he looks grouchier and less approachable.

"Heehee!"

Ellie was no longer scared. She hopped over and leaned on the coffee table to examine the guy...

"Our family will always be able to find each other, even if we got lost. Anyone who saw us will know that we are a part of Uncle Dan's family."

Danrique shifted his gaze to Ellie. Her baby voice, innocent gaze, and bright smile. She is adorable.

He turned to Jamie next. This kid is lively and alert. He behaved like an innocent kid when he was afraid earlier, and he is still just as innocent as he tries to approach me now.

The kid in front of me, however, is obviously excited, surprised and curious as well, but he is careful and is holding himself back... He is trying to determine if I am a friend or a foe.

"Interesting," commented Danrique while grinning. His gaze was no longer as distant but warm after that. At that moment, he didn't just allow the kids to get close to him. He also tried to get to know them. "What's your name?" he asked.

"I'm Jamie. Jamison Nacht in full," answered Jamie excitedly as he waved his hand.

"I'll Ellie..."

"Why is your last name Nacht?"

That voice was distant and carried a hint of murderous aura as he interrupted Ellie.

Those scary eyes destroyed the heartwarming reunion.

Ellie was taken aback. Her tiny lips pouted as tears threatened to escape her eyes...

Danrique slowly shifted his gaze to her.

That got Ellie so scared that she suppressed her tears right away. She was too afraid to cry, but her tiny figure was trembling.

"Ellie!" called out Robbie before he ran over to shield his baby sister. He frowned and demanded angrily, "Oy, why did you scare my baby sister?"

"Huh, so you're the big brother, and you know to protect your baby sister. That's good," commented Danrique. His eyes glowed with a hint of approval when he asked, "What's your name?"

"My name is Robinson Nacht," answered Robbie. He looked right into Danrique's eyes and stubbornly insisted, "My last name is and will always be Nacht!"

"That's gutsy," said Danrique. His smile was getting bigger, but his gaze remained distant when he added, "That expression you have on is definitely a match to that of the Nacht family."

"That's because I am a member of the Nacht family," replied Robbie bravely.

"Robbie..." growled Charlotte quickly. She worried that Robbie would step on Danrique's tail.

"Very well." praised Danrique.

He wasn't angry. Instead, he examined Robbie calmly while planning for something...

"Danrique, the kids are too young to know any better. Please don't hold it against them," requested Charlotte softly.

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"Danrique, the kids are too young to know better. Please don't hold it against them," pleaded Charlotte softly.

Danrique smiled with his brow raised.

Just then, a black figure flew in from outdoors. Like a sharp arrow, it zipped over and landed right on Robbie's head.

"Ah!"

Jamie and Ellie hopped away from the sofa and crawled into Charlotte's arms right away.

Little Fifi screamed fearfully and flapped its wings before hiding away in Robbie's arm.

Robbie's tiny face turned pale. He was scared out of his mind, but he wore a calm expression on his face.

The eagle flew and stood in front of Robbie. It flapped its wings as its sharp eyes locked in on Robbie.

It was a huge eagle with enormous wings, so a gust of wind would mess Robbie's hair up every time it flapped its wings.

"Robbie..." said Charlotte. She wanted to head over to protect her son, but Danrique's men prevented her from doing so.

Robbie mustered up his courage and glared back at the eagle before demanding, "Go away!"

Screech!

The eagle let out a nerve-wracking screech and circled above Robbie's head a little before it flew away.

Danrique's eyes glowed with even more admiration when he looked at Robbie. He asked, "Aren't you scared of the eagle?"

"What's there to be afraid of?" challenged Robbie as he rolled his eyes at Danrique, then caressed the shivering parrot in his arms. Robbie pointed out, "That eagle is just like the parrot and they are both Mommy's pet."

"Good, I like your style," replied Danrique. He smiled, and to everyone's surprise, the icy aura in his eyes was slowly dissipating.

"I'll have the kids return to their rooms for now."

Charlotte had the maids take the kids to the second floor right away.

Raina held a medical kit and had her head down as she followed along.

Danrique shot a look over, but he never commented on anything. He simply sipped his wine.

Everyone hurried to the second floor.

Raina sighed a long breath of relief after the door was closed. She felt like she was walking on thin ice the entire time.

"Mr. Lindberg!"

Lupine, Morgan, and the others came over to report some matter.

It didn't take long before their agonized scream came. It only lasted a second before silence fell once more.

"What was that?" asked Jamie as he ran over to open the door.

"Jamie, it's nothing!" answered Charlotte, who ran over immediately to stop him.

"Uncle Dan is so scary, Mommy. I'm scared of him. I want to go home," requested Ellie as she curled up on the sofa and hugged her doll. She pouted her lips like she was going to cry.

"I want to go home too. I miss Daddy," added Jamie, who was pouting as well.

Charlotte felt terrible as she stared at her kids. She wanted to spend more time with them, but they were already scared out of their minds, even though everything had just begun...

"Mommy, this is for you. You're its rightful owner," announced Robbie before he got something from his pocket and handed it over to Charlotte.

Charlotte held that black gold ring with her. When she first regained consciousness, her heart stung and a bad feeling crept up on her every time she saw it. Unfortunately, she didn't feel right throwing it away, so she tied it to her eagle.

Who would've thought that Robbie will stumble upon it and trace it back to me? This kid had it rough...

"Thank you, Robbie," replied Charlotte before she put it on and promised, "I will treasure this from now on because you are the one who got it back for me."

"Mommy, I will protect you from now on," promised Robbie softly as he hugged Charlotte.

"Silly boy," teased Charlotte who smiled upon hearing that promise, "You're only six, so how will you protect me? Besides, I am very powerful now, so no one can bully me."

"But Uncle Dan is so mean. Will he hurt you?" asked Ellie as she pouted her lips and frowned.

"He won't. I won't be here if it weren't for him. Two years ago, I got into an accident, and he rescued me. He is the only reason I am here now," answered Charlotte firmly.

"I see. No wonder you disappeared all of a sudden. We cried for so long back then," shared Jamie as the revelation hit him.

"Mommy, where is Mrs. Berry?" asked Robbie. He had been keeping that question to himself, but he could no longer suppress his curiosity.

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Hearing those words got Charlotte's heart to tremble. She knew that the kids would ask about that eventually, and she had already prepared herself mentally...

However, actually hearing those words still stung her heart.

She didn't know how to respond to that or how to deal with it.

"That's right. Mommy, where is Mrs. Berry?" asked Ellie as she tugged at Charlotte's shirt. The former said, "I wanted to ask about her when I saw you yesterday, but I got sick, so I never had the chance to do that..."

"I miss her," added Jamie. He couldn't resist being naughty and saying, "I miss her cooking. Her hot cross bunnies and her mac and cheese are amazing!"

"Yeah, I want to eat those too," said Ellie when she heard that. Her saliva was on the verge of dripping down by then, and she claimed, "It's been so long since I had her cooking, and I am losing weight."

"She planted some flowers in the backyard, and I water them every day. They have since grown and are taller than I am," bragged Robbie, who was a little excited.

"I helped him too! I am always putting fertilizers there," said Jamie quickly as he had his hand up.

"Mommy, when will Mrs. Berry return?" asked Ellie as she tilted her head and added innocently, "I don't drink milk anymore, and I've learned to shower on my own. It's so much easier to take care of me now, so she won't be so tired anymore..."

Hearing those words got Charlotte's eyes to turn teary. She had forgotten about that past, but listening to the kids' description of the good old days made her feel warm. It was as if a light had shone right into her heart...

Unfortunately, we can't go back to the way things were before because Mrs. Berry is no longer around...

"What's wrong, Mommy? Are you crying?" asked Ellie softly as her soft, tiny hand caressed Charlotte's face.

"Mommy, is Mrs. Berry sick?" asked Jamie as he tugged at the corner of Charlotte's shirt. He cooed, "Don't worry. Dr. Langan is an excellent doctor, and I'm sure she can treat her."

Raina couldn't help feeling sad when she heard those words. She had long known about how Mrs. Berry had passed, but she didn't know how to tell the kids about it...

"Mommy, what's wrong? Is Mrs. Berry...?" asked Robbie as he examined Charlotte. A bad feeling crept up on him.

Charlotte took a deep breath and steeled herself up before she answered, "She's no longer around."

"Huh?"

All three kids were confused. They didn't know what that actually mean.

"W-what do you mean by that?" asked Robbie, whose expression had since shifted sharply.

"S-she passed away two years ago," answered Charlotte as calmly as she could.

"What?"

All three kids were in shock. It took them some time before they came around.

Bwa! Ellie cried aloud, and her beautiful face instantly turned red with sorrow.

"Why? How did that happen? Was she sick? Or was there an accident?" asked Jamie. He was crying as well, and he had clenched his tiny fists in his sorrow.

"It was an accident. This is all my fault. I couldn't protect her," sighed Charlotte sadly.

"Mommy, did someone cause that accident and kill Mrs. Berry?" asked the eldest son.

Robbie remembered how, when they were being chased, he overheard his mother asking the criminals about the person who was sent to T Nation to assassinate her.

Is Mrs. Berry's death connected to that incident?

"You're still too young to understand that. Mrs. Berry will watch over everyone from heaven, so you must be good, okay? Grow up happy and healthy," cooed Charlotte as she hugged her kids.

All three kids were crying hard because they were still mourning Mrs. Berry's death.

Charlotte wanted to spend more time with them, but someone knocked on the door and reported, "Mr. Lindberg is asking to see you in the study room, Ms. Lindberg."

"I'll be there soon," replied Charlotte before she turned to Raina and the bodyguards to order, "Keep an eye on the kids. I will be back soon."

"Understood."

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With that, Charlotte left.

Raina was going to call Zachary when her phone rang. She walked to the side to pick it up. "Hello?"

"Are you at the Lindberg residence now? Is Danrique there?" guessed Zachary.

"Yes."

"He didn't bully the kids, did he?"

"No."

"Okay, then work discreetly and carefully."

"Understood."

Raina sighed a breath of relief after hanging up. Ms. Lindberg's text message to Mr. Nacht must be working. She must've promised to keep the children safe to prevent any conflicts from arising. That is why he didn't come rushing...

Charlotte was smart and rational. She may hate the Nacht family, but she would still put her children first.

She didn't want the two families to fight in front of the kids because that would just hurt them.

Raina felt much safer after coming to that conclusion. She put her phone away and went to babysit the kids.

Danrique was already waiting when Charlotte entered the study room. Both Lupine and Morgan were punished and injured. At that moment, they were kneeling with their heads down and didn't dare to even breathe too loudly.

"I am the one who gave the orders. This has nothing to do with them," said Charlotte while frowning.

"Their mistake is that they didn't report the matter in a timely manner."

Danrique was setting up a board game. His gold-framed glasses added a hint of sophistication to him, but it did not alleviate even a shred of cruelty in the aura he exuded.

"Are you referring to my kids?" asked Charlotte, who was facing the issue head-on. "I gave birth to them years ago, and that happened before I was brought back to the Lindberg family."

"So?" asked Danrique as he played the board game with himself.

"I want to take them back and raise them on my own," informed Charlotte. She was nervous, but she firmly expressed her desires and added, "If you can't accept them, then I am okay with leaving the Lindberg family."

Charlotte made her decision last night.

That was why she already had someone hire a lawyer and was strategizing on how to gain custody of the kids. She was also looking into the price she would have to pay if she wanted to leave the Lindberg family.

"Leaving the Lindberg family? You have actually considered that?" growled Danrique, who paused his game. His gaze turned fierce immediately.

Charlotte quickly explained herself, "I don't want to leave. Everything will be perfect if you are willing to accept my kids, but..."

"In other words, you will choose your children over the Lindberg family," interrupted Danrique while looking right into Charlotte's eyes.

"Yes," answered Charlotte without hesitating.

"Ms. Lindberg..."

Lupine was worried. She wanted to warn Charlotte and told her not to go against Danrique. It'd be dangerous...

"Have you thought about the consequences of your decision?" asked Danrique calmly as he reminded, "Leaving the Lindberg family would mean losing all power and reverting to your old self."

"Think about it. Without a powerful family backing you up, everyone will go back to bullying you. Remember how Mrs. Berry passed away? Are you really going to leave before you exact vengeance?"

Hearing those words got Charlotte's heart to shiver. He's right. If I leave now, I wouldn't be able to get justice for Mrs. Berry. Zara will also come after me and skin me alive...

And then there's the Blackwood family...

Charlotte had since become a diligent woman with combat skills, but without the Lindberg family, she would be fighting the war on her own. There was no way she could beat anyone under those circumstances.

Plus, I have to protect my kids. I refuse to let them get hurt like Mrs. Berry.

"I've been training you for two years. Yet, the only thing you know is to be impulsive and push your luck. You have really disappointed me," commented Danrique icily.

"Ms. Lindberg doesn't actually want to leave, Mr. Lindberg. She is simply worried about the kids, so please give her another chance," requested Morgan, who couldn't help speaking up for Charlotte.

"It's true. She is your only kin, Mr. Lindberg, so please don't abandon her," begged Lupine with tears in her eyes.

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Danrique frowned and a cold glint appeared in his amber pupils.

"Shut up!" Charlotte roared and shot both women a glare.

Both of them lowered their heads and said no more.

"Don't be angry, Danrique..." Not wanting to infuriate him, she changed her tactics. "We'll talk about the children a little later. I'll send them back to the Nachts' residence first..."

"The children are cute," Danrique interrupted her. "I didn't say I won't accept them."

Charlotte was completely taken aback, and when she snapped back to her senses, she asked delightedly, "Are you saying that you are willing to accept the children?"

"They do look like me..." Danrique said as he picked up an ivory chess piece. "It's quiet in the Lindberg residence, so having the children here will make this place livelier."

"Do you really think so, Danrique?" Charlotte asked as she couldn't hold back her excitement.

"Yes." Danrique gave her a smirk. "Go ahead and spend time with the kids."

"Thank you, Danrique!" Charlotte was ecstatic. At first, she was in constant trepidation because she thought Danrique would not accept those three children. She did not expect him to accept them so quickly...

He probably compromised so that he could get her to stay.

Or perhaps, the children's striking resemblance to him moved him.

However, Charlotte was happy as long as the children could stay at the Lindberg residence.

She couldn't wait to tell the children the good news, but when she reached the door, she heard Ellie asking Raina, "When can we go home, Dr. Langhan? I miss my Daddy."

"I want to go home too..." Jamie asked, and he seemed a little down. "I also want Mommy to come with us."

"That's right. Let's bring Mommy home with us." Ellie nodded eagerly. "Dr. Langhan, can you call Daddy to come and pick us up?"

"I want to, but..." Raina did not dare to say another word, and then she looked up at the door.

Charlotte pushed the door open and entered before she comforted the children. "My dear children, you need to have a good rest as you are all sick. We'll talk about this again when you feel better, okay?"

"I feel a lot better, Mommy." Ellie immediately sat up and pretended to be strong and energetic. She even jumped on the bed a few times. "See? I'm full of energy now."

"Me too. I can box now."

Jamie immediately got up and threw a few punches in the air to show Charlotte.

Charlotte gazed lovingly at her children, but she could not bring herself to feel happy. She felt a twinge of sorrow as her own children seemed distant from her.

They've only been here for a day, and now they're clamoring to go back to the Nacht residence.

"Alright. That's enough," Robbie finally spoke. He frowned and said with a stern face, "All of you have been saying every day that you wanted to see Mommy. And now that you are here, you guys are fussing to go back there. Can't you all be a little more sensible?"

Robbie knew his own mother very well. He could tell that Charlotte was sad and disappointed to see her children wanting to go back there, but she couldn't show it on her face.

Jamie and Ellie were startled at being chided by their older brother before they pouted and quietly lay back in bed.

"It's okay. They're just not used to being here. That's completely normal," Charlotte quickly reassured her children. "After all, you guys just arrived, so you'll need some time to adjust."

She pondered for a moment before saying, "How about this? I'll take you all out for dinner. Since last night, the three of you have had nothing but vegetable broth, so you must be starving. What would you like to eat? I'll arrange it right away."

"I want something spicy..."

"I want barbecue."

"Alright. Coming right up," Charlotte nodded with a smile. "How about you, Robbie?"

"I don't feel like eating," Robbie said gloomily. "I'll eat whatever they have, as long as they are happy."

"I'll get the restaurant to prepare the food now. You can add on later if you fancy anything else," Charlotte stroked his head and left immediately to arrange for the food.

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In fact, Charlotte knew that the children wanted to go back because they were terrified of Danrique.

She decided to take the children out for a meal to give them a chance to be away from Danrique for a little while.

Before leaving the house, Charlotte asked Raina, "Based on their current condition, is it alright for them to leave the house?"

"Yes. The fever has subsided. Well, since they can't sleep, it will be good for them to get some fresh air."

Raina wanted to leave here as soon as possible too. Otherwise, she would always feel that something was bothering her.

"That's great."

Charlotte arranged for an extended Rolls-Royce to ferry her children with two jeeps trailing behind them.

However, as the children sat in the extended Rolls-Royce, their eyes were wide as saucers, and they looked mortified.

Fifi, the eagle, was perching on the car seat headrest, and it was staring icily at the little parrot opposite of it.

Little Fifi trembled in fear as it perched on the car seat. It lifted its head and looked at the eagle with eyes filled with fear. It was quivering incessantly, and some of its green feathers had fallen on the seat.

Ellie pouted and watched the eagle with tears in her eyes. She reached out to tug at Charlotte's sleeve and said with a choke, "I feel like crying, Mommy."

"You don't have to be afraid. It already knows that you are its little master. It won't hurt you."

This might seem like overkill, but Charlotte had learned a lesson yesterday. She didn't want to bump into Zara again.

As for the eagle, she wanted it to spend more time with the children to build a closer bond. She hoped that the eagle would protect the children if the situation arose.

Just like now, Robbie had warmed up to it and mustered the courage to sit next to the eagle.

"Scoot over."

Robbie sat next to the eagle, and he used his arm to nudge it.

With a proud and stern look, the eagle moved to the side. Then, it shook its wings, and one of its feathers landed on Robbie's head.

Robbie did not notice that as he was engrossed in his iPad.

The eagle perched behind him and craned its neck as it stared at his iPad with unblinking eyes.

"Wow! I found out that an eagle can keep its eyes open without blinking for a long time."

Jamie was a little excited and curious as well. He wanted to get closer to observe the eagle up close, but he was a little afraid.

"It's okay. You don't have to be afraid. Come and touch it."

Charlotte stroked the eagle's wings and explained to Jamie.

"Eagles are blessed with astounding vision. They can see objects that are far away, and they don't blink that often. Moreover, they have the longest lifespan among the birds in the world."

At that moment, the eagle began to coo all of a sudden.

The three children were stunned for a second before they broke into a fit of giggles.

"So that's how an eagle calls. It sounded like a small bird." Ellie was in tears from laughing so hard. "It's so cute!"

"Suddenly, it doesn't seem so scary anymore," Jamie said with a chuckle.

The eagle cooed again.

There was a frown on Robbie's face. Even though he was still fixated on the iPad, he could feel the eagle's gaze from behind him.

“What’s the eagle’s lifespan, Mommy?”

Finally, Jamie mustered enough courage and went over to touch the eagle’s wings. But he quickly retracted his hand after that.

“This is the Goshawk species, and it can live up to forty to fifty years,” Charlotte said with a smile. “There are some eagles that can live up to seventy years old, but they begin to age by the time they are forty years old.”

“How about Little Fifi?” Ellie asked. “How long can it live?”

“Seven years,” Charlotte blurted.

“Ah...” Ellie’s eyes widened in astonishment. Suddenly, she looked worried and asked, “Little Fifi is almost six years old now. Does that mean...?”

“Little Fifi grew up with us, so it should live longer than the parrots in the wild. You don’t have to worry about that,” Robbie immediately reassured Ellie.

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“That’s right,” Charlotte said as she cast a thankful look at Robbie.

“Good to hear that.” Ellie cradled the parrot and gently stroked its feather. “I’ll take good care of you, Little Fifi. I won’t let anything bad happen to you ever again.”

“Ellie! Ellie!” the parrot squawked those words and rubbed its head against Ellie’s hand.

“Alright, kids. It’s time for you to nap for a little while so that you’ll have the energy to play later,” Charlotte cajoled her children. “We’re going to a restaurant by the beach. There’s a small amusement park over there, and you’ll get the chance to play in the sand as well.”

"Yay! Thank you, Mommy," Ellie cheered.

"Beach? Amusement park..?" Jamie thought for a while and analyzed. "Could it be the restaurant that Daddy used to take us to? Are we going to Seacrest Restaurant?"

"That's right. We're going to Seacrest Restaurant."

Charlotte loved to dine at that restaurant. It was a restaurant made of clear glass walls and offered breathtaking views of the sandy beach. It was also charmingly decorated with potted plants and vines.

She bumped into Zachary the last time she dined at that restaurant with Louis.

Just as she thought of that, Charlotte's phone rang, and it was a call from Louis. Speak of the devil.

"Yes, Louis," Charlotte answered the phone.

"Charlotte, has the press conference at South Sea been brought forward to the 12th?" Louis asked.

"Yes," Charlotte replied blandly.

"Why didn't you tell me?" Louis sounded a little upset. "I just received the news. I'll arrange for a private jet immediately, and I'll fly over there soon."

"There's no need for that," Charlotte responded quickly. "You don't have to come. This press conference has nothing to do with you. It's no big deal."

"I promised you before that I would make an appearance," Louis said. "Alright then, I'm boarding soon. See you tomorrow!"

"See you!"

After Charlotte hung up the call, she checked the messages on her phone. Only then did she realize that Danrique had made a killer move and it had caused a lot of problems for Nacht Group.

It seems like Zachary will be busy for the next few days, so he won't be coming to take the children away from me.

After she placed her phone aside, she cajoled her children once again. "Try to get some sleep, children. The restaurant is about an hour's drive away."

"Okay, Mommy."

Jamie and Ellie obediently went to sleep.

Without looking up from his iPad, Robbie said, "I'm still busy helping Daddy with the new products, Mommy."

"Why don't you leave it to Daddy to handle it?" She didn't want her son to tire himself out.

"It's alright. Daddy's busy with some other issues. I'm just trying to help him."

Robbie was still fixated on his iPad as his small hand continued to tap quickly on the screen.

At his insistence, she decided not to disturb him anymore. She offered him a glass of juice and sat by his side quietly to accompany him.

She was contented with her three children and two pets by her side.

She felt very much at ease, and she wished time would slow down for her to enjoy every minute with her children.

For the past few days, she had several flashbacks of her family of six living happily together...

Her memories were coming back little by little...

"Ms. Lindberg, look!" Lupine exclaimed as she pointed out of the window.

Charlotte turned around and saw a jeep that belonged to the Nacht family driving past them.

The rear window of the jeep had shattered, and it was apparent that the vehicle had been involved in a violent collision. As the jeep drove past them, Charlotte caught sight of Sharon's face through the car window.

Sharon, who also noticed the car next to her, turned around to look at the car.

However, the Lindberg family's Rolls-Royce windows were wound up, and nothing could be seen from the outside. She couldn't tell who was in the car, so she asked, "Is that Zachary's car?"

"No." The aide, who was in the passenger seat, glanced back and said, "It belongs to the Lindberg family."

Upon hearing that, all colors drained from Sharon's face.

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Back in the Rolls-Royce, Charlotte's forehead creased into a frown.

"That was the Nacht family's car."

Right after Lupine blurted that out, she glanced at Robbie and kept her mouth shut immediately.

Robbie's brow furrowed, then he stopped frowning the next second and continued to work on his tablet. It was as though he hadn't heard anything.

Lupine whispered into Charlotte's ear, "Last night, the Nacht family placed Sharon in a safehouse located in a remote area. And today, Mr. Lindberg sent someone to capture her, but unfortunately, the Nacht family kept her safe once again. Who would have thought that she's at Southridge right now."

Charlotte did not say anything, but her eyes were icy cold.

After the fight with Zara yesterday, the incident in T Nation came to light, where she was hunted down to be executed. It turned out that Zara was the mastermind behind all that and Sharon executed her order.

Evidently, not only Sharon was the enforcer, but she was also Charlotte's mortal enemy.

She wouldn't have minded that he chose not to avenge her, but she found it hard to believe that he actually harbored a murderer in his own home.

At the thought of that, flames of fury started burning in her heart.

"Don't be angry. Go spend time with the kids first," Morgan said in a low voice. "We'll talk about this later tonight."

Charlotte turned to look at her three children with sorrow in her heart. She would have made a move against the Nacht family were it not for the sake of her three children.

Does Zachary think that this is all that I am capable of?

It was such a pity that her forbearance and soft-heartedness were not enough for him. Give him an inch, and he'll want a mile.

"What's wrong, Mommy?" Robbie asked softly.

"Nothing..." She quickly evaded his gaze and looked away. Then, she pulled herself together and said, "I'm fine."

"Sometimes, what the eyes see is not necessarily true," Robbie said wisely. "Could there be a misunderstanding?"

“Mr. Robinson, you...”

“Quiet!” Charlotte interrupted Morgan’s words. She turned to look at Robbie and said with a smile, “You’re right, Robbie. I’ll get to the bottom of this.”

“Okay.” Robbie nodded and turned back to his tablet.

The fire of wrath burned bright in her heart, but she put a tight lid on her emotions for the sake of her children. She reminded herself repeatedly not to lose her temper in front of the children.

Very soon, their car reached Seacrest Restaurant.

Charlotte held the children’s hands and led them into the restaurant.

As they walked into the restaurant, they were surrounded by Lupine, Morgan, and eight other female bodyguards. At the same time, Raina and two female medical staff followed closely behind them.

The restaurant’s owner came out to welcome them in. “Ms. Lindberg, everything is decorated and arranged according to your instructions. Are you pleased with it?”

“They are the ones to be pleased,” Charlotte answered and gestured to the children.

“They will definitely be pleased!” the restaurant’s owner exclaimed as he clapped his hands together.

The lights in the restaurant were changed to blue lights, which closely resembled the ocean’s rays. And the glass walls were decorated with scenes from the underwater world. Accompanied by the sound of ocean waves and the tune of a piano, it was as though they were submerged in the underwater world.

“Wow! It’s so beautiful!” Ellie exclaimed with excitement. She ran to the middle of the restaurant and watched the images of dolphins swimming on the ceiling. She danced with glee and said, “It’s so beautiful. I’ve been here so many times, and I had no idea that it can be as beautiful as this.”

"There's a big shark over there!" Jamie suddenly shouted.

"Arrgghh—" Ellie screamed in fright and jumped into Charlotte's arms.

"Hahaha... you silly little girl," Jamie teased her. Then, he stepped on the moving image of a big octopus on the floor and shouted, "It looks so real! This is great!"

Charlotte walked over with Ellie in her arms and coaxed her to stretch out her little hand to touch the 3D image of a big shark.

"I touched it," Ellie said as she clapped with glee.

Charlotte turned her head and looked at her eldest child. "Come and touch it too, Robbie."

"Let them play. I'm not interested," Robbie answered placidly before he walked over to the table and sat down.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 901

Raina whispered, "Mr. Robbie is the sole developer of the projector. He's also the sole owner of the patent."

"H-Huh?"

The rest were astonished as they never thought a six-year-old boy was capable of pulling such an impossible feat.

The owner of the restaurant was shocked. He repeated, "Are you seriously telling me this little boy is the one behind this magnificent creation? A few of my friends have purchased the projectors as well!"

Robbie remarked in a relatively calm manner, "It was merely launched around January, but I have designed it a year ago. Daddy has transferred the profit to my personal account as well."

The owner of the restaurant remarked, "Hahaha! It seems like I'm also one of your customers!"

Ellie showed her brother a huge thumbs up and complimented, "Robbie, you're awesome!"

Meanwhile, as impressed as Jamie might be, he was also overwhelmed by a sense of inferiority. "Magnificent, Robbie! Meanwhile, there are not many things I'm capable of—"

"You're unique as well! I'm not a match for you in terms of rock climbing!" Robbie tapped on his brother's shoulder and promised his sister, "Ellie, I'll get you one as well if you want it! You just have to ensure the decoration of your room goes along with the theme!"

Ellie responded with a nod and expressed her gratitude, "Thanks, Robbie!"

Charlotte was equally proud. She praised her little boy, "Robbie, you have finally grown up!"

Robbie announced with his chest held high, "Haven't I promised to keep you safe? I'm going to honor my promise and make you proud!"

Thrilled, Charlotte nodded in return. "Mmm! I'm sure you can do it! I have faith in you!"

All of a sudden, one of her subordinates showed up seconds after they heard a car pulling over at the entrance. "Ms. Lindberg, it's Mr. Nacht!"

Charlotte asked with a frown, "What brings him here today?"

"Sir, have you not informed others you're not serving anyone else apart from us?" Lupine asked in a callous tone.

"I couldn't inform Mr. Nacht beforehand since he mentioned nothing about his arrival today." Halfway through his speech, the owner stammered, "I-I don't think I can drive him away..."

"Y-You!"

"It's fine!" Charlotte remarked in a callous tone and instructed, "Switch off the projector and proceed to place our orders."

"Y-Yes! I'll get going at once!" The owner instructed the waiter to take note of Charlotte and her party's orders before making his way out to welcome Zachary.

When Zachary alighted from the car, he was astonished to see the car of the Lindberg family. He thought of leaving, but the security guard of the restaurant had announced his arrival.

"What's wrong, Zachary?" Taylor expressed his concerns when he caught a glimpse of the young man's look.

"Shall we head over to another restaurant?" Cynthia gestured her question since she was aware of Zachary's concerns.

She could tell Charlotte was around when she saw the car. After all, she once ran into Charlotte at Ashenville Garden.

"That won't be necessary!" Zachary marched in the direction of the hall as he thought others would misperceive him if he were to leave.

The owner of the restaurant greeted Zachary, "Welcome, Mr. Nacht! It's an honor to have so many honorable guests today!"

Ellie, who was in the middle of running around, rushed in Zachary's direction the moment she saw him. "Daddy! Has Mommy asked you to come over and join us?"

Zachary held his daughter's hand and took a peek at Charlotte. Shortly after she exchanged glances with him, she had her eyes glued to Cynthia behind him.

Startled by Charlotte's indifferent look, Cynthia inched over in Zachary's direction, making it seem as if they were closely acquainted.

"Daddy?" Jamie, who was occupied with Jenga, turned around when he heard his sister. He brought himself to a halt instead of rushing over to his father's side when he caught a glimpse of Cynthia.

He turned around to look at Charlotte and Robbie. It was then he heard Robbie instructing, "Jamie, Ellie, come over here!"

Jamie brought himself back to Robbie's side and took a seat next to his brother, taking a peek at Zachary with a diffident look.

Ellie let go of her grip and returned to her seat next to Charlotte. She couldn't stop herself from taking a peek at Zachary.

Upon another glimpse at Charlotte, Robbie suggested, "Daddy, why don't you tend to the things you have on your schedule? Aren't you here to resolve the issue of your company with the aid of Mr. Blackwood and Ms. Cynthia?"

"Alright." Zachary was proud of his intelligent son as he had just done him a huge favor.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 902

After Robbie took another peek at Charlotte, he suggested, "If that's the case, why don't you go ahead? We'll return and finish our meal with Mommy!"

Instead of losing her cool, Charlotte carried herself in an elegant manner since her children were around. She thought it wouldn't be wise to pick on Zachary in front of others as well.

"Alright, I'll drop by and check on the three of you once I'm done."

Zachary was glad his son was around to intermediate the situation. Shortly after they wrapped up the conversation, Zachary marched in the direction of their seats.

Lupine and Morgan were frustrated when Cynthia went after Zachary as if she was a defenseless woman in need of others to defend her.

Marino and Ben glared at the two ladies warning them to mind themselves. Then, they looked elsewhere and kept their emotions to themselves.

Robbie brought up something else to divert everyone's attention. He asked, "Mommy, are you sure we can get Jamie and Ellie's favorite dishes here?"

"I have already gotten in touch with the owner and asked for his help to prepare everyone's favorite dishes beforehand."

Charlotte beckoned Lupine to get the waiter to serve the dishes she had ordered beforehand and asked, "Robbie, have you any cravings?"

Robbie blurted his answer, "Me? I miss the dishes you used to prepare for us! There's nothing like home-cooked meals, but I guess I'll settle for less since you have brought us here!"

"Well, I'll make you something to eat, but it has been a long time since the last time I cook. I'm not sure if my culinary skills can live up to your expectations. Therefore, you can't blame me if it's not."

Thrilled, Robbie assured his mother, "No! It's completely fine as long as you're the one cooking the dishes!"

Unable to contain his excitement, Jamie announced, "I have been missing Mommy's cooking as well! It has been such a long time since our last meal! I can still remember the taste of the dishes you have prepared us!"

Ellie gulped and announced while leaning in Charlotte's direction, "Hey, me too! Mommy, I can't even stop myself from drooling anymore!"

Charlotte laughed and kissed her daughter on the forehead, pinching Jamie's cheek and touching Robbie's head.

Throughout the heartwarming session, Zachary couldn't move his eyes away from his family as he couldn't even recall when was the last time they spent some quality time together.

"I'll drop by the kitchen and see if I can get the owner to lend me his kitchen! I want everyone to behave yourself when I'm not around, okay?"

Charlotte made her way to the kitchen and asked, "Sir, have you any extra ingredients for me to make my children their favorite dishes?"

The astonished owner asked in return, "Ms. Lindberg, I'm so sorry, but we merely have a few raw ingredients left! Is that fine?"

Charlotte thought it wasn't a big deal. She asked, "It's fine! Can you get others to help me out?"

"I'll get the chefs to join you at once!"

...

"Zachary? Hello? Zachary!"

Taylor repeated himself for more than once until Zachary finally returned to his senses and stopped staring in the direction of Charlotte.

When Taylor saw Zachary turning around with his brows arched in confusion, he suggested, "Shall we go to another restaurant?"

Taylor thought it would be impossible for them to carry on with their discussion with others around them.

Upon another glimpse at his watch, he said, "Actually, we're merely to talk about the upcoming press conference. Why don't you guys go ahead and finish your meal before we get to business?"

He got up from his seat and walked in the direction of the kitchen shortly after he brought up the suggestion.

Staring at the man's departing figure, Taylor responded with a frown.

In the meantime, Charlotte had to prepare the dishes from scratch. Unlike her usual domineering self, she seemed to be just another mother throughout the process of getting the ingredients ready.

Leaning against the entrance to the kitchen, Zachary had his eyes glued to the woman with a gentle look.

The owner of the restaurant greeted Zachary the moment he saw him, "M-Mr. Natch..."

Out of the blue, Charlotte turned around and asked with her brows furrowed, "What are you doing here?"

Zachary marched in her direction and said, "I think it's time for us to talk about our children-"

Halfway through his sentence, Charlotte turned around and warned him with the knife, "Zachary, I'm trying my best to stop picking on you since our children are around! You better get out of my sight with that mistress of yours as soon as possible! Otherwise, I'm afraid I'm going to lose control soon!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 903

"I'm pretty sure that will never be the case!" he announced with his chest held high as if he was certain she would never hurt him.

"Are you sure?" Charlotte stepped forward with the knife and repeated her question.

An anxious chef yelled, "Watch out! I have been sharpening that knife daily to ensure it's sharp enough for my cooking!"

Unfortunately, the chef was too late as he failed to stop the woman from hurting the man. As a result, blood started streaming down the man's neck.

The surprised Zachary asked, "Are you being serious?"

The staff in the kitchen was horrified by the potential outcome of the saga. The owner of the kitchen gulped and urged, "Ms. Lindberg, shall we calm down and talk things through?"

"Get out of my sight at once!"

"Y-Yes!" The owner of the restaurant beckoned the rest of the staff in the kitchen to leave the duo alone with him.

Once he marched out of the kitchen, he told their bodyguards, "T-They're in the middle of a fight! To be precise, Ms. Lindberg has placed a knife on Mr. Nacht's neck!"

Lupine and Morgan shrugged their shoulders after exchanging glances with one another.

Marino's mind was all over the place. He couldn't stop himself from consulting his partner next to him. "B-Ben!"

"Just calm down and leave the rest to him," Ben assured his partner things would turn out just fine.

The owner gaped at the response of the two bodyguards and asked, "A-Aren't you guys going to do anything about it?"

Ben suggested, "Why don't you tend to the things you have on your plate and leave the rest to us?"

"H-Huh?"

Holding the knife she had around the man's neck, Charlotte warned him, "Zachary, I'm going to repeat myself for one last time! I'll definitely gain custody of our children! Also, there's no way I'm letting Zara and Sharon off the hook since they're the ones behind Mrs. Berry's demise!"

Halfway through her orated speech, she paused and glared at him in the eyes. A few seconds later, she enunciated, "I don't care if you're having an affair with others! Just stop showing up in front of me! There's no use trying to provoke me because you're merely getting on my nerves!"

"Scram!"

When she was about to repeat herself and warn him to stay away from her, he took her by surprise and rendered her incapable of motion. He warned her in return, "I won't allow anyone to drive my family apart, not even you—because you belong to me as well! Also, I have been gathering the evidence to send the masterminds behind bars! As soon as the opportunity arises, I'll ensure justice is served!"

After pausing for a few seconds, he looked at her in the eyes and said, "I'm merely here for business with them! There's nothing else going on between us! I'm not trying to provoke you as well! Have I made myself clear?"

Grasping her hands with his gigantic palm, he ran his fingers through the defenseless woman's cheek, fooling around with her.

"Stay away from me!" Irritated by the man's response, she tried to shrug him off, but she was no match for him in spite of being better than she used to be.

Instead, the man got increasingly aroused as she continued moving around in a tempting manner.

Subsequently, she could feel the thing around the man's thighs. She yelled at him, "What do you think you're doing? Get the hell off me!"

Zachary smirked and warned her in return, "If you don't stop moving around, I'm going to show you the things I'm capable of doing right here and right now!"

The man's lust was written all over his face. As much as she wished to challenge the man, she knew it wouldn't be wise since he might be serious. "Y-You—"

"I guess you have been living a wonderful life without me, huh? I can't believe you have the guts to hurt your husband!"

Zachary wiped the blood on his neck off and slapped the woman on the ass. He leaned over and whispered, "As soon as I'm done with everything, I'll teach you another lesson!"

"We shall see if you're the one teaching me a lesson or if I'm the one teaching you the proper way to behave yourself!"

Shortly after she made herself clear she wouldn't give up, she launched a powerful kick in his crotch area.

"Argh!"

Colors started draining from the man's face as he groaned in pain due to the racking sensation he felt coming from his crotch area.

Ben and Marino exchanged glances and knew it was time for them to stop standing around. Thus, they barged into the kitchen.

"Mr. Nacht!"

Zachary had his back facing the duo. He beckoned them to leave them alone in the kitchen.

Once he ensured his subordinates were no longer around, he leaned against the island of the kitchen to support himself, gasping out his reply, "Charlotte, you're such a heartless woman!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 904

"If you keep pushing your luck, I'll stop holding back and hit you!" Glaring at him in the eyes, she repeated herself, "Get the hell out of my sight immediately!"

"Y-You..." As painful as it might be, Zachary braced himself through the excruciating sensation and urged in a serious tone, "Send our children to my place! It's not safe for them to stay with you!"

Charlotte regained her composure and continued making the dishes she had in mind. "What do you mean it's not safe for them to stay with me when they're home?"

"Can you stop arguing with me?" Zachary was slightly irritated. He warned, "Aren't you aware Danrique doesn't really appreciate their—"

She interrupted him and finished, "He has grown fond of them! Why don't you keep your concerns to yourself! I'll ensure they have everything they need even when they're away from the Nacht family!"

Zachary asked with a frown, "Huh? Are you serious? Has Danrique grown fond of them?"

Similarly, Charlotte furrowed her brows and asked, "Are you surprised or something? Isn't it natural when they're members of the Lindberg family?"

"Wait a minute..."

Knock! Knock!

When Zachary was about to share something else, Taylor knocked on the door and mentioned, "Zachary, it's about time!"

"I'll drop by and talk to you soon!" Shortly after he wrapped up his conversation with Charlotte, he touched up his appearance and walked out of the kitchen.

Charlotte had no intention to waste her time with him. She continued making the dishes she had in mind but found out it might be a mission impossible. Hence, she instructed, "Get the chefs to join me in the kitchen!"

"Yes!" Afraid of getting on Charlotte's nerves, the owner instructed the chefs to join her in the kitchen immediately.

Colors had long drained from the faces of the chefs—they were afraid that their lives would be at stake if Charlotte was irked.

Lupine assured the startled bunch, "Just take it easy because she's not going to take any of you out for no reason. However, if you don't hurry up, I'll do you a favor and take you out."

"Y-Yes..." Startled by Lupine's warnings, the chefs staggered their ways into the kitchen once again.

After taking another peek at Lupine, the owner returned to the dining hall to tend to Zachary and his guests.

"Zachary, I have ordered a few simple dishes since we're in quite a hurry. As soon as we're done, let's make our way to the company and get everything for the press conference ready."

Taylor brought up his suggestion as if he truly cared about the company.

Zachary glanced at his watch and announced, "Actually, I'm just about to tell you it won't be necessary for you guys to tag along for the press conference."

"Huh? Why?" Taylor was dumbfounded because he thought Zachary had asked them over for a briefing session prior to the press conference.

Zachary took a sip of wine and remarked, "It seems too much of an act. I'm afraid others are going to pick on me for forcing you and your family into submission again."

“How is that-”

“I’ll take over from now onwards. If you’re seriously considering doing me a favor, why don’t you hold a press conference as the person in charge of your company?”

Taylor nodded and reached for his phone. “Alright, I’ll get everything sorted out as soon as possible.”

“Allow me to excuse myself. I’ll head over to keep my children company.” Zachary got up from his seat and marched in the direction of his children.

Taylor engaged himself in a conversation with his staff. In other words, no one was aware when Cynthia was nowhere to be seen in the dining hall.

On the other end of the restaurant, Cynthia encountered the owner of the restaurant marching in the direction of the kitchen with a cup of tea.

Cynthia got in the way of the owner and greeted him with simple gestures. “Hello!”

The owner responded with a nod and explained, “Hello, Ms. Blackwood! Allow me to express my apologies, but I’m not really familiar with sign languages apart from a few basic ones.”

Cynthia responded with an awkward grin and pointed in the direction of Zachary before staring at the kitchen and her stomach.

The owner figured out the things she had in mind. He asked, “Are you asking me to hurry up and serve the dishes your father has ordered?”

As the woman nodded in return, the owner assured her with a bright grin, “I’ll urge them to hurry up at once! All of you must be hungry since it’s already way past lunch hours!”

Cynthia expressed her gratitude and walked in the direction of the dining hall, bumping into the owner when she was on her way back.

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chapter 905

When the owner almost spilled the cup of tea, Cynthia reached over to stop it in the nick of time. As a result, she was scalded by the tea.

The owner's mind was all over the place as she started blowing her hand. "I'm so sorry, Ms. Blackwood! Are you okay? I'll get someone to bring you the first-aid kit at once!"

Cynthia shook her head and showed the owner her hands, indicating that wouldn't be necessary since she was fine.

"I'm glad you're fine!" Heaving a sigh of relief, the owner announced, "If that's the case, allow me to excuse myself! I need to bring Ms. Lindberg her cup of tea!"

Cynthia nodded with a smile and brought herself away.

Once the owner showed up in the kitchen, he urged, "Ms. Lindberg, why don't you take a break and finish this cup of tea?"

"Just put it aside." Charlotte had her eyes glued to the different types of ingredients in front of her.

"If that's the case, I'll put it here. Hurry up and finish it once you're free to take a break."

The owner placed the cup of tea aside and urged the chefs to get the dishes for Zachary's table ready as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, shortly after Zachary wrapped up the session he had with Jamie and Ellie, he took a seat next to Robbie and asked in a hushed tone, "Robbie, have you seen that man?"

Robbie had his eyes glued to the documents in front of him. He asked, "Are you talking about Uncle Dan? We have met him."

"Come again? Did you just address him as Uncle Dan?"

Zachary was startled when he heard his son addressing Danrique in such an intimate manner. After all, others had always known Danrique as a heartless man who would do everything for his personal gains.

Has he seriously grown fond of his nephews and niece? Is that possible when they're the successor of the Nacht family?

Robbie turned around and looked at his father in the eyes. "What's wrong, Daddy? Aren't we supposed to address him as Uncle Dan?"

"Has he tried anything silly or picked on any of you?"

"Although we don't really consider him a friendly uncle of ours, he's not the type of man to pick on us for fun. He seems to be up to something, but I think it's just his intimidating look misleading others."

Zachary had his doubts. "If that's the case, has he brought up anything odd in front of any of you?"

"I don't think so, but Jamie and Ellie are afraid of him. They have made themselves clear they don't want to be anywhere near him anymore."

"Well, I'll take all of you home with me if that's the case!"

Zachary was not happy after hearing what Robbie said, so he up and thought of confronting Charlotte. However, his eldest son stopped him and said, "Daddy, I don't think that's appropriate. After all, she has just returned to us. I'm afraid she's going to be upset if you take us away with you."

Zachary turned around and assured him, "I'm pretty sure she's going to return to us in no time once all of you return with me."

It took the little boy a few seconds to fathom the things his father had brought up. He explained, "Mommy is no longer a silly woman; she's now an independent and reliable mother. If you take us away with you, I'm afraid she's going to barge into the family home and take us away."

"I guess you have a point." Zachary thought that wasn't a great idea when he recalled how grumpy Charlotte was. To make things worse, she might resort to extreme measures to get her hands on their children.

"I have a suggestion—I'll stay behind to keep Mommy company while you take Jamie and Ellie home with you! Since they're still having a fever, we'll just tell Mommy it's not wise to have them intimidated as it might make their condition worse."

"Aren't you afraid of your uncle?" Zachary was overwhelmed by a sense of guilt because of his son's suggestion.

"No! I don't have to worry since Mommy's going to keep me safe! On top of that, we resemble him! It feels as if I'm looking at a grown-up version of myself!"

Startled by the remark that came out of nowhere, the man repeated after his son, "What? Are you telling me you resemble Danrique?"

"Yes! I generated a simulation photo of my future self using one of my software! We literally look the same!"

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chapter 906

After pausing for a short while, Robbie added, "Jamie and Ellie were equally shocked when I showed them the photo. In fact, he was surprised too. That might be the reason he no longer held a grudge against us."

Zachary's mind went completely blank when he recalled he once thought he wasn't their children's father.

After all, Charlotte had gone to great lengths to keep their presence a secret from him due to the differences in their looks.

He had always thought the Nacht family had domineering genes, but it turned out their genes lost out to the Lindberg family. To

make things worse, of all the members of the Lindberg family, his children resembled Danrique the most.

It feels awful, but there's nothing much I can do now! It's killing me!

"Daddy, what's wrong?" When Robbie caught his father's pale and haggard look, he noticed he might have said something he shouldn't. Thus, he remarked, "I mean, Mommy resembles Uncle Dan a lot in terms of look! I'm pretty sure we take after Mommy..."

Zachary went dead silent and took a sip of the drink he found on the table. After he had a mouthful of the mysterious drink, he almost threw up. He asked, "What is this?"

"It's Ellie's milkshake."

Robbie found out Jamie and Ellie were no longer around the moment he turned around to look for his siblings.

A female bodyguard noticed Robbie's concern. She stepped forward and told him, "They have gone to the kitchen."

"Alright."

Charlotte finally had the ingredients for the dishes she had in mind sorted out the moment her two children showed up in the kitchen. They had barged into the kitchen with a slice of cake to share with their mother.

When Charlotte saw her children, she announced with a proud grin, "Jamie, Ellie, why are you guys here? I have finally sorted out the ingredients for your favorite dish! See!"

"Wow! Mommy, you're awesome!" Jamie showed his mother a huge thumbs up and remarked, "It's really a job well done considering you can't really cook back in the day!"

Ellie leaned over and kissed Charlotte on the cheek. "Mommy, you're the best! Why don't you go ahead and give this cake a try? It's one of the best I have ever tasted!"

Charlotte felt motivated when she heard her children's compliments. After she had a mouthful of cake, she assured them, "Thanks, Ellie! I'll have everything ready in no time! I'm pretty sure it's going to taste great!"

"Thanks, Mommy!"

"Mommy, let me help you!"

Jamie had a mouthful of cake and volunteered to help Charlotte.

Ellie felt thirsty after having a few mouthfuls of cake. She asked when she saw the cup of tea on the island, "Mommy, I'm thirsty! Can I finish this cup of tea over here?"

"Go ahead and drink it if it is not hot, but you're not allowed to finish everything since you're not supposed to drink tea."

"Alright, Mommy!" Ellie tiptoed in an attempt to reach the cup of tea.

As soon as the little girl took it over from Morgan, she gulped down half of it since she was thirsty after finishing half of the slice of cake.

Charlotte turned around and urged, "That's enough. You're not allowed to finish everything because you're still a little girl. Why don't you return to the table and get them to order you a glass of fruit juice?"

"Okay, Mommy! I'll see you later!"

The little girl rushed out of the kitchen alongside Morgan.

"Jamie, why don't you go ahead and join your sister? I join all of you as soon as I have everything ready!"

"Alright, Mommy!"

Shortly after Jamie and Ellie returned to the dining hall, Zachary approached them and asked, "Jamie, Ellie, do you guys want to go home with me?"

The duo exchanged glances in silence as they were unsure if they were supposed to share their thoughts with their father.

Zachary leaned over and held them in his arms. "Just tell me if you're keen to join me or not. It's going to be fine."

Jamie's frustration was written all over his face. "I wish to return home, but I'm not willing to leave Mommy!"

Ellie asked with her lips pursed in an aggrieved manner, "I-I'm of the same idea, Daddy! Why don't you bring Mommy home with us?"

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Zachary caressed his daughter's chin and said, "I want to bring her home with us as well, but I'm afraid she's not going to listen to me for the time being. Robbie has volunteered to stay with her to keep her company just to ensure the two of you can leave with me."

Jamie seemed to have his doubts. "If that's the case, we won't get to meet Mommy! Robbie won't get to meet you as well, Daddy!"

When the thought of leaving her brother and mother crossed her mind, Ellie's eyes started brimming with tears.

She asked, "Daddy, why don't you persuade Mommy to return home with us?"

Holding the little girl in his arms, Zachary explained, "I'm trying my best to persuade her to return with us. I'm sure she'll come back to us in the future, but it's going to take quite some time."

Out of nowhere, Robbie showed up and announced, "Jamie, Ellie, just go ahead and return home with Daddy for the time being. I'm sure Mommy will drop by to visit the two of you in the near future. If that's the case, the two of you have to think of something to keep her there."

Jamie's eyes widened in disbelief when he heard his brother. "Oh! Is this a collective effort to bring Mommy home? Are you staying behind to keep an eye on her and keep us updated?"

"Yes! The upcoming mission for the Triplets Reconnaissance Team is to bring Mommy home! We need to work hard for our family!"

Robbie initiated a hand stack to motivate his siblings. On top of Jamie and Ellie, Little Fifi showed up and joined the trio, flapping its wing to indicate it was of the same idea.

Jamie felt as if a heavy boulder had been lifted off his shoulders. He started jumping for joy and announced, "Daddy, I'll go home with you!"

Without a second thought, Ellie announced, "Me too, Daddy! However, you need to listen to us! We need to ensure Mommy will return home in the near future!"

Zachary joined his children and assured, "Of course! After all, I'm also a member of the team as well!"

Jamie burst out laughing and exclaimed, "Hahaha! If that's the case, you're officially a member of the Triplets Reconnaissance Team from today onwards!"

The little girl wrapped her arms around her father's neck and started kissing him on the cheek. "Daddy, you're so adorable!"

"Alright, it's time for all of you to get yourself something to eat since it's getting late."

Zachary lifted Jamie and Ellie, showing them the way to their seats.

When he returned for Robbie, the little boy announced, "Daddy, that won't be necessary because I'm no longer a little boy."

Zachary caressed his eldest son's hair and said, "I'll leave the rest to you because it's almost time for me to make my way back to the office."

"Aren't you going to finish the meal with Mr. Blackwood and Ms. Cynthia?"

Upon a glimpse at his watch, he said, "I'm in quite a hurry. I'm pretty sure your mother isn't going to listen to me. Tell her Jamie and Ellie will be returning home with me once she's back. Ben will stay behind to bring Jamie and Ellie back once they're done with their meal."

Robbie nodded and assured his father everything would be fine. "Alright, Daddy! I'll talk to Mommy!"

"You can count on us, Daddy!" Jamie announced with his chest held high.

The little girl nodded and urged, "Just get going, Daddy!"

Shortly after Zachary returned to Taylor and Cynthia's side to explain the reason for his departure, he made his way out of the restaurant.

When Cynthia found out Taylor couldn't stop himself from frowning, she assured her father Zachary was merely occupied with the things he had on his plate.

Taylor heaved a long sigh and continued drinking.

As soon as Zachary departed, Charlotte returned to the dining hall with her children's favorite dishes. "I'm finally done!"

"Wow! Mommy, I'm impressed!"

The three little ones applauded with their eyes gleaming. They could barely stop themselves from drooling.

Charlotte served her children their favorite dish and urged, "Hurry up and give it a try!"

The little ones had a great time savoring the delicacy their mother made them. They couldn't stop themselves from complimenting her culinary skills.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 908

"I'm glad it turns out just fine!"

Charlotte was thrilled and thought it wasn't such a bad idea to get everything ready from scratch since it made her children happy.

"Thank you so much, Mommy! Nothing beats your food!"

Ellie wrapped her arms around her mother and kissed her on the cheek.

"Hey, I want to give Mommy a kiss as well!" Jamie leaned over and kissed Charlotte in a manner similar to his sister's.

Robbie served their mother the food she made and suggested, "Mommy, why don't you give it a try as well?"

Charlotte held them in her arms and urged Lupine and Morgan to give it a try as soon as she asked the owner of the restaurant to serve the remaining portion of the dish.

They had a great time and thought Charlotte did a great job.

Charlotte was equally thrilled—the sense of achievement was greater than sealing an ultra-profitting deal.

Meanwhile, those from the Blackwood family couldn't stand it anymore. Taylor put everything aside and told Cynthia, "I'm not in the mood for anything else. I guess it's time to leave."

Cynthia nodded and signed she would drop by to bid farewell with Charlotte and the little ones.

Her father asked with a frown, "Are you sure? Why don't you save yourself..."

Taylor couldn't even finish his sentence but Cynthia had made her way to Charlotte's side. However, Lupine got in her way to stop her from getting anywhere near the family.

Charlotte looked at Cynthia in the eyes and beckoned Lupine to stop getting in her way.

As soon as Cynthia reached Charlotte's side, she nodded and signed her greetings with a bright grin.

"Hello, Ms. Lindberg and everyone!"

Ellie greeted Cynthia in return, "Hello, Ms. Cynthia."

Jamie looked at his brother in the eyes and greeted, "Greetings, Ms. Cynthia."

"Ms. Cynthia, what brings you to us?" Robbie asked in a courteous manner.

"I'm just dropping by to greet everyone!"

Cynthia continued with a bright grin, carrying herself in a manner as if she was inferior to everyone in front of her.

Charlotte asked in a callous tone, "Well, isn't it about time for you to leave since you have greeted us?"

Although Cynthia seemed as if she meant no harm, Charlotte couldn't stand being anywhere near the pretentious woman. She had been trying her best to carry herself in a courteous manner, but she would still rile up whenever Cynthia showed up in front of her.

Prior to her departure, Cynthia looked at the little girl and signed, "Ellie, you need to limit your consumption since you have a relatively sensitive stomach."

"I'll keep that in mind, Ms. Cynthia. Thank you so much for your concerns," Ellie expressed her gratitude.

Cynthia smiled and made her way out of the restaurant with her father.

When Charlotte thought it was about time to go home, she found out Ben was still around. Robbie broke the silence ahead of his mother when he found out she was about to ask Ben. "Mommy, I have something to tell you."

"What is it, Robbie?"

When Charlotte found out her children had their faces scrunched up in fear, she thought it had something to do with Ben's presence.

Robbie stammered, "J-Jamie and Ellie wish to return to Daddy's place. I-Is that fine with you?"

It took Charlotte a simple glance to figure out Jamie and Ellie were of the same idea. She felt overwhelmed and thought she would never allow others to take them away from her. However, she couldn't possibly turn them down when they were the ones bringing up the request.

Ellie held her mother's hand and requested with a pair of welled-up eyes, "Mommy, I'm unwilling to leave you! Why don't you go home with us?"

Holding her daughter in her arms, she mentioned, "Mommy is not willing to leave you as well, but I don't consider that my home anymore. If you guys wish to return to your father's place, I won't get in your way, but I won't go with you."

Robbie assured his mother, "Mommy, I won't be leaving! I'll stay with you to keep you company! Just let Jamie and Ellie go back to Daddy's place!"

Charlotte was surprised. She asked, "Aren't you afraid of your Uncle Dan?"

Her eldest son put on a courageous front and repeated himself, "There's no way I'm going to be afraid of the man I resemble the most!"

Charlotte caressed his hair and assured him in a gentle tone, "Robbie, it's fine if you wish to join Jamie and Ellie. I'll drop by and take all of you out with me every once in a while."

Robbie repeated himself with a determined look, "No, I'm staying with you, Mommy! Unless you're leaving me alone, there's no way I'm going to leave you!"

Overwhelmed by her eldest son's promise, she held him firmly in her arms.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 909

"If that's the case, we..."

"Just go ahead and return to Daddy's place." Robbie stopped his siblings from finishing their sentence as he was afraid his siblings would change their minds due to the sentimental session.

Truth be told, he had his fair share of doubts against their so-called uncle. Thus, he had always wanted to send them back to their father's side to ensure their safety.

"I-I'm unwilling to leave Mommy alone!" Ellie started weeping as emotions came flooding out once again.

In an attempt to console her daughter, Charlotte kissed the little girl on the cheek. "We're merely a short distance away from one another. If you miss me, just drop by and pay me a visit whenever you're free."

When Jamie recalled their mission to bring Charlotte home, he suggested, "Mommy, if you miss us, you can always drop by and pay us a visit as well!"

"Sure!" Charlotte promised her younger son and responded with a satisfied beam.

The little girl showed Charlotte her pinkie and suggested, "If that's the case, let's make it a deal with a pinkie promise!"

Charlotte played along with her daughter and urged, "I want all of you to save my contact number in your smartwatch and get in touch with me if there's anything you need."

"Okay, Mommy!"

Robbie handed over Little Fifi to his sister and reminded her, "Take Little Fifi with you! If there's anything you need from us, just send it to deliver the message on your behalf!"

"Alright, Robbie!"

In the end, Jamie and Ellie marched out of the restaurant with those around Ben and made their way back home.

Similarly, Raina returned along with the rest of the medical staff.

Prior to their departure, Ben assured Charlotte, "Ms. Lindberg, I'll ensure the safety of Mr. Jamison and Ms. Elisa at all costs. Mr. Nacht has mentioned you're free to go home if you wish to see the children."

Ben did a great job rephrasing his sentence and successfully played to Charlotte's emotions. She even thought she might have a great time with the man and her children there.

As much as she was overwhelmed by the sentimental moments, she put on a strong front and urged, "Alright, just get going already."

Ben bowed and wrapped up the conversation with Charlotte before walking in the direction of Jamie and Ellie.

Holding Little Fifi in their arms, Jamie and Ellie wound down the window and yelled, "Mommy, Robbie, goodbye!"

Charlotte held Robbie in her arms and waved at them.

In spite of feeling overwhelmed because of her children's departure, Charlotte was glad Robbie was around to keep her company. With that being said, she felt a sense of guilt and asked, "Robbie, are you going to feel lonely without your siblings?"

"Nah, I prefer spending my time alone since I need a quiet environment to do some reading and carry on with my research."

His mother leaned over and assured him in a gentle tone, "If you're feeling lonely, just tell me! We'll bring Jamie and Ellie out with us and do something fun!"

"Alright, Mommy! I guess it's time to go home!"

Shortly after Charlotte brought Robbie into the silver Rolls-Royce at the entrance, the car accelerated in the direction of Roka Hill.

The sun was about to set in the evening. Staring ahead of the car, Charlotte noticed the cars of those affiliated with the Nacht family were merely a few feet ahead of their car.

Her mind was all over her place when she thought of her children. As much as she wished to gain custody over them, they seemed to have gotten used to the lifestyle as a member of the Nacht family.

Are they going to blame me if I try to gain custody over them and take them away from their father against their will?

Maybe I need to stop overthinking things and just go along with the flow since they seem to have made up their minds.

Shortly after Ben returned home with Jamie and Ellie, he instructed Raina to take care of them. Once he ensured there were plenty of people around to keep them safe, he made his way to meet up with Zachary.

Raina found out Jamie was fine after having a fever over the past few days. On the contrary, Ellie got increasingly frail as her face turned pale and haggard.

She mentioned she could feel a racking sensation coming from her stomach. When Raina was about to examine the actual cause of the little girl's discomfort, Ellie started puking.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 910

Ellie had always been frail compared to her peers. To make things worse, she would occasionally suffer from mesenteric lymphadenitis.

It wasn't a big deal since it was a common symptom amongst children. As long as she was mindful of her diet, it would be fine.

The common symptom of the condition was continuous abdominal pain. On top of that, she might catch a fever and throw up.

Raina thought it was her usual sickness. Thus, she administered the usual prescription for Ellie's conditions as she thought she was having the same abdominal discomfort again.

Shortly after Raina thought things were fine, Ellie started throwing up again. She started retching in silence since she had vomited the things she consumed earlier.

Ellie couldn't take it anymore. She ended up wailing in pain on the bed.

Raina got in touch with Ben and told him they had to rush Ellie to the hospital since nothing she had in store for the little girl could work.

Once Bruce brought them to the hospital, Raina rushed Ellie to the emergency department and acquired the doctor to carry a series of examinations to determine the actual cause of pain.

After a series of examinations and blood tests, the doctor thought it was acute gastroenteritis triggered by the food she took.

Raina opted for intravenous therapy to keep Ellie hydrated. Jamie, who had been staying next to them, was concerned because of his sister's condition.

Initially, Raina thought of sending Jamie home in fear of him being infected. However, he made himself clear he wouldn't leave his sister alone.

He mentioned it was his duty as the little girl's elder brother since their eldest brother wasn't around to keep them safe.

Zachary finally showed up at the hospital at ten o'clock at night. Tidal waves of emotions came flooding out when he saw his little girl with a cooling patch on her forehead being pricked by needles for the therapy.

When Jamie saw Zachary, he launched himself in his father's direction and sniffled, "Daddy, hurry up and check on Ellie! S-She's in such a poor state!"

"It's going to be fine! Since it's just acute gastroenteritis, Ellie's going to be fine in no time!" Zachary leaned over and assured his son it wasn't a big deal.

A few seconds later, he approached his daughter and placed his hand on her forehead. He was surprised to find out her forehead was scorching hot. "What's going on? Why is she still having such a high fever?"

"There's something odd with her condition! I have already acquired the aid of another few pediatricians to check on her!"

Raina had never encountered such an ambiguous situation throughout the years. She had conducted all sorts of examinations to figure out Ellie's problem, but none of the treatment alternatives she had in store for the little girl worked.

"I don't want to know the reason! Just make sure she's fine in no time!"

After having a long day, Zachary couldn't suppress his emotions anymore. To make things worse, his daughter was in a bad shape.

Startled, Raina announced, "I'm so sorry, Mr. Nacht! I'll consult the rest of the pediatricians and come up with another treatment plan for her immediately!"

Zachary suppressed his wrath and mentioned, "Just go on!"

"Yes!"

Ben and Bruce were equally worried after seeing Ellie's condition.

It was then Spencer got in touch with Zachary and asked if he could bring the little ones to visit Henry soon. Spencer told Zachary his grandfather had been anticipating the little ones' arrival ever since a few hours ago.

Spencer was afraid Henry might not make it through as he refused to finish his meal because the children were nowhere to be seen.

Zachary's mind was all over the place when he heard Spencer. He started massaging his temples and announced, "I'm still in the middle of something. I'll get Ben to bring Jamie over soon."

Spencer had a bad feeling about it. He asked, "What about Robbie and Ellie? Is everything fine?"

"Robbie has fallen asleep while Ellie isn't feeling well after catching a cold. I'll send Jamie over since he's the only one who's wide awake."

"If that's the case, I'll wait for you downstairs." Spencer had no intention to poke his nose into Zachary's business.

Shortly after he hung up his call, he grasped Jamie's hand and whispered, "Jamie, can you do me a favor and keep your great-grandfather company since Robbie and Ellie aren't around?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 911

"Daddy, you can count on me to get the job done!" Jamie announced with his chest held high, assuring his father he would get everything sorted out.

"Great! Once you're there, just tell him Robbie has slept off after spending the entire day sorting out the system on my behalf. If he inquires the whereabouts of Ellie, tell him Ellie isn't available because she isn't feeling well."

Jamie responded with a nod and assured his father, "Alright, Daddy! I'll keep that in mind! You can count on me!"

"It's getting cold out there. Make sure you have your jacket with you and put on your mask once you're inside the ward. I'll leave the rest to you."

"I'm well aware of the things I'm supposed to do, Daddy! If you're tired, just go ahead and take a short nap when we're not around! You need to take good care of yourself as well!"

Zachary was touched by his son's reminder. He had always thought that Jamie was rather indifferent, but he was wrong...

A few minutes later, Jamie made his way out of the little's girl ward with Ben.

Meanwhile, Raina was in the middle of a discussion with the rest of the pediatricians since they were in desperate need of an alternative treatment plan for the little girl.

Zachary was there throughout the session. Thus, they were on pins and needles due to the presence of the intimidating figure.

Thankfully, Ellie's temperature was fine again after a series of treatments. Those in the ward, including Zachary, heaved a sigh of relief since Ellie's life was no longer in danger.

When Zachary was about to leave, those in the ward started shrieking the moment he was a step away from the ward, “D-Dr, Langhan!”

Zachary turned around and saw Ellie retching and convulsing again.

“Ellie!” Zachary rushed to his daughter’s side and yelled, “What’s going on? Someone! Anyone! Answer me!”

Raina finally returned to the ward with the pediatricians. They were equally dumbfounded and astonished when they saw the little girl convulsing in Zachary’s arms.

The anxious Raina announced, “Mr. Nacht, you need to stay away from her and leave the rest to us!”

The infuriated Zachary warned, “If anything happens to my daughter, I’ll send all of you to hell to keep her company!”

The pediatricians in the ward started trembling in fear. One of them felt her knees turning to jelly and collapsed to the ground as a result of the man’s warning.

Raina knew she couldn’t afford to let loose of her emotions. She put on a strong front and asserted, “As infuriated as you might be, you need to let us tend to her!”

It was then the infuriated man inched away from his daughter and stood next to her throughout the upcoming session.

Ellie’s hands were full of needles; as a result, the doctors started prickling the little girl’s forehead with needles since they had run out of places to prick her.

Zachary’s hands had long balled into fists, indicating he was infuriated as little Ellie had never gone through anything of that sort in spite of being relatively weak as compared to her peers.

One of them suggested, “We need to rush her to the ICU at once!”

Zachary started trembling in fear when he thought of the things awaiting him and his daughter. He gaped at the announcement and asked, "Come again?"

Bruce rushed over and stopped Zachary from going berserk and throwing punches at the innocent doctors. "Mr. Nacht, you need to calm down!"

Raina started weeping and begged, "Mr. Nacht, we need to rush her to the ICU at once for her sake! If anything happens to her, I'll atone for the sins with my life, but we need you to have faith in us for the time being!"

Out of nowhere, another man announced at the top of his lungs, "Hurry up and get everything ready!"

Jamie had returned with Spencer next to him. It turned out Spencer had figured out the truth after sweet-talking Jamie. He was surprised when he found out things were much worse than he had thought the moment he reached Kindness Hospital.

"Ellie!"

Torrents of grief had long streamed down Jamie's cheeks, but he was afraid of startling others and making things worse for Ellie.

Thus, he resisted the urge to wail and ended up shivering against his will.

"Just get going!" Ben gestured at the doctors in the ward to take Ellie out to the ICU.

Zachary, who was on the verge of breaking down, threw a powerful punch in the wall. Along with the thundering sound was a slight shake in the room.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 912

Spencer asked Ben, "Why have things turned out this way overnight? Have you checked with Mrs. Rawlston? Has she consumed anything odd?"

After much hesitations, Ben answered in a hushed voice, "They were at Ms. Lindberg's place three days ago and just back last night. She started vomiting out of the blue as soon as we reached home."

"If that's the case, had she consumed anything she shouldn't when she was away?" Staring at Zachary in the eyes, Spencer asked, "Why don't you try figuring out the things she has eaten?"

When Zachary heard Spencer, his eyes widened in disbelief again. He muttered to himself, "Could it be..."

Those affiliated with Danrique are aware he's an expert when it comes to manipulating others with different types of drugs! On top of that, he's capable of doing it without alarming others!

Spencer leaned over and asked with a gentle grin, "Jamie, why don't you tell me the things you have eaten over the past two days?"

Jamie tried his best to recall the things he had gone through and said, "Apart from a few glasses of water, we didn't have anything else since we fell ill the moment we reached Mommy's place a few nights ago. She summoned the doctor to check on us once she figured out something was wrong. We were rushed to the hospital due to an ongoing high fever. When we were at the hospital, we only had a serving of oatmeal with vegetable broth. Once our condition improved, we went home."

After pausing for a few seconds to gather his thoughts, he added, "Mommy brought us out for a meal because she knew we were afraid of Uncle Dan. The owner of Seacrest Restaurant made us a lot of dishes, but we stopped ourselves from eating the food since we preferred the ones Mommy made us. Ellie and I got ourselves a slice of cake to eat because it took Mommy quite some time to get everything ready from scratch. However, I'm perfectly fine."

Zachary instructed, "Send someone to Seacrest Restaurant to figure out if anything has gone wrong!"

"Yes!" Bruce departed with a team and made their way to Seacrest Restaurant without further ado.

Spencer tapped on Zachary's shoulder and reminded, "Mr. Zachary, you need to remain level-headed during emergencies. I'm afraid your foes are aware that your children are your soft spots. You need to stay calm to stop others from getting the better of you."

Gritting his teeth, Zachary gasped out his announcement, "If anyone tries to do something silly to my children, I'll take them out at all costs!"

"You need to calm down and refrain from trying anything rash for the time being since we're merely speculating."

"Daddy, Mr. Spencer, what are you guys talking about?"

Jamie had a hard time comprehending the content of the duo's conversation. Nonetheless, he was startled by his father's scrunched-up face.

It was then Zachary recalled something and remarked, "Speaking of which, Robbie is still at Lindberg residence!"

He hesitated no more and reached for his phone to get in touch with Charlotte. Unfortunately, he couldn't reach her.

Thus, he leaned over and instructed his son, "Jamie, can you get in touch with Robbie?"

"Sure!" Jamie tried getting in touch with Robbie using his smartwatch, but his effort was to no avail since Robbie seemed to have switched it off.

"Keep an eye on Jamie and Ellie when I'm away!" Zachary rushed out of the ward shortly after he finished his sentence.

"Mr. Zachary!" Seeing he couldn't stop the infuriated man, Spencer instructed Ben, "Hurry up and go after him!"

"Yes!"

"Daddy—" Jamie wrapped his arms around Spencer's leg and asked while weeping, "M-Mr. Spencer, what's wrong with Daddy?"

Spencer assured the little boy it was nothing serious, "Your father is currently on his way to pick Robbie up. He's just worried Robbie will go through something similar if he accidentally consumes something he needs to stay away from."

Jamie couldn't fathom the things Spencer had brought up, but he thought it wasn't a bad idea to have Robbie around since his brother might be able to come up with something brilliant to resolve the challenges awaiting them.

I can't even keep Ellie safe or tell Daddy to calm down without Robbie! What am I supposed to do now?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 913

In spite of having a long night, Charlotte roused herself from her sleep early in the morning to make her son his favorite dumplings.

"Good morning, Mr. Lindberg!"

As soon as Charlotte served the dumplings she made, she heard the housemaid greeting Danrique in a courteous manner.

When she turned around, she saw a completely drenched Danrique. It turned out he had just made his way back from his daily workout session in the morning.

The man could easily intimidate others with his indifferent look, but a smile from his was all it would take to charm a woman. Although he might seem to be a vicious man, he was an affectionate man around a certain few.

Some might consider him a malicious man, but some would consider him their Messiah. He was both fearsome and well respected by others.

Charlotte greeted the man with a beam, "Morning, Danrique! Why don't you come over and give the dumplings I have made a try?"

Staring at the plates of dumplings on the dining table, he announced with a gentle smirk, "I guess you're no longer the same since you're already a mother of three, huh? Aunt Isabella used to make me a lot of dumplings as well."

"Are you serious?" Charlotte was thrilled since the man of a few words had struck up a conversation with her apart from their usual topic revolving around work.

On top of that, she would feel as if they were truly members of a family whenever he brought up the good old days he had with her mother. It made her feel as if she was home.

The moment he joined her in the dining hall, he remarked with a smirk, "These seemed nothing like the ones Aunt Isabella made for me."

"Hahaha! You can't expect much when I have just learned the proper way to make everything from scratch last night!"

She served him a dumpling and urged, "Why don't you go ahead and give it a try?"

Danrique took a seat and reached for his cutlery. Once he had a mouthful of dumpling, he shook his head and said, "To be honest, the ones Aunt Isabella made tasted really great."

A few seconds of pause later, he added, "I guess it's not half bad since you have made everything from scratch. Keep it up."

Charlotte responded with a nod and promised him, "Well, I'll consider that a compliment and keep that in mind."

When Danrique put everything aside and thought of bringing himself up the stairs, he caught Robbie staring at him from upstairs. Nonetheless, he was no longer on his guard against his uncle.

Instead, Robbie greeted him, "Good morning, Uncle Dan!"

“Good morning!” Danrique answered in a similar manner and brought himself to the backyard of the mansion.

Morgan whispered, “I think Mr. Lindberg is in a great mood today.”

Lupine could barely suppress his excitement. He exclaimed, “I thought I had been seeing things! He’s being really friendly today!”

Charlotte warned the whispering duo, “Danrique has always been a friendly figure, okay? Stop talking behind his back unless any of you wish to get on his nerves!”

They went dead silent as soon as they heard Charlotte’s warning.

Chuckling, Charlotte announced, “Robbie, come over and join me! I have made you something special for breakfast!”

Robbie came down the stairs and asked, “Wow! There are so many dumplings! Did you get up early in the morning just to make me these?”

“It took me a few hours, but it’s nothing! I’m going to make you your breakfast from now onwards! Why don’t you go ahead and give it a try?” Charlotte handed the cutlery to her son.

“Thanks, Mommy!”

Robbie was touched and couldn’t wait to give the dumplings his mother made him a try. He gobbled down everything in a gluttonous manner.

“You need to slow down unless you wish to choke yourself!” Charlotte was all smiles—she felt a sense of achievement as her son continued gobbling down the dumplings she made.

Halfway through his meal, Robbie asked, “Mommy, my smartwatch has run out of battery. Can we make our way to Daddy’s place since my charger and a few of my gadgets are there as well?”

Charlotte glanced at her watch and suggested, "I'll be heading out at around twelve. Shall we head over once we're done? We can bring your brother and sister some dumplings as well!"

"Sure!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 914

A few seconds after the duo heard someone pulling over their car at the gate of the mansion, one of the housemaids rushed into the dining hall and informed, "Ms. Lindberg, a member of the Nacht family is here for you."

Charlotte frowned and sent Lupine and Morgan to check on the ones at the entrance. The duo returned after a short while. They whispered, "Zachary is here."

Charlotte was about to bring herself out of the mansion, but it was too late since the man had barged into the mansion with his Maybach.

As he had ruined the gate, Charlotte bellowed, "What the hell is wrong with you, Zachary?"

Zachary was equally enraged, but he tried his best to suppress his wrath and explained, "You refuse to pick up my call, and your subordinates won't stop getting in my way! Thus, this is the only thing I can think of to reach you!"

"Is something wrong with your mind?" Charlotte glanced in the direction of the backyard and urged, "Just get lost at once!"

In spite of the grudge she held against Zachary, she had no intention to acquire Danrique's aid to sort things out with Zachary.

Since Robbie was home, she was afraid they would pick on one another in front of him.

"I'm here to bring Robbie home with me!"

Zachary clenched his fists in a final attempt to calm himself since he had no intention to pick a fight with Charlotte.

He thought she wasn't the one at fault, even though something might have happened to Ellie when she was at the Lindberg residence.

Instead of confronting Charlotte, the only thing he had in mind was to bring Robbie away with him.

"What? Ellie and Jamie have gone home with you and Robbie has volunteered to stay with me! Why can't you respect his decision?"

Similarly, Charlotte clenched her fists in an attempt to stop herself from going berserk. She couldn't bear to pick on Zachary in front of Robbie.

He has taken Jamie and Ellie away with him! Why the heck has he shown up for Robbie? Does he really think he's some sort of bigshot? Does he think he can get things his way?

Their son was the only one he cared about. Therefore, Zachary repeated himself, "I'll talk to you in the near future! Just let Robbie return with me for the time being!"

"Are you seriously expecting me to hand him over after barging into my place and making a fuss? I have been pretty merciful because of our children! You need to stop pushing your luck!"

Unwilling to carry on with the conversation, Zachary marched in the direction of the foyer.

Irked by the man's arrogant response, Charlotte threw a punch at the man. However, she wasn't a match for him in terms of combat skills.

Zachary got her within a few seconds. Pinning her to the wall, the man mentioned, "Ellie has—"

Screech!

The eagle's appearance stopped Zachary from finishing his sentence as it launched itself in the direction of Zachary without holding back.

When it was about to reach Zachary, Robbie was on his way out of the mansion. He yelled, "Daddy, watch out!"

The observant Zachary pushed Charlotte away from him in split seconds and managed to evade the eagle's attack.

Zachary got himself ready to take the eagle out since it was about to dash in his direction again.

In the nick of time, Robbie yelled, "Fifi, stop it!"

Zachary was astonished by how his son had control over the eagle and managed to bring it to a halt with a simple command.

"Daddy—"

When Robbie was about to rush over to his father's side, someone remarked in a callous tone, "Mr. Nacht, it's very rude of you to trespass into my property."

Zachary turned around and caught glimpse of a man in a set of white clothes closing in from the backyard.

The man in white looked as if he was the creature from hell. He had a snake with him, indicating he reigned over the venomous being.

Meanwhile, the snake had its eyes glued to Zachary as if Zachary was its prey it couldn't wait to devour.

Zachary couldn't care less about the snake, but he was astonished by Danrique's look since his son resembled the vicious man.

His expression darkened and thought he might misperceive things if he weren't aware the man in front of him was Charlotte's cousin.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 915

Robbie was slightly startled by the snake Danrique had with him. Subconsciously, he ran over in Zachary's direction.

Zachary was about to bring Robbie away with him, but Danrique yelled, "Hold it right there!"

Danrique's men got themselves ready and pulled the trigger, aiming at the defenseless Zachary, who was there without his subordinates since he was in a hurry.

In spite of being defenseless, Zachary wasn't intimidated at all. Instead, he asked in return, "Why don't you go ahead and give it a try?"

"Are you trying to challenge me? Aren't you aware it's merely a piece of cake to take you out? In fact, once you're gone, I won't have others coming after me!"

Charlotte started perspiring in fear as she knew Danrique might get someone to be his scapegoat after taking Zachary out. That was precisely the reason she had been urging Zachary to leave the place.

Similarly, she was well aware everything would be over for Nacht Group if Zachary passed on. On top of that, no one could stop Lindberg Corporation from asserting influences in the corporate world.

"You don't think the Nacht family is an easy target, do you? Aren't you aware H City is my domain? You have less than fifty men with you! If I fail to make it out in ten minutes, my men will rush into the compound and wipe you and your men out of existence! Shall we wait and see who's the one triumphing at the end?"

Danrique asked with a vicious smirk, "Is that any of your business when you're about to die? It's such a shame no one is around to

keep your ninety-eight-year-old grandfather company by his death bed!”

Zachary returned the favor and remarked sarcastically, “Who are you to pick on me when your family was almost wiped out over the night?”

Danrique’s wrath and intention to take out Zachary was written all over his deadpan face. He seemed to have morphed into a merciless murderer within a few seconds.

Aware of the things awaiting Zachary, Charlotte pulled the trigger and aimed at the man she once held dear in mind. “Zachary, you need to mind your words!”

“Mommy, no! Don’t kill Daddy!” Robbie got in front of his father and begged his mother with a pair of teary eyes.

“Robbie...” Charlotte couldn’t bear to show her son the inhumane side of hers.

“Uncle Dan, can you stop getting mad at Daddy?”

The little boy was aware Danrique was the one making the calls. He thought there must be some sort of misunderstanding going on.

Therefore, he asserted in a serious tone, “I’m sure Daddy’s here merely because he’s worried about me! It was never his intention to pick on you!”

Ironically, Danrique found Robbie resembling himself in the past. He was also an innocent little boy who had to brace himself through the family feud.

“Daddy, I thought we had a deal! Jamie and Ellie would return home with you while I stay here with Mommy! Why have you barged in here out of the blue? Has something happened to Jamie and Ellie?”

"Ellie..." When he was about to share the details with the rest, he received a call. Without a second thought, he picked it up when he found out it was a call from Bruce.

Bruce announced, "We can't get our hands on anything from Seacrest Restaurant even after searching high and low. We even tried our luck with the leftovers, but there's nothing. On top of that, I have just gotten words; Ellie has been poisoned by a type of venom unique to snakes."

Zachary's eyes narrowed to a slit when he heard Bruce. He turned around and glared at Danrique and the snake in his hand.

"Mr. Nacht, have you reached the Lindberg residence? Is everything fine on your end? We're currently on our way there. Mr. Nacht..." Grasping his phone with all his might, Zachary paid no heed to Bruce's questions anymore.

Zachary yelled, "Danrique! I thought you'd never take things out on minors, but I must've gotten my hopes high! I can't believe you have poisoned Ellie! She's your niece!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 916

"Come again?"

Danrique narrowed his eyes to a slit in a similar manner. The moment the snake felt the man's racing pulse, it started hissing, indicating it couldn't wait to take out the man in front of it.

Robbie stared at Zachary in disbelief and repeated after his father, "D-Daddy, are you serious? Has Ellie..."

Similarly, Charlotte couldn't keep herself calm any longer. She asked, "What? How has Ellie been poisoned? What the hell is going on?"

"Ellie's currently in the ICU! Those from the hospital told me the toxin found in her system was derived from venomous snakes! Who else could it be apart from Danrique?"

"It's impossible!" Charlotte's mind went completely blank. She turned around and stared at the snake Danrique brought along with him.

It's true Danrique's a specialist in extracting venoms from snakes, but...

Danrique guffawed and asked, "Interesting! Are you indicating I'm the one who did it?"

In an attempt to sort out the misunderstanding, Lupine assured the rest, "N-No! As much as he wished to take someone out, Mr. Lindberg would never resort to something like that! On top of that, he has long grown fond of his nephew and nieces! It's—"

"Shut up!" Danrique stopped her from finishing her sentence. He looked at Zachary in the eyes and warned Zachary, "Since you're accusing me of something I have never done, I guess I'll have to prove you right!"

"Wait, Danrique! No—"

Charlotte couldn't even finish her sentence as Danrique had launched the snake he brought along in the direction of Robbie.

Overwhelmed by trepidation, Robbie couldn't bring himself away and stood right there with his eyes widened in disbelief.

"Robbie!"

Charlotte thought of rushing over to defend her son from the venomous snake, but Zachary pushed her away in the nick of time.

He grasped the snake but failed to kill it in time. In the end, the snake bit Zachary before it was strangled.

Zachary shrugged the snake off and thought of catapulting in the direction of Danrique to take him out. However, his vision blurred

within a few seconds. He couldn't even stand without others' support.

Charlotte yelled, "Zachary, stop moving around! The toxin will permeate throughout your system the more you try to move around!"

"D-Daddy!" Robbie rushed over to help his father up. He turned around and yelled at Danrique with his eyes brimming, "You're such an evil man! Why did you hurt my father?"

Danrique's eyes flickered in despair, but it merely lasted for a few seconds. Shortly after he snapped out of bewilderment, he asked, "Why else would I hurt him had he not accused me of something I never did?"

He sneered and asked in a sarcastic manner, "Can you tell the difference yet? There's no way I'm relying on something undetectable to take others out!"

"Y-You—" Zachary couldn't even finish his sentence as he passed out in front of others after another few seconds.

Charlotte rushed over and groveled herself at Danrique's mercy, begging him to be merciful, "Danrique, just give him the antidote. Please!"

Danrique glared at Charlotte in the eyes and queried, "Have you lost your mind? Why are you trying to do him a favor when he has brought nothing but miseries upon you?"

"Dan..." The man stopped her from finishing her sentence and marched in the direction of the mansion, instructing in a callous tone, "Get him out of my sight at once!"

Charlotte instructed Lupine in a hushed voice, "Hurry up and get me my medicine!"

"Ms. Lindberg, have you lost your mind? Aren't you aware your life depends on—"

"Just go and get it!" Charlotte repeated herself, but she dared not raise her volume in fear of alarming Danrique.

Lupine made her way to Charlotte's room and returned with a bottle of mysterious-looking solution.

When Charlotte was about to feed Zachary the mysterious-looking solution, she heard another few cars pulling over at the entrance.

She helped him up and tried bringing him out of the mansion with their son next to them.

Out of the blue, a man instructed in a callous tone from behind, "I'm not allowing Robbie to leave the compound."

Charlotte and Robbie exchanged glances and made up their minds to hand Zachary to Bruce who had finally made his way there.

Bruce and those around him retrieved their guns the moment they found out Zachary had sustained a serious injury.

Charlotte urged, "He's fine for the time being, but I'm afraid that's no longer the case the moment any of you fire a shot and start another fight! Just hurry up and rush him to the hospital!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 917

Bruce gave Zachary first aid hastily and rushed him to the hospital. He managed to give Raina a call on the way there.

By the time they reached the hospital, both Ben and Raina were already waiting anxiously at the main entrance. They darted toward Zachary and called out incoherently, "Mr. Nacht..."

"He has been poisoned! Hurry up and treat him immediately!" Bruce urged, his forehead beaded with sweat.

"What happened?" Ben asked apprehensively.

"Mr. Nacht bumped into Mr. Linberg when he went to fetch Robbie just now. They had a conflict..." An utterly vexed Bruce

switched to grumble, “Why didn’t you and the others tag along with him? How could you let him go there by himself?”

“He rushed out all of a sudden just now, and we had to take good care of Ms. Elisa here...” Ben heaved a deep sigh and mumbled, “Anyway, this is not the time to argue now. Let’s keep our fingers crossed that Mr. Nacht will be fine.”

Raina attended to Zachary right away. The moment Spencer knew about Zachary’s current condition, he was a bundle of nerves.

At the moment, the Nacht family was in a precarious situation, troubled by internal and external threats. If anything happened to Zachary, it would surely be a deadly blow to the family.

After the press conference earlier, a series of matters were pending to be settled by Zachary. If he were unable to show his face during this period of time, the others might start to sense something awry and spread rumors. Hence, Zachary must have a speedy recovery.

Spencer instructed a few experienced specialists from Kindness Hospital to assist Raina. Apart from that, he reminded Ben to keep the news of Zachary’s injury under wraps.

At the same time, he kept reminding them to cool their heads off so they would not act impulsively. They could not take the risk to let their guards down and must brace themselves for any potential obstacles.

When the hospital was in chaos, there were some hiccups in Northridge as well.

Crash! Robbie smashed something on the floor. It turned out to be Danrique’s favorite antique teapot which was priceless. The maids usually handled it with extra care when they cleaned it, fearful of even leaving the slightest stain.

At the sight of the shattered pieces on the floor, both Lupine and Morgan were ashen-faced, holding their breaths.

Meanwhile, Danrique was gardening in the backyard. His slender figure could be seen through a well-crafted wooden partition.

Surprisingly, he did not unleash his wrath at Robbie even after knowing that his favorite teapot was damaged.

"Big bad guy, let go of me! I have to get to the hospital now to check on Daddy and Ellie. I'm not your kid. You have no right to hold me captive here!" Robbie remained strong-willed, although tears started to well up in his eyes.

"Robbie, you can't behave like that!" Charlotte reprimanded him at once.

"Mommy, aren't you worried about Ellie? She's in ICU now..." Robbie choked up.

Hearing that, Charlotte's heart thumped, and she was on the brink of tears. No doubt, she was worried sick about Ellie's condition. Even so, she knew that she would not be able to see her at the moment.

She bet the Nacht family would surely lock down the hospital to keep mum about Zachary's condition. Not to mention, she was labeled as their enemy at the moment. Thus, she foresaw that she would be strictly prohibited from entering the building.

Zachary's impulsiveness earlier had put all of them in a tight spot. She had to talk herself into simmering down so she would not act impetuously and exacerbate the situation.

"Mommy..." Robbie tried to plead with Charlotte with his teary eyes.

"What can you do over there?" An icy-cold voice sounded.

"I-I..." Robbie stuttered.

"Now that it is chaotic at the Nachts' residence, the situation will only become worse if you go over. It will also cause them inconvenience as they will be distracted having to look after you. If you promise to be obedient and don't get on my nerves, I might consider giving you the antidote." Danrique gave him a subtle glance and said placidly.

Robbie's eyes lit up as he asked, "The antidote?"

"Robbie, thank Uncle Dan now." Charlotte was over the moon.

"Thank you, Uncle Dan," Robbie thanked him sincerely and stretched out his hand. "Can you give me the antidote now?"

"I told you that I would give it to you if you were good, didn't I?" Danrique took the towel from his subordinate to wipe his hands as he stepped into the house. "Come to the study room with me now."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 918

Robbie turned to look at Charlotte. When she nodded, he followed Danrique to the study room obediently.

The room in utter whiteness appeared clean and unique, resulting in a soothing atmosphere that tended to calm anyone down.

Danrique took out a tablet and handed it to Robbie. "I have spent a long time trying to get a clue on this app, yet I'm stuck at the same point. I want you to have a look at it. If you manage to sort it out, I will give you the antidote."

Robbie took the tablet over and had a look at the app. He raised his brows and said casually, "It's a piece of cake..."

When he was about to sort things out, he froze on the spot all of a sudden. "Wait a minute. This app looks a lot like Divine Corporation's latest technological system. If I sort things out for you, won't it be a threat to them?"

"It never occurs to me that you know about the Divine Corporation's latest technological system!" Danrique was surprised.

"Sure, I know about most of Divine Corporation's technological app. After all, I always assist my daddy with his work..." Robbie

blurted out and paused when he sensed that he had spilled the beans. "Are you holding me captive here and making use of me to fight against Divine Corporation?"

Danrique's lips curved into a smirk. "What a great surprise! I have never doubted that you are a bright boy. Yet, it only strikes me now that you are a genius!"

"I will never betray my daddy!" Robbie furrowed his brows and responded resolutely.

"Oh! I thought you are trying to save him?" Danrique raised his brows and sneered.

"I..." Robbie lowered his head and was in a dilemma.

Danrique glanced at his watch and warned him, "Take your time to think about that. I'm going out now. You'd better be good here and don't stir up any trouble!"

He stood up and strode out of the room at once.

The subordinates and bodyguards were already waiting for him outside. Charlotte was also getting ready to attend the opening ceremony for the South Sea project. It marked the very first step of Lindberg Corporation penetrating the local market. Hence, all the media worldwide waited for the red letter moment with anticipation.

Charlotte crouched down to hold Robbie's shoulders and said softly, "Robbie, don't worry. I have assigned people to check on Ellie's condition in the hospital. Her life is not at risk at the moment."

When she looked up to ensure that Danrique had gone down the stairs, she whispered, "When night falls, I will grab the opportunity to check on Ellie in the hospital. I won't let anything happen to her."

Robbie embraced Charlotte and choked up. "Mommy, I almost thought that you were not concerned about Ellie anymore."

"You are all my children. How can I not be concerned about all of you?" Stifling her sorrow, Charlotte replied gently. The moment she knew that Ellie was seriously ill, she had assigned her people to keep in touch with someone in the hospital.

"I'm going out to settle something and might be back a bit late. Get the maid to prepare you some food when you are hungry. Have a rest in the room when you are tired. Don't go to the backyard, understand?" Charlotte reminded him.

"I know." Robbie nodded.

Nobody is supposed to intrude into Uncle Dan's backyard. Other than growing rare plants there, he keeps some quirky pets as well!

"I have to go now." Charlotte planted a kiss on his forehead and left hastily.

Robbie could barely take his eyes from Charlotte till her figure was out of sight. When he made his way back to the room in low spirits, Fifi the eagle was perching on the branches of the tree outside the window. A quick-witted Robbie whistled at it as something came into his mind.

The eagle flapped its wings at once and landed on the windowsill within seconds.

Robbie signed at it, "Fifi, can you go home to look for the parrot? Give this to it, and it will pass you the things that I want."

Later, he took out a piece of paper and scribbled a few items on it, such as his cell phone, charger, and a small silver box.

Nonetheless, Fifi the eagle only looked at him coldly without any response.

Robbie was speechless; yet, he did not give up right away. He continued to gesture to the eagle patiently, but it did not spare him another glance again. It even looked out the window and fixed its gaze on the scenery.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 919

Robbie was in despair and let out a resigned sigh. He turned to look at the tablet on the desk and was about to use it. Even so, he held himself back as something came into his mind.

No, I shouldn't take the risk. It is the Lindberg family's tablet! Even though their technology is not comparable to Divine Corporation, I bet they have no problem installing anti-theft software on it. I might land myself in deep water if I access any app installed. Well, I can only rely on Fifi now. It is a good sign that the eagle is willing to be summoned by me now. Other than that, the glint of hostility seems to have vanished from its eyes. Hmm, I must grab the opportunity to train it well. I'm convinced that sooner or later, it will be able to understand my words like Little Fifi! By then, it will be able to run an errand for me!

Robbie started to see rays of hope at the thought.

The first move right after Lindberg Corporation penetrated the domestic market was to get the contract of the South Sea project signed.

Ever since Charlotte won the bid for territorial waters at the auction with thirty billion, it took them more than one month to prepare for this. Finally, it was the day for the long-awaited opening ceremony. On top of that, it was estimated that more than seven hundred media agencies worldwide would witness the official launching of the mega project.

The grand ceremony of the opening day would be held in South Sea Hotel at two o'clock in the afternoon. Thus, Charlotte stepped out earlier to the hotel to make the necessary arrangements.

In the car, Charlotte stared out of the window and seemed to be lost in her thought. The moment Danrique's car vanished from her view, she shifted her gaze away and instructed, "Head to Kindness Hospital now."

“Ms. Lindberg, you have to put anything else aside as the ceremony for the opening day will start very soon. If it turns out to be a success, Mr. Lindberg will return to Erihal soon. By then, you will be able to visit Ellie at the hospital at any time. Let’s hold back and focus on the ceremony for the time being.” Lupine tried to talk her into changing her mind.

“Don’t make me say it again! Go to the hospital now!” Charlotte could barely wait another second. She had been bottling up her emotions and suppressing her agitation, waiting for the ideal moment to take action.

Her mind was preoccupied with Ellie at the moment; her heart wrenched at how her beloved daughter was suffering. Whatever mega project, power, and social status were nothing to her.

Lupine and Morgan exchanged looks with each other. They had no choice but to give in to her instruction.

Morgan turned the car around at once and sped off toward Kindness Hospital.

Meanwhile, Charlotte glanced at her watch nervously. It’s already fifteen minutes after twelve! We are running out of time! I hope I will make it in time...

The car was already accelerating at the maximum speed, yet Charlotte was still urging Morgan. “Hurry up!”

“We are at the maximum speed now,” Morgan replied resignedly.

Charlotte could scarcely breathe as they were racing against time. They had to rush to the hospital to have a look at Ellie secretly before rushing back to South Sea Hotel by two o’clock in the afternoon.

After a while, the car pulled to a stop by the street near Kindness Hospital.

Charlotte instructed, “Lupine and Morgan, go with me. The rest of you, stay here and wait for us.”

The three of them sneaked into the hospital via the back door and managed to grab three sets of doctor's uniforms. They changed into the uniforms swiftly to disguise as doctors and sneaked into the children's ICU.

Fortunately, Charlotte had bribed someone in the hospital earlier and located Ellie's ward. Apart from that, they could get to the children's ICU effortlessly after knowing about the ways around the hospital.

She gestured to Morgan to distract the bodyguards and nurses outside Ellie's ward. Next, she sneaked into it with Lupine without hesitation.

Ellie was lying motionless on the bed; her usual rosy cheeks were now as pale as a sheet. Apart from that, her delicate hands were full of tiny needle marks, and she was intubated. Her body was even attached to various types of tubes connected to the medical equipment.

"Ellie..." Charlotte was grief-stricken; her tears flowed down her cheeks in an instant. Cupping her hand over her mouth, she started sobbing her heart out.

Charlotte used to think that she was a tough woman after going through all the hardships in life. Nonetheless, she had to clutch her chest as she endured the stabbing pain which was driving her insane.

"How did this happen? She was still fine yesterday!" Lupine felt the tingle in her heart; tears were welling up in her eyes.

"Ellie, I won't let anything happen to you." Charlotte shuddered as she carried Ellie up carefully and let her drink from a bottle.

"Ms. Lindberg, what are you doing? This is the potion to prolong your lifespan!" Lupine's eyes widened in disbelief.

"Shut up!" Charlotte continued to place the potion near Ellie's mouth, hoping she could swallow more.

Nevertheless, she had only managed to let Ellie swallow a small portion before she heard footsteps outside the ward. She signaled to Lupine, hinting her to take prompt action.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 920

It took Charlotte almost twenty minutes to let Ellie finish the potion. She put away the bottle immediately and whispered, "Ellie, don't be afraid. Mommy is here and will protect you..."

"Ms. Lindberg, Ben is coming with his men. We have to leave at once. If not, we will land ourselves in hot soup!" Lupine reminded her apprehensively.

Charlotte let go of Ellie's hand reluctantly and gave her one last glance before she got out of the ward through the window.

"Stop!" Marino rushed into the ward and was about to lash out when he spotted a figure near the window. At that very moment, Morgan turned to look at him. When Marino caught a glimpse of her, he held his tongue at once.

"What's the matter?" By the time Ben rushed into the ward, Morgan's figure was already out of sight.

"Nothing. Everything is fine," Marino replied at once.

Ben did not sense anything amiss after scanning the room. Hence, he only advised Marino, "Keep your guard up. We can't take the risk to let anything happen to Ellie."

"I get it." Marino nodded respectfully.

In the meantime, Charlotte hopped into the car with Lupine and Morgan.

Unable to hold back any longer, Lupine wailed, "Ms. Lindberg, that is the potion to prolong your lifespan. You have to take a bottle once a week to hinder the poison from erupting in your body. Now that you have used up two bottles. What are we supposed to do if anything happens to you?"

"Huh? You have used another bottle too?" Morgan was stupefied.

"I will still be fine without the medicine, yet their lives will be at risk without it. After all, Danrique won't let anything happen to me," Charlotte retorted.

"Ms. Lindberg..." Lupine was at a loss for words.

"According to Mr. Lindberg, there are no extra bottles of potion. Since you have used up two bottles, you will need to bear with it for the following two weeks. I'm worried that you won't be able to take it..." Morgan's voice quivered.

"Enough of that. I know what to do!" Charlotte cut her off and instructed, "Give Marino a call now. I need to have further details about Ellie's condition."

"I don't have his contact number..." Morgan blushed as she refuted sheepishly.

"Don't try to bluff me!" Charlotte snapped at her coldly. "Do you think that you can hide anything from me? I know both of you are keeping in touch with each other secretly."

"I..." Morgan tried to give an excuse. Intimidated by Charlotte's penetrating gaze, she could only admit in embarrassment, "We are just having a chat on the car racing skills. Other than that, we have never spoken about anything else. Ms. Lindberg, we remind ourselves that we must be faithful to you and Mr. Nacht, respectively."

"Of course, Ms. Lindberg never doubts that. If not, she won't turn a blind eye to it. We only need your help to ask him about Ms. Elisa's condition. Anyway, this is not considered as betraying Mr. Nacht!" Lupine glared at her and pinched her on the arm.

"All right." Morgan tried to call Marino.

Marino only answered the call after quite a while. "Hello." he was apparently trying to lower down his volume.

"Hey, how's the condition of Ms. Elisa at the moment?" Morgan asked him directly.

"How dare you question me? Don't you know that you almost scared me to death just now? If Ben happened to see that just now, I would surely face his wrath again..."

"Stop babbling." Charlotte snatched Morgan's phone and asked Marino desperately, "Tell me, how was Ellie poisoned? What did the doctor say?"

"Ah! Ms. Lindberg..." Marino recognized Charlotte's voice and hid in one of the corners hurriedly. He lowered his voice and explained, "The doctors discovered a rare snake venom in Ms. Elisa's body. They presumed that it was either from the food or water she had taken. At the moment, we are still in the midst of the investigation."

"Then..." Charlotte opened her mouth again.

"Marino, what are you doing? Get over here at once!" All of a sudden, she heard Ben calling out for him.

"I'm coming!" Marino darted toward him without hanging up. "Ben, what's the matter?"

Ben urged him by saying, "I want you to lead a few men to bring Dr. Felch here from Phoenix City. He's the only one who can save Ellie at the moment. Bruce has arranged for a private jet. You have to head to the airport now. Hurry up!"

"Noted. I will go now!" Marino replied at once.

The sound of footsteps in haste was audible from the other end of the line. A few seconds later, Marino's voice sounded again. "Ms. Lindberg, I'm on my way to look for Dr. Felch now. I have to hang up now. Don't worry. All of us are trying to save Ellie by all means."

"Dr. Felch? This name sounds familiar..." Charlotte murmured in bewilderment. Somehow, her gut instinct told her that this Dr. Felch was someone she had met before.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 921

"When you were poisoned years ago, he was the one who treated you..." Marino paused abruptly and greeted, "Ah! Ms. Blackwood, you are here!"

Ms. Blackwood? Could it be Cynthia Blackwood?

When Charlotte was about to ask again, Marino had hung up.

Charlotte's forehead creased into a frown as the line went dead. In a split second, there was a change in her countenance.

"What is she trying to do? She seems to be meddling up with things all the time!" Morgan chided.

Lupine echoed by grumbling, "She's really annoying! Ms. Lindberg, don't be angry. Since Mr. Nacht is poisoned now, I'm sure he's not the one who sought her help."

"Marino mentioned that Ellie was poisoned because of the food she had consumed..." Charlotte squinted her eyes and mumbled quizzically, "Ellie was by my side all the time these two days. How was it possible for her to be poisoned?"

"It's rather weird. Not to mention, Ms. Elisa had taken the same meal as Mr. Robinson and Mr. Jamison. Nothing happens to them, yet why was she poisoned?"

"Who had actually poisoned Ms. Elisa?" Morgan frowned and asked in bafflement.

Lupine asked tactfully again, "Could it be she was poisoned in the Nachts' residence? Ms. Elisa still looked fine by the time she left yesterday evening."

"According to Marino, Ms. Elisa started to feel sick and did not have any appetite right after she got back to the Nachts'

residence. They went to Seacrest Restaurant for some clue but did not detect anything,” Morgan added.

“Ah! Seacrest Restaurant... If I’m not mistaken, Ellie did not eat anything else after her meal at Seacrest Restaurant. If it is food poisoning, I’m sure she was poisoned at the restaurant...” Charlotte commented analytically.

Right that instant, Cynthia’s figure flashed across her mind. Even though she did not have any evidence, her gut instinct told her that the woman had something to do with Ellie’s poisoning.

“Morgan, go to Seacrest Restaurant now and have a thorough search. Don’t miss out on the surveillance footage in the restaurant!” Charlotte instructed.

“Noted, Ms. Lindberg!” She nodded respectfully.

A while later, the car came to a halt by the roadside. Morgan got out of it with a few subordinates, hopped into another car, and sped off.

On the other hand, Charlotte’s car was heading toward South Sea.

Lupine tried to appease Charlotte by consoling her. “Ms. Lindberg, don’t worry. After the opening ceremony, I will accompany you to visit Ms. Elisa at the hospital. By then, I’m sure Morgan will manage to get some clues.”

“I can’t let anything happen to my family again! I have vowed to protect them!” Charlotte stared into space out of the window with a hint of determination in her eyes.

Lupine could not resist feeling worried, yet she did not have the courage to utter any words. Deep down, she could only pray that everything would turn out fine.

In the meantime, Marino was standing in Taylor and Cynthia’s way in the hospital. He had assigned others to notify Ben a while ago.

After a while, Ben reached hastily and said courteously, “Mr. Blackwood, Ms. Blackwood, I’m sorry to inform you that Mr. Nacht refuses to see anyone at the moment.”

"We heard that Zachary has been poisoned, and we are here to help him. Cynthia has knowledge of Traditional Chinese Medicine and might be able to treat him," Taylor explained sincerely.

"How did you find out about that?" Ben knitted his brows. My goodness! This is the Nacht family's top secret at the moment. How did they know about it?

"I'm the one who notified them and sought their help," Spencer emerged and explained.

"Mr. Spencer," Ben greeted him and moved aside at once with his head lowered.

Spencer explained further nonchalantly, "They are not outsiders. Mr. Henry is impressed with Cynthia's medical skills. After all, both Mr. Zachary and Ellie are seriously ill, and none of the doctors can help them at the moment. Thus, there is no harm for us to let her give it a try."

"But..." Ben tried to refute.

"Ben, please let me give it a try. I'm convinced that I can help to eliminate the poison from both Zachary and Ellie's bodies." Cynthia signed to him.

Cynthia's words put Ben in a tight spot. Too many things occurred recently, and he started to be suspicious of her. Even though there was no concrete evidence that she was the mastermind behind everything, Ben told himself not to let his guard down as long as she was not exonerated of any blame.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 922

As such, Ben wasn't planning on letting the Blackwoods know what happened to the Nacht family, but Spencer had informed them.

However, having looked after Henry the whole time, Spencer was oblivious to the recent events and told Cynthia everything.

"Ellie is in critical condition right now, and a slight mistake could very well lead to death. I can't bring myself to make that decision, so we should probably wait till Mr. Nacht wakes up," Ben said with a frown.

"Let me go see Zachary! Spencer told me he was bitten by a venomous snake, and I have a way of saving him!" Cynthia signed at him anxiously.

"I..." Ben was still hesitant.

"Let her in. I'll take responsibility if anything goes wrong," Spencer said decisively.

Naturally, Ben didn't dare to protest any further.

"Thank you for trusting me!" Cynthia signed at him in relief.

"Come on. I'll bring you to him." Spencer then led Cynthia to Zachary to get him treated.

Taylor followed closely behind them, looking concerned like he had already acknowledged Zachary as his son-in-law.

"You head on over the airport," Ben ordered Marino.

"Yes, sir!" Marino replied and left in a hurry.

Ben then kept a close eye on Cynthia and Taylor to ensure no harm came to Zachary.

Miraculously enough, Zachary regained consciousness an hour later with Cynthia's help.

"Mr. Zachary, you're awake!" Spencer was overjoyed. "You're amazing, Cynthia! I can't believe you were able to save him so quickly!"

"This acupuncture treatment will only help him remain conscious for the time being. It would take more time to fully rid his body of the venom. You'll need to continuously administer this treatment every day along with the use of herbs. It should take about a month for him to make a full recovery." Cynthia signed.

Spencer was relieved. "That's fine... I'm just glad his condition is curable..."

Ben was equally shocked when he saw Zachary waking up as he didn't expect Cynthia's treatment to be so effective.

"Ellie... How is Ellie?" Zachary rubbed his forehead weakly.

"Mr. Nacht!" Ben quickly helped him sit upright on the bed. "Ellie is still in the ICU, but her condition is stable for now..."

"You fainted after you were bitten by a venomous snake, Zachary. It was all thanks to Cynthia's acupuncture treatment that you were able to regain consciousness. Shall we let her take a look at Ellie too?" Taylor said.

"Cynthia?" Zachary looked up at her and frowned. "What are you two doing here?"

He was able to remain conscious even though his vision was still a little blurry from the venom, but he was still in no condition to be having visitors.

"I came to help you, Zachary! Please believe me! I'll definitely be able to save Ellie..." Cynthia signed at him, but Zachary cut her off.

"We have doctors here... You two can go home now..." Zachary smacked his head in an attempt to relieve the splitting headache.

"Zachary..." Taylor was about to say something but was interrupted by a medical staff who came running in. "Bad news! Ms. Elisa has started convulsing again!"

"What?" Zachary tried to get off the bed, but his body was so weak that he nearly fell down.

“Mr. Nacht...” Ben was quick to catch him and hold him steady.

“He mustn’t move about too much or the venom will spread further into his system!” Cynthia signed anxiously.

Taylor quickly fetched Ben a wheelchair, and they both helped Zachary onto it before heading over to the ICU with him.

“What’s going on here? How did this happen? All of you doctors can’t even treat a single patient?” Spencer asked in a state of panic.

“The venom is simply too deadly! There’s practically nothing we can do!” one of the doctors said with tears in his eyes.

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“You...” Zachary felt a sharp pain in his heart when he got agitated.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Nacht! I’ve sent someone to get Dr. Felch!” Ben reassured him.

Raina sobbed with her head hung low. “Time waits for no one... Ellie is...”

Cynthia walked up to Zachary and signed at him, “Let me give it a try, Zachary! Trust me!”

With no other options left, Zachary could only take his chances with her. “Fine! If you can treat Ellie successfully, I’ll give you anything you want!”

“Cynthia will be able to treat Ellie for sure!” Taylor then turned toward her and urged her, “Hurry up and get your medical kit!”

Cynthia then grabbed her medical kit and ran into the ward.

Raina and the other doctors watched from the side while everyone else waited outside.

Zachary was incredibly weak at the time, but he insisted on waiting with everyone else and refused to go anywhere until he was certain that Ellie was fine.

It was truly a race against time to bring Ellie back from the brink of death.

Meanwhile, Charlotte was rushing toward South Sea Hotel at the last minute.

One of Danrique's men, Sean, greeted her the moment she got out of the car and warned her, "Mr. Lindberg is very unhappy. Be careful, miss."

"Danrique is here already?"

Charlotte knew Danrique never showed up in public and would usually operate behind the scenes.

"Yes, about half an hour ago. Hurry up and head on inside! The ceremony is about to start!" Sean said softly.

"Got it! Thanks, Sean!" Charlotte thanked him with a nod.

A huge crowd of journalists had gathered at the entrance of South Sea Hotel and snapping away as Charlotte came in dressed fully in white with eight female bodyguards around her.

Charlotte simply ignored the camera flashes and made her way straight into the hotel, and a staff member then led them into a VIP elevator which took them upstairs.

Charlotte glanced at her reflection in the elevator's mirror and fixed her hair as well as her earrings. She even applied some lipstick for the occasion.

There were thousands of journalists waiting for her at the venue for the press conference, and the whole place was in an uproar when Charlotte entered.

Despite being bombarded by tons of blinding camera flashes, Charlotte was able to maintain her composure and gracefully make her way to her seat.

"Charlotte... How could you show up so late when you're the star of the show here? Even I arrived thirty minutes in advance!" Louis' gentle voice was heard as he came in through the other entrance.

"Have you seen my brother?" Charlotte asked coldly.

"Yes, I have..." Louis wiped the sweat off his forehead as he continued, "He's a lot friendlier to me now, but he still gives me the chills."

As Robert and Danrique had become business partners, they tried to get Louis and Charlotte to date each other; hence, Danrique treated Louis like family.

Even so, that didn't make Louis fear him any less.

"What's there to be afraid of? My brother doesn't bite! Just make sure you stay away from those pets of his!" Charlotte teased him.

"Please don't bring that up again..." Louis groaned.

Charlotte smiled as she motioned at him, and the two took their seats on stage.

The emcee then began the opening ceremony by announcing the purchase of South Sea's territorial waters before handing Charlotte the microphone.

Charlotte delivered a simple yet powerful speech about bringing nature closer to humanity and allowing mankind to appreciate the beauty of the ocean through deep-sea exploration.

The main idea was to build an underwater theme park connected by a glass tunnel so people would be able to observe the ocean life up close.

Naturally, an interesting idea like that was bound to attract the attention of all the journalists present. They bombarded

Charlotte with tons of questions, all of which she answered with ease.

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A satisfied smile spread across Danrique's lips as he watched everything from behind the stage.

Looks like those two years of education haven't been in vain, after all! Charlotte has the Lindberg family's excellent genes in her, so she's able to learn everything easily if taught with the right methods. It's like she's transformed into a completely different person in just two years! Equipped with both brains and brawns, she is now able to handle any situation with ease! One day, she'll become my most capable assistant ever and help me manage Lindberg Corporation!

"Now then, Ms. Lindberg and Sir Louis, please complete the opening ceremony!"

As the emcee announced the most crucial step, Charlotte and Louis got to their feet and walked up to the front of the stage.

They were supposed to place their hands on a translucent globe and wait for the laser to shine on the screen to complete the opening ceremony.

Louis had already placed his hand on the globe, but Charlotte was interrupted by a loud voice from the crowd when she reached her hand out. "Wait!"

She then paused and turned toward the direction of the voice, only to see a prosecutor approach her with a document in hand. "Who's in charge of the South Sea project?"

Charlotte pulled her hand back and slowly walked up to the prosecutor. "I am. Is something the matter?"

“Here’s my identification. The South Sea project is incredibly detrimental to the marine life around the area, and we have official documents ordering the termination of the project!” the prosecutor said as he produced his identification and a document from a red folder.

The entire place went into an uproar upon hearing that, and even Charlotte was dumbfounded.

She then took the document over from the prosecutor, and the look in her eyes turned gloomy as she read through it.

“How did this happen?” Louis asked in shock.

Lindberg Corporation has spent thirty billion just to acquire South Sea’s territorial waters, and the initiation of the project is going to cost hundreds of billions more! Why would the project be halted now? Not only would the company lose hundreds of billions, but it would also have its subsequent business plans affected! After all, who in their right minds would want to partner up with a company that faces such a huge issue before the project even starts?

Charlotte was starting to panic, but maintained a calm expression on her face as she said, “I want to see your superior. We’ve gotten the approvals required to carry out this project, so why only halt it now?”

“I’m just here to deliver the order, so I’m not too sure about the details. If you have any questions, feel free to take it up with my superiors. The contact details are stated on this document.” the prosecutor said coldly before turning around and leaving with his men.

As Charlotte’s anger boiled inside her, the journalists continued snapping away and bombarding her with questions from below the stage.

“How much will this cost Lindberg Corporation, Ms. Lindberg? Is it as much as a hundred billion?”

“Do you think this is an act of sabotage by your rival company?”

“Do you have any plans for handling this, Ms. Lindberg?”

“The press conference will end here, thank you all for attending...”

The emcee and higher-ups quickly stepped in to control the situation while Lupine and the bodyguards escorted Charlotte to backstage.

Louis and his men were about to follow suit when a journalist asked him, “Sir Louis, will this incident affect your partnership with Lindberg Corporation?”

“No, it won’t!” Louis replied before running after Charlotte. “Don’t worry, Charlotte! I’ll figure something out! I’m sure we’ll...”

Bang!

Danrique kicked the coffee table over in a fit of rage, shattering the bottles of champagne and wine glasses they had prepared to celebrate the project’s successful initiation.

The floor was instantly covered in broken glass and champagne, scaring Louis so much that he took a step back in response.

The rest of the employees around them were terrified as well and didn’t dare make a sound.

“I’m sorry, Danrique. It was my mistake...” Charlotte apologized with her head hung low.

Danrique narrowed his eyes and shouted through clenched teeth, “Damn you, Zachary... Looks like I’ve really underestimated you!”

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Charlotte kept quiet as she knew that Zachary was the only one who could’ve outfoxed her like that.

So, that's why he's been so busy lately! He got a prosecutor to halt the project at the last minute, humiliating Lindberg Corporation in front of the press... Very impressive, I'll give him that... I bet it won't be long before everyone finds out about this. The Lindberg family has always been unbeatable in terms of its firepower and combat prowess, which was why Danrique managed to get at Zachary with the venomous snake.

However, the Nacht family is a lot better when it comes to business strategies and the use of technology. It took the Lindberg Corporation many years to slowly make its way into the local market and hit Zachary with both internal and external threats!

Who would've thought that he'd be able to deal such a heavy blow to the company and crush it completely? I can see why the usually calm and collected Danrique would lose his temper like this...

"Um... I don't think Zachary has anything to do with this official decision being made... He's probably so disoriented that he can't even tell left from right, so there's no way he'd be able to..." Louis said softly, but was quick to stop himself when he Danrique shot him a cold glare.

"I...I mean, I don't know, it's just a guess! A-Anyway, I'll be on my way now! Call me if anything comes up, Charlotte!"

Charlotte watched as Louis fled the scene frantically before turning toward Danrique. "Calm down, brother. I'll find a way to clean up this mess."

"Why were you late just now?" Danrique asked.

Not wanting to keep it a secret from him, Charlotte replied honestly, "I went to the hospital."

Danrique frowned and glared coldly at her upon hearing that.

Although he didn't say anything, the look in his eyes was more than enough to send shivers down everyone's spines.

Charlotte simply kept quiet in response.

Lupine had thought of defending her, but she was too scared to do so.

After what seemed like forever, Danrique finally shifted his gaze from her and said coldly, "For now, just focus on suppressing the news of this incident."

"Got it!"

He then left after that, and Charlotte waited till the sound of his footsteps faded away before letting out a huge sigh.

"This is bad... Mr. Lindberg looked like he was about to kill someone!" Lupine exclaimed while clutching at her chest in fear.

"Mr. Nacht sure is impressive, dealing such a huge blow to Lindberg Corporation... What do we do now?" asked another bodyguard.

"Didn't you hear him earlier? Suppress the news of this incident!" Charlotte shouted with a frown.

"Roger!" the bodyguards responded and quickly got to work.

"It's pointless to stress yourself out now. You should get some rest, and we'll figure something out afterward..." Lupine reassured her.

Charlotte slumped dejectedly against the sofa. "This is just the beginning. I can't imagine how terrible things are going to get if the two families continue to fight on like this..."

This is the first time Zachary and Danrique have clashed with each other directly, and look what's happened! Zachary ended up being hospitalized while Lindberg Corporation lost over a few hundreds of billions! This is a lose-lose situation! And to make matters worse, the innocent kids were caught in the crossfire and have gotten hurt as a result! What has Ellie ever done to deserve this? Why would anyone poison a six-year-old girl like her? Does it have something to do with the feud between the two families?

Charlotte was snapped out of her train of thoughts when Morgan's call came in, and she answered it immediately, "How are things?"

"We haven't found anything suspicious. Bruce came over to have a look last night too. He checked everything, including the trash that was taken out yesterday but found nothing out of the ordinary. The Nacht family is very thorough with their investigation.

Bruce even ordered the restaurant owner to keep the place closed for a week and forbade anyone from entering or leaving. Everything including the food was left untouched, and the place looked the same as it was last night. It's highly unlikely that we would've missed out on anything..." Morgan said.

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"What about the security camera footage?" Charlotte asked coldly.

"We're getting it right now. I'll send it over to your phone in a bit. Do you want me to come back now?" Morgan said.

"Wait till I finish viewing the footage."

"All right."

Charlotte received the security camera footage from Seacrest Restaurant moments after hanging up, and everything seemed just fine.

That was until she noticed Cynthia gently bump into the restaurant owner when he was bringing some tea to the kitchen.

The only thing Ellie did last night that her brothers didn't was she drank this tea!

With that in mind, Charlotte paused the footage and went over the scene frame by frame, but was unable to see anything odd about Cynthia's actions whatsoever. I don't know if the screen is too small or if she's simply too fast, but my gut instinct is telling me that there's something wrong with this woman!

Charlotte then called Morgan back immediately, "Have the restaurant owner bring us the teacups and teapot he served the tea with last night. Oh, and ask him if he remembers seeing Cynthia drop anything into the teacups!"

"Understood!" Morgan hung up the phone and went off to carry out her orders.

"Are you suspecting Cynthia, Ms. Lindberg? I knew there was something off about that woman! She looks all gentle and weak on the outside, but she's got a cunning look in her eyes!" Lupine asked.

Charlotte's frown deepened. "I can't say for sure as we don't have any solid evidence yet, but she'll have hell to pay if I find out that she's the one who poisoned Ellie!"

Lupine clenched her teeth in anger. "This b*tch better pray we don't find any evidence against her!"

"That's enough. Have someone keep a tight lid on the news of this incident. We need to make sure that not a word of it gets out, so I'm putting you in charge of this. I'm going to meet up with Morgan at the Seacrest Restaurant now," Charlotte said while glancing at her watch.

"Roger!"

While Charlotte was busy investigating Ellie's poisoning, Cynthia managed to have Ellie puke up some poison along with some blood.

Ellie began crying in a hoarse voice moments later, but any and all signs of life from her came as music to everyone's ears.

"Oh, god... Ellie is awake! You're really amazing, Ms. Blackwood!" Raina exclaimed with tears in her eyes.

Cynthia let out a sigh of relief and wiped the sweat off her forehead before slumping weakly to the floor.

"Ms. Blackwood!" A few of the medical staff quickly helped her to her feet, feeling nothing but respect and admiration for her accomplishment.

"What happened?" Zachary asked anxiously from outside.

"Ellie is awake! Things are starting to look better now! We'll proceed with the next step of the treatment right away! Rest assured that her condition is stabilized now!" Raina shed tears of joy as she delivered the news to them.

"Thank goodness..." Zachary breathed a sigh of relief.

"Yeah, that's great... We should've had Cynthia come over sooner!" Spencer said excitedly.

"Yeah! I told you, Cynthia's medical skills are top-notch! We're all family here, so just feel free to consult her if anything happens!"

Taylor was ecstatic as he felt like they had successfully become a part of the Nacht family.

"Ms. Blackwood? Are you all right, Ms. Blackwood?" the medical staff asked as they helped a pale and exhausted Cynthia out of the ICU.

"What happened to her?" Spencer asked.

"She's probably exhausted after tending to Ms. Elisa for three hours straight while severely wounded," the medical staff replied.

"Hurry up and get her somewhere she can rest. Wouldn't want her to be the next to collapse now!"

Taylor stepped forward to hold Cynthia steady. "Yeah! Zachary and Ellie are still counting on you to complete their treatment, so you need to take good care of yourself! Isn't that right, Zachary?"

Zachary nodded and flashed Cynthia a grateful smile as he said, "Yeah... Thank you, Cynthia. I'll repay you generously for this!"

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"Don't say that... I've watched Ellie grow up, so she's like family to me. There's no way I'd just sit by when something like this happens to her. Besides, being a doctor is like being a parent, so I was just doing my job!" Cynthia signed.

"Yeah, that's right! A doctor is just like a parent!" Taylor chimed in as well, placing extra emphasis on the word "parent" to remind Zachary that Cynthia treated Ellie like her own daughter.

"A ward has been prepared for you, so go ahead and get some rest. Thank you very much, Ms. Blackwood," Ben said.

"Don't mention it!" Taylor replied with a smile.

I feel like there's something off about all this, but I can't seem to put my finger on what it is exactly... Oh, well... I guess all that matters is Zachary and Ellie being all right now... Ben thought to himself as he watched someone escort them to the ward.

"You should get some rest too, Mr. Nacht. We can take care of things here, so you have nothing to worry about! Now that Ellie has puked up the poison, her condition will be a lot more manageable!" Raina promised him confidently.

"Make sure you take good care of her. We can't afford to have any more accidents like this."

Zachary was still feeling uneasy as he had yet to see Ellie hop down from the bed and call him "Daddy" in her usual sweet voice.

"I know, don't worry!" Raina reassured him before hurrying off to examine Ellie.

"We have everything under control here, Spencer. Mr. Henry must be worried about you being gone for so long, so you should head back too. Besides, you haven't slept all night, so this would be a great time to get some rest," Ben said as he was concerned.

Spencer nodded. "Yeah, it is about time I get going now. I'll bring Jamie with me, Mr. Zachary. The shock kept him awake all night, and he just fell asleep a while ago."

Having him stay here wouldn't do him any good, as everyone would have to look after him in addition to Zachary and Ellie. On top of that, Mr. Henry would feel a lot better if he saw Jamie.

"All right, I'll go tell him," Zachary replied with a faint smile when he saw Jamie curled up in a bed and sleeping soundly while drooling all over the pillow.

Guess I never really have to worry about this kid, huh... I thought he'd cry at first, but he's sleeping like a log right now!

"Haha, Jamie sure is a good boy!" Spencer said with a smile.

Zachary gently ran his hand through Jamie's hair. "Head on over before he wakes up, or he'll have a ton of questions for all of us. You know how much of a chatterbox he can be."

"Haha, okay..."

Spencer motioned at Cain who then wrapped Jamie up in a blanket before carrying him in his arms.

Jamie turned his body to one side and nuzzled his head against Cain's chest while making a suckling motion with his mouth, much to Cain's amusement.

"All right, get going," Zachary urged them.

"Is he heavy?" Spencer asked with a chuckle as they left.

"He seems to be about Robbie's size, but weighs a little more."

"Hahaha! He can eat more than Robbie!"

Zachary's smile faded when he saw them disappear from sight, and a cold look filled his eyes as he gave the order, "Have Bruce investigate the security footage from Seacrest Restaurant in great detail. Tell him to go frame by frame if he has to!"

Ben leaned in and asked softly, "Are you suspecting someone other than Danrique, Mr. Nacht?"

"Danrique may be cruel, but he is still a man of pride. He wouldn't deny it if he was the one who did it. Judging by how angry he got when I accused him of poisoning Ellie, it's quite obvious that he's innocent. If he didn't do it, then it must be someone else!" Zachary said as he recalled Danrique's reaction.

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"Understood, I'll make the arrangements right away!" Ben then contacted Bruce and had him reinvestigate the case.

Zachary looked at the bandages on his right hand as he placed it over his aching chest and spaced out for a bit.

Where did I go wrong? Why are so many things happening lately? I've always had the greatest of strategies, and yet I seem to be failing time after time... This isn't right...

He was snapped out of his train of thoughts when Taylor's voice came from behind, "Cynthia wanted me to tell you that the venom in your body isn't completely removed yet, so you need to be extra careful. Make sure you don't walk around for the time being."

Zachary turned around and looked at him as he said, "All right, thanks. How is she?"

"She was severely injured before this, so a whole night of stress got her wound all inflamed. She's being treated as we speak," Taylor replied with a pained look on his face.

"I'll go see her."

Zachary then gestured at one of his men who then pushed his wheelchair toward Cynthia's ward.

"Cynthia was worried sick when we got the call from Spencer today, and she came rushing over with her medical kit as quickly as she could. I tried to talk her out of it. I told her that Ellie would be fine as Nacht Group has its very own hospital and a ton of doctors. I also told her that your injuries are top secret, so outsiders shouldn't get involved, but she refused to listen. She said she had to do something, and that she wouldn't be able to eat nor sleep knowing that Ellie is in danger. She was so stubborn that I couldn't stop her, so I had no choice but to come with her. She really treats you guys like her own family, you know?" Taylor said as he followed behind them.

Anyone who could read between the lines would know exactly what he was implying, but Zachary simply kept quiet instead.

They soon arrived at the ward and saw the doctor treating the inflamed wound on her waist.

Zachary gasped when he noticed how weary and pale her face looked.

"Mr. Nacht!" The doctor stood up and greeted Zachary the moment he saw him.

Cynthia panicked and burned bright red as she quickly tidied up her clothes, and it pained Zachary to see her like this.

"Sorry for the trouble. Ellie's condition is stable now, so you can rest assured," he said softly.

Cynthia nodded at him with a smile and signed, "I've told them to call for me if anything happens to Ellie. I'll be fine!"

"Thanks..."

Zachary didn't really know what else to say apart from thanking her.

Noticing that, Taylor was quick to change the topic. "I'll head back to get you a few sets of clothes. Dr. Howard, there's something I need to ask you about."

"Sure thing!" The doctor caught on, and the two went out of the ward in a hurry, leaving Zachary and Cynthia inside.

Cynthia then tried adjusting herself into a more comfortable position, only to drop her pillow by accident.

As she was about to get down from the bed, Zachary motioned at her to not move and wheeled himself toward her instead. He then picked up the pillow and carefully placed it behind her back.

The two of them were very close to each other, and her limp body was almost leaning against Zachary's chest, but he didn't seem to mind.

"Mr. Nacht..."

Ben came in through the door all of a sudden but quickly turned around when he saw what was going on. "Sorry, I...I'll come back later..."

Zachary called out to him, "What is it?"

"I've taken care of that thing you asked me to. Oh, and there's something important I need to tell you about," Ben said awkwardly.

"Go ahead."

"Um..." Ben had a troubled look on his face as he glanced at Cynthia.

"She's not an outsider." Zachary growled with a frown, much to Cynthia's delight.

Ben began his report, "Right... Earlier today, Lindberg Corporation had an opening ceremony for the South Sea project at South Sea Hotel..."

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"That heartless woman... She attended an opening ceremony while her own daughter's life was at stake?" Zachary shouted angrily through clenched teeth.

Ben froze as he wasn't expecting him to get so furious.

Taylor happened to overhear the conversation as he came into the ward and defended Charlotte. "Maybe she doesn't know about Ellie's condition..."

"I told her about it myself, so there's no way she wouldn't know!" Zachary had rage written all over his face.

"Um... Maybe she has her reasons..." Taylor said with a troubled expression.

"Yeah! The South Sea project cost Lindberg Corporation hundreds of billions, and a single problem could easily affect the company's entire operation! It's perfectly understandable for Ms. Lindberg to take care of it. Maybe she'll come and see Ellie after she's done with the ceremony!" Cynthia signed.

"Yeah, that's right! There's no way she wouldn't care about her own daughter! Wait... Could it be that she hasn't regained her memories? Or perhaps, the motherly side of her has yet to awaken?" Taylor added.

"I don't think that's the case... I remember her being very gentle with her kids at Seacrest Restaurant, so it's obvious that she loves them dearly. She's probably just in a difficult position due to the feud between the Nachts and the Lindbergs." Cynthia signed.

"All right, that's enough. No need to defend that woman..." The look on Zachary's face turned gloomy as he continued, "She did nothing when Danrique poisoned Robbie today. Had I not stopped him in time, Robbie would've suffered the same fate as Ellie."

"I can't believe Danrique would be so cruel as to poison a child! Do you think he's the one who poisoned Ellie too?" Taylor exclaimed angrily.

"Who else could it be?" Zachary asked.

"It's definitely him then! Karma will come for him sooner or later!" Taylor said.

"Yeah!" Cynthia signed in agreement.

Zachary narrowed his eyes and growled through clenched teeth, "I won't let him get away with this! Anyone who dares poison my children shall die a horrible death!"

A look of surprise flashed in Cynthia's eyes when she heard that, but she was quick to regain her composure and signed, "Don't do anything rash, Zachary! Danrique is no pushover, so you need to stay calm..."

"That's right. You need to strategize and be smart about it!" Taylor advised.

Zachary turned to look at Ben and asked, "Well? What happened after that? Did they launch the South Sea project?"

"No, a prosecutor showed up at the last second with an official document and declared that the project had to be halted. He said something about it being incredibly detrimental to the marine life in the area," Ben replied.

Taylor was delighted. "Really? The project has been halted?"

Ben nodded. "Yes. I believe Mr. Lindberg and Ms. Lindberg are currently stressing themselves out trying to figure out a solution."

"With an official document ordering for a halt in front of the press, there's no way they can save the project now! Danrique may be cruel and proficient at things like poisoning people, but he's no match for me when it comes to business strategies!" Zachary said with a sarcastic sneer.

Taylor looked happier than everyone around him. "Of course! I told you, you're a one-of-a-kind genius when it comes to business affairs! No one could possibly best you in this field!"

"We mustn't let our guard down, though. Mr. Lindberg has tons of nasty tricks up his sleeve, so god knows what he'll do next. You must be careful, Zachary." Cynthia signed.

Zachary held her hand and said, "Yeah, I know. Thank you for helping Ellie out and being such a considerate person."

Cynthia found herself blushing when she felt the warmth of his hand on hers.

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Taylor tried to help her out as much as he could. "Like I said before, Cynthia would definitely make a great wife. She can help you out greatly both in life and in corporate affairs. I'm sure she'll make a fine assistant in the future!"

"I don't need her to help me out with the company. All she needs to do is take care of things at home." Zachary then turned toward her and said, "You get some rest. I'll be on my way now."

"Okay, you too! Don't worry, Ellie will be fine!"

Taylor waited until he was gone before telling Cynthia excitedly, "I was worried that Mr. Lindberg would have him beaten, but Zachary turned the tide around so impressively!"

"Of course! I know how to pick my men!" Cynthia signed with a smirk.

"You're the best, Cynthia! Looks like we placed our money on the right horse this time!" Taylor exclaimed.

"All right, hurry on home and get me a few more sets of clothes. This time, I'll be officially moving into the Nachts' residence for sure!" Cynthia balled her fist up confidently in victory.

"Hahaha, of course... Zachary said he wants you to take care of things at home!"

"Yeah, he's beginning to accept me... Looks like my efforts paid off as I've finally managed to touch his heart." Cynthia got excited at the thought of that.

"This is just the first step, so don't let your guard down just yet. Anyway, I'll go get your stuff now," Taylor reminded her.

Cynthia nodded and watched him leave before shifting her gaze toward her hand, and a smile formed on her lips as she recalled the warmth she felt from Zachary earlier.

"What happened to you at the Lindberg residence today, Mr. Nacht? Why are you so mad at Ms. Lindberg?" Ben asked out of curiosity after bringing Zachary back to his ward, but Zachary simply kept quiet and seemed to be lost in thought.

"Do you really trust Ms. Blackwood? I can't help but feel that she's..." Ben said with a frown, but Zachary cut him off mid-sentence.

"Right now, she's my lifesaver."

Ben was surprised by what he heard as he assumed Zachary was just putting up an act to trick them into exposing themselves.

"We need to have evidence before pointing fingers at anyone," Zachary added.

Ben froze for a moment, but quickly caught on and said, "Understood!"

"Good. Take me to the bathroom. I'm going to take a shower and get changed before I visit Ellie..."

"Yes, sir."

The sun was shining brightly into Seacrest Restaurant, and there wasn't a single customer in sight when Charlotte arrived in a hurry.

The restaurant owner was on the verge of breaking down after being interrogated by Morgan and her subordinates countless times.

He ran up to Charlotte the moment she entered the restaurant and said with tears in his eyes, "I really didn't poison your daughter, Ms. Lindberg! I swear..."

"Shh..." Charlotte motioned at him to shut up.

She then examined the restaurant and visualized where Ellie had been to, what she had touched, the food she ate, the drinks she had, and the smells she was exposed to.

Only by running a simulation of it in her head was she able to make a breakthrough in her investigation.

Everyone else remained silent and offered their full cooperation by taking up their positions from yesterday.

By referring to the security camera footage, Charlotte retraced Ellie's steps throughout the entire restaurant. Eventually, she was able to confirm that the tea was the only possible way for her to be poisoned.

"Did you find the teacup used?" Charlotte spoke up at last.

The restaurant owner was quick to explain, "We have eleven completely identical tea sets, so I'm not sure which one it is. I've placed them all here for you!"

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"Take them all back for tests!" Charlotte instructed.

"Right away!" Morgan carefully placed all eleven tea sets into plastic bags and had someone bring them back.

"Ms. Lindberg... We wash all our kitchen utensils and sterilize them at high temperatures repeatedly on a daily basis, so you might not be able to find anything on them..." the restaurant owner said cautiously.

"You can open the restaurant for business tomorrow," Charlotte said and left the place, only for Bruce and his men to come looking for the tea set moments later.

The restaurant owner then explained to him what had happened and asked Bruce for his opinion on opening up his restaurant the next day.

With the tea set gone, Bruce had no choice but to report the situation to Zachary accordingly.

Zachary had just finished showering in the hospital and was drying his hair on the chair at the time. "We'll go with her decision," he replied in a deep voice after hearing Bruce's report.

"Yes, sir."

"Given Lindberg Corporation's current situation, Ms. Lindberg must really care about Ellie if she's personally carrying out the investigation at Seacrest Restaurant!" Ben said after Zachary hung up the phone.

"You keep defending her..." Zachary lowered his voice as he asked, "Do you think the two of us could possibly go back to how we once were?"

"I..." Ben didn't know what to say.

"I noticed a strong sense of pride in Danrique during our confrontation today. He got really mad because I wrongly accused him, and he tried to poison Robbie as a result. There's no way a vengeful man like him would allow Charlotte to let go of our grudges and return to me. Besides, Charlotte would never forgive me if she regains her memories and remembers her hatred for me anyway..."

Zachary seemed dejected when he said that as he recalled how Charlotte had protected him and their kids.

I know she's a kind and loyal person deep down inside, but the events today have shown me that there is a gap between us that we can never bridge...

Unsure of what to say, Ben could only let out a sigh in response.

Having made up his mind, Zachary declared, "Danrique will definitely be coming after me for costing Lindberg Corporation hundreds of billions today. Just you wait... This battle of ours has only just begun!"

"Why must you two keep fighting like this? Wouldn't it have been a lot better if both families could coexist in peace?" Ben asked.

Zachary turned to look out the window as he said in a low voice, "Had it not been for that incident two years ago, we might actually be able to continue coexisting peacefully. As tempting as it may be, Danrique would normally take his business to another country if he can't gain a foothold here. I mean, just look at what happened two years ago. He failed to gain the support of the Browns and the Blackwoods over and gave up when Grandpa stepped in. So, why would he launch an attack at me now? I used to think that he did it because he had gained some kind of leverage over me, that he saw a perfect opportunity and used Charlotte against me. However, I realized today that isn't the case..."

"What's the reason, then?" Ben asked curiously.

"Because..." Zachary's frown deepened as he continued in a stern tone, "Danrique thinks our family has been bullying his, so he's trying to get his revenge!"

"He's sacrificing so much just for the sake of revenge?" Ben couldn't understand the logic behind it.

"Danrique is said to be incredibly cruel and capable of doing anything to achieve his goals. Even so, his aunt Isabella remains his biggest weakness. There was a businessman who ended up with his whole family dead, all because he accidentally insulted Isabella.

Danrique saved Charlotte in the nick of time when she was tortured like hell in T Nation, and he knew Sharon was the one behind it. However, he chose not to kill her so that Charlotte could get her revenge herself!

I always thought Danrique had an endless amount of tricks up his sleeve, but my encounter with him today proved me wrong. He is simply fueled by pure hatred, and everything he did was for the sake of getting revenge. He couldn't care less about wealth or power. All he wants is to make us pay in blood!"

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Charlotte called up Raina on the way home to check on Ellie's condition, but she only gave her a brief summary as she was tired from completing her rounds.

"Ms. Blackwood's treatment was successful, and Ms. Elisa's condition has stabilized. The venom in Mr. Nacht's body isn't completely removed yet, but he's okay now."

"Got it, thanks," Charlotte said and hung up the phone after that.

"What does she mean Cynthia treated her? Her treatment couldn't have possibly worked without your medicine! I can't believe she's being hailed as some hero just because she stuck a few needles in Ellie! Are the Nachts blind or what?" Lupine shouted angrily.

"Great... Now the Nachts are going to treat her like she's a queen. If she really is the culprit, then they would practically be protecting a potential murderer!" Morgan said sarcastically.

"She's definitely the culprit! Who else could it possibly be? Judging by how she's acting all innocent after what she did, I'd say she's a cruel and heartless woman on the inside!" Lupine got even angrier the more she thought about it.

Morgan clenched her fists tightly. "She's dead meat if I find any evidence linking her to this incident!"

Charlotte, on the other hand, was calmly looking at her phone and seemed to be in deep thought.

"Don't worry, Ms. Lindberg! At least Ellie's fine now!" Lupine comforted her.

"I just feel like there's a lot more to this whole thing than meets the eye."

Charlotte was staring blankly at a villa in the distance when she suddenly remembered something and asked, "By the way, how are things with Jeffrey and Olivia? Have they settled down?"

"Yes, they have. I was going to pay them a visit the other day, but then it got postponed because Robinson got abducted, and a lot more stuff happened after that. I've had them settle down in a hotel for many days now," Lupine replied.

"Let them head back. I won't be able to see them for quite a while." Charlotte said.

"Huh? I thought you wanted to confirm what happened back then?" Lupine asked in confusion.

Charlotte let out a wry chuckle. "I feel like there are some things that I'm better off not knowing. I mean, what else can I do after finding out? Kill Zachary? The kids would hate me to death for doing so!"

Unsure of what to say, Lupine could only let out a sigh in response.

“Regardless, we’re not letting Zara and the Blackwood sisters get away!” Morgan added angrily.

Charlotte frowned. “For now, let’s just focus on finding out who poisoned Ellie. If Cynthia truly is the culprit, then things would become a lot more dangerous.”

“Yeah! She could poison the kids anytime now that she’s by Mr. Nacht’s side every day!”

“That’s why we have to expose her true colors as soon as possible.”

Ellie’s condition was starting to improve after a few days of treatment at the hospital.

Zachary was also recovering slowly, but he was still very weak and could only work for a few hours before falling asleep from fatigue.

Meanwhile, the people at Lindberg Corporation had spent the past few days trying to fix the situation.

However, the final result remained that they were not allowed to carry out the South Sea project, but the company would receive a part of the amount lost as compensation.

Despite having recouped some of its losses, all of Lindberg Corporation’s projects had to be halted due to a lack of funds.

It was a huge blow to the company, but Danrique seemed to be taking it rather well.

Not only did he not blame Charlotte for it, but he even left H City three days later without doing anything out of the ordinary.

Charlotte didn’t know why he left, but she had a bad feeling deep down inside.

Ellie had finally woken up from her comatose state that morning, but she still required regular acupuncture treatments for a very long time.

Zachary figured it would be inconvenient for them to remain in the hospital, so he brought both Ellie and Cynthia home with him.

That way, Cynthia would be able to take care of both their daily treatments easily.

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In the past, Cynthia had only ever shown up at the Nacht residence as a guest. Although they were all very polite toward her, she was still considered an outsider at best.

This time, however, she had moved into the Nacht residence as a part of the family.

She replaced all of Raina's medical staff with her own and even insisted on managing all three meals of the day for both Zachary and Ellie.

"Both Mr. Nacht and Ms. Elisa were severely poisoned, Mrs. Rawlston. It is crucial that we have Ms. Blackwood manage their meals to ensure they don't get poisoned again or eat anything they shouldn't. All you have to do is prepare the food according to the recipes provided," Freya said when Mrs. Rawlston questioned her request.

"I..." Mrs. Rawlston turned to look at Zachary, who then nodded slightly at her in response. "All right, I understand."

Cynthia then had Freya bring her two sets of recipes, and Mrs. Rawlston was about to head into the kitchen when Freya called out to her again, "Hold up!"

Mrs. Rawlston paused in her tracks, and Freya glanced at the maids around them before saying, "In order to better ensure the safety of both Mr. Nacht and Ms. Elisa, all of you are to refrain from entering their rooms on your own. Should the need arise for you to do so, please inform us beforehand."

The maids exchanged glances before shifting their gaze toward Mrs. Rawlston, who could only look at Zachary in response. "Sir..."

"Do as they say," Zachary said blandly.

Cynthia signed at her with a smile, "Please don't take it to heart, Mrs. Rawlston. I'm only doing this to prevent any bacterial infections before the poison is completely cleared out of their bodies."

"All right, Ms. Blackwood." Mrs. Rawlston nodded respectfully.

"That'll be all for now. You can all go back to work." Cynthia signed, and everyone else returned to their tasks at hand.

While preparing lunch in the kitchen, one of the older maids grumbled, "Does Ms. Blackwood think she's the lady of the house or what? She's acting like she owns the place!"

"Shh! Keep it down, Molly! Ms. Blackwood brought eight assistants over, so she's got eyes and ears everywhere!" one of the chefs reminded her softly.

"She looks all weak and soft, but she's ordering us around arrogantly before she even marries Mr. Nacht! Honestly, Ms. Windt is a lot better! At least she's nice and humble!" Molly continued.

"Molly!" Mrs. Rawlston gave her a nudge.

Molly froze for a brief moment and turned around to see Freya standing behind her with a recipe in hand.

"This is a recipe that Ms. Blackwood has prepared. Please prepare the meal accordingly," she said with an ambiguous smirk.

“Okay.” Mrs. Rawlston took the recipe over.

“And make it fast! Ms. Blackwood will be visiting Mr. Henry at Serene Hospital in the afternoon. Everyone in the Nacht family is counting on her treatment, you see...” Freya said arrogantly before strutting off.

“Hmph! What a sly b*tch! She used to be so polite to us when Mrs. Berry was around! Who the hell does she think she is, huh?” Molly cursed furiously after she left.

“That’s enough, Molly. You really need to fix that temper of yours,” Mrs. Rawlston advised.

“Is Ms. Blackwood really going to marry into this household later on?” Molly asked with a frown.

“It’s hard to say,” Mrs. Rawlston mumbled as she carried on with her work.

Molly shook her head and let out a helpless sigh. “Looks like life is going to be rough for all of us...”

The maids in the kitchen were clearly frustrated with their predicament but didn’t dare say a word about it.

Ben had noticed all that and frowned as he quickly made his way to the study room.

Zachary was going through some documents inside, but the venom from the snake bite left him incredibly weak, and he found himself rubbing his forehead from exhaustion after reading a few pages.

“You can’t keep going on like this, Mr. Nacht! I think we should consult some other doctors!” Ben exclaimed worriedly when he saw that upon entering the room.

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"Has there been an update from Marino yet?" Zachary asked.

"Not yet... They've moved again after we went to see Dr. Felch. I think they're avoiding us out of fear due to what happened two years ago. Marino is currently trying to find out about their whereabouts in Phoenix City. It's Dr. Felch's hometown, so they shouldn't be far," Ben replied.

"Try Olivia. She should still be in contact with Hayley," Zachary said wearily while rubbing his forehead.

Ben gave him a worried look. "I've contacted Olivia through Peter yesterday, but Ms. Lindberg's men have her heavily guarded. We're unable to get anywhere near her. How about we head over to Serene Hospital and get you looked at, Mr. Nacht?"

Zachary closed his eyes and said, "What good are the doctors there if even Raina can't do a thing about my condition? For now, just focus on finding and bringing Dr. Felch to me. He's the only one who can fix this."

"Yes, sir. In that case, I shall take my leave now." Ben quickly turned around and left so as to not disturb him any further, only to see Cynthia approaching when he opened the door.

She was holding a bowl of herbal tonic in hand and flashed Ben a smile when she saw him.

Ben felt an inexplicable sense of unease when he looked at the bowl, but Zachary's voice came from behind before he could question her about it. "Is the medicine ready?"

Cynthia then walked straight into the study room and closed the door behind her.

With a frown on his face, Ben was about to walk away when he heard something shattering inside the room, followed by the sound of Ellie crying.

"I don't want to take this medicine! I want Mommy! I want Mommy!"

Ellie had knocked the bowl of medicine over and was crying for her mom.

Freya's hand was scalded by the hot herbal tonic, causing her to lose her temper and lash out angrily, "Stop crying!"

Ellie froze and went pale as she stared at Freya in fear.

Realizing what she had done, Freya frantically tried to coax Ellie. "You have to take your medicine or you won't get better, Princess Ellie. Come on, be a good girl and take your medicine, okay?"

Ellie's eyes were filled with tears as she continued looking at Freya.

"I'm sorry I raised my voice earlier, Princess Ellie. It's because my hand got scalded by the medicine. Here, can you see?"

Freya held her hand out and showed Ellie the huge red patch that had formed on her skin.

Ellie felt guilty when she saw it and was about to apologize when a figure appeared next to them and spun Freya around before slapping her hard across the face.

Smack!

Freya fell to the floor from the impact, but she didn't dare get mad as she saw that it was Cynthia who hit her. "I'm sorry, Ms. Blackwood! I..."

"How dare you yell at Ellie like that? Who do you think you are? Get the hell out!" Cynthia signed aggressively at her.

"Yes, Ms. Blackwood!" Freya ran out of the room with her hands covering her teary face.

Cynthia then flashed Ellie a gentle smile and signed, "Did she scare you, Ellie?"

Ellie simply hugged her stuffed alpaca and curled herself up on the bed while trembling in fear.

"Don't be scared, Ellie. I'll have someone prepare a new bowl of medicine for you, so make sure you drink it, okay? You can't get better if you don't take your medicine!"

Cynthia gently ran her hand through Ellie's hair before signing at the medical staff, "Well? What are you waiting for? Go whip up another bowl!"

"Right away!" the medical staff replied and ran off to prepare the medicine.

"Now, now, stop crying and just take a nap while you wait. I'll come keep you company after I feed your daddy his medicine, okay?"

Cynthia signed at her and got ready to leave when she saw Ben standing outside the door. "Why are you still here, Ben? Aren't you leaving for the office?"

"I'll head out in a bit. I'm here to see Ellie," Ben replied with a smile.

"She's sick and should not be disturbed!" Cynthia signed quickly.

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"Are you going to get in my way as well, Ms. Blackwood?" Ben asked with a frown, looking cool for the first time ever.

Cynthia quickly signed at him, "No, that's not what I meant..."

"Step aside," Ben said as he shoved past her and entered Ellie's room.

There was a vicious glint in Cynthia's eyes when she glared at him from behind, but she quickly went back to her usual gentle self and entered Zachary's study room looking sad.

"What's wrong?" Zachary had just finished his medicine and was going through some documents.

Cynthia shook her head in response but maintained that depressed look on her face.

"Did someone bully you?" Zachary asked again.

"No... Ben wanted to see Ellie. I told him she needs to rest, and he wasn't too happy about it. I was wondering if I might be a little too controlling..."

Zachary frowned in displeasure. "That little sh*t sure has gotten a lot bolder... How dare he have that attitude with you?"

"No, he didn't... He's just worried about Ellie, that's all. She knocked over a bowl earlier because she refused to take the medicine... Don't go scolding Ben, Zachary! If you do, I won't know how to face him afterward!" Cynthia signed.

"All right, I won't. I'm sorry you had to put up with all this," Zachary said while patting her on the head.

"It's fine. I'm just glad you understand."

Cynthia gave him a gentle look as she reached out to wipe the traces of medicine from his lips. Seeing as he didn't resist her touch, she then gently caressed his face and signed, "You've gotten skinnier..."

Zachary held her hand and said with a smile, "I'm feeling a lot better thanks to your treatment. Honestly, I can't thank you enough!"

"I'm just doing what I should." Cynthia signed and leaned against his chest.

Zachary didn't show any signs of resistance, but the look in his eyes was as cold as ice.

After entering the room, Ben told the other medical staff to leave before looking at Ellie who was curled up in a corner. "What's wrong, Ellie?" he asked with a pained expression on his face.

Ellie pursed her lips, and her tears rolled down her cheeks. "I want Mommy... Will you take me to see my mommy, Mr. Ben?"

"Are you not afraid of Uncle Dan anymore? I remember you saying you wanted to come back when you were staying with your mommy back then," Ben asked in a gentle tone.

"Daddy wasn't sick at the time, and Jamie was here too! We didn't have so many strange people in the house... Now Jamie's gone, and Daddy's sick too! I'm really scared! I miss Mommy..." Ellie said while sobbing, and it hurt Ben to see her like this.

"Your daddy will be all better soon, Ellie. Jamie will be coming home soon too."

"But I miss Mommy! She was feeding me my medicine while I was asleep, and I heard her whisper in my ear 'Don't be afraid, Ellie. Mommy will protect you!'... And then, I got all better after that..."

Ben froze for a moment when he heard that, and he quickly asked, "Are you saying that your mommy went to visit you while you were unconscious?"

Ellie nodded and said seriously, "Yeah! She fed me my medicine, and I heard her voice shortly after that! I also heard Mommy talking to Lupine about protecting me..."

Ellie wasn't as good at describing things like Robbie was, but Ben understood what she meant.

So, Charlotte had already arrived at the hospital and fed Ellie the medicine before Cynthia carried out the treatment... In that case, Ellie was able to recover because of Charlotte's medicine, not Cynthia's treatment!

Ben then gave Bruce a call and said, "When you brought Mr. Nacht to the hospital after he got poisoned at the Lindberg residence, you mentioned something about Ms. Lindberg giving him some kind of medicine. Is that right?"

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg had escorted Mr. Nacht out of there despite the risk of getting on her brother's bad side. She was holding a bottle when she handed him over to me," Bruce replied.

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Hesitating momentarily, Bruce asked, "Why are you asking this all of a sudden? What happened to Mr. Nacht?"

"Nothing..." Ben didn't elaborate before ending the call. He raised his gaze at Ellie. "Ellie, can you contact Robbie? Don't you have your smartwatch?"

"I do, but Robbie's phone has been turned off. Perhaps, its battery is out." Ellie felt dejected. "I miss, Robbie, Jamie, and Mommy..."

"Mommy! Mommy!" At that moment, Fifi flew in from the window.

"Fifi, you're back!" Ellie was delighted to see her. "Is Jamie back too?"

"Back! Back!" Fifi squawked as she flew out.

"Let me take a look." The moment Ben walked out of the room, he heard Jamie's voice shouting excitedly as he came running in. "Daddy! Ellie..."

"Mr. Jamison is back!"

Mrs. Rawlston hurried out to welcome him. They were thrilled to see him as he could lighten up the somber mood of the house.

"Mrs. Rawlston, where's Daddy and Ellie?" Jamie asked warmly.

"Upstairs, I'll take you there now." Holding his hand, Mrs. Rawlston led him up. Unable to contain her excitement, she remarked, "Mr. Jamison, it's great to have you back. I am so happy to see you again."

"I feel the same way too." Jamie looked up at Mrs. Rawlston. "Mrs. Rawlston, what's wrong? Why are your eyes red? Did someone bully you?"

"I'm fine. I'm just overwhelmed by the moment." Mrs. Rawlston collected herself quickly. "Come, I'll take you to see Daddy."

"Mmm-hmm." Jamie nodded and even greeted Ben, "Mr. Ben!"

"Good boy!" After chatting briefly with Jamie, Ben headed downstairs to see Spencer.

"Since Mr. Zachary mentioned that Ellie was bored at home, which isn't helpful to the recuperation, Mr. Nacht instructed me to bring Jamie here to keep her company," Spencer explained while drinking coffee.

"Mr. Nacht is attentive indeed." Ben asked, "How is he by the way?"

"He is better now, but we can't be too careful." Spencer added, "Given Cynthia's exceptional medical skills, I'm here to take her to the hospital where she can treat Mr. Nacht."

"Doesn't Serene Hospital have a lot of specialists? Actually, I think we should heed their advice-"

"Mr. Blackwood is here!"

Before Ben could finish, Taylor walked in from outside, causing him to hold his tongue.

"Ben, I appreciate what you have done." Taylor acted as if he was the host. "Please take care of Spencer while I head upstairs to see Zachary."

"Alright." Ben smiled awkwardly.

"Given that the worst is over, shouldn't you feel happy? What's with the glum face still?" Spencer noticed his sullen expression. "Is Lindberg Corporation applying pressure again?"

"No..." Ben felt the urge to discuss the Blackwoods with Spencer. However, given how much Spencer and Henry trusted them, he knew it would be a waste of time. In fact, his intentions might even be misconstrued.

Hence, he changed the topic. "Mr. Nacht has yet to fully recover. Hence, I'm still worried about him."

"With Cynthia around, he will be all right." Spencer patted him on the shoulder. "I'm going off first. I'll see you around."

"I'll walk you out." After escorting Spencer out, Ben called Marino when he saw that there was no one around. "Please contact Ms. Lindberg and tell her I have something to discuss with her in private."

"Ben, did you call the wrong person? Why are you asking me to get in touch with Ms. Lindberg..."

"Drop the act. Don't think that I'm not aware of you going out with Morgan."

"I... I didn't."

"Enough. Go get it done."

"I understand. I'll tell Morgan about it. Whether Ms. Lindberg is willing to see you or not is out of my hands."

"Once you tell Morgan everything that's happening within the Nacht family, Ms. Lindberg will naturally want to see me."

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After ending the call, Ben turned around to check. Just as expected, Taylor's man was watching him. When they were about to make eye contact, the bodyguard looked away, pretending to admire the scenery.

Ben furrowed his eyebrows. At this rate, the Nacht family will be controlled by the Blackwoods.

Ben just couldn't understand what Zachary was up to.

Why is he allowing the Blackwoods to behave with such impunity? Is he too sick to think straight?

As the silver Rolls-Royce was on its way home, Morgan received a very long phone call. Once she was done, she explained everything that was going on at the Nacht family to Charlotte.

The summary was that Zachary was making bad decisions because he was sick. Cynthia had taken charge of the household and wreaked havoc everywhere, causing Ellie to be terrified...

Lupine was infuriated when she heard about it. "What is Zachary doing? His hand was bitten by a poisonous snake, not his head. Why did he mess up and allow the enemy into his home?"

"I can't stand it either." Morgan suppressed her anger. "Marino mentioned that he only knows what's going on at the surface but not the details. He only heard about it from his friends. Hence, I'm afraid the reality is likely far worse."

"Ms. Lindberg, why don't we bring Mr. Jamison and Ms. Elisa back?" Lupine angrily suggested. "Then we should just leave Zachary to rot."

"Also, Marino says that Ben wants to meet with you."

Morgan gave Charlotte a conflicted look. The closer she got to know Marino, the more she knew about what happened two years ago. Hence, her attitude toward the matter had changed entirely.

She had come to believe that the love Charlotte and Zachary shared back then was true. It was just that there were too many misunderstandings that came between them two years ago.

"What's the point of meeting him?" Lupine snapped. "All that b*stard wants is to beg Ms. Lindberg to help his boss. Has he

forgotten how Zachary sabotaged us so badly that the Lindberg Corporation lost hundreds of billions?"

Not daring to say a word, Morgan looked in the rearview mirror to sneak a glance at Charlotte.

Lowering her head, Charlotte remained silent.

Not knowing what was going through her mind, Lupine and Morgan didn't comment any further.

Back at home, Charlotte came to Robbie's room and handed him both presents. "I bought you a new computer and handphone. When I'm not around next time, you won't be bored anymore."

"Thanks, Mommy." Despite receiving the presents, Robbie was still upset.

"Robbie, are you missing Jamie and Ellie?" Charlotte asked softly.

"Mmm-hmm." Robbie nodded.

Over the last few days, he had painstakingly trained the eagle to understand what he was saying. In fact, it could even complete simple tasks at his command.

Unfortunately, despite flying to the Nacht residence a few times, it failed to locate Fifi.

Jamie and Ellie weren't at home too.

Hence, Robbie figured that Jamie must have taken Fifi to the hospital.

Although Charlotte told him that the worst was over for Ellie and Zachary was doing fine, he was still worried about them since he couldn't communicate with them. More importantly, he missed them.

"Get yourself changed. I'm sending you over."

For the sake of the children, Charlotte was going to storm over.

"Huh?' Robbie thought he had heard wrongly. "Really?"

"Of course." Pinching his face, Charlotte replied with a smile, "I'm going to get changed too. We'll leave in half an hour."

"Mmm-hmm." Robbie nodded before asking, "But if I go there, what about you?"

"I can visit all of you anytime." Charlotte let out a smile. "No one can stop me from visiting my children whenever I want."

"True. You're right." Robbie almost sprang up in excitement. "Mommy, wouldn't it be better if you thought about this earlier?"

"It's still not too late." Charlotte let out a smile. "No matter how my relationship with Daddy is, I will never let anyone bully any of you!"

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Stunned by what Charlotte said, Robbie asked, "What happened?"

"Nothing." Charlotte tousled his hair. "Robbie, get changed quickly and bring Fifi along."

"Understood." Robbie nodded at once. He became emotional over the thought that his mommy and Fifi were going home together with him.

Given how long he had left home, he didn't know how much it had changed.

Meanwhile, at the Nacht residence, Taylor came to the study to see Zachary. He wanted to officially discuss the wedding. "Zachary, it isn't appropriate for Cynthia to continue staying in your home and taking care of the family. Why don't both of you get registered?"

Zachary was going through some documents. When he heard Taylor's proposal, he didn't agree, but neither did he reject it.

Observing Zachary's mood, Cynthia exchanged glances with her father.

Taylor continued, "Although Cynthia wasn't the bride at the wedding ceremony two years ago, her identity had been used in the public announcement. Since having a wedding now wouldn't be appropriate, why don't you just get the marriage registered? By the time you, the children, and Mr. Nacht have recovered, you can then hold a wedding with Cynthia. After all, she does deserve one, don't you think?"

"Mmm-hmm." Zachary finally responded. "You seem to have thought through this."

"Haha, it's not easy being a parent." Taylor sighed. "Every parent wants the best for their children. Given my age and deteriorating health, I just want Cynthia to find a good husband. Given how devoted she is to you... of course, she is doing it willingly... all I can hope for as a father is that you officially acknowledge her."

Cynthia signed frantically, "Daddy, don't say that. I did everything for Zachary of my own volition. You're turning this into emotional blackmail."

"Cynthia, no one is blackmailing anyone. I'm just discussing with Zachary." Taylor grew anxious. "Do you know what others say about you? The Nacht family doesn't acknowledge you and yet, you throw yourself at them, helping them with their domestic affairs and even..."

"My sickness and treatment have been kept secret all this while. How is it possible someone on the outside knows about it?" Finally, Zachary remarked indifferently, "Mr. Blackwood, who is this person you are talking about?"

Taylor was dumbfounded after being questioned by Zachary.

Cynthia signed in frustration, "Exactly. I like being here. Everyone treats me with respect unlike what you are alleging. Even if someone says that in front of you, you should just ignore them."

"Cynthia, why are you siding with outsiders? I'm doing this for your own good," Taylor retorted in exasperation.

"Enough." Zachary didn't want to continue the topic. "Just as you said, every member of the family is sick now. Hence, no one is in the mood to think about anything else. We'll revisit this once everyone has recovered."

"Good tidings, as the saying goes, will wash away bad luck," Taylor added with a smile. "Perhaps, once you and Cynthia have registered your marriage, your disease will be healed."

Zachary furrowed his eyebrows in response. Suddenly, an eagle's screech was heard from outside.

"What's that sound?"

Taylor and Cynthia were given a fright, after which their face turned pale.

Zachary sprang to his feet and walked to the window where he drew the curtains aside. Just as expected, the Lindberg's convoy of jeeps was approaching the Nacht residence.

A glorious shine was immediately restored to Zachary's gloomy face. His listless eyes sparkled as he cried out emotionally, "They're finally here!"

After a long and painstaking wait, she has finally returned.

He knew that she wouldn't sit on her hands. Even if she didn't care about him, she would at least be concerned for the children.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 939

"Mr. Nacht." Suddenly, Cain came rushing in to report, "The Lindbergs are here!"

Zachary turned around, regaining the frostiness of his past. "What are they doing here?"

"I have no idea. But, Mr. Robinson seems to be in one of the cars." Cain meekly added, "The eagle is here too!"

"Eagle?" Taylor's face turned pale as he gave Cynthia a troubled look.

Panicking, Cynthia hurried to Zachary's side and grabbed his sleeve. She signed, "Zachary, I'm scared."

"Don't be afraid," Zachary plainly replied. "She is just dropping Robbie off and won't be staying long."

Just as he spoke, he gently pushed her hand away and strode out.

If not for the fact he was pretending to be calm, he would have sprinted out without any hesitation. Suppressing his emotions, he couldn't let Charlotte know that she had fallen into the trap he set for her.

Meanwhile, the villa's huge metal gate remained closed. Without Zachary's orders, the bodyguards weren't authorized to open it.

Some of the bodyguards naturally recognized Charlotte. As for those who were transferred over by Henry, they were still awed by the Lindberg family's prowess despite not knowing who Charlotte was.

Just the sight of the jeep with a large golden "L" emblem was enough to strike fear into them.

"Open the gate!"

When Ben realized that Charlotte had arrived with Robbie, he thought about the message that he got Marino to send. Hence, he ordered for the gate to be opened immediately.

“Yes!”

The green colored gate gradually opened.

The Nacht family’s bodyguards stood at attention in two neat rows, holding weapons in their arms.

It looked as if the Lindberg family was here for war.

After that, the three jeeps gradually entered in a domineering manner.

Fifi the eagle was standing right in front, glaring at the bodyguards as if to say all of them were scum.

Back in the villa, Taylor and Cynthia were terrified by the sight.

“Cynthia, let’s back off for now,” Taylor whispered. “I heard that ever since Charlotte reemerged, she behaves like the devil himself. She even beat up your sister badly the last time. Moreover, with Mr. Lindberg behind her, we can’t afford to step on her toes.”

“It’s too late for that now.” Looking towards the ground floor, Cynthia signed, “This is not the time to back down. After doing so much and arriving at the cusp of success, I cannot retreat from this!”

“We’re only avoiding her for a while. It’s not like we’re not coming back.” Taylor grew anxious. “She has yet to recover her memory. But, if she finds out that you masqueraded as her during the wedding, she will definitely strangle you to death. Also, if she knew that you planted the...”

Just when Cynthia shot him a glare, Taylor bit his tongue. Scanning the surroundings, he asked softly, “This is Zachary’s room. I’m sure there aren’t any cameras inside here, are there?”

“Enough.” Cynthia signed, “You should head back first. All you’re doing is get in my way.”

"The exit is blocked. How am I going to leave?" Taylor snapped, "Now, we have no choice but to wait for the Lindbergs to go. Besides, I'm not going to leave you here all by yourself."

Cynthia signed in exasperation, "In that case, shut up."

"Fine," Taylor grunted meekly.

After shooting him a glare, Cynthia turned and left.

Meanwhile, when Zachary saw the jeeps driving into the compound, he barked, "Who asked you to open the gate?"

"Mr. Nacht, Ben did," Cain replied reluctantly.

"Ben, that's very brazen of you." Zachary shot him an icy stare.

"Mr. Nacht, I..."

"Step aside," Zachary bellowed before striding out.

Furrowing his eyebrows, Ben moved aside.

When she saw what happened, Cynthia thought to herself, It seems Zachary has grown sick of Charlotte and doesn't welcome her at all. Instead, Charlotte has shamelessly come over uninvited.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 940

Cynthia felt reinvigorated by the thought. Just when all the other bodyguards headed out to see what the commotion was about, she gave Freya a look.

The next moment, Freya brought a bowl of medication upstairs. She walked to a deserted corner before adding a mysterious substance into it. After that, she headed into Ellie's room.

"Is Mommy back? Mommy..."

When Ellie heard the eagle screeching outside, she got out of bed excitedly. Just when she attempted to get down, she was stopped by the nurses. "Ms. Elisa, you can't go down as you're still sick."

"Let go of me. I want to see Mommy."

Ellie tried to struggle free but it was a futile effort.

"What are you doing? Let her go this instant," Freya barked.

The two nurses released Ellie at once. Holding the medication, Freya suggested with a smile, "Ms. Elisa, why don't you take this first. After that, I'll take you to see Mommy."

"Really?" Ellie asked naively.

"Of course." Freya added, "Once you take your medication, you will feel better. Only then will Mommy be happy when she sees you."

"All right. I'll drink it." Ellie nodded obediently.

"Good girl. I'll feed you..." Freya prepared to feed Ellie the medication.

"Ellie, Ellie!"

Suddenly, Fifi flew into the room and flapped her wings vehemently to prevent Ellie from drinking the medication.

"Stupid bird. Go away." Freya used her hands to shoo it.

After Fifi was beaten aside, the nurses tried to capture her.

Shoving aside the medication, Ellie screamed, "Don't touch Fifi!"

"Ellie, be a good girl. Don't mind them and drink the medication first." Freya continued coaxing.

"I don't want to... hack... hack..." Ellie began coughing as she pushed the bowl away.

"Be a good girl and listen to me." Freya pinned Ellie down and tried to force the medication into her.

"What are you doing?" At that moment, Jamie rushed into the room and saw what was going on. "Let go of Ellie!"

"Mr. Jamison."

The two nurses tried to stop him.

However, neither of them was his match. Slipping easily between them, Jamie kicked the bowl away.

"You..." Overwhelmed by anger, Freya raised her hand to hit him.

However, Jamie kicked her to the ground the very next instance. He yelled, "How dare you hit me? Is this how you treat Ellie all this while?"

"Jamie... boohoo..." When Ellie saw Jamie, she threw herself into his arms.

"Jamie, I'm scared. Take me to see Mommy."

Just when Jamie helped Ellie up to bring her out, Ellie's legs wobbled, causing her to collapse onto the ground.

Hence, Jamie carried her out on his back instead.

"Mr. Jamison, stop fooling around. It would be troublesome if Ms. Elisa falls," the nurses advised.

"Get out of my way!" Jamie barked. "You're not our family nurses. Our family nurses are a lot more gentle."

"Mr. Jamison..."

Just when both of them wanted to pacify Jamie, Freya gave them a look to stop. All she did was shield them by the side as if she was worried that they would fall.

Meanwhile, Charlotte carried Robbie down from the car. Dressed entirely in white, she was a stunning sight to behold.

At the same time, Fifi the eagle flew over their heads and flapped its wings, just like a guardian angel.

Lupine, Morgan, and the other six female bodyguards stood behind Charlotte in formation. This time, they didn't carry any weapons with them.

At Bruce's signal, the Nacht family's bodyguards put down their weapons.

"Ms. Windt. It's Ms. Windt."

At the sight of Charlotte, Mrs. Rawlston became so emotional that tears welled up in her eyes.

"My God, it really is..."

"Ms. Windt isn't dead. She has returned home!"

When Molly and the other old maids saw Charlotte, they too were thrilled.

Walking out slowly, Zachary looked at Charlotte with mixed emotions.

He had waited two years just for this moment.

Throughout the entire duration, he pined for her return.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 941

Raising her gaze at the majestic building, Charlotte looked at the gardens, the bodyguards, and the old servants. Inside her, she felt a strong sense of familiarity.

At that moment, countless disjointed images flashed across her mind. The images were from the time she lived in the villa.

Every one of them was warm and blissful.

Given that she didn't resent the place, it meant she had many happy memories there.

Charlotte recalled the last time she came to the Nacht residence.

At that time, Henry had sent a messenger to Northridge to warn her that her pet was frightening his great-grandchildren.

Infuriated, she brought the eagle to the Nacht residence so that she could show them who was the boss.

However, she ended up frightening her own children.

Due to her rash actions, Robbie saw the black gold ring on Fifi's legs. With that, he managed to locate her by chance.

Everything seemed to have been dictated by fate.

And destiny had decided that she was to come home sooner or later.

Even if her relationship with Zachary couldn't be reconciled, she had to protect her children from any threats they faced.

She would never forgive anyone who dared to hurt her children.

“Daddy!” Robbie’s vibrant voice rang out, interrupting Charlotte’s thoughts.

“Robbie!” Zachary bent over and stretched out his arms.

Robbie dashed over and threw himself into Zachary’s embrace. After leaving home for such a long time, he missed his daddy a lot. Since what happened at the Lindberg residence the last time, he was worried about Zachary every day.

Watching father and son reunite, Charlotte felt a rush of conflicting emotions.

“Ah!”

Suddenly, Jamie and Ellie’s screams could be heard from inside the house.

Just when Zachary was about to check, Charlotte dashed in right away.

A minute ago, just when Jamie was carrying Ellie down the spiral staircase, he felt someone suddenly push him from behind. Losing his balance, both he and Ellie tumbled down the steps.

At the crucial moment, someone dashed forward to cushion their fall, mitigating any further injuries.

“Mommy!” Jamie cried out subconsciously.

However, when he turned to look, he realized it was Cynthia instead of Charlotte.

“Jamie! Ellie!”

Dashing over anxiously, Charlotte coincidentally saw Cynthia lunging forward to save the children with little regard for her own safety.

Obviously, everyone else saw the moving scene.

Everyone, including Zachary was stunned.

Holding onto her injured back, Cynthia struggled to get up. She signed, "Jamie, Ellie, are you all right?"

"We're fine." Jamie shook his head. "Thank you, Ms. Cynthia."

Considering Jamie wasn't home recently, he wasn't aware of Cynthia's wrongdoings. As for how the nurses bullied Ellie, he assumed it was due to their own behavior and didn't think much about it.

"Mommy..."

When Ellie saw Charlotte, she cried with her hands outstretched.

Charlotte ran over and picked her up at once. Holding her haggard little face, she asked, "Ellie, are you all right?"

"Mommy, I'm scared."

Hugging onto Charlotte tightly, Ellie bawled her lungs out.

At that moment, all the panic and fear that she felt were released. The only place where she felt safe was in her mommy's arms.

"Ellie, don't be afraid. Calm down..." Charlotte gently patted her on her back. She softly comforted her, "Mommy is here. No one will dare harm you now."

"Boohoo..." Despite nodding in acknowledgment, Ellie continued crying.

"Mommy..." When Jamie saw Ellie crying, he too burst into tears.

At the same time, many of the old servants teared up at the scene.

"Jamie, come over here. Let me see if you're hurt." Charlotte pulled Jamie closer to check.

"I'm fine." Jamie shook his head. Sobbing, he remarked, "Mommy, you're finally home. We have been looking forward to your return every day."

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chapter 942

"That's right, Ms. Windt. All of us have been looking forward to your return," Mrs. Rawlston explained, "for two whole years!"

"Exactly!" the other servants added. "The place doesn't feel like home without you."

"She's right." Molly was filled with emotion. "To us, you are the lady of the house. Forever and always."

Cynthia shot Molly a ferocious glare.

Frightened by it, Molly quickly hid to the side.

"All of you flatter me." Charlotte looked at the servants gratefully. "This time, I'm just dropping Robbie off and will be leaving in a while."

"Mommy, don't go. I'm not letting you leave." Ellie hugged Charlotte tightly, worried that she would go.

"Mommy, I don't want you to leave either." Jamie too grabbed Charlotte's hand. "If you go, all of us want to go with you."

Feeling anxious, Robbie tugged at Zachary's hand and reminded softly, "Daddy, say something, quick."

Just when Zachary was about to speak...

A loud thud was heard as Cynthia suddenly fell from the steps.

"Ms. Blackwood!" The nurses there quickly helped her up.

Sobbing, Freya remarked, "You have pushed yourself too hard. Despite carrying so many injuries, you still care for everyone in this family. In fact, you even risked your life to save Mr. Robinson and Ms. Elisa, hurting yourself further."

She then spoke to Zachary in a coquettish tone, "Mr. Nacht, why don't you check on Ms. Cynthia and see if the wound on her waist tore open? Also, she might have sprained her leg."

Furrowing his eyebrows, Zachary didn't intend on complying.

"What happened?" At that moment, Taylor ran down from upstairs and asked anxiously, "Why did you fall down the steps for no reason? We still have to go to the hospital to treat Henry. What are we going to do now?"

By bringing up Henry's name, Taylor forced Zachary into reacting. He stepped forward and helped Cynthia up. "Are you all right? You should have been more careful."

"I'm fine," Cynthia signed. "When I saw Jamie and Ellie falling down the stairs, I dashed forward without thinking. All that matters is that they're safe."

Morgan rolled her eyes and felt the urge to give her a forceful slap.

"How did Mr. Jamison and Ms. Elisa fall down the steps?"

Lupine looked at the tracks on the staircase.

"Oh..." Freya added at once, "Mr. Robinson insisted on carrying Ms. Elisa on his back. When he wasn't careful-"

"Nonsense!" Jamie interrupted angrily. He explained, "Someone pushed me from behind!"

"Who did it?" Charlotte demanded.

"Erm..." Jamie scratched his head. "I don't know as I didn't get a good look. However, I'm definitely sure someone pushed me."

"Who is so brazen as to push you in our own house?" Robbie clenched his fists angrily.

"Perhaps, someone is trying to put on a show." Morgan glared in Cynthia's direction.

Hiding behind Zachary in fear, Cynthia signed in panic, "Why are you looking at me like that? I was downstairs during that time. Furthermore, I dived to save the children at the crucial moment. How is it possible that I pushed them? Are you saying that I have clones?"

"Aren't they everywhere?" Morgan swept her gaze at the medical staff.

"What's the meaning of this? How dare you accuse my daughter of such a thing?" Taylor questioned angrily, "This is the Nacht residence, not the Lindberg residence. How dare you outsiders wreak havoc here?"

"You're speaking as if you're not an outsider," Morgan retorted fearlessly.

"You..." Taylor's expression drastically changed. "Ms. Lindberg, your subordinate is out of line."

"She is right," Charlotte snapped.

Taylor was dumbfounded by Charlotte's response.

Cynthia tugged at Zachary's sleeve as tears filled her eyes.

"Are there surveillance cameras at home? We'll know once we have a look."

Lupine was more level-headed than Morgan.

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"This is my home. Why would there be security cameras?" Zachary finally spoke. "Before I could say anything, the both of you started hurling accusations. What are you trying to show?"

"You..." Infuriated, Morgan turned toward Charlotte.

"Looks like you're trying to protect her?" Charlotte handed Ellie to Lupine before turning her attention to Zachary. "Now that there's a stepmother, you no longer care for the children."

"What did you say?" Zachary furrowed his eyebrows.

"In that case, I'll take the children with me."

Not bothered to argue further, Charlotte gestured with her hand. The next moment, her bodyguards picked up the three children and prepared to leave.

"Charlotte Lindberg, stop where you are!" Zachary bellowed. "Do you think this is the Lindberg residence where you can do as you wish? The children are Nachts. They are my children!"

"I gave birth to them, so they're mine." Charlotte remained defiant. "Ever since the children stayed with you, they have repeatedly fallen sick and gotten injured. Since you're unable to protect them as their father, you should just return them to me."

"Who says I can't protect them?"

"Why did Ellie fall sick the moment she arrived?"

"She was poisoned at your place."

"Stop arguing!" Robbie interrupted angrily.

Suddenly, Ellie barfed loudly and vomited all over Morgan.

"My God, Ellie!" Morgan exclaimed in panic.

"Ellie!" Charlotte and Zachary rush over at once.

Holding Ellie in her arms, Charlotte examined her anxiously. "Ellie, what happened to you? Don't scare me, all right?"

"Why is this happening?"

Zachary panicked as it was the exact same situation as the first time she fell sick.

"Mommy, it feels terrible. Boohoo..."

After complaining in between her sobs, Ellie continued to throw up.

"Ellie..." Robbie and Jamie were seized with fright.

"Let's get her to the hospital now!" Charlotte was filled with desperation.

"Step aside, there's a doctor here." Taylor pushed Cynthia forward at once.

"Let me see," Cynthia signed.

Pouncing on Cynthia's neck, Charlotte pinned her to the ground and screamed hysterically, "If anything happens to my daughter, I'll slaughter your entire family!"

Cynthia's eyes were filled with fear as she could suddenly feel death breathing down her neck.

"What are you doing? Let go of her."

Taylor wanted to stop her, but Lupine shoved him aside. The other medical staff stayed away, barely daring to breathe.

"Charlotte, calm down!" Zachary pulled Charlotte's hand back and anxiously persuaded her, "Release her and let her treat Ellie first. Or else, she'll die!"

Gradually, Charlotte moved her hands away. Pinching her cheeks, she gritted her teeth and warned, "Listen well, I don't care if you want Zachary. But if you harm my children, I will carve out your flesh piece by piece. Do you understand?"

"Mmm..." Trembling in fear, Cynthia nodded repeatedly.

"Now, treat her at once." Charlotte pulled her back up.

Just when Cynthia was about to fall back down, Taylor quickly supported her.

After Morgan carried Ellie back into her room, the rest of the female bodyguards kept watch as Cynthia treated Ellie.

"It's them! It must be them!" Clenching his fists, Jamie pointed at Freya.

"Jamie, what did you see?" Robbie questioned further.

"They were forcing medicine on Ellie. When I kicked the bowl away, they even wanted to hit me." Pointing angrily at Freya, he declared, "They must have tortured Ellie, that's why Ellie turned out that way!"

Everyone turned to their attention toward Freya.

"Why would I..." Freya desperately explained, "Given how sick Ms. Elisa was, she needed her medication. I was just coaxing her to take it. I didn't force it on her in any way. Also, I wouldn't dare to hit Mr. Jamison too-"

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Slap! Before Freya could finish, Lupine hit her forcefully. "How dare you!"

"I didn't. I really didn't..."

With blood coming out of her lips, Freya fell to her knees, crying.

"We'll know for sure once we investigate." Charlotte gestured.

"Understood." Lupine was about to order Freya to be taken away when she suddenly screamed, "No! Uncle Taylor save me!"

"Wait!" Taylor hurried over and stood in front of Freya. "She's my niece and is also Cynthia's assistant. She might be stubborn at times but she does not harbor any ill intention."

"I don't care who she is!" Charlotte bellowed. "Even if it's you, I will kill you without hesitation if you touch my children!"

"You..." Taylor's face reddened in anger.

"Uncle Taylor, save me. I don't want to die." Freya burst into tears.

"Zachary, say something." Taylor looked desperately at Zachary. "We came here to help. And now, we're being bullied by outsiders. What's the meaning of this?"

Zachary responded with indifference.

"Fine." Taylor took out his phone. "Since you don't care, I'll get Mr. Nacht to judge."

"Fine." Finally, Zachary spoke and gestured to Ben.

Ben ordered men to bring Freya and the two nurses who fed Ellie out.

"Uncle Taylor, Uncle..." Freya cried in defiance.

"Enough, shut up," Taylor snapped.

He knew that Zachary would at least show them mercy on Henry's account.

If he continued to argue, they might not even get the chance.

"Are you going to let her go just like that?" Lupine couldn't accept it. "At the very least, shouldn't she be interrogated?"

Charlotte stared intently at Zachary with mixed emotions.

What is he up to? Given the thoughtful look in his eyes, he doesn't look like he's hobbled by sickness. There's something obviously wrong with Freya. A simple investigation would quickly reveal the

truth. But, he refuses to do it. Even if he is worried about Mr. Nacht, there's no need to back down without reason, isn't it? Mr. Nacht would also insist that the matter be investigated if he knew about it. So why does Zachary want to let Freya and the two nurses go? Why is he unwilling to investigate? Is it because he truly loves Cynthia and is protecting her? No, even if he loves her blindly, he wouldn't put the children's life at risk. That isn't him. In that case, what is he really up to?

"That's the end of the matter. No one is allowed to say anything else," Zachary warned. Next, he turned to Taylor. "Mr. Blackwood, it's been a long day for you. I think you should go home and rest now."

"I have been planning to do that since the beginning," Taylor replied awkwardly, "It's just that I was supposed to take Cynthia to see Mr. Nacht."

Taylor was smart. He knew Cynthia would have a difficult time with Charlotte here. Hence, he wanted to take her with him.

"I'll let Mr. Spencer know that Cynthia can't make it today," Zachary plainly answered. "Grandpa's condition is stable. It's Ellie who is in danger now."

"That's true." Taylor nodded. "Or else, why don't I wait for her to be done with Ellie before leaving together?"

"Now that both Ellie and I rely on her treatment, I can't allow her to leave."

Zachary gave Taylor a thoughtful look.

"But..." Just when Taylor was in a dilemma, one of the nurses approached them, "Mr. Blackwood, Ms. Blackwood says that you should go on home first. She will stay back to look after Ellie and Mr. Nacht."

"All right." Left without a choice, he probed, "Now that Freya and the others are gone, do you need me to arrange for more help?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 945

"I'll get Raina to come with her men. You don't have to worry about it."

At his signal, Zachary's men came to escort Taylor out.

"In that case, I'll take my leave first. Please watch over Cynthia while she's here."

After looking at Charlotte with a worried expression, Taylor anxiously recovered his gaze.

"Don't worry, this is the Nacht residence." Zachary shot a glance at Charlotte.

"That's a relief."

Right after he finished, Taylor left without hesitation.

"Zachary, how brazen of you. Do you think just because this is your home, I wouldn't dare do a thing?" Charlotte threatened in anger. "Once I decide to kill someone, you won't be able to stop me."

"I know how powerful you are," Zachary patiently pacified, "but given how sick Ellie is, why don't we talk about it once her condition has stabilized?"

Charlotte found that he had a point. It wasn't the right time to let her temper flare.

"Get Raina here at once," Zachary instructed Cain.

"Right away." Cain went off to make a call.

"Let's wait upstairs." Zachary gestured for her to move ahead.

Coming upstairs together, both of them arrived outside Ellie's room.

At that moment, Cynthia was treating Ellie with the assistance of her medical staff.

Morgan and another four bodyguards were watching them closely.

Cynthia was no longer as calm as usual. Sweating profusely, her hands were shaking as she worked.

Charlotte furrowed her eyebrows when she saw what was happening.

Zachary entered the room and reminded, "Steady yourself. You must cure Ellie!"

Turning to give him a look, Cynthia felt as if she was reinvigorated and continued her treatment.

"Will this really work?" Lupine asked softly.

Charlotte didn't reply. Instead, she went into an empty room and made a call. Soon, the call connected.

"Charlotte!"

"Danrique, I need your help."

"Go on."

"Let me borrow Francesco for two days."

"Are you having a relapse?"

"No, I-"

"Since it's not you, there's no need to bother Francesco."

Just as he spoke, Danrique ended the call.

Charlotte felt extremely frustrated. Francesco was Danrique's personal doctor and was exceptionally skilled. He seldom showed himself and would only treat Danrique only in times of crisis.

Back when Charlotte was poisoned, all the doctors that Danrique had engaged could barely cure her.

It wasn't until the circumstances grew desperate that he called Francesco as a last resort. Only after Francesco prepared a special concoction for her did they manage to slowly neutralize the poison within her.

Therefore, when Charlotte saw Ellie's condition, she was extremely worried. Hence, she called Danrique hoping to seek Francesco's help. However, she didn't expect him to reject her outright.

Do we have no choice but to place our hopes on Cynthia now?

"She's puking it out, she's puking it out!"

Morgan's excited voice rang out from outside.

When Charlotte ran out, she saw Ellie puking a mouthful of contaminated blood. After that, she started crying out loud.

As for Cynthia, she collapsed butt first onto the floor with her forehead drenched in sweat.

She was terrified the entire time.

If she didn't manage to cure Ellie, Charlotte would definitely have her head.

"Ellie..." Zachary went up to hug her. He gently comforted, "Don't be afraid. Daddy's here."

"Mommy, I want Mommy." Ellie reached out her hand and cried out for Charlotte.

Charlotte walked up at once and held Ellie's hand. "Mommy is here."

"Mommy." Ellie threw herself into Charlotte's arms and hugged her neck tightly. "Mommy, don't go. Don't leave me alone."

"Mommy, why don't you stay?" Jamie hugged Charlotte's leg and refused to let go. With tears streaming down his cheeks, he pleaded, "We feel miserable without you here."

Zachary was stumped. The children were making it sound as if they were being abused at home.

"You're a terrible father."

Just as expected, Charlotte glared angrily at Zachary.

"I..." Zachary didn't know what to say.

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"Mommy, please stay back. At least wait till Ellie gets better before you leave." Tugging at Charlotte's sleeve, Robbie suggested, "What if something happens to Ellie while you're gone?"

"I'll bring all of you back with me," Charlotte declared.

"Stop messing around." Zachary stopped her at once. "Can't you see how sick Ellie is? Why are you being so persistent?"

"Zachary..."

"For the children's sake, why don't you just stay for the time being?" Zachary was close to pleading. "As for the rest, we'll discuss them later."

Cynthia felt anxious when she heard Zachary's request. Despite tugging at his sleeves, he simply ignored her.

Charlotte hesitated briefly. Although she didn't feel like staying, she couldn't allow Ellie to take any more risks.

Her priority now was for Ellie to recover. Since she couldn't get Francesco and Dr. Felch wasn't back yet, she had no choice but to rely on Cynthia.

However, if Cynthia decided to mess around, Ellie would be in real danger.

Hence, she knew she couldn't take the risk.

With that thought in mind, Charlotte finally compromised. "Fine, I'll stay here for a few days until Ellie has recovered."

"That's wonderful." Zachary was delighted. He ordered Ben at once, "Prepare the rooms, including those for the bodyguards."

"Right away." With that, Ben conveyed the message to Mrs. Rawlston.

"Daddy, you look very happy." Jamie looked at Zachary in shock. "You're even smiling."

"Are you sure?" Zachary collected himself quickly.

Charlotte rolled her eyes at him and asserted, "Out with the rest of you. I'll stay here with Ellie."

"I want to stay with Ellie too-"

"Out!"

"Okay."

Before Zachary could finish, Charlotte yelled for him to go out.

Everyone was stunned by what they saw. No one expected the fearless Zachary to actually be afraid of Charlotte.

At the same time, Cynthia's face turned pale as she lost the composure she used to have.

She had to go through so much trouble before being allowed to stay by Zachary's side as his doctor.

But now, Charlotte was allowed to move in with a random excuse.

Furthermore, Zachary treated her as an exclusive guest. He made it look as if the villa was her home.

At the rate things were going, Cynthia's dream of becoming Mrs. Nacht was slowly slipping away.

However, she realized that she might now have difficulty staying, let alone continue with her plan.

"Dr. Blackwood, this way please." Lupine ushered her.

As Cynthia walked out with her head hung low, her staff left together with her.

With no outsiders in the room, the children surrounded Charlotte and shouted jubilantly, "Mommy! This is wonderful. You're finally home!"

"I'm only here for the time being," Charlotte explained. "I need to personally watch over Ellie given how sick she is. By the time she recovers, I'll-"

"We'll talk about it when the time comes." Jamie waved his hand and brazenly declared, "Perhaps, by the time Ellie is well, you won't want to leave anymore."

"Mmm-hmm, that's right." Robbie nodded with a smile.

"I don't care. All I want is Mommy here with me." Ellie threw herself into Charlotte's embrace and hugged her tightly. "With Mommy around, I'm not afraid of anything."

"Good girl, Ellie." Charlotte gently stroked Ellie's hair. "With me here, no one will dare to harm you."

"Mommy, why don't you sleep in my room?" Snuggling up in Charlotte's arms, Ellie refused to let go. "All I want is to be able to hug you every day."

"All right." Charlotte kissed her on her forehead. "I'll stay with you."

“What about me?” Jamie was jealous. “I want Mommy too.”

“You’re a boy and an elder brother,” Robbie reminded him sternly. “Why are you competing with Ellie over this?”

“It’s not that,” Jamie quickly explained. “I’m not trying to compete with her. I just... forget it, I’m just happy that I can see Mommy every day.”

“Be good. Once Ellie has recovered, I’ll spend more time with both of you,” Charlotte reassured them.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 947

Meanwhile, Zachary personally instructed Mrs. Rawlston to prepare Charlotte’s room. In fact, he even ordered rooms to be prepared for Lupine and Morgan.

Mrs. Rawlston was delighted to hear that Charlotte was staying. Hence, she instructed her staff to get on it at once.

When Molly and the other maids happily prepared the rooms, the other subordinates helped out too.

After all, Charlotte had saved them from Zara’s clutches and they were all grateful for it.

In a blink of an eye, the house was bustling with life.

As everyone busied themselves with work, it felt as if there was a celebration going on.

However, Cain rushed in and quietly asked Ben, “Ben, the eagle is circling the rooftop and wants to come in. What do we do?”

They knew that it was Charlotte’s pet. Hence, there was no way they could beat it nor chase it away. However, they couldn’t let it in either for fear of scaring the maids.

"About that..."

"Let it in." Lupine happened to pass by.

"It doesn't seem like a good idea." Ben furrowed his eyebrows and questioned, "What if it hurts someone?"

"Don't worry. Fifi won't hurt anyone without Ms. Lindberg's instructions," Lupine declared proudly. "Unless that person deserves it!"

"You..."

"Ca-caw!"

Suddenly, the eagle screeched outside.

"Ah!"

The two nurses from the Blackwood family almost fell down the stairs after being frightened by it.

Panicking, Cynthia's face turned ashen.

"Th-that's really terrifying," one of the elderly maids commented fearfully. "Are we really going to let it stay indoors?"

"Will it bite me?" Another younger maid was trembling in fear. "Last time, Ms. Windt only had a small parrot. But now, she has an eagle... uh..."

"Look at them." Ben pointed at the maids. "They're already terrified even with the eagle outside. If it comes in, how are they going to work? It's better if you take it back."

"No." Lupine was extremely persistent. "Ms. Lindberg brought it here, how can we send it back?"

"But-"

"Fifi!" Just before Ben could say another word, Robbie suddenly called out and blew a whistle next.

“Ca-caw!”

Flapping its wings, the eagle dived into the villa like an arrow, sending a cold gust of wind through the house.

The maids screamed in fright.

At the same time, the medical staff from the Blackwood family ran helter-skelter, as if the eagle was there to attack them.

Just when Ben turned around vigilantly to defend against the eagle, it swooped over his head and landed on Robbie’s shoulder.

Given how heavy the eagle was, Robbie’s shoulder sank underneath its weight. Nevertheless, his expression remained cool and aloof. He ordered, “You have to behave, do you understand?”

The eagle cooed obediently.

“That’s the way.” Robbie stroked its wings and turned toward Lupine. “Lupine, Fifi will stay in my room. Please get someone to send his food there.”

“Yes, Mr. Robinson.” Lupine nodded with a smile.

“Mrs. Rawlston, Ms. Molly, Zizi, don’t be afraid. Fifi is my pet. It won’t hurt any of you,” Robbie reassured the maids.

“All right then.” Mrs. Rawlston nodded repeatedly.

Everyone gaped as they watch Robbie bring the eagle back to his room. Not too long ago, that same eagle had barged into the Nacht residence and almost hurt Robbie.

No one expected him to tame it and make it his pet.

“Mr. Robinson, you’re really awesome!” Zizi the maid exclaimed.

“Since it’s your pet, we are no longer afraid of it.” Mrs. Rawlston stroked her chest. “I’ll prepare some beef and bring them up in a while.”

“Mmm-hmm.”

With that, the maids went back to work.

When Ben saw that they were no longer afraid, he stopped interfering in the matter.

After that, Lupine ordered the bodyguards to go back and get their luggage.

With everyone busy with their work, the Blackwoods stood out like a sore thumb.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 948

As the staff at the Nacht residence didn't like Cynthia, they quickly formed a bond with the Lindberg family staff.

It didn't take long for Mrs. Rawlston to be on good terms with Lupine.

Lupine checked with Mrs. Rawlston as to whether there was a need to bring the Lindberg family's cooks over. After all, she was worried that Mrs. Rawlston couldn't cope.

Mrs. Rawlston reassured her that it was all right as they had nothing much to do before that. Now that Charlotte was back and the family reunited, the atmosphere in the villa was extremely vibrant.

All the maids were delighted and were more than willing to help.

Lupine was touched to hear their response. She was also surprised by how attached the old maids of the Nacht family were to Charlotte.

In fact, Mrs. Rawlston even told her that they saw her as family. Hence, she didn't need to behave like a stranger.

Lupine nodded and reminded them not to overexert themselves. They should let her know if they couldn't cope and she would arrange for more help.

After acknowledging what Lupine said, Mrs. Rawlston returned to the kitchen.

Meanwhile, Molly sighed aloud and commented that the villa felt different now that the real lady of the house was back.

Obviously, she had said it just to spite Cynthia.

At that moment, everyone in the house ignored Cynthia as if she was invisible. In fact, she was even resented by many of them.

The Blackwoods had brought eight medical staff. Now that three had been kicked out, there were still five left. They too were ignored.

When Cynthia returned to the room with a grim expression, the five of them quickly approached her.

"Ms. Cynthia, why don't we go home? Since, these people don't like us, staying here will just cause them to resent us."

"Exactly. Even the maids dislike us. Despite doing so much, they don't appreciate us at all. So, why should we stay here and suffer?"

"Now that his wife is back with such fanfare, I'm afraid it might be troublesome for you to stay back given how powerful she is--"

Slap!

Before the nurse could finish, Cynthia gave her a slap.

Full with rage, she put all her strength into it.

Even though the nurse's cheek was swollen red with a clear palm print on it, she lowered her head and didn't dare make a sound. Gritting her teeth, tears gradually rolled down her cheeks.

Cynthia raised her chin in an intimidating manner so that she could look her in the eye. After that, she signed angrily, "Listen well. I paid all of you so much to work for me. Even if you need to suffer, so be it!"

"Yes!" the medical staff meekly replied.

"The Lindbergs and the Nachts are mortal enemies. Zachary won't want to get together with Charlotte. Even if he does, we can rely on Mr. Nacht to stop them." Cynthia continued to sign, "I know what I must do and don't need any of your stupid opinions and concern."

"Yes, we understand." All the medical staff were frightened of her.

At that moment, Cynthia looked savage and was entirely different from her gentle demeanor.

"Mind your words and stop spewing nonsense." She signed, "Just do whatever I tell you to. If you hear anything useful, let me know at once, and you will be handsomely rewarded."

"Yes." They nodded in acknowledgment.

"Get out now," Cynthia ordered.

After the staff walked out, Cynthia was the only one left in the room. With Freya gone, she felt exhausted. All she was left with was a useless bunch who weren't much help at all.

Nevertheless, Cynthia wasn't going to admit defeat.

Given how much trouble I have gone through to stay in the Nacht residence and hold an important position by Zachary's side, it will be a shame to give up now. Charlotte is just too strong, there's no way I can challenge her successfully. What should I do?

Just as she was pondering upon it, her phone suddenly rang. She quickly answered as it was Taylor on video.

"Cynthia, how are you? Did Charlotte bully you?" Taylor asked anxiously.

"What do you think?"

Cynthia rubbed her neck. The mark from Charlotte's grip was still visible. She was almost strangled to death just now.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 949

"You should come home at once." Taylor shuddered when he recalled what happened in the past. "The Lindberg family loves to fight. Danrique himself kills without batting an eyelid. Naturally, his sister is also equally vicious. From the way Charlotte looked at you, she would likely tear you apart if she had the chance. They even have an eagle as a pet. If you stay, you will lose your life..."

"Stop wasting time." Cynthia was extremely frustrated. "Instead of asking me to leave, you should help me think of how I should get rid of Charlotte."

"Stop kidding yourself. Since when am I even capable of doing that? She said so herself today that even I wouldn't be spared if I caused any trouble." Taylor put on a helpless look. "Cynthia, leave now so we can fight another day. Survival is paramount now--"

"Enough." Exasperated by her father's words, Cynthia was about to end the call when something struck her. She signed, "How is Mr. Nacht now?"

"After I left the Nacht residence, I went to see him at the hospital. He is recovering well and wants to be discharged. However, Spencer didn't allow it and wants him to be monitored for a while longer. Also, I didn't dare tell him about what happened at the Nacht residence."

"No, you should tell him." Cynthia signed at once, "Not only that, you should let him know that Charlotte has come back to exact revenge. In order to take the children away, she caused Ellie to be poisoned. At the crucial moment, it was I who saved Ellie. Hence, I'm now staying back at the Nacht residence to protect her..."

"I understand." Taylor realized what her plan was. "I'll head to the hospital right away."

"As of now, my happiness and the future of the Blackwood family are in your hands." Cynthia signed solemnly. "Ideally, we should get Mr. Nacht back home to manage the situation. That way, Charlotte would have no choice but to leave."

"Understood!" Taylor nodded repeatedly. "I'll get it done at once. So, don't you worry."

After ending the call, Cynthia let out an insidious smile. It was as if victory was within her grasp.

Meanwhile, Charlotte remained in the room with Ellie until she fell asleep.

Lupine crept inside and asked softly, "I have packed your necessities and put them in the guest room they have prepared for you. You should get something to eat first. I'll watch Ms. Elisa for you."

"All right." Charlotte pulled out her arm carefully before stretching it alongside her neck. She had been lying on her side beside Ellie, causing both her arm and shoulder to go numb.

"It must be tough." Lupine helped her massage a little. "Go and grab a bite as you haven't had anything the entire day. After all, Ms. Elisa's condition has stabilized. With me here, Cynthia wouldn't dare to make a move."

"Exactly." At that moment, Morgan came up with a bowl of soup. "Ms. Lindberg, drink this before your blood sugar dips."

"Thank you." After taking a sip, Charlotte asked, "Have you contacted Marino? How is his search coming along?"

"I did." Morgan replied softly, "He said that after what happened to you two years ago, Dr. Felch had a bad impression of Mr. Nacht. Hence, he and his family moved away and cut off all contact. Recently, Mr. Nacht went to see them but they refused to let him in."

"When Marino went to look for them this time, he realized that they had moved, and we have no idea where to. However, he mentioned that Olivia might know where Dr. Felch is..."

"Make the arrangements. I want to see Olivia," Charlotte ordered at once.

"Yes." Morgan nodded.

After putting on her jacket, Charlotte prepared to leave. The moment she opened the door, he saw Zachary who was about to knock.

Exchanging glances, Charlotte's gaze was icy cold while Zachary's was filled with conflicted emotions. "Let's talk."

"All right." Charlotte stared at him indifferently. "I was just about to look for you."

Zachary then ushered her out.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 950

When Charlotte followed Zachary into a room, a strong sense of familiarity overwhelmed her the moment she opened the door.

Stopping in her tracks, she scrutinized the room and suddenly saw the wedding photo hung on the wall.

In it was Zachary and her, the children, Mrs. Berry, and Fifi.

It was a picture the seven of them had taken by the beach.

All of them were smiling cheerfully in it.

With the sun shining on their faces, it felt as if they were showered with love and warmth.

Charlotte was stunned to see the picture. She felt as if her head was being torn open as memories of the past flooded into her mind.

"Call me Hubby."

"Pfft... it makes me cringe!"

"After me, Hub-by!"

"Hub-by"

"Hubby!"

"Hubby!"

"Sheesh!"

.....

"Why aren't coming over to help me shower. If you treat me well, you will be generously rewarded!"

"Coming..."

"We're already married. Why are you still unhappy?"

"I'm happy, Wifey!"

"Hubby!"

"Good girl! Look, I have put on the ring. From now onwards, we are husband and wife!"

"Charlotte, don't be afraid. No matter what happens, I won't let go of your hand!"

As the blissful memories floated through her mind, she felt as if they had just happened yesterday.

With her heart jolted, Charlotte could feel the emotions from the past swelling up within her. Lifting her gaze at Zachary, she was suddenly filled with tears.

"Do you remember now?" Holding onto her shoulders, he asked anxiously, "We used to love each other. Do you remember?"

Looking at him teary-eyed, her mind was looping through the beautiful memories that were playing like a reel.

She believed that once upon a time, they had truly loved each other.

The love and hate she felt seemed to meld together.

However...

A sudden pain in her head jolted her back to her senses. Closing her eyes, she held her head desperately as horrifying scenes filled her mind.

The wedding dress, blood, Mrs. Berry, thunder, and the storm...

One by one, the images flashed through her mind like lightning. To her, the shock felt as if someone had whipped her in her brain. Regaining her senses at once, she opened her eyes to reveal a murderous gaze.

Taken aback by the look she had, Zachary recoiled and looked at her in shock.

"Stop trying to rejig my memory. It will only make me hate you more." Gritting her teeth, she warned, "I'm sparing you now on the account of the children. However, it doesn't mean that I have forgiven you!"

"There has been a big misunderstanding..." Zachary wanted to explain. "Of course, if you don't want to listen to it now, we can talk about it some other time. But now..."

"I will look for Olivia and ask her about Dr. Felch's whereabouts." Charlotte knew what he was going to say. "Ellie is my daughter,

and I will not let any harm come to her. At the same time, I will find out who the perpetrator is and kill her no matter who she is!”

Just as she spoke, Charlotte turned and left. Right when she was at the door, she turned around to look at the family photo.

She sneered, “What’s the use of leaving something like that around? The Charlotte Windt of old is dead!”

Those words shook Zachary to his core.

He had thought that there was a chance to turn things around.

Unfortunately, the hatred had already taken root within Charlotte and spread throughout her entire being.

Just reminding her of the wonderful memories alone wasn’t enough.

However, he remained defiant and refused to give up.

If the beautiful memories of the past couldn’t extinguish the hatred in her, what about the children? Perhaps, the children are the key. There has to be a way.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 951

As Charlotte was leaving Zachary's room for lunch, she ran into Cynthia, who was holding a first aid kit in her hands.

The unexpected coincidence made Cynthia fret. Frantically, she stepped aside to make way for Charlotte.

The latter took a quick glance at her, then walked past her.

Cynthia was so anxious that she waited until Charlotte had gone downstairs before she lifted her head to look at her.

An indescribable feeling of hatred and jealousy crept up on her as she gazed at Charlotte's back.

"Ms. Windt, lunch is ready." Mrs. Rawlston enthusiastically invited Charlotte over to the dining table. Waving at her, she exclaimed, "I have prepared all of these just for you. There are hot cross bunnies as well as mac and cheese."

Scanning the sumptuous spread on the table, Charlotte was delighted to see her favorite food and rose tea.

"We've been looking forward to your return for two long years." Mrs. Rawlston doted on Charlotte like a close family member. Her gaze was warm and friendly. "I remember every single dish that you love and the tea that you like. I also remember that you enjoy sitting by the wall. Come over here, and take your seat."

"Thank you, Mrs. Rawlston." Charlotte was deeply touched.

I used to consider myself a stupid and incompetent coward. Now that I realize how well these senior housekeepers have been treating me, it suddenly dawns on me that my former self wasn't so bad after all.

"You're most welcome. We are family." Mrs. Rawlston placed a napkin on Charlotte's lap. "Robbie and Jamie couldn't wait any longer, so they have both eaten. I guess they are probably asleep by now. Mr. Zachary will be joining you soon."

"All right," Charlotte responded briefly.

Right when she was about to dig in, Mrs. Rawlston asked carefully, "Ms. Windt..." She faltered before adding, "Where's Mrs. Berry? Did she come back with you? How is she?"

Charlotte trembled upon hearing that familiar name. The silver spoon fell off her hand and landed on the plate with a crisp sound.

"What's wrong?" Mrs. Rawlston asked after noticing Charlotte's odd expression, "Did I say something wrong? Please don't mind me asking about Mrs. Berry. We became really good friends during her stay here. I've been missing her so much these two years. So, I just wanted to know how she's doing."

"Mrs. Berry has passed on," lowering her head, Charlotte muttered.

Mrs. Rawlston froze for a while. Upon recovering her senses, she queried further, "What happened? She was perfectly fine when she left. We even made plans to return to the countryside together..."

"She was killed," Charlotte interrupted her. In a quavering voice, she stated, "I'll seek revenge for her."

"How could this be?" Mrs. Rawlston was shocked to the core. As tears streamed down her face, her heart sank. "What about you, Ms. Windt? How did you get through the two years on your own?"

Mrs. Rawlston struggled to imagine what Charlotte had gone through over the past few years.

The tragedy that befell Mrs. Berry must have impacted her adversely. Otherwise, she wouldn't have changed her identity and yearned to become so powerful.

"I'm okay. It's all in the past now." Charlotte smiled. "I'm fine. Nobody dares to bully me anymore."

"Silly child..." Mrs. Rawlston's eyes glistened.

Charlotte's heart skipped a beat when she heard the phrase. Instantly, she recalled how Mrs. Berry consoled her each time she was anguished. "Silly child, don't be afraid. I'll protect you, come what may."

How could anyone do such a vicious thing to a kind soul like Mrs. Berry?

While she was in deep thoughts, a bodyguard dashed toward Ben and reported, "Ben, Sharon has escaped!"

"What?" Ben commanded, "Chase after her and bring her back immediately."

"Our men are tailing her now. She took one of the cars..."

"Lupine," Charlotte called out.

"I'm here!" Within a blink of an eye, Lupine darted into the room with two other bodyguards. She glared at Ben and scoffed, "The Nachts are such losers."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 952

"You..." Infuriated, Ben and the others followed along quickly.

He refused to be preempted by the Lindberg family, and ended up being labeled as an incompetent fellow, especially in his own territory.

Right then, Zachary who had received the news came down from upstairs.

"Mr. Nacht," Bruce reported, "Ben has gone after her."

"Don't let her get away," Zachary instructed, furrowing his brows.

“Rest assured that we’ve deployed a lot of men to handle this.”

As Bruce was speaking, the screeching sound of an eagle was heard from upstairs. Shortly after, it zoomed past above their heads like an arrow. Swoosh.

Automatically, Bruce bent down to avoid the eagles’ widespread wings.

Subsequently, a dark shadow bolted across the room, and a gust of wind blew past them.

“Ahh!” Several maids and nurses screamed in trepidation. Among them, two had collapsed on the floor.

Meanwhile, in the dining room, Charlotte maintained her composure and continued having her meal without batting an eyelid.

Zachary approached her and explained, “About Sharon...”

“I know,” Charlotte cut him off while shooting him a death stare. “The night I was fighting Zara, you accompanied Sharon to the suburbs and protected her in all aspects. Thereafter, you even moved her home to be right under your nose because you’re so concerned about her safety. Well done, Zachary!”

“No, you’ve misunderstood.” Zachary tried to justify himself, “I just wanted to collect more evidence and put them behind bars...”

“What other proof do you need?” Charlotte found his reason blatantly ridiculous. “With the power bestowed upon the Nachts, I seriously doubt you can’t uncover the truth within two years.”

“I’ve long discovered the truth, but we need solid evidence to bring them to justice.” Frowning, Zachary continued, “This isn’t Erihal. We can’t take things into our own hands.”

“Is that so?” Charlotte arched her brow. “Zara poisoned me, abducted Robbie, and even instructed Sharon to assassinate Mrs. Berry. Will the Nachts be principled enough to carry out what’s right and put her to jail?”

"Yes," Zachary stated firmly without any hesitation.

"That's what you said verbally, but I don't see any action being taken." Charlotte pushed further. "It's been two years. Isn't that more than enough time to source for the much needed evidence?"

"That's because..." Initially, Zachary wanted to reveal how Danrique swept the proof under the carpet. However, he changed his mind, thinking that it would only enrage Charlotte more. "To cut the long story short, I'll give you an explanation on this."

"If you truly wanted to come clean with me, you wouldn't have delayed it till now. More essentially, you wouldn't have protected Sharon!" Charlotte cast a suspicious look on him. "You deliberately covered up for her. There must be more to it than meets the eye, right?"

"Of course not," Zachary denied it right away. "I'm just thinking..."

"Mr. Nacht is back!" someone announced loudly. Before Zachary could finish his sentence, he heard the car engine.

Stunned, he wondered why Henry was home at that time. His health is so poor, and he has barely recovered. Why was he discharged out of a sudden? Could it be that...

Without further ado, Zachary strode to the door with a dimmed expression.

"Why is Mr. Nacht home at this hour?" The panic-stricken Mrs. Rawlston advised Charlotte, "Ms. Windt, whatever Mr. Nacht says to you, please don't take it to heart."

Then, she instructed the maid, "Jade, go wake Robbie and Jamie up. Tell them that their great-grandpa is here."

"Okay!" Jade did as per requested.

"Don't worry. With Mr. Robinson around, Mr. Nacht won't do anything to you." Worried sick, Mrs. Rawlston added, "Ms. Windt, shall I go with you to welcome Mr. Nacht?"

Charlotte put down the utensils and wiped her lips with the napkin. Then, she glanced at the busy maids carrying out their chores. Placidly, she posed a question, "Mr. Nacht has never been fond of me, right?"

"Um..." Mrs. Rawlston did not know how to respond to that although she knew exactly what happened behind the scenes.

On their wedding day, Mr. Nacht forced Zachary to keep the babies, but kick the mother of the children out of the house. Therefore, Mr. Nacht's men forcibly sent Charlotte and Mrs. Berry away... That's an indisputable fact.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 953

Henry had fallen ill, and he was due to stay in the hospital for a period of time to recuperate. Mrs. Rawlston was hoping that Charlotte and Zachary would seize this golden opportunity to talk things out and reconcile with the help of the children.

She did not expect that Henry would return so soon.

Dumbfounded, Mrs. Rawlston was unsure of what to do.

"Ask Jade to come down." Charlotte rose to her feet as she put on a jacket. "Don't wake the kids up."

"Err..." Mrs. Rawlston hesitated for a moment before getting Jade back.

Right then, there was a commotion upstairs. Morgan bellowed, "Get lost! I'll end your life if you utter just one more word."

"You... How could you say that? We're here to give Ellie her medication."

"Get lost!"

Knitting her brows, Charlotte rushed upstairs to see what happened.

It turned out that Cynthia brought two maids to feed Elisa some medicine, but the latter refused to drink it. She was very resistant, and even bawled her eyes out, asking for them to leave the room.

Morgan requested the maids to acquiesce in Ellie's decision, and subsequently check with Charlotte for further action.

However, Cynthia was relentless. Instead, she urged Ellie to drink her medicine at that instant. Her insistence made Morgan go ballistic.

After understanding the entire situation, Charlotte went to comfort Ellie. "There, there, Ellie. It's okay. Take it easy and rest." Elisa was curling up in a fetal position, holding her stuffed alpaca. Her whole body was shaking, which made Charlotte feel so sorry for her.

"Mommy, I'm terrified..." Her voice was hoarse due to her prolonged sickness whereas her sunken eyes welled up. "I don't want to drink any medicine. It makes me feel worse."

"All right. It's fine. You don't have to take the medicine if you don't want to," Charlotte consoled her gently. "Rest well, I won't let anyone disturb you."

"Okay..." Elisa took a peek at Cynthia and nodded timidly.

"Guard the room," Charlotte commanded the two bodyguards.

"Noted!" They shut the door and stood outside.

"Hang on..." A nurse from the Blackwood family blocked the door and argued, "Ms. Ellie isn't well, and she should be consuming her medicine. If you lot don't allow her to do so, how can her illness be healed? When that happens, Mr. Nacht is going to put the blame on Ms. Blackwood. How can this be?"

"Are you doing this on purpose?" Morgan pushed the nurse away. "I've repeatedly said to take this matter downstairs. Why do you

keep insisting to discuss it here? Are you stirring up trouble intentionally?"

"You..." The nurse turned ghastly.

Cynthia quickly stood before the nurse and chimed in through her signs. "How could you do this? I'm only discharging my duty as a doctor. My nurse is right. If you don't let Ellie drink her medicine, she's not going to get any better. Zachary is going to get mad..."

"Cut the crap!" Morgan cut her off as she grew impatient. "Nobody understands your signs. Get lost, you crazy woman! Don't you dare disturb Ms. Elisa!"

"You..." the nurse attempted to refute, but was silenced by Morgan. "I'll cut off your tongue if I hear one more word from you."

With that, the nurse kept quiet.

"Go away!" Morgan pushed them aside.

As a result, the nurse staggered and spilled the medicine in her hand on Charlotte.

Wearing a menace expression, Charlotte frowned in displeasure.

"You b***h! You did that purposely, didn't you?" Blazing with fury, Morgan slapped the nurse across the face, which sent her flying into the railing nearby.

Cynthia pushed Morgan angrily and gestured to debate with her.

Annoyed, Morgan gave her a push. Alas, Cynthia rolled down the stairs.

"I didn't use any force." Morgan was flabbergasted.

Before Charlotte could say anything, a ruckus was seemingly raised downstairs. "Oh no, Ms. Blackwood!"

"You're too much! How could you antagonize Ms. Blackwood?"

"That's right! She didn't do anything against you. Why did you treat her this way?"

"Ms. Blackwood is here to serve Mr. Nacht and Ms. Ellie as their doctor. She's not your punching bag."

"This is ridiculous!" boiling with anger, Morgan yelled. "You're a bunch of drama queens. Do you know that?"

"Who's making a scene in my house?" barked a domineering voice suddenly. Rage laced his assertive tone.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 954

As Charlotte looked in the direction of the voice, she saw Spencer slowly ushering Henry into the house. Zachary and Bruce were by his sides too.

Everyone grew serious, and everything turned solemn at that moment. It was as if they all knew a bad clash was about to happen when Henry met Charlotte.

As expected, Henry looked at the injured Cynthia for a few seconds, and then shifted his gaze to Charlotte. Instantly, he got so worked up that his hands on the wheelchair began to tremble. A complicated expression settled upon his face.

Spencer too was astounded to see Charlotte in person even though he had heard about her return.

He recalled his impression of Charlotte two years ago and compared that with the person standing in front of him now. The same person gave him a completely different feeling.

Right then, the past grievances, resentments, and all sorts of conflicting emotions rose to mind, creating turmoil in everyone's heart. It was an extremely tense situation.

Standing at the hallway on the second floor, Charlotte cast a condescending look upon Henry and the rest of the Nacht family. Scenes after scenes of how Henry used to despise and humiliate her kept coming back to haunt her.

"I won't agree to this marriage. There's no use even if you've sent out the invitations. I'll ask them to call it off!"

"I've repeated this a million times, and I'll say it once more. I won't allow this woman to marry into our family."

"Needless to say, the children must carry the last name, Nacht. That's a given. Just quote me a price for changing the last name, and I'll see to it that you get your check right away."

"It doesn't matter whether the kids have a mother. Having a father is the priority."

"Raising the children as Nachts will guarantee them utmost privileges for life. They will suffer if they were to stay with you. Not only will they not have food on the table, but they will also be bullied by others. If you love them so much, you should consider this and make the right choice for their sake."

"Annul the wedding! The kids can stay, but she has to go! This is my bottom line."

These harsh words kept repeating in her ears. They were like a sharp blade, slicing through her heart a thousand times.

Narrowing her eyes at Henry, Charlotte continued having more dreadful flashbacks.

"I declare that the wedding has been called off!"

"I tell you, I will never ever accept this woman to be part of the Nacht family. Not even after I die. No!"

"I urge you to leave as fast as you can before I change my mind and make you disappear forever."

Finally, it dawned on Charlotte that Henry was the one who canceled the wedding and forced Zachary to send her off to T Nation.

Thereafter, I was hunted in T Nation and suffered tremendously. In the end, Mrs. Berry was killed. It was all that man's fault!

Gradually, fury and deep-seated hatred began to well up in her eyes.

"You lot are too much!" shouted Taylor. He sounded more arrogant than usual.

"My daughter is here to save your family members. While she was severely injured, she persisted through treating and saving Zachary and Ellie. Not only are you ungrateful, you even oppressed and insulted her multiple times. What do you take us for?"

"Shut up!" the hot-tempered Morgan could not tolerate his nonsense anymore. "None of you Blackwoods is a good person. Your eldest is a drama queen whereas another daughter of yours is a murderer. And you, you are the biggest hypocrite in town!"

"You..." livid, Taylor was speechless.

"How impudent!" Henry fumed. "Who gave you the right to cause trouble in the Nacht residence?"

"I..."

"I did!" Charlotte responded coldly as she strode down the stairs.

Morgan and two other bodyguards followed suit.

"Grandpa..." Zachary tried to appease the situation. "The three children are at home, and Ellie is still sick. Let's talk in the study room if there's a need."

"Sure." Henry nodded. "I do want to talk to you." He cast a complicated look at Charlotte.

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"We can talk. But first, I need to settle this person..."

Charlotte choked Cynthia's throat forcefully while glaring at her viciously. Like a furious lioness, she exuded a murderous and hostile aura.

She was exerting so much force that Cynthia almost suffocated.

Everyone was stunned.

They had never expected Charlotte, who used to be so weak and gentle, to become so powerful!

It was as if she was a completely different person...

"What are you doing? Let go of her!"

Taylor stepped forward to stop Charlotte, but Morgan shoved him away.

"Stop!" bellowed Henry furiously. "How dare you cause trouble in the Nacht residence?"

"The Nacht residence?" Charlotte scoffed mockingly, "It's a place where evil deeds are concealed, where justice is buried!"

"You..."

Henry was rendered speechless, for no one had rebuked him like that before.

"Let me tell you this..." Charlotte moved closer to Cynthia and growled through gritted teeth, "If you want to steal the man, I can't even be bothered with you. However, if you use my daughter to provoke me and put up an act to disgust me, I won't tolerate your existence!"

With that, Charlotte exerted even more force, such that Cynthia could not bear it anymore.

"No..." Taylor yelled out in a frenzy, "Mr. Nacht, save her!"

"Stop that woman!" Henry instructed his subordinates.

Immediately, more than ten guns pointed at Charlotte.

"What are you doing?" Zachary stepped forward. "Put the guns down!"

However, as they were Henry's subordinates, they did not listen to his instructions.

Morgan and the rest immediately raised their guns and aimed at Henry.

She even yelled furiously, "If any of you dare to shoot Ms. Lindberg, we'll drag Henry down with us to our deathbed!"

"How outrageous! Simply too outrageous!"

Spencer was so furious that he trembled. The Lindberg family is so lawless! How dare they try to attack Mr. Nacht?

"Stop right now!" Zachary rushed forward to stop Charlotte. "Stop kicking up a fuss, Charlotte. They'll actually shoot you!"

"What's wrong? Are you worried for me?" She shot him a resentful glare. "Zachary, I have nothing but contempt for you. You don't even care about the safety of your own family just for the sake of a woman!"

"I told you to stop precisely because I'm concerned for Ellie's safety." Zachary started to panic. "We haven't found Dr. Felch yet. If anything happens to Ellie, we still need to rely on her. Please, for the sake of our child, spare Cynthia!"

When Charlotte heard that, she froze for a moment. Yeah, Dr. Felch isn't here yet and I didn't manage to invite Francesco. At least Cynthia can still save Ellie for the time being...

If I kill her, I won't have any other options.

At that thought, Charlotte released her grip slowly.

"Ugh..."

Cynthia crumpled onto the floor. Clutching her throat, she kept retching.

"Cynthia..." Taylor rushed forward and helped her up.

Meanwhile, the medical staff from the Blackwood family cowered at the side fearfully, not daring to approach her.

"Let me tell you this. If you dare to play any more tricks, I'll kill you immediately," warned Charlotte hostilely.

"You've gone overboard!" yelled Taylor agitatedly. "Mr. Nacht, Cynthia came to the Nachts' residence to save someone; yet, she's been so horribly abused here. You must seek justice for us!"

"Zachary!" Although Henry was glaring at Charlotte, he instructed Zachary, "Chase this madwoman out."

"Grandpa..."

"If you don't do it, I'll order my subordinates to do it!" bellowed Henry furiously. "This is the Nacht residence. Anyone from the Lindberg family is not allowed to cause trouble here!"

Afterward, he clutched his chest and coughed profusely.

"Don't be agitated, Mr. Nacht." Spencer patted his back anxiously.

When Zachary saw him acting like that, he remembered what the doctor said about Henry's days being numbered. With his resolve wavering after seeing his grandfather's condition, he turned around and glanced at Charlotte.

However, before he could say anything, Charlotte's sharp glare cut him off.

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"You don't have to chase me out. I'll leave on my own accord." She shot a cold glare at Zachary before remarking arrogantly, "What's so impressive about the Nacht family? I can't even care less."

"Prepare the car." Morgan instructed her subordinate.

Cynthia and Taylor exchanged a glance with each other. We've accomplished our goal...

"However, my children have to leave with me." Charlotte abruptly declared, "All of you in the Nacht family are blind. I cannot let them stay with you and risk their safety!"

"They're children of the Nacht family. No one is allowed to bring them away!" objected Henry agitatedly. "Don't think that you can do whatever you want just because you have the Lindberg Corporation backing you up. Let me tell you this! As long as I'm not dead, you're not allowed to climb over our heads!"

"Grandpa..."

"Do you think that you are as formidable as you were two years ago?" Charlotte scoffed mockingly. "Two years ago, I had no power or influence, so I could be humiliated by the Nacht family. Now, no one can snatch my children away from me!"

With that, she pointed her gun at Zachary's head. "If anyone dares to stop me, I'll kill this person immediately!"

Everyone was startled when they saw that.

"Charlotte Lindberg!" Zachary suddenly widened his eyes and stared at Charlotte in disbelief. "Are you crazy?"

He could barely believe what he was seeing. This was his first time having a gun pressed against his head, and it was done by the woman he loved so dearly...

"H-How dare you?"

Henry pointed at Charlotte, his frail hand trembling.

"Why don't you try me?" She cocked her gun.

"Ah!" Mrs. Rawlston was so scared that she collapsed onto the ground. "Don't do this, Ms. Windt. Don't kill Mr. Zachary!"

"She's crazy... She's really crazy!" Taylor was terrified.

Meanwhile, Cynthia quickly climbed to her feet and signed at Henry frantically. "Save Zachary, Mr. Nacht!"

"Calm down, Ms. Lindberg." Sweat dotted Bruce's forehead. "Let's talk calmly, okay?"

"Yeah, let's talk calmly. Don't be rash!" Spencer quickly tried to coax her. "The children are at home. If they see their mother kill their father, they'll be traumatized forever."

"Yeah, the kids cannot lose their father!" pleaded Mrs. Rawlston as she sobbed.

"It doesn't matter that they don't have a father. They just need a mother!" Imitating Henry's words from before, she declared arrogantly, "Anyway, their father is a coward who has been hoodwinked by other women. If he can't protect them, then he's useless!"

Zachary was rendered speechless.

Meanwhile, the entire Nacht family was dumbfounded.

No one had ever acted so outrageously in the Nacht residence, nor had anyone opposed Henry or bullied Zachary like that.

"This wench! This wench!"

Clutching his chest furiously, Henry coughed so hard that blood came out.

At that moment, the tension in the room was so thick that one could cut it with a knife. It was as if a violent confrontation could break out at any moment.

"Mommy!"

Suddenly, a childish voice sounded.

Charlotte glanced over subconsciously.

Jamie was standing on the second-floor corridor, wearing his yellow dinosaur pajamas. Staring at them as he was stunned. "W-What are you doing?"

"Jamie..." Charlotte quickly kept her gun. "I'm playing a game with Daddy!"

No one but the children could manage to convince Charlotte.

"What happened?"

Robbie walked out of his room at the same time, wearing his astronaut-patterned pajamas and still looking drowsy from his sleep. When he saw what was happening downstairs, he instantly frowned.

"Great-grandpa, aren't you in the hospital? Why are you back suddenly?"

"Jamie, Robbie..." When Henry saw his great-grandsons, he became anxious. "Return to your bedrooms now!"

As he spoke, he shot a glance at Spencer, who quickly headed upstairs with his subordinates. He wanted to send the children back to their rooms so they would not witness something inappropriate...

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"I don't want to return to my room." Robbie reacted agitatedly when he saw Henry's attitude. "What are you doing? Are you going to bully Mommy behind my back?"

"You're not allowed to bully Mommy!"

Jamie stumbled down the stairs anxiously.

It was Zachary's first time feeling so indignant. Who's the one being bullied here?

Henry frowned. He knew how badly the children were impacted when Charlotte disappeared two years ago. Because of that, Robbie ignored him for two years...

"Mommy!" Robbie ran down the stairs, spread his arms out in front of Charlotte and shielded her. He yelled furiously, "No one is allowed to chase Mommy away. If she leaves, I'll leave with her!"

"Me too!" Jamie planted himself in front of her. "I'll go wherever Mommy goes! That's what Ellie said too."

"I didn't protect Mommy well two years ago. This time, I definitely won't fail again!"

When Robbie remembered what happened two years ago, he was engulfed with regret. With tears welling in his eyes, he said agitatedly, "Great-grandpa, two years ago, you lied to me that you're sending Mommy away to treat her illness. In reality, you chased her and Mrs. Berry out of the country, causing her to be pursued by others. Mrs. Berry even got killed! I'll not believe you this time around!"

"Yeah!" Jamie raised his head and agreed angrily, "We'll just leave together. Since Mommy's rich now, we won't go hungry!"

Henry opened his mouth but did not know what to say.

A turmoil of complex emotions was surging through him. Despite feeling furious, he also regretted what happened two years ago.

Most of his guilt was directed to the children.

"Jamie, Robbie, you can't speak to your great-grandpa like that." Zachary squatted down and coaxed the children, "You've misunderstood. Great-grandpa isn't chasing Mommy out and she's not leaving either."

"Is this our home, Daddy?" asked Robbie.

"Of course!" Zachary nodded.

"Since this is our home, we have the right to let Mommy stay," insisted Robbie indignantly. "Mommy has everything now. Although she doesn't like this place, she's staying to take care of us! No one is allowed to bully her!"

"No one's bullying her." Zachary glanced at Charlotte. "Don't worry!"

"But didn't you..."

"Didn't you see? Mommy's bullying me!" A pitiful look crossed Zachary's face. "If you didn't appear in time, she would've beaten me up!"

Robbie glanced at Charlotte. "Is that true, Mommy?"

"Yes." Charlotte nodded. "Because he didn't do a good job in protecting you."

"Then he deserves a beating," concluded Robbie.

Zachary was speechless. Looks like I don't even have any say in this family.

"That's it." Not wanting the children to be affected, Henry stared at Charlotte and said, "Bring the kids upstairs to rest first. If

there's anything else, we'll discuss it in the study room with the other adults."

"Fine." Charlotte returned his gaze coldly and instructed Morgan, "Take them upstairs."

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg." Morgan walked over and coaxed Robbie and Jamie to go upstairs.

"No..." Robbie refused to leave. Sobbing, he said, "Two years ago, I was tricked into leaving. Mommy disappeared after that..."

"You foolish boy." Charlotte squatted down and consoled him gently, "I'm different now. No one can chase me away unless I want to leave on my own. However, if I do, I'll definitely bring all of you along with me."

"Okay." Nodding profusely, Robbie cupped her cheeks. "Mommy, bring me wherever you go. I'll protect you!"

"I know." Charlotte felt extremely touched. "Be a good boy and go upstairs with Jamie!"

"Alright." He held Jamie's hand. "Let's go upstairs, Jamie. "

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Now that the children were gone, peace returned to the living room.

The atmosphere was not as intense as before.

Zachary took command of the situation. "Bruce, bring Mr. and Ms. Blackwood to their rooms to rest."

"Okay." Bruce walked forward. "Mr. and Ms. Blackwood, this way please."

"Zachary..."

Cynthia wanted to sign something, but Zachary did not even spare her a single glance. In the end, Taylor dragged her away. "Let's go. It's better if we don't intervene in this situation."

After the Blackwoods left, the tension diffused slightly.

"Let's talk," said Henry to Charlotte. "I think that you are harboring a lot of resentment. Why don't we address everything now?"

"It's not just resentment." Charlotte glared at him. "It's hatred!"

"I understand..." He nodded calmly. "Let's go to the study room."

"Okay." Spencer wheeled Henry to the study room on the first floor.

Zachary and Charlotte followed them, while Bruce and Morgan tailed behind closely.

They reached the study room, which had such a solemn atmosphere that it seemed intimidating.

Mrs. Rawlston and Molly entered timidly. After pouring the tea, they frantically left and closed the study room door.

The room was filled with a dim light.

Henry sat on the main seat. Although he was exhausted and weak, he still sat up straight, as if he wanted to exert his dominance.

"Mr. Nacht." Spencer passed a cup of tea to him.

After taking a sip of the tea, he said slowly, "I've talked to you in this exact spot two years ago. Do you still remember?"

"Of course. You said that you'll never agree to me marrying Zachary, forced me to change my children's last name, and even instructed me to leave the Nacht residence..."

These past memories surfaced in her mind the moment she stepped into the Nacht residence.

This showed how impactful those events were. Even though she was suffering from amnesia, these memories still came floating back...

"I'll probably say the same things today," revealed Henry directly. "The Lindberg family and the Nacht family are rivals. They should not be involved in each other's business!"

"Grandpa..."

"You're right." Charlotte laughed coldly. "So what?"

"It's true that you're different now." Henry stared at her with a meaningful gaze. "Your aura and charisma are completely different from how you were in the past. I can see some of the Lindberg family's attitude in you."

"What are you trying to say?" Charlotte could not be bothered to waste more time with him.

"I know that you hate me. After all, I was solely responsible for what happened two years ago..." A guilty expression crossed Henry's face. "If you want to take revenge, just target me. However, please don't involve the children. They bear the Nacht last name, so they're destined to be part of the Nacht family forever. No one can take them away!"

"Destined?" Charlotte scoffed mockingly, "What do you mean by that? I gave birth to them, so they're also part of the Lindberg family. Why are they destined to be part of the Nachts?"

"Are you saying that you want to take the kids away?" Henry's expression became serious. "You're acting recklessly just for your own selfish desires. Have you considered their feelings?"

"You don't need to tell me that" Charlotte could not be bothered to continue talking to Henry. "If I want to take revenge on the Nacht family, I don't need to involve my kids. I've been conceding over and over again out of consideration for their feelings. I only took action because the Nacht family is too useless to protect them. Unfortunately, all of you are not only blind but also useless! You've invited trouble right to your doorsteps. If I let my kids stay in such a family, they'll be in greater danger!"

"What are you talking about?" Henry was furious. "Blind? Inviting trouble right to our doorsteps? Who's blind? Who's the trouble?"

"If you're asking me these questions now, it's obvious how ignorant you are!" Charlotte was equally mad. "Not only are you ignorant, but you are also arrogant!"

"You..."

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"Don't cross the line, Charlotte!" bellowed Zachary as he frowned. "Respect your elders!"

"Respect should be mutual." Charlotte shot him a cold glare before standing up and leaving.

"Stand right there!" yelled Henry furiously. "Since Ellie's ill, I'll allow you to stay for a few more days. However, please leave immediately after she recovers!"

"Allow me to stay? I can't care less!" scoffed Charlotte mockingly. "However, I'll definitely bring my kids along with me."

"They won't leave with you!" Henry warned intimidatingly, "If you dare to touch them, I won't let you off easily!"

"Really?" Charlotte raised her eyebrows and smirked. "I'll have to try it out, then."

"You..."

"That's enough!" interrupted Zachary exasperatedly. "I thought we agreed to talk this out? What can we achieve by exchanging harsh words here?"

"I can be reasonable if you want." Henry changed his attitude. "Since the children are already legally registered under the Nacht

family, you'll be breaking the law if you bring them away forcefully!"

"We can bring this to court!" replied Charlotte calmly. "I'm already all prepared. Don't worry, I'll definitely win."

"Must you do this?"

This time, it was Zachary who asked.

"Either you let the children leave with me, or I'll file a lawsuit. Alternatively, we can resort to brute force! It depends on what you choose to do."

With that, Charlotte left directly.

Zachary felt extremely exasperated. At this point, he was helpless as there was nothing he could do to her.

Violence, scoldings, threats and coaxes were all futile.

"How dare she?" Henry was so furious that his face turned pale and his hands trembled.

"Your health is still poor. Why did you leave the hospital and come back all of a sudden?" asked Zachary in confusion.

"If I haven't returned, this family might be part of the Lindbergs already."

After being provoked by Charlotte, Henry was venting all of his anger onto Zachary.

"No wonder you kept stopping me from going to Northridge and interfering in the case concerning Lindberg Corporation! So it's all because of her!"

"I'll resolve this on my own. You don't need to intervene." Zachary reminded sternly, "Don't commit the same mistake as you did two years ago."

"You're the one who committed a mistake!" Henry's fury surged again. "If you had listened to me from the start, if you hadn't been in a relationship with her, all of this wouldn't have happened!"

Zachary was speechless. He initially thought that Henry regretted what happened two years ago, but he still had not come to his senses.

"That's enough. Let's stop arguing," Spencer quickly diffused the tension between them. "I'll wheel you back to your room to rest."

"How can I rest? Do you think that I can sleep now?" scolded Henry in frustration. "There's no peace to be found in this family. Not only does that woman dare to kill in my house, but she also opposed me so rudely! How can someone like her stay here?"

"You're already so old and in poor health. Yet, you can scold someone with such fervor!" mumbled Zachary unhappily.

"What did you say?" Henry grabbed a cushion from the sofa and tossed it at him. "You rascal! You don't even know what's important now! Do you want the Nacht family to be ruined?"

"That's it. I'll deal with it properly." Zachary did not want to provoke Henry further. "Go back to your room and rest."

"Yeah, go and rest first!"

Spencer quickly pushed Henry back to his room.

Meanwhile, Zachary walked out briskly and caught up with Charlotte at the stairs. "Let's talk."

"There's nothing for us to talk about."

Charlotte refused to discuss anything with him. Instead, she returned to her room and sent a message to Danrique. She informed him about Ellie being poisoned and requested him to invite Francesco over to cure her.

If she was influential enough to invite Francesco, she would not have to stay in such a horrible place like the Nacht residence.

However, Danrique did not reply to her.

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Charlotte was extremely flurried. At this moment, Morgan walked up to her and reported, "We've received news from Lupine that Sharon has escaped."

"What?" Charlotte's face turned somber. "No one managed to catch her?"

"According to Lupine, Sharon had some outside help. It was probably Zara's men who assisted her." Morgan let out a frown before she continued, "Ben and Lupine are going after her as we speak."

"This is preposterous!" Livid, Charlotte kicked the table over.

"The Nacht family is so incompetent. They should've let Mr. Lindberg take care of this. What are they going to do now that Sharon has escaped?" Morgan was furious.

"We'll talk about this later. Let's meet up with Olivia first. We need to locate Dr. Felch as soon as possible and give his whereabouts to Marino."

Morgan nodded and replied, "I've already informed Olivia. You should go get changed. I'll get the car ready."

"Okay."

Just as Charlotte was about to head out, Robbie walked up to her with a box in hand. "Mommy, I have something to tell you. It'll only take five minutes."

"Me too," uttered Jamie, with Little Fifi behind his back.

"Okay, come here."

Charlotte gave them a loving smile.

The two of them quickly sat down on the sofa.

Robbie opened his box and took out multiple credit cards as well as a few equity documents.

"Mommy, this card here contains all the earnings from the software that I've developed a few years back. Daddy was the one who gave me the money. There's a total of a hundred and thirty million on the card.

This card here contains all the allowance given to Jamie, Ellie, and me. There's about thirty million on the card.

This card over here contains all our prize money. That includes Jamie's winnings from his martial arts competitions, Ellie's winnings from her drawing competitions, as well as my winnings from invention competitions. There's about a million on this card.

These equity documents here were gifted to us from Great-grandpa on our birthday. The assets that we got were the Fairytale Land, Apple Kindergarten, and the elementary school that we're currently studying at.

These are all our properties. You can have them all, Mommy! I've already gotten Ellie's permission too."

"What? What are you..."

Charlotte was stupefied in place.

Robbie placed all the credit cards and documents in Charlotte's hands.

He then uttered in a serious tone, "We know you've sacrificed a lot for us. Not just you, Mrs. Berry also did her best to take care of us. She even got herself sick because of that. We are very grateful to the two of you.

"Don't worry, Mommy. You don't have to be scared of Daddy, Uncle Dan, or even Great-grandpa anymore. With this money here, we don't have to rely on anyone else. No one will be able to threaten us from now on.

"We'll be able to live happily together as a family of six, including Fifi of course.

"Mommy, we can return to the countryside and live with Uncle Judd. Or, we can even find a place where no one recognizes us and start our new lives there.

"Anyhow, we'll be the ones taking care of you from now on. You don't have to work so hard anymore, Mommy. You're free to do whatever you want!"

Jamie nodded profusely. "Yeah. Don't be afraid, Mommy. We won't let anyone hurt you. Here, take our possessions..."

Jamie scooped over to Robbie's ear and murmured, "Robbie, are we still short on money? I can sell my toys and figurines if need be."

"We have enough. Don't worry. Not to mention, I'll still be earning with my software. I'll be able to earn at least ten million a year.

With that said, you don't have to depend on others anymore, Mommy. If you're worried about our safety, we'll just hire a bodyguard, since we have the money to do so..."

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Jamie nodded before uttering, "Yeah. Also, I'll work harder from now on, Mommy. So that I can protect you when I'm all grown up."

"No matter where we choose to live, I'll make sure we survive. However, we need to wait for Ellie's recovery before we can head anywhere." Robbie had a serious look on his face.

"Then, we must wait for a few more days," replied Jamie.

"So, you'll have to protect Ellie for the next few days, Jamie. Don't worry about Mommy. She'll be under my aegis. We need to work together on this, okay?"

"Understood!"

The two children continued to discuss their future plans.

Gazing at the two of them, Charlotte's eyes started tearing up.

Over the past two years, Charlotte had been pushing herself to the limit in order to become someone who could solve any problem thrown her way.

Hence, she was rather touched when her children told her that they would share the burden with her.

Look at them! Their eyes are so solemn and honest. I'm so glad to have you guys as my children.

"Mommy, what's wrong?" Jamie reached out his hand to wipe the tears off Charlotte's face. "Did Daddy hurt you? Don't be sacred. I'll make sure to lecture him later."

Robbie grabbed onto Charlotte's hand and comforted her, "Don't worry, Mommy. We've all grown up, so it's our turn to protect you."

Charlotte embraced Robbie and Jamie. "As long as you guys are here with me, I have nothing to fear!"

Robbie gave her a gentle pat on the back. "We will always be here to support you, Mommy."

"Me too! Me too!" said Little Fifi.

"Yeah, yeah. You too."

"Hahaha..."

Amused, they all burst out laughing. The room was suddenly filled with bliss and delight.

After Charlotte was done packing up, she took Robbie and Jamie to bed.

Morgan ordered the bodyguards to keep Ellie safe. "Don't let anyone from the Blackwood family near her," he exhorted.

Just as Charlotte and Morgan were about to leave, Zachary queried, "Are you heading out? It's quite late in the night. Also, I think it's about to rain soon."

Charlotte just ignored him and left.

Zachary caught up to her and added, "You should bring more men with you. Zara might be hiding in the mountains nearby."

"Just mind your own business."

Charlotte gave him a cold glance before getting in the car.

Seeing as Charlotte only brought Morgan with her, Zachary instructed Bruce, "Keep an eye on them. Make sure she's safe."

"Understood."

"You know what, never mind. I'll watch over her myself. I want you to protect Mr. Henry and the kids while I'm gone."

Bruce nodded. "Understood. But your body hasn't fully recovered yet. Will you be okay?"

"I'm not that fragile. I'll be fine."

Zachary took his men and rushed after Charlotte.

"Actually, Mr. Nacht is right. We should bring more men with us," said Morgan, while driving.

"With half our men going after Sharon, the rest need to stay at home to protect the kids. We can't afford to bring any extra manpower with us."

Scrolling through her phone, Charlotte was checking if Danrique had replied to her message.

Unfortunately for her, there wasn't any message from Danrique yet.

If Danrique isn't willing to help us get Francesco, Dr. Felch will be our last and only hope.

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"Looking at the weather now, it does seem like a thunderstorm is approaching. Your medicines are at home. Will you be able to handle it if it starts raining heavily?"

Morgan looked distressed.

"It's fine. I have my earplugs here. We should focus on finding Dr. Felch. Our priority right now is to save Ellie."

"But..."

Out of nowhere, a plethora of gunshots were fired at the car.

"Ms. Lindberg, buckle up!" Morgan accelerated the car in hopes of escaping from their assailants as fast as possible.

However, there were traps hidden on their escape route.

The car ended up crashing into the woods after hitting a huge rock.

"Sh*t! I should've driven an off-road vehicle."

With her teeth clenched, Morgan tried to reverse the car to get it back on the road. However, one of the tires was stuck in the drain by the road.

Charlotte lowered down the side window before uttering, "It's okay, stay calm. Do not get out of the car. You should just keep on trying to reverse the car."

"Yes." Morgan continued to reverse the car.

On the other hand, Charlotte was shooting back at the assailants. With her precise shooting, she was able to eliminate quite a few of them.

However, it still wasn't enough as there were way too many of them. Realizing that their car was stuck, the assailants started closing in on them.

"Call for help," Charlotte commanded.

"Yes..." Just as Morgan was about to contact her men at Northridge, a bullet flew through the window and hit her shoulder.

"Ahh!" Morgan exclaimed.

"Morgan..." Charlotte quickly pulled her down to avoid the shooting. "Hang in there."

Morgan shoved Charlotte to the side, "Ms. Lindberg, run! The car won't be able to get us out of here. This area is full of traps. They've been expecting us."

"Stop talking. They won't kill me. I'm an important hostage to them."

"But..." Before Morgan could finish her sentence, a copious amount of red lasers were directed at them.

Dazzled by the red lasers, Charlotte stayed completely still.

In a blink of an eye, she was surrounded by a large group of people.

"I have finally captured you, Charlotte."

A familiar voice was heard within the crowd surrounding them.

"Zara!" Charlotte yelled out loud.

Zara had been waiting patiently at Rakan Hill for her chance to ambush Charlotte.

She deliberately instigated Sharon to escape in order to create a distraction for the underlings of the Lindberg family. Then, she simply set up an ambush and waited for Charlotte to come to her.

All according to plan.

"Who's laughing now, huh?"

Zara sneered at her.

But before she could capture her, several jeeps forced their way onto the scene.

"Ms. Nacht, watch out!" The bodyguards shouted.

Trying to dodge the jeep coming her way, Zara fell into the drain.

The bodyguards of the Nacht family got down from the jeeps and started firing at Zara's men.

"Help me up." Zara was enraged.

A few bodyguards helped her up from the drain while maintaining fire at Zachary's men.

The gun battle between them was very intense.

In the midst of this quagmire, Zara instructed, "Go and capture Charlotte. I need her alive."

I'll definitely lose if this battle continues. I should just get Charlotte and retreat for now.

"Yes, Ms. Nacht." A few of Zara's men rushed toward Charlotte.

"Cover me!"

Zachary uttered as he jumped out of his jeep and went after Charlotte.

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In the meantime, one of Zara's men broke the window of the Rolls-Royce and yanked Charlotte out of the car.

Charlotte gave him a strong kick in response. "Die!" uttered Zara as she pointed her gun at Charlotte.

"Ms. Lindberg..."

At this crucial moment, a person swooped in front of Charlotte and took the bullet for her.

Bang!

Charlotte was shell-shocked as blood splashed onto her face.

When she came back to her senses, she saw Morgan lying down beside her...

Morgan suffered another shot on her chest and was bleeding profusely. Her body twitched a few times before she passed out.

Charlotte stared vacuously at Morgan.

Her heart felt like it was being pierced through by a bullet.

Suddenly, the image of Mrs. Berry getting shot by Sharon was evoked in her mind.

Subsequently, all her other tragic memories started popping up in her head.

She was fraught with resentment and hatred.

Due to her intense emotions, the back of her head started aching.

My head. It hurts. It hurts so much...

"Charlotte!" Having evaded the bullets in the air, Zachary finally arrived by her side. "I'm sure she'll make it. Don't worry," he assured her.

"Get Raina over here. Quick!"

"Yes!"

The wind was getting stronger and stronger, signaling the arrival of a thunderstorm.

Raina brought a few people with her before rushing over to Morgan's aid.

"How is she?" Bruce was all worried.

"We need to head to the hospital now. The bullet was shot close to her heart. She's in critical condition."

Bruce hurriedly ordered his men to carry Morgan onto the ambulance.

"Let's go! A thunderstorm is coming."

Zachary helped Charlotte up from the ground.

Out of the blue, a thunderclap was heard.

Charlotte's face immediately stiffened up. She lifted her head up and glared at Zachary.

"You! It's all your fault! On the day of our wedding, you betrayed my trust. I was separated from my own kids because of you.

"How can the Nacht family be so callous and cruel? First, they took Mrs. Berry away from me. And now, they even want to take my bodyguard's life."

Zachary was taciturn.

She's starting to remember...

"Zachary, you'll pay with your life—"

Charlotte lunged herself at Zachary with murderous intent.

Instead of dodging her, Zachary merely closed his eyes.

At this moment, another thunderclap was heard.

Covering her head, Charlotte screamed in pain. There was blood coming out of her nose.

"Charlotte!" Zachary covered her ears and comforted her, "Everything's fine. You'll be okay."

"Bruce, get the car over here," he commanded.

"We're still in the process of removing the traps on the road." Bruce responded.

Raina was unable to send Morgan to the hospital because of the traps as well. Without any tools, the bodyguards would require at least two hours to finish clearing up the road.

"This is taking way too long. We won't be able to save Morgan at this rate. Mr. Nacht, why don't we bring her to our clinic? We can provide her with the necessary treatment there."

"Okay. Quick. We must save her at all costs."

"Yes." Raina quickly brought Morgan over to the Nacht residence.

Under the lighting storm, Charlotte was behaving like a crazed animal. She was screaming frantically and pulling her hair.

Zachary held tightly onto her to deter her from harming herself.

Unfortunately for him, Charlotte's attack didn't stop there. She scratched his arm and even bit his neck trying to break free from him.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 964

Blood streamed down slowly and stained Zachary's clothes.

His face, his neck and the back of his hand were scratched. There were injuries all over his body.

However, he didn't resist Charlotte's attack at all. He just frowned and let her do whatever she wanted.

In the middle of the night, the Nacht residence was disrupted by a ruckus.

Raina and her medical staff urgently sent Morgan over to the clinic for emergency treatment.

Bruce had sent someone to clear the way. At the same time, he also informed the hospital to bring along their medical equipment and rush over immediately.

Charlotte passed out after a while. Zachary scared everyone out of their wits when he carried Charlotte back home.

Cynthia was shocked to witness this scene as she ran out of her room. She hurriedly gestured in sign language and asked, "Zachary, what happened? Why are you bleeding? You're injured..."

"Get out of my way!"

Zachary didn't even bother to look at Cynthia. He quickly carried Charlotte back to his room in no time.

Then, he carefully lay her down on the bed and put on soundproof headphones for her...

He was afraid that Charlotte would have to suffer through the pain once again because of thunder.

Meanwhile, his subordinate came forward and reported, "Mr. Zachary, Raina said Morgan is losing too much blood. Due to the shortages of medical equipment here, we need to go to the emergency room at the hospital now."

"Is the road clear now?" Zachary asked.

"It's almost done. We should be able to go by jeep."

"Send her to the hospital right now. I can't let anything bad happen to her."

Zachary knew Charlotte well. She cared about the people around her a lot. Mrs. Berry's death was such a severe blow to her. If anything bad happened to Morgan this time, then there would never be a chance for him to fix things between them anymore...

"All right," His subordinate then conveyed his message immediately.

Zachary was worried that they couldn't handle the situation properly. Hence, he hurried over to the hospital. Before he left, he told Mrs. Rawlston, "Look after Charlotte. Do not let anyone come into my room."

"Understood, Mr. Zachary." Mrs. Rawlston quickly nodded in response.

"Close all the doors and windows," Zachary instructed and dashed downstairs.

"Got it."

After that, Mrs. Rawlston went back to Zachary's room. She closed all the windows and switched on the light. Then anxiously stayed by Charlotte's side and watched over her.

Charlotte was covered in blood, unconscious. It was such a horrifying scene...

Mrs. Rawlston couldn't tell if it was her blood or Zachary's blood. Or perhaps, it belonged to somebody else.

She was really terrified. She didn't even dare to go near her.

However, after hesitating for a while, Mrs. Rawlston decided to wipe away the blood on Charlotte's body with a hot towel...

All of a sudden, there came a knock on the door.

Mrs. Rawlston had no choice but to answer the door.

It was Cynthia. She was standing outside the room with two nurses. She anxiously signed. "Mrs. Rawlston, I saw Zachary being injured. I brought a medical kit to treat his wound."

"Ms. Blackwood, Mr. Zachary is not around. He went out," said Mrs. Rawlston, frowned.

"He went out?" Cynthia looked shocked. She continued asking in sign language, "I saw that he was bleeding a lot. Where did he go?"

"I'm not sure either." Mrs. Rawlston was worried that they would disturb Charlotte. "You can look for him later when Mr. Zachary is back."

Cynthia signed again, "Is that Ms. Lindberg on the bed?"

"This..." Mrs. Rawlston was hesitant, but she simply didn't know how to lie.

"Is she hurt? Let me have a look," Cynthia signed eagerly, "It's my job to take care of a patient. Ms. Lindberg got injured so severely. I can't simply turn my back on her without even trying to save her."

"Let's wait until Mr. Zachary is back." Mrs. Rawlston turned her down at once. "He said before he left that no one is allowed to enter his room."

"Not even me?" Cynthia knitted her brows in displeasure.

"I'm sorry." Mrs. Rawlston didn't want to say anything further.

She tried to close the door but the nurse from the Blackwood family blocked it with her foot.

Cynthia was annoyed. She signed. "Mrs. Rawlston, if that woman died here, the Lindberg family would definitely give the Nachts a hard time. Besides, if the two families were to battle it out, then you would be the culprit."

"This..." Mrs. Rawlston was panicked all of a sudden.

"Move. Let me go in and have a look." Cynthia pushed the door open and broke in.

"You can't, Ms. Blackwood..." Mrs. Rawlston tried to stop her. Right at that moment, Henry's subordinate asked from downstairs, "Mrs. Rawlston, what's wrong?"

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"Oh, that's..."

Mrs. Rawlston was about to answer but Cynthia and those nurses broke into the room. One of the nurses even tried to shut the door.

"What are you doing?" Mrs. Rawlston hurriedly followed them.
"Mr. Zachary said no one is allowed to enter his room. Please get out of here."

"Mrs. Rawlston, why are you so anxious? We are just checking on Ms. Lindberg."

The two nurses stopped Mrs. Rawlston.

Meanwhile, Cynthia was examining Charlotte by the bed...

Cynthia was a little afraid of Charlotte due to some encounters previously, but she plucked up the courage to approach and push Charlotte gently.

Knowing that Charlotte was completely unconscious, a cold glint flashed across Cynthia's eyes. She slapped Charlotte's face and mouthed, "Stop playing tricks on me. What does an unconscious person need headphones for?"

As she spoke, she took her Charlotte's headphones off...

"What are you trying to do? Please leave now..." Mrs. Rawlston called out anxiously, "Ms. Blackwood, I'm afraid that I'll have to inform Mr. Zachary if you don't leave right now."

"Oh, come on. Mrs. Rawlston, Ms. Blackwood is just examining Ms. Lindberg. Why are you so nervous..."

The two nurses were trying hard to stop Mrs. Rawlston.

Meanwhile, Cynthia took out a silver needle and was about to stab it on Charlotte's head...

Bang! At that moment, a loud thunder rumbled across the sky.

Charlotte was jolted awake by the thunder. She opened her eyes abruptly and saw Cynthia trying to stab her with a needle in her hand.

Charlotte had really given Cynthia a good scare when she met Charlotte's menacing gaze. Then, Cynthia instantly stabbed her with the needle.

However, Charlotte was quick on the draw. She grabbed Cynthia's hand and pinned her to the bed. After that, she stabbed the needle in Cynthia's face...

"Ah!"

Cynthia let out a scream of fear.

Mrs. Rawlston and the two nurses were shocked.

The two of them immediately rushed over and grabbed Charlotte by her arms.

At that moment, thunder roared across the sky.

Charlotte grabbed Cynthia by the throat, refusing to let go. Her clear and bright eyes become bloodshot like a crazy beast...

"Let go of her..." The two nurses wanted to hit Charlotte with a vase because they couldn't pry her off. Mrs. Rawlston hurriedly rushed to stop them. "What are you guys trying to do?"

"Step aside!"

It was such a mess inside the room.

Just then, there was an angry bellow coming from outside, "Get her!"

A few bodyguards immediately pounced on Charlotte and pinned her down but she kept struggling to break free. Charlotte was like a horse that had just broken free from its reins. It was difficult for them to bring her under control.

"Hurry up! All of you!" Henry commanded again.

His bodyguards rushed over to press Charlotte down on the ground and even chain her up.

"This is outrageous! You're at the Nacht residence now. How dare you!" Henry was infuriated. "You wanted to kill someone in front of me this afternoon. And now you're trying to assault someone while I was sleeping. You really think you're above the law!"

"Mr. Nacht, something doesn't seem right..." Spencer was observing Charlotte. Then, he continued uneasily, "Charlotte seems out of control. She is totally not in the right state of mind. Is she sick? Or perhaps, did something trigger her emotions?"

Henry took a closer look and noticed something was indeed wrong with Charlotte...

Just as he was about to speak, Cynthia fell off the bed and crawled towards Henry. She pointed at her own face with trembling hands and wailed agitatedly.

"Oh my God!"

Henry could see half of the silver needle was stabbed deeply in her face. Half of Cynthia's face was ruined. Apart from that, there were traces of blood on her neck. It was all because of Charlotte...

Immediately, a vortex of anger swirled inside Henry. He yelled furiously, "This is way too much!"

"Mr. Nacht, you've misunderstood..."

"Mr. Nacht, please stand up for Ms. Blackwood."

The two nurses interrupted Mrs. Rawlston when she was about to speak.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 966

The two nurses sobbed as they knelt on the ground. "Ms. Blackwood was supposed to treat the wound for Mr. Zachary but he's not around. Then, she saw Ms. Lindberg was lying on the bed

with blood all over her body. Therefore, she was trying to clean her wounds. Little did she know that she would get treated so badly by Ms. Lindberg. Fortunately, you guys appeared in the nick of time. Otherwise, Ms. Blackwood would've lost her life."

"She is such a vicious woman! How could she stabbed the whole needle into Ms. Blackwood's face. Is she trying to disfigure Ms. Blackwood?"

"Ms. Blackwood is a pretty young woman. How is she going to go out and meet people if half of her face is destroyed?"

"What did Ms. Blackwood do wrong? She was just here to get Mr. Zachary and Ms. Elisa treated. Why does Ms. Lindberg keep bullying her again and again? Why does she have to put Ms. Blackwood to death? Isn't she too ruthless?"

"During the time when Ms. Elisa was feeling unwell, Ms. Blackwood stayed in the hospital to heal her despite her injury. She even fainted outside of the ward. Besides, when Mr. Jamison and Ms. Elisa fell down the stairs, Ms. Blackwood rushed forward to save them without hesitation and injured herself."

"Ms. Blackwood has been taking care of the Nacht family and treating them with all her heart. And yet she is repeatedly mistreated at the Nacht residence. Now, she nearly lost her life! How could you bear to see it?"

The two of them were crying and complaining one after another as if Cynthia was the most unjustly treated person on earth.

Those who didn't know the truth would definitely feel sorry for Cynthia if they heard it...

Mrs. Rawlston was taken aback by their reactions. For a moment, she was at a loss for what to say.

"Mr. Nacht..." Right then, Taylor rushed over and saw his daughter like that. He teared up. "If you didn't stand up for my daughter and me today, it would be too embarrassed for me to live!"

"This is ridiculous!" Henry's face turned livid with rage. He pointed at Charlotte and bellowed angrily, "Drag this crazy woman out of here! And never let her step in the Nacht residence again!"

"Yes."

His bodyguards then held the chain around Charlotte's wrist and tried to drag her out.

There were thunders roaring outside. Charlotte's head was splitting. She kept struggling and resisting with all her might as if she was a lioness on the loose. The bodyguards couldn't even hold her down.

Henry waved his hands, the other bodyguards charged at her immediately.

Charlotte got into a fight with them. That scene was quite intense.

Spencer thought Charlotte seemed strange. Thus, he hurriedly advised, "Mr. Nacht, something doesn't seem right..."

Before Spencer could finish his sentence, Charlotte suddenly rushed forward and reached out her hand. She grabbed Henry by his throat. "Silly old bugger, I'll kill you!"

Henry widened his eyes in surprise...

Spencer immediately stopped her but Charlotte knocked him down on the ground.

At that moment, Henry's wheelchair was falling downstairs...

Everyone was dumbstruck and almost stopped breathing.

At this critical moment, a figure rushed over and blocked the wheelchair in time.

Zachary pushed Henry's wheelchair back and hugged Charlotte tightly to stop her from acting crazily...

In the meantime, the bodyguards were still trying to rush over and take Charlotte down. Zachary roared furiously, "Get lost!"

The bodyguards were shocked by his aura. They took a step back and didn't dare to go forward.

Cynthia shot a look at the nurses and signaled them. They immediately crawled over and complained, "Mr. Zachary, this woman bullied Ms. Blackwood just now..."

"Say one more word and I'll cut off your tongue."

Zachary shot them a death stare, including Cynthia.

Cynthia could feel a shiver down her spine. Feeling panicked, she slumped on the floor...

"She is insane! This is too outrageous!" Henry finally regained his composure. Then, he ordered angrily, "Throw that woman..."

"Enough!" Zachary finally exploded with rage. "This is my house. I have the final say. If you don't like the way it is, feel free to go back. If you're going to stay, please just shut up and stop meddling in anything!"

"Zachary, you..."

"Haven't you caused enough trouble already?"

Zachary yelled, infuriated. With that, he spat a mouthful of blood.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 967

"Mr. Nacht..."

"Mr. Zachary!"

Everyone was shocked as they saw Zachary spitting blood.

Zachary had never fully recovered from the snake venom, and he had been suppressing it all this while. Plus, he had gotten worn out by endless chores these few days.

Just when he thought things were getting under control, Henry came back and caused the conflict between him and Charlotte to escalate once again.

Zachary had to endure more physical and emotional damage with another fight uprising tonight.

"What's wrong with him?"

Henry was not aware that Zachary got poisoned by a snake. Everyone hid this from him as they did not want him to get upset.

"Hurry. Bring Raina over here."

"Stop!" Zachary shouted in exasperation. "If you don't want to see me die, stop sticking your nose into my business!"

"How could you say that..."

"Mr. Nacht!" Spencer stood up nervously, with his hands pressing against his injured waist. "Let's go downstairs and let Mr. Zachary handle this himself."

"Why are you siding with him too?" Henry was enraged. "This is all caused by the b*tch from the Lindberg family. She can't stop wanting to kill those at the Nacht residence. And look what she has done to Cynthia now!"

At that moment, Cynthia was sitting helplessly on the floor, crying desperately.

"I'll handle that my way." Zachary hugged tightly onto Charlotte, who was still going nuts, as he shouted furiously, "All of you get out of my sight!"

"You..." Regardless of how pissed Henry was, he could not bear to see Zachary suffering like this. Eventually, he chose to give in. "If you can't handle it by tonight, I'll take over tomorrow."

"All right. Let's drop this for now." Spencer signaled Henry to leave as he spat another sentence toward Taylor. "Mr. Blackwood, please take Cynthia downstairs."

"But..." Taylor had no choice as he saw Henry had given in as well. Reluctantly, he escorted Cynthia out.

"Who the h*ll chain her? Unlock it now!"

As Zachary spotted Charlotte's hands and feet chained, he burst into a fit of fury again.

The few bodyguards immediately went over and freed Charlotte from her chains.

The next second, Charlotte cast a furious kick toward them.

Zachary immediately grabbed her before she could start beating those guards up. With that, he tried hard to pull her into the room.

However, Charlotte was still struggling unyieldingly. In the end, Zachary had no choice but to put her off with a slap in her head.

"Mr. Zachary..." Mrs. Rawlston followed in and started tidying up the messy room. "Ms. Lindberg is innocent. Ms. Blackwood was the one who barged in and the needle belonged to Ms. Blackwood. She said that she wanted to cure Ms. Lindberg, but actually..."

"I know." Zachary narrowed his eyes while biting his lip angrily. "I wanted to wait for her to show her true color. But it looks like we won't get the opportunity for that."

Mrs. Rawlston was stunned momentarily upon hearing what Zachary said. Everyone thought Zachary was totally blind as he was mesmerized by the Blackwood family. Only now did Mrs. Rawlston realize that Zachary knew everything since the beginning.

"Stop thinking about this, and stop talking about this. Please go check on the kids." Zachary instructed, "Don't let them know what happened just now. And don't involve them in this."

"Yes. I got it." Mrs. Rawlston nodded nervously.

"Mrs. Rawlston..." Zachary reminded solemnly. "You're the butler here and a respected elderly. Other than Mr. Spencer, it would be best if you were the one in charge. Please don't let any outsider bully you."

"Understood." Mrs. Rawlston immediately straightened her back.

"You may leave now," Zachary instructed again.

With that, Mrs. Rawlston closed the door gently and left.

Zachary stared at Charlotte who was unconscious, his eyes filled with guilt.

Wiping off the bloodstain on her face, he uttered in a low voice, "I won't let anyone hurt you ever again. I promise..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 968

Taylor escorted Cynthia back to the room while asking nervously, "What happened? Why were you getting bullied by her again? Didn't I tell you..."

Before Taylor could finish his sentence, he got startled by what came into his sight. "Oh my God. Cynthia, your face..."

Responsively touching her face, Cynthia felt something was flowing out.

Beyond panic, she ran to the mirror to check her face. A second later, she fell onto the ground while trembling incessantly.

"Holy shit. What's going on?"

The two nurses at the scene also recoiled in fear. At that moment, the area on her face pierced by the needle was decomposing rapidly as pus flowed out.

"What's happening to you?" Taylor could not suppress his anxiousness. "Could it be the needle got poisoned? Isn't this your needle?"

He recognized instantly it was Cynthia's medical needle.

Right away, he realized what had happened. It looks like she tried to kill Charlotte while the latter was injured badly. But who would have thought that she got pierced by Charlotte with her own needle...

"Quick! Bring me medical kit number one," Cynthia signed anxiously.

The nurse immediately found her the medical kit.

Cynthia nervously searched through the box and took out a bottle of medicine. Just when she was about to apply it, there was an abrupt knocking on the door. The next second, Spencer's voice appeared.

"Cynthia, Mr. Nacht is here to see you. Is it convenient now?"

Cynthia was about to go crazy. I'm about to put on the medicine, and I'm running out of time. The rotting area is becoming bigger and bigger. What's Mr. Nacht doing here now?

Cynthia gave a signal to the nurse to ask her to reject Henry. But right then, Taylor suddenly spat out a sentence. "No problem! Please give us a second!"

Upon saying that, Taylor made a gesture toward Cynthia, asking her to tidy up herself.

Cynthia got utterly pissed by her brainless father. But at that moment, she had no other option but to comply. Helplessly, she put on her mask and hid away the medical kit.

Taylor opened the door and welcomed Henry courteously. "Mr. Nacht, is there anything? Why do you come here at this hour?"

"I'm here to see Cynthia."

After witnessing Cynthia getting bullied by Charlotte until she nearly lost her life, Henry felt utterly guilty. With that, he came purposely to comfort Cynthia.

Cynthia was leaning against the couch. She tried to get up, and her body fell weak. As such, the nurse rushed to support her.

"Grandpa," Cynthia signed casually.

"Cynthia, how do you feel? Is your injury serious?" Henry asked with deep concern.

Cynthia lowered her head without a word as tears began flowing down her face.

"The Nacht family owe you an apology. We've wronged you."

Recalling Charlotte's merciless gesture, Henry bit his lips in exasperation.

"Initially, I still felt sorry for her as I thought it was my stubbornness two years ago that caused her and Mrs. Berry to end up like that. But now, her crazy behavior is unforgivable!"

"Indeed. It's unacceptable." Taylor also stomped his feet in rage. "Probably she has found out that Cynthia took her place two years ago. That was why she's been wanting to revenge the latter and bully her."

Just then, Cynthia bawled out her eyes while signing, "Actually Daddy had advised me to go back. But I'm worried about Ellie, who's sick, and Zachary, who has been poisoned. If I go back now, their life would be in danger. That's why I took the risk and stayed. But who would know that Ms. Lindberg refused to back off from me? She's been trying to take my life."

"What? Is Zachary poisoned?" A dark expression immediately loomed over Henry's face. "How did he get poisoned? I thought he merely suffered some slight injury."

"Have you not known about it?" Cynthia signed anxiously, "Danrique poisoned Ellie, and her life's at stake now. Zachary tried to confront him, but he let loose a snake to bite Zachary. Zachary almost lost his life too..."

Right then, Spencer was shaking his head forcefully, signaling her not to reveal it. Yet, Cynthia ignored him utterly.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 969

"So Ellie doesn't have a fever, but she was poisoned. Zachary too..." The color drained from Henry's face as he stomped in exasperation. "Spencer, come over here!"

Spencer, standing behind Henry, cut a glare at Cynthia before walking toward Henry and apologizing, "I'm so sorry, Mr. Nacht. I lied to you."

"You piece of cr*p!" Henry beat him angrily with his cane. "Tell me now. Is everything Cynthia said true?"

Spencer pondered for a while and chose his words cautiously. "Danrique was the one who let the snake bit Mr. Zachary. But regarding Ellie's case, even though Danrique is the biggest suspect, we've not found the decisive proof for it. Mr. Zachary is still investigating..."

"What a smart statement that is." Right then, Taylor weighed in rudely. "I heard from Ben that Ellie got poisoned while she was with Charlotte. If it wasn't Danrique, then was it Charlotte?"

"Daddy, what nonsense are you talking about?" Cynthia immediately interrupted Taylor with her sign language. "Even a

vicious tiger will not eat its cubs. How could Ms. Lindberg possibly do that?"

"Silly girl. She almost killed you twice today. Why do you still speak up for her?" Taylor responded in wrath.

"I'm merely analyzing it rationally," Cynthia signed.

"Cynthia, you're too soft-hearted." Henry's expression was utterly rigid. "After Ellie got sick, Charlotte could get back to the Nacht family legitimately. Now I look at it, what Taylor said seems reasonable."

"That's impossible. Mr. Nacht, Ms. Lindberg loves her child very much..."

Spencer was about to speak for Charlotte again.

"Shut the f*ck up!" Henry shouted, beyond enraged. "How dare you hide such an important truth from me? Do you want to piss me to death as well?"

Spencer lowered his head upon hearing that, not daring to utter another word.

"I've underestimated Danrique." The more Henry thought of it, the more pissed he became. "He transformed Charlotte and then instilled hatred in her. Then, he let her come back to cause a mess in the Nacht family. Now Zachary has been blinded by love. If this goes on, I'm afraid he will get destroyed by that b*tch completely! No way. I'm chasing her out now. It'll be too late if the whole family got destroyed by her. My three great-grandkids will be affected as well..."

Upon saying that, Henry pushed his wheelchair angrily, intended to leave.

"Mr. Nacht, please calm down. Don't do anything harsh." Spencer immediately consoled him. "You've promised Mr. Zachary to let him handle it tonight. Maybe you should stay out of it."

"Cut the cr*p! Push me out now..."

As Henry was throwing a tantrum, the door opened abruptly. It was Zachary who was standing outside.

The whole room was stunned momentarily, as Spencer was the first to react. "Mr. Zachary, why are you here?"

"I know Grandpa's not getting good sleep recently, so I came to check."

Closing the door behind him, Zachary walked toward them slowly.

"How dare you try to act like you care..."

When Henry was about to scold Zachary, Spencer patted the former's shoulder gently, signaling him to stop.

Looking at those wounds all over Zachary's body, Henry swallowed back his anger again.

"Zachary, have a seat," Taylor immediately greeted Zachary.

"Are you okay?" Zachary looked at Cynthia in her eyes.

Cynthia shook her head, with her eyes still brimming with tears. Her pitiful look would make anyone's heart break.

"I'm sorry." Zachary wrapped his arm around her shoulder. "I've arranged for that crazy woman to leave tomorrow afternoon."

"Really?" Taylor was unable to suppress his eagerness upon hearing that. He immediately realized his inappropriate reaction after that.

"Are you going to send her away only?" Henry confronted, still enraged. "Look at Cynthia. She almost broke her neck, and her face got pierced by a needle! We won't even know if her look would get destroyed!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 970

"Let me check. Is the wound severe?" Zachary reached out his hand to take off Cynthia's mask.

Cynthia immediately avoided him while taking a few steps back. "I've not taken out the needle. My look is terrible now. I don't want to startle you."

"It's all right. No matter how your look becomes, you're the prettiest in my eyes." Zachary uttered gently, "Please let me have a look. If it's serious, I'll ask Raina to come to treat you right away."

"There's no need for that. Really. I look hideous now..." Cynthia shook her head insecurely while signing.

"Cynthia, please take it off and show it to Zachary."

Taylor stepped toward her abruptly and swiftly took off her mask.

At that instant, everyone in the room was shocked upon seeing Cynthia's face. They did not expect it would be so severe.

"How could this be?" Henry was befuddled. "Was the needle poisoned?"

Spencer took a closer look and said, "It must be."

Cynthia lowered her head with embarrassment, covering her face with her hands.

"The Lindberg family expertise in poisons, and Danrique is a master in dealing with poison." Taylor uttered emotionally, "First, they poisoned Ellie, and then they used a poisonous snake to bite Zachary. Now, they pierced Cynthia with a poisonous needle. This is outrageous!"

Spencer cut a side glance at him without saying anything.

"I didn't know Charlotte had become so inhuman." Henry was trembling incessantly with rage. "Zachary, do you see that? That woman can't be trusted."

"Does Mr. Blackwood mean this needle belongs to Charlotte?" Zachary observed Cynthia's face. "I don't recall she owns something like this. But Cynthia is the one who has always been using needles."

"The needle is not Ms. Blackwood's."

One of the nurses weighed in abruptly.

"I've no idea where she got the needle." Cynthia cried while signing. "I intended to treat her wound. But there was a rumble of thunder, and she opened her eyes suddenly. After that, she charged at me fiercely and used the needle to pierce me..."

"Did she use the needle to pierce you?" Zachary narrowed his eyes. "But why Mrs. Rawlston said that you were the one who pierced Charlotte first?"

"No, that's not it. I didn't carry any needle." Cynthia immediately explained with her sign language. "I merely wanted to check on her wound. My hands were empty."

"The medical kit was still in my hand at that time," The nurse added. "Ms. Blackwood didn't carry anything."

"Absolutely." The other nurse spoke too. "Mrs. Rawlston was standing far by the door that time. And it was dark inside the room. How could she possibly see what Ms. Blackwood was holding in her hand?"

"Probably that's right." Zachary nodded faintly. "Mrs. Rawlston doesn't have good eyesight after all."

Spencer stared at Zachary with a complicated expression.

"So it means that the needle belongs to Charlotte," Henry spoke again in his harsh tone. "We can't drop this matter just like that. What if Cynthia's look got disfigured?"

"Then what do you propose?" Zachary shifted the question back to Henry.

"Well..." Henry was rendered speechless for a while. If we settle this in private, the Lindberg family will find us. If we send her to the cops, what're we going to tell the three kids?

"Forget it," Cynthia signed while crying. "She's a mother of three, after all. And she's the daughter of the Lindberg family. The Blackwood family can't afford to piss them off. And I don't want to put Grandpa and Zachary in a bad spot."

"But look at what she's done to you..." Tears started welling up Taylor's eyes at that moment. "It's all my fault. I wasn't able to protect you."

Just when Henry was about to say something, Zachary interrupted again, "The Nacht family owes you this, and I make it up for you. To avoid further conflict, I'll send her away tomorrow."

After hesitating for a while, Zachary took out his phone. "Now, let's send you to the hospital first."

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chapter 971

"It's fine." Cynthia stopped him right away with her sign language. "I have some knowledge dealing with poison too. Let me solve it myself first."

"Okay then." Zachary nodded slightly. "Anything you need, just come and see me anytime."

"Thanks."

At that moment, Cynthia was shouting desperately internally. Please get lost now, all of you! I need my medicine!

"Then, I'll excuse myself first. It's late already." Zachary patted her shoulder gently. "Go to rest early."

Then, he turned to Henry as well. "Grandpa, please go back to your room. Stop disturbing her."

With that, Zachary left the scene.

Staring at Zachary's back figure, Henry felt something peculiar with him today. He seldom talks so nicely to me.

But Henry soon cleared his thoughts as he shifted his gaze toward Cynthia. "He's right. We'll make it up to you."

"Thanks, Mr. Henry." Cynthia expressed her gratitude with tears in her eyes.

"Mr. Nacht, you know about this too. Cynthia doesn't want anything. Her only hope is to get married to Zachary." Taylor laid out a timely statement.

"Zachary and Cynthia have been getting along well. If it weren't for that woman, I suppose they would have already gotten engaged by now."

"You've mentioned this in the hospital." Henry furrowed his brows. "Even though Zachary seems like a cold person, he has always placed great value in relationships. After all, that woman is the mother of his children. He won't be able to wipe that clean... And with his feelings toward her, I guess he'll get entangled with her no matter what. But since I'm back now, I'll keep an eye on him. Don't worry. I'll make sure to settle this marriage as soon as possible!"

"That's good then, that's good," Taylor nodded his head. "Let me accompany you out."

"It's fine. Please stay with Cynthia."

With that, Spencer pushed Henry out of the room.

Back in the room, Cynthia immediately had the nurses lock the door. After that, they started pulling out the needle and applying the medicine to her face.

Her body trembled incessantly in agony as her tears flowed down uncontrollably. The pain was so extreme that her finger almost tore her clothes apart.

Taylor was heartbroken looking at this scene. "Cynthia, I'm sorry you have to go through this. But I think Zachary's heart is still for you. Plus, Mr. Nacht has agreed to the marriage. I believe it'll come true soon."

Cynthia paid no attention at all to what he said, as she nervously observed her face in the mirror.

Almost half of her face had rotten, and the poison was still spreading. She recoiled in utter fear.

"It doesn't look good, Ms. Blackwood..." The nurse noticed nothing changed even after she applied the medicine. "Maybe we have waited for too long, or maybe the needle was too deep. It seems like the antidote is not working anymore."

"What? How could it be?" Taylor's heart skipped a beat. "If your face got ruined, then Zachary will truly leave you for good. You're already mute, and now..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Cynthia cut a ferocious glare at him. He immediately changed his tone. "Cynthia, don't look at me like this. I'm just worried about you."

"All you care about is your family interests. You don't care for me at all," Cynthia signed furiously.

"No... It's not like that..."

"That's enough." Cynthia had no mood to continue the conversation. "Please get in touch with Freya now. Ask her to get a few medicines from my laboratory..."

She wrote down the laboratory's name on a piece of paper and handed it to Taylor. "Hurry!"

"All right, all right. I'll see to it immediately." Taylor rushed out of the room.

"What now? The wound is too deep. If we don't treat it now, it will get worse," The nurse reminded in an anxious tone.

"Continue to apply the antidote. Let's try to suppress it first."

As Cynthia spread the medicine directly on her face, the pain almost killed her. Right then, she recalled the look of Charlotte's face when the latter pierced the needle right into her face.

Charlotte Lindberg, I swear I won't let you go just like this! I'm going to kill you!

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"She's going to be sent away tomorrow, so you should just endure it first. Don't be rash!" advised the medical staff carefully. "We can't fight her now. She's too powerful!"

"Yeah, don't do anything reckless for now. It's not worth it."

The two medical staff were already so scared of Charlotte that they did not dare to provoke her anymore.

"Forget it?" Cynthia signed frantically. "If she escapes this time, how can I take revenge on her? I want her to experience my suffering before she leaves!"

"But..."

"Shut up!" Cynthia slapped the medical staff forcefully. "Pass me the medical kit."

"Okay." Clutching her cheek, the medical staff brought the medical kit over.

Cynthia took out a small blue bottle. Narrowing her eyes, she signed viciously. "Tomorrow morning..."

Pale from fear, the medical staff quickly interrupted, "We can't do this, Ms. Blackwood. We're doomed if someone finds out!"

"Yeah! Ms. Lindberg is cruel and merciless. She'll definitely kill us!"

"You're afraid of her, but not me?" Cynthia signed menacingly. "If you act smartly, no one will find out. Furthermore, Henry and Zachary are siding with me now. The family is going to be in my grasp soon! Who is that woman to compete with me?"

When the medical staff heard that, they hesitated...

"Don't worry. After everything, I'll arrange for both of you to leave as soon as possible and give you a huge sum of money." Cynthia took out two cheques. "This is your deposit."

When the two of them saw the number scribbled on the cheque, their eyes lit up. The deposit was so hefty that no one could refuse it.

"Don't worry over nothing." Cynthia signed coldly. "Even doing business involves risk-taking. When you go out, you might even

get into a car accident! If you don't dare to take any risks, how can you ever succeed?"

"You're right! I'm in!"

"Me too!"

Meanwhile, in his room, Henry was frowning.

"There's something wrong with that rascal. Why is he so agreeable tonight?" He wondered. "Is this part of a strategy to calm me down first before playing his tricks?"

With his head lowered as he made the bed, Spencer gave no response.

"Why aren't you saying anything, you silly old bugger?" growled Henry unhappily.

"I don't dare to," answered Spencer.

"Pfft! What do you not dare to do?" A grim expression crossed Henry's face. "Why are you speaking so weirdly? What are you trying to say?"

"I don't understand." Spencer tried to hold himself back, but he could not help but ask, "Why would you rather believe an outsider than your own grandson?"

"What do you mean?" Henry was stunned, for this was the first time Spencer had rebuked him.

"I think that Mr. Zachary knows what he is doing. Sometimes, you..."

Spencer shot him a timid look, not daring to go on.

"What do you want to say? Speak!" Henry glared at him.

"You're too much of a busybody." Spencer could not help but speak his mind.

"How insolent!" Henry refused to admit it. "I'm doing this for his own sake..."

"You might be doing it for his own sake, but he doesn't want it." Spencer became anxious. "Two years ago, you also had his good intentions in mind. However, what happened? He drowned in his sorrows, while the kids hated you. Not only did you fail to stop what you wanted to stop, but you also made the situation worse..."

At that point, Spencer paused mid-sentence when he noticed Henry's grim expression. He was afraid that if he continued speaking, Henry would be provoked again.

Hence, he paused and advised tactfully, "Mr. Nacht, I think that you should trust Mr. Zachary's judgment and capabilities. For all these years, he had never taken a wrong step. On the other hand, when you try to forcefully change the situation, you'd end up committing a huge mistake. Not only does it require so much effort, but you have also turned your grandson and grandchildren against you! Why go through all that?"

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"Silly old bugger, you're getting bolder, huh? How dare you chide me?" scolded Henry furiously as he hit Spencer's leg with his cane.

Spencer lowered his head as he received Henry's blows silently.

However, after two hits, Henry stopped. Panting weakly, he said, "Your punishment is that you're not allowed to speak tonight."

"Okay."

After cleaning the blood and dirt away from Charlotte's body, Zachary took a bath and slept beside her.

Propping his head up with an arm, he lay on his side and watched her silently.

It was rare to see her so quiet. Instead of making a fuss, she was lying beside him so obediently.

He recalled how two years ago, they had such passionate nights on this bed. While he could never bear to let go of her, she would also cling to him so longingly.

They were reunited on the same bed two years later, although in a different way.

Stretching his hand out, he flicked her hair away from her forehead gently before stroking her beautiful face with the back of his palm. Then, he moved closer, kissed her forehead and hugged her tightly in his arms.

He really wished that they could continue like this forever.

I hope that she won't ever wake up.

However, just when that thought flashed across his mind, he heard a series of urgent knocks on the door. "Mr. Nacht, I need to report something to you."

Left with no choice, Zachary got up, put on his robe and opened the door. "What happened?"

"We have captured Sharon," said Ben softly. "Raina also sent a message, saying that Morgan's condition has already stabilized. Her life is not in danger anymore..."

"Where's Ms. Lindberg?"

Lupine and a few female bodyguards had hurried back rapidly. On their way, they heard about Morgan being shot. Feeling anxious, she immediately dispatched two bodyguards to the hospital to check on Morgan.

Meanwhile, she and the remaining two other bodyguards rushed back to look for Charlotte...

"Softer," reminded Zachary as he frowned. "She just fell asleep."

"I need to check on her." Lupine was still worried. "Please let me in to take a look."

Zachary moved aside.

Lupine crept over quietly. Through the dim lighting, she could see that Charlotte was deep asleep. It was only after confirming that Charlotte had not suffered any serious injuries that she left, feeling relieved.

"Sorry for disturbing you."

Lupine bowed to Zachary before heading toward Ellie's room.

"Keep an eye on Sharon and don't let her escape again," Zachary instructed Ben. "You must also pay attention to what's happening in the hospital. Don't let anything happen to Morgan."

"Understood." Ben nodded before whispering, "Marino has already found Dr. Felch. However, he said that he'll only come to H City if he can contact Ms. Lindberg."

"I'll talk to her after daybreak." Zachary glanced at his watch and saw that it was already three in the morning. "You may leave now."

"Okay."

Ben rushed away quickly to supervise the others, who were monitoring Sharon.

Meanwhile, Lupine went to Ellie's bedroom and asked the two female bodyguards, "Is Ms. Elisa alright?"

"She's fine," one replied softly. "However, Ms. Lindberg got bullied today..."

"What?" Lupine was startled. "What happened?"

The bodyguard quickly told her about what happened between Charlotte and Cynthia.

"We could hear shouts from outside. However, as this room is soundproof, we can't really hear what was being said. Since Ms. Lindberg told us to protect Ms. Elisa to our best abilities and that we're not allowed to exit no matter what happens, we did not leave."

After a slight pause, she continued, "Afterward, we heard from Molly that Ms. Lindberg and Morgan got attacked after leaving and ended up getting caught in a thunderstorm. When Ms. Lindberg's illness acted up again, Mr. Nacht carried her home. Probably out of jealousy, Cynthia forcefully barged into the room when Mr. Nacht was not around and provoked Ms. Lindberg. This was despite Mrs. Rawlston's frantic attempts to stop her! Ms. Lindberg retaliated angrily and almost suffocated Cynthia. Hence, Mr. Henry sent a few bodyguards to restrain her, even chaining her down..."

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"How dare they?" Lupine was furious. "The Nacht family has really crossed the line!"

"Mr. Nacht came back afterward and stabilized the situation," explained the bodyguards. "He still sides with Ms. Lindberg, but that old man, Mr. Henry, hates her to the core. He just can't wait to get rid of her!"

"That's right. I don't know if he's blind. Otherwise, why would he trust that mute from the Blackwood family and keep targeting Ms. Lindberg?"

"Now, we are left without much manpower and are trapped in the Nacht residence. Ms. Lindberg is unconscious while Morgan got into an accident. Things can't go on like this..." A grim look crossed Lupine's face. "I'll report to Mr. Lindberg immediately!"

"Yeah. If he comes, no one will dare to bully Ms. Lindberg!"

Lupine immediately sent a message to Danrique and reported everything that happened to him.

However, he gave no response.

She had no choice but to keep waiting.

The rain lasted for the entire night.

When the next morning arrived, the sky had cleared.

Charlotte woke up from her sleep. Her head felt extremely heavy and the back of her neck was very sore.

Sitting up, she shook her head and tried to remember everything that had happened last night.

I left to meet Olivia with Morgan but was caught in a sneak attack by Zara. Morgan was shot while my illness relapsed again...

"Morgan!"

Charlotte widened her eyes. She immediately jumped out of the bed but realized that she was completely naked except for a bathrobe wrapped around her.

"She's fine." A familiar voice sounded.

When she turned her head, she saw Zachary walking out of the bathroom. There was only a towel wrapped around his torso, while water dripped down his hair and body.

"Are you crazy? Why are you bathing in my room?" growled Charlotte as she frowned.

Zachary pointed at the wedding photo hung on the wall.

Charlotte raised her head and glanced at it. Stunned, she continued scanning the room. "Is this your room?"

"It's ours." Zachary walked toward her while he wiped his hair. "Go and bathe. We'll head downstairs for breakfast later."

"What's going on?" Charlotte felt very uneasy. "What happened last night?"

Every time she had a relapse, she would forget what happened.

"Go and bathe first." Zachary stroked her hair. "You smell like blood."

After Charlotte sniffed herself and realized that he was right, she immediately went to the bathroom.

While she bathed, she tried to recall the events from last night. She realized that there were bruises on her wrists and ankles, which looked like they were marks from being cuffed...

She closed her eyes and tried her best to remember. Soon, a few flashbacks appeared in her mind.

Cynthia attacked me with a silver needle, but I pinned her against the floor and stabbed her face with the needle. Then, Mr. Nacht came with some men.

When Charlotte opened her eyes again, a vicious glint flashed across them.

Very well! How dare these worthless people bully me?

She walked out of the bathroom, fuming with rage.

"Change your clothes." Zachary opened the closet to reveal an array of female clothing. For some reason, they looked quite familiar to her...

"I don't wear someone else's clothes."

Charlotte walked out directly.

"These are yours," said Zachary gently. "Don't you remember?"

Charlotte halted in her tracks and turned around to take a look. Yeah, they look kinda familiar...

"Wear them. It's not appropriate if the kids come and knock on the door later."

Zachary pointed at her bathrobe.

After shooting a glare at him, Charlotte grabbed a set of clothes and changed into them behind the partition.

"Daddy! Daddy!" At that moment, someone suddenly knocked on the door. Jamie yelled anxiously, "Mommy's gone! We can't find her!"

Walking over, Zachary opened the door and pointed inside the room. "Mommy's changing now."

"Huh?" Jamie was stunned. "Did Mommy sleep here last night?"

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"Yeah." Zachary nodded.

"Wow, that's great!" Jamie was overjoyed. "Does this mean that you've reconciled?"

"We need more time..." Turning around, Zachary glanced at Charlotte. "Mommy's still angry at me, so I must impress her."

"Haha! Do your best!" Jamie clenched his fist and pumped it into the air. "I won't disturb you anymore. I'll wait for you downstairs!"

"Go on." Zachary stroked his head and closed the bedroom door.

"What nonsense are you telling Jamie?"

Charlotte walked out of the partition after changing her clothes.

When Zachary turned to look at her, he saw that she was wearing a white dress. Her hair draped over her shoulders, while her face

was without any makeup. She looked like her past self—much more gentle and affectionate.

“I look so weak and vulnerable wearing these clothes,” remarked Charlotte mockingly. “Precisely so, all of you keep bullying me.”

“No one bullies you.” Frowning, Zachary stared at her. “Sometimes, it’s just fate playing a prank on you.”

“Fate is only an excuse used by failures.”

Charlotte could not be bothered to talk to him.

“Where are you going?” Zachary immediately pulled her back.

“I’m leaving! Am I going to stay here and let all of you harm me?” She glared at him coldly. “When I find Dr. Felch, I’ll bring the three kids back to me. Then, I’ll settle my score with the Nacht family!”

With that, Charlotte flung his hand away and left.

“Wait!” Zachary quickly stopped her. “I have something to tell you.”

“There’s nothing for us to talk about.”

Just when Charlotte opened the door and was about to leave, she froze.

Robbie was standing outside with a hand raised, about to knock on the door. However, it was obvious that he had overheard their argument. His hand was frozen mid-air, while a crestfallen expression crossed his face.

“Robbie...” Charlotte squatted down and said softly, “I’m leaving. After I find the doctor, I’ll pick all of you up.”

“Okay.” Robbie nodded. Although the disappointment in his eyes could not be concealed, he squeezed out a smile. Pretending to be strong, he promised, “I’ll protect Jamie and Ellie. Don’t worry, Mommy!”

Charlotte hugged him, feeling extremely reluctant to leave him.

No matter what her relationship with Zachary was, she felt like she owed her children a lot. Now that she thought about it, she should not have let Zachary meet the children. She and Mrs. Berry could have raised the children themselves. Although they were poor, life was peaceful and happy.

The minute they get acquainted with this rich family, everything changed. After she came back to the Nacht family, all those grudges and hatred arose...

She could not even control her own fate anymore.

"Leave after eating breakfast."

Seeing how resolute Charlotte was, Zachary knew that he would not be able to retain her no matter what. Hence, he said, "Jamie and Ellie are still waiting for us downstairs..."

"Mommy!"

A wake and hoarse voice sounded.

When Charlotte turned around, she saw Lupine pushing Ellie, who was sitting in a wheelchair, out of the bedroom. Ellie was hugging a stuffed alpaca, while a blanket was draped over her body. Meanwhile, Little Fifi perched on her shoulder obediently.

After being sick for a long time, Ellie had lost a lot of weight. Her initially chubby cheeks were now completely pale, while her bright eyes had become sunken and dull.

It broke Charlotte's heart when she looked at her.

"Why did you come out, Ellie?" Charlotte rushed over to hug Ellie. "Why aren't you resting in your room?"

"I've not left my room for some time. Since the weather's so good today, I'd like to come out and take a breather." Ellie's voice was hoarse and she struggled to speak. "Mommy, let's eat breakfast in the garden."

"Ms. Windt, breakfast is ready!" announced Mrs. Rawlston as she walked up the stairs. "It's the pastries that you and the kids like to eat!"

"Thank you, Mrs. Rawlston. I..."

"Grandpa went out for a stroll and Cynthia's having breakfast with her father indoors." Zachary could read her mind. "It's just the six of us this morning."

"Fine." Charlotte glanced at him. For some reason, she thought that he was intentionally planning something...

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"Ellie, I'll carry you down."

Charlotte carried Ellie from the wheelchair. Ellie wrapped her arms around Charlotte's neck and snuggled in her embrace.

Meanwhile, Zachary held Robbie's hand and headed downstairs. They were greeted by Jamie's wide grin. "Good morning, Daddy and Mommy! Good morning to you too, Robbie and Ellie!"

"Good morning, Jamie!"

The family walked to the outdoor dining room in the garden. As they dined in the warm sunlight and listened to the melodious chirping of the birds, the atmosphere became harmonious.

Mrs. Rawlston brought the last few plates over before standing at the side and gazing at them with a smile. There was a look of affection in her eyes as if she was watching her own children.

"Let's dig in, Mommy and Daddy!"

"Good boy! Let's eat!"

Charlotte gazed at the children warmly.

Jamie was shoving the food into his mouth.

Although it looked like there were a lot of things weighing on Robbie's mind, he was trying his best to appear happy.

Ellie's appetite had improved a lot as well. While she ate, she said to Little Fifi, "Little Fifi, you must eat obediently and not make a mess with your food, okay?"

"Eat! Eat!"

Little Fifi's head was lowered as it ate the seeds. The entire plate of seeds was scattered all over the table. However, after Ellie reminded it, it picked the seeds up and placed them back onto the plate.

Charlotte gave Ellie a hot cross bun before watching the children eat.

As she did not have much of an appetite, she only drank tea.

"Ms. Windt, I made some yam broth for you. If you don't have an appetite, you can drink that first."

At that moment, Mrs. Rawlston walked over with a bowl of steaming broth.

"Thank you, Mrs. Rawlston," said Charlotte.

"What happened to your hand?" Molly discovered that Mrs. Rawlston's hand had been scalded.

"When I was walking out of the kitchen with the broth, the Blackwoods' medical staff bumped into me. The broth spilled onto my hand and scalded me," explained Mrs. Rawlston softly. "Luckily, not a lot was spilled. Otherwise, Ms. Windt won't have anything to drink!"

"How dare they? Did they do it on purpose?" exclaimed Molly indignantly.

"No. They accidentally bumped into me when they were getting something from the kitchen," Mrs. Rawlston clarified quickly. "Okay, let's stop talking. Don't disturb Mr. Zachary and Ms. Windt's meal!"

Although Molly did not dare to speak anymore, her expression was grim. She was fuming in anger.

Despite them conversing in hushed tones, Zachary and Charlotte overheard them.

Zachary stared at the bowl of yam broth and narrowed his eyes.

Charlotte moved closer to him and warned softly, "When I'm not around, please protect the kids and fulfill your duty as a father!"

"If you're worried, you can stay here and protect them yourself." Zachary sipped on his tea.

"You..." Charlotte flushed from anger.

"Mommy, why aren't you eating?" At that moment, Jamie passed a hot cross bunny to Charlotte. "Mrs. Rawlston made this. Give it a try!"

"Thank you, Jamie."

Charlotte took a bite of the hot cross bunny. It tastes like how I remembered it...

When Mrs. Berry stayed there, she often taught Mrs. Rawlston how to make hot cross bunnies. After dozens of attempts, she had finally mastered it.

The hot cross bunnies looked exactly like Mrs. Berry's.

"Good morning, Zachary!"

At that moment, an affectionate voice sounded.

Raising her head, Charlotte saw Cynthia pushing Henry over, while Spencer and Taylor tagged along. It was Taylor who greeted them just now.

Cynthia was wearing a mask, looking timid. When she spotted Charlotte, she was so scared that she trembled.

When Charlotte remembered what happened last night, a sharp glint appeared in her eyes.

"Ms. Lindberg, did that woman attack you last night?" asked Lupine softly from behind.

"You're already leaving, so don't kick up a ruckus," warned Zachary softly.

Charlotte glared at him angrily. This jerk! Is he defending Cynthia?

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"Morning!" Zachary greeted as he slowly pushed Henry to the dining table. "Where are your manners?"

"Good morning, Great-grandpa," greeted the triplets.

"Good day." Henry didn't seem too well that morning. He looked wan, showing he didn't have a good night's rest. Yet, he managed an affectionate smile for the kids.

He frowned at Ellie. "Why are you so thin?"

"I'm not feeling well, Great-grandpa."

She answered arduously, followed by a string of coughs.

"How are you feeling, Ellie?" Charlotte immediately patted Ellie's back gently. "It's chilly here. Let me take you upstairs."

Charlotte hadn't wanted to deal with Henry. She was planning to leave right after sending Ellie back to her room.

"Have Mrs. Rawlston send her instead," Zachary insisted. "Robbie and Jamie, have you finished? Go upstairs and accompany Ellie."

“But I’m not full yet-”

Before Jamie got to finish, Zachary cast him a glance to silence him.

Jamie soon realized Zachary wanted them upstairs. And so the former took a handful of hot cross bunnies, got up, then trailed after Mrs. Rawlston and Ellie.

“Mommy...” Robbie worried about Charlotte being ill-treated without them there.

“Go ahead.” Charlotte ruffled Robbie’s head and comforted softly, “Don’t worry. I’ll come and pick you guys up soon.”

“But they-” Henry opened his mouth to speak, but when he caught Robbie’s sharp gaze, the former snapped his mouth shut.

Robbie embraced Charlotte then turned to Zachary. “Daddy, do you remember the promise you made to me to protect Mommy two years ago?”

“I remember.” Zachary stared at Robbie. “I won’t break that promise. Believe me.”

Robbie was taken aback by the determined look in Zachary’s eyes. It was a rare sight to see.

“All right.” Robbie decided to believe in Zachary. “I believe you.”

“Good boy. Head upstairs then.”

Zachary cast a knowing glance at Bruce. The latter left with Robbie’s hand in tow, leading some staff upstairs to protect the kids.

Zachary finally shifted his focus to Taylor and Cynthia. “Come sit with us and have some breakfast.”

“No thanks.” Taylor swiftly averted his gaze after a cursory glance at Charlotte. “Cynthia and I will be heading back to our room.”

Taylor was pulling Cynthia to leave as he spoke.

"Sit," Henry instructed arrogantly. "You're in the Nachts' residence and my esteemed guests. We have nothing to hide from you."

"This..." Taylor was conflicted.

"Grandpa is right." Zachary added politely, "Please have a seat."

Taylor turned confident when he noted Zachary's bias attitude toward them. After exchanging eye contact with Cynthia, they both took a seat.

"Why sit so far away?" Henry asked. "Come closer."

The father and daughter moved closer to the head of the table. Taylor ended up beside Henry while Cynthia beside Zachary.

Meanwhile, Charlotte merely sipped her tea silently.

However, if one would notice, her fingers on the teacup had tightened.

"Mrs. Rawlston, bring a few more dishes for our new company," ordered Zachary.

"Yes, sir."

Molly was furious but could only follow her employer's instructions.

Lupine was furious as well at Zachary's attitude. "Ms. Lindberg, let's leave."

Charlotte finally set her teacup onto the table and lifted her gaze, settling on Zachary. "I'll come to pick up the kids seven days later. If anything happens to them, you will pay for it."

She rose, preparing to leave.

"You sure talk brave for someone so powerless," Henry taunted. "Do you think you can pick up the kids any time you want? They are the Nachts. Nobody can take them away."

"Try me," Charlotte retorted.

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"You..."

"It's still early in the morning, and you're already angry." Zachary tugged Charlotte to sit back down. "I'll send you off after breakfast."

"Let go of me!"

Charlotte wanted to get free from his grasp but froze when she met his gaze. It seemed he was hinting something at her.

"Sure. It's just a meal." Charlotte sneered, "They won't eat me anyways."

Taylor coughed dryly at her sneer.

Cynthia merely sat there obediently with her head lowered. Tears were falling as though she had suffered greatly.

"Since you're leaving, I think we should talk."

Henry suppressed his anger and tried his best to seem humble.

"What are you trying to say?" Charlotte gazed at him coldly.

Henry sighed deeply. "I still feel the guilt regarding Mrs. Berry's incident two years ago."

Charlotte was surprised at his repentance. It was the first time he admitted to his mistake. Has he honestly regretted his actions?

"These two years have been hell to me. The kids were estranged from me, especially Robbie. He's been blaming me for sending you away ever since. Zachary was also cold and kept his distance from me.

"It wasn't that I didn't reflect on my actions. I have frequently wondered I wouldn't have insisted on sending you away if I could make that choice again. But there is no turning back in life.

"Unfortunately, mistakes have been made. And there's no way to rectify it even if I was the worst kind of criminal.

"I don't know how you feel about your new identity. But you will realize life doesn't leave you with much of a choice as you age.

"Especially when you're in a high position, you have to take into consideration the fate of your family and grandchildren's future in your every thought and action. You can't just think about yourself."

"What are you trying to say?" Charlotte wanted a straightforward answer.

"I hope you can be more considerate of your children."

Henry finally spoke his mind.

"Are you sure it is better for the kids when you take them to the Lindberg residence? Even though you're a Lindberg and the second major shareholder of the Lindberg Corporation, you rely on Danrique for everything you have.

"What will happen if you defy him one day? And he got mad, then took everything away from you. I know you're fine on your own, but what about the kids? Where would they go? Do they have to move from city to city with you?"

Undeniably, his words struck a nerve in Charlotte.

She had considered all these problems hence her worries.

I, myself, don't feel any sense of belonging to the Lindberg family. So I hadn't wanted to take the kids there if it wasn't for the

continuous dangerous occurrences they faced in the Nacht residence.

Henry took a sip and continued, "If you have any grudges, I'll try my best to make it up to you. I can even apologize to you with my humblest and deepest sincerity. Anything is fine.

"But I hope you can refrain from acting recklessly and be more considerate of the kids' future. Robbie will be the successor to the Nacht family, while Jamie and Ellie are the descendants of the Nacht family. This place is their home.

"If they're in the Lindberg residence, they would be subjected to others' ministrations. It won't be their home."

"You truly are an excellent negotiator. Every word you said is on point." Charlotte jeered, "I had considered everything you mentioned. But the kids didn't seem to inherit anything from the Nacht family. And if they keep falling sick and injured..."

"Do you want me to expose the truth?"

Rage gripped Henry at her words. "How did Ellie end up like that? Isn't it because of the poison by Danrique? And Zachary was also bitten by Danrique's poisonous snake-"

"Who told you Danrique poisoned Ellie?" Charlotte yelled angrily.

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"Who said it isn't important." Henry covered for Cynthia. "The kids were poisoned when they were by your side. That is the truth, isn't it?"

Charlotte merely glared at Cynthia.

If I have the evidence, I will expose her true nature right at this moment.

"The kids were poisoned with you by their side. Now, this makes the situation different." Henry spoke justly, "Think from another angle. If the kids returned to the Lindberg residence with you, they might be in more danger-"

"Are you done?"

It was Zachary who interrupted.

Charlotte was baffled at his lack of manners. He rarely retorted Henry in front of an audience.

"Zachary, watch your tone!" Henry's anger spiked.

"I have been investigating Ellie's poisoning all this while and suspected there can be another reason for it." Zachary frowned as he added. "I reckoned the poison was in her tea served at the Seacrest Restaurant."

He raised his teacup and continued, "Currently, Bruce is following up with the investigation. I believe we will have the outcome soon."

"You mean it wasn't the Lindbergs who poisoned her? It was the staff from the restaurant?" Henry was surprised.

Charlotte gazed knowingly at Cynthia. This woman hides well. She concealed her emotions with her head lowered the entire time. It was how she masked her anxiety.

"Exactly." Zachary turned to Charlotte. "Unfortunately, the tea set was taken away by your people. Else I would've found the perpetrator."

"There's nothing on the tea set. I have it examined already," Charlotte replied.

"What do you mean?" Henry was confused. "Why would you take away the tea set if Zachary is the one investigating the matter?"

"Maybe to cover her tracks," Taylor sneered under his breath.

Charlotte glared at Taylor. This man is fake as plastic. His outward appearance may look gentle and elegant, but he is no different from his mute daughter.

"That's enough." Zachary switched the topic. "Talking doesn't prove anything. Since everyone's here, let's finish breakfast quietly. Everyone, please head back to your respective seats."

"Right." Taylor agreed and served Henry a bowl of oatmeal. "Mr. Nacht, let's have breakfast first."

He then set a glass of milk in front of Cynthia. "Cynthia, let's eat."

Henry didn't have an appetite because he was worried Charlotte would take the kids away. After pondering for a while, he spoke sombrely.

"There are no outsiders here. So I'll speak frankly. I have written my will. After I pass, the kids will inherit all my wealth and assets. I didn't leave anything for the rest, including Zachary, Zara, and Chris."

Everyone was baffled at his sudden announcement.

Charlotte was surprised by his decision. Henry was a very wealthy man, so it was shocking for him to leave everything to her kids and none to his children.

If so, the three kids' net worth would be way much higher than their parents'.

"I have included a note. All my wealth and assets will be donated to the GJ Foundation if any harm befalls the kids. None would be left for the rest, including their parents and relatives.

"Before they reach adulthood, Zachary will be managing it. It will be transferred to their accounts when they reached twenty years of age. But they will need Zachary's and Spencer's approval.

"Charlotte, you're a mother. So I sincerely hope you can consider your children's future."

Charlotte kept silent. She wasn't surprised by the amount of wealth and assets. Instead, what surprised her was Henry's careful ministrations in consideration of the kids.

The remarks in his will are for protecting the kids' safety and welfare. It's also his way to inform Zara not to fight for his inheritance because he didn't leave any for her. Even Zachary won't get anything.

Also, they can't even think about using nasty tactics to steal the inheritance from the kids. If anything happens to the kids, they won't get to see any of it at all.

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"Of course, the condition is Zachary has to be their guardian." Henry hinted, "You're a smart girl. Surely you understand what that entails."

Charlotte understood his insinuation if she took the kids away, they would have lost the inheritance and the protection from the Nacht family.

Taylor frowned in silence as he lowered his head.

But his expression had darkened. After all his efforts and planning, everything had gone down the drain.

Zachary is not part of the inheritance lineup. Despite owning Divine Corporation and having a high network, it is still not enough.

"Are you finished?" Zachary placed hot cross bunnies on Charlotte's plate. "You haven't eaten anything the entire morning. Please have something."

The hot cross bunnies had gone cold. Absent-mindedly taking a bite, Charlotte choked on it. She was about to take a sip of some medicinal broth to wash it down.

Cynthia's eyes brightened when she noticed Charlotte's action.

"Drink this instead." Zachary took away the medicinal broth from Charlotte and gave her a glass of warm milk instead. "I happen to crave some medicinal broth."

Charlotte glared at him then sipped on the milk, washing the bun down.

The medicinal broth was about to reach Zachary's lips.

Pang!

Cynthia suddenly stood up and hit her glass of juice by accident.

"Cynthia, where are your manners?" Taylor reprimanded.

Cynthia poured Zachary a cup of tea and signed to him frantically. "Don't drink the medicinal broth. It has gone cold. Drink this instead."

"Don't worry. It tastes even better when it's cold."

Zachary picked up his spoon and was about to take a sip of the medicinal broth when Cynthia urgently pushed his hand away.

The bowl flipped, and the contents spilled all over the table.

"What are you doing?" Zachary looked at her with confusion.

Cynthia signed urgently. "There's a bug in the broth."

"Bug or poison?"

Charlotte narrowed her eyes, staring coldly at Cynthia.

"I don't know what you're saying."

Cynthia hung her head, not daring to meet Charlotte's eyes.

"You have provoked Ms. Lindberg multiple times already. You attacked her just yesterday. Today you tried to poison her. Do you think the Lindberg family will let you do as you please?"

Lupine held Cynthia captive and was about to drag her away.

Cynthia started screaming silently. Ah... ah..

"How dare you!" yelled Henry.

"Lupine, let her go." Charlotte sipped her tea. "This is the Nacht residence, so let's let the Nachts settle this fairly."

She turned to Zachary. "Am I right, Mr. Zachary?"

"I trust that Cynthia is not that kind of person." Zachary glanced at Cynthia, then called, "Raina!"

"Yes, sir."

Raina immediately led a team of doctors over and quickly set up all the apparatus and equipment. They took a sample from the medicinal broth and checked the contents on the spot.

They were familiar with every step as if they had prepared for such a scenario.

"Zachary, what are you doing?" Taylor began to panic. "Cynthia would never poison anyone. She's a gentle and kind-hearted girl."

"Yes, I do believe in Cynthia. The tests are done to ensure she's not falsely accused."

Zachary cleaned his fingers elegantly and casually with a napkin. But his buried domineering attitude had started to poke its' head up.

Charlotte realized Zachary's intention of going through all the trouble.

Today's breakfast truly is interesting.

There might be something more interesting that awaits.

"Mr. Nacht..." Taylor turned to Henry for support.

"Zachary, what do you think you're doing?" Henry chided, "You're investigating Cynthia for a bowl of medicinal broth? She would never do that."

"It's better for me to investigate this situation thoroughly now rather than allowing the Lindberg family to take revenge on her." Zachary continued slowly, "What do you think, Mr. Blackwood?"

"This..." Taylor turned to Cynthia.

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Cynthia urgently exchanged a glance with Taylor.

Taylor instantly understood and began sweating bullets. "Mr. Nacht, Cynthia would never do it. They are insulting her by investigating her in such a way. Please do her justice."

"Let her go first." Henry slammed his palm onto the table.

Lupine pay no heed to his command.

She finally let Cynthia go after receiving a knowing glance from Charlotte.

Cynthia tripped and nearly fall.

Taylor hurriedly held her. "What have we, the Blackwoods, have done? We are here to help and treat others, but all we received were insults and humiliations. We were hit yesterday, then subjected to such humiliation today."

Cynthia's entire body was swaying as though she could fall at any moment.

Henry didn't have the heart to look, so he admonished Zachary. "Don't believe what that woman said. How could you suspect Cynthia?"

"I'll apologize to her if there's no poison in the broth." Zachary continued to sip his tea.

"You..."

"Cynthia was there when Ellie was poisoned at the Seacrest Restaurant. That is the main reason I'm doing this." Zachary explained calmly, "Charlotte suspected Cynthia was the one who poisoned Ellie; hence, her antagonistic acts toward Cynthia."

"How could Cynthia have poisoned Ellie?" Henry insisted on believing Cynthia's innocence. "When Ellie was sick, it was Cynthia who took care of her day and night."

"You're right, and that is what I thought exactly." Zachary nodded with agreement. "I'm not suspecting Cynthia. Aren't I investigating this matter with everyone present? If there isn't any problem with the broth, it means Cynthia is innocent. Charlotte won't bother her any longer."

"But--"

"Mr. Nacht."

At that moment, Spencer spoke, "We're merely checking the contents of the broth and not the individual. It'll be fine once things clear up."

"You have to understand that to be on the receiving end of the Lindbergs revenge is a very frightening experience. It'll be fine if we investigate the matter now. Ms. Lindberg won't target Ms. Blackwood anymore. Isn't that good for everyone involved?"

"As we can see, Mr. Spencer has common sense."

Charlotte raised her cup of tea and drink with Spencer.

"Mr. Spencer, how could you--"

"He's right." Henry interrupted Taylor. "Nobody can touch Cynthia with me here today. If they want to investigate Cynthia, let them. If there's no issue, you..."

He pointed at Charlotte and said harshly, "Must apologize to Cynthia."

"What if there's a problem?" Charlotte asked with an arched brow.

"Then--"

"Mr. Zachary, the result is out."

Soon, Raina walked over with an analysis report. She gave Cynthia a knowing expression.

Cynthia paled when she met Raina's gaze and instantly lowered her head in guilt.

Zachary gave a cursory glance at the report, then passed it to Henry without saying anything.

Henry was shocked as he read the report. His face paled almost immediately.

Taylor caught a glimpse of the report from the side. He almost fainted.

"What in the world happened?" Henry interrogated Cynthia with the report in hand.

"Mr. Henry, I don't know..." Cynthia sobbed as she signed. "I was telling the truth when I said I saw a bug in the broth. That was why I didn't want Zachary to drink it."

"Yes... yes..." Taylor agreed urgently. "Even if there's poison in the broth, you can't deduce it was put there by us. Even the judges need evidence before they pass the verdict."

"If I were the one who poisoned the broth, why would I flip the bowl? Wouldn't that action betray that I'm the culprit? I'm not dumb." Cynthia cried as she signed.

"That's true." Henry was hesitant. "Why would she flip the bowl over if she was the one who poisoned it? Nobody would've suspected her if she didn't do what she did."

"Simple. The person she wanted to poison was me, not Zachary." Charlotte sneered, "When I about to drink the broth, she was merely sitting there. But she panicked when Zachary was about to drink it."

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"Yes, I hate you. I never did you wrong, but you've been targeting me at every turn, bullied me, tried to kill me, and even pierced my face with a needle..."

Cynthia signed wildly. "That's why I didn't want to tell you when I saw a bug in your medicinal broth. You can drink the bug for all I care. But it's a different story when I saw Zachary reaching out for the broth."

"Keep it up!" Charlotte glared at her coldly. "Do you think you can get off scot-free with some lame excuse? The truth will come pouring out after going through your medical kit. This might even be the same poison Ellie was poisoned with..."

"We're running tests on the poison right now. We'll find out in a bit." Raina reported. "As for the medical kit..."

"Let's get to the bottom of things," agreed Zachary.

"Ok." Raina immediately took Cynthia's medical kit.

"Zachary, you..." Cynthia cried. "I did everything for you. Why are you treating me like this?"

"Zachary, why do you not trust Cynthia?" Taylor exclaimed. "She wouldn't have stopped you from drinking that medicinal broth just now if she wanted to scheme against you."

"Calm down." Zachary was cool as a cucumber. "I'm doing this because I want to do Cynthia justice. Don't worry, I will apologize to Cynthia if she's innocent at the end of it all."

"You..." Taylor panicked. He turned to Henry for help. "Mr. Nacht, please help."

Henry stared at Zachary for a long while before he spoke up. "We should get to the bottom of things since we found out that the medicinal broth was poisoned. Don't worry, no one can do you wrong since I'm around."

"This..."

Taylor fell into despair. They would know that something is up if they check the medical kit.

However, Cynthia remained calm. "Any excuse will serve the tyrant. How can I escape if someone really wants to frame me?"

"Frame you?" Charlotte sneered. "So you mean to say that even if we found poison in your medical kit, it would be from me?"

"Finally, you admit." Taylor quickly played along.

"So you're implying that I put a bug in the medicinal broth and pretended that I was going to drink it?" Charlotte rubbed her temples, feeling frustrated. "But how would I know that Zachary would snatch the medicinal broth away from me? How can I tell that you're going to stop Zachary from drinking the medicinal broth?"

"This..." Taylor was rendered speechless.

"Love is blind." Tears of despair ran down Cynthia's cheeks. "I never thought that Zachary would go that far for your sake..."

She then lowered her head and cried.

"Huh!" Charlotte couldn't help but laugh. "So you're implying that we put on a show just to plot against you?"

"That's certainly a possibility." Zachary nodded. "I will do anything for you."

"You..." Charlotte was rendered speechless. What is he thinking?

"Grandpa, that's exactly what you're thinking, right?" Zachary turned to face Henry.

Henry frowned. He was completely caught off guard when he heard it from Zachary because that was exactly his thought.

He knew better than anyone else how much Zachary loves her.

He would do anything for her sake.

It was certainly a possibility for the two of them to put on a show just to force Cynthia to leave and gain his trust in order to stay at the Nacht residence.

However, he pushed the thought away after hearing it from Zachary.

"Cynthia, you're certainly a smart one."

Zachary took a sip of tea and said calmly.

"You know you're going to get exposed soon, and also knew that I've set a trap up for you. So you gave up on me and placed all your hopes and dreams on Grandpa instead. You didn't hesitate to pull me down in order to gain his trust. Everything just makes sense. You're really good at manipulation."

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"You..." Cynthia stared at Zachary in bewilderment.

"What are you trying to do?" Henry frowned.

"Ok, let's stop the act." Zachary waved his hand.

Ben immediately pulled his phone out and projected a video on a white screen.

Very soon, the video started to play...

It was a CCTV footage from Nachth residence from two days ago.

"What is this?"

Everyone stared at the screen.

The first clip was during Charlotte's arrival at Nacht residence.

Cynthia and Taylor were having a discussion in Zachary's study.

"This is not the time to back down. After doing so much and arriving at the cusp of success, I cannot retreat from this!"

"We're only avoiding her for a while. It's not like we're not coming back. She has yet to recover her memory. But, if she finds out that you masqueraded as her during the wedding, she will definitely strangle you to death. Also, if she knew that you planted the..."

"This is Zachary's study. I hope there aren't any CCTVs in here."

The second clip showed Cynthia leaving the study and instructing Freya what to do in a quiet corner with hand gestures.

Freya was then seen moving stealthily towards Ellie's room with a bowl of herbal concoction. Along the way, she poured a packet of medicinal powder into the broth.

The third clip showed Freya and two medical staff forcing Ellie to drink the medicine. Freya even pinned her down and tried to force the medication down her throat.

Luckily for Ellie, Jamie and Fifi were around to stop Freya from doing so. Hence, Ellie only drank a little bit. However, the drug quickly took effect.

Henry was trembling with rage as he watched. He pointed at Cynthia and yelled furiously. "You... How dare you..."

Cynthia went pale with fright and panicked. She never thought that her actions would be recorded on surveillance cameras. But why are there surveillance cameras in the Nacht residence?

I thought they don't have it...

"Don't fret. Watch on." Zachary reminded.

The fourth clip showed Jamie carrying Ellie on his back as they went downstairs to look for Charlotte.

Cynthia gestured at Blackwoods' medical staff. She quickly ran behind Jamie and pushed him down the stairs.

As Jamie and Ellie tumbled down the stairs, Cynthia rushed forward in an attempt to break their fall.

However, everything was done just to gain sympathy.

The fifth clip was about Zachary carrying Charlotte, who went into relapse, back home.

Frustrated, Cynthia carried her medical kit upstairs when Zachary wasn't around and used Zachary as an excuse. She then tried to pierce Charlotte with a needle.

But who would have thought that Charlotte managed to defend herself and Cynthia pierced her own face instead?

That would also mean that the poison needle belonged to her all along.

The sixth clip showed Taylor and Cynthia in a room.

Taylor just found out that Cynthia had been disfigured. Their conversation and the way they told the medical staff to take the medical kit clearly indicated that Cynthia was the one behind it all...

The seventh clip showed Cynthia instructing Taylor to get Freya to prepare the medicine after Henry and Zachary left.

She even instructed the two medical staff to poison Charlotte.

The eighth clip was about the two medical staff poisoning the medicinal broth.

The truth was revealed after these eight clips.

Cynthia slumped on the floor in despair.

She could no longer talk her way out of this.

Everything she had done up till now was presented clearly in front of everyone. It felt as if she had been stripped naked and placed under the sun with nowhere to hide.

"Y-You..."

Henry trembled with rage. He pointed at Cynthia with his frail hand. He wanted to chastise her but couldn't come up with anything to say. He placed a hand on his chest and almost had a heart attack.

"Mr. Nacht..." Taylor fell on his knees and begged. "Jealousy got the better of Cynthia. She never once thought of hurting Zachary. She just wanted to stay by his side. Please forgive her."

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"In order to be with me, you even harmed my children?" Zachary questioned incredulously. "Did you think that you could convince me using such low-handed despicable means?"

"No, it wasn't like that..." signed Cynthia while shaking her head desperately.

"Enough!" Zachary did not want to see her defending herself. "Perhaps I have been too easygoing lately, so you and your father think that I can be easily manipulated!"

"No, Zachary, it's not like that..." Taylor tried to explain in a hurry, "Cynthia dislikes Charlotte for always bullying her but she had no intention of hurting you or your children. She had been helping you and Ellie."

"When Freya poisoned the food, she was acting alone. Cynthia was not involved. Cynthia was only gesticulating that she wanted to feed Ellie, not asking Freya to poison the food."

"Even now, you are still trying to lie your way out?"

Charlotte wanted to take the father and daughter duo out right away.

Zachary made her sit down and spoke calmly...

"Yes, where the video was shot, Cynthia did not clearly instruct Freya to administer the medicine. In these videos taken at home, we can only see that she clearly ordered someone to give Charlotte the medicine. However, it is undeniable that she gave poison to Ellie at Seacrest Restaurant."

"There is no proof that Cynthia did that." Taylor was still arguing, "Zachary, don't be fooled by others and accuse Cynthia. She is innocent."

"Do you say that I'm accusing her wrongly? I'll show you the proof." Zachary turned around and called out, "Raina!"

"Yes, sir." Raina handed the laboratory analysis report to Spencer. "The analysis just now showed that the poison in the medicinal broth is the same as the type Ellie took."

"This..." Taylor was panicky but still continued to deny everything, "This does not prove that Cynthia administered the poison. It is possible that the darned servant did it..."

"Bring the witness," Zachary ordered.

In a short while, Bruce brought someone over and placed her right in front of Taylor.

"Freya?" Taylor's eyes widened in surprise. "How did you..."

I phoned her and asked her to dispense the medicine last night. How did she end up here?

"Help me, Uncle Taylor..."

Freya was unharmed but her spirit was broken, obviously after stern interrogation.

"I detained her immediately after she was driven away," Zachary said plainly.

"During Bruce's interrogation, she confessed everything—how Cynthia instructed her to poison Ellie and what you did this morning, ordering her to dispense the medicine. Should I ask her to repeat it?"

Taylor looked at Cynthia as he panicked.

Cynthia was now totally disorientated and in a panic too.

"This is the witness and there is also evidence."

Zachary signaled to Bruce.

Bruce took out a box in which were pieces of broken pottery.

"This is..." Lupine looked carefully and then recognized it. "The cup from Seacrest Restaurant."

"There were twelve cups. The eleven cups that were taken away were fine," Bruce explained, "The one that was used was removed by Cynthia, who later broke it and threw it into a trash bin three kilometers away. I found it later on."

"I see." Lupine began to understand.

"Straightaway, I sent the cup to the police station for testing, and it really contained residual toxins as well as Cynthia's fingerprints," Bruce continued to explain.

"What else do you have to say now?" Zachary looked at Cynthia with a cold frosty gaze.

"I never intended to harm Ellie, really, I didn't..." Cynthia gesticulated in panic. "The cup of tea was meant for her."

Cynthia pointed at Charlotte, signing anxiously, "I never thought that Ellie would drink it. I have never thought of harming Ellie, really, I didn't..."

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chapter 985

"If you had never intended to harm Ellie, why did you mix her medicine with poison and feed it to her?" Charlotte questioned her.

"That wasn't poison, rather it was a type of medicine which only made her feel unwell, temporarily," Cynthia explained anxiously, "If it were poison, I would not be able to make her well again so quickly..."

As she spoke, Cynthia crawled up to Zachary's feet, crying while making signs. "Zachary, I have saved you before. Please forgive me for this once. As for Ellie, if not for me, something really bad could have happened to her."

"That was only because they took the medicine given by Ms. Lindberg."

Lupine was furious...

"After Mr. Nacht was poisoned by snake venom, Ms. Lindberg immediately fed him her life-saving potion so he would not suffer any ill effects at all. As long as he recuperated for a period of time, the snake venom would naturally be ejected from his body.

"After that, Ms. Lindberg sneaked into the hospital without telling anyone and fed Ellie the potion as well. That was how she recovered so quickly. In order not to be discovered, we rushed over to the South Sea Hotel. Coincidentally, you arrived to treat Ellie making everyone think that you were the one who healed her. That was ridiculous. If you could heal her, why couldn't you heal yourself? If I am not mistaken, there is still poison on your silver needle, isn't it?"

As she spoke, Lupine took off Cynthia's mask. Sure enough, one side of Cynthia's face was so infected that it was horrifying to see.

“Oh, my goodness! Cynthia...”

Taylor was anxious and worried when he saw Cynthia this way. Yesterday, the infection was only the size of a pea. Today, it had spread to cover her face.

“You can’t live by committing sins.” Zachary looked at Cynthia coldly, “When you try harming others, you harm yourself. This is your fate!”

“This is all?” Charlotte’s fists cracked as she clenched them tight. “It’s horrible enough she had harmed me so badly. Is this punishment enough for harming my daughter as well?”

“I had no intention of hurting Ellie. It was just you!”

Cynthia glared at Charlotte with utter hatred in her eyes, gesticulating with intense emotion...

“We are both women. Why should I be the replaceable stand-in? I’ve done so much for the Nacht family. In order to please them, I’ve lowered myself to the level of soil; yet, Zachary has not even looked at me properly even once. As for you...? You go on and on to antagonize him; yet, he likes you so much. Your family and the Nachts are sworn enemies, so you should not have come back. In fact, you should have died two years ago. Then, I would have been Mrs. Nacht by now, and the three children would call me Mommy. We would be one happy family...”

“Stop dreaming!” Zachary interrupted her impatiently, “Even if she didn’t come back, I won’t marry you.

“Two years ago, when she had that mishap, I had already decided never to marry again. “If I ever get married, the bride can only be Charlotte!”

Hearing this, Charlotte’s trembled slightly. Zachary has said it under such circumstances and in front of so many people. He has to be sincere.

She was very moved...

"Since you love her so much, why did you let me impersonate her two years ago?" Cynthia asked in a choked voice, "I was just an unloved daughter of a wealthy family, living in humiliation in a world of my own.

"Overnight, I was made Mrs. Nacht, adored and respected by everyone. Everywhere I went, relatives surrounded me and put me on a pedestal.

"Furthermore, from the time I was fifteen years old, I had started admiring you. In my dreams and fantasies, I wished to marry you many times. I really thought my dreams had come true.

"However, it was all just a falsehood.

"Since you never liked me or admired me, why did you give me hope? "Then, you pushed me to fall from heaven into hell with your own hands. "Why?"

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Cynthia wept as she asked these questions. She broke down mentally and emotionally. She wept, losing all hope...

See her in this manner, Zachary's severe accusing gaze slowly diminished...

She was telling the truth. She was just an outsider who was totally uninvolved. It was the Nacht family who dragged her in and gave her hope. Then, they pushed her out into the depths of despair...

No one could have accepted that type of treatment easily.

As a matter of fact, when Henry opposed his relationship with Charlotte earlier on, this sinful idea did cross Zachary's mind...

If Henry had insisted on Zachary marrying one of the Blackwood daughters, setting aside the ill-natured Sharon, he would really consider the gentle Cynthia!

However, he quickly put that idea away.

The reason was that it would destroy someone's life.

Furthermore, it would not be fair to Charlotte.

Hence, he did not act upon that idea.

Nevertheless, it never occurred to Zachary that Henry would go behind him and pull this trick on him. Of course, it was done with Taylor's support.

The crying of a mute was very penetrating, full of despair and grief over life.

Perhaps from her point of view, she was indeed an innocent victim. As she said, she was living humbly in her own world and had already accepted her fate. Out of the blue, someone suddenly gave her great hope. Of course, she would do everything to hold on to that hope...

"Mr. Nacht, I beg you. Please let Cynthia live." With a thud, Taylor knelt down, crying and begging, "Fortunately, there is no serious harm done. Ellie has almost fully recovered. Zachary and Ms. Lindberg were not poisoned. Cynthia's face is destroyed and that will be her punishment. If you can let us go, we will go far away and never come into your lives again. It was all my fault for not teaching my daughter well. Please, I beg of you to give her a chance!"

"If you had tried to harm me, I could forgive her," Charlotte continued, "but she poisoned my daughter. I'll never let her off just like this!"

"She had no intention of harming Ellie..."

"She has to be responsible for her actions even if it was not intentional!" Charlotte yelled. "Though the first poisoning was directed at me, did she think about the consequences when she administered poison to Ellie? Ellie was once robust and healthy. Look at what she has become now! She can't even stand up! This

toxin is likely to bring her lifelong side effect! You say she has recovered. Is she the healthy robust child she once was?"

Taylor was silenced by her yelling. There was nothing he could say.

"No matter who she poisons, it is unforgivable." Zachary was very cold and distant. "I will not lynch you, but I will let the law punish you. This is my last kindness to you! I have submitted all the evidence to the police and the police car should be here soon. Prepare to spend the rest of your life in prison."

"Ahh..."

Cynthia cried, shaking her head vigorously as she picked up the fruit knife from the table and attempted to cut her own wrist.

Bruce leaped forward and took the knife away, pushing her onto the floor. "If you die here, how could we explain to the police?"

"No, death will not come so easily to you," Lupine said, gritting her teeth, "You should die a slow painful death."

Cynthia's palm was cut by the knife and blood was dripping onto the floor where she slumped crying desperately...

"Mr. Nacht, I beg you. Please let her go..." Again, Taylor pleaded with Henry, "For the time I saved Harrison, please forgive Cynthia, this time. She is so young, please don't let her do time in jail."

"Just because you saved my father once, the Nacht family has protected your Blackwood family all our lives. Haven't we already finished paying back the favor?" Zachary was angry. "Your daughter is in this situation all because of you!"

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"I..."

"Right from the start, it was you who wanted to marry your daughter into the Nacht family. You tried to persuade my grandfather to force me into marrying your daughter. On the surface, you look like a modest gentleman, but you are truly a hypocrite!"

Zachary finally said what he had kept in his heart for years...

"Right from the start, you knew what Cynthia was doing but you did not correct her or stop her from her wrongdoing. Instead, you shielded her and aided her. In fact, you are the accomplice."

"No, I'm not. I had no idea what she was doing..." Taylor blurted out, "I had nothing to do with all these, really."

"Do you mean to say that all these were Cynthia's doing?" Charlotte asked.

"Nevertheless, I had nothing to do with them," Taylor replied without hesitation.

Hearing her father's words, Cynthia laughed sarcastically. She had never imagined that he would shrug off all responsibility at a time like this.

He was afraid of being charged as an accomplice and going into prison.

So, he would rather put all the blame on his daughter.

"Nevertheless, she was confused when she did that..." In the end, Taylor felt guilty about blaming Cynthia and he knelt in front of Zachary and begged, "Zachary, I beg you to forgive her this once, please..."

"Mr. Blackwood, please rise. Don't do this." Spencer went to him and pulled him up from the floor.

"I am also partly to blame," Henry finally admitted. "It was my idea for letting Cynthia stand in for Charlotte two years ago. I must be responsible for my part in this. However, Cynthia, you should

never have poisoned a child. If you felt oppressed, you should have come to me and I would give you justice. Why did you poison a child?"

"I did not..." Cynthia wept as she signed.

"Say no more." Henry stopped her and said sadly, "If you had made other mistakes, I would have forgiven you. However, you will not be forgiven for harming a child. This applies to everyone, not just you! Zachary is showing you the last mercy by handing you over to the police. Learn from your mistakes and turn over a new leaf when you are released from prison!"

Henry was Cynthia's last hope. Now, she was totally hopeless...

At that moment, the sound of police sirens was heard, and a subordinate came to report, "Mr. Zachary, the police are here."

Zachary signaled.

Bruce asked Freya and the medical staff to move forward, preparing to capture Cynthia...

Cynthia pushed his hand away angrily, and gestured emotionally, "I won't go to jail. I can't go to jail..."

She glared at Charlotte with bitter hatred. "You are responsible for all of this. You made me do this. Even if I want to die, I will drag you into the grave with me!"

As she spoke, Cynthia took out a bottle and leapt towards Charlotte.

"Ms. Lindberg, look out!"

Lupine screamed and moved forward to save Charlotte.

At the critical moment, Zachary leaped in front of Charlotte and sent Cynthia flying with a kick.

However, the bottle of potion in Cynthia's hands was splattered on Zachary's face.

"Darn you!" Bruce immediately cursed Cynthia, "We let you live but you still sneak attack us."

Zachary's kick was a heavy blow and Cynthia lay on the floor, bleeding from the mouth...

"I'll kill you..." Lupine was furiously murderous, but she was stopped by Bruce. "Calm down. The police are here. If you kill her now, you can only bring trouble upon yourself."

"Bend your head quickly."

Charlotte quickly washed the potion off Zachary's face with water.

"It's nothing. It didn't get me." Zachary was unperturbed.

Cynthia looked at Zachary with a horrifying gaze. "You really love her. Unfortunately, you will not have time together. Very soon, you will be with me in the next world..."

With that, Cynthia drank the remaining poisonous potion...

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Everyone was stupefied by how obsessed and crazy Cynthia had become.

"Cynthia..."

Taylor wanted to step forward and stop her, but Cynthia's terrifying gaze had him rooted to the spot as he stared at her in shock.

"If there is a next life, I don't want to be your daughter!" Cynthia signed and let out an eerie cackle before starting to vomit blood.

"Get her to the hospital! Hurry!" Henry shouted frantically.

"Leave it to us."

The police arrived in the nick of time and arrested everyone suspicious, including Cynthia who had been poisoned.

"Why am I handcuffed too? I didn't do anything! Help me, Mr. Nacht! Mr. Nacht..." Taylor screamed as the police took him away.

This time, Henry kept quiet and simply tightened his grip on the wheelchair's armrest, his reddened eyes were filled with pain and regret.

"My goodness, that was so scary!" Mrs. Rawlston exclaimed while patting her chest, her face pale from fear.

"Thank god that evil woman is finally arrested! I knew she was up to no good!" Molly said.

The other maids were all horrified at the realization that they had been spending so much time around such a dangerous person who was highly capable of poisoning others.

"Everyone will have to move out temporarily while we carry out a thorough search of the house. We need to make sure there aren't any more areas that contain poison. My men have already searched the study room and the master bedroom, and we will now continue to search the rest of the house. Have Mrs. Rawlston help you out," Ben instructed as he came downstairs.

"All right, I'll summon the maids..."

"Thanks!"

With that, Raina and her team began their search.

Charlotte looked at Zachary worriedly. "Are you okay? Do you want to have a doctor examine you?"

"I'm fine. It just got spilled on my body. If I were poisoned, the symptoms would've started showing by now," Zachary said while taking his coat off.

"Are you sure?" Charlotte was still concerned.

Zachary reached out and pulled her into his arms. "Are you worried about me?"

"Hey, cut it out!" Charlotte pushed him off with a frown before turning to face Henry as she said, "I hope you'll take some time to properly reflect on yourself after this incident. First, it was Sharon, and now Cynthia... The women you have insisted that your grandson marry were all cruel and heartless. Is this what you mean when you said it was for his own good? Most of the tragedies could've been avoided if you didn't act so stubbornly and selfishly!"

Charlotte then stormed off angrily with Lupine and the other bodyguards following closely behind.

"Ms. Lindberg!" Ben called out to her and anxiously reminded Zachary, "You should go after her, Mr. Nacht!"

Zachary let out a sigh. "With how chaotic things are at home, it's probably best to let her stay outside for a couple of days. I'll go see her when I've taken care of things."

"Okay."

Ben stared longingly at Lupine, who also turned around to cast him a glance.

There had been some slight changes in their relationship ever since their near-death experience when they tracked down Sharon.

"You should go back to your room and get some rest, Grandpa."

Zachary was about to leave after saying that, but Henry called out to him all of a sudden, "You sure are amazing, Zachary!"

Zachary paused in his tracks and looked at him as he asked, "What are you trying to say?"

Henry flashed him a wry smile and replied, "You could've exposed Cynthia and punished her yourself, but you chose to set all this up just so you could have me witness her wrongdoings. You wanted me to see her reveal her evil side so I would reflect on myself, feel bad for Charlotte, and try to accept her. Isn't that right?"

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chapter 989

"You're half correct. I did do all this to show you Cynthia's true colors because it was the only way to make you realize your mistake. However, the thought of making you feel bad for Charlotte so you'd accept her has never crossed my mind. Honestly, it no longer matters if you accept her. She's not the Charlotte you used to know, and she doesn't need anyone to accept her. In fact, it's me who's begging her to accept me."

Henry was left speechless after hearing that.

"Since when did you notice something was off about Cynthia, sir?" Spencer asked in confusion.

"After Ellie was poisoned, I confronted Danrique thinking it was him who did it, and he lashed out angrily at me for wrongly accusing him. He even showed me how he would poison someone. Danrique is a very prideful man, and he would never deny it if he was the one who did it.

"Having made sure that he didn't do it, I had people investigate the incident and found Cynthia suspicious shortly after. Since I didn't have any solid evidence at the time, I could only keep my suspicions to myself and not trust her fully.

"I could've had hypnotized her or have Bruce interrogate her to get a confession out of her, but I knew Grandpa trusted the Blackwoods and would surely intervene.

"That's why I decided to show him their true colors this way. I had people install hidden cameras in the house before bringing Cynthia home, and that woman got way ahead of herself the moment she set foot in the house.

"She began abusing her power, and Taylor's behavior grew increasingly radical too. I was already disgusted by them at that point, but I held on just so I could prove it to Grandpa once and for all.

"In the end, Bruce found the cup with the poison, and they showed their true colors..."

Having realized what was going on, Spencer said, "I see... So that's why you were acting a little strange last night... You deliberately told Cynthia that Ms. Lindberg would leave today morning and provoked her into poisoning Ms. Lindberg so you could catch her in the act!"

Zachary nodded. "That's right. I was actually planning on waiting a couple more days for Dr. Felch first, but then I found out that she was going to harm Charlotte, so... I had to move things forward."

Spencer was deeply impressed. "You really have excellent foresight!"

"Must've been a lot of work putting up an act for so long!" Henry said sarcastically.

Zachary stared at him as he replied, "This is my least preferred method, but it was the only way to put on a good show for you."

"Why not just tell me that there's something wrong with Cynthia? Your actions have put Ellie's life at risk!" Henry questioned him angrily.

Zachary felt a little guilty about that. "Well... As perfect as my plan was, there were some errors in its execution. I know I nearly cost Ellie her life, but would you have listened if I told you? I bet you'd still be forcing me to marry Cynthia now if you didn't see it for yourself!"

"You..." Henry was furious but had nothing to say in return.

"You know how much the Blackwoods have profited from our family throughout the years. Taking advantage of your trust, Taylor persuaded you to force his daughters on me, and you listened to him each time. You chose to trust an outsider fully, but doubt your own grandson's words. How else am I supposed to convince you without resorting to such methods?" Zachary said helplessly, and Henry found himself at a loss for words.

Zachary is right... I've never listened to him whenever he tried to reason with me, and yet I stubbornly gave Taylor all of my trust! I guess my stubbornness really is the cause of all these problems...

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"Oh, and there's one more thing that you might not be aware of. Sharon was the one who attacked Charlotte and murdered Mrs. Berry in T Nation two years ago. Your daughter, Zara, was the one who instructed her from behind the scenes!"

"What did you say?" Henry's eyes went wide in disbelief. "T-That's impossible! Why would they do such a thing?"

"We found solid evidence of their actions, and I have handed it over to the police. As for why... Well, you'll have to go ask your daughter! Not only did she try to assassinate Charlotte in T Nation, she even sent someone to kidnap Robbie! In the end, it was Charlotte who rescued Robbie. Zara went as far as shooting Kyle and killing my men just to force her into battle..." Zachary said with a frown.

"No, this can't be... I know Zara is impulsive and will do anything to get what she wants, but she wouldn't hurt her own people!" Henry was still in denial.

"The dashcam has captured everything on video. If you don't believe me, you can either take a look at the footage yourself or ask the kids about it. They've witnessed everything first-hand," Zachary said as he handed him a tablet.

Henry's face went pale when he watched the footage, and his chest was hurting so much that he nearly fell off the wheelchair.

"Mr. Henry!" Spencer quickly stepped forward and fed him his medicine.

Zachary was hesitant to say any further when he saw how much pain Henry was in, but he went through with it anyway.

"I know I shouldn't be telling you this now, but I have to show you the truth. Otherwise, you would never realize how misguided you were. Rather than enforcing your control over me, you should've focused your energy on disciplining Aunt Zara instead. A lot of tragedies could've been prevented if you did..."

Spencer quickly cut him off. "Stop it, Mr. Zachary. Mr. Henry's heart can't take any more of this."

"Think about what I said."

Zachary glanced at Henry once more before walking away.

Spencer then had Mrs. Rawlston fetch Henry a glass of water and waited for him to calm down before comforting him, "Mr. Henry, please don't take what Mr. Zachary said to heart..."

Henry looked up at him and asked, "The horrible things that Zara did, and the Blackwood family's true intentions... Did you know about all that the whole time?"

Spencer frowned. "I only found out about it recently. Ms. Zara has always been rather unpleasant to get along with, but I didn't think she'd do something this crazy. As for the Blackwoods... They did a really good job at concealing their true intentions, and I only noticed something was amiss last night."

"I'm such a fool!"

Henry lowered his head in shame and regret.

It's like Charlotte said... First it was Sharon, and now it's Cynthia... Both of the women I had chosen for Zachary were vile and heartless, and yet I kept forcing him to marry them. I refused to listen to the advice from others and Zachary's protests, and my stubbornness has led to one tragedy after another... I have focused all of my time and energy into controlling Zachary and ended up forgetting that my own daughter is the true villain. Like a ticking time bomb, Zara could cause trouble for the Nacht family

anytime. By keeping Zachary under my control, I have left him defenseless against those threats...

"It's time to let go, Mr. Henry..."

Spencer voiced out the one thing he had wanted to say for ages.

"It's all my fault..." Henry mumbled, still plagued with sadness and regret.

Finally, I realize the number of mistakes I've made as a result of my stubbornness. Had I been smarter back then, my son and daughter-in-law might still be alive today! If I had trusted Zachary to manage his relationships by himself, I might've been able to prevent all of this from happening!

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chapter 991

I have made countless mistakes while claiming that it's all for Zachary's own good. My actions have caused irreparable damages to Charlotte, created an unbridgeable gap for Zachary, and left their three kids traumatized... I used to wonder why they kept blaming me for everything, but now I realize I was just being self-righteous...

As if to mirror Henry's feelings of regret, the sky began raining outside.

Upon returning to his room, Zachary removed all of his clothes and took a long shower to wash off all traces of poison on his body.

He even had Raina destroy those potentially contaminated clothes just to be safe.

Zachary had just finished showering when Ben came running in with shocking news. "We just got a call from the police. Cynthia has died from the poison along the way. According to them, she was bleeding from every orifice. It's a very gruesome sight to behold."

"She tried to poison Charlotte with something so deadly and ended up drinking it herself. I'd say she had it coming!" Zachary bellowed with a frown.

"Yeah, that was some nasty stuff. Thank goodness Ms. Lindberg didn't drink any of it. Putting that aside, are you sure you're okay? You had that poison spilled all over your face earlier!" Ben was still shaken up by the whole ordeal.

"I'm fine. I made sure not to drink any of it." Zachary was confident and even held his hands out as he continued, "I mean, look at me! I'm perfectly fine, aren't I? If I were poisoned, the symptoms would've shown by now."

"I guess you're right..."

Ben mumbled as he eyed Zachary from head to toe and confirmed that he was truly okay.

"What else did the police say? What happened to the other accomplices?" Zachary asked.

"Taylor is currently being investigated for conspiring with Cynthia, and Synder Group has been seized by the police. We have also received a full refund of the money that we have invested in the company. Everything is as you predicted, sir!"

"Very well."

Zachary sat down on the sofa, and Ben poured him a glass of wine as he continued, "Marino called. He said he found Dr. Felch and has contacted him through Ms. Lindberg just now. Dr. Felch agreed to come over to H City the moment he heard Ms. Lindberg was still alive. Marino has prepared a private jet for this trip, and he will be flying tonight."

Zachary breathed a sigh of relief. "That's good to know. With his treatment, Ellie will be able to rid her body of the poison completely..."

"It's happy endings for everyone! All that's left is for us to take care of Sharon and Zara!" Ben exclaimed.

"Keep a close eye on Sharon. Do not let her get away again," Zachary ordered.

"Don't worry, I've reinforced the security this time. She's not going anywhere!"

"As for Zara... We'll have to come up with a new plan. All right, that's all for now. You can head on downstairs," Zachary said, seemingly in deep thought.

"Yes, sir."

Zachary took a sip of his wine and put on a new change of clothes after Ben left. He was about to go see his kids when he felt a slight discomfort in his eyes.

He gave it a little rub and looked in a mirror, but a slight redness at the corner of his eyes was all he saw. Dismissing it as a result of overworking lately, Zachary didn't give it much thought and went to see his kids.

The scene that greeted him when he entered their room had him frozen in surprise.

Robbie and Jamie were helping Ellie put a jigsaw puzzle together. Little Fifi was standing on top of Ellie's head, and the eagle from the Lindberg residence was perched on a rack next to Robbie, staring at them while they played.

With a sharp look in its eyes, the eagle spread its wings and flew toward Zachary when he came in through the door.

Zachary was about to punch at it when Robbie casually shouted, "Fifi! Get back here!"

The eagle shot Zachary a cold glare before returning to its original spot and continued staring at them.

"Your mommy left it behind?" Zachary asked.

"Mommy said Fifi could protect us while she's gone."

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Jamie looked up at Zachary and asked, "Where's Mommy, Daddy?"

Zachary reached out and gently ruffled his hair as he replied, "Mommy left just now."

The kids got all sad when they heard that, and Ellie looked like she was about to cry while Robbie had his head hung low.

"When will Mommy come back?" Jamie asked anxiously.

"Soon. She'll come back once Daddy has taken care of some problems," Zachary said in a gentle tone.

"Really?" Ellie looked at him expectantly.

Zachary gave her a pinch on the cheek. "Of course! Since when has Daddy ever lied to you? All right, Daddy has to go out for a bit. There will be a huge search in the house today, so make sure to stay in your room, okay? Don't go running around the house, got it?"

"Got it!" The kids nodded obediently.

Zachary gave them each a hug before getting ready to leave. Robbie then walked him to the door and asked all of a sudden, "Did you manage to catch the person who poisoned us, Daddy?"

"Hmm?" Zachary froze. I didn't say a word about what happened, so how did he know?

"It was Ms. Cynthia, wasn't it?" Robbie added.

"Yeah, but Daddy has already taken care of that. Mommy wasn't angry or anything when she left, so don't you worry!"

Robbie breathed a sigh of relief. "I am glad to hear that!"

Zachary gave him a pat on the head. "All right, go back inside now."

"Okay! I'll be sure to protect Jamie and Ellie!"

"You're a kid too, you know? You need protection too, so keep yourself safe before looking after them," Zachary said with a gentle smile.

"Got it, Daddy!"

Nacht Group has lost a lot of money due to the recent clashes with Lindberg Corporation and the issue with Synder Group. Now that we've recovered over forty billion and taken care of some issues, I'll have to do some restructuring at the company...

Zachary thought to himself as he hurried off.

He was about to get in the car when Raina called out to him and said, "The flowers in the garden restaurant have all withered, Mr. Nacht! It's most probably caused by the poison spilled on the ground by Cynthia earlier. There may still be traces of the poison in the house, so I suggest that we have Mr. Henry and the kids move out as a safety measure."

"Have them move over to Grandpa's villa immediately. Have you informed Mr. Spencer about this?" Zachary said decisively.

"Yes, I have. Mr. Spencer agrees with the idea and is currently having Mr. Henry's men make the arrangements," Raina replied.

"Bruce!" Zachary shouted.

"I'm here!" Bruce came running over.

"I want you to escort them there. Bring some extra guys with you to be safe," Zachary ordered.

"Got it, I'll get to it right away!" Bruce replied and got to work immediately.

"Raina, you stay back and check the house thoroughly. I want the place cleaned up completely."

"Yes, sir! Don't you worry!"

Having taken care of things, Zachary then drove off in a hurry.

Ben gave him a brief report along the way. "We've just received news about Ms. Nacht's scandals being posted online with evidence to back it up. It's attracting a lot of attention as we speak."

Johann's call came in immediately after. "Mr. Nacht, the outside of the office building is surrounded by journalists! Also, there are men from the Commercial Crimes Investigation Bureau here. They'll need your full cooperation to aid in the investigation!"

Zachary frowned. "What's going on?"

"My guess is that Ms. Nacht's incident has affected our company. I'll represent you and help them with the investigation for now, so please figure out a solution as soon as possible!" Johann said anxiously.

"Don't go anywhere! I'm almost at the office, so we'll discuss this when I arrive."

"All right. I'll tell them to wait, then."

Zachary then looked up Zara's news on the internet and saw that the crimes she committed had all been exposed online.

Murder, arson, arms trafficking, commercial fraud... They've listed out her crimes with pictures and videos attached to support the post. There are also some detailed evidence included for several murders involving the royal family...

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The news about it had spread like wildfire across all forms of media, and Nacht Group was mentioned in every title.

The press had confused the public by collectively referring to Zara's company as "Nacht Group", the netizens assumed everything the Nacht family owned was involved, including Divine Corporation which belonged to Zachary.

Zachary furrowed his brows when he saw those articles being rapidly spread all over the internet. Oh my... one problem after another! I knew my battle with Danrique had begun the day I wrongly accused him of poisoning Ellie, and now he's officially made his move! Who says the Lindberg family sucks at corporate warfare? This act alone makes it obvious that Danrique is no

pushover! Zara is a member of the Nacht family and could represent the Nacht Group. That's why I held back against her instead of going all out. Knowing this, Danrique gathered evidence on Zara's crimes and post them all online to destroy the company's reputation!

Ben frowned. "Danrique sure is a cunning one... Zara had clearly left the family and started her very own company long ago, but he just had to link her with Nacht Group..."

"Well, she does own some of Nacht Group's shares. It isn't much, but it's enough to qualify her as a shareholder, so I can't sue the media companies for using our company name anyway. This is what's clever about Danrique's strategy," Zachary said calmly.

"What do we do now? All of Nacht Group will be affected if Zara can't clean up this mess!" Ben asked with a frown.

"She wouldn't do so even if she could. Her goal was to get me involved so I'd fix it for her. Because we're both Nachts, we either survive this together or go down together!" Zachary explained with a sarcastic sneer.

Ben clenched his teeth in anger. "How despicable! Do you think she might have released the information online as a means of making a comeback?"

"No. Her company has been in shambles long ago, and Broid Group isn't doing well either. There's no way she could possibly pay that many media companies to do her bidding, so this is obviously Danrique's doing!" Zachary said with certainty.

Ben nodded. "I suppose that's true... She's about to lose all of her properties, so she's desperately trying to fight for your inheritance rights."

"Things are going to get messy if she finds out that Grandpa has already written his will."

Zachary's phone rang right as he was about to give Spencer a call, and he answered the phone immediately, "Hello, Mr. Spencer."

"I've seen the news about Zara online, but I'm keeping them hidden from Mr. Henry for now. After what he's been through today, I don't want to agitate him any further. There's no way he'd be able to take it," Spencer said in a low voice.

"Yeah, let's not tell him for now. Make sure to keep a tight lid on his will, or that woman will really go nuts if she finds out!" Zachary reminded him sternly.

"I know. The only people who know about it are you, me, Charlotte, Cynthia, and Taylor. Since Taylor has been arrested, I don't think he'll be able to get the word out."

"I'll send someone to make the arrangements at the police station. Keep a close eye on Grandpa for me."

"I will, don't worry."

Zachary then had Ben call up their contacts at the police station and have them watch over Taylor to prevent him from talking.

Having taken care of everything, Zachary glanced at the nearby Northridge villa and thought to himself.

Charlotte should be home by now, so she probably knows about this too... I wonder what her stance is regarding Danrique exposing Zara and dragging Nacht Group down with her... Well, even if she supports him, her actions would be perfectly justified. Our family owes her way too much, after all. When will this battle finally end?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 994

At Northridge...

Meanwhile, Charlotte had gotten a change of clothes and was lounging on the white leather sofa in her study room while talking on the phone.

She had found out all about Zara's news and knew how fatal the consequences could be for Nacht Group if the situation continued to worsen.

She then gave Danrique a call and was able to get through rather quickly.

"Hey, Danrique..."

"Are you home?" Danrique's tone was as cold as ice.

Looks like he knew about me staying over at the Nacht residence... In that case, he probably also knows what happened to me. I'm guessing that's why he got mad and did all this to avenge me! Charlotte thought to herself as she glanced at Lupine.

Regardless, she still felt the need to explain herself. "Yeah, I'm home. Ellie was very ill due to the poison, so I got worried and..."

Danrique cut her off coldly. "You could just bring the child back for treatment if you're that worried. The Nacht family isn't the only one with private doctors, you know?"

"Right..." Unlike most other sisters who would argue or behave coquettishly with their brothers, all Charlotte showed was admiration, respect, and obedience toward Danrique.

Besides, it was pointless for her to explain any further since he already knew about her going there.

"Even if you're there to look after your child, you shouldn't let others bully you. There wasn't much you could do about it back then, but you're a Lindberg now! You're my sister, and you shouldn't let anyone treat you like that!"

Danrique felt his blood boil at the thought of Charlotte being humiliated and bullied by Henry.

Charlotte felt touched when she heard the anger in his voice.

So this is how it feels like to have your family stand up for you... I used to be all by myself and could only tolerate or avoid those who walked all over me, but things are different now! I have my cousin brother who will protect and avenge me! I will never forget how Henry trusted Cynthia and had his bodyguards pin me down so they could put me in shackles... I chose not to take my revenge on him because of the kids, but Danrique won't do the same. Everything he's doing right now is payback for the humiliation the Nacht family has put me through!

"Do not forget the pain you felt simply because the wound has healed. Do not forget how the Nachts have hurt you, how Sharon humiliated you in Coldbridge, how Mrs. Berry died, and how your wedding gown was stained red with blood! Remember the purpose of your return, Charlotte! You're back to avenge yourself and Mrs. Berry! Don't let Zachary's sweet words deceive you! We Lindbergs are not spineless cowards!" Danrique shouted angrily and hung up immediately after, leaving Charlotte with conflicted feelings.

Of course, I haven't forgotten about my hatred for them! I've been searching for Zara and Sharon to get my revenge, but I just can't bring myself to hurt Henry and Zachary because of how much my kids love them! I don't even wish for what Danrique did to happen!

"I'm sorry, Ms. Lindberg... I got really mad when I heard from Jade about you being bullied at the Nacht residence. On top of that, your condition has relapsed, and you were short on your medication. I got worried about your safety, so I gave Mr. Lindberg a call. I didn't think he would blow things out of proportion like this just to avenge you. I'm really sorry..." Lupine apologized softly.

Ben would probably blame me for what happened if he knew about me telling on them. He told me a lot about Zachary and Charlotte when we were tracking Sharon down, and I found myself wavering after hearing the stuff he said. But then, I got all worked up when I came back and found out that Charlotte was bullied, and I made that phone call...

Lupine felt incredibly uneasy at the thought of that.

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chapter 995

"It's fine. You were just doing your job. This isn't your fault. What Danrique did was right. Zara should be punished for her crimes. Since we can't find her after she went into hiding, this is the only way to flush her out," Charlotte said after slowly calming down and analyzing the situation rationally.

Lupine frowned. "But we've gotten Mr. Nacht caught up in the mess as well! Everyone is pointing their fingers at Nacht Group right now, especially those who aren't in the business industry. They don't know that Zara has cut ties with the Nacht family. The general public still regards her as a member of the Nacht family, so everything she does will be associated with them as well. I bet Zara is overjoyed seeing the chain reaction that's taking place right now! She knows Mr. Nacht will do everything to resolve the issue or the entire family would go down with her. In other words, Mr. Nacht is the one most severely impacted by this!"

Charlotte went silent upon hearing that.

Of course, I know that! That's why I called Danrique earlier to try and stop him, but he shut me down with a lecture before I could even get a word out! The fact that he's doing it to avenge me removes whatever justification I have for my request. Henry is the one at fault, and while I may be willing to put up with it, that doesn't mean Danrique would do the same!

"This will worsen the gap between you and Mr. Nacht. You must be feeling really upset, right?" Lupine asked softly while giving her a sympathetic look.

Charlotte shot her a cold glare in response. "What has Ben told you?"

Lupine quickly lowered her head to avoid eye contact. "N-Nothing... We had near-death experiences together while tracking Sharon down together, so it's perfectly normal for things to get a little weird between us..."

Charlotte saw right through her excuses and let out a wry chuckle. "Huh... I haven't even gotten my revenge, and he's already stolen two of my closest subordinates from me?"

Lupine was quick to deny it. "That's not true, Ms. Lindberg! I'll definitely take your side if you get into conflict with the Nacht family! I won't waver because of my personal feelings!"

"I know you won't. I have never doubted the loyalty of the people Danrique assigns to me!" Charlotte said with a gentle smile.

Lupine patted herself on the chest in relief. "Oh, thank goodness... You scared me..."

"I am curious, though. What exactly has Ben told you?" Charlotte asked curiously.

"He said you and Mr. Zachary were in love with each other, but Mr. Henry refused to accept you because of your identity as a Lindberg and the fact that your mother had inadvertently caused the death of Mr. Zachary's parents. That's why Mr. Henry has strongly objected to your marriage," Lupine said softly.

Charlotte nodded. "I remember that. If I'm not mistaken, Mr. Henry only found out about it on the day of the wedding because Zara told him. Honestly, I don't really hate that old man all that much because I never saw him as a family, to begin with. He's just an outsider to me, and I don't care what outsiders think of me, but Zachary is different. He told me we were once deeply in love with each other, and that we have three children. Together, we set foot in the church and exchanged wedding rings... We were each other's dearest, so why would he betray and give up on me? I never understood that. If it were me, I would insist on staying with the person I love, regardless of how Danrique objected. I would never choose to give in like a coward, let alone marry someone else. That's the difference between Zachary and I!"

"Ben also told me that you were having a relapse from the poison at the time, so Mr. Nacht had temporarily given in to Mr. Henry's demands so he could get you the antidote..."

Charlotte didn't want to hear any more of it. "That was just an excuse. All right, that's enough. We're going to see Morgan at the hospital, so hurry up and get ready."

"Understood!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 996

The sky was gloomy when they left the house and looked like it was going to rain soon.

Fortunately, Lupine had prepared noise-canceling headphones and could pass them over to Charlotte if it started raining.

They stumbled upon about a dozen cars from the Nacht family traveling in a straight line along the way, and it looked like something big had happened.

"What's going on? Are they moving houses or what?" Lupine asked as she stared at the convoy in front of them.

"Maybe they're worried that Cynthia has hidden her poison somewhere else. Either that or they've discovered something and are evacuating the house until it is completely cleansed."

The sound of an eagle was heard while Charlotte spoke, and Lupine quickly had the driver slow down while she rolled the window down.

Fifi the eagle then flew into the car with Fifi the parrot riding on its back.

Fifi the parrot was gripping tightly onto Fifi's feathers for fear of falling off, and it was glancing about curiously in the back seat of the car.

Lupine couldn't resist the urge to tease Little Fifi when she saw it. "Haha, what are you doing here, little guy? Aww, look at you! You're still shaking!"

"I didn't expect for you two to become friends," Charlotte said as she reached out, prompting Little Fifi to fly onto the back of her hand and nuzzle against her cheek.

Charlotte gave it a gentle pat on the head before turning to look at Fifi the eagle and saw a little note in its mouth.

The note read: We're waiting for you to come home, Mommy!

Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie's signatures could be seen at the bottom of the note, and Charlotte felt touched when she saw it.

"Mommy! Mommy!"

The voices of the kids came from outside the window.

Lupine ordered the driver to bring their car closer so both Rolls-Royces were driving side by side, and the kids waved at Charlotte from inside the car.

Jamie got a little too excited and stuck his head out of the window, only to be dragged back inside by Ben. "Hey, that's dangerous!"

Ben then gestured at Lupine to ask if she would like to pull over for a chat.

Lupine glanced at Charlotte, who shook her head and leaned in closer to the kids as she said, "Get back in your seats, kids! Mommy will come and see you in a couple of days!"

"Okay, Mommy..." the kids replied as they obediently returned to their seats.

Lupine then gestured at Fifi, prompting it to fly out of the car window and return to the kids with Little Fifi.

Charlotte waved at them with the note in hand as her car slowly drew further away from theirs.

She felt her eyes redden when she saw the kids leaning against the back seat and staring at her longingly.

"You'll be able to see them very soon. I heard Marino has found Dr. Felch, and he'll be arriving in H City tonight," Lupine comforted her.

"Find out which flight he'll be taking," Charlotte instructed.

"Roger!"

The sky began to drizzle all of a sudden, and it was already nighttime when Charlotte arrived at the hospital.

She then headed over to Morgan's ward with her subordinates and was about to enter when she heard her anxious voice from inside, "Why did you come back ahead of schedule all of a sudden?"

"I got worried when I heard you were shot, so I came back in advance," Marino said.

"Where is Dr. Felch? Did he come with you?" Morgan asked worriedly.

"He's arriving on a private jet. I'll head over to the airport in a bit."

"You... are you crazy? How dare you disobey your orders like that? Zachary would punish you severely if he finds out you went AWOL!" Morgan shouted angrily.

"I don't care! I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to see you anymore if I didn't come back..."

"Shut up! Honestly, you are unbelievable! Dr. Felch is really crucial to both Ms. Lindberg and Ms. Elisa's life! What if something happens to him? Go pick him up now!" Morgan yelled furiously.

"Okay, I will... Geez, I was just worried about you! Now that I know you're okay, I'll head over to the airport..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 997

Charlotte waited until Marino had left through the window before opening the door.

Morgan was still staring longingly at the window when Charlotte's voice came from beside her, "How much longer are you going to stare at the window? He's already gone!"

Morgan flinched in shock and tried to explain, "Ms. Lindberg, I..."

Charlotte cut her off. "I saw everything. Marino seems to be infatuated with you. I think he's a great guy!"

Morgan lowered her head in embarrassment. "Nah, he's way too immature! I just scolded him for going AWOL when he has such an important task..."

"Yeah, he deserved that scolding. Still, I suppose you valiantly saving my life would make up for his mistake!" Charlotte said with a mischievous smirk.

"Hey! Me doing my job has nothing to do with his mistake!" Morgan exclaimed while blushing.

Charlotte nodded and said seriously, "Yeah, you're right. We'll just let Zachary punish him, then!"

"No..." Morgan began to panic.

Lupine burst out laughing. "Hahaha! I knew you were just being stubborn! You are worried about him, aren't you?"

"Shut up!" Morgan threw a pillow at her.

"Tsk, ts, ts... Still so aggressive even when you're wounded, huh? Be careful not to scare your boyfriend away!" Lupine teased her again.

"What boyfriend? Stop messing with me!" Morgan was so flustered that her ears had turned red.

Lupine snickered. "Seriously, though... He came rushing back because of you, and yet you're refusing to accept Ms. Lindberg's offer to save him from potential punishment? Talk about being heartless!"

"Will you please do something about her, Ms. Lindberg?" Morgan was blushing like a shy little girl.

Charlotte couldn't help but laugh at her state. "All right, all right... We'll stop messing with you. It's normal for young people like you to fall in love anyway. Marino is a great guy, so make sure you treat him well."

"But..."

"The three of us are the only ones that know about him sneaking back, so it'll be fine if we just keep it to ourselves. Okay, you should get some rest. We'll go check on things at the airport. Wouldn't want you two to be in trouble in case anything does go wrong!" Charlotte said as she stood up.

"Yeah, you're right! Ensuring Dr. Felch's safety is of utmost importance! We can't afford to have even a minor mishap!"

"I'll have someone stay here to keep you safe. Take care."

Charlotte then turned around and began walking toward the door, leaving a bodyguard behind to watch over Morgan.

"You're so nice to us, Ms. Lindberg!" Lupine exclaimed.

"Are you implying that Mr. Lindberg isn't?" Charlotte asked.

"No, that's not what I meant..." Lupine desperately tried to explain herself.

Charlotte couldn't help but chuckle at how flustered she was, but maintained her cold attitude and carried on walking while Lupine followed behind her with a smile on her face.

Charlotte is a lot kinder and pleasant in comparison to Danrique's cold and stern personality. Despite holding a grudge against the

Nacht family, she never once stopped us from seeing their people. This is the kind and soft-hearted side of her deep down inside...

As Charlotte and her subordinates were rushing toward the airport, they encountered a Nacht family convoy speeding past them.

"What's going on? Why are they mobilizing that many men at such a high speed? Could it be that something bad has happened?" Lupine asked with a frown.

The look on Charlotte's face turned gloomy. "I hope not... Come on, drive faster."

"All right!"

With Morgan wounded and the other bodyguards not so proficient at driving, they were late to the airport by over ten minutes.

They then rushed to the arrival hall and saw the Nacht family bodyguards searching the place.

Lupine was able to recognize one of them and asked, "What's going on? Aren't you guys here to pick up Dr. Felch?"

"Someone else beat us to it! We're looking for him right now!" the man replied anxiously.

"How did this happen? Who took him?" Lupine pressed on.

"We don't know yet..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 998

The Nacht family bodyguard then hurried off to continue his search while Lupine stood there, clenching her teeth in frustration.

"I can't believe we jinxed ourselves! Damn it, Marino shouldn't have acted so impulsively! He'd arrive in H City tonight anyway, so what's the point of coming back ahead of schedule? Now that Dr. Felch has been taken away, what are we going to do?"

"It's pointless to get worked up about it now. Let's go find out more about what exactly happened," Charlotte said with a frown.

"Okay." Lupine was about to start investigating further when her phone rang all of a sudden, and she went pale from shock after answering it. "What? Really? Okay, make sure you show him the best hospitality possible! We'll be right back!"

Lupine then hung up the phone and glanced about cautiously before whispering something into Charlotte's ear.

"Are you serious?" Charlotte asked in surprise.

"Oh, I'm dead serious. It's one of Mr. Lindberg's men."

"Let's head back right away!"

"Roger!"

Charlotte rushed all the way home as quickly as she could, only to see a white-haired old man sipping tea by the coffee table. There was a young man and woman standing next to him, and they were both bewildered when they saw Charlotte.

"Charlotte!" Hayley came running over and grabbed her by the hand as she screamed excitedly, "Is it really you? I'm not dreaming, am I? You're alive! This is great!"

"Hi, Hayley! Oh, my goodness! Look how much you've grown!" Charlotte recognized her immediately and felt a surge of complicated emotions deep inside her heart.

"We thought you were dead! You have no idea how long we grieved!" Hayley sobbed while hugging her tightly.

Sam too, was extremely glad to see Charlotte. "They said you were still alive, but I didn't believe it. I'm so glad it's true! The guys from the Nachts had brought us over by force, and then we were snatched away by another group of men at the airport! That was so scary!"

Dr. Felch smiled at Charlotte and said, "I'm just glad you're all right. They say god favors good people, and it seems that statement holds true!"

"I didn't think I'd be able to see you guys again. Life sure is full of surprises!" Charlotte exclaimed as she recalled her experience searching for a cure in Phoenix City with Mrs. Berry two years ago.

"Yeah, I heard some stories about you earlier. Mrs. Berry once said my chickens weren't fat enough, and that she would teach me how to farm them better, but..."

Charlotte's eyes reddened when she heard him mention Mrs. Berry, and Dr. Felch let out a sigh in response.

"So, how were you able to survive the past two years?" he asked.

"Danrique knows a really great doctor. He formulated some kind of medicine for me and had me drink a bottle of it each week."

After telling him about her treatment, Charlotte added, "But that's not important right now because it only triggers on rainy days with thunderstorms. As for my daughter, she's been poisoned by something really nasty and her current condition isn't looking great."

"Bring her to me, hurry!" Dr. Felch said hurriedly.

"She's not home right now, so I'll..." Charlotte was halfway through her sentence when her phone rang and interrupted her. She then stepped aside and answered the call, "Hello, Danrique."

"I've brought you the doctor. Are you going to pick the kids up yourself, or do you want me to help you with that?" Danrique sounded cold and arrogantly domineering as always, but his intention was clear.

He had brought Dr. Felch straight to the Lindberg residence so she wouldn't have to face the Nachts whom she hated, and he was calling to ask if she needed his help with bringing the kids over too.

"I'll do it myself! I'll go pick them up tonight!"

"Do not disappoint me."

"I won't! Thanks, Danrique!"

Despite what she said, Charlotte was still feeling uneasy after hanging up the phone. She knew Danrique's men would surely barge into the Nacht residence and take the kids by force if she failed to bring them home that night.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 999

Another war will break out if that happens! While I couldn't care less about Henry's safety, the kids would surely be upset and traumatized if anything happens to him. It's better if I play the role of the bad guy instead.

With that in mind, Charlotte put her phone away and turned toward Dr. Felch as she said, "Dr. Felch, you can rest well here at my place while I go pick my kids up."

Dr. Felch nodded. "Okay. Remember to keep things peaceful!"

Charlotte was a little surprised to hear that, but chose to say nothing about it. Dr. Felch seems to know about the feud between our two families... There's more to what he said than meets the eye!

She then thanked him and said goodbye to Hayley and Sam before giving Zachary a call in her room, "Have you taken Ellie to your grandpa's?"

Zachary understood what was going on the moment he got her call and responded to her question with another, "Did your men take Dr. Felch to the Lindberg residence?"

"Yes, that's right." Charlotte admitted to it right away.

Zachary's tone grew cold. "Danrique did it, right? What's he playing at?"

Charlotte snapped back at him, "Need you even ask? Isn't it obvious? Your family went overboard! Danrique is simply avenging me."

Zachary got mad all of a sudden. "What is he trying to do? Was what he did to Nacht Group not enough? Taking Dr. Felch away like that would only delay Ellie's treatment! Could you guys not affect the children with adult matters?"

"Her treatment won't be delayed. Bring Ellie over to my place now, and I'll have Dr. Felch treat her right away," Charlotte said coldly.

"Charlotte..."

"You bring her here, or do I have to go pick her up? You choose!"

Charlotte had learned a lot from Danrique's methods of intimidation, and it proved to be effective as it rendered Zachary speechless.

He knew Charlotte would really arrive with a bunch of SUVs and dozens of her female bodyguards to take Ellie away by force.

That would result in a nasty war between the two families! Looks like I'll have to play the role of the bad guy, then.

With that thought in mind, Zachary decided to give in. "Fine, I'll go discuss this with my grandpa. Wait for my update."

"No, I don't need you to discuss it. I need you to get it done. Bring my child to me by 7:00 p.m. or I will go take her by force. Don't blame me for disrespecting the elderly, then!" Charlotte hung up immediately after saying that.

Zachary clenched his teeth in anger when he heard the line go dead, and he let out a helpless sigh as he looked at a picture of them on his desk. "You were a lot cuter and gentler two years ago..."

She used to be completely helpless and at my mercy back then, but now... Things have changed, and I'm the one who fears her instead...

"Mr. Nacht, we've just found out that..."

Zachary cut him off, "The Lindbergs have taken Dr. Felch, right? A bit late on the report, don't you think?"

"I am terribly sorry for my incompetence, sir." Bruce lowered his head apologetically.

Zachary tossed his pen aside. "Enough. Get the car ready, we're heading over to my grandpa's."

"Right now?" Bruce was confused. Why would he be going there all of a sudden when the company is in utter chaos right now? There's so much work waiting for him!

"Duh!"

"R-Right away!"

Lucy came running over the moment Zachary stepped out of the office. "Mr. Nacht, I have a few documents here that require your signature!"

"Leave them at my desk, I'll sign them tomorrow."

Zachary couldn't care less about those documents and simply rushed over to the elevator. It's almost five in the evening, and Charlotte would go barging into Grandpa's house if I don't deliver Ellie to Northridge by seven! Things would get messy, then!

"But these documents are urgent, Mr. Nacht! Mr. Nacht!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1000

Lucy called out to him a couple of times, but he ignored her and went straight into the elevator, leaving her rooted to the spot with a conflicted look on her face.

"Where's Mr. Nacht?" Johann asked as he came rushing over with the men from the Commercial Crimes Investigation Bureau.

"He just left in a hurry to take care of some urgent matters at home. He'll be in tomorrow for sure, though!" Lucy explained.

Johann froze for a moment before turning around and telling those men, "I'll assist you with the investigation for now. Mr. Nacht will be back when he's free."

"Sure."

Zachary could hear the sound of a zither coming from the Garden Villa when he arrived, and he saw Henry helping Robbie and Jamie practice calligraphy while Ellie slept on a bench nearby.

Spencer placed a blanket over her and was about to have the medical staff carry her to her room when Little Fifi shouted, "Daddy!"

Robbie raised his head when he heard that, messing up his calligraphy writing as a result.

"Oh, my god! Daddy! It really is you!" Jamie tossed the pen aside and threw himself into Zachary's arms.

Zachary picked him up as he said, "Hey there, Jamie! How's your writing? Let me have a look... Wow, not bad!"

"I've been training him for a few years now, and it would be an understatement to say that he has made tremendous improvements. Anyway, why are you home when there's so much

work to do at the office? Surely you're not here just to have dinner?"

"There's something I need to talk to you about," Zachary replied as he put Jamie down and gave him a pat on the head.

"We'll talk in the study room." Henry placed his pen down and wiped his hand with a handkerchief.

"Okay." Zachary nodded and turned to his kids. "You boys carry on with your practice, okay? Daddy will check your work later."

"Okay, Daddy!" Jamie replied obediently.

"What's going on, Daddy?" Robbie stared at him with an uneasy look in his eyes.

"It's nothing." Zachary gently caressed his face before wheeling Henry into the study room.

Spencer followed them inside after having someone watch over the kids.

"What is it? Did you bring the doctor for Ellie's treatment?" Henry asked.

"That's what I wanted to talk to you about. You know how Dr. Felch is an old friend of Charlotte's dad, right? Because he only treats the Windt family, he went straight to Northridge after getting off the plane." Zachary tried to word it in a different way.

"What nonsense is this? Doctors are supposed to treat everyone equally regardless of their identity! Besides, didn't you send Marino to pick him up? He should bring him to us even if he has to use force! How could he let him head over to Northridge like that? The Lindbergs kidnapped him, didn't they?" Henry was outraged.

"No, Charlotte doesn't know about this at all. It's true that their men have picked Dr. Felch up at the airport, but he went with them willingly," Zachary explained.

"What the hell are they playing at? I know we owe her a lot and all, but they shouldn't be acting like this when the child's health is at risk!" Henry grew increasingly anxious.

Zachary observed Henry's emotions and said cautiously, "They just want to get Ellie treated in Northridge, that's all. I came here to pick the kids up."

Henry was furious. "You... Instead of trying to talk her out of it, you decide to just deliver them to her? Ellie has just moved all the way here today morning, and now you're taking her to Northridge? The child is sick, for goodness' sake! It hurts me to see her suffer like this!"

"I know, Grandpa. It hurts me too, which is why we're trying to get her treated. I understand that you and the kids are very close, but they need their parents more than anything right now," Zachary said softly.

"Are you sure you can get the kids back after sending them there? I feel like this is a one-way trip!" Henry was particularly sensitive about that.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1001

Zachary said firmly, "No, it isn't. Charlotte respects the feelings of her kids, and I'm sure they wouldn't want to leave you either. Besides, you've already written your will, so I'm sure Charlotte understands your sincerity and will behave appropriately."

"That doesn't mean Danrique will do the same. I've changed my perception of Charlotte after everything that has happened. I'll admit that I was wrong for stubbornly splitting you two up and all the horrible things I've done to her. I'm willing to take responsibility for my mistakes and do everything I can to make it up to her, so just tell her to state her demands. However, these kids mean everything to me, and I will not allow anyone to take them from me. The future of the Nacht family depends on them!" Henry was so agitated that even his hands were trembling as he spoke.

"I know, Grandpa. They're my children, and I'm definitely more concerned about them than you are. I may love Charlotte and all, but I will not make compromises when it comes to the kids. As a man, there's no way I'm letting my kids take up some other guy's family name. Don't worry, I'll move in and stay with them while Ellie is being treated there. That way, Ellie would be able to see both her parents every day. I'm sure it'll cheer her up and help her recover faster." Zachary continued to coax Henry.

"You're moving in too? If so, this shouldn't be a problem at all!" Spencer agreed with him right away.

"Are you really going to move in?" Henry was still a little doubtful about it.

"Of course. Where else would I stay? The house at Southridge is still being cleaned up, and I don't have anywhere else to stay," Zachary said while waving at him.

"You'd better not be lying to me. Charlotte is no longer that soft and weak woman she used to be, and she was fuming with rage

when she left! I doubt she'd let you stay over at her place!" Henry still found it hard to believe.

"I'm doing this for the sake of my child. Ellie's condition is still highly unstable, so we're both worried about her. Also, you know how hard it was for us to find Dr. Felch, so we have to make sure he treats Ellie as soon as possible. Right now, Charlotte has agreed to put our grudges aside and focus on this task together." Zachary continued to persuade him.

"Ms. Lindberg may have a hot temper, but she does love her children deeply. It's a mother's nature to do so, after all!" Spencer added.

"That, I do believe..." After thinking long and hard about it, Henry nodded his head and said, "Fine. I won't stop you any further, but make sure you bring all three of them back to me after Ellie's treatment is complete!"

"You have my word!"

Just like that, Zachary had successfully gained the approval to bring the kids over. They were delighted when they heard they were going to see their mommy, and even Robbie's gloomy expression was replaced with a bright smile.

Jamie leaped off the sofa and clapped his hands in joy when he heard the news.

Ellie clapped her hands too and shouted happily, "Yay! We're going to see Mommy!"

"Say goodbye to your great-grandpa, kids! We're leaving now!"

"Bye bye, Great-grandpa!"

"You kids behave over there, okay? Make sure to come back once the treatment is over!" Henry then held Robbie and Jamie by the hand and reminded them, "I want you two to call me every night and keep me updated on the situation, got it? Let me know if anything happens!"

"We will, Great-grandpa! Don't worry!"

Henry's eyes reddened as he sat on his wheelchair and watched the kids happily climb into the car.

"Don't be sad, Grandpa. I'll send them back here once Ellie completes her treatment!" Zachary comforted him before getting into the car. Fearing that Henry would suddenly change his mind, he then ordered Marino, "Come on, let's go!"

"Yes, sir!" Marino then started the engine and drove off.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1002

Henry watched as the car disappeared into the courtyard and felt disturbed. "Why do I feel deceived by Zachary? Something feels wrong somehow. Oh no, I should get the children back!"

"Oh, Mr. Henry. Stop worrying." Spencer quickly advised. "What Mr. Zachary said was right. Compared to you, he cared more about the children. He will never let the Lindberg family take the children away. Rest assured."

"But he was driving at high speed as if he was rushing somewhere. Something feels off." Henry was anxious. "That cheeky rascal has been badly influenced. Remember how he would put up a tough fight with me whenever anything happened then? Those words he said today would never come out of his mouth back then."

"That is a good thing. It means he has matured." Spencer tried to calm him down. "Mr. Zachary has grown. He's dominating in the business world. You should trust him!"

"But-"

"Please don't make things difficult again." Spencer became impatient. "Think about it. Why did the Lindberg family take Dr.

Felch? Isn't it because we have wronged Ms. Lindberg? At that time, when you made people restrain Ms. Lindberg because of Cynthia, it was incredibly insulting to her. Now that Ms. Lindberg is not willing to come to the Nachts' residence, this is the only way she could see her children. I think Mr. Zachary will be able to calm Ms. Lindberg as long as you don't interfere. For all we know, she might even return to the Nacht residence; that way, the family will be reunited and everyone will be happy."

"You're being too optimistic," Henry said in an irritable tone. "Even if the two of them are willing, do you think Danrique will let that happen? The grievances between the Nachts and Lindbergs won't be resolved that easily."

"Right..."

"I'm still having a bad feeling about this. Send someone to check it out," Henry ordered. "Have him tail Zachary and see if he leaves right after sending the children to Northridge or if he is staying the night, but do not interfere."

"Right away."

...

The black Rolls-Royce drove toward Northridge.

The children happily looked forward to the life of living together as a family of seven. Zachary watched them tenderly, feeling touched.

He planned to first coax Henry by blurting out some convincing reasons. Now that he thought about it, living there might not be a bad idea...

Not only could he watch the children, but he could also get closer to Charlotte.

Zachary smiled at that thought.

"Mr. Zachary, there's a car following us," Bruce reported. "It looks like one of Mr. Henry's."

"Should we shake them off?" Marino asked.

"No," Zachary replied calmly. "Pretend we didn't know. Just keep driving."

"Yes." Marino continued to drive.

"Drive faster."

Zachary looked at his watch as time was running out.

"Yes." Marino picked up the speed.

As Zachary was about to talk to the children, his phone rang. He made a gesture to the children and answered the phone. "Hello."

"Have you picked them up?"

Charlotte was waiting anxiously at home, but she pretended to sound cold and arrogant on the phone.

"What's the hurry? We still have time, right?" Zachary teased her deliberately.

"It's five minutes to seven o'clock. My men are ready with their weapons. If you don't send them here, I will take them from Mr. Nacht by force."

As she spoke, Charlotte fired a shot at a branch not far away.

Bang! The branch fell to the ground, and the sound of the gunshot scared away a flock of birds.

Oh no...

Zachary was speechless. This woman is crazy!

"You have four more minutes!" Charlotte lost her patience and ordered, "Prep the car! We're leaving!"

"Yes!"

"We're arriving!" Zachary quickly said, "We're halfway up the mountain!"

"Don't lie to me!" Charlotte hung up the phone immediately and ordered, "Check the cameras and see if they have arrived!"

"Yes!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1003

Marino didn't dare to speed up because Ellie was ill. So they were late by three minutes.

Lupine waited at the entrance to the courtyard with dozens of female bodyguards, all armed with guns and looking vicious.

"What a fierce bunch of women." Bruce couldn't help but feel impressed.

"Don't mess with them. They're quite touchy," Marino silently warned.

As soon as he spoke, an eagle's cry was heard, and Fifi jumped out of the car window and landed on the back of Charlotte's hands.

"Mommy!" Jamie stuck his head out of the car window, waving excitedly at Charlotte.

"Jamie!" Charlotte immediately welcomed him.

Bruce helped Robbie and Jamie out of the car as soon as the car stopped, and Jamie leaped into Charlotte's arms, tightly hugging her by the neck all choked up, and said, "Mommy, I thought it would take forever for me to see you again. I didn't expect it to be so soon."

"Are you happy to see Mommy?" Charlotte asked while holding his tiny face.

"Yes!" Jamie nodded repeatedly.

"That's great." Charlotte kissed his chubby cheek.

"Mommy!" Robbie ran over and wanted to hug his mom and let his mom kiss him, but his cold personality stopped him from doing so. Thus, he only watched from a distance.

"Robbie." Charlotte hugged him and kissed him on the forehead. "Mommy told you, we will meet again very soon, right?"

"Yeah." Robbie blushed and nodded, then hugged Charlotte's neck and said, "Mommy, I hope we will always be together."

"We will. Mommy will never leave you again." Charlotte patted Robbie's back. "Good boy!"

"Mommy..." Ellie whispered in a hoarse voice and extended her thin arms toward Charlotte.

Charlotte quickly rushed over to Ellie and hugged her. After suffering from the poison, Ellie had lost a lot of weight and still couldn't walk. She had to either lay in bed or sit in a wheelchair every single day, and she had no energy to speak.

Looking at her, Charlotte was devastated.

"Ellie, I will get Dr. Felch. He will definitely fix you up." Charlotte gently stroked Ellie's hair. "Once you recover, Mommy will take you to Disneyland."

"Okay. Thanks, Mommy." Ellie buried her face in Charlotte's arms like a baby.

"Good girl! Mommy will carry you into the house."

Charlotte picked up Ellie and walked into the house. She spoke to the kids without looking at Zachary. "Robbie, Jamie, Ellie. Mommy will take you to Dr. Felch. He's a good friend of Grandpa and also an outstanding doctor. Remember to behave yourselves, understood?"

“Understood!”

Zachary looked at Charlotte from the back, feeling lost. He used to be high and mighty in front of her, and now it's the other way around...

This must be retribution!

“Mr. Zachary, we're being ignored. Should we go in?” Bruce asked silently.

“Nonsense.” Zachary glared at him and walked into the house.

Lupine's group didn't stop them but didn't greet them either.

Zachary shamelessly sat on the sofa and poured himself a cup of tea.

Bruce and Marino stood behind him, awkwardly rubbing their noses, feeling uncomfortable.

“Marino!” Suddenly, a familiar voice was heard.

Marino turned around and responded. **“Why are you here? Aren't you at the hospital?”**

“Ms. Lindberg said that I will recover faster if Dr. Felch treats me. So she sent someone to pick me up,” said Morgan with a smile.

“Ms. Lindberg is so kind to you.”

“Of course she is. Otherwise, I wouldn't be so loyal to her.” When Morgan mentioned Charlotte's name, her face was brimming with admiration. She glanced at Zachary and asked softly, **“You sent the children back, right? Why is nobody attending to you?”**

“Oh, don't mention it.” Marino didn't want to say more.

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chapter 1004

"Serves you right!" Morgan squirmed her lips. "How did you all treat Ms. Lindberg when she was in the Nacht residence?"

"We respected her." Marino hurriedly added, "Everyone from the Nacht family revered her as the lady of the house."

"Is that so?" Arching her brow, Morgan interrogated, "Who was the one who believed Cynthia's false accusation and requested the bodyguard to capture Ms. Lindberg? Subsequently, tied her hands and feet up with chains?"

"Err..." Marino faltered. He was not present at that time. However, he did hear people talking about the nasty things Henry did. It's no wonder the Lindberg family is always antagonistic.

"Hmph! You're one of them. Get lost!" Morgan knocked Marino down with her wheelchair. Then, she went back to her room.

"Morgan, Morgan..." Marino called out to her and attempted to explain himself, "I wasn't home at that time. I've just returned today..."

Morgan ignored him.

Feeling aggrieved and dejected, Marino went to Zachary.

"Hit a snag?" Zachary was curious.

"I feel so wronged..." Marino shared sadly, "I didn't do anything, but still get scolded."

Bruce reminded him, "Just go and coax her."

"There's no need for that," Zachary warned softly. "We're in the Lindberg residence, and Danrique's spies are everywhere. If he knows about the two of you, Morgan is doomed."

"How could I forget something so important?" A look of terror crossed Marino's face. "Oh no, what should I do?"

"She's smarter than you." Zachary glared at him. "You are such a fool."

Marino was stunned for a moment. Then, it suddenly dawned on him that Morgan was just putting up a show in front of others. She knew it all along that Charlotte was held in high esteem by Marino, and that he had nothing to do with the incident. Most essentially, Morgan was not angry at him.

"You should head back now in order to avoid unnecessary issues," Zachary ordered.

"Noted." Immediately, Marino left. He did not want to bring any trouble upon Morgan.

In the room on the third floor, Morgan was standing by the French windows. Her heart was heavy as she watched Marino leave in his car.

"Don't worry. Even though that dude isn't the sharpest tool in the shed, Mr. Nacht will surely advise him what to do," Lupine muttered. "As for you, don't think too much and get some rest."

"I will." Morgan sighed. "Mr. Lindberg is known to be ruthless. I'm really worried."

"Don't keep in touch with him from now on." Lupine frowned before adding, "There's no problem if he was someone else, but he works for the Nachts. If Mr. Lindberg ever finds out about you guys, that will be the end of both of you."

Lupine meant it as a reminder for herself as well as Morgan.

Anyhow, Lupine and Ben appeared to be more stable compared to Morgan and Marino. After all, the latter pair was much younger...

"I know," Morgan replied in a quavering voice. "I just... miss him so much."

"I can understand how you feel." Similarly, Lupine missed Ben too.

"What do you think are the chances of Ms. Lindberg patching things up with Mr. Nacht?" Morgan speculated, "If the two families are able to reconcile with each other, we don't need to give up on our relationships, right?"

"The chance is very slim." Lupine sighed. "Then again, it's not totally impossible. I can tell that Ms. Lindberg still has feelings for Mr. Nacht. On the other hand, Mr. Nacht doesn't seem to want to let go of her either. So, who knows?"

"That's comforting to hear." Morgan was hopeful.

Lupine was also holding on to the signs of hope that the two rival families would one day bury the hatchet and reconcile with each other.

"Lupine!" a bodyguard yelled from outside, "Ms. Lindberg is looking for you."

"I'm coming." She gave Morgan a pat on her shoulder before leaving.

Upon arriving on the first floor, she noticed that nobody was attending to Zachary. Though it did not matter to her, she still reminded the maid to do something about it, "Do serve Mr. Nacht some tea. Otherwise, the children will be upset."

"Sure."

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"That's nice of you." Zachary was grateful. "Thank you."

Ignoring him, Lupine strode toward Charlotte.

"I thought rumor has it that the legendary Mr. Nacht has an icy personality?" a female bodyguard asked under her breath. "It doesn't seem so to me."

"Ms. Lindberg has tamed him." A smug settled upon Lupine's face. "No matter how high and mighty he is toward others, he behaves himself in front of Ms. Lindberg."

"Hahaha, that's a wonderful payback; fair enough as the Nachts aren't nice to Ms. Lindberg."

"Precisely!"

When Lupine got to the clinic, Dr. Felch had already examined Ellie and prescribed her medication. After instructing Hayley to prepare the medicine daily, he turned to Charlotte. "Let me check on you now."

"No rush." Charlotte thought about Morgan. "I have a subordinate who was shot when she tried to protect me. Can you see her first?"

"Absolutely." Dr. Felch explained, "Gunshot is one of the easiest things to treat. As long as it didn't hurt her vitals, she will be fine upon following my prescription."

"Thank you so much." Charlotte commanded, "Bring Dr. Felch to see Morgan immediately."

"Duly noted. Dr. Felch, this way please."

With that, Dr. Felch left with Sam, leaving Hayley in the clinic to take care of Ellie.

Charlotte told Lupine, "The maids and the bodyguards at home don't have any medical knowledge. Go and arrange for some reliable medical staff to relieve the burdens of Hayley and Sam."

"Okay, I'll do that right away." Lupine nodded. Right before she left, Charlotte asked, "Is that person still around?"

"Yes." Lupine glanced at Ellie who was dozing off on the bed. She continued, "He's been waiting in the living room for over an hour."

"I'll take a look."

When Charlotte arrived at the living room, she saw Zachary there, sipping tea. She questioned coldly, "Why are you still here?"

"Has Dr. Felch seen Ellie? What did he say?" Zachary got up and walked toward Charlotte.

"The check-up is done. He has also prescribed medicines to be taken daily," Charlotte replied indifferently.

"How long does it take for her to be completely cured?" Zachary was anxious.

"This is just the beginning. Dr. Felch won't indicate a specific time frame." Charlotte said solemnly, "It may take a while for the medicines to take effect. We shall see."

"True." Zachary nodded. "I have full trust in Dr. Felch's skills. We need to believe in him."

"Yup," Charlotte consoled herself the same way too.

"I see that you might need a hand at the clinic. Should I send more people over?" Zachary tried to find a new topic to talk to her.

"No, thanks. You can leave now." Charlotte showed no intention to engage in further conversation with him. She turned to walk upstairs.

"Ellie will cry if she doesn't see me when she wakes up." Zachary stopped her. "And Jamie will be disappointed too. Robbie may look calm, but he's just pretending."

"So, your point is?" Charlotte shot him an unfriendly stare.

"I think..." He observed her facial expression before continuing. "I should stay here during the course of the treatment. I won't trouble you. In addition, I'll pay for rent and food..."

"Go away!" Charlotte bellowed.

"Is that how you treat your guest?" Zachary was determined to get what he wanted. "The kids will be so sad to see you treat me like this."

"How audacious of you to even suggest that, Zachary Nacht!" Charlotte was livid. "When I was in your house, how did your family treat me? I can let it slide for the sake of the children, but you're being too much now. Stop being a thick-skin and leave at once, or I'll have my bodyguard shoo you away."

"I'm prioritizing the kids. Don't you want Ellie to get well sooner?" Zachary added, "She feels better when she looks at me. In turn, this will aid her recovery. Ask Dr. Felch if you don't believe me."

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"Aren't you leaving?" Charlotte lost her patience and summoned her subordinate, "Is someone here?"

"Yes!" Two bodyguards approached her in a flash.

"Get him out of my sight now," Charlotte commanded.

"Noted." As much as the bodyguards wanted to discharge their duty, they were intimidated by Zachary's horrifying gaze. Like a mouse, they turned to Charlotte for help.

"Quit staring and get to work!" Charlotte insisted.

"Err..." The bodyguards were well aware of Zachary's identity and his relationship with Charlotte. They dared not disrespect him, yet they did not want to disobey Charlotte either.

"Rubbish." Charlotte pointed a gun at Zachary. "Get out!"

"You've got a very short fuse. Watch your tongue or you might scare the kids to wits..."

"Whoa!" Coincidentally, Ellie's cry was heard loud and clear.

Hayley had just brought Ellie back from the clinic, and they both witnessed the moment...

Hayley gasped in disbelief while the horrified Ellie started wailing on the spot.

"Ellie!" Charlotte swiftly kept the gun and rushed over to hug her daughter. "Don't be scared, Ellie. I was just fooling around with Daddy."

"Mommy, don't hurt Daddy, please..." Her whole body was shaking uncontrollably. Crying out of breath, she added, "Daddy loves us. Don't kill him."

"No, no, I won't do that." Charlotte panicked. "I was really just role-playing with him."

She turned and gave Zachary a look. "Right?"

"Yes. Don't be afraid, Ellie. Mommy was just playing with me," Zachary came forward and consoled the little girl.

"Daddy..." Ellie stretched out her arms and embraced Zachary.

He picked her up and caressed her back, comforting her gently, "Have no fear, Daddy's here."

"Don't go, Daddy..." Ellie wrapped her arms tightly around his neck. Sobbing, she shared, "I'm very scared."

"Okay, I won't go anywhere. I'll stay here with you. Now, let me take you back to your room," Zachary tried his best to coax her.

Then, he requested Charlotte to lead the way.

Reluctantly, Charlotte glared at him before walking them upstairs.

Bruce saw what happened and had an aha moment. I can see that being thick-skinned is quite effective in getting what you want.

"What happened to Ellie?" Robbie and Jamie ran out of their rooms upon hearing Ellie's cry.

Seeing their sister bawling her eyes out, they went ahead to pat her. "Don't worry, Ellie, we're here for you."

"Hmm... Your mommy wants me to leave, but Ellie misses me so much. Hence..." Zachary put on a downcast face.

"You..." Suppressing her urge to curse, Charlotte gritted her teeth.

He's such a shameless fellow.

"Mommy!" Jamie held her hands and pleaded, "Don't ask Daddy to leave, okay? I beg you."

"How about we let Daddy stay here for a couple of days until Ellie gets better?" the thoughtful Robbie suggested.

"No way, Robbie..." Before Charlotte could refute further, Ellie burst into tears again.

Immediately, Charlotte had no choice but to change her mind. "All right, all right, he can stay. Please stop crying, Ellie. You're not feeling well, so please don't cry, or else it will affect your health."

"Mommy!" Ellie threw herself into Charlotte's arms and acted coquettishly while wiping her nose on her blouse. "You won't make Daddy go away anymore, right? You won't beat him either?"

"Yes." Charlotte spat out an affirmative answer as she stared daggers at Zachary.

"Thank you!" Subsequently, Zachary rose to his feet and yelled at the door, "Bruce, bring my suitcase in!"

"Sure!" Bruce was impressed at how that shrewd man achieved his hidden agenda.

"Yeah! This is awesome!" Jamie exclaimed. "Finally, our entire family can live peacefully together. Without Ms. Cynthia and Great-grandpa, there will be no more arguments."

"That's right!" Robbie was beaming.

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After settling the children down, Charlotte pulled Zachary into her room and gave him an earful.

"Zachary, what's the matter with you? Don't you know that this place is full of my brother's spies? As much as I can try my best to tolerate you for the sake of the kids, Danrique won't! I can't even imagine the consequences if he finds out that you're here."

"Danrique will be too occupied to be bothered about me, so don't you worry," Zachary said confidently.

"What do you mean? What did you do?" Charlotte was dubious about his statement.

"Oh, you haven't heard? His illegitimate child is exposed," he gloated with a raised eyebrow. "Someone's getting busy."

"An illegitimate child?" The news came like a bolt from the blue. "Are you kidding? My brother has never had a girlfriend, let alone a child?"

"Come on, how can a normal man have no girlfriend? Unless he's gay." Zachary continued placidly, "He's just very good at hiding his dirty little secrets from you."

"How did you find out?" she asked suspiciously.

"We are rivals. Needless to say, I must know him very well." He smiled smugly. "He's been giving me a lot of headaches. I'm just returning the favor."

Charlotte paused. "What is that supposed to mean? Did you hire an impostor?"

"Of course not. I just leverage on a little situation..." He shrugged. "Anyhow, there's nothing for you to fret about. Even if he knows

I'm here, let him come to me. All you have to do is to put the blame on me."

As he spoke, he scanned around Charlotte's room and slumped on the bed. "What a great place! I'll take this room..."

"Get up!" Charlotte tried to pull him up, but he managed to turn her over and pin her on the bed instead.

"What are you doing? Let go of me right now," Charlotte roared while pushing him away.

"Stay still." He clasped her hands and looked her in the eyes. "I just want to hug you."

His gaze was gentle and affectionate.

Within a split second, Charlotte almost fell for his charm. She soon recollected herself and kneed him in the groin.

"Ahh!" Zachary shouted in agony. He curled into a fetal position and muttered, "Darn it. Why did you do that?"

It was not Charlotte's first time to hit him on the same spot. The last time, it was in Seacrest Restaurant.

Unfortunately, he never learned his lesson.

"This is my house." Charlotte pushed him away angrily. "I'm Charlotte Lindberg, not Charlotte Windt who lived at the mercy of others."

"It's your loss if you handicapped me." Zachary just had to emphasize that, though he was in excruciating pain.

"There are plenty of men around. Do you think that you're my only option?" Charlotte taunted. "I just need to snap my fingers and there will be a long queue of excellent men fighting to marry me."

"I shall see who is brazen enough to do that." Suddenly, Zachary turned solemn. "I'll announce to the whole world tomorrow that you are the mother of my children."

"I doubt that there's no courageous man around who's up for the challenge." She rolled her eyes at him. "Do you think that everyone else is a coward?"

"Try me." Zachary arched his brow.

"I've had enough of your nonsense," she uttered. "Leave now while the kids are sleeping soundly."

"No way! Are you going back on your words? You promised the triplets that you'd let me stay here." Zachary sulked. "They will all cry if I'm not around by the time they get up..."

"I'll just comfort them." Charlotte cut him off. "That's how children grow and learn."

"Why are you so cruel? Why can't you just let me stay for a few days? What's the big deal?" He could not understand her decision.

"Are you leaving?" She started to get impatient. "Otherwise, I'll drag you out."

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"You..."

Knock! Knock! Knock!

The knocking on the door stopped Zachary from saying further.

Charlotte gestured him to fix his clothes while she went ahead to answer the door. "What's up?"

"There's a car parking nearby, seemingly spying on us," Lupine reported softly. "I've looked into it. It's probably one of Mr. Nacht's men."

"This is preposterous!" Livid, Charlotte cursed, "What does that damned man want?"

"Hey, watch your words." Zachary quickly explained, "I told him that I'm here to accompany the kids for a period of time. That's why he let me bring them over. I'm pretty sure that those men are sent to monitor me, to check if I lied to him. So, I'm the target, not you."

"You should leave at once and take his men along with you." Charlotte went ballistic. "Or else, I'll take action against you lot."

Zachary didn't refute her but signal Lupine to shut the door and leave, to which the latter obliged.

"Has Danrique never taught you to maintain your composure when dealing with issues?" He became serious all of a sudden. "How are you expected to handle bigger matters if you're always acting this rashly?"

"How dare you give me a lecture?" Frowning, Charlotte shot him a death stare. "I get all upset whenever I see you."

"It goes to show that I matter to you..." He smirked.

"You..."

"Don't hit the ceiling." He made a truce gesture. "Come, let's analyze the situation. You can think of it this way, if I leave now, the kids will definitely feel sad when they wake up. As a consequence, their impression of you as their mommy is going to turn bad."

He added, "Moreover, Ellie's condition is quite serious now. You do know when she cries, she goes hysterical, and it's bad for her health, don't you? Are you willing to see that happen? Just take a look at how much weight she's lost. I'm afraid something like this will be detrimental to her health."

Charlotte fell silent upon hearing that. Deep down, she could not bear any of it. She actually felt distressed whenever Ellie cried. If possible, she really hoped to take the place of Ellie's suffering.

She acknowledged that it was a bad move to drive Zachary away because the children would feel miserable without him.

It's not so bad with Robbie and Jamie as they are easily persuaded. But it's not the case with Ellie. In addition, her condition worsens when she cries...

Yet, Charlotte did not want to get entangled with Zachary. She feared the outcomes if Danrique found out about it.

"Besides, Grandpa's men are still lurking around, monitoring us. If I were to leave at this moment, I would be caught red-handed. Then, he will surely send more people to come and snatch the kids away.."

"How dare he?" Charlotte was up in arms.

"Okay... Okay..." Zachary attempted to cool her down. "I know you're a strong woman, and I know you're not afraid of him. However, just think it over from a different angle. Who's at a disadvantage if this tussle prolongs? Who gets hurt? It's the kids, don't you think?"

As if that was not enough, he illustrated further. "Do you remember Timothy, Hector's son? He witnessed how his father and stepmother hurt his mom. Did you know how traumatized he was? A three-year-old toddler ended up slashing someone with a knife. Have you forgotten?"

As the past memories flooded her mind, Charlotte began to recall some scenes vividly...

At the wedding, she saw how Timothy dashed to the stage and stabbed Helena with a knife. That incident really impacted her tremendously. At that time, she even vowed not to let her child turn out the same way...

"Both our families have been rivals for ages; as a result, the children are the real victims here. Each time we fight, it creates an adverse psychological effect on the children. Last time, Robbie and Jamie saw you aiming a gun at me. Today, Ellie saw the same with her own eyes. It's going to stick with them like childhood trauma."

Zachary was resolute. "Just do it for the sake of the kids. Even if you're putting up a show, do it for a month. Let's create a welcoming and loving environment for them, shall we? Take it as a

trial period for them to adapt and adjust themselves. We'll talk about everything else once Ellie gets better. All right?"

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Charlotte's stance was a little shaken. Anyhow, she brought up another critical point, "You're in big trouble if Danrique knows about this..."

"What can he do to me? End my life?" Zachary disagreed, "He barely has any free time to worry about me, given the current mess he's in. Even if he knows I'm here, he'll only lash out on you at most, and then request that you kick me out of the house."

After mulling over, Charlotte thought that what he said made sense. The Lindbergs and the Nachts have always been at war with each other. If anything bad happens to either of the head of the house, the police will surely investigate the other family. When that happens, the other party will probably be the biggest suspect, and none of these can be resolved easily...

After all, this group of rich and famous are so used to standing at the top of the food chain. They disregard any form of secret attacks but prefer to beat their rivals in business. Therefore, their battleground is in the trading realm. No one will really strike the other with a weapon openly.

"That's it. This matter is finalized." Seeing that Charlotte had been convinced, Zachary strode toward the bathroom. "I'm going to take a shower. Bruce will help to bring my suitcase up in a bit."

"Hey!" She grabbed his collar and yanked him back. "This is my room. Yours is the guest room."

"Your room is huge. It's such a waste to sleep here alone. Let me keep you company," Zachary proposed shamelessly. "It's the rainy

season now. You'll be scared to your wits when the thunder roars..."

Before he could finish, she kicked him out of the room and shut the door with a loud thud.

Her action left Zachary speechless.

"Mr. Nacht, your suitcase is here," Bruce announced.

Instantly, Zachary turned and spoke in an icy tone, "Place it in the guest room."

"Noted." Bruce noticed his mood was off, but he did not dare to ask his boss any question.

"This way, please." Upon learning that Charlotte did not drive Zachary away, Lupine knew that she had acquiesced to his decision of staying. Hence, she led him to the guest room above Charlotte's floor. "Mr. Nacht, you and your subordinates can occupy these rooms."

"Why am I not placed on the second floor?" displeased, Zachary questioned.

Lupine explained, "Second floor is reserved for Mr. Lindberg, Ms. Lindberg, and the three children. The study room and other facilities are also located on the second floor. Morgan and I are on the third floor, the same floor as the guest rooms. Ms. Lindberg's room is just right below yours."

"Fine, let it be then."

Zachary headed toward the French windows to check on the situation outside. Staying right above Charlotte could be a good thing too. It helps to create opportunities for me to get near her.

"The rest of you can stay next door." Lupine informed Bruce politely, "Ms. Lindberg advised against bringing too many people over."

"I'll stay back with two other subordinates and arrange for the rest to leave." Bruce was very cooperative.

"Great." Lupine nodded. "Feel free to let me know if you need anything."

"Sure, thanks."

After Lupine left, Bruce helped Zachary to hang his clothes up.

Meanwhile, Zachary opened the glass door to access the balcony. He took a peek downstairs and noticed that Charlotte's room was still brightly lit. Her curtains were fluttering, indicating that her sliding doors were open...

She still holds the same habits, sleeping with the windows open. She prefers the natural breeze to air-conditioning. I guess she won't notice if I slink out and sneak into hers...

No, I should stop!

Zachary dismissed his random thoughts and reminded himself not to upset Charlotte anymore. Now that she has allowed me to stay, I'd better walk on eggshells.

Bearing these thoughts in mind, he shut the windows and went to the bathroom.

Charlotte was sipping wine on her sofa. She had been staring at the balcony for half an hour. Upon realizing that it was all peaceful and quiet, she knew that Zachary was being prudent with his actions.

Very good, he's being sensible.

"Ms. Lindberg, the car has left," Lupine reported.

"Okay," Charlotte replied nonchalantly. "Looks like Mr. Nacht is convinced now."

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chapter 1010

"I thought Mr. Nacht has repented his mistakes after what happened to Cynthia. However, he still sent some men to keep an eye on us," Lupine said disgruntledly.

"He won't repent easily..." Charlotte snickered and said, "I understand that he wants to give the best to the children. However, if he stops me from going after Zara, I'll not hold back anymore!"

"We're still searching for Zara. Humph! She's really good at hiding. On the other hand, Sharon is being kept at Southridge ever since she was captured. Do you think we should get her, given that the Nacht family is in trouble now?" said Lupine.

"It's fine," Charlotte replied without hesitation, "Sharon is just a nobody, and we don't have to waste our time on her. For now, let's focus on searching for Zara!"

There was another reason Charlotte let Sharon off the hook for now—she didn't want to have a row with Zachary because Ellie was undergoing treatment. As such, she would settle a score with Zachary after Ellie recovered.

"Understood. I'll send more men to search for Zara," Lupine said politely, "I've assigned enough men at the hospital. Anyway, it's time for me to take over the shift."

"Okay." Then, Charlotte nodded in response and stood up to go with Lupine. "I want to visit Morgan."

"It's rather late now. Why don't you get some rest?" Lupine said, "Dr. Felch has checked up on Morgan and prescribed some medicine for her too. I believe she'll recover soon."

"I'll feel relieved only after visiting her." Charlotte felt guilty whenever she recalled that Morgan was shot because she wanted

to save Charlotte. "After Mrs. Berry died because of me, I don't want anyone to get hurt for me anymore!"

Many people from the upper class didn't value their subordinates and maids at all. Hence, Lupine felt touched because Charlotte treated them as her family.

Later, Charlotte went to Morgan's room. When Charlotte wanted to open the door, she heard Morgan speaking in a soft voice over the phone.

Since Charlotte knew that Morgan was calling Marino, she withdrew her hand from the doorknob and murmured to herself, "Well, I shouldn't disturb her."

"She must be drenched in love now," Lupine added teasingly.

"It's not a bad thing, isn't it?" Charlotte smiled and continued, "You guys should live your own life instead of sticking around me."

After returning to her room, Charlotte took a shower and blow-dried her hair.

When Charlotte lay on the bed to get some rest, she realized that it was silent upstairs. Deep down, she felt surprised that Zachary didn't make any noise.

Charlotte was probably exhausted, for she fell asleep soon with a pillow in her arms.

Meanwhile, Zachary, who was upstairs, couldn't fall asleep. Although I'm closer to her now, I can't be right next to her. I wonder what she's doing now?

Zachary walked to the balcony and secretly looked downstairs.

He was surprised to find out that the lights were off. At that time, only some faint light passed through the curtains.

How could the heartless woman fall asleep?

Zachary cursed in his heart and returned to his room to get some sleep.

.....

At the Garden Villa, Henry didn't go to bed, for he had to wait for the news from Northridge.

Although his subordinate, Cain, had reported the situation to him over the phone, Henry couldn't put his mind at ease and wanted to hear it from him in person.

Cain rushed back to the Garden Villa and reported, "Mr. Zachary stays in Northridge, along with Bruce and a subordinate. They've parked a car in the courtyard while the rest have left."

"Are you sure they stay there and not putting up an act?" Henry seemed a bit unconvinced.

"I'm sure," Cain said with certainty, "Bruce also carried two large suitcases for Mr. Zachary."

"In that case, it's confirmed." Spencer was delighted.

"But it's weird," Henry said worriedly, "even if Charlotte let the cheeky rascal stay for the sake of their children, Danrique wouldn't agree to it. Since Danrique is so overbearing, I can hardly believe he will allow Charlotte to do so."

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chapter 1011

"You're right." Spencer felt suspicious about it after Henry voiced his doubt.

"I'm not sure about that. However, I think Mr. Zachary knows what to do, for he has planned it all along," Cain added.

"What did he plan?" Henry asked.

"Well..." Cain explained cautiously, "Mr. Zachary's luggage was in the car. Besides, Bruce purposely drove around the place before returning to Northridge so that the Lindberg family wouldn't suspect anything. As far as I can tell, Mr. Zachary knew that he could stay there."

"Pfft!" Spencer burst into laughter. "This is really what Mr. Zachary would do."

"That lad has all sorts of tricks in his mind." Henry was slightly annoyed. "Anyway, you guys made a good point. Since Zachary has made preparations in advance, he should've expected what will happen next."

"Yes. You don't have to overthink it," Spencer comforted him, "anyway, it's getting late. You should get some rest."

"Ah—" Henry heaved a sigh, for he still couldn't put his mind at ease.

Nonetheless, after the incident related to Cynthia happened, Henry kept persuading himself to give more freedom to Zachary, even though he cared about him very much.

"Alright. You may leave now."

Cain lowered his head and left after Spencer shot a look at him.

Then, Spencer helped Henry to the bed and consoled him. "Don't worry, for the children will take care of themselves. Besides, Mr. Zachary is more competent than you can imagine. So, please don't overthink it."

"Have you found anything about the things that I asked you to investigate?" Henry suddenly asked.

After remaining silent for a few seconds, Spencer said in a low voice, "Mr. Zachary and the Lindberg family are searching for Ms. Zara. They have sent a lot of men to do it, yet I believe they haven't had any important leads."

"We mustn't let the Lindberg family find Zara first." Henry frowned and continued, "She will be dead if the Lindberg family gets her first. Instead, she might have a chance to survive if Zachary finds her first."

"I think the Lindberg family won't let go of Ms. Zara easily. After all, Mrs. Berry died because of her. Besides, she abducted Robbie and almost killed Charlotte. The animosity between them has reached the point of no return, and the Lindberg family must take revenge on her," " Spencer said worriedly.

Upon hearing Spencer's words, Henry fell silent and frowned.

"I understand that you're in a difficult position. Given that Ms. Zara is your daughter, you hope that she can survive. However... she committed many unforgivable crimes. Also, she seems to have gone crazy now. So, I'm afraid she can't escape her fate no matter how much you wish to protect her," Spencer persuaded patiently.

"I get it..." Henry heaved a sigh and continued, "Every adult has to be responsible for what he does. I only hope that there can be a better way to solve it. For instance, hand her over to the police and punish her by the law. By then, she can at least stay alive!"

"I understand." Spencer nodded and replied, "Well, let's hope that Mr. Zachary can get Ms. Zara first."

"No, I've to remind him." With that, Henry struggled to get up from bed.

"Please don't," Spencer comforted him and said, "Mr. Zachary is already aware of it even though you haven't told him. After all, what makes you think that Ms. Zara could escape a few times easily?"

Spencer paused for a while and continued, " Mr. Zachary doesn't intend to hurt his family. Besides, as far as I know, there is a lack of evidence to prove that Ms. Zara committed all of the accused crimes. So, with the help of a prominent lawyer, I think she will only be jailed for a few years."

"We hope that it comes true. However, the only concern is that the Lindberg family won't let her off the hook," Henry responded anxiously, "Hopefully, Charlotte is reasonable in dealing with Zara. Since Sharon was the one who harmed Charlotte and Mrs. Berry, Charlotte can take her life for revenge."

"Ms. Lindberg will understand it. After all, she didn't stop Mr. Zachary when he wanted to bring Cynthia to the police station," Spencer assured him, "when it comes to Ms. Zara, I believe she won't act recklessly as well."

"I hope so..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1012

Rays of morning sun seeped through the curtains and shimmered on Charlotte's face to wake her up.

She slowly opened her eyes and gazed out the window with her eyes half-closed.

The weather was fine, and the sunlight was gentle. Besides, birds were chirping outside to usher in a brand new day.

Charlotte closed her eyes quietly for a few seconds before she rose to her feet.

Over the past two years, she had developed a good habit—she would wake up as soon as the first ray of the sunlight cast on her.

Usually, she would start her day by training before having breakfast. After that, she would do some reading and deal with some tasks.

However, the first thing that came to her mind now was to keep her children company.

“Mommy! Mommy!”

Suddenly, Little Fifi flew into the room while flapping her wings and landed on Charlotte’s shoulder.

“Good morning, Little Fifi!” Charlotte said as she buttoned up her shirt before the floor mirror. “Have the kids gotten out of bed?”

“Gotten out. Gotten out,” Little Fifi said while shaking her tiny head.

“Okay. Let’s have breakfast.”

Charlotte left the room with Little Fifi after rolling her long hair up.

“Good morning, Ms. Lindberg!” the maid greeted Charlotte courteously.

“Good morning.” While walking toward the children’s room, Charlotte said, “please prepare breakfast.”

“Well...” The maid’s expression turned awkward.

“Mommy!” Suddenly, Jamie called Charlotte from downstairs.

Charlotte turned around and saw Jamie dressed in a piggy apron and holding hot cross bunnies on a plate. He came out of the kitchen and gazed at Charlotte with a grin on his face. “Come and have breakfast.”

“Jamie, why are you-”

Before Charlotte could finish, Robbie also exited the kitchen while holding dessert on a plate. Also, he looked cute with some flour on his nose.

"Mommy, breakfast is ready!"

"Did you guys make breakfast?"

Charlotte was stupefied in place.

"Yes, we learn to make breakfast with Mrs. Rawlston and Daddy!" Robbie explained with a smile.

As Charlotte was bewildered, Zachary came out of the kitchen as well.

His plain white shirt made him look particularly handsome and charming. Besides, he looked friendlier with some flour on his face.

"Good morning!" Zachary greeted Charlotte. "Come downstairs and have breakfast."

"You..." Charlotte was shocked to see that he cooked. Am I seeing things?

"Mommy!" Just then, Ellie also chimed in.

Charlotte turned around and saw Lupine pushing Ellie, who sat on a wheelchair, out of the bedroom. Also, Hayley followed them and put a jacket on Ellie.

"Ellie!" Charlotte came up to her and asked, "How are you? Do you feel better?"

"Yes, I feel better," Ellie nodded and added smilingly, "Mommy, it's so good to see all of us together as soon as we get up from bed!"

Meanwhile, Charlotte felt touched upon hearing it. Yes. It feels so warm when our family reunites, but...

Charlotte came back to her senses and said smilingly, “Ellie, can you go downstairs with Hayley? I’ll ask Dr. Felch to join us.”

“Sure.”

Given that Dr. Felch was an elder who saved her family, Charlotte respected him very much.

Hence, she wished to greet Dr. Felch and help him go downstairs to have breakfast together.

Dr. Felch was aged and became weaker after he met an accident two years ago. He decided to leave his house on a hill only because he wished to repay the debts to Richard.

Zachary was right—no one could ever invite him successfully except the Windt family.

“Dr. Felch!”

Robbie and Jamie stood up and bowed to greet Dr. Felch once they saw him.

Meanwhile, Ellie also lowered her head and bowed even though she couldn’t stand up.

“Good morning, kids.” Dr. Felch was fond of the three kids. He heaved a sigh and added, “They are indeed well-mannered.”

“Thank you for the compliment.” Zachary pulled up the chair and helped Dr. Felch sit on it.

“Dr. Felch was complimenting me.” Charlotte shot Zachary a cold glance.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1013

“Well, it’s the same thing.” Zachary wasn’t ashamed of claiming the credit.

Meanwhile, Charlotte was rendered speechless. He is so shameless.

However, given that the children were there, she chose not to argue with him.

"Good morning, Ms. Windt." Mrs. Rawlston greeted while serving breakfast.

"Mrs. Rawlston? Why are you here?" Charlotte was shocked.

"I asked Mrs. Rawlston to be here, "Zachary explained, "I took a look at the kitchen this morning and thought we could only prepare continental breakfast with the ingredients. Since the kids might not like it, I asked Mrs. Rawlston to bring more ingredients and a few helpers."

"Well, all the food I made today is Ms. Windt and the kids' favorite," Mrs. Rawlston chimed in delightedly, "Please start having breakfast. I'll serve Belgian waffles later."

"Sure. Thank you very much." After nodding at Mrs. Rawlson smilingly, Charlotte gazed at Lupine coldly and asked, "What is going on?"

"I wanted to inform you about it. However, Mr. Nacht told me not to disturb you because you were exhausted last night," Lupine explained with reddened cheeks.

The word "exhausted" could paint a whole picture.

Moreover, Zachary mentioned the word specifically when he instructed Lupine.

"You!"

Gritting her teeth, Charlotte wished to punch Zachary on the spot. However, she suppressed her emotions because her children and Dr. Felch were present.

Instead, she only warned Lupine coldly, "It's okay. Mrs. Rawlston is one of us. Nonetheless, you must report everything to me in the future! Remember that you're in the Lindberg residence and not the Nacht residence!"

"Understood. It was my mistake," Lupine lowered her head and apologized.

"Mommy, I gave Lupine the permission to let Mrs. Rawlston in," Robbie explained, "I woke up early today and went downstairs once I heard Mrs. Rawlston's voice. Lupine initially wanted to inform you about it, but I let Mrs. Rawlston in right away. At that time, I thought it wasn't appropriate to let Mrs. Rawlston wait outside for too long."

After hearing Robbie's explanation, Charlotte knew that Lupine didn't fail her duty.

"I understand. Robbie, you did the right thing," Charlotte caressed Robbie's head and replied, "besides, you guys always love the food prepared by Mrs. Rawlston."

"Thank you, Mommy." Robbie heaved a sigh of relief, for he was worried that Charlotte would be upset just now.

"Alright, let's have breakfast." With that, Charlotte asked everyone to sit down and enjoy the food. Then, she served up a bowl of vegetable beef soup for Dr. Felch and said, "Dr. Felch, please try the oatmeal. Mrs. Rawlston learned to make it from Mrs. Berry."

"Now I know why the soup smells so familiar," recalling the early days when Mrs. Berry was on the hill, Dr. Felch sighed. "Back then, Mrs. Berry would cook for us every day, and we always looked forward to her dishes."

"Yes, I remember that you kept complimenting Mrs. Berry when you tried the food made by her for the first time," Charlotte added with a grin on her face.

"Haha..." Dr. Felch laughed and said, "I used to eat simple food all the time, yet my mindset upended after I tried Mrs. Berry's food!"

"Mrs. Berry is indeed a good cook. Unfortunately..." Charlotte couldn't help but feel sad upon recalling Mrs. Berry.

"Mommy, the soup was made by Daddy," Jamie whispered.

"Ah?" Charlotte glanced at Zachary shockingly. "Is that true?"

"Yes." Robbie nodded and explained, "After you had left, the three of us always cried and refused to eat. Daddy learned to make this soup from Mrs. Rawlston and told us that it's Mommy's favorite food. Because of that, we felt happier and eventually had the appetite to eat."

"You're right. By the way, Daddy sucked at it in the beginning but eventually improved a lot," Jamie added, "So, the oatmeal he made tastes the same as Mrs. Berry's now."

"I agree," Ellie chimed in with a grin, "Whenever I was sick and didn't want to eat, Daddy would make this soup for me."

"He is a good daddy! We all love him!" Jamie raised his hand excitedly.

"I love Daddy, but I also love Mommy!"

"Well, we love them both..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1014

Charlotte was touched upon hearing what her children said. Back then, Charlotte couldn't understand why her children trusted Zachary after she left for two years. After all, she raised the three kids single-handedly till they were four years old.

All the more so, the kids still missed the Nacht residence even after she had returned.

At that moment, Charlotte believed she found the answer.

Zachary devoted himself to taking care of the children and changed a lot for them. Besides, he worked hard and treated them sincerely to earn their trust bit by bit.

"Alright, let's have breakfast," Zachary served up a bowl of vegetable beef soup for Charlotte and said to the kids, "Mommy is the greatest of all, for she was pregnant for ten months and risked her life to give birth to all of you. Besides, she even raised you by herself. On the contrary, all I've done is to cook some food for you."

Charlotte gazed at Zachary meaningfully as he spoke. As far as I remember, Zachary won't say such things in the past.

It seems that he has changed a lot over the past two years.

"Mommy, this is for you. It smells good and is delicious." Ellie gave Charlotte a piece of salt and pepper rib.

"Thank you, Ellie"

Charlotte's lips curled into a sweet smile.

Meanwhile, Zachary felt relieved when he sensed the change in Charlotte's expression. Deep down, he believed that the children could resolve the hatred embedded in her heart.

Perhaps she can let go of the past after some time.

Suddenly, Dr. Felch said to Zachary, "Mr. Nacht, I should thank you. When I met an accident two years ago, you arranged with the hospital management to provide treatment for me. Besides, you also took care of Hayley and Sam."

Zachary responded, "You're welcome. Anyway, I should bear the responsibility because you met the accident partly because of the Nacht family."

"Whatever it is, thank you." Dr. Felch proposed a toast with a cup of tea as a form of appreciation.

Zachary immediately raised his cup in response.

"When I met the accident two years ago, I was unconscious and didn't know what happened since then. However, I believe now that Mr. Nacht is a responsible man. Well, I hope I'm right!" Dr. Felch said meaningfully.

"Thank you!"

Zachary was surprised that Dr. Felch accepted him in such a short time.

"Dr. Felch, please try it." Charlotte picked up a piece of rib for him and changed the subject. "We can take a stroll around the hill when we are free later. Also, feel free to go around this place except for the backyard."

"I took a glance at the backyard from the window yesterday. There seem to be some special flowers and plants in it. Besides, there are some special pets!" Dr. Felch said.

"Well, Danrique raises them..."

Speaking of which, Charlotte reminded the kids, "Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie. Remember not to go to the backyard, get it?"

"Got it," the three kids answered in unison.

They were aware of the taboo ever since they met Danrique. Hence, they remembered it and wouldn't go near the backyard.

"Well, it seems to me that the legendary Mr. Lindberg is a special man." After putting on a smile, Dr. Felch said to Zachary, "It won't be easy to get along with the special bother-in-law in the future!"

Zachary was taken aback, for it was the first time someone discussed something like that with him.

Nevertheless, he thought Dr. Felch's words served as a timely reminder for him.

Since Danrique was his brother-in-law, Zachary thought his family was deeply related to Danrique's. Also, he felt that his

relationship with Charlotte would improve if he could get along with Danrique.

After all, only the elders of the Lindberg and the Nacht families held grudges against one another. On the contrary, Danrique and Zachary didn't experience it and weren't affected. In other words, the hatred between the two families was not so intense to them.

The situation only worsened when something happened to Charlotte two years ago.

Hence, Zachary thought if Zara and Sharon were brought to justice, Charlotte could probably let go of her hatred. Under such circumstances, he believed it would be a turn for the better.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1015

Zachary played with the kids for half an hour after breakfast before going to the office.

On the other hand, Charlotte worked at night and spent time with her kids in the morning recently.

After Robbie was nearly abducted, the kids stopped going to school due to safety concerns. Hence, Robbie and Jamie had no choice but to attend online classes instead for the time being.

Meanwhile, when Ellie didn't have to undergo any treatment, she spent most of her time sleeping.

When Ellie woke up, Charlotte would chat, play games, or watch anime with her.

After treating Ellie in the afternoon, Dr. Felch also began to examine Charlotte's health condition to provide necessary treatment.

Considering that the residual toxin had remained in Charlotte's body for too long, she had to endure the pain to get rid of it.

Besides, Dr. Felch was professional enough to prescribe medicine with the exact amount. As such, Charlotte would have to endure more pain than she usually experienced in the previous treatments.

As expected, Charlotte had to suffer pain once Dr. Felch began treatment. Nonetheless, after undergoing physical training for two years, her pain threshold had increased considerably.

Since both the adult and the kid received treatment, the smell of medicine permeated the house.

Robbie and Jamie were well-mannered and didn't disturb Charlotte when she underwent treatment. After attending online classes, they would bring Fifi and Little Fifi to the hill. Lupine and other bodyguards always followed the kids to ensure their safety while they had fun.

At night, Zachary would check the kids' homework once he got home. Then, he would play football with the boys and accompany Ellie when she practiced piano.

Two years ago, after the three kids came to the Nacht residence, Zachary pledged to spend 90 minutes with them every night.

Zachary could always have fun with the boys regardless of the games they wanted to play. However, his head ached a little when it came to Ellie, for she always forced him to attend music classes together to learn piano and singing.

After all, Zachary had always been cold and wasn't good at singing. Although singing was a form of torture to him, he forced himself to learn it to make Ellie happy.

After two years, Zachary didn't resist Ellie's music classes anymore. All the more so, he asked Ellie to be the judge now to assess his piano skills.

Initially, there was an air of lethargy around Ellie. Nevertheless, upon hearing Zachary's suggestion, she got excited and clapped her hands delightedly. "Sure! I haven't heard Daddy playing piano for a long time."

“Well, please don’t scold me if I’m not good at it.”

With that, Zachary took off his jacket and sat in front of the piano.

“I can’t do that. As a mentor, I have the responsibility to criticize you if you don’t play it well,” Ellie pretended to put on a stern face and said, “Do your best, okay?”

“Sure, Ms. Ellie.” Zachary handed a whip to Ellie as he replied to her.

Ellie swung the whip a few times and smiled happily. “Hehe—let’s start.”

“Yes, Ms. Ellie.” Zachary forgot a beat soon after he played “Twinkle Twinkle” that Ellie taught him before.

“Argh! No way! You missed a beat.” Ellie whipped Zachary’s hand softly and said, “Play it again!”

“Yes, Ms. Ellie.”

Later, Zachary played the song again and finished it perfectly.

“Hmm, not bad,” Ellie nodded in satisfaction and said, “However, since you’ve been practicing piano for two years, how can you only know this simple song? It can’t be. Didn’t I teach you ‘The Shepherd’s Song’ before? Play that.”

“I don’t remember the song, Ms. Ellie.”

“In that case, get the sheet music from the shelf.”

“Yes, Ms. Ellie.”

“Hehe!”

Ellie enjoyed role-playing a teacher and felt particularly happy when she could teach Zachary.

At that moment, Charlotte happened to stand outside the room. She saw that Ellie finally let out a relaxed smile ever since she was ill. Hence, Charlotte couldn’t help but feel relieved.

Deep down, Charlotte thought she didn't have much energy to spend time with the kids, for she would be tired after undergoing treatment recently. As such, she thought letting Zachary stay here was the right choice. At the very least, the kids were happy because Zachary could accompany them.

With Zachary's care and love, Ellie should recover sooner.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1016

Life went on peacefully...

The whole family would have breakfast together every day. While Charlotte and Ellie focused on their treatment, Robbie and Jamie would take online courses and train the pet.

Zachary would head home right after work to have dinner with them. Then, he would accompany the kids and play with them.

As such, half a month passed in a blink of the eye.

Ellie had recovered tremendously. Her pale face finally showed a trace of blood, and her appetite had improved gradually.

Morgan's gunshot wound had also healed well, as she could already move around freely.

On the other hand, Charlotte had slimmed down a lot, and her body was not as strong as before.

Zachary asked Dr. Felch why Charlotte's condition seemed worst even after starting the treatment. Dr. Felch explained that it was because the remaining poisons in her had accumulated for too long. And it was not easy to remove them completely.

Hence, Charlotte's treatment needed more time and included more suffering.

Nonetheless, it was only a transition period, and she would be getting better after some time.

Even though Zachary was utterly worried, there was nothing he could do but to remind Charlotte to take more rest.

However, Charlotte was not grateful for his care, as she still acted extremely cold toward him.

She drew a clear line in her mind. Even though she approved of his love and care for the children, it did not mean that she would forgive him.

And Zachary was well aware of that too.

She was someone who remembered her grievances clearly. She would not forgive him for the harm he has done to her in the past just because he poured out his heart for the kids. It would take a long time before she forgave him.

This night, after Zachary tugged the kids into their beds, he was getting back to his room. Just then, he saw Lupine escorting Charlotte up the stairs.

Charlotte looked extremely weak and strengthless.

Morgan noticed and was about to come out to help.

At that moment, Zachary stepped swiftly toward them and held Charlotte in his arms.

"What're you doing? Let go of me!" Charlotte pushed him away angrily.

"If you want everyone to watch, don't stop then," Zachary warned with a low voice.

"You..." Charlotte did not know how to react.

She figured it would be awkward if they started fighting at the stairs, as it were just a few steps away from her room.

At that moment, Lupine and Morgan exchanged glances and left silently.

Zachary carried Charlotte into the room and placed her on her bed. Noticing her sweat, he tried to unbutton her clothes for her.

"What do you think you're doing?" Charlotte grabbed his hands immediately.

"It's hot. You have to unbutton your clothes."

With that, Zachary unbuttoned three upper buttons of her clothes. Her huge breasts got exposed right away. Nonetheless, Zachary showed no misbehavior as he walked directly into the bathroom.

"Get out and ask Lupine to come in."

Charlotte was exhausted and she did not want to start a fight with Zachary.

"I know you better than her." By then, Zachary had finished preparing the bathwater, and he walked over to carry Charlotte up. "Do you want me to bathe you?"

"Don't touch me." Charlotte pushed him away unyieldingly. "Get out."

"I only want to take care of you. I won't cross the line." Zachary consoled her patiently. "Be a good girl, please. Don't let the kids worry."

Charlotte did not further reject him. She figured she had to recover soon, for Ellie's sake. The latter had almost recovered and was worried about her mother.

With that, Zachary carried Charlotte into the bathroom. After placing her down, he walked out and closed the door behind him.

Charlotte was relieved after seeing him behaving correctly. She took off her clothes and took a short shower. Then, she went out in her towel.

Zachary was still in the room, and he poured a glass of warm water for her.

After seeing her, he escorted her to her bed and handed her the glass of water.

Charlotte emptied the glass as she was thirsty. Then, she tugged herself into her bed, getting ready to sleep.

“Hold on a second.”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1017

“Hold on a second.” Just then, Zachary took a towel and helped wipe off the water on her shoulders and arms. “Please take off your wet towel. You’ll catch a cold if you sleep like this.”

Covered in a blanket, Charlotte removed the towel from her body. Then she tossed to the other side and went to sleep.

Zachary was heartbroken upon seeing her exhausted look. He wished to hug her, but he knew he could not.

Her heart was not yet open to him and she refused to let him come close.

And he respected her feelings.

A moment later, Zachary shut the window and was about to leave. But as he noticed the strong wind outside, he feared there would be a storm tonight.

Since the poison within Charlotte had not gotten eradicated, there was a chance she might still go crazy if she heard the thunder.

With that in mind, Zachary decided to stay behind and accompany her.

Right then, there was a door knock. Zachary immediately walked to open it as he worried it might wake Charlotte. "Is there anything?"

"There might be a storm tonight. I'll have to come in and keep a watch on Ms. Lindberg."

Lupine was holding a blanket and soundproof headphones in her hands.

"Leave them to me then." Zachary took over that stuff. "Please go and watch over the kids."

"But..."

Before Lupine could utter a word, Zachary had shut the door.

She felt somehow uneasy, but she could only arrange two trusted bodyguards to guard by the door. She instructed them to inform her if they heard anything coming from the room.

With that, Lupine went on to settle other matters.

After closing the door, Zachary sat down on the couch with the blanket in his arms. He stared silently at Charlotte, with one hand supporting his chin.

All the bad and good memories came flashing back in his mind.

He had lived these two years filled with utter regrets. He blamed himself for not protecting her well two years ago and caused her to end up in such tragedy.

It's different now. I'll protect her regardless of the price I'll need to pay!

Meanwhile, Charlotte was not having a good sleep. She grabbed her pillow tightly and curled up like an injured kitten.

As she tossed her body, her blanket fell off.

Zachary walked over and adjusted the blanket for her. Then, he caressed her forehead gently.

Out of the blue, there was a loud thunder.

At that instant, Charlotte shuddered and woke up instantly.

Zachary immediately put the soundproof earphones over her ears. But it was too late. Charlotte knocked off the earphones at once and started grabbing her head, struggling in pain.

"Charlotte!" Zachary hugged her tightly while covering her ears. "It's all right. Don't be afraid..."

Charlotte bit down on her lip harshly, trying hard not to scream as she did not want the kids to be disturbed.

Maybe due to the treatment, her condition seemed better than before.

Or maybe it was because of the soundproof window that made the thunder less loud.

Hence, her relapse was not as serious as the last time.

Nonetheless, it was still hard for her to bear the pain as she kept tossing around on the bed. In the end, her lips got bitten until they started to bleed.

Zachary's heart ached upon seeing that as he quickly put his hand between her teeth.

In the next instance, her teeth bit his hand with full strength.

Soon, blood began flowing down and the white blanket became red.

"Holy... So you still have a clear mind, haven't you? You bit me so hard..."

Zachary's face cringed as the pain was too much. Nonetheless, he felt relieved that at least Charlotte had stopped hurting herself.

"Ms. Lindberg, are you okay? Ms. Lindberg?" Just then, Morgan was knocking at the door anxiously. "Mr. Nacht, are you in there? Is Ms. Lindberg all right? We're coming in."

Before Zachary could respond, Morgan had already barged into the room, followed by the other four bodyguards.

They were stunned momentarily by what came into their sight.

Charlotte was biting Zachary's hand inside his embrace, and she was all naked.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1018

"I'm so sorry..."

Morgan immediately brought the rest out and closed the door behind her.

After a long while, Charlotte finally collected herself as she dozed off on her bed.

Just then, Zachary looked at his hand, which was almost torn apart by Charlotte. Blood was dripping down as a piece of flesh almost got bitten off his hand.

He cast a glance toward Charlotte, who was sleeping soundly. What a heartless woman.

Nonetheless, he was relieved that she did not hurt herself.

Enduring his pain, Zachary wandered toward the door and opened the door. "Please get the medical kit."

"Your hand..."

Morgan's heart skipped a beat upon seeing Zachary's injured hand.

"Hurry and go get the medical kit," Morgan instructed her subordinate right away.

"Yes, Madam!"

"A wound like that needs more than just applying some medicine."

At that moment, Dr. Felch's voice sounded.

"Dr. Felch, sorry for waking you up," Zachary spoke guiltily. "It's just a small injury. I'll be fine. Please go back to your sleep."

"You'll need to treat the wound right now." Dr. Felch furrowed his brows. "The thunder has stopped now, and she'll be fine. Please follow me to the clinic now."

"Her lips got torn. Please treat her wound first." Even at that moment, Zachary was still thinking about Charlotte.

"Don't worry." Dr. Felch's eyes flashed with slight admiration. "Let Hayley handle that. Please follow me."

"But..." Zachary could not let go of his worries.

"Leave it to me."

Just then, Hayley took the medical kit and went right into the room, followed by Morgan.

Zachary had no choice but to go downstairs with Dr. Felch.

With that, Dr. Felch stitched the wound for Zachary.

Zachary merely frowned slightly throughout the whole process without making a sound.

"Doesn't it hurt?" Dr. Felch cast a glance at him.

"It looks fine," Zachary responded with a low voice. "Dr. Felch, could you please tell me when Charlotte could recover fully from this?"

"If she carries on with the treatment, I guess around three more months." Dr. Felch narrowed his eyes while applying medicine to his wound. "She must not stop the treatment halfway, or else there will be no room for maneuver."

"Then, you'll have to take good care of yourself." Zachary spat out another sentence.

"Hahaha..." Dr. Felch let out a boisterous laugh. "Thanks for your frankness."

"Indeed." Zachary displayed an embarrassed smile. "If you didn't get into the car crash two years ago, things would have been different now..."

"It sounds like you mean I'm the key to this entire thing." Dr. Felch cast a curious look.

"That's right." Zachary smiled bitterly. "If you didn't get into the accident, our wedding wouldn't have gotten canceled. She wouldn't be sent to T Nation and endured such difficulties. Mrs. Berry wouldn't even have died..."

Dr. Felch's expression turned stern upon hearing those words. "Hayley did tell me what happened back then. Charlotte experienced a relapse on the wedding day, and it got out of hand. Later, the Nacht family canceled the wedding and sent her and Mrs. Berry overseas. And they kept the children..."

Dr. Felch let out a long sigh before continuing. "Everyone thought the Nacht family was merciless. But I thought they could've done it long before the marriage if they wanted to chase the mother out. There was no need to make such a big fuss out of this. But later I learned from the news that the bride was changed to another woman.

Only then did I realize their cruelty. Hence, after I woke up, I left this family with Hayley and Sam. I didn't want anything to do with you guys as I thought it was a dangerous place here. Even when you came to find me later, I refused to return.

Only after that young man approached me again and showed me footage of Charlotte still alive, did I start to change my mind.

Nonetheless, I started to change my view of you recently. I think you're not a heartless man after all."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1019

"I never like to explain anything, as it would feel like I'm trying to find an excuse for myself." Zachary let out a bitter smile. "I figure those who truly know me will understand me. Probably this was the reason why so many misunderstandings occurred."

"Did someone use the antidote to force you to send her away?" Dr. Felch started to figure out the whole truth.

"Yes." Zachary nodded slightly. "But that's not important. It was my fault since I was the one who didn't manage to get hold of the situation..."

"That's what I thought." Dr. Felch analyzed rationally from his medical standpoint. "Logically, she wouldn't be able to survive if she left like that unless she got the antidote. But still, I can't understand. If she got the antidote, why does she still suffer from such serious side effects?"

"Something happened with the last antidote..." Zachary gave a straightforward answer. "On that day, Mrs. Berry got humiliated in the storm and nearly lost her life. Her brother managed to rescue her at that critical moment and brought her back to the Lindberg family."

"Now I understand." Dr. Felch let out a deep sigh. "So fate is toying with all of us."

"I owe her too much. I only hope that she could recover soon..."

As Zachary was speaking, a bug flew by and knocked into one of his eyes. He swayed it off, without much care for his eye.

"What's wrong with your eye?" Dr. Felch felt he saw something unusual. "I forgot to wear my glasses so I can't see clearly. Let me check for you tomorrow."

"It's nothing. It's just a bug flying by." Zachary was unperturbed. "My eye is fine."

"No, I feel I saw something strange..." As Dr. Felch was speaking, Hayley entered the room abruptly. "Dr. Felch, I've finished treating Ms. Windt's wound. And I've fed her a bottle of medicine just as you said. She should be able to sleep well tonight."

"Great." Dr. Felch nodded slightly. "I should head back to sleep too. I'm not young anymore."

With that, Zachary helped him up.

"You get some rest too." Dr. Felch waved his hand toward Zachary. "Next time, remember to put something else in her mouth if she keeps biting. You don't have to sacrifice your hand."

"Got it..."

At that moment, Zachary was staring at Dr. Felch's back figure. He got impressed not only by his medical skill but also by his wisdom in life.

Many times, he was able to see through the whole situation easily.

Maybe, he's the key toward the truce between the two families.

"Mr. Zachary, are you all right?" Mrs. Rawlston came down from the staircase and greeted Zachary earnestly. "How's your wound? Let me have a look."

"It's only a small wound. I'm fine." Zachary hid his hand behind his back.

"How could it be fine? I've just come from cleaning the room. I saw the blanket all covered in bloodstain."

Mrs. Rawlston choked on her words as she spoke.

"I'm fine. The wound is not serious." Zachary worried about seeing her cry. "All right. Would you please go and rest? You still need to prepare breakfast for the kids tomorrow morning."

"Fine then. Since Dr. Felch had checked the wound, I guess there would not be much problem. Please don't hurt yourself in the future. Mr. Henry will be sad if he finds out. I'll need to report to him about your situation every day..."

Just then, Mrs. Berry realized she had slipped up, and she immediately changed her tone. "It's late already. I'll go to bed now."

Upon saying that, she swiftly left the scene, covering her mouth with her hand.

"Hahaha..."

Zachary let out a smile while shaking his head. He used to be indifferent to everything around him. But now, he seemed to start cherishing the good side of life.

He was grateful to Dr. Felch and Mrs. Rawlston for being by his side.

He also appreciated Henry, who still could not stop worrying about him even now.

Just then, Zachary's phone suddenly rang. Zachary was speechless when he saw it was from Henry. Mrs. Rawlston indeed has a big mouth.

He swiftly went to his room and answered the call. "Hello!"

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"How's your wound? Is it serious?" Henry cut to the chase after the call went through.

"You're so straightforward, aren't you?" Zachary let out a cold smile. "I've already suspected when Mrs. Rawlston came purposely to prepare breakfast for the kids. I knew you're the one who sent her."

That day, Zachary told Charlotte he was the one who let Mrs. Rawlston and the maids come. He said that he was worried the kids did not eat well so he asked Mrs. Rawlston to take care of them.

And then, Robbie let Mrs. Rawlston stay right away.

Zachary had reminded Robbie that he should ask for Charlotte's permission first as this was Charlotte's house. But Robbie responded that it was his house too, and he liked Mrs. Rawlston's cooking.

In the end, Zachary did not reject it.

Later, he was worried that Charlotte would be unhappy about it. Hence, he put the whole responsibility on his shoulder.

If Charlotte were to get upset, he would be willing to be the one to face the music.

With that, Charlotte would not be suspecting Mrs. Rawlston or blaming Robbie and Lupine.

"I'm merely worrying about the kids," Henry responded coldly. "I'm done with caring about you."

"I see. Please rest early then." Zachary was about to hang up the call.

"What're you doing? You haven't answered my question." Henry's tone turned stern.

"I can still fight with you over the phone. How seriously do you think the wound can be?" Zachary cast the question back to Henry. "Why're you still awake at this hour? What if you fall sick? Don't you want to see your great-grandchildren again?"

"What a foul mouth you have. I guess your wound is all right..." Henry responded petulantly. "Fine then. I'm done talking with you."

Just when Zachary was about to say goodnight, a loud thud came from the phone. "What's that sound?"

There was pure silence from the other side, as though the phone got covered by someone's hand.

A few seconds later, Henry spoke, "It's nothing. I dropped my glass. Goodbye!"

With that, Henry ended the call.

Zachary felt something was not right, and he called Spencer right after that. "Is Mr. Henry okay?"

"Yeah. He's not young anymore, so his hands trembles easily." Spencer smiled. "I'm with him right now. Don't worry, Mr. Zachary."

"Okay then."

As such, Zachary let down his worries and ended the call. After that, he switched on his computer and dug into his work.

Indeed, he got worn out recently. After an entire day of work at the company, he would accompany the kids at night. And after he got back to his room, he needed to go back to work again.

Nonetheless, he pretended he was relaxed in front of everyone else.

After Zara's scandal was exposed on the internet, it had brought tremendous damage to the Nacht Group that the stock had plummeted beyond imagination in just half a month.

Even though Zachary had burned an enormous sum of money to bury the news, it had already gotten widely spread. Now, he would need to announce an official statement to the public to protect the Divine Corporation and the Nacht Group.

Hence, he had made up a decision with sacrifice, which he would execute tomorrow.

He did not want any problem to occur again at this point.

To make sure every detail was well taken care of, he made another call to Ben.

"Please bring a few men of yours and sneak into Mr. Henry's place. Keep an eye on the situation and notify me once you discover anything suspicious."

"Got it." Ben immediately got going.

After the call, Zachary summoned Bruce. "Go and check on Sharon's side. And bring a few men to patrol the surroundings. Seize anyone that seems suspicious."

"Okay."

After everything was well arranged, Zachary finally felt the weight off his mind as he continued his work.

He wished to settle this mess as soon as possible, at least before Danrique realized it. Zachary figured he needed to recover, then sit down and had a good chat properly with the latter.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1021

Zachary worked for the entire night and only switched off his laptop at five in the morning. Massaging his temples, he planned to sleep for two more hours before waking up.

At that moment, Bruce suddenly knocked on the door. "I have something to report to you, Mr. Nacht."

"Come in," replied Zachary.

Bruce walked in and closed the door. After scanning his surroundings and ensuring that there were no cameras, he whispered, "I've checked the vicinity. There's nothing suspicious and Sharon is still locked up. As for Ben..."

"Speak." Zachary frowned.

"He hasn't found any problems yet. However, he said that the entrance of Mr. Henry's residence is still tightly locked. They even strengthened the security, which is quite suspicious," Bruce stated softly.

When Zachary heard that, his expression became solemn. He remained silent for a few seconds before instructing, "Tell him to keep an eye there. If anything happens, inform me straight away!"

"Yes, sir." Bruce quickly left to relay the message.

Although Zachary wanted to rest initially, he could no longer sleep now. He could already guess what was happening over at Henry's place...

After half a month of peace, chaos was about to start again.

He heaved a deep sigh and got up to bathe. After changing into a comfortable set of clothes, he headed downstairs.

"Good morning, Mr. Zachary." Mrs. Rawlston had just woken up and was prepared to go to the kitchen. She was surprised to see Zachary walking down the stairs too. "Were you up the entire night, or have you just woken up?"

"What do you think?" joked Zachary. "Looking at my complexion, it's obvious that I've just woken up."

"That's great, then." Mrs. Rawlston nodded with a smile. "Why didn't you sleep for a longer time?"

"There's too much work in the company. I'm going to stay in the company from today onward, or it'll just keep accumulating." Zachary strode into the kitchen. "Before I leave, I'd like to make breakfast for the rest."

"Huh? You won't be returning from today onward?" asked Mrs. Rawlston, stunned. "Where will you be staying, then?"

"There's a bedroom in my office," replied Zachary before making a call. "Hi, Lucy. Inform the rest that the senior management and the president's office will have to work overtime from today onward. Important personnel will have to spend the night in the company, including myself."

After ending the call, he rolled up his sleeves and started making breakfast.

"Poor Mr. Zachary... You're working so hard." Mrs. Rawlston's heart ached.

"It's fine. Help me out here!" urged Zachary. "If not, they won't have any breakfast to eat after waking up."

"I'm coming!"

When Charlotte woke up, she could taste blood in her mouth.

She got up dazedly and went to the bathroom to wash up. It was then that she discovered that her lips were split. Although the wound had been treated, it was obvious that she had bitten hard on it.

Furthermore, her teeth felt sore, as if she had bitten onto something forcefully.

It was probably not her lips.

"May I enter, Ms. Lindberg?"

Someone knocked on the door.

"Come in!" replied Charlotte.

Lupine and Hayley walked in, with the latter holding a medical kit.

"Ms. Lindberg, we'll treat your wound again after you're done washing up." Lupine invited Hayley to sit down.

"Okay." After washing up simply, Charlotte walked out of the bathroom. "Was there thunder yesterday night again?"

"Yeah." Lupine nodded and said with a smile, "However, your relapse this time is much better than before. You slept really quickly and didn't have a nosebleed. This means that Dr. Felch's treatment is working!"

"That's great." Charlotte heaved a sigh of relief.

"Sit down, Charlotte. I'll apply the ointment for you." Hayley opened the medical kit. "Dr. Felch is treating Mr. Nacht now, so I'll have to go over later."

"What happened to him?" asked Charlotte, puzzled.

"Don't you remember?" Lupine asked awkwardly. "You bit his hand yesterday and tore some skin off."

"Yeah! It was terrifying." Hayley nodded profusely. "Dr. Felch even had to stitch his wound last night. It'll definitely leave a scar."

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"It doesn't matter for a man like him to have a scar. However, it looks like it really hurts..." When Lupine remembered that wound, she felt sorry for him. "Even though he was being bitten so forcefully, he didn't even utter a single complaint! In fact, he was more concerned about your injury."

"Yeah, I think that I've misunderstood him back then. He's actually a nice guy!" said Hayley seriously. "Even Dr. Felch praised him..."

Charlotte remained silent and thought about what happened last night.

She could vaguely remember that she had bitten herself first. In order to prevent her from injuring herself, he had extended his hand out...

"I'm done." After treating the wound, Hayley reminded, "Go down now, Charlotte. Mr. Nacht made a lot of dumplings and is waiting for you to eat breakfast together."

"Okay. Keep the medical kit and come down for breakfast too."

Charlotte patted Hayley's hand.

"Okay!"

After Hayley left, Charlotte started changing her clothes.

Meanwhile, Lupine remarked at the side, "He woke up early in the morning and spent two hours making breakfast. He really put in a lot of effort! Looks like he treats you and the kids really well..."

"What are you trying to say?" asked Charlotte coldly.

Lupine lowered her head quickly, not daring to speak.

"Now that you're together with Ben, you're starting to speak on Zachary's behalf." Charlotte exposed her directly. "Don't think that I'm oblivious to your intentions."

"Ms. Lindberg, I..."

"Although he's nice now, it doesn't abolish the mistakes that he had made in the past. How can his insignificant deeds now compare to that?"

Although Charlotte was talking to Lupine, the words she said were meant for herself too.

She kept reminding herself not to give in.

After all, she had not taken revenge yet. If she gave in now, her past sufferings and Mrs. Berry's death would have been in vain.

"Yeah, you're right..." Lupine did not dare to say anything more.

"I don't oppose you being together with Ben."

When Charlotte noticed Lupine's dejected look, she consoled her, "If both of you have long-term plans in the future that don't compromise on the Lindbergs' interests, I'll speak to Danrique on your behalf. However, don't hope that I'll forgive Zachary. These are two different things."

"I know. I'm sorry!" Lupine kept apologizing.

Charlotte patted her shoulders. After changing her shoes, she headed downstairs briskly.

As she was feeling energetic today, she planned on taking a look at the South Sea. After the project was halted, some of the money had been returned. However, she still wanted to see if it could still be developed.

"Mommy, come and eat breakfast!"

The three children were already sitting in the dining room. Gazing at the dumplings in front of them, they were so hungry that they almost drooled.

"I'm coming!" Charlotte made her way down the stairs quickly. When she saw the children, she beamed happily. "Good morning, Robbie, Jamie and Ellie!"

“Good morning, Mommy!” greeted the children simultaneously.

“How lively!” Sam helped Dr. Felch over to the table.

“Dr. Felch...” Charlotte quickly rose to welcome him.

“Good morning, Dr. Felch!” greeted the children affectionately.

“Good morning!” Dr. Felch was overjoyed to see them. “This family has such a great atmosphere. They’re so lively every day! Even one’s appetite would improve when dining together with the family. Hahaha!”

“You’re right, Dr. Felch. I feel the same way too!”

Mrs. Rawlston laughed as she walked over with the dumplings.

“What makes me happiest the most each day is watching you eat my food. However, Mr. Zachary made all of the dumplings himself this time—from rolling the dough, preparing the fillings, to cooking them!”

“His hand is injured, so be careful to not let his wound touch water!” reminded Dr. Felch quickly. “I told Sam to treat his wound earlier, but he said that he would do it after breakfast.”

“I told him that, but he refused to listen.” Mrs. Rawlston looked troubled. “However, I mixed the dough, so he didn’t touch the water at all.”

“Good.”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1023

The family had a good breakfast together. While taking care of the three kids, Zachary would chat with Dr. Felch occasionally.

Dr. Felch mentioned what happened last night again. "Come to the laboratory after eating. I'll take a look at your eyes."

"My eyes are fine."

Zachary was stirring the oatmeal for Ellie. The steam drifted up, causing his vision to be blurred by a faint mist.

Charlotte glanced at him. Other than looking slightly bloodshot, his eyes seemed fine. Perhaps, he didn't have a good sleep.

"Although your eyes may look alright now..."

Dr. Felch narrowed his eyes and scrutinized Zachary.

"It's fine. An insect merely flew across my eyes yesterday."

Turning around, Zachary fed Ellie some oatmeal. At that moment, his phone rang and Charlotte took the bowl from his hands. "I'll do it."

Zachary passed the bowl to her before walking aside and taking the call. "Speak!"

"As you've expected..."

Ben was reporting something important over the phone.

Frowning, Zachary quickly regained his composure and instructed solemnly, "I understand. Monitor it closely first."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Zachary returned to the dining table and took the bowl from Charlotte. "I'll do it."

He fed Ellie the oatmeal quietly before wiping her mouth and saying gently, "Ellie, I'll be busy with work recently, so I can't keep you company. You must receive your medical treatment obediently, okay?"

"Yeah, I know." Ellie nodded.

"Daddy, just focus on your work. We'll take care of Ellie!" Jamie patted his chest and declared. "You don't need to accompany us at night too. We can play chess ourselves!"

"I might not be staying here for the next few days." Zachary stroked his head. "There's a lot of work at the office, so I have to stay there."

Everyone was stunned when they heard that.

Even Charlotte was startled. She always thought that she had lost all feelings for him. Yet, when she heard that he was going to leave, a weird sense of disappointment surfaced within her...

Perhaps, the family had been living in such perfect harmony that the sudden change was too great.

Still, Charlotte quickly returned to her senses. Feigning nonchalance, she said, "Don't worry, I'll take care of the kids."

"Are you reluctant to let me leave?" Zachary looked at her with a playful smirk.

"You're crazy!" Charlotte shot him a glare and rebuked in annoyance, "I'm overjoyed that an unlucky charm like you is gone."

"You don't mean it sincerely, right?" insisted Zachary shamelessly.

"You..."

"Okay, I have to go." Zachary hugged the three children. "I'll come back and keep you company after I'm done with work."

"How long will you be busy for, Daddy?" With reddened eyes, Ellie gazed at him longingly.

"Not too long." He stroked her cheeks.

"Take care of yourself, Daddy." Although Jamie felt reluctant too, he put up a strong front. "After you're done, bring us to the amusement park!"

"I'll keep my promise." Zachary bumped fists with him before looking at Robbie. "Robbie, why aren't you saying anything?"

"I just find it very sudden. I didn't expect the situation to be so grave this time." Robbie stared at Zachary with a complex look in his eyes. "The power of public opinion is really significant."

When Charlotte heard that, she felt conflicted. Although Jamie and Ellie knew nothing, they did not know what Zachary was about to face. However, Robbie was different.

As an IT genius, he watched the finance news every day and paid attention to the business trends.

He knew that after Zara's scandals were exposed online, the Divine Corporation and Nacht Group had been severely impacted. Initially, he thought that Zachary could resolve everything perfectly.

However, after hearing that Zachary needed to stay in the office to handle all this work, he understood that the situation was even more serious than he had imagined...

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Although the business battle between the Nachts and the Lindbergs did not seem to influence the children, it was clear that they were still affected.

What Charlotte feared was slowly happening...

"Don't worry, I can resolve it." Zachary stroked Robbie's head. "You're still a child, so don't worry about all this stuff."

"Are you really alright?" Robbie was still worried about him.

"Silly boy! I'm invincible." Regaining his domineering demeanor, Zachary patted his chest and said, "How can such a simple problem stump me?"

"That's good, then." Looking at how confident Zachary was, Robbie heaved a sigh of relief. "You must take care."

"I know." Zachary pinched his cheeks before turning around and stretching his hands out to Charlotte. "Come, hug me too!"

"Get lost!" Charlotte glared at him coldly. However, she unconsciously glanced at his bandaged hand. Looks like I've really bitten him hard last night.

A feeling of guilt surfaced within her, but she forcefully replaced it with a cold attitude.

"Haha!" Zachary did not mind either and ruffled her hair affectionately instead. He turned around and bade the kids farewell. "I'm leaving now. You must be good, okay?"

"Bye, Daddy!"

The children waved goodbye to Zachary.

"Come here after you're done with work. I'll give you a thorough check-up," reminded Dr. Felch.

"Okay. Thank you, Dr. Felch!"

Zachary nodded with a smile.

A subordinate from the Nacht residence walked downstairs with the luggage.

Outside, Marino had already prepared the car. Through the car window, he gazed at Morgan from afar.

Although she met his gaze, she did not dare to approach him and greet him.

“Mommy, I want to go out and send Daddy off!”

Jamie ran out immediately after saying that.

Robbie dashed out as well.

“Mommy, I want to go too...” Ellie became anxious.

“Okay, I’ll follow all of you there.”

Carrying Ellie, Charlotte went out to send Zachary off.

After waving to the kids, Zachary got into the car.

When Ellie saw the car zoom away, she burst into tears.

Upon hearing Ellie’s sobs, Jamie cried as well. However, he pouted stubbornly, refusing to make any sounds.

Meanwhile, Robbie’s eyes were red as he lowered his head quietly.

“It’s fine. Daddy’s just going to the office to work. It’s not like he’s never coming back!” consoled Charlotte. “If you miss him, you can call him.”

“I want to see Daddy every day,” said Ellie through sobs. “I want our family to be together forever...”

“Me too!” agreed Jamie as he wiped his tears. “I have been very happy these few days.”

Although Robbie did not say anything, his reaction was even more worrying.

Gazing at the kids, Charlotte felt a turmoil of emotions.

She really hoped that the kids could be happy every day. However, she did not dare to promise them anything. Her only method to calm them down was to change the topic...

Charlotte had to console them for a long time before they felt better.

Then, they went on with their daily routine.

Ellie went for her medical treatment, while Robbie and Jamie attended their online lessons.

There was still a lot of work that Charlotte had not settled, so she planned to work in the study room.

At that moment, Lupine brought some documents over for her to sign.

Morgan also came to report to her.

When Lupine saw her look of joy, she teased, "As expected of someone in love! Even catching a brief glimpse of each other, despite being dozens of feet apart, can make you happy for the entire day."

"You only know how to tease me," rebuked Morgan as she blushed. "Are you disappointed that Ben isn't here?"

"Nonsense! I'm not," denied Lupine immediately. "Do you think that I'm as smitten as you are?"

"You're just stubborn," joked Morgan. "It's been half a month since Ben showed up. You definitely miss him!"

"What's there to miss about him?"

"He didn't show up for half a month?" Startled, Charlotte glanced at Lupine and asked, "What's Ben doing?"

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"I don't know either. After he and Mr. Nacht sent the kids over, he didn't contact me anymore." Feigning indifference, she said, "I sent him a message, but he said that he was busy. From then on, I ignored him."

"Did both of you fight?" asked Morgan concernedly.

“No.” Although Lupine felt indignant, her pride stopped her from admitting it. Instead, she pretended to say arrogantly, “I couldn’t care less if he contacts me or not.”

“Don’t be like this...”

“Shut up!” Charlotte’s solemn voice interrupted Morgan’s words. “Track Ben’s trail now!”

When Morgan and Lupine saw Charlotte’s reaction, they became serious as well.

“Understood.” Lupine immediately went to carry out her instructions.

“Ms. Lindberg, are you suspecting that something has happened on Mr. Nacht’s side?” asked Morgan uneasily. “No way!”

“Keep an eye on Marino and see where he and Zachary are headed. Report all their locations to me!” ordered Charlotte.

“Yes, Ms. Lindberg.” Not daring to ask any more questions, she headed off immediately.

When dealing with official matters, Lupine and Morgan would always take Charlotte’s instructions seriously. They would not affect her plan because of personal reasons.

Charlotte had complete conviction regarding this fact.

In contrast, she did not believe Zachary as much.

Previously, she had not realized it yet and thought that Zachary had really gone to deal with work. Yet, when Lupine and Morgan mentioned that Ben had not appeared for a long time, she finally discovered that something was wrong.

Ben was Zachary’s assistant. Wherever Zachary went, he would need Ben by his side.

Even if Ben did not stay with them because it was inconvenient, it did not explain his disappearance.

Furthermore, he even stopped contacting Lupine...

There must be something wrong.

Charlotte could tell from the start that Marino and Ben approached Lupine and Marino because they were following Zachary's instructions.

If he could use his subordinates to gain information, she could do the same thing as well.

An eye for an eye!

Other than the battle between the two families in the business arena, there was another irresolvable conflict between them—Zara!

Two years ago, Zara instructed Sharon to assassinate her at T Nation and kill Mrs. Berry. Charlotte would definitely have to take revenge for that grudge.

However, after spending so much time and mobilizing all her manpower, she still could not capture Zara. Although Zara even appeared halfway through to assassinate her, she still managed to escape in the end.

Is Zara that impressive? Or is someone helping her in secret?

Charlotte always had her doubts regarding this.

When Zachary protected Sharon and hid her at Southridge, Charlotte was furious.

The only reason why she did not fly into a rage was because Ellie suddenly got poisoned and it was more important to treat her first.

Furthermore, Charlotte discovered that Zachary's subordinates had been monitoring Sharon and even collected a lot of evidence about Zara instructing her to commit those crimes. Hence,

Charlotte decided to watch the events would unfold and confirm if Zachary really intended to use Sharon to capture Zara.

After all, Sharon was only a minor character. The mastermind was Zara!

Yet, a new hypothesis emerged in Charlotte's mind now.

Perhaps, Zachary or Henry was hiding Sharon!

The reason why Ben was so busy recently was that he was dealing with this.

If so, that would have crossed Charlotte's absolute bottom line.

"Ms. Lindberg..." Lupine rushed forward and reported, "I just found out that Ben has been tracking Zara's location. I can't find where he is now and his phone is turned off. He is entirely uncontactable."

"Continue searching for him." Charlotte warned solemnly, "This is extremely important. Regardless of your relationship with him, you must remember at all times that I'm your master!"

"Understood. Don't worry, Ms. Lindberg!"

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"Ms. Lindberg." At that moment, Morgan hurried over to report, "Marino did take Mr. Nacht back to Divine Corporation. I heard that a board meeting is being convened. Mr. Nacht even ordered all management staff to work overtime and if necessary, stay the night in the office. No matter what, they have to resolve the matter."

"From the sound of it, there doesn't seem to be any problems." Lupine looked at Charlotte warily.

"Continue to keep an eye on him and see if he is really staying over at the office," Charlotte instructed. "Whenever it's necessary, try and fish for some leads from Marino. Understood?"

Charlotte ended her sentence with a thoughtful tone.

"Understood." Morgan nodded.

"Off you go." Charlotte waved her away.

After both of them left, Charlotte leaned back on her white leather sofa. Looking at the documents in hand, she was in no mood to deal with them. All she could feel inside was confusion.

Recently, Zachary's behavior had impressed her. Compared to his ruthless and haughty self, he had now become understanding and considerate. He even got off his high horse and went out of his way for the sake of others.

The changes in his demeanor had caused her heart to waver.

Furthermore, she was moved by the fact that he had risked his life to protect her the night before.

Even if they can't be together, she still hoped that both families could let the past be water under the bridge. She didn't mind staying away from each other just like how it used to be. All she wanted was for there not to be any more bad blood.

At the very least, the children wouldn't be torn between both families.

However, she still couldn't tolerate the fact that Zachary had kept Zara hidden.

For the sake of the children, she was willing to look past what the Nacht family did to her. However, she couldn't forgive Zara and Sharon for humiliating her in T Nation. Most importantly, she had to exact revenge for the death of Mrs. Berry.

Those two matters were not up for negotiation as they were her red lines.

She hoped that Zachary wouldn't breach them, or else, she wouldn't spare him either.

As if he could sense something, Zachary sneezed in his Rolls-Royce. Covering his face, he furrowed his eyebrows and remarked, "Charlotte must be cursing at me right now."

"You're right," Marino replied warily. "Morgan is checking on our movements. I suppose Ms. Lindberg is feeling suspicious."

"Given how smart she is, it's reasonable for her to be suspicious," Zachary plainly remarked, "let alone she has two spies."

"I'm not a spy. I'm loyal to you." Marino declared his loyalty at once.

"Don't worry about it. Your girlfriend comes first." Zachary replied thoughtfully, "If she asks you anything, just tell her the truth."

"I dare not." Marino quickly explained, "I have never leaked anything related to you, I swear."

"I'm telling you to tell her as it is, do you understand me?" Zachary furrowed his eyebrows in displeasure. "What a dumb*ss."

"Huh?" Marino was baffled.

"Mr. Nacht is indeed dealing with something in the office. If she asks, you can just tell her what's going on in the office. Other than that, you don't know anything else. Do you understand?" Bruce explained.

"Understood." Marino nodded in acknowledgment.

When a subordinate opened the door from the outside, Zachary got out of the car. Striding into the elevator, he took it right up to the sixty-eight floor.

The moment they entered the elevator, Ben's phone rang. "Mr. Nacht, we have confirmation that Ms. Nacht is with Mr. Henry."

Zachary's expression drastically changed at the news. He gritted his teeth and exclaimed, "Damn it!"

"Calm down, Mr. Nacht." Ben reassured, "I'm still keeping an eye on them. Spencer is still arranging for a private jet. They look as if they are trying to smuggle Ms. Nacht out of H City. What should I do now?"

"They won't dare make a move now. No matter what, they will wait till it's dark." Zachary furrowed his eyebrows. "Continue watching them and wait for my instructions."

"Yes."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1027

Zachary had been trying to locate Zara while collecting evidence of her wrongdoing. His aim was to bring her to justice.

At the end of the day, he had taken into consideration Henry's feelings. After all, she was still his daughter. If the Lindbergs killed her, he would be devastated.

From then on, the animosity between the two families would only deepen.

Given Henry's temper, he would fight the Lindbergs for the rest of his life.

No one would come out the winner if such a situation came up.

Therefore, Zachary's solution was to capture Zara and hand her over to the authorities.

That way, he would be able to fulfill his responsibility to Charlotte and stop the hatred between the two families from escalating.

If the law sentenced her to death, it would be because she deserved it.

Henry had no one else to blame.

However, Zachary didn't imagine that Henry would make such a mistake as to harbor a fugitive.

If Charlotte had found out about it, it would become a huge misunderstanding between the two families.

Feeling anxious, all Zachary wanted to do now was to solve the problem.

However, he still hadn't figured out how to do so.

He couldn't infuriate Henry, and neither could he let Zara escape. Also, he had to keep the matter under wraps.

"Mr. Nacht, why don't we set up an ambush at the airport? We can seize Zara and hand her over to the police while Mr. Henry isn't there," Bruce suggested.

"Given that he is willing to take such a big risk, Grandpa will definitely send her to the airport personally."

Zachary explained softly, "He wouldn't leave until he sees her board the plane."

"In that case, why don't we check on their private jet?" Bruce asked.

"Don't do anything rash to alert them." Zachary knitted his eyebrows.

"Yes." Bruce didn't dare propose anything else.

"You're dismissed for now." Zachary wanted to have some time alone.

"Yes." Bruce lowered his head.

Zachary locked himself up in his office for seven hours.

It wasn't until four in the afternoon that he called for Bruce. Handing him a USB drive, he instructed, "Hand this over to the police. Go right now."

"Yes." After carefully receiving it, Bruce headed to the police station.

Next, Zachary gave Lucy a call. "Tell the firm's legal team to gather in my office at once."

"Yes." Lucy cascaded his orders. Deep down, she knew something big was going on. However, she didn't dare to ask.

Ten minutes later, the Nacht Group's legal team arrived at once.

Zachary declared to them. "In my name, sack Zara from the Nacht Group board and seize all the company shares she has. Also, freeze all of Chris' shares and suspend his positions in the Nacht Group. It's your job to figure out how to do this from a legal perspective. I want it done by five. After that, make the announcement through the firm's official channels. Understood?"

The lawyers exchanged chaotic glances.

Considering how Zara's wrongdoings were exposed on the internet, causing untold damage to Nacht Group's reputation, it was understandable for Zachary to take such actions. However, the shares that Zara and Chris were holding were gifted by Henry himself.

Without his permission, no one dared to take action.

"I will deal with Grandpa. All you have to do is follow my instructions," Zachary ordered. "He isn't feeling well now, so everything in Nacht Group will be decided by me."

"Yes!" The lawyers went off without further question.

Everyone knew that Zachary was undoubtedly Henry's favorite. Many years ago, he had already appointed Zachary as his successor.

Furthermore, Zachary had been running Nacht Group over the last few years and Henry had never questioned his decisions.

Therefore, everyone did as they were told even though it seemed to be against the rules.

At five in the afternoon, the Nacht family sent out an official statement while the police issued a warrant for Zara's arrest.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1028

The moment the news was released, it caused quite a stir.

Over the last few weeks, Nacht Group's stock price had dropped drastically due to Zara's exposé. Despite the terrible impact it had, Zachary did nothing to address it.

However, when both announcements were made that day, the stock price stabilized.

At the same time, those who doubted the Nacht Group and Zachary began to reevaluate their opinion of him.

By breaking ties with Zara and removing her from the company, Zachary had demonstrated that Nacht Group and himself had nothing to do with her crimes. The police warrant further cemented that fact.

However, there were those who were still skeptical and speculated that Zachary betrayed his aunt to save himself.

Nevertheless, his actions had stabilized the situation for the time being.

It had also appeased Charlotte at the same time.

Charlotte had ordered Lupine to bring men in from Erihal to prepare for battle with the Nacht family. However, when everything was in place, Lupine hurried in to report, "Ms. Lindberg, look at the news, quick!"

"What news?"

Charlotte turned on the computer and saw the latest trending news. All of them were about the Nacht Group.

Just the headline alone was enough to shock her. When she clicked into it, she was further dumbstruck.

"Looks like we have misunderstood Mr. Nacht." Lupine heaved a sigh of relief. "Not only did he not harbor Zara, but he also provided evidence of her crimes to the police. In fact, he even removed Zara from Nacht Group."

"Why is he doing this all of a sudden?" Charlotte knitted her eyebrows in thought.

"What else can it be?" Lupine saw the matter simplistically. "Mr. Nacht even dealt with Chris at the same time. It shows that he does not intend to let Zara escape!"

When she saw Charlotte's concerned look, Lupine added, "Even if he didn't do it for you, it would still make sense for him to remove Zara who had become a cancer within Nacht Group. From my investigations, I found out that Nacht Group had lost hundreds of billions over the last few weeks. At the rate they are going, the foundations of the company would have been shaken."

"That's true." Charlotte nodded slightly. "The main reason Danrique attacked Nacht Group was to force them to abandon Zara. He wanted that b*tch to know how it feels like to be abandoned by those closest to her and have no escape!"

"Mr. Lindberg is really smart!"

Lupine was filled with admiration at the mention of Danrique.

"Why don't we wait and see." Charlotte instructed, "Continue to watch Ben and report back to me if there are any movements."

"Yes." Lupine nodded.

As the study fell silent, Charlotte turned to look at the rain outside. Zachary's actions had caught her by surprise.

She felt that he had made the decision on the fly.

What triggered his sudden decision?

She was baffled no matter how hard she tried to analyze it.

Lost in thought, a bodyguard knocked on the door to report, "Ms. Lindberg, there's a girl named Olivia who wants to see you. She says she's your friend."

"Olivia?" Charlotte was stunned. She replied at once, "Show her in right away."

"Yes."

Charlotte put on her jacket before going to receive her.

At that moment, the bodyguard was guiding Olivia and Jeffrey in.

When Jeffrey saw how overbearing the place was, he was intimidated. Tugging at Olivia, he whispered, "Are you sure this is Ms. Windt's home? Why are there so many bodyguards? Why is it so lavish? Did you make a mistake?"

"Mr. Judd, this is really Charlotte's home. I came here before," Olivia explained.

"But..."

"Olivia! Mr. Judd!" Charlotte hurried down the steps.

"Charlotte."

"Charlotte!"

When Olivia and Jeffrey saw Charlotte, they were extremely excited, Jeffrey in particular. Suddenly, he became teary-eyed. "I didn't believe Olivia when she said that you are alive. But I can see that it's true."

"I am alive and doing well." Charlotte's heart warmed as she smiled at them. "I had wanted to visit you many times, but something always came up in the end. You will have to excuse me!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1029

"Your subordinate had explained to me and even sent me back to Yaleview." Olivia added, "We were worried about you. So, we decided to visit you on the weekend."

"Let talk in the study."

After inviting them to the study, Charlotte instructed the maid to prepare some coffee.

Looking at Charlotte, Jeffrey was getting all emotional. He remarked, "After the incident at the wedding, we heard about how you and Mrs. Berry got into trouble. I was really..."

Just as he spoke, Jeffrey's voice began to break. "I hated myself for being powerless to do anything. Or else, I would have held the Nacht family accountable!"

"Mr. Judd, it's all over now. So, let's not talk about that anymore," Olivia reminded softly.

"Yes, yes. You're right."

Jeffrey regained his composure.

On their way to see Charlotte, Olivia had repeatedly reminded him not to bring up the past. Charlotte had a new life now that came with new considerations of her own. Hence, they shouldn't influence her decision in any way.

"How have you been over the years?" Charlotte changed the topic.

"We've been good." Jeffrey began talking about the factories. "The few factories that you invested in are doing very well. In fact, we have even built four more."

"Really?" Charlotte was delighted at the news. "That's good to know. At the very least, I didn't disappoint my dad."

"As for your money, I have saved it for you." Jeffrey handed her a bank card and a ledger. "These are the accounts from the last two years and the bonus you deserved. In total, there's about twenty million. It's not much now but will increase in the future."

"Please continue to keep it safe for me." Charlotte pushed it back to him. "I'll get it from you whenever I need it."

"All right." Jeffrey kept the items. "I'll continue adding the dividends into the account in the future."

"Mmm-hmm." Charlotte nodded with a smile. "It warms my heart to know that both of you have been doing well."

"You took the words out of my mouth." Jeffrey felt relieved. "I'm happy to see that you have been doing fine too. Over the last two years, my inability to protect you has been hanging over my head..."

Pausing briefly, he changed topics. "I heard that you have reunited with your mom's family and they are really powerful."

"Mmm-hmm." Charlotte nodded.

"How powerful? Can they protect you from being bullied by the Nacht family?" Jeffrey asked with concern.

Charlotte smiled slightly. "The Lindbergs and Nachts are of similar stature. However, in some instances, the Lindbergs do exceed the Nachts."

"What? That powerful?" Jeffrey was excited to hear it. "That's wonderful. The Nachts will not be able to bully you anymore."

"Don't worry." Charlotte declared confidently, "No one in this world can bully me anymore!"

"That's good, that's good." Jeffrey nodded. "I'm happy as long as you're safe. I'm just worried..."

Jeffrey didn't dare finish his sentence. Instead, he changed topics. "What about the children? Have you seen them?"

"They're with me." Just as Charlotte spoke, Jamie's voice rang out from outside. "Robbie, quick! Fifi and Little Fifi are waiting for us outside!"

"I'm coming..."

"The kids are here?" Olivia was delighted to hear them. "That's wonderful! Charlotte, I'm really happy for you."

"Did the Nachts agree?" Jeffrey was still worried. "Won't they try and get them back?"

"Zachary dropped them off himself," Charlotte replied with a smile. "Don't worry. I'm no longer the Charlotte Windt of old."

"Fantastic!" Olivia was excited. "It warms my heart to see who you have become. We have to remember the lessons from the past that is not to be bullied by others."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1030

Charlotte felt a rush of emotions when she heard what Olivia said. She recalled many things from the past but couldn't remember all the details.

Olivia was her only friend back then and likely knew a lot of insider information and details. That was why she resented the Nacht family so much.

Knock! Knock! At that moment, Lupine had something to report.

Jeffrey remarked at once, "Charlotte, it's time for us to take our leave. Do you really want to keep this money with me?"

"Yes, I'll leave it with you for safekeeping," Charlotte answered with a smile. "If the factories' expansion needs additional capital, feel free to dip into it. Just treat it as an additional investment on my part."

"All right then. I'll record it down for you." Jeffrey was meticulous in his work.

"Sure." Charlotte nodded. "I'll have my subordinates walk you out."

"Charlotte..." Suddenly, Olivia gathered her courage and suggested, "I want to stay here with you."

"Huh?" Charlotte was stunned.

"Two years ago, I wasn't able to protect you and it has been hanging on my conscience since. If I had left together with you and Mrs. Berry, she might still be alive. Although I couldn't have done much, I could at least have called the police..."

Olivia spoke in a guilty and emotional voice.

"I realize that you have become influential and don't need my help. Perhaps, I can help you watch the children. Having me by your side would definitely be better than any outsiders."

Touched by her words, Charlotte was glad that she had Olivia as a true friend back then.

"She has talked to me many times about it." Jeffrey elaborated softly, "Although she is doing well at the factory, she worries about you all the time."

"It's dangerous to stay by my side." Charlotte felt hesitant about the idea.

"Don't worry. I'm not afraid." Olivia patted her own chest. "After all, my mom has passed away and I'm all alone now. It would mean a lot to me if I could do something for you."

"Huh? Your mom is no longer around? What happened?" Charlotte asked.

"In the later part of last year. She died of sickness."

Olivia didn't seem as sad when she talked about this.

"Actually, she was bedridden for many years and had been suffering all this while. After that, she managed to wake up and spend some time with me, for which I have been really grateful. When she passed away, she was at peace. It reminded me that I have to repay my debt of gratitude to you. After all, you had helped me find a doctor for her. Every time I get into trouble, you would also stand up for me too!"

Charlotte hugged Olivia and patted her on the back. "All right then. If you're willing to stay, then be it. From now on, my home is yours!"

"Thank you, Charlotte!" Olivia was moved to tears.

"This way, I no longer have to worry." Jeffrey felt relieved. "Both of you must live well."

"Don't worry about us."

After walking Jeffrey out, Charlotte brought Olivia to see Dr. Felch and Hayley.

When the two old friends reunited, they hugged each other excitedly.

Both of them got to know each other through Charlotte and became good friends after that. Even after Charlotte's incident, they still kept in contact.

The reason Marino was able to find Dr. Felch was also due to the information Olivia provided.

However, when Olivia provided the information to Morgan, she assumed that it was Charlotte Lindberg's subordinates who were looking for him.

In the end, everything turned out for the best.

After that, Charlotte introduced Olivia to all her bodyguards and maids. She instructed them to treat Olivia as if she was her own sister and to serve her as such.

Everyone addressed her as Ms. Peyton, causing her to blush as she still wasn't used to it.

Coincidentally, Ellie woke up from her afternoon nap. Hence, Hayley brought Olivia to see her.

Once everything was settled, Charlotte began her treatment for the day.

She soaked herself in a tub filled with medication while acupuncture needles were stuck onto her.

At that moment, Lupine rushed in to report. "Ms. Lindberg, I just found out that Zara is hiding at Henry's residence."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1031

"What did you say?"

When Charlotte tensed up upon hearing the news, she felt a sudden pain from the needles. Blood began oozing out slowly.

"When you're being treated, you can't be too emotional." Dr. Felch admonished from next door. "Whatever it is, talk about it later. Out you go!"

"Right away, I'm sorry." Lupine stepped out at once.

"Charlotte, you have to maintain your calm. No matter what, you can deal with it after the treatment." Hayley quickly comforted her. "The needles pierced deeper into you when you were agitated just now. Does it still hurt?"

"Y-yes..." Charlotte was in such stinging pain that she could barely speak. Gritting her teeth, she instructed, "Hayley, tell Lupine to gather the men and wait for me."

"Charlotte..."

"Go now!"

Hayley had wanted to calm Charlotte down. But given how desperate she was, Hayley was worried about agitating her further. Hence, she had no choice but to relay the message.

Lupine was waiting right at the door for further instructions. Upon hearing Hayley's message, she replied at once, "Don't worry, Ms. Lindberg. I'll get right on it."

"Everyone listen up, prepare the vehicles and arm yourselves. Once Ms. Lindberg is done with her treatment, we will move out!"

"Yes!"

Given the commotion, everyone else at home was nervous.

Feeling unnerved, Mrs. Rawlston rushed into her room and wanted to make a phone call.

When Lupine's sharp eye caught what she was doing, she snatched the phone away and respectfully said, "Mrs. Rawlston, Ms. Lindberg respects you a lot so we won't dare lay a finger on you. However, if you do anything to betray her, we will show no mercy!"

"No, no..." Mrs. Rawlston anxiously explained, "I'm not betraying her, I just... just..."

Mrs. Rawlston stuttered for a long while.

Finally, she sighed. "At the end of the day, they're all family. I don't want to see them being separated by a misunderstanding."

"I too hope that it's a misunderstanding." Lupine knitted her eyebrows. "Mrs. Rawlston, excuse me."

She ordered the bodyguards, "Keep an eye on them and don't let them contact anyone outside."

"Yes." The bodyguards watched the Nacht family servants to ensure they didn't make any calls.

Inside the room, Sam couldn't help but feel nervous when he saw what was going on outside. His hands trembled just when he was serving coffee.

"Don't be afraid, just continue with your work." Dr. Felch reminded him plainly.

"Is Ms. Windt going to start a fight with Mr. Nacht?" Sam wasn't aware of what was going on. "Weren't they all right just this morning? Why are they at each other's throats right now?"

"Stop poking your nose in other people's business. We're only doctors!"

Sipping his coffee in silence, Dr. Felch had no intention of interfering with Charlotte's decision.

"Yes." Sam didn't dare comment any further.

Soaking in the medicinal tub, Charlotte's body trembled at the pain. However, thinking about what the Nacht family did to her pained her even more.

She had forgiven them time and again on the children's account. However, not only were they not remorseful, but they also took advantage of her kind gestures by crossing the thresholds she had.

"Calm down and focus on the treatment," Dr. Felch uttered with a deep voice when he sense how unsettled she was.

"No matter what you plan to do, you will need to be in good shape. If you are consumed by hate, the poison will flow back into your body instead of being removed. So, please weigh your choices carefully."

Charlotte closed her eyes upon hearing his words. She tried hard to cast revenge out of her mind as she knew that she had to focus on healing.

After being jolted by her emotional outburst earlier, she felt a piercing pain emanate throughout her body.

In her mind, she repeatedly reminded herself, Charlotte, calm down. Don't let yourself get worked up over the b*stard. It's not worth your while agonizing over that selfish and ungrateful family.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1032

Locked and loaded, the Lindberg family was ready to roll.

Meanwhile, at the Garden Villa, Zara was watching the news in the basement. She screamed hysterically, "That b*stard, how dare he do this to me?"

"Ms. Zara, please calm down," Spencer advised. "You didn't leave Mr. Zachary much choice. If he didn't do that, Divine Corporation would be ruined. In fact, the entire Nacht Group would collapse."

"In that case, he should have suppressed the news and attacked Lindberg Corporation." Zara was furious. "Only those who are incompetent would point their gun at their own."

"Didn't you do the same to him?"

An elderly yet authoritative voice rang out.

Jolted, Zara turned around in panic and was greeted by the sight of her father.

Kyle was limping as he wheeled Henry into the basement. After glaring at Zara resentfully, he lowered his head at once.

"Dad, I never thought of challenging Zachary until he got on my nerves," Zara explained softly. "If he hadn't taken action on Chris back then, I wouldn't have attacked him."

"Stop with your excuses. Do you take me for a fool?"

Henry coldly asserted, "Although you're not close to Zachary, he and Chris are very close. All he did was give Chris a beating. However, you used the incident to escalate the situation so that you could seize power."

"I..."

Just when Zara was about to retort, she held her tongue when Henry shot her a stern glare.

She knew that he was the one person in the world who knew her best. Her thoughts could never escape his eyes. Any rebuttal would just make her look hypocritical.

Nevertheless, no matter how evil she was, her dad would still save her simply because she was his daughter.

"You lost all your assets because of your own financial mismanagement. And now, you want to steal your nephew's inheritance. Is this becoming of an aunt?" Henry admonished her.

"If it wasn't because you were biased and gave him ninety percent of the assets, I wouldn't be left in the lurch." Zara remained defiant. "The reason my business failed wasn't that I was incompetent. I just didn't have sufficient capital then-"

"Until today, you insist on making excuses."

With his face red in anger, Henry waved his cane to hit her leg.

"I gave Zachary less money than I did you. And yet, he founded Divine Corporation. Moreover, Nacht Group has also been well managed all this while. Only after he had demonstrated good results and paid his dues did I choose him as my heir!"

"Of course you will say that," Zara mumbled in defiance. "I don't believe that he could've done it without your help."

"You... you're so stubborn!"

Outraged, Henry realized it was futile to reason with her. Her inability to reflect on her mistakes had naturally caused her downfall.

"That's all in the past. Let's talk about the present instead." Changing topics, Zara anxiously accused, "Dad, you have seen for yourself that Zachary is working in tandem with the Lindberg family to tighten the noose on me. Therefore, you have to save me!"

"I have prepared a hideout in Alendor for you. You should go there and keep your head down. Once the storm passes, I'll arrange for you to be sent elsewhere-"

"Alendor?" Zara was outraged. "I don't want to go there, Dad. It's terrible..."

"It's because you can't stand it that no one will be bothered to look." Henry was extremely decisive. "With the Lindberg family's capabilities, they will be able to find you no matter where you are. Furthermore, the police are hunting you too."

“Isn’t that all Zachary’s doing?”

Zara was furious when the matter was brought up.

“Not only did he remove me from the company, but he also took back my shares. Even Chris has been suspended from duty. Also, he must have handed all the evidence of my crimes to the police. It’s obvious that he is trying to kill me!”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1033

“If you hadn’t committed all those dirty deeds, no one would be after you.” Henry threw the paper in his hands at Zara’s face. He scolded, “Look at what you have done. Are you even a Nacht? You have utterly disgraced our family!”

“Isn’t it obvious you were the one who forced me to do it?”

Zara was already sixty. When she was reprimanded by Henry in front of others, her rage intensified at the humiliation.

“You... you’re beyond saving!” Henry was so angry that he felt as if his heart was about to explode. “If I had known better, I shouldn’t have saved you. Instead, I should have let you die...”

“You saved me? I only came here because I have no other choice.” Zara yelled angrily, “Are you now planning to hand me over to Zachary? Or to the Lindberg family where they can chop me up to bits?”

“You...”

“Enough, Ms. Zara.”

Not wanting Henry to be further agitated, Spencer stepped in to reduce the tension.

“The private jet is ready. It will leave H City on the pretext of returning to M Nation. On its way there, it will drop you off at Alendor. Despite Mr. Nacht’s old age and deteriorating health, he

is still trying his best to protect you. You should at the very least appreciate what he has done.”

Zara fell silent after she heard Spencer’s words. By then, Henry was the only person left that could save her. If she had lost his support, there would be no one left for her to turn to.

“Thank you, Dad.” Zara’s tone finally wavered. “I’ll listen to whatever you say.”

“Prepare to depart.” Henry signaled.

“Yes.” Spencer began preparations. “Ms. Zara, you will have to bear with this.”

Spencer ordered his men to dress Zara up in a disguise before fitting her into a large suitcase. After loading her into the trunk, they began driving out slowly.

In the car, Spencer looked out at the rain with a grim expression. Despite how steady he had always been, he felt particularly on edge that evening.

“Calm down,” Mr. Nacht reassured, “no one dares to stop my car.”

“Mr. Nacht,” Spencer couldn’t resist asking, “If Mr. Zachary finds out, he might break ties with you. Do you not have any regrets doing this?”

“I know what I’m doing is wrong.” Henry couldn’t help but sigh. “I have made many mistakes in my life due to my stubborn and domineering character. However, I have no choice but to make another one. You don’t have children of your own, so you won’t understand my dilemma. Back then, I felt like dying after what happened to Harrison and Beatrice. But now, I only have Zara left. Regardless of the terrible things she has done, I still feel the urge to keep her alive. However, I have made the necessary arrangements so that she will never cause trouble again..”

Henry didn’t elaborate on his final sentence. When he told Zara that she was to be sent to Alendor, and he would arrange for someone to pick her up there, he was lying.

He intended to let her stay in Alendor for the rest of her life.

That was the only way he could keep her out of trouble.

He wanted her to realize how hard life was by letting her experience living a primitive life. Perhaps, she would then learn the value of life itself.

Not knowing what to say, Spencer sighed.

Henry felt unsettled when he saw that the rain outside getting heavier. He could only hope that they reached the airport sooner. The longer they remain exposed, the more dangerous it became.

Hence, he ordered the driver, "Step on it!"

"Yes!"

Just when he thought everything would proceed smoothly, their convoy was blocked by Zachary's car the moment they left Garden Villa.

"Mr. Nacht, what should we do?"

Spencer began to panic as he could sense that Zachary suspected something.

"Stay calm. Tell him that I'm returning to M Nation."

Given how much experience Henry had, he was steady as a rock. Moreover, he was facing the grandson whom he had raised.

He didn't believe that Zachary would do anything to him.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1034

The moment Zachary alighted, he signaled with his hands. Bruce and Ben led their men and surrounded Henry's convoy.

Spencer went pale in shock at their movements. "They have come prepared."

"That b*stard!" Henry was infuriated. "Looks like he has been watching me all this while."

"And yet I didn't notice them." Spencer was feeling anxious and angry at the same time. "Those two kids are getting increasingly brazen."

He had taught Bruce and Ben himself. But now, both of them had exceeded him in terms of their investigative skills. Not only did they conduct accurate surveillance, but they also managed to hide a huge group of men in ambush.

Moreover, they did all that without him noticing at all.

Knock! Knock! Zachary knocked on the car window.

Spencer had no choice but to open the car door and alight with a smile. "Mr. Zachary, I'm surprised to see you here."

"Things will escalate if I didn't make it in time." Zachary's gaze shifted to Henry. "Where is Grandpa going?"

"Back to M Nation." Henry remained in the car with no intention of getting down. With a frosty expression, he declared haughtily, "What about it? Am I to report to you where I go now?"

"Of course not," Zachary smirked. "I just feel that I have been neglecting you after being tied down by work. Now that you're not feeling well, I'm worried about you going back alone. Why don't I come along with you?"

"Nonsense!" Henry furrowed his eyebrows. "If you return with me to M Nation, what will happen to the children?"

"They are doing well with their mom. There's no need for me to worry." Zachary got into the car right away. "Now that the company's situation has stabilized, I just want to spend time with you."

"Erm, Mr. Zachary..."

Spencer wanted to stop him but failed to do so.

After squeezing himself into the car, Zachary sat next to Henry and put his arms around his shoulders. "Look at how much I care about you!"

"Stop pretending," Henry snapped. "Didn't you promise me to take the children there to be treated? That's the only reason why I allowed you to take them with you. But what look at what you did instead? Why did you hand them over to the Lindbergs just like that?"

"Tsk! Tsk!" Zachary sneered, "You obviously had me watched and made sure I was living at the Lindberg residence before you left. And now, you're blaming me for this?"

"I have no time for your nonsense." Henry changed the topic. "Get out now and don't delay my trip to the airport."

"I won't." Zachary brought out his passport and tapped it on his palm. "I even brought my documents. Look, I'm prepared to return to M Nation with you."

"I already told you that you don't have to come with me." Henry furrowed his eyebrows. "Just focus on the children and don't poke your nose into my business."

"I'm just worried," Zachary remarked with a sigh. "Haven't you heard? Aunt Zara's wrongdoings have been exposed on the internet. The Nacht Group is badly affected by it, causing its stock to plummet. Today, I had no choice but to hand over evidence of her crimes to the police and remove her and Chris from the company. Now that the police are hunting for her, I'm worried that she would come to you in her desperation, putting you in danger."

When Zara, who was in the trunk, heard what Zachary had said, she felt the urge to jump out and strangle him to death.

"Shut up!" Henry snapped. "She's your aunt. How can you do this to her?"

"In that case, what would you have me do?" Zachary spread his hands in a shrug. "Two years ago, she ordered Sharon to kill Charlotte in Coldbridge and cruelly caused Mrs. Berry's death. Two years later, she even abducted Robbie, killed my subordinate, and hurt Kyle.

"After that, she attacked Charlotte in the middle of the hill, causing her grievous injury. Just her sins alone would earn her the death sentence a thousand times over. Furthermore, everything she did in the shadows had caused Nacht Group to be dragged down with her. So tell me, what should I do?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1035

Henry was stumped by Zachary's repeated questions.

He had no answer to them at all.

In truth, he had been closely monitoring the developments at Nacht Group. Hence, he was well aware of the negative impact Zara's scandal brought to the company.

Therefore, when Zachary made the decision today at the company, someone had reported it to him despite most of them being in favor of it.

However, Henry had no objections. He told them that he left it to Zachary to decide.

On a certain level, Henry agreed with Zachary's actions as that was the only way to rescue Nacht Group.

He had no other options at all.

Therefore, Henry had no intention of blaming Zachary. Instead, he felt that Zachary had matured.

The reason he struggled for half a month to make a decision was due to the obligations to his family.

In the end, he made the decision based on the fact that he was the one in charge of the company.

"Everyone needs to pay for their mistakes."

Glancing at the trunk, Zachary continued in a thoughtful tone, "Even a child is punished for his mistake. Let alone someone in their fifties? Aunt Zara has committed many crimes and harmed a lot of people. Allowing her to act with impunity would only lead to her downfall!"

"What do you propose?"

Henry was cognizant that Zachary knew the truth. Hence, it was time to drop the act. "Why don't you get straight to the point?"

"Hand her over to me," Zachary spoke frankly. "I'll have her turn herself in so that the law can take its course. That's the ideal solution for everyone."

What Zachary left unsaid was that Zara would die a horrible death in the hands of the Lindbergs if she wasn't handed to the authorities.

"If I refuse?" Henry glared at him.

"Then, you'll have to excuse me." Zachary wasted no time. "I'll have to seize her by force!"

Just as he spoke, Bruce led his men to pry open the trunk.

"How brazen of you!" Spencer stopped him. "Back off!"

"Mr. Spencer, don't you realize you're making a mistake too?" Bruce advised softly. "We can still salvage the situation if we hand her over to the police. Or else, it will be a brutal war once the Lindbergs found out."

"Even then, I still need Mr. Henry's permission," Spencer retorted in a low voice. "Without it, no one is allowed to make a move."

"But..."

"Tell me, are you doing this for that woman or for the Nacht family?" Henry questioned Zachary inside the car.

"Both," Zachary replied honestly. "Although it was Danrique who exposed Aunt Zara online, she wouldn't be in that position if she was innocent.

"Now that the incident has dealt a heavy blow to Nacht Group. I can't think of any other way other than allowing the law to take its course. Even if you can tolerate it, the facts remain the same. The police are hunting her while the Lindbergs will never let her off.

"In the end, she will be caught by Danrique's men and die a miserable death in an unknown corner of the world. Is that what you want to see?"

Henry's heart wavered at Zachary's words. He knew that even by sending Zara away, he was taking a calculated risk.

Given how serious the matter had become, the police would mobilize all their resources to capture her while the Lindbergs would never rest till they have her. Hence, even if he had sent her to Alendor, it was just a matter of time before she was found.

Sensing Henry's dilemma, Zachary continued with his persuasion.

"To be frank, you should think about your own health. Given your age, how long more do you still have? You might be able to protect her now, but what happens when you're gone? Who's going to protect her then? Even if I am willing to let her go, neither the police nor the Lindbergs don't share my sentiments. Moreover, she still has tons of other enemies!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1036

Although Henry began to reexamine his decision, he was still worried.

"But, even if you hand her to the police, would she be safe then? The police might handle the case impartially. After all, her crimes

were committed overseas where the death penalty doesn't apply. However, if the Lindbergs insist on interfering, they may assassinate her in prison. I might as well take the risk of keeping her safe while I'm still alive."

"You're overthinking it." Zachary furrowed his eyebrows. "Nowadays, the law is very strict. No one is able to interfere, let alone make an assassination attempt in prison. Times are different now!"

Henry figured that Zachary was right. He had been spending too much time overseas where everything was possible with money. He did notice that there were no such practices here.

"All right now, hand her over to me."

Zachary looked at his watch. Not wanting to delay any further, he opened the door to get out. Suddenly, one of their subordinates rushed over to report, "Mr. Nacht, the Lindbergs are coming!"

"What?" Henry's face turned pale in shock. He questioned Zachary in exasperation, "Did you-"

"If I were the one who told them, I wouldn't have wasted so much time trying to persuade you." Zachary frowned. "Hand her over to me now. There's still time to send her to the police station."

Henry was trapped between a rock and a hard place.

At that moment, Spencer advised, "Mr. Nacht, you should trust Mr. Zachary this time. He's doing this for your own good."

Henry couldn't help but sigh. Closing his eyes, he waved his hand. "Fine!"

Just when Spencer opened the trunk to bring Zara out, a gun pointed right at his head.

Aiming the gun at him, Zara gradually got out.

"Ms. Zara, Mr. Zachary is trying to help you," Spencer appealed with his eyebrows furrowed.

"Help me?" Zara scoffed. "Dad might be taken by him, but I'm not!"

"Zara, you're a stubborn one."

Just as Zachary spoke, all his subordinates trained their guns at Zara.

"Did you see that? Does this look like he is helping me?" Zara gritted her teeth and yelled, "Zachary, you ungrateful b*stard. How dare you point a gun at your own aunt over another woman?"

"Did it cross your mind that you are my aunt when you kidnapped my son?" Zachary glared at her coldly. "When you injured Kyle and gunned down my subordinate, did you remember the same? When you ordered Sharon to kill Charlotte and Mrs. Berry in T Nation, did you think of that?"

"That woman's mother killed your father," Zara retorted in defiance. "I was doing my duty by exacting revenge for him. And now, you're blaming me?"

"B*llshit..." Zachary let out a mocking laugh. "You're actually afraid of the Lindbergs seeking revenge after finding out her identity and the fact that you had poisoned her. Isn't that the real reason why you wanted to kill her?"

Zara's eyes sparkled at Zachary's words. Indeed, when she poisoned Charlotte, she didn't know Charlotte was actually Isabella's daughter.

Her original intention was to use the poison as leverage to make Charlotte her puppet so that she could take back the family inheritance. It was only after she realized that Charlotte was Isabella's daughter that she had her assassinated in T Nation. At that time, she was worried about Danrique finding out what she had done.

However, she didn't expect Sharon to be so incompetent. Not only was Charlotte saved by the Lindbergs, but they also came back for revenge.

"I'm sparing you on the account that we're family. If you insist on being stubborn, it will only result in your demise." Zachary had run out of patience. "Drop the gun at once!"

"You should be the ones to drop it." Zara took Spencer hostage and bellowed, "Move aside before I blow his brains out!"

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"Zara, you've gone mad!" Henry bellowed, "Put down the gun right now!"

"I knew it." Zara gave Henry a painful look. "At the crucial moment, you would still choose to side with your grandson."

"He's right. I shouldn't have helped you," Henry fumed with a trembling voice. "Put down the gun and follow Zachary to the police station."

"No, I won't!" Zara screamed. "I refuse to go to prison. How can I, the pride of the family, end up there? Didn't you promise to save me by sending me away? Why did you change your mind just because of a few words from him? I'm a Nacht too. In fact, I'm your daughter! How can you bear to do this?"

Just as Zara unleashed her tirade, tears streaked down the sides of her face. She realized that her last sliver of hope was slipping away.

She didn't understand how her father could be so cruel to her.

She too was a Nacht. In fact, she was even closer to him by blood than Zachary was.

Why is he doing this to me?

"Do you hear me?" Leaning on the car door, Henry exclaimed, "The Lindbergs are almost here. There's no escape for you. Your only

choice is to turn yourself in at the police station with Zachary. That's your last chance of survival!"

Henry had used up all his might to accentuate the last sentence. He was so desperate that he almost fell out of the car. Fortunately, Bruce was there to support him.

"How did Charlotte know about your movements? Who else but Zachary must have told her?" Zara refused to trust him. "He might tell you that he's taking me to the police, but he might actually be conspiring with Charlotte to bring me to her. It's just a ploy of theirs!"

"You..."

"There's no more time." Zachary ran out of patience and pointed his gun at Zara. "On the count of three, if you don't let Mr. Spencer go, I won't show you any mercy!"

"Come on then. We'll all just die together." Zara cocked the gun and pressed it against Spencer's head. "You b*stards, all of you were raised by this old man. Do you want to see him die? God will judge you for that."

Her words struck a nerve. Ben, Bruce, and all the other subordinates began to hesitate.

They were all adopted from the orphanage by Spencer who single-handedly raised them. Now that his life was on the line, none of them could bear to take the risk.

"Zara, stop this madness! Release Spencer at once!"

Henry was filled with desperation. Unable to stand, all he could do was lean by the car door and yell anxiously.

"All of you, back off!" Zara barked fiercely.

"Release him or I'll shoot."

Zachary cocked his gun. Given his combat prowess and decisiveness, he knew whoever backed down would lose the initiative.

"Is that so?" Zara aimed at Spencer's leg and fired.

"Argh!"

Spencer cried out in agony before falling toward the ground.

"Mr. Spencer!" Everyone exclaimed in shock.

"You..." Zachary used the opportunity to fire at Zara.

However, at the crucial moment, Henry pushed his car door to knock Zachary off his aim, causing his bullet to miss its target.

As for everyone else, no one dared to make a move due to Spencer being held hostage.

In the midst of the chaos, Zara pulled Spencer along with her into Henry's car. She barked at the driver, "Drive!"

When the driver saw that Zara was holding Henry and Spencer as hostages, he had no choice but to drive forward as fast as he could.

"Stop them!" Zachary ordered.

However, no one dared to do so with Henry and Spencer in the car.

Zara's car quickly broke through the encirclement and sped toward the airport.

"Hunt them down!" Zachary jumped into his car and led everyone else in pursuit. Meanwhile, Charlotte and her team arrived...

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chapter 1038

The Lindberg's convoy managed to block Zachary's. Only Bruce and two other subordinates managed to get away and continue pursuing Zara.

"Zachary, hand Zara over!"

Charlotte got out of the car and pointed her gun at Zachary.

Given that she had just finished her treatment, her entire face was still red while she carried a splitting headache. Filled with rage, her eyes looked as if they could spit fire.

"Aren't you supposed to be in treatment? Why did you come?"

Zachary was worried when he realized she was looking out of sorts.

"Drop the act." Charlotte grabbed him by the collar and growled, "Zachary, you hypocrite. While pretending to be noble, you were hiding Zara all the time. In fact, you planned to smuggle her out of H City. How despicable can you be?"

"No, Ms. Lindberg. You have misunderstood-"

"Shut up!"

Just when Ben wanted to explain, Lupine interrupted him with a gun pointed at his head.

"I was wrong to have trusted you. I thought you would be able to tell right from wrong. Instead, you ended up hiding that b*tch."

"I didn't..." Ben was dumbstruck.

"I just feel that we should hand her over to the police and let the law punish her." Furrowing his eyebrows, Zachary asserted, "This isn't Erihal. You cannot ignore the law and take matters into your own hands."

"At the end of the day, you are still trying to protect that b*tch." Charlotte was furious. "And yet, here I was thinking that you have

changed and wanted to make amends. I even thought that the children could co-exist with the Nacht family. I can't believe how naive I was!"

"Charlotte, you've misunderstood. Listen to me-"

"Enough!" Charlotte cut him off and cocked her gun. "Hand Zara over, or I'll blow your brains out!"

Just as he spoke, Lupine and the rest of the female bodyguards aimed their weapons at Zachary's men.

Lupine pointed her gun at Ben while Morgan hesitated before aiming hers at Marino.

"Morgan, are you really doing this to me?" Marino grew anxious. "All of you have the wrong idea. Zara has just taken Henry hostage and fled to the airport."

"Marino!" Ben snapped at once.

"Mr. Nacht, I have no intention of betraying you at all. But if I don't tell them, they will definitely fire." Marino grew desperate. "Furthermore, Zara might hurt even Mr. Nacht while Bruce has only brought two men with him."

"Really?" Morgan pressed on.

"Of course," Marino replied nervously. "Ms. Lindberg, you are mistaken about Mr. Nacht. He wasn't the one who harbored Zara. It was Mr. Henry instead. We were planning to ambush them here so that we could capture her. However, no one expected Zara to cruelly hold Mr. Henry hostage-"

"Shut up!" Zachary barked to cut him off.

Marino lowered his head and didn't dare say another word.

"You fool!" Charlotte shot Zachary an angry glare. "We'll deal with this later."

Just as she spoke, she got back into her car with her bodyguards and drove after Zara.

Slap! Ben approached Marino and slapped him. "You idiot. Why did you betray Mr. Nacht?"

"That wasn't my intention. I was just..."

"Forget it. Let's pursue them right away," Zachary urged.

"Yes."

As everyone got back into their cars, they headed toward the airport at once.

The convoy in front consisted of silver-colored cars, while the ones behind were all black. Both groups seemed to be racing against each other in the night to see who could catch up to Zara first.

Inside the car, Marino gritted his teeth as he drove on anxiously.

Ben, who was sitting beside him, urged him on, "Drive faster. We have to catch Zara before they do."

"Why?" Marino asked warily. "Zara caused Mrs. Berry's death and kidnapped Mr. Robinson. In fact, she even killed one of our comrades. We should just let Ms. Lindberg capture her. Why should we even save her? I don't get it."

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"We're not saving her. It's Mr. Henry that we're saving," Ben replied in exasperation. "Zara has gone crazy to even dare take Mr. Spencer and Mr. Henry hostage. Who knows what else she's capable of doing just to save her own skin?"

"Ms. Lindberg has always resented Mr. Henry. However, she restrained herself from taking revenge on the account of the children. But, it doesn't mean that she will take Mr. Henry's safety into consideration in her attempt to capture Zara. How can you not understand something as simple as that?"

"Now I do. I'm sorry." Marino was filled with anxiety. "Mr. Henry is old now and cannot go through another ordeal like that. Once both sides start fighting, it will be terribly dangerous."

"In that case, shouldn't you be driving faster?" Ben snapped.

"I have already floored the accelerator." Marino gritted his teeth.

Zachary was looking ahead with a grim expression.

As the rain grew heavier, he knew it was going to be a long night.

Meanwhile, as if she had gone mad, Zara was focused on getting onto the private jet. She figured that she could shake them off and leave safely once she was onboard.

Suddenly, she noticed a silver glint from behind her. The driver nervously reported, "It seems the Lindberg's convoy is on our tail."

"Step on it, now!" Zara urged nervously.

"Give up now. You will never escape," Henry persuaded softly.

"If you hadn't listened to Zachary, we would have already arrived at the airport." Zara cursed, "That b*stard was just buying time so that Charlotte could catch me. He was doing it on purpose!"

"Why have you never reflected on your own mistakes?" Henry agonized as he looked at her. "If you have done nothing wrong, why would they even want to harm you? Even if your business failed, the dividends from Nacht Group alone are extremely handsome. Why must you cause so much trouble?"

"I wasn't satisfied as I was obviously destined for greatness. Ever since I was young, I was better than Harrison in every way, be it at learning or doing business. However, you were never willing to give me an opportunity. Even in Harrison's death, you rather give an inexperienced kid an opportunity instead of me..."

The more Zara thought about it, the angrier she became.

"All I wanted to do was to prove that I can do better. I wanted to show you that I am more suited to run Nacht Group. However...

"The losses kept piling on while my debts began to balloon, to the extent I owed many financial institutions from all around the world a lot of money. The amount is so big that I have lost count. If I didn't seize power, it would be the end of me. Even Chris would suffer alongside me. Left without a choice, I had to take back Nacht Group."

"No wonder..." Henry was at the limits of his fury. "What gave you the gall to borrow from them? You would end up digging an endless hole for yourself. They are particularly interested in ensnaring people like you, who have the name but not the smarts. It seems they have picked the right person after all."

"Hence, you ended up committing more mistakes just to make up for your earlier follies?" Spencer asked in a weak voice.

"At least Zachary doesn't dare do anything to me," Zara confessed. "However, those institutions will annihilate me without mercy."

"By becoming a fugitive right now, what difference does it make?" Henry spoke so emotionally that he coughed non-stop.

"Who would know that Charlotte is a member of the Lindbergs?" Zara raged. "Everything would have worked out if she isn't. I would now be in control of Nacht Group and pay off all my debts. Nacht Group would not encounter so many problems too."

Evidently, the main reason why she dared to act so brazenly was that she was confident Zachary wouldn't harm her. At most, they would just break ties as he would never contemplate killing her.

However, she never imagined that the Lindbergs would get involved.

That was the real reason why her plan failed.

"You... You..." Henry was stumped by his anger.

Shaking his head, Spencer sighed. There's no hope for Zara. It's pointless to continue the conversation.

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chapter 1040

"They're right behind us!" the driver exclaimed.

When Zara checked the rearview mirror, she saw the Lindbergs on their tail.

Seized with panic, she yelled, "Faster! Go faster!"

"I'm going as fast as I can!"

Despite flooring the accelerator, the Lindbergs were closing the distance.

Suddenly, a silver Rolls-Royce flashed past them like lightning. It then spun around and swerved to a stop, blocking their way.

The driver jammed the brakes at once and managed to stop inches away from crashing.

Henry was thrown forward by the sudden stop. Spencer wanted to help him but could barely move due to the wound on his leg.

In front of them, the car door flung open and a couple of female bodyguards aimed their guns at them.

Charlotte gradually walked out. She looked as if she was the grim reaper out for revenge.

Panicking, Zara screamed at the driver, "Drive! Ram them! Quick!"

"But..." the driver didn't dare to.

"I asked you to drive!" Zara pointed the gun at him.

Just when the driver held the steering wheel and engaged the car's gear, the bodyguards fired their guns with a rattle.

The next moment, the four tires of their Maybach exploded.

There was no escape now.

Infuriated, Zara dragged Spencer down from the car and pointed her gun at his head. She threatened, "Move aside or I'll kill him."

"He's a member of the Nacht family. What does killing him have anything to do with me?" Charlotte sniggered at her. "There's no escape for you today. Prepare to meet your maker!"

"Is that so? When I tried to kill Marino and Kyle the last time, didn't you try and save them?" Zara sneered, "Despite being a Lindberg, you have none of their decisiveness. All you have is the foolish kindness of the Windts!"

"You're right."

That was the first time Charlotte agreed with Zara. It was precisely for that reason that she used to be bullied over and over again.

Filled with a sudden burst of rage, Charlotte pointed her gun at Zara. "That's why I have decided to change today and become a ruthless person!"

"Is that so?" Zara maintained her calm exterior despite the nervousness inside her. "I don't believe you!"

Just as she spoke, she pushed Spencer to the ground and shot in his foot again.

"Argh!" Spencer let out an agonizing scream before collapsing onto the ground.

"B*stard! Stop!" Henry roared as he climbed out of the car.

"Mr. Nacht." The driver rushed forward to support him.

"Step aside!" Zara ignored Henry and continued to threaten Charlotte with Spencer's life. "I will really kill him. I won't hesitate to pull the trigger."

"Go on!" Charlotte sneered. "I'm delighted to see the Nacht family slaughter each other."

"You..." Suddenly, Zara couldn't tell if she was telling the truth.

"Even better, you should go ahead and kill the two old men."

Holding her gun, Charlotte approached Zara step by step.

"If they hadn't forced me into exile and separated me from my children, the incident at T Nation wouldn't have happened! They were the ones who caused me to lose my family. I had long wanted to take them, but I thank you for helping me finish the job!"

"I don't believe you." Zara was utterly confused but still tried her luck. "If you cause their death, Zachary will never forgive you."

"You gotta be kidding me." Charlotte found it ridiculous. "You're the one who's going to kill them. What has it got anything to do with me? Besides, since when do I need their forgiveness? There are plenty of men in the world. He is nothing to me now other than a has-been."

While they were speaking, Zachary's men had already arrived. As if she saw her savior, Zara abandoned Spencer and took Henry as a hostage instead.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1041

Henry's eyes widened in disbelief. He had never imagined that his daughter would use him as a hostage.

"You... you ungrateful beast!"

Despite being in dire circumstances after being shot twice, Spencer couldn't resist cursing at Zara.

"Every man for himself!" Zara asserted. "Moreover, I'm just holding you hostage. Your life is still in Zachary and Charlotte's hands. As long as they are willing to let me leave, no one will get hurt. Or else, both of us will die together!"

"You... you have gone mad!" Henry was outraged. "I really regret saving you. I should have let you die!"

"You reap what you sow." Watching the scene coldly, Charlotte sneered, "This is the poisonous snake that you have raised yourself. You don't feel a thing when she is hurting others. But now that you have become her victim, you finally realize how painful it is!"

Henry was humiliated by her words.

"Zara, you crazy woman!" At that moment, Zachary joined the scene. "Let go of Grandpa at once!"

"She has truly gone mad to even take her own father hostage."

Ben and Bruce were bewildered by what they saw.

Together with their subordinates, they surrounded her from the back.

At that moment, Charlotte's team was in front of Zara while Zachary's men were behind her.

Surrounded in all directions, Zara had no escape.

“Whoever approaches, I’ll kill Dad!”

Zara remained defiant. She believed no one would dare touch her as long as she had Henry as her trump card.

However, Charlotte didn’t care as she waved her hand and ordered, “Seize her!”

“Yes!” Lupine and the rest surrounded Zara at gunpoint and prepared to take her down.

Panicking, Zara cocked her gun and pointed it at Henry’s head. She screamed, “Don’t come near me!”

Lupine and her team hesitated as they looked in Charlotte’s direction.

“He is your father. What has it got anything to do with me?” Charlotte scoffed. “You’re using your own father to threaten me? Is this a sick joke?”

“You...” Feeling distressed, Zara turned toward Zachary and barked, “Zachary, do you hear me? If that woman makes a move, I’ll kill your grandfather. He has always adored you and raised you himself, turning you into the successful man you are. He even handed you the entire Nacht Group. Is this how you’re going to repay him?”

Zara’s tone was extremely cynical.

She spoke as if Henry hadn’t raised her to be successful.

It was obvious to everyone who the ingrate was here.

However, at that moment, no one could be more shameless than her.

Zara had struck at the heart of Zachary’s weakness. She knew that he would never let Henry come to harm.

“Charlotte, get them to lower their weapons.”

Just as expected, Zachary compromised.

"How dare you!" Instead of budging, Charlotte was further incensed. "The Nacht family harbored a criminal and planned to smuggle her out of H City. Now that you have been betrayed, you're asking me to let her go? Zachary, do you know how ridiculous that sounds?"

"The Nacht family has wronged you." Zachary lowered himself to beg, "I'm begging you, please back off. As long as my grandpa is safe, I'll make it up to you-"

"Make it up to me? How?" Charlotte furiously cut him off. "Two years ago, when she sent men to assassinate me in T Nation and caused Mrs. Berry's death, you told me that you would make it up to me. One month ago, when she kidnapped Robbie, you said the same thing again!

"After that, she attacked me at Roka Hill and injured my subordinates, that's when you repeated your vow again! Can you tell me when will you ever fulfill it? Not only did you not keep your promise, you even helped the foolish old man to assist her on her escape! Is that how the Nacht family fulfill their promises?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1042

Zachary could not utter any words to refute. Undeniably, the Nacht family had owed Charlotte too much.

He thought that Cynthia's heinous act had enlightened Henry. With this, all the misunderstandings and ruckus bugging them all this while would come to an end. It never occurred to him that there would be another round of turbulence for them. Unavoidably, nobody would still be able to stay cool under such circumstances.

"Don't make me say it again! I must take this woman away today!" Charlotte gritted her teeth and pointed at Zara in exasperation.

"I had sworn to avenge Mrs. Berry by paying Zara Nacht and Sharon Blackwood in their coins! I won't think twice to finish

whoever dares to stand in my way! You won't be an exception too!" Charlotte hissed.

Zachary felt a rush of inexplicit complex emotions as he gazed at Charlotte resignedly. A surge of guilt welled up from within him, yet he could not turn his back on his grandpa.

"I'm sorry!" Like a bolt of lightning, he grabbed hold of Charlotte's wrist, seized her gun, and pinned it against her forehead. Everyone was overwhelmed as everything happened within such a short span.

"Put down your guns!" Zachary commanded the female bodyguards of the Lindberg family.

Only then did Lupine come to her senses and fumed, "What a despicable b*stard! How can you treat Ms. Lindberg this way!"

At the sight of Zachary, who was threatening Charlotte, Morgan rushed out of the car and pointed her gun at him. "Let go of Ms. Lindberg!"

"Mor, try to cool down..." Marino tried to talk Morgan into putting down her gun. Nonetheless, she turned to point the gun at him and pulled the trigger without a second thought.

"My goodness! You really did that!" Marino was stupefied; his shoulder was scraped by the bullet.

"Zachary Nacht, you are really a brute! Ms. Lindberg has sacrificed so much by bearing three children for you. The Nacht family inflicted harm on her numerous times, yet she never thought of settling a score with you. How could you point the gun at her now?" Morgan was infuriated and lashed out at Zachary.

To her, love was never comparable to her loyalty to Charlotte. Not to mention, Zachary's indifferent demeanor had shattered her fantasy for love within seconds.

"All of you from the Nacht family are the same! How can you claim that you are from the prestigious family of the upper-level society

with such a malicious mind! Let go of Ms. Lindberg at once. If not, I will notify Mr. Lindberg at once!” Lupine became worked up and snapped at Zachary; her hand holding the gun was trembling uncontrollably.

“Mr. Nacht, do you think it’s a bit much for her?” Ben tried to appease Zachary and talk him out of pointing his gun at Charlotte.

Even Ben felt that the Nacht family had owed Charlotte too much. Thus, it was deemed a matter of fact for her to insist on capturing Zara. As Zachary’s mind was preoccupied with rescuing Henry at the moment, he was worried sick that he would exacerbate the situation by acting impulsively.

“Put your guns down and step aside! Do you get me?” Zachary snarled at the female bodyguards of the Lindberg family.

All of them turned to look at Lupine and Morgan in bewilderment. Nonetheless, the precarious situation sent both of them into a tizzy, turning their minds into mush.

“Don’t release her!” Charlotte yelled out all of a sudden. “Even if he shoots me dead, you must bear in mind to bring that woman back!”

Zachary felt a prickle of anxiousness and whispered to her apprehensively, “Why are you so hard-headed? Just let me save my grandpa first. Once I have saved him, I will surely...”

“Do you dare to shoot me?” Charlotte glared at him and cut him off. “Why don’t you try to shoot me with your gun?”

“I-I...” Zachary stammered. He did not even place his finger on the trigger of his gun.

“Since he doesn’t dare, I will be the one to do that!” Unexpectedly, Zara fired a shot at Charlotte’s shoulder.

Bang! Blood spurted from her wound at once.

Charlotte stiffened; the instant stabbing pain was numbing her senses. As her blood splattered onto her face, it was as though her heart was eroded by the penetrative burning sensation of sulfuric acid.

Everyone was rooted to the spot, including Zachary.

"What are you doing?" Zachary bellowed at Zara after he came to his senses.

"All of you from the Lindberg family, put your guns down! If not, I will finish her off now!" Zara threatened.

Intimidated by her threatening tone, all the bodyguards from the Lindberg family could only bow to her by putting their guns down as instructed.

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Gritting her teeth to restrain herself from groaning in pain, Charlotte sniggered. "Zachary Nacht, great one! See how hard-hearted all of you from the Nacht family are!"

"Charlotte..." Zachary was about to explain to her, yet she snatched his gun and pointed at Zara.

A panic-stricken Zara had the heart to pull Henry over as her shield.

Zachary's heart skipped a beat, and he shoved Charlotte away hastily at the eleventh hour. Subsequently, Charlotte missed a shot. Furthermore, her arm was even scraped by the bullet from Zara's gunshot.

"Zachary Nacht!" At the peak of fury, Charlotte pointed her gun at Zachary and fired a shot at him right away. As a result, his arm was shot.

The bodyguards of the Nacht family lifted their guns and aimed at Charlotte instinctively.

"All of you, back off!" Zachary bellowed at once.

All his bodyguards stepped backward and dared not move at all.

On the other hand, the female bodyguards of the Lindberg family lifted their guns and huddled over them.

When the situation descended into complete chaos, Zara was about to flee by holding Henry hostage. At that very moment, an ear-piercing shriek from the eagle sounded.

The next moment, Fifi the eagle darted toward Zara like an arrow released from the bow. A quick-witted Zara aimed her gun at it and fired.

One side of the eagle's wings was shot, yet it continued to dart toward Zara and attack her. As a result, she dropped her gun when it flapped its wings and struck against her. Waving both her hands frantically, she tried to shoo the eagle away.

Meanwhile, Henry's legs gave way when Zara let go of him and collapsed on the floor. Zachary dashed toward him hastily to help him up.

In the meantime, Charlotte dashed toward Zara and the eagle. She yelled out, "Fifi, move aside!"

In a split second, the eagle flapped its wings and flew away.

Bang! Bang! Charlotte aimed at Zara's knees respectively and fired twice.

Zara fell on her knees in an instant. Nevertheless, she supported her body with her arms and shrieked with laughter.

"What are you laughing at?" Charlotte narrowed her eyes and asked coldly.

"Did you hear the siren?" Zara's lips contorted into a creepy snicker. "There is an alarm system in my body. When I'm shot, it will automatically trigger the system and alert the police. Of course, I'm not willing to go to jail. Even so, I would rather be imprisoned instead of being shot dead by you. After all, getting a haven is the most important thing for me at the moment. As long as I can stay alive, I'm sure as hell that I will have the chance to escape! Charlotte Lindberg, you will not be able to capture me!"

"I will finish you off now!" Charlotte pulled the trigger and was about to fire.

"Don't fire!" Zachary stopped her. "Just hand her over to the police."

"I will shoot you at once if you dare to stop me!" Charlotte glared at him with murderous intent in her eyes, and she was unmovable by his words.

"Charlotte Lindberg, do you think you are still in Erihal? You will be charged for murdering here." Zara continued to provoke her, "If you kill me now, you will have to be prepared to rot in jail!"

"You deserve to repent your sins with your life! Go to h*ll!" Blinded by anger, Charlotte pulled her trigger impetuously.

"Wait a minute!" Henry yelled out abruptly.

"Grandpa..." Zachary called out anxiously.

"Can you let me have a few words with her? Please..." Henry pleaded with Charlotte.

"Just one minute!" Charlotte replied coldly without putting down her gun.

At the same time, all the bodyguards from the Lindberg family huddled over them and pointed their guns simultaneously at Zara.

It was a sure thing that Zara would meet her end at any moment.

"You kept on asking me why I tended to bias toward your brother, although you are more outstanding than him since young. Do you know why I would rather nurture him and refuse to let you manage Nacht Group?" On the brink of tears, Henry looked at Zara sorrowfully. "I sense that you are overambitious and materialistic since young. Apart from that, you have been eyeing the inheritance right of the Nacht family. Thus, I foresee that your senses will be easily prevailed by your greed for power and social status. That's why I tended to stand in your way most of the time. It never crosses my mind that this will trigger your rebellious nature."

Zara snapped at him impatiently, "Don't waste time lamenting on this! If you still treat me as your daughter, get them to let go of me and send me away from H City!"

Henry uttered bitterly with a self-deprecating smile. "Since this is my sin, I should be the one to put it to an end."

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For the last sentence, he was almost whispering, and the others could barely catch what he said, except Zachary.

He looked at Henry in bafflement. Put it to an end? How to end it?

"Let me tell you one more thing." Henry gazed at Zara in dejection. "I have actually kept a large sum of money for Chris. It is more than enough for you to lead a free and easy life. Nevertheless, you insist on digging your own grave!"

"Stop nagging and save me immediately!" Zara shrieked impatiently. She had apparently forgotten about how she had held her father as a hostage a while ago. Not to mention, she was even exploiting him as her shield against the gunshot!

"Time's up!" Charlotte lost her patience and prepared to fire.

At the same time, the siren sounded from a distance away.

Lupine lowered her voice and reminded Charlotte, "Ms. Lindberg, quite a number of police cars are advancing toward us. I'm afraid..."

Before Lupine could finish her words, Charlotte snapped at her, "I don't care, and I can barely wait to finish her off!"

Bang! Bang! Bang! All of a sudden, there was a series of ear-piercing gunshots. It seemed someone had finished firing the bullets in the barrel.

Everyone was astounded and gaped at Henry, who had shot his own daughter to death by himself!

Thud! The gun slipped off from his trembling hand. Emotionally shaken, he slumped onto the floor. He lowered his head as tears of remorse flowed down his wrinkled face like streams.

"Grandpa..." Zachary crouched down beside him to help him up.

Charlotte could barely move in utter astonishment. Her mind turned mushy as she looked at a grief-shaken Henry and Zara's lifeless body. As a wave of indecipherable complex emotions crashed into her heart, she was at a loss for words.

She had sought revenge in a way, yet the feeling was kind of different as she did not end the woman's life in her own hands. Nevertheless, she could not reprimand Henry for doing so. She was even starting to sympathize with him in such a pathetic state.

No way! I can't let anyone take advantage of my kindness anymore! When Charlotte recomposed herself, she told herself not to relent again.

"Hands up and don't move!" The policemen reached and took prompt action, putting the tense situation to an end.

It had been pouring the whole night. By the time Charlotte reached home, it was already dawn.

Everyone was petrified when she stepped into the house with her clothes drenched in blood.

Dr. Felch took out the bullet for her and attended to her wound at once. "You need a good rest," he advised.

Mrs. Rawlston asked warily, "Ms. Lindberg, how about Mr. Zachary and Mr. Nacht? Did anything happen to them?"

"I will assign people to send you home," Charlotte told her gently without replying to her question.

"All right, Ms. Lindberg. Thank you." Mrs. Rawlston nodded and thanked her sincerely.

Without hesitation, Lupine assigned a few bodyguards to send Mrs. Rawlston and a few maids from the Nacht residence back.

Leaning against the recliner in the room, Charlotte's heart sank as another wave of mixed emotions swept over her.

The throbbing pain on her shoulder was as though indicating that both Zachary and her would never be able to let bygones be bygones. It seems impossible for us to mend our relationship and stop dwelling on the past.

"Ms. Lindberg, we have got things settled," Morgan updated her tactfully. "Anyway, the police is still liaising closely with the Nacht family. We are still not sure if Mr. Henry will be charged for murdering his daughter."

"That's none of our business. Get Sharon Blackwood here now," Charlotte instructed in an icy-cold tone.

"Noted, Ms. Lindberg." Morgan nodded respectfully and prepared to carry out the task as instructed.

Charlotte looked at the gun in her hand with a hint of unmissable murderous intent in her eyes. Now, there is only Sharon Blackwood left. I must seek her out for payback as soon as possible and leave this horrible place forever!

The next moment, Lupine dashed into the room and updated her hastily. "Ms. Lindberg, Sharon Blackwood was taken away by the police."

Morgan was stunned. "How could it be? I'm about to capture her and bring her here!"

"The Nacht family seems to have foreseen this and taken the first move. Mr. Nacht had handed her over to the police before he rushed over to rescue Mr. Henry," Lupine explained further.

Charlotte knitted her brows without uttering any words.

Right that instant, Morgan's phone buzzed. The moment she caught a glimpse of the name blinking on the screen, she handed it to Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg, it's a call from Mr. Lindberg."

Charlotte answered the call instantaneously and greeted, "Danrique!"

"Come back to Erihal now and marry Louis," Danrique instructed her resolutely.

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Charlotte was not the slightest bit surprised, probably because she knew him too well and was mentally prepared. Even so, she asked softly, "How about the kids?"

"Bring them back. I want you to set off three days later," Danrique responded right away, as though he could predict that she would ask the question. He hung up right after instructing her on that.

Holding the phone in her hand, Charlotte stared into space out of the window in silence. After quite a while, she finally broke the silence by instructing Lupine, "Get the South Sea project completed as soon as possible."

"Noted, Ms. Lindberg," Lupine replied respectfully with her head lowered.

"I will go up now to catch some sleep. Don't wake me up unless there is something," Charlotte dragged herself up to her room in weariness.

After taking a shower, she got changed and continued to dry her hair at the dressing table.

Looking at her own reflection in the mirror, Charlotte's mind was gradually drifting. She felt a turmoil of emotions as snippets of

the previous incidents flashed across her mind. She recalled how Zachary pointed the gun at her to save Henry.

The moment of Zara scoffing at her before she breathed the last breath kept floating in her mind. "As a member of the Lindberg family, it's a shame that you do not possess assertiveness and determination like them. You are indeed a fool by placing righteousness above everything and tend to be over submissive, just like the others from the Windt family!"

Sadly, Charlotte shared the same sentiments with her. If her father were more assertive and determined, he would not have met with such a tragic end.

If I were more assertive and determined at that time, the horrible incident might not have befallen Mrs. Berry. Other than that, I would not have to go through those obstacles. It is undeniable that I only have myself to blame for putting myself in a tight spot.

Charlotte's phone buzzed all of a sudden. It was a call from Zachary. She hung it up right away and blocked his number. At that very moment, she made up her mind that she would have no truck with the Nacht family ever again.

Zachary's face fell instantly when the line on the other side went dead.

He turned to look in the direction of the emergency room. The doctors were still attending to Henry by all means.

He had a heart attack after shooting Zara to death earlier on. As a result, Zachary rushed him to the hospital.

Even though the police was aware that Henry was the one who fired and killed Zara, they were unable to take any actions under such crucial circumstance.

Two hours had elapsed ever since Henry was sent to the emergency room, but there was no sign at all.

Raina had stepped out once earlier and updated Zachary warily. "Mr. Nacht, you have to be prepared for the worst. Mr. Henry has

been troubled by health issues all this while. After what happened just now, I'm afraid..."

She paused, gulped, and said softly, "I suggest that you bring the kids over. I bet Mr. Henry is looking forward to meeting them again for the last time."

That was why Zachary gave Charlotte a call. No doubt, he knew that Charlotte had no intention to see him, answer his call, or hear his voice any more. Perhaps she has even made up her mind that she won't cross paths with me again!

Nonetheless, Zachary could not think of any other way at the moment.

"Mr. Zachary..." Spencer called him haggardly. He was weak as a kitten after being shot twice. Seated in the wheelchair pushed by a bodyguard, gloominess was written all over his face.

Zachary advanced toward him without hesitation. "Mr. Spencer, you should not get out of the bed. You need a good rest."

"How can I rest well when Mr. Henry is still fighting for his life in the emergency room?" Spencer murmured with teary eyes. "Mr. Henry is too kind. He shouldn't have saved that sinful woman who has disgraced the Nacht family."

"Mr. Spencer, there's no point to talk about this now..." Zachary mumbled.

Zachary's frown deepened into a scowl. Even though he had the same stance as Spencer, he did not have the heart to castigate Henry.

"Mr. Zachary, can you please bring the kids to meet Mr. Henry for the last time?" Spencer choked up and pleaded, "This should be his only wish at the moment after the devastating whammy. Can you please grant his final wish?"

Even so, he held back the last few words, which were too painful for him to tell Zachary. Deep down, he hoped that it was not just his wishful thinking for Henry to meet the kids one last time before he could rest in peace.

Stifling the simmering anguish in his heart, Zachary mumbled, "I know. I will go and fetch the kids now."

"Try to pacify her by talking things out with her," Spencer advised him. "After all, we have owed her too much all this while. Try to bear with it, regardless of how oppressive her words are. We can't blame her for harboring a grudge against us. Bear in mind not to exacerbate the situation by infuriating her further."

"All right, I know what to do," Zachary nodded and instructed Bruce to keep his guard up outside the emergency room. After that, he headed to Northridge with Ben and Marino right away.

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In the meantime, Charlotte was feeling under the weather. After a sleepless night, her entire body ached all over, and she was having a mild fever.

Dr. Felch assigned Hayley to bring her herbal concoction and ensure that she consumed it at once.

When Charlotte was about to take a nap after taking the herbal concoction, Lupine updated her in haste, "Ms. Lindberg, Mr. Nacht is here!"

"Why is he here?" Charlotte asked in a weak voice.

"He requested to see you. I notice that he is still in the same clothes drenched by the heavy rain last night. He looks exceptionally disheveled and vexed. I guess something might have happened to Mr. Henry," Lupine told her softly.

Charlotte flipped out and lashed out at once. "What does that have to do with me? Chase him away!"

"Noted, Ms. Lindberg." Lupine stepped out to chase them away.

At the same time, Jamie questioned the bodyguards apprehensively, "Is that Daddy's car outside the courtyard? Why don't you let him in?"

"Mr. Jamison, this is instructed by..." the bodyguard tried to explain to him.

"Let him in now. I mean now!" Jamie was boiling with anger.

"Hmm... Mr. Jamison..." The bodyguards looked up in the direction of the first floor helplessly and dared not explain further.

"What are you looking at? Let my daddy come in now!" Jamie stamped his feet and pulled the two bodyguards' hands emphatically. "Hurry up!"

Jamie's voice alerted Charlotte. By the time she opened the door to have a look, she heard Robbie call out, "Jamie, stop that and cool down!"

"Robbie, they lock Daddy outside," Jamie explained to him hastily.

"Is that Mommy's instruction?" Robbie asked the two female bodyguards.

"Yes, Mr. Robinson," they replied softly.

"All right, we understand. Thank you." Robbie nodded at them courteously.

"Robbie, what's the matter? Jamie came to his senses and asked nervously, "Are Daddy and Mommy quarreling with each other again?"

Robbie furrowed his brows and replied, "I guess so. You have to control your temper and don't act impulsively next round. No harm to spend time asking them about what happened first. We have to mind our manners and don't act bossy, although they are Mommy's bodyguards."

"I get it. I was worked up and overreacted just now. Robbie, I happened to see Daddy with my binoculars just now. He looks pitiful..." Jamie was on the brink of tears.

"Let's ask Mommy what happened." Robbie held Jamie's hand and went up to look for Charlotte.

To their surprise, she was leaning against the door of her bedroom. Both of them advanced toward her excitedly and greeted her simultaneously. "Mommy!"

"Robbie, Jamie, why aren't you having your breakfast?" she asked them gently.

"Mommy, why did you..." Jamie blurted out the words anxiously.

"Mommy, did Daddy do anything wrong again?" Robbie cut him off and asked warily.

Jamie zipped his mouth and stood obediently behind Robbie.

Charlotte looked at the two kids, racking her brains on how she should explain to them. After pondering for a while, she tried to make a long story short by explaining softly, "Robbie, Jamie, listen to me. I have some conflicts with your daddy, and we just can't be on good terms anymore. Thus, it's not appropriate for him to step into our house again..."

"But why?" Jamie yelled in agitation. "Do you mean that you are cutting ties with each other? Does that mean we won't be able to stay under the same roof again? Will I share the same fate as Timothy Sterling and end up having to choose either between Daddy and you?"

Jamie, who was usually happy-go-lucky in a way, was seemingly not his usual self at the moment. His face turned ashen as Charlotte's words rang out like thunder for him.

Tears were welling up in Robbie's eyes as well, but he kept his head lowered in silence.

"Jamie..." Charlotte's heart wrenched at the sight of the distress written all over Jamie's face. Even so, she could only get a grip of

herself by uttering resolutely, "If you choose to be with me, I will surely take good care of you."

"How about Daddy?" Jamie shook his head frantically as he wailed, "He is the best daddy among all. I don't want to lose him!"

Charlotte wiped his tears away and emphasized adamantly, "That's the only way. You can only choose one between us."

Jamie cried his heart out as he gazed at Charlotte with teary eyes, unable to utter any words.

Robbie took a deep breath and choked up. "Mommy, I choose to be with you." He snuffled a little before he continued with his words. "But I hope that you will let us meet Daddy one more time and talk things out with him."

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"Fine." Charlotte nodded her head and instructed Lupine, "Let him in."

"Okay." Lupine immediately left.

"Be a good boy and go to my study room first." After wiping Jamie's tears away, Charlotte stroked Robbie's head. "I'll come after changing my clothes."

"Okay." The two boys nodded obediently and prepared to head upstairs to the study room.

At that moment, they spotted Ellie in the corridor.

She was sitting in the wheelchair and looking at them silently. Unlike her vulnerable self in the past, she was not crying or kicking up a fuss now. Instead, she seemed the calmest out of them all.

"Ellie!" Rushing over and hugging Ellie, Charlotte asked carefully, "Did you hear what I just said?"

"Yes." Ellie nodded. "I want to meet Daddy too."

"Lupine is letting him in."

Charlotte felt extremely bad. Out of the three children, she was the most worried about Ellie. After the poisoning incident, Ellie's health had deteriorated significantly.

Although she had become much better after being treated by Dr. Felch, she was not as healthy as before.

Furthermore, such a prolonged treatment was, in a way, a mental torment for Ellie too.

While she used to be cheerful and lively in the past, she always had a depressed demeanor now.

Charlotte was worried that her fight with Zachary might affect the kids, especially Ellie.

"Go to my study room first. I'll ask someone to send breakfast over, so you should have breakfast first. I'll come over with Daddy later," coaxed Charlotte.

"Okay, Mommy." The kids nodded obediently.

"Olivia..." Charlotte raised her head and said to Olivia, "Thank you."

"You're welcome, Charlotte. Go and change your clothes first. I'll take care of them."

Olivia immediately instructed the maids to prepare breakfast and send it to the study room.

When Charlotte returned to her room, she asked a subordinate to pass a message to Lupine. "Bring him to me first."

"Okay."

Charlotte had just finished changing her clothes when Lupine arrived with Zachary.

His usual charisma and domineering demeanor were gone. Instead, he looked exceptionally haggard, with stubble all over his chin and his eyes bloodshot. At that moment, he seemed to be drowning in exhaustion.

For a moment, Charlotte's heart ached for him. However, her rationality quickly regained control over her.

She would never forget what the Nacht family had done to her!

Similarly, she would never forget how he had pointed his gun at her earlier and forced her to release her enemy.

"Henry's critically ill. Before he dies, he wishes to see the kids," said Zachary in a deep and hoarse voice.

"He's not dead yet?" Charlotte sat on the sofa with her legs crossed. A cold smirk played on her lips. "It's a wonder that he can live till ninety-eight years old after committing so many sins!"

"I know that you hate him, but there's no need to say that about a dying man, right?" Zachary frowned.

"What right do you have to tell me that?" Fury surged within Charlotte. "If the kids haven't begged me, I won't even want to see you!"

"I know." Zachary nodded helplessly. "It's too melodramatic to keep apologizing. Just take it as me pleading with you. Please, let me bring the kids back to see Henry for one last time."

"No." Charlotte refused directly.

"Although Henry has committed a lot of mistakes, he paid the price for his actions." Zachary started to panic. "By killing Zara himself, he has shown his deep regret. It's also a way of redeeming himself from his guilt toward you."

“Redeeming himself?” Charlotte scoffed, “You’re describing it as if he has done some charity work. Didn’t he kill Zara himself because he didn’t want her to die in my hands?”

“The police has already arrived by then. If you shoot her, you’d definitely be taken away by the police and prosecuted!” explained Zachary with a frown. “No matter how powerful the Lindberg Corporation is, you still have to obey the nation’s laws.”

“Even if I have to go to prison, I’d still want to kill that wicked b*tch myself!” yelled Charlotte agitatedly. “Since that damned old man killed her himself, I can’t even experience the satisfaction of finally taking revenge! What kind of redemption is that?”

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chapter 1048

“Alright, let’s stop arguing.”

Zachary felt exasperated. He knew that emotions would inevitably obscure how one would view things. Furthermore, there were so many grudges, resentment and hatred involved in this issue.

Hence, he decided to lower his stature and beg, “What should I do before you’re willing to let me bring the kids to Henry?”

“Sign this document.” Charlotte took out a document and a pen. “If you sign it, I’ll let you take the kids to meet Henry.”

When he took the document and scanned through it, he frowned. “You want me to give up custody of the children?”

“That’s right.” Charlotte nodded and glared at him resentfully. “Zachary, although I hate you, I hate myself even more for not being resolute enough. I keep telling myself that I’m going to kill you and destroy the Nacht family, so I can take revenge for myself and Mrs. Berry. However, every time I look at the kids, my resolve wavers. I really hate myself for that. For their sake, I have no choice but to give up taking revenge against you. However, I don’t

want to see you ever again. If you sign this contract now, I'll bring the kids to the hospital and let them meet Henry for the last time. After that, we shall never cross paths again."

After a slight pause, she continued, "For the sake of the kids, I'll convince Danrique to stop targeting the Nacht family. As long as you don't provoke the Lindberg family, the grudge between our families will end here! This is the best resolution we can achieve, and it's the last concession I'll make. I'll give you three minutes to think about it. The kids are still waiting for us in the study room. After you've thought it through, we'll go there."

"Charlotte..." Zachary tried his best to control his emotions and maintain his composure. "I'm grateful for the concessions you've made for the kids, but I cannot give them up to you!"

"Why not?" demanded Charlotte.

"Because they're my children too!" Zachary became agitated. "Their last name is Nacht and they are of the Nacht family's bloodline! I can agree to anything else but this!"

"Let's continue battling, then." Charlotte became enraged too. "Even if we file a lawsuit, I'll still win. When the kids were living with you, they got poisoned by Cynthia and kidnapped by your aunt. With all this evidence, it's obvious who the judge will grant the custody to."

"Are you sure you want to do this?" asked Zachary in frustration. "The kids will be the only victims if you file a lawsuit."

"You forced me to do this!" bellowed Charlotte.

"Charlotte, calm down and think about it carefully."

Utterly exhausted, Zachary had no choice but to persuade her further.

"Do you think that you can lead a peaceful life after bringing the kids to the Lindberg residence? Isn't Danrique surrounded by enemies as well? Or are you oblivious to that because he's protected you too well? Meanwhile, the Nacht group has already

eliminated all obstacles and I'm the person in power! As long as I'm here, no one will dare to touch my children. On the other hand, you have no actual power in the Lindberg family except for an empty title. If someone uses you to scheme against Danrique, you and the kids will be in danger!"

After listening to that, Charlotte fell silent. It was true that although the Lindberg Corporation seemed stable on the surface, it had its fair share of enemies.

Furthermore, a single family did not have a monopoly over the Lindberg Corporation, unlike the Nacht group. Instead, the co-investors consisted of other families as well. Although the Lindberg Corporation was the biggest shareholder, the other shareholders were starting to become restless. They had been deliberately trying to set Danrique into more crises.

Although Danrique was powerful, he had his own weaknesses too...

"Wake up!" urged Zachary anxiously. "If the kids are with me, you can visit them anytime. Our doors are always open to you. Furthermore, Henry had left all of his assets to the kids. In the future..."

"That's enough!" Charlotte interrupted him and declared domineeringly, "I can't care less about the Nacht family's assets. I'm putting all my efforts into work so I can rise up the corporate ladder. In the future, I can leave an equally hefty inheritance for my children too!"

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Although their return to the Lindberg residence would also be fraught with dangers, Charlotte was determined to bring the kids with her.

She had already made up her mind. If they could no longer stay in the Lindberg residence, she could leave Erihal with the kids and start over a new life in a foreign place.

For these two years, Danrique had done a good job protecting her. Until now, she had not been involved in the conflicts between the families and corporations.

Hence, she could leave easily in the future.

"You're so stubborn..." Zachary was on the brink of fury. Just when he was about to continue persuading her, his phone rang and he immediately picked up the call. "Hello?"

"Mr. Zachary, Mr. Nacht can't hang in there anymore!" said Spencer anxiously. "Come back quickly!"

"What?" Although Zachary knew that Henry's condition was quite severe, he did not expect this moment to come so quickly. Panicking, he said, "I'll come back right now!"

"Wait." At that moment, Raina snatched the phone away. "Mr. Zachary, Henry wants to meet Ms. Lindberg before he goes."

"He wants to meet her?"

Zachary was surprised. Shouldn't Henry want to see the kids instead?

"Mr. Zachary, bring Ms. Lindberg and the kids over now. There's not much time left!" urged Spencer worriedly.

"Yeah, Mr. Zachary. Come back now!" added Raina.

Zachary ended the call and pleaded with Charlotte anxiously, "Henry would like to see you. He's already on the brink of death! Please, I'm begging you to bring the kids to the hospital. Let's talk about everything else later, okay?"

"No." Charlotte was very resolute. "Sign this contract and I'll bring the kids to the hospital. Otherwise, there's nothing for us to talk about."

"You..."

"Mommy..."

Just when both of them had reached a stalemate, Jamie's voice sounded from outside. "Can we enter?"

When Charlotte heard his voice, she quickly collected herself. She shot a glance at Zachary before opening the door. "Robbie, Jamie, Ellie, why are you here? Didn't I ask you to wait for me in the study room?"

Charlotte's voice became gentle whenever she talked to the kids. A warm smile had also spread across her cheeks.

"We were getting impatient from the wait..." Before Jamie could finish his sentence, he spotted Zachary and immediately ran over. "Daddy!"

"Jamie!" Zachary bent down and carried him up.

"Daddy..." Hugging his neck, Jamie burst into tears. "Daddy, what happened to you? What did you do to make Mommy angry? Apologize to her now! Otherwise, if she doesn't want you, we can't see you anymore."

When Zachary heard that, tears welled up in his eyes.

He hated himself for allowing things to lead to this. Why did I let my kids suffer with me? Despite being able to dominate the corporate world, why am I incapable of protecting my own family?

"Daddy..." Robbie tugged Zachary's pants and asked anxiously, "What happened? Tell me now! I'll solve it with you!"

"I just want our family to be together. I don't want us to be separated!"

Unable to hold herself back, Ellie, who was sitting in her wheelchair and hugging her stuffed toy, burst into tears.

Now that the children were all crying, Charlotte felt extremely flustered. She rushed forward to console them.

“Mommy, please forgive Daddy. I’m begging you!” Jamie tugged Charlotte’s sleeve and pleaded with her tearfully, “If Daddy bullies you again, I’ll beat him up for you.”

“Mommy, please...” begged Ellie as she pulled Charlotte’s hand.

“Don’t cry...” Zachary quickly squatted down and hugged Elle. Then, he told the three of them, “Robbie, Jamie, Ellie, Great-grandpa is critically ill. Before he passes away, he’d like to see you and your mommy. Let’s go to the hospital together, okay?”

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When Charlotte heard that, she gritted his teeth in fury. Damn you! If you ask the kids directly, they’ll definitely agree. In that case, I’ll be the bad person if I keep refusing.

“What happened to Great-grandpa?” As expected, the children asked anxiously, “Is he sick?”

“What does critically ill mean?” Only Robbie caught that keyword.

“It means that... he’s going to leave us forever,” revealed Zachary sadly. “We need to meet him at the hospital for the last time.”

“What?” Jamie was stunned. “Are you saying that Great-grandpa’s going to die?”

Ellie immediately burst into tears, feeling sad and fearful at the same time.

"Ellie..." Charlotte quickly hugged her and coaxed, "Don't be scared. I'm here for you!"

Ellie jumped into Charlotte's arms and wailed sorrowfully.

Meanwhile, Charlotte glared at Zachary furiously. He shouldn't have told that to the kids! He's making them so sad.

However, Zachary explained calmly, "Everyone will eventually die. Bad guys go to hell, while the good guys go to heaven. There's no need to feel sad because Great-grandpa will go to heaven. He'll protect you from there!"

"Since Great-grandpa's a good man, he'll go to heaven, right?" asked Jamie as he sobbed.

"Yeah." Zachary nodded.

Jamie threw himself into Zachary's arms and cried.

Hugging Jamie with one arm and Robbie with the other, Zachary consoled them gently, "Alright, we need to go to the hospital immediately!"

With that, he carried the two boys and was about to leave when Charlotte stopped him. She growled, "What are you doing? Have I agreed?"

"We can talk after coming back. Let's go to the hospital now!" Zachary frowned.

"Zachary, don't push your luck!" Charlotte was fuming.

"You should ask for the children's opinion!" Zachary asked the kids, "Robbie, Jamie, Ellie, are you willing to follow me to the hospital to visit Great-grandpa?"

"Yes!" The children nodded.

Rage surged through Charlotte. You are simply too despicable!

"Mommy, we'll come back after visiting him," said Robbie with reddened eyes.

"Mommy, just let us go!" pleaded Jamie as he sobbed.
"Great-grandpa is really nice to us and he's going to pass away soon. Just let us visit him!"

"Yeah, Mommy..." Ellie pleaded with her too. "I'm begging you!"

With the three kids begging her like that, Charlotte could not bear to refuse them. Hence, she had no choice but to nod in agreement.
"Fine, come back after a brief visit."

"Aren't you afraid that I won't return them afterward?" Zachary suddenly asked.

"How dare you?" Charlotte became furious immediately.

"Let's go together. You can bring the kids back after the visit, just in case you're worried." Zachary deliberately tried to provoke her.

Although she knew what his intentions were, she was still worried. If Zachary actually kept the kids from her and she had to forcefully snatch them back, the kids would end up getting hurt.

Upon that thought, she stated coldly, "Fine, I'll go."

"Prepare the car!"

"Yes, sir."

The five of them entered the car and headed to the hospital.

During the ride, the children were still sobbing sadly.

Zachary consoled them, "Great-grandpa is already ninety-eight years old. It's a blessing that he's lived to such a ripe old age. Hence, you should feel happy for him instead of crying! After all the kind deeds he has done, he'll go to heaven..."

Charlotte rolled her eyes when she heard that. Kind deeds? Due to Henry's stubbornness and insistence on getting his way, he had killed numerous people indirectly, including Mrs. Berry.

The reason why she had not been killed by Henry was because of her luck and the Lindberg family's protection.

Otherwise, she would have been dead a long time ago.

Consoled by Zachary's words, the children stopped crying and calmed down.

Ellie raised her head and asked innocently, "Will Great-grandpa meet Mrs. Berry in heaven?"

"Well..." Zachary was at a temporary loss for words. "Probably."

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chapter 1051

"It's better if they don't meet." Charlotte could not suppress her anger anymore.

"Why, Mommy?" Ellie looked at her nervously.

"Nothing." Not wanting to mention these nasty incidences in front of the kids, Charlotte hugged Ellie and consoled her gently, "Sleep for a little while, Ellie. We'll only reach the hospital half an hour later."

"Okay." Ellie drifted off to sleep in Charlotte's arms. She gripped Charlotte's shirt with one hand and Zachary's hand with the other, afraid that they would leave her.

When Zachary and Charlotte saw that, they glanced at each other subconsciously.

There was a complicated look in Zachary's eyes, but Charlotte turned her head around coldly and refused to look at him.

"Daddy, I want to sleep too." Jamie snuggled into Zachary's arms.

"Sleep, then." Hugging him, Zachary coaxed him to sleep.

Jamie fell asleep quickly and even snored.

"Robbie, you should sleep too," said Zachary.

"Mommy, Daddy, I'd like to talk to you."

Seeing that his younger siblings were already asleep, Robbie finally mustered his courage and asked.

"What do you want to talk about, Robbie?"

Charlotte felt sorry for Robbie. Ever since he was young, he was more mature than his peers and more thoughtful. While he was very intelligent, it was extremely tiring for him too.

"Are both of you going to be separated completely?" asked Robbie softly. "Is there no chance of a reconciliation?"

Zachary did not know how to respond to his question. He wanted to deny it and express his reluctance, but he knew that Charlotte's hatred for him could not be erased so quickly...

"Yes." On the other hand, Charlotte's reply was firm. "I know that my answer will make you sad, but I don't want to lie to you. I'll never reconcile with your father. However, regardless of our relationship, we'll love you all the same!"

"I understand..."

Robbie nodded. He wanted to put up a strong front, but tears still streamed down his cheeks.

"I'm sorry, Robbie..." Charlotte hugged him, her heart aching terribly.

"Mommy, you shouldn't feel sorry. Everyone has a right to choose the lives they wish to lead," reassured Robbie as he wiped his tears.

"However, I hope that you can let Ellie and Jamie make their own choices. They're not like me. As they're still emotionally immature, they don't understand a lot of things and can't adapt that well..."

As Robbie spoke, he was crying so badly that he could not speak anymore. No matter how much he pretended to be strong and sensible, he was only a six-year-old child.

Looking at Robbie, Zachary felt miserable. Guilt and sorrow engulfed him. He hated himself for being unable to control the situation and allowing things to lead this way...

When Charlotte heard Robbie's request, she hesitated. Actually, she knew that although Robbie would choose to follow her, Jamie and Ellie would most likely follow their father instead.

To both of them, Zachary was more interesting than her and knew how to interact with kids better. Furthermore, one would feel safer with him.

“Mommy, I’m begging you!” pleaded Robbie tearfully as he grabbed Charlotte’s hand.

Her heart ached terribly, for this was the first time she saw Robbie crying like that. She knew that he was the one who understood Jamie and Ellie the best, so he knew what they needed the most.

No matter how reluctant she was, Charlotte still nodded with tears in her eyes. “Okay, I promise you.”

Robbie threw himself into her arms and wailed. He knew that he would soon be separated from his father and siblings...

Perhaps because Jamie and Ellie could sense their brother’s sorrow, they woke up. When they saw Robbie sobbing, they immediately cried and asked, “What happened, Robbie?”

Wiping his tears away, he told them in a mature manner, “Jamie, Ellie, make your choices now. Do you want to be together with Mommy or Daddy? We need to choose now so we won’t have to be sad another time.”

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When Ellie heard that, she burst into tears and jumped into Charlotte’s arms, like a snail burying itself in its shell. It was as if by doing so, she would not need to confront the cruel choice she had to make.

Jamie’s tears streamed down his cheeks. However, instead of wailing like Ellie, he merely sobbed sadly.

“It’s fine, Robbie. You can choose later.” As Zachary could not bear to force the kids, he quickly said, “You can stay with Mommy for the time being! After I’m done dealing with work...”

"Let them choose now." On the other hand, Charlotte was very resolute. "I'm returning to Erihal three days later, so there's no time to consider. It's better to end things now than prolong our suffering!"

Zachary was stunned when he heard that. She's returning to Erihal! No wonder she's so determined. Looks like she really wants to cut off all ties with me...

"Mommy..." Pulling Charlotte's hand, Jamie cried sorrowfully, "Don't do this! I don't want you to separate. I want our family to be together!"

"It's impossible, Jamie." Although tears were welling up in her eyes, Charlotte insisted mercilessly, "Your father and I can never be together. You can only choose one of us!"

"No!" Jamie could not help but burst into tears again.

"Stop crying!" interrupted Robbie with a frown. "I'll choose first. I choose Mommy!"

He was very straightforward, without showing any signs of hesitation. However, he dared not look at Zachary.

When Zachary gazed at Robbie, there were no signs of blame or confusion in his eyes. Instead, all he felt was guilt and pity.

"Jamie, choose now!" Like an elder brother, Robbie ordered, "At the count of three, announce your choice."

He knew how to deal with Jamie and Ellie the best.

"No..." Jamie shook his head, feeling terrified and worried.

"One!" Robbie counted directly.

"No, don't make me choose! I won't choose anything!" wailed Jamie anxiously.

"Two!" Robbie ignored his emotions.

"No, Robbie!"

"Three!" Robbie called out. "If you don't choose, I'll assume that you're following Mommy."

"Daddy! I choose Daddy!" blurted Jamie.

After that, he glanced at Charlotte flusteredly. "I'm sorry, Mommy!"

Although she had already expected it, she could not help but feel an agonizing sense of disappointment. Squeezing out a smile, she reassured him gently, "It's fine, Jamie. You can stay with Daddy. I'll visit you frequently!"

Not daring to speak, Jamie stared at Robbie intently.

"Mommy's right." Robbie was very calm. "Regardless of who you choose, it's fine. We're just living in separate places! It won't affect our relationship."

"Yeah." Only then did Jamie felt relieved.

Ellie watched everything unfold in a daze. Her initial anxiety had faded significantly. Staring at Charlotte timidly, she looked like she had something she wanted to say, but dared not...

"It's your turn, Ellie." Robbie looked at her. "Do you choose Mommy or Daddy? Do you want me to count down?"

"I choose to stay with Daddy..."

Ellie's voice was extremely soft, but everyone heard her.

She lowered her head, not daring to look at Charlotte. Fiddling with her fingers, she said tearfully, "Mommy, I love you, but I don't want to go to Erihal. I want to stay in H City!"

"I understand."

Charlotte cupped Ellie's face and wiped her tears away, but she was crying herself too.

"It's fine. I'll leave Dr. Felch with you for your treatment. After you're cured, I'll come back and visit you."

"No!" interrupted Zachary quickly. "You're receiving treatment too, so you cannot be separated from Ellie."

He remembered that Dr. Felch had mentioned that Charlotte's treatment required three months. Furthermore, it could not be interrupted, for all the previous efforts would go to waste.

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"What should we do, then?"

Ellie panicked as she gazed at Zachary tearfully.

"Ellie..." Zachary hugged Ellie and comforted her gently, "Follow Mommy first. After you're done with your treatment, I'll pick you up!"

"You can let Dr. Felch treat Ellie first. I'll just continue with my treatment afterward."

When Charlotte saw how reluctant Ellie was to leave Zachary's side, she felt a bit upset.

"Dr. Felch said that your treatment must not be interrupted," said Zachary seriously. "This is not up for negotiation!"

Charlotte was stunned upon hearing that. An indescribable emotion surged through her...

"When I asked Dr. Felch earlier, he said that the treatment needs to last for three months. A month has passed, so there are two months remaining." Zachary counted the days. "After two months, I'll go to Erihal to fetch Ellie."

"Are you okay with that, Ellie?" Charlotte asked her.

"Yes." Ellie nodded. "It's more important that you receive your treatment, so I'll accompany you!"

"Good girl!" Charlotte was touched.

"That's settled, then," announced Zachary. "We must keep our promises!"

"I know." Although Charlotte felt reluctant to accept it, she had no choice but to respect the children's decisions.

At that moment, the car stopped outside Serene Hospital.

Outside, Ben announced softly, "Mr. Nacht's here!"

Zachary and Charlotte alighted the car with the kids.

They walked into the hospital, looking like a perfect family.

All the passers-by could not help but stop in their tracks and look at them.

The subordinates split into two neat rows, creating a path for them to walk.

Ben and Marino followed behind closely.

Marino asked softly, "They're such a compatible family, so why must they split up?"

"It's such a pity!" Ben could not help but exclaim. "If it weren't for those complex relationships and resentment intertwining them, they would probably be the happiest family in the world."

The family arrived at the special wards in the hospital.

Half an hour ago, Henry had been moved from the emergency room to a special ward.

Raina was waiting at the lift entrance anxiously. When the lift doors opened, she quickly welcomed them. "Mr. Zachary, Mr. Nacht is on the brink of death!"

“Great-grandpa...” Ellie was so scared that she wanted to cry.

“Don’t cry, Ellie. You’ll scare Great-grandpa!” Charlotte comforted her softly. “We must send him off nicely and let him go to heaven in peace!”

“Yeah.” Ellie quickly wiped her tears away.

Robbie and Jamie were also taking deep breaths to calm themselves down.

Feeling grateful, Zachary said sincerely, “Thank you.”

“I’m doing this for the kids.” Charlotte did not even want to spare a glance at him.

Naturally, Zachary knew that she was doing it for the kids. After all, this memory would be imprinted in their minds forever. Perhaps, even after they become adults, they would still remember this scene.

Hence, no matter how much Charlotte hated Henry, she would place her grudges aside and guide the children with kind intention.

Even that was very tough to ask of her.

Carrying the kids, Zachary was prepared to head into the adjacent room to change into the isolation gowns.

However, Raina said tearfully, “There’s no need to change your clothes, Mr. Zachary. Just go in directly!”

This meant that Henry was so critically ill that there was no chance of survival.

Frowning, Zachary entered while holding Robbie and Jamie’s hands.

“Wait!” Charlotte passed Ellie to him. “I’ll wait for you outside.”

“Let’s go in together. Grandpa wants to meet you.” Zachary looked at her in anticipation.

“Do you think that’s possible?”

Charlotte glared at him coldly. She was willing to place her grudges aside for the kids, but it was impossible for her to meet Henry.

“Okay, then...”

Unable to force her, Zachary had no choice but to enter with Ellie, Jamie and Robbie.

“Just hang in there for a while longer, Mr. Henry. Mr. Zachary and the kids will be here soon!” coaxed Spencer through tears as he held Henry’s hand.

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“Great-grandpa!”

Crying out loud, the kids pounced toward him.

Although they agreed not to cry, their tears still gushed out of their eyes upon seeing Henry.

However, remembering what Charlotte had told them, they immediately wiped their tears away and squeezed out a smile.

“We’re here to visit you, Great-grandpa!”

“I’m Robbie!”

“I’m Jamie!”

“And I’m Ellie!”

“Can you see us, Great-grandpa?”

The kids crowded around the bed and called out to Henry eagerly.

Henry opened his eyes slowly and looked at them through his blurry vision. With tears glistening in his eyes, he stretched out his frail hand, as if he wanted to say something to them.

“Great-grandpa...”

The kids walked over and placed their hands in his.

As Henry held their hands, tears rolled down his cheeks. With much difficulty, he opened his mouth and said in fragmented words, “R-Remember... your last name is Nacht... Y-You will... always be... the children of the Nacht family!”

Although his words were slurred, the children heard what he was saying.

Still crying, Jamie and Ellie glanced at Robbie in a fluster, not knowing how to respond.

With tears in his eyes, Robbie nodded and promised Henry solemnly, “Don’t worry, Great-grandpa. Our last name will always be Nacht. That will never change!”

Robbie knew what Henry was thinking about. He was afraid that if they left with Charlotte, they would change their last name to hers.

Although Robbie agreed to follow Charlotte, he had already made up his mind to keep his last name.

“Good!” repeated Henry.

He held the children’s hands tightly, unwilling to let go.

Staring at Zachary, he looked like he wanted to say something. However, he was struggling so much that he could not articulate a single word.

“Don’t worry, Grandpa. The kids won’t leave if I’m here.”

Zachary knew that Henry’s death wish was to let the children stay in the Nacht residence.

At this point in time, he had no choice but to say a white lie.

"She... she..." mumbled Henry.

Spencer quickly explained, "Mr. Nacht wants to meet Charlotte!"

"She's outside. I'll go and get her."

Although Zachary was not confident at all, he had to fulfill Henry's death wish.

Charlotte was replying to Morgan's message outside. Zachary walked out of the ward and whispered, "Grandpa wants to see you."

"We have nothing to talk about."

She did not wish to forgive Henry. The act of bringing the kids over to visit him and waiting there calmly was already a huge gesture of kindness.

She could not bring herself to visit her enemy, who had humiliated and harmed her multiple times.

"I'm begging you." Zachary walked to her front and pleaded softly, "He's about to die. His last wish is to see you, so please give him a chance to do so."

He had never begged someone like that before.

Still wearing the clothes from last night, he looked extremely haggard. His arm was still injured from her gunshot, with a bandage wrapped simply around his wound. Stubbles filled his chin, exhaustion was written all over his face and his eyes were bloodshot...

It was heartbreaking to see him like this.

Charlotte recalled what happened last night. Hatred still burned within her and her instinct was to refuse his request. However, when she raised her head and met Zachary's reddened eyes, her resolve wavered.

"You're so annoying!"

Although that was what she said, she still walked toward the ward.

Zachary rushed forward and opened the door for her.

In the ward, the kids were surrounding Henry and encouraging him.

"Great-grandpa, I was awarded two patents a few days ago! I've even brought the certificates over for you to see!"

"Great-grandpa, get well soon! You still need to play soccer with me."

"Great-grandpa, didn't you say that you'll bring me to M Nation to see the horses you've reared? I haven't even been there! You can't break your promise..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1055

Charlotte held a strong grudge against Henry since he was the one who had forced Zachary into submission and drove her apart from her children.

Had that not been the case, she wouldn't have been humiliated by others. At the same time, her daughter wouldn't have been poisoned, had Henry not fallen for Cynthia's words.

To make things worse, he continued siding with Zara and indirectly caused Zachary to point a gun at Charlotte. In short, he was the one bringing upon his own undoing.

Therefore, he couldn't blame others for his miserable life since those were the consequences of his decisions. He was about to pass on shortly after taking out his daughter.

With that being said, Charlotte's mind was all over the place when her children started weeping.

At the end of the day, as vicious as he might be, he had always been the three little ones' beloved great grandfather. Therefore, they shared great affection for him as well.

Zachary announced, "Grandpa, she's here."

Truth be told, Henry couldn't see those around him due to his blurred vision. Charlotte was merely just another silhouette in front of him.

He tried to open his mouth as if he had something to tell her, but none of them could hear him.

Zachary showed Charlotte the way to his grandfather. He leaned over and asked, "Grandpa, are you trying to say something?"

Henry narrowed his eyes to a slit and enunciated with all his might, "I-I am sorry."

Torrents of regret streamed down his cheeks as soon as he expressed his utmost apology towards Charlotte.

Similarly, Charlotte felt overwhelmed when she saw the dying man's tears. She stopped holding a grudge against him when she found out his dying wish was to beg for her forgiveness.

He might have reflected upon his actions and found out he was the one at fault during his final days.

The man, who had never begged for others' forgiveness throughout his life, expressed his utmost apologies for the things he did at the last moment of his life since he truly regretted his decisions.

Meanwhile, Charlotte remained silent throughout the session and looked at Henry in the eyes. Truth be told, she was just afraid of letting loose of her emotions.

"I-I am so sorry."

Shortly after he repeated himself for one last time, Henry closed his eyes and thought it was finally time for him to leave everything behind in the mundane world.

He had never expected Charlotte would forgive him. Nonetheless, he felt the need to make himself clear prior to leaving the world. It was just one of his attempts to make peace with himself.

Holding Henry's hand, Zachary yelled, "Grandpa! Stay with me, Grandpa! I'll go get the doctor at once!"

Zachary rushed out of the ward and yelled, "Doctor! Get me the doctor!"

The doctor rushed into the ward to check on Henry, but there wasn't anything they could do to turn the tables.

"My deepest condolences, Mr. Nacht! He has already passed on!"

"G-Great-grandpa! B-Boohoo!"

Charlotte stepped aside and had her eyes glued to the ones around Henry.

Zachary lowered his head as he stood next to Henry, weeping as he held his grandfather's hands for one last time.

Her children, including the most level-headed Robbie, surrounded their great-grandfather and bawled their eyes out.

Spencer leaned against the wheelchair and started weeping in silence. He just couldn't take it because the mainstay of his life had passed on.

Bruce, Ben, Cain, and Kyle, who were next to the rest, couldn't resist the urge to weep as well.

Charlotte was the only one who was calm and collected. Staring at the late Henry on the bed, she thought it was about time to move on.

The grudges she held against him seemed to have passed on along with Henry to the realm of the afterlife.

When she recalled Zara, Henry, and Cynthia were dead while Sharon had been thrown behind bars, she thought she had finally achieved her goals.

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chapter 1056

Instead of staying around to keep the rest company, Charlotte brought herself out after another few minutes.

Prior to her departure, Zachary stopped her and asked, "Can you allow them to stay with me for another few days? I'll send them back as soon as we're done with Grandpa's wake and funeral!"

Charlotte wasn't against the idea, but she warned the man, "That's fine with me, but you better not try anything silly!"

Zachary couldn't stand against the pent-up fatigue anymore, he assured Charlotte, "You have my words. I'll definitely honor my promise."

The woman wrapped up their conversation with a nod and brought herself out of the hospital since she had no intention to mourn with the rest.

Morgan couldn't move his eyes away from Charlotte throughout their way home. She asked, "Ms. Lindberg, are you okay?"

"I'm fine. Take me to Oakhill Mausoleum," Charlotte instructed in a callous tone.

It took Morgan a few seconds to grasp the situation. "H-Huh? O-Okay!"

That happened to be the resting ground of Richard and Mrs. Berry. She once swore to take out Zara and Sharon to avenge them.

It was time for her to share the great news with them since she had finally avenged them. With that being said, she wasn't thrilled at all. Instead, she felt lost and upset.

Charlotte showed up with a raincoat and made her way through the drizzle with two bouquets for her father and the woman she was forever indebted to for the rest of her life. She announced, "Dad, Mrs. Berry, I have finally avenged both of you! The two of you can finally rest in peace!"

Out of the blue, she thought her father must have kept her in the dark in fear of her seeking vengeance against those bringing upon his misfortune.

Similarly, Mrs. Berry urged her to stay alive at all costs during the last moments of her life.

It was evident they merely wanted her to live a happy and simple life instead of getting herself involved in another feud.

Sighing, Charlotte thought those weren't relevant anymore since she had avenged them. She also thought it was about time to leave the city that had brought upon her a fair share of joy and despair.

Morgan inched over and whispered, "Ms. Lindberg, Jade had just informed me of Sir Louis' arrival. I believe Mr. Lindberg has sent him to pick you up."

The moment she finished her sentence, Charlotte received a call. She picked it up and greeted the man on the other end, "Louis!"

"Charlotte, your brother has sent me to pick you up! Is it fine for me to drop by your place?"

"Sure! I'm currently on my way back! I'll see you in a while!"

"Alright, I'll see you then!" Louis was thrilled—he carried on with the conversation in a sprightly tone.

Charlotte was relatively calm since she knew she could turn him down if she was truly against the idea of marrying him.

As influential and as domineering Danrique might be, he had never forced her into submission.

I have no intention to get myself involved in another feud. Maybe I'll get to start all over again and live a peaceful life once I marry Louis.

After all, that man with a great personality is the perfect better half I can ever ask for. As a member of the royal family, he's highly regarded by the people of H Country.

He has never gotten himself involved in any form of conflict. Thus, I might get to live a peaceful life once I get married to him.

Charlotte was aware that Louis was the perfect candidate she could ever ask for. It was also one of Danrique's many attempts to ensure she could live a happy and carefree life. Hence, she hadn't turned him down.

On her way back to Roka Hill, she couldn't help but think of the good old days she had with Zachary. Nevertheless, she knew it was time to let bygones be bygones since things would never be the same.

Charlotte, it's time to move on since everything is over.

Meanwhile, Zachary, who couldn't stand the pent-up fatigue anymore, supported himself against the wall after sorting out the things for his late grandfather's wake and funeral.

His vision blurred the moment he tried to look ahead. He shook his head in an attempt to get rid of his blurred vision, but his effort was to no avail.

What's going on? Is something wrong with my eyes?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1057

"Mr. Nacht, countless journalists had surrounded the hospital in an attempt to get their hands on Mr. Henry's condition. I had sent someone to stop them from barging into the hospital, but they seemed to have figured out what's going on."

“Mr. Nacht, we have caught a few journalists sneaking their way into the hospital! Are we supposed to inform the person in charge of the hospital to barricade the hospital?”

“Mr. Nacht, Ellie is having another fever! Shall we send her to Ms. Lindberg’s place?”

Zachary had no time to spare himself. Shortly after he snapped out of confusion, he instructed, “Raina, send Ellie to Northridge at once! We can’t afford to put her life at stake!”

“Yes!”

“Bruce, send Robbie, Jamie, and Mr. Spencer home! Make sure to look after them and get them to have adequate rest!”

“Alright, I’ll get going at once!”

“Ben, announce the news of Grandpa’s passing! However, warn them to stop getting in the family’s way! Otherwise, we’ll press charges against them if they try anything silly!”

“Yes!”

As soon as he had everything sorted out, he made his way back to the company since he had to do something about the sudden dip in the company’s share price.

The stakeholders of Nacht Group were on their way to the hospital as soon as they heard of the bad news.

Johann and Lucy had been trying to get in touch with Zachary, but they just couldn’t reach him since he was occupied with the arrangements of his late grandfather’s wake and funeral.

Instead of tending to them, he gathered the legal team around to sort out the will of his late grandfather before making his way to meet the board of directors.

He had no time to take his condition into consideration because of the things he had on his plate. Since it merely lasted for a few seconds, he thought it wasn't a big deal and paid no heed to it.

Zachary thought it might be the aftermath of pulling a few all-nighters. After all, no ordinary person could stay awake for a few consecutive days without sleeping.

Meanwhile, shortly after Louis pulled over at the courtyard, Charlotte showed up.

"Charlotte!" The moment Charlotte looked in his direction, she saw the man greeting her with a bright grin as if he had been waiting for her.

"It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance again! Danrique wants us to make our way to Erihal in two days! I already have everything sorted out for the journey!"

Charlotte responded with a nod and suggested, "I'm sure you're exhausted after such a long journey. Why don't you go ahead and take a short break? I have quite a few things to sort out as well."

"Sure, I'll stop getting in your way. I'm sure you have a lot of things to sort out since we're leaving soon!"

"Lupine, please show Sir Louis the way to his room."

"Yes! Please come with me, Sir Louis!"

Once Lupine brought Louis and his subordinates upstairs, Charlotte made her way into the mansion and told Dr. Felch her upcoming plan. She made herself clear she needed him to go abroad with them since he was the only one Ellie could rely on.

Dr. Felch was against the idea of leaving, but he couldn't afford to leave Charlotte and Ellie when their lives were at stake.

On top of that, he was afraid they might not acquire the medical attention they needed since the conflicts between Nacht Group and Lindberg Corporation had gotten to the point of no return.

After much considerations, Dr. Felch nodded and assured, "I can't turn you down since you and your daughter's lives depend on me."

"Thank you so much, Dr. Felch!"

Charlotte was glad he wasn't against the idea of leaving with him. She couldn't imagine the things awaiting her had Dr. Felch turned her down instead of leaving with them.

Dr. Felch asked in return, 'When are we departing? I need to get everything ready as well.'

"We'll depart in another two days! I'll have everything sorted out soon! Thus, you don't have to worry!"

"I need to get a few herbs with me since I can't get them abroad. Since we're in such a hurry, I'll get Hayley and Sam to get everything ready."

"Alright, I'll get Morgan to help them out as well!"

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Charlotte instructed Morgan to assist Hayley and Sam to procure the herbs they might need.

Once she instructed Lupine to take over the project at South Sea, she made her way to Louis's room.

Louis had gotten himself changed into a casual set of loungewear. He was seated on the couch after he had his shower.

When Charlotte knocked on the door, he was in the middle of checking his email with a glass of wine. Thrilled by her presence, he put everything aside and asked, "Charlotte, are you done?"

Charlotte nodded and made her way into the man's room with some light refreshments. "Why don't you help yourself with these since we're still an hour away from dinner?"

"Thanks!" Louis thought of reciprocating her effort. He showed her a delicate-looking jewelry box and suggested, "I have something for you as well!"

"Is it another necklace?" Charlotte asked with a beam since he had bought her different types of necklaces. To be precise, he had bought her so many that she couldn't even store them in her jewelry box anymore.

Louis urged with a cheeky smile, "Yes! Hurry up and check it out!"

Charlotte wasn't particularly thrilled, but she was utterly dumbfounded the moment she saw the necklace.

I-Isn't this Mom's sapphire necklace? I sold this to someone else in exchange for food on the table when Dad passed on seven years ago! I can't believe I'm getting my hands on it again!

Zachary had always picked on me for being a fool when I told him I wasn't given much of a choice but to sell it off for the sake of our children!

"I have been searching high and low just to get my hands on this! In the end, I found it at an auction in F Nation! I guess fate must have brought it to me! It belongs to your late mother, doesn't it?" Louis shared the great news with a bright grin.

"How have you figured it out?" Charlotte was astonished as she couldn't recall sharing those with the man in front of her.

"I saw a photo of your mother standing next to Danrique with this necklace in his office and recalled Zachary acquiring a similar ruby necklace in the past. Danrique told me you sold the necklace of your late mother when you were in desperate need of cash back in the day. He had been searching for it as well."

Charlotte responded with a self-deprecating smirk and remarked, "It turns out he still cares about me, huh?"

Louis was slightly upset. He asked, "Huh? Aren't you supposed to compliment me for a job well done? After all, I was the one who had found the necklace!"

“Well, I guess you deserve a part of the credits as well! Thanks!”

“You’re welcome! It’s worth it as long as it puts a smile on you! Trust me, Charlotte! I’ll make you the happiest woman in the world!”

Charlotte went dead silent and stared at the necklace in front of her when she heard him. Her mind was all over the place since she didn’t know what to tell him.

Louis was equally anxious. He asked, “What’s wrong? Are you upset or something? Don’t you love me?”

Charlotte gave it a thought and asked, “Louis, are you aware of the past I had with Zachary?”

“I shared the sort of affection I had for you with him because I wasn’t! I got suspicious when he started showing up and continued getting in our way whenever we were out for a date! He even tried to drive us apart from one another! When your brother told me things would never work out between both of you, I finally figured out he was the father of your children! You’re not going to return to him, are you?”

Charlotte nodded and sighed. “I’m afraid that’s impossible since things will never work out between us.”

“Actually, Zachary was serious about you. He was at his worst when something happened to you two years ago. If it weren’t because of your children and his responsibilities as the person in charge of Nacht Group, he might not have made it—”

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Charlotte stopped Louis from finishing his sentence and remarked, “It’s time to let bygones be bygones since things won’t work out between us anymore.”

“It’s such a shame.” Louis made it sound he felt bad on her behalf, but his tone suggested otherwise.

Afraid of hurting the man, Charlotte added in a hushed voice, "With that being said, I merely consider you a friend of mine as well!"

To her surprise, Louis couldn't be bothered at all. He assured her, "It's fine as long as you're not against the idea of staying with me! We can take it easy and see if things work out in the near future! Things turn out just fine for my parents since they merely fell in love with one another only after they got married!"

"H-Huh?" Charlotte was at a loss for words to carry on with the conversation because she had heard of Louis's parents being a match made in heaven.

Their healthy relationship was the reason they had brought up such a remarkable son. Thus, she couldn't believe they weren't actually in love in the first place.

"I have told your brother to stop forcing you into submission. We'll just take it easy and see if we're meant for one another. When you think it's time to take our relationship to the next level, we'll consider getting married. With that being said, we can get married if you're keen. My parents are of the same idea. They thought of meeting your brother in person to sort out the details of the wedding ceremony—"

Knock! Knock! Someone knocked on the door and interrupted the duo's conversation.

"Yes?" Charlotte asked.

The maid gasped out her announcement, "Ms. Lindberg, Ms. Elisa has returned, but she's having a fever."

Charlotte brought herself out of Louis' room, Louis followed her.

Raina was seated on the couch with Ellie in between her arms. She assured the little girl, "It's going to be fine, Ellie! Your mother will join us soon!"

"Ellie!" Charlotte rushed down the stairs the moment she saw her weeping daughter.

The little girl sniffled and stretched her arms. "M-Mommy—"

Charlotte rushed over to Ellie's side and placed her hand on her daughter's forehead to check on the little girl's temperature, instructing the maid, "Go get Dr. Felch!"

"Yes!"

"I'm so sorry, Ms. Lindberg—it might have something to do with her wailing for such a long time. I dared not administer anything since she's currently under Dr. Felch's care."

"It's fine. I'm well aware of your concerns." Charlotte knew Raina must have tried her best to ensure Ellie's safety.

However, there wasn't anything much Raina could do since Ellie was currently under the care of Dr. Felch.

Dr. Felch marched out of the study and instructed, "Take her to the laboratory!"

Without a second thought, Charlotte rushed Ellie in the direction of the laboratory.

"Ms. Lindberg, I'll excuse myself." Raina made her way back shortly after she ensured the little girl was in good hands.

Dr. Felch ensured everything was fine and assured Charlotte, "She's not feeling well due to inflamed tonsils. Just take it easy since it's not a big deal. She's going to be fine in no time once she finishes the medicine."

Heaving a sigh of relief, Charlotte remarked, "I'm just glad she's fine!"

Dr. Felch looked at Louis and asked, "Who is this gentleman over here?"

Charlotte introduced them to one another, "Oh! This is Sir Louis! Louis, this is Dr. Felch!"

"Hello, Dr. Felch!" Louis greeted the doctor with a nod.

"Hello, Sir Louis! I'm impressed a foreigner can converse with us in our mother tongue without any issue!"

"Charlotte's has done a great job as my tutor." Louis turned around and greeted the little girl, "Hello, Ellie! Nice to meet you!"

Staring at the handsome man in front of her, the little girl responded with a frown and snuggled in her mother's arms.

The six-year-old little girl was conscious of the sort of relationship the man had with her mother. However, she would never acknowledge any other man apart from her father.

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Louis wasn't particularly irked. Instead, he responded with a courteous smile.

Charlotte tucked Ellie in after the little girl finished the doctor's medicine.

Once she made her way out of her daughter's room, she saw Louis was in the middle of a chess session with Dr. Felch.

Charlotte thought it wouldn't be an exaggeration to consider Dr. Felch everyone's sweetheart since he could get along with almost everyone.

Well, it's great they can easily get along with one another since we're going to spend the upcoming two months together.

Things were fine for the Lindberg family, but things were extremely chaotic for the Nacht family.

The news of Henry appointing his great-grandchildren as the inheritors of his will took the rest by surprise since no one could make use of his asset until the three little ones came of age.

Zachary was in dire straits due to the financial predicament of Nacht Group. To make things worse, Zachary couldn't rely on his grandfather's assets to resolve the issue since his children were the inheritors.

On the day Henry passed on, Zachary spent the entire day sorting out all sorts of arrangements. He took a short nap in the car on his way to the conference with the board of directors.

The members of the board of directors made their way there from all around the globe over the night. Similarly, Nacht Group's legal team had gathered around.

The conference lasted for four hours. In the end, Zachary proposed resolving the issue with his personal asset. On top of that, he would acquire a loan from the banks.

Along with two members of the board of directors, Johann assured Zachary he would support him the moment Zachary brought up the request to gather funds from them. However, some of them couldn't help but wonder about the identity of his children's mother.

They had heard rumors of the little ones' mother being a member of Lindberg Corporation. Thus, they were afraid it would be over for Nacht Group the moment Lindberg Corporation acquired ownership over the company.

After all, Lindberg Corporation was one of the most influential companies in the corporate world.

Zachary made himself clear those were none of their businesses.

"I think it's not necessary for me to share the details of my family with all of you. I'll try my best to resolve the financial predicament of the company. If any of you are willing to show me your support, I'll definitely return the favor in the future. It's not much of a big deal if any of you wish to sit this one out. Similarly, I won't stop those who wish to leave. That's all for today."

The attendees of the conference were at a loss for words as they were aware of Zachary's capabilities. On top of that, the

successors of Nacht Group were Zachary's children. Thus, they thought it wouldn't be wise to sit it out.

With that being said, they weren't sure if they were ready to put everything at stake for Nacht Group since there were so many variables associated with the financial predicament.

It would take more than a few billion to resolve the issue. Thus, apart from Johann and the two members, the rest remained silent instead of sharing their next best course of action with the rest.

In short, Zachary had to brace himself through the challenges awaiting him since others couldn't do much with their limited resources.

Johann couldn't figure out the rationale behind Henry's decision as it wouldn't make any sense for him to set aside his money for nothing when it could be the company's capital for reinvestments.

If his great-grandchildren are the appointed successors, there's nothing much they can do with the fortune he has left them! If Zachary can't brace himself through the financial predicament, how are they going to ensure the sustainability of the family?

On the other hand, Zachary was conscious those were merely part of his grandfather's plan to keep him on track. Otherwise, Zachary might stray from his path in life due to his strained relationship with Charlotte.

At the moment, Danrique had stopped coming after Nacht Group since he could focus on increasing the influence of Lindberg Corporation in different regions instead of wasting his time with them.

If that was the case, the day for the two families' showdown would be stalled for at least a few years since Lindberg Corporation couldn't do much to get rid of Nacht Group for the time being.

As much as Danrique wished to wipe Nacht Group out of existence, he would have to ensure he was a match for the company that had been around for decades.

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When something happened to Charlotte, Zachary almost fell into the vicious cycle of despair. Had it not been for his children, he might not be able to pull himself together.

Therefore, Henry appointed his great-grandchildren his successors instead of his grandson in an attempt to divert Zachary's attention.

Henry knew things would never be the same for Zachary and Charlotte. The best out of the worst possible outcome would be for the duo to part ways and stay away from one another.

In an attempt to keep Zachary going in life, Henry made a mess and brought upon the financial predicament for his grandson's sake.

Little did he know Zachary was about to face yet another crisis in life.

Shortly after he dismissed the rest, he returned to his office and staggered in front of Lucy when he was about to tell her the things she had to sort out with the legal team.

"M-Mr. Nacht!" Lucy shrieked in fear.

Ben rushed over to Zachary's side and stopped him from falling in the nick of time. "Mr. Nacht, are you fine?"

Zachary supported himself against the table. Massaging his swollen temples, he instructed in a callous tone, "I-I'm fine! Just leave me alone for a few minutes!"

"Let's go!" Ben repeated Zachary's instructions and beckoned the legal team and Lucy to make their way out of Zachary's office.

Ben was afraid something bad might happen to Zachary. "Are you fine? Why don't you take a short break? I'll go get you a glass of water!"

He brought Zachary to the couch and returned to with a glass of water.

Zachary tried to retrieve the glass of water, but he ended up dropping it due to his blurred vision. He tried rubbing his eyes to get rid of it, but Ben's silhouette was the only thing he could see.

"I'm sure you're just exhausted after staying awake for almost a week. It's time for you to have a break and put everything aside," Ben urged as he continued cleaning up the mess.

Zachary closed his eyes and took a short break for a few minutes. Once he opened his eyes, he found out he could see just fine again. Thus, he thought he must be exhausted.

Ben suggested when he saw Zachary's pale and haggard face, "You can't keep this up. It's time to call it a day and carry on with the session with the legal team tomorrow."

"Send me to Storm Hotel! I don't want to be home because there are even more things that require my attention!"

"Yes!"

Ben announced Zachary wouldn't be available for the upcoming eight hours. He knew it was about time for Zachary to have a sleep after staying awake for such a long time.

Lucy asked, "Is everything fine with Mr. Nacht? Has he fallen ill or something?"

"He's just exhausted after being awake for almost a week. As urgent as the issues awaiting him might be, it's time for him to take a break."

Prior to their departure, Ben instructed Lucy, "I'll take him to the hotel and leave the rest to you! We'll talk again in the morning!"

“Alright, just leave the rest to me!” Lucy nodded and assured Ben she had everything under control.

As soon as Ben brought Zachary away using the emergency exit, they made their way to the hotel.

On his way to the hotel, he found out there were a few journalists going after them. Irrked, Ben instructed Marino to shrug the journalists off.

The moment they reached the hotel, they found out there were journalists awaiting them as well. It turned out they had been waiting for Zachary ever since they last encountered him there.

In the end, Ben suggested, “Mr. Nacht, it’s not safe for us to make our way to Storm Hotel. Shall we return to Southridge?”

Zachary, who was about to fall asleep, responded with a nod since he was barely conscious.

Afraid of rousing the man from his sleep, Ben instructed Marino to send Zachary to Southridge as soon as possible.

The residency at Southridge had undergone a major renovation ever since they found out Cynthia’s vicious deeds.

No one was around ever since the day Henry passed on. Spencer and the children were at Henry’s Garden Villa. Thus, there were only a few maids around at Southridge.

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Those at the mansion walked out as soon as they heard someone closing in.

Marino stopped everyone from greeting Zachary and signaled them to remain silent in fear of rousing Zachary from his sleep.

Slouching against the backseat, Zachary slept like a log as the pent-up fatigue finally caught up to him.

Ben was reluctant to rouse the poor man from his sleep. Thus, Mrs. Rawlston whispered, "What's going on? What's wrong with Mr. Zachary?"

"He's just tired and in desperate need of sleep! Mrs. Rawlston, can you get his room and shower ready? It's about time for him to take a short break from everything!"

"Alright, I'll get going at once!"

Mrs. Rawlston marched in the direction of the living room and instructed the maids to make Zachary something to eat.

Zachary roused from his sleep the moment he heard the thunder. He opened his eyes and asked, "Is it about to rain?"

Ben answered in a hushed voice, "Yes, Mr. Nacht. Why don't you head into the mansion and take a bath? I have asked Mrs. Rawlston to get everything ready for you."

The exhausted Zachary murmured, "Make a trip to Northridge."

"H-Huh? I-It's—"

Zachary slapped himself in the face in an attempt to stop himself from sleeping. He blurted out the things in mind, "She's afraid of thunders the most. If I'm around, she's going to feel better."

"I-I—"

Zachary raised his volume and repeated himself, "Hurry up!"

After much hesitation, Ben leaned over and whispered, "If I'm not mistaken, Sir Louis is currently at Northridge as well."

The exhausted man couldn't believe his ears and gaped at Ben's announcement.

Ben suggested, "I'm afraid we can't even make it into the residency even if we make our way there. Since you're not feeling well, why don't you go ahead and take a short nap?"

Zachary went dead silent and alighted from the car, making his way back to the room he had spent countless days with Charlotte.

His mind was all over the place when he caught a glimpse of their photos in the room. Standing in front of the photos, he lost himself in a train of thought and continued recalling the good old times.

Mrs. Rawlston knocked on the door and made her way in with a meal. "Mr. Zachary, why don't you finish these? I have just made these for you! These have always been your childhood favorite!"

"Thanks." Zachary took a seat and started savoring the food Mrs. Rawlston made him.

Standing next to the exhausted man, Mrs. Rawlston couldn't resist the urge to weep and ended up sniffling next to Zachary.

Ironically, Zachary found her hilarious. Thus, he asked, "What's wrong? Why are you crying when everything's fine?"

Sniffing, Mrs. Rawlston muttered, "I'm just heartbroken because of the things you have to go through! I can't even imagine the amount of stress you have to deal with! It seems as if you have aged over the night when it has merely been a few days!"

Zachary caressed his cheek and murmured to himself, "Have I aged overnight?"

It was then Ben showed up and urged, "Mrs. Rawlston, why don't you return to your room and leave him alone for the time being? He has been staying awake for almost a week."

"Are you serious? How can you allow him to neglect his health? If one doesn't have enough sleep, it's going to take a toll on one's—"

When Mrs. Rawlston was about to nag Zachary, Ben stopped and assured her, "That's precisely the reason we need to leave him alone!"

It took Ben some good effort to persuade Mrs. Rawlston to leave Zachary alone. Once he returned, he assured Zachary, "You're not

supposed to take her words seriously since she has exaggerated things to intimidate you.”

“Well, maybe she’s not wrong because I can feel I’m no longer in my prime. I can’t believe it’s my turn to feel useless.”

“I’m sure you’re just exhausted! Shall I get Raina over to check on you?”

“That won’t be necessary since there’s nothing she can do when I’m merely exhausted.”

“Well, I guess you’re right. In fact, we need to get in touch with Dr. Felch if there’s anything wrong with you.”

After the countless incidents they had gone through, Ben couldn’t help but wonder if Raina could consider herself a qualified doctor.

When Zachary heard Ben mentioning Dr. Felch, he recalled the renowned doctor asking him if he had experienced anything odd with his eyes.

Is something wrong with my eyes?

Rumble!

Zachary was startled by the thunder. He turned around with his brows furrowed. Unable to keep his concerns to himself, he reached for his phone and tried calling Charlotte. To his dismay, he couldn’t get through since he had been blocked.

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Zachary put his phone aside and stared dead ahead in silence.

“Mr. Nacht, just take it easy! I’ll get in touch with them on your behalf!”

A few seconds after Ben tried calling Lupine, the woman on the other end of the call picked it up and asked in a petulant manner, "What do you want?"

"It's about to rain! Is Ms. Lindberg fine?"

"She's currently sleeping soundly after finishing the sleep-inducing tea Dr. Felch has made her. Not even the end of the world is capable of rousing her from sleep, let alone thunders. Has Mr. Nacht instructed you to check on her?"

Ben muttered in return, "Yes, he couldn't reach her since she had blocked him. Therefore—"

"Ms. Lindberg is doing fine! Thanks for asking, but it won't be necessary for you to call in the future!" Lupine hung up the call shortly after wrapping up the conversation.

Ben turned around with a sheepish grin and asked, "Have you heard her?"

"I guess I'm not needed," Zachary muttered to himself and strode in the direction of the bathroom.

Afraid something bad might happen to the exhausted man, he asked, "Are you sure you're fine? Shall I get someone to tend to you?"

"Get out of my sight!"

In spite of being reprimanded, Ben felt a sense of relief since Zachary still have the strength to pick on others.

Zachary got himself undressed and thought of indulging in a bath after a hectic week, but his nose started itching.

The moment he tried scratching his nose, he opened his eyes when he felt something gushing out of it.

He brought himself out of the bathtub and started checking on himself in the mirror. Gosh, I am bleeding...

His mind was all over the place since he had never experienced anything of that sort.

He once pulled several nights of all-nighters during Divine Corporation's initial public offering, but it wasn't as serious as such.

It's undeniably the most stressful and exhausting time of my life, but this is too much! Is it so serious? Charlotte experienced something similar when she was poisoned! Have I been poisoned as well?

Zachary's eyes flickered in despair when he thought that he had been poisoned, but that wasn't the case when he recalled he hadn't felt any pain apart from having blurred vision and a bleeding nose.

I have been pretty cautious all this while! The foods I consumed had been examined to ensure they were fine! In short, I don't think I have been poisoned!

When he lost himself in another train of thought, he heard his phone buzzing. Hence, he wrapped a towel around his waist and brought himself out of the bathroom.

Shortly after he picked up his phone, he heard his daughter addressing him, "Daddy!"

"Ellie, what's wrong? Are you not feeling well? Has something happened?"

"I can't fall asleep because I miss you. How are you, Daddy? Have you sorted out the things on your end?" Ellie sniffled and asked in a mellifluous tone.

"I'm fine, Ellie! You don't have to worry!" Zachary couldn't bear to share his actual condition with the heartwarming little girl on the other end of the call.

"Daddy, once I'm fine, are you going to take me home?"

"Of course, Ellie! I'll take you home as soon as you're fully recovered! As of now, just listen to Dr. Felch's instructions, okay?"

Sniffing, the little girl mentioned, "Alright, Daddy. Actually, I'm unwilling to leave Mommy, and Robbie is unwilling to leave you. However, we have come to terms and made up our minds to send Robbie away with Mommy if worse comes to worst. At the very least, Robbie can keep Mommy safe."

After pausing for a short while, the little girl added, "Similarly, Jamie and I will return to you to stop you from trying anything silly when Mommy's not around. Can you not blame Robbie for being naughty? He loves you as much as we do."

Zachary answered with his voice quivering against his will, "I'll never blame any of you! I'm well aware of the concerns and the things we're supposed to do!"

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"Daddy, ahem... ahem..." Ellie was afraid of exposing herself. Thus, she hid in the comforter and continued, "There's someone inside Mommy's room!"

Startled by the things his daughter brought up, he repeated after her, "What? Are you telling me they're spending time in her room?"

"Yes! Although he's quite a good-looking and friendly man, I don't want to be anywhere near him because he's not my father!"

The anxious Zachary repeated his question, "Ellie, are you sure they're currently in your mother's room?"

"Yes! He made his way to Mommy's room shortly after he got himself changed into a set of pajamas! Up until now, he hasn't made his way out yet!" Ellie hesitated before asking in a hushed voice, "I have read about a woman getting pregnant after spending a night with a man. Are we expecting another few siblings in a few months?"

"No! That won't be the case!"

“H-Huh?”

Out of nowhere, the man on the other end asked, “Ellie, do you want some of Mrs. Rawlston’s hot cross bunnies?”

“Yes! But I can’t get any of those since Mommy can’t really make it!”

Zachary wiped his hair dry and asked, “Shall I drop by with a few hot cross bunnies for you? Are you feeling sleepy?”

Thrilled by her father’s suggestion, she started jumping for joy. “No! I can’t wait to meet you, Daddy! When are you coming over?”

Upon a glance at the clock, he announced, “It’s currently eight-thirty—I’ll be there in thirty minutes at nine sharp!”

“Alright, I’ll be waiting for you, Daddy!”

Shortly after he hung up the call, Zachary instructed Ben to retrieve a few hot cross bunnies from the kitchen.

Concerned about Zachary’s condition, the confused Ben asked with a frown, “What are you trying to do with those when you’re supposed to be sleeping?”

Irked by Ben’s question, Zachary repeated himself, “Just get going and stop poking your nose into my business!”

After Ben returned with the hot cross bunnies, he asked, “Can you at least tell me where you’re going when it’s already getting late?”

Instead of telling Ben his upcoming destination, Zachary marched his way out of the mansion immediately after he got his hands on the keys.

Ben went quietly after Zachary since he was afraid something bad might happen to the exhausted man.

Zachary pulled over when he was about to reach Northridge. He alighted from his car and sneaked his way into the compound.

There were all sorts of security details around Lindberg residence to ensure the safety of the residents. Therefore, no ordinary man could sneak their way into the compound.

However, Zachary was no ordinary man. He sneaked into the attic and made his way into Ellie's room through the window.

Ellie, who was seated on her bed, held her stuffed alpaca firmly in her arms, awaiting the arrival of her father.

Ellie was startled when she heard some noise coming from the window. However, she was thrilled when she found out her father had made his way there.

She rushed in his direction and yelled, "Daddy!"

Holding her in his arms, Zachary placed his palm on Ellie's forehead, asking in a concerned tone, "Ellie, are you feeling better now?"

"I'm not entirely fine, but it's not much of a big deal. Where are my hot cross bunnies?"

Zachary handed over the little girl's craving he brought along with him to her. "Here you go! Go ahead and give it a try!"

"Thank you so much, Daddy! I'm so hungry since I merely have a serving of oatmeal for dinner!" She started chomping the buns her father brought her.

"Take it easy and stop stuffing the buns into your mouth. You're only allowed to have one since you're still not feeling well."

She responded with a nod, indicating she wasn't against the idea at all.

Zachary made her a glass of warm milk after he found the carton of milk in her room. "Here's a glass of milk for you if you need something to drink."

Ellie wrapped her arms around her father's neck and said, "Thanks, Daddy! Isn't it great if we're able to spend time as a family again?"

"I'm sure it won't take long until we get to spend time as a family of five again. Just give me some time. I'll make it happen soon."

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chapter 1065

Thrilled, the little girl asked, "Hooray! Are we finally living as a family of five once Mommy and I have fully recovered?"

Caressing the little girl's cheeks, the man urged, "I'll try to see if it's possible. Why don't you go ahead and tuck yourself in? I'll drop by and check on your mother."

Ellie was afraid the duo would engage themselves in another conflict. She grasped her father's hand and asked, "Can you promise me not to pick on Mommy?"

He kissed her on the cheek and assured her, "You need to calm down because I won't pick on her. Just go ahead and call it a day. I'll see you on day after tomorrow."

Ellie nodded and stared at her departing father with an aggrieved look as he sneaked his way out of the window again.

The ones stationed outside of the room heard the creaking sound of the window, but the moment they turned around, Zachary was nowhere to be seen anymore.

They thought they had been seeing things and paid no heed to it. After all, it wouldn't be much of a surprise for the windows to creak during such a heavy downpour.

Zachary, who had sneaked his way to Charlotte's balcony, could feel his heart racing, thinking he might go berserk if Louis was next to Charlotte in bed.

As soon as he picked the lock and sneaked his way into Charlotte's room, he saw Louis slouching against the couch with a scarf around him.

Meanwhile, Charlotte, who had put on a white nightgown, slept like a log on the bed. Her legs and bottom were exposed after tossing and turning in her sleep.

Zachary responded with a frown when he thought Louis must have seen the vulnerable side of Charlotte.

As Zachary marched in Charlotte's direction to tuck her in, Louis was almost roused from his sleep due to the commotion.

In an attempt to stop Louis, Zachary rushed over to Louis' side and launched a powerful strike on his neck to render him unconscious.

Thus, Louis passed out. In the nick of time, Zachary held him and stopped him from falling.

As jealous as Zachary might be, he knew Louis meant no harm. To be precise, Louis was merely there to keep Charlotte safe since she might be in great pain whenever there was a heavy downpour. Therefore, he had no intention of hurting Louis.

Once he had everything sorted out, he marched in the direction of the balcony to draw the curtain.

The ones outside of the residency caught a silhouette next to the window, but they paid no heed to it as they thought it was Louis.

Once Zachary locked the door from within, he removed his coat and joined Charlotte in bed, holding her in his arms.

Dr. Felch's sleep-inducing tea worked like a charm—Charlotte showed no signs of being roused from her sleep in spite of Zachary's actions. She ended up snuggling against the man in his arms.

Zachary looked at her in the eyes and kissed her on the forehead. He was overwhelmed by the challenges awaiting them and hoped things would turn out just fine at the end of the day.

With that being said, he needed to sleep more than ever after the hectic week he had. Once he set up an alarm to rouse himself from

sleep at five o'clock in the morning, he fell asleep next to Charlotte.

Louis, who had fallen asleep on the couch, wasn't aware his so-called fiancée was in the arms of another man in front of him.

Meanwhile, Lupine thought Dr. Felch's sleep-inducing tea was awesome since Charlotte remained asleep throughout the entire night of heavy downpour.

She heard the commotion but paid no heed to it. Prior to her departure, she instructed those stationed outside of the room, "I want all of you to be on the lookout for any form of suspicious activities. If there's any, inform me at once."

"Yes!"

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Unable to resist the pent-up fatigue any longer, Zachary had no intention to try anything silly even though Charlotte was in between his arms.

He fell asleep and slept like a log throughout the heavy downpour after being awake for almost a week.

It was the same for Charlotte—she felt a sense of security slouching in the arms of the man next to her. In spite of being unconscious, she could feel the man's warm embrace.

Soon, it was already five o'clock in the morning. Sebastian's vibrating watch roused him from his sleep.

He leaned over and kissed her on the forehead for one last time as soon as he snapped out of bewilderment.

As much as he was against the idea of leaving her alone with another man, he knew it was about time for him to leave.

When Zachary passed by Louis' side, he found out the unconscious man was about to regain consciousness.

He couldn't stand it when the thought of Louis spending some quality time with Charlotte as soon as he departed crossed his mind.

Therefore, he kissed Charlotte on the neck and left an eye-catching hickey on her neck in an attempt to stir things up between the duo.

Once he was done, he sneaked his way out of the balcony as it was about time for the bodyguards on shifts to take their time off.

Louis felt a racking sensation coming from his neck the moment he woke up. He sat upright and found out Charlotte was the only one in the room apart from him.

It hurts! What's wrong with my neck?

Charlotte turned around and exposed her legs as well as her bottom when Louis was still trying to figure out the reason his neck wouldn't stop aching.

He secretly gulped once he caught a glimpse of Charlotte. Afraid he might let loose of himself, he looked elsewhere and muttered to himself, "Shrug those dirty thoughts off your mind!"

Once he reached her side to tuck her in, he furrowed his brows in confusion since it seemed as if someone had been sleeping next to Charlotte.

What's this short hair over here? What's going on?

He inched over in an attempt to get a better look. It was then Charlotte roused from her sleep and looked at the man next to her in the eyes.

Louis exchanged glances with the woman and inched away from her in an attempt to prove himself innocent.

Charlotte brought herself up and announced with a frown, "I can't believe you're such a shameless man!"

"W-Wait! I-I haven't done anything! I was merely afraid you would catch a cold! The moment I reached your side, you—"

"What have you done when I was unconscious?" Charlotte confronted the man with a stern look.

"N-Nothing! I spent the night on the couch! What could I possibly have done? I'm just trying to tuck you in! You need to have faith in me!"

Charlotte rolled her eyes and answered, "Well, I guess you have a point. Thank you so much for looking after me throughout the night. It's time for you to take a break. I'll go ahead and take a shower to start my day. Join me for breakfast in a while."

"Sure!" The man heaved a sigh of relief when he found it was just a joke. He had never thought of trying anything silly, but he had the shock of his life.

Louis was about to leave shortly after he cleaned up the couch; suddenly, the woman in the bathroom shrieked, "Argh!"

Louis rushed into the bathroom and asked, "What's wrong? Is everything fine?"

"Louis, you're such a pretentious man! How can you take advantage of me when I'm unconscious?" Charlotte showed the man the hickey on her neck.

"I-I—Argh—"

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Louis rushed out of Charlotte's room in an aggrieved manner after being punched in the face. He felt a strong urge to cry since Charlotte accused him of something he had never done.

Astonished by the response of the dejected man, the confused Lupine asked, "S-Sir Louis, are you okay?"

"I-I didn't—" Louis couldn't even finish his sentence as he continued dashing in the direction of his room in an aggrieved manner.

The confused Lupine made her way into Charlotte's room and asked, "Ms. Lindberg, you're up so early today! Is everything fine throughout the night?"

"Yes, I have never felt so afresh over the past two years."

Charlotte brought herself out of the bathroom and stood in front of her wardrobe, trying to pick the proper outfit to start the day.

"That's good to know!" Unable to keep her curiosity to herself, Lupine queried, "What's wrong with Sir Louis? He returned to his room with his face buried in his hands when I was on my way to your room."

"It turns out he's a pretentious man—he took advantage of me when I was unconscious!" Charlotte got increasingly worked up when she recalled the incident she had gone through.

"H-Huh? What did he do?"

Charlotte rolled her eyes and warned, "You need to stop poking your nose into my business and get yourself ready to depart at eight o'clock. It's about time to deal with the project of South Sea."

"Yes!"

Shortly after Charlotte got herself changed, she made her way into Ellie's room and found out her daughter had long roused from her sleep.

Olivia started dolling the little girl up with the maids around to clean the little girl's room.

Marching into the room with a bright grin, Charlotte greeted her daughter, "Ellie!"

"Mommy!" the little girl responded in a mellifluous tone.

Seated next to her daughter in front of the dressing table, Charlotte asked in a gentle tone, "Why are you awake so early? Aren't you supposed to be sleeping?"

Staring at Charlotte in the eyes, Ellie requested, "Mommy, I wish to drop by Daddy's place to visit him and Robbie as well as Jamie in the evening! Is that fine?"

Charlotte was startled by Ellie's request since the little girl couldn't seem to get used to living apart from her siblings and father.

"I'm sure they're heartbroken since Great-grandpa has passed on! Mr. Spencer told me Great-grandpa's funeral would be held tomorrow, but I wish to be there to keep everyone company! "

Ellie's words made sense since it was the right thing to do as a member of the Nacht family. She added, "Dr. Felch told me I would be fine as long as my temperature remains normal throughout the day."

"If that's the case, we'll make our way to visit Robbie and Jamie in the evening once we ensure you're fine, okay?"

Ellie responded with a nod. "Alright, Mommy! Thank you so much!"

Her mother kissed her on the forehead and said, "Once you're done, head downstairs and join me for breakfast with Olivia."

"Mmm!"

Ellie couldn't wait to join her mother for breakfast—she sat upright and allowed Olivia to doll her up.

When Charlotte was about to walk out of her daughter's room, the maid asked, "What's with these buns over here? They are all squashed!"

The maid's partner warned her, "Shh! It might be something Ms. Elisa had put aside just in case she was hungry in the middle of the night! We'll just clean up the mess!"

The questioning maid thought that must be the case. Thus, she nodded and started cleaning up the mess.

Charlotte thought it wasn't a big deal, but she urged her daughter, "Ellie, if you're hungry, finish the food on the table instead of in the bed."

The guilty little girl stammered, "Y-Yes, Mommy!"

Once the maid got rid of the squashed buns, they were about to make the little's girl bed.

It was then, Charlotte found out those weren't ordinary buns—those were hot cross bunnies she hadn't bought her daughter.

What's with the hot cross bunnies? I don't recall purchasing anything of that sort! On top of that, none of us can make those! Could it be—

She snapped out of her process of thoughts and asked, "Are those hot cross bunnies?"

Instead of answering her mother's query, Ellie looked elsewhere to avoid eye contact with Charlotte. She secretly grasped the hems of her shirt in silence.

Olivia couldn't care less. Thus, she asked, "Well, since those have been squashed-up, we can't really tell, but it doesn't really matter, does it?"

"Well, I guess you have a point." Charlotte played along with Olivia, but she was certain someone had dropped by their place in the middle of the night.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1068

"It's better to close the window to prevent any of you catching a cold!"

Charlotte brought herself to the window in an attempt to verify her speculations. Unfortunately, she couldn't find anything so she couldn't tell if someone was there due to the heavy downfall.

On top of that, she was certain Zachary would wipe his traces off on his way out of her place since he was such a detail-oriented man.

"Just leave the rest to me, Ms. Lindberg!" The maid volunteered herself and started wiping the window clean.

"Get the sheets changed as well!" Immediately after she delivered her instructions, she returned to her room to verify her speculations.

It was then she found a short strand of hair with a different color on her bed and verified someone had sneaked into her place in the middle of the night.

Louis has blonde hair! In other words, this belongs to someone else! Needless to say, he was the only one who would try something as silly as such!

Suddenly, the maid knocked on the door and announced, "Ms. Lindberg, breakfast is ready. Ms. Elisa is waiting for you to join her in the dining hall."

"I'll be there in a short while." Charlotte made her way out of the room as soon as she gathered her thoughts.

On her way down the stairs, she encountered the aggrieved Louis walking out of his room. He brought himself to a halt and muttered, "C-Charlotte, I didn't—"

Charlotte was slightly guilty as it was written all over her face. She finished, "It's fine! I was the one who had accused you of something you never did! You have my apologies!"

"Are you indicating you no longer think I'm the one at fault? Actually, I spent the night on the couch until you were about to wake up. I merely wanted to put the blanket over you because I was afraid you would catch a cold. It was never my intention to take advantage of you!"

"Alright, you need to stop explaining yourself since I'm aware that I have misunderstood you. Allow me to express my utmost apologies for jumping to conclusions without checking the situation."

"That won't be necessary as long as you're aware I'm not a pretentious man! Speaking of which, what's with the bruise on your neck?"

Startled, Charlotte gasped out her reply, "I-It might be the mosquito's doings!"

"H-Huh? Are you serious? What sort of mosquito is capable of that?"

"I-It might have been the result of me constantly scratching it! Shall we head downstairs and join the rest for breakfast?" Charlotte brought up something else to divert the man's attention.

Louis promised Charlotte in a serious manner, "If that's the case, I need to take out the mosquitos getting in the way of your sleep to stop them from annoying you in the night!"

Charlotte rolled her eyes and asked, "Aren't you aware we can always get the pest control experts over for the job?"

"You're right!"

"Well, why don't you go ahead to have something good to start the day?"

"What about you? Aren't you joining us for breakfast?"

"I'm in quite a hurry since I have a certain something I have to deal with in a timely manner!"

"I'll tag along with you!"

"Since it's an official duty of mine, I don't think that's appropriate."

"O-Okay."

Charlotte had something simple and departed after joining the rest in the dining hall for a few minutes. Prior to her departure, she reminded her daughter to finish her medicine on time and told the little girl she would be back in the evening to check on her.

Ellie assured her mother she would finish everything on time since she couldn't wait to go out and about after spending such a long time in isolation.

Charlotte thought of sorting out the issues bothering her once and for all as they would make their way to Erihal within twenty-four hours. The truth was she had no intention to return to H City in the future.

When Charlotte was on the way down Rokan Hill, Morgan was astonished by the presence of a black Rolls-Royce Phantom passing by their car.

She asked, "Aren't they supposed to be at the hospital? What are they doing here?"

Lupine answered nonchalantly, "Maybe they're here for something? If my eyes hadn't failed me, I saw Mr. Nacht in the car."

Out of the blue, Charlotte instructed, "Go after them!"

"Y-Yes!" Morgan accelerated the car in the direction of the black Rolls-Royce Phantom.

Upon a simple glimpse through the rearview mirror, Marino murmured, "T-They're coming after us, Mr. Nacht!"

As things have gotten to the point of no return between the Nacht family and the Lindberg family due to Mr. Nacht's aunt, Morgan has stopped answering my calls and texts.

"M-Mr. Nacht, have you—" Ben stuttered since he was afraid of poking his nose into Zachary's businesses.

"Pull over at the nearby bus station." Zachary thought Charlotte must have figured out he was there for the night.

However, he thought it wasn't much of a big deal since it was only a matter of time until he had to bear the consequences of his actions.

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As Zachary remained seated in the car while Charlotte stomped her way in their direction. Ben alighted from the car and greeted, "Ms. Lindberg!"

"Get out of the car!" Charlotte launched a powerful kick in the direction of the door.

Zachary wound down the window and looked at her in the eyes, asking gently, "Why are you getting all worked up early in the morning?"

"Zachary, if you try anything silly and sneak into my place again in the future, I'll stop holding back against you and break your leg the moment I see you."

Zachary started playing dumb and asked with an innocent front, "What sort of silly things are you talking about? Are you sure you're not accusing me?"

“You—” She couldn’t bring herself to list out the stupid things the man did when she found out there were quite a lot of people around them.

He continued playing the victim and asked, “See? Are you sure you’re not accusing me? How am I supposed to sneak my way into your place when I was occupied with all sorts of things over the past week? On top of that, how could I get in when the security in your place is so tight.”

“Stop playing the victim! I’m warning you to stop repeating something similar in the future! Otherwise, I won’t let you off the hook anymore!”

Once she finished her sentence, she returned to her car, leaving her confused subordinates behind.

Meanwhile, Ben, who was well aware of the things going on, looked at Zachary quietly.

When Marino saw the silver Rolls-Royce whizzing through the isolated street in the residential area, he sighed, “It has been such a long time since our last meeting, but Morgan doesn’t even want to greet me—she merely stares at me.”

“You need to consider yourself lucky because mine doesn’t even bother to look at me,” Ben remarked in a sarcastic manner.

“It’s time to go!” Zachary repeated himself.

“Yes!” Marino started accelerating the car in an attempt to reach the silver Rolls-Royce ahead of them just to steal another glance at Morgan.

“Mr. Nacht, have you sneaked your way into Northridge and spent a night there?” Ben asked in an attempt to figure out the truth.

“Why are you asking the obvious?” Zachary rolled his eyes.

“You’re awesome! How was that possible when you were exhausted? Most importantly, why weren’t you busted by anyone?”

"What's with the compliments? Are you trying to pick up the skills or something?"

"N-No, I'm afraid that's impossible since I'm not a match for you in terms of skills."

"See? Just forget about it and stop asking the obvious." Zachary closed his eyes to take another short nap.

"I'm impressed! You're really something!" Ben repeated himself.

Marino couldn't resist the urge to compliment Zachary. He mentioned, "You're right! He's definitely something else since he can think of countless extraordinary things to achieve his goals!"

"Shh! Just keep your eyes on the road!"

"Alright!"

Meanwhile, Charlotte's angst was written all over her scrunched-up face.

Lupine asked, "Ms. Lindberg, has Mr. Nacht sneaked his way into Northridge last night?"

Morgan asked with her eyes widened in disbelief, "Are you serious? Why haven't I heard of anything from those on duty last night?"

The irked Charlotte remarked, "There was no way he would allow others to figure out he was there! I guess it's time to hire another capable bunch to be on the lookout against someone as capable as him!"

Confused, Lupine asked, "What brought him there when there was such a heavy downpour? Was there something wrong?"

Once Morgan recalled the maid mentioning the presence of buns similar to hot cross bunnies in Ellie's room, she asked, "Was he there to deliver Ms. Elisa a few hot cross bunnies?"

"He—" Charlotte was about to tell them the truth, but she stopped herself in the nick of time since she didn't want to embarrass herself in front of others.

After all, Zachary spent a night next to her without others' being aware. To make things worse, he left an eye-catching hickey on her neck.

"He was there to deliver Ellie a few hot cross bunnies! He meant no harm, but he wasn't supposed to come and leave as he wished since it was someone else's home!" Charlotte made something up to deceive the curious Lupine.

"As condemnable as his actions might be, those were the things making him a great father—he made time for his daughter and brought her buns when he had all sorts of things on his plate. I heard he had been staying awake for almost a week to sort out the mess in Nacht Group."

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Morgan, who was of the same thought, repeated after Lupine, "It's undeniable that he's an exceptional father."

Charlotte was rendered speechless by the duo since she couldn't share the truth with them. She had no choice but to suffer in silence.

Meanwhile, Zachary had a great time making fun of Charlotte.

Out of nowhere, Ben mentioned, "If I'm not mistaken, they're going to make their way to Erihal at three o'clock tomorrow."

The trio in the car went dead silent since they were certain Charlotte was about to leave for good.

"Mr. Nacht, haven't you thought of anything to stop them? Can you get Ms. Lindberg to stay here?" Marino brought up an absurd request out of nowhere.

"I wish she's going to change her mind and stay here, but—"

Halfway through his sentence, Zachary paused. He was of the same idea, but he couldn't do anything to change her mind.

Unfortunately, there's nothing I can do to change her mind as of now.

Ben begged to differ. He said, "Things had gotten to the point of no return because of Mr. Nacht's aunt. I think it's great for them to leave and take a breather for the time being. If there's something you wish to do, I think it's better to put everything into action two months later when we go over to pick up Ellie."

"Well, let's hope things turn out just fine at the end of the day."

Zachary had long thought of the things Ben brought up. That was precisely the reason he sent Ellie Charlotte's way and insisted on having their daughter make the trip to Erihal.

I'll definitely sort everything out within two months! Hopefully, she's going to figure out it's not easy for her to start all over again as a member of the Lindberg family!

Marino let out a long sigh of despair, but he dared not share his concerns with others as much as he was against the idea of sending them off.

"Hurry up!" Zachary urged upon another glimpse at his watch. Since it was Henry's funeral, there were a lot of things that would require his attention.

"Yes!"

Charlotte, who had made her way to deal with the person in charge of the project, had to postpone her plan as most of them had made their way to Henry's funeral.

As infuriated as she might be, she knew it wouldn't be wise to make a fuss out of it since it was someone else's funeral.

When she was about to return, she received a call from Danrique. Once she picked it up, she greeted the man, "Danrique!"

"I want you to show up for Mr. Nacht's funeral!"

"H-Huh?" Charlotte thought she had been hearing things since Danrique held a strong grudge against Henry.

Why does Danrique want me to be there when he's not even on good terms with him? He might have passed on, but there's no way Danrique's going to forgive him!

Danrique repeated himself when Charlotte was in a state of bewilderment, "I have everything ready on our behalf."

"Danrique, what exactly are you up to?" Charlotte asked in an attempt to figure out the things Danrique had in store for Henry.

"What? Are you afraid?"

Charlotte was at a loss for words when she heard Danrique's question. In spite of the grudges she held against Henry, she thought it was time to let bygones be bygones.

She was afraid Danrique would make a scene during Henry's funeral. At the end of the day, he was her children's great-grandfather. Since her children would be there as well, she didn't want to get them involved in the family feud.

"Just listen to me!" Danrique hung up the call once he made himself clear she had no choice but to do as instructed.

Grasping her phone with all her might, Charlotte started frowning in fear of the things awaiting the members of the Nacht family.

It was then Lupine received a call and announced shortly after she wrapped up the conversation, "Mr. Lindberg has instructed his men to get everything ready on our behalf. He wants us to meet him at five o'clock."

"Alright."

Lupine asserted in a hushed voice, "You need to take it easy since I don't think he's going to try anything reckless. Perhaps he's just trying to show the guests the person in charge of Lindberg Corporation is a forgiving man."

Charlotte instructed, "I want you to get me the guest list of the funeral. Try to figure out if any journalist is allowed to be there."

"Yes!" Lupine made a few calls to figure out the potential guests showing up for Henry's funeral.

In the meantime, Morgan asked, "Where are we heading now?"

"We'll make our way back for the time being," Charlotte answered with her face puckered.

"Alright." Morgan took note of Charlotte's instructions and drove in the direction of Rokan Hill.

As soon as Lupine found out the potential guests, she announced, "Ms. Lindberg, the officials of the city, and the stakeholders of Nacht Group will be showing up. On top of that, the late Mr. Nacht's friends, including the corporate players and politicians, will be there as well. However, no journalists are allowed inside the hall."

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chapter 1071

Charlotte did not ask any question further as she lowered her head and pondered.

By the time she reached home, Ellie was having lunch at the dining table. The latter ran toward Charlotte when she saw her back. "Mommy, why are you back so early?"

"I can't carry on my errand, for now, so I came back early." Charlotte caressed Ellie's forehead. "Good. It seems like you don't have fever anymore."

"Yeah, Dr. Felch said I've recovered," Ellie responded right away. "I have had no fever for the whole day."

"Good to hear that." Charlotte carried Ellie back to the dining table.

Dr. Felch smiled at Charlotte. "Ellie's condition is stable now. Just be careful for two more days."

"Thanks, Dr. Felch." Charlotte placed Ellie on her chair. "Ellie, be good and eat your food."

"Mommy, so tonight, can I go over to Daddy's?" Ellie cast a glance at her, full of anticipation.

"Sure." Charlotte did not want to back on her promise. "But you'll have to go over a bit later. Daddy's usually busy around dinner time. After he's free, I'll arrange for a driver to send you there, okay?"

"Okay." Ellie nodded obediently.

"Good girl. Then eat your lunch now and take a nap later. After you wake up, do your rehab. You may watch cartoons for a while after that. Then it'll be about time."

"All right."

After settling down Ellie, Charlotte greeted Dr. Felch and headed to the study room.

She wanted to sort out the documents for the South Sea project, as she planned to bring them over tonight.

Since everyone would be at the funeral, she planned to get their signatures there. Then, she could put the whole matter to an end.

Lupine was there to help her out, and both of them knuckled off until around four in the afternoon.

Just then, Lupine's alarm sounded, and she reminded Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg. It's time to get changed. We should go."

"Okay." Charlotte nodded and stood up after settling the last piece of documents. "Bring all the documents with you."

"Got it." Lupine got right into it.

Charlotte came to Ellie's room to check on her the next moment. The latter was still napping while Olivia was reading books beside her.

Upon seeing Charlotte, Olivia immediately stood up. "Charlotte, is there anything?"

"I'm heading out now." Charlotte took a glance at the clock. "I'll send someone to pick you and Ellie up around eight."

"Okay. I got it." Olivia nodded slightly upon hearing that.

"It's windy tonight, probably going to rain. Please make sure Ellie puts on more clothes. You should wear a jacket too." Charlotte patted Olivia's shoulder.

"Got it." Olivia let out a smile. "Please focus on your work. Don't worry and leave the rest to me."

"Okay." Charlotte nodded faintly. Before she turned to leave, she suddenly recalled something. "Did you make up your mind already?"

Are you sure you're going to follow me to Erihal? I won't be coming back here once I leave this time."

"I've thought it through." Olivia sounded utterly firm. "I have no ties here, and I've got no purpose in life. I should go with you."

"How about Peter? Isn't he your ties?" Charlotte asked in a low voice.

Olivia's expression changed instantly upon hearing that. "Why do you mention him out of nowhere?"

"I know that you have feelings for him." Charlotte had realized that a long time ago. "It's such a pity that he's a playboy, and he can't give you happiness. But there's no right or wrong in a relationship. If you like him, you should give it a shot."

"It's impossible between us." Olivia lowered her head. "All I wish for now is to leave this place with you and have a fresh start."

"All right then." Charlotte did not further advise her upon hearing her response. "After we get to Erihal, let's make a new plan for your future. Whether you want to further your study, or you want to find a boyfriend, I'll arrange for you."

"Thanks, Charlotte!" Olivia could not suppress her gratitude enough. "You're so kind to me!"

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"Silly girl! You're family. You don't have to thank me!"

Charlotte patted Olivia's shoulder, and then she turned and left.

Staring at Charlotte's disappearing back figure, Olivia displayed a complicated expression.

When Charlotte touched the doorknob and was about to leave, Olivia suddenly shouted, "Charlotte!"

"Yes?" Charlotte turned around with a confused look. "What's up?"

"It's windy out there. Remember to put on an extra piece of clothes," Olivia reminded with a soft voice.

"I got it," Charlotte responded with a smile and left after that.

Staring at the closed door, Olivia lowered her head despondently.

At that moment, she fell deep in sorrow. As she glanced toward Ellie, who was still in bed, her gaze turned utterly complicated.

Getting back to her room, Charlotte put on slight makeup and got changed into a black dress. Then, she headed out with her subordinates.

Before leaving, she instructed the subordinates at home to keep an eye on everyone's safety.

All the subordinates nodded with utter obedience.

After getting into the car, Morgan asked suddenly, "Why don't we bring Ms. Elisa with us now?"

"Of course not! If we bring her along now, how are we supposed to settle our business?" Lupine rolled her eyes toward Morgan.

"Mr. Lindberg's men are waiting at the foot of the mountain, and they are probably going to create a fuss. It will be troublesome if Ms. Elisa tags along."

"I see. You're right." Morgan came to the realization. "But if things get out of hand, it would be inappropriate to send Ms. Elisa to his place later, though. How about we just keep her at home?"

"That's unlikely." Lupine analyzed rationally. "I guess Mr. Lindberg merely wants to display the influence and the power of Lindberg Corporation. And he wants the person in charge of the South Sea project to sign the documents."

"I suppose so." Charlotte nodded slightly. "No matter how Danrique dislike the Nacht family, he won't create trouble at a funeral!"

"Good to hear that." Morgan let out a sigh of relief while she started the car and drove off.

By then, around eight cars had been waiting under the mountain. All of them were wearing black. They even switched from their usual silver cars to black cars.

Charlotte furrowed her brows upon seeing such a large group of people. "It seems like Danrique wants to intimidate the Nacht family!"

"What should we do?" Lupine asked in a low voice.

"What else? We stick to our plan."

Charlotte got out of the car and greeted Danrique's men. Then, they followed the convoy and headed toward Garden Villa of the Nacht residence.

Morgan expressed her confusion on the road. "Lupine, what does it mean by, to intimidate the Nacht family?"

"After what happened to the South Sea project, and since we're going to retreat from H City, people might think we're afraid of the Nacht family," Lupine explained.

"I got it." Morgan started to comprehend the situation. "So Mr. Lindberg's gesture is to tell the world that the Lindberg family is not afraid of the Nacht family. We merely don't want to play the game anymore."

"Finally you understand it." Lupine let out a smile.

"You should learn more from Lupine. If not, based on your level of intelligence, you might suffer sooner or later," Charlotte reminded sternly.

"Got it." Morgan bit her lips, not daring to voice out her questions again.

Lupine was gloating within upon hearing that. Just when she was about to talk about the documents with Charlotte, her phone rang suddenly. "Hello!"

Lupine's expression darkened as she listened to the phone. A moment later, she uttered anxiously, "Ms. Lindberg, I've just got the news that Sharon escaped from prison!"

"What?" Charlotte's heart fell with a thud. "Isn't she being locked up? How could she possibly escape?"

"Since the hearing has not yet started, she has been kept in the detention center. Today she suddenly became ill and got sent to the hospital. She grabbed the opportunity and escaped from the hospital," Lupine explained.

"Stop the car in front," Charlotte commanded abruptly. "Send your men to search Sharon!"

"Yes!"

With that, Morgan stopped the car by the road. Then, Lupine got into another vehicle with her subordinates and headed off to look for Sharon.

Lupine was well aware of how important Sharon was to Charlotte. After all, Sharon was the person who humiliated her and murdered Mrs. Berry in cold blood.

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Staring at the dark sky outside, Charlotte got overwhelmed with uneasiness. She felt as though something terrible would always happen on a rainy day.

She feared the whole thing might fail in the end.

"Ms. Lindberg, you don't have to worry." Meanwhile, Morgan was not bothered at all. "Taylor is already arrested, while Cynthia and Zara are dead. Sharon won't be able to make waves by herself."

"I bet you're right." Charlotte nodded in agreement. Sharon is the only one left in the Blackwood family. I doubt if she would be able to make a difference.

However, Charlotte still could not help but worry as she deliberately made a call to Olivia. "Olivia, please be extra careful when you leave the house later. Please wait for my men to pick you up. Don't leave alone, understand?"

"Understood. Don't worry." Olivia hesitated before she spoke again, "Did something happen?"

"Nothing..." Charlotte did not want to startle her. "Make sure you keep Ellie company. I'll call you again later."

"Okay."

Hanging up the phone, Charlotte looked out of the car again. By then, they had entered the path inside the Garden Villa. Soon, they would be arriving at the Nacht residence.

Sharon should be alone now. After she has escaped, the only place she can go is the airport. Even though the Synder Group is gone now, she should be able to get her hand on some money. I bet she will try to buy a fake passport and a flight ticket to leave H City. Nonetheless, how did she manage to escape by herself?

Charlotte could not wrap her head around it.

"Ms. Lindberg, we're there!" Just then, Morgan reminded her.

Only then did Charlotte come back to her senses and realize the car had stopped moving. The next moment, two bodyguards opened the car door from outside.

Charlotte put on her sunglasses and walked out of the car. She entered the place triumphantly, with eighteen subordinates following her.

All the journalists who had been waiting outside immediately surrounded them. The bodyguards of the Nacht residence swiftly

went to control the scene as those journalists almost messed up the barricades.

Bruce appeared abruptly and greeted them with a troubled look. "Ms. Lindberg, why are you here?"

"To pay my last respect to Mr. Henry."

Charlotte made a gesture, and Danrique's men immediately brought forward the wreaths and the condolences stand.

A long eulogy was written on the wreath, signed by Danrique and Charlotte.

Those journalists acted as though they had discovered a new piece of news. They rushed one after another to capture the big moment.

Bruce whispered into his subordinate's ear as he blocked Charlotte's way. "I'm sorry, Ms. Lindberg. But I'll have to get Mr. Zachary's permission before I can let you in."

"Are you trying to feed more news to the journalists?" Charlotte's lips curled into a smile. "I don't mind it."

Meanwhile, all the journalists were still taking photos endlessly while casting questions toward Charlotte.

"Ms. Lindberg, are you here to attend Mr. Nacht's funeral?"

"Ms. Lindberg, there's a rumor that says that Mr. Nacht's death is related to you. Can you confirm that?"

"Ms. Lindberg, there's a rumor saying that Mr. Zachary's children are yours. Is that true?"

"Ms. Lindberg..."

Upon seeing that scene, Bruce immediately commanded his subordinates to chase those journalists away.

Some of the guests had come out to watch the bustle. They were shocked upon seeing the vast line-up that Charlotte brought, and they immediately headed inside to inform Zachary.

The sky had begun to rain, and Charlotte, who was standing in the rain, started to lose her patience.

When she was about to lose her calm, Marino rushed out and told Bruce. "Bruce, Mr. Zachary asked you to let Ms. Lindberg in."

"Did you inform him clearly that Ms. Lindberg had brought many men?" Bruce reminded in a low voice. "Do we let them all in?"

"He's seen it already," Marino replied softly. "He says the Lindberg family is our honorable guest, and we should treat them respectfully."

With that, Bruce had no choice but to welcome Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg, please enter!"

As such, Charlotte marched into the hallway along with all her subordinates.

Morgan followed closely behind as she cut a glare at Marino.

Marino's heart skipped a beat as he led the way quietly.

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The hall seemed utterly solemn, decorated in black and white tones, while a sentimental atmosphere permeated all corners.

The guests came forward to pay their respect one after another and then took their seats.

Apart from the deep mourning music and the emcee's voice, greetings from the guests and thanks from the family members echoed through the hall.

But when Charlotte walked in with her large group of men, everyone at the spot was struck dumb.

The crowd was stunned momentarily as they shifted their gaze toward Zachary, wondering what his response would be.

However, Zachary merely glanced at Charlotte casually and then continued to greet the other guests.

Meanwhile, Robbie and Jamie were in all black at the family seats, greeting the guests who came to pay their respects.

When they saw Charlotte entering, Jamie was about to call her Mommy. But Robbie immediately stopped him and shook his head.

Zachary did not say anything in front of the kids, but Robbie knew the importance of keeping the secret, especially with the current unstable situation in the Nacht family.

Zachary already had a hard time trying to ease the current crisis. If those people were to find out Charlotte was the kids' mother, the escalation would be beyond imagination.

After all, the Lindberg Corporation was the biggest enemy of the Nacht Group.

Not to mention, all the crises that the Nacht Group was facing now were caused by the Lindberg Corporation.

If Zachary's personal relationship were to get exposed, surely Zachary would lose the trust of the shareholders and those investors.

Charlotte cast a deep glance toward the kids, signaling them to remain composed. Then, she stepped to the front and bowed at Henry.

Henry's picture still displayed his usual domineering aura, and Charlotte could feel as though the former was watching her.

Right then, Charlotte pretended to express her condolences. "Mr. Henry was as fit as a fiddle. How could he pass on just like that? What a shame."

"He's lived an abundant life," Zachary responded courteously. "Thank you, Ms. Lindberg!"

"You're welcome."

Charlotte let out a faint smile and brought her men to the seats.

The initial stern atmosphere became even tenser with Charlotte's arrival as the entire crowd shifted their attention upon her.

Many started gossiping secretly about her purpose for coming here.

Charlotte took a sip of tea calmly, not bothered by those glances from others.

The eighteen bodyguards standing behind her deterred anyone from sitting at the same table with her.

A few guests already at the same table were thinking about changing their seats. But they sat right back in after being stared sharply by those bodyguards.

They ended up feeling like sitting on pins and needles.

"Please sit over there. I've made the arrangements." Just then, Zachary approached the table and spoke.

The few guests felt relieved and they immediately left the table.

"All of you are Mr. Lindberg's good men. Please don't just stand there," Zachary offered a polite invitation to those bodyguards. "Have a seat!"

All the bodyguards were baffled by Zachary's gesture. They had always heard that he was a heartless man, but he turned out to be the total opposite.

Naturally, they would not dare to sit, and they turned to look at Charlotte.

"Since Mr. Nacht has offered, what're you guys waiting for? Plus, do you want to scare the others by standing up for the whole night?"

With that, Charlotte made a gesture and split those men into two tables.

Only then did the atmosphere in the hall start to ease, and the other guests began resorting to their normal self.

"The person in charge of the South Sea project is over there." Just then, Zachary pointed at the table behind them. "If you want to sign the documents, you can bring them over there directly."

"Thanks." Charlotte cast a glance at Morgan.

Morgan responsively grabbed the documents and stood up from her seat. Before she even got close to the table behind, a few people in charge had already stood up. Without hesitation, they all signed on the documents, worrying Charlotte might create a fuss at the funeral.

"Now everybody will know that the Lindberg Corporation is not afraid of the Nacht Group. They will also know that you withdrew from H City merely because you didn't want to play the game anymore, and not because of me. Will that be enough for you?"

Judging from how Charlotte entered in such high profile, the wise Zachary had seen through her intention.

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"I didn't come here to create troubles." Charlotte shrugged her shoulders. "I truly came to pay my respect to Mr. Henry. Shouldn't you be thanking me?"

"Thanks so much!" Zachary displayed a genuine look. "Would that be enough?"

"Are you trying to chase me out?" Charlotte's lips curled into a smile as she leaned toward him. "Sharon has escaped. Did you know that?"

"Yes," Zachary replied in a low voice. "The cops are looking into it right now."

"You knew she's my biggest enemy. Why do you keep protecting her? Now that she has escaped. Are you happy now?"

Rage boiled within Charlotte as this came into her thoughts.

"Let's talk about this later."

Zachary responded briefly while standing up, getting ready to leave.

"What are you afraid of?"

Just then, Charlotte suddenly raised her tone and attracted the crowd's attention. In an instant, many shifted their gaze upon Zachary.

Zachary was rendered speechless by that. This b*tch. She likes to create a fuss in public.

Zachary would not have dropped this so quickly if it were not for Henry's funeral. But right now, he was not in the mood to start a fight with her.

Hence, he turned to Charlotte. "Let's talk outside."

With that, Charlotte followed him to the back of the hall.

Morgan wanted to follow too but was stopped by Charlotte.

Both of them went to the lounge at the back while Ben closed the door for them.

Zachary poured Charlotte a cup of tea and started explaining, "The cops have sent out their troops to arrest Sharon. And I've also sent my men to track her..."

"Don't," Charlotte interrupted him abruptly. "It's better that you stay out of this. I've sent my men. I won't let her escape this time."

"We're not in Erihal." Zachary furrowed his brows as he reminded, "Everything goes by the law here!"

"Thanks for reminding me." Charlotte let out a smile. "But, I can take her to Erihal and kill her over there!"

"You..." For an instance, Zachary did not know how to react.

"Why?" Charlotte observed his expression closely. "Do you have any deal with her?"

Pondering for a while, Zachary eventually confessed, "Back then, she promised to become the witness to accuse Zara under one condition. That's for me to ensure her safety!"

"I didn't expect she has a brain after all." Charlotte bit her lips while smiling. "She knew I would go after her life. That's why she brought up this term with you."

"Yes." Zachary furrowed his brows. "I've no intention to protect her whatsoever. Instead, I've been trying to control her from the beginning and put her to justice..."

"Cut all your noble excuses." Charlotte was not buying into what he said. "She murdered Mrs. Berry. She deserves to die!"

"She committed the crime in T Nation and managed to find a loophole in the law," Zachary uttered in a low voice. "But with all her other crimes back in the country, she'll get sentenced not less than ten years."

"Do you seriously think that amount of years is enough to pay for Mrs. Berry's life?" Charlotte was beyond exasperated.

"I understand your feelings." Zachary chimed.

"That's why I said I'm going to bring her back to Erihal and settle the scores here."

Charlotte was not interested in continuing the conversation as she dropped her final warning.

"I don't care what you've promised her. I'm going to find her now, and you'd better not stand in the way. Or else don't blame me for the consequences!"

Upon saying that, Charlotte stood up and left.

Zachary furrowed his brows as he stared at her back figure. There's nothing I could do to stop her now. Or maybe I should not stop her at all.

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"Mr. Nacht," said Ben as he knocked and entered the room to report, "Ms. Lindberg is gone."

"Is Ellie here?"

Zachary received a call from Ellie that day. She claimed that her mother would drop her off that day because she wanted to pay her respect to her great-grandpa.

"No," replied Ben while shaking his head, "Morgan called earlier and said that they will be here at around eight o'clock. I'm guessing they're trying to avoid something."

"Okay," murmured Zachary before he nodded and instructed, "Tell Cain and the others to be careful when they find Sharon. Don't act impulsively. Instead, call me right away."

"Maybe we should just ignore the matter entirely?" suggested Ben carefully, "Ms. Lindberg is especially sensitive about the

matter, and it will be troublesome in the future if Sharon ended up making things even worse between you and Ms. Lindberg.”

“Even so, we must keep an eye on the matter. If Charlotte and the police found Sharon at the same time, they might get into a fight,” replied Zachary while frowning.

“That’s true. Ms. Lindberg has a terrible temper. If Sharon taunts her, she might just shoot and kill the woman on the spot. If the police saw that, they will have something over her,” said Ben while nodding.

“That is what I am most worried about. She has already decided to leave H City, so I can’t afford to let anything bad happen at a crucial time like this,” said Zachary while looking grim.

“Understood. I will make the call right away.”

“Wait,” said Zachary, who was still too worried. He instructed, “Cain might not be able to do everything on his own. Have Bruce take Marino to join forces with Cain.”

“Understood. I’ll relay the message right away,” replied Ben before he hurried out of there.

Just then, Robbie and Jamie entered with lentil soup. They said, “Daddy, you haven’t eaten anything all day. Here, have some soup.”

“Thank you,” replied Zachary as he stroked his sons’ cheeks. He was touched by their gesture. He asked, “Did you get to see your mommy?”

“Yeah,” answered Jamie happily, “Before she left, she secretly gave us both a hug at the back entrance. She even said that she will drop Ellie off tonight. Is that true?”

“Yeah,” informed Zachary as he grinned at Jamie, “Mommy’s employees will drop Ellie off tonight. She wants to pay her respects and see great-grandpa one last time.”

"Great," said Jamie who was delighted, "Does that mean she is no longer sick?"

"Yeah, she has recovered. Your mommy won't drop her off otherwise."

Zachary sipped some tea. He had been so busy lately that he didn't have any appetite in the last few days. Seeing how his kids delivered the soup in person got Zachary to cheer up a little.

"I'm glad," replied Jamie before he sighed a breath of relief.

"Daddy, did you get into a fight with Mommy again?" asked Robbie as he frowned and stared strangely at Zachary.

"No, we were just having a discussion, so don't worry," said Zachary as he stroked Robbie's tiny head.

"Okay, then eat up and rest up. We'll head out for now," said Robbie after he nodded.

Then, he dragged Jamie away.

Zachary was about to chow down the food when his phone rang. The call was from Charlotte, and that surprised him, so he quickly picked up the call. "Hello?" greeted Zachary.

"Did you send someone to come pick Ellie up?" asked Charlotte nervously.

"Huh? No, I didn't. What's going on?" asked Zachary, who was stunned.

"So it really isn't you?" blurted Charlotte. She instantly panicked and shared, "Then who came to pick Ellie up? My people said that it was the Nacht family's car..."

As Charlotte spoke, she recalled something and immediately instructed her subordinate, "Find out where Peter Jones is right now!"

"Understood."

"Charlotte? What's going on? What happened to Ellie?" demanded Zachary nervously.

"Someone took Ellie and Olivia away. If you weren't the one who did that, then it is possible that Zara's men did so. Either that, or Sharon is behind this..."

"Where did they take them from? Was it your place?"

"Yes."

"I will send my men and investigate the matter now. We'll share information with each other in real-time. I am blacklisted at the moment, so remove my name from the list for now. That way, my men can investigate much efficiently."

"Okay."

When matters involved their kids, the two adults became in sync right away and were working together to locate their daughter.

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Zachary got his men over immediately after he hung up, "Ben, Ben!"

"I'm here," replied Ben as he rushed over and asked, "What's wrong, Mr. Nacht?"

"Someone from the Nacht family seemed to have taken Ellie away," answered Zachary before he ordered hurriedly, "Investigate the matter right away. Look into whether Zara had any allies who had recently entered the city. Also, have our men investigate Peter!"

"Understood," replied Ben, whose expression took a drastic change after he heard what had happened. He was quick to carry his tasks out.

Zachary went to look for Spencer and asked the latter to manage the funeral before he told Raina to keep an eye on both Robbie and Jamie. He left with his men immediately after.

Spencer didn't know what had happened, but he knew that things must be grave. That was why he pulled himself back together and went to the hall to greet and chat with everyone.

Robbie and Jamie waited for a long time, but Ellie never showed up, so they went to ask their dad about it. That was when they learned that he had gone to work.

Jamie frowned and complained, "Why is Daddy working at a time like this?"

Robbie, however, was quietly examining everything. He noticed how Spencer, who had been ill and therefore been resting in the room, had suddenly shown up to deal with the guests. Bruce, Ben, and Marino were gone as well, and Raina was the only babysitter there. She seems on edge and is keeping a close eye on us...

All those hints told the boy that something bad had happened.

He walked to a corner and used his smartwatch to call Ellie, but no one picked up.

That prompted him to call Olivia instead. No one answered either.

Robbie's expression turned grim. He wanted to call his Mommy, but he decided against it just before he made the call.

Mommy and Daddy are probably busy dealing with this, so it's best if I don't distract them.

"Robbie, what's wrong?" asked Jamie nervously, "You look off. Did something happen?"

"It's fine," cooed Robbie, "Mommy and Daddy are busy, and that's probably why Ellie is late."

"I'm scared. I have a bad feeling... Like something bad is about to happen," replied Jamie, who sounded like he wanted to cry.

"It's fine. Come on. You're a man, so you gotta be brave. We are supposed to protect Ellie together," said Robbie as he tapped on Jamie's shoulder.

"You're right," replied Jamie. He took a deep breath and held his head up to steel himself.

"Come on. We should head over. Daddy's busy, so we should help him tend to the guests."

"Okay."

The boys were obedient and politely thanked the guests, and Spencer was glad. The Nacht family has been in turmoil lately, but one thing's for sure. They are truly blessed to have triplets like them...

The triplets...

Spencer suddenly trembled. He turned to Raina and asked, "Where's Ellie? Didn't they say that she will be here tonight for Mr. Henry's funeral?"

"M-Maybe they're running a little late. Ellie has always been physically weak, and her illness acted up once more. Ms. Lindberg is probably tending to her now," lied Raina. She shifted her eyes and a strange glow was in them.

"So, you will not tell me the truth, huh? Then I will have no choice but to call Mr. Zachary," threatened Spencer, who could immediately tell that Raina was lying.

As he spoke, he got his phone out to make the call.

"Mr. Spencer," halted Raina hurriedly. She shot a look at Robbie and Jamie, who were standing just a short distance away, and lowered her voice before confessing, "Ellie is missing. Mr. Zachary and Ms. Lindberg are looking for her now. I didn't tell you earlier because I didn't want you to worry."

"How did that happen?" blurted Spencer in a horrified tone.

"All I know is that Ellie and one of Ms. Lindberg's friends, a lady by the name of Olivia, were taken away. The driver used one of the Nacht family's cars, so it looked like they were working for the Nacht family. I don't know anything else."

"How did this happen?" complained Spencer angrily and anxiously, "Why didn't the bodyguards from the Lindberg family call to verify everything? How could they let others take Ellie away just like that?"

"I suspect that Olivia is the problem," guessed Raina while frowning, "Ms. Lindberg treats her like a close friend, and the people working for the Lindberg family saw her as one of their bosses. The bodyguards definitely won't stop them from leaving if Olivia claimed that she had verified everything with Ms. Lindberg."

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"Ellie is already sick. Things will be really bad if anything else were to exacerbate her illness," murmured Spencer, who was worried sick.

"Ms. Lindberg is going all out to look for the kid, and Mr. Nacht is leading his team to investigate the matter as well. I'm sure everything will be fine," said Raina to offer some comfort. After that, she suggested, "But perhaps you can help by thinking back. Does Ms. Zara have any allies that had slipped through the system and fled?"

"I don't think so," replied Spencer as he frowned deeply, "Ms. Zara's men were all unreliable, and she had always been too proud to mingle with others. I think Shirley was the only one who was ever close to Ms. Zara."

"Shirley died some time ago," reminded Raina.

"I know, but I simply can't come up with anyone else," said Spencer as he murmured, "A powerful figure who is on Ms. Zara's side... Unless..."

Spencer suddenly thought of someone. That got him to stiffen instantly. "N-No. That shouldn't be possible," muttered Spencer.

"Who are you talking about?"

"I'm sure Mr. Zachary has already thought of the person I am thinking about..."

"Are you talking about Mr. Broid?"

In the car, Ben was flabbergasted after hearing Zachary's analysis. The former pointed out, "No way! He has always been a playboy and has never been interested in power or money. Why would he kidnap Ellie?"

"I pray that it isn't him either," replied Zachary while frowning deeply and looking grim, "We're close friends, after all. My fight against Aunt Zara had been intense, but it never affected him. I just hope that he isn't blinded by his emotions and did something stupid."

"That's true. Mr. Broid and you are close friends," commented Ben sadly, "If Zara isn't that stubborn, the two of you would still be great pals."

"Your hypothesis truly made sense, though. Zara never had anybody close to her, and the allies she had were basically useless."

"He is the only one who is powerful enough to fake being a part of the Nacht family's convoy and take Ellie away. "Still... Mr. Broid doesn't seem like he is the kind of person who would scheme like that. I feel like he couldn't have done this."

"For now, let's see if Chris had entered the city lately," instructed Zachary.

"Understood," replied Ben before he made the call to investigate the matter. It didn't take him long before he replied, "The airport had confirmed that Mr. Broid never entered the city."

"Maybe I am overthinking it, and this has nothing to do with Chris," muttered Zachary as the burden in his heart lightened a little, "Maybe the culprit never used our cars. Maybe the Lindberg family's bodyguards messed up..."

"Call Bruce again and find out if he has located Sharon."

"He just reported in and said that he and his men are checking the airport. For now, he found nothing out of the ordinary. Do you think that the two matters are related?" asked Ben.

"The Blackwood family had fallen, so how could Sharon have fled prison on her own? Someone must've helped her," deduced Zachary, "And the timing is too convenient. She just escaped prison, and the next thing we know, Olivia and Ellie are kidnapped."

"Speaking of, do you think that there is something off with Olivia?" asked Ben carefully as he tested the water, "The Lindberg family's bodyguards are all highly trained, so they would not have let the kid go if Olivia didn't give them the thumbs up."

"Yes, and that is why I asked you to investigate Peter," replied Zachary before he asked, "Did you receive any news?"

"Let me follow up," informed Ben before he called his subordinate. The answer Ben received prompted him to report to Zachary immediately. The former said, "Turns out, Peter has been missing for quite some time now, but we don't know why or how. All we know is that he went to look for Olivia just before he disappeared."

"He was probably kidnapped when he went to look for Olivia. Someone is threatening his life and forcing Olivia to get close to Charlotte. They were biding their time and were waiting for the opportunity to strike," guessed Zachary.

"But... why would she kidnap Ellie?" asked Ben in confusion.

"They probably want to hold her hostage," replied Zachary, "We won't dare to hurt a hair of their head if they have Ellie with them."

"Then Sharon must've been the one who ordered Olivia to kidnap Ellie," blurted Ben as realization hit him, "And they did that because a mastermind is helping Sharon out from behind the scenes."

"Exactly," said Zachary, who finally managed to see the whole picture, "Our first priority is to find them as quickly as possible. The airport is the most crucial location. If I am right, Sharon will keep Ellie hostage until after they left H City because Sharon cannot survive in the city."

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"Bruce already has the airport surrounded, and he claimed that Lupine is there too. I'm guessing Ms. Lindberg came to the same conclusion as you did," informed Ben.

"Search everywhere. We must find them!" commanded Zachary.

"Understood," replied Ben before he relayed the message.

Zachary looked out the window. The sky was gloomy, and it felt like something huge was about to happen.

For some reason, he felt like something was off.

Just then, the Lindberg family's convoy zipped past from the side. They were as quick as the wind.

Zachary's chauffeur yelped and exclaimed, "That Morgan really knows how to drive."

"Marino isn't here, so there is no way we can overtake them. Just focus on being safe and drive slowly," reminded Ben.

“Understood.”

“They should be heading to the airport as well,” said Ben as he turned to look at Zachary. The former added, “Don’t worry, Mr. Nacht. We have so many people on our side, so there is no way Sharon can flee H City.”

“Yeah,” muttered Zachary. He got his phone out to call the police and ask about the details of how Sharon escaped prison. He hoped to find some clue.

At the same time, Charlotte was looking out the window and looking as grim as the gloomy weather.

She had received proper treatment, so her illness no longer hurt her as much. Still, she would get strangely agitated whenever it rained.

She analyzed everything and came to the same conclusion that Zachary did.

Thinking back, she remembered how Olivia looked off and wanted to confess something when Charlotte left that afternoon. Her guilt was probably eating her alive.

The silver lining was that Charlotte believed that Olivia would never hurt Ellie. It is still f*cked up that she obeyed the criminal’s words and kidnapped Ellie to rescue Peter.

Cynthia poisoned Ellie and hurt Ellie so badly. Ellie’s medical condition has just turned for the better when someone kidnapped her. Her weakened physical state can’t handle the stress. If anything were to happen...

Charlotte didn’t even dare to imagine what would happen.

“That woman is vile. You’ve always treated Olivia nicely, but she betrayed you for a guy,” growled Morgan angrily, “If I ever get my hands on her, I will freaking skin her alive!”

“If the situation was switched and someone kidnapped Marino to force your hand, what would you do?” challenged Charlotte.

"I will save him myself. If I fail to do so, then we'll just die together. It's nothing to be afraid of. I will never drag an innocent person down with me and will never betray you for anything or anyone," replied Morgan without hesitating.

"That's good to know."

Charlotte tapped Morgan's shoulder and was a little touched. Unfortunately, the former soon thought about Olivia, and that got her down once more. I am careful with everyone, but I never had my guard up against Olivia. I never thought that she'd betray me...

Even at that moment, Charlotte still couldn't accept the truth.

"At the end of the day, that assh*le, Zachary Nacht, is to be blamed. None of this would've happened if he hadn't hidden Sharon away or handed her to the police. Everything would've been fine if he had just let you shoot that woman!" growled Morgan angrily when she thought about it.

Charlotte didn't reply to that. Morgan is straightforward, and she doesn't always use nice words, but she always tells the truth.

Just then, Charlotte thought of something. Even if Sharon had planned ahead and sent someone to kidnap Peter and threaten Olivia, it still wouldn't add up.

Synder Group has declared bankruptcy. Assuming that Sharon got lucky and slipped out of prison, she still could not afford to hire anyone to fake being the Nacht family's convoy. So who sponsored her and helped her take Olivia and Ellie away?

There is a mastermind behind it all.

But... both Zara and Cynthia are dead while Taylor is imprisoned. Who else is there to help her out?

Moreover, that person must be powerful. How else could he or she have a fake Nacht family convoy?

Who could it be?

Charlotte simply couldn't make heads or tails of the matter...

"You know, it's strange," commented Morgan suddenly, "Sharon should be on her own when she kidnapped Olivia and Ellie, so by right, we should've already found her. Lupine had so many people with her, so why haven't they found anyone?"

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"Maybe they never went to the airport?" guessed Jade, another bodyguard.

"That is not possible," refuted Morgan firmly, "She will inevitably die if she stays in H City, so her only shot at survival is to leave. That is why she is definitely at the airport."

"Maybe she has a disguise on?" tried Jade again.

"Lupine would have found her even if Sharon is wearing a disguise," replied Morgan, who thought things were strange, "Lupine even had someone take Fifi over. That bird's eyes are so sharp that it could identify Sharon, even if she has a disguise on."

"That is strange..." commented Jade. She thought about it before she guessed again, "There's only one airport in H City, so could they have gotten on a train instead?"

"That is ridiculous. H City's railroad doesn't travel across the border," replied Morgan before she rolled her eyes at Jade and added, "We would've found her quickly if she simply went to another city."

"That's not quite right," replied Charlotte, who suddenly thought of something, "She will reach Wildefield in one hour if she travels by train. There's an international airport there too..."

"Huh? Could it be...?" blurted Morgan as she slowed down the car.

"They were gone for an hour," commented Charlotte as she checked her watch, "Make a U-turn and head to Wildefield International Airport now!"

"Understood," replied Morgan before she turned the steering wheel.

They saw the Nacht family's convoy when they reached the highway, and Morgan commented, "Looks like Mr. Nacht came to the same conclusion you did... again."

"Ignore them. Just head over to Wildefield International Airport now," urged Charlotte.

"Understood," replied Morgan before she sped as quickly as she could toward Wildefield International Airport.

While Morgan was doing that, Charlotte was calling Lupine to order, "We will head to Wildefield International Airport now. You are to stay guard at the airport in H City. Take Sharon down if she shows up. Don't let anyone stop you from doing so!"

"Understood. Don't worry. I will apprehend her and rescue Ms. Elisa as soon as she shows up," promised Lupine, who knew just how important her mission was.

"Great," replied Charlotte before she hung up. She checked her watch again and urged nervously, "Hurry up! Things will spiral out of our control if Sharon actually manages to slip out of the country with Ellie."

Their influence didn't extend overseas, so there were things that were beyond their reach.

If that were to happen, finding Ellie would become as difficult as finding a needle in a haystack.

Things will be easier if she is an adult who knows what to do. The Lindberg family has what it takes to locate her someday. Unfortunately, Ellie is just a kid, and she is weak. She can't handle the stress...

Charlotte's heart ached. How I wish I am already at the airport now...

Inside the Nacht family's car. Zachary had already contacted the police in Wildefield and had hoped to get them to stop all flights. Unfortunately, it would take some time for the officials to get things together.

Zachary had his men help the police out right away and called the politicians in his network.

In short, Zachary was doing everything he could to stop Sharon from taking Ellie away.

At that moment in Wildefield International Airport.

Sharon and four of her subordinates were in disguises when they took Olivia and Ellie, who were in disguises as well. Everyone was going through customs.

Olivia had drugged Ellie, so the latter had been sleeping since she got into the car.

The former, on the other hand, kept carrying Ellie and never let go.

Unfortunately, Ellie was already six years old, so she was getting heavier. That got Olivia's arms all weak and sore after holding her for such a long time. She wanted to rest at the side with Ellie, but Sharon stopped her from doing so. They hadn't gone through the customs, so they weren't safe just yet.

Sharon signaled her subordinate, and a tall foreigner walked over to carry Ellie.

Olivia, however, held Ellie tight and insisted firmly, "I can do it. I can hold her, and I don't need your help."

After saying her piece, Olivia bit down her lips and held Ellie up to go through customs.

Sharon had prepared fake documents for Olivia and Ellie.

The officer checked the documents and found nothing wrong with them. However, his suspicion rose when he saw how Ellie was sleeping that soundly. He asked, "What's up with the kid?"

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"She has a fever and took some medicine. That's why she is so sound asleep," answered Olivia.

She held Ellie tightly. Unfortunately, her arms were sore, so she was trembling a little and her clothes were wet with sweat.

"Who are you to the kid?" asked the custom officer.

"I'm her aunt."

As Olivia spoke, a traveler with a piece of luggage walked past them. He almost hit Ellie, but Olivia shielded Ellie's head. The luggage hurt Olivia's hand instead.

The officer saw how Olivia was caring so deeply for the kid, so he stopped asking questions. He let them pass and even reminded her that she could loan a stroller from the airport.

Olivia thanked the officer, but she didn't dare to use the stroller. She was worried that Sharon would hurt Ellie, so she kept hugging the child and refused to let go.

The group entered the business class lounge soon after. Olivia was slightly relieved because she could finally sit with Ellie in her arms.

Sharon spoke to her subordinates and had two of them stand guard outside the lounge. The other two stayed and stood behind her.

Sharon relaxed on the sofa and glared evilly at Olivia before warning, "Quit fidgeting. Everyone is staring at us, and I will kill you if you got the police to come checking up on us."

"When are you going to let Peter go?" asked Olivia while frowning, "I've already done as you asked and took Ellie over."

"I will have my men let him go once I reach T Nation," answered Sharon cruelly, "Both you and Peter will be fine so long as I reach T Nation in one piece. If any unforeseeable issue arises, he will be the first one to die, and you will be following along soon."

"What is that supposed to mean? What unforeseeable issue are you talking about?" blurted Olivia.

"You are such an idiot. Do you think that Zachary Nacht and Charlotte Lindberg are stupid?" growled Sharon while keeping her voices down, "They are already searching for me, and things will be bad if they find me here."

"But I've already done everything you asked," said Olivia nervously, "Let Peter go now. He's injured, and you've had him locked up for a month. If things keep going like this, he will die."

"Why are you so worried? I'll let him go once I reach T Nation," replied Sharon before she shrugged nonchalantly.

"Let him go now or I will shout for help," threatened Olivia, who had been forced to a corner.

"You..." growled Sharon as she shot a look at the officers patrolling right outside.

Olivia pointed out, "The kid and I are with you now, and we are the best hostage there is. Peter is no longer of any use to you, so why are you still holding him? I will do whatever you ask so long as you let him go."

"What if you play some trick on me?"

Sharon was extremely cautious because too much had happened. She had endured a lot of pain, and she was lucky to have someone helping her out. That person was the only reason she even had a shot at escaping, and she knew that was her last chance at survival.

I will truly be in hot waters if anything were to happen.

"You overestimated me," replied Olivia before she grinned bitterly and pointed out, "I am just an ordinary person, so what

trick could I pull? Besides, I'm with Ellie. How will I escape with her?"

"You're right about that."

Sharon thought that made sense because she had always seen Olivia as the helpless maggot following Charlotte around. Olivia doesn't have any actual skills or power, so there is no way she can escape. Besides, I have Ellie with me. No one will risk anything.

Thinking about that got Sharon to make a call and have the men let Peter go.

"Let me talk to him. I want to make sure that he is safe," requested Olivia eagerly as she inched forward.

"You are so annoying," complained Sharon before she handed the phone over and demanded, "Sit further away from me. You're sweating all over, and you stink!"

Olivia carried Ellie to the side before she spoke into the phone. "Hello? Peter?"

"Olivia," replied Peter in a weak voice, "I-Ignore me. Just k-keep yourself safe."

"I am so sorry, Peter. This is all my fault. You wouldn't have been captured if it weren't for me," said Olivia who couldn't help tearing up after she heard Peter's voice.

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"This is not your fault..."

"Peter, they will set you free soon. I have some money on my credit card, and the password is Ellie's birthday. Take it to cover your medical expenses..."

As Sharon spoke, the loudspeaker announced that the flight to T Nation could be boarded soon. That prompted Sharon to snatch the phone away and hang up.

"I'm not done yet..."

Slap!

Olivia was still talking when Sharon slapped her across her face. The latter even scolded through gritted teeth, "You b*tch. Why are you talking so much? Are you trying to send a secret message?"

"No, I wasn't," replied Olivia while crying, "Peter is so injured that he can barely talk, so how am I supposed to send him a secret message? I was simply worried about him being further dragged into this mess."

Sharon thought about it and agreed, "Oh, you're right about that. You are willing to betray Charlotte for that man, so there is no way you'd let him risk his life again. Besides, he is so sick that he is on his deathbed. There is no way he can do anything even if you had sent him a message."

Olivia had her head down and kept crying.

"Come on. Carry the kid and board the plane with me. Hurry!" commanded Sharon.

Olivia stood up with Ellie and obediently followed along.

Two foreign bodyguards were monitoring her, so she couldn't try anything at all. All she could do was keep her head down.

There was a long queue to the plane, but Sharon got first-class tickets and everyone could cut the line. Hence, everyone was in a separate lane and waiting for the officers to check their tickets.

Olivia turned around to check things out. No one was going after them. That got her nervous. If things keep progressing this way, we will truly end up in T Nation...

At that same moment.

Charlotte led her people and rushed to the airport. They ran to the security's office as soon as they got out of the car. Jade, on the other hand, was leading her team to look for Sharon and the others.

Morgan was calling the management of Wildefield International Airport and was trying to get them to share the security footage. That would help speed things up.

Unfortunately, they were in such a hurry that they didn't get a chance to call beforehand or had their identities verified.

Charlotte panicked. She stood at the departure hall and looked around to try to locate her daughter.

She was going insane. Ellie was gone for some time, and Charlotte estimated that the kid might be boarding the plane with Sharon at that moment. It would be virtually impossible to find Ellie if they didn't even know which country Ellie was being taken to.

In her messed-up state, Charlotte ended up stopping every kid who was about Ellie's age. She wanted to see if they were Ellie, who was forced to wear a disguise.

To her dismay, none of them were her daughter.

"What the hell? Why are you pulling at my child?"

The parents were so angry that they pushed Charlotte away.

One parent even called the security guard and informed, "That crazy woman is going around tugging at kids. She frightened my daughter."

"I am looking for my daughter..." replied Charlotte.

"But this is my kid!"

"Please pardon her. She is probably just panicky because her kid is missing. You're a parent too, so please be understanding."

"What a lunatic," grumbled the angry mother before she left with her kid.

Charlotte was completely lost and didn't know what to do.

Jade couldn't find anything, and Morgan's contact was telling her that they needed to talk to the supervisors and verify Morgan's identity.

Morgan got so pissed that she howled, "It's f*cking urgent. Every second counts, so can you freaking do as I ask then do the paperwork later?"

"Sorry, but we must follow protocol."

"You..."

"Charlotte," called out someone with a familiar voice.

Charlotte turned around and saw Zachary there. He rushed over and pointed at the specialized lane. "We can enter from there. I've already arranged everything," informed Zachary.

"Hurry," ordered Charlotte to get her people to travel via the specialized lane.

"Have you learned which flight they're taking?" asked Charlotte as she ran anxiously.

"They're boarding the plane to T Nation!"

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Charlotte growled through gritted teeth, "That Sharon Blackwood really knows how to pick a place. Does she think that I won't go there because that is a place of misery for me? Is that why she's taking Ellie over?"

"She probably thinks that the most dangerous place is the most unsuspecting place," replied Zachary while frowning.

"How did you know which flight they were taking? My team couldn't learn anything," said Charlotte curiously.

"Peter called me," shared Zachary, "Sharon's subordinates beat him up and locked him up for a month, but they released him some time ago. Olivia called him and deliberately leaked the information to him."

"It's as I suspected. That Olivia is such an idiot. Why didn't she tell me everything right away? I could've rescued Peter ages ago, and she didn't need to be threatened like that," complained Charlotte angrily.

"She was blinded by her emotions," commented Zachary, who was more rational. He added, "They're boarding the plane now. We must hurry."

"Call the airport and have them stop the plane!" urged Charlotte quickly.

"They're still doing the paperwork..."

"Paperwork? What the f*ck? I will f*cking kill them if anything were to happen to my daughter!" roared Charlotte who was about to lose her mind in a fit of anger.

"We're not in Erihal, so no special privileges for the rich here," reminded Zachary, "I've contacted the police in T Nation since we already know the destination. Don't worry..."

Charlotte didn't bother listening. She hurried toward the boarding gate.

Sharon and the others had already boarded the plane by then.

She sighed a breath of relief. The plane is about to depart, and I can finally leave this place safely.

With the girl here, both the Nacht family and the Lindberg family will not dare to come after me.

Sharon had already planned ahead. She would stay in Coldbridge for a while and go somewhere else once the dust settled down.

"You'll let us go once we reach T Nation, right?" asked Olivia fearfully.

"Shut up!"

Sharon scolded angrily, but she soon became alert and scanned her surroundings. She was worried that others would overhear her.

"There is no point in bringing us along," said Olivia, "If Ellie is with you, both Mr. Nacht and Charlotte will not relent and will keep coming after you. You might as well just let us go because then they won't be bothered to look for you anymore."

"Do you take me as a fool?" scolded Sharon while frowning, "I killed Mrs. Berry, and I humiliated Charlotte in the past. There is no way she'd let me go. They'd just kill me if I don't have the kid as leverage."

"But..."

"Shut up!" threatened Sharon while pointing a finger at Olivia, "I will kill you if you keep bullsh*tting like that!"

Olivia didn't dare to say another word. She simply held on to Ellie tightly.

"Miss, is the kid asleep?" asked the stewardess, "Please put her in her seat and buckle her up. The plane is about to take off."

"Okay, got it," replied Sharon politely before she put on a skin-deep grin and turn to Olivia, "Do as the lady said! Stop hugging her like this. You're getting her all sweaty."

Olivia didn't dare to complain. She slowly set Ellie down on the seat and buckle her up.

Just then, the effects of the sleeping medication started to wear off. Ellie moved about and looked like she was about to wake up.

Sharon's expression stiffened. She waited until the stewardess had left before she demanded, "What's going on? Didn't I tell you to give her a heavy dosage? Why is she waking up?"

"She has been sick, so she can't take too many sleeping pills," answered Olivia softly, "The dosage I gave her is already beyond the limit."

"What the hell am I supposed to do if she wakes up and makes a fuss? Feed her more medicine now!" demanded Sharon with a grouchy expression on.

"No, I can't. She can't take it anymore," replied Olivia while shaking her head nervously.

Everyone started looking over because they thought that those passengers were weird.

Sharon glared evilly at Olivia. The former didn't complain anymore because she didn't want to attract any attention. She simply took two sleeping pills out of her possession and ground them into dust before adding them to a bottle of water. After that, she shook the bottle and tried to feed it to Ellie.

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"No, you can't!" insisted Olivia, who was quick to stop Sharon.

"F*ck off!"

Sharon flung Olivia's hand away, but Olivia was adamant about protecting Ellie.

The two of them fought and attracted the other passengers' attention.

A sleepy passenger complained in frustration, "Will you please keep your voices down?"

A stewardess came over at that moment and asked, "What's wrong?"

"It's nothing," replied Sharon before she glared at Olivia to signal for the latter to lie.

Olivia had her head down. She didn't dare to even breathe too loudly.

At that moment, she was weighing her options and wondering if she should tell the stewardess the truth. If I do that, the policeman on board can apprehend Sharon.

However, Olivia got cold feet when she saw the four foreign bodyguards.

They are killers. If I push them to a corner, they might retaliate and end up hurting the other passengers in the crossfire.

"Please buckle up. The plane is about to depart," reminded the stewardess.

"Why haven't we taken off yet?" asked Sharon who was in shock, "It's been a while since we boarded, so why is the gate still open?"

"A passenger is on the way over. His luggage is already being taken over," replied the stewardess.

"What the hell?" growled Sharon angrily as she checked her watch, "It's already past the departure time, so why aren't we in the air yet? Why are you wasting our time? Is our time not equally precious to you?"

"That's not it. Miss, that passenger..."

"Everyone has to wait because one person is late. Is that it?"

Sharon shouted and started making a scene.

"Are we supposed to wait forever if he never shows up? It's the holidays, and there are so many people flying home. If you keep

delaying like this, our flight will be postponed or worse, canceled!”

“But...”

The stewardess was going to explain the situation when the other passengers chimed in.

“Yeah, she’s right. Our time is precious too, and you can’t make us wait just for that one person!”

“Yeah, who knows when we’d be able to fly over if this flight gets canceled?”

“Close the doors now or I will file a complaint!”

A few stewardesses tried to explain the situation, but everyone refused to listen. Sharon made things worse by fanning the flames. That prompted the stewardesses to go to the pilot for instructions.

Sharon panicked. If things keep progressing like this, Charlotte and Zachary will reach us before we take off.

Olivia, on the other hand, was a little excited. When she called Peter earlier, she deliberately leaked the information. He probably already shared the information with Charlotte or Zachary. Maybe they’re on the way over now.

Zachary and Charlotte had already reached the gate by then. Unfortunately, the bridge had already been retracted, and that last passenger was being sent to the plane via a car.

The door was locked and the airport workers were getting ready to leave.

“Wait!” shouted Zachary as he reached out for one of the workers, “Open the door. That plane cannot take off. A kidnapper is on that flight with my daughter!”

“We didn’t receive any news about it. If that is true, please call the police,” replied the worker while frowning.

“There’s no time for that. Open the door now!” urged Zachary.

“You can’t go there...”

A worker was trying to explain the situation when Charlotte barged in without listening.

“Oy, what are you doing?”

The workers tried to stop her right away, and as they did so, they called the security guards.

They were still arguing when the late passenger finally boarded the plane.

The door closed, and the stewardess reaffirmed to everyone, “The last passenger has boarded, and the door is closed. We’ll be taking off shortly, so please buckle your seatbelt.”

Hearing that announcement and seeing the door closing got Olivia disheartened. Sharon, on the other hand, was relieved.

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Ellie woke up groggily at that moment. She was sick and had taken some sleeping pills, so she felt terrible.

“What’s wrong, Ellie? Are you okay?” asked Olivia, who was quick to soothe the kid.

“Where are we, Ms. Peyton?” asked Ellie between sobs, “I feel so terrible. I want my mommy.”

“Be good, Ellie. Your mommy will be here soon.”

Olivia felt guilty. She felt like she had wronged Charlotte and Ellie.

“I feel so terrible... urk...”

Ellie suddenly started retching.

Olivia was quick to open a bag for her to vomit in.

Sharon saw that from the side and looked disgusted.

Just then, the stewardess came over and asked, "What's wrong with the kid?"

"She..."

"It's nothing. She's just a little airsick and will be fine soon. Please take off as soon as possible," urged Sharon while cutting Olivia's words short.

"Are you sure she's fine?" asked the stewardess in a worried tone.

"I said she is! Why are you being so nosy? Take off already and stop dilly-dallying!" growled Sharon impatiently.

The stewardess had no choice but to leave.

Olivia opened up a bottle of water and fed it to Ellie.

Ellie remained uncomfortable, and she cried while demanding for her mother.

Sharon snatched the bottle of water away and put some sleeping pills in it before shaking it. She tried to get Ellie to drink it afterward.

Olivia tried to stop her, but Sharon's bodyguard stopped Olivia by putting pressure on her shoulder.

That force was so strong that it threatened to crush Olivia's collarbone. It prevented her from moving about anymore.

Sharon pinched Ellie's cheeks to force her to down the spiked drink.

Ellie recognized Sharon. The former's eyes bulged in fear and said, "You! You bad woman! What are you... uh..."

Ellie hadn't even finished speaking before Sharon shoved the water to her.

"Don't hurt her."

Olivia tried to stop Sharon, but the bodyguard had her pinned and prevented her from moving.

"Oy, what are you doing?" demanded one passenger, who noticed that something was off, "Are you even the kid's guardian?"

"Of course I am," lied Sharon, "The kid is naughty and refuses to take her medicine even though she is sick. That is why I am force-feeding it to her."

"What kind of parent would feed their kid like that?" said the passenger, who still thought that something felt off.

"Are you going to be responsible if she cries so loud that she disturbs the other passengers?" demanded Sharon, "My gosh, it is tough to be a parent nowadays. Everyone complains that I don't teach her right if the kid is loud. Yet, if I feed her the medicine, you guys are claiming that I am torturing her."

"You..."

"Come on. Stop butting in. It's none of your business," interrupted the passenger's friend.

The passenger in question stopped complaining.

Sharon glared over evilly and continued force-feeding Ellie the medicine.

The latter kept struggling and was coughing so much that she couldn't speak.

At that same moment, Charlotte and Zachary had broken through the glass door and were looking for their private jet.

Unfortunately, the jet wasn't parked near the boarding area. It was awaiting orders in another location and one needed to get in a car to head over.

Zachary grabbed one of the workers and asked for the location of the private jet.

Charlotte, on the other hand, went to hijack a car and was getting ready to rush over.

Just then, the airport's security guards came to stop them. Ben led his men to prevent those guards from doing anything.

Zachary led Charlotte into the car, and they were ready to rush over to rescue their baby girl. To their dismay, the plane located some distance away had lifted off just as they fired up the car's engine.

A worker shouted at them, "Oy, the plane you're looking for has already lifted off."

Charlotte stared at the plane in horror as her entire body stiffened.

"Get a private jet ready to head to T Nation now!" ordered Zachary. who was quick to strategize and fight.

"Understood," replied Ben before he left to work on it immediately.

"If doing that will take some time, then just book the earliest flight over!"

"Understood."

"Call the airport and have them turn that plane around now!" demanded Charlotte nervously.

"The airport won't take drastic measures like that unless the airplane issues a distress call. The plane would've already landed in T Nation by the time the airport workers sent in the application and got the approval."

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Charlotte became even more agitated after hearing what Zachary said. She urged, "Then we have to fly over right now!"

At that moment, the managers of the airport rushed over.

Zachary was discussing the matter with them while Ben was having their people prep the private jet.

Charlotte was panicking as she watched from the side. Lupine, however, called her at that moment to inform, "Ms. Lindberg, our private jet is ready. It can take off from H City in one hour."

"That's great news. We'll head over right away!"

Charlotte shot one look at Zachary before she snuck out of the place with Morgan and the others.

"Are we leaving without Mr. Nacht?" asked Morgan softly.

"He will just get in my way. I refuse to show her any mercy this time," replied Charlotte. The mere thought of how Zachary'd react annoyed her.

"That Sharon really should die a horrible death, and we can't let her off so easily. Don't worry, I'll drive to H City as quickly as possible."

"We must reach our destination within the hour. There can be no delay, not even for a second!"

"Understood."

Charlotte led her people and sped over to H City's airport.

Lupine had already had the others deliver everybody's travel documents over by then. She even contacted their people in T Nation to get them to keep an eye on Sharon.

Charlotte specifically instructed, "Monitor discreetly. Don't let her hurt Ellie. Wait until I am there. I will deal with this in person."

“Understood. I’ve already told them that.”

Lupine had always been considerate and worked diligently. She might have been standing guard in H City the entire time, but she had also been exchanging information and updates with Morgan. She prepped the private jet in H City as soon as she learned how things were going at Wildefield International Airport. All that was done in case things didn’t go their way.

Her diligence paid off.

Charlotte led her people and hopped onto the plane. Zachary called at that moment and asked, “Where are you? I got the private jet ready, and we can take off in an hour.”

“I’ve already boarded the plane,” replied Charlotte icily, “I will rescue Ellie and bring her home safely. You don’t need to go anymore.”

“Charlotte...”

Charlotte hung up before Zachary could finish his sentence.

Zachary gripped his phone and sighed exasperatedly. She still doesn’t believe me and worries that I’d get in her way. That is why she secretly left and is rushing to T Nation in advance.

“I thought they went to get the private jet ready. Who would’ve thought that they’d move faster than us?” said Ben softly to offer some comfort. He added, “It’ll be fine, though. We’re all just too concerned and want to rescue Ellie.”

“Go talk to the airport managers again. Try to prepone departure,” ordered Zachary immediately.

“Understood,” replied Ben before he went to do just that.

Marino asked in confusion, “Ms. Lindberg deliberately abandoned us here, so should we just stay still and prevent pissing her off?”

“Oh, what do you know?” growled Zachary angrily.

Marino tilted his head down immediately. He didn't dare to say another word.

Just then, Ben called and informed, "They compromised once more and allowed us to take off half an hour earlier. However, that is the best they can do."

"That's fine," replied Zachary as he walked toward the boarding gate. As he did so, he dialed the number to get T Nation's police forces involved.

Ben, Marino, and the others followed closely behind.

Ben saw how Marino seemed nervous, so the former explained, "Mr. Nacht is only that nervous because he worries that Ms. Lindberg will kill Sharon in a fit of anger."

"What's there to be worried about?" asked Marino, who was even more confused, "That vile b*tch should've died ages ago. None of this would've happened if she was dealt with earlier."

"You really are simple-minded," growled Ben while frowning, "Now's not the time to kill Sharon. Our main priority is to figure out who the person helping her is."

"Oh yeah! If we kill her, our only lead will die with her," blurted Marino as revelation hit him.

"Killing Sharon is easy, but the mastermind who helped her is another issue entirely," added Ben, "We have no idea who that person is, so we have no idea what kind of sh*ts to anticipate and prevent."

"That's true, but... why don't we just tell Ms. Lindberg all that directly, then?" asked Marino again.

"Unfortunately, we don't have the time to do so. Besides, Ms. Lindberg is too angry to listen to us now, so it is crucial that we hurry over."

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"Ah, I see now," replied Marino, before he tilted his head down and added, "No wonder Mr. Nacht is always scolding me. Looks like I still have a lot to learn."

"It's best if you stop talking for now. Mr. Nacht's still fuming," reminded Ben.

"Understood," replied Marino. He snuck a peek at Zachary's back and suddenly felt nervous.

"Monitor the situation from afar. Do not act recklessly. We'll coordinate once I am there."

After Zachary discussed the matter with the police in T Nation, he checked his watch and sped up toward the gate.

Ben, Marino, and the others followed closely behind.

On the other side, the plane was already in the air.

It was finally quiet, but Charlotte couldn't calm down. Her heart ached as she thought about the danger that Ellie was in. At that moment, Charlotte was tempted to torture Sharon and tear her limb from limb.

"The rumor claimed that Mr. Nacht is cruel and impatient, so why is he dragging his feet when it comes to dealing with Sharon?" asked Morgan as she gossiped with Lupine.

"Maybe it's because he's a dad now. Interacting with his kids must've chipped his cruelty off... Either that or he has other concerns," guessed Lupine.

"Other concern my a*s! Remember what Mr. Lindberg said earlier? We must be quick and cruel when we deal with matters. We'll never get anything done if we think too much," replied Morgan crudely as she gestured endlessly.

"Shh, keep your voices down. Ms. Lindberg is annoyed enough already," reminded Lupine softly.

"Oh, right," replied Morgan before she shut up quickly.

Charlotte stared out the window and saw the cloud drifting. She was frowning so much that it looked like her expression was stuck...

The closer they got to the destination, the clearer the image in her mind was.

She remembered how, back then, the Nacht family forced her away and recalled what she endured in T Nation after that. All that kept flashing before her eyes.

Sharon's actions were also repeatedly reminding Charlotte of one crucial point. Hatred is valid, and we should never let it go! Vengeance is the only way to end this.

Letting our hatred go will just give our enemy the chance to retaliate.

Perhaps it was because she sensed Charlotte's murderous intent, Sharon suddenly shivered just as she touched down in Coldbridge.

She instinctively hugged herself and scanned her surroundings. However, she didn't detect anything off.

"You've already landed, so you can let us go now. There's no point in keeping us with you," said Olivia fearfully and with great uncertainty.

"It's true. Your usefulness had expired..."

Sharon signaled with her eyes, and one bodyguard immediately snatched Ellie away from Olivia.

"No, give the child back to me!" shouted Olivia in agitation.

Everyone turned around.

Sharon glared over evilly and warned, "Keep your voices down if you wish to survive this."

“What are you doing? Charlotte won’t let you go if you hurt the kid,” said Olivia nervously.

Slap! Sharon slapped over mercilessly. She growled, “You b*tch. How dare you threaten me?”

“Isn’t it better if you just let us go and leave now? It’s not safe to take the kid along because you’d just attract attention,” reminded Olivia as she put her hand on her bloating face.

“You don’t need to worry about that.”

Sharon ignored Olivia entirely and walked toward the parking lot immediately.

“Give me the kid. I will carry her. She’s ill, so she can’t handle the stress,” begged Olivia as she followed along nervously.

“You really are too noisy. Kill her,” ordered Sharon in annoyance.

“Understood,” replied the bodyguard before he pulled Olivia’s hair. He was going to drag her away and kill her somewhere else.

“Wait, there’s police around,” warned another bodyguard at that crucial moment.

Sharon turned around. Security at Coldbridge’s airport had always been lenient. Yet, there were many police on patrol that day.

She felt like something was off, so she scanned around. However, she didn’t see anyone suspicious. If Zachary or Charlotte had their men here, they would already have come after me... I’m probably overthinking things.

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Just to be safe, they left Olivia as she was.

“Let’s just bring her along first,” Sharon commanded.

"Yes, ma'am." The bodyguards then hauled Olivia onto the MPV.

The vehicle departed from the airport and sped off to an unknown destination.

Just then, Ellie, still unconscious, began vomiting all over the bodyguard.

Vexed, he shoved her aside and threw his jacket out before cleaning himself.

Olivia instantly carried Ellie and tenderly patted her lower back. "Ellie, it's okay. You're okay. I'm here for you," she soothed.

Having been fed sleeping pills twice, Ellie threw up on the plane multiple times earlier on. With her digestive system practically empty, all that she barfed was yellowy bile.

Her delicate countenance was drained of color, save for her dark purple lips. She was shivering uncontrollably as her breathing grew weak.

"This won't work. We have to go to the hospital right away," Olivia anxiously pleaded while clinging onto Sharon's arm. "I beg of you. Please, just send her to the hospital first."

"Go away," Sharon snarled before flinging her arm away, evidently displeased.

"If anything were to happen to her, you'd lose your trump card." A distressed Olivia attempted to convince her. "Wouldn't you need her to stay alive and healthy? I'm imploring you to please bring her to the hospital first. She's getting frailer by the minute."

"Are you insane? Is that really necessary? It was just some sleeping pills. Stop freaking out. We'll just feed her some food when she wakes up," Sharon nonchalantly replied.

"No, she really..."

"Ugh. How irritating. Throw her out of the car." An annoyed Sharon bellowed at her men.

The bodyguard snatched Ellie over and prepared to throw Olivia off the car.

"No! Please don't!" Olivia held onto the seat with her life and sobbed. "Please don't get rid of me. At least I can help to take care of Ellie. If I were to die, it would be troublesome for you to tend to her as well."

"So f*cking annoying."

Sharon lifted her foot and prepared to strike Olivia with it.

Just then, Ellie stirred and began wailing at the top of her voice.

Sharon froze midair while her bodyguards were increasingly irritated by the sudden ruckus.

Olivia hurriedly enveloped Ellie into her arms and comforted her. "Ellie, don't be scared. I'm here to protect you."

"Ms. Peyton, I want my Mommy." Ellie bawled whilst panting breathlessly.

"Stop crying!" Sharon shrieked.

That prompted her sobs to turn into a wail. At this point, Sharon was bereft of speech.

A bodyguard raised his hand and was about to smack Ellie when Sharon obstructed him. "What the hell are you doing? F*ck off."

He retracted his hand immediately.

"This is my shield. If any harm befell her, we would all perish. Nobody, I repeat, nobody is to touch her. Got it?" Sharon barked.

"Yes." The bodyguards no longer dared to land a hand on her.

"You! You'd better pacify her right now," demanded Sharon as she handed Olivia some food. "If you manage to calm her down, I'll spare your life. Else, be prepared to lose your life."

"Alright," Olivia muttered before gently wiping Ellie's tears. Then, she leaned forward and whispered into Ellie's ears. "Ellie, be good. No more crying, okay? If you continue weeping, you'll get a fever. Then we won't get to see Mommy anymore. You have to retain your energy and we'll wait for Mommy to save us. Alright?"

Ellie's pale face was buried deep into Olivia's embrace. Although she was still visibly shaken, the ear-piercing wails had halted, replaced by muted whimpers.

"Good girl. Here, have some water." Olivia took a bottle of water and brought it to Ellie's mouth.

After she drank some water, her hoarse and weak voice mumbled, "Ms. Peyton, I'm terrified."

"Don't worry, I'll keep you safe." Olivia used her hand to wipe the cold sweat dripping off Ellie's forehead. "I'm to be blamed for this. I'm sorry, Ellie," Olivia sniffled.

For some reason, Sharon's gaze turned downcast upon seeing the duo.

She turned her head to look out the window and mulled over herself. Throughout her life, other than her own mother, she had never met anyone who remained by her side unconditionally like that.

Never in her life.

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After quite some effort, they finally arrived at their destination. It was the villa that Charlotte and Mrs. Berry once resided in.

It had been completely uninhabited and on the market for two years, but nobody dared to rent the place because of a mishap. The neighbors also all moved away.

The entire district was dreadfully silent.

Sharon carefully selected this place not only because it stored traumatic memories for Charlotte, but also because of its desolate nature.

She figured that it would be the last place on Earth that Charlotte would look for them.

With Ellie in her arms, Olivia walked into the villa. It stunned her to see the Osmanthus tree in the courtyard, along with the row of dying succulents, as well as the clothes rack. They reminded her of an indescribable sense of familiarity.

As she proceeded further into the villa, she took a quick look at her surroundings. The decor and scattered products in the living room, together with the clothes on the sofa that had accumulated a mountain of dust, confirmed that this was a place Charlotte and Mrs. Berry inhabited.

"Ellie, look. Mommy and Mrs. Berry used to stay here."

Olivia gently patted Ellie's back, only to realize she was out cold. Her clothes were dripping with sweat while her forehead was blazing hot.

"Oh god, Ellie's having a fever." Olivia rapidly sprinted to Sharon while carrying Ellie.

"I'm begging you to please send Ellie to the hospital. I'm not overstating her state of health. When she fell prey to your sister's toxins, she kept running a high fever and puked nonstop. After Dr. Felch treated her, her condition finally stabilized. Now that she ingested sleeping pills, it's relapsed. Once she becomes feverish, it could become fatal." Olivia beseeched in a state of agitation.

Upon hearing Olivia's ramble, Sharon froze for a moment, as though she was pondering.

"Please, I'm begging you. Please..." Olivia crawled over to hold onto Sharon's leg and entreated desperately.

"We're not going anywhere," Sharon snapped as she kicked her away. "Piss off. Don't bother me."

"It's imperative that she sees a doctor this instant, else she'll suffer irreversible damage to her health. I'm pleading you," Olivia cried out as she knelt on the floor. "She could lose her life over this. Please, I beg of you. Please..."

"Are you just afraid that I'll eliminate you after she dies? Is that why you're begging me so eagerly?" Sharon eyed her with contempt.

"I-I let her down. I let Charlotte down," Olivia uttered in between sobs. "If it helps, I'm willing to sacrifice my own life for her. All I ask for is that you spare the child!"

"Hmph. What a disgusting hypocrite. Oh please, you're just doing this for self-preservation. I mean, that's not unusual. It's every man for himself, after all." Sharon's tone was filled with disdain.

However, she reached out to feel Ellie's forehead. She was indeed burning up with an intense fever.

Then, she instructed an unwilling bodyguard to head out for medicine. He grumbled and complained, clearly reluctant to take on the task.

Only after Sharon promised to reward him with more money did he finally acquiesce.

"Alright. Bring her to the room to rest. We'll just wait for the fever medicine."

Sharon then fished out her phone to make a call.

"That won't do. Fever medicine is not suitable for her. She requires other forms of treatment. We must go to the hospital."

"One more word from you and I'll chop off your tongue. Get the f*ck out of here!" An aggravated Sharon howled at Olivia.

The latter dared not rile furious Sharon any further, so she quietly returned to the room and gave Ellie some wet towels in an attempt to ease her fever.

Sharon then continued with her phone call. After a long while, her call was finally answered by a languorous voice. "Hello?"

"Daddy! It's me"

When Sharon left, the mysterious stranger told her that arrangements would be made for her father to return home to recuperate while waiting for the court hearing.

Hence, she decided to try her father's cellphone.

"You- How did you..."

"I escaped," Sharon began with a hushed voice. "Where are you now? Is it convenient to talk? Your phone's not bugged, is it?"

"I'm at the hospital," Taylor responded in an equally low volume. "Don't worry, the call's not tapped."

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"That's good. Listen carefully, Dad. I've about seventy million in my Mom's bank account. When you get the chance, retrieve it as soon as you can. The amount should be enough for a comfortable retirement."

"Where did you get the money from?" Taylor was flabbergasted.

"You don't have to worry about that," Sharon murmured. "The card is hidden in the pillow in my room and the password is Mom's birthday. That's all for now. I'm going to hang up."

Upon noticing that the phone call was about to span a minute, Sharon rushed to complete her agenda for the phone call. Just as she was about to hang up, Taylor anxiously yelled, "Hold on!"

"What's wrong?" Sharon asked.

"When is your Mom's birthday?" Taylor enquired feebly.

"I can't believe you. You truly are a heartless man. How could you forget her birthday?" Sharon was beyond disappointed.

Despite her callous personality, Sharon's mom was her Achilles heel.

As Taylor's mistress, she was never allowed to reveal her actual identity in order to preserve his reputation. However, that never stopped her from going to great lengths when it came to Sharon's upbringing. She even went as far as sacrificing herself just so Sharon can return to the Blackwoods family.

Sharon always felt like she let her mother down. Hence, she was strictly unable to tolerate anyone who did her mother any disservice.

"Age is catching up with me. My memory's failing me these days," Taylor endeavors to defend himself. "I can't even recall your sister's and your birthdays. I don't even remember my own birthday, for that matter."

"That's enough," Sharon interjected. "630527!" In a brusque manner, she angrily reminded him.

"Got it. I'll remember it now."

Taylor had adopted a much more docile tone when conversing with Sharon. It sounded raspy and aged, different from the alluring man he once was in his days of yore.

"Is Cynthia dead?"

Since the phone call had already passed the one-minute mark, Sharon no longer feared the possibility of being wiretapped. If the police really wanted to bug her phone call, anything longer than a minute would be able to do the trick.

“Yes...”

At the mention of Cynthia’s demise, Taylor’s voice divulged his inner despair.

“She died at the hands of the poison she concocted. Tragedy...”

“Serves her right!” Sharon growled as she gritted her teeth. “That nasty b*tch deserved to die. Who asked her to commit crimes then pin the blame on me?”

“You shouldn’t talk about her like that. She’s your sister.” Taylor struggled to tell her off in his frail voice.

Sharon continued lambasting her sister with deep resentment. “That’s no sister of mine. Years ago, when my mom passed on, I already found it unusual. Now that I think about it, it must’ve been her. She must have been the one who murdered my mom. How foolish of me! It’s been so many years and I never knew she was adept at utilizing poison.”

When she was locked up in the Nacht residence’s backyard, she unintentionally heard the maids and bodyguards bemoaning about how it was a shame that a child so young was being poisoned.

At the time, she surmised that it was administered by Zara. She even thought about how ruthless Zara was that she would go to the extent of poisoning a young child.

However, when Olivia was pleading with her earlier on, she accidentally divulged that Cynthia was actually the one who poisoned Ellie. When Olivia recounted the symptoms Ellie had, Sharon could not help but recall her own mother’s passing.

That was why she decided to test the waters with Taylor.

"It all happened in the past. Why are you still dwelling on it?" Taylor sighed before changing the topic. "Oh right. You've yet to tell me. How did you flee?"

"Taylor Blackwood." Sharon interposed angrily. "Are you telling me that you already knew that Cynthia was the culprit who caused my mom's death?"

Taylor froze for a moment. He didn't think through his words before responding to Sharon's statement. Then, it dawned on him. That was a ruse to incite his reaction.

"You merciless b*stard. When my mom passed away, Cynthia was only eleven years old. Can you believe that? Never in the world did I expect her to be the killer. To think I really trusted what you said about how my mom died because of an illness. Only after I saw how that child suffered and got reminded of my mom did I realize that it could have been poison. You kept me in the dark all these years and pretended to love me, just to protect that vicious mute? Huh?" Sharon was quaking with rage.

"Women are like clothes. I can always look for more. But both of you are my daughters and you're going to accomplish great things on my behalf. The last thing I want is for you to destroy each other." Taylor kept his cool while he justified his actions.

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“Women are like clothes. Well said.”

Sharon cackled sardonically as tears began to trickle down her face. “Taylor Blackwood, you really are a heartless b*stard. She stayed by your side for decades and even birthed you a child. That’s how you treat her?”

“Every man for himself,” Taylor remarked dryly.

“So, tell me. There’s police surrounding you right now, am I right?” Sharon abruptly questioned. “You’re stalling for time on purpose so that they can use their tracking device to figure out where I am.”

Taylor fell silent and lifted his head to look at the throng of policemen encircling him.

He never knew that his own daughter was so intelligent.

“Guess I was right again.” Sharon let out a sarcastic laugh. Tears were streaming down her face relentlessly. “What benefits did they give you in order for you to betray your own daughter?”

Taylor lowered his head. “You can’t escape. Just turn yourself in. Zachary and Charlotte are already in T Nation.”

“W-Why would you treat me this way?”

Sharon demanded in an agitated manner. Alas, there was nothing but silence on the other side of the phone.

“Taylor Blackwood. I detest you! I will never forgive you.”

After she screamed at him at the top of her lungs, she promptly hung up.

Her hand trembled as she gripped her phone. She hung her head and cried her heart out.

No matter how poorly her father used to treat her, she always treasured their kinship. Even at the most critical point in her life, she made it a point to leave him some money for his retirement.

Even while she was on the run, she still thought about her father and even pleaded with that mystery man to save him. That was why the mysterious stranger dealt with her father's arrangements for him.

She rushed over to T Nation in a frenzy and barely managed to settle down before she gave him a call to inform him about the money she set aside for him. Unfortunately, he sold her out to safeguard his own interests.

Is that what a father-daughter relationship is supposed to be like? Is that what kinship is supposed to be like? Aren't fathers supposed to love their daughters the most in the whole wide world? Why is my own father like this? That man is a wolf in sheep's clothing. All that chivalry was a facade. Only now do I see that he's actually a self-obsessed scoundrel. It's a pity my mom never knew that. She spent her whole life deeply in love with a brute like him. If I'd known how things would turn out, I should've just remained in that quaint city and lived a modest life. Why did I have to give up everything to return to the Blackwoods and acknowledge that scumbag as my father? At the end of the day, I've been played like a pawn, manipulated and discarded according to his whim and fancy.

Knock knock knock.

The bodyguards rapped the door multiple times. In Ustranasion, they anxiously said, "We might've been followed. We must leave right away."

Sharon remained quiet. The look in her eyes turned hollow.

She didn't know what the meaning of her life was anymore.

All of a sudden, she felt like destroying the whole world.

Everyone should perish together. That might be more satisfying.

“Did you hear us? We have to evacuate this instant.”

The bodyguard was badgering her into leaving, but Sharon stayed motionless.

In the other room, Olivia was holding onto the medicine that the bodyguard purchased. She dared not feed it to Ellie but she gave her a fever patch instead.

The commotion outside alarmed Olivia. She was worried that Sharon would jump the gun and kill the both of them off. When she noticed that the bodyguards were all looking for Sharon, she saw a window of opportunity to make a run for it.

With Ellie in her arms, she surreptitiously climbed out of the window and sprinted for her life.

Despite having drained all her energy earlier in the day, Olivia still persevered and ran as fast as she could with her clothes drenched in sweat and her feet bare.

Her topmost priority was to ensure Ellie was safe and sound.

“They fled!”

A furious bellow came from behind them. Shortly after, people began chasing after them.

A frightened Olivia continued to dash forward with Ellie in her arms. Sadly, her legs soon gave way and the bodyguards managed to catch up to her.

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“Stop right there!” A bodyguard aimed his gun at Olivia.

“You can take my life, but please spare the child. However much money Sharon is paying you, the child’s parents can give you a tenfold increase.” Olivia nervously rattled in Ustranasion.

The bodyguards simply ignored her. One of them walked over and held her by her hair before giving her two violent slaps across the face.

She fell to the ground as blood oozed out of her nose and mouth. Even then, she held Ellie close to her and dared not let go. In Ustranasion, she uttered, "Her mother is the second-largest shareholder of the Lindberg Corporation and her uncle is the legendary Mr. Lindberg. Her father is Zachary Nacht of the Nacht Group. If you have the audacity to even touch her, you will be sure to die a terrible death."

"Please. She's our trump card. Of course, we won't be hurting her. As for you? You're getting in our way." A bodyguard fished out his gun and held it against Olivia's temple. "Die!"

Olivia shut her eyes in despair.

"Stop it!" Just then, an arrogant voice sounded.

The bodyguard halted in midair and turned to look at the source of the voice. "You're letting her stay alive? Until when?"

"They've already located us. If you fire the gun, it'll only attract them." Sharon cast Olivia a scornful look. "Take the child. We've got to leave."

"Alright." The bodyguard stepped forward to grab Ellie.

"No, don't touch her."

Olivia held onto Ellie tightly, refusing to let go.

The bodyguard used all his might to pry open her hand, to no avail.

That incensed him. He brutally smashed the gun against Olivia's forehead.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Blood began to pour from her head onto the ground after the three impactful hits.

Olivia's whole body finally fell to the ground, but her hands were still tightly encircling Ellie.

"Ms. Peyton. Ms. Peyton!"

The ruckus jolted Ellie awake. She immediately burst into tears. However, because of her frail state, her voice was extremely hoarse.

The bodyguard attempted to grab Ellie once again, but he was unsuccessful. Annoyed, he struck Olivia's head with his foot three times.

Olivia had long lost the energy to resist, yet she resolutely endured and held onto Ellie with her last ounce of energy.

Ellie's face was splattered by blood and she was utterly petrified. All she could do was wail in fear.

Olivia's energy was crumbling even further.

The bodyguard continued to kick Olivia's head.

All of a sudden, Ellie lurched forward and covered Olivia's body. With her croaky voice, she cried out, "Don't kill her. Please."

The bodyguard instantly stopped in his tracks. He glanced at Ellie with his brows furrowed.

A smidge of emotion flashed in Sharon's eyes but it was quickly replaced by aloofness. Without any emotion, she instructed, "Hurry. Make it quick."

The bodyguard reached out to carry Ellie only to be bitten by her.

The pain was trifling, but the sound of a car approaching from a distance told them that their enemy was nearing.

In a hurry, the bodyguard violently flung Ellie aside.

The motion was so great that her head hit the corner of the wall. Her head immediately began bleeding profusely.

“Ellie...”

A bloodied Olivia crawled over to Ellie with all her might and embraced her.

“What the hell is wrong with you?” Sharon fumed.

The bodyguard shook his arm to get rid of the blood and fished out his gun to kill Olivia.

Just then, to his utter horror, a bullet punctured his wrist. The gun in his hand clattered onto the ground as he screamed in agony.

The other three bodyguards instantaneously scurried to hide.

Sharon rushed forward to carry Ellie and prepared to board the car with the bodyguards’ protection.

Then, a Jeep furiously charged at them at top speed, sending their vehicle straight into the wall.

Slam! Just like that, their vehicle became a crushing mess.

The bodyguard who was at the driver’s seat instantly died while the other two fell from the vehicle. Before they even had the chance to resist, they were caught.

With Ellie in her arms, Sharon quickly got up and pressed the gun against Ellie’s head. She yelled, “Go ahead. If anyone dares to harm me, I’ll shoot right away.”

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“Sharon Blackwood! You must be courting death.”

A familiar yet icy voice sounded from behind her.

Sharon inexplicably shuddered and turned to look back.

Under the harsh lighting, she could see a slender figure sashayed over while a domineering and murderous aura was exuded.

The Charlotte before her eyes was a stark contrast from the delicate woman she once was.

As for Sharon, she no longer emitted an air of arrogance like she used to. She now looked beaten and crestfallen.

Sharon looked at Charlotte with a nervous expression. However, she quickly masked it with a composed look. She held Ellie tightly in her arms and chuckled sinisterly, "Charlotte Lindberg. You'd better let me leave this place quietly. Else, I'll perish with your daughter."

"Mommy..."

Ellie, who was on the brink of death, felt like she saw a ray of hope when she saw her mother.

"Ellie, don't be afraid. Mommy's here to bring you home."
Charlotte's gentle voice comforted Ellie.

Ellie weakly shut her eyes. She no longer had any more energy.

"This is heaven's will. Two years ago, you walked all over me and even callously killed Mrs. Berry. Two years later, the heavens want me to finish you off at the exact same place to seek revenge for Mrs. Berry." Charlotte took a look at Ellie before she raised her gun at Sharon.

"What are you talking about? Are you out of your mind? Your daughter's in my hands. I'm the winner." With a sardonic laugh, Sharon scoffed.

She began to grow excited thinking about it. "Charlotte Windt. Even if you change your last name, you're still as ignorant as ever. Two years ago, you were unable to fight against me. Two years later, you still can't. Hahahaha..."

"This haughty b*tch. You don't even know how you're going to die."

Enraged, Morgan immediately aimed her gun at Sharon.

The army of female bodyguards around them also pointed their guns at her.

"Even if I go down, I've got two others with me. I'm not losing out."

Not only was Sharon not frightened, she also had an ugly sneer on her face.

"Never mind about Olivia, that little b*tch. But your daughter's yours and Zachary's precious little baby. With her by my side, I'll gleefully explore the depths of hell. Do you still remember this place? Two years ago, I murdered Mrs. Berry here. Right now, I'm going to do the same to your daughter. I want you to live the rest of your life in agony."

Sharon uncontrollably shook with maniacal laughter as though she was the victorious party.

Without an ounce of will to live and nothing to her name, she no longer had faith in humanity. Life had no meaning to her anymore. She just wanted to ruin everyone else's lives.

Looking at Charlotte all helpless, she felt immensely satisfied, as though she was triumphant.

That sense of achievement was more gratifying than staying alive.

"I think you're the one who will be living a life of regret. Do you know how I found this place?" Charlotte retorted coldly,

She took out her phone and turned on a recording. It was a familiar voice.

"Mr. Blackwood, I'll cut to the chase. Sharon has fled and she has my daughter with her. The police will find you in no time. There's a bug in your phone. When Sharon dials your number later,

remember to buy time. When they pinpoint her exact location, inform me straight away.”

“Why do I have to listen to you?”

“The police will give you a lighter sentence at most. It won’t make much of a difference. What I can give you is much more. Your sentence will be reduced to a year, and I’ll help you get back on your feet after your release.”

“Really?”

“The Lindbergs never break our promises. I’ll give you a portion of your rewards first. Once you check your secret account, you’ll see it.”

“I’ve seen it. It’s a deal, then.”

“As expected, you’d go as far as to turn against your own daughter for your own interests.”

“Cut the crap. Remember to keep to your promise.”

“Once I find Sharon, you’ll get what you deserve.”

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Sharon was incensed when she heard this.

She would not be as agitated if Taylor had worked with the police to spy on her.

If that were the case, he could well excuse his action by saying the police left him no choice but to cooperate with the authorities to buy them time. In a sense, he was doing what was necessary to protect himself.

If the police had apprehended her, they would still need to abide by the protocol and run a retrial. They would still play by the rule and not kill her, but that was not what Taylor did.

He made a deal with Charlotte and even gave her Sharon's address. This was no longer just about protecting himself.

He was pushing her to the forefront and throwing her right into the eye of the storm because of his selfish interests.

He simply wanted her dead.

Never had she loathed her father with such an immense hatred.

This truth sparked an unquenchable desire in her to live on. She told herself she had to stay alive. She wanted to face Taylor head-on and demand an explanation for his indefensible cruelty.

A bolt of sudden lightning zapped through the dark sky and a thunderous sound followed. Sharon stood frozen as she tried to come to terms with what she found out.

"I can't believe I spent that much money just for you," Charlotte derided, "I paid your dad a phenomenal sum just to know your location."

"It doesn't matter how much money you gave him," Sharon said, lifting her head finally, "I know Lindberg Corporation can take back what y'all offered with just a simple command."

Taylor fell from power to failure overnight. He was desperate and he had to cling on to the only hope he had.

He would do anything just to survive—even at the expense of his daughter's life.

"Turns out you're not as dumb as I thought you were," Charlotte said, motioning toward Sharon slowly.

"Stay where you are or I'll shoot!" Sharon shouted, "Get me a car now!"

Bang!

Before Sharon could continue, a bullet drove through her knee and she collapsed to the ground, shrieking in pain.

Charlotte darted over and snatched her gun away. She grabbed Ellie with another hand and handed her to Morgan, who quickly carried the child into the car.

"Goodbye, Sharon." Charlotte stepped on her head and bent lower. "Your death is long overdue. Two years is already too much for you."

"Kill me if you dare to, Charlotte," Sharon seethed, glaring back at her. "I will haunt you even in death!"

"Even hell is too good for you, Sharon, but come to think of it, you're as good as dead now. Even your dad has betrayed you. There's nothing else for you to live for."

Charlotte used the same words Sharon told her two years ago. It was about time she had a taste of her own medicine. This familiar scene brought back bad memories.

Two years ago, Sharon had Charlotte under her feet. Similarly, Sharon smirked triumphantly at Charlotte as she ridiculed her.

"You're as good as dead now, Charlotte. Even Zachary has betrayed you. What's the point of living now? I'll do you a favor and end your life. You won't believe how thrilled I am to see you suffer. You're never getting what I can't get. This is my sweetest revenge for you."

That was what Sharon said to Charlotte back then.

"You know what? It's not worth it dirtying my hands for someone like you. I should just let you live and suffer more. You should be grateful because I spared you today."

Sharon laughed hysterically.

"Come on! Beg for your life! I will give you an easy death if you beg."

Life was like an echo. What you sent out came back to you. Two years ago, Charlotte was the one struggling for her life.

"I will remember what you did to me, Sharon Blackwood. I will make sure you pay for it. Make sure you live to see me again," Charlotte howled.

Two years had elapsed since that incident. It was Charlotte's turn to deliver justice when she finally got her hands on Sharon.

"To hell, Sharon," she said coldly, pointing the gun at her head.

Sharon knew it was not her time yet. She had to do everything she could to survive. "Aren't you curious about the person who helped me flee?"

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"Don't worry. I will get to the bottom of it." Charlotte did not want to hold this out. "I just want to end you here and now."

"Charlotte!" Zachary ran in just as she was about to pull the trigger. "Are you crazy?"

Sharon broke out in a psychotic laugh when she saw her savior. "You can't kill me, Charlotte! Zachary promised to spare me. He still needs me to find out who that mysterious person is!"

"Shut up! No one is stopping me today."

Bang!

Zachary fired a shot in Charlotte's direction before she could do anything.

Charlotte looked up at him in indignation. "Stay out of this, Zachary Nacht! I'll kill you if you stop me!"

"Charlotte, calm down! I know she deserves to die, but we have no idea who is the main culprit behind this yet," Zachary said frantically, "Think about it, Charlotte. We're out under broad daylight while the enemy is hiding in the dark. They can see our every move while we know nothing about them. They will target us again for sure."

"I don't care about what happens in the future."

Charlotte was not buying anything he said.

"Your time is up, Sharon. I'll send your ashes to your dad so he can ask for your forgiveness on his own. You can confront him all you want after you die."

Her words debilitated Sharon. "No... You can't kill me... I can't die..."

Another lightning flashed through the night, lighting up the sky instantly.

The stormy weather elicited traumatic memories of everything that happened two years ago. Mrs. Berry's gruesome death flashed back in her mind, launching a bard in her heart.

Charlotte could hear her painful screams resounding in her ears and a sinister smile curved on her lips. She moved her gun, pointing at Sharon's legs.

"I shouldn't just end you like that. I should give you a slow death!"

"Please..." Sharon shook her head in denial. "Have mercy, Charlotte..."

Bang!

A shot was directed at her thigh.

"Argh!" Sharon screeched in pain, "Zachary! Please!"

"Charlotte, don't!"

Zachary ran over, trying to stop her, but the Lindbergs' men had their guns all pointed at him.

"Mr. Nacht, these are all Mr. Lindberg's men," Lupine reminded him, "They will not go easy on you."

Charlotte had brought Danrique's men with her after the funeral and they set out for T Nation right after that.

Danrique's men were no small fries. They could not care less about who Zachary was and what was his relationship with Charlotte. They would eliminate anyone who crossed their path.

Zachary halted in his steps and shouted, "Charlotte, stop! You don't know what you're doing!"

Bang!

A third bullet went through Sharon's back.

Sharon could not even scream anymore. "I'll... I'll tell you who that person is..."

Bang!

Another shot was directed at her shoulder.

Sharon lay on the ground, immobile. "You'll regret this, Charlotte," she moaned.

"I regret not killing you earlier!"

"Charlotte!" Zachary cried out.

Bang!

Charlotte fired over and over again until she ran out of bullets.

Sharon's blood splurged all over her body, but Charlotte did not even flinch.

She wanted to watch her die with her own eyes. She did not want to miss a moment like this.

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Sharon was dead.

Her eyes were wide open as she breathed her last.

Perhaps she did not even expect that that would be her last moment, or perhaps she was not willing to accept her fate even in her death.

There were still things she needed to do.

Zachary rushed all the way to Coldbridge just because he wanted to stop Charlotte from killing Sharon, but in the end, there was nothing he could do.

The rain poured incessantly, washing away the blood on the ground.

Charlotte squinted her eyes looking at the gory scene. "This is exactly how Mrs. Berry died."

Zachary's heart wrenched listening to her. He could imagine how much she had been through. That was why she behaved so rashly today.

"You didn't go through this yourself, so you'll never understand." Charlotte looked at him in determination. "I will kill anyone that touches my family."

This was not just a word of advice for Zachary, it was also a reminder for herself.

She should not be merciful toward her enemies anymore.

Danrique did not save you from jail just so you can be a weakling, Charlotte. You need to be strong so people won't walk all over you.

It's time you live up to your calling.

Charlotte left with her men right after, leaving Zachary alone in the rain.

Zachary looked at Sharon's body before his gaze shifted toward the house where Charlotte and Mrs. Berry used to live.

The rain poured relentlessly on him as an indecipherable glint shone in his eyes.

He knew there would be a rainbow after the rain, but he had a hunch that things would not be as easy this time around. He had a premonition that impending doom was looming.

"Mr. Nacht, Ms. Lindberg has already left," Ben said, holding out a big black umbrella for Zachary, "We should leave before the police come."

"Send someone to keep an eye at this place. Let me know if anybody suspicious comes."

Zachary simply has to get to the bottom of this. He had to tie up the loose ends.

"I've already ordered them to do so."

Zachary nodded and left, but before he could even reach the car, a dizzy spell struck him and he felt cold liquid flowing out of his nose. He touched his nose and felt blood.

"Are you okay, Mr. Nacht?" Ben was worried.

"It's nothing. It's just Charlotte's blood."

Zachary made up an excuse and brushed Ben's concern aside. Good thing there isn't a lot of blood.

Although he did not bleed a lot, Zachary was fully aware that there was something wrong with him.

It was definitely not just overexertion.

He lifted his head and looked at the Lindbergs' convoy driving away. "How's Ellie?"

"Her condition is serious. Olivia is severely injured too. It's difficult to tell if she can survive," Ben reported, "But Dr. Felch is already in Coldbridge. I'm sure he will get her the best treatment and do everything he can to save her."

"Which hospital is she at? I'll go over now." Zachary was worried sick.

"It's a private hospital for royalties in T Nation that Lindberg Corporation invested in."

Morgan's car pulled up beside the hospital in just ten minutes.

Lupine had earlier on called the hospital to spare a whole floor just for them.

Dr. Felch had already arrived ten minutes earlier along with Hayley and Sam. They were pacing around anxiously waiting for them when they arrived.

Once Charlotte got to the hospital, she rushed out of the car holding Ellie in her arms.

"Let her lie down."

Dr. Felch was alarmed the moment he saw Ellie. He did a quick check on her and realized the situation was grim.

"I think you need to get a few doctors who know western medicine. We will need their help."

"Alright." Charlotte turned to Lupine and told her to do accordingly.

Morgan and Raina just arrived when they saw the anxious lot.

"Is there anything I can do to help, Ms. Lindberg? I can help Dr. Felch if he needs me," Raina offered.

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"Yes, please," Charlotte said, nodding immediately.

Raina went in without further ado.

Although Raina might not be the best doctor out there, she was the most suitable candidate. She was familiar with Ellie's condition.

She was a timely help.

"Do you guys mind leaving us alone?"

Dr. Felch sent out everyone else other than the medical staff.

Although Charlotte was distressed over Ellie's condition, she went out just as Dr. Felch requested.

"Ms. Lindberg," Morgan came over not long after they got out, "Olivia is in the ICU. She's in a critical condition."

"Save her at all costs. I want the best doctors to attend to her," Charlotte said readily, "I want to see the medical superintendent."

"The superintendent is already there. Dr. Langan brought a few other doctors with her. I heard they are pretty good too."

"Ask them to go over."

"Right away."

Both Ellie and Olivia were in the emergency rooms.

The wait was unnerving for Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg, Mr. Nacht and his men are waiting outside the hospital. Should we let them in? Mr. Lindberg's men are keeping them out at the moment."

"Let them in."

Although Charlotte was still angry with Zachary, she did not want their fallout to affect their child.

"Sure."

Within a couple of minutes, Zachary dashed in with his men.

"How's Ellie?"

"They're trying to save her," Charlotte said solemnly, "Dr. Felch and Raina are inside. They will take care of it. You can go back first."

"How can I leave when Ellie's condition is still unstable?" Zachary questioned, "I should at least know she's fine first."

"Whatever."

Zachary ordered his men to prepare a few rooms in the hospital and told Charlotte, "You should go get a change. I bet you don't want Ellie to see you full of blood when she wakes up."

It was not until then that Charlotte realized she was soaked in rain water and blood.

The nurses had been avoiding her out of fear ever since she got into the hospital.

She looked like a disheveled serial killer on the loose.

"Lupine, keep watch over here."

"Sure," the bodyguard said.

With that said, Charlotte took two men with her and left.

Meanwhile, Zachary had been waiting outside in agony all this while. It broke his heart to imagine the pain Ellie went through.

Charlotte was shocked when she looked at herself in the mirror in the washroom.

She almost could not recognize herself.

She looked away to avoid looking at herself.

She took off her clothes and took a shower to wash away the bloodstain on her body.

What Zachary said was right. She had to clean herself before going to see Ellie.

Zachary was still outside the emergency room when his phone ring. "Robbie?"

"How are you, Daddy? How are Mommy and Ellie?"

Robbie had been anticipating updates from them for a long time, but he could no longer hold it in anymore, so he decided to call.

"Mommy is fine," Zachary said comfortingly, "Ellie is sick, so she needs to be at the hospital."

"So y'all saved Ellie?"

Robbie was quick to catch on.

"Yes. We saved her, but Dr. Felch is still treating her. She'll be okay soon."

"Where are y'all now? Jamie and I want to go over."

"Mr. Spencer can send us over!" Jamie's anxious voice came from further away.

"Listen, Robbie and Jamie," Zachary said, trying to sound calm, "We're in another country now. We will go back with Ellie when everything's settled. Don't worry, okay?"

"But, Daddy..."

"Mommy's here. Do y'all want to talk to her?"

Zachary tried changing the topic.

“Okay.”

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Charlotte had already got a change and removed all her makeup. Zachary passed the phone to her when she came over. “It’s Robbie and Jamie.”

Charlotte quickly collected herself. “Robbie! Jamie!”

“Mommy...” Jamie broke into tears when he heard Charlotte’s voice. “What happened to Ellie? I’m so scared, Mommy.”

“Everything is okay, Jamie. Don’t be scared.” Charlotte’s voice became gentle the moment she heard Jamie. “Ellie’s just down with flu. She will be okay in no time.”

“Mommy...”

“Give me the phone, Jamie,” Robbie interrupted, “Don’t worry about us, Mommy. Mr. Spencer is here with us. We’re all safe and sound. You, Dad, and Ellie just need to get home safely.”

“Of course, Robbie.” Charlotte felt like crying. “We will be home as soon as possible. You and Jamie just stay at home these few days, okay? You don’t have to go to school either.”

“Yes, Mommy.” Robbie knew she was worried they would be put in danger.

“Alright, Robbie. I need to go check on Ellie already. Talk to you later?”

“Okay, Mommy. We will be waiting for you.”

Charlotte ended the call and gave the phone back to Zachary before sitting down and staring at the light of the emergency room.

"She'll be okay." Zachary's voice rang beside her.

"I miscalculated."

Charlotte was overtaken by guilt. If she had noticed earlier that there was something wrong with Olivia and if she had made watertight arrangements, all this would not have happened.

She had put Ellie in danger twice. The first time was when Ellie accidentally drank the poison Cynthia planted for her.

It was all her fault.

She blamed Zachary for it, but she knew deep in her heart that she was culpable.

"Don't overthink."

Zachary wanted to hug her, but he realized he was still drenched the moment he reached out to her.

"Go get a change. Ellie wouldn't want to see you like this either."

"I'll be back in a bit," Zachary said before leaving.

Charlotte's gaze was complicated as she watched him leave.

"Ms. Lindberg," Morgan's voice called her back to reality, "Peter said he wanted to see Olivia. He will be boarding a plane to Coldbridge soon."

"Send someone to pick him up. Don't let anyone know where we are."

"Sure."

Charlotte glanced at the window and realized the rain had stopped. The sky was still bleak. It seemed like another downpour was brewing.

Charlotte felt a heavy burden in her heart.

How she hoped there would be light at the end of the tunnel.

The time of waiting was harrowing.

Hours passed by without any news.

Peter had already arrived, but the doctors were still trying to save Ellie and Olivia.

Peter was wounded all over. He had a bandage around his head and a cast around his arm. He could not even walk steadily. Charlotte wondered how he even made it to Coldbridge from H City.

When he found out that Olivia was still in a critical stage, he slumped to the ground and started crying.

"I've already arranged the best doctors to operate on her. They will save her," Charlotte assured him.

"I'm sorry..."

Peter went on his knees before Zachary and Charlotte.

"Please don't blame Olivia. It's all my fault. She did all this because of me. Please spare her. You're like a sister to Olivia. She will rather die than to have you hate her."

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"I don't blame her, Peter, else I won't ask them to save her," Charlotte replied, "But I need to know what happened. When did Sharon get you?"

"You arranged to meet Olivia and Mr. Judd, but you didn't turn out in the end. Mr. Judd waited at the hotel for days before he finally went back to his factory in Yaleview while Olivia stayed back to wait for you," Peter said, "I told her to go back first, but she refused to listen to me. She said you must've something important to want to see her. She said something must've come up and delayed you."

Charlotte finally started to connect the dots as she listened to Peter.

"She said if she went back, it would take time for her to get from Yaleview to meet you again when you reach, so she waited for half a month at the hotel. One day, I walked in on someone trying to kidnap her when I visited her at the hotel. I tried to fight them off but to no avail. I bet they're professional assassins. I tried to buy time for Olivia so she could flee and inform you, but they ended up catching me and blackmailing her."

"I think Sharon initially wanted to kidnap Olivia to threaten you." Zachary finally broke the silence.

"But Peter intervened and they lost Olivia, so they realized both of them must be really close. They decided to make the best out of the situation and used Peter to blackmail her."

"Yes. That's what they wanted. They video called Olivia when they were beating me up... That's why I said it's all my fault. I failed to protect her."

Charlotte was thrown into a quandary.

She knew Peter was Olivia's only support throughout the two years she went missing. They had grown closer over time.

When they used Peter as bait to coerce Olivia, Olivia was caught in a dilemma. She refused to budge at first, but she could not bring herself to watch Peter being beaten over and over again, so she decided to approach Charlotte and help the other side abduct Ellie in order to save Peter.

Charlotte could understand how much she loved Peter. Olivia had a difficult childhood. Her mother fell ill just when she got to H City.

She thought they could have a good life together, but she ended up spending all her money to cure her mother's sickness.

This cultivated her independence and grit, but this also made her vulnerable. She was someone who would put her whole heart into a relationship when someone showed her kindness because she lacked love growing up.

This was the case between her and Charlotte too. Charlotte only helped her once, but Olivia remembered her kindness and did everything she could to reciprocate that kindness.

When she found out what happened to Charlotte, she refused to receive a single penny from the Nacht family and even severed all ties with them. She would rather live a frugal life than betray their friendship.

Peter was like a godsend to her. He brought warmth and love to her life and had become a part of her.

With her mother passing and Charlotte missing, Peter was her only pillar of support.

This was why all she could think about was saving him when danger arose.

She would even turn her back against Charlotte just to save him.

Charlotte hated Olivia after Ellie was kidnapped, but when she arrived at the spot and saw from the car how Olivia put her life at stake just to protect the child, she was moved.

Olivia was ultimately still a gentle soul. She may have made a mistake, but her heart was kind.

Besides, they managed to save Ellie.

Charlotte had already moved on from this little hiccup in their relationship. All she wanted now was for them to survive this.

"Stop it, Peter," Zachary said, helping him up, "That's all in the past now. All we can do now is to pray for their recovery."

Peter got on his feet and heaved a sigh of relief, but he quickly directed his worried gaze at Charlotte.

"I don't blame her, but I want you to be a man and protect her with your life in the future."

"Rest assured I will do that," Peter promised.

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"I will hold you to your word," Charlotte said solemnly, "I'll give her a house and let her stay in H City. Both of you can live together there."

"You don't have to do that for us."

"We'll discuss this after they get through this. All we can do is pray they survive the surgeries. I won't let you off the hook if anything happens to them."

Peter nodded and lowered his head without saying another word.

Three of them waited outside the emergency room quietly after that.

Time ticked by and morning broke.

Charlotte walked down the corridor to look at the sky outside through the window.

The sky looked clear after a whole night of rain.

Rays of sunshine pierced through the window and Charlotte felt this new day might just be the new start she needed.

She reached out her hand to block the sun from her face, but glares of the sun still shone through her fingers, beating on her face.

She felt an uneasy feeling creeping in her heart.

"The doctors are here!"

Morgan's voice rang behind her.

Charlotte turned around immediately and saw Dr. Felch coming out of the emergency room as he took off his face mask. "Ellie's condition is stable now."

"Thank God."

Everyone was relieved to hear his words. The worst was finally over.

Charlotte felt a suffocating burden lifted off her heart. Perhaps my gut feeling is wrong.

"Ms. Lindberg, Olivia's doctors are done too," Lupine said.

Charlotte ran over with the others following behind.

Peter stood up when he saw Charlotte coming over. "Ms. Lindberg."

"How's she?"

"She's not out yet, but the light's off already. I think the doctors are coming out soon," Peter answered, "How's Ellie?"

"She's out of danger already. Don't worry. I'm sure Olivia will be fine too."

"Good to know."

This good news gave Peter hope.

"They're here!"

Charlotte scrambled over when she saw the doctors. "How's Olivia?"

"We're sorry. We tried our best," the doctor said quietly, "Her brain is severely damaged and she's in a coma now."

"What does that mean?" Charlotte asked impatiently

"She probably won't wake up anytime soon. Her brain is dead and she's in a vegetative state now."

Peter's legs turned wobbly and he fell to the ground the moment he heard that.

Ben rushed over to help him. "Don't lose hope. We will do everything we can to help her," he comforted.

It took Charlotte a while to respond. "It cannot be," she denied, shaking her head, "There must be something else y'all can do."

"What about we ask Dr. Felch to take a look at her?"

Charlotte whipped her head looking for Lupine. "Bring Dr. Felch!"

"Dr. Felch just finished surgery. We should let him have a breather at least," Lupine reminded, "What about I bring him Olivia's medical record so he can have a look?"

"I'll ask them to fetch her record for you," the doctor said.

"Thanks."

Charlotte was unwilling to accept the reality. She took Olivia's medical record and went to look for Dr. Felch.

Dr. Felch was alerted the moment he saw the document. A frown stitched on his brows and went over without losing a moment.

After about an hour, Dr. Felch came up with the same conclusion—but he offered hope.

"There's nothing we can do for patients like her now, but medicine is improving really quickly these days. We might have a cure in the next few years. All we can do for her is to provide her with the best care now."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1101

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Charlotte was devastated. She knew Dr. Felch was just trying to make her feel better.

This was equivalent to asking her to wait forever.

Olivia was still young and she had a bright future ahead of her. Charlotte could not believe she would spend the rest of her life in the hospital.

There was nothing certain about the future. They did not even know if Olivia would ever wake up.

Charlotte's own experience was scarring. Her mother was a vegetable for years. Although she did wake up in the end, she passed on just a year later.

Charlotte did not want the same thing to happen to Olivia, but there was nothing she could do.

Dr. Felch was the best doctor in the world. If he said waiting was the only thing they could do, that must be the case.

"Dr. Felch is right," Peter responded calmly, "I will take care of her. I'm sure she will wake up one day."

Peter was surprisingly optimistic. "Olivia's a lucky girl to have you."

Charlotte was grateful for him.

Ten days later, Peter brought Olivia back to H City.

Charlotte had arranged for her to go over to Raina's hospital and put Raina in charge of Olivia.

Charlotte made the best arrangement for her, hoping that she would regain consciousness one day and spend the rest of her life with Peter.

As for Charlotte herself, she postponed her return to Erihal by half a month.

She wanted to wait till Ellie was fit to travel again. She did not want her to go through all the fuss of traveling when she was still weak.

Over the past two weeks, Charlotte had been keeping Ellie company.

Robbie and Jamie also came over to spend time with their sister.

To everyone's dismay, Ellie seemed to have gotten a lot quieter after the incident.

She would always look out of the window blankly and after some time, she would ask, "Mommy, are there still bad people in the world?"

"Well..."

Charlotte was at a loss for words. She thought for a bit and said, "There are still a lot of good people in the world."

"Then why is that woman so evil?" Ellie asked again,

"Her men kept kicking Ms. Peyton's head. Ms. Peyton is sick because of me."

The girl started tearing up as she talked. She did not cry out loud but just let tears roll down her cheeks.

"Everything would be different if I were as smart as Robbie, or as strong as Jamie. I wouldn't get caught if I were stronger, then Ms. Peyton would be safe."

Charlotte went over to console her. "This is not your fault, Ellie. You're still a child. There's only so much you can do."

"I'm the same age as Robbie and Jamie. They have never made things difficult for Mommy and Daddy. I'm the only one who keeps creating trouble for everyone."

"Don't say that, Ellie," Charlotte said sadly, holding her daughter's face, "We never once thought you're a troublemaker."

The girl looked up at her and smiled. "Don't worry, Mommy. I'm okay."

Charlotte looked at Ellie with grief in her heart. She knew this incident had injured her daughter not just physically but also emotionally.

After she tucked Ellie in, Charlotte sought professional help from a child psychologist.

Ellie's mood brightened up after a few rounds of consultation, but she was not as chirpy as she used to be anymore.

Instead, she channeled all her energy into her studies.

She started to study with Robbie and Jamie, and even told Jamie that she wanted to learn self-defense after she recovered.

While the two brothers were relieved to see Ellie being motivated to learn again, Charlotte was still worried about the girl.

She was afraid that she was traumatized and might have lost her sense of security.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1102

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Twenty days elapsed and everything was finally sorted out in H City.

Danrique called Charlotte and asked her to go back to Erihal.

The children were reluctant to be separated.

Robbie had earlier on chosen to go follow Charlotte while Jamie and Ellie, Zachary, but since Ellie needed someone to take care of her, she would have to go back to Erihal with Charlotte. This meant Jamie would be left alone with Zachary.

When the time came for Jamie to say goodbye to them, the boy broke down crying.

At first, Ellie told herself that she must stay strong and not cry, but when she saw Jamie crying his heart out, she let rip.

Robbie wanted to comfort them, but he ended up crying himself too.

Charlotte's heart ached when she saw the three children crying. She wanted her children to stay together forever, but some of the things were out of her control.

"Daddy!" Robbie cried out.

Charlotte trailed the boy's gaze and saw Zachary walking over. He looked thinner than usual in his black shirt. A smile lit up on his tired face when he saw the children.

He hastened his steps and opened his arms wide as the kids went running toward him. "Daddy!"

Zachary bent down and hugged them. He was upset seeing them cry, yet he smiled and assured them, "Come on, don't cry. We'll be seeing each other again very soon."

"When are you coming to pick me up, Daddy?" Ellie asked.

"In two months' time," Zachary replied, drying her tears, "You've gotten a lot better, but you'll need more time to fully recover. I'll go over and see you in Erihal in two months, is that okay?"

"What about me? Can I go to Erihal too?" Jamie asked impatiently.

"Of course you can, Jamie."

"Then does that mean I will get to see Mommy, Robbie, and Ellie again after two months?"

Jamie looked at Zachary in anticipation as he wiped away his tears.

"Yes, Jamie. You'll get to see them whenever you want. I'll bring you to Erihal to look for Mommy when you miss her."

"Is that true, Mommy?" Jamie turned to Charlotte, waiting for a confirmation.

"Yes, you can come anytime you want."

Charlotte initially wanted to cut Zachary off completely, but now that Jamie had made the request, she could not turn him down.

"That's great!" Jamie exclaimed. He was pleased to hear that he would be seeing his family again.

"Does this mean I will get to visit them whenever I like too, Mommy?" Ellie asked eagerly.

"Yes." Charlotte could not bring herself to turn the hopeful girl down.

Ellie nodded in excitement at her mother's answer.

Likewise, Robbie seemed relieved now that he knew this would not be the last time he saw Zachary and Jamie.

He knew that as long as they were seeing each other again, there would be a chance of changing things for the better.

"What time is the flight?" Zachary asked, looking at Charlotte.

"Four in the afternoon." Charlotte checked her watch and realized it was only nine in the morning.

"We still have some time," Zachary said, also looking at the time, "We have five hours before we leave for the airport at two."

"You can spend some time with the children."

Charlotte knew that Zachary was a good father to the kids despite how his relationship with her was going through a rough patch.

"I want to bring all of you to a place. What do you think?"

"I have to go too? Why not you just bring the kids?" Charlotte was not planning on going anywhere.

"It won't be a family trip without you," Zachary insisted.

Charlotte was still contemplating when the children surrounded her and begged her to go along with them.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1103

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Charlotte finally budged under the kids' constant entreat. "Alright. Let me just go get a change. Each of you should also bundle up."

"Yes, Mommy!"

Since Charlotte was upstairs getting a change, she took the chance to call Louis.

Louis came over to H City to pick her up last time, but she bailed on him because something happened to Ellie.

Even after she managed to save Ellie, she did not have the time and energy to explain everything to Louis because she was too caught up with treating Ellie and Olivia.

Charlotte had told him that she had to delay her trip back to Erihal by half a month and ask him to carry on with his own plans instead of keeping everything on hold waiting for her.

Louis was reluctant at first, but he eventually left.

When he found out that Charlotte was returning to Erihal, he called her early in the morning, but Charlotte missed his call because she was busy looking after Ellie.

Louis seemed to be waiting for Charlotte's call because he picked up right after she called. After making sure that everything was fine, he told Charlotte that he would meet her at Erihal's airport and that his father would be accompanying him.

"Sir Robert?" Charlotte was taken by surprise. "Why is he going to Erihal?"

"Yeah. Danrique made an appointment with him. It seems like they want to talk about our marriage, but don't worry. I've told my dad that I won't proceed with the arrangement if you're not willing to. It's just that he thinks dragging this out is not the solution, so he wants to know what you think about it. He wants to hear your opinion about our marriage, so I just want to give you a heads up."

"Alright. Thanks for letting me know."

Charlotte frowned upon knowing the news. All this was Danrique's will. There was nothing she could do about it. Besides, she had never explicitly rejected his offer.

"Alright. I'll see you in Xendale then. Bye."

"Bye."

Charlotte hung up the phone and sighed. She kept convincing herself to accept things as they were. She told herself there was no way Zachary and her could go back to how things used to be. She should not relent no matter what he did.

"Mommy!"

A parrot flew in through the window.

"Little Fifi," Charlotte said, putting on her clothes, "I'm almost done. Can you tell Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie that I'll be there in five?"

"Yes, Mommy!" With that said, Little Fifi flew out again.

Charlotte quickly got ready and went downstairs. They were dressed up and were waiting for her beside the car when she saw them.

"Get in," she told them, pointing at the Rolls-Royce before turning toward Zachary. "We have to head for the airport latest by two. I don't want any tricks from you," she whispered.

"Yes, ma'am," he said, opening the door for her and gesturing at her politely.

Charlotte rolled her eyes and went in.

The family of five departed with Fifi and Little Fifi in the car.

Behind them, Lupine had three cars escorting them while Bruce and Ben each drove a car to open the way for them.

The fleet drove down the road, putting spectators in awe.

"Where are we going, Daddy?" Jamie was the most excited.

"Let me guess!" Ellie interrupted, "Are we going to the restaurant at Fairytale Land?"

"Or are we going to visit Great-grandpa?"

"Nope," Zachary said briefly with a mysterious smile on his face. "I won't breathe a word until we get there."

"I can't wait!"

The children were all electrified waiting to know what the surprise was.

Even Little Fifi was flapping her wings and crying out in a high pitch voice. "Can't wait! Can't wait!"

Beside her, Fifi looked at the parrot severely. The eagle's expression was exactly the same as Charlotte's.

She sat beside the children quietly as she drank some coffee. She looked at the excited lot and could not help but think that Zachary was better at dealing with the kids than she was.

Unlike her, he seemed to have a natural ability to make them happy and spirited.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1104

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The car pulled up by the destination after a while.

Charlotte froze when she saw the place.

Happy Avenue!

Charlotte, Mrs. Berry, and the children used to live here.

They shared a lot of happy memories here. It suddenly occurred to Charlotte that she should have come to visit this place after she got back to H City, but she did not have the courage to do so.

Back when she lost her memory, she would feel a pang of grief whenever she went past this place.

Now that she regained her memory, she could not bring herself to revisit this place.

She was not ready to face her emotions when she saw Mrs. Berry's photo in a familiar setting.

That was why she did not set foot in this place all this while.

Charlotte did not expect Zachary to bring them here today.

"What are you trying to do?" she questioned.

"This is our home," Zachary said softly, "Don't you want to go in?"

"But..."

"Daddy brought us home!"

Jamie cut Charlotte off in excitement when he saw their house. "My toys and clothes are still inside. I've been wanting to come here all this while!"

"Me too. This is where I made my first invention," Robbie said with a hint of nostalgia in his voice, "I wonder how this place has changed."

"Deedee, Lulu, and Kiki are here too!" Ellie cried out.

"I remember Daddy brought us here during my last birthday. He said Mommy might come here to find us when she is back, so we should come here more often."

A gush of sadness overwhelmed Charlotte when she heard Ellie.

She caught Zachary's complicated gaze, but before he had a chance to spot the sorrow in her eyes, she evaded his gaze.

Zachary bent over and helped Ellie out of the car. "Now Mommy's back, it means your wish came true."

"Yeah!" Ellie exclaimed readily, smiling sweetly at Charlotte, "I made the same wish for two years, and now Mommy's back."

Charlotte smiled back and stroke her cheeks tenderly.

"But Mommy's leaving again," Jamie said quietly.

"I will come back and see you again, Jamie. I promise."

"Let's get in, people," Zachary interrupted, holding the two boys as they went in.

Charlotte carried Ellie in her arms and followed behind. Little Fifi rested on Ellie's shoulder while Fifi waited for them at the window.

The residential estate's security guard greeted them warmly when he saw the family. Although they only came back once a year, they made an impression on him.

No one would forget such a beautiful family and their two exotic pets.

The neighbors were surprised when they saw the family. "Isn't this Mrs. Berry's daughter and her grandchildren?" an old lady asked.

"Yeah, it's them. I know the parrot."

"The children have grown a lot, but they are still so cute."

"I know right. Her daughter looks different too. She's skinnier now. Even the way she dresses has changed."

"Of course. I heard she married into a wealthy family."

"So that's her husband? He looks tough and handsome."

"Yeah, that's him. He's been bringing the kids over in the past two years. This is the first time I see Mrs. Berry's daughter after all this time. The whole family is finally together."

Charlotte listened quietly as the neighbors talked. She used to work till late at night when she stayed here, so she did not really know the neighbors.

Mrs. Berry was the one who interacted with them. She needed to shop for groceries, do house chores, and send the children to school, so she had a lot of friends around the neighborhood.

She was a gregarious and cheerful person. It was only natural that they liked her. Two years had passed since the incident, but everyone still remembered her.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1105

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The neighbors had always thought that Charlotte was Mrs. Berry's daughter and those three kids were her grandchildren.

Mrs. Berry tried explaining the situation to them at first, but Charlotte told her she did not have to. After all, Charlotte did feel like she was a daughter to her.

They might not be blood-related, but Mrs. Berry was like family to her.

Mrs. Berry was the second closest to her after her own father.

Although she gave birth to the children after her father's demise, Mrs. Berry was still a loved one to her.

Mrs. Berry had always been there since Charlotte was a child. She never once left her.

She had yet reached the house, but hearing the neighbors talking about Mrs. Berry was enough to bring Charlotte to tears.

"Don't cry, Mommy," Ellie said, putting her small hands around her mother's face, "Mrs. Berry will be watching over us from heaven."

Charlotte nodded and planted a kiss on the girl's forehead as they walked into the house.

Everything still looked the same.

There was still a bunch of Alocasia on the table. The goldfish were swimming in the fish tank and Little Fifi's cage was still hanging on the balcony, swaying to the waves of wind.

Charlotte's gaze wandered and stopped at the family photo hung in the living room.

Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie wore their brightest smiles in the photo. Back then, Charlotte was carefree and Mrs. Berry smiled as if her heart was full.

Little Fifi happened to fly over and was caught in the photo too.

Although they were poor back then, they were happy.

The bliss from the photo was enough to put a smile on anyone looking at it.

"Gosh, I looked so fat," Jamie said, laughing at himself, "I was so chubby."

Ellie chuckled at the picture. "I looked fatter than you. Look at my short ponytail."

"Mrs. Berry tied it for you," Charlotte replied.

A warm smile curved on her lips as she reminisced about the past.

"Mrs. Berry used to comb and tie my hair when I was young. After I got you, she started learning other cute ways of tying girls' hair so she could experiment on you and you really liked it. Do you still remember?"

"Yeah, Mommy," Ellie answered in thrill, "She would try different braids every time."

Charlotte caressed Ellie's head tenderly. "You would always ask for a photo after she tried something new. I think we still have those photos in the album."

"Yes, we do. I always look at them when I come back. Let me go get them."

With that said, Ellie got off and went back to her room to fetch the photo album.

"I'll go get my cars and my Ultraman."

Jamie ran into his room too.

"I'll go look at my little inventions too," Robbie said.

It was just Zachary, Charlotte, and a few bodyguards in the vast living room.

Zachary signaled at the men to wait outside.

"I bet it's a lot of work maintaining this place?"

Charlotte looked at the succulent plants growing on the balcony. They looked exactly the same as when Mrs. Berry left. The other plants were blossoming in their prime too.

Although they were growing well, Charlotte knew they were not the same plants.

Those plants would not live for such a long time even if they were well taken care of, especially the fish in the tank.

They might look similar in size and color, but they were not the same fish.

Zachary must have looked for plants and fish that were similar to the old ones.

He must have put in a lot of effort to retain everything as it was.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1106

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"You can tell they are not the original ones?" Zachary asked, looking at the plants, "I wasn't in the mood to do anything back then because I was so worried. When I finally came around, the plants and the fish had already died. I was afraid you might get angry when you saw it, so I asked them to replace everything with similar ones."

Zachary glanced at her before continuing. "I pored over the photos and videos just to make sure I know how these things looked like originally. It seems like I didn't do a good enough job. You realized it."

It's actually a job well done. Charlotte almost blurted out. For a moment, she thought they had traveled back in time to two years back.

She had yet moved into Nacht residence back then, and neither had she gotten married to Zachary. That was before she got sent to T Nation.

It was not until she saw the eagle on the balcony that she was shaken back to reality. I'm Charlotte Lindberg now.

We can't go back to how things were now. There's no turning back, Charlotte.

"Why did you bring us here?" Charlotte questioned coldly after recollecting herself.

"I just want the kids to be happy," Zachary replied patiently, "They had never been separated. This is too sudden for them. It might take a while before they get used to it. I just want them to know that no matter what happens in the future, we are always a family. I want them to know that we have each other's back. Our bond will keep them going no matter what they face in the future."

Charlotte felt ashamed listening to him. Zachary was a better parent than her.

"Go and rest for a bit. I'll make lunch."

Zachary took off his coat and rolled up his sleeves as he walked into the kitchen.

Now, since when did he know how to cook?

Charlotte suddenly remembered that Zachary once made a pot of vegetable beef soup with Robbie and Jamie, but that was still not telling of his culinary skills.

Charlotte tilted her head, thinking, as she walked back to her room.

Her room looked the same too. The orchids were blossoming under the sun and her ledger book was still flipped to the same page beside her bed. Even her laptop was still on the webpage where she wanted to upload photos.

Charlotte did not expect Zachary to put so much effort into keeping this house the way it was.

She walked over and touched her table, her bed, her laptop, the ledger, and the flowers.

Her heart warmed.

"Mommy!"

Ellie's voice pierced through the silence. Charlotte went over to open the door. "Ellie."

"Look, Mommy! Deedee, Lulu, and Kiki are still here."

Ellie showcased her Barbie dolls proudly.

"I accidentally broke Lulu's leg when I came here last time. I cried so much because of that, but now it's all fixed."

"Did Daddy fix it for you?" Charlotte asked gently as she squatted down, "You have to thank Daddy."

"I'll go now!"

The girl ran to the kitchen with the dolls in her hand.

Right after she went off, Jamie came in. "Mommy, come here."

"What is it?" Charlotte asked as she followed Jamie over to his room.

She was stunned when she went in. The Lego looked the same as when they left. It was a spaceship with a few missing pieces.

"I remember Robbie and I were almost done with the model when we had to leave two years ago. We wanted to finish it before leaving, but Mrs. Berry said we could do it after we got back," Jamie recounted in a flustered manner.

"I remember when I came back during my last birthday, Robbie and I wanted to finish it, but I messed everything up when I

accidentally hit it off. Daddy said he would redo it for me because I was crying so hard. I can't believe Daddy did all this."

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"Daddy came back after that and worked on it the whole night," Robbie added.

"I know he fixed my invention too. One of the screws went missing so I couldn't put everything together, but when I looked at it just now, everything was intact. It must be Daddy. He must have found that missing screw."

"Daddy..." Jamie began to sob.

Robbie did not say a word but lowered his head. He looked at the model he invented. His eyes turned red and a tear dropped from his eyes.

He quickly turned away so Charlotte would not see him crying, but it was too late.

Charlotte felt guilty looking at her children.

She knew all they ever wanted was a complete family, but that was what Charlotte could not give them.

It was not just about holding the family together in a superficial sense. They needed a lot of reconciliation on the emotional level too.

The only thing Charlotte could do now was to minimize the hurt she would bring to them.

She bent down and smiled at them. "Daddy loves y'all a lot. Y'all should be grateful for that."

Jamie nodded and went out to look for Zachary.

Robbie had his back to Charlotte as he stood before the study table in his room, looking at the model in his hand.

Charlotte went over and ruffled his hair. "You can stay with Daddy if you want to, Robbie. Mommy's fine with that."

She knew full well that the children would not be happy around her. They should be given a choice.

"I won't change my mind, Mommy," Robbie said, turning toward her, "I just miss Daddy."

Words failed Charlotte. She did not know what else to say.

"It's okay, Mommy, Daddy can still find us in Erihal. You'll bring me back to H City to see Daddy, right?"

"I might never come back to H City again, Robbie," Charlotte said softly, "But I will not stop you from seeing Daddy."

"Mommy..." Robbie surveyed her expression before he asked the burning question. "Are you marrying Sir Louis?"

Zachary's hand stopped just as he was about to knock on the door.

"Maybe," Charlotte said vaguely, "But I still love all of you. Nothing can replace y'all in my heart."

"What about Daddy?" Robbie looked at her in the eye. "Do you still love him? Not even the slightest bit?"

Zachary cocked his head and looked at Charlotte with mixed feelings.

He had always wanted to ask this question, but Robbie beat him to it.

Despair grew in Charlotte's eyes, but she finally got a grip on herself. A bitter smile curved on her lips. "Things will never be the same between us again."

There was resignation and regret in her voice.

Zachary lowered his gaze. He felt his heart was gripped and shattered.

“Daddy...”

Robbie spotted Zachary at the door.

Charlotte whipped her head around in alarm. She would be lying to say that she felt nothing when she saw his dejected face, but this was for the best. She should snuff out every lingering hope he had as soon as possible.

“Robbie, I’ve made some pizza. Do you want to go grab some with Jamie and Ellie?” Zachary quickly put on a smile.

“Alright.” Robbie put down his stuff and put on his shoes before running out.

“Wash your hands first,” Zachary reminded him as he walked out.

“Yes, Daddy.”

Robbie cleaned his hands and joined his siblings in the dining room.

“You should eat a bit too. Lunch is almost ready,” Zachary said to Charlotte before going back to the kitchen.

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Charlotte felt conflicted looking at him walk off.

She knew he brought all of them here today not just because he wanted to remind the children of the warmth of family, but also because he wanted to try to win her back one last time.

She had smothered his last hope before he even had the chance to act on it.

She thought he would say something, but he did not.

This made her feel even worse.

Charlotte walked out and saw the children having a good time eating pizza. They seemed to like Zachary's cooking a lot.

Charlotte did not want to interrupt them, so she just went back to read her ledger book.

Her life was straightforward and simple before her father passed away. She could buy whatever she wanted, but things changed after he left.

She spent her savings and had to sell off the inheritance her mother left for her to make ends meet, but somehow, she always ended up not having enough to spend.

Mrs. Berry asked her to start keeping a record of her expenditure so she could identify some unnecessary spending and cut those out.

She had better control of her expenses after she cultivated that habit, but her extravagant way of spending did not improve a lot.

For example, she still insisted on letting the children go to the best school although her pocket was not deep enough.

She would always go for the best formula milk and clothes when it came to the kids.

She would berate herself for all her irrational purchases only after she made them. She even wrote down those remarks in her own ledger book.

What do you think you're doing, Charlotte Windt? Why did you even bring the children to Fairytale Land? That's two thousand gone and now you're broke. What are you gonna feed your children with now?

There were other more uplifting comments. Charlotte Windt, you must work hard and earn a lot of money so you can afford a better life.

She even noticed something she wrote about Zachary. That gigolo finally wired me five thousand. Yippee!

I bought some supplements for Gigolo In Debt today. It cost me a few hundred and the shop attendant even made fun of me saying I was heartless. I was going back to get my receipt when I heard them saying I should have bought something more expensive for my husband after sucking him dry.

There were also some remarks about Mrs. Berry. Mrs. Berry bought a new cupboard and went to pay for utilities. That's two thousand in total. Gigolo In Debt did not have any customers today. I think he's going through a difficult time again. I need to think of a way to make him earn more.

Charlotte realized she would jot down her own thoughts of the day after she recorded her expenses.

A smile appeared on her face unknowingly as she flipped through the book until she saw a thick envelope.

I, Zachary Nacht, hereby promise to give half of my daily wage to Charlotte Windt on my own free will, taking effect this very day. May I die a brutal death if I ever fail to deliver my promise?

This childish contract was none other than the work of Charlotte herself. Zachary even signed it.

In hindsight, Charlotte really thought she was too slow to connect the dots. She had seen Zachary's signature back at Divine Corporation, but still, she failed to realize it was the same signature.

Ha, you're so dumb, Charlotte.

Well, your life is a lot more interesting because you're dumb, so it's a blessing in disguise. I bet you wouldn't get to experience all these things if you're smarter.

A mocking smile broke out on Charlotte's face as she thought about herself. She was just about to put the contract back into the ledger book when she heard a voice.

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chapter 1109

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“Don’t you think you’re super cute back then?”

Zachary handed Charlotte a glass of fruit juice.

“How could you call that cute? I was clearly being an idiot.”

Charlotte sneered as she took it from him and drank the fruit juice.

“I think it’s cute.” Zachary picked up the contract. A smile formed at the corner of his lips as he recalled past events. “Sometimes, it’s better to be ignorant and live in bliss...”

“I wouldn’t have been deceived by you if I was smart.” Charlotte rolled her eyes at him.

“Don’t you think it’s all meant to be?” Zachary arched a brow. “We’re very happy together even though I lied to you. Moreover, you lied to me too. You never told me about the kids.”

“Why would I hand them over when I single-handedly raised the kids? Besides, you were moody and ruthless at the time. How would I know if you will take me out of the picture once you get your hands on them...”

Charlotte was stunned as she blurted out.

That’s exactly what happened in the end.

Only thing was, she couldn’t bring herself to part with Zachary. Hence, she relented and allowed her kids to return to the Nachts. She really thought that love would conquer all and that Zachary could protect her.

But in the end, the Nachts took her out of the picture and drove her away.

"I'm sorry, it's all my fault." Zachary knew what Charlotte was thinking. "I know it's no use saying all these now, but I hope..."

"It's a hopeless case." Charlotte cut him off and said coldly. "Our best bet is to become strangers again."

Zachary frowned. He was about to say something, but caught himself in the nick of time.

He knew it was no use trying to talk her out of it at the moment.

"Leave me alone. I want to get some shut-eye." Charlotte didn't want to continue the conversation.

"Ok. I'll wake you up for lunch."

Zachary turned around, closed the door behind him, and left.

Charlotte felt a little upset as she stared at the signature on the contract.

Zachary had changed a lot ever since they met. He would never compromise nor reduce himself for others. He always had to have the upper hand no matter who was right and who was wrong.

But now, he was willing to take a step back and willing to compromise.

He now had better control of his temper, improved his patience, and was gentle and kind.

He morphed into what she wanted him to be when they first met.

What a pity she had changed too.

They couldn't return to what they once shared since things weren't the same anymore.

Charlotte sighed and continued to dig through her drawers. She pulled out her father's will to have another look and suddenly realized that something looks off.

It was written in Richard's will that her life would change once she dialed the number and it got through. He warned her to never dial the number unless she ran out of options.

However, Danrique had been nothing but good to her in the past two years.

He pulled her back from the verge of death, encouraged her to get on her feet, taught her a set of skills, and even gave her shares from Lindberg Corporation. Thus, that made her the second person in charge of the company.

He gave her fame and fortune.

But why did father not want me to return to the Lindbergs?

What is he so worried about?

Is it because our family is too complicated?

But isn't that pretty common everywhere else?

As for Danrique, he never forced her into anything she wasn't willing to do even though he could be overbearing at times. Even if he did suggest or order her to do something, it would be for her own good.

Hence, she thought of the Lindbergs as her savior instead of something she had to fear.

Nevertheless, she kept Richard's warning in mind because she thought he must have his reasons.

After all, he was a man with foresight. Hence, his words carried weight.

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However, it was no use thinking about all that now. All she could do now was to take it one step at a time.

Charlotte put the will down and noticed a black card by the side. It was some money left behind by Richard for her.

She took out some money for investment back then and still had a hundred million left in S Nation's bank.

Nonetheless, she had no use for the money now since she already had plenty.

Regardless, she felt the need to take it away with her since it was left behind by her father.

Charlotte placed everything into a box where she kept her father's belongings, including the contract between her and Zachary.

After all, that was how they fell in love in the first place.

She wanted to keep it for old times' sake.

After she finished packing up, Charlotte lay down on the bed to rest. She felt worn out after everything that had happened, but never dared put her guard down.

Now that she's back home and surrounded by familiarity, she felt like she could finally put her guard down. She lay down on the bed and very soon, she was fast asleep.

After Zachary was done preparing lunch, he washed his hands and went to check on Charlotte.

After knocking twice on the door without getting any response, he walked in and found Charlotte fast asleep on the bed.

She looked so gentle and vulnerable in her sleep, just like how she used to be.

Zachary tiptoed into the room, tucked her in, sat by the bed, and watched her quietly.

As the past came rushing into his mind, he couldn't help but reach out to caress her cheeks.

Just then, Charlotte was jolted awake. She opened her eyes and met Zachary's complicated gaze. After returning to her senses, she quickly pushed him away.

"I'm just tucking you in," Zachary explained.

"You can get out now that you're done." Charlotte glared at him.

"Lunch is ready." Zachary changed the topic.

"I'm not hungry, you can eat first."

Charlotte turned her back toward him and continued to sleep.

Zachary sighed helplessly, got up, and left.

Just then, the kids barged into her room and shouted, "Daddy, Mommy, it's time for lunch. We're hungry."

"Hush. Mommy wants to sleep."

Zachary reminded the kids to not wake Charlotte up.

"Mommy, get up and have lunch first." Jamie ran over to Charlotte. "You barely ate anything for breakfast."

"Yeah, Mommy. Daddy made lots of yummy food. Come have a taste," Ellie coaxed.

Charlotte got up followed them into the dining room since she couldn't say no to the kids.

She was shocked when she saw the scrumptious meal laid on the dinner table. "You made all these?"

"Who else could it be?" Zachary rolled his eyes as he beckoned the kids to wash their hands.

The kids went into the washroom to wash their hands.

Charlotte stared at the scrumptious meal in disbelief. She reached out for a chicken wing, but Zachary quickly slapped her hand away. "Wash your hands first!"

Charlotte glared at him, but proceeded to wash her hands.

"Hurry up, I'm dying to dig in..."

The kids washed their hands in a hurry.

By the time Charlotte returned, Zachary was already done setting up the table.

"Daddy, Mommy, let's eat!"

The three kids greeted them politely before they started to dig in.

Zachary placed a piece of the chicken wing on Charlotte's plate before serving the kids.

Charlotte gave him a look before she started to dig in. She couldn't help but sigh, "This is so good."

"Only good?" Zachary placed a piece of fish on her plate. "Try this."

Charlotte took a bite. She badly wanted to praise him, but held her tongue. "It's not bad."

"Not bad?" Zachary frowned.

"It's delicious. It's the best I've ever tasted." Jamie praised him generously.

"Yeah. I think it's yummy." Ellie said excitedly. "Daddy, when did you learn how to cook like that? The only thing you knew how to cook back then was vegetable beef soup."

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chapter 1111

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"I mastered it in the past few days." Zachary stared at the kids affectionately. "I spent two hours every day learning how to cook. I also researched recipes and learned one new dish every day to reach this stage. Do you guys like it?"

"Yes, Daddy. You're the best!" The kids were elated.

"I'm glad you like it." Zachary was pleased. "Ok, let's eat."

The family happily dug into their food.

The eagle on the balcony had fresh beef for lunch, whereas Little Fifi perched on the other end of the long table as it ate its lunch. However, Little Fifi couldn't keep still as it kept staring at the kids' plates.

"Little Fifi, stop messing around and eat your food," Jamie scolded.

"Little Fifi, you're not allowed to eat meat."

Ellie reminded gently. She couldn't bring herself to reprimand Little Fifi since she was about to leave while Little Fifi will be staying back to keep Jamie company.

"Hate this, hate this!"

Little Fifi squawked unhappily and continued to eat its food.

"Daddy, how are things at work? Have you taken care of everything?" Robbie asked Zachary.

"I've dealt with some of them." Zachary evaded the question. "Don't worry, I'll take care of it."

"You didn't really attend Great-grandpa's funeral. You should pay him a visit after everything is over and explain everything to him."

Robbie was concerned about Zachary as he was about to leave his side.

"I know." Zachary placed a piece of fish meat on his plate. "Erihal is a very cold country. I've prepared some warm clothes for you. Remember to put it on before getting off the plane."

"Ok." Robbie nodded. He didn't dare look Zachary in the eye.

"I'll visit you in two months." Zachary patted his head. "You must carry on with your online lessons and study hard in the meantime."

"Ok." Robbie was filled with sorrow. "Take care, Daddy."

"Don't be silly, I'm not a kid anymore." Zachary smiled. He then turned to Ellie. "Ellie, you still need to cooperate with the treatment when you arrive at Erihal. You have to get well soon, okay?"

"Ok, Daddy." Ellie choked up as she spoke.

"Drink your soup, Ellie."

Charlotte filled Ellie's bowl with some soup and placed some more food on Robbie's and Jamie's plate. She tried to cheer the kids up by telling them more about Erihal.

"Erihal has large ice sculptures and snow. We can build a snowman, have snowball fights, and even go ice skating. It'll be fun."

"Mommy, is Erihal going to be cold all year long?"

Ellie's curiosity was piqued.

"I stayed in a place called Xendale, capital of Erihal. It's winter most of the time there. The warmest we ever had was around 10 degrees..."

Charlotte explained how Erihal was like to the kids.

"I live in a big house there and Uncle Dan rears a lot of pets. We even have a goose, Ellie."

"Do you have lions and tigers?" Jamie asked excitedly.

"No," Charlotte laughed. "Those are endangered animals, how could we keep them as pets? However, we do have some Tibetan Mastiffs and some snakes..."

Charlotte paused since Ellie paled with fright and her eyes widened like saucers.

"Don't be scared, Ellie." Charlotte quickly comforted. "I'm not living with Uncle Dan. We only have swan in my castle."

"That's a relief." Ellie breathed a sigh of relief and asked, "Do you have penguins?"

"No, but we can get one if you like."

Charlotte pulled out her phone and called the butler at Erihal to get some penguins as pets.

"Mommy, you know how to speak Erihalean?"

Robbie was pleasantly surprised. Even though he knew Charlotte was good, he had only ever seen her in action. He never had the chance to see how smart she actually was.

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"Yeah, I know five languages." Charlotte smiled. "But I'm not really good at two of them. Can you teach me?"

"You're too humble, Mommy. Let's learn it together."

Robbie found his drive to study.

"I'm so envious of you. You get to live with Mommy..." Jamie watched how Ellie and Robbie interacted with Charlotte. "I'm going to part with Mommy very soon..." he said sorrowfully.

"Don't worry, I'll take you to Erihal for a visit after two months." Zachary patted his head.

"You can follow me to Erihal too." Charlotte couldn't bear to leave Jamie behind. "Daddy can pick both you and Ellie up after two months," she said tentatively.

"Erm..." Jamie turned to face Zachary.

"No need." Zachary refused. "It's only fair that you leave at least one with me after taking two of them away with you."

"It's only for two months, and it's not like they're not coming back here." Charlotte frowned. "Why don't you ask Jamie his opinion?"

Jamie kept his head down and dared not utter a word.

"Jamie, do you want to go?" Zachary asked.

"I..." Jamie gave it some thought and answered timidly, "I think I'll keep Daddy company instead, or else he will be too pitiful."

Charlotte kept her mouth shut after Jamie expressed his opinion. "Okay then, we can meet again in two months."

"Ok." Jamie nodded profusely.

"Ok, let's eat."

Zachary placed some meat on Jamie's plate. He felt displeased even though he acted as if everything was fine.

He thought Jamie stayed by his side because he couldn't bear to leave him. Who would have thought it was because he pitied him?

Zachary started playing with the kids after lunch.

He first worked with Robbie to settle some problems he had faced in the new software he made himself. He gave him some pointers before allowing Robbie to work on it himself.

He then spent some time tidying up Ellie's Barbie dolls alongside Ellie. He found a small pink box for Ellie to store the dolls so that she could take them with her to Erihal.

Jamie played Lego all by himself by the side so that they could spend their final moments together.

On the other hand, Charlotte pouted in displeasure as she cleaned up the kitchen.

It had been two years since she last did housework. D*mn it! How could Zachary let me clean up the kitchen all by myself?

Nevertheless, she felt as if she should be the one to clean up the kitchen since Zachary already cooked.

She felt a comforting sense of familiarity as she cleaned up the kitchen in her own home.

Every corner of the kitchen reminded her of Mrs. Berry.

Charlotte recalled how bad of a cook she was two years ago. She would mistake salt for sugar, serve food before it was fully cooked, and make weirdly shaped buns.

She was just really bad at it.

However, there were also times when she successfully made some dishes.

Zachary moved upstairs and they became neighbors at the time. She would sneak into his place to sleep with him at night and sneak back into her apartment to prepare breakfast for the kids in the morning. After the kids headed off for school, she would bring breakfast and have it with him.

She didn't know why she loved him so much at the time.

But now, she was pushing him away even though he had changed for the better. She wasn't about to fall for him again after coming back to her senses.

It was all part of growing up.

Very soon, it was time for them to part ways.

Charlotte answered the door when she heard a knock.

"Ms. Lindberg, we should head to the airport now. We might get delayed since the road to the airport is jammed," Lupine reminded softly.

"Ok," Charlotte replied. She turned around and shouted, "Robbie, Ellie, Jamie, it's time to go to the airport."

Inside the room, Jamie's hand trembled, toppling the Lego tower he had just finished building.

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While Robbie was eagerly assembling his new invention paused in his track, Ellie who was playing dress-up with her Barbie doll froze.

The three of them looked towards Zachary.

He was staring at his watch, eyebrows knitted into one straight line.

All this while, he had always wished for time to slow down. However, the dreaded moment eventually came.

At the end of the day, they would still have to bid goodbye.

"Daddy!" Ellie embraced him grievously. "I don't want to leave you!"

"Silly you. It's only for two months. Daddy will meet you in Erihal later." Zachary patted her on the back. "Be a good girl alright? Two months is a very short time!"

"No..." Ellie desisted the thought of leaving her dad. Her whimpering emanated immense sadness.

Jamie's eyes were red as well. Tears can be seen streaming down his cheeks.

Robbie may seem tough, but he also couldn't stop himself from tearing up.

The three of them were always together. Now, they have to be separated from one another.

A once united and blissful family was forced to be separated.

Charlotte opened the door and witnessed the sorrowful scene. Albeit reluctant, she gritted her teeth and insisted, "It's time to leave."

Robbie hesitantly retrieved his belongings and left the room.

Jamie stood up and headed towards her. Pulling Charlotte's hand, he muffled, "Mommy, can I follow you to the airport?"

"Of course you can." Charlotte patted his head gently. "Now, be a good boy and go with Robbie!"

"Okay." Jamie obeyed her instructions.

Ellie was still crying with her arms wrapped around Zachary, refusing to let go.

"Ellie, let's go. It's windy outside, put on your jacket too." Zachary helped her with the jacket and passed her hand to Charlotte. "Follow Mommy!"

Charlotte carried Ellie in her arms and stared at Zachary. "You're not going with us to the airport?"

"I don't think so," Zachary replied coldly, "It will only make things worse."

Then, he passed Ellie's Barbie doll in a box to Lupine and rushed them, "It's time to go!"

"No..." Ellie realized what was happening and held out her arms, her cries intensified. "Daddy, I don't want to leave you!"

Zachary ushered the duo out with his back facing them.

When Charlotte was leaving, she turned her head and looked back...

Zachary was still facing them with his back. He kept his head low struggling to keep his calm.

Charlotte's heart sank but she went through with it.

"Daddy, Daddy..." Ellie couldn't stop crying.

She was staring in the direction of her home, shouting "Daddy" repeatedly.

But Zachary remained in the house.

"Bruce, follow them to the airport and bring Jamie back once they pass airport security."

Zachary instructed with his deep voice.

"Understood." Bruce brought Marino and the others with him.

Ben stood at the balcony and sent the convoy of the Lindberg family off. At the same time, he also saw Bruce's car following behind.

Lupine rolled the car windows open and poked her head out.

Ben locked gaze with her, mixed feelings sparked in both their eyes.

Eventually, it was Lupine who looked away.

Ben sighed at the sight of the fleeting convoy. The atmosphere slumped into melancholy and desolate.

Following Charlotte's departure, did it mean that his relationship with Lupine ended as well?

Ben turned his head back and looked at Zachary. He was sitting quietly on the sofa and taking a puff at the cigarette.

"You rarely smoke." Ben passed him the ashtray.

"All of a sudden, I feel that I'm a failure..."

Zachary hopelessly gazed at the puffs of smoke that engulfed him. Although he was able to achieve anything that he wanted, he failed miserably in his relationship with his loved ones.

Ben nervously replied, "Mr. Nacht, don't say that. In my view, you are akin to a god."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1114

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Zachary remained silent, taking quick puffs at his cigarette.

"It's only two months." Ben tried to console him. "Two months later, when everything has settled down, you can pick up the children. Perhaps Ms. Lindberg will return to your side as well."

Suddenly, a thought crossed Zachary's mind. He looked up with his squinted eyes, surprisingly full of hope. "That's right, there's still hope!"

He would do all it takes to bring his family back together.

...

The convey drove towards the direction of the airport.

Charlotte was trying to calm Ellie down but to no avail. "Ellie, Daddy will pick you up once you recover. Please stop crying, my good girl!"

She reiterated the sentence again and again. Apart from that, she had no idea what to do...

Subsequently, it was Robbie who managed to stop Ellie from crying. "Ellie, if you continue crying, this will prolong your recovery and consequently the time needed for you to return home."

It worked like a charm.

Ellie was shocked. She immediately stopped crying and wiped away her tears. "I'll stop crying. I want to recover and to go home as soon as possible!"

"Ellie, you're such a good girl!" Charlotte helped her with the streaming tears.

Jamie was grieving in silence. He didn't dare to cry, nor to make a scene. That might affect Ellie, and break his mom's heart.

In actual fact, he didn't want to be apart from his Mommy...

However, when they arrived at the airport, they would inevitably be separated.

Jamie leaped into Charlotte's arm and now it was his turn to break down. "Mommy, I'll miss you..."

Charlotte hugged him tightly and patted him on the back. "Don't worry about it, Jamie. We'll meet again very soon. You're a man now, be strong!"

Jamie tried very hard, but he just couldn't stop himself from crying.

Robbie and Ellie followed suit.

The three of them were crying their hearts out in the airport.

That attracted a large crowd; their hearts ached at the scene.

Charlotte tried to calm the children down. After her third attempt, she then released Jamie and held his face upwards. Wiping his tears away, she said chokingly,

"Jamie, please listen to your Daddy and take good care of yourself. If anything were to happen, don't hesitate to give me a call. Do you understand?"

"Yes." Jamie nodded.

"Alright, follow Mr. Bruce back home. I'll need to go in now." Charlotte patted him on the head.

"Jamie." Robbie came and hugged him. "Remember what I said? Take good care of Daddy. If there's anything, report to me at once."

"I'll remember that." Jammie nodded. "You must take good care of Mommy and Ellie too."

"Don't worry about it." Robbie wiped away his tears. However, his own tears were uncontrollably streaming down. "It's about time."

"Jamie..." Ellie ran towards him and gave him a hug. "Help me take care of Little Fifi."

"Alright." Jamie nodded again. "Ellie, take good care of yourself. Stop crying, alright?"

"Okay..." Ellie nodded despite still crying profusely.

Charlotte gestured to Bruce. Then, she coldheartedly separated the duo from Jamie. At the same time, Bruce picked up Jamie and was prepared to leave.

"Bruce," Charlotte called out to him and passed him a document. "Can I trouble you to pass this to Peter? Also, I'm counting on you to take care of Olivia."

"Don't worry. Mr. Zachary has it covered." Bruce retrieved the document.

"Thank you." Charlotte turned away and left.

Bruce was staring in their direction until he lost sight of them. Only then did he brought Jamie back home.

Jamie was wiping his tears away. He asked Bruce, "Mr. Bruce, will I be an orphan without Mommy?"

"That's not true. Daddy is looking for ways to bring you, Mommy, Robbie, and Ellie back from Erihal," Bruce reassured him.

"Are you sure?" Jamie's hope reignited.

"Of course." Bruce was confident. "Nothing is impossible for your Daddy. He will fulfill his promises!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1115

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The plane took off and left the familiar city.

Charlotte looked out the windows and stared blankly at the scenery. Countless memories flooded into her head, stirring up rippling waves of emotions.

Every single one of those memories had Zachary in it.

His face and silhouette were deeply imprinted in her mind.

Perhaps if she were to lose her memories again, he would really be forgotten.

With that thought, Charlotte smiled bitterly.

Last time, she pretended not to care about Zachary. Now that she was really leaving, her true feelings could not be suppressed any longer.

The truth was that she still loved him.

However, the hatred that distended within her was beyond overwhelming. She couldn't forgive him, nor could she do it on behalf of Mrs. Berry.

Hence, it was time to put everything to an end.

...

Zachary stood mindlessly in the airport and stared at the fleeting plane.

Despite saying that he would not go to the airport, he showed up anyway. However, he hid in a corner, secretly sending them off.

As the private jet of the Lindberg family took off and vanished from sight, Zachary fell into a state of devastation.

She's gone, really gone.

Her determination was absolute.

"Daddy!"

An innocent voice came from behind. After that, a chubby hand grabbed Zachary's arm.

Zachary looked towards him.

Jamie looked up hopefully at him, "Mr. Bruce said that you will get Mommy back, is that right?"

"Yes," Zachary replied. However, he wasn't confident with his answer. Charlotte made up her mind and she would not be swayed easily.

"Do you love Mommy?" Jamie continued to ask.

"Of course I do," Zachary answered without hesitation.

"Do you want to be with Mommy?" Jamie asked another question.

"Yes!" The images of the five of them living together as a family flashed before him.

That was the life that he wanted all along.

"That's good." Jamie nodded, appeased. He then gestured to Zachary. "Daddy, let me tell you a secret."

"What is it?" Zachary crouched down and leaned towards Jamie.

Jamie whispered in his ears. "Robbie and I have a plan. We are tackling the issue from various points. We will support Daddy's plan to get back with Mommy. With our assistance, you will succeed for sure! When Ellie recovers, she will join us and this will be step three."

Zachary was touched. He tenderly rubbed his head and said, "Thank you, Jamie!"

"Robbie and Ellie too." Jamie stared at him seriously.

"Yes, thanks to Robbie and Ellie too." Zachary pinched his cheek dotingly.

"Daddy, it was you who said that we must be fearless and determined in pursuing our goals. You can do this!"

Jamie clenched his small fists and encouraged Zachary.

"Yes, Daddy will bring Mommy back!"

Zachary instantly had the confidence that he needed. He held Jamie high up in his arms and uttered confidently, "Two months later, we will bring Mommy, Robbie, and Ellie back from Erihal!"

"Yes, that's great!" Jamie raised his hand and cheered happily.

Zachary grinned at the sight of Jamie's jubilation.

When he was prepared to leave together with Jamie, there was sudden dizziness and his vision blurred.

He instinctively supported himself by holding on to the wall.

"Daddy, what's wrong?" Jamie did not notice anything unusual.

"Is there anyone suspicious?"

Bruce thought that they might be in danger.

"Mr. Nacht, are you not feeling well?"

Only Ben noticed Zachary's oddity.

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"It's alright," Zachary brushed off their concerns.

Swiftly, he shrugged off the discomfort and continued walking.

By then, he was already starting to recover. Albeit having a blurred vision, he was able to manage by relying on his keen judgment.

As he walked, his vision recovered gradually.

He peered at the beautiful sky. Once again, he was reminded of his deteriorating health...

"Mr. Nacht, the car is here," Ben reminded softly.

"Jamie, you head back first. I have some matters to attend to." Zachary ushered Jamie into the car and instructed Bruce, "Send Jamie back."

"Yes." Bruce entered the car.

"Daddy, when are you coming back?"

Jamie was worried as Robbie and Ellie were not there with him anymore. He was terrified at the thought of being home alone.

"I'll be back at night." Zachary gently touched his face. "Be a good boy. If you're bored, Mr. Marion will train with you."

"Alright," Jamie nodded obediently.

Zachary gestured at Marino, who started the engine and drove away.

"Mr. Nacht, are you not feeling well?"

Ben was observing Zachary.

"Leave me," Zachary instructed everyone to leave but Ben. He instructed softly, "Give Raina a call and arrange a full body checkup for me."

"Understood." Ben immediately informed Raina.

The two of them entered the car and headed towards Kindness Hospital.

Ben was extremely worried about Zachary's condition. Long ago, he had already noticed that something was off about Zachary. Nonetheless, when asked to do a checkup, Zachary's questioned Raina's capabilities as a doctor.

He gave the example when Raina was oblivious that Charlotte was poisoned.

Hence, the matter was delayed until now.

However, the situation didn't look well. The fact that Zachary ushered everyone away and took the initiative to undergo a medical checkup might indicate a serious problem.

In an instant, they arrived at Kindness Hospital.

Raina was waiting at the entrance. Upon their arrival, she raced towards them. "What happened?"

"Nothing. Just an ordinary checkup." Ben was putting on a relaxed front. "Is everything ready?"

"Yes," Raina anxiously replied, "I will personally handle the process. There will be two assistants helping me, but they are loyal and can keep a secret."

"Great," Zachary replied and stepped into the hospital.

Raina quickly arranged a plethora of tests for Zachary and it went on until late at night.

Some of the reports were out, some might need another extra day.

Raina went through the reports one by one with Zachary, "All of your tests results came out normal. Mr. Nacht, you're very healthy and it appears that there is nothing to worry about."

"What about my eyes?" Zachary asked.

"Your vision is impeccable." Raina was holding the report, "Is your vision affected in any way? Or do you feel any sort of pain or discomfort?"

Zachary retrieved the report from Raina. Indeed, she was right. However, Zachary was still not convinced. I understand if Raina's capabilities are limited, but the machines should be able to detect the problem.

"What about the CT scan results of my brain?"

Zachary quickly realized that the source of the problem might be in his brain. Perhaps there was some form of blockage on his nerves, which eventually interfered with his vision.

"That will need to wait until tomorrow," Raina replied. "If you are in a hurry, I can summon more people to work overtime."

"That is not necessary." Zachary put down the report. "No one can know about this."

"I understand." Raina nodded.

"Let me know when the results are out," Zachary instructed.

Then, he turned and left.

“Remember, keep this a secret.”

Ben reminded Raina again before catching up to Zachary.

Raina stared at their backs as they walked away. It's a shame that Mr. Nacht is not around anymore. If something bad happens to Zachary, then the Nacht family is doomed...

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On the journey home, Ben pretended to be relaxed and consoled Zachary, “Didn’t Raina say that you’re in good health? Looks like it was just a scare.”

With his head lowered, Zachary didn’t reply. Instead, he had a grim expression on his face.

“Where exactly do you feel the discomfort? Do you have a headache?” Ben was unsettled when he noticed Zachary’s expression. “We should have gotten Dr. Felch to give you a check-up.”

Zachary remained silent.

Despite being worried, Ben didn’t dare enquire further.

When they arrived home, Jamie was already asleep. Zachary came into his room and tucked him in. Then, he sat beside him and quietly watched.

“Robbie! Ellie!” Jamie mumbled in his sleep. “Mommy...”

Having just been separated, he had started to miss everyone else.

As Zachary stroked Jamie’s head, a smile broke out on his face. He recalled how he confidently promised Jamie that he would bring Charlotte back and resolved to keep his word.

Jamie is right. We must move forward fearlessly no matter what we do. No matter the obstacles, I must press on and bring Charlotte and the children home.

If he turned out to be fine, it would be wonderful for the family to be reunited.

However, if something were to happen to him, the Nacht family would need someone to take over as stalwarts of the family.

With that thought in mind, Zachary felt reinvigorated.

That night, he didn't sleep well as he was waiting for Raina's report.

He suspected that there was likely something wrong with his brain.

Just as expected, someone knocked anxiously on his door at nine in the morning.

Zachary answered in a daze, "Come in!"

Ben rushed in. "Mr. Nacht, the report is out."

Zachary opened his eyes abruptly and sprang to his feet. Throwing his jacket on, he instructed, "Let her in."

"Yes." Ben hurried to get Raina.

Medical report in hand, Raina reported nervously, "The CT scan shows that there's something wrong with the nervous system in your brain. So far, it looks like a poison has permeated inside, causing the damage..."

"How did this happen?" Ben turned pale in shock.

"It was caused by poison?" Zachary was calm instead.

"Most likely so." Raina's expression was solemn. "We'll need a specialist to drill into the details. As I'm not a neurologist, I'm not qualified to make a definitive diagnosis."

"Continue." Zachary poured himself a glass of cold wine and sipped it calmly.

"This condition may impair the brain's nervous system. From there, it may cause you to lose the functions controlled by the nervous system..."

"Such as my eyesight." Zachary finally understood.

"How did this happen? Why is he poisoned all of a sudden?" Ben was exasperated. "Can you find out what kind of poison it is?"

"Unfortunately, I can't," Raina replied dejectedly. "I'm a gynecologist and surgeon. Hence, this is not my area of expertise. As of now, we need to gather the required specialists to find a way to treat this."

"What are you waiting for?"

"There's no need for that." Zachary waved his hand and calmly remarked, "You're dismissed."

"Mr. Nacht..."

"If the specialists were competent, I wouldn't need to painstakingly look for Dr. Felch to treat Ellie," Zachary plainly answered.

"In that case, we'll head to Erihal to see Dr. Felch then," Ben suggested at once. "I'll have the private jet prepared right away."

"Are you crazy?" Zachary snapped in displeasure. "Dr. Felch is treating Charlotte and Ellie now. If you bring him here, who is going to treat them?"

"But you..."

"It's fine. We still have two months. When we go and pick them up, we'll get Dr. Felch to return together with us," Zachary explained calmly. "I'll just have to bear with it for two months."

"Mr. Nacht, this is serious," Raina remonstrated. "If something happens to you, the Nacht Group will be finished."

"That's why this has to be kept a secret," Zachary reminded.

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"We will make sure it stays that way. However, it is urgent that you get yourself treated as there's no way you can delay it," Raina anxiously advised. "If you don't trust the doctors here, we can invite those from overseas-"

"Enough," Zachary interrupted. "That's all for now."

"Mr. Nacht..."

Just when Raina wanted to continue persuading, she held her tongue when she saw the look in Ben's eye. With that, she lowered her head and left.

Ben knew that once Zachary had made his decision, no one was able to change it.

"Can it be Cynthia?" Ben probed. "When she was caught, she wasn't remorseful at all. In fact, she tried to poison Ms. Lindberg. However, you managed to shield Ms. Lindberg at the crucial moment."

"I suppose so." Zachary had guessed the same. "Back then, I was splashed with a little bit of poison on my face. I didn't expect such a minute amount to be able to seep into my body."

"What a terrifying woman," Ben hissed through his teeth.

Zachary remembered Cynthia's last words before she left.

"You really do love her. Unfortunately, you will never be together in this lifetime. Soon, you will join me in hell..."

Back then, she had a vicious look on her face.

However, Zachary didn't notice it due to his overconfidence.

He felt that he was invincible and couldn't be hurt by a few drops of poison.

"I wonder if there's an antidote. I'll start looking right away." Ben suddenly thought of a crucial detail. "Freya, who is in prison right now, and Taylor might know something about this. I'll go over to Cynthia's lab to see if I can find anything."

"A long time has passed since then. An antidote would be useless even if there was one," Zachary replied plainly. "There's no need to waste your time."

"Nevertheless, we should give it a try still." Ben was desperate. "We can't just sit here and do nothing."

With that, he hurriedly left.

Sitting on the sofa, Zachary continued sipping his wine. Despite looking calm, his gaze gradually turned gloomy.

At that moment, Jamie's voice rang out. "Daddy, are you awake? Let's have breakfast together."

"Wait for me downstairs. I'll be down in ten minutes."

Zachary got up to shower and change. Looking at himself in the mirror, he was filled with mixed emotions.

Although he looked as if there was nothing wrong, he was carrying a deadly sickness.

Nevertheless, he reminded himself to bear with it.

He couldn't allow himself to fall as he still had lots of unfinished business.

Holding that thought, he took a deep breath and washed his face with cold water. After coming out of the bathroom, he got changed and pulled himself together before going to see Jamie.

Jamie looked smart in his casual clothing and was feeding Little Fifi at the dining table.

When he saw Zachary, he greeted, "Daddy!"

"Good morning, Jamie." Zachary tousled his hair. "What are your plans for today?"

"Since I can't go to school these few days, I'll just have to work on combat training with Mr. Marino." Jamie moved to sit beside Zachary and chatted casually. "However, Mr. Marino has been in a bad mood recently and seems distracted."

Zachary shot Marino a glance.

Marino quickly lowered his head as his face lost color.

"I'll train with you today," Zachary declared as he rolled up his sleeves. "After that, we'll play soccer."

"Really? That's wonderful!" Jamie exclaimed in delight.

"Be good now and finish your breakfast." Zachary poured a glass of milk for him. "Drink more milk and you'll grow tall and strong."

"Mmm-hmm." Jamie nodded repeatedly. "I drink two glasses every day. I'm sure I'll be as tall as you are."

"You should aim to be taller than me." Zachary gave him a gentle look. "Jamie, other than martial arts and sports, don't you have any other interests?"

"I find planes and cars interesting too." Jamie drank a mouthful of milk and suggested excitedly, "Daddy, when I grow up, you must teach me how to drive a car and fly a plane."

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"All right," Zachary readily agreed. "What else?"

"That's all."

Busy eating, Jamie didn't realize that his father was watching him thoughtfully.

Lowering his gaze, Zachary began to worry. Now that Robbie has gone to Erihal with Charlotte, who will take over the company if something happens to me? Jamie is a wonderful kid, but he isn't suited for the position.

"By the way..." As if he recalled something, Jamie enthusiastically declared, "I like playing with Lego and treasure hunts. In the future, I intend to climb Mount Everest and discover uninhabited lands..."

"That's wonderful. No matter what you like to do, I will always support you." Zachary stroked his hair. "However, you have to pick up more skills so that you can ensure the safety of your team."

"Mmm-hmm. I've been reading adventure books recently." Jamie nodded with a smile. Feeling unnerved, he asked, "But Daddy, are you disappointed that I'm not as talented as Robbie?"

"Of course not." Putting down his cutlery, Zachary explained earnestly, "Everyone has their own strengths and their own destiny. All you need to do is focus on doing what you enjoy."

"Thank you, Daddy!" Jamie was delighted by the encouragement.

"Daddy! Daddy!" Little Fifi yelled alongside him.

When Zachary turned to look at her, he couldn't help but think of Charlotte, Robbie, and Ellie. Then, he wondered how they doing...

"I wonder how Mommy and the other two are?"

Jamie thought of them too.

Coincidentally, Zachary's phone rang. When he saw that it was Robbie on the line, he answered at once. "Robbie!"

"Daddy, we have just landed." Robbie's voice rang out. "Are you, Jamie, and Little Fifi doing all right?"

"Yes, we're good."

Zachary put Robbie on speaker so that Jamie could hear him too.

"Robbie, I'm surprised at how quickly you have arrived. Is it cold there?" Leaning into the phone, Jamie asked anxiously, "Did you wear the jacket Daddy prepared for you?"

"Yes, I did," Robbie replied calmly.

"Let me speak. Let me speak." Ellie took over and spoke excitedly, "Daddy, Jamie, it's really cold here. Also, it's snowing heavily and the view is gorgeous! This is the first time I have seen such heavy snow. They look like cotton balls and are falling non-stop. By the way, there's a lot of people waiting outside to pick us up!"

"Was it Uncle Dan?" Jamie asked.

"It's not Uncle Dan, it's a man from F Nation." It was a slip of tongue by Ellie.

Upon hearing Ellie's words, Zachary's heart burned with jealousy. It seems Louis is meeting Charlotte at Xendale airport. What a desperate guy!

"It's Sir Louis," Robbie reported, "his father is here too. Both of them have brought a group of subordinates and are waiting for us outside. Their private jet landed half an hour earlier than us. At the same time, Uncle Dan has also sent men over-"

"Wait a second." Zachary asked at once, "Robbie, did you say that Sir Louis' father is there too?"

"Yes, I heard Mommy address him as Sir Robert," Robbie replied softly. "Daddy, we're about to disembark from the plane. Both of you take care!"

"All right. Remember to stay safe and listen you your mom."

"I know. Bye!"

"Robbie, call me on video once you get home," Jamie yelled before the call ended.

"Mmm-hmm." Robbie grunted before ending the call.

Phone in hand, Zachary furrowed his eyebrows.

It wasn't such a big deal if Louis was with Charlotte at Xendale. However, if Robert was there with them, it meant that marriage discussions were about to begin.

It must be Danrique's idea. Or else, Robert wouldn't appear without Charlotte's permission. Is she really going to marry Louis?

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"Daddy, what's wrong?" Jamie was concerned when he saw Zachary's expression. "Are you worried about Robbie and Ellie? And also the fact that Mommy will marry someone else?"

"Both." Zachary had no qualms about discussing such issues with his son. "But don't worry, I'll think of a way to solve it."

"You don't have to worry too. Robbie already has a plan," Jamie remarked smugly. "At the very least, Mommy won't get married within two months."

"Hmm?" Zachary's face lit up. "What plan?"

"I'll let Robbie tell you himself in the evening," Jamie replied with a mysterious tone. "After all, it's not in place yet. So, there's no point in talking about it."

"You cheeky rascal. How dare you keep me in suspense." Zachary gently slapped the top of his head.

"Hehe."

Meanwhile, in Xendale, Erihal.

Due to the heavy snow, the entire city looked as if it was blanketed with a large white sheet.

Lupine instructed the maids to put on the tailored down jackets for Robbie and Ellie. The gear they wore included military boots for children.

At the same time, Charlotte had put on a long white jacket and hat that kept her warm and snug underneath. With her non-slip military boots, she looked extremely domineering standing by the escalator.

As she held the two children's hand while going down the staircase, she was followed by Lupine, Morgan, and eighteen other female bodyguards.

When the children saw what awaited them, they were filled with a sense of novelty and curiosity.

Looking ahead with a steady expression, Robbie quickly caught Robert's eye.

Robert muttered softly to Louis, "No wonder Mr. Lindberg likes the children. They have the air of kings."

"The three of them are adorable and also special in their own way," Louis replied with a chuckle before warmly greeting his guests in Chanaean, "Charlotte, Robbie, Ellie!"

"Hi, Sir Louis."

The two children greeted Louis politely. After that, Robbie politely reminded, "Sir Louis, we appreciate you waiting here for us. However, there is something I need to discuss with you."

"Oh? What is it?"

Louis was curious about what Robbie had to say. He even knelt down to Robbie's height so that they could see each other at eye level.

"Only my parents call me that. Perhaps, you can be more formal next time." Robbie spoke frankly.

Louis was awkwardly stunned but quickly recovered his composure and smiled. "All right, I'll keep that in mind."

"Excuse me." Robbie lowered his head with a bow to demonstrate his respect.

"It's all right. I have overstepped my boundaries. You made the right decision being forthright about it." Smiling, Louis reached out his hand. "Let us shake hands then!"

Robbie shook his hand with a smile. Although he hoped that Charlotte didn't marry Louis, he didn't dislike him at all. In fact, he felt Louis was a sincere and principled man.

"Let us shake too."

Ellie extended her hand and shook hands with Louis.

Then, both of them smiled at each other.

When Charlotte saw that the children didn't resent Louis, a smile of relief broke out on her face. At least they can interact with each other without incident.

Soon, she collected her thoughts and bowed at Robert respectfully. "Sir Robert, sorry to have kept you waiting."

"We happened to arrive earlier, that's all." Robert looked at her with a smile. "You seemed to have lost weight. H City's climate doesn't agree with you. It seems Xendale is where you belong."

Behind the simple comment was an implicit message.

"Yes." Charlotte nodded cordially before calling for her children. "Robbie, Ellie, greet Sir Robert."

"Hello, Sir Robert," Robbie and Ellie greeted politely.

"Hello to you too." Robert looked at the children. "They do have the air of the Lindbergs."

The moment he heard the comment, Robbie shot a glance at Robert and furrowed his eyebrows in response.

However, Ellie had a blank look on her face as she didn't realize the meaning behind the words.

"Get in the car, Danrique is waiting for you at home."

"All right, Sir Robert. After you."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1121

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As the convoy drove into a beautiful compound, they saw two castles located inside.

One had a grim-looking architecture while the other had a romantic facade.

When Ellie saw the romantic castle from afar, she commented excitedly, "That is a beautiful castle. It looks exactly like the ones in fairytales."

"That's Mommy's home. Hence, it's also your home." Charlotte looked at the children with a smile.

"Wow! That's wonderful!" Ellie exclaimed in delight. "I love this castle. It makes me so happy!"

"Does the other one belong to Uncle Dan?"

When Robbie saw the grim-looking castle, he felt unnerved by it.

Although Danrique was especially nice to him, his unpredictability still struck fear into Robbie's heart.

"Yes." Charlotte nodded. "We will visit Uncle Dan first and have dinner at his place before going home."

"Boohoo... I'm scared."

Ellie snuggled into Charlotte's arms and buried her face in her chest. She didn't dare look up.

"Don't be afraid, Uncle Dan won't harm you." Charlotte gently patted Ellie on her back.

"Mommy's here so don't be scared. We'll go home after dinner." Robbie reassured his sister.

"Okay," Ellie agreed reluctantly with a pout.

"Ms. Lindberg," Lupine reported. "Shall I get Morgan to send Dr. Felch and the others back first?"

"Mmm-hmm." Charlotte nodded. "Dr. Felch doesn't like to entertain, so take him back to rest first. Also, get Morgan to take good care of him."

"Understood." Lupine nodded before giving Morgan a call.

Morgan led another two cars back to Charlotte's castle whereas Charlotte and Louis' cars headed straight for Danrique's castle.

"This place is huge." Snuggling inside Charlotte's arms, Ellie looked out at the snowy scene curiously. "Is Uncle Dan more amazing than Daddy?"

"They are more or less equals," Charlotte replied with a grin. "It's just that they come from different backgrounds."

Although she didn't elaborate, Robbie understood what she meant by background.

"Hoho, that means Daddy is just as amazing too!" Ellie nodded proudly.

Tousling Ellie's hair, Charlotte remarked in relief, "I was worried that you would fall sick after the long flight. But given how energetic you are now, my mind is put at ease."

"I'm feeling good..."

Just as Ellie spoke, she saw the look in Robbie's eyes. Then, she quickly held her chest and pretended to be in discomfort.

"Actually, my chest still hurts. I have difficulty breathing while my head is still woozy. But it doesn't matter. It's important that we meet Uncle Dan."

"Ellie, are you not feeling well still? Let me take a look."

Charlotte grew anxious and put her hand to Ellie's forehead to check her temperature.

"Your temperature is normal. I'm just worried that it may be something else. I should have sent you home along with Dr. Felch."

"It's okay, Mommy. I'm doing fine now. We can go home later," Ellie reassured her. "Let's see Uncle Dan first."

"If we feel any discomfort, you have to let me know right away. I'll get Lupine to send you back," Charlotte instructed.

"Okay."

Nuzzling her head in Charlotte's embrace, Ellie exchanged glances with Robbie.

Robbie quickly collected his gaze and looked out into the night.

After giving Robbie a thoughtful glance, Charlotte didn't say a word other than adjusting his collar for him.

Soon, the convoy arrived at Danrique's castle.

Tens of bodyguards lined up neatly in two rows to welcome Charlotte and Robert.

Just as Charlotte led the children out of the car, Danrique gradually walked towards them. He greeted Robert first before turning to Charlotte. "You're back!"

"Danrique!" Charlotte greeted with a smile. She then instructed the children, "Robbie, Ellie, greet your uncle."

"Uncle Dan!" both of them greeted obediently.

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Danrique looked at the children with mixed emotions before collecting himself. Smiling slightly, he replied, "Welcome!"

After that, he gestured for everyone to enter.

As Robert walked along with Danrique, both of them conversed in Ferropenian.

Charlotte, who followed behind them with the children, could sense that Danrique was out of sorts. His face was pale while his strides were not as energetic as they used to be.

Louis leaned over and whispered, "Has Danrique not recovered from his wounds?"

"What?" Charlotte was shocked. "Is he injured?"

"Erm..." Louis' face turned awkward. "You didn't know? Gosh, I committed a slip of tongue."

Charlotte furrowed her eyebrows and wondered who it was that was capable of hurting Danrique.

Moreover, he had not brought it up after so long.

There's definitely something suspicious about it.

"Since Danrique doesn't want you to know, it's better that you don't ask." Louis was anxious. "At least don't ask him in front of us. Or else, he will skin me alive."

Until now, Louis was terrified of Danrique after the lesson he was taught the last time.

"I know." Charlotte rolled her eyes at him.

When they arrived in the grand hall, the dining table was filled with scrumptious food.

Danrique invited everyone to take their seats while Charlotte brought the children to the changing to remove their jackets and wash their hands before joining the rest.

Danrique raised his glass to a toast and clinked it with Robert. After that, both of them finished their wine in one gulp.

Then, Robert got Louis and Charlotte to toast Danrique together.

While Louis toasted obediently, Charlotte was reluctant to do so as she understood what Robert was trying to imply. Nevertheless, she complied respectfully.

While Ellie ate obediently, Robbie was quietly observing what was going on.

After a few glasses of wine, Robert got straight to the point. "Given how busy everyone is, we seldom get an opportunity to gather. Therefore, why don't we decide on Louis and Charlotte's engagement earlier? Based on Chanaean traditions, I, as the father of the groom, am here to ask for the bride's hand in marriage on his behalf."

Although the Lindbergs had emigrated to Erihal decades ago, they still considered themselves Chanaean. Hence, all their customs and practices followed Chanaean customs.

"As her elder brother, I have tested Louis on behalf of Charlotte." Swirling his wineglass, Danrique glanced at Louis. "Although Louis is easily contented, he has a kind heart and is sincere toward Charlotte. Therefore, I have no objections to the engagement."

"Thank you, Mr. Lindberg," Louis replied in delight.

Robert furrowed his eyebrows in displeasure. However, he quickly broke into a smile. "Louis was appointed as a duke at a very young age which is rare within the royal family. It's undeniable that his ambition couldn't be compared to yours, but he still has a lot of opportunities ahead of him."

Smiling slightly, Danrique turned to Charlotte instead. "I'll leave the decision to Charlotte. Although I support it, I won't force her."

"Of course." Robert turned toward Charlotte. "Charlotte, have you given it due consideration?"

"I don't think it's appropriate to discuss this in front of the children." Charlotte was considerate of their feelings. "Sir Robert, let's talk about it in the study later."

"We're speaking Ferropenian. They won't understand." Robert chuckled.

"Mommy, this steak is delicious," Robbie blurted in Ferropenian and even cut Charlotte a piece.

Robert was utterly stunned.

"Uncle Dan, is your chef a Chanaean? He has managed to blend Chanaean flavors with the local food," Robbie remarked to Danrique in Erihalean.

Further shocked, Robert asked in disbelief, "This child knows Ferropenian and Erihalean? Is he truly just six years old?"

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"Robbie knows five languages," Charlotte explained with a smile. "He speaks Erihalean and Ferropenian better than I do."

"What?" Robert was stunned.

"It's all right. The child's intelligence and emotional maturity is at the level of adults," Danrique plainly explained. "He knows what we're talking about."

Robert scratched his nose awkwardly.

"You have a good eye." Danrique looked at Robbie in admiration. "The chef is indeed Chanaean."

"Mmm-hmm. He's really good." Robbie nodded in praise.

"Feel free to come for dinner whenever you like."

Danrique adored Robbie and always spoke to him in a gentle tone.

"Sure. Thanks, Uncle Dan." Robbie smiled before continuing with his meal.

"Robbie, what are you talking about?"

Ellie looked at Robbie curiously as she didn't understand what they were saying.

"We're talking about dinner..." Robbie filled Ellie in while speaking Chanaean.

When Danrique finished the wine in his glass, he turned to Charlotte. "I have something on at night. Is it all right with you to just give them an answer?"

Charlotte stopped slicing her steak halfway as she knitted her eyebrows. Although she was reluctant to agree to it, she didn't dare reject the proposal in front of everyone.

It would not only humiliate Robert, but also Danrique.

After all, Danrique was the one who invited them over.

Although he had stated that he wouldn't force Charlotte, his support for the marriage couldn't be any more obvious.

"There's no hurry at all." Sensing Charlotte's awkwardness, Louis helped her diffuse the situation. "Mr. Lindberg, if you are busy, we can talk about this tomorrow. After all, Dad and I will be staying a few days and won't be leaving so soon."

When Robert gave Louis a look to signal him to stop talking, Louis pretended not to see it.

Robert was infuriated. It was obvious Danrique was putting pressure on Charlotte to be decisive. However, once Louis interjected, they had lost the initiative.

"Why don't we go to the study now." Charlotte put down her cutlery and asserted, "Given how important the matter is, I think it deserves proper discussion."

"Of course." Robert nodded in agreement before asking for Danrique's opinion. "Danrique, what do you think?"

"All right then." Danrique put down his wine glass and signaled with his hand. The next moment, Sean came forward and guided everyone to the study.

"Robbie, Ellie, both of you continue with dinner. I'll be back in a while." Charlotte tousled both their heads. "Stay here and behave!"

"All right, Mommy." Ellie nodded obediently.

"Go on, Mommy."

Robbie didn't say anything further as he continued to eat.

It wasn't until they left that a glint flashed in his eye.

Ellie leaned over and asked. "Robbie, now?"

"Shh..." Robbie shushed her with his eyebrows furrowed. He whispered, "Ellie, stop asking. Also, you're making it too obvious. The game is about acting. So, you have to behave naturally, all right?"

"Mmm-hmm." Ellie nodded and asked, "In that case, what should I do?"

Just as she spoke, she covered her mouth and blushed.

After checking the surroundings, Robbie handed Ellie a white glucose tablet.

Ellie put it into her mouth and chewed. She even commented with a giggle, "It's really sweet and delicious."

"From now on, watch what you say." Robbie passed her doll to her.

Ellie sat on the chair and played with it with an innocent expression.

Robbie continued to slice the steak but had lost all appetite by then.

The thought of Charlotte marrying someone else and breaking the family apart caused him to feel desperate.

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Squinting his eyes, Robbie stared at his watch. He was gauging the time it took for the adults in the study to reach the topic at hand.

He had to give Charlotte some time.

Inside the study, the four of them sat down and sipped wine.

Charlotte spoke frankly, "Sir Robert, I appreciate the concern you have shown me. It is my honor to have you come all the way to Xendale to see me. It's just that..."

Charlotte looked toward Louis before shifting her gaze to Danrique.

"Say what's on your mind." Danrique furrowed his eyebrows.

"I think it's too much of a rush now, why don't we wait for some time-"

"Charlotte, it has dragged on for a year."

Robert interrupted Charlotte and remarked in displeasure, "Louis has courted you for two years, from Xendale to H City and back. However, you have always been ambiguous. Now that I have officially come to ask for your hand on his behalf, I'd appreciate a direct answer."

Charlotte knitted her eyebrows in silence.

"Your brother supports the idea while our family is willing to accept your children. What else is there to consider?" Robert pressed on. "Don't tell me you're still thinking of Zachary?"

"No, I'm not," Charlotte answered at once. "He and I have nothing to do with each other. The reason I want to delay the decision is mainly because of the children. They have just left the Nacht residence and are being thrust into an entirely different life. Given that they are still adjusting, any talk of marriage will only unsettle them further."

"It's not going to be a problem," Robert replied at once. "Your children are extremely smart and sensible. I believe they will understand. If they are indeed unnerved by it, we can hire psychologists to counsel them."

"But..."

"I have even brought the dowry with me." Robert continued to pile on the pressure. "I have also prepared everything based on Chanean traditions. All that's left now is your agreement."

After taking a sip of coffee, he added, "Before I arrived, I had already discussed it with your brother and he isn't opposed to it. Isn't that so, Danrique?"

"Mmm-hmm." Danrique nodded slightly.

Lowering her gaze, Charlotte felt conflicted. Her brain was telling her to accept but her heart was resisting.

"Dad, stop forcing Charlotte." When Louis saw how torn Charlotte was, he came to her rescue. "Let's not hurry and give her time to think about it."

"Shut up," Robert snapped.

Lowering his head, Louis didn't dare utter another word.

Robert had lost his patience. "Charlotte, I'll be frank with you. There are many who are dying to have a marriage alliance with us. Your uncle has met me many times in Pillere. When he found out I

was coming to Xendale, he called me repeatedly to vouch for his daughter. If you refuse, we'll have to consider them."

"Which uncle?" It took Charlotte a while to remember. Tilting her head, she asked Danrique, "Is it Donald Lindberg?"

Danrique didn't respond to Charlotte. Instead, he snapped, "Sir Robert, I'm aware that Donald is trying to get you on his side. I'm also cognizant that once both of you seal a marriage alliance, you will become a threat to me. However, there's no need to use this to threaten Charlotte.

"If she does marry Louis, it will only be because she appreciates his honesty and the fact he is good to her, definitely not over family interest or politics. I will never let my cousin sacrifice her happiness for whatever reason and definitely not tolerate her being threatened!"

Charlotte was moved by his words.

Danrique had said the same thing to her before but now, the meaning was on a whole different level.

She had always assumed that Danrique wanted her to marry Louis for political reasons so that he could strengthen his position. But now, he had called out Robert in his attempt to protect her.

To her, it demonstrated that her happiness was more important to him than the family's interests.

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Cognizant that Danrique was upset, Robert changed his tact.

"Danrique, don't misunderstand. I did not intend to threaten at all. I just want to convey that Donald's daughter likes Louis very much and has pursued him for years.

Of course, Louis doesn't like her and we don't intend to collaborate with Donald. There's no way I would consider his proposal as he is nothing compared to you. It's just that I am

desperate for an answer from Charlotte and hope that she doesn't continue to string us along."

"You have a point." Danrique frowned at Charlotte. "Regardless of whether you agree or not, you owe them an answer. So stop dragging your feet!"

"I..." Just when Charlotte was about to reply, an anxious knock was heard on the door.

As the servant by the door opened it, Lupine's voice rang out. "Ms. Lindberg, we have a problem. Ms. Elisa has thrown up again."

"What?" Turning pale, Charlotte dashed out.

"Charlotte, calm down. I brought a doctor with me." Louis followed her out.

"It seems we won't be getting an answer tonight," Danrique remarked cordially. "Sir Robert, you must be tired from your long journey. Why don't you retire to the guest room first? In the meantime, I'll make sure Charlotte gives you an answer within three days."

"All right then." Robert frowned. Despite the displeasure in his eyes, he didn't dare complain.

"Take Sir Robert to his room."

"Yes."

By the time Charlotte rushed out, she saw Ellie lying on the sofa. She was puking into the garbage can non-stop while her face had lost all color.

Robbie was beside her, patting her back to comfort her.

At the same time, a few female subordinates were standing by the side, not knowing what to do.

"Ellie!" Charlotte quickly picked her up. "What's going on? Weren't you doing fine a while ago?"

"Perhaps she is suffering from jet lag and isn't used to the place yet," Louis comforted. "Don't worry, I'll get my doctor to give her a check-up immediately."

"It's fine. I brought Dr. Felch with me." Charlotte picked up Ellie and headed out at once. "Let's go back and see Dr. Felch."

"Right away." Lupine arranged for their ride at once.

Just as they hurriedly left, Louis was about to follow until Robert called out to him, "Stop!"

"Dad, Charlotte is..."

"Do you know why Charlotte doesn't like you?" Robert admonished. "It's because you behave too submissively as if you're a sycophant."

"How can you say that?" Pouting, Louis was upset. "Since when being sincere is seen as being sycophantic?"

"Shut up." Robert had lost all hope in him. "Now go back upstairs."

Louis had no choice but to comply with his head lowered.

At that moment, Danrique came out from the study and instructed his servants to take Louis to the guest room. Without any delay, he too walked out.

After placing Ellie in the car, Charlotte turned around and said, "Danrique, I'm taking the children back first."

"All right, take care," Danrique replied before shifting his attention towards Robbie.

Robbie lowered his gaze and remained calm.

After Lupine helped him into the car, he casually glanced at Danrique and even took his leave cordially. "Bye, Uncle Dan."

Danrique nodded slightly in acknowledgment. After that, a devilish smile emerged on his face.

“Mr. Lindberg, do we need to send a doctor over?” Sean asked with his brows furrowed.

“There’s no such need,” Danrique plainly replied. “Didn’t you notice how calm the child was?”

“Huh?” Sean was stunned before it dawned upon him. “Are you saying the kids...”

“He is really crafty at such a young age.” Danrique returned to the house. “That child holds great potential.”

Meanwhile, Charlotte hurried into the car and led her entourage back to her castle. Hayley and Sam were already waiting at the door. Dr. Felch was afraid of the cold, so he was already inside the castle’s clinic.

“Hurry.” Charlotte ran into the clinic with Ellie in her arms.

After giving her a check-up, Dr. Felch asked, “What did she eat during dinner?”

“Probably steak, cheese, fruits, cake...”

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As Lupine reported what Ellie ate, she added, “I was watching her the whole time and didn’t allow her to eat anything she wasn’t supposed to.”

“Mmm-hmm.” After glancing at Ellie, Dr. Felch instructed, “Leave us.”

“But...” Lupine looked at Charlotte.

“Go.” Charlotte waved.

"Yes." Lupine and two other subordinates left with their heads hung low.

"You too," Dr. Felch insisted to Charlotte.

"Huh?" Charlotte was caught by surprise. Usually, she could stay around unless it was an emergency. Is Ellie's condition really that serious?

"Don't worry, it's no big deal." Dr. Felch understood her concerns. "I just want to speak to the children in private."

Robbie was stunned. Crap, Dr. Felch knows.

After giving Robbie a thoughtful look, Charlotte got up and left.

While applying some ointment on Ellie's tummy, he asked Hayley to prepare some medication.

Then he casually remarked, "The glucose tablet won't trigger any side effects in Ellie. Nevertheless, she hasn't fully recovered and will still feel significant discomfort. No matter the reason, you shouldn't have fooled around with her health."

Robbie lowered his head in shame after hearing those words.

Holding her aching stomach, Ellie explained anxiously, "Dr. Felch, I ate it of my own volition. It has nothing to do with Robbie."

"Next time, you're not allowed to steal from my medical kit," Dr. Felch reminded the children.

"I'm sorry, Dr. Felch." Robbie explained softly, "However, I didn't steal it from you. Hayley had given the tablet to me when I was experiencing stomach discomfort. However, I kept it instead of eating it."

Dr. Felch turned toward Hayley.

"It's true." Hayley nodded.

"Hayley gave it to you because you're healthy and won't have any problems consuming it. However, the same can't be said of Ellie." Dr. Felch reminded solemnly, "The results between someone healthy and someone sick consuming the tablet can vary greatly. Next time, don't pull such a stunt anymore."

"Yes, I understand." Feeling remorseful, Robbie asked anxiously, "Dr. Felch, is Ellie fine now? I assumed that she would only have a tummy ache and didn't expect such a drastic reaction."

"It's not a big problem, but she still needs to take some medication." Dr. Felch frowned and concluded, "That's all now. You can go. I figure your mommy is waiting for an explanation from you."

"Mmm-hmm." Robbie nodded before giving Ellie a guilty look. "I'm sorry, Ellie."

"Don't worry, Robbie. I'll recover in no time-" Barf!

Before she could finish, Ellie retched again.

"Ellie, here. Drink some water." Hayley helped Ellie up and fed her some water.

"Go on now." Dr. Felch tousled Robbie's hair.

When Robbie left the clinic, Charlotte was waiting on the sofa with a gloomy expression. She stared at him with mixed feelings. "Come to my study."

Lowering his head, Robbie followed her to the study on the first floor.

Despite it being referred to as a study, it was more like a library. The ceiling inside had been raised to accommodate multi-story tall bookshelves. The grand mahogany bookshelves were a sight to behold and brought a touch of classical finesse to the room.

Even the vase by the corner was a rare antique. The study's atmosphere was so peaceful that it would help anyone who entered quieten their heart.

Robbie scrutinized the study until Charlotte's voice jolted him back to his senses.

"Come over here." Sitting at her desk, Charlotte frowned at Robbie.

Robbie walked over with his head hung low, not daring to utter a single word.

"Do you want to confess before I question you?"

It was rare for Charlotte to take such a stern stand against the children. However, she was furious given the severity of the situation.

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Robbie remained silent. All this while, he had been the smartest and most sensible among the three children.

He did very well in both school and life. Therefore, his parents had never reprimanded him before.

Hence, this was his first time.

"Did you give Ellie something to cause her to vomit?" Charlotte questioned.

"Yes." Robbie nodded honestly.

"Where did you get the drug?" Charlotte continued.

"I had a tummy ache a few days ago and Hayley gave it to me to cure my indigestion. However, instead of taking it, I kept it," Robbie confessed.

"Why did you give it to Ellie today?"

Charlotte's tone had gradually grown solemn.

This time, Robbie continue to keep mum with his head hung low.

"Speak," Charlotte snapped.

Robbie shuddered in fear but didn't say a word still.

Despite her anger, Charlotte restrained herself from losing her temper on the children.

"Is it because you don't want me and Louis to get married?" Charlotte probed. "Is that the reason?"

"It is." Robbie explained while looking at the floor, "Not just me. Jamie and Ellie feel the same way too."

"Why?" Charlotte furrowed her eyebrows.

"If you like Sir Louis, we won't stop you. But you don't," Robbie answered candidly.

"I'm not sure if you can't bring yourself to turn Sir Louis down or you're just running away from Daddy. Regardless of the reason, you can't marry someone you don't like!"

Charlotte was touched by his words. She had always assumed the children had blindly supported Zachary. But now, she realized that they were considering it from her perspective.

"It was my mistake to have given Ellie the tablet." Robbie continued, "Dr. Felch had already reprimanded me for it and told me about the gravity of the situation. Hence, I will not repeat my mistake.

"However, Mommy, I hope you will give the marriage serious consideration. You're no longer in a position where you are helpless to fend for yourself. Instead, you have the power to decide now. Hence, there's no need for you to sacrifice yourself."

Robbie's words caused Charlotte to be stumped.

Instead of her lecturing Robbie, it ended up the other way around.

"Mommy, are you still angry with me?" Robbie gave her a worried look.

As Charlotte reached out her hand, Robbie warily walked closer. She pulled him into her embrace and said remorsefully, "Even if I'm angry, it would be at myself. I have placed such a burden on you despite your young age."

"Mommy, don't think that way," Robbie muttered softly. "I would love to experience the life of an innocent child. But, I can't control my thoughts. On the bright side, I'll just mature ahead of time."

"You foolish child." Charlotte hugged him tightly. "The world of adults is more complicated than you think. Next time, you shouldn't interfere in such matters. You have to trust me that whatever my decision I make, I will have given it proper consideration."

"Mommy, in that case, will you still marry Sir Louis?" Robbie couldn't understand.

"I'm still undecided." Holding his face, Charlotte gently persuaded, "However, you have to trust me, all right?"

Robbie still couldn't figure out what was going through Charlotte's mind. From his perspective, the answer was clear. However, when he looked into Charlotte's eyes and heard the word "trust", he finally nodded. "Mmm-hmm!"

"Good boy!" Charlotte was relieved. "Go and rest now. I'm going to see Uncle Dan."

"It's already so late. Do you really need to?" Robbie was unsettled.

"I need to discuss certain things with him in private." Charlotte gently rubbed his back. "Go now."

When Robbie left, Charlotte's gaze darkened as she watched his silhouette go.

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If she had a choice, she would choose to stay single and raise the children herself, living a peaceful life.

However, she noticed that circumstances have changed.

Danrique, who was supposed to be invincible, had gotten himself wounded.

No wonder he didn't come to H City despite all the chaos that happened. He is facing trouble of his own. He doesn't want to talk about it because he doesn't want me to worry.

The more she thought about it, the more unnerved she became. Together with Morgan and another two bodyguards, she went to see Danrique.

Although it had stopped snowing, it was still freezing cold outside.

As the Lindberg jeeps drove through the heavy snow, they arrived at Danrique's castle in no time.

The lights in the castle had been turned off while the guests were already resting. Only the night sentries were on patrol.

The moment Charlotte alighted, the bodyguards hurried up to her. However, she signaled for them to back off as she wanted to see Danrique discreetly.

Charlotte hurried up to the study on the second floor as she knew that Danrique would be there at that hour.

The guard at the door bowed to greet her. Just when he wanted to announce her presence, she stopped him and gently pushed open the door.

However, Charlotte was stunned by the sight that greeted her.

Danrique was lying on the sofa with his back facing her. On his muscular back, was a long open wound that exposed his flesh. It was a frightening sight indeed.

The doctor was there to dress his wound. Every movement caused his muscles to tremble. However, he never made a sound, as if it didn't hurt at all.

"Danrique!" Charlotte rushed in anxiously.

Danrique snapped in displeasure, "Why are you here?"

Sean quickly ordered the door to be closed before asking, "Ms. Lindberg, why didn't you let us know in advance that you were coming?"

"What happened?" Charlotte asked with concern. "How did you get yourself hurt? Who did it?"

"It's a long story..." Sean didn't know where to begin. "However, don't you worry. The wound is about to heal."

"What do you mean 'heal'? Isn't it obvious it's still bleeding?" Charlotte was outraged. "Who is capable enough of hurting Danrique?"

"Out, all of you." Danrique ordered in a low voice.

"Mr. Lindberg, I'm not done dressing your wound yet," the doctor highlighted warily.

Danrique shot him a glare.

Taking a bow, the doctor left in panic.

After sending everyone else out, Sean stood guard by the door.

Danrique put his shirt back on and buttoned it one by one. Then, he turned around slowly. "What's so urgent?"

"We need to talk." Charlotte knitted her eyebrows at him.

"Ten minutes."

Raising a cup of coffee, Danrique took a sip without even looking up.

He had always been a decisive person and never liked to be wishy-washy.

Every minute was precious to him. Hence, he hated it when his time was wasted.

"Did something happen?" Charlotte pressed on anxiously. "Can you tell me about it?"

"Whatever it is, I'll deal with it," Danrique plainly replied. "All you need to do is to live your life."

"But-"

Danrique was in no mood to discuss it with her. In fact, he snapped, "It's pointless for you to insist on talking about this."

"Given how indecisive you are, it's hard for you to amount to anything. And now, you intend on worrying about something that has nothing to do with you? Don't you know where to draw the line by now?"

"I know-"

"You don't." Danrique cut her off and admonished her, "If you did, you wouldn't have brought the children back nor rejected the Laurent family's marriage proposal."

"But Danrique, those children are mine. I cannot abandon them."

Charlotte would never compromise when it came to the children.

"Although Zachary is a scum, he is still a responsible father. If they had stayed with him, they would inherit the Nacht Group and have a secure future."

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“However, it’s fine if you insist on bringing them back here with you. After all, they are your children and also related to me by blood. I would never mistreat them.

“However, by bringing two back and leaving one with the Nacht family, you will not be able to sever your relationship with them.

“In the future when he comes to Erihal to see the children, you will not be able to refuse the children’s request. With that, your ambiguous involvement with him will continue.”

“No, there’s no way both of us will get back together,” Charlotte asserted at once. “We have both agreed that he will come and pick Ellie up two months later. After that, I’ll never see him again.

“Going forward, only Robbie will remain by my side. If he wants to see Zachary, I’ll have my subordinates escort him there.”

“Can you really do it?” Danrique sneered, “If you had the resolve, you would have blown his brains out when he pointed his gun at your head!”

Charlotte was stunned by his words. She knew nothing could escape Danrique’s eyes. Not even the most minute of details.

“Zara was utterly evil while Henry was biased toward you beyond reason. They had discriminated against and harmed you all the time. Moreover, they even locked you up with chains. If you had any pride, you would have killed Henry on the spot. But in the end, what did you do? You did nothing at all!”

Gritting his teeth, Danrique became angrier the more he talked about it.

“Furthermore, Zachary is just as heartless as them. He even pointed a gun at you to save that useless old man! Back then, you were bullied because you didn’t have the ability to protect yourself. But now that you’re a Lindberg and in particular, my cousin, why do you still tolerate their crap? You’re made of flesh and blood. Don’t you feel any pain?

"You even brought the children to see Henry at the hospital and ate at the same table as Zachary did. It was as if you were reluctant to leave him. If I hadn't forced you to return, did you even plan on coming back?"

"Were you moved just because he cooked a meal for you? Or was it because he was just a little nicer to the children? Have you forgotten how he exiled you to T Nation and separated you from them? What about when he pointed a gun at your head?"

Rendered speechless by his words, Charlotte hung her head in shame.

It was true that the Nacht family and Zachary had treated her terribly.

She had never forgotten her hatred for them, it was just that the children were the reason why she never took revenge.

All she could do was to sever ties with them.

Even then, Danrique felt that she was both a coward and incompetent.

After all, feelings were meaningless to him, let alone love and friendship.

He had no friends and had never fallen in love. All those things were just impediments to his life.

Everything he did was measured based on profit and power. All that mattered was expanding the Lindberg family's influence.

Of course, there were times where he was stubborn and did things according to his mood.

However, those were things that he did willingly and made him happy.

He had never owed anyone anything and never wanted anyone to owe him too.

Therefore, he was unable to understand Charlotte's complex relationship with Zachary.

If he was in her situation, he would have killed all those that betrayed him.

"I'm sorry, Danrique."

Charlotte felt that she had failed him despite his efforts to groom her.

"If you don't want to get married, I won't force you. You and the children can stay with the Lindberg family for as long as you like.

"By the time you feel like getting married, there will be plenty of eligible men for you to choose from. Their backgrounds and achievements don't matter as long as they are good men and treat you right.

"However, you can never maintain ties with Zachary. From the day I brought you home, you should have seared the hatred you have for him into your heart.

"I don't care what your reason is for not killing him. It might be because of the kids, or perhaps more than that. But, if you still keep in touch with him, you will have to leave the Lindberg family because I won't tolerate having such a useless cousin!"

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The room was suddenly filled with tension.

This was the first time Danrique flared his temper at Charlotte.

All this while, he had only corrected her whenever she made a mistake.

Even in H City, he would make short criticisms of her.

In fact, he had never had so much to say in the last twenty years.

He was one to do things decisively.

If it was anyone else, he would have cast them aside a long time ago.

Only Charlotte had managed to challenge his threshold which he had long tolerated.

However, he was furious when he realized that she was being indecisive.

Therefore, he put his foot down and gave her a final warning.

"The only reason I allowed you to bring the children back to the Lindberg residence is on the account of Aunt Isabella." Danrique added, "Or else, given how incompetent you are, I would have kicked you out long ago even if you're my own sister."

"I am sorry..."

Other than those three words, Charlotte didn't know what else to say.

"I'll give you three days' time to consider your answer to the Laurent family," Danrique ordered in an intimidating manner. "Do you hear me?"

"Yes, I did." Charlotte nodded.

Collecting his gaze, Danrique dismissed her with a wave.

With than Sean escorted her out.

As they walked down the spiral staircase, Sean muttered softly, "Ms. Lindberg, actually, Mr. Lindberg's actions have your best interests at heart."

"Mmm-hmm." Charlotte nodded dejectedly. "I know. He has tried to find me-"

“Not just that.” Sean looked behind him before leaning over. “He wants you to marry Sir Louis because Lindberg Corporation is in a crisis. He is worried that you will be dragged along with it...”

“What?” Charlotte was stunned. “What happened?”

“Shh...” Sean raised his finger to his lips to signal her not to alert the others.

“What happened?” Lowering her voice, Charlotte inquired further.

“There are some matters you are better off not knowing.” Sean furrowed his eyebrows and explained, “All this while, Mr. Lindberg has kept you away from the politics of the company and family because he doesn’t want you to be embroiled in it.

“Over the last two years, he has sent you to manage the businesses overseas and even opened the doors to F Nation’s market for you. Even if the project at H City’s South Sea fails, the Gymnasium Project at F Nation can still continue smoothly.

“If you and Sir Louis get married, that would be for the best. You will have a home, and he will not have to worry anymore. However, if you’re unwilling to do so, he will still have a backup plan for you.

“He is cold and heartless to everyone else other than you, whom he treats as his own sister. Therefore, please don’t disappoint him...”

Charlotte was overwhelmed with emotions when she heard those words. She had always assumed Danrique to be cold and unpredictable. All she felt for him was fear and respect, and never the familial feelings siblings were supposed to have.

But now, she knew that Danrique had done a lot for her without her knowledge.

“There’s one more thing you need to know,” Sean reminded. “Mr. Lindberg hates Zachary to the core. The next time he sees him, he might even kill him. Therefore, it’s best that you don’t allow him to show up in Erihal. Or else, the consequences will be dire.”

“I understand. Thank you for the advice.” Charlotte was grateful. “With regards to Danrique’s problems...”

"If he doesn't want to involve you, you had better stay out of it." Sean was firm. "Anyway, it's not like you can do anything about it. So, you're better off minding your own matters."

"All right." Charlotte nodded helplessly before leaving.

"Ms. Lindberg," Sean called out to her sternly.

"Hmm?" Stopping in her tracks, she turned around.

"Do you know that the day Isabella brought Mr. Lindberg back to the Lindberg residence, it was snowing heavily too? Just like how you brought Robbie back here..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1131

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Leaving it at that, Sean returned indoors.

After getting into her car, Sean's last sentence echoed through Charlotte's head.

She knew what Sean had meant. Given Danrique's character, he wouldn't have accepted any of the Nacht's children.

However, the moment he saw Robbie, he saw himself in him.

When she arrived today and brought Robbie out of the car, Danrique's gaze was momentarily stunned. It was as if he saw himself when he was ten.

Amidst a similar snowstorm, Isabella had led him out of the car at the exact same spot and brought him back to the Lindberg family.

At that moment, Danrique was overwhelmed with emotions.

Hence, when Robbie messed around in the Lindberg residence, he didn't reprimand him despite seeing through Robbie's ploy.

He was exceptionally accommodating to both Charlotte and her son because of the debt of gratitude he owed Isabella.

Also, he saw himself in Robbie.

Suddenly, Charlotte realized that she had never truly understood Danrique. All she saw was his cold and ruthless side.

She wasn't aware of how much he had done for her.

Furthermore, he wouldn't have done the same for anyone else.

As Charlotte looked out the car window at the grim-looking castle, her heart was overflowing with guilt.

“Mr. Lindberg is especially good to you,” Lupine couldn’t help but lament. “You are probably the only person in the world he has a conscience for.”

Lupine’s words couldn’t be more apt.

Danrique had always been a domineering and ruthless person to everyone else.

The only person who could elicit some form of kindness from him was Charlotte.

“I should do something for him.” Charlotte felt unsettled. “Lupine, can you investigate who wounded Danrique and what is going on with Lindberg Corporation recently?”

“Ms. Lindberg, we had better stay out of it.” Lupine advised at once. “Besides, not only do I not dare meddle in Mr. Lindberg’s affairs, but I also won’t be able to find anything. Furthermore, he must have his reasons for not wanting you to be involved. In fact, your persistence might cause his plans to backfire.”

“Are you suggesting that I do nothing?” Charlotte was filled with desperation.

“I propose that you comply with Mr. Lindberg’s arrangements and quietly observe the developments,” Lupine suggested implicitly.

“Arrangements...” Charlotte mumbled as she was cognizant of what it meant.

Since Danrique had arranged for her to meet Robert, it would mean that she should accept the marriage proposal in the interest of the bigger picture.

He had given her an alternative only because he didn’t want to force her.

After all, he had told her that it was fine not to marry Louis and there was plenty of fish in the sea. Even if she didn't remarry, she could still live a good life with the Lindberg family.

However, after Sean's reminder, she felt that the matter was more complex than she had assumed.

Danrique's injury indicated that the Lindberg Corporation was in a crisis. Also, their enemy was exceptionally strong.

At that moment, she knew she couldn't add to his burden.

Suddenly, she remembered Robert mentioning that Donald was trying to canvass the Laurent family for support. It wasn't until Danrique admonished him that Robert played down his comments.

Although they seemed to be talking about the marriage, Robert was trying to imply that their families' alliance was tied to the marriage.

If it failed, he would choose to side with Donald.

No wonder Sean brought up the Gymnasium Project in F Nation. He was trying to imply that it would be devastating if we lost F Nation's market, especially after I have just lost the project at H City.

With that thought in mind, Charlotte let out a deep sigh. "The business world is just like a warzone. Their way with words is so confusing that I took such a long time to read between the lines."

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Back at home, Charlotte went to check on Ellie. She had taken her medication and was sound asleep.

Hayley was by her side, gently patting her back.

Snuggling in Hayley's arms with her white alpaca, Ellie looked exceptionally cute.

After tucking both of them in, Charlotte thanked Hayley softly, "I appreciate it, Hayley."

"Not at all. I adore Ellie," Hayley replied with a smile. "You should get some sleep. I'll take care of things here."

After waving goodnight, Charlotte left the room quietly.

She had wanted to check on Robbie, but saw that the room light had been turned off. Worried that she would wake him, she returned to her room instead.

"It must be Mommy at the door just now. She must have thought that I was asleep and left because she didn't want to wake me."

Hiding underneath his blanket with a torchlight, Robbie was chatting with Jamie on a video call.

"Why didn't you ask Mommy to come in? I want to see her."

Jamie yawned as he spoke. Due to the time difference, it was five in the morning in H City. He had woken up early on purpose just to call Robbie.

"Mommy has many things to worry about. So, I don't want to disturb her." Robbie still felt bad about earlier.

"No matter what, Mommy cannot marry Sir Louis." Being the brute that he was, Jamie didn't think much of it. "Don't worry, Mommy won't be angry at you. She will be fine in a while."

"However, I'm worried that Mommy won't cancel the engagement because of this." Frowning, Robbie elaborated, "In fact, she might even be scolded by Uncle Dan."

"Huh? What do we do then?" Jamie was filled with anxiety.

"Let's wait and see..." Not wanting Jamie to be worried, Robbie changed topics. "How's Daddy?"

"Daddy has been feeling down over the last two days. However, he tries his best to cheer me up. Today, he even trained and played soccer with me." Sprawled on his bed, Jamie cupped his chin. "Daddy and I are doing very well. I'm just worried about you and Ellie."

"I feel really bad for causing Ellie to puke terribly today." Robbie was filled with regret. "When I went to see her just now, she even reassured me by telling me not to worry."

"She's right. Dr. Felch will cure her," Jamie comforted. "However, don't give any more tablets the next time. If only I were there, I could eat them on her behalf. At most I'll just have diarrhea, haha."

Robbie was speechless.

While both brothers chatted, Zachary, who was about to knock, retracted his hand.

Initially, he wanted to join the chat to find out more about Charlotte's situation. However, he had already overheard everything.

Ellie had taken a tablet that caused her to throw up and have stomach discomfort. Robbie was reprimanded for it while there was still no answer on the marriage. However, Louis and his family had stayed over.

Unfortunately, it seemed that they couldn't escape destiny.

Furrowing his eyebrows, Zachary walked quietly away. He was frustrated at the fact that the children were sharing what was supposed to be his burden.

Then, he sent Robbie a message, asking him to call when he had time.

Before he knew it, Robbie was on the line. "Daddy!"

“Robbie...” After chatting briefly, he gently requested, “Both you and Ellie shouldn’t interfere with Mommy’s affairs anymore, all right?”

“Daddy, do you already know?” Robbie asked.

“Mmm-hmm.” Zachary chuckled wryly. “This was supposed to be my responsibility. But when you tried to handle it and even caused Ellie to fall sick, it makes me feel very bad.”

“Daddy, don’t think that way.”

“Be a good boy, Robbie. Next time, don’t meddle in the affairs of adults. Mommy is really smart. Whatever decision she makes would have gone through deep deliberation. As her children, you will need to respect her decision.

“I may not agree with her, but I have my own way to communicate and resolve it. This relates to a man’s pride and responsibility. So, promise me you’ll stay out of it, all right?”

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“Alright. I understand.” Robbie agreed to it reluctantly.

“You should go to bed now,” Zachary said gently. “Also, take care of yourself!”

“Sure. Goodbye, Daddy,” Robbie replied obediently and hung up the phone.

Overwhelmed with emotions, Zachary gazed at the wedding photo of Charlotte and him on the table while holding the phone.

Deep down, he understood that Charlotte would choose to marry Louis even if she didn’t love Louis.

Given that Lindberg Corporation was in trouble recently, she probably had to do so for the bigger picture.

Well, I can only resort to business tactics to upend the situation—

With that, Zachary called Ben.

“Mr. Zachary, are you looking for me?”

Ben was sleeping when Zachary called him. After hanging up the phone, Ben put on his clothes hastily and came to see Zachary.

“Get all documents related to the Gymnasium Project in Pillere for me. Also, inform all shareholders to see me except for Louis,” Zachary instructed.

“Ah?” Ben was startled for a while before he nodded in response. “Yes, Sir.”

Ben left hurriedly to start doing his job but almost bump into Bruce who came up to him.

“You seem nervous. Where are you heading to?” Bruce asked.

“Mr. Zachary instructed me to work on something,” Ben replied.

“Has he changed his mind? Is he willing to receive treatment?” Bruce asked impatiently.

“It’s about the Gymnasium Project in Pillere,” Ben frowned as he said, “I feel curious too. Why is he still pondering about business instead of receiving treatment?”

“What is going on with him?” Bruce said nervously. “He can’t go on like that.”

Ben said in a low voice, “Well, I think he had a sleepless night yesterday because he looked pale. How about asking Mr. Spencer for a favor? Perhaps the elder is the only one who can persuade him.”

“Thank you for the reminder,” Bruce rolled his eyes and added, “but I’ve already asked Raina to invite him.”

Ben heaved a sigh of relief and replied, "Raina is indeed conscientious. Anyway, I have to continue my work."

"Off you go."

Charlotte felt dizzy because she didn't sleep well last night. However, she had to get out of bed when someone knocked on the door in the morning.

"Ms. Lindberg, Sir Louis, and Sir Robert are here," Morgan reported outside the room.

'Ah?" Charlotte got up and said hastily, "Please serve some tea for them in the living room. I'll be there right away."

"Yes."

Morgan immediately went downstairs to welcome the guests.

Also, Lupine invited them to be seated and asked the maids to serve the best coffee.

Robert sat on the extravagant couch and enjoyed the coffee gracefully.

Meanwhile, Louis kept gazing upstairs, waiting impatiently for Charlotte.

"Hayley, I don't want to have heavy breakfast today."

Hayley brought Ellie out of the room while holding Ellie's favorite stuffed alpaca. Ellie looked particularly cute in her beautiful white dress.

"Ms. Elisa, breakfast is ready. I've prepared your favorite food."

The butler Mrs. Ramos was fluent in Chanaean, even though she was from Erihal.

"Is that true?" Ellie was delighted. "Did you cook it yourself, Mrs. Ramos?"

"Hehe, we have a professional cook who prepared the food," Mrs. Ramos said smilingly. "Let me bring you downstairs."

"Sure. Thank you, Mrs. Ramos."

Ellie followed Mrs. Ramos to go downstairs joyfully.

"Ellie!" Sir Louis came up to Ellie when he saw her. "Do you feel well?"

"Oh, I—" Ellie was shocked to see Louis. As such, she immediately covered her stomach and pretended to feel sick. "I have a stomach ache now—"

"Ellie, what's wrong?" Hayley squatted nervously to check up on Ellie.

Just then, Robbie came out of his room and said, "Ellie, you should go back to your room and get some rest."

"Okay." The next moment, Ellie held Hayley's hand to return to her room.

"Hmm—" Louis was rooted to the floor.

Then, Robbie said politely, "Dr. Felch is a good doctor. Ellie feels a lot better after having the medicine that he prescribed. She might have a dull pain from time to time, but it's not a serious matter. Anyway, thank you for your concern, Sir Louis!"

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"Good to know that she's well." Louis didn't overthink it.

However, Robert's expression turned grim after he witnessed it.

"Good morning, Sir Robert," Robbie greeted Robert.

Robert immediately responded smilingly, "Good morning! Does your sister feel well?"

"She feels a lot better now. Thank you, Sir Robert," Robbie said politely.

"That's good to hear," Robert nodded and said. "By the way, you speak Ferropenian fluently. Who taught you to speak the language?"

"My great-grandpa used to hire a Ferropenian teacher to teach me," Robbie answered honestly, "I learned it since I was three and a half years old. So, I can converse in the language in simple daily conversations."

"Is your great-grandpa Mr. Henry?"

Robert knew that Henry was a prominent figure in business and only retired when he was 80. Besides, he trained Zachary to become the new corporate czar.

"Yes," Robbie replied noddingly.

Robert glanced at Robbie for a while before he said, "No wonder you're already outstanding at such a young age. I met your father when he was young and knew that he would be a genius. Nonetheless, I think you're even more outstanding than him."

"Daddy used to say that Sir Louis is his only friend while Sir Robert is his most-respected elder," Robbie put on a smile and said casually, "I never thought that the first time I meet you would be in Uncle Dan's house instead of the Nacht residence!"

Robert was stunned upon hearing it. A few seconds later, he calmed down and added, "Your dad focuses on growing his business in the local market in recent years, and so there aren't many opportunities for us to collaborate. Instead, your uncle has expanded his market in F Nation and established close ties with us—"

He paused for a while and said, "This topic is too deep, and I'm afraid you don't get what I mean."

"The local market is huge enough for the Nacht family to continue growing for decades," Robbie said, "but still, the market in F Nation is not bad—"

"Do you understand business?"

Robert was shocked to hear a six-year-old kid talking about business casually. Although Robbie sounded courteous, one could somehow sense there were some insinuations in his words.

This kid is very impressive.

Robbie replied with a smile on his face, "I always helped Daddy review his files when he was busy. That's why I understand a bit of business. However, I'm still a kid and don't know much about it."

"You're too humble." Robert flashed him a smile.

"Sir Robert, Louis," Just then, Charlotte came downstairs hastily and said, "I'm sorry for being late."

Robert smiled warmly at Charlotte. "It's fine. After all, we didn't inform you in advance. We're here because we heard that your child fell sick yesterday."

With that, Robert gestured for his subordinate to hand over some beautiful gifts to Charlotte.

"Sir Robert, you're very kind," Charlotte thanked him immediately.

Lupine took a few steps back after taking the gifts.

"Sir Robert, would you like to have breakfast together?" Charlotte invited them.

"Well, don't mind if I do."

The maids served them breakfast as soon as they sat at the dining table.

A moment later, all of them began enjoying the variety of food.

While having breakfast, Louis also enjoyed chatting with Charlotte.

Meanwhile, Robbie concentrated on having his food gracefully.

After a while, Robert said casually, "Well, you'll have to get used to having F Nation's food when you're there. Besides, the food in F Nation is scrumptious. I'll invite you to try our food next time."

Robbie replied respectfully, "Thank you, Sir Robert. However, I prefer Chanaean food more."

Robert frowned upon hearing it. As he wanted to say something, Charlotte added smilingly, "Well, I love Chanaean food as well."

"Me too," Louis chimed in, "I've looked for several excellent Chanaean chefs and planned to bring them to Pillere to prepare Chanaean food for you."

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"You're right. Since you love Chanaean food, we can hire some Chanaean chefs. It's not a big deal."

It was rare for Robert to agree with Louis's viewpoint. At that moment, he was delighted that Louis casually pointed out their intention of visiting Charlotte.

Upon hearing Louis' words, Robbie fell silent and gazed at Charlotte with mixed feelings.

"Thank you, Sir Robert," Charlotte thanked Robert and said, "Shall we go to the study after breakfast? Well, it is as good as Danrique's."

Robert nodded. "Sure. I heard that Mr. Lindberg designed and built it for you."

"Yes. Danrique put in a lot of thoughts to build the study for me."

Back then, Charlotte spent around half a year recuperating in the Lindberg residence. However, Danrique made sure that she was occupied with things. He hired teachers for her and encouraged her to read at night.

Hence, Charlotte eventually became knowledgeable because of the rigorous training given by Danrique.

"In that case, I must visit the study." Robert put on a smile.

After having breakfast, Robbie put down the cutlery and said to Charlotte, "Mommy, I'm done. I'll go upstairs to keep Ellie company."

"Alright. Off you go," Charlotte gazed at him and replied gently.

"Please enjoy your meal, Sir Robert. See you, Uncle Louis."

"See you!"

With that, Robbie went upstairs after.

Robert looked at him and said meaningfully, "Your son is indeed a genius. How generous of Zachary to hand over his custody to you!"

Charlotte frowned upon hearing it and changed the subject of conversation. "Let's talk in the study."

"Sure."

As they were in the study, Mrs. Ramos served some high-quality coffee and dessert.

Lupine waited next to the door coldly while Robert took a few sips of the coffee.

Meanwhile, Louis handed over some gifts to Charlotte. "Charlotte, I'm sorry that I didn't have time to give these to you yesterday. I brought these from F Nation—"

"What?" When Charlotte opened the box, she was surprised to see a delicate cake. After all, Louis always gifted necklaces and jewelry to her whenever they met.

"I met a chef in F Nation who is good at baking cakes. So, I learned from him to bake this angel food cake. Do you want to try it and tell me if you like it?"

"Did you bake the cake by yourself?" Charlotte was surprised. Since Louis was pampered by his family and never cooked, Charlotte couldn't believe that he had learned to make cakes.

"Yes, I did. Try it." Then, Louis handed over a piece of the cake to Charlotte and said, "I've brought three more boxes for your triplets but am worried that they don't like it. So, I think you can try it first and give some comments."

"Hehe..." Charlotte put on a smile and thought to herself. Louis is indeed a good friend if we don't have to talk about marriage...

Charlotte took a bite of the cake and exclaimed, "Wow, it's not bad! Delicious!"

Elation filled Louis' entire being. "Really? I'm so glad to hear that. You know, I was a bit worried that the cake wasn't to your liking."

Meanwhile, Charlotte was a little touched because Louis learned to bake cakes for her. "Believe me, it's delicious. However, you don't have to do it next time. I mean, baking cakes is too time-consuming."

"It's fine. I'm happy that I can bake a cake by myself. Also, I'll learn anything that you like." Louis felt excited because Charlotte recognized his effort.

Robert heaved a sigh and chimed in, "Louis has never entered the kitchen since he was a kid. So, he has put in a lot of effort for you. As his parent, I'm worried about him sometimes. Nonetheless, I'll still support him as long as it's something that he likes."

"Dad—"

Charlotte said smilingly, "Sir Robert, I'll answer the question you posed to me earlier. Zachary was indeed reluctant to let go of his

son. After all, a father certainly hopes that his son can stay by his side. Despite that, Robbie is a strong-minded kid and decides to stay by my side.”

Robert nodded and replied, “That’s good to hear. By the way, I think Mr. Lindberg likes him too.”

“Yes.” With that, Charlotte went straight to the point. “Are you here today because you want to avoid Danrique and discuss something with me directly?”

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Robert spread his arms and said, “You’re a smart girl. In that case, allow me to be frank.”

Charlotte made a gesture with her hand.

The next moment, Robert continued straightforwardly, “The marriage between the two families is decided by Mr. Lindberg and me. Neither of us begged one another to make it happen. Besides, our family has proven our sincerity and shown our gesture of respect to you, Mr. Lindberg, and the Lindberg Corporation. So, it will be a form of disrespect to us if you keep dragging on the decision.”

Once Robert finished, Charlotte lowered her head and apologized. “I’m sorry. It’s my fault. Well, I’ve planned to visit you even if you aren’t here today.”

“So, are you saying that you have an answer?” Robert gazed at her.

Without beating about the bush, Charlotte responded, “I think I ought to make something clear before I tell you the answer. After all, I guess your family is interested in understanding it. Why don’t we be open and honest with one another?”

Robert was delighted. "Absolutely! I like to speak to smart people."

"First, Zachary and I didn't manage to get our marriage certificate. Besides, our wedding wasn't completed yet. Hence, we're not husband and wife legally."

Charlotte paused for a while and added, "In the past, we agreed that the three kids would bear Zachary's family name. However, we've come to a decision that I'll have Robbie's custody. As such, Robbie will bear my family's name. As for my shares in Lindberg Corporation, I'll transfer them back to Danrique. It will happen regardless of I'm married or not—"

Charlotte observed the change in Robert's expression once she finished and realized that he looked a bit shocked. Apparently, he didn't expect that she would make such arrangements.

"Certainly," Louis replied right away, "When you've married me, I'll take care of you on my own. Your shares in the company aren't important."

Charlotte gazed at Louis when she heard it. Deep down, she could feel that Louis was sincere.

"Is there anything you want to add?" After a while, Robert came to his senses and asked smilingly.

"That will be all for now," Charlotte responded with her curled lips, "Sir Robert, is there anything you would like to ask me? Please go ahead."

"You said that Robbie would be under your custody. In that case, would you change his family name to ours?" Robert cut to the chase.

Charlotte was startled, for she had never considered the matter before. Back then, she didn't decline it when Henry requested to change her children's last name to Nacht.

At that time, the children had reunited with Zachary and loved him. Besides, Zachary was sincere to them and married her against all odds.

Nevertheless, things took a dramatic turn after Charlotte married Zachary. The Nacht family drove her away while keeping the children. Then, partly because of the Nacht family, Zara and Sharon attempted to kill her, and Mrs. Berry became the unfortunate casualty. After experiencing all these, Charlotte thought about taking revenge on the Nacht family. In the end, she let go of her grudge and stayed away from the family for her children.

Despite the pain inflicted upon her, Charlotte never thought about changing her children's last name again.

Deep down, she opined that a name wouldn't determine someone's future. Also, the children would suffer if their names were changed many times.

She didn't have to care about Zachary's feelings. However, what would Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie think? Will it break their hearts since they are so young?

After pondering over it, Charlotte gave them a crystal clear answer. "I won't change my kids' last name. After all, names are only used to address someone, and I don't think they are so important."

"Did Mr. Lindberg bring it up with you?" Robert continued to ask.

"Nope," Charlotte frowned as she said, "Sir Robert, feel free to speak your mind."

After thinking about it for a few seconds, Robert said, "The kids' names in Chanaean can remain as they are. However, after you're married into our family, I hope that they can change their Ustranasian names by bearing our family name!"

"Dad—"

"It's impossible," Charlotte rejected without hesitation. "Marrying Louis or not is my personal affair and not related to the children. Why should they change their last names for me?"

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"This concerns the royal family's reputation!" Robert frowned.

"If so, why don't you just let Louis marry a woman who hasn't had any children?" Charlotte smiled. "My current situation is very clear. I'm sure that everyone knows about it."

"No, I only like you," insisted Louis. "Daddy, stop putting Charlotte in a tight spot. There's no need to change their last names..."

"Shut up!" growled Robert before telling Charlotte, "If this is giving you a tough choice, I won't force you. You can just have a child with Louis earlier."

When Charlotte heard that, she had an instinctive urge to refuse. She had never thought about these problems, but Robert's words reminded her...

If she married Louis, she would have to have kids with him.

"Okay, let's return to the main topic." Robert steered the conversation back. "Answer me officially now. Do you agree to this marriage?"

At that moment, Charlotte felt conflicted. Initially, she had already decided to accept the marriage for the sake of the bigger picture. However, she was hesitating now.

"You're still considering?" When Robert noticed her hesitation, he felt displeased. "I'm returning to Pillere this afternoon. If you haven't made up your mind by then, I'll make other arrangements."

With that, he placed his cup down and was about to leave.

"Dad..."

"I agree." Charlotte finally spoke.

Louis was stunned as he looked at her in shock. "Charlotte, are you saying..."

"I agree to the marriage." Charlotte stopped hesitating. "But you should know that there are no romantic feelings between Louis and me. Furthermore, I have my own opinions about certain issues. I will not make any concessions for your family's interests or for the royal family's reputation. Even after marriage, I'm still an independent self, not anyone's trophy wife. My son will not change his last name either. Also, I'm not sure if I'll have any kids in the future."

After a slight pause, she continued, "The wedding can only be held after two months, when Ellie's and my illness are completely cured. That's all I want to say. If you accept all the conditions, then this is settled. If not, we shall just forget it..."

"I accept!" Robert agreed easily. "Feelings can be nurtured slowly and we're not in a rush to hold the wedding. However, we must announce the news first."

"Discuss this with Danrique. If he agrees, I'm fine too," said Charlotte.

"Okay, I'll go back and talk to him."

Delighted, Robert strode away.

"I'm glad that you've finally agreed, Charlotte!" Louis was so happy that he could barely speak coherently. Holding her hand, he promised, "I'll definitely protect you and make you happy..."

"Okay." Charlotte smiled and said softly, "But I don't love you now. Do you really not mind?"

"I don't! As long as you don't hate me, I'll try my best to make you fall in love with me." Louis was elated. "Charlotte, I'm so happy! Can I hug you?"

Still smiling, Charlotte stared at him quietly.

Louis stretched out his arms tentatively. When she did not refuse, he hugged her tighter and whispered emotionally, "Do you know, Charlotte? I've waited for this day for ages! Today's the happiest day of my life!"

Charlotte cast her gaze downward without saying anything. Although she could sense Louis' sincerity and excitement, she could not share in his joy.

In fact, Zachary's figure flashed across his mind. She imagined him staring at her painfully with his brooding eyes, as if he was saying, "Remember, you're my woman. You will always be..."

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"Louis!" called Robert. Louis quickly released Charlotte and said reluctantly, "I have to leave now, Charlotte. I'll visit you later!"

"Okay, go on." Charlotte smiled.

When Louis rushed to catch up with Robert, he could not help but turn around and wave goodbye to Charlotte. There was an unconcealable look of joy on his face and in his gaze.

Charlotte watched them leave. Only after they had disappeared from her sight that she averted her gaze, looked downward, and heaved a deep sigh...

When she was still undecided, she felt a heavy burden in her heart.

However, now that she had made her decision, she did not feel relieved at all. Instead, she felt like she was heading on an unknown path...

Regardless of anything, it's a good thing to help Danrique solve his problems, right?

With that thought, Charlotte smiled bitterly.

When Louis got into the car, he still kept turning around to stare at Charlotte for a long time.

"Stop looking!" Noticing how obsessed his son was, Robert felt displeased. "You can look at her all you want after marrying her."

"You're right." Thinking that he could marry Charlotte soon, Louis was filled with excitement. "I'm so happy, Dad!"

"Don't rejoice too soon." Robert stared at him coldly. "Even a six-year-old child is smarter than you."

"Are you talking about Robbie?" Louis asked with a smile. "He's very smart. No, in fact, he's a genius! Not only has he inherited his father and great-grandfather's business acumen, but he is also skilled in technological research. He was involved in developing many of Divine Corporation's technological products. Apparently, he has some patents for his inventions too. Just by himself, he earns hundreds of millions every year!"

"That's impressive! The Nacht family should keep him as their heir instead. Why were they willing to let him go?" Robert frowned as a complex look flashed across his eyes.

He continued, "Danrique doesn't have a child. Does he want to keep that child and let him inherit the Lindberg Corporation? Wait, but if he does that, won't the Lindberg Corporation be part of the Nacht family, then? Danrique will never do that."

"Daddy, why are you saying that?" Louis was confused. "What does that have to do with us?"

"You know nothing!" growled Robert. "If we bring that child into the royal family, who knows what trouble he'll cause? Also, do you think that Zachary will just give up like this? He might confront us to get his son back. If that happens, the royal family will be utterly humiliated."

"H-How...?"

"Forget it. You won't understand even if I explain it to you."
Robert could not be bothered to continue talking to him. "I'll deal with this."

"What do you mean?" Louis reminded him anxiously, "Dad, Charlotte cares a lot about her family. When her maid got killed by Zara, she became enemies with the Nacht family. If you plan on scheming against Robbie, we..."

"What are you thinking about?" Robert interrupted him, "How can I possibly harm that child? I just want to find out what Danrique's plans are. If he doesn't mind where the child goes, it's better to let Zachary reclaim him. This is good for both you and the Lindberg family."

"But Charlotte will be sad if her child isn't by her side." Louis still felt worried.

"Then, she can keep the girl." Robert had thought it through. "The girl looks harmless and innocent. She won't pose a threat in the future."

"Ellie is very adorable, but we should still respect Charlotte's opinions..."

"That's it. I'll settle it on my own, so you don't need to bother yourself with it anymore," interrupted Robert. "Don't worry. It's a great thing for our family to be in-laws with the Lindberg family. Furthermore, since you like Charlotte so much, how can I ruin this marriage? I'm just taking precautionary measures to eliminate any future problems for you..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1139

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After returning to the castle, Robert looked for Danrique and informed him that Charlotte had already agreed to the wedding.

Danrique did not look surprised at all. Instead, he nodded. "Okay. Good that she's thought it through."

"Since Charlotte has already agreed to the marriage, I'll prepare for it now." Smiling, Robert said, "Do you have any thoughts about the wedding? I'll follow your suggestions."

"Since she's my cousin, she naturally needs to have a grand wedding," said Danrique arrogantly. "I'll organize a wedding for her in Xendale. For the one in Pillere, you can have the final say and I won't intervene. However, I want to make something clear—I hope that no one will look down on her for whatever reason. As my family, she must be shown equal respect and importance!"

"Don't worry, you have my word on this," promised Robert as he patted his chest. "It's the Laurent family's honor to have your cousin's hand in marriage. How can we possibly take her lightly?"

"That's good." Danrique nodded. "As for the other details, you can discuss with Sean directly if you need anything from our side. I need to go out for a while."

"There's another thing which I'm not sure if I should tell you..." A troubled look crossed Robert's face.

"What?"

Danrique frowned, for he disliked it when others beat around the bush.

"I met that child this morning. Indeed, he has inherited the best genes from the Nacht and Lindberg family. He's a total genius, with the intelligence and knowledge that the average person cannot even compare to. Furthermore, I could tell that his personality is quite aggressive and strong... Such an impressive child is the perfect candidate for an heir. Is Zachary really willing to let go of him? I'm afraid that he'll crash the wedding and continue clinging to Charlotte. This concerns the reputation of the F Nation's royal family!"

"Leave this to me." Danrique's gaze was cold and haughty. "If he dares to create a ruckus during the wedding, I'll kill him!"

"Well..." Robert panicked. "I know that the Lindberg and the Nacht families are enemies, but the royal family of F Nation is still on good terms with the Nachts. The queen is acquainted with him as well. If anything bad happens to him because of Louis' wedding, I can't explain it to her."

"What are you trying to say?" Danrique was becoming impatient.

After thinking about it, Robert asked tactfully, "What are your plans regarding that child?"

"So you aren't worried about Zachary, but Robinson." Danrique smirked coldly. "You're afraid that he'll threaten Louis and affect the next generation?"

"Well..." Robert felt a bit awkward.

"That's understandable." Danrique smiled. "After all, the Lindbergs' and the Nachts' blood flows in his veins. He has the Nacht family's intelligence, and possibly also the Lindberg family's mercilessness!"

He spoke in a meaningful tone when he said that last sentence.

Back then, Isabella had brought Danrique to the Lindberg family. After nurturing him for a few years, he had become much more capable.

When he was sixteen years old, the Lindberg family was plunged into chaos due to the battle over the inheritance.

He destroyed the entire family and became the heir of the Lindberg corporation!

Back then, it was a snowy day as well. The metallic stench of blood wafted through the Lindberg family's castle, while the pristine and white snow outside had been dyed red...

Wearing a coat, a sixteen-year-old youth strode out of the castle. Raising a sharp sword to the sky, he declared arrogantly that from then on, he was the master of the Lindberg Corporation!

His face was filled with blood, while his white coat was speckled with swirls of bloodstains. His gaze was vicious, as if he was a devil who had risen right from the depths of hell.

From then on, he was given the nickname 'The Grim Reaper'.

"Don't misunderstand, Mr. Lindberg. That's not what I mean!" Robert quickly explained, "I just think that the child is so smart that the Nacht family might want to snatch him back. So..."

"What do you want to do?" Danrique asked. "Do you want Charlotte to give that child up? Huh?"

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Although his question sounded polite, it was filled with a vicious and murderous intent...

Robert's words reminded him of himself back then. When Isabella brought him back, she suffered the brunt of suspicion.

People would confront her each day and scold her for bringing a b*stard like him back to the Lindberg family. Some even wanted to chase her away.

However, Isabella ignored the voices opposing her and insisted on keeping him in the family, against all odds.

She even held a family conference and announced to everyone that if anyone dared to touch Danrique, they would be opposing her. In that case, she would protect him with her entire life!

At that moment, Isabella was like a goddess to the young Danrique.

Now that the same thing was happening right in front of him, he felt enraged.

Unlike others, he was not the type to take precautionary measures and care about the bigger picture. Rather, he did things recklessly. Once he had his mind set on something, no one else could convince him otherwise.

That was his style—aggressive and simple.

“No, that’s not what I mean...” Robert panicked so much that he started sweating. “I’m here to discuss with you, Mr. Lindberg, so don’t be angry.”

Although Robert was an elder and Danrique treated him with respect, he knew Danrique’s temper well. If Danrique was enraged, he would not care about age or status.

As long as he felt unhappy, he would fall out with the other person immediately.

“It’s just a casual question,” Danrique smirked. “That child is like me, so I like him. If I don’t have a child, I might let him inherit the Lindberg Corporation!”

“Um...”

Robert was surprised, for he did not expect Danrique to have such plans.

Actually, he had heard rumors about Danrique having an illegitimate son. However, he did not know if they were true. Danrique had never mentioned it before, so he did not dare to ask about it either.

However, regardless of what happened, it was impossible for Danrique to let a child from the Nacht family inherit the Lindberg Corporation.

“I never care about blood relations or status. Those worthless things don’t matter to me! Once I’ve made up my mind, no one else can change my opinion.”

Danrique continued indifferently, "Also, that child might return to the Nacht family to become their heir after a short while. Your worry is meaningless!"

"Return to the Nacht family?" Robert was confused. "Didn't Charlotte say that she has already discussed with Zachary and established that the child will be staying with her?"

"That's what they discussed, but things are always unpredictable..."

A gloating look flashed across Danrique's eyes. However, he did not continue speaking and changed the topic instead.

"Anyway, this child can inherit both the Nacht family and the Lindberg family. He couldn't care less about the Laurent family's assets!"

Although he might sound arrogant by saying this, it was the truth.

Rendered speechless, Robert had no choice but to clear his throat to hide his embarrassment. "That's not what I meant. I'm just afraid that Zachary might create some trouble..."

"Let's discuss it when he actually does something..." Danrique placed his wine glass down, got up, and prepared to leave. "Even if he actually comes, I'm still here. What's there for you to fear?"

"You're right." Robert nodded profusely.

"You've been busy for the entire day. Go back to the guest room and rest for a while." While walking out, Danrique said politely, "I have to leave now. I'll come back in the afternoon to send you off."

"Okay."

As Robert watched Danrique leave, the fear within him dissipated gradually.

He heaved a deep sigh. This man is so hard to deal with...

At that moment, he suddenly thought of Zachary. Although Zachary was also extremely domineering, he would still be

concerned about the bigger picture and the families' reputation. Hence, he would not cause a conflict so easily.

However, Danrique was different. He never acted rationally—everything depended on his mood.

Still, when he said that things are unpredictable, what does that mean?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1141

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Robert made a bold guess. Is Danrique saying that Zachary's days are numbered?

When that thought flashed across his mind, Robert paled. He scanned his surroundings anxiously as his heart pounded rapidly.

Looks like Danrique has never forgotten the grudge between the Nachts and the Lindbergs. He must have sent someone to assassinate Zachary...

This is not a minor issue. The Laurent family must not be involved!

Robert patted his chest and hurried up the stairs to look for Louis.

In his room, Louis was calling his friends excitedly and telling them that he was about to get married. His friends were all overjoyed for him.

One of them was a shareholder of the Gymnasium Project in Pillere. When he heard that Louis was going to get married, he exclaimed with a laugh, "No wonder! When Mr. Nacht gathered the shareholders in Ashenville Garden and you didn't turn up, we guessed that both of you had a fight. So it's because you're going to get married! You must be so busy accompanying your future wife that you don't have any time."

"Zachary gathered all of you for a meeting? Did he mention me? Did he say why?"

Louis felt uneasy. Is Zachary going to withdraw from the project because he feels humiliated and angry that I'm with Charlotte?

If he withdraws, the project will be halted. How can I find such a huge sum of money to replace his?

"It's because of the project, of course. What's wrong? Didn't you know about it?"

"I've been in Erihal for the past few days because I was busy with the marriage." Although Louis felt uneasy, he trusted Zachary. "Just listen to Zachary regarding the project. He's more experienced than me."

"Okay. I'm going to a ball soon! He probably already knows that you're getting married, right?"

"Not yet. I called you first."

"Inform him quickly! We can celebrate this good news at night."

"I..."

"My wife's chasing me! I'll hang up now."

After the call ended, Louis gripped his phone. His joy had already disappeared and was replaced by a feeling of distress.

He did not know how to bring this up to Zachary, nor how to face him.

Even if he avoided Zachary deliberately, the project still had to continue.

What should I do?

"Are you feeling troubled now?" When Robert's voice sounded, Louis was startled. Whipping his head around, he asked in shock, "When did you come in, Dad?"

"Since a while ago."

Robert sat on the sofa opposite him. After the maid passed him a cup of coffee, he dismissed the rest with a wave of his hand. The two maids quickly left and closed the door behind them.

Robert took a sip of coffee before saying solemnly, "We've not announced the news yet, but Zachary has already called for a

shareholder meeting. Looks like he wants to withdraw from the project and catch us off guard.”

“No way, right?”

Louis felt a bit uneasy because the same thought was circling in his mind.

Having known Zachary for so long, he knew that Zachary was not a man to be trifled with.

Now that he had snatched his wife and children away, Zachary would definitely be furious. It was understandable if he wanted to retaliate.

“You know very well if he would do that or not,” scoffed Robert. “Do you think that Zachary’s that harmless?”

“I’d understand if he does it, though.” Louis lowered his head. “After all, I let him down first. Even if he wants to cut off all ties with me, I can’t blame him.”

Robert was furious when he heard that. “They’ve broken up a long time ago! You didn’t forcefully tear them apart, so how have you let him down? Furthermore, a relationship is supposed to be mutual. You didn’t force Charlotte to marry you, anyway...”

“You can phrase it that way, but...” Louis was still uneasy. “Things are going to get awkward the next time we meet.”

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“Yeah.” Robert reminded him solemnly, “For this period of time, don’t interact with him. Minimize any communication with him and let someone else handle the project.”

Actually, the reason why Robert said that was not to help Louis avoid any embarrassment. Instead, he wanted Louis to keep his distance from Zachary.

In that case, even if a conflict arose between the Nacht family and the Lindberg family, their family would not be affected.

"That's not really appropriate, right?" Louis still felt worried. "Even if we stopped interacting as much, I still need to be held accountable to him for the project."

"What's there to be accountable for?" Robert disagreed. "He's calling for a shareholder meeting, so I'm afraid that he's going to withdraw."

"If he really withdraws, the project is doomed." Louis frowned. "I've never accomplished anything in the past. I spent so much effort on the project because I want to prove myself. If the project ends up in a failure halfway, I'd be a complete joke."

"In the past, I would be really worried. However, things are different now. You're going to be married to Charlotte soon! With the powerful Lindberg Corporation backing you up, there's no need for you to fear the Nacht family."

Robert continued confidently, "Mr. Lindberg has always disliked Zachary. If he knows that Zachary has withdrawn from the project, he'll definitely be willing to chip in."

"But..."

"Alright, stop entertaining those irrelevant thoughts." Robert patted Louis' shoulder. "The Nacht family and the Lindberg family are rivals. Since you're going to become Danrique's brother-in-law, you should keep your distance from Zachary."

With a heavy heart, Louis lowered his head in silence.

"You're so melodramatic and indecisive, you know?" Robert hated it when he acted like that. "Don't you understand the situation now? You haven't let Zachary down! He's the one who betrayed you by calling for a private meeting with the shareholders to overthrow you..."

"Dad..." Just when Louis was about to speak, his phone rang. After seeing that it was a call from Theo, he quickly picked it up, "Hello, Mr. Murphy."

Robert snatched his phone away and put it in speaker mode.

"Louis, I've already informed the other shareholders about your good news! Everyone's really happy for you. Listen!"

Immediately after Theo spoke, the voices of the other shareholders sounded from the phone. All of them were congratulating Louis and urging him to inform them what the wedding date was. No matter how busy they were, they would definitely attend it.

Everyone was fighting to congratulate him, with some eagerly asking who the bride was. Stunned, Louis took a while to return to his senses before blurting out loud, "What about Zachary?"

"Mr. Nacht went back to rest after the meeting," replied one of the shareholders. "His complexion looks quite pale recently. He must be exhausted after Mr. Henry passed away. Oh, right. He even brought his son with him, so he probably returned to his villa to keep his son company."

"Louis..." Theo snatched the phone over and said, "I've told him about your marriage. He told me to congratulate you, and to inform him when the wedding is."

When Louis heard that, his heartbeat quickened and he asked anxiously, "What else did he say?"

"Nothing much. He said that he'd like to tell you some good news!" said Theo with a chuckle.

"W-What's the good news?"

Louis' hands trembled as he grabbed the phone. He thought that Zachary was referring to 'good news' as a form of dark humor...

"Mr. Nacht increased his investment for our Pillere project! Since we don't need to accumulate more funds, we can kickstart the project earlier. When are you going back to Pillere? We'll meet you there."

When Louis heard that, he was shocked. Initially, he thought that Zachary would withdraw his investment to make him fail horribly. Surprisingly, Zachary increased his investment instead.

Does he not blame me at all?

Even Robert was astounded. A doubtful look crossed his face.

What is Zachary doing?

"Louis? Louis?" Theo called out to him over the phone.

"Oh, I'll be leaving in the evening and will reach Pillere tomorrow." Louis returned to his senses and said distractedly, "I'll call Zachary first..."

"Okay!"

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After ending the call, Louis asked his father worriedly. "Dad, what is Zachary doing? Does he not hate me? Why did he increase his investment instead of withdrawing?"

"I find it weird too." Robert could not understand why. "Judging from his personality, he wouldn't have done this..."

Although the Zachary they knew would always seek revenge, he was repaying a grudge with favor now. Is there something wrong with him?

"Does Zachary want me to drown in self-guilt?" The more Louis thought about it, the more worried he became. "No, I must call him!"

"You can call him, but you must only talk about work. You mustn't mention any private matters at all." Robert instructed him, "If he asks about the marriage, just give a yes or no answer. Don't say anything else, okay?"

"Why?" asked Louis

"Just follow my instructions!" Robert became impatient.

"Oh." Louis immediately called Zachary. The phone rang for a while before the call was answered. A familiar voice sounded.
"Hello?"

"Z-Zachary..." Louis became so nervous the moment he spoke that even his voice was trembling.

"What's up, Louis?"

On the other hand, Zachary seemed quite calm, as if nothing had happened between them at all. It was like they were still best friends like before.

"I-I just called Mr. Murphy and he said that you've increased your investment, right?"

Louis was stuttering like a little boy who had committed a mistake.

As Robert watched him from the side, his temper flared.

"Yeah," replied Zachary. "It's your first project, so you must do a good job and prove yourself to the royal family!"

When Louis heard that, he was extremely touched. However, a wave of embarrassment surged through him too...

Meanwhile, Robert frowned. What is Zachary planning? Is he resorting to an appeasement tactic?

"They've told you already, right? We'll meet you at Pillere. You should quickly pick a date to kickstart the project."

"I know. And you..."

"I've been busy recently, so I made Lucy in charge of communicating the details to your side. After the project's done, I'll go over and take a look."

“Then...”

“That’s it! I’ll go keep my child company.”

Before Louis could finish his sentence, Zachary ended the call.

As Zachary had control over the entire conversation, Louis had no opportunity to express his thoughts or even wait for him to ask about the marriage...

After the call, Louis’ unease and guilt increased.

He thought that he had let Zachary down. Not only had he snatched the woman whom Zachary loved away, but he had also misjudged his friend grossly!

Instead of blaming him, Zachary helped, supported, and consoled him.

“This must be part of Zachary’s scheme. You mustn’t fall for it!” reminded Robert quickly. “He’s not someone to be trifled with. Regardless of his relationship with Charlotte, he won’t give up so easily if someone threatens his interests.”

“Daddy, stop insulting Zachary.” Louis was furious. “How can you say that about him when he’s so nice to me?”

“Louis...”

“Okay, that’s enough. I want to rest now. ”

Annoyed, Louis pushed his father out of the room and shut the door. Then, he held onto his phone, unable to calm down for a long time.

Meanwhile, in H City, Zachary was sitting on a chair in Ashenville Garden.

While watching Jamie play soccer on the field, he narrowed his eyes. A cold glint flashed across them.

"I've found out." Ben rushed over and reported softly, "Ms. Lindberg has agreed to it. Although it has not been announced yet, they're probably going to do it soon."

"What about the Lindberg Corporation?" asked Zachary.

"Danrique is currently encircled by enemies, facing both internal threats and external problems. The reason why he supported this marriage was probably that he wanted to provide Ms. Lindberg with a backup plan."

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When Zachary heard that, a conflicted look crossed his face.

"Looks like Danrique is really nice to Charlotte."

"Yeah," Ben said softly. "I heard from Lupine that although Danrique's really strict with Charlotte, he has only kind intentions for her."

Not saying anything, Zachary cast his gaze downward. Did Charlotte agree to this marriage out of consideration for Danrique's situation?

I know very well that she feels no romantic feelings for Louis. But why did she agree to marry him? I can't figure it out at all...

When he first heard about the news, his heart sank.

Although he was already mentally prepared, he still found it hard to accept when he had to confront it.

He kept hoping that she would be reluctant to agree because of their past relationship, that she would hesitate and resist. However, it was merely a figment of his imagination.

"Don't worry. Since they have not announced it, it might just be a verbal agreement and is confirmed yet," comforted Ben gently.

"Within three hours, the news will be published."

Zachary gazed at the dark courtyard with narrowed eyes.

Ever since Charlotte left, H City had been raining constantly. The cloudy and wet weather made one's mood gloomy as well.

Only Jamie could train and play soccer every day happily as if nothing had happened.

"I finally know why Robbie wanted Jamie to stay by your side." Gazing at Jamie as he jumped around enthusiastically, Ben could not help but exclaim, "Look at how happy he is! As Marino's been keeping Jamie company every day, his mood has improved considerably too."

"Yeah." A smile played on Zachary's lips as he stood up to join Jamie's soccer game. However, when he took a few steps, he started feeling dizzy, as if the world was spinning around him.

"Mr. Nacht!" Ben rushed forward to hold him. "Are you okay? I'll bring you back to your room to rest."

Ben helped Zachary to the room and lay him down on the bed. He was about to call Raina when Zachary stopped him. "We're in the villa now. Do you want everyone to know about it?"

"But this can't continue..." Ben panicked. "Your illness is relapsing more frequently!"

"It's fine." Zachary covered his eyes with his arm, adjusting himself to the brightness of the room. "I won't die!"

"Mr. Nacht, you..." Ben wanted to say something, but Zachary dismissed him with a wave of his hand. Although Ben was anxious and frustrated, he had no choice but to leave quietly.

"What happened? Did he have a relapse again?" Bruce walked over briskly and asked.

"Yeah." Ben nodded. "Didn't Raina visit Spencer? What did he say?"

“Spencer wanted to look for Mr. Nacht, who has left. To prevent the news from being leaked, there’s no choice but to wait till we get home...”

“We must convince him to accept the treatment. Otherwise, the consequences would be dire.”

“Yeah, he’s getting thinner by the day. I’m really worried!”

While both of them discussed in hushed voices, they did not notice Jamie walking over from the other end of the corridor.

“So...” Bruce stopped mid-sentence and turned his head around warily. When he noticed Jamie standing beside a vase, he was stunned. “When did you arrive?”

“Just now!” said Jamie with a giggle. “Where’s Daddy?”

“He’s tired, so he’s resting in his room.” Ben walked toward him quickly, squatted down, and hugged his shoulders. “What did you hear just now?”

“Nothing.” Jamie gazed at him with a clueless look. “What’s wrong?”

“Nothing.” Ben heaved a sigh of relief. “Follow me! Let’s go eat something and not disturb your father’s rest.”

“I don’t want to eat! I want to bathe. The sweat feels so uncomfortable!”

“Okay, I’ll bring you back to your room to bathe.”

“Let the two pretty ladies bring me there instead. You should go ahead with your work!”

With that, Jamie broke free from Ben’s grasp and scurried off.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1145

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"Do you think he heard us?" Bruce was concerned.

"I doubt so," Bruce answered. "Jamie isn't like Robbie. He isn't the kind to keep things in his heart."

"That's true." Bruce nodded. "We're heading back tonight, right? Let me give Mr. Spencer a call."

"Alright."

Then, Bruce went back to work as Ben stood guard by Zachary's door.

Jamie returned to his room and found two maids preparing his bath. He cleared his throat and said, "Excuse me, ladies, you may leave. I can wash up on my own."

"What's wrong? You love it when we bathe you," the maids asked with a smile.

"I'm a grown-up now. I can't rely on you to bathe me all the time..." Jamie answered, embarrassed.

"Hehe, are you embarrassed, Jamie?" one of the maids snickered.

"Urgh yes, I am. Quit it, you're making me blush." Jamie hid his face in his hands. "I'm hungry. Go make me something to eat while I take a bath."

"Alright. We'll do so right away."

Jamie's expression instantly changed as soon as the two maids left. He then called Robbie with his smartwatch.

"What is it, Jamie? Why are you calling at this hour?" Robbie asked in a sleepy voice.

"Robbie, I think Daddy's sick," Jamie choked. "I overheard Mr. Bruce and Mr. Ben persuading Daddy to seek treatment..."

"Really? What's wrong with Daddy?" Robbie asked panickily.

"I'm not sure either. But I noticed he's lost weight and doesn't seem as energetic as before." Tears began to well up at the corner of Jamie's eyes. "Robbie, what do we do? Is Daddy going to be okay? I'm scared."

"Don't panic, Jamie. You should find out what disease is it first," Robbie said calmly. "Perhaps it could be a minor cold? Or he's just upset because Mommy took Ellie and I with her when she left? Maybe that's why he's in a bad mood?"

"But he doesn't seem to have a cold. He isn't sneezing nor is he down with a fever..." Jamie muttered.

"Then you need to find out what exactly is going on with him! That's your latest mission! Find out what happened to Daddy and report back to me!"

"Okay, I will!"

"Good. Do you still remember what I taught you? Stay calm and don't panic in all situations..."

"Yes, I do. That's what I did just now. Hence, Mr. Bruce and Mr. Ben weren't suspicious of me."

"Good. Stay calm, alright? Daddy has a strong and healthy body. Thus, it's probably nothing serious even if he's sick. But, you have to make sure and let me know, alright?"

"Okay..."

Once they hung up, Jamie thought about Robbie's word. He felt encouraged and was driven to find out the truth.

As for Robbie, he could longer go back to sleep after the call.

Robert came by with Louis to meet Mommy this morning. I believe they must have gotten what they came for judging from the smiles they had on their faces when they left...

However, Daddy is sick at such times...

What should I do?

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door as he was lost in his thoughts. It was Charlotte. "Are you awake, Robbie?"

Robbie quickly got up to open the door and saw Charlotte, fully dressed. "Mommy, where are you going?" His heart dropped.

"I have to make a trip to the company." Charlotte bent over and cupped his cheeks. "Can you play with Ellie once you wake up from your nap? Don't forget you have an online class at three o'clock, alright?"

"Okay." Robbie nodded obediently. "I thought you didn't have to take care of the Lindberg Corporation's business matters? Why do you have to go to the company now?"

"There's a press conference I have to attend to," Charlotte answered briefly. "Anyways, I have to go now. Please be a good boy while I'm away. If you need anything, go to Ms. Morgan or Mrs. Ramos."

"Mommy..." Robbie tugged Charlotte's sleeve. He knew what the press conference was about.

He didn't want Charlotte to attend the press conference. Yet, he loosened his grip around her sleeve when he was reminded of Zachary. "It's nothing. Go on."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1146

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Charlotte knew what was on Robbie's mind, but she didn't ask any further. Some things must be dealt with even if you aren't willing to...

"Be a good boy for me, alright? I'll be back to have dinner with you both. I promise."

She hugged Robbie and left.

Robbie watched as Charlotte walked out of the castle. He even went to the window to watch her get into the car.

I know she'll be back very soon, but I feel as if Mommy was leaving me to a faraway land. Another world, perhaps.

As the convoy disappeared in sight, Robbie broke eye contact with the view outside of the castle. I can never understand the adult world...

Charlotte arrived at Lindberg Corporation in no time. The building was situated in the best location in Erihal where many built their business empires.

The press conference was ready to go as Robert and Louis were sitting on stage, waiting for Charlotte.

On the other hand, Danrique chose to stay away from the spotlight. Thus, his absence was no surprise.

Charlotte got off her car and walked towards the press conference. Every media reporter instantly turned their cameras towards her as they clicked away frantically.

Louis welcomed her even before Charlotte reached the stage. He even pulled her chair for her like a gentleman. His kind gesture was caught in action as the reporters continued taking pictures.

Robert smiled as he watched his son behave like a gentleman.

It was no doubt a great move under such circumstances.

The trio was quickly seated as Charlotte greeted the media reporters as a host. She then introduced Robert and Louis before announcing the news of her marriage to Louis.

The crowd immediately went wild as soon as they heard the news.

Everyone knew that a big shot of Lindberg Corporation like Charlotte would have big news for the public. Yet, no one expected it to be this.

The marriage between Lindberg Corporation and the royal family of F Nation was no doubt a power move to join forces. The

Lindberg Corporation would gain a powerful ally while the royal family of F Nation and the Laurent family would also gain great help!

The media reporters hurriedly asked many questions regarding how the couple met and the wedding details.

Charlotte was able to answer every one of their questions with ease.

As for their romance history, Louis mentioned that he immediately fell in love with her when he first met Charlotte at a banquet.

He could not forget about her ever since that encounter and searched high and low for any signs of her.

Fortunately, he met once again after six months at a royal banquet in F Nation. He wasted no time as he confessed his love for her. However, she rejected him.

The couple became friends as Louis continued to stay by her side, hoping he could win her over with his sincerity and love. He had also confessed to her several times in the process but she didn't accept him until today.

With that, Louis got on one knee and revealed a ring that symbolized the royals of F Nation and proposed to Charlotte!

The female journalist at the scene was moved by his act, especially when he looked at Charlotte affectionately.

The crowd was in awe and exclamation! The scene was like a perfect love story straight out of a fairytale!

Charlotte looked at the ring as her mind drifted to the scene when she was married to Zachary. All of the memories from those days flashed before her eyes.

In a split second, the man kneeling in front of her became Zachary!

Charlotte couldn't help herself but smile gently as she looked back at him affectionately. She slowly stretched out her hand towards Louis to accept his proposal...

Louis was so touched, he quickly put the ring on Charlotte's finger and hugged her tightly. "I love you, Charlotte!" he said emotionally.

Charlotte was instantly pulled back into reality. The person in front of her was Louis and not Zachary...

He's never said "I love you" to me before. Never. Forget it, let's start over from this moment onwards...

Charlotte told herself as she slowly closed her eyes and placed her arms around Louis.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1147

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Back in Ashenville Garden, H City...

Zachary was watching the press conference on his computer.

The couple wasted no time as they went straight for the main agenda to announce their marriage.

Louis also proposed on the spot. The atmosphere was filled with love and affection. The couple seemed like they were a match made in heaven, a couple in an illicit love affair.

Zachary couldn't think of anything else to describe them as he fixed his eyes upon Charlotte.

He watched as she smiled gently at Louis and accepted his proposal.

She even hugged Louis on the waist.

Zachary's heart ached as if it was ripped open. He watched the proposal happen as he was reminded of the times they shared.

"Zachary!"

"Huh?"

"I love you!"

"What? Say that again!"

"Nothing, it doesn't matter if you didn't hear it the first time."

"Come on, say it one more time! I want to hear it!"

"No! Some things can only be said once! It's your loss if you didn't hear it!"

"Hurry up, Charlotte! Just say it one more time!"

"No, absolutely not!"

"If you don't, I'll make you..."

"Stop it, you beast! I'm having a nosebleed, for God's sake! Stop it! It's really ticklish, haha!"

"Are you pregnant? We should have another set of triplets! I bet things are going to get lively in the house if we do!"

"No way! I'm not a pig!"

"Come on, doesn't it sound great? Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie would be thrilled!"

Those happy memories flashed by one after another in his mind like countless silver needles piercing him, causing indescribable pain.

He continued to stare at the computer as his mind was filled with Charlotte and Louis's intimate scenes. He was so engrossed in

those thoughts, he didn't realize he had crushed the glass with his bare hands and was holding glass shards.

It was like he was trying to hold onto the love he shared with Charlotte. Every time he squeezed harder, the shards would penetrate deeper into his palm, hurting him further as blood poured from his palms.

Yet, he couldn't bring himself to let go...

"Mr. Nacht, Mr. Nacht!"

"Let go!" both Ben and Raina screamed.

Zachary finally came back to his senses and lowered his eyes to look at his hands.

He didn't feel any pain despite gripping onto the shards so hard that it was deep into his skin.

She's given up. She's given up on me and our family. So, is it time for me to give up as well?

But, I can't do it... I really can't.

"Mr. Nacht, stop it."

Raina had never seen Zachary in such a state as tears rolled down her cheeks. She got down on one knee and quickly attended to Zachary's wound.

As for Ben, he quickly took a handful of tissues and wiped the blood off Zachary's face.

Zachary didn't notice that he was having a nosebleed until he snapped back into reality.

He wiped his nose with his other hand and saw a handful of blood. He stared at the blood coldly and said, "Funny, it didn't hurt one bit..."

"Mr. Nacht..." Raina cried, "you can't go on like this anymore. You need to be treated right away."

"I've already found the perfect medical team for you. It's the same team that treated Ms. Lindberg. They're scheduled to arrive by tomorrow. If they can cure Ms. Lindberg, I'm pretty sure they do the same for you. Nothing is too difficult for you to overcome."

You can win Ms. Lindberg over and take the kids back home. That way, you can all reunite once again..."

Her words were very persuasive, especially the last part.

Zachary's eyes lit up at her words. Yes, of course. Nothing can stop me once I'm in good condition.

No one can stand in my way. Not even, Danrique or Louis can take away my wife and kids. I have to get back in shape to bring them home!

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1148

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Spencer returned to Southridge as he stood by the entrance with a cane in hand.

Spencer had aged greatly in a month as he couldn't accept Henry's death. He now looked like an old man with white hair.

Even the way he held the cane had somewhat resembled Mr. Nacht.

"Mr. Spencer!" Jamie got off the car and ran towards Spencer.

The kids had treated Spencer as their Great-grandpa ever since Henry's death. They shared the respect and dependency they had for Henry with Spencer.

"Hello, Jamie." Spencer bent over to hug Jamie and patted him on his back. "I'm so glad to see you."

"Hehe, me too." Jamie giggled. "Are you feeling better, Mr. Spencer?"

"Much better." Spencer rubbed Jamie's head. "It's getting cold. We should get inside."

"Alright." Jamie nodded as he held the nurse's hand and walked into the house.

Zachary stood by the car as he watched Spencer. He frowned and turned towards Ben and Bruce.

The duo quickly lowered their heads guiltily.

Raina also kept quiet and looked elsewhere.

"It seems like I'm an unwanted guest, Mr. Zachary?"

Spencer smiled warmly at Zachary.

"Nonsense." Zachary walked up to him and smiled. "I've prepared some tea in my study room while waiting. Would you like to have some?"

"Well, don't mind if I do."

Zachary ordered the servants to make tea as he entered the villa side by side with Spencer. Then, they made their way to the study room.

Zachary took off his jacket and sat on the sofa. As he instinctively reached out for a glass of wine, Spencer stopped him. "You shouldn't be drinking anymore."

The servants froze in horror.

Zachary waved his hand and the servants quickly backed away.

"Oh, don't listen to those rascals, Mr. Spencer," Zachary explained. "I assure you, it's nothing serious."

"Don't try to hide it from me. I know everything." Spencer sighed sadly. "I knew Cynthia was up to no good from the start. Yet, I didn't think she would do such a thing even at the brink of death."

"I believe if Mr. Nacht had known that you were poisoned, he would have regretted for trusting the wrong person."

"Forget it, it's history now. So, there's no point talking about it anymore," Zachary answered.

"Of course. She's gone now anyway." Spencer sighed.

"I can only hope that you would be able to recover with the help of the treatment. Charlotte is the best example, so I believe you will recover too."

Mr. Nacht is gone, so you're all the Nacht Group is left with. Can you imagine what would happen to it without you? And the kids too! What would they do without you? Spencer thought to himself.

"I know..." Zachary nodded. "I'll head to the office tomorrow to settle some matters before I start the treatment. Therefore, I may need your help with the household matters."

"Okay," Spencer replied as he glanced at Zachary's hand that was covered with gauze. "I saw the news and I know it must be very hard on you. But you must know that you have a long life ahead of you! There's always hope as long as you're alive!" Spencer said.

"I know..." Zachary nodded. "I'll head to the office tomorrow to settle some matters before I start the treatment. Therefore, I may need your help with the household matters."

Zachary's heart tingled when he heard those words. He's right. I can turn things around as long as I'm still breathing.

"Just focus on the treatment and everything will turn out for the better," Spencer patted his shoulder reassuringly. "Mr. Sterk will take care of the company and I can look after the household on your behalf. So, don't worry."

"Alright." Zachary smiled and nodded. "The tea's ready. Please try it."

"Sure."

The men then drank tea quietly in the study room as the sound of rain pitter-pattered by the windowsill.

Zachary noticed Spencer's wrinkled hand when he poured tea for him. He couldn't help but think of his father and sighed. "Do you think my father regretted his decision when he passed?"

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chapter 1149

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"Of course." Spencer sighed. "He wanted to apologize to Charlotte himself. Hence, he was waiting for her to come through the door the entire time before he passed..."

"He had tears in the corner of his eyes due to regret. He wished he could have done so much more for your mother, for you, and for Ms. Lindberg."

"Hence, I hope you can do whatever your heart desires. Don't end up like your Grandpa. He was filled with regret at the brink of death, yet he couldn't do anything to change it..."

All the wealth and power were nothing to the Nacht family. These worldly things were something they could obtain at the snap of a finger.

"Yet, relationships are what you and your father desired for years. So, you should go for it!"

Zachary was rather shocked when he heard those words. He merely knew that Spencer was Henry's best man in charge. He was the second most powerful man in the Nacht family after Henry.

He was always the man to calm Henry when he was angry and give him a wake-up call when he lost his way. He had also trained a group of subordinates for the Nacht family like Bruce and Ben.

In fact, he was the only man besides our family member who knew Henry inside out.

Sure enough, Spencer knew what Zachary had in mind all along. The things he wanted to do and what he desired most.

“Look at it from a different perspective, one would not cherish the relationship if it was always a process of smooth sailing. A fight would eventually break out among the two over trivial things.

“In contrast, relationships that have experienced up and downs would bear good fruit. Perhaps this is a challenge for both you and Charlotte to overcome. Hence, once you reunite, you will look back and cherish the relationship you both shared.”

Spencer patted Zachary's shoulder and said, “Therefore, Mr. Zachary, dreams will come true as long as you're alive!”

Spencer's words brought great encouragement to Zachary.

I had always hoped that Henry would understand me, support me, and eventually say such words to me. Yet, it didn't happen. Nonetheless, Spencer had said it on behalf of Henry.

Zachary could feel a strong sense of power surging through his veins.

He was convinced that everything would change once he gets better. Charlotte would be by his side and the kids would return home too. Everything would be perfect again!

The next day, Zachary held a board meeting as he announced Johann as the executive director. Thus, all business matters would be under his care.

Similarly, he had promoted Lucy, who would then be in charge of the domestic market region.

He spent the whole day docking all business matters. For example, he handed all the projects to various people in charge, including the Gymnasium Project to Lucy.

The employees panicked as soon as they heard the announcements. Many had doubts and questions, yet no one dared say a word.

“Mr. Nacht, what is the meaning behind these arrangements?” Johann finally asked.

Zachary gestured for Ben to close the door of the conference room and disconnect all internet equipment.

“I overworked myself over the past few months and decided to take a break. Don’t worry, everyone, I just need some time to recover. I’ll be back in a couple of months, fully recharged!”

The upper management was in terror when they heard the news as they quickly asked about his health condition.

“It’s nothing serious.” Zachary waved his hand. “I mean, look at me. Do I look like I’m terribly ill?”

Zachary made an extra effort to make himself look extra sharp. That way, he’d look energetic and not sick besides looking slightly thinner than usual.

“I just wanted to rest,” Zachary replied plainly. “Besides, our headquarters in M Nation is in a mess all because of the things that have recently happened here in the Nacht Group. Therefore, I have to deal with it myself. Consequently, I am human, after all. My energy has its limits, so I’ve decided to focus on our headquarter for now.”

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Everyone nodded in understanding as soon as he said so.

Some speculated the reason for Zachary to return to M Nation was to settle the affairs at the headquarter. Although Henry’s will

clearly state that all of his assets belong to his three grandchildren, Zachary was overseeing it as of now.

Zara was no longer in the picture while Henry is gone too. Therefore, Zachary has to take charge of the trouble at M nation.

However, he couldn't publicly announce this news as it may cause trouble.

The management team there wasn't as nice as the people from Divine Corporation.

Hence, the crowd assumed the reason for his break was to settle matters in M Nation.

Everyone in the crowd sighed in relief except for Johann and Lucy. The duo seemed like they have something else in mind.

Once the meeting was over, Zachary returned to his office to sign some documents.

Johann came knocking on his door and asked, "Are you taking a break because of Charlotte?"

"I believe you saw the news?"

Zachary had a lot of respect for Johann. Although the old man was stubborn, he never fell back from a fight whenever the company needed help.

"Yup," Johann sighed. "Well, the world's an unpredictable place. I also don't understand how love works among young people like you. All I hope is that you won't become depressed about it..."

"Do I seem like an immature person to you?" Zachary continued to sign the documents without lifting his head.

"Are you really going to M Nation?" Johann frowned. "According to my sources, Mr. Spencer is handling the matters over there..."

"You're right, he is." Zachary stopped what he was doing. "The reason why I decided to take a break wasn't because of the matters in the headquarter. I'm sick, and I'll die if I don't seek treatment right away."

"What?" Johann was shocked. "Stop it, it's not funny."

"I hope you can keep this a secret," Zachary reminded him sternly. "I've liaised with the lawyers to draft a will. If anything happens to me, both you and Mr. Spencer would be in charge of handling the company. In addition, my inheritance would be entirely passed down to my three children..."

"Could you tell me what's wrong with you?" Johann panicked.

"It's nothing serious, but it comes with a risk," Zachary replied briefly. "I'm just taking precautions here to ensure everything will be alright."

"But..."

"Don't worry, I can handle this on my own." Zachary smiled. "I wouldn't want to bother an old man like you anymore. So, hang in there."

"You! What a cheeky rascal you are, I can't believe you're joking with me at such times." Johann was both angry and anxious. "I can't tell whether you're speaking the truth to me or not? Can't you just be honest with me for once?"

"I'm being serious right now." Zachary handed Johann a document. "Only Mr. Spencer and you have a copy of this each. So please keep this safe!"

"What's this?" Johann opened the file slowly.

"Take a good look at it, okay? I've guess I'm done for the day and I got to go now. Bye."

Zachary placed his pen aside as soon as he signed the last document and left.

Johann opened the file and took out a document. To his surprise, it was Zachary's will.

The contents of his will were exactly as he had mentioned before. If anything happens to him, Spencer and he would be in charge of the Nacht Group.

As for his children, he had left all of Nacht Group's property to his three children alongside a detailed distribution plan.

The will also specifically stated that Robbie may take over Nacht at the age of twelve whilst under Spencer's supervision.

As for his personal assets, he left everything to Charlotte!

However, the will had a validity of one year. If anything happens to Zachary in that timeframe, the contents of the will should be carried out accordingly...

Furthermore, the will would expire after one year.

"This... I can't believe..."

Johann's hand trembled as he was convinced that Zachary was indeed terribly ill and could lose his life anytime...

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1151

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Zachary decided to tell Johann not only because he trusted him, but he was worried that the treatment might not work as well.

Humans are often sensitive towards their physical condition. Even though I'm very optimistic, I can't help but think I might not wake up if I fall asleep one day.

And if that day comes, I hope the Nacht Group wouldn't be in chaos again. Hence, I have to take all necessary precautions!

Once everything at the Nacht Group was settled, Zachary began his treatment.

Raina cleared the entire medical building and brought in medical equipment in preparation for Zachary's treatment. Similarly, Raina arranged for the medical team from Erihal to stay at Southridge.

Mrs. Rawlston transferred most of the younger maids to Spencer while experienced ones were stationed at the medical building.

The reason behind the change in was staffing was to ensure that Zachary was taken good care of as well as to prevent the news from going public.

Spencer took Jamie back to Henry's Garden Villa to stay for the meantime. Spencer also allowed Jamie to go back to school.

Similarly, Jamie was under Marino and two other medical staff staffs' care when Zachary was away for treatment.

The night before Jamie left, he ran up to Zachary and asked, "Daddy, why are you sending Mr. Spencer and I away to the Garden Villa? Do you not want me anymore?"

"Of course not, silly. You're my son, why would I abandon you?" Zachary rubbed his head and smiled. "I'm sick and need to be

treated. Hence, I've decided that you should stay with Mr. Spencer as I can't take care of you now."

"What's wrong, Daddy? Are you having a cold or something?" Jamie asked anxiously.

"It's hard to explain..." Zachary paused. "Daddy's illness is a little tricky and requires some time before I get better. If everything goes well, I'll be as healthy as a horse in a couple of months. Then, we can travel to Erihal to get Mommy, Robbie, and Ellie."

"What?" Jamie widened his eyes in horror. "Daddy, did you just say that you might die?"

"Yup." Zachary nodded. "I might!"

"No! I don't want Daddy to die!"

Jamie clung onto Zachary's neck and cried out loud.

The room was instantly filled with the sound of cries as everyone was saddened by the scene.

Even Bruce and Ben lowered their head sadly while Mrs. Rawlston wiped a tear that escaped from the corners of her eyes.

Spencer wanted to comfort Jamie, but his voice was no match to Jamie's loud cry.

Zachary didn't stop Jamie, instead, he let him cry until he was tired and his voice became hoarse. Then, he gently pulled away from him and wiped his tears. "Are you done? Can we have a man-to-man conversation now?"

Jamie continued to sob as he nodded with tears in his eye.

"Here, take this and wipe your tears before you sit down." Zachary handed him a few pieces of tissue.

Jamie took it and wiped away his tears and blew his nose. His red and puffy eyes met Zachary's gaze. "Daddy..." Jamie choked up once again.

"It's only a matter of time before people die, Jamie..." Zachary gazed at him softly. "We all have to face death one day, do not be discouraged when you face challenges!"

"But I don't want you to die, Daddy." Jamie pouted as he looked at Zachary, teary-eyed.

"Daddy's not ready to die yet too." Zachary laughed. "I still want to bring Mommy, Robbie, and Ellie home. I want to watch all three of you become adults and see what kind of girl our little Jamie is going to marry."

Jamie snorted in laughter and a little bubble popped right out his nose. He quickly covered it with tissue in embarrassment.

"Are you going to stop crying now?" Zachary pinched Jamie's cheeks. "I won't die for sure, it's just a possibility. So we shouldn't get upset about something that hasn't happened, alright?"

"We should face what's ahead of us boldly. Therefore, Daddy's going to seek treatment. As for you, Jamie, you should study hard and keep this a secret from Mommy, Robbie, and Ellie."

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"Huh? Why?" Jamie asked in surprise.

"I know you have video calls with Robbie and Ellie every day, don't you?" Zachary asked. "All three of you would share about every little detail. So, I guess you've also told them that I've been sick, right?"

"I-I..." Jamie hesitated.

"Well, I don't want them to worry. So could you please keep it a secret?" Zachary rubbed his head. "That way, Daddy can seek treatment with a carefree heart. Then, we'll go to Erihal to meet them once I get better!"

"Okay." Jamie was convinced as he nodded solemnly. "Don't worry, Daddy, I won't tell them a single word about this. But you have to promise me that you will recover..."

"I'll be waiting for you!" Jamie's voice choked once again.

"I know." Zachary hugged him. "Be a good boy, alright? Let's work hard together and I'll see you in a couple of months!"

"You got it!"

That afternoon, both Spencer and Jamie left. Jamie turned to look at Zachary and waved as he took each step away from him.

Zachary smiled as he watched them leave. Once the convoy was nowhere to be seen, he clutched his heart in pain and fell.

"Mr. Nacht!" Ben and Bruce rushed to catch him. "You must seek treatment right away! We have no time to lose!"

"I'll make the arrangements this instant..." Raina left without another word.

However, Zachary stopped them. "Wait, there's something else I haven't done."

"Mr. Nacht, tell me what it is and I'll get it done," Bruce replied anxiously.

"Take me back to my room."

Both Ben and Bruce took him back to his room. Zachary leaned against the sofa and commanded in a low voice, "Hand me my phone."

Ben handed him his phone as Zachary dialed Charlotte's number with trembling hands.

Charlotte blocked his number in the past but unblocked it when they were both on a mission to rescue the kids.

Zachary dialed the number, yet no one picked up.

Zachary listened carefully as the line rang endlessly. He couldn't help but feel sad.

Perhaps she didn't want to pick up my call? Or was she unavailable?

Zachary's heart ached at the thought of it.

Is she with Louis at this moment? Is that why she can't pick up my call?

Suddenly, the beeping sound stopped and the call went through. Yet, the receiver did not say a word.

Zachary said a short "Hello?" and heard a familiar but cold voice shortly. "Can I help you?"

It was Charlotte's voice.

Although her voice was as cold as ice, Zachary was overjoyed to hear her voice again.

He hurriedly sat up straight and smoothened his clothes and hair. Even though it was merely a call, he could feel as if Charlotte could see him.

"I'm going to hang up if you're not going to say anything," Charlotte said coldly.

"Hold on," Zachary called out. Unfortunately, he didn't know what to say next.

"What do you want?" Charlotte questioned again.

"Are the kids doing fine?"

Zachary mustered up the courage to initiate a conversation. However, it wasn't anything important or interesting.

"You have their number. Why don't you call them up instead?" Charlotte suggested.

"Oh, yeah." Zachary felt as if the conversation was going nowhere. "How about you?"

"I'm good," Charlotte answered in an arrogant attitude. "Is there anything else?"

"I saw the news..." Zachary said. "Are you really going to marry Louis?"

"Do you think I'd joke with such matters?" Charlotte asked.

"Do you love him?" Zachary blurted unexpectedly but regretted it at the very same moment.

"It doesn't matter whether if I love him or not. I believe our feelings will grow over time," Charlotte replied. "Is this why you called? Don't you think it's a little childish?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1153

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Every sentence Charlotte uttered was full of aggression, besides being tinged with undisguised impatience and sarcasm.

Nearby, Ben and Bruce were beginning to find it intolerable. When was their boss, Mr. Zachary ever humbled this way?

Then, Zachary said something that was even more humble, "I only wanted to hear your voice..."

In fact, he did not know what he wished to say and all he wanted was to hear her voice.

It did not matter what she said. As long as he could feel her presence, he had the courage to go forward.

At the other end of the line, Charlotte became quiet. If he had said any other phrase, she would feel impatient and revolted but when he said this, her heart ached...

She thought she could be indifferent but he easily affected her emotions.

The heartache she felt was akin to her heart being pierced by a sharp weapon.

It felt real and intense.

The sound of footsteps came from outside and Charlotte returned to her senses. Coldly, she said, "Don't call me again. Take care of yourself."

And then, she hung up.

Zachary's hand holding the phone dropped and he leaned against the sofa tired, his eyes gradually closing...

"Mr. Zachary!"

At the other end of the line.

"Danrique!" Charlotte put down her phone and turned around to look at Danrique who had just entered.

"Yeah." Danrique sat down on the sofa, took the cup of tea offered by the waiter, and started to slowly enjoy it.

"Sir Robert and Louis have returned home. I've just come from the airport." Charlotte looked at Danrique with worried eyes. "How are your injuries?"

"You don't need to worry about this." Danrique looked at her, frowning. "This few days, settle the plans about the wedding ceremony and then, go to Pillere with the kids."

"Go to Pillere?" Charlotte was wide-eyed, taken aback. "Why?"

"Just do as you are told." Danrique was not about to explain the reason.

Charlotte felt ill at ease. Apparently, Danrique was in trouble, and asking her to go to Pillere was to get her out of danger...

"One more thing..." Danrique lifted his eyes to meet hers and then, added, "The company shares, I want them back."

"All right. When shall we get the formalities done?"

In fact, she had decided much earlier to return those shares to him. It did not matter what the future brought. She did not want to keep them.

"Tomorrow morning, at ten o'clock." Danrique lowered his eyes. "The team of lawyers will wait for you in the office. Sean will drive you over. Remember not to be affected no matter who tells you anything. Return home after signing the papers. Do you understand?"

"I do." Charlotte nodded. "What's going on, Danrique? Can you let me know? Perhaps, I could help..."

"I will take care of it. You needn't worry." Danrique interrupted her. "All right. You may go now."

"Danrique..."

Charlotte wanted to say more but Danrique made a gesture, meaning that she should leave, so she left.

Sean accompanied her downstairs, telling her softly, "Mr. Lindberg left some assets for you. Though not as valuable as those shares, they are enough for the rest of your life, so you and the children need never worry about making a living."

"Is there someone contending for the shares?"

Charlotte asked tentatively.

At the time when Danrique gave her those shares, he had wanted to give her power in the business world for the rest of her life, never having to bow to anyone.

When she refused, he had said that those belonged to Aunt Isabella.

He was a proud man who would not casually take back what had been given away, unless this gift had become a time bomb that would endanger the owner's life.

"It's good that you understand," Sean said, frowning, "Mr. Lindberg really meant well concerning you. You must do as he instructed. Furthermore, you must obey him to leave Erihal after completing the formalities."

"I wish to stay and fight together with him." Charlotte's brows were tightly knitted. "I can't just walk away from trouble."

"You must walk away," Sean said in a low voice. "Not only that, but you must also help Mr. Lindberg to take someone away with you..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1154

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On the way home, Charlotte wondered about what Sean meant by his last sentence. When she enquired, he would not reveal anything more, except that after the signing of the papers, they will make further arrangements...

Sean's secretive ways only made her more curious.

She recalled that Zachary did mention Danrique having a lover and they had a child together. Yet, Danrique had never spoken to her about this.

What Sean mentioned just now made her believe that the rumor was true...

Was it possible that the person whom Sean said she must bring along for Danrique was the love child?

If that was true, then this was a good deed, indeed.

Nevertheless, Charlotte felt much more at ease as she realized that she was playing an important role. At the very least, she was doing something helpful for Danrique.

Apparently, Danrique had planned for this emergency. Sean is right, I must pay heed to him now and not worry about other things.

A pretty petite little figure rushed out, interrupting her thoughts. "Mommy!"

Charlotte turned to look. It was Ellie, running out of the castle wearing a beautiful white cashmere coat...

Charlotte went over immediately and picked her up. "Ellie, why are you out? It's cold outside."

"I miss you, Mommy." Ellie had her arms around Charlotte's neck, nestled in her embrace like a sweet baby.

"Ellie is a good girl!" Charlotte stroked her hair, speaking gently, "I went out today to run some errands. Look, I'm back."

"Mommy, are you going to marry Sir Louis?" Ellie asked in a soft voice. "What will happen to us after that?"

"Whether Mommy gets married or not, my love for you all will not be affected." Charlotte kissed Ellie's forehead. "You all will always be Mommy's children. No one can change that."

"What about Daddy?" Ellie's voice was all choked up. "You really don't want him anymore?"

Hearing these words, Charlotte's heart sank. She had communicated with the children several times. It was impossible for her and Zachary to be together again, but the children still had expectations...

What could she do? She could only explain to them over and over again, tirelessly.

“Ellie, Daddy and I have separated.”

“I know.” Ellie lowered her head sadly.

“Good girl!” Charlotte carried Ellie inside. “Hungry? I’m making dumplings for you today. Will you come and help?”

“Yes, I’ll help...”

Ellie was quickly distracted from thoughts of her Daddy to making dumplings with Charlotte in the kitchen.

From the corridor on the second floor, Robbie watched everything that was going on. Without a word, he went back into his own room to continue reading but the words did not register in his brain.

In the afternoon, the internet connection was cut off. None of the computers could be used online. Even the TV could not be used for watching the news.

He knew that this was Mommy’s instruction. He knew what was going on, but still, he needed to see proof.

Just now, he heard the sound of a car and was about to go downstairs to look for Mommy but then, he saw her carrying Ellie indoors as if consoling her and so, he drew the conclusion...

Apparently, Mommy was really getting married to someone else.

There would be no reconciliation for the family.

Robbie felt sad so he took his smartwatch to call Jamie but on second thought, he decided against it.

Perhaps Jamie did not know the news yet so it was better to let him be carefree for a longer time.

Still, what about Daddy?

Robbie's heart ached when he thought of Daddy.

He recalled Daddy had asked them not to interfere with adults' affairs and that Mommy had her own ways of thinking so they must support her in every way...

Daddy was so considerate of Mommy so why did Mommy leave him?

He did not really understand adult feelings but he felt that Mommy must have a reason for her decision.

He trusted Mommy but he felt sorry for Daddy, too.

Nevertheless, it was beyond his power to do anything.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1155

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In the following days, Zachary began to receive closed treatment formally.

After the medical team examined him, it was clear that there should be no outside interference during the treatment, otherwise all previous efforts would be lost.

Moreover, they could not guarantee that all toxins would be totally removed.

After all, in the previous incident, when they treated Charlotte, it was just a temporary measure to help her stay alive. In the end, they had to depend on Francesco...

The legendary Francesco did not have a fixed address and he was travelling constantly. It took Danrique a long time to find him. By then, Charlotte's treatment was done, leaving behind some sequelae.

Francesco could not restart the healing process so he created for her a potion to be taken whenever the sickness relapsed to manage the pain...

Now, Zachary was in a similar situation. In order not to miss the best treatment time, he had to receive treatment first. No one could predict the future results, but at least he could stay alive.

In order to deter the attention of the public, Southridge was sealed off, leaving only some loyal subordinates and domestic servants, who were not allowed to enter or leave at will.

Two weeks passed by quickly. Zachary did not show himself.

The senior executives of Divine Corporation said that Zachary had gone to M Nation to handle the affairs of the headquarters and would be not expected to return to H City in the near future.

There were rumors and speculations that Zachary did not go to M Nation but rather had shut himself up because he was depressed and feeling hopeless since his only love was preparing to marry someone else.

Not long after, there were speculations about where Zachary had really gone to...

Divine Corporation and Nacht Group did not respond to those speculations and rumors.

No matter what the question was, their reply was that Mr. Nacht would return after two months.

Meanwhile, in Erihal, Charlotte heard the news from H City and she felt rather puzzled...

Even if Zachary really felt sad and hopeless over her marriage to Louis, he could not be depressed to such an extent, could he?

They were all very prominent figures with great power whose jobs affected society, so it was important for them not to be brought down by their personal lives.

Nonetheless, it was up to him to do as he wished and it was none of her business.

Thus, Charlotte consoled herself but still, she felt disturbed.

She asked Robbie if he had contacted Daddy. Robbie said that he was not able to get through Daddy's phone in the past two weeks and Jamie said Daddy had gone to M Nation. He was at Mr. Spencer's for the time being.

When Robbie questioned further, Jamie said he had to leave for school.

Robbie felt that it was strange. He could sense that Jamie was not telling him everything.

The more he asked, the more Jamie evaded his questions. Finally, Jamie stopped accepting his calls.

Robbie related these to Charlotte and he asked in a worried tone, "Mommy, has something bad happened to Daddy?"

"Not necessarily," Charlotte comforted him, saying, "It is possible that he is really busy at the headquarters in M Nation..."

"No matter how busy, it is not necessary to cut off all communication." Robbie was very anxious. "Is he so busy that he cannot even pick up the phone? Besides, I keep feeling Jamie is hiding something from me. It's weird."

"Mommy, I miss Daddy and Jamie." Ellie's tears rolled down her face when she thought that something might have happened to Daddy. "Let's go back to see them, okay?"

"Ellie..." Charlotte was about to console her little girl when there was a loud knock on the door. "Ms. Lindberg, this is urgent."

Charlotte went to open the door and asked in a low voice, "What's the matter?"

Lupine bent near her ear and whispered a few words. Charlotte's countenance changed and she instantly replied, "Get the car ready, I'll change and come downstairs now."

“Yes.” Lupine quickly went downstairs to arrange for the car.

Charlotte hugged Robbie and Ellie, speaking to them gently,
“Robbie and Ellie, I’m going over to Uncle Dan’s place. You both be good. I’m coming home a little late.”

“Mommy, when will we go home?” Ellie looked at her Mommy questioningly.

“Ellie, after forty-five days, you’ll be totally cured. Then, Daddy will come to fetch you,” Charlotte spoke to her, holding her face,
“I am sure your Daddy is fine. Don’t worry, dear!”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1156

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"We cannot contact Daddy now and I'm worried."

Ellie's eyes were full of tears and anxiety was written all over her little face.

"Let me do this, then. I'll contact him," Charlotte comforted her. "Don't worry, wait for me, okay?"

"Yeah." Ellie was assured and she obediently nodded her head.

"Mommy, you go ahead and do what you need to do." Robbie looked at the time. "It's nighttime in H City now. When you come home tonight, it will be morning, over there. You can try calling then and see if you can get through to Daddy's phone."

"Fine." Charlotte stroked Robbie's head, changed, and left.

In these two weeks, Charlotte had transferred the shares and withdrawn from the Lindberg Corporation's board of directors. She had also finished all the preparations for the wedding in Xendale.

Once all was settled, Danrique would arrange for her to go to F Nation.

Nevertheless, just now Lupine had suddenly told her that there was an incident at Danrique's place and she had to drop by. Charlotte was anxious. "Is Danrique injured again?"

"We don't know yet," Lupine frowned as she spoke. "Sean only said you have to hurry over, that's all."

"Drive faster." Charlotte hurried Morgan.

"Roger!"

Very quickly, the car arrived at Danrique's castle.

The moment the car stopped, Charlotte ran like the wind inside the castle. "Where's Sean?"

"Ms. Lindberg, Sean is upstairs..." A subordinate led her upstairs. "Don't be anxious. Mr. Lindberg will be back soon."

"Danrique is not at home?" Charlotte was surprised. "Then where is..."

"Ms. Lindberg."

Sean came out from the study and signaled the other subordinates to leave.

"What's the matter?" Charlotte looked at Sean with a frown on her face.

"Come inside first." Sean opened the door of the study with an air of mystery.

With a face full of curiosity, Charlotte followed him in and looked. She could not help but be dumbfounded...

In the room, were three cute little children who were about two years old. They were all girls and they looked exactly alike, as delicate and pretty as dolls. They almost stole Charlotte's heart away on the spot!

"This..." Charlotte looked at the three children in surprise. "What's going on?"

"They have already taken DNA tests. All are Mr. Lindberg's children." Sean pointed at the three children and spoke embarrassedly, "In order to ensure their safety, Mr. Lindberg would like you to bring them to F Nation."

Charlotte was speechless.

She was stunned. She had heard rumors that Danrique had a love child but she had never expected him to have three, and at such a young age. She did not expect to see three adorable little girls.

“Oh, who is this pretty lady?”

The one sitting on the piano bench looked at Charlotte with curiosity and spoke in her baby tongue, “She looks like Daddy.”

“She must be Daddy’s little sister.”

Another little girl was sitting at the desk and scribbling on a document with Danrique’s pen. She looked up at Charlotte and pretended to be knowledgeable. “We should call her our aunt.”

“Aunt!”

Another cute baby with naturally curly hair crawled over from the sofa, holding on to Charlotte’s trousers, and then pulled herself up. “Aunt, hug me!”

“Good girl!” Charlotte quickly bent over to pick her up. As she looked at her curly hair framing her cute small face, Charlotte couldn’t help smiling. “What’s your name?”

“Alpha.”

The little toddler answered obediently, exploring Charlotte’s face with both hands and examining her curiously.

“How are you, Alpha? I am Aunt Charlotte.” Charlotte introduced herself. Then she asked the child at the piano, “And you, what’s your name?”

“Beta!” The little girl was opening the piano cover, wanting to play it. She nearly got her thumb caught by the cover.

Charlotte quickly went over and held the piano cover whilst coaxing the girl, “Dearie, be a good girl. Don’t play now. In the future, Aunt Charlotte will teach you how to play, okay?”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1157

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"I can play it. I play the best melodies, Aunt Charlotte," shared Beta as she sniffed and spoke with a straight face on.

"Uh..."

"She's basically telling you to not mess around," said the girl who was at her desk. She never even looked at Charlotte before she greeted, "I'm Gamma, Aunt Charlotte."

"Hi!"

Charlotte couldn't help chuckling. The kids' names are too comical to forget.

That being said, they really are cute. They look a little like Ellie when she was younger. The only difference is that they have naturally thick and curly hair. Also, they're mixed-blood kids, so they as adorable as a doll.

"Those are just their nicknames. Their legal names have yet to be decided," explained Sean.

"Where's their mom?" asked Charlotte while keeping her voice down.

"That... is a long story," replied Sean, who seemed to have a little trouble explaining anything. He changed the topic by saying, "Let's not talk about this for now. The private jet is ready, and Mr. Lindberg asked me to take all of you to the airport at one o'clock. The kids will be counting on you. Please take care of them."

"What's going on?" asked Charlotte in confusion, "It's already twelve o'clock. Yet, we have to depart at one o'clock?"

"Yes," replied Sean, "Please hurry and have your people pack things up quickly. Mr. Lindberg will explain the situation to you later, and we will leave immediately after."

"When will Danrique be back?" asked Charlotte while frowning.

“Soon,” answered Sean. He checked his watch and added, “He’ll reach in ten minutes.”

Charlotte had no choice but to have Lupine get their people to pack everything and get the travel documents ready. She even got them to inform Robbie and Ellie that they would be leaving at one o’clock.

Lupine rushed to prepare everything.

Charlotte had some time to kill, so she sat on the sofa to chat with the three kids.

Alpha was sweeter and more talkative. She crawled into Charlotte’s arms and chatted away endlessly.

Beta, on the other hand, was playing with the piano while Gamma was by the desk and scribbling away.

Charlotte Lindberg.

Danrique hurried over quickly and flung the door to the study room open. When he saw the kids, his usually calm and unreadable expression turned a little complicated. His frown deepened as well.

“Daddy!”

All three kids dashed over to Danrique as soon as they saw him.

Alpha was holding a newly opened pack of yoghurt at the time. She had only taken a few steps before Splat! She fell onto the floor and got the yogurt to splatter all over her face. The naughty kid licked the yoghurt off with her tongue.

Beta extended her tiny feet and ran into Danrique’s arms. The music sheet she had with her ended up slapping her father’s handsome face.

Gamma was sitting by the desk. She had her pen with her and was holding a ball of documents as she ran over. She was about to hug her daddy with her dirty hands when...

Danrique took the document away from her immediately. He frowned and scolded a little, "Why did you draw on this?"

My little baby ruined the proposal for a project valued at over ten billion!

"Daddy is being mean to me!"

Gamma pouted her lips. Bwa! It didn't take her long before she bawled aloud.

Her cries got to her sisters. Alpha and Beta basically followed suit and cried as well. Their voices were crisp and filled the entire study room right away.

Danrique massaged his temple as he developed a headache...

"Kids, don't cry. Please don't cry."

Sean instantly panicked. He didn't know what to do at all.

"Don't cry, girls. Aunt Charlotte is here to protect you, okay?"

Charlotte was quick to soothe the kids in front of her. The first thing she did was to pick up Alpha, who was still lying on the floor. Charlotte used a wet tissue to clean off all the yogurt before she took the music sheets away from Beta. She also put away the pen Gamma had with her and clean her hands.

Finally, Charlotte had all three kids in her arms as she cooed with a smile, "Kids, I live in a huge and beautiful castle. There are even other kids there to play with you. Do you want to come visit?"

"Yes!"

All three tiny toddlers raised their chubby hands and replied simultaneously.

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"Then you must be good and eat your snacks, okay? After that, I will take you home with me."

Charlotte cooed them to get them to go have some snacks in the separate room. The former even had Lupine and two other maids babysit the kids.

"Okay," replied the kids, who smiled brightly.

"Such good girls," complimented Charlotte as she stroked their beautiful, curly hair. After that, she entered the study room.

Danrique frowned deeply when he saw the messy study room. He was an extreme germaphobe and had mild OCD. Seeing messy things would make him uncomfortable.

"Kids are always unpredictable," explained Charlotte as she cleaned the place up. She then added, "Still, I am delighted to learn that you have kids of your own."

There were rumors of how Danrique was gay, and Charlotte almost believed in those lies.

No one could blame her for that, though. Danrique had never been lusty and never paid attention to women, and it didn't matter how beautiful they were.

Moreover, he hated it when women got close to him. He might even despise the idea of being in love with another person.

He was adamant about staying away from women, but he was thirty-three years old, so it was not possible for a guy like him to remain a virgin.

That was why there was a rumor about how he was gay. Even Charlotte thought that was the case...

Turns out, he is just a normal dude.

Charlotte was curious, though. I wonder what kind of woman got that man to open up.

"What's there to be happy about? Those three are just little demons..."

Danrique frowned. It seemed he wasn't close and hadn't warmed up to his kids. Instead, he looked a little lost and anxious, like he didn't know how to interact with them...

Pfft! Charlotte couldn't help giggling a little before she said, "Kids are supposed to be naughty. Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie were just like that when they were younger... Actually, Jamie is still as naughty as your daughters are."

"It's best if they are like Robinson."

Danrique thought that things would be amazing if every kid was just like Robbie.

"Every kid is different. Alpha, Beta, and Gamma are actually pretty cute. I really like them," commented Charlotte while smiling.

"You can keep them if you like them so much. Take them away now," replied Danrique, who seemed to be waiting for her to say just that.

"Like you are actually willing to part with them?"

Charlotte knew that Danrique was just trying to keep the kids safe. That was why he was making her take them all away.

Danrique glared over evilly before he changed the topic and asked Sean, "Who sent the kids over?"

"The postman took them to the company," answered Sean softly. "We were lucky that Gordon discovered them in time and contacted me..."

"That b*tch!" growled Danrique through gritted teeth.

Charlotte was shocked. What kind of a person is that woman? I can't believe she actually sent the kids like they are a parcel!

"She probably had her hands tied..."

Sean didn't get to finish his sentence before he was cut off. Danrique's expression was so evil that it was terrifying. It got Sean to tilt his head down and stop talking entirely.

Danrique turned to Charlotte and demanded, "Leave at one o'clock sharp. Take those three demons to Pillere and find a way to get them to stop calling me Daddy. Do not let anyone discover that they are my kids."

"Understood," replied Charlotte. She didn't dare to ask any questions when she saw how stern Danrique was. She simply promised, "Don't worry. Just leave the kids to me."

"Go on then," replied Danrique before he turned around and left.

Charlotte had more to say to Danrique, but she swallowed her words when she saw how he walked away that firmly.

"Let's go. We still have two more kids to pick up," reminded Sean politely, "I'll take you over right now."

"Okay."

Charlotte went to the separate room and cooed the kids into leaving with her.

Fortunately, all three kids weren't close to Danrique, and they instinctively trusted and loved Charlotte. That allowed Charlotte to convince them with just a few words.

When they got into the car, Charlotte turned around and looked at the study room on the second floor. She didn't know if Danrique would be watching from the window, but she instructed, "Kids, wave goodbye to your daddy."

"Bye, Daddy," said the kids as they waved at the window...

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Danrique didn't show up beside the window and wasn't as reluctant to part as Charlotte assumed him to be.

Charlotte shifted her gaze to the window in the master bedroom. Nothing... I guess I overanalyzed the situation.

Charlotte shook her head in exasperation before she got the kids into the car.

"Wow, this is so cute!"

Alpha saw Ellie's Barbie doll as soon as she got in the car. She hugged the doll and started playing with it immediately. She even chatted with the doll.

"What is this?"

Beta discovered Robbie's invention, which he left in the car. She scanned endlessly but still couldn't figure out how to play with it.

"Let me see," requested Gamma before she took the invention and started messing with it. She didn't know how to play with it either and ended up taking it apart.

"You can't take that apart..."

Morgan was going to stop the kid when Charlotte gestured for her to let the kids be.

"We can just put it back together later."

Gamma ended up putting everything back together after she took it apart. She was especially focused as she did so.

Beta got bored, then. She had her head on the sofa and started snoring. One of her chubby feet slipped down the edge of the sofa and was swaying a little. That made her look ever so cute as her fingers tapped on the sofa like she was playing the piano.

A warm grin crept up on Charlotte's lips as she stared at them.

It didn't take long before they reached their destination.

Charlotte had her maids help the kids put on their coats before taking them out of the car. They were about to lead the kids into the house when...

Ellie ran over and informed, "Mommy, Mommy, Lupine said that we are..."

She hadn't even finished her sentence before she was flabbergasted. Her eyes bulged in astonishment as she stared at the three cute toddlers.

The toddlers were taken aback when they saw Ellie as well. They tugged at Charlotte's hand afterward and asked, "Aunt Charlotte, is that the kid you were talking about?"

"Yes, you can call her Ellie," introduced Charlotte, "Ellie, these are..."

That was when Charlotte realized that she didn't know which kid was which.

They look exactly alike.

"I am Alpha," introduced the tiny toddler, who was still holding the Barbie doll.

"And I'm Beta," claimed the sleepy toddler with one side of her hair all messy. She smiled as she stared at Ellie and complimented, "You are so pretty, Ellie."

"I am Gamma," added the kid who was holding Robbie's invention. She scanned Ellie from head to toe before asking, "Are you Aunt Charlotte's kid?"

"Aunt Charlotte?" blurted Ellie as she stared at Charlotte and asked, "Mommy, are they... Uncle Dan's daughters?"

"Yes," replied Charlotte with a smile before suggesting, "Come now, let's head in."

After that, Charlotte led everyone into the castle. As soon as they were inside, Ellie transformed from a playful child to a mature kid. She invited the three kids to her room to play and even welcomed them as guests.

Robbie was waiting for Charlotte in the living room when he saw the triplets there. He couldn't help being taken aback.

"Wow, he is so handsome."

All three kids immediately had Robbie surrounded. They scanned him endlessly like they were looking at a strange creature. They asked, "He looks just like Daddy. Is he Daddy's kid?"

"What the hell?" complained Robbie while frowning before he asked, "Mommy, who are they?"

"They are your Uncle Dan's daughters," replied Charlotte, "Their names are..."

"Alpha!"

"Beta!"

"Gamma!"

All three kids introduced themselves as if on cue.

Robbie was stunned, but he regained his footing soon. "Uncle Dan's daughter?"

"Yeah," reaffirmed Charlotte while nodding, "I'll take them to the second floor for now. Wait for me in the study room."

"Okay."

Charlotte settled the three kids temporarily in Ellie's room and had Lupine babysit them. After that, Charlotte took Ellie to the study room and told Robbie and Ellie, "Robbie, Ellie, we are about to take off to F Nation, and we will be taking the toddlers with us."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1160

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"I've never heard about how Uncle Dan has kids. How did the three of them suddenly show up? Has the DNA test been done?" asked Robbie suspiciously.

Cough! Charlotte was sipping tea at the time and almost spat out.

"Robbie, what's a DNA test?" asked Ellie curiously.

"It's a medical test that can determine whether two people are related by blood," explained Robbie.

"Okay," murmured Ellie, who still wasn't entirely sure what that was.

"The tests are done, and they are definitely his kids," answered Charlotte before she quickly taught her son, "Robbie, never talk about this matter again, okay? They will be heartbroken if they overhear you."

"Okay," replied Robbie before he nodded and asked, "But, why are we suddenly heading to F Nation?"

"I don't want to go to F Nation. I want to go back to H City," requested Ellie sadly.

"I can't really explain why we have to go there," cooed Charlotte sweetly, "But you can trust me. It doesn't matter where we are. I will always take care of and love you both."

"Is Uncle Dan facing some issue?" asked Robbie, who had long sensed that something was off.

"Err..."

"Mommy, I understand if Uncle Dan wants to send us away temporarily to keep us safe," replied Robbie with a straight face

on, "But we don't have to go to F Nation. We can totally return to H City."

"I will never return to H City."

Charlotte panicked a little. It was almost one o'clock, and they had to leave for the airport. Everyone was waiting right outside as well.

Hence, she didn't have the time to explain everything to them. All she could say was, "I have my own plans. I just hope that you'll both understand that it didn't matter where we are. Both of you will always be my kids, and I will always love you both."

Robbie stopped talking. Instead, he tilted his head down sadly.

Ellie asked sadly, "Then does that mean we will never see Daddy again?"

"Didn't I tell you? Your daddy will come pick you up forty-five days later," cooed Charlotte sweetly as she stroked her daughter's face. "Okay. Be good and go get changed. We'll be heading over to the airport soon."

"But we've lost contact with Daddy. We don't even know how he is now," said Ellie while sobbing a little, "What if something had happened to him?"

Charlotte couldn't bear to see Ellie that sad. In the end, the adult compromised and suggested, "How about this? I'll call him now and ask him how he's doing."

"Okay," replied Ellie while nodding.

Charlotte tried dialing Zachary's number, but as expected, he was unreachable. She called Ben immediately after, and the line was established soon.

"Ms. Lindberg?"

Ben was surprised. He never anticipated a call from Charlotte.

Before Zachary went away to receive treatment, he gave specific instructions. They could ignore calls from absolutely everyone, but if Charlotte called, they must pick up.

"Why is Zachary's phone off?" asked Charlotte to get right to the point.

"Mr. Nacht is dealing with some crises in M Nation. Something happened at the headquarters, and he had to cut off all contact to prevent anyone from spying on him," lied Ben before he asked, "Why are you looking for him? I will have Bruce relay the message later."

"It's fine. The kids just miss him," replied Charlotte. She thought that something seemed off, but Ben was deliberately being discreet. Hence, she was not in a position to ask for more information. She simply requested, "Please have him return Robbie's call when he's free."

"Understood. I will surely relay the message," replied Ben respectfully.

"Thank you," said Charlotte before she hung up. She then turned to her kids and pointed out, "You heard that, right? Your daddy is busy working now, but he will return your call when he is free."

"Okay," replied Ellie as she pouted and nodded in disappointment.

"Thank you, Mommy."

Robbie sensed that something was off, but he couldn't quite put his finger on it, so he had no choice but to obey his mother obediently.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1161

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Charlotte finally cooed Robbie and Ellie, so she shifted her attention to the three toddlers. She said, "Kids, how about I take you to F Nation to play for a while?"

"Huh? F Nation? Where is that?"

Alpha's big, round eyes shone with curiosity as she stared at Charlotte. Her long eyelashes fluttered and made her look extremely adorable.

"F Nation is a stunning country with beautiful castles and princesses in carriages. There's even an amazing garden," informed Charlotte sweetly.

"Wow, that sounds incredible!" replied Alpha. Her eyes shone with anticipation as she spoke.

"Will Daddy be going with us?" asked Beta, who thought of something important.

"He won't be heading over. I'll be the one taking you there," replied Charlotte as she stroked the kid's head.

"Then... does Daddy know we're going?" asked Beta as she tilted her tiny head, "Did he ask you to take us there?"

"Yes."

"But he never told us about it," complained Gamma as she pouted. She looked sad when she added, "Mommy told us that she's sending us to Daddy because he will take care of us. Now, Daddy is abandoning us to you..."

"That is not it. Your daddy is just a little busy, so he asked me to babysit you. He will come to get you once he's done working," explained Charlotte patiently.

"Really?" asked all three kids with stunning and alert eyes. They seemed pitiful when they stared at Charlotte.

"Yes, of course," promised Charlotte as she crouched down and hugged all three kids, "I will take care of you and protect you."

Hearing those words stirred the three kids' hearts. They extended their chubby arms and hugged Charlotte before they sobbed.

Charlotte stroked their backs softly before she gestured Sean, who was standing right outside, to inform him that everything was okay.

Mission accomplished.

After settling the kids, Charlotte went to talk to Dr. Felch. She thought that she would need to spend some effort to convince him.

To her surprise, Dr. Felch took the initiative to ask, "We're heading to F Nation, right? Lupine told me all about it. Have Hayley and Sam finished packing? When will we be leaving?"

"I am so sorry for making you run around with me," apologized Charlotte, who felt guilty. "You were leading a happy, retired life in Phoenix City, but I insisted that you go to H City. Everything was fine there, and still, I got you to Erihal. Now, I..."

"That's pretty amazing too, right? I get to travel around the world without spending a penny," replied Dr. Felch with a smile, "It's quite amazing that I get to visit all these places before I get too old to move about."

"We can also learn and experience more by traveling," added Hayley with a cute grin on.

"That's true. I've never been to F Nation before, so it's great that I can visit the place now," chimed in Sam.

"Thank you. Thank you so much," replied Charlotte appreciatively.

"We're a family, so there is no need for that."

The entire convoy drove to the airport soon after.

The Rolls-Royce was in the middle of the convoy, and the three toddlers were surrounding Robbie and Ellie. The toddlers wanted to play with them.

Ellie liked the toddlers, so she got together with them quickly.

Robbie, however, was downright annoyed. Ellie used to be the only girl there, so he could handle the noise she made. With three extra girls suddenly popping up like that, he felt like he was going crazy.

Just then, the eagle started flapping its wings at the window. Charlotte worried that it would startle the toddlers, so she planned on chasing it away.

To her surprise, all three were not afraid of it. They even whistled at it and exclaimed excitedly, "Aunt Charlotte, quick. Open the window and let it in."

"Huh? Aren't you girls afraid of it?" asked Charlotte as her eyes bulged.

"Not at all," claimed the kids before they rolled down the window right away.

"No, girls..."

Charlotte was about to stop them when the eagle flapped its wings and flew in.

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Gamma reached out to grab the eagle's wings before dragging it into the car. She rudely tossed it onto the sofa.

After that, all three kids inched over and discussed the eagle endlessly.

"It looks just like our pet, Leslie, but it's bigger."

"Leslie is just a baby, so of course it's tiny."

"Could this be Leslie's daddy? Or its mommy?"

"No way, Leslie is so much cuter, and it didn't have as much feather around its neck..."

"What an ugly eagle."

"Yeah, our Leslie is so much prettier."

Screech!

The eagle pouted and screeched. It pretended to be untamed when it heard how the girls were calling it ugly.

"What was that? No grouchy face allowed!" instructed Alpha as she knocked on Fifi's head.

"Be good and smile for us. Smile now," instructed Beta as she used her finger to lift Fifi's chin up.

"It's probably retarded," complained Gamma as she stared in distaste.

Ellie was watching everything from the side, and she couldn't help dropping her jaw in astonishment. She blinked like she couldn't believe what her eyes were seeing.

She still remembered how she and her brothers were scared mindless when they first met the eagle.

Why aren't these kids afraid at all? And why isn't the eagle aggressive toward them? Hell, it's silently crying and didn't dare to act up even after they insulted it...

"That's no fun," complained the three toddlers, who had lost all interest in the eagle. They tugged at Ellie and requested, "Ellie, let's continue with our game."

“Uh, okay then.”

Ellie, who was usually immature and naughty, instantly became a good example as she played with the kids. She even taught them right from wrong.

“Alpha, be careful not to let your chips fall onto the rug, okay? We must be hygienic.”

“Beta, don’t drink too much juice. Your tummy will ache if you do so.”

“Gamma, no plucking Fifi’s feather!”

“Who’s Fifi?” asked Gamma curiously.

“That’s the poor eagle over there.”

That was the first time Ellie used the word poor to describe the eagle that was aggressive, feral, and merciless.

Why is it so fearful around these three little demons?

“Hehe, its name is so dumb,” commented Gamma as she shoved the feathers back onto the eagle. She added, “Okay, I won’t mess with you anymore. Go away.”

Fifi flapped its wing and flew to Robbie right away. It used its beak to readjust its feather. It even screeched softly and pitifully.

“Why are you so afraid of them?” asked Robbie curiously.

“Because it recognized them as Mr. Lindberg’s kids,” replied Sean with a grin.

“Ah, that makes sense,” muttered Robbie as realization hit him. He later asked, “But they’re still so young. I can’t believe they aren’t afraid of it at all...”

“That’s because their mother is...” blurted Sean. He swallowed the rest of his words before he finished his sentence. He simply shared, “In short, these three are not afraid of anything and were

born with a mysterious gift. That is why even Mr. Lindberg can't do anything about them."

"What gift?" asked Charlotte curiously.

"You'll learn soon," replied Sean as he grinned mysteriously and added, "It's too bad they're girls. If they are boys, they'd be able to inherit and continue Mr. Lindberg's business and legacy."

"Why is he playing favorites? Regardless of whether they're boys or girls, they're still children," commented Robbie while frowning.

"He's not really playing favorites," explained Sean. He sighed and informed, "Mr. Lindberg is just a little old-fashioned. He believes that girls should be protected and spoiled. Inheriting a business would mean bearing a tremendous responsibility and handling enormous stress. They would have to train hard and be practically invincible..."

"I see," murmured Robbie while nodding.

"That makes sense..."

Charlotte finally understood why Danrique was looking for an heir to his empire, even though there were rumors about how he had illegitimate children. He's even considering letting Robbie be his heir...

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Danrique knew all too well that inheriting Lindberg Corporation would mean a lifetime of responsibility. Even someone as powerful as him had faced a lot of difficulties and hardship.

He didn't want his daughter to lead a life of deception and compete endlessly in the commercial industry. Instead, he wanted them to grow up happy and live like carefree princesses.

His ideas were similar to what Richard believed.

Hence, Charlotte understood where Danrique was coming from.

"Ms. Lindberg, I've left a few men to guard over everyone."

Sean's words cut Charlotte's thoughts short. She came back around and realized that the car had already reached the airport. It even parked right next to the private jet.

Eight bodyguards from Erihal, all of which were wearing a black outfit, split up and stood at both sides. They greeted her politely.

"These are the men Mr. Lindberg chose in person. They will lay down their lives to protect you and the kids," informed Sean as he gestured the eight bodyguards.

"Rest well and focus on your recovery after you reached Pillere. Our issues should be settled by the time you and Ellie recover from your illness. If everything goes smoothly, Mr. Lindberg and I will go to Pillere together to pick everybody up."

"Everything will be fine. Please take care of Danrique in my place," replied Charlotte.

"Don't worry," informed Sean as he nodded, "Sir Louis will meet you at the airport. Mr. Lindberg had already discussed the matter with him, and you will be recuperating in his manor for the time being."

"Okay," replied Charlotte as she readied to hop out of the car.

"Ms. Lindberg," called out Sean before he handed her a folder and claimed, "Mr. Lindberg told me to hand this to you."

"What is it?" asked Charlotte as she accepted the folder. She was going to open it right away to check it out.

"Read through it after you've boarded the plane," interrupted Sean, "You should hurry."

"Okay," replied Charlotte as she kept the folder away and got out of the car.

Lupine and Morgan helped the kids out of the car and brought them onto the plane.

Dr. Felch, Hayley, and the others also boarded the plane while being protected by the Lindberg family's subordinates. Everything was settled before Charlotte boarded the plane as well.

She had just reached the door and was turning around to wave goodbye to Sean when she accidentally caught something. She saw how a bunch of men in tuxedo were chasing after them...

Sean waved at Charlotte and gestured for her to enter the plane quickly. After that, he led his men to battle against the men in tuxedo.

Charlotte quickly got on the plane.

It didn't take long before the doors were closed.

Charlotte could see, via the mirror, that a gun battle had already broken out in the distance...

I guess things were graver in Erihal than I initially thought.

She assumed that giving up Lindberg Corporation's shares meant that she could leave the country safely.

Looking back, it seemed she had misjudged things. They are probably coming after me because they know that I have Danrique's kids with me. That is why they refuse to relent...

Similarly, Danrique must've done plenty from behind the scenes to protect us. That is why we are able to board the private jet safely...

"Don't worry, Mommy. Uncle Dan will be fine," said Robbie. He saw how worried Charlotte looked, so he cooed softly, "Uncle Dan is so powerful that he will definitely solve whatever issue it is."

"Yeah," replied Charlotte while nodding. She turned to Robbie and seemed apologetic when she said, "I'm sorry, Robbie, for making everyone run and lead an unstable life."

"Don't overthink things, Mommy. It's only natural that a child follows his parent around. I will go wherever you go," promised Robbie as he offered some comforting words.

Charlotte was touched, and she hugged Robbie tightly.

I wish that everything will settle soon. Please let both Danrique and Zachary be safe.

"Phew, phew! The plane is lifting off."

The three toddlers were chanting excitedly as they looked out the window...

"I want to see the sky..."

"I want to see how the cars become as tiny as ants."

"I want to see the plane's wings in the air."

"Kids, be good and buckle up. Don't move around too much."

Morgan and the others were busy taking care of the three toddlers.

Unfortunately, the three toddlers refused to listen. They unbuckled their seatbelts and stood up to look out the window.

"No, no..."

"Sit down, now!"

Charlotte was about to voice up when Ellie ordered sternly.

All three kids were instantly stunned. They obeyed and returned to their seats as told.

"Ellie is so mean. I'm scared."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1164

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Alpha pouted her tiny lips. She stared sadly at Ellie, and those big, round eyes started to fill with tears.

“Alpha, I didn’t mean to scare you,” explained Ellie with a straight face on, “I was worried and just wanted to let you know that we can’t move around when the plane is taking off. It’s very dangerous.”

“Okay,” replied Alpha as she had her head down. She didn’t dare to say anything else.

“Do you understand as well?” asked Ellie as she stared sternly at Beta and Gamma.

The two kids nodded immediately. They were worried about Ellie reprimanding them.

“That’s good,” commented Ellie while nodding in satisfaction, “Be good and sit well. We can eat once the plane is in the air and is flying well.”

“Can we play games then?” asked Beta meekly.

“That might not be possible,” answered Ellie before she explained, “The plane might encounter turbulence while in the air, and that will cause it to tremble. Hence, it is not safe to play games, but we can play video games or watch cartoons.”

“Then I’ll watch a cartoon,” said Alpha, who started adjusting her seat to choose a cartoon to play.

“Yay! I can play video games,” cheered Beta as she took her tablet out to play.

“That’s so boring,” complained Gamma as she pouted and looked out the window before adding, “I wonder how Mommy is now...”

“I miss her too...”

Alpha and Beta instantly became depressed after hearing Gamma talk about their mom.

"I'll be here, kids," cooed Charlotte quickly, "I will take care of you in place of your mommy and daddy for the time being, okay?"

"But I miss her," replied Gamma sadly, "Mommy is injured. I wonder how she is now."

"What happened to her?" asked Charlotte hurriedly.

"Mommy said that she will come pick us up as soon as she recovers. She can't take care of us now. That is why she sent us to Daddy," blurted Alpha.

"Daddy is all grouchy and doesn't know how to play with us," complained Beta while pouting her tiny lips. She looked downright annoyed about it.

"It's fine. I will play with everyone, okay?" promised Charlotte, "For now, let's be good and rest for a while. We'll go watch cartoons in the lounge later."

"Yay!"

The kids were finally quiet for a while.

Charlotte sighed internally. The toddlers are naughty, but they are actually quite pitiful.

Danrique is naturally distant and doesn't know how to develop a connection with others. In fact, he can't even interact from the bottom of his heart. He is also lost and confused about how to digest the idea of having kids.

Hence, the kids couldn't receive any paternal love from him.

As for their mom... It seems she is in trouble as well.

That means the kids lack a sense of security... I should really pay more attention to them at a time like this.

"What video game are you girls playing? I can teach you how to win."

Robbie, who had been quiet the entire time, suddenly went to the toddlers and offered to teach them.

Charlotte was proud to see that. Robbie acts like he is cold and distant, but he is actually sweet underneath it all. He just doesn't know how to express his feelings.

He feels bad and relates to them when they say that they miss their mommy. That is why he approached them and offered to teach them how to play.

"You know how to play this game, Robbie?" asked Alpha curiously.

"You'll see," replied Robbie proudly.

"Wow, you're so good at it," cheered Beta while clapping.

"Not bad. Finally, I have a worthy opponent," commented Gamma in a surprised tone.

"You tiny rascal..."

Robbie finally grinned.

"Thank the heavens that Robbie is here to play with them. I can finally relax now."

Ellie exhaled deeply and looked exhausted.

"Haha, you had it tough, Ellie," said Charlotte as she hugged her daughter and kissed Ellie's forehead.

"It's not tough at all. Playing with them is so much more interesting than playing with my dolls," replied Ellie with a smile, "It's a little more troublesome than playing with the pets, though. Pets are more obedient whereas they are a little naughty."

"Hahaha, but I think they listen to you."

"That is because I am smart and know how to use the proper method to teach them!" bragged Ellie.

"That's amazing," complimented Charlotte.

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They were in the air for a few hours before they finally reached Pillere.

The weather there was much warmer than in Xendale. It was drizzling at the time, but it wasn't snowing, so wearing a windbreaker is perfect for that temperature.

Ellie and the toddlers had fallen asleep by then, so the maids helped them change their clothes before carrying them off the plane.

Ellie woke up for a moment and rubbed her tired eyes before she hugged Lupine's neck and continued sleeping.

Robbie was as grounded as he had always been. He walked down the stairs with Charlotte by his side.

Louis had a team there to welcome Charlotte, and over ten luxurious cars were parked on the field.

Charlotte had just walked down the stairs when Louis walked over excitedly to welcome her. He said, "Charlotte, you're finally here."

"You must've waited for a long time. Sorry about that," replied Charlotte with a grin. She was polite... perhaps too polite.

"It's not troublesome at all. Besides, I should be here to wait for my fiancée," said Louis while smiling at her, "I'm so glad that I get to see you again so soon."

"Yeah, we'll really be troubling you for a while," commented Charlotte as she grinned.

"We're family, so I am happy to be troubled," said Louis happily. He even took the initiative to greet Robbie, "Hi, Robbie."

"Hello, Sir Louis," replied Robbie politely.

"Welcome to Pillere," said Louis as he crouched down to shake Robbie's hand.

"Thank you," replied Robbie with a grin.

"Where are the other kids? I brought presents for everyone," asked Louis warmly.

"They're asleep."

Dr. Felch walked down the stairs as Charlotte spoke.

Louis saw that and was quick to head over to help. He asked about Dr. Felch's wellbeing kindly and was helping the good doctor into the car in person.

Charlotte was pleased to see all that.

Louis was thoughtful and got everyone a place to rest in Pillere for the day. He took them to the manor in Arkfield on the following morning.

The manor was where the Laurent family built their empire, so it was huge and the weather was pleasing. The scenery was also calming and serene.

There were a lot of vineyards, wineries, pastures, and farms there.

Dr. Felch and the kids loved it. In fact, Dr. Felch claimed that it was one of his favorite places and was second only to Phoenix City.

He had always enjoyed spending time indoor, but that day, he strolled around the manor and tried out some freshly made wine. That got him so happy that he could barely hold it in.

The kids were delighted as well. They hopped around happily and went to feed the smaller animals. After that, they went to play in the vineyard.

Charlotte was pleased to see how happy the kids were.

All she hoped was that they could spend the next forty-five days happily and safely. Ellie and I will completely recover by then...

She also prayed that the issue at Erihal would be solved soon.

And then there was Zachary.

Charlotte called Ben on the day she departed. It's been three days, but he still hasn't returned Robbie's call.

Robbie checked and stared at the phone every day. He never said anything, but worry donned his eyes.

That night, Robbie finally couldn't hold it in anymore. He requested, "Mommy, I want to go home for a while."

"Robbie, are you worried about your daddy? You're only six and are still a child. There is nothing you can do even if you go back," advised Charlotte as she looked into his eyes.

"But at least I'd learn how Daddy and Jamie are now," insisted Robbie, "Besides, I might not be able to do much, but I can make appearances and lie so that everybody thinks that everything is fine... I have to go back. I will worry unless I see how they are."

"But Ben said that your daddy is in M Nation now, so you won't see him even if you go back to H City," replied Charlotte, who was getting a little nervous. She suggested, "How about I just call Bruce directly?"

As she spoke, she got her phone out. She was about to call Bruce when Zachary suddenly called her...

Charlotte was taken aback. She picked up the call right away and said, "Hello."

"I heard you're looking for me?"

Zachary's voice was deeper than usual and a little coarse. It sounded like he was exhausted.

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“W-What happened to you?”

Charlotte could sense that something was off, but she couldn't quite pinpoint it.

“I am dealing with some issues in the headquarter in M Nation now,” replied Zachary grimly, “I got some minor injuries.”

“Are you okay?”

Charlotte frowned deeply. She remembered how Zachary was literally stabbed in the back. That cut was deep, but he never even moaned when they stitched him back together. His voice right now suggests that it is not a minor injury at all.

“Are you worried about me?” asked Zachary softly.

“The kids are,” replied Charlotte, who instantly became annoyed. She handed the phone over to Robbie and informed him, “It's your daddy.”

Robbie took the phone right away and greeted excitedly, “Daddy!”

“Robbie.”

It had been a while since Zachary heard his son's voice. Hearing Robbie calling him Daddy made him feel all better. It felt like the pain he was enduring suddenly eased up.

“Daddy, are you okay?” asked Robbie in a worried tone, “Why did you turn your phone off? I couldn't find you for a while. What happened?”

"I have been working in M Nation and can't get to my phone," replied Zachary sweetly, "It's getting colder in Xendale. Are you and Ellie adapting well there? How is her treatment going?"

"Ellie and I are fine. She's recovering well, too..."

Robbie spoke discreetly and left out the part where they were in F Nation at that moment.

"I'm glad to hear that."

"Robbie, is that Daddy?" asked Ellie, who saw them and hurried over to request, "I want to talk to him too."

Robbie handed the phone over, and Ellie shouted into it immediately after. "Daddy, Daddy!"

"Ellie..."

"Daddy," said Ellie. She couldn't help sobbing a little as soon as she heard her dad's voice. She shared, "I miss you so much, Daddy. Why didn't you call us?"

"Be good, Ellie. I miss you too," cooed Zachary softly, "I have been working in M Nation, so I couldn't get to my phone."

"You truly frightened me. Robbie and I were so worried about you and thought that something bad might've happened," replied Ellie as she wiped her tears away.

"Silly kid. Daddy is fine. It's cold in Xendale, so remember to put on thicker coats to stay warm, okay? That way, you won't catch a cold. I will go pick you up as soon as you recover."

"We're not in Xendale now, Daddy. We're in Arkfield. It's so pretty here, and the vineyard is so big..."

Ellie got excited the second the topic involved the manor. She neglected the warning that Robbie was signaling with his eyes and kept talking.

"Dr. Felch and I went to the winery and the vineyard today. We picked so many grapes, and they are so sweet. We also went to the pasture..."

"Ellie," interrupted Robbie, "Let me talk to Daddy."

"Okay," murmured Ellie before she returned the phone unwillingly.

"Be good, Ellie, and go play with the others," cooed Charlotte to get Ellie to leave.

"Daddy, are you really okay?" asked Robbie softly.

"I'm fine," promised Zachary, "Don't worry. I promised I'd go to you when that day comes, and I will keep that promise."

"I'm glad to hear that."

"Hand the phone back to your mommy," instructed Zachary.

"Okay," replied Robbie before he handed the phone to Charlotte. He looked a little worried at the time.

"Go play with the others," cooed Charlotte as she stroked Robbie's tiny head.

"Okay," muttered Robbie before he left quietly.

"What?" asked Charlotte to get right to the point.

"Why did you go to F Nation?" asked Zachary, who was being just as direct.

"What does that have to do with you?" challenged Charlotte icily.

Zachary took a deep breath like he was trying his best to suppress something. He forced himself to calm down as much as possible before he made his offer.

"You can come back to H City if things are bad in Erihal. My men will protect everyone, and you didn't need to travel all the way to

F Nation. The Laurent family might be royalty, but they are inexperienced in dealing with hooligans...”

“Enough,” interrupted Charlotte, “Danrique sent some men to protect us, so there is no need for you to worry. I’ll hang up now if there is nothing else you’d like to share.”

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Charlotte ended the call. She frowned down at the empty black screen of her phone. Her emotions were all over the place, she quickly rearranged her face into a neutral expression and turned her attention back to the children.

Zachary was lying in bed, holding his phone to his chest. His exposed torso was crisscrossed with various tubes.

After about half a month of treatments, he had lost a lot of weight. His eyes were sunken in and his entire body looked haggard. It was difficult to look at him in this state.

Zachary had shown no signs of improvement and at this point, no one could be sure whether the treatment was even working as they had hoped.

However, there was no other choice but to be patient and continue with the treatments before any progress could be seen. After all, Zachary had only just started on the treatment.

The doctors had warned them that this sort of treatment could be very arduous treatment and it would take very strong willpower for a patient to go through it.

Back when Charlotte herself was undergoing the treatment, she had fallen into a deep coma. However, Zachary had not.

He was undergoing the treatment while fully conscious. He was not even given any anesthetics in order to protect his brain from any damage.

For the past six months, he had been treated like a test subject; he was poked and prodded all over his body daily.

He endured an unimaginable level of pain and discomfort, but he tolerated it all without even a sigh.

It was a miracle that he was able to hold onto his consciousness just by his own sheer willpower.

On that day, he finally felt a little stronger and he insisted on calling Charlotte and the children.

"Mr. Nacht, Erihal is now in chaos. Mr. Lindberg has requested Ms. Lindberg to take her children to F Nation for their safety," Ben said cautiously, trying to calm him down.

"If Danrique's rival finds Arkfield, they will all be in danger."

Zachary closed his eyes. His brows were knitted tightly together from the pain. He held the phone tightly in one hand. He had just gotten off a phone call with Charlotte and the children and he still felt their presence all around him.

"Why don't I ask Bruce to go over to them?" Ben suggested.

"Do not interfere with their lives; just watch over them secretly," Zachary said slowly and laboriously. Every word felt painful. "Get him to report back to me every day on how they're doing."

"I understand," Ben nodded and left to contact Bruce immediately.

"You should rest. Don't worry too much," the doctor who had been standing by his bedside advised gently. "You shouldn't even have been allowed to make that phone call today. Any instability, both physically and emotionally, will affect your treatment."

"I won't die so easily..." Zachary whispered as he slipped into unconsciousness. The silhouette of Charlotte appeared in his dream, just like an angel.

She was standing in a vineyard, gazing at him with a beatific smile as if she was saying to him, "I'm waiting for you to come back to me."

Only his willpower was keeping him alive. He chanted repeatedly to himself, "You must endure. You must live on. You must go to F Nation and bring Charlotte and the children home."

Ben could not bear looking at Zachary's face, all twisted up in pain. He had always thought of Zachary as an invincible god-like figure and it was disconcerting to see him this way.

He fervently hoped that he would recover soon.

Ben relayed Zachary's order to Bruce who immediately rushed to F Nation with a group of his men. At the same time, he also directed some men to find out in which manor was Charlotte and Louise staying in.

Arkfield was, as always, cold and damp. There was a slimy quality to the atmosphere that made one feel rather icky.

On their third day at the manor, after completing the morning treatment, Charlotte and Louis took the children to the farm to pick fruits and vegetables. Then, later that day, they went to the flower fields to pick out their favorite blooms.

By the end of the day, the children were entertained and exhausted, and every one of them went home happy.

Even Dr. Felch was enjoying life at the manor. He was seated on their horse-drawn carriage, casually smoking a cigarette as he watched the children laughing and chasing each other in the countryside. A contented smile stretched across his face.

Sam, too, could not help sighing happily. "It's such a good day."

"It's a good day indeed." Dr. Felch looked into the horizon and frowned. "It looks like it's about to rain though."

"Really?" Sam looked up at the sky, squinting against the sun. "You're right. A storm is coming."

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Charlotte, too, noticed that the fair weather that they had been enjoying was about to turn. She waved the children over and told them to get into the car.

Louis, however, was untroubled by the darkening sky. "Why are you in such a hurry to get home? It's just a little rain! Look at how happy the children are!"

"Children should not be playing in the rain," Charlotte replied. She felt inexplicably uneasy.

"All right! You're their mother," Louis yielded and bundled the children into the car.

Then, they headed back towards the manor as the rain began to pour violently down on them.

The sky had turned threateningly dark and the atmosphere turned violent as the wind began to howl at their ears.

A cold fear gripped Charlotte's heart and she urged Morgan to go a little faster.

As soon as their carriage stopped in front of the manor, a loud 'boom' sounded in the distance. The children screamed in fright and covered their ears. Lupine, Morgan, and their men were immediately on full alert.

Charlotte stuck her head out of the car window and looked in the direction of the sound. There seemed to be an explosion in the distance. A fire was raging and clouds of thick smoke had begun to choke the air.

"Paul, what happened?" Louis asked urgently.

"Don't worry, Sir Louis, I'll dispatch my men to check out the situation immediately."

Paul immediately sent his men to investigate the source of the explosion. At that moment, the bodyguards from the manor's security team called with a report.

"An accident occurred on the road next to the manor. An oil tanker collided with the truck transporting our wine. The relevant authorities are on their way to deal with the situation."

"Oh, it's just a traffic accident," Louis said with a sigh of relief.

"Noted. Don't worry."

Charlotte kept quiet. She still felt uneasy. Something's not right...

Once they were back inside the manor, Charlotte calmed the children down and quietly ordered Lupine to send some men to check out the scene of the collision.

At the moment, Gordon appeared and reported, "Ms. Lindberg, I have already investigated the situation. It is indeed a traffic collision, but it is unclear whether it was sabotage."

"What do you mean?" Charlotte frowned.

"It could be the case that someone had deliberately caused the accident as a diversion while they try to sneak into the manor," Gordon explained. "I have sent men to deal with this. If my suspicion is right, the culprits will be caught soon."

"Who could it be?" Lupine wondered suspiciously.

"Could it be an enemy of the Laurent family?" Morgan speculated.

"It shouldn't be..." Gordon countered as he analyzed the situation in his head. "It could be people from Erihal."

Lupine and Morgan were shocked to hear Gordon's speculation. They were all highly trained elite bodyguards who feared none of the rivals.

Even so, the people from Erihal were not to be easily dismissed.

"Don't worry, I'll handle it," Gordon said calmly. "In the meantime, be on alert until I've caught the culprits."

"Yes, we understand." Lupine and Morgan nodded.

"Thank you for your assistance, Gordon," Charlotte said gratefully. "Please watch out for your own safety as well."

"I will, Ms. Lindberg." Gordon turned to Lupine and Morgan. "Leave the external security matters to me. You two just focus on guarding Ms. Lindberg and the children."

"We understand."

Gordon nodded in satisfaction and left the room.

Charlotte ordered Lupine and Morgan to have their best men watching over the children. She would not allow anything to happen to them.

Lupine immediately left to arrange for her best bodyguards to be on duty over the children.

Only Morgan stayed on to look over the room for any signs. He could not help sighing and said rather dejectedly, "I thought it would be safe here in F Nation. Never would I have thought that those people would pursue us all the way here. It would have been better for us to have stayed put in Xendale. At least Mr. Lindberg's men would be there to protect us."

"No, it won't be better for us there." Charlotte countered. She had a clarity of mind that she did not. "If we had stayed on in Xendale, there would be a terrible fight, but here in F Nation, they wouldn't dare to attack us openly. Instead, they would try to sneak up on us. Gordon can easily thwart their plans."

"You're right." Morgan nodded. "Well then, I guess we'll just have to be extra careful."

"I don't need you here. Don't worry about me. Go and help Lupine guard the children," Charlotte said with a wave of her hand.

"Arrange for four men to watch over each one of the children in rotation. Do not let them out of your sight."

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg."

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After Morgan had left the room, Charlotte probed the room herself. She found nothing out of place, and prepared to shower and sleep.

At that moment, Louis knocked on her door. "Charlotte, can I come in?"

Charlotte pulled on a cardigan and opened the door. "Louis, is something wrong?"

"I just wanted to check up on you. I hope the explosion didn't scare you too much," Louis said, his voice tinged with concern. "Paul has already investigated the incident. It was just a mere traffic accident; nothing to be worried about. However, I'll still get the guards to increase their watch on the perimeters just to be safe."

"Thanks for taking the trouble to do all that," Charlotte said. "Good night, then. You should rest well."

"I..." Louis hesitated. He seemed reluctant to leave.

"What's wrong?" Charlotte narrowed her eyes at him.

"I..." Louis sounded nervous. "Well, there's a bar in the manor. I wanted to invite you for a drink."

"Now?" Charlotte frowned. "After what happened earlier today, it's best for us not to go out so late."

"Huh?" Louis looked confused. "What do you mean by 'late'? It's just a little past nine o'clock."

"Let's go another day, okay?" Charlotte said simply. "You should sleep early. Good night."

She did not wait for Louis to reply and closed the door on his face after saying that.

Louis stood on the other side of the door, feeling very disappointed. He had thought that they would spend more time with each other once they arrived at the manor.

However, Charlotte had not allowed him any chance to be alone with her. Every time he tried to approach her, she would find some excuse to avoid him. He had finally mustered up the courage to ask her out directly and she had still turned him down.

He had no other choice but to continue waiting on her patiently.

Louis sighed to himself and turned to leave.

Inside her room, Charlotte was stunned speechless by Louis' invitation earlier. That man really has no sense of danger! He does not care about safety at all! He dares to ask me to go to a bar with him at a time when we should all be on high alert!

However, this was Louis' personality. His life had been smooth sailing ever since he was a child, and he had never experienced any terrible crisis. It was only natural that he would develop such a gentle and trusting personality, and a lack of a sense of danger.

Charlotte shook her head to herself and put him out of her mind. She was still worried about the children. She left her room and went to check up on them.

Lupine had scheduled four of her men to watch over each of the children in shifts, even when they were asleep. Luckily, the children loved the excitement and did not mind the bodyguards' presence around them.

Only Robbie, the most perceptive of all the children, asked Charlotte, "Mommy, was the explosion this afternoon a sneak attack on us?"

"It was a car accident," Charlotte explained gently. "Mommy's just taking extra precaution now to be safe. Don't worry about it. Go to sleep now. Sweet dreams."

"Okay," Robbie said sleepily and dropped the subject. "You should sleep early too, Mommy. Ellie and the others are all tired from playing today and they're already sleeping soundly."

"They must have a lot of fun sleeping in the same room." Charlotte smiled as she thought of them playing together happily before bed, "Ellie really likes playing with them."

"I'm not much fun. Ellie was probably bored to death with just me around. Now that she has three girls to play with, she is much, much happier," Robbie said with a laugh.

"Haha! What about you? Are you bored?" Charlotte asked with a smile.

"I'm not. I spend my time reading or surfing the internet or painting... There's so much to do!" Robbie replied. "On the other hand, Mommy, you must focus on your treatment!"

"I will." Charlotte pulled Robbie in for a hug. "Time for bed. Mommy wants to go to sleep too."

"Good night, Mommy!"

"Good night, Robbie."

Charlotte walked back to her room. She caught sight of Louis drinking alone in the bar downstairs. She frowned to herself but did not say anything.

Guilt pricked at her heart. She clearly had no feelings for him. Yet, she had said yes to his proposal and let herself enjoy his affection.

His days consisted of playing with the children and making her happy. He did not do much for himself at all. Could he be pressuring himself too much?

Suddenly, the loud noise of car engines interrupted her thoughts. Charlotte walked over to the window and peered outside. It was a convoy of seven cars ferrying the Laurent family.

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In an instant, Charlotte heard the maids yelling, "Lady Sherlyn is here. Go down and welcome her now!"

Her heart skipped a beat. Ah! So Louis' mother, Lady Sherlyn, is here!

Knock! Knock! After a while, she heard someone knock on the door.

"Come in," Charlotte responded briefly.

Lupine stepped into the room hastily and notified her, "Ms. Lindberg, Lady Sherlyn is here. Do we have to go down and welcome her?"

"The kids are asleep, aren't they?" Charlotte asked her instead, without replying directly to her question. She glanced at her watch and noticed that it was already half-past nine.

"Ellie and the three little ones are asleep, but Robbie is still reading," Lupine replied.

Charlotte instructed, "Don't interrupt them. You go down with Morgan and me. As for the others, get them to keep an eye on the kids. Just let them go over to greet her tomorrow morning."

"Ms. Lindberg, Noted. I will proceed with the necessary arrangement." Lupine nodded respectfully and left the room.

By the time Charlotte had gotten changed, Lupine and Morgan were already waiting for her outside the door. Without hesitation, she went down with both of them.

Coincidentally, Louis was advancing toward them with his mother. There were about twenty subordinates following behind them, carrying luggage of various sizes. The lineup was rather overwhelming.

"Charlotte, this is my mom. Mom, this is Charlotte." Louis introduced them to each other.

"Lady Sherlyn, nice to meet you," Charlotte greeted her with a curtsy.

Sherlyn's face lit up as she complimented Charlotte, "Ah! You look even more stunning in person! I have been looking forward to meeting you. Once I knew that you were coming to F Nation, I requested Louis and his dad to arrange for us to meet. However, they keep telling me that you can't meet me so soon as you are currently under treatment. Hence, they can only arrange for us to meet after your recovery. However, I can hardly wait to meet you, so here I am!"

"Lady Sherlyn, I feel bad as you have to come all the way here. I should be the one to visit you first, but I was worried that I might disturb you. Thus, I'm planning to visit you only after my treatment," Charlotte explained courteously.

"It doesn't matter who's the one to pay a visit first. After all, we will be a family soon." Sherlyn held Charlotte's hands jubilantly and scanned her from head to toe. "Undoubtedly, my son has a good eye!"

"Haha! Mom, I knew it! I foresee that you will like Charlotte very much!" Louis laughed triumphantly.

Louis was over the moon and planned to assign the maids to prepare a welcoming banquet for his mother.

Nonetheless, Sherlyn stopped him at once. "It's already quite late, don't wake the kids up. I will have a quick wash up in the room first. After that, let's go to the study room for a chit-chat while enjoying coffee. What do you think?"

"Good idea." Louis nodded. He assigned the maids to prepare coffee and desserts.

Sherlyn patted the back of Louis' hand and advised him, "You are not young anymore and mustn't be so reckless. You should bear in mind to put the kids as the top priority all the time."

"Mom, you have a point. Thanks for reminding me." He turned to look at Charlotte with a grin.

"Lady Sherlyn, thanks for your understanding," Charlotte thanked her sincerely.

She used to presume that Sherlyn, from the royal family, might have her nose in the air and tend to make a big fuss out of nothing. It never crossed her mind that she was a good-tempered and easy-going person. On top of that, she was thoughtful and catered to the kids' well-being.

"I will go up to have a quick wash up. Just wait for a while. I won't take long." Sherlyn headed toward the staircase excitedly.

Meanwhile, an elegantly dressed young lady quickened her pace and tried to catch her up. "Aunt Sherlyn, let me accompany you."

The young lady nodded to Charlotte respectfully when she walked past her.

"Oh yeah, Diana, wait a minute. Charlotte, I forgot to introduce you two. Meet my cousin, Diana." Louis introduced her to Charlotte at once. "Diana has been by my mom's side these two years. She has good medical skills, and she is my mom's great helper."

"Ms. Lindberg, nice to meet you." Diana bowed to Charlotte again humbly.

"Nice to meet you too," Charlotte replied with a smile and scrutinized Diana for a while. No doubt, she was a typical beauty with a dainty face and attractive figure. Apart from that, she had a pair of beautiful blue eyes gleaming with wisdom.

"Diana, just address her as Charlotte. She will be a member of our family soon," Sherlyn said jokingly to her.

"Yes, Aunt Sherlyn," Diana bowed with her head lowered; her lips were curved into a smile all the time. She was apparently exuding a vibe of nobility through her perfect royal etiquette.

"We will go up first." Sherlyn smiled gently at Charlotte and said, "Louis, wait for me in the study room with Charlotte."

"Sure," Louis replied casually.

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While waiting for the maids to prepare the coffee and desserts, Louis suggested Charlotte to have a rest in the study room first.

Therefore, she headed to it with Lupine and Morgan. A while later, the maids served them premium coffee and desserts.

As silence ensued in the study room, Morgan could barely hold back and grumble, "What is Lady Sherlyn doing here at this hour? Now that we are still tracking the suspects who might have sneaked into the manor, her lineup will surely draw unwanted intentions in a way. Don't you think that this might result in another round of chaos?"

Lupine echoed by lowering her voice. "Not to mention, Sir Louis is apparently without a sense of vigilance. I notice his subordinates tend to let their guards down when they change their shifts in slow motion. What if any dangerous person takes advantage to sneak in at any moment?"

Morgan knitted her brows and asked quizzically, "They have enforced stricter security, haven't they?"

"Hmph! Their so-called enforcement focuses only on increasing the number of guards in the security room. Nonetheless, everything is still the same." Lupine shook her head resignedly.

Morgan could not resist but grumble, "I'm speechless! They are obviously not comparable to the bodyguards of the Nacht family!"

Sensing the abrupt change in Charlotte's countenance, Lupine nudged Morgan's arm and gestured to her to button up her lip.

Charlotte was impartial when she shared her points of view. "The royal family is in charge of the security system of the Laurent family. What's more, they have been leading a free and easy lifestyle all this while, so they are never on bad terms with anyone. Naturally, they don't have a heightened sense of vigilance.

Undeniably, Lady Sherlyn's presence might be a threat to the security system, but don't forget that this place belongs to the Laurent family. Of course, she can come any time she likes. After all, the suspicious ones might be the foes from Erihal and are targeting us. If so, we are the ones who land them in hot waters. How can we grumble about it then, huh?"

"Ms. Lindberg, you are right." Morgan lowered her head and held her tongue.

"Don't ever mention this again," Charlotte warned her.

"Noted, Ms. Lindberg. I won't say that again," Morgan apologized at once.

The next moment, there was a knock on the door. After the maids opened the door, Louis stepped in with Sherlyn.

"Charlotte, sorry to keep you waiting. It took me some time to change into a more comfortable outfit." Sherlyn smiled at her apologetically.

Charlotte got up and replied, "Not at all, Lady Sherlyn. You must be exhausted after such a long journey. I think you need to rest earlier tonight."

"Oh, I'm delighted and refreshed after meeting you." Sherlyn held Charlotte's hands in high spirits. "I have brought you a present, and I hope you will like it."

After that, she whipped out a delicate gift box to Charlotte. "Open it and see it for yourself."

"Thank you so much, Lady Sherlyn." Charlotte took it over and opened it right away.

To her surprise, it was a set of priceless sapphire jewelry, which was seemingly a rare treasure!

On top of that, the unique print and logo of the gift box indicated it was a collection of the royal family.

“How can I accept such an invaluable gift!” Charlotte gasped.

“Ah! Since we are a family, there’s no need to be bothered with all the formalities. It was the dowry given by Louis’ grandma when I married his dad. I have been keeping it well throughout these years, hoping to pass it down to my future daughter-in-law.” Sherlyn smiled at her with a wink.

“But...” Charlotte tried to refute.

“If you refuse to accept it, I will be upset. We are a family, aren’t we?” Sherlyn pouted her lips and uttered coquettishly.

“Just take it, Charlotte.” Louis encouraged her.

Charlotte could only accept the gift from Sherlyn. When she was about to thank Sherlyn, she spotted Diana gazing at the gift box with inexplicit emotions in her eyes. There were hints of unmistakable disappointment, sorrow, and inferiority.

Charlotte retracted her gaze and thanked Sherlyn, “Lady Sherlyn, thank you. I have also prepared a gift especially for you and Sir Robert.”

As she stretched out her hands, Lupine handed her a white satin box at once.

Next, she handed Sherlyn the box. “Lady Sherlyn, this is the one. I hope you like it.”

Sherlyn’s eyes lit up the moment she opened the box and shrieked with joy, “My goodness! It is the legendary luminous pearl, isn’t it? I have been looking for one all this while, yet to no avail.”

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“Lady Sherlyn, I’m glad that you like it.” Charlotte heaved a silent sigh of relief.

Danrique had prepared everything for her before she set off for F Nation earlier, including this unique gift for Louis' parents. Thus, she did not need to rack her brains on what to buy for them.

Only then did she realize that Danrique had prepared such a priceless gift for her. The chances of getting such a big luminous pearl were very slim nowadays.

She knew that Danrique was protective of her and wanted to ensure that nobody would look down on her regardless of where she was. As a member of a prominent family, he wished that the others would look highly upon her all the time.

"I like it so much, Charlotte!" Sherlyn felt a prickle of joy and embraced Charlotte. She was mesmerized by the luminous pearl and could barely put it down.

"Lady Sherlyn, you are welcome," Charlotte replied with a smile.

"Mommy, how I envy you! Charlotte has never given me any gifts!" Louis teased Sherlyn, pretending to be green with envy.

"Mischievous brat, how dare you pull my leg." Sherlyn laughed heartily at Louis' words. She held Charlotte's hand and led her toward the living room. "Charlotte, let's take a seat and have a chat."

"Sure." Charlotte nodded and took a seat.

"I have also brought some gifts for the kids, and I planned to give them to the kids when I meet them tomorrow morning. Ah! I have gifts for both of them as well." Sherlyn smiled and gestured to Diana.

Diana immediately handed two gifts to Lupine and Morgan respectively.

"We have gifts too?" Morgan was stunned.

"I have heard about both of you long ago. You are not only Charlotte's trusted aides but also deemed her family. I'm glad that

you will be joining our big family with Charlotte and looking forward to it!" Sherlyn uttered excitedly.

Both Lupine and Morgan turned to look at Charlotte. After Charlotte nodded at them approvingly, they thanked Sherlyn politely, "Lady Sherlyn, thank you."

"You are welcome. We are all a family, so you don't have to be so formal with me. It's just a small gift from me." Sherlyn smiled again.

"Have a look to see if you like it." Regardless of his family background, Louis was down to earth and treated both of them rather well.

"Yes, we like the gift very much. Lady Sherlyn, thank you," Lupine and Morgan replied courteously.

Sherlyn seemed to have a lot to share with Charlotte. As she was chattering enthusiastically, Charlotte listened to her attentively and responded courteously at times.

Louis could not chime in at all, but he was more than willing to help pour them coffee and serve them desserts from time to time.

After about half an hour, Sherlyn yawned as she was overcome by sleepiness. She held Charlotte's hand and said, "Charlotte, it's quite late now. Let's continue again tomorrow."

Charlotte stood up right away. "All right, Lady Sherlyn. Let me accompany you to your room."

Sherlyn waved and shook her head. "It's all right. Diana can accompany me. Both you and Louis should go to bed earlier. I can't wait for both of you to bear me a grandchild."

Hearing that, Charlotte was dumbfounded and looked down in embarrassment.

In an instant, Louis' face flushed, and his ears turned red.

"Haha! Look at you! I can't believe that you are blushed crimson! Both of you are adults. What is there to be shy of?" Sherlyn patted Louis on the shoulder and teased them.

"Mom, just drop the subject already." Louis changed the topic swiftly. "Let me accompany you upstairs."

"Ah! Could it be both of you haven't..." Sherlyn blurted out the words when something struck her.

"Mom!" Louis cut her off in embarrassment.

Sherlyn smiled again and appeased him. "It's all right. I'm too impatient. Since both of you are getting married soon, I thought..."

Charlotte smiled awkwardly with her head remaining low, and her lips not uttering any words.

"It's all right. Don't be stressed. After all, Good things come to those who wait." Sherlyn gave Louis a subtle glance and patted Charlotte's hand. "Charlotte, it's all right. I'm not urging you. Just take your time."

She then smiled and stepped out of the room.

"Charlotte, I never expected that my mom would be so straightforward. I hope you don't mind," Louis apologized sheepishly.

"No issue. Just go ahead to accompany her," Charlotte reminded him gently.

"Okay." Louis nodded and made a beeline for Sherlyn.

All the other subordinates left after him as well. After all of them stepped out, the smile on Charlotte's face faded gradually.

"Pfft! I finally have a clue about Lady Sherlyn's main intention to be here. She's worried that your marriage with Sir Louis will be just in name and tends to do something to turn it into a reality!" Morgan scoffed right away.

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"It's just natural for Lady Sherlyn to think it that way. I bet nobody can accept that their son's marriage is just in name only. It's unfair for them. Not to mention, the Laurent family is a royal family." Charlotte voiced up her opinion analytically.

"Anyway, they can't just force you into it. Don't they know that the marriage between you and Sir Louis will benefit them the most? Because of Mr. Lindberg's prominent reputation, I'm sure as hell the Laurent family will continue to flourish significantly in the business sector. What's more, we have never pleaded with them to marry you. You had been frank with Sir Louis long ago that you wouldn't have any feelings toward him, but he insisted on marrying you. Both of you are not married yet, but Lady Sherlyn is already hinting at you to bear grandchildren for her! How ridiculous! What is playing on her mind, huh?"

Charlotte glared at her upon hearing the words.

Morgan pursed her lips and zipped her mouth while continuing to mutter inwardly.

Meanwhile, Lupine could not hold back and mocked, "I don't think they are as unworldly as they seem to be. Perhaps they are just putting on a show as they are unable to compete amid the royal family.

Charlotte smiled bitterly. "You are right in a way. Louis is the only one who doesn't have any greed for power and social status."

She had sensed that the Laurent family was not as simple as it seemed long ago.

Lupine sneered as something came into her mind. "Not to forget about that young lady whose name is Diana. My gut instinct tells me that she is not as innocent as she seems to be. I sensed her awry gaze when Lady Sherlyn gave you the gift. She was staring at it with that kind of look..."

She pondered for a while before continuing with her words. "That's the kind of complicated look with mixed emotions of yearning and disappointment."

"Your description is precise." Charlotte nodded admiringly.

"What do you mean by yearning and disappointment?" Morgan furrowed her brows, unable to understand what Lupine mentioned.

"The yearning for power and social status against the disappointment of not being able to achieve her dreams..." Lupine explained briefly. "Ah! Morgan, let me assign you a task."

"What's that?" Morgan asked instinctively in bafflement.

Lupine whispered to her, "I want you to find out the exact relationship between Diana and Sir Louis."

"Aren't they cousins?" The words escaped her lips at once.

"She might be a collateral cousin. If I'm not mistaken, the royal family of F nation does not mind marriage between collateral cousins. Perhaps..." Lupine analyzed warily as she gazed at Charlotte's countenance. "No doubt, Sir Louis is not the type of person who will easily fall head over heels for any other woman. Nonetheless, it is unavoidable that some others might be having a ploy on their minds and taking advantage of him."

"I understand now. Don't worry. You can rely on me on this." Morgan was finally enlightened by Lupine's words.

Even so, Charlotte advised them placidly, "The kids' safety is still the top priority at the moment. As for the other matters, just let it be. Do you get it?"

"Ms. Lindberg, don't worry. We know our priorities. Anyway, it's just a piece of cake for us to sort that out." Lupine buoyed her up with confidence.

"Enough of that. Time for bed." Charlotte put down her coffee mug and rose to make a move.

Both Lupine and Morgan followed her closely behind.

When Charlotte was heading toward her room, she bumped into Louis, who was just out of Sherlyn's room.

Once again, Louis explained to her in embarrassment, "Charlotte, I hope you don't mind what my mom said just now. I have just reminded her not to bring up the topic again."

"It's all right. I understand how she feels. Is she asleep?" Charlotte asked softly.

"Yeah." Louis nodded and replied gently, "It's late now. You too have a good rest."

"All right." Charlotte stepped into her room.

"Charlotte!" Louis called out at her. Charlotte turned to look at him and asked curiously, "Anything?"

"Nothing. Good night." Louis gazed at her affectionately.

"Good night." Charlotte smiled at him and closed the door behind her.

Little did they realize that Diana was peeping at them all the time in silence. She only shifted her gaze from Louis and back to her room after his figure was out of sight.

At the other end of the corridor, Lupine's lips contorted into a disdainful smile. Hmph! This woman is seemingly scheming. Let's see when she will reveal her true colors!

Later, Charlotte was back in her room and had soaked herself in the bathtub. Recalling Sherlyn's embarrassing words and Louis' blazing eyes with emotions, her heart sank as a wave of gloominess surged from within her.

Initially, she expected that she would be able to put everything out of her mind after going through the earlier disgruntling moments. Hence, she was convinced that she would feel nothing even if she had to marry Louis for the sake of the bigger picture in

the long run. Apparently, she had overestimated herself as certain things could never be forced.

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The following morning, Charlotte was awakened by the kids' laughter.

She yawned and dragged herself out from the bed, then made her way to the window. The moment she pulled open the curtain, the kids, who were chasing among each other playfully, came into view. At that very moment, her lips curved into a smile unknowingly.

Ever since Danrique's adorable triplets were there, Robbie and Ellie cheered up a lot.

The three toddlers, who were barely three years old, were at their most lively and carefree stage. Furthermore, they possessed the unique ability to brighten up everyone's day with their liveliness.

Right that instant, Ellie and the triplets were chasing each other among the bushes. Meanwhile, Robbie was seated aside, savoring hot drinks while gazing at them with smiling eyes.

The profound warmth in his eyes reminded Charlotte about Danrique. No wonder Danrique tends to dot on Robbie. It is undeniable that Robbie resembled him in his appearance and calm temperament.

Knock! Knock! All of a sudden, someone knocked on Charlotte's door, waking her up from her contemplation.

"Come in." Charlotte put on her cardigan as she called out.

Lupine entered right away and notified her, "Ms. Lindberg, Lady Sherlyn has woken up. She is now heading toward the garden, obviously bringing the gifts to the kids."

"At this hour? She's early." Charlotte was surprised and turned to look in the direction of the garden again.

She saw Sherlyn step into the garden with her subordinates and greet Robbie friendly. Other than that, she called out to Ellie and the three kids to distribute the gifts to them.

"Yeah, it's barely seven o'clock." Lupine was nonplussed. "My goodness! The royal etiquette is complicated indeed. I notice that Diana had already assigned the maids to prepare breakfast for Lady Sherlyn as early as five o'clock. After that, she proceeded to serve her for a wash-up..."

"Ah! It does seem she is more occupied than all of you." Charlotte teased her before she vanished into the bathroom.

"Yeah, undeniably, both Morgan and I are really blessed," Lupine asked Charlotte as she opened the wardrobe. "Ms. Lindberg, what are you planning to wear today? Do you prefer a gown or something else?"

"Choose something more casual and comfortable then. I have promised to bring the kids to go horseback riding today," Charlotte replied casually.

"But then Lady Sherlyn is all dressed up today," Lupine reminded her.

"Anyway, I'm not a duchess like her, am I?" Charlotte rolled her eyes and mocked.

"All right, Ms. Lindberg. I get it," Lupine replied respectfully.

She selected a smart and casual suit for Charlotte to be matched with a pair of Dr. Martens boots. With her long hair tied into a bun, Charlotte looked exceptionally smart as she was giving off a unique vibe at the same time.

When Charlotte was about to step out of her room, there was a knock on her door again.

Lupine stepped forward to open the door at once and greeted, "Gordon!"

Gordon stepped into the room and updated Charlotte, "Ms. Lindberg, everything is settled."

"Did you manage to detect anything? Did someone actually stir up trouble by wreaking havoc?" Charlotte asked anxiously.

"Yeah." Gordon nodded and explained, "We spotted someone suspicious, but he managed to flee when we were going after him. I patrolled the area thoroughly this morning and haven't sensed anything amiss so far." He paused and continued hesitantly. "Even so... I have not checked on those subordinates who came together with Lady Sherlyn."

"It's not appropriate to check on Lady Sherlyn's subordinates recklessly." Charlotte instructed him, "Since the external trouble is solved, just put this matter aside and focus on your current task."

"Noted, Ms. Lindberg. I have assigned four men to protect the kids, and the other three will continue with the search," Gordon updated her.

"I really appreciate your hard work. Luckily you are here to assist us. If not, I surely can't get the matter resolved by relying solely on the female bodyguards," Charlotte said thankfully.

Gordon was undoubtedly more experienced and efficient than Morgan in getting matters resolved. Everything managed to be settled by him within such a short span.

"Ms. Lindberg, I'm just carrying out my responsibilities." He bowed to her and left.

"Ms. Lindberg, finally, you can go horseback riding without being bothered." Lupine handed the hat to Charlotte.

"Yeah, the weather is fine today." Charlotte put on her hat and stepped out of the room.

In the meantime, Sherlyn had already distributed the gifts to all the kids in the garden. She was inviting them to have breakfast with her eagerly.

Ellie was in a dilemma, not knowing what she was supposed to say to reject her nicely. On the other hand, the three girls turned Sherlyn down directly. "We will have our breakfast later. Lady Sherlyn, you go ahead to have yours first. We want to catch butterflies now."

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Sherlyn felt somehow awkward as she was left behind alone. She turned and cast a glance at Robbie.

Just when she was about to open her mouth, Robbie uttered politely, "Grandma Sherlyn, I've eaten my breakfast already. I'm heading back to my room to do some reading. Please enjoy your breakfast."

Upon saying that, Robbie made a bow and left abruptly.

Sherlyn's smile froze instantly. She had been trying hard to build a relationship with these kids, but it did not seem to work out.

"What a rude bunch of kids," One of the maids uttered in displeasure.

"Absolutely. It's such an honor to be able to have breakfast with Lady Sherlyn," Another maid spoke with a low voice. "They have no etiquette at all. I doubt if they're truly the children of a rich family."

"Shut up!" Just then, Sherlyn scoffed angrily, "They're Mr. Lindberg's children. How dare you talk bad about them behind his back?"

The two maids immediately lowered their heads, not daring to utter another word.

"But speaking of that, the two elder ones..." Sherlyn's lips curled into a faint smile. "They seem to be more sensible."

"Probably they're more mature due to their age," one of the maids added.

"They should be." Sherlyn's tone sounded utterly prideful. "They should behave well if they want to enter this house. We don't even know who their father is. It's better if he doesn't ever show up in my sight..."

To prevent complications in the family, Robert had not told Sherlyn who Charlotte's children's birth father was.

"He won't dare to after he knows which family Ms. Lindberg is getting married into." The maid let out a provocative laugh.

"Shhh. Ms. Lindberg is on her way here!"

All of a sudden, Diana reminded with a low voice.

The two maids instantly shut their mouths and collected themselves.

"Charlotte, are you awake already?" Sherlyn turned around and displayed a genuine smile. "Why don't you get some more sleep?"

"The weather looks great today. And I've promised the kids to take them for horse riding." Charlotte let out a smile. "Have Lady Sherlyn had your breakfast? May I join you?"

"Sure." Sherlyn's smile turned somewhat tense.

The maids around furrowed their brows slightly, as though something was off.

Charlotte felt something strange going on, but she did not bother much about it.

By that time, Louis had come downstairs too, and the three of them had a great time enjoying their breakfast.

After breakfast, Sherlyn wanted to go see the farm. But before Louis could say he wanted to go with the former, Charlotte said she had promised to bring the kids for horse riding.

All the maids froze in their spots when they heard that.

Yet, Sherlyn was not offended at all. She even asked if she could join them as she was good at horse riding.

Charlotte was reluctant for Sherlyn to join them, but she had no choice but to accept it.

With that, they all rode in the carriage and headed toward the horse farm.

The kids were jumping up and down inside the carriage, overwhelmed with excitement.

Meanwhile, Robbie stared at the endless grass field outside the carriage while letting out a long sigh. "It would be perfect if Jamie could be here. He loves horse riding."

"How about you? Don't you like it?" Charlotte caressed his head gently.

"I'm no expert in any sports." Robbie let out another sigh. "I'm only good at using my brain."

"You should try to develop in other areas..." Charlotte uttered gently. "Look at your..."

She almost said his father, but she immediately changed her words. "Look at your Uncle Dan. Not only is he academically outstanding, but he is also skilled in sports."

"Daddy too." Robbie added right away.

Charlotte froze on the spot, not knowing how to respond to that.

Robbie did not say anything anymore, continued to play on his tablet. He was not playing mobile games, but he always liked searching for information on software and IT technology.

"I miss Daddy and Jamie too." Ellie displayed an indignant expression. "I wonder when we could meet them again."

"It'll be soon. There are 39 days left."

As Charlotte spoke, only then did she realize how fast time passed.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1176

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There was not a single cloud in the sky.

Charlotte carried the kids one after another down from the carriage. Looking at the endless grassland, they were overwhelmed with excitement.

"Come on, I'll take you guys to get changed."

Morgan summoned the kids with a loud voice.

"Yay, let's go."

Without any hesitation, the three girls followed Morgan, pulling Ellie with them.

"Please slow down. Don't run." Ellie, who was still recovering, could not catch up with their pace.

"How I wish I could be like them. Look at how happy they are." Just then, Robbie cast a question toward Charlotte. "Mommy, when I was at their age, was I this happy?"

"You've been a quiet boy since then." Charlotte let out a smile. "When Jamie and Ellie were jumping up and down, you're reading and writing at a corner. You even complained that they were childish."

"Really? Was I that mature at two?" Robbie found it hard to believe.

"You were quieter than both of them when you were babies," Charlotte teased casually. "You even drank milk slower than any of them."

"Puff!" Robbie was loss for words.

"All right then. Get changed now. Let me teach you how to ride a horse," Charlotte urged. "Let's focus on physical development now!"

"Okay." Robbie followed a subordinate to change his clothes.

Charlotte also came into the fitting room, getting ready to change into horse riding gear.

Right then, Diana entered the room to pick up something. She immediately bowed when she ran into Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg!"

"There's no need to be so courteous with me." Charlotte acted casually.

"Ms. Lindberg, you're a nice person..."

Diana glared at Charlotte with a complicated look, hesitating on her words.

"Just spit it out if you got anything to say." Charlotte let out a faint smile.

"I know that the Lindberg family is unparalleled in this world, and your status is beyond honorable. We wouldn't dare to offend you, but there's something I might need to remind you."

Diana sounded utterly courteous and cautious.

"Go on." Charlotte cast a glance at her in the mirror.

"Lady Sherlyn was born in the royal family, and the royal etiquette is complicated. Sometimes small details that seem irrelevant in ordinary people are considered strict rules to them..."

Diana paused and explained, "Ms. Lindberg, please don't misunderstand. I have no other intention. I merely want to remind you."

"I understand." Charlotte smiled slightly. "I'm used to behaving like this, and I'm grateful for Lady Sherlyn's tolerance toward me. Thanks for reminding me!"

Diana bowed once again and uttered fearfully, "I'll excuse myself."

"Okay," Charlotte responded briefly. Staring at Diana's back figure, her lips curled into a smile.

"Do you think she reminds you merely out of kindness?" Lupine came in with Charlotte's suit in her hands. "I bet she has other intention."

"There's nothing to be worried about." Charlotte could not be bothered less by this irrelevant character.

"Morgan has checked her background. Diana is a distant relative and cousin of Sir Louis. Her family does not excel, but she is ambitious. She graduated from medical school and has been staying by Lady Sherlyn's side ever since."

Lupine explained while helping Charlotte put on her suit, "Even though she's been acting humbly and one could hardly find any flaw in her behavior, I feel there's something more to her than meets the eyes."

"You're being paranoid for nothing." Charlotte smiled. "You're still under phobia with Cynthia. So now you're guarding against everyone."

"Maybe you're right." Lupine let out a bitter smile. "I don't know why, but she reminds me of Cynthia."

"But you shouldn't judge others," Charlotte uttered rationally. "We can't blame anyone without any proof. Not to mention, it's normal to be ambitious and look out for one's interest. It'll be fine as long as she doesn't hurt anyone."

"Don't worry. I'll keep an eye on her. I won't let her hurt anyone," Lupine responded. "Anyway, she got the point with what she just said. I noticed Lady Sherlyn was a little unhappy this morning, probably feeling that we're out of line."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1177

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"Yes, I noticed that too," Charlotte uttered faintly. "But it doesn't matter. I want to let others know that I don't belong to anyone. And I won't try to please anyone. I am me whether they like it or not."

"Indeed. There's no need for you to compromise with anyone."

Lupine was impressed with Charlotte's attitude.

"Nonetheless, Lady Sherlyn is a nice person." Charlotte sounded composed. "At least so far, she's been respecting and understanding me a lot."

"The Laurent family needs to rely on Mr. Lindberg's power after all." Lupine's view was more subjective in this. "That's why she is treating you nicely. She won't dare to offend you."

"You got a point..." Charlotte smiled slightly. "Nonetheless, I still prefer to look at the brighter side of humans."

"You're just too kind."

By the time the two of them finished getting changed and came out from the fitting room, Sherlyn had gotten along well with the kids. She taught them the basic knowledge of horse riding, and she even demonstrated it for them.

Ellie and the three kids were learning diligently while Robbie watched indifferently at a corner.

"Mommy!" Seeing Charlotte walking out, Ellie immediately ran over to her. "Come and have a look. Beta has learned how to ride a horse."

"Please be careful." Charlotte cast a side glance at Morgan, signaling her to keep an eye on them.

"Don't worry. There're so many people here. Nothing will happen." Sherlyn let out a smile. "Charlotte, how about racing for a round and demonstrate for them?"

"Sure!" Charlotte jumped onto a horse; her posture seemed utterly professional.

"Not bad." Sherlyn was impressed by that.

"Let me be the judge then."

Overwhelmed with excitement, Louis volunteered to become their judge.

With that, Lupine and Morgan escorted the kids to the side to watch the race. Even Robbie started to show a hint of anticipation.

Louis raised the competition gun and fired a shot into the sky the next moment.

Instantly, Charlotte and Sherlyn's horses galloped forward with full speed.

Upon seeing that, the kids began cheering enthusiastically for Charlotte. Meanwhile, all the maids clenched their fists and started cheering for Sherlyn.

Louis was watching the race nervously as well. Suddenly, Diana, who stood beside him, cast him a question. "Louis, do you want Lady Sherlyn or Ms. Lindberg to win?"

"It doesn't matter who wins." Louis let out a smile. "As long as they enjoy it."

"Louis, you're so kind," Diana commented.

Louis was utterly focused on the race as he did not pay much attention to what Diana said.

Diana did not further say anything, walking away from him.

In the end, the race was a tie.

Sherlyn and Charlotte reached the finishing line simultaneously. And Louis announced they both to be the winners.

All the kids got triggered with thrill upon hearing his announcement. They did not mind who won.

Robbie and Ellie, who initially showed no interest in horse riding, became curious after watching this race. Thus, they both started to join the rest to learn from Charlotte.

“Charlotte, how could you possibly teach so many kids together? Let Louis help you.” Sherlyn smiled upon seeing that. “Louis, what are you waiting for?”

“Oh. Okay.” Louis came back to his senses and immediately walked over to help out.

At that moment, Sherlyn was sitting relaxingly while sipping on her cup of coffee. What a foolish boy. He’s too honest. She let out a sigh as she shook her head.

“Sir Louis is a naive man,” The maid smiled and said.

“Indeed. There’s no way he could win a woman’s heart like this.” Sherlyn cast a glance at Charlotte. “This woman is not someone ordinary men could impress.”

Those maids did not dare to say more.

Meanwhile, Diana, pouring coffee into a cup, weighed in. “There’s a line I read in the movie. No matter how strong a woman is, she will become as tame as a sheep once conquered.”

“Conquered...” Sherlyn’s eyes lit up upon hearing that word. “You’re right!”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1178

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Charlotte and Louis spent the whole morning and eventually taught those kids.

The kids were overwhelmed with delight as they raced against each other on their ponies.

Morgan and the other bodyguards did not dare to take their eyes away from the kids, trying their best to ensure their safety.

Right then, a call from Hayley came in and reminded Charlotte to go back for treatment.

Looking at the kids having the time of their life, Charlotte did not want to interrupt them. Hence, she instructed Gordon to look after the kids while she headed back to the villa with Lupine.

Just then, Sherlyn immediately reminded Louis to take care of Charlotte and left the kids to the former. She planned to bring them to have lunch at the vineyard.

Charlotte went into the carriage after thanking the staff.

Louis swiftly caught up with her. "Charlotte, let me accompany you back. Mom asked me to take care of you."

"I'm not a child. I don't need others to take care of me." Charlotte let out a smile. "You don't have to worry about me. Please go back to riding."

"I can't do that as Mom has already given the instructions. She will scold me if I don't go with you." Louis made an excuse. "Just let me come with you. I can make the lunch while you are in the treatment. I've learned how to make beef stew. You'll love it."

"Okay then." Charlotte eventually agreed as she could not bear to reject him.

Back to the villa, Charlotte went to the clinic as Louis headed to the kitchen to prepare lunch. Charlotte was a little tired after the treatment, and Lupine escorted her back to her room.

Leaning on the couch, Charlotte planned to get some sleep. Just then, Louis came in with the meal trolley. "Charlotte, the lunch's ready. Come on and have a try."

"I'm not hungry..." Charlotte had no appetite at all. But as she saw Louis placing various delicate food on the table, she got moved a little. "Did you make all these?"

"Yes. I learned these recently. Please let me know how they taste." Louis handed a spoon to her. "Let's have some stew first."

"Thanks." Charlotte tried the stew. "Not bad."

"Really? I've been learning this one for a long time." Louis was delighted. "Let's try this chicken next."

Charlotte took a bite and nodded with approval. "It's all right."

"It looks like there's room for improvement." Louis let out an embarrassed smile. "I'll work harder."

"Actually, you don't have to learn all these," Charlotte uttered with a low voice. "Don't you have more important things to do?"

"Nope. I have nothing to do," Louis responded casually. "I'm quite free recently."

"Isn't the Gymnasium Project about to get launched?" Charlotte asked skeptically. "I heard from Mr. Murphy that the opening ceremony is in two days?"

"I've left that in Dad's hand. I hope you don't mind." After Louis blurted out the words, he cast an anxious look at Charlotte.

"You've put your sweat and blood into this project. Why did you hand it over to others?" Charlotte furrowed her brows slightly.

"Because I want to have more time with you." Louis tried to make another excuse. But as he noticed Charlotte's unpleasant expression, he admitted honestly, "Fine. I want to avoid Zachary."

Charlotte lowered her head while trying to put on a calm face. "You're overthinking. He's a busy man. He won't put his mind on this. It's merely a tiny investment for Nacht Group."

"That's not true. He has chipped in a big sum of money, and the project has expanded now." Louis cast a complicated look at Charlotte. "Haven't you heard of this?"

"No." Charlotte still sounded utterly composed. "I'm just a small shareholder in this project. No one will care to inform me."

"It's my bad. Please don't get mad," Louis immediately apologized. "I should've told you earlier."

"When did he invest in the project?" Charlotte questioned casually.

"Not long ago." Louis was cautious with his reply. "When we announced our wedding to the public, I thought he would go for divestment. I didn't expect..."

"All right," Charlotte responded briefly, her feeling was in turmoil.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1179

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"All right. Let's not mention him." Louis tried to change the topic as he placed a fried lotus root on Charlotte's plate. "Charlotte, please try this."

"Do you even know how to make this?"

Charlotte was a little surprised as not many knew about her favorite food.

"I asked Ellie what you liked to eat, and she told me this. That's why I learned it." Louis smiled at Charlotte.

"It's hard to find good lotus root in Pillere and I've been purchasing it from another city. And finally, I'm able to make it successfully."

Charlotte took one bite and nodded right away. "It's delicious."

"I'm glad you like it." Louis was utterly pleased. "I also know that you love rice balls in wine, so I'm still learning it."

"Thanks, Louis." Charlotte was somehow touched.

"We're getting married soon. It is the least I should do for you." Louis looked at her with a gentle gaze. "I'm happy as long as you're happy."

Charlotte lowered her head, without saying anything.

"Charlotte, don't move."

Just then, Louis noticed a food stain on Charlotte's face, and he took a tissue and wiped it off her face.

Charlotte was stunned momentarily, sitting still.

Underneath the dim light, her beautiful face made Louis' heart move as he leaned toward her.

Charlotte evaded him, but still, his lips touched her cheek gently.

At that moment, the two of them froze on the spot.

The next instance, Charlotte moved away from him.

Louis' face was blushing red from anxiousness.

Charlotte furrowed her brows as she shifted her gaze away.

"I... I'm sorry."

Louis choked on his words as he stood up to leave.

Staring at his panicking look and the delicious lunch on the table, Charlotte felt a rush of conflicting emotions.

Meanwhile, a maid outside saw Louis run out nervously from Charlotte's room. She immediately went inside and called Sherlyn to inform her of the development.

"How long was he in there?" Sherlyn asked urgently.

"I was standing outside the entire time. Around eleven minutes, I guess," The maid said.

"So fast?" Sherlyn was startled. "Then, did his clothes look neat when he came out?"

"Yes, it looked neat to me," the maid started describing. "And his hair was tidy too. But his face was red, and he looked nervous."

Upon hearing that, Sherlyn was somewhat disappointed. "All right. Please continue to monitor them."

"Yes."

Hanging up the phone, Sherlyn let out a long sigh. "It looks like it's not working."

"But based on what the maid said, I suppose they've gotten closer to each other for a little." Just then, Diana let out a smile. "So there's some development after all."

"They've hanging together for so long by now, and they're getting married soon. How could getting closer be considered as a development?" Sherlyn responded petulantly. "If Louis got so nervous by just being closer to her, it meant they were not intimate at all until now."

Diana lowered her head, not knowing what to say.

"I think she's not into Louis at all. She merely wants to use him." The more Sherlyn thought of it, the angrier she got. "What a fool Louis is! It's just a one-sided relationship!"

"Yes, I've noticed that too." Diana chose her word carefully. "Ms. Lindberg seems uninterested with Louis. It looks like she is deliberately keeping her distance."

"They've been hanging out for quite some time already. Even if there were no feelings initially, she should have a little affection for him by now." Sherlyn sounded displeased. "If she doesn't like Louis, why did she agree to the marriage?"

"I heard that Mr. Lindberg got into a crisis..." Diana uttered in a low voice.

"I heard that too." Sherlyn furrowed her brows. "Maybe it's because Mr. Lindberg is currently in deep trouble, so she wants to look for temporary refuge. If that's true, she might cancel the wedding once the former solved the crisis. What should Louis do by then?"

"It's still too early to judge. There's still one month until the wedding. Who knows they will grow affection toward each other during this period?" Diana tried to comfort her.

"That's why I've to get this done as soon as possible..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1180

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Waking up from her nap, Charlotte noticed it was raining outside. "Lupine, are the kids back yet?"

"Not yet. Lady Sherlyn brought them to the grape farm for lunch. They are having a good time there. Don't worry about their safety as Morgan and Gordon are with them," Lupine reported.

"It's almost time for Robbie's online class." Charlotte glanced at her watch. "And Ellie's treatment."

"I'll ask again." Lupine picked up her phone to call when a car engine's sounded from outside. She went out to the balcony and peered. "Robbie and Ellie are back."

"I'll meet them downstairs."

Charlotte met Robbie as she walked out of her room. "Mommy!"

"Robbie, did you have a good time?" Charlotte ruffled his hair.

"It was fun. I know how to ride a horse now," Robbie said with pride. "Uncle Gordon taught me. I'll brag in front of Jamie the next time I meet him. Now, he'll have to stop calling me a nerd."

Charlotte laughed. "Despite it being something you're not good at, you can overcome it if you try. Am I right?"

"Right." Robbie nodded. "I'll try more, Mommy."

"That's my boy." Charlotte was pleased. "It's not that I want you to learn everything. But I hope you can learn some skills and train more."

"I understand." Robbie embraced Charlotte. "Mommy, I'm going back to my room for my class. Ellie is getting her treatment downstairs. She might need your company."

"All right." Charlotte descended the stairs after watching Robbie leave.

At that moment, a subordinate urgently came up to her and reported. "Ms. Lindberg, Alpha is missing."

"What?" Charlotte's face paled. "What happened?"

"Lady Sherlyn and the kids were playing hide-and-seek at the grape farm when they couldn't find Alpha. Lady Sherlyn is worried sick and looking everywhere for her."

"I'll head there immediately." Charlotte left for the grape farm instantly.

"Charlotte, wait for me." Louis, who heard the news, urgently ran downstairs. "I'll go with you."

"Okay."

Charlotte turned to Lupine. "You stay here and take care of Robbie and Ellie."

"Understood."

When Charlotte and Louis arrived at the grape farm, they saw Sherlyn and her subordinates looking for Alpha.

Noticing Charlotte's arrival, Sherlyn apologized, "Charlotte, I'm very sorry. I wanted to play with the kids, but I didn't expect--"

"This is not your fault." Charlotte turned to Morgan. "What happened?"

"I'm sorry, Ms. Lindberg." Morgan reluctantly explained. "We're still looking for her. But we'll find her soon."

"Where's Beta and Gamma?" Charlotte asked.

"They're resting at the winery. Jade's in there with them." Morgan said guilty, "Gordon went patrolling when he got news this morning."

"The lot of you can't watch the kids without him here?" Charlotte yelled angrily, "Search immediately. I'll make an example out of you if anything happens to her."

"Yes."

Morgan urgently led a few people in search for Alpha.

"Who was the last person to see Alpha?" Charlotte asked.

"It's me." Diana answered, "Me, Lady Sherlyn, and the kids were playing hide-and-seek. I saw Alpha was counting with her back to me before I closed my eyes. I didn't know."

"Where is it? Bring me there."

"It's here."

Diana led Charlotte deeper into the grape farm with Louis trailing behind.

It was beautiful there with grapes hanging from the vines, but Charlotte was focused on searching. "Alpha, come out. The game has ended. We should go home now."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1181

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No one responded despite Charlotte calling out for a long while.

She was very nervous and had every subordinate with her join the search; so, only Louis remained with her.

Louis comforted her as he searched. "Charlotte, don't panic. We'll find her. Everyone in the manor is our people. The child will be fine."

"What am I supposed to tell Danrique if anything happens to the child?" Charlotte was panicking. "I shouldn't have gone back alone. I should've brought them along with me."

"Don't be like that, Charlotte. It'll be fine." Louis' heart ached for Charlotte. "I'll ask for more help."

He was about to inform his subordinate but soon realized nobody else was there. They probably went searching at other places.

"Charlotte, I didn't have my phone with me. I'll go call for some help."

Louis was about to head back and look for more help when he noticed a small accessory on the ground in the bush beside him. He picked it up urgently and examined it. It was a star-shaped hair clip.

He immediately called, "Charlotte, come over here and see if this belongs to Alpha."

Charlotte ran over and examined the hair clip. "This is Alpha's hairclip. Where did you find it?"

"Over there." Louis led Charlotte over to the place where he found the accessory.

There was a small shoe print beside the bush. It probably belonged to Alpha. There weren't any other shoeprints there besides hers. And there was no abnormality with it.

Charlotte's anxiety increased. She immediately phoned Lupine. "I need you to release Fifi."

"Got it." Lupine instantly went to arrange.

Sometimes, animals were capable of carrying certain tasks humans couldn't do.

Fifi could sniff out Alpha's location by the scent lingering on her clothes.

"It has started raining." Louis stretched his hand outward to catch the raindrop.

Charlotte looked up at the dark sky, and soon fat water droplets dripped onto her face.

"Charlotte, you should find shelter, and I'll continue searching."

Louis took off his coat and covered Charlotte with it.

"I can't rest now."

Charlotte continued staring at the sky. Fifi had flown over from the hot spring resort.

Charlotte whistled. Hearing the sharp sound, Fifi immediately flew in her direction. It picked up the accessory in Charlotte's hand and took off searching for Alpha.

Louis was baffled by the entire scene. Fearsome screams sounded not far away.

Charlotte turned in the direction, and Louis replied, "The screams belong to the maids. They were probably shocked by Fifi. It's fine."

"You should head back first."

Charlotte followed after Fifi.

"I'll be right behind you." Louis followed.

"Louis..." Diana yelled.

Louis didn't turn his head but increased his pace to trail after Charlotte.

The rain got heavier, and soon Charlotte was drenched. But that was the last thing on her mind at that moment. All she wanted was Alpha to be found.

Charlotte was a fast runner. Louis almost lost her.

Luckily, she stopped in front of a cabin. Perching on the roof was Fifi.

Charlotte barged in the door. "Alpha!"

Alpha was sitting in a corner, holding an adorable rabbit in her arms. She was drenched from the rain, shivering from the cold, and curled up in fear.

She raised her head, hearing Charlotte's voice. "Aunt Charlotte!"

"Alpha!" Charlotte rushed to Alpha's side with her arms wide and embraced the latter. "You scared me to death. Let me see. Are you hurt anywhere?"

Charlotte looked her up and down.

"I'm fine, Aunt Charlotte." Alpha sniffled. "I was playing hide-and-seek with Beta and Gamma. But I saw this cute bunny. So I chased after it. After a while, I realized I was lost. Then, it started to rain, so I came inside for shelter."

"Good girl." Charlotte ran her fingers through Alpha's messy hair. "I'll take you home."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1182

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"The rain is getting heavier. Let's wait here for a little longer."

Louis was rummaging throughout the cabin. "Let me look if there is anything I can use to start a fire."

With an arm full of firewood, Charlotte started a fire in the fireplace. She even found a pot. Then, she began to peel a pear while waiting for the pot of water to boil.

"Wow! Aunt Charlotte is amazing! You're like Mommy!"

Alpha noted Charlotte was able to do everything from starting a fire and cooking.

"Do you miss your Mom?" Charlotte gently caressed Alpha's face.

"Yeah." Alpha nodded. Tears started streaming down her face as she pouted.

"Don't be sad. You'll see your mom soon enough." Charlotte's heart ached for Alpha as she pulled the latter into her arms.

"Charlotte, allow me."

Louis took over peeling the pear with a paring knife. Once done, he handed Charlotte the perfectly peeled pear.

"Dice it, then put it into the pot." Charlotte said, "Alpha is catching a cold. She needs some pear stew."

"Oh, I see." Louis did according to her instructions.

At that moment, Fifi flew inside, surprising Louis, causing him to drop the paring knife.

"Don't be scared. It won't hurt you with me here."

Charlotte gestured for Fifi to obediently stay beside the fire, allowing the heat from the fire to dry its feathers.

However, its sharp gaze was fixed on the rabbit in Alpha's arms.

"Fifi, you can't eat my bunny." Alpha tightened her arms on the rabbit. She warned, "If you dare eat my bunny, I'll tell Daddy."

Fifi seemed to understand her words as it quickly averted its eyes and started to clean its wings with its beak.

"Aren't you afraid of it, Alpha?" Louis asked softly.

"Nope." Alpha lifted her head proudly as she answered, "It's scared of me."

"You're amazing. As expected, you're your Daddy's daughter."

Louis let out a sigh. He was still scared of Fifi every time he saw it. Yet, this two-year-old child wasn't.

"You have to do better. Aunt Charlotte's fiancé" encouraged Alpha innocently.

Louis was taken aback briefly. He laughed at Alpha's response. "I will try harder."

It was the first time someone had a positive outlook on his relationship with Charlotte. He was happy about it.

Charlotte fed Alpha a bowl of soup and held her as she slept. The latter's clothes were hung to dry by the fireplace.

Charlotte forgot her phone, so she had Fifi act as a messenger.

Alpha slept in Charlotte's arms while the rabbit sat quietly in Alpha's.

Charlotte softly ruffled Alpha's hair. Her gaze was gentle under the firelight.

Louis's heart pounded as he stared at her.

Charlotte felt his gaze for a long while. She lifted her eyes to look at him.

He instantly averted his gaze and blushed.

Charlotte coughed dryly to relieve the awkwardness. "Aren't you cold? Take off your coat and come sit by the fire."

Louis had been drying Charlotte's and Alpha's clothes the entire time. He was still wearing his drenched clothes.

"I almost forgot."

Louis removed his coat and left it to dry by the fire. The clothing under his coat was also drenched, but he didn't dare take them off. He merely scooted closer to the fire.

At that time, both Charlotte and Louis had their coat removed, leaving them with a thin layer of clothing as they sat by the fire.

Probably from the warmth of the fire, Louis fell asleep on the sofa.

The rain outside continued to pour as the sky turned darker.

Why hasn't Morgan found us yet?

It has been over an hour.

Suddenly, she heard a car stop outside, followed by Diana's and Morgan's voices.

"Louis!"

"Ms. Lindberg!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1183

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"Louis, Louis," Charlotte called as she put on her coat. "They're here. Wear your coat quickly."

Louis muttered something incomprehensible under his breath. But there was no sign of wakefulness.

Charlotte was resigned, so she gently set Alpha down by the sofa and swiftly put on her clothes.

The voices were getting nearer and nearer.

Charlotte urgently pushed Louis. "Louis. Louis. Wake up..."

Louis was still half asleep when he saw Charlotte's beautiful face right in front of him. His heart skipped a beat at her beauty. He instinctively wrapped his arms around her.

"Louis, what are you doing?"

Charlotte was stunned. She quickly pushed him away.

At that moment, the door opened, and she accidentally fell deeper into Louis's embrace.

Sherlyn screamed in surprise, then quickly shut the door. "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry about the intrusion. Please continue."

Charlotte was blushing bright red. She pushed Louis harder and dashed to the other side to smoothen her clothes.

"Charlotte, I'm sorry." Louis finally fully snapped awake. "I didn't know what happened earlier, I-"

"Stop. Quickly put on your clothes," Charlotte reminded with a frown.

"Okay." Louis quickly got up and began putting on his clothes.

Soon, they were both dressed appropriately. Charlotte went outside with Alpha still asleep in her arms.

Morgan went up to take Alpha into her arms and passed the rabbit to the bodyguard.

"Are you hurt?" Lupine asked softly.

Charlotte didn't reply but turn to Sherlyn to explain. "Lady Sherlyn, we're both drenched. Our clothes were wet. So-"

"I understand completely." Sherlyn cut her off with a laugh. "You're both young. I understand there are times when your feelings overcome you. Moreover, your wedding is coming soon."

"No. We're-"

"It's fine." Sherlyn interrupted Charlotte again. "It's already dark. The kids are waiting for you. Let's hurry back."

Charlotte stopped explaining and got in the car.

"Charlotte!" Louis dashed out the door, wanting to follow Charlotte into the car, but she shut the door in his face.

"Louis, get in my car." Sherlyn pulled Louis into her car. "Finally, some improvement, my son."

"What?" asked Louis confusedly.

"I told you to work harder to woo Charlotte." Sherlyn blinked her eyes cheekily. "She won't run from you once you have wooed her."

"Mommy, what are you talking about?"

Louis sneezed before he could finish his sentence. Then a string of sneezes followed.

"Oh no. You've caught a cold. Let's hurry back and get you some medicine." Sherlyn quickened her pace to the car with Louis in tow. She felt the temperature on his forehead. "Your temperature is rising. It was raining heavily. You shouldn't push yourself."

"Mommy, Charlotte came all the way to search for the child. I surely have to accompany her." Louis frowned. "How are we going to explain if we lost the child?"

"She won't go missing," Sherlyn blurted out, then immediately covered her mouth with her hands.

"I also think she won't. But the child is so small. We have to search for her." Louis added unhappily, "I hope I'm not overstepping my bounds by telling you this, but you have to be careful when watching children. It would be bad if anything bad happened."

"All right. I can't believe you got sick after all this trouble."

"It's merely a cold. It's nothing serious. I'll be fine with some medication from Dr. Felch."

"Right. Let's head back quickly," Sherlyn urged. "I have some medication back at the resort. You'll recover soon. We're not used to the herbal concoction."

"Aunt Sherlyn, it's better if Louis consulted Dr. Felch." Diana added, "Louis got sick because of Ms. Lindberg. She would feel bad if she knew about it and might even ask to take care of Louis."

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Sherlyn agreed. "You're right, Diana. Louis, you should get closer to Charlotte with this opportunity."

"Mommy, what are you saying?"

Louis couldn't stop sneezing, his head was heavy, his thoughts blurry. He couldn't focus on Sherlyn's words.

"You just rest since you're not feeling well."

Sherlyn gently patted his back like taking care of a child.

Louis fell asleep in her arms.

Diana covered Louis with a blanket. Her action was gentle, but her gaze was complicated.

Meanwhile, on the other car, Charlotte covered Alpha with a blanket. "Are Beta and Gamma back home?"

"They're back home, Ms. Lindberg," Lupine answered softly, afraid of waking Alpha up. "They weren't willing to leave at first, but Fifi came back with the news that you've found Alpha. Only then, they went back."

"Luckily, it was just a scare." Charlotte glanced at Morgan. "What's wrong with you today?"

"I'm sorry, Ms. Lindberg." Morgan apologized, "I admit to my mistake and am willing to accept any punishment."

"You're not usually like this. What exactly happened today?" Lupine was curious as well. "Did something unusual happen?"

"We were following the kids closely, but Lady Sherlyn said she wanted to play hide-and-seek with them. She didn't allow us to follow."

Morgan lowered her head as she explained.

"I did tell her you gave us an order to follow the kids closely. But Lady Sherlyn was persistent. I didn't want any trouble with her."

"Also, the kids were hyper by then. They already ran into the grape farm. We were thinking of following the girls inside but were stopped by Lady Sherlyn. In the end, we could merely wait outside."

"After a while, we heard Alpha was missing. We urgently went inside to search."

Charlotte stayed silent and started pondering her words.

"What do you mean?" Lupine was confused. "You're saying Lady Sherlyn had done it on purpose?"

"I did suspect so initially, but why would she do that?" Morgan couldn't understand. "Alpha was fine in the end. She said she ran off because she was chasing after the rabbit."

"Let's not speculate without any evidence." Charlotte ordered, "I'll forgive you this time, but there's no next time."

"Understood." Morgan held her breath with her head bowed.

They have finally arrived at the villa. Charlotte got out of the car with Alpha in her arms. Beta and Gamma rushed to her side.

"Alpha!"

Charlotte gestured for them to keep quiet, not to wake Alpha up.

Beta and Gamma quickly covered their mouth.

"Alpha has fallen asleep, so I'm carrying her back to her room. Why don't you girls follow us?" Charlotte asked the girls gently.

"Okay." Beta and Gamma obediently trailed after Charlotte.

"Mommy, is Alpha alright?"

Ellie and Robbie approached. They worriedly accompanied Beta and Gamma the entire time Alpha was gone.

"She's fine. She got lost chasing after a rabbit." Charlotte explained, "She was drenched in the rain and is sleeping now. Let's not disturb her tonight. All of you go to sleep too."

"Okay."

Charlotte took Alpha back to her room. After comforting Beta and Gamma, she ordered Morgan, "Ask Hayley to check on Alpha. See if Alpha needs any medication for cold."

"Lupine went looking for her a while ago. She's currently making ginger soup." Morgan said softly, "Go shower and change. I'll be right here."

"Wipe Alpha down and change her out of her clothing."

"Understood."

Charlotte saw Sherlyn when she exited the girls' room. The latter was coming toward her with the maids and Louis following behind her.

Louis was covering his sneezing nose and mouth with a handkerchief.

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chapter 1185

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"It's great that you're here, Charlotte!" When Sherlyn saw Charlotte, she quickly said, "I think Louis caught a cold. He's not been feeling well during the journey back. Can you ask Dr. Felch to check on him?"

"Sure! Help him back to his room first while I get Dr. Felch over."

Charlotte glanced at her watch and saw that it was already nine at night. I wonder if Dr. Felch has slept.

She decided to visit Dr. Felch personally.

However, Dr. Felch did not go to sleep after he knew that Alpha went missing and was worried that she might be ill after being found.

After Charlotte explained the situation to him, he brought Sam along to check on Louis.

Louis had already changed his clothes and was drinking some warm water on the sofa. He was even chastising his mother for making a mountain out of a molehill—it was already so late, but she still asked Charlotte to get Dr. Felch over and disturb his rest.

At that moment, Charlotte and Dr. Felch knocked on the door and entered. Sherlyn quickly got up and greeted him respectfully.

Charlotte served as the translator for them. After some polite small talk, Dr. Felch started checking on Louis. "He has indeed caught a cold, but he'll be fine after two prescriptions of herbal concoction. Have a hot bath and rest early!"

Then, he wrote his prescription and instructed Sam to prepare the medicine.

Charlotte translated what Dr. Felch said to Sherlyn.

Still worried, Sherlyn asked, "Will he be fine after taking the medicine? Doesn't he need to go to the hospital? He seems like he's severely ill... His body is cold and he feels dizzy."

"Don't worry, Lady Sheryl. Dr. Felch is highly skilled, so his prescriptions will definitely cure Louis' cold completely," assured Charlotte.

"Yeah..." Louis wanted to say something, but he started sneezing again. "Achoo!"

"Okay, we'll go out now so we won't disturb your rest."

Sherlyn's heart was aching for Louis, then she quickly asked the subordinates to leave.

After giving Louis a few more reminders, Dr. Felch and Sam left as well.

Charlotte was getting ready to send them off when Sherlyn held her back. "Charlotte, I'll send Dr. Felch off. You should stay here and keep Louis company."

"I..."

Charlotte was about to speak when Sherlyn and her maids left.

Before leaving, Diana even reminded her, "Ms. Lindberg, I'll leave Louis to you."

Everyone left promptly and closed the door behind them.

Charlotte stood there with a frown.

"Charlotte, don't worry about me. Go back and rest! Achoo... Achoo..."

Before Louis could complete his sentence, he sneezed a few times. He even had a running nose, which made him look extremely miserable.

“Louis, drink more warm water.”

Feeling sorry for him, Charlotte turned around to pour some water for him. When she discovered that the kettle only contained cold water, she instructed the maids to fetch some warm water over.

Only Charlotte had the habit of drinking warm water—Louis and the rest did not.

As the maid was used to Charlotte’s habit, they would prepare some warm water every day.

“The pear stew you made just now was so delicious. It’s a pity that I only drank half a bowl just now,” lamented Louis as he covered his nose with a handkerchief.

“I’ll cook more for you.”

Charlotte remembered how Louis got drenched in the rain because he was looking for Alpha for her. Furthermore, he had been so focused on drying Alpha and her clothes by the fireside that he did not bother about himself. As such, he caught a cold.

Since he had always treated her so nicely, it was only appropriate for her to take care of him.

“Will it be too much of a hassle for you?” Louis looked at her worriedly. “You were drenched in the rain too and I’m sure that you’re exhausted...”

“I’m fine. It’s a simple recipe anyway!” Charlotte hurried away. “Rest for a while. I’ll bring it over when I’m done.”

“Okay! Thank you, Charlotte.”

Feeling touched, Louis smiled sweetly. He no longer felt uncomfortable—instead, he felt strangely happy.

If I’m sick, Charlotte will take care of me. Perhaps she’ll spend more time with me tonight...

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After cooking some pear stew and pasta, Charlotte brought them to Louis' room. "Since you didn't eat dinner, I cooked some pasta for you. Come and try it!"

"You're amazing, Charlotte." Louis was extremely touched.

"I don't know if you like it or not." Charlotte passed him the cutlery before pouring a bowl of pear stew for him. "I prepared quite a lot of pear stew and kept them in a thermal flask. If you'd like to drink it at night, you can pour them into a bowl."

"You're so thoughtful!" After devouring the pasta, Louis exclaimed, "This is the yummiest food I've ever eaten. "

"It's just a normal plate of pasta," said Charlotte with a smile. "Since you caught a cold, your stomach will feel much better after eating something warm."

"Yeah! I feel so comfortable now as if my cold has been cured... Achoo!"

Before Louis finished his sentence, he sneezed again.

"How can you get well so quickly?" Charlotte was amused. "Sam is still brewing the herbal concoction and will bring it to you later. After drinking it, you should rest early. You'll probably feel much better tomorrow."

With that, she stood up and prepared to leave.

"Charlotte!" Louis quickly pulled her back. "Are you leaving? Can't you stay here and keep me company?"

"You should rest." Charlotte gazed at him gently. "I'll disturb you if I'm here."

"You won't..." Louis grabbed her hand, unwilling to let go. "I want to look at you."

"You can look at me tomorrow." Charlotte tugged her hand away. "Rest early, okay?"

Then, she left the room directly.

Louis gazed at her as she left, feeling a wave of disappointment in him. He initially thought that she was treating him nicely because she was starting to fall for him. However, upon closer introspection, he figured out that she was probably just showing concern for a friend.

Although there might be some elements of gratitude in it, love was definitely not a factor...

Louis heaved a deep sigh before smiling again. It's fine! As long as I persevere, I'll be able to move her, no matter how emotionless she might be.

When Charlotte left the room, she saw a figure escaping rapidly.

That figure was Sherlyn's maid.

Charlotte frowned. She knew that Sherlyn had been spying on them secretly out of concern for how her relationship with Louis was progressing.

"Charlotte!"

At that moment, Sam walked over with the herbal concoction, with Diana and the two maids following him.

"Is the herbal concoction ready?" asked Charlotte with a smile.

"Yeah." Sam nodded. "He has to drink it once tonight, and a few more days after that."

"You can just pass it to them. Go and rest soon!" said Charlotte with concern. "You have to wake up tomorrow and prepare the medicine with Dr. Felch."

"It's fine! It won't take much time, anyway," replied Sam. "I need to remind Sir Louis about some things to take note of. Oh, right. He understands Chanaean, right?"

"Yes, he does." Charlotte nodded. "Sleep early after doing that."

"Okay." Sam walked up the stairs with the medicine.

Just when Charlotte was about to return to her room to rest, Diana asked carefully, "Ms. Lindberg, aren't you going to keep Louis company?"

"He can rest after taking his medicine."

Avoiding the question, Charlotte left without sparing a glance.

Diana did not dare to say anything either. After Charlotte left, she raised her head and followed behind Sam.

"Ms. Lindberg is so cold toward Sir Louis," whispered the maid in Ferropenian.

"Shh! Don't spout nonsense," remind Diana softly before knocking on Louis' door.

Sam brought the herbal concoction in, placed it down and left after saying something to Louis.

As the medicine was bitter, Diana ordered the maids to ask for some candies from Sam. The maids quickly followed her orders.

Only Diana and Louis were left in the room.

Under the dim lighting, an ambiguous look flashed across Diana's eyes as she stared at Louis lovingly. "Louis, let me help you to the bed."

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"Thank you."

As Louis was used to having people serve him, he did not refuse Diana's help.

She helped him to the bed, lay him down and tucked him under the blankets. Touching his forehead, she exclaimed, "It's so hot! Louis, I think that you're having a fever again."

"Really?" Louis touched his own forehead. "I don't think so."

"What do you mean? Touch me." Diana grabbed his hand and placed it against her cheek. "See, my body temperature is lower than yours."

Stunned, Louis quickly withdrew his hand. "I'm alright. I'll be fine tomorrow after taking Dr. Felch's medicine. You should go back and rest."

"Wait! Lisa and the rest went to bring some candies for you. I'll leave after you eat them."

When Diana bent down to adjust Louis' blanket, her huge and perky breasts swayed, almost touching his face.

Louis immediately blushed. Turning his head to the side, he said nervously, "Go and rest, Diana. I don't want any candies."

"Louis, don't you hate bitter food?" said Diana with a sickly sweet voice. "Since the herbal concoction is so bitter, how can you endure taking it without eating any candies?"

"I'm really fine..."

Louis closed his eyes, not daring to look at her.

He was raised strictly since young and was very single-minded about relationships. As a result, he only liked Charlotte and had never gotten a girlfriend in the past few years.

Charlotte always refused to have any intimate interactions with him, but he was still a young, healthy man. When faced with such seductions, his body instinctively got tempted.

“Okay, I’ll leave now.”

Diana turned the lights off and was about to leave when someone knocked on the door. “Diana, I’m here with the candies.”

She quickly opened the door and took the candies. “Go and rest. I’ll pass the candies to Louis before going back.”

“Okay. Thank you, Diana.” The two maids left soon.

After closing the door, Diana walked to the bed, unwrapped the candies and placed it against Louis’ lips. “Have a candy, Louis!”

“There’s no need for that, Diana...”

Before he could finish his sentence, she shoved the candy into his mouth and caressed his lips gently with her finger. She said gently, “It’ll not be bitter after you eat the candy. Sleep early, okay? Goodnight.”

She turned around and left afterward.

Watching her retreating figure, Louis was stunned for a long time before he returned to his senses. The candy almost got stuck in his throat, but he reacted quickly and coughed it out.

Diana’s romantic actions earlier kept replaying in his mind, causing him to feel flustered.

He flipped the blanket away and glanced down at himself. I actually...

His feelings of guilt intensified.

He kept scolding himself for harboring such indecent thoughts toward another woman. Since he loved Charlotte, he should only feel such emotions toward her.

Meanwhile, Charlotte was leaning against the tub with her eyes closed, enjoying this rare moment of peace.

She was drenched in the rain and caught a little chill. However, after two years of physical training, her health had improved greatly and she did not get a cold.

Still, to avoid getting sick, she added some herbal concoctions in the bathtub.

Steam encircled the room while the smell of the herbal concoction wafted in the air.

Charlotte started to feel sleepy. At that moment, her phone suddenly rang, jolting her awake. Frowning, she grabbed her phone.

When she saw the call, she could not help but be stunned. After some hesitation, she accepted it. "Hello?"

The person on the call remained silent, but she could hear his faint breathing.

"I'm hanging up if you don't speak!" Charlotte prepared to end the call.

"Charlotte!"

A familiar and deep voice, mixed with a hint of weakness and hoarseness, sounded.

Charlotte's heart skipped a beat as a feeling of unease washed over her. "What happened to you?"

"Remember that you're mine!" said Zachary over the phone.

Although he sounded weak, it was nonetheless a declaration of his dominance.

"Wait for me..."

After saying those three words, he ended the call.

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chapter 1188

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Holding her phone, Charlotte felt uneasy. She had a feeling that something had happened to Zachary, so she was hesitating whether she should call him back. However, upon further thought, she decided against it.

A stubborn man like him would not tell her anything even if something bad had happened to him.

However, since he could still call her and declare his dominance, it meant that he was still doing well.

It was better if she did not intervene.

After all, they were not fated to be together.

Sighing, Charlotte placed her phone down and got out of the bathtub. She wrapped a bathrobe around herself, dried her hair in the bedroom and went to sleep.

However, for some reason, Zachary's figure kept floating around in her mind.

She tried her best to calm down and not think about him, but she could not control her mind at all.

Charlotte only drifted off to sleep at midnight, but she had a dream that Zachary appeared in front of her, his body covered in blood. She widened her eyes and asked him what happened.

Silent, he staggered toward her. Each step he took left behind a bloody footprint.

She wanted to rush over and help him, but she could not move a single inch, as if her feet had been nailed to the ground.

At that moment, Zachary suddenly toppled to the ground like a torn ragdoll. Blood flowed out of his body incessantly.

Kneeling on one knee, he clutched his head in agony with one hand, while stretching his other hand toward her obsessively.

“Zachary!”

Charlotte yelled out his name anxiously and tried her best to move her legs so she could go to him.

After a long while, she could finally move her legs. She dashed toward him hurriedly, but the ground started to split, forcefully separating them.

The spot where he was started sinking, sending him plunging into a bottomless abyss.

“No! Zachary!”

Yelling his name, Charlotte was jolted awake from her dream.

With widened eyes, she stared at the ceiling while her heart pounded wildly.

Feeling extremely uneasy, she had a strong premonition that something bad had happened to Zachary.

She instinctively picked up her phone and was about to call him to check. However, before she dialed his number, she calmed down.

I’m already Louis’ fiancée and I’ve cut off all ties with Zachary. We’ve already reached a peaceful agreement. I can’t destroy this truce because of a moment of rashness! Even if something bad happened to him, it has nothing to do with me.

At that thought, Charlotte placed her phone down, collapsed on the bed again and stared at the ceiling dazedly.

After a while, her eyes became so tired that she closed them. She kept reminding herself to forget it and let everything go.

It was as if this voice in her mind had traveled to H City.

Zachary was lying on the bed. After finishing his treatment, he was extremely frail.

The first thing he did when he woke up was to call Charlotte.

He dreamed that Charlotte had married Louis. Although he yearned to barge into the church and crash their wedding, his body split with every step he took, and blood poured out of his body uncontrollably.

He watched helplessly as Charlotte exchanged rings with Louis and kissed him passionately.

When a roar of despair escaped his lips, the church collapsed and the beams came crashing onto him.

At that moment, he suddenly woke up. He returned to his senses and immediately called Charlotte.

However, he was in so much pain that all he could muster were a few words.

Now, he was closing his eyes and enduring the intense pain silently.

"Mr. Nacht, our treatment for today is done. You should rest well and we'll continue tomorrow," said the doctor to Zachary carefully.

"Why is the treatment becoming more painful? It's been so long, but the symptoms have not diminished yet." Ben asked anxiously, "Also, since he's in so much pain, can't he take some painkillers?"

"Yes, but it'll affect him..."

"Okay, you may leave now."

Zachary's deep voice interrupted the doctor, who quickly left.

Ben looked at Zachary worriedly and asked, "Why don't I contact Dr. Felch?"

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“Don’t disturb them...” warned Zachary threateningly.

“But you...”

Ben wanted to say something but held himself back.

After all, he knew that once Zachary was determined to do something, no one could convince him to change his mind.

“I could feel that I’m becoming better...” Zachary closed his eyes again and mumbled hoarsely, “Perhaps, I’ll be fine after a while.”

“But the treatment is so agonizing.” Ben was worried. “It’s more like torture!”

“They told me that Charlotte underwent the same treatment back then...”

When Zachary remembered what had happened in the past, he was still awash with guilt. “Her condition was worse than mine, so she must have suffered from much more pain. Since she could persist through it, why can’t I?”

“But her treatment wasn’t fully effective. It was only with Francesco’s help that her illness could be stabilized. Furthermore, there were after-effects...”

“Alright!” interrupted Zachary as he closed his eyes tiredly. “Get out.”

“Okay.” Not daring to say anything more, Ben left with his head hanging down.

Zachary lay on the bed alone, looking like a person teetering on the brink of death.

However, he had faith that he would definitely get better. After persisting through this, he would be able to resolve any other problems that may arise.

Ben asked Zachary's doctor about his condition.

The doctor explained sincerely, "Like what I said before, our treatment can only achieve the bare minimum of helping Mr. Nacht survive. As for how he will be coping afterward, we cannot guarantee anything. Ms. Lindberg faced the same situation back then. Even after our treatment, her illness would relapse every week, making her suffer constantly. Afterward, Mr. Lindberg invited Francesco to develop some medicine and relieve her of the pain. However, I heard that she is recovering slowly with Dr. Felch's help. I suggest that you contact Francesco or Dr. Felch..."

Naturally, Ben knew that he should contact them now.

However, Dr. Felch was treating Charlotte and Ellie in F Nation, while Francesco was an elusive man whose whereabouts were always unknown.

Bruce had already sent someone to look for him, but the search was still futile.

Just as he was thinking about it, Bruce called him. Ben quickly picked up the call. "Hey! Did you get any information on Francesco?"

"No, but..." Bruce hesitated to complete his sentence.

"What happened? Tell me?" asked Ben anxiously.

"Ms. Lindberg's relationship with Louis has progressed..."

Bruce told Ben what happened at the grape farm earlier and even sent him a video.

"Look at this! They were hiding from the rain in the wooden hut. When Lady Sherlyn barged in, both of their clothes were disheveled and our surveillance camera captured that scene."

"Why are they progressing so quickly?" Ben was anxious and flustered. "We mustn't let Mr. Nacht find out. If he sees the video, he might not be able to persist anymore."

"My thoughts exactly." Bruce sighed. "I've infiltrated the villa recently to protect Ms. Lindberg, Robbie and Ellie's safety. However, I realized that other than her own children, there are three two-year-old children with her."

"Huh?" Ben was confused. "Whose children are they?"

"They're being treated with as much respect as Robbie and Ellie. Since they're quite good-looking too, I think that they're probably Danrique's children."

"Looks like Danrique is really in danger. Otherwise, he wouldn't have entrusted his children to Ms. Lindberg and instructed her to bring them to F Nation."

"Yeah. As all the information in Erihal is sealed off, we cannot find out how Danrique is doing. However, if something bad actually happened to him, the Laurent family might not treat Ms. Lindberg as nicely as before..."

"Sir Louis is a good man, but Sir Robert and Lady Sherlyn are..."

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"That's right. Lady Sherlyn has been using all sorts of tricks to push Louis and Ms. Lindberg together. She's the mastermind behind today's incident too."

"Think of a way to inform Ms. Lindberg!"

"Do you think that she's oblivious to all these? She isn't foolish..."

"Yeah. Since the situation is so complicated now, perhaps Ms. Lindberg has her own grievances. Let's not intervene too much and just focus on protecting Robbie and Ellie."

"I know. You must take good care of Mr. Nacht and prevent him from finding out what's happening. If he asks about it, you must take note..."

"I understand."

After hanging up the call, Ben was filled with worry. At that moment, he was helpless to do anything. All he could do was to look after Zachary and wait for him to recover miraculously.

Meanwhile, the weather at Arkfield was gloomy and the temperature had dropped.

The rain from last night had not stopped, causing the courtyard to be covered in water.

Charlotte and the kids spent a leisurely morning in the library.

Robbie read silently while Ellie told a story to the three kids.

Reading on the sofa, Charlotte would glance at the children occasionally with an affectionate smile.

Sometimes, it was a kind of happiness to warm herself up by the fireplace, have a drink and do some reading.

"Sorry to bother you."

A familiar voice sounded as Sherlyn entered with her maids, who were pushing two trolleys filled with delicious pastries and drinks.

"Why are you here, Lady Sherlyn?" greeted Charlotte as she stood up.

"I heard that you're reading here, so I sent some pastries over."
Sherly always had a friendly and courteous smile on her face.
"Children, come here and take a look! Do you like these?"

The maids placed the pastries on the table.

Ellie and the three little ones ran over immediately, overjoyed to see the exquisite pastries.

Although Robbie did not have much of a reaction, he still placed his book down and greeted her politely.

"Thank you, Lady Sherlyn," said Charlotte courteously.

"There's no need to be so polite around family, right?" replied Sherlyn with a laugh. "I like to do some reading too. Should I keep you company, children?"

"Yes!"

The children did not care who was keeping them company. Furthermore, since Sherlyn kept trying to appease them each day, they were not wary of her.

"I'll accompany the children, Charlotte. You should visit Louis." Sherlyn held Charlotte's hand and said worriedly, "His cold worsened and he's having a fever. When I visited him just now, he was leaning against the sofa in a daze and calling your name."

"I visited him this morning and he seemed much better. Did he become worse?" Charlotte was a bit suspicious.

"Yeah! He even has a fever," exclaimed Sherlyn worriedly.

"I'll go and take a look." Charlotte turned around and instructed the children, "Be good, darlings. Read here and don't run around, okay?"

"Okay!" Ellie and the three kids answered in unison.

"Robbie..." Charlotte was about to speak to Robbie when he suddenly said, "Mommy, I'm going to attend online classes in my room after reading this book."

"Good boy." Charlotte stroked his head before shooting a look at Lupine. "Keep an eye on the kids."

"Yes." Lupine nodded.

Charlotte left with Morgan and two other female bodyguards, while the rest remained behind.

As Lupine was even more careful and meticulous than Morgan, Charlotte instructed her to stay back and protect the children.

Upon reaching Louis' room, Charlotte knocked on the door and entered. However, she bumped into Diana feeding Louis the medicine. "Louis, you're having a fever, so you have to take your medicine. Please eat this..."

"I'll do it myself."

Just when Louis was pushing Diana's hand away, Charlotte walked into the room.

When he spotted her, he was so nervous that he lost control over his strength and shoved Diana to the ground.

Her forehead crashed against the table with a loud thud.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1191

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"Oh no!" When Louis saw that Diana had hit her head, he was startled for a while before helping her up. "I'm sorry, Diana. I didn't do it on purpose."

"You're so caring, Diana," remarked Morgan mockingly. "Sir Louis is an adult, yet he still needs someone to feed him, huh?"

Morgan's personality had always been straightforward and hot-tempered, so she spoke anything that was on her mind.

"As Louis is having a high fever, he's really weak. That's why I'm helping him take his medicine." Still polite, Diana ignored the wound on her forehead and explained with her head lowered, "Don't misunderstand, Ms. Lindberg!"

"I won't. We're a family, anyway." Charlotte smiled. "Is your forehead alright?"

"I'm fine." Holding her forehead, Diana said humbly, "Since you're already here, I'll leave first."

She bowed and left.

Morgan and the other two maids tidied the place and headed out too, leaving only Louis and Charlotte in the room.

Louis quickly explained, "Charlotte..."

"Are you having a fever?" interrupted Charlotte. When she touched his forehead, it felt quite warm. "What happened? Didn't you take the medicine?"

"I did." Louis nodded. "I drank the herbal concoction that Sam sent last night and this morning. However, since I still feel uncomfortable, Diana sent me some medicine."

"You can't take both of them together, right?" Charlotte glanced at the medicine on the table, frowning. "Change your clothes. I'll take you to Dr. Felch."

"He already came half an hour ago." Louis looked a bit troubled. "My mom was here too and they had a discussion. She said that my body's more suited for western medicine, so..."

"Okay, then." Although Charlotte felt quite speechless, she understood where Sherlyn was coming from. "I understand that perspective can be different, so I respect Lady Sherlyn's choice."

"Do you think that Dr. Felch will be upset?" Louis was nervous. "I wanted to apologize and explain to him earlier, but he left quickly, saying that he needed to prepare the other medicine."

"It's fine. He's not that petty, okay?" Charlotte smiled. "Since Lady Sherlyn has already prescribed some medicine for you, take them on time and rest well."

With that, she prepared to leave.

"Charlotte!" Louis quickly pulled her back. "Can't you keep me company?"

Charlotte was about to refuse when she saw how pale and weak Louis was. As he peered at her pitifully, she could not bear to reject him so harshly. "Fine, I'll stay for a while."

"That's great!" Louis was overjoyed.

"Lie down." Charlotte helped him to the sofa, draped a blanket over him and poured him a glass of water. "Since you've already taken your medicine, drink some water and rest."

"Okay." Louis leaned against the cushion tiredly and sniffed.

"Your body is really..." Looking at how weak he was, Charlotte could not help but frown. "You need to do more exercise in the future."

"I do exercise! I rarely get sick, so I don't know what's up with me this time," explained Louis. "Charlotte, can you sit closer to me?"

"Have a good rest," instructed Charlotte before grabbing a book and reading it on the sofa.

Although Louis felt disappointed, he was already delighted that he could see her.

Unknowingly, he drifted off to sleep. Charlotte placed her book down, tucked him in and was about to leave the room when she discovered that the door could not be opened.

Frowning, she tried turning the doorknob a few more times, but it would not budge.

The door seemed to be locked from outside.

Although Charlotte was speechless, she did not make a fuss and merely returned to the sofa to read.

After a while, Morgan's voice sounded from outside. "Are you still inside, Ms. Lindberg?"

"Yes," replied Charlotte. "Open the door."

"That's weird! Why is the door locked?"

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When Morgan tried to open the door, she realized that it had been locked. Just when she was on the brink of losing her temper, Lupine rushed over and stopped her. Puzzled, she asked, "Why is the door locked from outside?"

"Yeah! I left earlier and when I returned, I discovered that I can't open the door." Morgan was a direct person. "Someone must have done this!"

"You probably locked it accidentally when you left," suggested one of Sherlyn's maids.

"What are you talking about? Are you saying that I locked it?"
Morgan lost control of her temper.

"You were guarding it! Who else could've locked it?" rebuked the maid indignantly.

"You..."

"That's enough." Lupine interrupted Morgan and said with a smile, "Please open the door for us."

"This lady is so much more polite."

The maid shot Morgan a cold glance before opening the door and greeting Charlotte respectfully, "Thank you, Ms. Lindberg!"

"Louis' asleep, so don't wake him up," reminded Charlotte before leaving.

At that moment, Sherlyn had just left the library with the children. She called out to Charlotte downstairs, "Charlotte, let's have lunch together!"

"Sure! I'll come down after changing my clothes," replied Charlotte with a smile, still seeming nonchalant and calm.

Observing her intently, the two maids behind heaved a sigh of relief.

After returning to the room, Morgan could not help but lament angrily, "Lady Sherlyn's maids must have locked the door! Yet, they accused me of doing it. How outrageous!"

"When can you stop being so hot-tempered?" asked Lupine as she frowned.

"Don't you believe me?" Morgan felt indignant.

"I believe you, but you must remain indifferent when something like this happens. What's the use of kicking up a fuss?" explained Lupine patiently.

"We should let Lady Sherlyn know and tell her to punish those maids." Morgan was reluctant to let it go just like that.

"Do you think that they'll dare to do it without anyone instructing them?" asked Lupine with a smile.

Morgan was stunned before quickly returning to her senses. "Are you suggesting that Lady Sherlyn instructed them to do it?"

"Obviously." Lupine rolled her eyes.

Morgan glanced at Charlotte, who was tying her hair up calmly. She could not help but ask, "Ms. Lindberg, why is Lady Sherlyn doing this?"

"Because she wants to create opportunities for Ms. Lindberg to interact with Louis alone!" explained Lupine. "This isn't the first time, either."

"I'm at a loss for words." Morgan's blood started boiling. "How can she do this? Who does she think Ms. Lindberg is?"

Lupine did not respond and merely stared at Charlotte worriedly.

She agreed that there was no need for Charlotte to endure this mistreatment either. The Lindberg family did not need the Laurent family's support—they could protect the children very well themselves.

"There are only around twenty days left, so control your temper." Charlotte walked to the changing room to change her clothes. "Pass me the beige shoes."

"Okay." Lupine passed the shoes to her.

Morgan did not understand Charlotte's intention. Although she still felt indignant, she had no choice but to follow orders.

Soon, Charlotte changed her clothes and headed downstairs for lunch with Lupine and Morgan.

Sherlyn had instructed the rest to prepare a sumptuous meal and even seated the children at the table personally.

Diana also helped Louis down the stairs for lunch.

After a short nap, Louis felt much more energetic than before. However, he still wore a mask because he was afraid that he would spread his cold to the children.

The family had a wonderful and harmonious meal together.

As the children were fast-eaters, they finished their food quickly and begged to play with building blocks.

Charlotte instructed Morgan to accompany them while the three adults continued eating.

"Charlotte, I'll take care of the kids. You should keep Louis company after lunch," suggested Sherlyn.

"I know how you feel as a mother, Lady Sherlyn, but..." While cutting the steak, Charlotte remarked nonchalantly, "Louis is not a child anymore, so he doesn't need me by his side all the time."

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At these words, Sherlyn paused her action of cutting her steak and her expression froze. Nevertheless, she recovered instantly and smiled. "You must spend more time together now that you will married soon."

"Yes, of course." Charlotte smiled. "Louis and I have been friends for many years. We had always spent time together."

"That's right," Louis confirmed. "Mom, we..."

"What's right?" Sherlyn interrupted her son and spoke in a disapproving manner, "The time together I meant is not the same as friendship. You are so grown up now. You should know."

She pretended to scold her son but those words were meant for Charlotte.

Louis was dumbfounded not knowing why his mom seemed mad at him.

"In matters of the heart, it is better to let feelings grow naturally," Charlotte explained plainly. "Doing things in haste could have negative effects."

Charlotte emphasized the meaning of doing things in haste.

Sherlyn quickly understood what she meant. She thought she was being discreet but Charlotte had seen through her veiled message without embarrassing her.

"To you, Lady Sherlyn" Charlotte raised her glass to Sherlyn with a graceful smile.

Sherlyn quickly pulled herself together and raised her glass to her. "Charlotte, as his mother, I wish you both well. After all, your marriage is not just between two people but rather involves two clans."

These words were meant as a hint to remind Charlotte that her responsibilities were heavy.

"Lady Sherlyn, you are right." Charlotte drained her glass and continued with a smile, "My elder cousin, Danrique is also in favor of this marriage because he believes Louis is a straightforward and honest man whom I can trust."

"That is absolutely true." Sherlyn smiled in contentment.

"For our safety, he has sent his trusted man over to us." Charlotte continued to say, "Don't you know? Gordon is Danrique's bodyguard."

Sherlyn was shocked by this revelation. This would mean that everything that happened here would be known by Danrique.

"Danrique has been busy lately so I dare not bother him. I shall seek his forgiveness in a few days," Charlotte spoke with a voice full of guilt. "I have promised to take care of his three children."

We have been here only a few days and Alpha actually went missing. If he knew about this, I'm afraid he would be furious."

"This... I am also responsible for this."

Sherlyn was a little wary. Charlotte was telling her that not only did she know whatever tricks she was up to, but Danrique was aware too.

"It was not your fault, but rather, my staff did not do her duty well," Charlotte quickly replied. "Anyway, that was an accident. Fortunately, nothing bad happened. Just make sure it does not happen again in the future."

"No, it won't happen again. I have improved the security measures and installed surveillance cameras so that it will not happen again," Louis explained quickly.

"Louis is absolutely right," Sherlyn added, "I have instructed my maids to be careful and vigilant about the children's safety whenever they are around them."

"Thank you." Charlotte smiled.

"I'm done. Now, I'll go and get ready for my treatment," Charlotte put down her cutlery and said to Louis. "Louis, remember to take your medicine and then rest well."

"Yeah." Louis nodded.

Charlotte curtsied to Sherlyn and then got up and left...

Sherlyn gazed at her with an expression that was too complicated to describe...

"Mommy, I'm taking my leave too." Louis left the table too.

Sherlyn finally released her anger, slammed her wine glass on the table and left in a fury...

Back in her room, Diana muttered softly, "Isn't it true that we can't judge a book by its cover. Ms. Lindberg looks so young but

she is unexpectedly a master of words, warning us with every word she uttered."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1194

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"It looks like I have underestimated her."

The more Sherlyn thought about it, the angrier she felt. Never before in her life had she been oppressed to this extent and to make it worse, this oppression had come from her future daughter-in-law.

"Then... what should we do now?" Diana asked tentatively.

Sherlyn took a sip of coffee gracefully and lifted her eyes. Her countenance had changed. "You are speaking as if I am at war with my future daughter-in-law..."

"Oh..." Diana was taken aback and at a loss for words.

"When the child lost her way, it was really our fault. If Danrique knows about this, it would be difficult for me to explain," Sherlyn instructed very seriously. "So, during this period, you maids must behave conscientiously. Do not make such mistakes again."

"Yes, madam," the maids replied with their heads bowed.

"You must be very polite to the Lindberg family members, especially the children. At the same time, be respectful to Dr. Felch," Sherlyn warned them. "That includes the two girls, Lupine and Morgan. You must never offend them, understood?"

"Yes, Madam, we understand."

"In the meantime, don't do anything," Sherlyn instructed Diana. "Just take good care of Louis. That's all you must do."

"All right." Diana nodded.

At the same time, Charlotte went to the garden with Morgan to visit Fifi the eagle who had caught a cold after the heavy rain yesterday.

"You really let it out just now." Morgan, seeing no one around, could not help but whisper, "Lady Sherlyn was so shocked that she couldn't say a word, her face turned pale and then red."

"What are you saying?" Charlotte frowned. "I didn't really let it out at her. I was only telling the truth and reasoning with her."

"Yes, yes, yes!" Morgan was all smiles as she replied. "Our Ms. Lindberg is the most reasonable of all."

Charlotte glared at her and asked casually, "Have you been in touch with Marino, recently?"

"Huh?" Hearing this question, Morgan's expression instantly turned sad, and she replied, "We spoke twice on the phone since I returned to Erihal. After coming to Arkfield, there was no contact at all."

At this point, she became angry again. "The son of a b***h is ignoring me. Forget it, I don't need him. It's no big deal to find another man."

"Did he stop contacting you?" Charlotte asked in puzzlement. "What happened?"

"I don't know," Morgan's voice was bitter. "Maybe Mr. Nacht disallowed him to contact me. But then, again, he might have found a new love."

"Marino is not a flirt."

Charlotte frowned. She began to feel that Zachary might be in trouble...

In order to prevent her from knowing, he had even stopped Marino from contacting Morgan.

"Then, why is he ignoring me? He even changed his number." Morgan became sadder as she continued talking about it. "I have

even thought of reporting our relationship to Mr. Lindberg but he backed off first...”

“Don’t think too much.”

Charlotte patted her on the shoulder and walked in the direction of Fifi’s nest.

Some subordinates were feeding medicine to Fifi who was lethargic and unwilling to move.

However, when it saw Charlotte, it flew over to her.

Charlotte raised her hand and let it perch on it. Seeing its haggard appearance, she felt a little distressed, so she gently stroked its feathers, and gently exhorted, “Relax at home these few days and get well soon.”

“Coo... coo... coo...”

Fifi called softly, and then, motioned in the direction of the forest with its head.

“What is there?” Charlotte turned in the direction of the forest and ordered immediately, “Go and investigate.”

“Yes, madam.” Morgan brought some men to check it out. After more than half an hour, she brought back a rabbit and reported, “Ms. Lindberg, there is nothing out there but this.”

“That is good. Nowadays, we have to be especially vigilant.”

“Understood.’

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After that, no more unusual incidents happened at the manor.

Sherlyn took care of Louis personally and she stopped hinting or asking Charlotte to spend time with him.

Nevertheless, Sherlyn spent time with the children daily, playing with them and teaching them oil painting as well as making all kinds of cute pastry.

With the exception of Robbie, the other five children quite like her.

Even though Charlotte realized that her warnings had taken effect, she did not let her guard down and she was always reminding Lupine and Morgan to keep on being vigilant over the children's safety.

Gordon was vigilant in guarding the security of the manor. In fact, he had warded the intruders off a few times. Nevertheless, he felt that those intruders seemed to have inside help.

He had thought that they were arranged by Louis and so he did not make a fuss.

Time passed routinely and steadily. It did not seem too long and one month had passed by. The day that Charlotte and Zachary had agreed upon was just three days away.

As Charlotte watched the day approach, her heart was heavy since there was no news whatsoever from H City.

Ever since the phone call that night, Zachary had not contacted her again nor did he contact Robbie.

In between, there were two calls from Jamie who missed his Mommy but the little child did not mention Daddy.

Jamie cried immediately when he saw Robbie and Ellie in a video call.

Robbie asked anxiously, "Jamie, what's wrong? Why are you crying?"

"I... I miss you." Jamie wiped his tears and said in a choking voice, "You two are with Mommy while I am at home alone. It's so lonely here."

“How about Daddy? Isn’t Daddy with you?”

Ellie was heartbroken as she took some tissue to wipe away his tears on the screen but they could not be wiped away.

“Daddy is busy. He is not home nowadays...”

Jamie lowered his head sadly, not daring to look at them. He was not good at lying and he did not want to lie but he could not tell them the truth.

Charlotte’s heart ached as she noticed that Jamie was not optimistic like before but had become sad and depressed.

“Don’t cry, Jamie. In a few days’ time, Daddy will bring you here to fetch me. We’ll be together again, then.”

Affectionately, Ellie comforted him and then she started ranting...

“Nowadays, I can never get through to Daddy’s phone. What is he doing? Doesn’t he care about us anymore?”

“Ellie, Daddy must have something going on. We must be considerate,” Robbie did not approve of Ellie complaining about Daddy, so he solemnly explained. “The last time Daddy spoke to us, his voice sounded different. Maybe, he’s not well.”

“Okay, then...” Ellie pouted, not daring to say anything more.

Jamie blurted out, “That’s true. Daddy is sick. You must not blame him.”

“What sickness is he suffering from?” Robbie questioned immediately.

“I, I...” Jamie panicked instantly. His eyes became shifty and his face turned somewhat pale.

“Jamie, tell me quickly.” Robbie was anxious. “What’s the matter with Daddy?”

"I've got to go to school now, bye." Jamie ended the video call in a panic.

With a beep, the signal was cut off, and Robbie picked up the tablet, furious.

"Robbie, what were you guys talking about? Is Daddy really sick? Is it serious?" Ellie asked anxiously.

"It's all right. There is nothing to worry about." Charlotte did not want to upset the children, so she quickly changed the subject. "Daddy has told me that he was injured slightly while doing his work. It is nothing serious."

"Really?" Robbie asked.

"Of course," Charlotte replied, smilingly. "It happened a few days ago; however, he's on his way to recovery now. Don't you guys worry."

"Why didn't you ask for us when Daddy called you?" Robbie looked at Charlotte in a puzzled manner.

"It was late and you were all asleep," Charlotte explained. "The next time he calls, I'll be sure to get you all together. I guess, he'll be contacting me again soon."

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After coaxing the kids, Charlotte dialed Zachary's number, but his phone was still switched off.

She glanced at the date and confirmed that there were three days left until the day they were supposed to meet up.

Why isn't Zachary answering his phone? He hasn't been in touch for a while. What's going on?

After a brief hesitation, she called Ben.

Strangely, no one answered the phone.

She then called Bruce, but his phone was not turned on.

Panic surged in her heart. Both his most trusted assistants can't be reached. What the heck is going on?

A minute later, she tried dialing Raina's phone. Raina was her last hope.

If Raina's unreachable, too, I'll have to send someone to find out about Zachary's situation.

The dial tone rang for a long time. Just as Charlotte was about to hang up, the call was connected. "Ms. Windt!" A familiar voice sounded over the line.

Raina was used to addressing her the same way she did back then.

"Raina, did something happen to Zachary?" Charlotte went straight to the point.

"No," Raina replied with a chuckle. "What could happen to him?"

"Then why can't I get in touch with him?" Charlotte voiced her doubts. "He didn't even answer his phone."

"Wait a moment, please," came Raina's reply.

She then handed the phone to someone else.

Charlotte was still confused when another familiar voice rang out. "Miss me?"

It's Zachary!

Stunned, she took a while to regain her senses. "Zachary? Is it you?"

"I'm still alive," Zachary answered, chuckling. "I'm glad that I can still be alive to see you."

It sounded like he had just escaped death narrowly and was lamenting how fortunate he was.

"What do you mean?" Charlotte was puzzled.

"Three days later, I'll show up before you on time!" Zachary announced and promptly hung up the phone.

Charlotte stood stock still, confused by his words. Why does it sound like Zachary has been through a lot? Regardless, I'm glad he's still alive. Since he promised that he'd be here three days later, it means he's fine.

Taking a deep breath to recollect herself, she then went to look for the children, "Robbie, Ellie, I just talked to Daddy on the phone. He'll come over and look for us three days later."

"Really?" Both kids gathered around her excitedly. Robbie stretched his hand out and requested, "Mommy, give me your phone. I want to talk to Daddy."

"He has already hung up." Charlotte clicked into the call log on her phone and explained, "Look, this is Raina's phone number. Daddy called me using her phone."

"Why didn't he use his own phone to call you?" Robbie asked, sounding skeptical.

"Perhaps there's something wrong with his phone. Perhaps—"

Robbie's phone suddenly rang, cutting Charlotte's explanation short. It was a video call from Jamie that he promptly answered by calling his sibling's name. "Jamie!"

"Robbie, Ellie, Mommy, Daddy's coming home tonight! I'm so happy!" Jamie waved his hands around, evidently delighted. "Daddy told me he'll be bringing me to F Nation to reunite with you two days later!"

“Really? That’s great!” Robbie’s lips curved into a huge grin at his brother’s words. Finally, he was convinced that his father would be back soon.

“Yay! I’m so happy!” Ellie hopped around excitedly. “Jamie, bring Little Fifi here too. We miss it so much!”

“Yes, I had that in mind too.” Jamie nodded profusely.

Behind him, Little Fifi was flapping its wings, shrilling, “Ellie, Ellie! Robbie! Jamie! Mommy!”

The eagle Fifi cooed as though reminding everyone not to forget about it.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1197

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The kids were thrilled at the prospect of being reunited again.

Charlotte could not stop herself from smiling. Though she refused to admit it, her heart was fluttering in anticipation of the day.

I must miss Jamie a lot.

Diana, who was passing by with a tray of snacks in hand, happened to witness everything. A myriad of emotions flashed across her eyes.

She then entered Sherlyn's room and recounted the situation she had witnessed in a tactful manner.

One maid spluttered indignantly, "I thought Ms. Lindberg has completely separated from that husband of hers! Looks like she's deeply in love with him."

"How could she? She's about to marry Sir Louis soon! I can't believe she's still in touch with her ex-husband!" another maid chimed in sharply.

"Yes. What does she take Sir Louis to be?"

"Lady Sherlyn, should I talk to Ms. Lindberg?" Diana suggested in a soft voice. "If her ex-husband insists on seeing the kids, we can send them to him. There's no need for Ms. Lindberg to see him herself."

"Charlotte's stubborn and hot-headed. She won't allow anything to interfere with her business. Besides, we can't afford to offend her ex-husband," Sherlyn said, her brows scrunched up unhappily. "We have no choice but to let them meet up. If he comes over here, we even have to treat him with the utmost respect!"

"Well..." Diana seemed concerned. "Louis has been uneasy for the past few days. He must be worried about their meetup."

"Yes. When I went to his study to serve him coffee, he was sitting behind the desk in a daze," a maid added.

"My son's too honest." Sherlyn sighed in exasperation. "If I stay out of it, he wouldn't even know he's being cheated on."

After a pause, she continued, "Zachary isn't a pushover. I need to take action before he arrives."

The maids did not understand what she was getting at.

On the other hand, Diana instantly realized what she had in mind. "Aunt Sherlyn, you mean..."

"I was talking to the kids yesterday about inviting the magician troupe to perform in the manor." Sherlyn's lips curled into a smirk. "Inform the magician troupe to come over tomorrow afternoon!"

"Yes!" Diana left to make the arrangements. When she passed the doorway, she bumped into Louis, who was here for Sherlyn. Almost immediately, she gave him a curtsy and greeted, "Louis!"

"Mm," Louis replied absent-mindedly and stepped into his mother's room with his head hung low.

He had been avoiding Diana ever since she practically threw herself at him when he had a cold back then, afraid to spend time with her alone.

Noticing how distant he was treating her, Diana averted her gaze to mask the sorrow that flitted across her face. However, she quickly composed herself and focused on the task at hand.

Louis knocked on the door and announced, "Mother, I would like to bring Charlotte to a vacation at the beach for two days."

"Why the beach all of a sudden?" Sherlyn studied her son carefully, noting his uneasiness. "Are you afraid Charlotte will get back together with Zachary when he arrives to reunite with the kids?"

Louis' expression grew upset at his mother's sharp question, but he quickly explained, "No. Charlotte isn't that sort of person."

"Nothing is definite when it concerns love." The duchess snorted. "Besides, Zachary has an advantage over you—"

"Mom, stop it!"

Her words intensified the insecurity that had been growing in his heart ever since the news of Zachary's soon arrival reached his ears. After all, his relationship with Charlotte did not progress even after spending over a month together in the manor.

On that day, he tried to sound Charlotte out by mentioning the wedding ceremony, but she promptly changed the topic before leaving to spend time with her kids.

He was worried that the wedding would not be held as scheduled if this were to go on.

Hence, he came up with a plan to spend two days at the beach with Charlotte. Perhaps their relationship would proceed to the next level if they got to spend some quality time together.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1198

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"How long have you known Charlotte?" asked Sherlyn.

"About two years," Louis answered despondently. "Mom, can you take care of the kids for two days? I want to bring Charlotte to the beach—"

"Don't you understand?" The older woman furrowed her brows. "You've known her for two years, and you practically clung to her no matter where she goes. Charlotte has spent a lot of time with you in private. If she has feelings for you, you won't be panicking right now."

"Charlotte likes me, but..." Louis tried to explain, but his voice quickly trailed off. Even he could not convince himself.

Perhaps Charlotte had feelings for him, but she saw him strictly as a friend and did not have romantic feelings for him. Otherwise, she would not have kept a distance from him.

"Well..." Louis exhaled a deep breath and lowered his head in dejection. "I don't know what else to do. I've done everything I could. I feel so useless."

"Silly boy, you're too honest." Sherlyn gave him an indulgent look. "Think about it. How did Zachary and Charlotte fall in love?"

Zachary was an unfeeling, willful, and arrogant man. He was also the Lindberg family's rival, yet Charlotte could not forget him.

"I don't get it either," Louis responded, a frown creasing his forehead. "I heard that they ended up together by chance back then. Charlotte got pregnant and gave birth to the children without knowing Zachary's identity. Then they—"

"That's right," Sherlyn cut in when he mentioned a crucial point. "They didn't even know each other at first but had sex, then she got pregnant and gave birth to the kids. Charlotte believed that she belonged to Zachary. In fact, most women would think the same. Once a man made his mark on her, she'd submit to him completely without even realizing it. You just have to make your mark on her, so she'll fall head over heels for you, get it?"

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Louis did not share his mother's sentiment. "After falling in love with each other, we'll have sex naturally. I can't possess her just because I want her to fall in love with me. That's wrong and utterly disrespectful."

Sherlyn was rendered speechless. "Forget it. You don't even understand what I'm saying. What a waste of time."

"Mom, stop spouting nonsense. That's an immoral act!" he insisted. "Just take care of the children for us. Charlotte loves the sea, so we'll spend some time there while I try to win her heart. I believe she'll reciprocate my feelings one day as long as I am sincere."

"Fine. If you can persuade Charlotte to agree to the beach getaway, I shall take care of the kids," Sherlyn agreed, too unbothered to educate her stubborn son further. "I've summoned the magician troupe to perform at the manor for the kids tomorrow, anyway."

"That's great!" Elation filled Louis' entire being. "I'll talk to Charlotte about the beach getaway now."

"All right. I need to inform the kids about the good news too. I'm sure they'd be delighted to learn about that."

Sherlyn placed her cup down and stood up to leave her room.

"Thank you, Mom." Louis gave her a quick hug before dashing off to seek Charlotte.

Watching her son walking away eagerly, Sherlyn shook her head in a resigned manner.

"Lady Sherlyn, why did you agree to Sir Louis' request? I thought you had a plan in mind?" one maid asked in a low voice.

"Charlotte won't agree to go on the trip with him. She's too focused on that ex-husband of hers to leave the manor." Sherlyn seemed sure of herself. "Our plan shall proceed as usual."

"Got it."

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Indeed, when Louis went to Charlotte and told her about the beach getaway, she rejected his offer at once.

Bluntly, she told him that Zachary would be here in two days to pick the kids up, so she would be spending the remaining time with Ellie in the manor.

Though Louis usually would not press the matter if he got rejected, this time, he tried to convince her by saying Ellie could come with them and that he had a surprise all planned out.

Alas, no matter what he said, Charlotte insisted on remaining in the manor.

Dejected, he could only leave reluctantly.

The children's joyous cries sounded from downstairs when he stepped out of the room.

"I can't wait to see the magic show!"

"Is the magician any good?"

"Can he teach me some magic?"

The three children gathered around Sherlyn and chattered about the magician troupe that was to arrive tomorrow excitedly.

"Of course, the magicians are good. You'll love them, I promise. They can teach you magic. If you wish, I can ask them to teach you." Sherlyn was good at coaxing the children.

"Yay, that sounds amazing!"

Louis felt a stab of jealousy in his heart when he saw how overjoyed the kids were. He was about to return to his room when Robbie and Ellie came upstairs to look for Charlotte.

Ellie had a few dresses in her arm. Hopping happily along the hallway, she asked, "Robbie, which dress is the prettiest? When Daddy and Jamie are here, I want to dress up for them!"

"They are all pretty," Robbie replied. He seemed to be in a good mood on that day. "All three are of different styles, so you can pick whichever you like most."

"Hmph, you know nothing. I shall ask Mommy."

Ellie gathered her dresses and scampered off to Charlotte. When she ran past Louis, she greeted him politely, "Hello, Sir Louis!"

"Hello, Ellie." Louis flashed her a smile before turning to Robbie.
"Hi, Robbie!"

Robbie gave him a friendly nod and followed Ellie into Charlotte's room.

"Mommy, pick the prettiest dress for me! I shall wear the prettiest dress when Jamie and Daddy arrive!"

"They are all pretty," Charlotte responded with a hearty laugh.

"See, I was right," Robbie chimed in.

As the mother and children trio chattered merrily in the background, conflicted feelings washed over Louis.

The insecurity he felt in the face of Zachary's arrival was insurmountable. Strangely, he had a hunch that his relationship with Charlotte would end once Zachary arrived.

It also meant that their wedding scheduled to be held nine days later might be called off.

At that thought, he plodded back to his room unhappily and drowned his sorrows.

"Louis." Right then, Diana knocked on his door and entered with a tonic in her hand. "You've just recovered from a cold and require a proper recuperation. Aunt Sherlyn told me to give you this—"

"Thank you," Louis cut her sentence short. He was propping his forehead in his palm, slightly drunk from the alcohol he had consumed earlier.

"What's wrong, Louis?" she asked, her voice full of concern. "Why are you drinking? Are you in a foul mood?"

"I'm fine. You can leave now." He brushed her off and returned to his drink.

"Stop drinking!" Diana reached out to take the glass from him, but he refused to loosen his grip.

Losing her balance, she fell onto his lap.

Louis shoved her away hastily and demanded sternly, "Diana, I'm about to get married soon. Don't do this, please."

"Get married? Doesn't sound like that would be happening," she mumbled to herself.

"What did you just say?" he hissed in displeasure.

"I went past Ms. Lindberg's room earlier, and I overheard her speaking on the phone with someone. She talked to the person so affectionately, and I even heard her say 'Hubby.' I think she hasn't forgotten about her ex-husband. They will definitely get back together once he comes here," Diana said, embellishing the truth.

"That's not possible!" Louis panicked.

Though the rational side of his mind was telling him that Charlotte was not someone like that, he could not help feeling restless at the thought of Zachary and Charlotte's past relationship.

"It's true. I heard it with my own ears!" Diana pressed. "Ms. Lindberg even told the kids that she won't marry you, for she sees you as a good friend. She even said their family will reunite once their daddy arrives."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1200

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“Shut up right now!” Louis bellowed and flung away his glass in a fit of rage.

After jumping in surprise, Diana quickly kneeled on the floor to clear the broken pieces of the glass. She even stuck her firm and perky butt right at Louis in a seductive manner.

The man was stunned by her antics but quickly regained his composure and covered his forehead in annoyance. “Get out!”

“But Louis—”

“I said, get out!” he hollered in a fury. This was the first time he had ever lost his temper before Diana.

Shocked, Diana scurried out of his room with the tray hastily.

Sherlyn happened to be ascending the stairs when she saw Diana’s exiting her son’s room in a panic. She immediately demanded, “What happened?”

“Louis is trying to drink his woes away,” Diana explained, her eyes reddening. “I tried to persuade him to stop drinking, but he refused to listen and even yelled at me.”

“Why would he drink without reason?” Sherlyn questioned, a tad irritated.

Diana glanced around warily before inching nearer to whisper in her ear, “He must be in a foul mood after hearing some bad news.”

“What bad news?” Sherlyn pressed.

Still leaning close to her ear, Diana continued, “He heard Ms. Lindberg calling her ex-husband and addressed him ‘Hubby.’ She

also told the kids that they were just friends, so there was no way they'd get married. That's why he—"

"That's outrageous!" Sherlyn raged.

Though she knew Charlotte did not love Louis, she never expected her to trample on her son's feelings.

Is she being arrogant because Zachary is about to come to F Nation?

"Aunt Sherlyn, why don't you give him some advice?" Diana suggested, seemingly concerned. "But don't mention those words again. He must've been so hurt by Charlotte."

In response, Sherlyn strode over to Louis' room and pushed the door open without hesitation. When she saw him slouching on the sofa, drinking silently, she fumed. "What the heck are you doing?"

"Mom? What are you doing here?" Louis asked in a low voice.

"What can you solve by drinking?" Sherlyn marched over and took the glass away from him. "Your father and I have always been proud of ourselves. How did we give birth to someone as useless as you?" the older woman barked.

"What did I do?" Louis seemed confused. "I'm just drinking—"

"The enemy is about to arrive, so you should perk up and show your stance!" Sherlyn rebuked. "Your wedding with Charlotte has been announced officially, and she's now your fiancée. You have the right to stop her from seeing Zachary if you wish. Just tell her about it. Why are you drinking your sorrows away?"

"I don't want to force her," he confessed bitterly. "Besides, I can't stop her. Even if I can, I can't stop Zachary."

"You..." Sherlyn was stumped for words. Louis might be intoxicated, but he was still in a clear state of mind.

Immediately, she tried to persuade him from a different point of view. "Don't worry. I assure you that your wedding will go on

smoothly as planned. Charlotte will definitely get married to you!”

“Really?” Louis voiced excitedly. He soon calmed down and asked, “How can you be sure, though?”

“Just trust me on this,” Sherlyn assured him confidently. “But be a good boy and stop drinking. Hurry, take a shower and go to bed. Tomorrow, cheer up and enjoy the magic show with the kids.”

Louis thought his mother wanted him to accompany the children to win Charlotte over, so he nodded without thinking much. “Mm, got it.”

“Help him with his shower.”

“Yes.”

After comforting Louis, Sherlyn left the room while sighing. Initially, she was still doubtful about her plan, but her resolve strengthened at the sight of her son’s misery.

I need to give them a push so that the wedding will be held as planned.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1201

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The weather was nice on the following day.

In the morning, the children woke up and promptly went to Sherlyn, asking if the magician troupe had arrived.

Laughing, she told them the troupe was on their way.

The kids were delighted. At breakfast, they told Charlotte all about the magician troupe enthusiastically.

Charlotte casually asked what the magician troupe was all about, so Sherlyn explained it to her briefly.

Her answer stunned Charlotte. Although she had heard from Ellie that a magician troupe was arriving at the manor to perform for them, she had no idea it would be such a big scale.

More than a dozen staff would be entering the manor with their equipment and setting up a stage for their performance at night.

This means the assassins from Erihal will get a chance to sneak into the manor. That's dangerous!

At that thought, Charlotte hastened to convince Sherlyn to cancel the magician troupe's performance or at least get only a few of them to perform at a smaller scale.

Alas, Sherlyn was adamant about having the magic performance. She claimed it was not nice to break her promise when she had given the children her word. Besides, the magician troupe was about to reach the manor.

As she said that, someone came to report that the magician troupe had arrived at the gate.

Before Charlotte could say anything, Sherlyn relayed orders that they were to be let in. She even told her subordinate to receive the magician troupe.

Thus, Charlotte said nothing else to dissuade her, merely reminding the kids not to go to the garden before the stage was set up, for it might be a hazard.

The children nodded obediently.

Sherlyn frowned, making no attempt to hide her displeasure. "Charlotte, you're being too uptight. Our employees are scattered around the manor, so the kids will be fine. I've invited the magician troupe so many times, and they're practically my friends. Why are you so worried?"

"Of course not, Lady Sherlyn," Charlotte offered an explanation urgently. "I'm not worried. It's just that Danrique will be arriving in a few days to pick the kids up, so I have to be extra careful. If anything happens to them, I can't explain to him."

As she used Danrique as an excuse, Sherlyn could not reprimand her. "Well, I suppose you're right. It doesn't hurt to be careful." In the end, she relented.

She then hollered at her bodyguards and subordinates, "Everyone, pay attention. Today, as outsiders will be entering our manor, keep your guard up, especially when it concerns the children's safety. If something happens to them, I shall hold you accountable!"

"Yes!" everyone answered with a polite bow.

"Thank you, Lady Sherlyn." Charlotte put her fork down and wiped her mouth elegantly. "I'm done with the meal, and I'd like to take a walk in the garden."

"Sure. Go ahead." Sherlyn nodded.

"Charlotte, I'll come with you," Louis offered at once, standing up from his chair.

"No need. I have to call Danrique." Charlotte rejected his offer almost immediately.

With that, he sank back into his chair, utterly dejected. It occurred to him that Charlotte had been treating him more and more coldly for the past few days.

Sherlyn frowned at him, losing her appetite.

"Kids, should we go play now?"

Morgan brought the kids to their playroom, and Robbie returned to his room to continue his online class.

Louis, Sherlyn, and their subordinates were left in the dining room.

Sherlyn comforted her son, "Louis, perk up. The more you act this way, the more you'll repel her."

"I know." Louis inclined his head and cheered himself on. "I'll spend some time with the children."

“Go, then.”

Seeing how defeated he looked, Sherlyn could not help but sigh to herself. Though Louis had never been really successful for his entire life, she had never seen him so discouraged before.

If this isn't dealt with in a proper manner, I'm afraid he'll lose his confidence forever.

“Aunt Sherlyn,” Diana called out as she scurried over to Sherlyn. She then bent slightly to whisper in the latter's ear, “Everything's ready.”

“Be careful. The Lindberg family planted a lot of spies here,” warned the duchess softly.

“Got it.”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1202

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Charlotte did not lie, for she did call Danrique outside. That was because the agreed-upon day of their meeting was about to arrive, and she wanted to know how he was doing.

For the past month, Danrique did not keep in touch with her. Erihal kept a lid on all matters, so she did not receive any updates.

Although she was worried, she dared not ask questions.

Now that the day was near, she wanted to check on him.

The phone kept ringing, but no one picked it up. Charlotte thought about sending someone over to start an investigation. However, upon recalling Sean's reminder that she was to ignore everything, focus on her recovery, and protect the children, she dared not do so.

At that thought, Charlotte gave up on her fleeting idea. She glanced at the forest not far away, feeling strangely unsettled.

"Mr. Lindberg will be fine," Lupine reassured her. "Perhaps he'll be in contact a few days later."

"I'll have to pacify myself with that." Charlotte let out a sigh. "Where's Gordon?"

"He was patrolling outside a while ago." Lupine tilted her head and said, "Oh, here he is."

As soon as she spoke, Gordon strode over to them and came to a stop before Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg," he greeted her politely.

"There are many outsiders here in the manor today, so it might be quite rowdy. Do you have any problem with security?" asked Charlotte worriedly.

"There are fifty-seven visitors in total, including the magicians," Gordon replied. "Besides that, they also brought some small animals along. I've already asked the rest to run a thorough check. Don't worry. I'll handle the security."

"Thanks!" Charlotte bobbed her head slightly.

"No problem." He reciprocated her gesture with a polite bow, then turned to Lupine and said, "I have to monitor the surroundings since too many outsiders will be around. You should stay with Ms. Lindberg and the children at all times."

"Got it. I'll never leave Ms. Lindberg's side today," Lupine answered with a brisk nod. "As for the others, I'll assign them to protect the children."

"The kids are more important than me." Charlotte scoffed. "Even if someone tries to harm me, I can deal with him. A few assassins won't be able to hurt me."

"Yes!" Lupine lowered her head.

"Make the necessary arrangements. Keep an eye on the kids at all times tonight. Everything must go well." Charlotte reminded in a stern tone.

"Yes. I'll do it right away."

"Don't worry," Gordon reassured. "Even if someone had sneaked into the magician troupe, we can handle them. I doubt they'll be a large group, so be rest assured."

"Mm. Better be safe than sorry." Charlotte stared at the stage they were building, dread filling her heart. "All right. Get to work. I'll go back after taking a look at Fifi."

"Got it." Gordon signaled the two female bodyguards to look after Charlotte before he left.

As per her words, Charlotte went to visit Fifi. For some reason, the eagle had been lethargic for a while. Why, though? It has been a long time since Fifi got drenched by the rain, so it should be fine by now. Or did it become fragile after becoming a household pet?

“Did it eat something wrong?” One of the female bodyguards suggested casually, “Perhaps it isn’t used to the beef in F Nation?”

At once, Charlotte ordered someone to fetch a piece of the beef Fifi usually ate and let Sam check it out.

She was worried that someone had orchestrated Fifi’s illness.

After that, Charlotte went back to accompany her children.

Louis was playing Lego blocks with the kids in their playroom right then. “You’re awesome, Sir Louis!” they cheered and clapped in delight at the spaceship he had just built.

Louis grinned cheerfully. He wanted to continue playing Lego blocks with them, but they were bored of the game and wanted to learn how to make desserts.

Looking troubled, he told them, “I don’t know how to make desserts. Should I ask my mom to teach you?”

“Sure!” they responded in unison.

When Louis was leading the kids to Sherlyn, they bumped into Charlotte. He smiled at her as a greeting before leaving with the kids.

Seeing how hard he was trying to please her, Charlotte felt slightly guilty. Alas, she had no time to ponder over this, for it was more important to spend the next two days in peace.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1203

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In the blink of an eye, it was evening. The stage had been set up outside, complete with the lighting and audio system.

The kids could barely suppress their curiosity, repeatedly asking when the magic show would begin.

Sherlyn had ordered them to build a gorgeous viewing platform underneath the stage. Tables were even moved out to the garden so that they could enjoy dinner while watching the performance.

The children were exultant about her arrangement. Even Robbie and Ellie were jumping up and down excitedly.

They were only kids, after all.

Since moving into the manor, they never got a chance to go out. Though the farm and vineyard captured their attention at first, they soon got bored.

Now that a magician troupe was here to perform, they were all pumped up.

Even Dr. Felch, who preferred to be alone, came to the show when Sherlyn extended an invitation.

As Dr. Felch and the children were looking forward to the show, Charlotte did not want to spoil the fun. Hence, she followed the crowd obediently to the garden for the meal.

Sherlyn, the main organizer, arranged Dr. Felch, the kids, and herself on the same table while placing Charlotte and Louis together on another table.

She even decorated their table with red roses, which created a romantic vibe.

Louis thanked his mother for her effort. Even Charlotte expressed her gratitude too.

As the music played, the show began.

Colorful lights lit the stage, illuminating a beautiful woman playing the piano. A couple was dancing beside her, the spotlight shining on them like the moonlight. It was a pleasing sight.

"This is their opening show," Sherlyn explained to the children. "If the whole show is about magic tricks, that won't be fun. That's why they tend to add in some other performances."

"That's fantastic!" the kids praised, engrossed in the show.

Dr. Felch could not understand their conversation. While eating his meal, he talked to Sam and Hayley. "The weather is freezing. Don't the dancers feel cold in their thin outfits?"

Hayley could not help but snort out loud.

"Well, Dr. Felch, they will soon warm up after dancing," Sam replied in embarrassment. "Luckily, they don't understand Chanaean. Otherwise, they might laugh at us."

"Speaking about that—"Dr. Felch turned to the triplets—"I can't believe the triplets can speak fluent Ferropenian at such a young age! That's impressive!"

"Well, bigwigs always give birth to geniuses," Hayley said, grinning. "They are fluent in both Ferropenian and Chanaean."

"I can understand their Chanaean. They sound adorable when they converse in it." Dr. Felch chuckled.

Hayley cracked up.

A smile crept up Charlotte's lips when she saw how delighted Dr. Felch was.

"Cheers, Charlotte!" Louis raised his glass.

Charlotte clinked glasses with him and sipped on her wine. Internally, she reminded herself not to drink too much on a day like this.

"The foie gras is quite nice. Try it," he told her gently.

"Sure." Charlotte focused her attention back on him. "Louis, Zachary will be here tomorrow. He's here to pick Ellie up, and Jamie will be coming along too. I wish to spend some time with

Jamie, so is it possible to invite them to stay in the manor for a few days?" she asked carefully.

"Of course," Louis agreed readily. "Zachary's a good friend of mine. I shall extend an invitation to him."

"Oh, I nearly forgot that you two are good friends." She smiled faintly. "But Zachary's quite proud, so I don't know if he'll agree to stay. If he doesn't, I'll ask Jamie to stay."

"Sure, that works. Anything you want." He nodded and said, "Charlotte, I'll support your decision no matter what it is." His tone was indulgent.

"Thank you!" Charlotte gave him a toast.

Thrilled, Louis finished the contents of his glass in one gulp.

Seeing how they chatted happily, Sherlyn relaxed. It seems like my efforts won't be in vain.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1204

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After a few drinks, Charlotte's cheeks were flushed.

Louis poured her another glass of wine.

"I can't drink too much tonight—"

"Charlotte!"

Before she could refuse the drink, Sherlyn came over to toast her.

At once, Charlotte rose to her feet. "Lady Sherlyn, I should've been the one to toast you at your table."

"We're a family; no need for the formalities." The corners of the duchess' lips quirked into a smile as she said sincerely, "I hope that the kids can have a happy and healthy childhood and that you and Louis will be blissful together. That's all."

Guilt crept up Charlotte's heart at her words. After all, Sherlyn adored her children greatly.

The duchess had always prioritized the kids no matter what, so she was grateful for her help, regardless of the grudges she harbored toward the older woman.

"Cheers!"

"Thanks, Mom."

The three of them downed their glasses.

Sherlyn patted Charlotte's shoulder affectionately and reminded her. "Don't drink too much. We still need to watch the show."

"Yes, Lady Sherlyn."

Charlotte was about to sit down when she accidentally bumped into the table.

Louis went over to support her hastily, showering her with concern.

Diana, who waited on them at the side, watched their entire exchange. Her eyes betrayed her mixed feelings.

"Louis, take good care of Charlotte," Sherlyn told her son. "I shall keep the kids company."

"Yes, Mom." Louis' gaze never left Charlotte. "Do you want some water, Charlotte?"

"Sure." Charlotte bobbed her head.

With that, he promptly ordered someone to get a glass of water for her.

Soon, Diana arrived with two glasses of purified water. She handed one to Charlotte.

"Wait," Lupine piped up suddenly, "give it to Sir Louis. He must be thirsty too."

Diana stiffened at her words.

Without waiting for a reply, Lupine grabbed the glass from her and offered it to Louis. She then gave the other glass to Charlotte.

Frowning, Diana stared at Louis as if hesitating to speak.

"Ms. Diana, you're blocking our view," Lupine uttered deliberately.

"Sorry about that." Diana hung her head low as she shuffled away reluctantly.

Louis paid no heed to her and drank the glass of water without hesitation.

Charlotte, on the other hand, did not touch the glass of water Diana brought. That was because Lupine had already exchanged it with a new glass of water secretly.

She was quick enough not to be caught by others.

When Sherlyn looked over her shoulders, she saw Charlotte and Louis drinking water, and a strange smile hovered on her lips.

After a series of opening shows, it was finally time for the mysterious magician's performance.

The children whooped excitedly and inched nearer to the stage for a better view.

Both Robbie and Ellie could not keep their eyes off the magician on the stage.

"Charlotte, have some fruit," Louis offered.

He was still being really considerate.

"Thank you." Charlotte accepted the fruit. Weirdly, the wine she drank tonight seemed a little strong, for she felt tipsy after drinking only a few glasses.

"Sir Louis, Ms. Lindberg." A maid arrived with an order from Sherlyn. "Lady Sherlyn wants you two to toast Dr. Felch."

"Oh, yes. I nearly forgot about him."

Louis scrambled to his feet with his wineglass, not forgetting to help Charlotte up.

The maid refilled half of Charlotte's glass.

Charlotte then followed Louis to give Dr. Felch a toast.

Dr. Felch had a great night and was a little intoxicated by then.

He was drinking the liquor he brought from C Nation as he was not fond of foreign liquors.

Both Charlotte and Louis came to him and raised their glasses. “Dr. Felch!”

The doctor rose to his feet. “No need with the formalities. We’re friends, right?”

“I have to.” Charlotte was brimming with gratitude. “You were living in seclusion on the mountains and had a peaceful life until I came to you. It’s all because of me that you have to travel from H City to Erihal before coming to F Nation. Thank you for helping me!”

“Silly girl, that’s nothing.” Dr. Felch smiled. “I owe your father a favor, so I’m merely repaying it now. Besides, it’s fun to travel around the world with you!”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1205

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“Yes, that’s right. We’re just tagging along for our own benefit,” Hayley chimed in jovially.

“Me too!” Sam raised his wineglass.

“Dr. Felch, Sam, Hayley, thank you for everything that you’ve done for Charlotte. I won’t forget your sacrifices!” Louis uttered, speaking as Charlotte’s fiancé. “Cheers!”

“Cheers!”

They clinked glasses and downed their drinks in one go.

“Though today’s a happy occasion, you shouldn’t drink too much,” Dr. Felch exhorted.

“Got it!” Charlotte nodded and turned to return to her seat.

“Charlotte, Louis, wait a minute.” Right then, Sherlyn came over with her wineglass. “I didn’t join in the toast earlier. This time, let’s toast to Dr. Felch together!”

“Dr. Felch, my mom wants to...” Louis interpreted her words to the doctor swiftly.

“Oh, you’re too courteous, Lady Sherlyn.” Dr. Felch raised his glass with a grin. “I’ve been staying here for a long time, so I should be the one toasting you. Thank you for your hospitality.”

Once again, Louis acted as their interpreter.

“We’re friends, so scrap that.” Sherlyn tittered. “Come, let’s drink together. We can enjoy the magic show after downing this drink!”

As she spoke, her maid refilled Louis’ and Charlotte’s glasses.

Charlotte’s head was spinning by then. However, she could not refuse to toast Dr. Felch, so she went along and clinked glasses with everyone before finishing the drink in one gulp.

She grew tipsier after this drink and even saw two Dr. Felches before her.

“Charlotte, are you all right?” Louis held her arm worriedly.

“She must’ve drunk too much. Bring her back to your table to grab a bite,” Sherlyn urged him out of concern. “Don’t let her drink any more wine so that she can enjoy the magic show.”

“Got it, Mom.”

Louis helped Charlotte back to her seat.

Lupine never let Charlotte out of her sight, following closely behind the latter. Before this, she thought Sherlyn was finding an excuse to make Charlotte drunk to create an opportunity for her son. Looks like I was wrong. She doesn’t seem to have such an intention.

The kids had so much fun as the magic show got more exciting.

After returning to her seat, Charlotte sipped on water and sobered up slightly.

Louis, however, continued drinking his wine. Slightly intoxicated, he could not stop himself from looking at Charlotte longingly.

Other than that, everything else was normal. Nothing out of the ordinary happened.

Lupine wondered if she was overreacting, but she dared not let her guard down.

Right then, Dr. Felch excused himself from the show. Sherlyn got up to see him off.

Charlotte and Louis hastened to join her.

Dr. Felch chuckled and waved to dismiss them. "I'm too old to stay up late. Have fun! Don't mind me. I shall head back alone and have some rest."

"We can't do that! You're an important guest of ours." After hearing Louis' interpretation, Sherlyn ordered, "Louis, Charlotte, send Dr. Felch back to his room."

"Sure."

Louis held Dr. Felch's arm while Charlotte followed behind them. Nice. I was hoping to go back to my room to rest anyway.

Before Lupine and two other female bodyguards could catch up with her, a maid suddenly shrieked, "Oh, Ms. Elisa! Be careful!"

Lupine looked over her shoulder instinctively to see the magician inviting Ellie on stage. The little girl was standing before the stage to watch the performance at that moment.

The Lindbergs' bodyguards tried to stop her, but she was too ecstatic and climbed onto the stage, ignoring their words.

Lupine had to deal with her, so she informed the other two bodyguards, "Stay with Ms. Lindberg."

"Yes." They promptly caught up to Charlotte.

After sending Dr. Felch back to his room, Charlotte and Louis reminded Hayley and Sam to take care of him before retracing their path back to the garden.

Charlotte felt exhausted and genuinely wished to take a rest.

Louis was not feeling well either as he seemed a bit irritable and feverish.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1206

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"Louis, I'm going back to my room to rest." Charlotte made up her mind. "You should return to watch the show."

"I need a rest too." Louis fanned himself. "I don't know why, but I feel a little hot."

"All right. Let's head back together."

They returned to the villa together. Before Charlotte could enter her room, Louis stopped her. "Charlotte, I need to talk to you."

"We can talk tomorrow." The woman held her temples, drained of energy.

"I'm afraid I'll lose the courage to say anything tomorrow," Louis confessed, sounding despondent. "Now that there's liquid courage in me, I'd like to talk to you."

Charlotte could not bring herself to reject him, so she caved in. "All right. Come on in then."

Louis entered her room after her.

Her two female bodyguards were also about to head in, but Louis' bodyguard stopped them. "The couple wishes to talk in private. I don't think it's appropriate for you two to be inside the room, right?"

"But..." Charlotte's bodyguards glanced at her hesitantly.

"Leave us alone," Charlotte commanded.

"Yes!" The bodyguards left as instructed.

After slamming the door shut, Charlotte poured two glasses of water. She offered one to Louis and sat down on the sofa to drink hers.

"Charlotte," Louis uttered, gazing at her affectionately. He then proceeded to reveal his true feelings for her. "Do you know how delighted I was when you agreed to marry me? My dream is finally coming true! Our wedding will be held eight days later—"

"Louis," Charlotte cut him short. She frowned and continued, "If that's what you want to say, you can do it another day. I'm too tired and wish to go to bed."

"You've been so cold to me lately," he complained wistfully. "Is it because Zachary's arriving soon?"

"Can you stop acting like a child?" she snapped impatiently. "I've been honest with you from the start—I don't have romantic feelings for you. If you insist on marrying me, you have to consider it carefully."

"Yes, you've warned me, and I understand." Louis could not seem to hide his grievance. "I've been trying so hard to close the distance between us. I thought you'd be touched by my efforts, but you remained unfazed no matter what I did. On the contrary, I think you're drifting apart from me."

The more he spoke, the more agitated he became. In a choking voice, he pleaded, "Charlotte, please be honest with me. Do you still love Zachary? Are you going to get back together with him?"

"That's enough!" Charlotte did not want to hear any more of it. "Tonight isn't a good time for us to talk. We can continue the conversation tomorrow."

She placed her glass down with a thud. "I need to go to bed. Good night!" It was clearly an order to leave.

"I'm sorry for acting rashly. If I've upset you, please accept my apology," Louis apologized instantly.

He was back to his cowardly self. Though an unknown fire was blazing within his body, arousing his desire, he dared not lay a finger on Charlotte.

"I hope I didn't affect your mood. Goodbye, and see you tomorrow."

Louis was all ready to leave when the phone on the coffee table rang. The caller ID showed that it was a call from Zachary.

Charlotte was startled. Why is Zachary calling me at this hour?

At the sight of the man's name, Louis exploded with anger. "Charlotte, did you kick me out so that you can answer his call? Didn't you tell me you've broken up with him and that you'll never get back together with him ever again? Why is he calling you this late?"

"Louis, what's wrong with you today?" she demanded.

He's acting strange tonight. Usually, Louis is a polite gentleman. No matter what, he'll choose to communicate in a sensible manner. He has never acted this capriciously before.

"Don't forget that you're my fiancée, Charlotte," Louis roared. "You announced our wedding to the public yourself. You can't do this to me!"

"Louis, are you drunk?" Charlotte rolled her eyes. "I didn't cheat on you, did I? Why are you so agitated?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1207

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"Then why is he calling you at this hour?"

"You should ask him, not me. I have no idea!" Charlotte refused to continue talking about this, so she urged, "All right, leave now. We can talk tomorrow."

Instead of doing as told, Louis picked up her phone and answered the call.

"You—"

"Hello."

Before she could say anything, Zachary's voice came from the other end of the line.

Furrowing her brows, Charlotte glared at Louis before answering, "What is it?"

"Tonight, I..." Zachary was about to say something but suddenly changed his mind. "You sound different. What's wrong?"

"I'll hang up if you've got nothing to say."

Charlotte was about to end the call when Louis interjected indignantly, "Why are you in such a hurry? Are you afraid he'll find out that we're together?"

"Louis!" She stared at him in disbelief. I can't believe he just said that!

"Louis?" Zachary's voice rang out.

"Yes, it's me." Glaring at Charlotte, Louis responded furiously, "Zachary, she's my fiancée now! Please stay away from her!"

With that, he ended the call.

"Louis, do you have any idea what you're doing?" Charlotte finally lost her temper. Anger bubbled up in her chest as she demanded, "Even if he did call, it must be about the children. Why did you do that?"

"Why didn't he call in the day to talk about the children? Why at this hour?" Louis retorted. "Why did you treat me coldly when you found out he's going to come here?"

"You're drunk. I can't get through you." Charlotte refused to continue the conversation. "Please leave, now!"

Sorrow overwhelmed Louis when he saw how heartless she was treating him. At the same time, a strange impulse coursed through his body, making him extremely frustrated.

"Why are you in a hurry to kick me out?" He grabbed her shoulders, seemingly heartbroken at her action. "I love you so much. Can't you feel it?"

"Louis—"

Her reply was cut short by Louis' attempt to kiss her.

Charlotte panicked and tried to shove him away, but she was not his match, and he refused to release his grip on her.

In haste, she gave him a tight slap across his cheek.

Slap! Louis was rooted to the spot.

Furious, Charlotte barked to chase him out of her room.

"Get out right..." However, her voice trailed off upon seeing the blood trickling out of Louis' nose, staining his pristine white suit.

"Charlotte, I'm sorry. I don't know what happened. Perhaps it's because I'm too drunk." Louis regained his senses from the slap and hung his head low in embarrassment.

He was about to head out when footsteps sounded from outside. A maid had come upstairs.

Covering his bleeding nose, he came to a halt, clearly at a loss.

"Clean yourself in the bathroom," Charlotte urged. She then quickly apologized, "I'm sorry. I didn't do that on purpose."

I didn't slap him that hard. Why did he get a nosebleed that easily?

"Oh, okay." Louis hurried into the bathroom.

Feeling her head throbbing, Charlotte slumped on the sofa and placed a palm on her forehead grouchy.

I thought it was all right to agree to marry him. After all, I won't fall in love again. It was all for my family, especially Danrique's sake. Back then, it sounded like an excellent opportunity to avoid Zachary. I only realize now that some things can't be forced. Even if the entire world buys my lie, I can't lie to myself. I can't pretend to like Louis nor be intimate with him. I can't even put up an enthusiastic front before him. I just can't.

Frustrated, Charlotte felt parched. She grabbed the glass on the table and downed the water. Only after her third glass was her thirst quelled.

Exhaustion took over her, and she slowly dozed off on the sofa.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1208

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In the bathroom, Louis splashed cold water onto his face until his nosebleed stopped. He stared at his reflection in the mirror and gradually became sober.

Recalling his prior actions, he squirmed.

I've always been a gentleman. What happened today? Why did I become this bold? I even tried to take advantage of Charlotte. That was horrible of me!

Louis reprimanded himself silently as he tried to clean his clothes in exasperation.

His white suit was stained with blood. If he were to leave Charlotte's room right now, the maids would definitely see the bloodstain and inform his mother.

I'm her only son, so she dotes on me a lot. If she sees me in this state, she might get upset and reprimand Charlotte. Their relationship might sour if that were to happen.

At that thought, Louis went back to cleaning his clothes hurriedly.

The water flowed from the faucet noisily, drowning the sounds outside, so he was unaware of the intruder.

After entering the room quietly, Diana locked the door.

Delight flashed across her eyes when she saw Charlotte was fast asleep. She then glanced at the bathroom carefully and made sure the water was still running before heading toward the sofa.

Swiftly, she poured a packet of powder into a glass and shook it lightly to make sure it had dissolved before feeding Charlotte the spiked water.

Then, she dragged Charlotte into the closet and hid the latter inside.

Right at that moment, the sound of flowing water ceased. In a panic, Diana switched off the lights on the bedside table, took off her clothes, and dived onto the bed.

"Charlotte, I can't wash the blood off my blazer. It should be fine if I remove it and leave with just my shirt on, right?" Louis asked as he stepped out of the bathroom.

He stopped, realizing that the lights were switched off. The only light source was the dim emergency lights from the closet.

"Charlotte?" Louis was confused. "Why did you switch the lights off?"

"Mm..." A low sound came from the woman on the bed. It seemed that she was moaning in a state of drunkenness.

"Are you all right?" Thinking that Charlotte was drunk, Louis carefully made his way over to the bed. "Why are you lying in bed? Are you feeling unwell?"

Diana dared not utter a word. She was afraid Louis might recognize her once she said something.

Louis finished that glass of water earlier. Why is he still conscious now?

"Are you still mad at me?" Louis sounded guilty. "I have no idea why I lost control of myself earlier. I'm really sorry. Please forgive me."

Saying nothing, the woman in bed turned slightly, exposing her long legs and half of her perky butt.

It was obvious that she wanted to seduce Louis.

Louis halted at the sight of the long legs. The fire inside of him lit up all of a sudden, and he felt his nether regions stirring.

However, he swiftly looked away and reminded himself. No, you can't do this, Louis. Seriously, what is wrong with me today? It feels like there's a worm in my body, and it's making me extra restless.

The last shred of consciousness in him stopped him from forcing himself on Charlotte.

I love Charlotte, so I can't take advantage of her when she's feeling unwell.

"Charlotte, I have to go. I'll ask Lupine to come in and take care of you."

As he turned to leave, a hand slipped out from under the duvet and grabbed his.

"Charlotte!" Louis was startled. Before he could do anything, he was pulled onto the bed, and something soft was pressed against his lips.

At the same time, a pair of slender and smooth hands slipped underneath his clothes and roamed everywhere.

Louis' eyes widened in disbelief as his body tensed. Burning passion rose within him and took over his entire being. He could not suppress his desire anymore.

No longer rational, he pinned the woman underneath him and showered her with wild and passionate kisses.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1209

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At the same time, Charlotte was blissfully fast asleep inside the closet without having a clue of what was happening outside.

The bed shook violently as the man and woman engaged in a passionate session of lovemaking, utterly unaware of the woman hidden inside the closet.

As Louis climaxed, he moaned again and again, "Charlotte, I love you."

Tears welled in Diana's eyes, but she bit her lip and held back her sobs.

I've waited years to become Louis' woman. I can't let my efforts go down the drain.

Outside the room, Lupine was on the way to Charlotte's room when she bumped into the two female bodyguards. She questioned, "Why are you both outside? Where's Ms. Lindberg?"

"Ms. Lindberg is in her room," came the reply.

"She's alone inside? Is she asleep?" Lupine sounded worried.

"Sir Louis is inside too. We don't know whether he has left," the bodyguard answered.

"What?" Lupine knitted her brows. "Didn't I ask you to stay with Ms. Lindberg at all times? She needs someone to take care of her since she drank a lot of wine."

"We were with her until Sir Louis said he wanted to talk to her in private. Initially, we wanted to go in, but Ms. Lindberg told us to leave them alone," one female bodyguard explained.

“Even so, you shouldn’t have gone far away. What if something happens? You should’ve stood guard outside the room,” Lupine growled in displeasure.

“That was what we thought too. But Ms. Lindberg and Sir Louis are about to get married, so it didn’t seem right for us to stand guard outside the room—”

“Cut the crap!”

“Yes.”

Lupine strode up the stairs to see Charlotte for herself.

Suddenly, a deafening bang came from outside.

She froze for a second before hurrying to the windows to see what was going on.

Thick plumes of cloud billowed from the stage, and flames blazed brightly. The maids screamed and descended into a state of hysteria.

“What happened?” the bodyguards asked anxiously.

“The assassins might’ve sneaked in.” Lupine guessed as she studied the situation carefully. Frowning, she ordered, “Go to Ms. Lindberg’s room and stand guard outside. Don’t go anywhere else. I shall go check on the children.”

“Got it!”

Although she had arrived on the corridor of the second floor, Lupine still spun on her heels and dashed down the stairs.

She knew how much Charlotte adored the kids, so it would be a disaster if they got hurt.

Both bodyguards arrived outside Charlotte’s room and stood guard there.

Since the room's soundproofing was top-notch and coupled with the chaos and explosions outside, they could not hear a single sound inside the room.

At that moment, Louis had lost all sense of rationality, acting like a beast that succumbed to desire.

Outside, fireworks were blooming magnificently in the sky.

The kids jumped with joy and whooped gleefully at the spectacular sight.

Sherlyn and the maids were enjoying the fireworks with smiles hovering on their lips.

After running into the garden, Lupine belatedly realized that the loud explosion had come from the fireworks.

The magician had created the billowing smoke and fiery flames for suspense.

At first, the kids and maids were indeed shaken up, but they immediately cheered once they realized it was nothing but a surprise.

Lupine breathed a sigh of relief as she looked up at the fireworks. Yes, the fireworks were splendid, but there was a niggling anxiety in her heart.

"Lupine!" Right then, one of the Lindberg's male bodyguards scurried over to her and warned gruffly, "Assassins have infiltrated the manor. Protect the kids."

"What?" Lupine blanched with horror.

She immediately contacted Morgan and commanded everyone to watch over the children. Nothing can happen to them!

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1210

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The magician was still performing on the stage, and so were the brilliant fireworks blooming in the sky.

Lupine and her team of female bodyguards rushed to the front of the stage. They surrounded the children protectively and watched over them on high alert.

Fortunately, all five children were still standing before the stage, still enraptured by the magic show.

Sherlyn was also with them, talking and laughing merrily. It seemed as if she was utterly oblivious to what was happening outside.

Lupine observed Sherlyn and dismissed her suspicions when she saw the latter's attention was all on the children and the magic performance. In fact, she even felt a tinge of guilt for having doubted her.

Even if someone did manage to sneak in, it would be an assassin from Erihal. Lady Sherlyn can't have played a part in it. Although she's overbearingly protective and impatient, there's inherently nothing bad about her.

While the commotion was going on outside, the two figures in the bedroom were still wrapped in each other's arms, lost in ecstasy.

At the same time, Charlotte was blissfully fast asleep inside the closet.

The pair of female bodyguards standing guard by the door was unaware of what was going on inside the bedroom.

After all, the sound of the fireworks exploding in the sky outside had drowned out all the sounds coming from inside.

Sherlyn casually glanced in the direction of the bedroom upstairs, and her lips curled into a smirk. Louis and Charlotte must have done it!

Little did she know, Diana had foiled her plan.

Soon after, the fireworks slowly faded into the night sky as the magic show came to an end.

Before leaving the stage, the magician happily signed autographs for the children, snapped photos with them, and taught them simple tricks.

It was late into the night, and the children were getting sleepy.

Sherlyn bent down to their height and asked with a smile, "So, did you all have fun today?"

"Yes!" the children shouted happily in unison.

"Well, I'm happy that my effort paid off," she said with a pleased smile. "It's late now. Let's all go to sleep."

"Okay!" they said obediently.

Lupine ordered Morgan and the other female bodyguards to escort the children back to their rooms.

The maids were tidying up the garden, and the magician troupe was packing up their props on stage, getting ready to leave.

Everything was being wrapped up in an orderly manner. In the meantime, Gordon and his men were combing the area to seek the people who had snuck into the manor while Lupine and Morgan had their hands full with the children.

As a result, none of them knew what was happening in the bedroom.

After Sherlyn had tucked the children in for the night, she returned to her room. As soon as she removed her heavy coat, she asked impatiently, "How did it go? Is it done?"

"Yes. We watched Sir Louis enter Ms. Lindberg's bedroom with our own eyes. It's been two hours, and they're still in there," one maid replied as the others covered their mouths and giggled.

"That silly boy! He's usually such a goody-two-shoes, but I gave him some liquid courage today." Sherlyn was elated. "Well, that's

great! With that, the wedding will surely go on! I may even get a little grandchild!"

"Congratulations in advance, Lady Sherlyn!" the maids gushed, eager to flatter the duchess.

"It's all thanks to you!" Sherlyn said graciously. She was in an especially good mood today.

"Lady Sherlyn, we'll draw you a hot bath."

The maids helped Sherlyn undress for the night, chattering the whole time about what had gone down between Louis and Charlotte.

The more Sherlyn heard from them, the prouder she became. I made a great decision!

However, she suddenly recalled something and asked, "Where's Diana?"

"Diana was busying herself at the stage earlier today. After that, we don't know where she disappeared to," the maid replied with a shrug. "Maybe she went back to her room to rest."

"Hmph! Does she think I don't know what's going on?" Sherlyn sneered. "She's just upset to see Louis and Charlotte together."

"Sir Louis is an attractive young man, both inside and out. He and Diana are childhood sweethearts, so it's not unusual for her to have a crush on him," the maid said with a small smile.

"Oh, she wishes!" Sherlyn raised her chin, her voice dripping with disdain. "My son is of noble birth. Not any woman is worthy of him."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1211

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"Of course!" The maid nodded vigorously in agreement.

"Frankly, I didn't think Charlotte was worthy of him either in the beginning." An inexplicable mix of emotions filled Sherlyn as she spoke. "After all, she's divorced and already had children from her previous marriage. How could she be worthy of being Louis' wife?"

"Yes, that's true. Besides, she's actually two years older than Sir Louis, if I recall correctly," one of the maids added in a judgmental tone.

"I just feel a little upset whenever I think about this matter," Sherlyn said with a frown. "I fought with my husband about this back then, but he was right. When you consider the power and influence that the Lindberg family holds, what does it matter that she was once married and already has children?"

Truthfully, Louis could easily find himself a thousand other young ladies if he ever got bored of Charlotte. However, it would be impossible for him to find someone like her, a beautiful woman who hails from a good family and possesses great talents of her own.

"That's true..." the maids concurred.

"Anyway, since Louis loves her, I won't stand in his way." Sherlyn heaved a sigh. "After all, he's my only son, and I want him to be happy!"

"Lady Sherlyn, you truly care for Sir Louis a lot."

"Stop chattering now and hurry up. After this, make sure to send someone to keep an eye on Charlotte's bedroom. Remember to inform me to go over before they wake up..."

"We understand," the maids replied obediently.

While his mother was busy masterminding her scheme, Louis was already fast asleep.

After all, it was his first experience. At midnight, he had gotten so tired that he dozed off.

Diana leaned in his embrace and rained kisses all over his sleeping face, besotted with him. She wanted to be one with him forever, never to be separated again.

However, she knew it was not the time yet.

After forcing herself to get out of bed, she got dressed, tiptoed to the closet, and dragged the unconscious Charlotte out of it. Then, she undressed her and plopped her onto the bed next to Louis.

Her heart ached at the sight of the man she loved lying next to another woman. At the same time, she shot a look of resentment at Charlotte.

However, she knew her grand plan would be ruined if she acted hastily.

She did not stop at merely placing Charlotte in that compromising position. Instead, she went further and pinched the latter's chest and thighs, leaving purple bruises on her delicate skin. Then, she threw the duvet over her and Louis' naked bodies.

It was four o'clock in the morning, and the world was silent.

No one was still awake in the manor. Diana quietly slipped out of the bedroom and quickly returned to the maid's room on the first floor. Her heart was fluttering with joy the entire time.

Just as she returned to her room, a maid, who had woken up to relieve herself, caught sight of her. She asked casually, "Diana, where did you go? Why are you back so late?"

"I was in the garden the whole time..." Diana replied smoothly, for she had already thought of an excuse. Feigning a dejected expression, she continued, "You even walked past me! You didn't notice me?"

"Huh? Oh, okay..." the maid replied groggily and went back to sleep.

Diana breathed a sigh of relief and tiptoed into the bathroom to take a shower. Seeing the love marks Louis had left on her skin, she recalled the sweetness she had experienced earlier that night and felt blissful.

After washing up, she was about to lay in bed when another maid came over and called them hurriedly, "Get up! Lady Sherlyn is about to wake up!"

"I'll attend to her," Diana volunteered. "You all can continue sleeping."

"We can't fall back asleep! Something big is happening today, so we all have to be there," another maid said mysteriously. "If everything goes well, Lady Sherlyn may reward us!"

"Wow! Okay, time to get up!" the other maids said excitedly. All traces of sleep disappeared from their faces as they immediately rushed to the bathroom to freshen up.

Diana's heart sank. However, she knew that it was not time yet. She had to continue to be patient.

"I'll go attend to Lady Sherlyn first. Take your time to get ready."

Diana hurried to Sherlyn's bedroom.

When she entered, the duchess was already seated at her dressing table, putting on makeup and setting her hair. Diana walked toward her quickly. "Aunt Sherlyn, let me do it!"

"Where were you last night?" Sherlyn asked pointedly.

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"I was just hanging out in the garden for a little while..." Diana replied in a soft voice.

"You know, Diana, we should all know our social status and where we stand in relation to one other." Sherlyn hinted at her. "What is yours will be yours. Whatever that isn't meant to be yours... Well, just forget about it."

"Yes, I understand." Diana lowered her head humbly. He's already mine.

"It's good that you understand. Now, do my makeup quickly. I'm going to see Louis soon."

Sherlyn assumed that Diana had accepted her fate and smiled triumphantly to herself.

Charlotte woke up in a confused state. Her head felt heavy, and her body was aching everywhere. Trying to ease the discomfort, she rubbed her temples and turned to her side. The bed felt more sunken in for some reason as if someone was lying next to her.

Her sleepy eyes suddenly shot wide open in surprise. There really is someone in bed with me! I thought I was dreaming!

Blinking her eyes hard in disbelief, she took a second look. Someone is really lying beside me!

"Ah!" Charlotte screamed in horror and quickly sat up. That was when she realized that she was completely naked. At that realization, she hastened to pull the duvet to cover her bare chest and tried hard to recall what had happened the previous night.

Louis jolted awake from her shout. He turned around and was also stunned to find himself lying next to her. Lifting the duvet, he glanced down at his naked body and recalled last night's events.

In an instant, a grin lit up his face as he reached out to hug Charlotte. "Charlotte, we've finally—"

"No, that's impossible! No way!" She dodged his outstretched arms, shaking her head in a panic. "There must be some sort of a mistake here!"

"How can it be a mistake?" he asked anxiously. "We were clearly making love last night! You were holding onto me so tightly, and you kept on kissing me everywhere—"

"I did no such thing! That can't be true!" Charlotte interrupted him. "You're mistaken. You must be mistaken!"

"I'm not mistaken!" Louis insisted. "Charlotte, I know it was not right of me. We've had too much to drink last night. I know I wasn't very gentle with you, and I didn't consider your feelings. I swear I'll be better next time. Please don't be angry with me!"

"No, no, this is not happening..." Before Charlotte could finish her sentence, a knock sounded at the door. Sherlyn called out from the other side, "Charlotte, are you awake? Let's take the children out for horse riding."

Charlotte panicked even more when she heard the duchess' voice.

She wanted to get up from the bed, but she was completely naked, and her clothes were nowhere to be seen. In a hurry, she tried to wrap herself in the duvet, but her movement exposed Louis' bare body. Shocked, Charlotte quickly turned her head away.

"Charlotte, are you going to take a shower? I'll grab a towel for you..." Louis offered when he saw Charlotte getting up. He was trying to appease her.

"Shh!" Charlotte hurriedly hushed him. However, it was too late as Sherlyn spoke again. "Huh, why do I hear Louis' voice inside the room?"

With that, she started rapping the door again. "Louis, are you in there?"

"Mom, I—"

"Shut up!" Charlotte was about to explode in frustration.

"Oh, so you are inside the room." Sherlyn twisted the doorknob and pushed open the door. "Well, I'm coming in then. Let's go to..."

However, her voice trailed off when she saw the mess in front of her.

Wide-eyed, she stared at them in astonishment. “You two...”

All the maids who were following along behind her, including Diana, saw the scene as well.

Every single one of them gaped at Louis and Charlotte, then exchanged hushed whispers.

Charlotte closed her eyes in defeat and wished fervently for the ground to swallow her whole.

“Mom, what are you doing? Get out!”

Louis quickly helped wrap the duvet tightly around Charlotte’s naked frame.

“I’m sorry. I’m so sorry...”

Sherlyn hurriedly turned around and left with her entourage of maids away, even ordering them to close the door.

However, before the door was fully shut, Lupine and Morgan, who had just arrived at the scene, caught sight of the naked Charlotte and Louis in the bedroom.

Zachary, who was walking behind the two of them, too, saw what was happening inside the bedroom.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1213

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When Zachary called Charlotte the previous night, he had boarded a chartered private jet to fly him into Arkfield.

He wanted to tell her that he would be arriving early in the morning and that he wished to have a proper conversation with her, but Louis cut off his call.

Although Zachary was rather ticked off by that, he did not pursue the matter.

That was because he trusted Charlotte and believed that she still loved him and would never cheat on him with another man.

However, a terrible surprise greeted him when he arrived at the manor.

Even though he did not enter the bedroom and was still standing quite a distance from the door, he had seen everything that he needed to see.

His height allowed him to see over the women's heads in front of him, so he had a clear view of the bedroom.

With his own eyes, he saw the naked figures of Louis and Charlotte on the bed. The entire room was in a mess. Anybody could have easily guessed what had happened the night before in that room.

"Z-Zachary, when did you get here?" Sherlyn was startled to see Zachary.

She had not considered him in her intricate scheme.

In fact, she had no idea that Zachary would be arriving in the manor at this hour.

However, this is quite a good surprise...

Zachary did not reply to her as his eyes were still fixed on the scene in the bedroom.

Recently, the treatments he had been undergoing caused him to lose a lot of weight, and hence his eyes were sunken. His hair had

grown long, and there were lines on his face where there once were none.

Even so, his eyes were still sharp, and he still exuded a domineering aura.

Beneath them, emotions rolled like raging waves in a sea at night.

Sherlyn felt rather flustered by his expression. She knew that blood would spill if Zachary were to lose his temper.

However, when reminded that they were in the Laurent family's manor, she quickly steeled herself. This is my territory. Besides, Charlotte and Louis are about to get married.

No matter how scared she was of him, she knew she had to stand up to him for her son's sake.

Hence, the duchess stepped toward Zachary and said in a polite tone, "Louis and Charlotte are already engaged. Their wedding will be held in seven days. Even if something did happen last night..."

Her sentence was cut short by the sharp look he had thrown at her.

Frightened, she quickly held her tongue. She did not even dare to breathe as panic filled her eyes.

However, Zachary did not explode with fury, unlike the usual him. In a low, icy tone, he ordered Lupine, "Attend to her bath. I'll be waiting for her in the study half an hour later."

After that, he spun on his heels and headed to the study downstairs.

"Yes!" Lupine snapped out of her daze and headed into the bedroom with the female bodyguards to help Charlotte sort out the mess.

Diana, too, led two maids into the room. She helped Louis into a robe and escorted him out of Charlotte's bedroom.

"Lady Sherlyn, Sir Robert is on the phone," one of the maids announced hurriedly.

"Get back to work!" Sherlyn took the phone from the maid and started to walk back to her bedroom. "What are you all still doing here?"

"Yes." The maids lingering in the corridor quickly disappeared.

Sherlyn shut her bedroom door behind her and said into the phone, "What's the matter?"

"Has Zachary arrived at the manor?" Robert asked eagerly. "He didn't confront Louis, did he?"

"Not yet, but he might later..." she replied, feeling a little uneasy. "This is our home! Zachary wouldn't dare to pick a fight here, would he?"

"Did something happen?" He probed further.

"Well..." She then told him about what happened between Louis and Charlotte the night before. "I didn't expect Zachary to appear at that moment. He saw everything, and the way he gazed at them seemed as if he wanted to eat them up!"

"Louis has always been a gentleman. How did he become so wild after a few drinks?" Robert wondered out loud. "Even if the boy got drunk, Charlotte would still have been sober. Did you do something?"

"The pressing matter now is to ensure your son's safety! What nonsense are you talking about?" Sherlyn snapped. "Hurry up and get back here! If Zachary loses his temper, you're the only one who can stop him."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1214

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"I'm on my way." Robert added sternly, "Whatever Zachary does, don't push his buttons. Be patient and make concessions if you need to until I arrive."

Sherlyn was frustrated at his advice. "Why are you so scared of him? We're in F Nation."

He merely retorted, "You've led a sheltered life for far too long, and you're out of touch with the dangers out there. You need to trust me on this; don't cause more trouble-

"Okay, okay, I got it," came Sherlyn's reluctant agreement. "Now hurry up! I'm going to check on Louis."

After hanging up, she did not immediately visit Louis but instead turned to her subordinates. "Have all our bodyguards patrol the periphery. If anyone catches Zachary messing around, seize him immediately."

"Yes, Lady Sherlyn."

The order did little to soothe Sherlyn's anxiety, and she eventually grabbed a gun from a drawer and hid it beneath her clothes before visiting her son.

Meanwhile, Charlotte was taking a shower when she noticed some marks on her body. She gasped in shock. "What's this?"

Morgan was surprised as well, and she sputtered, "Ms. Lindberg, did you and Sir Louis-

"I don't remember a thing," Charlotte interrupted as she clutched her forehead in frustration.

She tried her best to recall what happened earlier.

"I remember chatting with Louis after coming back to my room. We argued, and I slapped him so hard that his nose began bleeding. He got himself cleaned up in the bathroom while I drank some water on the couch. I fell asleep after that."

Charlotte had a splitting headache then. "I really don't remember anything after that."

Morgan said, "Did Sir Louis do something while you-"

She could hardly bring herself to finish her sentence as she became overwhelmed with anger.

"That jerk! And here I thought he was a real gentleman! I can't believe he's so dishonorable! I'm going to kill him!"

Morgan made to leave the room, huffing with anger, when Lupine pulled her back. "What are you doing? Nothing's confirmed yet, and you're rushing about like some headless chicken. Get a grip!"

"But Sir Louis took advantage of Ms. Lindberg."

Lupine repeated herself, "We need to clarify things before jumping to conclusions."

"Aren't things clear enough already? The proof is right in front of you!"

"You've literally considered one possibility."

"I-"

"Enough! Please stop fighting," Charlotte pleaded as their argument worsened her headache.

"Sorry," the two of them said in unison, lowering their heads in shame.

Charlotte tried her best to consider the situation logically. "Louis wouldn't do something like this. The key to solving this puzzle is my memory loss. My gut instinct tells me that nothing happened between us. But if that's the case, where did these marks on my body come from, then?"

“Something’s fishy about this whole situation.” After some thought, Lupine continued, “I’ll check things out; we might be missing something.”

Charlotte’s heart skipped a beat as a face suddenly came to mind. “He saw it!”

Lupine immediately understood who she meant. “I didn’t expect Mr. Nacht to show up at this time. You won’t be able to play dumb about this now.”

“Mr. Nacht’s got a temper, though. I have no idea what he’ll do next.” Morgan sounded worried as well.

Charlotte’s mind drifted to her kids. She addressed Lupine, “You should leave to keep an eye on the children. Don’t let them know about this. Bring Jamie, Robbie, and Ellie to the pasture; you can bring Danrique’s children along. Tell them that Mommy and Daddy have some things to discuss and will pick them up a bit later.”

“I’m on it.” Right before Lupine left, she turned to Morgan and said, “Stay here and accompany Ms. Lindberg. Make sure she’s okay.”

“Got it.”

Lupine bumped into Diana the moment she left Charlotte’s room.

Diana was heading to Louis’ bedroom with a steaming bowl of chicken soup.

The sight suddenly reminded Lupine of the two glasses of water from last night. Maybe something’s wrong with the water.

She immediately ordered Jade to track down the drinking glasses from last night and send them for analysis.

Jade got to work at once.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1215

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Zachary was slumped on a couch in the study room, his eyes downcast.

It was impossible to tell what was responsible for his cold, murderous gaze.

Bruce scrunched his brows in concern as he whispered, "He looks like he's about to kill someone."

Ben seemed more optimistic about the situation as he replied, "He won't. He's a lot calmer after that harrowing incident."

The words had barely left his mouth when someone opened the door from the outside. A familiar voice drifted in. "Zachary!"

It was Louis.

He had come to explain things for fear that Zachary would make things difficult for Charlotte.

Louis was fraught with nerves as he entered the room carefully. Even his voice shook as he called out his greeting earlier.

Zachary lifted his head slowly and stared coldly at Louis, looking like a predator scrutinizing its unfortunate prey.

Louis decided to defuse the tension in the room by mentioning Zachary's children. "Where's Jamie? Robbie and Ellie miss him dearly, and they've been hoping to meet him soon."

Zachary continued glaring at Louis wordlessly as the hands he had placed on his thighs gradually clenched into fists.

Still, Louis pushed on with his agenda and added, "Since you're already here, you're welcome to stay for a few more days. This way, the children can spend more time with each other--"

"They're my children!" Zachary seethed, finally breaking his silence. "You have no right to organize their lives."

"That's not what I meant. What I'm trying to say is-"

"Enough!" Zachary interrupted his meek defense. "Now tell me everything about last night; you'd better have a darn good explanation for what happened."

Louis sat obediently on a couch facing Zachary and launched into an explanation. "We were watching a magician troupe's performance last night, and Charlotte and I got drunk."

He suddenly paused in the middle of his words and said, "Wait, why should I be explaining anything to you? Charlotte and I are getting married soo-"

"She's my woman!" Zachary roared furiously

Stunned by his outburst, Louis stared at him silently.

"You're mistaken."

Sherlyn had shown up just then as Louis' cavalry.

"You may have been with Charlotte in the past, but all of that is history. We made a public announcement regarding Louis and Charlotte's marriage two months ago; Charlotte even made the statement herself. They're getting married in a week."

Instead of looking at Sherlyn, Zachary frowned and continued to interrogate Louis, "Is there anything else you'd like to say?"

"There's nothing left to say." Louis glanced at him timidly and lowered his head. "We got drunk, and then things just happened."

Sherlyn chimed in, "They're adults, for heaven's sake. Nothing's wrong if they slept together. Besides, you're her ex-husband; you don't have a say in their relationship. Why should Louis be explaining things-"

Crash!

Zachary slammed his fists on the glass coffee table before him, shattering it.

His action had Sherlyn shuddering in fear, utterly tongue-tied.

Meanwhile, Louis trembled and instinctively scooted backward.

The atmosphere in the study room instantly chilled by several degrees.

"D-Don't do anything stupid now," Sherlyn said fearfully. "We're in F Nation."

"Lady Sherlyn, please leave." Zachary's request was nothing more than a thinly-veiled command.

He seemed even more menacing as he wiped off the blood and glass shards on his hand with a wet towel.

"Why should I leave?"

"Lady Sherlyn, please leave."

Just then, Charlotte's voice rang out, sounding a lot calmer than Zachary.

She added for good measure, "I promise that nothing will happen to Louis."

With that, Charlotte entered the study room slowly, her gaze landing on Zachary. Her heart swirled with an array of conflicting emotions.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1216

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Zachary seemed different from the last time Charlotte saw him two months ago.

He had lost a lot of weight, causing his features to become more defined than before. The knuckles on his hands seemed unusually prominent, while his sunken eyes conveyed a hollow, depressed gaze.

Zachary's carefully-styled hair had become long, messy locks, making him seem wilder and more mysterious than ever.

Charlotte's heart ached at the sight.

She felt deeply regretful when she saw his heartbroken gaze.

When Zachary lifted his head, she immediately retracted her gaze. She did not want him to notice that she had been staring.

Steeling herself, Charlotte cooled her demeanor and ignored his gaze. She lowered her eyes and walked further into the room.

Sherlyn exclaimed, "Charlotte! You've arrived just in time. Please explain everything to Mr. Nacht. He seems to have some sort of misunderstanding about Louis, or he might've been too busy and missed the news of your engagement. Why, he thought Louis took advantage of you, and he's interrogating him right now!"

"Mom..." Louis warned, "Please leave. We'll talk things through with Zachary, and you shouldn't be involved."

"What are you rushing me for?" Sherlyn eyed her son disapprovingly before assuming the persona of a welcoming host and addressing Zachary instead. "Mr. Nacht, welcome to our manor. You and Louis are great friends, and I'm happy to have you here as a guest. Feel free to stay for a few more days, so that you'll be around for Louis' wedding as well!"

Sherlyn's invitation reeked of insincerity and condescension.

"Mom, stop it."

Louis glanced at Zachary nervously and tried to push his mother out of the study room.

"Why are you pushing me?" Zachary's non-reaction fueled Sherlyn's insolence as she added, "This is my house, and I'm the host. I have every right to welcome him-"

"Mom, that's enough," Louis cut in and finally pushed his mother out the door.

Tensions remained high in the study room. Zachary had not exploded earlier because he did not care for Sherlyn's words at all; it had nothing to do with a good temper.

He only cared about Charlotte's opinion.

"I'm still waiting for an explanation," he said hoarsely, staring at Charlotte with an indecipherable gaze.

I'll believe whatever she says. I'll believe it over anything I saw with my own two eyes.

Charlotte refused to meet his gaze as she replied, "There's nothing left to explain. We have nothing to do with each other, and anything I do is none of your business."

Her calm words hurt Zachary more than Sherlyn's insults ever would.

He could let any insult slide off his back, but he was powerless in the face of Charlotte's words, which felt like daggers stabbing straight through his heart.

Zachary asked cautiously, "So, last night, did you and Louis really-"

He cut his sentence short as the scene he had witnessed the night before crossed his mind. The pain in his heart was unbearable.

The study room became eerily silent as he awaited Charlotte's answer.

Charlotte kept her head lowered as her hands kneaded her dress anxiously. She had no idea how to answer him. She wanted so badly to tell him that nothing had happened, yet last night's memories seemed to evade her.

I could tell him that I don't remember what happened last night, but it's just going to come across as a lame joke. He'll never believe that.

"Tell me!" Zachary suddenly shouted, his patience running thin.

His bellow frightened Louis, who had headed back to the study room after ushering his mother out.

"Louis, you need to take care of yourself!" Sherlyn stuffed something into his hands before she left.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1217

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Louis stood at the doorway of the study room, staring at Zachary fearfully.

When he finally collected himself, he was surprised to discover a small handgun in his hand. Louis hastily stuffed the weapon into his shirt sleeve.

"What's it got to do with you?" Charlotte remained as hostile as before and continued, "I've cut ties with you since the moment you threw me out on the wedding and forced me to leave without my child. You have no right to interrogate me about the men I date or marry."

"Is this your way of saying that y-you were together last night?" Zachary seemed to ignore her statement, obsessed with only knowing what had happened the night before.

Charlotte steeled herself and answered, "Yes."

Technically, I was together with Louis last night. He's the one asking vague questions.

"Great! Just great!"

Zachary's hopes were utterly destroyed, along with his earlier composure. His gaze turned dangerous as he emanated a murderous aura.

He had initially thought that this was an elaborate hoax by the Laurent family to prevent him from reuniting with Charlotte and foiling her marriage plans with Louis.

In his imagination, Charlotte was a victim of drugging. Even if anything happened between Louis and her, he would forgive her if she was not a willing participant.

Charlotte's face was, however, devoid of any sadness or regret. Instead, she behaved as if she was trying to keep her distance from him.

She had not refuted anything that Sherlyn and Louis had said earlier.

And now, she had given him a direct answer to his pressing question.

Little by little, they chipped away at Zachary's fantasy of a loving reunion with Charlotte.

I should never have come here bearing false hope. She's changed a great deal since returning, and she's no longer the Charlotte of my past. How could this be?

Zachary's clenched fists were shaking with anger as he glared at Charlotte like a starved beast.

Charlotte continued to avoid his gaze as she declared, "Right then, everything's cleared up. Thank you for bringing Jamie to visit me, and I'd be grateful if you could allow him to stay for a few days. I'd

love to spend time with him and Ellie. You can take this time to accompany Robbie as well.”

She droned on about the children as if last night’s incident was nothing of consequence.

Unbeknownst to her, Zachary’s gaze was growing murderous at a frightful rate.

“You can even bring Robbie away with you for a couple of days as long as he’s agreeable to it.” Charlotte took a deep breath before saying her farewells. “That’s all I have to say. Goodbye.”

She was about to leave when Zachary lunged at her and pinned her against the couch.

“Zachary!” Louis rushed forward but was stopped by Ben.

“Ms. Lindberg!” Morgan was about to do the same when Marino pulled her back.

Zachary held Charlotte by her chin and gritted out, “Charlotte! Do you know how hard I’ve been trying to resolve the feud between the Lindbergs and the Nachts? I’ve been racking my brains for ways to approach you and make things up to you.”

He continued impassioned, “I even risked my life to find you. Whenever I was on the brink of death, the thought of you filled me with hope and the determination to survive. I did all this because I believed you would be awaiting my return as eagerly as I anticipated our reunion. But it looks like I was wrong. You couldn’t even wait one night. You threw yourself into another man’s arms despite knowing that I was coming to get you today.”

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"Everything I did was a joke to you! An utter joke!" Zachary's voice had lost its usual charm. Instead, it had turned hoarse with dejection.

He sounded both sad and spiteful.

Charlotte refused to allow her heart to soften. "We could never go back to the way things used to be. It's far too late."

"Look at me, Charlotte." Zachary desperately clung to his hopes for a reunion. He cupped her cheeks and forced her to meet his gaze. "Tell me you were forced and sabotaged. As long as you didn't agree to any of this, I'll forgive you!"

At that moment, Zachary had sunk to the lowest point of his life.

He had never begged so pitifully for a woman before, to the point of tossing aside all his pride. Nonetheless, it was a worthwhile sacrifice if he could regain her trust and love.

Charlotte's eyes welled with tears as she took in his bloodshot eyes.

She had never seen him in such anguish, and she could not help but sympathize with him.

Regret and hatred filled her soul, urging her to confess that she had not voluntarily agreed to this marriage, that she had no idea what had happened.

"Talk to me!" Zachary bellowed impatiently. He needed to hear the words from her own mouth.

I'll believe anything she says.

"I-I-" Charlotte was about to say something when Zachary stiffened at the sight of the bruises along her neck and collarbone.

He tore apart her blouse viciously, and his world came crashing down the moment he saw the hickeys littered on her chest.

Charlotte followed his gaze and froze, realizing that she had no way of explaining herself now.

"Charlotte! Y-You! How could you do this to me? Why would you?" Zachary was going mad with rage.

He suddenly punched a fist forward, causing Charlotte to close her eyes and wince subconsciously.

The fist whooshed past her and landed in an antique vase behind her.

The vase instantly shattered into pieces, some of which landed on Charlotte's face and body. One of the pieces slashed her cheek, and blood trickled down her face.

Zachary's bloody fist was full of cuts.

Morgan tried to rush to Charlotte's aid but to no avail as Marino continued holding her back.

"Zachary, what the hell are you doing?" Louis finally lost his composure and whipped out the gun in his sleeve. He yelled, "Let go of her!"

Ben was taken aback at his actions, having never expected the typically gentle Louis to point a gun at someone else.

He had perhaps lowered his guard far too much against Louis.

"Sir Louis, please stay calm and put the gun down," coaxed Ben.

Louis seemed impervious to the bodyguard's words as he continued pointing the gun shakily at Zachary. "I said, let go of Charlotte! She's my fiancée, and I won't allow you to treat her like this!"

"Your fiancée?" Zachary sneered, though he gradually loosened his hold on Charlotte. Turning around, he stared at Louis patronizingly and said, "You were still out of the picture when she was giving birth to our kids."

"Y-You," Louis sputtered awkwardly.

Zachary swiped the gun from his hand in a flash. He pointed it at Louis' chest. "I treated you like my brother, but you stole my woman, and now you're here pointing a gun at me!"

Louis' eyes widened in fear. "I—" The words froze up in his throat.

Zachary switched off the safety and threatened, "I'll kill you right now, and she won't have to walk down the aisle. Go to hell!"

"No!" Charlotte ran forward and stood between him and Louis. "Zachary, don't be rash."

He clenched his jaw and glared at her. "You're protecting him? Do you think I won't shoot you?"

Charlotte explained hurriedly, "Don't do anything stupid. There are royal forces from F Nation surrounding this place. You shouldn't put yourself at risk for me."

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Zachary scoffed in response. "The royal forces? Do you really think that would scare me?"

He then pointed his gun at the ceiling and fired several successive shots.

Bang! Bang!

The bullets struck the chandelier on the ceiling, sending crystals raining down.

Just then, the door to the study room burst open, and dozens of armed soldiers rushed into the room. More soldiers stood outside the window of the study room, and all of them trained their guns at Zachary.

Sherlyn entered the room last, flanked by more armed men.

"Put down the gun if you want to live, Zachary." She had a gun pointed at him as well.

Louis exclaimed, "Mom, what are you doing?" He had never imagined that his mother would cause such a scene.

While he pointed his gun at Zachary to protect Charlotte, his mother's actions represented the Laurents' declaration of war against the Nacht family.

It was wholly unnecessary and out of line.

Zachary burst into laughter. "Did you think you could stop me with dozens of soldiers?"

Sherlyn remained painfully ignorant of the danger ahead. "Such insolence! Even if you're not scared of our soldiers, there's still the Lindberg family, and we have Mr. Lindberg's best men with us. There's no way you'd be able to escape!"

"Mom, stop it," Louis pleaded nervously.

"Lady Sherlyn, it seems like you've been sheltered for far too long. I pity your ignorance about the evils of the outside world."

The soldiers outside the window suddenly crumpled over just as Zachary finished his sentence.

Dumbfounded, Sherlyn could only watch as bodyguards from the Nacht family stormed into the study room before neutralizing her men.

"Y-You," she stuttered in disbelief.

Robert had arrived home just then, and he immediately apologized. "Zachary, please have mercy on us!"

He added pleadingly, "Please accept my apology on behalf of my wife; she doesn't know any better. Our families have been on good terms for many years, especially Mr. Nacht. It would be such a shame to ruin our relationship over such a minor issue."

"A minor issue?" Zachary asked, though he kept his piercing gaze on Charlotte.

"Whatever it was, there's no need to bring death into the equation." Robert hastily changed tack and offered an olive branch. "Let's sit down and have a talk over this, shall we? We shouldn't exchange arms at all costs. Please accept my suggestion for my sake, all right?"

Zachary tossed the gun in his hand to Robert. "I wanted to have a peaceful talk, but Lady Sherlyn is being impolite. This gun belongs to your family."

Robert knew at first glance that the gun belonged to Sherlyn. He wanted desperately to tell off his wife right then and there, but the urgency of the situation demanded him to first bow to Zachary in apology.

"Please accept my deepest apologies over Sherlyn's and Louis' behavior. On account of our families' good relationship and the sake of your grandfather, I hope you can be the bigger person and forgive our transgressions!"

"What are you doing?" Sherlyn was dumbfounded at her husband's meek demeanor. Zachary's the one in his territory, for God's sake!

Robert roared impatiently, "Shut up! Must you carry on like this until Louis' life is in danger?"

Sherlyn swallowed her displeasure and kept quiet.

Charlotte chimed in, "Zachary, let's talk through this alone instead of making a scene. The children are still in the manor, and I'm sure they'll be upset if they find out about this."

The mention of their children worked wonders in soothing Zachary's mood.

Gone was the murderous gaze, though anger and hatred still swirled in the depths of his eyes. "There's nothing left to say. I'm bringing all three kids with me!"

He turned to leave.

“Zachary! What do you mean? We’ve discussed this; Robbie stays with me,” Charlotte yelled and chased after him.

He replied without even turning back, “Too bad, I’ve changed my mind. I won’t allow my son to call someone else ‘Dad.’ They’re my kids, and they’re coming with me. That’s final!”

“Y-You-” Charlotte was tongue-tied at his audacity.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1220

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Charlotte's words were cut short by the arrival of a subordinate. "I have horrible news, Ms. Lindberg. Someone from the Nacht family took Mr. Robinson and Ms. Elisa away!"

"What?" She paled as she realized how serious the matter had become. Pulling her skirt up, she ran as fast as she could after Zachary. "Hold it right there, Zachary!"

He ignored her and got into his car.

She plastered herself against the open window of his car and yelled anxiously, "Zachary, where did you bring the kids to? What are you playing at?"

Without sparing her a glance, Zachary had his car window rolled up.

The vehicle sped off, and Charlotte would have fallen to the ground if someone had not pulled her back.

Charlotte whirled around to see who had caught her. "Gordon? Quick, chase them down! Bring the kids home."

Gordon scrunched his brows and said, "It's too late. The Nachts had been planning this for a while now. They planted their men in the manor as early as a month ago."

Stunned, she asked, "What do you mean?"

"Do you remember asking someone to investigate why Fifi had been falling sick so frequently? It turns out that someone from the Nacht family had been drugging Fifi to prevent it from discovering their presence."

Gordon continued, "About a month ago, Bruce smuggled a dozen of their best bodyguards into the manor. They were secretly

protecting Alpha when she got lost; that's how she returned safely. They were initially assigned to protect you and the children. Last night, they went to meet Zachary and set their plans into motion."

He then provided the last piece to the puzzle. "Zachary came to bring you home. If the Laurent family objected, his bodyguards would reveal themselves and fight off their men. I guess they didn't expect your incident from last night. Zachary must've made an impromptu decision to have the children brought away with him if you refused to follow him."

Charlotte finally understood what had happened.

Robert's anxious behavior and profuse apologies to Zachary now made complete sense.

He must've expected Zachary to come prepared. If their men went head-to-head, they would be eaten alive by Zachary's men. That's why Gordon chose to remain neutral.

Charlotte never imagined that Zachary would have sent his men into the manor to protect her and the kids.

He had not spent two months apart only to return for the children.

In fact, he had never given up on any of his children or Charlotte.

He merely wanted to settle some matters before bringing Charlotte and their children home.

Last night's incident ruined his plans, so he decided to only bring the kids with him.

Gordon said regretfully, "I'm sorry, Ms. Lindberg. It's my fault for underestimating Zachary. He's been keeping a low profile over the past six months and relenting on so many matters. I truly believed he had suffered a massive blow and would not pull any tricks out of his sleeve. I did not expect him to be waiting for the right moment to strike. We're so understaffed that failure is inevitable if we went head-to-head against the Nacht family. Most importantly, Zachary is their father. The kids are safe with him, and I have no grounds to demand their return."

"I understand. It's not your fault." Charlotte trudged back to the manor dejectedly.

Gordon caught up to her and wrapped his jacket around her shoulders. "You should talk to Zachary or the kids. There must be some room for negotiation. At least you can rest easy knowing that he would never harm the children. The first thing you should do is talk to the Laurents and figure out what happened last night. I'll get Mr. Lindberg's kids from the pasture and come back as soon as possible."

With that, Gordon left in a hurry.

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Morgan and a few female bodyguards came rushing up to Charlotte upon Gordon's departure. "Ms. Lindberg! I just found out that Robbie and Ellie were taken away by Mr. Nacht's men. Lupine is chasing after them as we speak."

Charlotte said despondently, "Ask her to come back. There's no point in chasing them; we'd never catch up to them anyway."

"B-But-"

"Charlotte!" Louis interrupted Morgan's protests as he ran toward Charlotte. "Are you okay?"

She lifted her head and stared at him blankly before glancing at Robert and Sherlyn in the distance, feeling torn.

Louis immediately comforted her, "Charlotte, I heard that Zachary brought the kids with him. Don't worry; I'll talk to him. You should rest in your room and leave everything to me."

"Okay, thank you."

Charlotte bowed lightly to Robert and Sherlyn on the way to the manor.

Sherlyn sighed and said, "She's so calm. The average woman would've freaked out at such an incident. Her composure is admirable."

"She's a Lindberg, after all. Mr. Lindberg would never tolerate fools," Robert commented sulkily.

Sherlyn nodded in agreement. "I guess you're right. Anyway, what's with your attitude? You're behaving as if I did something wrong."

Her ignorance stoked Robert's anger. "You are in the wrong! Did you have any idea what you just did?"

Sherlyn retorted petulantly, "What did I do wrong? The Lindbergs and the Nachts are enemies. Why do we need to walk on eggshells around the Nacht family when Louis is marrying a Lindberg?"

"We can't afford to offend either of them. The business world is like a battlefield; it's utterly unpredictable. It's always to our benefit to maintain a good relationship with powerful families for the stability of our future," explained Robert angrily.

"I don't understand."

Robert was incensed. "You don't understand? Just a few months ago, the Nacht family ran into trouble while the Lindbergs basked in their success. Look at how quickly the tables have turned. The Nachts have returned to their former glory, yet the Lindberg Corporation is fraught with danger. That's the whole reason why I dared not cross Zachary when we arranged this marriage between Louis and Charlotte. The Nachts could always make a comeback in the future. How could you mess things up at such a crucial time, offending Zachary of all people! Do you wish to cut off our backup plan?"

"Dear Lord, how could this be? Should we even proceed with the marriage then?" Sherlyn wailed.

"It's a week to the wedding, and there's no way for us to contact Mr. Lindberg." Robert frowned and added worriedly, "In any case, we should continue preparing for the wedding. Who knows, we might hear from him soon."

Sherlyn asked nervously, "If the Lindbergs go downhill, and the Nachts are on the rise, aren't we labeling ourselves as the Nacht family's enemy by pushing through with this wedding?"

"No worries about that; you've already turned us into their enemies. You were so aggressive earlier, insulting and threatening Zachary. Our backup plan was long gone." Robert's jaw clenched with fury.

Sherlyn was distraught. "I didn't know. Why didn't you tell me? Oh dear, what should we do? Can we salvage this situation?"

"You need to visit him and personally apologize to him. Then, we can only hope that Mr. Lindberg will resolve his matters and restore Lindberg Corporation to its former glory!"

"Okay, that's great. If there's an opportunity to apologize to Zachary in person, I promise I'll be on my best behavior. I'll do anything to fix this," came Sherlyn's fervent promise.

"The best thing you can do now is to keep your mouth shut and stop creating problems for me."

She stared at her husband wordlessly and swallowed her indignance.

Charlotte immediately dialed Zachary's number once she got to her room. He rejected her call.

When she tried again, the call could not go through.

He blocked my number.

Charlotte used to do this to Zachary in the past, and now he was giving her a taste of her own medicine.

She paused to think for a moment before calling Robbie's number. The call failed to connect as his phone was switched off. The same thing happened when she attempted to call Jamie and Ellie.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1222

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Zachary was royally pissed at Charlotte's rejection, and he made his stance clear by cutting off her means of contact with their children.

Charlotte panicked, well-aware of how ruthless Zachary could be. He has the means to keep me from seeing my children forever. What on earth should I do?

She was pacing the room anxiously just as Lupine returned.

"Ms. Lindberg! The kids were taken away by people from the Nacht family."

Charlotte frowned and replied, "I know."

Lupine sported some injuries, likely from exchanging hands with Bruce. Thankfully, it seemed like he had contained himself, leaving Lupine with superficial wounds.

Lupine began recounting the events that had happened earlier. "It started with Bruce playing with the kids. He must've drugged them when I wasn't paying attention. Once the kids were sleeping soundly, he and his men brought them away. I noticed something was off and immediately tried to grab the kids, but I was no match for Bruce. By the time Gordon showed up, they were already gone, and he said it would be rash to go after them when they were the ones who had strength in numbers. Ms. Lindberg, I'm so sorry for my error. Please punish me as you see fit."

Charlotte sighed and said, "It's not your fault. I should've been more careful last night."

"Did Zachary do this because he was angry about you and Louis? How did your talk go?" Lupine asked carefully.

Morgan piqued up instead, "How else did you think it went? They even pulled out their guns. If Sir Robert hadn't arrived and

apologized, we'd be standing in the middle of a blood bath by now."

"You're right about that; his temper is notorious." Lupine scrunched her brows and wailed, "I should've accompanied Ms. Lindberg last night, then none of this would've happened."

"I fought with Marino earlier as well. I wanted to protect Ms. Lindberg, but he kept holding me back, so we ended up brawling with each other." Morgan became furious as she recalled the scene in the study room.

Lupine appeared to be disappointed as she said, "I only bumped into Ben and didn't even have the time to say anything to him. Dear God, how did everything turn into such a mess?"

Morgan glanced at her subtly, warning her to keep her mouth shut.

Charlotte was getting more and more dejected by the second.

Lupine coaxed her, "Ms. Lindberg, please don't worry too much. Mr. Nacht may have his reservations about you, but the children will miss you once they're awake. They'll want to get in touch with you, and there's nothing he can do to stop that."

"Please leave the room; I'd like to be alone for a while," Charlotte requested, rubbing her temples in frustration.

"Yes." Lupine nodded, though she looked like she had more to say.

Charlotte noticed her hesitance and asked, "Is there anything else?"

"I, erm, asked someone to get this earlier." Lupine blushed as she took out a box of morning-after pills and passed it to Charlotte. She lowered her volume to a whisper and added, "We can't reverse what happened last night, but I'm sure you wouldn't want to end up pregnant."

Charlotte frowned as she received the package from Lupine. A second later, she threw away the package and screamed angrily,

"None of this makes any sense! How could I... I don't have any recollection of what happened last night!"

"But your body..." Lupine could hardly bring herself to complete her sentence.

She shared Charlotte's disbelief, yet the hickeys that were on her body were irrefutable evidence. There can't be another explanation.

Charlotte's indignance grew. She turned to Morgan and ordered, "Ask Louis to come here. I have some questions for him."

"What? Here, in your room?" Morgan's eyes widened in surprise.

"Just do it."

"Yes." Morgan immediately left to summon Louis.

The man in question happened to be in his room, brainstorming with his parents on ways of helping Charlotte to get her kids from Zachary. Just then, someone knocked on his door, and a subordinate approached him soon after. "Sir Louis, Morgan says that Ms. Lindberg would like to invite you to her room."

"Really? Charlotte wants me to go to her room? I'll head over right away." Louis was elated.

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Louis practically skipped to Charlotte's room. "Charlotte, were you looking for me?"

She turned to her bodyguards and asked them to leave.

"Okay," Lupine and Morgan said in unison and left.

Overjoyed, Louis rushed forward and tried to hug his fiancée. "Charlotte."

She immediately avoided his arms and frowned. "I need to talk to you about something."

"Sure." Louis nodded eagerly and sat on a nearby couch.

"Last night, I remember you went to the bathroom to clean up after our argument. I drank some water on the couch, and I was so exhausted that I fell asleep."

She paused for a moment before asking suspiciously, "How did we end up in bed together? Could you explain it to me in detail?"

Louis was startled by her question. He thought Charlotte had been moved by his actions earlier that day and had called him over because she had grown to depend on him.

Instead, here she was asking him about last night's happenings like she was a cop interrogating a suspect.

"Why aren't you saying anything?" Charlotte frowned as she continued staring at Louis. "We've been friends for so many years. You drank a lot last night and seemed a bit odd, but I trust that you would never take advantage of me in such a way. That's why I'm asking you what exactly happened."

He only caught on to two words in her lengthy explanation. "Take advantage? Did you think that I took advantage of you while you were asleep? Charlotte, is that the kind of person you think I am?"

Charlotte's head throbbed in frustration. "Do you not understand what I'm asking? Look, I'm not in the mood to argue with you today. Please, could you just answer my question?"

"I don't want to argue with you either. Charlotte, I know you don't love me, but the fact remains that we slept with each other. Shouldn't we come to terms with it and begin to care for one another? Why can't you accept the truth?" Louis was infuriated.

She retorted, "What truth? I have no recollection of what happened last night. I only remember falling asleep on the couch."

There was no way we could've slept with each other. Something's not right about this situation."

Louis became more agitated at her words. "Not right? Are you accusing me of taking advantage of you?"

"Well, I hope not. That's why I'm asking you-"

He cut her off before she could continue. "Charlotte, I never imagined that you would think of me that way." Shaking his head sadly, he continued, "I saw the way you looked at Zachary today. I know you still have feelings for him, but we're about to get married. Why can't you just accept reality?"

"Forget it; this is pointless. Please leave. I need to rest." Charlotte sighed in resignation.

"I was still talking to Mom and Dad about approaching Zachary to get the kids back. I've done nothing but put your best interests at heart! We're getting married in a week, and I hope you'd have organized your feelings by then!"

Louis turned and left the room after his despondent statement.

Charlotte was speechless at his petulant display. He refuses to tell me in detail about what happened last night, and the minute I suggest that something doesn't seem right, he goes into a huff and accuses me of living in denial. It's impossible to communicate with him!

She wondered how on earth she could figure out the truth at this rate.

Charlotte felt exhausted and decided to get a shower.

On her way to the bathroom, she noticed a stain on the white rug near her wardrobe. Moving closer, she realized that it was red and reminiscent of paint.

Charlotte immediately summoned Lupine to her room and had her send the stain for analysis.

She scoured her room for further clues, and she soon came across a few strands of hair in her wardrobe.

It looked like her hair, which seemed unusual to Charlotte.

The royal maids were meticulous and would come by to clean her room every morning. They would never allow strands of hair to cling to her clothing, let alone litter her wardrobe.

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Charlotte initially chalked the stray hair to the aftermath of an eventful day, which likely resulted in the maids only managing to change her bedsheets instead of doing a thorough cleaning of her room.

But if I haven't dumped anything I wore yesterday into the laundry basket in the wardrobe, how could my hair end up there? Are these even my hair? To whom could they belong to? If this is really my hair, how did it end up in here?

Charlotte had Lupine send the strands for analysis.

The results came back sooner than expected. The hair was indeed Charlotte's, and the red stain was nail polish.

It was a perplexing finding, given that Charlotte, Lupine, and Morgan did not use nail polish.

They concluded that someone sporting red nail polish had come into Charlotte's room.

Lupine covertly investigated the members of the household for potential suspects.

She noticed that a few of Sherlyn's personal maids wore nail polish, and three of them painted their nails red.

Unfortunately, their nails seemed impeccably neat and showed no prior signs of chipping.

Nonetheless, Lupine had the three maids put under surveillance in the hopes of uncovering new evidence.

Charlotte was disappointed that they could not make further progress in their investigation with the clue.

She had been calling Zachary and her children every day to no avail, which added to her frustration.

Robert had been contacting Zachary frequently as well as he expressed his wish of delivering an apology in person with Sherlyn and Louis in tow. Zachary ignored his pleas.

Charlotte suffered a poor appetite over three days of radio silence from Zachary, while Robert and Sherlyn worried incessantly about potential paybacks from Zachary.

Louis' efforts to track him down remained fruitless.

One night, Louis received a promising phone call during dinner. He turned to Charlotte, agitated as he said, "Charlotte, Mr. Murphy told me that he's meeting Zachary at the Regium Hotel in Pillere tomorrow night."

"Really?" Charlotte was elated as she summoned Lupine. "Get the car ready; we're going to Pillere."

"On it." Lupine left to carry out her orders.

Louis suggested, "Let me handle the arrangements. I'll come with you. I'd like to talk to Zachary as well."

"You shouldn't go; if he becomes angrier after seeing you, our discussion won't go anywhere." Charlotte was adamant.

"But--"

Sherlyn chimed in with her two cents on the situation. "Charlotte, you're marrying Louis in four more days. We've been planning to head to Pillere tomorrow anyway for your wedding preparations."

"That's right." Robert flashed a smile at Charlotte and continued, "I'll be busy greeting guests as well. Many of them have flown here from across the globe to attend your wedding despite their busy schedules. We must show them our utmost respect as a sign of our gratitude."

The couple's words hit Charlotte like a bucket of cold water. She only realized then how soon she would be walking down the aisle

with Louis, and the thought filled her with dread. She even had the urge to call off the entire wedding, though she could not bring herself to utter her request.

“Charlotte, I understand if you want to discuss the matters of your children with Zachary privately. We could still head to Pillere together tomorrow morning, right? Then you can meet him after we’ve settled down,” Louis offered, not wanting to make things difficult for Charlotte.

“Okay.” He had phrased his suggestion in such a way that it would be rude and inconsiderate of her to reject it.

Louis replied happily, “All right, that’s settled then.” He got his men started on the travel arrangements right away.

Sherlyn added with a smile, “It’s fine if Louis doesn’t travel with you. Zachary’s got a mean temper, and he might blow up when he sees Louis. We have the utmost faith in you, Charlotte!”

Her words were a thinly-veiled warning for Charlotte not to betray their trust while she was in Pillere.

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Charlotte felt uneasy about Sherlyn's words; she could not, however, deny that anyone would naturally be worried about their future daughter-in-law meeting an ex-husband alone at a hotel.

Instead of voicing her discomfort, she set down her cutlery and declared, "I'm going to see Danrique's kids. Please enjoy your dinner."

"All right," Sherlyn acknowledged briefly before turning back to her meal.

Louis placed his cutlery on the table and offered, "I'll accompany you, Charlotte."

She dismissed his offer coolly. "That won't be necessary; you should stay here with your parents. I want to be alone for a while."

Charlotte scuttled off soon after.

Louis watched her departing figure with a forlorn expression. His efforts to grow closer to her were always met with a frosty demeanor.

Despite their engagement, Charlotte had never once opened her heart to him.

Nothing he did could convince her to accept him as a romantic partner.

In the meantime, Charlotte had arrived at the playroom to meet Danrique's kids.

The triplets seemed unusually listless that day, fiddling with their Legos distractedly. Their chattering selves were nowhere to be found, plunging the room into silence.

Charlotte asked gently, "What's wrong? Why aren't any of you playing?"

Alpha pouted and replied, "Ellie isn't here, so it's not fun. Robbie's missing too. He doesn't play with us, but he always sits beside us like he's protecting us."

"Aunt Charlotte, where did they go?" Beta tugged on Charlotte's sleeve and asked, "Where did Jamie go? He looks like Robbie, and he knows how to do cartwheels. It was so cool! Where did they go to?"

"Did a bad person take them away?" Gamma asked with puppy-dog eyes.

She added, "Yesterday, I saw a super tall man wearing black clothes. He looked so fierce, just like a bad guy! Did he take Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie away?"

"That's their father. He's not a bad guy," Charlotte explained with a smile.

"Really?"

Her answer piqued the curiosity of all three kids, who crowded around her, bursting with questions of their own.

"So that tall, fierce bad guy was Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie's father? Does that mean he's your husband?"

"No, he doesn't have to be her husband. Mommy and Daddy aren't married, but Daddy is still our Daddy."

"Oh yeah, you're right. Aunt Charlotte is marrying Sir Louis, so Sir Louis is her husband."

"Then, who should we call Uncle?"

"Silly, of course it's Sir Louis."

"Then what do we call that tall fierce man?"

"We'll call him the tall, fierce bad guy!"

"That's too long. I can't remember it."

"Then we'll just call him bad guy!"

"Okay! I can remember that!"

The triplets chattered among themselves and even came up with a nickname for Zachary.

Charlotte could not help but laugh at their antics, though it was a bittersweet moment that reminded her of her missing children.

She wondered how Zachary would explain things to them. If they found out about what happened, would they hate me?

Charlotte could not sit still any longer and told Lupine, "Get the car ready. We're leaving for Pillere in half an hour."

"Huh? Aren't we setting off tomorrow morning with Sir Louis and his family?"

"I can't wait anymore. Let's go now. I'll get Dr. Felch, and I want you to settle the travel arrangements ASAP. We'll go to Pillere with these kids and the doctor," came Charlotte's firm orders.

"Got it." Lupine immediately got to work.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1226

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Charlotte felt sorry for making Dr. Felch run around with her, especially at his old age.

Still, it would be far worse to leave him and Danrique's children at the manor while she traveled to Pillere alone; after all, her relationship with the Laurents was, at best, strained.

Louis was as loving as ever toward her, but Robert and Sherlyn had begun to behave differently around her.

Charlotte knew that Danrique's continued absence as the wedding approached complicated matters.

Robert and Sherlyn had probably begun to assume that Danrique's agreement to the marriage was no more than a safety net for Charlotte and her children.

They might even be beating themselves up for allying with the wrong family now that the Lindberg Corporation was in trouble while the Nacht Group had successfully made a comeback.

If the Lindberg Corporation toppled, they would have nowhere to turn to after Sherlyn's irredeemable behavior toward Zachary.

They would have lost more than they had expected.

While Robert and Sherlyn's behavior was understandable, it spoke volumes about their lack of compassion.

Charlotte could not believe how she had ever thought of Louis' family as noble and sincere people. I must've been blind.

She went to the loft to tell Dr. Felch about her plans to go to Pillere.

He seemed confused as he asked, "Aren't you and Sir Louis getting married in three days? Why are you heading to Pillere early? Did something happen?"

Charlotte knew she would eventually have to come clean about her motives. "To tell you the truth, Zachary came by a couple of days ago and brought our children away. I'd like to talk to him in Pillere about it."

"All right." Dr. Felch smiled in response. "I'm always in this loft preparing medicine when I'm not treating anyone, and I've been sorely unaware of the happenings in the manor."

She eked out regretfully, "I'm sorry for forcing you to travel again, Dr. Felch. After I've settled things in Pillere, I promise I'll send you home."

"Are there direct flights from Arkfield? I can fly back myself." Dr. Felch had been planning on returning home for a while now.

"You're thinking of leaving now? But I haven't been able to thank you properly for your service yet," Charlotte said uneasily.

The doctor merely smiled and replied, "There's plenty of time for that. You and Ellie have almost recovered, so there's no need for me to stay any longer."

Just then, his thoughts drifted to Zachary. "I do recall Zachary falling sick some time ago. Is he feeling better now?"

Clueless about his illness, Charlotte answered, "He lost a lot of weight when I saw him last, though he seemed to be in good spirits. I guess he has recovered."

"That's wonderful." Dr. Felch nodded before adding, "I'll get going then; the two of you have almost completed your courses of medication anyway. Please feel free to visit me in Phoenix City if you require my services in the future."

"Okay, I'll handle your travel arrangements right away."

Charlotte had Morgan hire a private jet for Dr. Felch. There were no routes directly connecting Arkfield to Phoenix City, and upon further discussion, Dr. Felch decided to transit in H City.

He wanted to pay his respects to the late Richard Windt and visit some friends. He also insisted that flying home from H City afterward would not be a hassle.

Charlotte assigned two bodyguards and two maids to accompany Dr. Felch, Sam, and Hayley to the airport. She instructed them to take care of the doctor and ensure his safe return to his home in Phoenix City.

After settling Dr. Felch's travel arrangements, Charlotte was ready to depart for Pillere with Danrique's kids in tow.

Her convoy began approaching the gates of the manor, only to be stopped a moment later by bodyguards from the Laurent family. "Apologies, Ms. Lindberg, but you cannot leave the manor without Sir Robert and Lady Sherlyn's permission."

Charlotte was furious. They must've told their staff that only Dr. Felch was allowed to leave.

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Morgan exploded, "Ms. Lindberg isn't a puppet of the Laurent family. They don't have the right to control her movements. Now step aside!"

"I'm sorry, but I'm just following my orders." The bodyguards refused to budge.

Meanwhile, one of them had contacted Robert and Sherlyn about Charlotte's plan.

Soldiers soon surrounded the convoy, making it impossible for them to leave.

Charlotte scoffed at the outrageous effort to keep her in the manor. They must be worried about becoming the laughingstock of the nation if I became a runaway bride.

She suspected that Dr. Felch's departure tipped them off about her early departure plans. They got all these soldiers here in time to stop me. They're practically cowering me into submission! How lovely!

Gordon piqued up, "Ms. Lindberg, say the word, and we'll run these men over. Don't be scared of these soldiers. They're a bunch of weaklings!"

As Danrique's right-hand man, Gordon typically bustled through life fearlessly.

Dozens of soldiers were nothing but child's play to him.

"It's fine. We shouldn't clash with the Laurent family directly before Danrique appears. He's the one who agreed to this marriage, after all," Charlotte declared calmly.

Lupine asked quietly, "What should we do now?"

"Now, we wait." Charlotte leaned into her car seat and stroked Fifi's feathers. She even instructed the maids to keep the sleeping children warm.

A disgruntled Morgan complained, "Why should we wait for them? I'm confident they wouldn't fire their guns even if we barged through their troops. Even if they did, there's nothing to be scared of."

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chapter 1228

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Soon, Sherlyn regained her senses. "That's why I am not stopping you to meet Zachary. I just thought that it would be better if we accompany you back to Pillere and make some arrangements before you go see him."

"Arrangements?" Charlotte furrowed her brows. "What kind of arrangement?"

"You're the daughter of the rich. I think you'd understand." Sherlyn displayed a smile. "You should at least let me clear out the journalists hiding around the hotel first. Louis won't interfere in your meeting with Zachary, but he'll have to accompany you to the hotel..."

"You're just making things more complicated." Charlotte was left bewildered. "You're just tipping Zachary off like this. We would lose our chance to discuss with him by then."

"I'm not a fool. I won't let him find out about it."

"Lady Sherlyn." Charlotte had no intention to further debate with Sherlyn. "Please let me handle this myself. Please ask them to let me go."

"Charlotte, I'm telling you all this because I treat you like family." Sherlyn's expression turned stern instantly. "You and Louis are engaged. There's no chance between you and Zachary anymore. You should know your place by now and get ready for the wedding. All your effort will be a waste if the loss outweighs the gain."

"Haha!" Charlotte let out a boisterous laugh as she commanded, "Start the car!"

"Yes," Morgan responded without hesitation.

"Charlotte, what are you doing?" Sherlyn was pissed. "I'm trying to advise you here, but you..."

Before she could finish her sentence, the car started moving forward.

The bodyguards stood out of its way responsively, not daring to stop her.

"Are you all dead? Stop her!" Sherlyn shouted in exasperation.

However, before they could make a move, Gordon took out his gun and fired a few shots near their feet. They got intimidated and immediately retreated.

While they were thinking of taking out their guns and firing back, Louis arrived at the scene and shouted, "What are you guys doing? Stand down!"

With that, Charlotte's car drove off and disappeared into the horizon.

"Mom, what do you think you're doing?" Not only did Louis not comfort Sherlyn, but he started blaming her. "Charlotte wants to go back to Pillere earlier to see her children. There's nothing wrong with that. Why did you try to stop her? And why did you even ask your men to act violently? You're going to ruin our relationship!"

"Do you think your relationship with her is real?" Sherlyn was utterly displeased. "Did she tell you that she's going to meet with her ex-husband? I've never seen such a generous fiancé like you."

"You..."

"You'll see. I bet something will happen after Charlotte meets with Zachary. If the wedding cannot be held as scheduled, our family will become the laughing stock of the whole world."

Upon saying that, Sherlyn stomped away in exasperation.

Louis froze on the spot, troubled by his mother's words.

It was the dream of his life to get married to Charlotte. Even though Charlotte did not love him, he still believed he would win her heart one day.

Plus, her person belonged to him now.

There were still three days left until the wedding. He was determined to protect their relationship at all costs.

With that in mind, Louis instructed his subordinate, "Prepare the car. We're going to Pillere."

"Yes, Sir Louis."

"Lady Sherlyn is such a hypocrite. How dare she try to threaten Ms. Lindberg? What a vicious woman!" Morgan expressed her discontentment while driving.

"We've played nice all this while. We owe them nothing now. Just let them do what they need to do."

Lupine was relatively rational in this matter.

"Gordon, please try to contact Danrique again," Charlotte uttered suddenly.

"Okay."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1229

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

On the flight from Arkfield to Pillere, Charlotte's mind was loaded with worries.

Gordon tried to reach Danrique but failed again.

Even all of Danrique's aides had cut off their contacts.

The news got blocked in Erihal, so they could not get their hands on any updates. Everyone they came across refused to touch on the matter.

Charlotte was overcome with anxiety. When she left Xendale a month ago, even though Charlotte was worried, she still believed Danrique could handle everything. In her heart, there was nothing Danrique could not solve.

She did not expect things to escalate out of hands.

She blamed herself for taking things for granted all this while. She had been enjoying Danrique's protection, but she never tried to know him or the Lindberg family better.

Even when Danrique got into trouble, she was the last one to know about it.

I want to help him. But it seems too late now...

She stared outside the window, feeling lost. She wanted to go back to Erihal to find Danrique, but she could not leave behind her children.

"Ms. Lindberg, don't worry too much." Lupine tried to comfort her. "Let's keep our faith in him. I'm sure he'll overcome all difficulties and come to F Nation to pick us up."

"That's right. He'll be fine," Morgan added.

Charlotte lowered her head without a word. Based on Robert and Sherlyn's attitude toward her, she knew Danrique had gotten into trouble.

If he doesn't show up on the wedding day, then it means something terrible has happened.

"Ms. Lindberg, you don't have to worry." Gordon noticed Charlotte's troubled look. "Before leaving, Mr. Lindberg has reminded us not to believe any rumor that we hear. He said he would come back for you and the kids."

"Okay." Charlotte nodded upon hearing that.

Seeing Gordon's composed gesture, she let out a sigh of relief. Lupine's right. I should trust in Danrique. There's nothing that can beat him. All I need to do now is to take good care of the kids. I must not become a burden for him.

Charlotte shifted her gaze toward the three kids who were sleeping soundly, and her heart began to calm down.

Soon, the plane landed in Pillere.

Getting down from the plane, the kids were still dozing off. Lupine had arranged accommodation for them. With that, they settled down in a villa in the suburbs.

The kids had woken up by the time they arrived at the villa. Overwhelmed with curiosity and excitement, they wandered around, looking for Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie.

They thought their playmates would be there waiting for them.

Looking at their excited looks, Charlotte felt warmth surging within her heart. It would be great if Robbie and the rest were here. The six of them would be able to reunite.

"They are so energetic." Morgan looked extremely weary, following the kids around. "Even me as a martial art practitioner cannot keep up with them."

"Haha. Kids have limitless energy when it comes to having fun." Lupine let out a chuckle. "It's three-thirty in the morning. Let them play for a while longer, and then they should head back to their room."

"I'll look after them. Please get some rest," Gordon uttered with concern. "Ms. Lindberg, have a good sleep. You still need to talk with Mr. Nacht tomorrow night."

"I can't sleep." Charlotte could not relax. "Gordon, please help me find out where Zachary is. I want to meet him as soon as possible."

"Of course." Gordon sprang into action after leaving the kids to Lupine and Morgan.

Charlotte went back to her room and took a shower. After getting dressed, she lay on the bed and called Zachary.

She wanted to try her luck one more time.

But to her disappointment, the call failed to go through again.

D*mn that man! How could he block me? Can't we just talk it out in a civil manner?

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/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Gordon had gone to investigate for over two hours, and there was still no news from him.

Feeling tired, Charlotte slowly dozed off on her bed.

The following day, she was woken up by the thunderstorm outside.

Her heart skipped a beat as she had an ominous feeling that something terrible was about to happen. She shifted her eyes toward the windows. It's such heavy rain outside.

After Dr. Felch's treatment and resting for a few months, Charlotte had recovered completely.

Nonetheless, her mental problem could not be cured through medication.

Whenever there was a thunderstorm, it would remind her about Mrs. Berry and that particular rainy day in Coldbridge.

Although Sharon and Zara had died, and justice had been served, she was still in trauma because of that tragedy.

Charlotte had a feeling that whenever there was a thunderstorm, something terrible would happen to her life.

Knock! Knock! Rapping sounds came from the door, followed by Lupine's voice. "Ms. Lindberg, are you awake?"

"Come in." Charlotte got up and put on her robe.

Lupine opened the door and came in with a hot teapot in her hands. "Let's drink something hot. The temperature is dropping out there."

"Is there any news from Gordon?"

Leaning against the couch, Charlotte received the fruit tea from Lupine.

"Not yet." Lupine shook her head. "It's not easy to get a hold of Mr. Nacht's whereabouts. It might take some time."

"All right," Charlotte responded briefly while sipping on her tea,

"The kids are sleeping again." Lupine smiled. "They've eaten something before going to sleep. And they've been asking for you. I said you were sleeping and you would find them after you woke up. Only then were they willing to go back to their room."

"They're still kids. What a simple life they have."

Charlotte's lips curled into a smile, thinking about the three kids. But when she thought of her own children, her expression darkened.

"They're so unlike Robbie and Ellie who have been through a lot. Especially Robbie who has probably known by now that his parents are in a conflict. In fact, I reckoned that he's worried about us right now."

Lupine comforted, "I know you miss your children. But look at the bright side, they'll be safe as long as they're with their father. Let's have a civil talk with Mr. Nacht after you meet him."

"Zachary has a big temper. I doubt we could talk nicely." Charlotte furrowed her brows. "Besides, I think he's pissed off for real this time. He blocked my contact, and he doesn't even let the kids contact me..."

"You guys had broken up a long time ago. So what right does he have to be pissed?" Lupine pouted with indignation. "He was the one who forced you away at the wedding.

He was the one who wronged you. Not to mention, he wrongly believed the sisters from the Blackwood family and defended Zara. And the list goes on. What right does he have to blame you?"

A wry smile crept upon Charlotte's lips upon hearing that. "There's no right or wrong in a relationship. He's a victim as well. It was Mr. Henry who wanted to chase me away, and he was the one who believed in Cynthia. Of course, Zachary has his faults, too, for not helping me out.

He has broken my heart deeply. Besides, he's the one that caused Mrs. Berry's death. By right, I should have killed him for revenge. But I chose to put down my hatred for my children's sake. I left H City to start a new life.

And I even agreed to marry Louis to avoid him. I thought I would be able to cut ties with him completely. But now I realize, as long as we still have the kids, our relationship would never end..."

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chapter 1231

"Well, it's not exactly because of the kids." Lupine chose her words carefully. "The main reason is that the two of you have never really let go of each other."

Charlotte fell silent upon hearing that. She did not want to admit it, but it seemed like she could no longer lie to herself.

As a matter of fact, Zachary still had an important place in her heart.

She could ignore her true feelings if she lived a single life. But whenever any man tried to get close to her, Zachary would appear in her mind, constantly reminding her that she was his woman.

When she recalled what might have happened between her and Louis, she felt utterly embarrassed. Regardless of how much she did not want to face it, she knew she probably had committed a mistake.

"Since there's no news yet, let's just stop thinking about it. You should get some more rest in the meantime." Lupine tried to ease her worries. "After all, you can meet him the latest by six."

"Yeah." Charlotte wanted to get some sleep. She had been losing sleep during the nights and she was feeling utterly weary at the moment.

"Let me help you to the bed." Lupine supported Charlotte toward the bed.

Just then, Lupine's phone rang. She glanced at the screen and answered the call right away. "Hello, Gordon! She's with me. Hold on."

Lupine handed the phone to Charlotte.

"Ms. Lindberg, Mr. Nacht is in Regium Hotel of the Royal Club now. It turns out that Mr. Murphy has booked the hotel. There will be a business meeting in the afternoon and a banquet at night."

"I see."

Charlotte suddenly realized how vague Louis had been the night before. He only told me that Mr. Murphy will meet Zachary at Regium Hotel. He didn't mention anything about a banquet... Maybe he didn't want me to know too much as he feared I might come to find Zachary.

"The kids are staying in the villa area in the club too and are personally protected by Bruce. I've got the hotel's blueprint, and I've found the location of the villa. If you'd like, I can send some men to get the kids now."

"Good job. Gordon, you're without a doubt Danrique's best assistant." Charlotte was impressed. "But please don't make a move. Let me try to deal with Zachary peacefully first. That's the best for the kids."

"I understand. That's why I'm not doing anything yet. I'll wait for your instruction," Gordon responded.

"Please come back now. I need you to protect Danrique's kids." Charlotte decided without hesitation. "I'll bring Lupine with me into the club. I'll find a way to meet with Zachary."

"Okay."

Hanging up the phone, Charlotte turned to Lupine. "Gather everyone and get ready to depart."

"Got it." Lupine went on to it.

When Charlotte was freshening up, Gordon got back and briefed her about the whole situation. Other than that, he also gave a few entrance tickets to Charlotte.

"Mr. Murphy had booked the entire Royal Club, and no outsider is allowed to go in. Only those with this facial identification entrance ticket can go in. And I've gotten five tickets for you. The

identifications are for Lupine, Morgan, and the rest. That's the most I could do."

"Wow. Gordon, that's impressive." Lupine was utterly amazed. "Only you can do such a thing."

"Mr. Lindberg trained me well. I'm used to taking care of all the details." Gordon displayed a smile. "I suggest you guys wait for a while before you go in. The security will be stricter during the business meeting."

You'll be made known the moment you enter. And if Mr. Nacht refuses to negotiate, it would look bad. If news gets out, it might affect Mr. Nacht's and the Laurent family's reputation. For the evening banquet, you can enter at five o'clock. All the guests will be wearing grand retro outfits and masks. I don't know much about clothing, so you'll have to figure that out yourselves."

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chapter 1232

"No problem. Leave it to me." Lupine immediately called someone to prepare the outfits. "This is good. No one would be able to recognize us then."

"But I'm still worried since you can only bring four persons with you." Gordon seemed to have considered every minutiae. "I'll arrange some men to blend in. Just give an order and they'll appear to protect you."

"Very good." Charlotte was utterly grateful. "Thanks so much, Gordon!"

"I'll stay in the villa with the three kids then. I fear the assassin from Erihal would come here." Gordon could not let his guard down. "Please be extra careful."

"We will." Charlotte nodded firmly.

It was still raining outside, and the Lincoln limousine that Lupine arranged had arrived. With that, Charlotte, Lupine, Morgan, and two female bodyguards got in the limousine and headed toward Royal Club.

The reason they tried so hard to disguise their real identities was that they did not want to get rejected by Zachary. Plus, they did not want the public to know that Charlotte met Zachary in private.

Just like what Sherlyn said, the wedding was in two days, and the reputation of the two families was closely related to it.

The media was paying close attention to their every move. If their plan got exposed, it would indeed be published as a scandal and would cause an uproar worldwide.

The last thing Charlotte wanted right now was to create more trouble for Danrique as the Lindberg Corporation was currently in deep water.

Royal Club had always been a place for the rich.

Charlotte had been here once two years ago, where she spontaneously played a song during the show in the theater and attracted Louis' attention.

On their way there, Charlotte's phone kept ringing. It was Louis. In the end, Charlotte chose to block his number.

She did not want to get distracted by anyone at this critical moment.

"How could Sir Louis be so inconsiderate?" Morgan could not help but complain.

"Well, I think it's understandable. He cares too much for Ms. Lindberg, after all." Lupine observed Charlotte's face as she spoke.

Charlotte did not seem to be bothered at all. All she could think of was Zachary and her children at that moment.

Using the entrance ticket provided by Gordon, they successfully entered the club without any problem.

The afternoon business meeting had ended, and most of the guests were busy checking in Regium Hotel. After that, they would start dressing up for the banquet.

Charlotte was wearing sunglasses and a mask, trying to keep her head down among them.

It all went well as no one recognized her till the end.

After they reached their room, Lupine started helping Charlotte get dressed up. Meanwhile, Morgan immediately went to investigate which room Zachary was in.

After a short while, Morgan came back to the room. "Mr. Nacht is in the presidential suite on the top floor. He seems to be discussing something with Mr. Murphy."

"Which floor are we in?" Charlotte took out her phone and opened the hotel blueprint that Gordon sent her.

"We're at the thirty-sixth floor, and Mr. Nacht is at the forty-eighth," Morgan replied. "The entrance tickets that we've got are for ordinary guests. And the forty-eighth floor is for important people. There are bodyguards on all elevators."

"That's strict." Lupine furrowed her brows slightly. "It's only a banquet."

"I noticed that the guests aren't that many. The hotel is far from full," Morgan continued to elaborate. "Maybe Mr. Murphy knows Mr. Nacht likes quiet, and he is trying to please the latter."

"The problem now is how are we supposed to get to the forty-eighth floor?" Lupine began analyzing the situation.

"I'm thinking of it too." Morgan expressed her thoughts. "Or maybe we should wait until the banquet starts. It will be merrier, and maybe everyone will let down their guard. There are still fifteen minutes left."

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"It seems like that's the only way..." Lupine observed Charlotte's expression closely. "Ms. Lindberg, don't worry. You will surely get the chance to approach Mr. Nacht at the banquet."

"I know," Charlotte responded briefly, her face darkening.

"What's wrong?" Lupine asked with concern. "Are you still worrying about your kids?"

"I have no confidence I can persuade Zachary." Charlotte furrowed her brows tightly. "We've put in so much effort for this. But even if I can meet him, it most probably won't end well."

"I reckoned he'll be a tough nut to crack with his temper, too." Lupine sounded worried as well.

"Maybe we should carry out both plans simultaneously," Morgan uttered without hesitation. "You'll go talk to Mr. Nacht, and I'll sneak into the villa to get the kids. With that, we won't have to worry if he agrees to our terms or not."

"Wow. What a perfect plan." Lupine rolled her eyes. "So, what then? What are we supposed to tell the kids?"

"We've been overthinking. That's why we're always at a disadvantage." Morgan was somehow displeased. "Mr. Nacht didn't care so much when he took the kids. He even banned them from contacting Ms. Lindberg. He has crossed the line, yet you're still thinking of dealing with him peacefully. I bet no matter what Ms. Lindberg says, he will never comply with it."

Lupine was rendered speechless by Morgan's words. She pondered for a while and eventually nodded. "I guess there's some sense in your words. But still, we're the ones who wronged him first..."

"What are you talking about?" Morgan was enraged. "The Nacht family was the one who abandoned Ms. Lindberg. They didn't care about Ms. Lindberg's health and sent her and Mrs. Berry to T Nation. They had been through a hard time because of that. And Mrs. Berry even died in the end. Ms. Lindberg was rescued by Mr. Lindberg and came back stronger. She successfully took revenge for Mrs. Berry and eliminated Zara and Sharon. But she's paid a high price to achieve that. You know all about it. The Nacht family trusted Cynthia and ended up causing Ellie to be poisoned. They let Ms. Lindberg get humiliated, and they even protected Zara. Despite constantly getting bullied, Ms. Lindberg still chose to give in to them. She did so for the kids' sake. But what has the Nacht family done for the kids or the Lindberg family? Nothing!"

Upon hearing that, Lupine could not find any words to refute.

"Ms. Lindberg had broken up with Mr. Nacht. Thus, anything that happened between her and Sir Louis, or any other man, has nothing to do with Mr. Nacht. What makes him think he can treat Ms. Lindberg as he likes?"

Morgan was beyond exasperated as she recalled Zachary's previous behavior toward Charlotte.

"He got pissed and took the kids away forcefully. He acted as if Ms. Lindberg had betrayed him. Who knows how many women he had had after he chased Ms. Lindberg away? He got caught in bed with Cynthia back in Storm Hotel and Ashenville Garden. It even got to the headline, and Cynthia was naked at that time. Have you forgotten about those?"

"That's right." Lupine furrowed her brows tightly. "I almost forgot about it after Cynthia died."

"Well, I remember it perfectly." Morgan was filled with utter resentment. "Anyway, he is the one who wronged Ms. Lindberg first. What Ms. Lindberg's done is reasonable. He has no right to take the kids away just like that."

"Morgan's right." Charlotte's expression turned solemn. "I shouldn't get carried away by him this time!"

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After giving it some thought, Charlotte instructed, "Morgan, take Jade with you to find the children. However, don't take them away by force. Just tell them that I want to see them. I'll take Lupine with me to negotiate with Zachary. It would be best if he is willing to let me see the children. If not, I would still need to see them no matter what."

She continued, "By then, I'll respect the children's decision. If they are willing to come with me, I will definitely take them. I don't care if I have to fight Zachary for them."

"That should work." Lupine nodded. "But, Ms. Lindberg, we should still negotiate first and try to resolve it amicably. After all, we need to take the children's feelings into consideration."

"Exactly." Realizing that she had overreacted earlier, Morgan softened her stance and advised, "Let's discuss it with him first. It would be great if we can come to an agreement. If we are left with no other choice--"

"Enough. Let's go with that." Charlotte had made her decision. "You're right. If Zachary doesn't allow me to see the children, there's nothing much I can do about it. Therefore, I must seize the initiative no matter what."

"In that case, shall I head to the villa to see the children?" Morgan clarified.

"Go," Charlotte replied decisively. "Find them but don't do anything rash until you hear from me."

"Understood." Morgan nodded before leaving hurriedly with another two female bodyguards.

With that, only Lupine remained by Charlotte's side. Helping Charlotte braid her hair, Lupine comforted her, "The ball is about to start. Let's go down earlier."

“Mmm-hmm. I’ll do it myself. You should go get yourself ready.”

“All right.”

After both of them were done dressing up, they put on their masks and headed for the banquet hall.

The moment they pushed open the antique bronze door, they were greeted by an air of festivities.

With the glittering chandelier hanging from the ceiling, a group of stunningly dressed socialites sauntered into the hall. All of them were wearing period gowns and decked out in luxurious jewelry. It was obvious from how they carried themselves that they were from illustrious backgrounds.

Unexpectedly, all of them entered alone instead of having a rich businessman as their plus one. Once inside, some of them seemed to be discreetly looking for something, while the others were flaunting their charm in an attempt to attract someone.

Meanwhile, at the rest area, more than ten businessmen dressed in suits were sitting there sipping their wine elegantly. Ogling at the ladies, they whispered amongst themselves while smiling salaciously.

Scrutinizing the situation, Charlotte understood immediately that this wasn’t a business networking banquet. Instead, it was an event for some rich businessmen to choose a female companion.

“Ms. Lindberg, are we in the wrong event?” Lupine whispered as she leaned toward Charlotte. “This is obviously a pageant where the men choose their escorts.”

“No.” Charlotte swept her gaze at all the businessmen who were seated. “Those are Mr. Murphy and Zachary’s business partners. It’s one thing for them to have fun privately, but to do so in public so blatantly... they really are shameless!”

“I don’t understand. Those girls look like they are from prominent families. Why would they allow themselves to be paraded and chosen like that?” Lupine was puzzled.

“Usually, those from less prominent families always look to climb the social ladder further.” Charlotte smiled plainly. “After all, it’s normal for one to be ambitious.”

“I understand. Since Mr. Nacht isn’t here, perhaps he’s not coming?” Lupine murmured, “He doesn’t seem like someone who enjoys such events.”

Just as she spoke, one of the girls exclaimed, “Mr. Nacht is here!”

At that moment, the antique bronze doors opened. With Theo by his side, Zachary strode into the hall.

Dressed in a black suit, his awe-inspiring charisma mesmerized everyone in the extravagantly decorated hall.

Although he had lost a lot of weight, the domineering aura he exuded did not diminish at all. In fact, his chiseled face had a predatory look to it now.

Only his eyes seemed icier than before.

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“Mr. Nacht...” When a few of the girls approached, the bodyguards quickly stopped them.

As Zachary walked in slowly, he paid no heed to the girls clamoring for him. However, he didn’t resent the hedonistic event either. Instead, he casually picked up the wine glass he was served and took a seat among the businessmen.

Looking at Zachary from amidst the crowd, Charlotte was filled with conflicting emotions.

There was bewilderment, disappointment, and many burning questions.

She didn't understand why he would want to attend a banquet like this. Maybe he has done this so many times that it has become a routine for him? Or, is he just looking for some excitement because he is angry with me?

Nevertheless, she was disappointed to see him in a place like this regardless of the reason. The image she had of him began to unravel.

I'm just curious though... now that he has successfully taken the children, why hasn't he taken them back to H City? Instead, he stays back in Pillere just to attend such an event. Besides, he never liked to appear in public.

"Looks like I'll have to eat my words."

Lupine was embarrassed by how convinced she was a moment ago. She had assumed that Zachary wasn't someone like that. However, his presence proved her wrong.

"This banquet is obviously organized for him. So why wouldn't he attend?"

Charlotte suddenly noticed that all the girls' attention was focused on Zachary.

Hence, she figured that Theo must have organized the event to help Zachary find a female companion.

Look at how desperate these socialites are at becoming part of the Nacht family. Climbing into Zachary's bed would be the first step in achieving their goal.

"That's the legendary Mr. Nacht. What a looker!"

"Exactly. With such a great figure and powerful gaze, I'm simply mesmerized!"

"He is an excellent specimen of the rich and famous. I would be willing to die just to be his girl."

"Stop dreaming. He's mine!"

"Sheesh, who do you think you are..."

As the group of ladies conversed in fluent Ustranasian, all of them were filled with confidence and excitement.

Some of the gorgeous ladies were already swaggering their curvaceous hips and making their way toward him.

Watching on, Lupine couldn't help but lament, "What is this? Despite coming from good backgrounds, they are still willing to throw themselves at him. Is it really worth it?"

"It's precisely because they come from prominent families that they are aiming higher," Charlotte plainly replied. "To them, only a man like Zachary is worthy of their time."

"Fine." Lupine was speechless. All she did was stare daggers at Ben who was standing beside Zachary. "That b*stard. What a hypocrite. How dare he claim to be loyal in matters of love? Those words simply ring hollow now."

"It's not Ben's fault. He's just doing his job staying by Zachary's side." After giving him a glance, Charlotte picked up a cocktail and found a seat in a corner. "If you continue to glare at him, we will be found out in no time."

Retracting her gaze, Lupine took her seat beside Charlotte and murmured, "Ms. Lindberg, do you think they will recognize us?"

"They won't," Charlotte replied with conviction. "The mask covers our entire face. How is it possible that they know it's us?"

"You're right." Lupine nodded. "In that case, do you want to go and see Mr. Nacht?"

"There's no hurry." Charlotte narrowed her eyes as she watched a group of beautiful ladies surround him. "Given how alert he is now, we will be spotted easily. Let's wait till he is intoxicated before moving over."

“Wow, the ladies are getting really intimate...” When Lupine saw two ladies with their breasts about to brush onto Zachary, she couldn’t help but raise her eyebrow. “That’s really too-”

Not daring to finish her sentence, she carefully observed the look on Charlotte’s face.

Lowering her gaze to take a sip of wine, Charlotte was a sea of calm. However, her other hand beneath her dress had balled tightly into a fist.

She wasn’t aware that she still had feelings for him. Despite caring for him and being filled with jealousy, she knew she couldn’t show her true emotions no matter what.

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"Mr. Nacht, look, these are the beauties that I have chosen for you," Theo introduced them smugly. "These aren't just ordinary girls. All of them come from illustrious families. They are also highly educated, knowledgeable, and excel in many fields. Some of them are top-rated actresses while others are supermodels."

When Zachary signaled with his hand, Ben ushered the girls surrounding him away.

After sipping a glass of wine, Zachary asked leisurely, "What did Louis tell you?"

"Erm..." Stumped, Theo's expression froze awkwardly. He quickly explained, "He didn't say anything. Since both of you are good friends, he is always concerned about you-"

Before Theo could finish, Zachary suddenly pressed closer with a ferocious look in his eye. "Given how you painstakingly set this up, don't tell me you don't know anything."

"I... I..." Stuttering fearfully, sweat broke out on Theo's forehead.

"Hmph!" Zachary suddenly backed off and stopped pressuring him. After that, he continued sipping his wine.

"Mr. Nacht, don't be angry," Theo explained frantically. "When I saw how gloomy you looked recently, I just wanted to cheer you up. If I have offended you, I'll get them to leave right away."

Just as he spoke, he was about to order his subordinates to take the girls away.

"No need," Zachary interrupted him. "You're right. I should find myself some entertainment."

Raising his gaze, he looked as if he had come to a decision. Then, he raised his glass and clinked it with Theo's.

His sudden actions caused Theo to feel relieved.

"Hahaha..." The terror he previously felt was now replaced with elation. "As long as it makes you happy, Mr. Nacht!"

The next moment, Theo barked out, "Quick, music please!"

"All of you, stand over here so that Mr. Nacht can have a good look!"

The ladies quickly crowded over and formed a line so that Zachary could take his pick.

Behind him, the group of businessmen began to egg him on.

"Mr. Nacht, you're in luck! All these ladies are top-rated specimens indeed. Regardless of whether you like them pretty, sexy, or intelligent, you will be spoilt for choice tonight!"

"Haha, exactly. Pleasure is, after all, the whole point of life."

"You could even start building a harem. Given your prowess, I'm sure it won't be a problem for you."

"What are you saying? Mr. Nacht is choosing a girlfriend. You guys should stop spouting nonsense."

"Exactly, do you think Mr. Nacht is as lecherous as you are?"

"No, no, I'm just trying to liven up the atmosphere."

The group of men were already filled with excitement.

Looking at the group of ladies, Zachary had no reaction at all. After sweeping a gaze at them, he continued to sip his wine.

"Mr. Murphy, how can Mr. Nacht choose a partner when you don't allow him to see their figures? By dressing in traditional Ferropenian clothing, everything is hidden underneath.

Furthermore, by getting them to don a mask, what is there left to see?" one of the businessmen commented.

"Precisely." The men suggested boisterously, "I saw a heated pool just outside the lobby. Why don't we get them to change into bikinis and rinse off their makeup before lining up to be chosen again? Hahaha."

"That's a wonderful idea!"

One by one, the men tossed out ideas as if they were the event's guest of honor.

As for the ladies participating in the pageant, they didn't resist at all. Instead, they replied with a smile, "No problem. After all, we look equally good with or without makeup."

"I agree that these clothes are too bulky."

"Yes, exactly."

"However, I feel that looks aren't the only thing Mr. Nacht is looking for."

Suddenly, a girl suggested a different perspective in fluent Chanaean. "What he cares about is whether one understands him!"

Zachary lifted his gaze the moment he heard those words.

From the crowd, a tall and slender lady stared at him earnestly. Compared to the others, she was neither impetuous nor overwhelmed by excitement. Instead, she exuded a sense of beautiful calm.

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"You speak very good Chanaean."

Zachary finally said something to the ladies on parade.

"Thank you. Do you still remember me-"

"Mr. Nacht, I speak Chanaean too."

Before the girl could continue, she was interrupted by one of the other ladies.

The ladies did whatever it took to gain Zachary's attention.

However, Zachary didn't pay much attention to the first girl. After finishing with his initial sentence, he averted his gaze and continued drinking.

It felt as if no matter what the ladies did, they weren't able to pique his interest at all.

"Ms. Lindberg, let's go over." Lupine grew anxious. "If we don't, Mr. Nacht will probably end up choosing someone."

"Let him choose then." Charlotte remained calm. "If he really likes any of them, even I can't stop him."

"But..." Lupine reminded, "Don't you want to negotiate with him?"

"I know. But, if I go now, it would be troublesome if I'm recognized." Charlotte lowered her head to take a sip of wine. "I'll see him when he is alone."

"What if he has one of the ladies by his side by then?" Lupine questioned.

Charlotte's hand that was holding the wine glass stiffened while her eyes flashed with panic for a fleeting moment. However, she quickly regained her composure. "In that case, I'll talk to him only after he's done. Perhaps, he will be in a good mood by then and no longer feel that I owe him. Consequently, he will stop being unreasonable after that."

Stumped, Lupine had nothing to retort with. She knew that Charlotte was only saying those words out of spite. Furthermore,

Lupine was cognizant that Charlotte was in a dilemma as she didn't know how to face Zachary.

However, at the rate they were going, their plan would fail.

Just then, someone cried out, "Hey, there are another two ladies over there."

Caught by surprise, Lupine looked over and realized that one of the businessmen had noticed her and Charlotte on his way back from the men's.

Charlotte knitted her eyebrows. Well d*mn, we've been spotted. I guess we have no choice but to go over now.

"Why aren't the two of you here?" Theo yelled. "Come over quickly!"

"What do we do?" Lupine panicked. Despite how decisive she had always been, being turned into an escort had caused her to lose her judgment.

"Let's go over." Getting up to her feet, Charlotte headed over calmly.

"Tsk tsk, why are both of you hiding in the corner in the face of such a wonderful opportunity?" Theo lectured Charlotte in Ustranasion. "You're lucky that someone noticed your presence or your attendance would have been a waste of time."

"Exactly. Fortunately, Mr. Nacht hasn't picked anyone yet." The other men began to shout rambunctiously, "You still have a chance to join the party!"

"What? The swimsuit party?" Lupine exclaimed.

When Charlotte nudged her shoulder lightly, she quickly got the message. Lowering her head, she didn't dare say another word.

Hearing that, Ben suddenly looked up and stared at Lupine, frowning.

"Why? Are you unwilling to do it?" Theo looked at Lupine.

Lupine glanced at Charlotte's direction instead.

"No, we're more than happy to do it," Charlotte replied with a smile.

She changed her accent when she spoke Ustranasian for fear of being recognized.

With a wine glass in hand, Zachary sipped his drink as if he didn't notice anything.

"Good. In that case, you can get changed now," Theo instructed. "We'll see you at the pool!"

"All right."

When the ladies went off to prepare themselves, Charlotte and Lupine followed them to the changing room.

Leaning into Zachary's ear, Ben whispered, "Mr. Nacht, those two seem to be..."

"Let's head to the pool," Zachary got to his feet and headed to the open-air plaza outside.

"Haha, it seems like Mr. Nacht's looking forward to the swimsuit party too!"

The group of men burst into laughter. One of them brazenly asked, "Mr. Nacht, can I take your leftovers?"

"You're stepping over the line here," Ben snapped. "This isn't a nightclub. We're here to choose a partner."

"Of course!" Zachary suddenly replied. "As long as they are willing."

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"Mr. Nacht..." Ben caught up with Zachary and murmured, "The two ladies just now might be—"

"Ben!" Zachary cut him off and sneered, "you seem to be very talkative tonight."

Despite falling silent after being admonished, Ben still felt anxious nonetheless.

"Give Bruce a call," Zachary suddenly ordered. "There might be a storm tonight. Tell him to close the windows and keep an eye on the children."

"Uhh..." Briefly stunned, Ben grunted in acknowledgment. "Right away."

At that moment, he realized that Zachary knew everything.

Meanwhile, back in the changing room...

Lowering her voice, Lupine asked anxiously. "What are we going to do? Do we really have to get into swimsuits to be chosen?"

"What's the hurry?" When Charlotte swept her gaze at the other girls, she saw them preparing themselves meticulously and were filled with anticipation.

"Why aren't you getting changed?" one of them asked curiously.

Charlotte and Lupine didn't respond.

Another girl mocked, "If you're not willing to do it, you shouldn't have even come. Now that you're here, what's the point in pretending to be conservative?"

"Precisely." The other girls laughed mockingly. "Did someone put a knife to your throat to do this?"

"You..." Just when Lupine was about to lose her temper, Charlotte gave her a tug and signaled her to ignore the comments.

Despite the rage she felt, Lupine remained silent in the end.

"Is it because you didn't prepare a swimsuit? Here, why don't you wear these?"

At that moment, a friendly voice rang out.

Raising her gaze, Charlotte saw that the girl had changed out of her heavy gown into a sexy bikini. It showed off the perfect contours of her figure in all its glory.

She had an innocent yet alluring-looking face. Her demure expression made her stand out from among the large group of ladies.

"Were you the one who spoke Chanaean just now?"

Charlotte recognized the girl that had caught Zachary's attention earlier.

"You have a good eye." The girl grinned. "These two swimsuits are less revealing. If you don't mind, you can put them on."

"Thank you." Receiving the swimsuits, Charlotte looked at the label on the woman's chest. Nancy Gold, what a nice-sounding name. "Are you from Koandria?"

"Yes," Nancy responded with a warm smile. "Are you from there too?"

"No, I'm Chanaean," Charlotte replied with a smile. "Thank you for the swimsuit. The others have left, so you should catch up to them too."

After turning to look, Nancy hurried after them. "In that case, I'll head off first. You guys should come after you've changed."

"Got it," Charlotte acknowledged before watching her leave.

When everyone else had left the changing room, Lupine asked softly, "Nancy looks very familiar. I feel like I've heard her name before."

"She's the daughter of the richest man in Koandria," Charlotte quipped. "When we were at the tender of the South Sea project in H City, her father bid twenty billion to compete with me. Also, she went to see Zachary backstage."

"Oh, that's right. I remember now." Lupine recalled at once. "Back then, she had waited for Mr. Nacht backstage. After that, he invited her to his private room for a while..."

"During that time, I had just returned to H City and did not recognize Zachary yet," Charlotte recollected. "He had wanted to use her to probe whether I was really Charlotte."

"Right. That was her." Lupine nodded repeatedly. "However, considering how illustrious her family is, I don't understand why she has to lower herself to attend such an event."

"As I said before, the better the family background, the more ambitious one is." Charlotte smiled plainly. "All of them feel that no other man other than Zachary is worthy of them."

"Is she here for Mr. Nacht then?" Lupine carefully probed. "She feels different from the other girls. All of them seemed very competitive. However, when Nancy looks at Mr. Nacht, her eyes are filled with deep admiration and affection."

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"Even you noticed it." Charlotte smirked. "I wonder if Zachary did as well..."

"Well, even if she has feelings for Mr. Nacht, he might not feel the same way." Lupine changed her tact. "Mr. Nacht only has eyes for you."

"Don't you think it's ridiculous to say something like that now?" Charlotte interrupted Lupine. With a self-deprecating tone, she remarked, "Given how things are between us, neither of us have the right to demand anything of the other."

Not knowing what else to say, Lupine lowered her head and sighed.

"All right now, let's get changed." Charlotte didn't feel like continuing the conversation.

"Are we really going?" Lupine asked awkwardly. "I... umm..."

"If you're not going, I am." Sweeping her gaze around, Charlotte murmured, "You should dress as a waitress and be my spy."

"Understood."

As if she had been assigned an important task, Lupine went searching for a waitress' uniform.

Meanwhile, Charlotte got into a white swimsuit with a deep 'V' cut, revealing her sensuous figure and flawless pearl-like skin.

Furthermore, she found a black-laced half mask and put it on. That way, no one would be able to recognize her.

Dressed as a waitress, Lupine put on a face mask and hurried Charlotte along. "The party is about to start, and they're about to shut the doors. Let's go quickly."

"Yeah." Charlotte grabbed a scarf and hung it by her waist before leaving with Lupine.

Once they were at the lobby, both of them went their separate ways. Lupine picked up a tray and started serving the guests with wine.

As for Charlotte, she walked to the pool barefoot.

The other ladies had taken off their masks and revealed their beautiful faces by the pool. Coupled with their sensuous figures, they were making the men by the poolside salivate lecherously.

As the music began, the ladies teased Zachary by reaching out their hands and beckoning him over seductively.

Sipping on his wine, Zachary swept his gaze across the ladies, stopping on Nancy for a few seconds before quickly averting it.

Filled with delight, Nancy greeted him at once, "Mr. Nacht, do you still remember me? I'm Nan- Ah!"

Before she could finish, Nancy was pushed toward the pool. Caught by surprise, she fell right into it.

All the girls quickly backed off while no one stepped up to help her.

As if something had caught her leg, she wasn't able to stand up, causing her to struggle desperately.

When Charlotte saw that Nancy was in trouble, she jumped into the pool intending to rescue her.

At the same time, a black figure dived in too and carried Nancy up.

Visibly shaken, Nancy gasped for air. While her body trembled, she heard the gentle voice of a man. "Don't be afraid. Everything is all right now."

When she regained her senses and wiped the water off her face, she was stunned the moment she saw who it was. "M-Mr. Nacht."

Carrying Nancy ashore, Zachary put her down on the sun lounge. Taking a towel handed over by the staff, he covered her with it and comforted her, "Are you all right? Do you need to see a doctor?"

"I'm... I'm fine."

Nancy was nervous.

"Here, have a glass of wine to calm your nerves." Zachary handed his glass to her.

Overwhelmed by the attention, Nancy stared at Zachary blankly.

"Don't you want it?" Zachary asked with his eyebrow arched.

“No... it’s not that.”

Nancy was a bundle of nerves when she received the wineglass, causing her to accidentally spill it all over her thigh. The sight of the wine dripping down her legs made for an even more sensuous sight.

“I-I’m sorry. I didn’t do it on purpose,” Nancy apologized anxiously.

“It’s fine.” Zachary took off his jacket and put it over her. “It’s cold here. Do you want to rest upstairs?”

“Wow!”

Just as he spoke, everyone gasped.

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Evidently, Zachary had picked whom he wanted.

The rest of the ladies were filled with disappointment. Some even slapped the water in frustration while others had darkened expressions and tears welling up in their eyes.

As for the men, all of them were overwhelmed by excitement.

“What a quick decision. Looks like the swimsuit party was really effective! Hahaha!”

“Of course! Only by doing so can we see their faces and figures clearly.”

“Mr. Nacht has a good eye. That girl is quite the catch.”

“That goes without saying.” Theo revealed, “Everyone, I’m sure none of you are aware that she is Ms. Nancy Gold, daughter of the richest man in Koandria, Mr. Jesse Gold.”

“Wow...” When everyone heard about Nancy’s identity, they envied Zachary further. “Mr. Nacht, you have a sharp eye indeed to have picked the best with a single glance.”

The fact was, Nancy had the most illustrious background among all the beauties there.

Furthermore, everyone in the business world knew how strict Jesse was. Hence, his daughter must have gone through the same treatment.

Ever since she was young, she was raised and trained in seclusion so that she would end up being extremely shrewd in business and would also possess many other talents.

Jesse had restricted her social circle so that she maintained her purity until Jesse could find her the right husband.

Evidently, he had planned for Nancy to attend the event that night.

When Zachary picked out the epitome of beauty from among the ladies, everyone couldn’t help but praise his eye.

“Time is of the essence. Mr. Nacht, Ms. Gold, I have prepared the presidential suite for you. Please go ahead and rest upstairs. Haha,” Theo teased.

When Zachary gave him the side-eye, he shut his mouth and didn’t dare utter another word.

The crowd didn’t dare to make any wisecracks too.

When Nancy’s embarrassing situation had been resolved, she gave Zachary a look of gratitude.

Zachary had shown her the respect she deserved and even offered his hand to help her up. “Can you walk by yourself?”

“Yes.” Just as she got to her feet, Nancy’s knees buckled, causing her to fall.

However, Zachary quickly picked her up and carried her away.

The group of men couldn't resist clapping and cheering given how much they were awed by the romantic turn of events.

Filled with jealous envy, the ladies in the pool stared daggers at Nancy.

As for Charlotte who was standing in the corner, she watched Zachary's silhouette with a stunned expression. In her heart, she felt a devastating blow crush it in pieces.

At that moment, she realized how heartbreaking it was to see with her own eyes the man she loved getting together with another girl.

"Mr. Nacht, since you are done with the selection, can we take our pick of the rest?" one of the businessmen asked.

"Suit yourself," Zachary plainly replied.

Overjoyed, the men jumped into the pool and began to flirt with the ladies.

Furrowing her eyebrows with disdain, Charlotte climbed back onto the poolside and prepared to leave. However, one of the men stopped her. "Don't go, pretty. Why don't we get to know each other?"

"Move aside," Charlotte snapped.

"Tsk tsk, what a feisty little cat. I like that attitude of yours. Haha." The man laughed in delight. "Don't worry, if you get together with me, I will provide my utmost support for your family business."

Before he finished, Charlotte sidestepped him to leave.

"Hey!" the man grabbed her hand and scrutinized her from head to toe. "You have an alluring figure with glowing taut skin. Name your price then!"

When Charlotte tried to retract her hand, the man refused to let go. In a fit of rage, she kicked the man in the balls.

“Argh!” The man let out an agonizing scream before falling into the pool with a giant splash.

Alerted by the commotion, everyone turned to look. When someone deduced what happened, he burst into laughter, “Haha, Jared, seems like you’ve met your match today!”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1241

Just when Charlotte stormed off, she saw Zachary carrying Nancy into the elevator.

The moment the elevator door was about to close, he suddenly looked in her direction.

At that moment, both of them made eye contact. One had an icy gaze while the other was filled with conflict.

Charlotte wondered if he had recognized her.

If he didn't, why would he look at me? No, wait. Perhaps, I attracted his attention after kicking someone into the water. That's understandable after all. If he really recognized me and yet, took Nancy away while I was being harassed, that would really have been too much.

At that moment, Charlotte was in so much turmoil that she clenched both her fists.

"You d*mn woman!" Jared had climbed out of the pool. He bellowed, "How dare you kick me! I'm going to kill you!"

Just as he spoke, Jared attacked Charlotte from behind.

With a darkening gaze, Charlotte turned around with a whirlwind kick and sent the man hurtling into the pool again.

Splash! Water ripples were everywhere.

At that moment, everyone was stunned. They had assumed Jared fell into the pool earlier by accident after fooling around with Charlotte. But now, they had witnessed Charlotte's ferocity.

Her eyes were filled with murderous rage.

With no time to lose, Charlotte quickly left. Watching the elevator's levels, she saw that Zachary had taken Nancy to the forty-eight floor.

He really can't wait, can he?

Filled with rage, Charlotte hurried to the elevator.

"Stop her!"

By then, Theo had grown suspicious of Charlotte as she still had her mask on when all the other girls had removed theirs. It was obvious that she didn't want to be recognized.

If anyone with malicious intentions had infiltrated the event, it would have been terrible.

After all, everyone present was a VIP and no harm should ever come to them.

When a few bodyguards went up to stop Charlotte, Lupine, who was dressed as a waitress, stood in their way. She told Charlotte, "Ms. Lindberg, go on ahead. I got this."

Just when the bodyguards wanted to stop Charlotte from entering the elevator, Lupine unleashed a kick and sent all of them flying.

From that moment, the scene turned into utter chaos.

The ladies screamed in fear while the men called for their bodyguards.

All of them were fearful for their own lives.

Meanwhile, Theo ordered a large group of bodyguards to take on Lupine and capture Charlotte at the same time.

However, the elevator door had closed and Charlotte was heading directly to the forty-eight floor.

"D*mn it! The two assassins are heading in Mr. Nacht's direction." Theo was seized by panic. "Quick, send more men to capture the two women."

"Yes."

When Charlotte heard those words in the elevator, she couldn't help but knit her eyebrows.

This is all Jared's fault. I was about to slip away and follow Zachary when he suddenly got in my way and caused the situation to escalate. Luckily, they didn't know who I was. Nevertheless, I have to find Zachary now and negotiate with him. But, he is with Nancy now. Have they...

With that thought in mind, Charlotte was filled with exasperation.

In the meantime, Zachary had carried Nancy out of the elevator and arrived in his room.

The moment he entered, he saw a bottle of wine on the table with a big bouquet of roses by its side.

As for the carpet and the bed, they were all covered in rose petals.

Theo was the one behind the surprise.

Nancy could feel her cheeks heating up. Biting her lip, she snuggled up in Zachary's arms, not daring to move a muscle.

Zachary placed her down on the sofa and remarked in a deep voice, "You should go and wash up."

"Okay," Nancy acknowledged softly before heading to the bathroom.

Sitting on the sofa, Zachary had a glass of wine in silence.

"Ahem!" At that moment, Ben knocked and entered. When he didn't see Nancy in the room, he reported at once, "A fight has broken out downstairs."

Zachary continued sipping his wine without responding. It was as if it had nothing to do with him at all.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1242

"The two girls just now really are-"

"You're dismissed," Zachary interrupted. "Don't bother me without my permission."

"Mr. Nacht, are you really..." Ben asked in surprise as he glanced at the bathroom. "Don't be hasty. You have to stay calm."

"Get out!" Zachary barked.

"Yes." Not daring to say another word, Ben left with his head hung low.

Zachary picked up the remote control from the table and turned on the 'do not disturb' indicator.

Letting out a sigh, Ben left in resignation.

Meanwhile, Charlotte exited the elevator and quickly found Zachary's room. She knew of an old habit of his. No matter which hotel he stayed in, he would always choose the presidential suite at the end of the corridor as it was quiet, and he wouldn't be disturbed.

When she saw the 'do not disturb' indicator lighting up, Charlotte was filled with mixed emotions. That b*stard really can't keep it in his pants.

Clenching her fists, she hesitated as to whether she should barge in or not.

If she did and saw something compromising, she knew she would be driven mad.

If she didn't, and Theo's men caught up with her, she would lose the opportunity to talk to Zachary alone.

With that thought in mind, Charlotte tried to open the door, only to find that it was locked from the inside.

Further infuriated, she raised her hand to knock. However, it dawned upon her that there was no way she could trick Zachary into opening the door given how shrewd he was.

Scrutinizing her surroundings, she realized there was no one staying next door. Hence, she slipped into the room and planned to cross over from the balcony.

Sitting on the sofa, Zachary had almost finished his wine. He watched on as the movements outside the door started and stopped. When it fell silent, he knew that whoever was outside had left.

Has she given up?

"I... I'm done..."

At that moment, Nancy came out of the bathroom wrapped in a towel. She had just showered and dried her hair.

With her exquisite features and flawless skin, she exuded an aura that was unbelievably pure.

What intensified her allure was the innocent look in her eyes as she stared longingly at Zachary.

Her gaze jolted Zachary, who rarely had any luck in his relationships.

"Come over and sit." Zachary raised her gaze at her.

Nancy anxiously took a seat on the sofa opposite him. She was so nervous that she didn't know what to do.

"Come over." Zachary patted the seat beside him.

Biting her lip, Nancy walked over carefully. After sitting beside him, she didn't dare make eye contact.

When Zachary poured her a glass of wine, she received it carefully, worried that she would spill it again.

"Are you nervous?"

Just as Zachary spoke, he heard some movement in the balcony, causing him to furrow his eyebrows.

This is the forty-eighth floor. If she falls, there would be no coming back from this.

"Yeah." Taking a deep breath, Nancy gathered her courage and said, "Do you still remember me? We met before in H City."

"I heard about you," Zachary plainly replied. "Your father bid twenty billion for the South Sea project. Unfortunately, Lindberg Corporation stole the bid from you at thirty billion."

"That wasn't my father. The one who participated in the tender was my father's subordinate," Nancy explained. "During the tender, I wasn't present. It wasn't until the Aploth business convention at Ashenville Garden that I met you backstage. Do you remember that?"

"Oh, is that so?" Zachary had obviously forgotten about it.

"Actually, that wasn't the first time I waited for you." Blushing, Nancy continued, "When I was sixteen, I met you at a business convention in M Nation. During that time, you were speaking on stage--"

Before Nancy could finish, Zachary pulled her into his embrace. Caught by surprise, she spilled the red wine she was holding onto his thigh.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1243

"I'm sorry, I..."

Just when Nancy wanted to speak, Zachary pressed himself against her. Holding onto her cheeks, he looked at her with a conflicted expression.

Nancy was so nervous that she could barely breathe. Feeling her tremble underneath him, Zachary saw the terrified look in her eyes.

"Tell me, what do women care about the most?"

Zachary ran his fingers across her cheeks while his eyes sparkled with curiosity.

"Huh?" Although Nancy didn't understand the rationale for the sudden question, she still replied in earnest. "Probably, the man they love."

"The man they love?" Zachary considered the answer. "Is it more important than the interest of the family?"

"It is," Nancy replied without hesitation. "A family's interest belongs to the family. Love is what belongs to ourselves."

Pausing briefly, she explained in an unsettled tone, "Are you assuming that I am trying to get close to you because of my family? No. I'm doing it because... I truly admire you."

"If..." Zachary continued asking, ignoring her explanation, "I ask you to sleep with someone you don't love for the sake of your family, will you do it?"

"I won't." Nancy assumed that he had misunderstood her intentions. She defended herself frantically, "I love you, that's why-"

"Love?" Zachary sneered, "Love can change."

A long time ago, Charlotte loved me too and sacrificed a lot for me. She stayed true and showered all her affection on me. But now... She has thrown herself into Louis' embrace.

"No, I won't change." Nancy was full of conviction. "You don't know how much I love you. From when I was sixteen, it has been five years. My feelings for you-"

Bam!

Nancy's words were cut short by the sudden noise. Startled, she turned to look by reflex.

Charlotte had taken the risk of falling from the forty-eighth floor and jumped over from the neighboring room's balcony with everything she had.

She had landed successfully initially. However, the sight of Zachary pressing himself against Nancy had jolted her, causing her to accidentally tip over a vase on the balcony.

Consequently, that was the sound of the vase shattering on the ground.

"It's her?" Nancy recognized Charlotte at once as the girl who wore a mask in the changing room. Moreover, Charlotte was still wearing the swimsuit she had lent to her.

"I'm sorry!" Charlotte apologized before shooting a silver needle into Nancy's neck.

Feeling her limbs go weak, Nancy fainted onto the ground.

"Insolence!"

Shooting her a glare, Zachary grabbed the wineglass by the table and flung it at Charlotte.

Avoiding it by reflex, Charlotte saw the glass smash into pieces upon crashing onto the wall.

Before she could regain her senses, Zachary suddenly appeared in front of her, grabbed her throat, and pinned her against the wall.

"Ah!" At that very instant, death flashed across Charlotte's eyes. In a choking voice, she yelled, "Zachary, it's me!"

Tearing off her mask, Zachary exclaimed with his eyebrows raised, "Charlotte?"

"Let go!" Charlotte grabbed the back of his hand, leaving deep scratches in the process.

When Zachary saw the discomfort she was in, he released her and turned around. "What are you doing here?"

Coughing, she said, "I... I have something to discuss with you."

Rubbing her throat, Charlotte desperately tried to catch her breath.

"There nothing to discuss between us."

Sitting on the sofa, Zachary poured a glass of wine for himself.

"We have to talk about the kids." Charlotte walked over anxiously. "At the very least, let me see the kids once to hear what they have to say."

"What makes you think you deserve it?" Zachary glared at her with rage burning in his eyes.

"Zachary, what do you mean by that?" Charlotte was infuriated. "Both of us have broken up a long time ago. There's nothing wrong with me being with someone else. What gives you the right to steal the children away and ridicule me like that?"

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"In that case, go ahead with your wedding then. What do you still want with me?" Zachary gently covered Nancy with a jacket. "You even crashed through the window and disrupted my fun!"

"Return the children to me, and I'll leave at once."

Charlotte was seized by bitterness when she saw how attentive Zachary was toward Nancy. However, she maintained her strong front. "After that, I will not interfere with whoever you want to bed."

"Bullsh*t!" Zachary sneered, "What gives you the right to butt your nose into my affairs? Do you even have the capability to do so?"

"In that case, what has my relationship with Louis got anything to do with you? What gave you the right to barge in and cause a ruckus?" Charlotte snapped.

At the mention of that matter, Zachary's expression changed drastically. Smashing the wineglass onto the floor, he pinned Charlotte onto the sofa.

Grabbing her by the cheeks, he bellowed, "Do you have an itch to scratch because I have not touched you for the last two years? Do you desire a man so much? To the extent of throwing yourself into someone else's arms?"

"What are you doing? Let go of me!"

Charlotte tried vehemently to push him away. However, his body was as heavy as a rock. No matter how hard she tried, he just wouldn't budge.

Instead, her struggles ended up arousing him. Given that she was wearing a swimsuit, her attempt to free herself ended up exposing more of her body.

"If you don't stop moving, I'll take you right here!" Zachary roared after having noticed the change in his body. "Considering you've

knocked my woman unconscious, I will have to replace her with you.”

Charlotte’s heart was torn upon hearing Zachary’s words. He said that she was his woman. His woman...

“Charlotte!” Grabbing Charlotte’s face, Zachary was filled with agony as he questioned her, “Do you know how much I had to go through just so I can bring you home? I was filled with anticipation at our family reunion. And yet, what did you give me in return?

“Don’t you know that since the very beginning, you have been the only one for me? Even during the two years you were missing, I didn’t touch any other woman. No matter how many women throw themselves at me, I have never wavered. But you... you ended up with Louis all of a sudden! Do you know how much I hate you? I hate you so much that I feel the urge to strangle you to death...”

When he uttered the last sentence, Zachary gritted his teeth. With a trembling voice, he could no longer suppress the sorrow he felt.

Reaching out his hands, he clasped them around Charlotte’s neck. However, he couldn’t bring himself to exert any strength.

At that moment, Charlotte was overwhelmed by her own emotions and guilt. As her heart began to soften, she replied in a choking voice, “Zachary, actually, I...”

Bam! Bam! Bam!

“Charlotte! Charlotte!”

Charlotte was abruptly interrupted by a desperate bang on the door. She was jolted when she heard Louis’ frantic shouts from outside.

Why is Louis here at a time like this?

Zachary’s gaze sharpened instantaneously. Just a moment ago, he thought Charlotte was about to explain herself, which reignited the hope within him.

However, Louis’ appearance had interfered with his stroke of luck.

"You've outdone yourself, Charlotte." Zachary coldly tapped Charlotte on her cheeks and sneered, "Looks like both husband and wife have come to confront me. One pretends to negotiate while the other comes to apply pressure on me? Did you also send men to my villa to kidnap the children? Hmm?"

"I..." Charlotte panicked when she realized that he had seen through her. However, she quickly regained her composure and explained, "It's not like that, Zachary..."

"Zachary, open the door! Open the door right now!"

While Louis was still banging on the door desperately, Theo's voice rang out.

"Louis, stop causing a scene. I already told you that the lady Mr. Nacht brought into his room is Nancy Gold, not Ms. Lindberg."

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chapter 1245

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"But Charlotte has definitely come here to negotiate with Zachary. Now that she's missing, she has to be inside." Louis was filled with anxiety. "Mr. Murphy, please get the hotel management to open the door."

"Louis, are you crazy?" Theo, too, was desperate. "This is Mr. Nacht's room. By doing that, are you trying to get me killed?"

"This is Pillere. We're in F Nation, my territory. What are you afraid of?" Louis's desperation intensified. "If you don't want to open it, I'll get my men to do it."

"Louis, calm down. Stop messing around!" Left without a choice, Theo pleaded, "I'm begging you, please don't make me do this. Given the ruckus you've caused, you are going to cost me my life. I am fully responsible for organizing this event. If Mr. Nacht is upset in any way, I will be held accountable for it. You should leave with me first, and I promise that I will find Ms. Lindberg for you, all right?"

"Charlotte is definitely here." Louis remained stubborn. "Her subordinate has searched the entire hotel and can't find her still. Therefore, this is the only place she can possibly be."

"You..."

"Sir Louis, what are you doing? This is Mr. Nacht's room. Please leave!"

Ben had arrived to chase Louis away.

Although Louis was someone influential, members of the Nacht family never feared anyone of power.

Previously, they only respected Louis because he was Zachary's good friend.

Evidently, things had changed.

"Ben, it's good that you're here." When he saw Ben, Louis frantically suggested, "Open the door, I want to talk to Zachary."

"Sir Louis, has the alcohol gone to your head? How can I open Mr. Nacht's door on my own accord?" Ben was speechless. "Please leave and do not interrupt Mr. Nacht's rest."

"I won't leave until I see Zachary."

Having lost his patience, Louis got his subordinates to call for the staff.

Theo continued to persuade him while Ben, too, reminded him of the gravity of his actions.

Meanwhile, Charlotte was pushing Zachary away anxiously.

The matter was supposed to be resolved internally. As of then, only she and Zachary knew of her identity.

However, now that Louis was causing a scene, it would be humiliating for all three families if the matter got out.

"What's wrong? Do you feel bad?" Zachary smirked. "He has come at the perfect time. Whatever he gave me the day before, I will return it to him today!"

Just as he spoke, Zachary tore off Charlotte's swimsuit, leaving her stark naked.

"You..." Covering her breasts with her arms, Charlotte screamed, "Have you gone mad?"

"Yes, I have. I have been driven mad by you."

Zachary unlocked the door with the remote control before climbing onto Charlotte and forcefully kissing her on the neck.

Outside, Louis barged into the room when he saw that the door was unlocked. "Charlotte, Char-"

His words got lodged in his throat the moment he saw Charlotte and Zachary.

Utterly dumbstruck, he stared blankly at them.

“Let go of me!”

Charlotte pushed Zachary away angrily and covered herself with a pillow. When she raised her hand to hit him, he grabbed her by the wrist.

“You were the one who threw yourself at me.”

Standing up calmly, Zachary threw a blanket on top of Charlotte. With his back facing Louis, he straightened his clothes elegantly.

At the door, Ben had prevented Theo from entering. “Stand down. This is none of your business.”

“Will anyone lose their life?” Theo was filled with panic.

“No.” Ben chased everyone away.

Just then, Lupine arrived. When their eyes locked, she shot him a glare before charging in.

“Zachary, I’m going to kill you!”

Louis grabbed the fruit knife from the table and charged hysterically at Zachary.

“Louis! No!” Charlotte screamed.

Lupine wanted to stop him but it was too late.

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With a sharpened gaze, Zachary launched a kick at Louis.

Spewing out a mouthful of blood, Louis crashed onto the ground.

"Do you really think that I don't dare to kill you?" Zachary glared ferociously at Louis. "Let me tell you. If I had wanted to do so, you would have been dead in your home, let alone in F Nation."

"Zachary, you..." Seized by rage, Louis spat out another mouthful of blood.

"Sir Louis!" At that moment, Louis' subordinates came to help him. They questioned Zachary, "Mr. Nacht, how can you do this to Sir Louis? Aren't you friends?"

"Friends?" Zachary sneered. "I treated him as my friend. But, he stole my woman."

"Charlotte is my fiancée. She's mine!" Louis roared adamantly.

"Do you still want to marry her despite the fact that she has just slept with me?" Zachary triggered him on purpose.

"You..." Louis raged hysterically, "I'm going to kill you!"

"As if you can." Zachary taunted him at every turn.

"Gather my men and soldiers here, I'm going to kill this b*stard right now!"

Louis had gone berserk.

Wrapping herself with the blanket, Charlotte walked up to Louis and struck his neck, rendering him unconscious.

Suddenly, silence filled the air.

"Take your Duke home," Charlotte ordered Louis' subordinates.

"Yes." They left with him at once.

When Charlotte gave Lupine a look, she quickly followed them out. She then gave Gordon's men a call and instructed them to escort Louis safely home.

If something were to happen to him along the journey, it would significantly complicate matters.

After that, everyone was asked to leave.

Back in the room, only Charlotte, Zachary, Lupine, and Ben remained.

"Zachary, you've got guts." Charlotte gritted her teeth as she glared at him. "Are you satisfied now? Have you vented enough?"

"Not even close." With a cigar between his fingers, Zachary held his wine glass without even looking at Charlotte.

"What will it take before I'm allowed to see my children?" Holding back her anger, Charlotte demanded, "State your conditions!"

After a brief silence, Zachary replied, "Cancel the wedding and swear to never marry again!"

Stunned, Charlotte stared at him in bewilderment. "Why? What has my marriage got anything to do with you? What gives you the right to control me?"

"It appears that you have no intention of seeing the children," Zachary mocked. "Didn't you ask me for my conditions? And yet, you can't even meet this simple request of mine."

"Those are my children. You have no right to stop me from seeing them," Charlotte screamed furiously.

"I don't care. What are you going to do about it?"

Stonewalling her, Zachary was in no mood for reason.

"You..." Charlotte was outraged.

"Are you that desperate to get married?" Zachary questioned her instead. "After what happened tonight, do you think Louis would still want to marry you?"

"Whether he or I want to get married or not has nothing to do with you. You have no right to interfere in my private affairs." Charlotte was incensed.

"Hmm, in that case, go ahead and enjoy your freedom."

Having no intention to discuss the matter any further, Zachary walked toward the bathroom.

"Zachary..." When Charlotte wanted to stop him, Ben persuaded her, "Ms. Lindberg, Mr. Nacht is blinded by anger right now. Whatever you say will only fall on deaf ears. Why don't you go back first."

"Exactly. Let's just leave first, okay?"

Lupine put a jacket over Charlotte.

She sympathized with Charlotte when she saw how Charlotte's negotiations ended in her being in a pathetic state. Nevertheless, she was cognizant that reason sometimes just couldn't prevail.

Looking miserable, Charlotte had no choice but to leave.

"Ms. Lindberg," Ben called out to her suddenly. He softly reminded, "Morgan and her subordinates have been asked to leave. There's no way the three of them are enough to take the children from Bruce."

"What are you saying? Are you looking down on the Lindberg family?" Lupine snapped.

"That's not what I meant." Furrowing his brows, Ben explained, "Trying to take them by force isn't going to work. You have to slog it out."

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His words caused Charlotte to have an epiphany.

He's right. Zachary is amenable to coaxing but not coercion. Now that the Lindberg Corporation is being bogged down by a crisis, it will be futile to take the children by force. However, he has a weakness. As long as I bide my time, I will definitely get to see the children again. After all, I bet they miss me too.

"Ms. Lindberg, you're a smart woman. So, don't let your emotions cloud your judgment," Ben advised. "You should head back now. I'm afraid the Laurent family will be looking for you soon."

"Thank you!" After expressing her gratitude, Charlotte hurriedly left. Just when she stepped out the door, she turned and looked at Nancy who was still lying on the sofa.

Zachary doesn't look like he intends to send her away. Perhaps, he wants her to stay back and pleasure him.

Considering that Theo was someone discreet, he personally waited by the elevator for Charlotte and Lupine so that he could lead them out the back door. With a humble attitude, he apologized repeatedly for his previous indiscretion.

Finally, he even reassured them that no one else but those involved knew about the matter. Also, he allayed their concerns by swearing not to tell a soul.

After expressing her gratitude, Charlotte quickly left with Lupine.

Morgan was already waiting at the car park. When she saw Charlotte, she apologized immediately, "I'm sorry, Ms. Lindberg. We were discovered by Bruce the moment we infiltrated. He managed to stop us at once."

"Did he hurt you?" Lupine asked.

"No." Morgan shook her head. "They treated us civilly by only preventing us from reporting back and carrying out our mission. It was only about twenty minutes ago that they kicked us out, telling us that negotiations had failed and that I should come here and wait for Ms. Lindberg."

"It appears Bruce and Ben are still being nice for old time's sake." Lupine snuck a glance in Charlotte's direction.

At that moment, Charlotte was filled with frustration. Not only did the negotiations fail, but she had also been taken for a ride by Zachary.

Consequently, she was at a loss as to how she could explain herself to Louis' family.

"Let's get in the car first."

Lupine helped Charlotte in.

The moment the car drove off, Charlotte's phone started to ring incessantly. It was Sherlyn.

Evidently, she had heard about what happened that night.

Considering Louis was beaten badly by Zachary, Robert and Sherlyn would definitely not let the matter slide.

"What does Lady Sherlyn want?" Morgan couldn't help but ask. "Lupine, what happened just now?"

Lupine softly recounted the incident.

Morgan was utterly shocked. "How brazen can Zachary be? He actually..."

"Shush, enough." Observing Charlotte's expression, Lupine comforted her, "Ms. Lindberg, don't worry. Let's give Lady Sherlyn a proper explanation when we return."

"What's there to explain?" Morgan had always been more simple-minded. "Since Ms. Lindberg doesn't really want to marry

Sir Louis anyway, this is a good opportunity to cancel the wedding.”

“You are oversimplifying matters,” Lupine scoffed.

“Do you know how big tonight’s misunderstanding is? Mr. Nacht declared that he slept with Ms. Lindberg and even beat up Sir Louis. Given the blow their reputation has suffered, the Laurent family will not take this lying down. Even if they don’t have the guts to take any action against Mr. Nacht, they have every right to question Ms. Lindberg. Furthermore, now that Mr. Lindberg is missing, we no longer have anyone to provide us support.”

“So what? It’s not like they pose a challenge to us.” Morgan didn’t see the Laurent family as a threat. “At most, we will leave F Nation with the children. We will still be fine without their protection.”

“Whether we can even leave is another problem,” Lupine muttered.

“Do you mean the Laurents won’t allow us to do so?” Morgan knitted her eyebrows. “Are you sure? Even if something has happened to Mr. Lindberg, Ms. Lindberg is still someone influential in the business world. Do they actually dare to act with such insolence?”

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“Not necessarily, as it involves their reputation.” Lupine raised her gaze at Charlotte. “Ms. Lindberg, is Mr. Nacht doing this to bring you to your knees?”

“He really is something.” Charlotte gritted her teeth in exasperation.

Given the current situation, she was left with two choices. She either had to lower herself and marry Louis knowing his family would always hold the matter against her, or she could go back to

Zachary. In the former, she would constantly be ridiculed and wouldn't be able to see her children for the rest of her life.

She couldn't understand why Zachary was doing all this when he insisted she had slept with Louis and hated her guts for it. Furthermore, he even had a woman by his side. Hence, she wondered if it was all just for the sake of revenge.

"She's calling again," Lupine reminded softly.

Setting her thoughts aside, Charlotte stared at her phone. Just a while ago, the call automatically cut off after ringing for a long time. But now that Sherlyn had called again, Charlotte knew she had no choice but to accept the call.

Charlotte answered, "Hello?"

"Charlotte, where are you?"

From Sherlyn's tone, Charlotte could tell how the woman was desperately suppressing her anger. Evidently, the former was extremely emotional and couldn't wait to question Charlotte about what happened.

"What is it?" Charlotte was a sea of calm.

"What's wrong with you? Louis has been beaten unconscious, and you're asking me what it is?"

Sherlyn blew her lid immediately. "Charlotte, the only reason I'm still speaking nicely to you is on the account of your brother. Therefore, you had better come home right now and explain to me what happened!"

"I'm sure you already have a rough idea," Charlotte plainly replied. "Anyway, there's something I need to do now, so I can't go over. We'll talk again once I'm done—"

"Charlotte!" Sherlyn was unable to hold back her rage any longer. She bellowed, "You are about to marry Louis, and yet, you are still involved with your ex-husband. In fact, you even threw yourself at

him in the hotel and slept with him. Don't you have any shame at all?"

Knitting her eyebrows, Charlotte didn't respond.

"Furthermore, not only did you not protect Louis at the crucial moment, you even bullied him together with Zachary by knocking him out. You devious woman! I'm not letting you off easy..."

Sherlyn berated Charlotte, "I'll give you one hour to come home and explain yourself. Or else, be prepared to suffer the consequences!"

Sherlyn ended the call the moment she finished.

Holding her phone, Charlotte frowned as she looked out the window with a heavy heart.

What had begun as a simple matter had escalated beyond her control. And now, she was left to clean up the entire mess.

Wait a minute.

A thought suddenly popped into Charlotte's mind. Considering how careful Zachary has always been, how did he let Mr. Murphy leak his movements? Could it be that he did it on purpose? He got Mr. Murphy to reveal his itinerary to Louis so that I would be tempted to go and see him. After that, he arranged for the chaotic situation to happen so that he could use it to force me into canceling the wedding.

"By the way, when Jade and I were at the villa, it was silent everywhere. I didn't see the children nor anything that belonged to the kids. It felt really strange."

Morgan suddenly felt suspicious and informed Charlotte, "Ms. Lindberg, I believe the kids were never at the villa."

"Could it be..." Lupine mumbled, realizing something, "that this is all part of Mr. Nacht's scheme?"

"It's entirely possible!" Morgan saw through the ruse. "They must have set this trap a long time ago and were waiting for us to fall

into it. Marino wasn't surprised to see me at all. Come to think of it now, they must have planned everything."

"Zachary!" Charlotte seethed. "How can you!"

"Seems like we have underestimated Mr. Nacht." Upon realizing it, Lupine felt a shiver down her spine. "It's obvious that he has never gotten serious with us. If we had truly gotten into a conflict, we wouldn't have stood a chance at all."

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"But now, we have no choice but to go against them. Let's think of how we can solve the problem at hand first." Morgan felt unsettled. "Considering Lady Sherlyn's attitude, I don't think she will let the matter slide. Why don't we leave and return to either Erihal or H City?"

"Erihal is definitely out of the question, as we might add to Mr. Lindberg's troubles there." Lupine gave Charlotte a look. "In H City, we have Mr. Nacht there..."

"It's too late to do anything now." Charlotte stared in front of the car.

Raising her gaze, Morgan slowed the car down at once.

More than ten military vehicles had formed a barricade to block their way.

"It's the Laurent family's men." Lupine frowned. "I knew it. Lady Sherlyn isn't going to let us off easy."

"What do we do?" Morgan's expression turned grim. "Why don't we give Gordon a call?"

Just as she spoke, she took out her phone.

"We can't." Charlotte stopped her. "Even if Gordon and his men are here, they wouldn't stand a chance against them. Furthermore, they need to deal with the assassins from Erihal and protect the children."

"In that case, we..."

"We'll just have to go along with them." Charlotte stared intently ahead. "I will have to face the consequences of my own actions."

"Perhaps, that's for the best. After all, the few of us are here with you." Lupine remarked defiantly, "I'm confident that the Laurent family won't dare lay a finger on you."

"Mmm-hmm." Charlotte ordered, "Slow down and drive ahead."

"Yes."

"Mr. Nacht, Lady Sherlyn has brought in the military to stop Ms. Lindberg and escort her back," Ben reported.

"Mmm-hmm." Lowering his gaze, Zachary continued sipping his wine.

"Everything is going according to your expectations." Ben looked grim. "However, will Ms. Lindberg and the others be in danger?"

"Sir Robert knows where to draw the line. Now that there's no news of Mr. Lindberg, he wouldn't dare harm Charlotte yet." Zachary was extremely calm.

"But..." Ben stopped abruptly as he didn't dare to continue. He knew that although Robert and Sherlyn might not dare lay a finger on Charlotte, the same couldn't be said for Charlotte's bodyguards.

In fact, the Laurents might end up venting their frustration on Lupine and Morgan to threaten Charlotte instead.

"Get someone to send her back home," Zachary ordered as he looked at the unconscious Nancy. "Also, take proper care of her."

"Yes." Ben made the arrangements at once.

With his wine glass in hand, Zachary walked out to the hotel balcony. Looking out at the vibrant city skyline, his eyes were filled with mixed emotions.

"Mr. Nacht, it's time for your medication."

Having completed his assignment, Ben returned with a glass of water and handed Zachary a big box.

Inside the box, there were ten types of tablets of different colors. Although they looked like candy for children, all of them were potent medications.

After receiving the medicine, Zachary downed them all quickly. Just when he was about to drink from his wine glass, Ben stopped him. "The doctor has said that you can't mix alcohol with your medication. Why don't you have some water instead?"

"Since I'm not going to live much longer, what difference does it make?"

Zachary downed the entire glass of wine to wash down the tablets.

"Don't act that way. The doctor said that if we can find Francesco and Dr. Felch, there might still be a sliver of hope," Ben consoled softly. "We shouldn't be here struggling with Ms. Lindberg right now. Instead, we should return to H City to search for Dr. Felch."

"Hope is only useful when comforting someone," Zachary plainly remarked. "Life and death aren't important. What really matters is that we live life to its fullest!"

Not knowing what to say in response, Ben hung his head gloomily.

Despite having received treatment for the past two months, Zachary was still unable to rid the poison from his body. Although his condition had improved, he would still feel immense pain at night.

Having run out of ideas, the doctor suggested that they find Dr. Felch and Francesco as soon as possible.

However, given that Charlotte and Louis' wedding was around the corner, Zachary couldn't wait any longer. After getting the doctor to prescribe him some medications, he led his subordinates to Arkfield to pick up Charlotte.

Alas, what he got after arriving at Arkfield was not the happy ending he wanted but instead more heartbreak.

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It never crossed Zachary's mind that something like that would happen.

At that moment, Ben thought Zachary had lost it and was about to kill someone. However, the latter managed to suppress his emotions in the end.

After they left the manor, Zachary shut himself in his room for a day and a night. Everyone was fearful that something would happen to him.

However, when he walked out the next day, he was in a sea of calm.

And that was when he began to plot.

No one knew what his true objective was. They assumed he just wanted revenge on Louis and Charlotte.

However, Ben was cognizant of what his real intention was.

"The children keep asking when you will be back?" Ben asked softly. "They want to contact Ms. Lindberg, but I denied them according to your instructions. But, I don't think it's right for us to keep this up."

"All right," Zachary interrupted. "I'll head downstairs after getting changed."

"I'll have someone get the car ready." Ben went off immediately.

Putting down his wine glass, Zachary prepared to go change. However, when he saw his phone on the table, he hesitated for a while. Picking it up, he unblocked Charlotte's phone number.

Back in the car, Charlotte was about to get out when her phone suddenly rang. When she saw that it was Gordon, she answered at once, "Hello?"

"Ms. Lindberg." Gordon's deep voice rang out. "I'm on my way to your location. Don't go with them. I'll be there very soon."

"No." Charlotte stopped him. "Your responsibility now is to protect Danrique's three children. I will solve my own problems myself."

"But..."

"The Laurent family won't harm me." Looking out the window, she replied softly, "The wedding is the day after tomorrow. Everything will come to a head then. Therefore, you have to protect the children these two days and wait for me at the villa."

"All right. I understand." Gordon had no choice but to withdraw.

After ending the call, Charlotte alighted from the car slowly. The Laurent family's men walked up and bowed respectfully before remarking, "Ms. Lindberg, Lady Sherlyn has sent us to pick you up."

"I had initially wanted to see her tomorrow." Charlotte swept her gaze at the convoy. "But, she's just too anxious!"

"Sir Louis misses you." The butler smiled before ushering her forward. "This way please."

Together with Lupine, Morgan, and two other subordinates, Charlotte got into the Laurent family's vehicle.

At that moment, she had changed back to the clothes she wore earlier and had her hair adjusted simply. Although her makeup had been washed off, she still look stunning without it.

Even then, she looked visibly unkempt for the occasion when she arrived at the Laurent residence.

Charlotte and her subordinates were taken straight to Sherlyn's study.

Inside, Robert and Sherlyn were seated upright on the sofa. Both of them glared at Charlotte with gloomy expressions.

Sherlyn, in particular, was staring daggers at her.

"Lady Sherlyn, here she is." Leaving quietly, the butler closed the door behind him.

"The few of you, get out." Sherlyn pointed at Lupine, Morgan, and the rest of Charlotte's subordinates.

"I'm sorry, Lady Sherlyn. We only take orders from Mr. Lindberg. Other than staying by Ms. Lindberg's side to protect her, we won't be going anywhere," Lupine replied defiantly with her head lowered.

"This is my home. Do you think you're still in Erihal?" Lady Sherlyn thundered. "Get out!"

"Lady Sherlyn, what's the meaning of this?" Feeling indignant that her subordinates were being bullied, Charlotte snapped, "They are my personal bodyguards. No matter where they are, they only answer to me and no one else."

"Charlotte, after committing such an embarrassing act, how dare you behave with such insolence?" Sherlyn admonished her angrily. "Don't you feel any shame or remorse at all?"

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"Lady Sherlyn, did you call me here to interrogate me?"

Raising her gaze at Sherlyn, Charlotte's attitude was firm, as if what happened was so trivial it wasn't even worth mentioning.

"How dare you throw that question back at me?" Sherlyn's anger intensified. "You and Louis are going to be married the day after. And yet, you created such a scene. Don't you feel ashamed?"

Lowering her gaze, Charlotte apologized sincerely, "What happened was my mistake. There's some misunderstanding behind it, but I won't go into details. Nevertheless, I admit my mistake. Lady Sherlyn, you have all the right to admonish me but please don't take it out on my subordinates as they have nothing to do with it."

"I'm surprised that you realize your mistake." The more she thought about it, the angrier Sherlyn became. "And yet, I assumed you knew how to stay chaste considering that you came from an illustrious family. I didn't expect you to be no different from a slut on the street for committing such a disgraceful act!"

"You've gone overboard!" Morgan snapped.

"Who do you think you are? How dare you speak to me like that?" Sherlyn pointed at Morgan furiously. "Give her a beating!"

A few of her maids stepped forward and restrained Morgan. At the same time, Diana raised her hand to hit her.

"I dare you!" Morgan resisted at once.

When Lupine and the other two bodyguards were about to stop them, more than ten soldiers raised their weapons and aimed at them.

"Lady Sherlyn-"

Slap!

Before Charlotte could say a word, Morgan bore the brunt of a slap from Diana.

Lupine and the others were stunned as they didn't expect Morgan to really get beaten.

Just when Diana was going to continue, Charlotte stepped up, grabbed her wrist, and shoved her aside. "I dare you to do it again!"

"I'm sorry, Ms. Lindberg. I was just following orders," Diana replied with a fearful expression.

"Why are you apologizing?" Sherlyn bellowed. "This is my home. Do I need anyone's permission to reprimand the servants?"

"Lady Sherlyn, you should vent your anger at me. Whether you want to hit or scold me, I'll bear with it," Charlotte roared. "However, if you lay a finger on my subordinates, I will not hold back!"

"Do you think I don't dare hit you?" With an enraged expression, Sherlyn barked, "Hold her down-"

"Enough!" At that moment, Robert, who had been sitting in silence throughout, stamped his foot down. Furrowing his eyebrows, he chided Sherlyn, "Didn't I tell you to discuss this in a civil manner? Why must you always resort to violence?"

"Why are you scolding me?" Sherlyn scowled. "This woman has committed such a disgraceful act and even caused Louis to be beaten. Are we to just look past how she has humiliated us?"

"Shut up," Robert rebuked her with a frown.

"You..." Despite her indignance, Sherlyn held her tongue when she saw the look in Robert's eye.

"Charlotte, please have a seat." Robert invited her.

After shooting a glare at Diana and the other maids, Charlotte returned to her seat.

Meanwhile, Lupine and Jade quickly supported the fuming Morgan and motioned her to calm down.

"At the end of the day, I don't think you are someone easy nor have you abandoned your principles," Robert suggested warmly. "Is there a misunderstanding behind this?"

"I think I should explain it to Louis directly," Charlotte plainly replied. "Where is he?"

"How can you still have the cheek to face him?" Sherlyn hissed. "He has suffered a grievous injury and is recuperating in his room."

Charlotte knitted her eyebrows in response. She had witnessed what happened earlier and didn't think Zachary was heavy-handed at all. Lady Sherlyn really knows how to make a mountain out of a molehill.

"Louis is in the room. I'll have someone take you to see him later." Robert's tone was more amicable. "For now, I hope you can explain to us what actually happened."

"What do you want to know?" Charlotte flipped the question at them.

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"What's going on with you and Zachary?" Robert's tone turned solemn. "You said you were going to talk to him about the children, so why..."

He trailed off, for it did not seem appropriate for him to say anything as her future father-in-law.

"I don't think there's any need for me to discuss this with you." Charlotte did not want to continue the conversation. "If you think that I've embarrassed you, feel free to cancel the wedding."

"As I've expected, you've finally shown your true nature," Sherlyn snarled in a mocking tone. "You've wanted to break off the engagement for a long time now so that you can be with Zachary, right?"

Charlotte lowered her head, not wanting to answer her.

"You want to break off the engagement?" Robert furrowed his brows. "Have you ever considered the consequences of doing so?"

"What consequences?" Charlotte asked, somewhat glad that they had finally reached the main topic.

"You're a smart girl. I'm sure you don't need me to say anything to understand it," Robert uttered. "That's it for today. Dwell on it before you give us the answer tomorrow."

With that said, he rose to his feet to leave.

"Darling," Sherlyn called out, but Robert did not turn around.

Although Sherlyn was furious, she had no choice but to follow him out. However, before she left, she shot Charlotte a glare and said to Diana, "Take her to Louis."

"Understood." Diana walked over and said politely, "Ms. Lindberg, this way, please."

Charlotte stood up and followed her out as Lupine and Morgan trailed behind her.

"Ms. Lindberg, I was only following orders earlier. You won't be mad at me, right?" Diana apologized tentatively.

"No," Charlotte replied as her eyes flicked toward her.

"Morgie, I'm sorry." Diana turned to look at Morgan.

However, Morgan only glared at her in silence.

They soon reached Louis' room. Diana knocked on the door and quietly informed, "Louis, Ms. Lindberg is here."

Soon, the door swung open to reveal an older, stern-looking maid who then studied Charlotte.

"Ms. Avril, this is Ms. Lindberg," Diana introduced.

The maid remained silent as she opened the door wider and gestured for Charlotte to enter.

After Charlotte entered, Lupine and the others moved to follow. However, Avril stopped them. "The rest of you, please wait out here."

"We-" Lupine started, but Charlotte motioned her to stop. Hence, the others quietly waited outside.

After letting Diana in as well, Avril closed the door.

"This is ridiculous," Morgan gritted out furiously. "They were so meek and submissive previously, but now they're completely different."

"They must have found something to blackmail us with," Jade whispered.

"You're too naive," Morgan snapped. "What do you mean by something to blackmail us with? Clearly, something must have happened to Mr. Lindberg, so they think that Ms. Lindberg no longer has anyone to back her up anymore. That's why they've toughened up."

"Even if something did happen to Mr. Lindberg, it'll only be temporary. We'll rise back to great heights soon," Jade grounded out.

"That's right," said another bodyguard.

"That's enough," Lupine ordered. "Quiet down. You shouldn't be discussing this."

Meanwhile, Charlotte had been brought to Louis' bedside by Avril.

Louis was lying on the bed, unconscious. The injuries he had sustained had been treated, but there were still several doctors and nurses by his bedside. At the same time, there were also four maids at the side, waiting to serve him at any time.

It was as if he was a king of the olden times.

"Sir Louis is asleep, so help Ms. Lindberg with her shower and her change of clothes first," Avril instructed before dismissing the doctors, nurses, and the servants.

"Understood." With that, Diana turned to Charlotte and said, "This way, please."

Since she was feeling quite icky herself, Charlotte followed Diana without any protests.

The bathroom was humongous, and the bathtub was filled.

Diana took off her shoes, about to help Charlotte shower.

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chapter 1253

Charlotte frowned. "I'll do it myself. Please bring in my clothes instead."

"All right." Diana hung her head before preparing to leave.

Right then, Charlotte realized that Diana's toes were painted with red polish, and the nail polish on one of her big toes was chipped.

All of a sudden, she recalled the clue she had found at Arkfield manor. Could it be that it was Diana who entered my room that night?

"Ms. Lindberg, here's your clothes." Diana handed them over.

"Thank you," Charlotte said before closing the door and started showering.

As she showered, she thought about what happened back then. The more she mulled over it, the more fishy things seemed. At that, she told herself that she had to uncover the truth no matter what.

However, the day after the next was the wedding. By the next day, she would have to come to a conclusion. Therefore, she had to find out the answer as quickly as possible.

After the shower, Charlotte dried her hair in the bathroom. Then, she put on a white robe and stepped out of the room.

Even though she was barefaced, she was still as stunning as ever.

Diana stared at her with jealousy apparent in her eyes. Although she, too, was beautiful, the charming demeanor that Charlotte had was something she could never have.

"Sir Louis, Ms. Lindberg is here," Avril said.

Louis slowly came to, and he groggily squinted. When he saw Charlotte, he froze for a second. Then, he turned agitated and yelled, "How... How could you do this to me? Why did you do it?"

"Sir Louis!" Avril hastily consoled him. "Calm down. Please calm down."

"Louis, have some water." Diana walked over to feed him some.

However, Louis shoved her away and struggled upright before questioning Charlotte, "I love you so much. So why did you do this to me? Why?"

Charlotte frowned, but she stayed silent as she looked at him.

To say that she felt no remorse at all was a lie. She was partly to blame for making Louis turn from an innocent and gentle individual into the hysterical person that he was now.

If she had known that this was what would happen, she would not have agreed to the marriage.

"Why? Why?"

Louis began crying. He wailed, his heart breaking and his soul in despair.

Louis had always had an easy life. He had never come across any obstacles too big for him to cross. Furthermore, he was brought up with strict parenting, and he was a simple-minded person. Thus, he was stubborn in his views of love.

Charlotte was the first person he had ever fallen in love with.

He had taken years to court her. And right as he had finally gotten her, he saw her under another man.

It was a devastating blow to him, to say the least.

"Louis, don't cry."

Diana's heart ached to see him upset. She wanted to console him, but her outstretched arm retracted a second later.

Her actions did not go unnoticed by Charlotte.

"Louis, I'd like to have a private chat with you," Charlotte finally said.

Louis sobbed for a while longer before he managed to get his emotions under control. He then quietly ordered. "The rest of you, leave."

"But, Sir Louis..."

"Leave!" he bellowed.

Left without a choice, Diana and Avril stepped out of the room. However, they did not go far and simply waited right outside.

The room was finally silent. Charlotte took in a deep breath to muster her courage before saying, "Louis, let's cancel the wedding."

Louis stiffened as he snapped his head to look at her with wide eyes.

"I... I thought you were here to explain to me, to apologize to me, or to express your regrets... but, you're here to break up with me?"

"I know you might have a hard time digesting this," Charlotte solemnly said as a small sigh escaped her. "I'm sorry. I know you'll hate me for saying this at a time like this, but I really don't think we're suited to be together."

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"I used to think that we can be really good friends, so living together would be a relaxing and fun experience. However, I now realize this isn't the case. Being friends and being a married couple are two vastly different matters. The moment we change roles, all sorts of problems would start popping up--"

"Stop! I don't want to hear them," Louis interrupted with a roar. "You're breaking up with me because of Zachary, aren't you? It's because you still love him, that's why you want to go back to his side. That's why you want to break up with me. Am I wrong?"

"I'm not getting back together with him," Charlotte started, her brows knitted. "I'm breaking up with you because I've simply realized that the two of us aren't suitable for married life. Being together will only make us both unhappy. This has nothing to do with anyone else."

"Then why did you and him... Why did you..."

Louis was distraught. He could not even finish his sentence. Every time he thought about what he saw back at the hotel room, rage would try to consume him.

"Actually..."

Charlotte thought of telling him the truth. However, she realized that he might not agree to break off the engagement if he were to find out that nothing had happened between her and Zachary.

With that thought in mind, Charlotte said, "Since that's something that bugs you a lot, let's break off the engagement and be friends again."

"No," Louis growled out stubbornly. "I won't agree to break off the engagement."

"Louis..."

"Promise me. Promise me that you won't meet him ever again." Louis leaped up from his bed and grabbed Charlotte's hands. "As long as you promise me that, I won't hold you accountable anymore."

"Louis, don't you know that you're just lying to yourself like this?" Charlotte was at a loss for words. "You know that we're not compatible with each other, so why are you insisting on us to stay together?"

"We're not compatible with each other? How can you say that?" Louis hissed out. "Aren't we happy together? I doted on you, and I did everything you want me to. Which part have I not done right by you? Tell me, and I'll change it."

Charlotte was truly speechless at his stubbornness. The issue with them did not lie in how well he had treated her, but that love could not be forced. No happiness would stem from forcing a relationship when she did not love him.

Nevertheless, Louis clearly did not realize that. More accurately, he did not want to confront that truth.

"Charlotte, don't leave me," Louis cried out by her ears as he hugged her.

"I really, really love you. Even if you made a mistake, or even if you were forced, I don't mind. Let the past stay in the past. I won't hold you accountable for it. As long as you promise not to see him again, I'll still be as nice to you as ever."

"Louis..." There were more things Charlotte wanted to say to him, but she did not know where to start.

"Charlotte, please, don't leave me."

Louis tightened his grip around her like an insecure child. He was afraid that once he let her go, she would disappear in the next blink of his eyes.

"Louis, you're hurt. You should be resting." Charlotte gently pushed him away, only to realize that he was burning up. She quickly helped him lie down on the bed as she muttered, "Louis, stay down. I'll get the doctor for you now."

"No! Don't go." Louis wrapped his hand around her wrist in a tight grip. "Don't leave me."

A pang of pain struck Charlotte's heart to see him in that state, so she grabbed his hand and whispered, "All right, Louis. I'll stay here and keep you company. I won't go. Rest now."

With Charlotte's hands firmly in his, Louis slowly closed his eyes and fell asleep.

He was born with a golden spoon, and that meant that there were few rough patches in his life. After the beating, both his body and his mind had turned fragile.

Charlotte sat by his side, quietly watching him as various emotions swirled in her heart. She regretted her decision. Why did I agree to marry Louis because of some external factors back then?

Now, the three of us are in pain.

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chapter 1255

Knock, knock. Someone knocked on the door, and the door opened to reveal Avril. She bowed politely at Charlotte and said, "Ms. Lindberg, please rest here tonight. If there is anything you need, I can bring it to you."

"Huh?" Charlotte stiffened for a moment before a frown grew on her brows. "What are you talking about? How can I rest here? This is Louis' room."

"Lady Sherlyn has said that Sir Louis has been calling out your name in his feverish dreams. With you here by his side, he'll be able to recover quicker."

As Avril spoke, she motioned at Diana.

Diana immediately brought a blanket over and placed it beside Louis before putting down a pillow as well.

Charlotte was stunned into silence. This is too much. She's actually making plans on my behalf without bothering to hide it now.

Right as she was about to explode into an angry outburst, her eyes swept past Diana, and she was reminded about that clue.

Hence, she said, "Okay. I'll keep Louis company here tonight. However, I'll need someone to stay here. After all, I'm not used to taking care of others. If there's anything he needs, it'll be better to have someone else help him with it."

"Of course," Avril replied. "I'll be staying here to await your instructions."

"Let Diana stay instead," Charlotte said nonchalantly. "She's the one who usually takes care of Louis, so she'll know him better."

“But...” Avril glanced at Diana.

“Ms. Avril, I can do this.” Diana was more than willing to do it.

“Well, all right then,” Avril relented. “Take good care of Sir Louis and Ms. Lindberg. Feel free to come to me if anything happens.”

“Of course. Don’t worry.” Diana nodded fervently.

“Ms. Lindberg, I’ll excuse myself now. Please let Diana know if you need anything.”

With a bow, Avril moved to exit the room.

Once she was gone, Charlotte walked to the doorway and said to Lupine and Morgan, “I’ll be staying with Louis tonight, so you guys should go and rest.”

“Huh?” Lupine and the others were confused.

Morgan whispered, “Did they force you to do this? Don’t worry. At most, we’ll have a falling out with them.”

“No, it’s not that,” Charlotte replied. “Go and rest. Get your energy back. If anything happens, I’ll give you guys a call.”

“Ms. Lindberg...”

“Okay.”

Morgan was about to say more, but Lupine stopped her.

Lupine then handed Charlotte’s bag to her before pulling Morgan and the others away.

After Charlotte closed the door and went back into the room, she switched on the wall lights.

At that moment, Diana was standing by the side of the bed, watching Louis with indecipherable emotions in her eyes. When she noticed Charlotte’s returned, she quickly averted her gaze and said, “Ms. Lindberg, is there anything you need help with?”

“Fill a bucket of water to give Louis a wipe down.”

Charlotte then moved to sit on the couch and sipped on some tea.

“Understood.” Diana hurried away to fill a bucket of warm water. After squeezing the towel, she tentatively handed it to Charlotte. “Ms. Lindberg...”

“Did I ask you to stay so that you can watch me work?” Charlotte raised a brow.

“I’m sorry!” Diana squeaked before she started wiping Louis’ body with utmost care.

Charlotte paused in her tea-drinking motion as she silently studied Diana. The woman was being extremely gentle with Louis as if he was a morning dew that would fall off its leaf if she were any rougher.

Despite being deep in his sleep, Louis could sense someone cleaning him. Subconsciously, he muttered, “Charlotte... Charlotte...”

Then, he reached out to grab Diana’s hand and pulled it toward him.

Diana was startled, and she nervously peeked at Charlotte before prying Louis’ hand off hers. At the same time, she murmured, “Louis, you’ve gotten the wrong person. I’m Diana, not Ms. Lindberg.”

Then, like a frightened rabbit, she retreated to the side, not daring to go near Louis anymore.

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“He’s having a fever, so he’s not in his right state of mind. It’s fine.” Charlotte put down her teacup and said, “Bring the blanket over. I’ll be sleeping on the couch tonight.”

"Oh!" Diana promptly took the blanket and the pillow to the couch and arranged it for Charlotte. She even helped the latter down to a lying position. "Ms. Lindberg, is there anything else you need?"

"A glass of water," Charlotte answered as she rubbed the bridge of her nose, looking exhausted.

"Of course." Diana went to the side to pour a glass of water for her. While filling up the glass, she turned around to chance a glance at Charlotte. When she noticed that Charlotte was not paying attention to her, she quickly dripped a few drops of a drug into the water before bringing the glass of Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg, your water."

"Mm." Charlotte drank a few mouthfuls before lying down on her side. "I'm going to rest now, so don't disturb me anymore. Stay by his side and watch his condition. If Louis' high fever doesn't break, remember to let him drink water and take the medication."

"Of course. I will." Diana nodded.

Charlotte then closed her eyes. Soon, she fell silent and seemingly entered the dreamlands.

Diana stood by the side of the bed as she observed Charlotte. In a soft voice, she asked, "Ms. Lindberg, would you like to have more water?"

Charlotte did not respond. Diana let out a sigh of relief before sitting down on a chair near the bed and turned her focus to Louis instead.

Her gaze on him was gentle and loving.

Right then, Louis began coughing. Diana swiftly walked over to pat his chest. "Louis, are you okay?"

Instead of being relieved, his coughs worsened, and he could barely catch his breath.

Anxious, Diana rushed off to pour a glass of water for him.

After sipping on the water, Louis seemed to recover as he lay back down on the bed and panted.

Diana felt her heart break at the sight of him suffering. She could not help but say, "Louis, you're such a fool. Why are you so adamant about loving a bad woman? She doesn't deserve your love at all."

At that, Diana spun around to glare at Charlotte. The sight of Charlotte's pretty face made jealousy rear its ugly head in Diana. Hence, she walked over and raised her hand, about to slap Charlotte.

Just then, sounds of footsteps came from the outside.

Jumping in surprise, Diana quickly took back her hand and returned to the side of the bed.

Soon, the footsteps were gone. Nevertheless, Diana knew that there were people patrolling outside, so she dared not make any other reckless moves.

Besides, if she were to leave any marks on her, Charlotte was sure to find out Diana was the one who did it.

After all, there were only the three of them in the room.

It was only a short bout of coughing, but sweat had begun soaking Louis' body.

Noticing it, Diana took a warm towel and started wiping the sweat from his body.

"Charlotte..." Louis groggily called out. Thinking that Diana was Charlotte, he grabbed her hand and pulled it toward him again. "Charlotte, don't go..."

This time, Diana did not reject it. She threw herself onto Louis and began kissing his forehead, eyes, and cheeks.

Simultaneously, she whispered lovingly, "Louis, do you know this? I really wished that you'll be marrying me instead of Charlotte the day after tomorrow."

If I were to have a proper family background and a high social standing, I would have been worthy of you. Perhaps things would have been different now. You wouldn't be so miserable, and I wouldn't be living a life where I'll have to take my love to the grave. I'm different from that vile woman. I love you. I really love you. I'll be a good wife."

With that, she pressed her lips against Louis'.

Fever was making Louis disorientated. He thought that the one who was taking care of him was Charlotte, so when he felt her warm lips against his, he leaned into it.

The two lost themselves in the kiss, and they had completely forgotten about Charlotte, who was on the couch.

In a while, Diana even took off her coat and climbed onto the bed. She burrowed her way under Louis' blanket and started planting kisses all over his body.

Unable to withstand her passion, Louis soon melded his body with hers.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1257

That night, Charlotte slept soundly. When she woke the next day, her head felt heavy as if someone had filled it with lead.

Turning around, she glanced at the bed. Louis was gone.

She stiffened for a second before jumping to her feet. "Louis? Louis!"

"I'm here," came Louis' voice from the bathroom.

When Charlotte turned around, she found him walking out of the bathroom with a towel around his waist as he dried his hair.

It seemed like he was much livelier than the night before. His fever had broken, and there was a healthy blush on his face. Even a sweet smile was on his lips as he enthusiastically greeted, "Good morning, Charlotte!"

"Put on your clothes." Charlotte frowned and turned away from him.

However, not only did he not put on his clothes, but he even hugged her from behind. He kissed the tip of her ear and murmured, "I knew it. You still love me."

"What are you doing?" Charlotte half-shrieked as she pushed him away and took numerous steps back.

"Why are you acting like this again?" Louis asked, confused by her action. "You were so passionate last night, but now you're yelling at me?"

"Last night?" Charlotte froze. Then, her eyes flicked to the messy bed before realization struck her. "Where's Diana?"

"What? Why are you asking about her?" Louis grumbled.

"Nothing," Charlotte dismissed. "I just want to get her to come in and clean up the place."

"Oh, you're right." Louis flashed her an apologetic smile. "We do have to tidy up this place. Not to mention we've got to change the bedsheets too."

"Didn't you see her when you woke up this morning?" Charlotte asked, not planning to reveal anything right away. "I've asked her to stay by your bed last night."

"She was in the room?" Louis froze before a look of embarrassment crossed his face. "No wonder she was blushing so hard this morning when I saw her. Did she see us do it last night?"

At the end of his sentence, Louis' voice weakened. "I'm sorry, Charlotte. I was too out of it from the fever last night, so I didn't notice her there. Please don't be angry. She won't tell anyone about it."

"You saw her this morning?" Charlotte asked instead, ignoring Louis' apology.

"I did." He nodded as he pointed at the desk. "When I woke up, she was sleeping sprawled on the table. Once she realized I was awake, she hurried over, but I dismissed her."

"Oh." Charlotte said nothing else for a second. "I'll go back to my room to change. You should rest for a little longer."

With that, Charlotte took her bag and turned to leave.

"Charlotte!" Louis darted over to stop her. "Since you still have me in your heart, why don't we stop fighting? We're going to be married tomorrow, so let's make the preparations tonight."

"Louis," Charlotte started before pressing her lips. "Do you mind that kind of thing?"

"What? What kind of thing?" Louis tensed. Then, he blurted out, "Do you mean that we shouldn't mind what we've done?"

"No..." Charlotte lowered her eyes as she trailed off. "We're all adults, so even if it happened, it's nothing, right?"

"What are you talking about?" Louis panicked. "You can't do this to me--"

"I mean, if you found out that..." Charlotte halted mid-way through her sentence. "Forget it. We'll talk about this later. I'm going to wash up in the guest room first. See you later."

Just as she spoke, she retracted her hand and turned off the lights before hurrying away.

Louis was crestfallen to watch her go. He could not comprehend why Charlotte was acting in that way. It felt as if she was two different people during the day and during the night.

When Charlotte reached the guest room, she called Lupine and Morgan over. Then, she instructed them, "Show me the footage of the second mini surveillance camera."

"Huh?" Lupine was taken aback for a second, but she soon recomposed herself. "Of course."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1258

Lupine soon found the footage of the surveillance camera and played it on the laptop. What they saw was a shocking, intense moment.

When Morgan leaned over, she freaked out. "Holy cr*p! W-Who is this?"

"I think this is Sir Louis' room. The man's Sir Louis, and the woman's..." Lupine leaned in before her jaw dropped. "That's Diana!"

Morgan's eyes went wide. "It can't be true, can it? W-What's going on?"

"Oh d*mn! This is... This is borderline porn!"

Lupine quickly lowered the volume and turned around to cover her eyes.

On the other hand, Charlotte stared at the screen in silence. After a while, she said, "Make a copy of this video and save it."

"What's going on, Ms. Lindberg?" Morgan queried.

"Could it be that, last night..." Lupine speculated. "No, it can't be. You were in the room too. Did they still do it while you were..."

"Replay the video," Charlotte told her instead. "Play it normally when Diana is pouring a glass of water. See if she made any extra moves."

"Understood." Lupine worked on it right away, and soon, she noticed something amiss. "Diana added something into the water."

"What is it?" Morgan leaned over.

Lupine resumed the video. In the video, Diana was bringing the glass to Charlotte.

"Oh my god. She's the one who poisoned Ms. Lindberg!" Morgan nearly leaped to her feet in anger. "I'm taking her down right away."

"Don't be rash," Charlotte calmly said. "I doubt it's poison. It's probably just some drug to keep me in deep sleep."

"What is she trying to do?" Morgan wondered out loud.

"Could it be that she knocked you out before doing it with Sir Louis?" Lupine guessed. "That's disgusting."

"That means that nothing happened between Louis and me back at Arkfield manor," Charlotte pointed out. "Still, I don't understand what's with the marks on me."

"Is it possible that Diana hit you?" Lupine hurriedly said.

"That b*tch," Morgan gritted out.

"That is possible," Charlotte muttered. "I remembered that when I woke up, some of the marks hurt."

Then, she abruptly pinched Morgan's arm a few times.

"Ow!" Morgan cried out before rubbing the sore spots.

Charlotte then pulled her arm over. As expected, there were red marks on it. Finally, she realized what was going on. "Oh Diana, Diana. It seems like I've underestimated her."

"Why would she do this?" Lupine contemplated out loud. "She slept with Sir Louis, and she framed you for it. It's not like she's getting anything out of this."

"But, it's a different matter if she bears Louis' child in her." Charlotte sneered. "This is probably the only way she can leap past the rungs of the ladder. In fact, this leap of hers will bring her straight to the top of the ladder."

Lupine gasped. "No wonder Diana keeps giving me an odd feeling. I thought I was being unfair to her because I didn't see her do anything, but it turns out that she's been doing all sorts of evil deeds in the shadows."

Knock, knock, came the sounds from the door. Then, Avril's solemn voice traveled into their ears. "Ms. Lindberg, Sir Robert, and Lady Sherlyn have invited you to the study room."

"Tell her I'll be there in half an hour."

As Charlotte spoke, she shot a look at Lupine, who quickly saved the video and kept away the laptop.

It was then Morgan opened the door to convey Charlotte's message to Avril.

"Okay," Avril replied before leaving.

While Charlotte went to the bathroom to wash up, Lupine and Morgan made preparations. The two of them were waiting eagerly for Charlotte to confront the Laurents.

As Charlotte showered, she mulled over the entire incident. After a while of rumination, she called Danrique, but he did not pick up.

She had a bad feeling about the whole situation, and her eyes darkened.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1259

After exiting the bathroom, Charlotte quickly changed into a set of champagne-colored clothes before leading Lupine and Morgan to the study room.

There were many people waiting outside the study room as well as on the staircase. It seemed like they were going out in a while.

Louis walked over from the opposite end of the corridor. When he saw Charlotte, he grabbed her hand and murmured, "Charlotte, I know that they've told Dad and Mom about what happened that day. Don't be scared if they try to make things difficult for you. I'll protect you."

Charlotte stared at Louis as complicated emotions swirled in her heart. He still did not know that his parents had already confronted her the day before, and she had dealt with them all by herself.

Until now, he's still worried about me and is afraid that I'll be wronged by his own parents.

Charlotte was grateful for his love and protection. The more he acted that way, the harder it was for her to tell him the truth.

"Also, there are many important guests today. Dad, Mom, and I will be greeting them later, and they might be discussing with you about tomorrow's wedding. If they say anything upsetting, don't take it to heart. I'll deal with it, okay?"

Louis was worried on behalf of Charlotte; he was worried that Danrique might not be able to make it and that his parents would say cruel things to her. That was why he was hoping to prepare her for the worst.

His kindness only made the guilt in Charlotte grow. The longer she was in the situation, the more she felt that her choice had hurt him.

At the same time, she felt that she could not let things continue going down the wrong path.

“Louis, actually-” Just as Charlotte was about to say something, the door to the room opened, and they heard Avril’s voice. “Sir Louis, Ms. Lindberg, Sir Robert has asked you both to enter.”

Charlotte swallowed the words that had been at the tip of her tongue before entering the room.

Meanwhile, Louis had an arm around her waist as if he was protecting her from all danger.

In the study room, both Robert and Sherlyn were already seated on the couch, dressed to their nines.

The two had similar furrowed brows, and they looked grim. They had been whispering to each other but stopped when Charlotte and Louis entered.

“Dad, Mom,” Louis greeted.

“Sir Robert. Lady Sherlyn.” Charlotte bowed.

“Have a seat,” Robert said in a relatively light-hearted tone.

“Louis, you’ll sit here.” Sherlyn pointed at the couch beside her.

“Mom,” Louis started, wanting to say something else. However, Robert shot him a look, and he had no choice but to sit by his mother.

In the meantime, Charlotte sat down on the couch opposite them. When she looked at the Laurents in front of her, she felt as if she was a criminal, waiting to be interrogated.

“Have you contacted your brother?” Robert asked instantly.

“No,” Charlotte replied. “Sir Robert, please speak your mind.”

Behind her, Lupine tightened her hold on the bag. If Robert and Sherlyn were to force Charlotte to continue with the wedding, or

if they tried to make things tough for Charlotte because of Zachary's matter, they would launch a counterattack with the video they had.

Instead of replying immediately, Robert raised the cup of coffee in front of him and sipped it.

"This marriage isn't just between you and Louis. It's between the Lindbergs and the Laurents," Sherlyn uttered arrogantly. "Mr. Lindberg plays an important role in this. If he's not here, then we cannot continue with the wedding."

After a pause, she continued, "Therefore, we've decided to postpone the wedding until we get into contact with Mr. Lindberg again. Only then will we redecide on a date."

Both Lupine and Morgan were flummoxed by Sherlyn's announcement.

Even Charlotte was surprised. She thought they were going to force her to continue with the wedding. Lo and behold, to her surprise, they were actually suggesting postponing the wedding.

Nevertheless, Charlotte knew that it was because Robert and Sherlyn did not want to take the risk. After all, the marriage of a member of the royal family would have to be a grand one.

If Danrique had fallen from grace, then there was no way they would still want Charlotte as their daughter-in-law.

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"No way," Louis exclaimed, bolting up. "We cannot delay the wedding. We've already informed all our guests that the wedding is tomorrow and everyone has already arrived. How can we suddenly delay it?"

"Shut up," Sherlyn bellowed. "We've already decided. You've no say in this."

"Dad!" Louis started panicking. "It doesn't matter if Mr. Lindberg is unable to attend. It won't affect anything. We can always have a make-up ceremony next time when he's free..."

"That's enough," Robert spoke sternly. "The wedding does not just concern the both of you. It concerns the royal family's reputation, as well as the safety of the Laurent family. Acting recklessly won't do us any good."

"That's right," Sherlyn agreed, standing up. "We're going to attend the press conference right now to announce the delay of the wedding. We'll also have to make some arrangements to settle the guests who have already arrived in Pillere. Louis, you have to come with us. As for..."

Sherlyn paused and shot Charlotte a cold gaze before saying in disdain, "You can continue staying here during this period of time and you'll still be treated like a royal. If you need anything, feel free to let Avril know. She'll try her best to meet your requests. However, you can't leave the castle during this time."

"Lady Sherlyn, are you imprisoning me?" The corners of Charlotte's lips curled up as she continued, "I guess, you're not intending to let me go before my brother arrives?"

"Think whatever you want," Sherlyn scoffed. "The only reason why I haven't dealt with you regarding what happened between you and Zachary is because of our families' reputation and honor. Your brother won't be able to find fault with me even if he asks about it."

"Charlotte..." Robert started to speak in a much gentler tone. "We are only doing this because we're worried for your safety. The castle is huge. If you are bored, you can go swimming, or read some books. Just hang in there for a few more days."

With the woman playing the bad cop and her husband playing the good cop, Charlotte was left with no other choice but to yield.

"Sure," Charlotte replied with a faint smile. "I'll have to trouble both of you then!"

"That's great." Robert nodded in satisfaction before saying, "Have a good rest then."

With that, he left the room first.

Sherlyn looked at Charlotte coldly before giving Avril a meaningful glance. "Let's go," she said, dragging Louis out of the room.

"Mom..." Not wanting to leave, the man looked back at Charlotte and said, "Charlotte..."

However, Charlotte merely looked down and did not reply.

After the three of them left, Avril walked over to Charlotte and said respectfully, "Ms. Lindberg, let me walk you back to your room."

"I would like to take a stroll outside."

Charlotte looked out of the window and saw that there were soldiers standing guard outside. In fact, there was a whole row of them lined up along the corridor.

"There're reporters outside and some guests might arrive later. It could be quite chaotic. In consideration of your safety, it's better that you return to your room first."

As Avril spoke, two other maids had appeared next to Charlotte, flanking her.

It was obvious to Charlotte that she was only supposed to stay in her room, and not allowed anywhere else.

"What's the meaning of this? Is Ms. Lindberg being imprisoned now?" Morgan questioned in frustration.

"We are doing this to protect Ms. Lindberg," Avril explained, bowing slightly.

"You..."

"I appreciate your kind intentions," Charlotte replied, glancing at Avril coldly, before turning around and walking out of the study room.

Following closely behind, Avril said, "Ms. Lindberg, I'll get a maid to send your breakfast to your room. Is that OK?"

"Please prepare five sets of breakfast for my four bodyguards and me," Charlotte requested, worried that Lupine and the others would be ill-treated.

"Sure," Avril agreed and went to make preparations straight away.

After returning to the room, Morgan could not help but ask, "Ms. Lindberg, why didn't you fight back just now? You can just show the video of Sir Louis and that sl*t to those two old buggers."

"Since we're under their control now, showing them the video wouldn't make any difference," Charlotte said, before continuing, "At most, they will chase Diana out and teach Louis a lesson. As for me, I'll still be imprisoned if that's what they want."

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chapter 1261

"What should we do then? We can't possibly let them lock us up just like that?" Morgan, who was starting to panic, asked. "Gordon and the three little ones are still waiting for us at the villa. When can we leave?"

Charlotte did not reply, but merely walked toward the French windows, looking outside with a complicated gaze...

"Ms. Lindberg..."

"Alright, stop asking questions," Lupine interrupted Morgan, reminding softly, "Let Ms. Lindberg have some peace."

Upon hearing that, Morgan stopped speaking.

The two bodyguards stood next to Charlotte quietly, accompanying her.

"I'm so glad that Dr. Felch had gone back first," Charlotte suddenly spoke. "If not, I'll feel really bad if he had ended up being imprisoned here with us."

"Ms. Lindberg, shall we give Gordon a call and get him to come here and save us?" Morgan asked tentatively.

"Are you mad?" Lupine chided. "Gordon has to protect the kids. If he shows up here, not only will we not be able to escape, he will be captured as well. No matter how strong Gordon is, we are still outnumbered."

"Well, Gordon can gather more people." Morgan was growing increasingly anxious as she said, "Mr. Lindberg has other subordinates as well..."

"Shut up," Charlotte stopped Morgan from talking. "You're not allowed to bring this up ever again."

"Understood." Morgan did not dare to speak any further.

"Don't worry, we won't be staying here for long." Charlotte sat down on the sofa and continued placidly, "Even without Gordon saving us, we will be able to get out soon."

"Really?" That piqued Morgan's curiosity.

"Yup." Charlotte took a sip of water from her glass before continuing, "Just bear with it for a few more days. Try to avoid confrontation with Louis' family members."

"Understood," Lupine and Morgan replied, nodding their heads continuously.

Just then, someone knocked on the door. It was Diana, who had arrived with the maids, delivering breakfast. She had also brought along some fresh flowers for the room.

Charlotte remained seated on the sofa while observing the woman quietly. After they finished busying, Charlotte instructed, "Please inform my other two bodyguards that breakfast is ready and get them here."

"Sure, Ms. Lindberg." Diana immediately ordered one of the maids to get Jade and Emma over.

"Thanks, I appreciate that," Charlotte smiled faintly and said, "You may leave now."

"Alright." Just when Diana was about to leave the room with the maids, Charlotte suddenly stopped them. "Wait a minute."

"Is there anything else I can do for you, Ms. Lindberg?" Diana asked, halting in her tracks.

"Please ask Louis to look for me when he's back," Charlotte said smilingly, with her gaze fixed on Diana.

A hint of panic flashed across Diana's eyes, but quickly, she composed herself and replied, "Sure."

Right after that, the woman lowered her head and left the room...

A smirk appeared on Charlotte's face as she watched Diana's figure disappear behind the door.

At the same time, Lupine and Morgan exchanged knowing glances.

"You two should change shifts with Jade and Emma after breakfast and get some rest." Charlotte sipped on her coffee and said, "There isn't much to do now anyway. Have some rest while you can and refuel your energy."

"Understood." Lupine and Morgan nodded.

Just then, Jade and Emma arrived. Once they entered the room, the two of them said, "Ms. Lindberg, there's no reception on our phones."

"Really? We should check ours too."

Lupine and Morgan immediately checked their phones as well. Indeed, none of their phones had any reception, including Charlotte's.

"No wonder they are allowing us to stay together. Seems like they've blocked off our contact with the outside world." Morgan was almost choking on her rage. "Now, we're really being isolated from the world!"

"It's OK, don't worry," Charlotte reassured her bodyguards. "C'mon, have breakfast first."

"Alright."

Even though Charlotte was their employer, the female bodyguards knew that the woman was always amiable and had no airs. She would also have meals with them occasionally. As such, they did not refuse her offer.

Meanwhile, Diana and the maids, who were standing guard outside, overheard the conversation inside the room. One of the maids mocked, "That's not how someone from a prestigious family would behave. It's ridiculous that she's eating with her bodyguards."

However, Diana was still distracted by what Charlotte said to her earlier on. Please ask Louis to look for me when he's back...

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1262

Charlotte was good at keeping her cool. After finishing her breakfast, she started reading in her room.

Meanwhile, Lupine and Morgan had returned to the guestroom to rest, leaving Jade and Emma to accompany Charlotte.

Very soon, it was already nightfall, and Lupine and Morgan had woken up from their naps. As it was also time for dinner, Diana had arrived at Charlotte's room with dinner, together with a bottle of red wine.

"Is Louis back yet?" Charlotte asked casually, with a book in her hands.

"He's not back yet, Ms. Lindberg," Diana answered respectfully. "He has a lot of things to handle today and will be back slightly later."

"Really? What is he busy with?" Charlotte lifted her wine glass and started swirling the red wine.

"He had to attend a press conference in the afternoon and had to entertain guests in the evening. He also has to send some VIPs to the airport..." Diana explained.

"I see," Charlotte nodded. "That makes sense. I'm sure there's a lot for him to settle because of the delay in the wedding."

"This red wine is from Arkfield. Drinking more might help you sleep better at night," Diana said thoughtfully.

"Oh, thanks!" Charlotte smiled and continued after a pause, "You may leave now."

"Alright," Diana gave a slight bow and retreated from the room.

"Oh, don't forget to ask Louis to look for me when he's back," Charlotte reminded.

Diana stopped in her tracks at once, while a maid next to her replied instead, "We will, Ms. Lindberg."

After they left, Charlotte shot a glance at Jade and Emma, who understood what she meant right away. Immediately, the two bodyguards collected a sample of the food and wine for testing.

A short while later, both of them concluded that there was a substance found in the red wine that had similar effects as sleeping pills. One would start feeling drowsy after ingesting that substance.

Upon hearing that, Charlotte suddenly recalled what happened at the winery in Arkfield...

That night, she had only drunk red wine and not Diana's water. However, even though she did not drink a lot, she still felt drowsy when she got back to her room at night. In fact, she was so tired that she had fallen asleep on the sofa even before Louis left.

The woman had not been able to make sense of the situation, but thinking back on it, Charlotte was almost certain that Diana had spiked the red wine...

It seemed like it wasn't the first time Diana did that.

Charlotte beckoned for Jade and Emma to keep the evidence, before tucking into her dinner.

At around ten p.m., Louis finally returned home. When Diana saw him, she immediately welcomed him, saying, "Louis, you're back."

"Yup." The man seemed a little tipsy. Taking a pause, he added, "Dad and Mom are still entertaining the guests, but I thought I should head back first. Where's Charlotte?"

"You must be tired. Let me help you back to your room first."

Just when Diana was about to take the man's arm and support him back to his room, a maid, who was standing beside, suddenly remembered Charlotte's instructions and said, "Sir Louis, Ms. Lindberg said..."

"Keep quiet." Diana immediately stopped that maid from talking and shot a vehement glare at her. "Louis is drunk and needs to rest. Don't disturb him."

The maid did not dare to speak after that.

"I need to check on Charlotte," Louis said, as he staggered upstairs. However, Diana grabbed his arm and held him back, trying to persuade the man to head back to his room instead. "Louis, you're drunk. Let me help you back to your room to wash up first. It's not nice for you to see Ms. Lindberg in your current state."

"Oh, you're right." As Louis wanted to look presentable in front of Charlotte as well, he stopped insisting.

Just as both of them headed upstairs toward his room, Charlotte walked out and shouted, "Louis!"

"Charlotte!" Louis immediately stopped in his tracks and turned around, walking toward the woman.

"Louis..." Diana tried to hold the man back, but her efforts were futile.

"I was just about to look for you," Louis said, as he staggered toward Charlotte's room. "I have already spoken to Dad and Mom today and they have promised not to make things difficult for you. I'll stay in with you tomorrow..."

"OK, sure," Charlotte replied while glancing at Diana.

Diana, who was staring at Louis with an inexplicable look in her eyes, met Charlotte's gaze for that split second and immediately looked away...

"Charlotte, I missed you so much..."

Louis' gentle voice could be heard from inside the room.

"Drink some water first." Charlotte passed a glass of water to the man.

"I knew it. I know you care about me..." Louis said, pulling her into his embrace.

At that moment, Jade and Emma exited the room. When they opened the door, Diana happened to witness that scene...

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chapter 1263

Jade shut the door immediately and headed back to the guest room with Emma.

Meanwhile, Diana was still staring blankly at the room door, looking flustered, her thoughts in a mess.

"Diana, are you OK?" a maid, who was standing next to the woman, asked curiously.

"Damn it!" Diana muttered under her breath as she clenched her fist tightly, her eyes filled with hatred. However, she quickly regained her composure and said to the maids, "Sir Louis is drunk. Prepare some tea for him to sober up."

"Understood," the maids replied and went to make preparations straight away.

Diana was the only person left outside the room after that. After checking her surroundings, the woman stuck her ear to the door, trying to listen to the situation inside.

However, as the door was soundproof, all she could hear was muffled noises, and was not able to make out what Charlotte and Louis were actually saying.

However, it sounded as if Louis was breathing heavily.

Hearing that, Diana felt as if she was almost losing her mind. She glued herself to the door, trying to figure out the words as best as she could, feeling extremely emotionally tortured.

"Louis, you're drunk," Charlotte said, passing the man another glass of water. "Drink more water and take a rest first."

"I've had enough water. I'm already feeling bloated."

Louis leaned against the sofa, while narrating the events of the day to Charlotte.

"I really did not expect my parents to cancel the wedding at such a last minute. They even forced me to explain the matter to the reporters at the press conference. Handling the press was already draining enough, but I still had to entertain the guests in the evening, drinking with them and explaining to them that the wedding had to be postponed as Mr. Lindberg was busy and you're not feeling well. Fortunately, the guests did not ask much and only told me to take good care of you and wished you a speedy recovery. However, I'm sure everyone knows what's going on and are just putting on an act. Everything just felt so fake..."

Louis was obviously dead beat.

Charlotte looked at the man with mixed feelings. Louis was an innocent man with a pure heart. Even until the present moment, he was still thinking that the woman he had slept with twice was Charlotte.

Despite having faced multiple rejections from Charlotte, and no matter how cold the woman treated him, Louis was still trying his best to sustain their relationship.

As such, Charlotte could not even bring herself to imagine how the man would feel if he knew the truth...

"Charlotte, why are you so quiet?" Louis looked at Charlotte affectionately while holding her hand. "Don't worry, I'll protect you. No matter what my parents say, I will not call off our wedding. You're already my woman and I'll be responsible for you."

"Louis..." Charlotte struggled to tell the man the truth, even though she really wanted to.

"Charlotte, there's actually something else that I've been meaning to tell you, but I wasn't sure if I should..." Louis hesitated for a second before continuing in a low voice, "My parents met up with Zachary today, hoping to make peace. I really don't know what to feel..."

Louis downcast his eyes, feeling inferior while clenching his fists tightly.

"But he was the one who took advantage of me and did me wrong. Not only did my parents not defend me, they even sought to reconcile with him. Given how powerful and influential he is, I know that my parents are worried that he would take revenge on me. As such, they did not even bother to spare a thought for my feelings... I really can't help but wonder if Dad and Mom really love me. It seems like they do, seeing how they always have my best interests in mind and give me advice and assistance, but on the other hand, they do not seem to care about what it is that I really want. Besides, they don't even care about my dignity..."

Louis was getting increasingly upset as he spoke. Finally, he was unable to control his emotions and tears started falling down his face.

"Louis..." Charlotte could not help but pity him. She took a piece of tissue, wanting to wipe his tears away.

"Charlotte..." the man held her hand tightly and pulled her into his arms. "Do you know that marrying you is my only dream now? I'll always feel comforted whenever I think of you. I can't live without you..."

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chapter 1264

Upon hearing that, Charlotte's heart was in turmoil, filled with complicated emotions.

Just then, there was a knock on the door, followed by Diana's voice. "Ms. Lindberg, I have prepared some tea for Louis to sober up. Can I come in?"

"Come in," Charlotte answered.

When Diana entered the room, she froze momentarily.

Seeing how tightly Louis was hugging Charlotte, the woman got jealous instantly and was smoldering with resentment...

Charlotte pushed Louis away gently and turned to look at Diana. "Just leave it here."

"OK, sure." Diana quickly regained her composure and placed the tea on the coffee table. She had also prepared a cup of fruit tea for Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg, this tea is for you," she offered.

"Thanks," Charlotte glanced at the woman and said, "You may leave now."

"Alright," Diana bowed slightly and left the room, but not before taking another look at Louis.

"Charlotte, can I sleep in your room tonight?" Louis asked longingly while holding Charlotte's hand. "Please?"

"You should drink the tea first." Charlotte did not reject the man's request but did not agree to it as well. "You really drank too much today," she said, passing the tea to him.

"I'm not drunk. I mean everything I just said." Louis pushed the tea away and continued, "I'm not drinking this. I don't want to become sober. I'll only have the courage to tell you how I really feel in this state."

"Just drink up first. Be good." Charlotte tried to coax the man into drinking the tea.

"Alright then," Louis relented, unable to reject Charlotte.

Charlotte brought the cup of fruit tea to her nose. At once, she knew that the tea had been spiked.

After her previous two successes, it seemed like Diana had grown bolder and was getting increasingly brazen.

Since that's the case, I shall grant her wish then.

"Why does this tea taste so awful?" Louis commented after taking a sip of his tea, almost spitting it out. "There's a really strange taste."

"Diana had prepared it specially for you," Charlotte replied, smiling sweetly at the man.

"OK then. I'm only drinking it because you asked me to."

Louis closed his eyes and downed the tea in one gulp. After finishing it, he burped aloud and said, "Charlotte, I need to use the bathroom."

"Go ahead." When the man was in the bathroom, Charlotte poured half of the fruit tea into a flower pot in the room and finished the remaining half.

After a while, Louis emerged from the bathroom and laid down on the bed, feeling totally exhausted. "Charlotte, I'm sleeping here tonight..."

Charlotte did not respond and merely stared at the man in the dim light.

"Charlotte, come here..." Louis reached out his hand to Charlotte. The woman walked over to him and held his hand gently, while saying, "Louis, I'm sorry."

"What did you say?" the man asked drowsily, slowly drifting off to sleep.

Charlotte let out a helpless sigh before retracting her hand. After turning off the lights in the room, she sat down on the sofa and looked toward the door, waiting quietly.

She knew that Diana would be taking action soon.

Indeed, shortly after, a knock was heard on the door, followed by Diana's voice. "Ms. Lindberg, are you asleep?"

Instead of replying, Charlotte closed her eyes and pretended to be asleep.

Diana proceeded to open the door cautiously and called out a few times, "Ms. Lindberg... Ms. Lindberg?"

Seeing that Charlotte had remained silent, Diana walked toward the sofa and saw that the fruit tea had been finished.

Meanwhile, Louis had already fallen asleep, snoring in bed.

Diana started touching his face longingly, before kissing his lips.

In his sleep, Louis felt that someone was kissing him. Thinking that it was Charlotte, he rolled over and pinned the woman beneath him, kissing her passionately...

In fact, the man was so thrilled that he started muttering, "Charlotte, I knew you care about me. I knew you have me in your heart. Charlotte..."

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chapter 1265

The two had completely lost themselves in making out on the bed, and failed to realize that Charlotte, who was on the sofa, had pressed a button on her watch...

At once, Jade and Emma rushed downstairs to look for Robert and Sherlyn, who had just returned home, and was about to head upstairs.

Engaged in a discussion with each other, the couple looked exhausted and helpless.

Jade hurried over and said anxiously, "Lady Sherlyn, Ms. Lindberg has been having a stomachache the entire day. Is it possible to get a doctor to see her?"

"Why would she suddenly have a stomachache?" Sherlyn replied with a look of annoyance. "She seemed very fit and healthy to me."

"Ms. Lindberg has gastric problems every now and then. Maybe her stomach is not accustomed to the French cuisine we had for dinner just now?" Emma tried to give an explanation.

"What's wrong with having Ferropene cuisine?" Sherlyn replied impatiently. "We eat that every day and don't have any issues with that."

"But..."

"It's already so late now. Where are we supposed to get a doctor to see her? Let's talk about it tomorrow." Sherlyn was not in the mood to talk to the two bodyguards.

"Lady Sherlyn..."

"Control your temper," Robert reminded his wife in hushed tones. "It's not time to fall out with them yet. You should go take a look."

"Tsk!" Even though Sherlyn was extremely irritated, she caught her husband's gaze and knew that she had no choice but to check on Charlotte.

"Lady Sherlyn!" the two maids who were guarding outside the door greeted the woman immediately when they saw her.

Sherlyn shot a glance at the maids, signaling for them to knock on the door. However, before they could do that, Jade suddenly said, "That's no need for that. Ms. Lindberg was in so much pain that she has already fallen asleep. We can just enter the room directly."

Jade pushed the door open as she spoke.

The two people, who were making out passionately on the bed, got a shock when the door swung open. The woman had even let out a loud scream.

"Oh my God!" Sherlyn realized what was going on right away and turned around immediately. "Shut the door now."

A maid immediately closed the door upon the woman's orders.

"This is too much! Isn't she having a stomachache? Why are they..."

Sherlyn suddenly froze mid-sentence, as she had suddenly realized that the woman on the bed wasn't Charlotte...

With a drastic change in facial expression, she immediately kicked open the door and barged in.

Meanwhile, Diana, who was still on the bed, was putting on her clothes in a fluster.

However, before she could get fully dressed, Sherlyn had already turned on the lights. Everyone was stunned when they saw the scene in front of them.

"Ahhh! Diana!" the maids exclaimed, gaping in shock.

Sherlyn could barely register the sight that greeted her, her eyes widening in disbelief.

"Diana?"

Meanwhile, Louis, who had sobered up, could clearly see that the half-naked woman next to him was Diana, and fell off the bed in shock.

"Louis..." Diana immediately tried to help him up, but the man pushed her away immediately, feeling horrified. "What's going on? Why are you here?" the man bellowed furiously.

"Louis, I..."

"Close the door and get everyone who's not involved out of the room."

Sherlyn had an extremely grim expression on her face, which was as dark as a thundercloud.

The maids immediately closed the door, but not before Lupine and Morgan entered.

The two bodyguards hurried over to the sofa and tapped on Charlotte's shoulder lightly. "Ms. Lindberg, wake up..."

"What's happening? How can she sleep through such a huge commotion?" Lupine asked worriedly.

"Could it be that she has been drugged?" Morgan said while splashing a few drops of cold water on Charlotte's face.

Finally, Charlotte gradually woke up.

Sherlyn shot a glance at Charlotte before fixing her gaze on Diana. "Explain all of this to me right now! What's going on?"

"I, I..." Diana was extremely flustered and could not say a word.

"My head hurts..." Charlotte rubbed her forehead and sat up. When she saw all those people in the room, she asked in a puzzled manner, "What's happening?"

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"Ms. Lindberg..." said Lupine before she signaled with her eyes.

Charlotte turned around and was stunned when she saw Louis and Diana naked on the bed.

"W-What is going on? Louis, how did this...?" blurted Charlotte, who didn't really know what to say or do.

"Listen to me, Charlotte," explained Louis as he quickly wrapped himself up in a robe. He hurried over to Charlotte to say, "I thought she was you, and that is the only reason I..."

"So that means... The two of you..." said Charlotte. Her gaze was on Diana, who was still half-naked. Realization ambushed Charlotte, and she pointed out, "Then could it be... The last two times..."

"N-No, that's not it," insisted Louis while shaking his head, "The two of us slept together on the two other occasions..."

"No," replied Charlotte. She put her hand on her temple and tried to recall the past despite the headache ambushing her. Then, she said, "I have always suddenly fallen asleep whenever we are together, and I never knew what happened after that. When I wake up, we would've already..."

Charlotte paused. She stared at Diana in surprise before she added, "Diana had always offered me a drink just before we get together. Could it be...?"

"We'll know if she spiked your drink as soon as we run the test. Good thing I'm always prepared," informed Lupine before she picked up Charlotte's cup. The former had a strip with her and could perform the test right away.

"Examine that too," instructed Charlotte while pointing at Louis' cup.

"Understood," replied Morgan, who was quick to retrieve the cup.

"There is no need for that," growled Sherlyn before she turned to Diana and instructed, "Get you a*s over!"

Diana was practically crawling when she approached Sherlyn with teary eyes. In a voice thick with tears, Diana said, "Aunt Sherlyn, I..."

Slap! Sherlyn slapped Diana mercilessly and right across the face. The former was so angry that she was roaring through her gritted teeth when she demanded, "Are you going to make me run the tests, or are you going to confess your crimes?"

"I..." murmured Diana. She was crying so much that she was trembling. Unfortunately, she knew that there was no way of hiding the truth anymore, so she knelt on the floor and answered, "This is all my fault. I have always loved Louis, and I wanted to be with him. That is the only reason I..."

"N-No, that is not possible," muttered Louis as he shook his head nervously and denial, "No, it was Charlotte. It had to be..."

"You b*tch! I can't believe you did something so vile," scolded Sherlyn, who slapped Diana across the face again before adding, "Do you really think that we'd accept you just because you slept with Louis just this once? At the end of the day, you are still a b*tch, and Louis will never marry you!"

Diana didn't dare to respond to those words. She simply knelt on the floor and sobbed.

Charlotte, however, knew exactly what Sherlyn was implying. Sherlyn is trying to get Diana to deny having slept with

Louis on the two previous occasions and only admit to the one time that they are caught together...

"Charlotte, I will teach this b*tch a lesson," promised Sherlyn after she turned around to face Charlotte. The former requested, "Men inevitably make mistakes, and Louis was conned by that vile b*tch. He didn't do anything of his own free will, so please forgive him."

"I have never blamed him, but I don't think I slept with him the last two times we were supposedly together. I think she has always been the one who was with him," said Charlotte as she narrowed her eyes at Diana.

"How is that possible? That night in Arkfield, I saw with my own eyes that you and Louis..." insisted Sherlyn.

"I have proof that suggests otherwise. Would you like to see it?" interrupted Charlotte as she put on a small grin.

"N-No, that is not possible. That can't be! Charlotte, I was with you..." said Louis who kept shaking his head.

Charlotte signaled Lupine and got the latter to produce a laptop to play a video.

"As you know, Lady Sherlyn, I was poisoned in the past. That incident traumatized me, and I developed a habit of setting up a surveillance camera before I go to bed. I never thought I'd accidentally record something that I shouldn't. My vision is not perfect, so perhaps you should take a look?"

As Charlotte spoke, the video started playing. It featured Louis' room and showed how Diana gave Charlotte the spiked drink. After that, Diana pretended to be Charlotte and slept with Louis.

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Seeing that video got Sherlyn to close her eyes in hopelessness.

Louis broke down as well. Hopelessness engulfed him as he muttered, "I thought it was strange how you are so passionate at night and how you act so differently during the day. Turns out..."

"The same thing happened in Arkfield. I fell asleep on the sofa and woke up in my bed the following morning. The bruises all over me... Those weren't kiss marks, were they? Perhaps you pinched me..." said Charlotte as she turned to Diana.

"No, that is not possible!" blurted Sherlyn right away to cut Charlotte's words short. The former's tone was meaningful when she added, "Even if she had slept with Louis the two other times, there is no way that she had slept with him in Arkfield. Everyone saw you and Louis together."

Diana tilted her head down. She didn't dare to utter a single word.

"I have some other evidence that could help us get to the truth," replied Charlotte calmly, "When we're in Arkfield, you waited until I have fallen asleep before you hid me in the closet.

"You chipped your toenail when you accidentally stubbed your toe. Some nail polish fell off, and I already had my people collect the sample. All we need is to do a DNA test, and we'll learn the truth soon enough."

"Nail polish?" replied Sherlyn. She refused to admit defeat, so she insisted, "Even if that is true, it's possible that she left it there when she went to clean the place up."

"That's not the only thing I collected. Strands of hair and other samples were also gathered," informed Charlotte before she turned to look meaningfully at Diana and asked, "Should I have my people run the tests? Or would you rather just confess?"

Diana saw that things were already set in stone, so she stopped pretending entirely. She sat up straight and announced loudly, "Yes, it was me all three times. I have always been the one who slept with Louis."

"N-No, that's impossible," murmured Louis. He was staring at Diana, and disbelief donned every inch of his face. He insisted, "I

wasn't with you. How could I have been? No, I was with Charlotte..."

"It was me," replied Diana while in tears. She crawled to Louis and said, "Louis, I truly love you. I love you more than anyone else..."

"Shut up!" roared Louis angrily before he flung her hand away and growled furiously, "You disgust me. F*ck off!"

After saying his piece, Louis dashed out of the place like he had gone insane.

"Louis, Louis..." shouted Diana. She was crying and wanted to chase after him, but Sherlyn's maids barred the path.

"You bring shame to everyone. Take her away and lock her in the basement. No one is allowed to set her free without my permission," growled Sherlyn. She was so angry that she was losing control.

"Understood," replied the maids before they moved to drag Diana away.

"No, don't do this, Aunt Sherlyn," begged Diana in between sobs, "Please let me stay by Louis' side. I don't care if I have to do so as his lover or his maid."

"You are not worthy of being either!" replied Sherlyn before she kicked Diana aside. With anger and hatred burning, Sherlyn insulted, "As of now, you are not worthy of even being a servant. I don't ever want to see you again. Take her away!"

Two maids dragged Diana along as she struggled and begged, "Aunt Sherlyn, please. Please let me go out of courtesy to my dad, if nothing else. Aunt Sherlyn..."

Diana's voice slowly faded as she was taken away. Sherlyn never showed any mercy or any signs of changing her mind. Her frown remained tight, and distaste shone on her face. It was as if she had just seen something disgusting.

"Looks like this room is no longer usable," said Charlotte before she sighed in exasperation, "I think it's best if my people and I leave now, so that we won't intrude."

"You are good, Charlotte Lindberg," commented Sherlyn through gritted teeth while glaring at Charlotte, "You've always known that Diana had been your impostor and already has your hands on all the evidence. Yet, you didn't share anything. Instead, you played along and conned me into coming over and catching those two in bed together. Now that everything is exposed, you have the perfect excuse to leave. That is one heck of a move, woman!"

"Aren't we both the same?" replied Charlotte while grinning, "Besides, I never mentioned a word about what you were planning in Arkfield, so you really should thank me for the courtesy I am already extending you."

"You..." growled Sherlyn. She was so angry that her face seemed distorted.

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"Diana could never sneak into Louis' room if you hadn't been helping and masterminding everything from behind the scenes. Similarly, she would never have the guts to do something like that if you hadn't been supporting her. All of this is your doing!" sneered Charlotte.

Then, Charlotte added, "It's a pity. You meant well and were trying to get Louis and me together. Who would've thought that you'd end up helping Diana instead? I bet you're feeling terrible now."

"F*ck you!" shouted Sherlyn. She was furious and put her hand up to slap Charlotte.

Charlotte, however, was agile and grabbed Sherlyn's wrist in time. The former frowned and warned, "You are Louis' mother and a senior. That is why I have been respectful toward you and compromised as much as I did. Still, that doesn't mean that you can bully me!"

After saying her piece, Charlotte pushed Sherlyn away angrily.

That push got Sherlyn to stumble backward a little, and she almost fell. Fortunately, the maid standing behind Sherlyn was fast enough to catch Sherlyn.

"You really are something else, Charlotte Lindberg," roared Sherlyn, "How dare you behave like this? Don't forget that you are still under my roof! Do you think I'd let you go just because something like this happened? Allow me to share something with you. You will never leave without my permission!"

"I know," replied Charlotte before her lips curved into a smile. She pointed out, "There is no way to win a verbal argument against you now, and there is nothing I can do if you insist on being unreasonable. Still... What do you think Louis will do?"

"You..." grumbled Sherlyn, who was instantly stunned. She's right! I know my son all too well, and he will never be able to accept this. He will surely feel so ashamed that he won't be able to face Charlotte, and that means he will either run away from home or send Charlotte away.

"You'd better decide soon if you still wish to be a part of your son's life. Naturally, I don't want to hurt Louis. I may not love him, but he is still my best friend, and he is innocent in this, after all," reminded Charlotte as she sat on the sofa.

Charlotte felt horrible when she said that last sentence. She actually thought long and hard before she made that move. She knew how much the ugly truth would hurt Louis, and she didn't want to hurt him, but she had no choice.

Moreover, some things were destined to be revealed, eventually.

Charlotte was not the culprit, so she couldn't take the fall forever.

"You evil b*tch!"

Sherlyn was so angry at Charlotte that she was going insane. The former charged ahead to attack the latter again.

"Hold it right there!" roared an angry voice and halted Sherlyn.

"Sir Robert, you are right on time," greeted Charlotte when she shifted her gaze to the door and saw Robert standing there. She smiled and informed, "It seems your wife's emotion is unstable. I recommend taking her back to the room and cooing her right away."

"You truly are a Lindberg, Charlotte. You're almost as evil as Danrique," commented Robert. He looked meaningfully at her before adding, "That was a good move."

"Thank you for the high praise, Sir Robert, but I was simply playing along with someone else's plan. Hence, Lady Sherlyn is the one who deserves that praise," replied Charlotte while having her head down humbly.

"You..." grumbled Sherlyn. She was so angry that she might die from high blood pressure.

"Shut your mouth and go back to the room now!" demanded Robert angrily.

After that, Robert left furiously.

"Just you wait, Charlotte Lindberg!" spat Sherlyn.

She glared evilly at Charlotte before she hurried after her husband.

The room was in a mess, so Charlotte didn't want to stay there either. Hence, the maid got her to another room.

Lupine and Morgan followed Charlotte to the other room. They inspected every inch of the room and were certain that there were no bugs in there. Only then were they able to relax.

"Ms. Lindberg, do you think Sir Robert will actually be able to keep Lady Sherlyn in control?" asked Morgan curiously, "I noticed how he has always compromised whenever she behaves unreasonably."

"He compromises on minor issues, but he is still in charge of major problems," replied Charlotte with a frown, "Besides, they don't have a choice in the matter right now. This incident truly hurt Louis, and I'm guessing that he is on the verge of breaking down. He will surely run away from home if I don't leave."

"Sir Louis truly drew the short stick this time," said Morgan before she sighed deeply, "No one can accept something so evil happening to themselves."

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chapter 1269

"Sir Louis has always been loyal when it comes to love, and he is never one to sleep around," said Lupine who felt bad about it as well. She wondered, "He must feel hopeless and terrible now..."

"Did I make a mistake? Maybe I shouldn't have done any of that?"

Charlotte felt extremely guilty when she thought about how devastated Louis looked earlier.

"I think we made the right choice," replied Morgan immediately, "Also, this is not your fault. Lady Sherlyn and Diana are the ones to blame. One of them was ignorant and schemed like a villain, while the other was arrogant and committed the sin."

"That's true. Besides, we can't keep this a secret forever. It will be revealed eventually, and it's not like you can bear the burden forever," agreed Lupine. It was rare, but the two ladies were actually in agreement!

Charlotte sighed and said, "I just hope Louis can get past this sooner rather than later. If he doesn't... I honestly don't know how to face him."

"Neither one of you knew how to interact with each other now, so parting ways is the best option. Hopefully, Sir Robert will let us go soon."

"I'm guessing we still have to stay the night. They will probably let us go tomorrow, though," said Charlotte before she checked her watch and instructed, "I'm actually more worried about Louis doing something stupid tonight. Keep an eye on him and keep me posted at all times."

"Understood," replied Lupine. After that, she ordered, "The two of you are to go gauge the situation right now."

"Understood," replied the girls, Jade and Emma, who hurried out immediately to carry out the tasks.

It was already a little past one o'clock at night. Most maids and subordinates should be asleep, and the castle should remain quiet. However, the matter between Diana and Louis got every light in the place lit up.

The maids were all terrified and were worried about something happening.

Avril and the other more experienced servants were busying away, but neither Jade nor Emma knew what they were doing.

Jade and Emma tried to approach the master room, but someone stopped them, so they had to return empty-handed.

They did, however, overhear two maids gossiping, "Sir Robert and Lady Sherlyn are arguing, so we must be careful or their crossfire will kill us."

"Sir Louis locked himself in the room and refused to open the door for anyone. I am so worried. Will he be okay?"

"This is really getting out of hand..."

"Sir Louis? Sir Louis, please open the door. Let us help you," said Avril carefully as she knocked on Louis' door.

There was no response.

On the other side in the master bedroom, a crisp Clang! rang.

Robert had lost his temper and smashed the wineglass he had with him. He roared angrily, "Your actions are unacceptable!"

"What mistake did I really make?" refuted Sherlyn with her head up high, "I was thinking of the bigger picture and was only doing it for Louis. I simply wanted to push this wedding along. That is why I planned everything. Who would've thought that the b*tch, Diana, would..."

The mere mention of Diana got Sherlyn to grit her teeth in anger. The latter complained, "I can't believe we have been raising that ungrateful b*tch and keeping her close to us the entire time!"

"She's your extended family, isn't she?" said Robert. He was so angry that he was turning red when he added, "Also, your so-called plan is ridiculous! Not only did it not push the wedding along, but it also backfired. Do you realize that you hurt our son?"

"I truly regret it as well," confessed Sherlyn. She was heartbroken when she thought about her son. Still, she complained, "Ah, my boy is too stubborn. It's not like he'd lose a limb or something from this."

"Yeah, and your boy is also a loyal lover," said Robert angrily, "What do we do now?"

"Let me go talk to him," suggested Sherlyn as she got up to head out of the room.

"I just went to check on him. He locked himself in the room and refused to leave. He probably doesn't want to see anyone now," replied Robert, who was angry once again. After that, he scolded, "You really are troublesome. I told you not to do anything, but you refused to heed my warning."

"Oh, what's the point of yelling at me now?" said Sherlyn with a broken heart, "We should focus on solving the matter at hand."

"Hah, you're the one who made the mess and now you expect me to clean it up? Why don't you come up with a solution and solve it yourself?" said Robert bitterly.

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chapter 1270

Sherlyn thought about it before she said, "That evil b*tch, Charlotte, is counting on us to let her go now, but we can't do that."

"We will not be able to find her again if she walked out those doors. When that happens, the wedding will be over, and we will be the laughing stock. Plus, Louis will be heartbroken.

"The way I see it. We should lock her up somewhere else and plan our next step after we have pacified Louis."

"You are terrible at planning," replied Robert through gritted teeth, "Who the hell do you think Charlotte Lindberg is? A maid? Do you think you can just do whatever you want with her?"

"Even if we ignore the fact that Mr. Lindberg is missing and even if we assume that he is dead, we will still have to deal with his subordinates! They have more than enough power to crush us.

"Also, have you forgotten that the guy, Gordon, is still waiting for Charlotte in Pillere?"

"On top of all that, Danrique might not even be dead. What if he returns from this war and makes it back to the top in the future? He will come after us then, and we will be destroyed!

"It would, maybe, be acceptable if we actually have a valid reason for making her stay here, but we will be on a road to self-destruct if you push too far."

"What is that supposed to mean? Are you really going to let her go?" demanded Sherlyn unhappily.

Robert frowned and looked troubled. He was burdened at that moment as well, and nothing seemed to work.

I can't keep her here, nor can I set her free... What should I do?

Knock! Knock! Knock! A series of hushed knocks suddenly came from the door. Avril's nervous voice came at the very next second. She reported, "Sir Robert, Lady Sherlyn, I tried knocking on Sir Louis' door, but he locked himself in and never responded. I worry that something might've happened to him."

"Let's go." Both Robert and Sherlyn were quick to leave their room when they heard that.

The couple rushed to Louis' room and knocked nervously. "Louis? Louis, open the door. Don't scare us like this. Just open the door and let's talk nicely, okay?"

No one responded.

"Louis, open the door!" shouted Robert as well. Still, no one replied.

"What do we do? You don't think he'd do anything stupid, do you?" asked Sherlyn, who was scared mindless.

"Break the door open," ordered Robert right away.

"Understood." Two bodyguards moved forward and slammed the door as hard as they could. It took them several minutes before they finally broke through...

"Louis!" blurted Sherlyn when she barged in nervously. She couldn't help being stunned when she saw what was in front of her.

Louis was curled up on the carpet and had buried his head in his lap. He was like a snail that had hidden in a shell to protect itself. In Louis' case, however, he was hiding away so that others couldn't see how ashamed and broken he was.

"Louis, are you okay?" asked Sherlyn as she approached him slowly, "Don't hold your emotions in like this. Just let it all out."

"Everyone else. Out!" ordered Robert sternly but softly.

"Understood." Everyone left and closed the door behind them.

"Louis..." said Robert. He was heartbroken to see his son in that state, but he was still a father who only knew to give tough love. He commanded grimly, "Get your a*s up! You're a man, so how can you break down over a matter so small? That is not right!"

"Hey, stop yelling at him," scolded Sherlyn angrily.

"You shut up," demanded Robert while glaring evilly, "This is all your fault. You have been spoiling him ever since he is a kid and has been shielding him his entire life. Not letting him experience any pain is what got him in this state. He is so weak that he's not even like a man anymore!"

"You..."

"You're right. I am not acting like a man," said Louis suddenly.

Those words hit Louis hard. The whole ordeal made him feel more hopeless than he had been in his entire life.

He felt like the world had turned dark, and it was as if his life was one big joke.

He was an adult who had no career, no true achievements, and his love life was in a mess.

"Louis..." murmured Robert. Louis' word had stung Robert hard, and the former ultimately couldn't bear to continue being harsh, so he cooed, "This is not a huge issue. Every man has slept with more than one woman, and you can take this as a rite of passage into adulthood. Don't dwell on it too much."

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"That's right," chimed in Sherlyn, "You're a man, and it's not like you'd lose a limb or anything from this. There is no need to be sad at all."

"Get out," requested Louis. He didn't want to listen to them because he felt like his parents didn't know him at all. They don't understand my sorrow, my pain, my hopelessness, or the betrayal I feel...

"Louis..."

"Okay, we'll leave you alone."

Sherlyn had more to say, but Robert stopped her. He led his wife away and told Louis, "Rest well. The sun will rise again tomorrow, and everything will start anew."

"That's right. I will go horseback riding with you tomorrow," cooed Sherlyn.

"I won't go. I am too ashamed to see anyone now," replied Louis. He still had his head down and refused to let anyone see the terrible state he was in.

"That is nothing. I will destroy anyone who dares to mock you," cooed Sherlyn quickly. Louis' reply had truly gotten her worried.

"No one will know of this, so you can rest assured. I have already stopped anyone from spreading the news," informed Robert. He was trying to comfort Louis as well.

"I don't care what anyone else thinks. All I care about is..." replied Louis, whose voice was getting thick when he said, "Charlotte must think so poorly of me now. She must look down on me and see me in distaste. Heck, she's probably cursing me in her mind now."

"No, that won't happen," cooed Sherlyn quickly, "Don't worry. She has no right to judge you whatsoever. I mean, she and Zachary also slept..."

Robert glared over and scolded Sherlyn while keeping his voice down to cut her words short. She never got to finish her sentence.

Sherlyn clamped her mouth shut quickly, and no longer dared to say anything else.

However, Louis had already heard what she said. He mocked himself, "That's right. The relationship between Charlotte and I is fake, but the one she has with Zachary is real. I am such a big, fat failure..."

"Louis, my boy, that is not what I mean. I simply meant that the two of you are even now," explained Sherlyn, "Let the past be in the past, and instead focus on the future..."

"She doesn't love me," announced Louis pitifully and sadly, "She doesn't even care that I slept with another woman and would watch me have sex with Diana just so she can leave."

Louis knew everything all too well. Charlotte already has all the evidence she needs from the last encounter, but she kept it hidden. She even set Diana up and conned my mom over to catch us in bed together. That means that she simply wants to use this as an excuse to leave this place. She doesn't care if I have sex with anyone...

That was what hurt Louis the most and why his heart was utterly crushed.

"That b*tch!"

Sherlyn gritted her teeth in hatred when she thought about how much Charlotte had hurt Louis.

"If so, we can cancel the wedding, Louis. There are plenty of great women out there, and Charlotte Lindberg is not the only fish in the ocean," suggested Robert. He thought that there was no point in trying to force Charlotte to stay anymore.

"Cancel the wedding?" blurted Sherlyn. She turned and stared at her husband curiously before lowering her voice and asking, "Won't we be the laughing stock if we cancel the wedding? The public will claim that we only cancel it because Danrique is in trouble. Everyone will call us heartless, and our family's reputation will suffer."

"This wedding is already a problem," whispered Robert, "If they get married, we will inevitably offend Zachary, and he will attack us even if the wedding goes off without a hitch. Besides, we will also face countless other troubles in the future if things between Zachary and Charlotte remain murky and ambiguous."

"On the other hand, canceling the wedding can eliminate all future problems. We can find a valid excuse and tell everyone that the wedding is only off because Charlotte cheated on Louis with Zachary..."

"Okay," replied Sherlyn, "It's frustrating that the b*tch is getting what she wants and is getting off easy, though."

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"I will only marry Charlotte and will never be with anyone else," murmured Louis softly, "But she doesn't love me, not even a little..."

"Louis, why do all this to yourself?" asked Robert while frowning.

"I thought that I could change her mind with my sincere heart, but now I know that love is something that can never be forced. She doesn't love me, and that's that," replied Louis. He finally lifted his head and was begging his parents with his eyes when he requested, "Mom, Dad, please let her go..."

"Stop messing around!" scolded Robert who was on the verge of losing his temper, "Even if we are to cancel the wedding, we'd still need her to cooperate and talk to the press. She must tell everyone why she wanted to cancel the wedding because only then will we be spared the media outrage."

"Also, if you're still in love with her, then we definitely can't set her free. There's no way of even locating her after she walks out that door!"

"That's right," chimed in Sherlyn, "Stop being childish, Louis, and listen to us. We're doing this for your sake."

"Enough!" growled Louis. They said the words he feared hearing the most, so he demanded, "You will let her go right now!"

"Why are you being so childish and talking nonsense?" complained Sherlyn as she went over to help Louis up, "Come on, get up..."

Louis got a sharp cutter out of his possession and pressed it against his wrist before Sherlyn could even finish speaking.

"My gosh, Louis, what are you doing? Put the knife down now. Don't scare me like this," said Sherlyn, who was so scared that she had turned pale.

"Put the knife down," requested Robert. He was scared mindless as well.

"I have had it with the two of you," replied Louis before he added numbly, "Either she goes or I go. Choose now."

"Louis..."

Sherlyn hadn't even finished speaking before Louis pushed the blade down. Crimson red blood slowly oozed out.

"Ah!" Sherlyn was so terrified that she screamed.

"Okay, okay, I'll set her free right away," compromised Robert immediately, "Just put the knife down. Do it!"

"Let her go right now. I will put the knife away once she is free," insisted Louis stubbornly, "If she doesn't go free, I will die right in front of you both."

"Why are you hurting yourself like this? My silly son. Charlotte knew that you will go to the extreme to protect her, and that is why she planned all of this. Don't you know that you are walking right into her trap?" said Sherlyn. She was so nervous that she was stomping a little.

"Yes, I am aware of that. She would rather watch me sleep with someone else just to get out of this place. That means that she truly doesn't want to stay, so it's only right that I give her what she wants," replied Louis before he smiled sorrowfully.

"Louis..."

"Let her go!" demanded Louis. He pushed the blade further into his wrist and prompted his blood to ooze out faster.

"Okay, okay, I will set her free right away," replied Robert. He no longer hesitated and shouted to his men, "Come in!"

"Yes." Avril and two bodyguards barged in.

"Go get Ms. Lindberg and set her free immediately," instructed Robert nervously.

"Okay."

Avril was quick to rush to Charlotte's room. She knocked on the door but didn't bother to wait for a response before barging in.

Inside the room, Charlotte and all four of her bodyguards were already dressed. They even had their shoes on and were waiting for Avril to show up.

"Looks like you have already anticipated that your plan will work, Ms. Lindberg," commented Avril as she stared meaningfully at Charlotte, "As you wished, Sir Robert would like to ask you to leave."

"That is great!" replied Lupine and Morgan. Both were ecstatic. Huh, I didn't expect everything to go so smoothly. I actually thought we'd have to wait a few days before we can leave.

"Thank you!" said Charlotte before she got up to leave. She later asked, "How is Louis doing?"

"Sir Louis cut his own wrist and lost a lot of blood. The white rug has turned crimson red..." answered Avril and added grimly, "You truly are cold and evil, Ms. Lindberg."

Charlotte paused and stopped walking. She turned her head in the direction where Louis' room was. Intense remorse and anxiety filled her heart.

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"Should we go check up on him, Ms. Lindberg?" asked Lupine softly.

Charlotte tilted her gaze down and remained quiet for a few seconds before she finally stepped forward to leave. She said, "Unnecessary gestures will only further break his heart. It's better if we just rip the band-aid off. Let's go."

Lupine didn't reply. She simply followed Charlotte's orders.

Avril led everyone down the stairs to where the guards had already pulled the car up. The keys were still in the ignition, and the car was running.

"Goodbye, Ms. Lindberg," greeted Avril politely as she bowed to Charlotte.

Charlotte bowed back. She shifted her gaze to the second floor where Louis' room was located.

He was staring at her from the windows in his room, even though his wrist was still bleeding. Two nurses were at his side and tending to his wound.

Sherlyn and a few other maids had him surrounded and were helping him out as well.

They were too far apart, so Charlotte couldn't see Louis' expression nor could she bid him goodbye. All she could do was turn around and get in the car with guilt burning inside her.

"Charlotte Lindberg!" A proud and cruel voice suddenly came over.

Charlotte turned over to see Robert standing by the door with his hands behind his back. Hatred donned his face when he threatened, "Someday, you will pay back everything you owe us."

Charlotte didn't reply. She simply bowed with her head down before she got into the car.

As the car traveled down the road, Charlotte checked on Louis via the rearview mirror. That was when she saw that he was kneeling on the floor and crying so much that he was trembling.

She couldn't hear his voice, but she could sense his hopelessness and devastation.

Her gaze tilted down, and a drop of tear rolled down her cheek.

It would be a lie to say that she wasn't hurt at all.

Sherlyn was responsible for most of the damage done, and Diana had further messed things up. However, it was possible that none of that would've happened if Charlotte had been firm in rejecting Louis.

Lupine couldn't help sighing, either. "Sir Louis truly is an innocent bystander in all this," commented Lupine.

"Let's pray that he'll grow and become stronger after this entire ordeal. It could turn out to be a good thing for him because he might never grow up without experiencing something like this," added Morgan, who was feeling sorrowful as well.

"I wonder how Diana is right now," murmured Jade, "I overheard a maid saying that they locked her in the basement and forced fed her the after pill."

"Serves her right. It's obvious that she wants to use underhanded methods like these to get pregnant with Sir Louis' child and change her fate. There is no way Lady Sherlyn would let her have that," said Emma who had usually been quiet.

"That is so stupid. One should always know their own place," concluded Lupine.

"What did Sir Robert mean when he said those words just before we left?" asked Morgan. The more she thought about it, the more worried she became, so she asked, "Ms. Lindberg, was he threatening you?"

"Perhaps," answered Charlotte while frowning deeply. She later instructed, "Check your phones immediately to see if we can get any signals. Call Gordon and have him start prepping everything. We must leave Pillere as quickly as possible."

"Understood," replied Lupine as she turned on her phone. She then added, "We still can't get any signals. It's likely we'll have to leave the castle's grounds before we can reach anyone else."

Morgan sped up and drove out of the place soon after.

It took some time before they could make a call. Lupine was quick to dial Gordon's number. Gordon picked up soon and greeted, "Hello."

"Gordon, it's me," informed Lupine hurriedly, "We just left the castle, and Ms. Lindberg is asking you to prep everything quickly. We have to leave Pillere right away."

"I am always ready and can start making the necessary arrangements right now. We'll meet at the airport."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Lupine made another call to get the private jet ready.

"We're finally leaving," said Jade before she sighed a breath of relief and added, "I thought Sir Robert would've sent someone to chase after..."

"That f*cking a*shole is cruel and going back on his words!" interrupted Morgan angrily as she checked via the rearview mirror.

"Speed up," instructed Charlotte calmly.

"Understood," replied Morgan. She stepped on the gas and sped up like crazy to try to lose them.

"Shoot!" blurted Lupine, who suddenly thought about something important, "Do you think Sir Robert would have his men stationed at the airport?"

"Call Gordon and tell him not to go to the airport. Instead, he is to wait for my orders in the villa," ordered Charlotte quickly and without hesitation.

"Understood," replied Lupine before she called Gordon again.

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Lupine had just ended her conversation when their car was surrounded.

They were on their enemy's turf, after all, so it didn't really matter how fast they drove. They couldn't stop the others from coming in from another location.

Over ten armored cars sped over from all directions and had Charlotte's convoy completely surrounded.

"What do we do?" asked Jade as she panicked, "The weapons we stored in our car have been removed, so there is no way we can go against them now."

"At worst, we'll just drive ahead and smash over," said Morgan unreasonably through her gritted teeth, "I doubt he has the guts to kill us."

"Sir Robert looks like a serene guy. I can't believe he's actually that cruel," said Lupine while frowning deeply, "What do we do, Ms. Lindberg?"

"Force our way out," ordered Charlotte as she kept her gaze ahead, "Things have since changed. Our enemy can't treat us civilly like they used to, and vice versa."

"They truly are gutsy. Aren't they worried that Mr. Lindberg would come after them after everything is settled?" growled Lupine angrily.

She had just finished complaining when she received a call from Gordon. He informed, "We got news from Erihal. Something happened to Mr. Lindberg."

"What? W-What happened?" asked Lupine fearfully as she turned pale.

"Rumor is that he died in an explosion while traveling by sea," replied Gordon with a broken heart. He was so sad that he could barely speak.

"How could that be?"

Lupine, Morgan, and the others were all lost. It was as if the apocalypse was nigh.

"Sir Robert must've heard about this as well. Hence, it is likely he won't let Ms. Lindberg leave so easily. I'm already leading my people over to help out. Don't do anything reckless and instead try to buy us some time."

"Understood..."

After hanging up, the others turned to Charlotte and stared nervously. They asked, "Ms. Lindberg, you don't think that the rumor is true, do you? Mr. Lindberg is still alive, isn't he?"

Charlotte gripped her phone and had her head down without saying anything.

About a minute ago, she heard the news from Sean that Danrique had passed on.

She still couldn't register that information and refused to accept that truth. This is not real. It can't be!

"M-Ms. Lindberg..."

Bang!

A gunshot cut Lupine's words short.

Moments later, over a dozen soldiers hopped out of the car and pointed their guns at the girls. One of the soldiers warned loudly, "Ms. Lindberg, please exit from your vehicle and follow us along."

Charlotte shifted her gaze up and looked at the others. She had a calm expression on, but her emotion was actually running wildly.

Danrique had fallen, and every enemy the family had ever had no longer needed to be cautious. They were out for blood.

The Laurent family, in particular, couldn't possibly keep their anger contained. Everyone was eager to kill Charlotte and her team.

"What do we do?" asked Lupine as she turned to Charlotte.

"We are members of the Lindberg family, and we will die before we bow down to our enemies," answered Charlotte calmly, "We'll be counting on you, Morgan."

"Understood. We'll go all out against these a*sholes!"

Morgan gripped the steering wheel and was ready to smash the car over at any given moment.

"It is futile to fight back, and I recommend against it," warned a soldier as he aimed his gun over, "Mr. Lindberg has passed on, and Sir Robert has issued the order. We are permitted to kill you if you resist."

Charlotte scoffed discriminatingly. Hah! That guy sure changes his stance quickly.

"B*stards," growled Lupine through gritted teeth.

“Ram over on my count to three,” ordered Charlotte softly, “One!”

Morgan was already on standby. She slowly shifted her foot from the brakes to the accelerator.

“Two!”

Morgan was slowly speeding up.

“Three!”

As soon as Charlotte gave the orders, the car suddenly sped ahead viciously, like a wild horse that had just broken out of its cage.

Their enemies were mentally prepared, but they didn’t expect the car to speed up that quickly.

That forced them to back away in a panic, then fire their guns at the car.

Given Morgan’s driving skills, it was easy for her to break through most traps. Unfortunately, they were heavily surrounded by military-grade jeeps.

Morgan had to force her way against one jeep, and as she struggled, their enemies closed in on them and shot their tires.

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Chapter 1275 Debt Of Life

It didn’t take long before the tires were punctured with a loud bang!

Morgan hadn’t even had the chance to break through the cars before their enemies reached them.

“Get out of the car!” demanded the soldiers as they pointed their guns over.

Even the tires were rendered useless, so there was absolutely nothing Charlotte and her team could do to break free.

Morgan couldn't tap into her talent or drive everyone to safety, under those circumstances, so she stared hopelessly at Charlotte.

"F*ck it," grumbled Lupine as she clenched her fists and suggested, "Morgan, you will leave with Ms. Lindberg while the three of us buy you girls some time."

"Okay," replied Morgan while nodding.

"You will all die if I leave. I'll stay. That way, everyone will at least have a shot at surviving," said Charlotte while frowning deeply.

"But..." Lupine was about to refute when a soldier walked over to yank at the door.

Just then, the sound of a series of roaring engines hit everybody's ears. The cars' blinding headlights shot over as well.

Every soldier was stunned in place. When they turned around, they saw over ten heavy-duty cars zipping over like a pack of wild animals.

The soldiers panicked and quickly went to defend their territory, but the heavy-duty cars still knocked everything and everyone out of the way.

An all-out war broke out instantly.

The soldiers were trained by the books and had virtually zero combat experience, so they were no match against the men from the heavy-duty cars.

It didn't take long before the soldiers were forced to back away.

Lupine, Morgan, and the others took advantage of that to get out of the car with Charlotte. They were about to leave when one heavy-duty car blocked their path.

Morgan clenched her fists. She was about to fight back when the driver popped his head out and called out to her. When she saw who the guy was, she couldn't help smiling like an ecstatic fool and blurting, "Marino!"

"Get in the car," said Ben while opening the doors to get everyone inside.

"What are you guys doing here? How did you know we'd be in trouble?" asked Charlotte in a surprised tone.

"Mr. Nacht had been paying attention to your safety this entire time. He personally issued the order for us to rescue everyone," answered Ben.

Charlotte turned her head and checked via the windows. She saw that the Nacht family's convoy was already leaving, and the Laurent family's army was forced to flee as well.

"What else does Zachary know?" asked Charlotte when she turned her attention back over.

"He knows that Mr. Lindberg has passed on and that you are in grave danger now," replied Ben carefully.

"Where is he now?"

Charlotte looked out the windows once more. A few cars were following close behind, but it was likely that Zachary wasn't there.

"He's waiting for you at the airport," replied Ben politely, "My recommendation is that you call Gordon and have him take the kids to the airport. We can meet up there. Don't worry. No one would dare stop the Nacht family's private jet from lifting off."

Charlotte tilted her gaze down and considered it before instructing Lupine, "Call Gordon."

"Understood," replied Lupine. She was quick to call Gordon after that.

It was a mess on the other end of the line as well. As suspected, Gordon was ambushed too, but he was confident that he could

break through everything. He promised to take the kids and meet up with Charlotte at the airport.

Lupine reported the matter to Charlotte.

The latter instantly asked, "Ben, can we go help Gordon out?"

"He should be fine since he has a lot of subordinates..."

"Just get your a*s over!" demanded Lupine, who was getting nervous.

Being interrupted got Ben to turn to her meekly and change his stance. He said, "Okay, then let's head over together."

It was already three in the morning at the time, and that night was destined to be unpleasant.

Fortunately, Charlotte had the Nacht family's support, so she reached Gordon quickly and smoothly. Everyone rushed to the airport together.

The three kids were sleeping soundly the entire time and had no idea what had happened.

At the airport. Everyone hopped out of the car.

Charlotte saw Zachary leaning against the side of the door and smoking.

The night's wind was caressing his hair. He had lost weight, so his thin figure seemed lonely. Despite that, the powerful aura he exuded was still as strong as it had always been.

So much had happened. Charlotte thought that she would no longer need to count on Zachary after she had become stronger and smarter. Never in her life would she have anticipated that he would still be the one to rescue her when it truly mattered.

She walked to him and wanted to thank him, but she couldn't bring herself to do so.

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chapter 1276

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Chapter 1276 Back To Their Country

"Aren't you going to thank me?"

Zachary, however, spoke up with his brow raised. Arrogance and amusement donned every inch of his face.

"Where are the kids?" asked Charlotte. She checked the car behind him and noted that her kids weren't there.

"They've already boarded the plane," replied Zachary after he blew out some smokes. He officially invited, "Come back to H City with me. It's safe there."

Charlotte stared through the smoke and looked at him, then at the dozen of people behind her. She suddenly felt the heavy burden that had been placed on her shoulders, so she said icily, "There's no need to trouble you for that, Mr. Nacht."

The way she addressed me... It was distant and cold. It was as if they had returned to the time when she worked for his company.

"The kids miss their mommy," shared Zachary as he flicked the ashes off his cigarette. His tone was nonchalant when he added, "I'll give you one more chance to answer that question."

"I have duties to fulfill," informed Charlotte with a heavy heart. Still, she was surprisingly firm when she added, "I thank you for everything you've done, though. I trust that the kids will be fine with you, so I am okay."

"You're not going to fight for their custody anymore?" asked Zachary as he stared at her with a raised brow.

"No," replied Charlotte. She tilted her gaze down to try to keep herself as calm as possible when she added, "I no longer have what it takes to keep them safe."

Charlotte suddenly felt like a failure. She had been fighting against Zachary for years, but in the end, she still lost.

It felt as if he would always be better than her.

"Okay, at least you know when to back away," said Zachary. He didn't say anything else before he turned around to board the plane. As he did so, he instructed, "Bruce, take them back to the country."

"Understood," replied Bruce as he stepped forward to offer Charlotte some comfort by saying, "Ms. Lindberg, this private jet is for you. If you truly do not wish to return to H City, you can go to its neighboring city. However, you cannot stay overseas because that would put you in danger."

"Okay, then we'll go to Yaleview," said Charlotte before she turned around and led her people to board the plane.

"Alright," said Bruce, who went to get everything ready immediately. He also led some men and boarded the plane with Charlotte and the others. Bruce's mission was to make sure that everyone arrive safely at their destination.

Before Zachary entered the cabin, he turned around to take another look at Charlotte. She did the same. Their eyes met, and they could tell that there were thousands of words they wanted to say to each other.

In the end, they chose to keep those words to themselves.

When two hearts were connected the way theirs were, there were many things that didn't need to be verbalized.

Two private jets took off and went to the same country, but one headed for H City while the other traveled to Yaleview.

Charlotte sat by the window and stared in a daze as Pillere slowly left her line of sight.

She wondered, When did Zachary set everything up? And how did he learn about my location and situation?

"Ms. Lindberg, I'd like to talk to you," said Gordon softly after walking over.

"Have a sit," replied Charlotte while gesturing to the seat opposite to her.

"I am so sorry that I am unable to rescue you this time," apologized Gordon sincerely, "I even got ambushed on my way over and almost couldn't make it to the airport in time. The consequences would've been dire if the Nacht family hadn't been around to help us out."

"It's not your fault. Danrique had too many enemies, and you kept the kids safe despite the situation. That, by itself, is an amazing accomplishment," said Charlotte softly to comfort him.

"It should be safe once we cross the borders, and I..."

Gordon hesitated but eventually mustered enough courage to request, "I want to go back to Erihal and look for Mr. Lindberg. He trained men like me in person, and he's the reason we managed to survive. We can't sit idly by now that something so terrible has happened to him, and he has..."

Gordon was sorrowful when he reached that part of the sentence. Danrique's death was the worst news to men like Gordon.

They practically worshipped Danrique and worked for him with their entire being. Hence, they felt lost upon hearing about his death.

"I was going to order you to do the same thing," said Charlotte firmly, "I have the strangest feeling, and I think he is still alive. That being said, I don't know why news of his death is being shared everywhere, so it's good if you return to Erihal and check things out. Be careful when you investigate the matter, though."

"Understood," replied Gordon before he nodded and said, "I will leave four men here to protect the kids and will take three to Erihal."

“There is no need for that,” ordered Charlotte firmly, “Take all your men over. I have eighteen bodyguards with me, so I’m certain we can keep three children safe.”

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chapter 1277

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Chapter 1277 No Turning Back

“But...”

“No buts. It’s decided,” insisted Charlotte to cut Gordon’s words short. After that, she instructed, “Once we land, you will take all seven of your men back to Erihal. Call me as soon as you learn anything.”

“I’ll leave after I helped settle you and the kids down. You gave up custody of your kids just to protect Mr. Lindberg’s children, so I can’t ignore your wellbeing,” offered Gordon who was still worried.

“I am not that nice,” replied Charlotte while grinning, “It’s just that given the current situation, my kids are safer with Zachary than they are with me. Hence, I am also doing all this for their sake.”

“But if it hasn’t been for us, you could’ve gone back to the Nacht family. It would be safer for you, and you’d get to reunite with your kids.”

Gordon could see things clearly. The truth was that Charlotte was sacrificing herself to protect all three of Danrique’s children. In a way, history was repeating itself. Charlotte was protecting the kids, just as her mother had protected Danrique all those years ago.

“Oh, stop being dilly-dallying already and man up,” said Charlotte. She changed the topic and ordered, “The sun is rising. You should go rest up now. We have a busy day ahead after we landed.”

“Okay,” said Gordon. He stood up and bowed politely to Charlotte before returning to his seat.

Charlotte looked out the window and stared at the clouds. A complex emotion gnawed at her. Who would've thought that after all the twists and turns, I'd return to where it all began?

"Don't worry, Ms. Lindberg. The trouble will pass, and you are no longer the person you used to be. We can rise back up to the top once this is all over," said Lupine while serving Charlotte a cup of warm tea.

"Rise back up to the top?" murmured Charlotte before an exasperated and bitter smile crept up on her lips, "That's true. The assets and resources Danrique left me would allow me to rise back to the top, but..."

Charlotte tilted her head down and stared at the cup of warm tea she had with her. In a voice thick with tears, she added, "I'd rather give it all up just to have Danrique back."

In the past, all Charlotte ever felt for Danrique were respect, fear, and appreciation. There was no love whatsoever.

That was why all she could think about was his cruelty and his ambition when she first got reunited with her kids. Charlotte was certain that Danrique couldn't understand the love between a parent and a child.

That was why she was ready to leave the Lindberg family when Danrique asked her about the kids. She assumed that he would never accept them and might even hurt them.

As time passed, she learned that underneath his cruel exterior was a heart that beat with more honor and love than anyone.

His cruelty was only directed at those he deemed an outsider.

Danrique was the kind of man who would sacrifice his life to protect the people he saw as his family.

When it came to the people he cared about, Danrique would reprimand mercilessly but do the most heartwarming gestures.

Charlotte, however, took too long and had to go through so much to understand how much he cared.

"Mr. Lindberg is fine. I believe that he is still alive. He has to be," said Lupine as her eyes reddened with tears.

"Yes, I think so too. That is why we only need to be patient and wait for him to return," agreed Charlotte. She took a deep breath to calm herself down.

"Yeah," said Lupine while nodding. Then, she added, "But, Ms. Lindberg, are you really not going back to the Nacht residence? Aren't you worried about how Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie would feel?"

"Yaleview is right next to H City, so I can visit them often. I just hope they won't hate me for this," replied Charlotte. Thinking about her kids inevitably stung her heart.

"Why not just stay in H City?" asked Lupine curiously, "Won't it be great to live closer together? That way, all six kids can hang out and play together all the time."

"Things will never be the same again, so we should just keep our distance," answered Charlotte as she grinned bitterly, "It doesn't matter how Lindberg Corporation's future is. The fact is that I can never go back to the Nacht family. Besides, before Danrique left, he repeatedly warned me against ever reaching out to Zachary again."

"Okay. The two families have been at odds for generations, so I guess it makes sense that all that bad blood won't go away that easily," said Lupine while nodding in exasperation.

"At odds..." muttered Charlotte. Her expression took a sharp change when she blurted, "Could it be...? Does the Nacht family have anything to do with Danrique's disappearance?"

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Chapter 1278 Be Brave

"I don't think so?" replied Lupine in an uncertain voice. She checked her surroundings and noted that Bruce and the others were sitting quite some distance away. They probably didn't overhear us, thought Lupine. She got closer hurriedly before whispering, "Mr. Lindberg was mainly dealing with issues within the company, so Mr. Nacht is probably innocent in this."

"I hope that is true," murmured Charlotte while frowning, "We were only able to leave in one piece thanks to Zachary, and Ben even helped Gordon out. No matter how I see it, I truly owe him a favor."

"That's right," said Lupine while nodding.

"There is no evidence that points to anything as of now, so we shouldn't put the blame on him. Let's not talk about this again," instructed Charlotte, who also reprimanded herself for being overly sensitive and suspicious.

"Understood," replied Lupine. She was a little worried because she genuinely hoped that Charlotte and Zachary could get back together. If that is impossible, then I wish that they can at least interact peacefully with one another.

Those thoughts were why Lupine prayed that their guesses were wrong and that Zachary was innocent.

"Go rest up," suggested Charlotte while resting her head on her hand, "We won't be able to rest once the triplets wake up."

"I'm fine. You should really take a nap, though," replied Lupine before she lowered the backrest and helped Charlotte lie down. The former handed the latter a blanket before adding, "Rest well and don't overthink things."

Charlotte closed her eyes, but she simply couldn't sleep. All she could think about was how Danrique could've already passed away.

Maybe it was because she was too tired, but she eventually fell asleep, only to be haunted by her nightmares. She dreamed about how Danrique's yacht exploded and how everything was in a wreck.

That nightmare scared Charlotte awake. Her eyes were filled with horror when they flung open, and her mind kept replaying the scenes from her nightmare. A nerve-wracking ache tore through her heart.

She placed her palm on her heart and kept trying to calm herself down. It's fine. Danrique is fine. He must be...

Charlotte turned around and saw that everyone else was asleep.

They still had to travel a few more hours in the air, but she couldn't sleep anymore, so she lay on her side and stared blankly out the window.

She thought about her father and how he never told her anything about the Lindberg family, even though he was being framed and hurt. All he ever wanted was for her to lead a peaceful life. Dad knew just how much turmoil we'd have to go through if we ever return to the Lindberg family.

Richard had already learned about Danrique's cruelty at the time.

The former thought that the latter would surely help Charlotte out if she was ever in trouble because Danrique owed Isabella. However, Charlotte would have to go through a lot of hardship if she stayed with the Lindberg family.

That was why he repeatedly warned Charlotte that her life would change drastically if she ever called that number.

He even reminded her that she must never make the call unless it was a life or death situation.

Charlotte didn't understand what her father was worried about at the time, but after everything that had happened... I finally know what he meant. The life of the wealthy came with a lot of drama and trouble.

That was especially true if one was a member of incredibly powerful families like the Nachts and the Lindbergs. No one could ever anticipate the kind of danger that was waiting right around the corner.

Even Isabella, who had grown up within the family, couldn't defend herself against the internal turmoil and was murdered.

That was why Richard had kept Charlotte's identity a secret. He kept everything hidden until he was on his deathbed. At the time, he knew that his death would leave Charlotte vulnerable, and that was why he gave her the phone number to dial as a last resort.

Richard would never have imagined that Danrique wasn't as evil as rumored. Instead, the latter was especially kind to his family.

That was why Charlotte had the best protection and training in the past two years.

Danrique was so kind that he planned ahead for Charlotte, even when he was in danger himself. He made sure that Charlotte would have a plentiful life, should he ever meet an untimely death.

Those memories and thoughts got Charlotte to sigh deeply. She was truly appreciative. I had my dad, Mrs. Berry, and Danrique protecting me my entire life. They are the reasons I am able to sit here in one piece.

The sad part, however, was that the people she loved were fading away one by one. Charlotte promised herself mentally, I must become stronger and more resilient and must start my new life on my own!

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1279

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1279 The World Can Be Yellow

The private jet landed at Yaleview's airport. Charlotte held the kids' hands as they got off the plane. A sense of loneliness

engulfed Charlotte as she took in the familiar yet heartbreaking view of the city.

Years ago, her father took her to that city when he was still alive. She was only a teenager at the time.

Her dad was busy starting his business, so Mrs. Berry had been the one who kept her company in a villa located outside the suburbs.

A couple of trees were planted at the side of the villa's entrance, and their leaves would turn the floor into a warm, beautiful orange when autumn and winter came around.

Like H City, Yaleview also had an ideal climate and its temperature never fell below zero degrees, not even during winter. That was why the leaves remained sitting on the tree branches during winter and why the scenery was stunning.

However, the city didn't feel like home without her father or Mrs. Berry around. If anything, it made Charlotte feel especially lonely.

"Aunt Charlotte, where are we?"

Alpha was crouching. She picked up a fallen leaf and narrowed her eyes while holding the leaf toward the sun and examining it. She looked extremely cute and innocent as she did so.

"We're in Yaleview," answered Charlotte with a smile, "In a way, this is my second home."

"It's so pretty here," commented Beta as she scanned around and stared curiously, "I used to think that the entire world is white, but I later learned that it can be green and purple as well. I've only just learned that the Earth can be yellow too!"

"Haha."

Charlotte laughed. She crouched down to stroke Beta's tiny head after that.

Kids had always been innocent. They used to live in Xendale where it was always winter, so they thought that it was white everywhere.

Later, they went to Arkfield and saw the farm, the fields, and the purple grapes, so they assumed that the rest of the world could only be white, green, and/or purple.

That was the first time they went to Yaleview, and seeing the leaves on the ground got them to understand that the Earth could also be yellow.

They were only two and a half years old, so the world seemed simple from their point of view.

"Aunt Charlotte, when will we meet up with our parents and our cousins?"

Gamma was the most mature among them and was the one who had the most desires.

"Gamma, your parents are busy, so I will take care of you for now, okay? As for your cousins... I'll take you to them sometime later," promised Charlotte sweetly as she stroked Gamma's arms.

"Okay," murmured Gamma sadly. She had her head down and was caressing her tiny hand as she pouted and complained, "Adults are always like this. They like to claim that they are busy and often postpone things..."

Charlotte didn't know what to say in response to that. She had assumed that they were just kids and didn't understand much, but they turned out to be smarter than she thought.

"Ms. Lindberg," called out Gordon at that moment.

Charlotte had Lupine babysit the kids before she followed Gordon to the side and asked, "Is everything done?"

"Yes," replied Gordon in a low voice, "I plan on taking the commercial flight back to Erihal, so as to not draw any attention. I'll get in touch with Sean once I reach the place and will report back to you as soon as I learn anything."

“Good. Take care,” replied Charlotte while tapping his shoulder.

“Then we shall leave now. Please take care of the kids.”

Gordon bowed to Charlotte after he said his piece.

The seven other bodyguards bowed to Charlotte as well to show their respect.

“Be careful and take care of yourself.”

Charlotte was pleased to see the way everyone acted. The rest of the world regarded Danrique as a cruel dictator, but his subordinates were loyal and would lay their lives down for him.

That proved that he was kind and sincere to his own men.

“Thank you, Ms. Lindberg.”

Gordon turned to the triplets and stroked all of their tiny heads before informing, “Kids, I have to leave for a while. You girls be good and listen to your Aunt Charlotte, okay?”

“Where are you going?” asked Beta curiously.

“Uncle Gordon, are you going to Daddy?” asked Alpha. Her big, round eyes glowed with anticipation as she stared at him and requested, “Can you help me hand this to him?”

Alpha handed the leaf she picked up earlier to Gordon.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1280

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1280 Back To The Same Old Place

“And take mine to him too!”

Gamma picked up a leaf and folded it into a beautiful butterfly before handing it over.

"And this one's from me," said Beta as she handed a leaf to Gordon, "You must keep it safe and are not allowed to lose it, okay?"

"These leaves are so pretty, and they're orange like the sun is. We want daddy to have the sunlight here. That way, he will never be cold," shared Alpha innocently as she tilted her head up.

Charlotte's heart was touched when she heard that. I pray to the heaven above. Please let Danrique receive the kids' blessing and return safely.

"Thank you," replied Gordon as he kept all three leaves safely tucked away, "Don't worry. I will surely bring the sunlight over to Mr. Lindberg."

"Yay, that's amazing!" cheered all three children.

"Alright, I have to go now. Be good!"

Gordon stroke their heads again before he left reluctantly.

All seven other subordinates waved goodbye to them.

"Bye-bye," said the kids while waving their tiny hands.

Charlotte watched as Gordon and the others left. A complex feeling rose in her heart.

"Ms. Lindberg, we don't have any contacts here in Yaleview, so we can't get everything ready beforehand. I've already booked rooms in the best hotel here. We can stay there for a few days while I look for a villa. After that, we can..."

"I've already gotten everything ready," interrupted Bruce as he approached and added, "I called ahead and had our people get a villa ready. Every necessity is there, and everyone can move in right away."

As Bruce spoke, a Rolls-Royce pulled up.

"Mr. Nacht had me prep this car for you," added Bruce as he handed the keys to Morgan, "You can use it however you please."

"But..." muttered Morgan before she turned to Charlotte.

"It's best if we keep a low profile now," replied Charlotte, "So we won't be accepting such a luxurious car."

"But..."

"We'll keep the villa, though. Please thank Zachary on my behalf, but I'll have to turn the car down," informed Charlotte before she instructed, "Morgan, take a few of our people over and go buy some cars. Remember to keep a low profile."

"Understood," replied Morgan. She rushed to work on the matter right away.

"I'll go with you," offered Marino quickly to earn some brownie points.

"Then please allow me to drive everyone to the villa," suggested Bruce as he opened the door, "This way, Ms. Lindberg."

"Thank you," said Charlotte. She got the kids into the car after that.

Yaleview was quieter when compared against H City. Not a single car was in sight when the evening rolled by.

It took them about thirty minutes before they reached the region where the villa was located.

The place had a lot of greenery, and the environment was serene. The villas in the region all had a modern design. They weren't as luxurious or as big as the villa in H City, but they were still rather regal.

Bruce drove to the innermost part of the region before it was parked at the side of a white villa.

Charlotte couldn't help being stunned when she saw that villa. Isn't this the villa my dad bought all those years ago?

After dad got into trouble, Simon stole the factories in Yaleview and this villa. A lot had happened after that, and the Whites eventually ran out of money, so they sold this villa, too.

"Let's take a look inside."

Charlotte got the kids out of the cars and scanned the surroundings. The tree she planted was still standing beside the entrance, and the flowers that Mrs. Berry planted were growing well, too. Some other flowers had withered and the water fountain stopped working, though...

"It was a last-minute decision to come here, so we didn't have the time to fix everything," informed Bruce.

"It's fine. I needed something to work on, anyway."

Charlotte pushed the door open and entered the place. Everything inside the house was still as it was. The photos she took with her father and Mrs. Berry rested quietly on the piano, on the walls...

She was only a teen at the time, and she looked youthful.

Seeing those photos make her feel like she had returned to the beautiful past where the people she loved were still with her. That was a time when her life was full of joy and laughter.

Charlotte picked up the photo frame. She couldn't help getting a little teary.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1281

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1281 A New Home

Morgan bought a couple of cars, and they were ready-made cars that were only worth a couple hundred thousand.

Charlotte thanked Bruce before he left with his subordinates.

Lupine had a few of her subordinates babysit the triplets and take care of their meals. Everyone else started working on fixing the courtyard.

The furniture and appliances in the villa were all in good shape. The place was simpler and smaller than the one they used to live in, but the pleasant memories Charlotte made there created a sense of warmth.

Charlotte changed out of her expensive outfit and put on some comfortable clothes. After that, she started working on the fountain and the flowers in the courtyard.

The kids were chasing each other and playing at the side while Morgan was busy setting everything up. Lupine, Jade, and the others hung out with Charlotte.

That was a heartwarming moment.

When the night fell, the kids became weary, so the bodyguards put the kids to bed.

Charlotte got the goldfishes that Morgan had just bought and released them in the fountain that was recently fixed. A pleasant grin crept up on Charlotte's lips when she saw how the goldfishes were swimming happily in there. She had Morgan turn the lights brighter and continued working on the flowerbeds after that.

"It's late, so let's work on this tomorrow. I'm sure you're tired," advised Lupine in a concerned tone.

"I can't sleep anyway, so working on something actually helps."

Charlotte wiped the sweat off of her forehead before she continued weeding the flower bed.

"Let me help you," offered Lupine. She had crouched down and was ready to help.

"No, there's no need for that," halted Charlotte right away, "These flowers are really sensitive. The slightest mishap would cause them to wither."

"I'm heartbroken seeing how you're busying away all on your own," said Lupine as she helped Charlotte wipe her sweat away.

"I'm not working. It's relaxing for me," said Charlotte as she dug into the earth, "Please get in touch with Hayley and ask her where Dr. Felch is. If he's still in H City, we'll visit them in a few days."

"Okay, I'll do that right away," replied Lupine. She went to call Hayley immediately after.

"Ms. Lindberg..." said Morgan. She seemed a little hesitant to finish her sentence, though.

"We have enough people working in the courtyard, so you are free to leave. You're not allowed to stay out overnight, though. Be back before one o'clock in the morning," informed Charlotte, who knew what Morgan was thinking.

"Understood. Thank you, Ms. Lindberg," said Morgan who was surprised and delighted.

Marino never left after he accompanied her over to buy the cars. He had been waiting at the side of the road the entire time.

Morgan didn't feel right asking for some time off, but Charlotte had already guessed what was going on. The latter even took the initiative to give the former permission to leave.

"Go on now," said Charlotte. She tilted her head up and scanned Morgan before suggesting, "And go change into a beautiful outfit."

"Hah, I'm already beautiful enough as I am," said Morgan.

She hopped away happily and was instinctively faster as she moved. She even hummed a song as she did so.

Tsk! Tsk! Lupine had exited the house and saw Morgan skipping away. The former couldn't help teasing, "Geez, I don't remember her ever being so fast in a fight."

"That's how women are when they're in love."

Charlotte grinned. She saw how happy Morgan and Marino were together, and that got her delighted.

"I envy them so much," sighed Lupine.

"Ben is comparatively more grounded and tends to think things through more carefully. That is why he isn't as passionate or as direct as Marino, but it doesn't mean that he doesn't have any feelings for you."

Charlotte could tell that Lupine was disappointed, so she added, "I can tell that he really cares about you."

"Oh, stop making fun of me," replied Lupine shyly.

"Once everything is settled, I will set you both free. Both of you have worked for the Lindberg family for years, and it's time you live a life of your choosing," shared Charlotte, who had long planned to set the girls free.

"Ms. Lindberg," blurted Lupine who instantly got nervous, "I won't leave. I'll stay by your side."

"I won't let you both leave right now," said Charlotte while rolling her eyes, "The two of you are my best and most skilled assistants. Hence, I would be lost if you leave now. I was talking about the future."

"I won't leave in the future, either. I will follow you wherever you go and will never leave you in this lifetime," promised Lupine as her eyes reddened with tears.

"You idiot..." replied Charlotte who was touched by the gesture. She had been lost for some time. Thank the heaven that I have them with me...

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1282

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1282 Meeting Mommy

At this point, the silvery moon had brightened the night sky, and peace in Southridge had been restored.

It took Zachary quite some time to get the three children to sleep. Just when he was about to leave, Robbie sat up and whispered, "Daddy, we need to talk."

Zachary gestured for Robbie to come out of the room since he did not want to wake Jamie up.

Both of them went to the study. Zachary removed his coat and put it on Robbie. "Here. Don't catch a cold."

The six-year-old looked ridiculous as the oversized coat covered his entire body, exposing only his tiny head.

The warmth from the coat gave Robbie a sense of security.

As per his usual practice, Zachary sat on the sofa and poured himself half a glass of cold wine.

"No drinking, please, Daddy," Robbie stopped him. "Mr. Ben said you can't drink wine since you've just recovered."

"Damn you, Ben," Zachary cursed silently.

"From now on, the three of us will be watching you closely. No smoking, no drinking wine anymore!" Robbie put on a stern face and frowned.

That remark rendered Zachary speechless. "All right. I'll stop drinking."

As a father, Zachary cared about his children's feelings and how they thought of him. He still had to practice self-control when he was with them.

"Come. Let me see how much weight you have lost." Zachary extended his hands to Robbie. "I was so busy in the last couple of days that I didn't manage to take a good look at you."

Robbie walked over and gave Zachary a hug. He choked up and said. "Daddy, I thought I would lose you forever..."

Robbie's words instantly warmed his heart.

"Silly boy." Zachary rubbed his head and smiled. Ever since he brought the children back from Arkfield, he was so caught up with other things that he did not have the time to talk to the children.

He missed Robbie and Ellie the most, as they had been separated from him for two months. And the little ones missed him too.

During this period, Robbie was constantly worried about Zachary's safety. He was relieved after knowing that his father was safe and sound.

Zachary, on the other hand, felt a pang of guilt toward Robbie and Ellie. "We'll stay together forever as a family," Zachary said in a gentle voice while embracing Robbie. "You are all my children, and I'll not allow anyone to take you away."

Robbie nodded obediently. "But how about Mommy? You said you'd take us to Mommy, right?"

"Of course." Zachary stroked his head. "Daddy will never lie to you."

“So...” Robbie bit his lips and mustered up his courage. “Can we bring Mommy home?”

Zachary froze for a bit and said in a deep voice. “If only she wishes to come home.”

“Mommy and Sir Louis are not married, aren’t they? She wouldn’t have returned to the country if she was married, right?” Robbie might be young, but he was an analytical child. “Do you think they’re still together?”

Upon hearing Louis’ name, Zachary instantly recalled what he saw in Arkfield.

Though the memory made him uncomfortable, he tried to remain composed. “Yes. They broke up.”

“Great!” Robbie exclaimed with joy. “Sir Louis is a nice man, but I still wish Daddy and Mommy could be together.”

“It’s night now. Come, let’s go to bed.” Zachary tried diverting his attention. “We’ll leave for Yaleview tomorrow morning.”

Robbie nodded and ran back to his room.

Zachary looked at the back of the cheerful boy, and a corner of his lips quirked up. But his smile disappeared seconds later.

He reached out for his glass of wine, swirled the drink, and went deep in thought.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1283

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1283 The Children Are Here

Charlotte could not sleep well lately. By the time she came out of the shower after sprucing up the garden, it was already two in the morning.

Despite feeling worn out, she could not sleep. She decided to get up to go through some old photos.

She, her father, and Mrs. Berry had taken many pictures when they were staying here years ago. But after Simon had taken over the property when her father was in trouble, he threw away everything in the house. She wondered where the Nacht family found these things.

All the sweet memories flashed across her mind as she flipped through the photo album. She felt a burst of warmth in her heart.

Before Charlotte knew it, the morning sun had risen, brightening the night sky.

Feeling utterly exhausted, she finally fell asleep while hugging the album.

She slept so well that she could not even hear Danrique's children calling her repeatedly.

Lupine walked up to the children and told them to keep quiet. "Aunt Charlotte is still sleeping. Let's go and play in the courtyard, shall we? There's goldfish and pretty flowers to play with."

"Okay!" the children answered loudly before covering their mouths to keep their volume down.

They then quietly followed Lupine downstairs. Before leaving for the courtyard, Lupine told Jade and Emma to call them once breakfast was ready.

Charlotte did not need to hire new maids since her eighteen bodyguards were capable of handling all the household chores.

Charlotte refused to hire maids not because she had no money. Money to her was never an issue even after the collapse of Lindberg Corporation. She just did not want to have strangers in the house, as this could cause her to be exposed to unnecessary risks.

Moreover, the bodyguards had nothing much to do during this period besides taking care of the three little ones.

Lupine and a few bodyguards accompanied the children and played games with them in the courtyard. All of a sudden, the sound of a car's engine emerged from the entrance. They instantly put their guard up.

Lupine instructed a few bodyguards to bring the children into the house with an eye signal. In the meantime, she and the other bodyguards went out to take a look.

As the gate opened, the bodyguard stationed at the entrance immediately reported to Lupine. "It's Mr. Nacht!"

"Mr. Nacht?" Lupine was surprised. She went up and was ready to greet him on his arrival.

Two jeeps and an extended Rolls-Royce arrived and parked outside the entryway.

Zachary and his three children gracefully got down from the car.

"Mr. Nacht!"

Charlotte, who did not believe what they said earlier, was stunned. Never in a million years did she expect to see Zachary here.

Zachary nodded and took a sidelong glance at the courtyard.

"Lupine!" Upon seeing Lupine from a distance, Ellie ran toward her and gave her a hug. "I'm so happy to see you. I'm sure Mommy is around, right?"

"Of course she is. She's still sleeping." Lupine carried Ellie in her arms and grinned. "I miss you, Ellie. Let me take a good look at you. Did you lose weight?"

"Yeah, coz I miss Mommy very much." Words stuck in Ellie's throat.

"I'll bring you to your Mommy." Lupine pinched her cheeks gently. She then turned to the two boys and said, "Robbie, Jamie, come on in!"

"Let them play in the living hall will do. Let's not disturb their Mommy," Zachary said in a calm voice.

He then turned around to the children and said, "We'll go and see her when she wakes up."

The little ones nodded. "Okay, Daddy."

Zachary smiled and rubbed their heads before walking into the villa.

In the meantime, Danrique's children ran out of a hidden corner upon hearing Robbie's and Ellie's voices. Before they could locate the children, they bumped into Zachary.

Zachary, who met them for the first time, raised his brows after studying them from head to toe. "Are these Danrique's daughters?"

Upon seeing Zachary, the three children immediately ran behind Morgan and hugged her thighs.

They cautiously popped their heads out from the sides to look at Zachary as if they were sizing up a monster.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1284

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1284 My Daddy Will Beat You Up

Alpha pouted her lips and stole a look at Zachary. "So you're Aunt Charlotte's husband?" she asked weakly.

Beside her, Beta glared at the man and nodded fervently. "It's him! He's the one who snatched Robbie, Ellie, and Jamie away at the vineyard."

"You're one big brat!" Gamma interjected, sticking out her tongue at Zachary, "My daddy will beat you up!"

Zachary sniggered looking at the children. "Is this a threat? You guys can do much better, kids. Y'all are still babies."

"Hmph! We're not babies. You are!" Alpha shouted back, clenching her fists, "I want Ellie and Robbie back!"

"Yes! You'd better bring them back!"

Beta flexed her fists too, snarling at Zachary.

"Don't be rude to my daddy!" A girl's stern voice suddenly broke the tense ambient.

"Ellie!" The three girls screamed in excitement and ran toward Ellie. "We miss you so much!"

"I miss you guys too."

Ellie hugged each of them and pulled them toward the courtyard to play with them.

"They are a fierce lot," Robbie said, looking at the girls calmly.

Despite his detached demeanor, he actually missed the girls.

"Tell me about it," Jamie said in agreement, "They are worse than Ellie when she was younger."

"Worse, worse!" Little Fifi parroted her masters as she followed the two boys.

"Is that Little Fifi? She's so cute!"

The three girls looked back when they heard the parrot.

"Be gentle with her, girls. Little Fifi is also part of our family," Ellie reminded them as they ran toward the parrot. "Where's Fifi?" Ellie asked.

"Fifi's resting in the attic. It's probably not used to the new environment," Morgan replied.

"Poor Fifi. We shouldn't bring it along when we travel. Fifi always falls sick at a new place," Ellie said sadly, "I'll go check on it later. Fifi might feel better seeing some familiar faces."

"It's okay. I will ask them to bring her over." With that said, Morgan went over to one of the men and asked him to bring the eagle over.

The children went on to play in the courtyard while waiting for Fifi. Meanwhile, Zachary went upstairs to look for Charlotte. It did not take him long before he found her room. She always preferred rooms facing the sun, so he guessed it must be the second room from the right.

Zachary was about to reach for the door handle when Lupine stopped him, but Ben was faster than her.

"What do you think you're doing?" Lupine seethed at Ben.

"Give them some time to talk. Nothing can go wrong," he replied.

"But..." Before Lupine could resist, Zachary had already pushed the door open.

The bright sunlight pierced into his view the moment he entered. Inside the room, Charlotte was sleeping soundly on the bed with a photo album in her arms.

A gentle breeze blew by, wafting the curtains against her slender legs as warm rays of the sun beat against her fair skin, yet Charlotte slept on soundly.

Zachary tiptoed over to close the window. He drew the curtains and looked back nostalgically at the woman in the bed.

He could not recall when the last time was he watched her up close, let alone the last time the two shared a quiet moment together.

Zachary suddenly felt being in her quiet presence was a luxury.

He went over and pulled the blanket over her before he took the album from her hands. He walked over to the couch and sat down, watching her silently.

This was enough for him. His heart was full to the brim just by looking at her.

Watching her brought back all the fond memories they had together. He remembered the first time they met and how they fell passionately in love.

They had their happy and bittersweet moments together—but in hindsight—they were all moments he cherished.

Although there were insurmountable hurdles along the way, those barriers that prevented their relationship were beginning to lose ground. This was the best time for them to get back together, but life was never this easy.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1285

Chapter 1285 Falling In Love

Zachary lowered his sad gaze to the green marks on his wrist. I probably need to start preparing.

“No... No!”

Charlotte suddenly opened her eyes wide in terror as she shrieked herself awake. She was soaked in sweat from her nightmare.

Zachary dashed over and patted her in the back to comfort her. “Hey, it’s okay. It’s just a dream.”

“It’s Danrique...” she mumbled as she shook her head.

It did not take long before her wavering gaze fixed steadily on the man beside her.

“What... Why are you here? Am I still dreaming?”

She rubbed her eyes and blinked hard to make sure she was not seeing things. When it finally registered in her mind that Zachary was really there in person, she jumped from the bed and grabbed a cardigan.

She would only wear a white silk dress without anything underneath when she slept. She felt embarrassed that Zachary was seeing everything.

“It’s not like I’ve never seen it before.”

Zachary rolled his eyes at her and went back to the couch, lighting up a cigarette.

Charlotte quickly wore her cardigan and tied up her hair before going into the bathroom to wash up. “What brings you here?”

"The children miss you," Zachary said briefly.

"The kids are here?" Charlotte was elated at the news. "Where are they?"

She ran to the door without even waiting for an answer.

"Are you going out in this?" Zachary's voice rang loud behind her. "There is a whole group of male bodyguards outside."

"Right." Charlotte turned back and quickly get a change.

She grabbed some clothes and was about to go into the bathroom again when she saw the floor was all wet. She looked back at the room awkwardly, not knowing what to do.

"Just change here," Zachary said, going over to the window to get a smoke.

Charlotte took a quick glance at him and turned around to change. "I'm done."

Zachary looked back at her, puffing smoke from his mouth.

Charlotte stood in front of the mirror, combing her hair and putting on some makeup. She wanted her children to see her in her best. After all, she had not seen them for a while.

Zachary leaned against the window as he looked at her quietly, squinting his eyes.

The smoke spread before him, but his complicated gaze was still locked on her.

"Since when did you start smoking?"

Charlotte looked at him from the corner of her eyes. She felt Zachary looked a bit downcast.

"And since when did you wear sleeping gowns?" Zachary asked back.

Charlotte instantly evaded his gaze. A hue of pink flushed on her cheeks.

Zachary looked at her intently and finally walked over. He caught her chin and lifted her face so she could look at him in the eyes.

His longing for her was laid bare before her gaze—his tenderness and his love. For a moment, Charlotte felt they were still the same couple who was madly in love.

It was as if nothing had changed between them.

Zachary drew closer to her, his lips brushing lightly against her forehead, her eyes, her cheeks, and her lips.

He just wanted to feel close to her.

He did not kiss her because he was afraid she would reject him.

Zachary held on to her like she was a precious morning dew that would evaporate anytime under the sun.

This intimacy was what they had been craving for, but now that they were so close, it broke their hearts.

They were once so happy together and they could want each other without holding back, but not anymore.

Zachary could not help but think of her and Louis being together every time he saw her. It pained him to think that she belonged to another man.

He did not want to remember any of it, but it kept replaying in his mind.

Knock!

A noise from the door pulled them back to reality. Charlotte stepped back and turned around, collecting her disconcerted thoughts.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1286

Chapter 1286 Let Us Go Together

"Mr. Nacht, something urgent came up." Ben's voice came from outside the door.

"Take your time. The children are in the courtyard." Zachary snuffed out his cigarette and walked out.

"Alright," Charlotte said, looking at him as he left.

Lupine ushered Zachary and Ben to the study and handed them a bottle of water each before excusing herself.

"What's the matter?" Zachary asked impatiently.

"Sir Robert is working together with other shareholders to get Ms. Lindberg out of the Gymnasium Project. They have already asked the lawyer to draft a notice. They are waiting for you to sign it. Mr. Williams called just now to ask when is a good time for you to sign the document," Ben reported, turning the laptop to Zachary, "This is the digital version."

"Don't bother," Zachary said, his brows stitched, "I'll look into this on Monday."

"Sure," Ben answered as he closed the laptop. "There's something else."

Zachary nodded, waiting for him to proceed.

"Bruce had already found Dr. Felch. He's still in H City," Ben said, looking at Zachary carefully before continuing, "I think it would be good to see him as soon as possible. We shouldn't drag this out."

"So this is the urgent matter you were talking about?" Zachary eyed him coldly.

"Dr. Felch's going back to Phoenix City tonight. Bruce is doing everything he can to delay him," Ben replied anxiously, "Dr. Felch is not feeling well, so we should really hurry before..."

"Alright," Zachary cut him short, looking at his watch, "Where's he?"

"He's in the northern suburbs in H City. It will take about three hours for us to drive there."

"We'll leave after lunch." Zachary wanted to spend more time with Charlotte and the children.

"But..."

"That's not up for discussion," Zachary replied, kicking Ben in the leg, "You're getting nosy, aren't you?"

Ben looked down and nodded in silence. He and Bruce were worried about Zachary, but Zachary did not seem concerned at all.

Zachary had just gotten out of the study and was about to head downstairs when he saw Lupine talking to Charlotte. "Get ready. We're leaving in an hour," Charlotte said.

"What about the kids?"

"I'll go play with them now."

Charlotte wanted to spend more time with the children, but she really had to leave soon. "I have to pay Dr. Felch a visit now. Is it okay if the kids stay a few more days?" she asked Zachary beseechingly.

"Wouldn't it be better if you just stay at Northridge? It'll be way more convenient for you, but you insist on staying at a remote place like this."

Charlotte fell into silence. She knew what Zachary said was right, but she wanted to keep a distance between them.

It was not like they could get back together just because he saved her.

Danrique will be so pissed if he finds out.

"Whatever. I'm going to see Dr. Felch as well. We can go together."

"Then can the kids stay?"

"Yes. They'll stay for the weekend and leave on Sunday," Zachary said as he walked out, "I'll wait for you in the car. Be quick."

"Yes!" Charlotte replied eagerly and ran to the courtyard to look for the children. "Robbie! Jamie! Ellie!"

"Mommy!" The three children darted over and hugged their mother. "Mommy, we miss you so much!"

Charlotte bent down and pulled them into her arms. "I missed y'all too! Why didn't y'all come upstairs? I didn't even know you guys are here."

"Daddy said you're sleeping."

"Mommy, you've lost weight."

"Mommy, why don't you come home with us? Your house is so far away. We have to wake up early in the morning just to come and see you."

"Yeah, Mommy. It's so tiring. Why not you just come home?"

"Mommy, you can come back to Northridge at least. It's much closer."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1287

Chapter 1287 Rekindling Past Love

Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie talked on and on, trying to persuade Charlotte to return to Northridge.

Charlotte could not bring herself to turn them down, but she knew it was not a good idea to go back now. She was afraid she would fall for Zachary again. She would be in for huge trouble if that happened.

She was fine with how things were at the moment. She kept her distance and they were on good terms.

"Do you guys know this is where Grandpa used to live?" Charlotte told the children, trying to change the topic.

"Mommy and Mrs. Berry used to live here as well. We took a lot of photos together. Do y'all want to have a look?"

"Yes!" Charlotte managed to spark the children's interest. "We want to see it, Mommy."

"Great, but we'll do that later. I need to run some errands now. Why not y'all play with Alpha, Beta, and Gamma first? I'll show you guys the photos in a bit."

"But..." The children stopped, looking at Zachary.

"Daddy said y'all can stay for the weekend and leave tomorrow night," Charlotte assured the children.

"Yay!" The three kids leaped in joy when they knew they could stay over.

A cheerful smile broke out on Charlotte's face as she looked at the children. "I'm going to visit Dr. Felch now. You guys stay at home first, okay?"

"Yes, Mommy!"

The kids ran back merrily to the courtyard to play.

Charlotte heaved a sigh of relief when she saw the children. She asked Morgan to stay back to watch the kids while Lupine and her got ready to leave.

"We can go in my car," Zachary suggested, "I bet Dr. Felch doesn't like too many cars at his place."

"Sure," Charlotte agreed and hopped on with Lupine.

Lupine sat down beside Ben, who was in the driver's seat, while Charlotte and Zachary sat at the back.

The four set out with the rest of the guards at home to keep an eye on the children.

It was an enjoyable drive. There were lush trees along the way, blocking out the sun. Sprinkles of sunlight made their way through the leaves, falling on the road like specks of golden dust, forming a pleasant sight.

The journey continued without many conversations.

Ben would steal a peek at Lupine on and off as he drove. Unlike Marino, Ben was reserved and introverted.

Although Ben and Lupine clearly had feelings for one another, none of them took the first step.

As for Zachary and Charlotte, neither was trying to strike a conversation.

Ring!

A call on Ben's phone broke the silence.

Ben connected his phone to his hands-free device and picked up the call.

"Ben?"

A woman's voice rang softly from the other end.

"Um... Yes?"

Ben shot Lupine a nervous look.

Lupine looked away with conspicuous dismay on her face.

"Nancy here. Is Mr. Nacht there?"

Ben was instantly relieved to hear the lady was looking for Zachary and not him, but he quickly caught on and looked anxiously at Zachary in the rearview mirror.

Zachary gestured at him and Ben nodded. "Is there anything I can do for you, Ms. Gold?"

"I'm in H City," Nancy replied, "I have some questions to ask him but I didn't get a chance to. He had already left by the time I woke up."

Charlotte felt uneasy listening to Nancy. What she said was very suggestive.

Charlotte pretended as if she could not care less, but deep in her heart, a storm was already brewing.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1288

Chapter 1288 Game Over

He had already left by the time she woke up?

These words were enough to paint a misleading picture in Charlotte's mind.

It seemed to her that Zachary did not miss out on any fun at all last time.

Charlotte's blood boiled in jealousy when the thought struck her, but she feigned a smirk and looked away nonchalantly.

Zachary caught her reaction and was peeved. "Arrange a time," Zachary said curtly.

Ben looked at him with his eyes wide. "Um... Okay."

"I'll take a look at Mr. Nacht's schedule and get back to you in a bit, Ms. Gold."

"Great, thanks," Nancy replied in glee. "Is Mr. Nacht beside you?"

Ben read the room and decided to end the call. "Yes, but I'm driving. I'll call you back."

"Alright. Say hi to Mr. Nacht for me."

"Sure. Bye."

The atmosphere in the car became tense after the call ended.

Although no one spoke over at the backseat, Ben and Lupine could feel a suffocating air engulfing them.

Lupine glared at Ben fiercely, to which Ben made an innocent expression in reply. Come on, this is not my fault. I'm just doing what I'm told.

Charlotte looked at her phone to conceal her disgruntlement.

She felt uneasy about Zachary meeting Nancy, but she reminded herself that she was no longer related to Zachary. It did not matter to her who he met. She had no right to be bothered.

"Did you get the news already?" Zachary suddenly spoke.

"Huh?" Charlotte looked at him, perplexed.

"Sir Robert wanted you out from the Gymnasium Project. I've already got the document. They are waiting for me to give them the green light. What do you think?"

"I'm fine with it. I wanted to opt-out anyway. I don't want to have anything to do with him anymore."

She found Robert and his wife's actions unforgivable. Thinking of them made her feel worse. That double-faced and ungrateful couple really showed how evil people could be.

"It seems like you've not learned much from Danrique," Zachary sneered.

"What do you mean?" Charlotte asked, frowning.

"Now that Danrique is down, the Lindberg Corporation is in a precarious state. You should at least have a plan going forward," Zachary answered, looking at her mockingly.

"Danrique left me a fortune," Charlotte said, "Of course, I won't just squander the money away. I will make a comeback, but I want to take a break for a year or two. It's better to lie low for now."

"You're too complacent. I bet you've lost your share on Lindberg Corporation, else Danrique's enemies will be hunting you down by now. The only reason why you're still safe now is not because of Gordon. It's because they don't even see you as a threat. Besides, Danrique only has three daughters, so they won't be inheriting anything from their father."

"So?" Charlotte asked cluelessly, "What are you trying to say?"

"The Gymnasium Project is up and running now. Although your stakes aren't high, you're still a shareholder too. You have all the rights to be part of the project. If you allow someone to just oust you without putting up a fight, no one will take you seriously. Don't even think about starting anew in the future," Zachary pointed out before a pause.

"But of course, it's not like you have to do something great. Danrique has left you enough to spend for the rest of your life. You can choose to live a quiet life. There's nothing wrong with that. You're in no shape to go against the Laurent family anyway."

When Zachary was finally done, he uncapped a bottle and drank.

On the other end of the back seat, Charlotte fell into deep thoughts with her gaze low.

She actually did not want to be sidelined. It was obvious that Robert was bullying her.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1289

Chapter 1289 I Can Do It On My Own

Robert was trying to milk the situation to the fullest. Now that they had lost the pillar in the family, Robert wanted to corner her into desperation. After all, to him, she was just a woman with a bunch of kids, protected only by a group of female bodyguards.

Charlotte would have readily retaliated if she were younger, but things had changed.

Lindberg Corporation was in a mess, they still had no news of Danrique, and she still had to protect the children. If she threw herself into the eye of the storm right now, it would only mean more trouble for her.

She just could not risk the lives of the children.

Besides, she really did not want to perpetuate the fight with the Laurent family. After all, she felt guilty toward Louis, yet there was a morsel of truth in Zachary's words.

There would be no coming back if she were to exit the playing field now.

If Danrique ever wanted to make a comeback, all would be lost by then.

Back when she put her stakes in the project, she did it under Lindberg Corporation's name.

If she allowed people to remove her from the project now, it would be bad publicity for the company. The media would not let go of this opportunity to mar Lindberg Corporation's reputation.

Danrique was still missing and no one knew what happened to him. There were already a lot of rumors circulating around about him. She could not just add fuel to the fire.

"What do you think I should do?" Charlotte finally spoke.

"This is a no-brainer," Zachary replied, "They won't get what they want as long as I refuse to sign the document."

Speaking, he moved closer to Charlotte and whispered in her ears, "You just need to make me happy and I'll give you whatever you want."

"What do you mean, huh? I'm not that desperate!"

Zachary raised his brows in disbelief. "Wow, that's a lot of double standard coming from you. I wonder who is the desperate person who made me work for two months at Sultry Night."

Charlotte was at a loss for words.

"You shouldn't let your ego get the better of you. You need to learn to back down when necessary," Zachary advised patiently, "Besides, we're a family. I don't want anything bad to happen to my family."

"You underestimated me. I can solve this on my own without your help."

"Is that so?" Zachary questioned, "I'm looking forward to it then."

Charlotte glared at him without speaking any further and whipped her head toward the window, looking at the view.

Zachary looked at her and smiled contentedly.

Three hours elapsed and they finally reached Dr. Felch's place.

After Dr. Felch returned to H City, he found a quiet place to stay. When his student found out that Dr. Felch was looking for a place to stay, he gladly cleaned up this space for Dr. Felch since he was working in the city and the house was vacant.

Hayley eyed the car vigilantly as Ben drove in, but when she saw it was Charlotte, a bright smile lit up her face. "Charlotte!"

"Hayley!" Charlotte ran out and gave her a big hug. "How is everybody?"

"We're good," Hayley replied with a transient smile, "It's just that Dr. Felch is not feeling very well. He's been on medication for some time, but his condition is not getting any better. He's been under the weather these few days."

"What happened?" Charlotte was worried getting the update. "Why didn't you tell me?"

"Dr. Felch asked us not to tell you anything," Hayley explained, "He misses you dearly. Hurry up and go see him."

"Sure." Charlotte ran into the house with Lupine following her behind.

Zachary did not go in but stood beside the car, smoking.

Hayley got them some drinks and went back into the house.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1290

Chapter 1290 Last Words

A thick smell of medicine wafted in the house as Charlotte walked in. When Sam found out Charlotte was here, he quickly went in to inform Dr. Felch. "Dr. Felch, Charlotte's here. I'll bring her in right away!"

With that said, he rushed out of the room to get Charlotte, but he ran right into her and the whole bowl of herbal concoction spilled all over Charlotte.

Luckily Charlotte had some thick winter clothing on and was not scalded, but some of the hot liquid spilled on the back of her hand and her skin turned red immediately.

"You should be more careful!" Hayley reprimanded the apprentice.

"I'm sorry, Charlotte. I'm so sorry. I'll go get some cream for the burn."

"It's okay. Don't worry about it," Charlotte assured him as she put her hand behind her so no one would notice it. "Where is Dr. Felch?"

"He's resting. I'll bring you in."

Charlotte teared up the moment Sam opened the door. Dr. Felch was lying on the bed looking at the door as if he had been waiting for her all this while. He squinted his eyes in her direction as he breathed weakly.

"Dr. Felch, Charlotte's here," Hayley said softly.

Dr. Felch struggled to sit up in his bed, but to no avail.

Hayley and Sam went over to help him up.

Charlotte took out a napkin and sat down by the bed, wiping off the stain on his lips. "I'm sorry, Dr. Felch. I shouldn't have let you follow me around so much."

"You know it's not your fault," the doctor said with a faint smile on his face, "I'm already ninety-nine. I don't expect myself to still be healthy and mobile at this age."

"But you might have lived till two hundred if you didn't follow me abroad."

Dr. Felch chuckled looking at her. "Two hundred years old? I'd be so old and rugged then."

Charlotte smiled back at him lovingly.

"Don't overthink," Dr. Felch said, patting her hand. "I've had my fair share of suffering when I was younger, but I enjoyed my old

age. I met your father and he was a dear friend to me. He helped me and I was able to have a good life because of him.”

Dr. Felch looked away, reminiscing his old friend. “I beat myself up when I found out about what happened to him. I hated myself for not doing more for him. I was so glad when you came to me. I thought I finally had a chance to return his kindness, so don’t feel bad about it. I’m more than happy to do something for you.”

“Thank you, Dr. Felch,” Charlotte said, sobbing.

“Now that Ellie and you are both cured, I can finally rest in peace and not have any regrets. Your wellbeing is all I wish for. It would be great if I could see the children again. I think my time is almost up.”

“Tomorrow. I will bring them tomorrow,” Charlotte quickly said, “Is there anything else you want to do?”

“I want to go back to where I came from. I want to return to Phoenix City and spend my last moments there,” Dr. Felch said with a sigh, “But that’s not possible now. I’m not even fit to fly anymore.”

“I’ll do that for you.”

Hearing this, Lupine went off to arrange for a private jet catered to Dr. Felch’s need.

“There’s something else,” Dr. Felch said, lying back down wearily.

“Hayley and Sam have been with me since they were young... They were inexperienced in the ways of the world. I hope you can become their help when I’m gone.”

“Don’t worry about it, Dr. Felch. I will take good care of them. No one will ever harm them as long as I’m around,” Charlotte promised him.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1291

Chapter 1291 Zachary Is Scolded

"Thanks," Dr. Felch replied with a sigh, "By the way, about your family, I hope you don't mind me giving my two cents on the matter."

He looked at Charlotte searchingly before he continued, "I know I'm just an outsider and I might not know what is going on, but what your belated father said has always stuck to me. The reason why he worked so hard through the grind is none other than his family. He was not interested in power or wealth. All he ever wanted was for his wife and children to enjoy a carefree and peaceful life. Family is what counts at the end of the day."

Charlotte's complicated gaze met the old man's eyes. "I know..."

"I'm sure you know what's best for you," Dr. Felch said, patting her hand as he turned toward Sam. "Bring Mr. Nacht in. I'd like to have a word with him."

"Right away, Dr. Felch." The apprentice went out immediately to fetch Zachary.

"Why not you go get your hand treated?" Dr. Felch asked Charlotte, turning back toward her. "Could you make me some vegetable beef soup too? I really miss your cooking."

"Of course. I'll get going first then."

Hayley and Charlotte left the room soon after. Charlotte got her burn treated and started making some soup with Hayley.

Meanwhile, Zachary went into Dr. Felch's room with Ben. When he saw the sickly old man reclining on his bed, a sense of resignation budded in his heart.

He used to be a great doctor, but now he's reduced to his sickbed. I guess even the mightiest man is a nobody in face of death.

But well, who am I speak? I'm a dying man myself.

"There you are." Dr. Felch sat up when he saw Zachary. Sam quickly went over to put a cushion behind Dr. Felch's back.

"Hi, Dr. Felch," Zachary greeted politely as he went closer.

"I've always wanted to see you," the doctor said, looking at Zachary from the head to the toe. "Come closer."

Zachary hesitated.

Ben looked at the door briefly and went over to shut it.

"Don't worry. I've already asked her to go make me some soup. Hayley is there with her, so she won't be back anytime soon."

Dr. Felch knew what was on the young man's mind.

Zachary was surprised the old man actually read him like an open book.

"Have a seat," Dr. Felch beckoned, pointing at the empty space beside him.

Zachary sat down as requested while Sam turned on all the lights in the room so the doctor could have a good look at their guest.

After carefully surveying the young man, Dr. Felch shook his head, sighing, "I hope I'm wrong on this."

"What do you mean, Dr. Felch? Is there still a chance of him getting better?" Ben asked in worry.

"I should've done a more thorough check last time and done a surgery. It's been a while and now things are not looking good," Dr. Felch said solemnly, "Have you been getting treatment recently? What did your doctor say?"

"They can only palliate the symptoms and delay the onset of the disease. There's no cure per se," Zachary replied calmly.

"There's still hope although it's already late," Dr. Felch said, his expression becoming more serious. "I really want to help, but I don't think I have much time left."

"It's okay. It's entirely up to fate now. You don't have to worry about me."

"Are you serious?" Dr. Felch reproved, "You're still so young and you're giving up? You can't die. What will happen to the kids if you're gone?"

Dr. Felch loved the three children like his own.

Zachary looked at him, his heart inexplicably warmed. No one had reprimanded him after his father passed on.

Dr. Felch shook his head looking at Zachary before turning toward Ben. "Go and get all the records about his treatment. I want to take a look. Who knows I might find the best treatment before I breathe my last."

"Sure."

Ben nodded emphatically and went out to make a call.

"Is that really necessary?" Zachary asked, "You're already so sick. I don't want to burden you with another task."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1292

Chapter 1292 Do Not Get Your Hopes High

"Enough," Dr. Felch said harshly, "Who do you think you are? I'm not the least worried about you. I'm worried about the children."

"I'm sorry." Zachary did not dare to say another word. He was grateful that Dr. Felch was going out of his way to treat him.

"But don't get your hopes high. I don't have much time left. I might be gone before I even come up with a way to treat you."

"Ha, you were just encouraging me a second ago, now you're asking me to manage my expectation. What exactly do you want me to do?" Zachary teased.

"I didn't ask you to talk." Dr. Felch pushed his shoulder lightly and chuckled.

Zachary looked at the wise and kind-hearted old man in silence. He felt bad for him, but he did not know how to comfort him.

"I'll take a rest first. You go and help her out in the kitchen. You'd better pray hard that I wake up from my sleep, else you won't get cured," Dr. Felch joked.

"I thought you wanted to taste her cooking before you go?" Zachary replied.

"Good one," Dr. Felch said with a laugh.

Sam helped the old man lie down and pulled a blanket over him.

After Zachary exited the room, he did not go over to the kitchen. Instead, he went to the courtyard for another cigarette.

"Bruce is sending the document over. He'll be here by tonight," Ben reported after he came back.

"It's okay. I'm not in a rush." Zachary was not expecting anything. "Dr. Felch is already so weak. He can't really see well either. We should just let the old man rest."

"But this is not the time to give up, Mr. Nacht!" Ben was getting anxious. "What Dr. Felch said was right. You have to think about the kids."

"Don't worry about it," Zachary replied, looking over to the kitchen.

Ben said no more, but deep in his heart, he believed that Dr. Felch would provide a way out.

"Zachary!" Charlotte cried out as she walked out from the kitchen, wearing an apron with floral prints and holding a carrot in her hand. "Dr. Felch wanted to see the kids. Do you think you can ask Marino to bring them over?"

"What about tomorrow?" Zachary said, throwing away his cigarette. "They have had a long day traveling all the way from Yaleview today. It'll be too tiring for them."

"True. Alright then, tomorrow it is." Charlotte nodded.

"You look good in the apron," Zachary complimented her.

Charlotte rolled her eyes at him and went back in.

Zachary leaned against the car, looking at her through the window from the outside. He wondered if their relationship would have turned out differently if he were not born in the Nacht family and her, the Lindberg family.

Charlotte was wiping away the sweat on her forehead when she looked up and saw Zachary gazing at her. It unsettled her for a bit when she caught his gaze. For a moment, it felt as if they were just a regular couple leading a simple life. She was preparing food and he was admiring her.

Ring!

Zachary's phone rang, shaking everyone back to reality.

He reached for his phone and walked away. "Yes?" he said, picking up the call.

"I'll be there in a bit."

Zachary hung up and called for Ben, "We're leaving for the company. Ask Bruce to come over with his men and send Charlotte and Lupine back after they're done here."

"So we're not waiting here?" Ben was worried that Zachary was not giving Dr. Felch enough time to treat his disease. "Work can wait. We should hear what the doctor has to say at least."

"I said we're going to the company," Zachary reiterated, looking at the kitchen.

Luckily for him, Charlotte and Lupine were busy cooking and had not heard their conversation.

"Another word from you and you're fired."

Zachary was angry. He did not want anyone to mention a word to Charlotte about his condition.

Ben looked down in submission.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1293

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1293 Jealousy

Zachary glared at him coldly and got into the car.

Seeing it was no use persuading Zachary to stay, Ben had no choice but to inform Sam and Hayley of their departure. After that, he swung by the kitchen to let Charlotte know they were leaving. "Ms. Lindberg, something came up at work, so we're making a move first. Bruce will be here in a bit to pick you guys up."

"Alright. Don't worry about us," Charlotte said, taking a quick look at Zachary, who was already sitting in the car.

"Then we'll make a move first. See y'all."

Seeing Ben was about to leave, Lupine ran after him and tugged him. "Where are y'all going? To meet the woman?" she interrogated.

"I don't think so. It's probably about work," Ben answered honestly. Truth be told, he had no idea what was going on.

"Probably?" Lupine asked, "I bet he's going to see the woman!"

Ben blinked his eyes at her cluelessly.

"I must be dumb to think a leopard can change its spots," Lupine replied in anger, "I even thought he sincerely wanted to mend fences with Ms. Lindberg, but it seems like a call from that woman is enough to make him change his mind."

Ben was speechless. "Seriously. You don't even know what's happening. Why are you so pissed?"

He realized that although Lupine was rational and calm usually, her temper was just exactly like Morgan's when she was angry with him.

"Whatever!" Lupine kicked him and left.

"Ouch!" Ben rubbed his knee, grunting.

Honk! Ben went back to the car, limping. He looked back at Lupine from the rearview mirror as he drove off. "This woman is no joke."

"Does it hurt?" Zachary asked sarcastically.

"I literally got scolded for nothing. She even kicked me! She's so unreasonable."

"You should be happy she's still bantering with you. It means you have a special place in her heart," Zachary said quietly, "She won't bother putting up a fight with you when she doesn't care about you anymore."

"Really?" Ben asked with a smile, "Does this mean I'm someone special to her?"

"Uh huh. She was looking at you all the time."

"Ha..." Ben smiled like a child at the revelation.

"How I envy you guys," Zachary sighed, "This is the best phase in a relationship."

"But it's been half a year already. We've not taken a step further," Ben complained in disappointment, "She's not like Morgan. Morgan's very expressive when it comes to relationships."

Ben was excited talking about other people's relationships. "Speaking of, do you know Marino didn't even come back yesterday?"

"Are you jealous?" Zachary teased, "You can take a day off too."

"Well..." Ben's face turned red all of a sudden. "That won't work. Lupine is not an easy woman."

“Useless.”

Zachary decided to drop the subject and took out his phone. A frown settled over his brows as he looked at the document Lucy just sent him.

Back at Dr. Felch’s place, Charlotte decided to have some tea in the courtyard after leaving the ingredients to brew in the pot.

She was enjoying the warm sunshine when she saw the tire tracks in the courtyard. Her heart sunk thinking about Zachary and Nancy.

Is he that excited to meet her?

He can’t even wait for a night.

“Ms. Lindberg, why not we go over to the city tonight?” Lupine suggested, “I’m sure Dr. Felch wants to rest after dinner, so we can leave for the city after that. We won’t make it back in time to see the children too. They’ll be asleep by then.”

“Just say if you want to see Ben,” Charlotte called her out.

“That’s not what I mean,” Lupine explained anxiously, “We’re running out of baby formula for Alpha, Beta, and Gamma. We will need to do some grocery shopping anyway. We might as well just go to the city.”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1294

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Chapter 1294 A Worthy Rival

Charlotte looked at the distressed woman and pursed her lips. People in love are all the same. They can’t hide their feelings for one another.

She thought about how Zachary and she used to be madly in love too, but so much had changed.

Charlotte had given in to life.

She did not want to fight for their relationship anymore. Even if Zachary were to take a step toward her, she would retreat.

Although she still loved him, she would not let her feelings govern her decisions.

She would bury her feelings for him forever.

"Is that okay, Ms. Lindberg?" Lupine asked again.

"You go buy what you need then. I'll stay back to keep Dr. Felch company. You can have some time to yourself tonight. Just be here tomorrow morning." Charlotte finally relented.

"Ms. Lindberg... You know this is not what I mean. I want you to take time off together with me. I'm not going anywhere if you're not coming."

"Just do as I say," Charlotte insisted, glaring at her. Just as she was about to continue, her phone rang. She hesitated when she saw an unknown number on her screen. "Yes...?"

"Hi, Ms. Lindberg, Nancy here. Are you free for a meet-up?"

Nancy's voice sounded amiable.

Charlotte did not know why she just could not bring herself to hate this woman. Unlike Synder, Helena, and Diana, Charlotte felt Nancy was different from them all. Her experience had taught her to be shrewd when it came to trusting people around her, yet despite her getting her guard up around people, she did not feel Nancy was a threatening person.

"How did you get my number?" Charlotte asked after some thought.

"I have my ways," Nancy said with a slight smile, "You made quite an impression at Pillere. I hope you still remember me?"

Charlotte squinted her eyes listening to the woman. She's no small fry. She knows who she's dealing with and she even came to me herself.

"Of course," Charlotte replied cordially, collecting herself. "Thanks for lending me your swimsuit last time."

"No worries. Are you free tonight? What about we meet up at Platinum Café at eight?"

"Sure."

Since Nancy reached out to her and invited her for dinner, Charlotte's curiosity was piqued. She wondered what Nancy wanted to do.

"See you tonight then," Nancy said before ending the call.

Charlotte looked at her phone as her brows slowly furrowed. She was confused.

Lupine looked equally bewildered. "How did she know who we are? We saw to it that no one knew our real identities back at Pillere. Only Sir Louis, Mr. Nacht, and Mr. Murphy knew about us."

"As she said, she would find out if she wanted to," Charlotte explained, unfazed, "The Gold family has been establishing their presence in the business world all these years. I won't be surprised that she bought Mr. Murphy into telling her the truth."

"But I don't understand why she wants to see you," Lupine thought aloud, "Is she openly challenging you?"

"Ha!" Charlotte burst out laughing. "What is there to challenge? We're not even in the same game."

"You are! You're her love rival," Lupine pointed out, "But wait, isn't Mr. Nacht with her? Why is she asking you out?"

"It means Zachary did not go to see her," Charlotte elucidated, pouring another cup of tea. "It will be tricky if I make an enemy out of her. She is a difficult one."

"Why?" Lupine genuinely did not see her as a threat. "Is it because of her family background?"

"Not just that," Charlotte said with her gaze lowered, "Although I don't know her well, I have a gut feeling that she's different from those I've crossed paths with."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1295

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1295 Facing Off

"So you're really going?" Lupine asked softly, "Do you think we should ask more people to come along? What if she pulls some tricks?"

Charlotte smirked. "It's no big deal if she does that."

"What are we doing then?"

"Go and check if the soup is ready." Charlotte changed the topic. "Peel a few potatoes too. I'm making some spicy and sour shredded potatoes. Dr. Felch loves it."

"Okay." Lupine went right into the kitchen and got to work.

Meanwhile, Charlotte continued boiling her tea until Hayley got back from the market. She had bought some pears for Dr. Felch.

Charlotte asked her to leave the pears with her and started making some pear stew.

Dr. Felch slept through the whole afternoon and did not wake up until the sun set at six in the evening. Sam was baking him some sweet potatoes when Lupine brought him some soup.

Charlotte had made a few dishes and everyone gathered in the courtyard for dinner.

Not long after everyone started eating, Bruce arrived with his men. Charlotte asked them to join them for dinner, but he said they had already eaten. He went over to Lupine and passed her a pair of car keys. "Mr. Nacht asked me to bring an extra car for you guys. Do you need anything else?"

"Nope, we're good. Thanks."

Lupine poured them some drinks and the men thanked her.

"Charlotte, you should go home earlier. The children are still waiting for you at home," Dr. Felch said as he ate, "Remember to bring them over tomorrow."

"I'm not even done eating yet. Why are you in a hurry to send me off?" Charlotte said begrudgingly, "You didn't even thank me for making all this food. How could you do this to me?"

Dr. Felch laughed out loud. "Come on, I'm just worried about you and the kids."

"I know. I'll get going then."

Charlotte put down her cutlery and went to wash her hands before coming back to bid everyone goodbye.

"See you, Ms. Lindberg," Bruce said.

After making sure that Charlotte and Lupine had left, Bruce went back to the courtyard and passed Zachary's health report and treatment plans to Dr. Felch.

Sam lighted a candle so Dr. Felch could see clearly, but still, the old man's eyesight was failing him.

Bruce explained everything to him patiently as the old man nodded weakly. "I'll take a look into it."

Over in the city, Lupine drove to Platinum Café and let Charlotte off.

Charlotte used to come here a lot when she was together with Hector.

She still visited this restaurant after they broke up since it was right opposite Zachary's company. She would always come here with Zachary back when she was still working at Nacht Group.

Charlotte realized Nancy had booked the whole place the moment she went in. All the waiters and waitresses were different.

There were even four bodyguards at the door and there were more inside the restaurant.

Nancy was on the phone with someone when Charlotte arrived. When her subordinate went over to her seat beside the window to inform her of Charlotte's arrival, she quickly hung up and stood up to greet her guest. "It's been a long time, Ms. Lindberg."

She was polite and humble.

"It's a pleasure to meet you again," Charlotte said with a smile.

"The pleasure's mine," Nancy replied with a nod. "Have a seat."

When Nancy saw that Charlotte had only brought a bodyguard with her, she asked her men to step away, leaving behind just two of them.

She even apologized to Charlotte after that. "I'm sorry. My dad's a little paranoid."

"It's fine. I can understand." Charlotte took up a napkin and wiped her hands. "When did you reach H City?"

"I came in the morning," Nancy replied accordingly without taking her eyes off Charlotte, "You look way more stunning in person."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1296

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1296 Facing Off 2

"I hope my photo didn't disappoint you."

Charlotte knew Nancy must have done a detailed background check on her before meeting her.

"I'm sorry for being intrusive," Nancy said with her head low, "I was really curious about you after meeting you at Pillere. I could not get my mind off the woman in the veil, so I asked my men to run a check. That's how I found out about you."

"There are only that few who know about my real identity," Charlotte pointed out as she took a sip from her cup. "You must be really influential to get information about me that easily."

"Well..." Nancy looked uneasy. "They know I don't mean harm. I hope you don't blame them."

Charlotte smiled and looked at her. "Why do you want to meet me?"

Nancy took up her cup and drank. "I just want to make a new friend."

"You can be honest with me." Charlotte looked at her watch.

"I'll just cut to the chase since you're in a hurry."

Nancy put down her cup and gestured at her subordinate, who instantly came forward with a silver box.

It was a document.

"This is a document about F Nation's Gymnasium Project. Someone invited me to join this project to replace you," Nancy said solemnly with a slight smile.

She took a look at Charlotte before she continued, "My family is looking into international ventures and I'm interested in this project, but I'm not interested in fighting with you over something like this, so I would like to know what you think about this."

Charlotte evaded Nancy's gaze and clenched her jaw. She knew Nancy was not just referring to the project. She was referring to Zachary as well.

"Ms. Lindberg, I'll gladly decline this offer if you're still interested in this project, but if you're opting out, which is what they told me, then I'll consider joining."

Nancy poured Charlotte another cup of tea as she waited for her reply. "I will respect your decision, Ms. Lindberg."

Charlotte fixed her eyes on the cup without answering. She knew full well what Nancy meant.

Charlotte was able to read in between the lines and saw through Nancy. The project was not the real reason why she wanted to talk to Charlotte.

This woman is indeed different from those I've met before. She's clever and calm.

"What do you think, Ms. Lindberg?"

"I don't think it matters to you whether I continue on with the project or not." Charlotte finally took up the cup. "What annoys me is that these people seem overenthusiastic in finding me a replacement."

Nancy stared at her for a second. She could not decipher what Charlotte was getting at.

"You shouldn't be talking to me, Ms. Gold. You should be talking to the people who made you this offer. Besides, it's all about competing on a level field when it comes to business. There's no right or wrong."

"Competing on a level field?" Nancy was surprised. "Is this what you really think?"

"Yes. I'm unapologetic about fighting for the things that I deem as important. I like competing head-on in a fair and square manner instead of using underhanded ways, but if my opponents want to play dirty, I'll play by their rules."

Charlotte went straight to the point. Although she sounded calm as a cucumber, her words sounded deterrent.

"Understood, Ms. Lindberg." Nancy smiled with a confident nod. "You really impress me. You have my word. I like a fair competition too. No cheating and no hard feelings."

"Great." Charlotte's brows arched in a pleasant surprise. "All the best, Ms. Gold."

With that said, she put down her cup and motioned to leave. "Thanks for your treat. We should meet up over some beer the next time. It's on me."

"I'm looking forward to that. Let me see you out." Nancy stood up.

"Don't bother. I'll see you next time." Charlotte turned and left.

Nancy sat back down in her window seat as she watched Charlotte leave. She felt things were going to take an interesting and unexpected turn.

Behind her, her subordinate came up and reported, "Ms. Gold, that's Mr. Nacht's car."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1297

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Chapter 1297 I Do Not Want To Repeat The Same Mistake

The subordinate looked at Nancy and spoke, "I don't understand, Ms. Gold. Lindberg Corporation has fallen from grace and Danrique is still nowhere to be found. Ms. Lindberg is just a nobody now. Why do you have to treat her so respectfully?"

Nancy smiled subtly. "You guys are too short-sighted. Lindberg Corporation's downturn is temporary. They will make a comeback one day and that will be the heyday of the company, so we shouldn't just kick the Lindbergs aside and treat them too casually. Besides, she's Mr. Nacht's ex-wife. They have three children together. This made her a unique player. I can't just disregard her. Even if we were to fight over the same man, it should be done in a gentlemanly fashion so no one takes it personally."

"I see," the subordinate answered with a convincing nod, "Ms. Gold, you're really wise."

Nancy walked over to look at Charlotte's car as they got in, her expression complex.

"Ms. Gold, that's Mr. Nacht's car."

"It seems like they're still close."

This made Nancy felt more conflicted.

Over in the car, Lupine had already started the engine. "Are we heading back to Yaleview, Ms. Lindberg?"

"Yes." Charlotte looked at the high-rise building opposite and memories came flooding back. Level 68's lights were still on and she wondered if Zachary was still working.

"That's Mr. Nacht's car!" Lupine exclaimed.

Charlotte looked up and saw Zachary's Rolls-Royce coming out from the car park and pulling up beside Platinum Café.

Nancy and her bodyguards were already outside the restaurant to welcome him. Zachary got off and went in with her.

The two seemed intimate from the looks of it.

"Did she did it on purpose?" Lupine snarled.

"Drive."

Charlotte's tone sounded cold, but she actually felt agitated. She would not have cared if Nancy were to do something behind her back, but now that Nancy made an open statement, she felt a sense of crisis.

As Nancy herself said, she had what it took to play on an open field with her. She did not have to resort to underhanded ways.

That was the kind of woman Zachary liked.

"Ms. Lindberg, Ms. Gold had another meaning behind what she said earlier on, right? The Gymnasium Project is just an excuse for her to talk to you about Mr. Nacht."

"You could tell?" Charlotte asked, feigning nonchalance, "You're a smart one. Morgan won't be able to sniff a thing."

"Do you really not care at all? There's nothing between you and Mr. Nacht now. You have already revoked your engagement with Sir Louis. Mr. Nacht and you have three children together. Have you never thought about getting back together? I can tell Mr. Nacht still loves you."

"What's wrong with you, Lupine? I'd understand if Morgan were the one saying this, but you? You know me best. How could you say something like this?"

"It's exactly because I know you well that I'm saying this," Lupine replied unreservedly, mustering her courage. "I know neither of you has actually stopped loving each other. Both of you could have had a happy life. Both of you are finally having another

chance to your relationship. All the hindrances and grievances from the past are gone now. I just don't understand why both of you don't want to mend this relationship. Is your ego really this important?"

"It's not about my ego," Charlotte answered instinctively.

What is stopping us then? Charlotte could not tell herself.

What Lupine said was true. There were grievances between their families, but not anymore. The path to their happily ever after was clear now, but Charlotte was scared. She did not want to repeat the same mistake. She did not want to get hurt again.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1298

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1298 An Impressive Character

"Will you be sad if Mr. Nacht gets together with Ms. Gold? I think you shouldn't underestimate her."

"I didn't. She's much better than the Blackwoods. Besides, she's Zachary's type."

"Does this mean you're worried? Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie will be getting a stepmom if they're together. Who knows if she'll be another Cynthia? What if she's actually a wolf in sheep's clothing? What if she hurt the children?"

"I don't think she's that kind of person," Charlotte said confidently, "She doesn't seem like it."

"Well, none of us thought Cynthia would turn out to be so vicious..."

"Zachary should be able to tell what kind of a person she is after all he's been through. He didn't like Cynthia actually, it was all his father's idea. He's free to make his own choice now. There's nothing I can do if he really likes Nancy."

Lupine did not feel comfortable with the idea of Zachary getting together with Nancy, but she dropped the issue.

Charlotte looked out of the window at the city view. The familiar streets reminded her of Zachary and everything they did together.

Snippets of memory flashed before her so lucidly as if everything happened yesterday.

Those were unforgettable moments they shared together, but she had chosen to bury them in her heart forever.

"I saw Ms. Lindberg's car just now," Ben whispered in Zachary's ear, but Zachary ignored him and sat down, looking at Nancy with a smile.

"Welcome to H City."

"Thanks, Mr. Nacht."

Nancy was not the rigid and polite woman she was when she met Charlotte just now anymore. She put on her gentle and attractive self when she met Zachary.

"Have you been waiting for long?"

Zachary took a sweeping look at the place and saw the empty cups on the other table. He figured Charlotte must have visited.

"Not really. I actually met up with one of your friends—Ms. Lindberg—the second major shareholder of Lindberg Corporation."

Zachary was not expecting Nancy to be this candid. "Why did you meet up with her?"

"It's about this project," Nancy replied, taking out the document. "Sir Robert got in touch with me through Mr. Murphy. He wanted me to replace Ms. Lindberg as the shareholder. I don't want to create any misunderstanding, so I asked her out to talk over it."

“What did she say?” Zachary was curious.

“She said she was annoyed that those people were so eager to get her replaced. She also said that people should just deal honestly instead of using dishonorable means to compete.”

“This is very Charlotte.”

Zachary let down his defense and became friendlier.

“Yeah. I think Ms. Lindberg is a forthright person. I really like her. Did you see her when you’re on the way here?”

“I didn’t.” Did she see me when she left?

I wonder what’s her reaction if she knows I’m here with Nancy?

“It’s boring just having wine here,” Nancy said, sensing that Zachary’s mind was somewhere else. “Why not we go somewhere fun?”

“I’ve been to all the fun places in H City.”

“I swear you’ve never been to this one,” Nancy said mysteriously, “I bet you’ll fall in love with this place.”

“Well, since you said so, I’m all for it,” Zachary said, shrugging.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1299

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1299 Bad Habits Have Relapsed

Nancy dismissed her bodyguards and got into Zachary’s car directly.

Zachary was stunned, for no other women except for Charlotte and her subordinates had sat in his car before.

Although he frowned, he did not make any further remarks.

After closing the car door, Nancy finally realized something and apologized, "I'm sorry for entering your car without seeking your permission first. I just didn't want to bring too many people along with me and make a huge scene."

"It's fine." Zachary smiled. "Tell him the address."

"Okay. It's at the coast of Baykeep..." Nancy quickly told the address to the driver.

The car headed toward the destination slowly.

Zachary glanced at the rearview mirror. After ensuring that the Gold family's bodyguards were not following them, he asked, "I heard that your father is a very careful man. The Gold family's bodyguards are also well-trained. Won't they be worried that you entered my car alone?"

"Staying by your side is safer than anywhere else."

Whenever Nancy spoke, she always gazed at Zachary affectionately, her eyes brimming with admiration. Her voice was very gentle and melodious too.

Zachary was reminded of Charlotte. She has never looked at me like that, nor spoken to me so gently. Either she's fierce, angry, or silent...

Sometimes, I wonder if she has truly loved me.

"That must be Sultry Night. I've never been there before." Nancy pointed at a neon signboard nearby and said excitedly, "Sultry Night's outlets all over the world are doing extremely well! There's even one at Koandria."

Looking at Sultry Night's signboard, Zachary recalled a lot of past events—the first time he met Charlotte, how he got scammed by her, and how he was forced to sign that debt contract...

Although she was extremely fierce, she was adorable too.

Yet, she was now starting to conceal her emotions and adopting a cold attitude. No matter what he did, he could never touch her heart...

"It's Ms. Lindberg's car!" Ben suddenly exclaimed.

Stunned, Zachary narrowed his eyes. Indeed, he saw Phantom, which he had instructed Bruce to give to Charlotte, parked at the entrance of Sultry Night.

Her bad habits have relapsed!

"Go there and take a look," instructed Zachary.

"Understood." The subordinate immediately drove toward Sultry Night.

"Aren't we going to Baykeep?"

Nancy was surprised, not expecting her meticulous plans to be disrupted so easily.

"Next time," replied Zachary calmly.

"Alright." Although Nancy was disappointed, she still forced a smile and said considerately, "Just let me alight by the road. I'll ask my bodyguards to pick me up."

"Let's go together," said Zachary. "You haven't been there before, right? I'll show you around."

"Sure!"

Nancy was delighted. Initially, she thought that Zachary would look for Charlotte and abandon her. Surprisingly, he wanted to bring her along.

When the car arrived at the entrance of Sultry Night, the manager immediately rushed out and greeted, "It's been a long time, Mr. Nacht."

Not recognizing him, Ben asked, "Where's Peter?"

"He's taking another shift. He works from midnight to morning now because it's more convenient for him to take care of his wife during the day," explained the manager with a smile. "Do you still remember me, Ben? I used to work for Peter."

"Yeah," grunted Ben before paving a way through the crowd with the other subordinates.

Zachary entered with Nancy. It was still as crowded and lively as before, with neon lights flashing around.

He glanced around, but did not see Charlotte anywhere.

Having read his mind, Ben immediately asked the manager, "Did you see Ms. Lindberg?"

"Who's Ms. Lindberg?" The new manager did not know who Charlotte was.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1300

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1300 Who Should Be Angry

"She drives the Phantom," replied Ben.

"Oh, two gorgeous ladies have just alighted the Phantom and came in. They went to the private room. I'll bring you there," said the manager. "This way please, Mr. Nacht."

Zachary and the rest followed the manager to the VIP private room.

It was much quieter than the lobby. The room still looked the same as before. Perhaps because he had not come in ages, Zachary could not help but feel nostalgic.

"We renovated the common areas two months ago, but we didn't touch the private rooms at all. We still kept your private room, Mr. Nacht. The cleaners even clean it daily..." explained the manager as he led the way.

As Zachary glanced at his surroundings, the memories he shared with Charlotte rushed back to his mind. Unknowingly, he did not even realize that Nancy was not following him anymore...

Zachary only turned around when he heard a piercing scream. Nancy had been stopped by two drunkards, who were harassing her and dragging her into their private room.

"Save me, Mr. Nacht!" Nancy screamed in fear.

Zachary's expression changed drastically. He strode forward and sent those men flying away with a kick.

Trembling in fear, Nancy hid behind him and grabbed his shirt.

"It's fine now," consoled Zachary gently as he hugged her shoulders.

He had been so eager to meet Charlotte that his footsteps quickened unconsciously. As it was Nancy's first time there, she lost sight of Zachary in the crowd. Yet, he was oblivious to it...

He felt guilty for that.

Meanwhile, Charlotte, who had just walked out of the private room, witnessed this scene.

She had never seen him act so gently toward any other woman.

When Sharon and Cynthia were with him, she was angry. Yet, she had never felt jealous because she knew that he did not love them.

However, things were different now...

Zachary was not faking his concern for Nancy.

His tall figure was so familiar that it remained engraved in her mind. Even in the dim lighting, she could still recognize him immediately. Yet, he was hugging another woman now...

"Ben!" Lupine suddenly bellowed angrily.

Ben was so shocked that he felt a chill run down his spine. When he turned around and met Lupine's sharp gaze, he paled and patted Zachary's arm frantically. "Mr. Nacht! Mr. Nacht!"

Ben was reacting so dramatically that it was like he had just been caught in an affair. Guilt and fear engulfed him.

Yet, he was the innocent one.

On the other hand, the actual culprit, Zachary, seemed extremely calm. Still hugging Nancy, he turned around slowly and shot Charlotte a nonchalant look. "What a coincidence!"

When Nancy heard that, she was surprised. It sounded like he had just met Charlotte there coincidentally, instead of going there specially for her.

"Yeah, what a coincidence!"

Charlotte's expression became indifferent again. Smiling courteously, she turned her gaze from Zachary to Nancy. "We meet again, Ms. Gold."

"Yeah." Nancy reacted quickly. With a gentle smile, she shot Charlotte a friendly look. "We just had a cup of tea at the Platinum Café. I didn't expect us to meet here again."

"I wanted to treat you to some drinks one day, but it seems like there's no need for me to do so anymore." Charlotte glanced at Zachary knowingly and said, "Have fun! I'll leave now."

With that, she turned around and left.

Lupine glared at Ben angrily before following her.

"You're leaving right after coming here?" Zachary called out behind her. "Why don't we have a drink together?"

Although Charlotte was fuming with rage, she smiled and turned her head around. "I won't disturb the both of you. It's a precious night, after all."

Then, she left unhesitatingly.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1301

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1301 Provoked

Zachary stared at Charlotte's back, his gaze turning grim. He initially assumed that his actions would provoke her. If she became jealous and kicked up a fuss, it would prove that she still cared about him.

Yet, she was simply too calm.

She showed no reaction when she saw him protect Nancy.

Even though he was hugging Nancy, she still came over and greeted them so graciously.

He had provoked her on purpose, yet she responded with such ease, as if she was completely unbothered.

Zachary wanted to provoke her, but he ended up being infuriated.

Although he wished to tear Charlotte apart out of fury, he held himself back.

I mustn't act like I'm angry, as if I really wished for her to be jealous. What's the big deal, anyway?

He had never cheated on her. No matter what, he still clung to his true feelings and waited for her. It was her who betrayed their love and got together with Louis.

Although he was no longer hung up over the past, she still insisted on treating him so coldly.

This meant that she did not care about him at all.

Perhaps, she had stopped loving him a long time ago...

On the other hand, while Charlotte walked away, she kept reminding herself quietly, Don't be mad. Don't turn around. Don't stop walking. Since he wants to anger me, I need to be calm and gracious...

"That *sshole!" cursed Lupine in fury.

It was Morgan's catchphrase. In the past, Lupine kept scolding her for not being civilized enough.

Yet, she was saying it now.

"Who are you talking about?" Charlotte rolled her eyes.

"B-Ben of course."

Naturally, she did not dare to scold Zachary. No matter what, he was still the father of Charlotte's kids.

Hence, she could only vent her anger on Ben.

"What did Ben do wrong? Why are you scolding him like that?" Charlotte laughed. "He was so terrified when you yelled at him just now."

"Ms. Lindberg..." Looking at Charlotte, who was forcing a smile, Lupine could not help but feel worried. "What's happening to you? You've just been bullied! Are you completely unbothered?"

"Bullied? Who bullied me?" asked Charlotte.

"It's obvious that Nancy did it on purpose," exclaimed Lupine indignantly. "She asked you out deliberately before bringing Mr. Nacht here to show off how intimate they were. She's provoking you and flaunting her dominance!"

"Firstly, she might not have done it on purpose. Even if she did, she still needs Zachary's cooperation," replied Charlotte calmly. "He's not dumb enough to be exploited by someone else. Perhaps, the opposite is true—he brought Nancy here deliberately to act all lovey-dovey and provoke me."

"Huh?" Lupine was stunned. "That sounds logical too. If Mr. Nacht is provoking you on purpose, it means that he cares about you and hopes to receive a response from you!"

"Response? What response?" Charlotte scoffed mockingly, "Should I lose my temper and kick up a fuss like an uncivilized woman?"

"Well..." Lupine was rendered speechless.

"It doesn't matter who's using who to provoke me." Charlotte sighed. "Now that our survival is a problem, I'm in no mood to think about such relationship dilemmas. It's pointless."

"You're right." Her heart aching for Charlotte, Lupine gazed at her. "Mr. Lindberg's gone now. The Lindberg Corporation's situation is so unstable, with the only project we've invested in being oppressed. At this juncture, it's true that..."

"That's enough. Let's go back," said Charlotte nonchalantly.

Not daring to say anything, Lupine took the car keys from the valet and drove away with Charlotte.

"After we visit Dr. Felch tomorrow, return the car to the Nacht family," reminded Charlotte. "We need to cut off all ties with them after sending Dr. Felch off."

"Understood!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1302

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1302 Before Dying

"Are you okay, Mr. Nacht?"

Nancy shot a concerned look at Zachary. A smart woman like her immediately read his mind. No wonder he brought me to Sultry Night. Turns out that he only wanted to provoke Charlotte.

"Of course I'm okay!" Zachary feigned indifference. "Let's go. I'll treat you to a drink."

When he strode into his private room and saw the familiar surroundings, he could not help but think about Charlotte and their past events...

Memories surged through his mind while a turmoil of emotions ravaged him.

"I think that you need to be alone tonight," said Nancy considerately. "Why don't I leave first?"

"Send Ms. Gold back," ordered Zachary solemnly.

"Understood." Ben arranged for two of his subordinates to send Nancy home.

Gazing at Zachary reluctantly, Nancy reminded Ben, "Take good care of Mr. Nacht."

"Don't worry, I will." He nodded with a smile.

Nancy left with the subordinate. When she walked out, she kept turning around to look at Zachary. It was only after the subordinate closed the door that she averted her gaze.

Ben heaved a sigh. Ms. Gold isn't that simple.

Sitting on the sofa, Zachary cast his gaze downward and fidgeted with the lighter on the table. He kept flicking the switch, causing the flame to flicker. The flame, which was dancing in the darkness, seemed to represent his complicated emotions...

Ben dismissed the manager and opened a bottle of wine.

"Did her personality change after she changed her surname to Lindberg?" Zachary suddenly asked. "Is it possible that the current Charlotte is different from the previous Charlotte? Perhaps, they just look really similar..."

Ben felt upset when he heard that. Naturally, he understood how Zachary felt. It was true that Charlotte's current personality was completely different from her past self.

Back then, although Charlotte had her weird tendencies and had given in before, she still loved Zachary deeply.

For Zachary's sake, she resisted the family's pressure and mustered up the courage to lead a new lifestyle. For him, she married into the Nacht family...

When they were in love, they were inseparable. It was as if they only cared about each other and no one else in the world mattered.

Yet, nothing that Zachary did now could affect her.

She was always so cold and distant. Even though they were just right in front of each other, it felt like their souls were miles apart.

He had exhausted all sorts of methods to become closer with her, but everything ended in failure.

"Perhaps, she has never loved me..." Zachary's voice was filled with disappointment. "Otherwise, how could she change so drastically?"

"Actually, if we think about it, it's understandable," consoled Ben softly. "Two years ago, the Nacht family has harmed her too much. She even lost Mrs. Berry because of it."

"It's true that the Nacht family has let her down, but I've tried my best to make it up to her." Zachary felt extremely helpless when Ben mentioned it. "Furthermore, I've never cheated on her. For the entire of my life, she's the only woman I loved. Yet, she..."

Zachary's heart ached terribly when he mentioned that.

"About that, I have always believed that Ms. Lindberg had been tricked by the Laurent family. She didn't do it willingly," said Ben carefully.

"I've given her a chance before. When I asked her if she was forced to do this, she didn't answer me." Resentment surged through Zachary when he remembered that incident. "I've already let the bygones be bygones. I've even stopped investigating it, yet she's still pushing me away..."

"Take it slow. Give her some time..." advised Ben.

"I'm already running out of time!" Zachary's voice suddenly became solemn. "How long more do I have to live? I just want my family to be reunited... before I die!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1303

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1303 You Must Be Happy

But a simple wish like that can't even be fulfilled...

Zachary, who used to be so powerful and charismatic, had become so pathetic because of love.

Ben's heart ached when he looked at Zachary. He could not help but suggest, "Why don't we tell her the truth?"

Shut up!" Zachary squeezed his throat abruptly and warned, "If you dare let her find out, I'll kill you and Lupine!"

"Ahem..." Although Ben was almost strangled to death, he did not dare to resist.

Luckily, Zachary released him quickly. Collapsing on the sofa, Ben clutched his neck and kept coughing. After he regained his composure, he apologized frantically, "I'm sorry, Mr. Nacht. I was only making a suggestion. I won't tell her. I swear on my life!"

"You're not allowed to bring this up in the future." Zachary was furious. "I want her to return to my side willingly, not out of pity for me."

"I understand." Ben nodded fearfully.

Zachary did not say anything else. He raised his wine glass and drank silently.

Standing beside him, Ben reminded carefully, "You should stop drinking after finishing this glass. You still have to see Dr. Felch tomorrow morning."

When Dr. Felch reviewed the information that Bruce had given to him, he had asked Zachary to meet him the next morning.

"Shut up!" Zachary was bristling with frustration.

Not daring to say anything else, Ben stood at the side with his head lowered.

At that moment, someone knocked on the door. When Ben opened the door, the manager walked in with a pot of tea. He said carefully, "Ms. Gold prepared this and asked me to send it over."

"Hasn't she left already?" asked Ben, feeling puzzled.

"She waited for her subordinates to send the tea leaves over. After preparing the tea and instructing me to send it to Mr. Nacht, she left." The manager shot a timid look at him. "She said that since Mr. Nacht's complexion doesn't seem too good, he shouldn't drink too much alcohol. She even said that Mr. Nacht will definitely like this tea."

"I've been keeping an eye on her before coming here with the manager," said the bodyguard who was tasked to bring Nancy out. "Her bodyguards had arrived to pick her up. Kyle sent her out, while I returned with the manager."

"Alright, you may leave now." Ben took the teapot and checked it. Then, he brought it to Zachary and said, "You've heard everything."

"That's very kind of her." Looking at the teapot, Zachary remembered Nancy's gentle and affectionate gaze. He could not help but lament, "If only Charlotte can be that nice to me..."

"That's really thoughtful of Ms. Gold." Ben poured a cup of tea. "It's green tea, which is good for your stomach. Why don't you have a try?"

Zachary took the cup and sniffed the tea. It was obvious that the tea leaves were of high quality. As he had been taking his medication for a long time, his stomach condition worsened. Each time he drank, he would be in much pain afterward.

As he had never told anyone about it, he did not expect Nancy to actually notice such minor details.

"I didn't say anything!"

Ben was starting to feel fearful now, worried that Zachary would overthink.

"Actually, if one is attentive enough, one will find out." Zachary lifted the cup and took a sip. He praised, "The tea tastes good. It has been prepared very well."

"There's still someone who cares about you," said Ben gently. "Each time after you drink, your stomach would hurt so much that you can't sleep at night. Doesn't it feel much better after drinking some tea?"

Zachary did not say anything. Instead, he stared at the cup and fell into deep thought.

At that moment, he received a message on his phone. When he glanced at it, he saw that Nancy had just sent him a video.

In the video, beautiful fireworks were exploding in the night sky at Baykeep's beach.

The smoke rose to the sky and formed the words, You must be happy!

There was even a cute smiling emoji at the end, which reminded one of Nancy's gentle smile.

The nice spot which Nancy referred to was actually a surprise for him on the beach. When she noticed the sorrowful look in his eyes, she did not probe about it. Instead, she wanted to create a romantic surprise to make him smile...

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Chapter 1304 Thank You

Zachary was grateful for what she had done for him.

I guess women can come up with romantic ways to surprise men too.

Other women would employ all sorts of tricks to get Zachary's attention, but only Nancy seemed to know what he truly desired!

Zachary was drawn by how graceful Nancy was in the video when she danced barefoot on the beach.

Her smile and the deep gaze in her eyes made her look as meek as an angel.

For once in his life, Zachary watched a video to the end. After turning off the video, he texted her: Thank you.

Regardless of her motive, Zachary was grateful for what she had done for him.

If only Charlotte was the one who did this for me...

After a four-hour drive, Lupine finally arrived at the villa in Yaleview.

It was two in the morning, and everyone was already asleep—except Morgan and Marino.

While waiting for Charlotte and Lupine, this couple took the opportunity to date secretly in the courtyard.

Upon hearing the car engine from a distance, they went up to have a look. Morgan then went up and opened the car door for Charlotte. "Welcome back, Ms. Lindberg."

Charlotte responded with a low grunt. She then studied Marino from the corner of her eyes. "You're still here?"

"I... I've been assigned to take care of the children." Marino blushed. "Ben said he would send them home tomorrow, and we'll also be paying Dr. Felch a visit."

"All right then." Charlotte then walked into the villa.

Morgan inched closer and asked Lupine. "What's wrong? Ms. Lindberg seems unhappy."

"It's nothing. Go and get a good night's rest," Lupine responded and kept up with Charlotte.

Morgan pursed her lips and told Marino to take a rest in the car. She then followed the rest and entered the villa.

In gentle steps, Charlotte walked to the room. After a shower, she lay on her bed and told herself to sleep early so that she would have enough energy to spend the next day with the children.

Yet, the image of Zachary and Nancy being intimate with each other kept popping up in her mind.

After taking half a sleeping pill, she eventually drifted off to sleep.

Despite being deep in slumber, she had a dream. She dreamed that Zachary and Nancy got married, and the children called Nancy their mommy. She, who had become an outsider, could only helplessly watch them from afar.

It was a peaceful dream, and nothing about it was terrifying. Yet, when Charlotte woke up from her sleep, she realized her face was wet with tears that streamed down her face.

The scene from the dream haunted her once again. She stared at the ceiling blankly and felt utterly conflicted.

Danrique was right. I'm not steady and constantly indecisive. I'm not that the kind of person who's born with a will of iron.

I worry too much because I find it hard to let things go. Yet, I can't control my feelings. I don't have the courage to pursue my own happiness...

That was how conflicted she was.

She knew all her weaknesses and hated them, but at the same time, she could not change her personality.

Just when she was still deep in thoughts, Danrique's children knocked on her door in excitement. "Wake up, Aunt Charlotte! Wake up!"

The three children were all hyped up like energetic sparrows, and they were the reason the villa was lively all the time.

"Don't disturb my Mommy, okay? Let's go downstairs and have breakfast. Come," Ellie said in a stern but affectionate voice.

"What time did Mommy come home last night, Lupine? Why didn't you tell us?" Jamie asked while yawning.

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Chapter 1305 The Last Hope

"We didn't want to disturb you since you were all asleep when we got home," Lupine explained with a grin. "Let's go downstairs. Let your Mommy get some rest."

"Okay!" All five children formed a line and marched downstairs with Lupine.

After a sneeze, Robbie, too, went downstairs with the other children while holding a book he planned to read in the car later.

"The breakfast's ready!" Morgan came out of the kitchen with an apron on as she was in charge of the breakfast today.

She greeted the children with a smile. "I made you your favorite breakfast today!"

"You know how to make breakfast?" Ellie tilted her head aside and asked, "I'm pretty sure Mr. Marino helped you with it."

"Quite some time ago, Marino secretly asked Mrs. Rawlston to teach him cooking. He must have learned a skill or two and taught Ms. Morgan how to cook," Jamie revealed.

"Stop it, you two." Morgan blushed.

The children burst into laughter.

"It doesn't matter whether you or your boyfriend made this. We'll take it as you're the one who prepared the breakfast for us," Alpha said cheekily. "When can we eat? I'm hungry!"

"I'll bring them over. Just give me a minute!" Morgan then signaled Jade and Emma to help carry all the dishes to the dining table.

Meanwhile, Charlotte had woken up from her sleep and was freshening up. She wanted to bring the children over to Dr. Felch's as soon as possible.

In the meantime, Zachary and Ben had arrived at Dr. Felch's residence.

Hayley served the breakfast she made on the wooden table in the courtyard and decorated the site with vases filled with the tiny yellow flowers she picked this morning.

As the car approached, Hayley put aside her work and was ready to welcome Charlotte to the villa. But the moment she saw Zachary, her smile vanished right away. Nonetheless, she still greeted him with respect, "Good morning, Mr. Nacht."

"Hi." Zachary came over on Dr. Felch's instruction.

In fact, Zachary spent the entire night yesterday at Sultry Night, and he only went home and took a shower before coming. He looked a little worn out as he stayed up the whole night.

"Come on in." Hayley welcomed Zachary and Ben.

Bruce and his men were stationed here for a night, but they parked their car far away to avoid disturbing Dr. Felch.

"Dr. Felch will join us for breakfast once he's ready," Hayley said while setting up the table.

All of a sudden, a loud thud emerged from the villa.

Zachary and Ben dashed into the house without any hesitation.

"Oh, no!" Hayley, too, followed them from behind.

When Sam was helping Dr. Felch to get out of his bed, the latter fell and hit the basin as his legs turned weak.

Sam tried to carry Dr. Felch but to no avail.

A pair of muscular arms appeared and put Dr. Felch back in his wheelchair.

Sam tilted his head and noticed it was Zachary. "Mr. Nacht..."

"Are you all right?" Zachary squatted in front of Dr. Felch and asked.

"I'm fine..." Dr. Felch replied in a deep frail voice. It took him a few seconds to open his eyes to take a look at Zachary.

His dry lips quivered as if he had something to say, but at that point, he could hardly utter a word.

"Yes, Dr. Felch?" Tears welled up in Hayley's eyes as she tried to understand what he was trying to express. "All right. I'll give Charlotte a call right now."

She then turned to Sam and said, "Call Charlotte and get her to come as soon as possible. Dr. Felch can't hold it any longer."

"Okay. Got it." Sam immediately looked for his phone.

"I'll do it." Zachary then instructed Ben to make the call instead.

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Chapter 1306 See Him For The Last Time

Ben walked to a corner and gave Charlotte a call. He could not help but feel anxious. Dr. Felch is now hanging by a thread. Does this mean we'd be losing our last hope soon?

Charlotte did not pick up the phone, as she was playing with the children in the courtyard.

Ben then immediately contacted Marino. After getting to know that Dr. Felch was about to give up the ghost, Marino immediately ran to Charlotte and passed her the phone.

Charlotte, who was playing with a bubble gun with the children, planned to depart after this, but after answering talking to Ben over the phone, she dropped the bubble gun and instructed her bodyguards, "Quick. Get the car ready."

"Right away!"

Morgan and Lupine did not even have the time to help the children change into fresh clothes. After stuffing all the six children and their clothes into their respective seats, they hit the road immediately.

Throughout the journey, Charlotte kept blaming herself. "It's my fault. I should have left early. I should have brought the kids over to visit him yesterday..."

"What happened to Dr. Felch? He was still pretty energetic yesterday, wasn't he?" Lupine felt sorry for Charlotte upon seeing how worried she was.

"What's wrong with Dr. Felch?" Even the children felt something was amiss.

"Dr. Felch is very ill, and he wants to see you," Charlotte regained her composure and explained. "I need all of you to stay quiet when you meet him later, okay?"

"Okay..." The children nodded despite not knowing what was going on.

"Good." Charlotte, who grew increasingly despondent, embraced the children.

"Lupine, who called Mr. Marino just now?" Robbie asked all of a sudden.

At that time, Marino was driving the extended Rolls-Royce.

Lupine, who sat next to Charlotte, answered, "Ben called."

"Does that mean Daddy and Mr. Ben are both at Dr. Felch's?" A line formed between Robbie's brows, and his eyes sparkled.

"I guess so." Lupine did not think much before answering Robbie. "They must have visited Dr. Felch because they knew you're going to be there."

"Did you visit Dr. Felch with Daddy last night?" Robbie asked.

"Yes. We went together." Lupine nodded.

"And you left together?" Robbie asked again.

"Your Daddy left first." Lupine could feel Robbie had some doubts on his mind. "What's wrong with you, Robbie?"

"Nothing." Robbie shook his head and looked dispirited. "I just asked for fun."

"Oh." Lupine did not pursue the matter any further.

Charlotte did not hear what Robbie and Lupine said as she was busy reminding the other children not to disturb Dr. Felch when they arrived.

Their car continued to speed on the highway.

Meanwhile, Ben had called Raina and a few other specialists over. He wanted them to conduct a thorough check-up for Dr. Felch.

Dr. Felch waved his hand in the air in a sickly manner. Upon interpreting his intention, Sam choked on his words and said, "Dr. Felch said that won't be necessary, but thank you."

Raina, who felt a little uneasy, then looked at Zachary.

Zachary instructed, "Wait outside."

"All right." Raina had no choice but to retreat from the room with the medical team and wait in the courtyard alongside Bruce.

Dr. Felch, who could hardly move from the bed, kept staring at the door, hoping he could meet Charlotte and the children for one last time.

"Shall we go out for a walk to get some morning sun?" Zachary whispered his suggestion to his ear. "They should arrive soon."

Dr. Felch responded with a weak nod.

When Hayley and Sam were about to help Dr. Felch get up from the bed, Zachary went up and carried him instead. "Bring his wheelchair over."

"Okay."

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Chapter 1307 Perhaps There Is Hope

The winter sun always brought about a unique warmth.

Sam placed a pillow on the wheelchair while Zachary helped Dr. Felch into it. He then placed a blanket over Dr. Felch and ordered Sam to light the fire.

A dying person would definitely be afraid of the cold, so Dr. Felch desperately needed to warm himself up now.

After making sure Dr. Felch was comfortable underneath the blanket, Zachary told Hayley to feed Dr. Felch some hot soup.

Basking underneath the sun, Dr. Felch warmed himself up before the crackling fire and drank some soup before regaining his senses. He squinted at Zachary and summoned his energy to say, "Thank you!"

"No problem. You saved my wife and kids," Zachary answered, reaching out to wipe the stain on his lips.

Back then, he didn't even get a chance to take care of his own grandfather.

Now that the chance had arrived, he wished to repay Dr. Felch's favor.

"I'm sorry..." Dr. Felch mumbled apologetically.

He stared at Zachary, guilt evident in his gaze. Though he couldn't speak coherently, Zachary's illness remained a niggling concern in his heart.

For his entire life, he saved countless lives and did many good deeds.

Before he got sick, he even treated Charlotte and Ellie, repaying Richard's favor from years ago.

If anything, he should be able to rest in peace.

However, whenever he saw Zachary, guilt would rise in his heart. I wasn't as strong as before and ignored his condition. Though I want to treat him, my stamina is lacking.

Dr. Felch initially wanted to write the treatment plan so Sam and Hayley could treat Zachary even after he was dead, but he had no idea he'd breathe his last breath before the plan was completed.

"The number of one's days is fixed," said Zachary as he took Dr. Felch's hand. "Don't worry about me."

Dr. Felch pointed at his own chest with a shaking finger, and Sam immediately realized what he meant. The latter pulled out a piece of paper from his shirt.

The crumpled piece of paper was full of unintelligible words and strange drawings. There was no full stop, and only half of the drawings were

completed, so it was clear that Dr. Felch didn't manage to finish what he was writing.

Dr. Felch pointed at Zachary.

Sam gave the paper to Zachary and said solemnly, "Last night, Dr. Felch woke up briefly and told me a man might understand the plan he wrote on the paper. You might have a chance to get better."

"Who could that man be?" Ben inched nearer anxiously.

"His name is Francesco," revealed Sam carefully. "He was Dr. Felch's first apprentice and had remained with him for twenty years. As he was extremely talented, he inherited all of Dr. Felch's medical skills."

Sam hung his head low, feeling somewhat ashamed. Though he had been Dr. Felch's apprentice for years, he didn't manage to learn a lot from his teacher.

Dr. Felch told him to leave a few times, saying he wasn't suitable to be a doctor, but he refused to do so.

He was an orphan and had nowhere else to go. Dr. Felch had adopted him from the orphanage, so he planned to stay and serve Dr. Felch until the latter died of old age.

"I didn't know Francesco was Dr. Felch's apprentice," Zachary mused in surprise.

The legendary Francesco did not have a fixed address and was travelling constantly. Besides being a skilled doctor, he was also skilled in defensive skills.

At the mention of his apprentice, Dr. Felch let out a long sigh.

"Keep it." Sam offered the paper to Zachary.

After accepting it, Zachary folded it carefully before placing it in his pocket. He turned to Dr. Felch and said, "Thank you!"

Dr. Felch squinted his eyes and stared into the distance, waiting for Charlotte to arrive.

Zachary had just told Ben to call her when a car rolled to a stop outside. Ben dashed out at once.

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Chapter 1308 Funeral

Charlotte scrambled out of the car and raced into the house without her kids.

Seeing how weak Dr. Felch was, tears spilled down her cheeks. She ran over to him, knelt on the ground, and took his hand. "Dr. Felch, I'm here. Charlotte's here."

As his lips curved up slightly, Dr. Felch's frail hand clasped her hand. He parted his lips to say something, but nothing came out of his mouth.

"Dr. Felch!"

The kids dashed in after getting off the car. They burst into tears at the sight of his fragile figure.

They had promised Charlotte to not disturb Dr. Felch, so they merely pouted and sobbed quietly.

"Kids..." Dr. Felch stretched his arm out toward them.

Morgan led the kids over, and they surrounded Dr. Felch and greeted him softly, "Dr. Felch."

"Dr. Felch, you must get well soon so you can buy more sweets for me."

"Dr. Felch, you promised to teach me acupuncture! You must keep your word!"

"Dr. Felch, remember how you promised to bring me to Mount Phoenix so we can catch wild hogs?"

"Dr. Felch, you wanted to see my latest invention, right? Here it is..."

"Dr. Felch, you lied to us! You said you'll bring us to Daddy. You're a liar!"

The kids sobbed sadly as they tamped down their feelings so Dr. Felch wouldn't find them rowdy.

Charlotte wasn't planning to cry, but she couldn't hold her tears in.

Dr. Felch held their little hands and squinted at their adorable little faces. Gradually, his eyes fluttered shut.

“Dr. Felch? Dr. Felch!”

“Dr. Felch!”

“Dr. Felch...”

The men in black outside bowed their heads low as they mourned in silence. Loud sobs rang out inside the courtyard.

Zachary stood in a corner and looked at them silently, filled with conflicting emotions.

Fate decreed that Dr. Felch would die when he was ninety-nine years old, so he had no choice but to accept his fate.

There’s no way they’ll find Francesco in a short time. He’s Danrique Lindberg’s best friend and my enemy, so he won’t agree to help.

The last shred of hope was practically non-existent.

As Dr. Felch breathed his last breath, Ben exhaled sharply.

Actually, he had the same thought as Zachary. They both hoped that Dr. Felch would at least complete his treatment plan before his death, but alas, their wish hadn’t come true.

Dejected, he thought of how there was no news of Francesco, though they had been searching for around six months. Even if we manage to find him, it should be difficult to persuade that weirdo to treat Mr. Nacht. Although it seems like a slim chance, we will never give up!

The breakfast on the table had cooled down. A wildflower was dancing in the wind as a light floral scent wafted in the air.

The sun shone on Dr. Felch’s kind face, encircling his awfully quiet figure.

In a daze, Charlotte thought she saw his soul enveloped in a golden aura as he rose to the sky slowly under the sunlight.

Nice people are supposed to go to heaven. Perhaps he’ll meet Father in the afterworld? They can drink and talk together like old times.

That afternoon, Charlotte dealt with Dr. Felch's funeral. According to his wishes, his body was transported back to Mount Phoenix and cremated there.

Zachary kept her company throughout the whole journey before bidding Dr. Felch goodbye forever.

The children also tagged along to Mount Phoenix so they could pay their last respects to Dr. Felch.

Three days later, the dust had settled.

Charlotte wanted to leave with Sam and Hayley, but they insisted on mourning Dr. Felch on the mountain for three months. They promised to contact her after that.

Instead of forcing them to leave with her, Charlotte made the arrangements so they could spend three months comfortably there. She then left with the kids in tow, boarding a flight back to Yaleview.

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1309

In the private jet, the kids promptly fell asleep.

They were exhausted after not getting enough sleep for the past three days. Closing their swollen eyes, they fell into a deep sleep.

Charlotte leaned into her seat and stared at the sky blankly.

Zachary came over to her with a cup of hot tea and offered it to her.

"Thank you!" Charlotte took it from him and felt the warmth spreading from her palms to her entire being.

"You should move back to Northridge," Zachary said suddenly. "It's easier for the kids to travel. Yaleview is too far away."

"I—"

"I know what you're thinking," Zachary cut in. "You want to stay away from me. I promise I won't harass you. In fact, I won't come to you. Will that work?"

Hearing his words, there was only one thing that Charlotte could think of—he had decided to date Nancy.

She didn't blurt that out loud and instead reminded herself repeatedly that it was over between them. The man could date anyone he wanted, and she had no right to question his decision.

"Think about it." Zachary rose to his feet and returned to his seat.

Charlotte lowered her head, saying nothing. Robbie walked up to her and whispered, "Mommy, I need to talk to you."

"Sure. What is it, Robbie?" Charlotte patted the seat next to her.

After climbing into the seat, Robbie went straight to the point. "I hope you can move back to Northridge so Jamie, Ellie, and I can see you every day. We can also get to play with Alpha, Gamma, and Beta. Yaleview is too far away for us to visit frequently. Besides, Jamie and Ellie had missed a lot of

classes, and they are going back to school next week. They will be busy with school on weekdays and various extracurricular classes on weekends. It might be hard for them to pay you a visit. Don't you miss us?"

"Of course I miss you," Charlotte replied, patting his head softly as guilt overwhelmed her heart. "I'm sorry that you have to travel frequently because of me recently."

"So will you move back to Northridge?" Robbie inquired earnestly.

"Mommy, Mommy..." Jamie and Ellie ran over to them. Taking Charlotte's hand, they pleaded, "Please move back. I want to see you and the little ones every day!"

"Yes! Please..."

Charlotte finally budged under the kids' constant entreats. "All right. I'll move back."

"Yay, that's great!" the kids cheered.

"Shh," Charlotte gestured for them to keep quiet. "The little ones are asleep. Keep down the noise."

"Okay!" Jamie and Ellie nodded profusely. They covered their lips and said nothing after that.

"Go take a nap." Charlotte ruffled their hair affectionately. "Mommy will pack up and move back to Northridge."

"Okay." The kids shuffled away, pleased with themselves.

Charlotte noticing Jamie exchanging a look with Zachary. She immediately glared at the latter. "Come here!"

Zachary came over to her as requested. "What is it?"

"Did you teach them to say that?" Charlotte demanded as a frown marred her brows.

"I did nothing of the sort!" Zachary answered, flashing an innocent smile. "They miss you too much and kept bothering me, so I told them to persuade you, as you'd be more inclined to listen to them."

"Did you mean what you said earlier?" she questioned.

"About what?" Zachary responded. Realization dawned on him as he nodded. "Oh, you mean that. Don't worry. If you don't come to me, I won't show myself to you."

"Make sure you don't go back on your word," Charlotte reminded.

"Are you the only woman on earth?" Zachary scoffed. "Why would I harass you if you've rejected me? I'm not that shameless."

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1310

Hearing the determination in Zachary's words, Charlotte relaxed. Looks like I don't have to worry. He has decided to stay away from me and is doing this for the kids.

Though that was what she wanted, strangely, she felt a tinge of disappointment. However, her expression remained cool as she replied calmly, "Good. We're divorced, and now we're neighbors. Nothing more. We shall stay out of each other's lives from now on."

"Is this a peace agreement?" Zachary stretched his arm out. "No problem!"

Rolling her eyes, Charlotte took his hand.

From today onward, Northridge and Southridge's previous glory would be restored.

Behind them, Ben and Lupine shared smiling looks.

Marino and Morgan were secretly overjoyed, for it was much easier for them to meet up now.

Back in H City, Charlotte told Lupine and Morgan to prepare for the house moving while she went to Yaleview to visit Jeffrey.

The factory that Charlotte invested in was doing well under the reins of Jeffrey and the other men.

After working hard for two years, they finally expanded and opened three more factories. Now, they were planning to rent an office building in the

city for their company. Slowly, they'd establish the brand and increase their influence in the industry.

Jeffrey was delighted to learn about Charlotte's return. He gathered two shareholders to meet her with the accounts so they could report about the profit and results for the past two years.

Though Charlotte was the biggest shareholder and invested a huge sum of money, she didn't bother asking how the company was doing. A satisfied grin lit her lips when she found out her initial investment had at least tripled.

Thus, she thanked Jeffrey and the other two profusely.

After exchanging pleasantries, Charlotte suggested, "I've looked around, and the factories seem to be doing well. You can continue with the expansion. I'll invest another one billion, so just go all out. You shall handle the products, and I'll help to promote the brand in secret. Don't let others know that I'm a major shareholder, though."

The few shareholders were dumbstruck. Though they were successful businessmen, the sum of their investment was only around twenty million.

Now that business was booming, they had considered seeking other investors to expand the business. Alas, they dared not bother Charlotte. To their utter surprise, she offered to add on two billion to her initial investment.

Her statement shocked them senseless.

"Charlotte, w-where did you get so much money?" Jeffrey pulled her aside and whispered, "I heard that Lindberg Corporation is now in trouble. You've received your share, so even if you can afford it, keep the money. Investments are risky, and we're not that capable. Running a small company is fine, but we don't have the confidence to expand further."

"He's right." The other shareholders nodded. "Your investment sum is too large."

"We've worked under your dad. Handling the products is fine by us, but branding and being entrepreneurs don't suit us."

"Don't worry, I'll take charge of that," Charlotte assured them confidently. "Just do as I say. Mr. Judd, send me the company account number. I'll transfer the money over shortly."

Jeffrey parted his lips to convince her to change her mind, but she was insistent. "Please don't worry. I'll bear all the risks. If the company is a success, we'll divide all the profits. All losses will be bore by me."

"H-How can we let you do that?" the shareholders stuttered anxiously.

"Since Charlotte's confident in the expansion, it's a yes from us." Jeffrey made up his mind. "We should stick together through thick and thin!"

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1311

"Count us in, too!" the other men chimed in enthusiastically. "You're the major shareholder, so you get to call the shots. But we'll bear the risks together. That way, both of us will feel much better."

"Sure!" Charlotte chuckled. "That'll do. I promise we'll make so much money together!"

They chortled. "We trust you, Ms. Windt."

They were used to addressing her as "Ms. Windt" as they used to work for Richard.

"Great. Good luck to us!"

She shook hands with the shareholders and rose to her feet, prepared to leave. Jeffrey saw her out. They chatted about the past six months' events briefly, and Jeffrey mentioned Olivia.

After remaining in bed for six months, Olivia showed no signs of recovering. Every time Jeffrey went to H City on business, he'd go visit her. Luckily, Peter didn't give up and took great care of her.

Charlotte's mood was dampened at the news. Olivia was her best friend, but Sharon forced her to betray Charlotte to save her beloved. As a result, Ellie was kidnapped and tortured.

In the end, Olivia saved Ellie and got beaten to a pulp by Sharon. Though she survived, she was now a vegetable.

Before Charlotte returned to Erihal, she bought a house for Peter and Olivia. She also gave them some money and told Raina to arrange for Olivia's treatment.

A few days ago, Charlotte visited Sultry Night. Besides having regained her memory, she wanted to ask Peter about Olivia. Alas, he wasn't there. She then bumped into Zachary and Nancy which forced her to leave earlier than expected.

"Charlotte, I heard Peter is working hard to afford Olivia's medical fees overseas. I told him to talk to you, but he refused to disturb you. I think you need to know about this, so..." Jeffrey explained everything though he seemed slightly hesitant.

"Got it," Charlotte answered with a brisk nod. "I'll make the arrangements. Thank you, Mr. Judd."

"You're welcome." Jeffrey sighed, relieved. "You've lost a lot of weight, and you look somewhat exhausted. Do take care."

"Mm." Charlotte gave him a slight smile. "I'm good, so don't worry. Let's talk next time."

"Okay. Let me know if you have any orders anytime!"

After leaving the factory, Charlotte gave Raina a call to find out more about Olivia's situation.

Raina informed her that there were no updates. It was only two months after her injury, so the treatment wouldn't work that fast. Unless a miracle were to happen, of course.

A stressed-out Peter asked around and discovered a hospital in M Nation that had quite a number of successful cases, so he wanted to bring Olivia there.

Though Raina explained the cases were rare, he still wanted to try his luck.

After learning that, Charlotte asked Raina's help to contact that hospital. If there was hope, she wanted Raina to make arrangements.

Raina had already tried contacting the hospital, but they couldn't give her a definite answer. They could only make a diagnosis after seeing the patient for themselves.

Charlotte told her, "Invite the doctor over to examine her. I shall foot the bill."

"Well..." Raina seemed stumped. "I did that previously, but it seems pretty hard to invite that doctor over."

"Give me his contact. I shall contact him personally." Charlotte didn't want to trouble her.

"Well, you don't have to do that. Let me try extending an invitation again," came Raina's reply. "I'll give you an answer by tomorrow."

"Thank you!"

After hanging up, Charlotte lamented, "It's quite annoying not having someone to rely on. Raina works for the Nacht family, and it's quite troublesome to ask for her help every time."

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"Just think of it as a personal favor. We can compensate her for her help later, right?" Lupine suggested.

"Raina owns many hospitals, and she's the Nacht family's private doctor. She isn't in need of money," Charlotte revealed. After pondering about it, she added, "I know her well. She would've done that if it was conceivable. I'm afraid that the doctor is quite hard to please. Find out about that doctor, and we'll ask for his help personally."

"Got it." Lupine immediately worked on it.

"Ms. Lindberg, where are we heading now?" Jade, who was driving, asked.

"Head back home for now." Charlotte glanced at her watch and realized it was past four in the afternoon. "How is the packing going?"

"Morgan and Emma brought the kids back to H City. Everything in the villa had been packed and moved out. All there's left is the plants and goldfish," Jade reported.

"Let's go back and take a look."

Charlotte wanted to retrieve the photos full of her memories.

"Yes."

Back in the empty white villa at Yaleview, there was a desolate vibe about the vacant space.

The weather was cloudy today without any trace of sunlight in sight, but the tree outside the door stood tall and beautiful.

There were leaves all over the ground, and some had dropped into the pond. The fish were chasing the leaves around playfully.

"Morgan is in a hurry, huh?" Lupine alighted from the car and joked, "She must be racing back to see Marino. I can't believe she left with the kids without waiting for us."

Jade burst into laughter. "Yeah, the lovebirds can't bear to be apart. That's great."

"Find something to fit the fish. We shall bring them with us," ordered Charlotte.

She didn't want to leave the fish to fend for themselves, for they'd surely die of starvation.

"Sure. I'll get on it now." Jade left to find a fish tank for the fish.

Lupine was doing the final checks to make sure they didn't forget anything. "Ms. Lindberg, what about the plants? Do you want to bring them along?"

"No need. They can remain here."

Charlotte entered the house and realized the photos were nowhere to be seen. Morgan probably knew how important the photos were to her and had packed them up.

She went to every room to make sure there was nothing left behind before heading back to H City with Lupine and Jade in tow.

Jade got a huge fish tank for the fish so they could come to Northridge with them.

As the sun began to set, the Rolls-Royce Phantom drove back home. The trees by the road swayed in the breeze as though they were saying goodbye to Charlotte and her entourage.

Charlotte stared at the passing scenery as she vowed silently to kick-start her career after a long rest.

Regardless of what happens in the future, I now have the ability to protect the kids and start anew! But I'll have to deal with the Gymnasium Project first.

"Mr. Nacht, Sir Robert called us three times today to remind you to deal with the Gymnasium Project!"

Zachary was going through some documents in his office in Nacht Group when Ben came in to report carefully, trying not to tread on his toes.

Without bothering to lift his head, Zachary continued signing the documents.

Ben stood aside silently.

Suddenly, Lucy showed up in a haste. "Mr. Nacht, a VIP is here."

"Is this your first day at work?" Zachary snapped. "I won't meet anyone without an appointment."

"It's Sir Robert from F Nation," Lucy said timidly. "He's waiting in the lobby. The reception desk called the president's office, so I..."

"That old man." Zachary's brows knitted together.

Everyone told me that Louis' family isn't greedy at all. They are supposed to be nice. Looks like that was all an act.

"The receptionist is waiting for your order," Lucy prodded carefully. "Should she let him up?"

"Bring him upstairs." Zachary gestured and went back to his work.

"Yes." Lucy left to carry out his order.

"Should I go down personally?" Ben inquired, studying Zachary's reaction.

As Robert was here, he should be welcoming the former if Zachary wasn't about to do that.

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After Zachary signed the last document, he drawled, "Go."

"Yes." Ben quickly did as told.

Right then, Bruce showed up and announced excitedly, "Ms. Lindberg has moved into Northridge. Morgan arrived first with the kids and had been busy ever since. Ms. Lindberg is on the way there."

"Mm." Zachary promptly relaxed at the news. His tone turned gentle as he said, "The kids told me last night that they'll be spending the night there today. Tell Marino to give them a ride there."

"Yes, I've informed Marino about that." Sensing Zachary's delight, Bruce beamed and asked, "Should you head back home earlier today to keep Ms. Lindberg company—"

"No need," Zachary interjected, his expression turning downcast. "We've agreed to stay out of each other's way."

"Then..."

"Head over to check the villa," Zachary instructed. "It has been empty for a few months, so some pests might've built their nest there. There might also be some wild animals or something inside. The women are afraid of stuff like that, so bring some men along to deal with that. See if they need any help."

"Got it, I'll get to it right away!" Bruce replied and got to work immediately.

After he disappeared out of sight, Ben led Robert and his subordinates in. Robert boomed out from afar, "Zachary, it's hard to meet you in person!"

"Why didn't you inform me prior to your arrival, Sir Robert? I could've picked you up from the airport." Zachary rose to his feet and greeted the old man. "What a surprise to see you in my company!"

Robert threw his head back and guffawed out loud. "I decided to visit on a whim. Sorry for the sudden visit."

"It's fine. Have a seat," Zachary answered politely.

Lucy and the other two secretaries busied themselves with preparing coffee and snacks for the guests.

Ben and Robert's subordinates stood behind their respective employers.

"Zachary, I didn't get to give you a warm welcome in Pillere back then. This time, I brought something amazing for you," said Robert.

He gestured for his subordinates to place two intricate silver boxes on the desk before he opened them carefully.

Expensive jewelry appeared in everyone's sight. The jewelry seemed to be antiques, even to the naked eye.

"These are left behind by a royal princess, and my wife adores them. She kept them locked up and had never worn them, but now, she wants me to give them to you as a token of her apology," Robert revealed, trying to butter up to him.

He added, "The jewelry had been auctioned off for over three hundred million twenty years ago, so their value must've increased by now. Most importantly, there's a legend saying whoever wears them will be blissfully happy in love!"

"Oh, three hundred million. That's an exorbitant amount, even by today's standards," drawled Zachary as he glanced at the jewelry. Calmly, he continued, "As a man, I'm not interested in jewelry. I can't appreciate your gift, Sir Robert."

"You can gift them to your future wife," Robert suggested gleefully. "Then hand them down to your daughters. I promise they'll love this!"

"Right," Zachary mused with a nod. "Thank you, then!"

"You're welcome." Robert was thrilled that his gift had been accepted. "Zachary, I'm here to..."

He trailed off as Lucy showed up with coffee and snacks.

"The coffee here might not be as good as yours," Zachary stated politely. "Have a sip. If it's not good, allow me to offer you a stiff drink."

Robert merely laughed. "Zachary, you're hilarious."

He took one sip of the coffee and glanced around.

Knowing what he wanted, Zachary dismissed Lucy and the secretaries with a wave.

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"I'm here to discuss the Gymnasium Project, Zachary," Robert finally revealed why he was here. "I believe you've read the relevant documents. As the other shareholders are fine with it, we just need your signature."

"The other shareholders are fine with it?" Zachary arched an eyebrow. "Are they waiting for my decision?"

He knew the shareholders wouldn't dare to say a word before he did.

"Ha! Of course," Robert replied with an awkward grin. "You need to approve it."

"Mm, I'm going to be the bad guy." Zachary sipped on his coffee.

"Er..." Robert had no idea Zachary was going to be this difficult. Though he was upset, he had to tamp down his irritation to persuade Zachary.

"You're the most influential person in the corporate world. No one will dare to question your decision, but that doesn't mean you're a bad guy."

"Why not? Signing the document means offending my children's mommy." Zachary didn't bother mincing his words. "If it was someone else, never mind. She's the only person I dare not provoke!"

Silence surrounded them as Robert's brows snapped together. "Didn't you break up with her a while ago?" he asked, confused. "She did that to you, didn't she? Why are you still..."

He paused, changing his words so he wouldn't sound so harsh. "The Nacht family and Lindberg family are at odds, and you aren't related to her anymore. Why are you so afraid of her? I don't get it."

He ended with a careful question.

"I can't help it." Zachary shrugged helplessly. "She's the mother of my children, and they listen to her. If she's upset and complains to them, I'll have to suffer."

Robert was speechless. It was clearly an excuse, but he couldn't find a plausible reason to retort that excuse of Zachary.

"You shouldn't be asking for my signature." Zachary pushed the jewelry boxes back to him. "Instead, go to the person involved. If you don't want her to get involved in the project, go to her personally," he declared with a smile.

"But I—"

"Oh, I just remembered I have an appointment." Zachary seemed torn. "Why don't you join me?"

"No need," Robert responded stiffly. He stood up and made to leave.

"Hey, Sir Robert!" Zachary called, pointing at the silver boxes. "Take these with you. Perhaps you might need it when your son gets you a daughter-in-law."

His words sent a course of annoyance throughout Robert's being.

Robert was wordless with rage as he spun on his heels and marched away.

His subordinates glanced at the boxes, wondering if they should take the boxes with them.

Ben shut the box and handed it to them. "Take it. They are worth millions."

The men grabbed both boxes before dashing away to catch up to Robert.

"Should I send him off?" Ben asked.

"Tell him I can compensate him for the cars I destroyed back in Pillere," Zachary uttered, swirling the glass in his hand slowly.

Ben let out a snort and nodded. "Got it."

He then ran out after their visitors.

Lucy came in to clear up the mess. She offered carefully, "Mr. Nacht, I heard that Sir Louis is in H City."

Zachary was sipping on his wine when he heard what she had to say. He froze and furrowed his brows immediately.

Is Louis here for Charlotte? How could I have missed that? That sly fox must be going all out to get what he wants. He can't do it himself, so he asked for Louis' help to get Charlotte to quit herself?

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Knock! Knock! Someone knocked on the door.

Lucky looked at the monitor and reported, "Mr. Nacht, Dr. Langhan is here."

"Let her in," Zachary responded.

"Yes." Lucy opened the door and invited Raina in.

"Mr. Nacht, I have something to report after careful deliberation." Raina whipped out a file and told him, "Ms. Lindberg called me this afternoon. It's about Olivia..."

After hearing what she had to say, Zachary took the file and glanced at it briefly. "It seems pretty hard to invite Dr. Wright here. Do you want me to do it?"

"Of course not," Raina replied with a bitter smile. "Truth to be told, even if Dr. Wright is here, the chances of her saving Olivia are pretty slim. Ms. Lindberg will feel better if she's here."

"Let's do it, then." Zachary made up his mind. "Give me Dr. Wright's number. I'll call her now."

"Yes." Raina gave the said number to him at once.

At the same time, on the way back to Northridge.

Charlotte was gripping her phone, her expression livid. "How could she? I did my very best to convince her and even offered a huge reward, but Dr. Wright refused to say yes."

"Those capable doctors are usually difficult to please," Lupine said with a grin. "She doesn't know your identity. She must be afraid that it was a prank call and rejected your offer."

"That seems plausible," Charlotte answered, her brows knitted together. "Do I have to fly to M Nation and extend an invitation personally?"

"If you leave, what about the kids?" Lupine said hastily. "Though you're usually busy, and Morgan takes good care of them, at least they get to see you at night. Knowing you are here gives them a sense of security. If you leave, they will fret for sure."

"Yes." Charlotte was plagued with worry. "Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie have their father, but the little ones only have me. Their parents aren't with them."

"What if you send Morgan to invite her on your behalf?" Lupine suggested.

"Morgan isn't good at stuff like this." Charlotte thought about it and declared, "Oh, why don't you take two men with you and pay her a visit?"

"But if I'm not here, no one will be here for you. Morgan is busy taking care of the kids—"

"Cut the crap," Charlotte barked.

"Fine." Lupine nodded begrudgingly. She was about to leave to carry out the order when Charlotte's phone rang.

"It's Raina." Charlotte answered it at once. "Hello?"

"Ms. Lindberg, Dr. Wright has agreed to come to H City!" Raina's excited voice sounded from the other end of the line. "She'll be here five days later. I'll be picking her up from the airport."

"That's great! Thank you so much, Raina," Charlotte answered as happiness danced through her thoughts. "You're amazing! I just called Dr. Wright, but she rejected me without even bothering to consider my offer."

"Yes, she's quite difficult," Raina said, shooting Zachary a conflicted look. If he didn't extend an invitation personally, that doctor wouldn't have agreed to come.

"How did you persuade her to say yes, then?" Charlotte got curious.

"We are acquainted with each other. She must've agreed as I offered her a grand reward," Raina explained carefully.

"I'll bear all the costs," Charlotte offered at once. "I really can't thank you enough for your help, Raina."

"You're welcome. I'll give Peter a call now so he can stop worrying about it."

"Okay. Do it now."

Before Charlotte could hang up, another voice popped up from the other end. "Mr. Nacht, this document..."

Lucy stopped short in fright when Zachary gave her a furious hand gesture.

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Raina ended the call in a hurry and shot Zachary a nervous look. "I-I don't think Ms. Lindberg heard that."

"I'm really sorry, Mr. Nacht. I didn't know Dr. Langan was in the middle of a call," Lucy apologized at once. "Mr. Sterk needs this urgent document, so I..."

"Enough." Zachary took the document and signed his name with a flair. "Leave me alone."

"Yes."

Quiet and peace ensued once again after both ladies retreated.

Zachary continued drinking his wine.

Right then, Ben came back hastily and said, "I've sent Sir Robert off. When I mentioned that you will compensate for the cars, he nearly exploded in rage." He flashed a mischievous grin.

"Find out if Louis is in H City," Zachary ordered gloomily.

"Huh?" Ben was startled. He bobbed his head slightly after realizing what his boss wanted. "I'll do it now."

At the same time, Charlotte stared at her phone, feeling a turmoil of emotions.

That was Lucy talking to Zachary. It means Raina is in the president's office on the sixty-eight floor of Divine Corporation. Raina asked for Zachary's help to convince Dr. Wright to come to H City so she could treat Olivia. No wonder Dr. Wright only agreed to come today. If Raina was capable enough of inviting her, she would've done so earlier instead of waiting until today.

She sighed, realizing she had owed Zachary yet another favor.

Charlotte was deep in thought when the car suddenly rolled to a stop as Jade shrieked, "Eh? Isn't this Sir Louis?"

Her heart sank as she looked up. Indeed, Louis' white Bentley was parked not far away.

"Ms. Lindberg." Lupine turned, waiting for Charlotte's orders.

Her brows scrunched together, Charlotte pushed the door open and got off the car.

At the same time, the door to the other car opened, revealing Louis as he stepped out of the car. It was barely half a month since they last met, but he had lost so much weight and seemed sallow and thin. Contrary to his previous bubbly and youthful self, there was now a dispirited air about him.

The light was gone from his cornflower blue eyes.

He was staring at her as about a dozen expressions crossed his face.

"Louis, you—"

"Let's talk," Louis cut in.

"Sure." Charlotte bobbed her head slightly. She turned to Jade and ordered, "Bring the fish back home. Lupine and I will ride in Louis' car."

"Ms. Lindberg..." Jade was concerned.

"Go," Charlotte said, and there was a finality to her tone that warned Jade not to finish her sentence.

"Yes."

Jade looked at Lupine, who signaled at her with her eyes. Left with no choice, she drove back to Northridge alone.

"Come on. Let's find someplace quiet to talk in private."

Charlotte climbed into Louis' car with Lupine behind her.

Lupine kept her guard up, but Charlotte seemed really nonchalant about this.

She even chatted with Louis casually. "Why did you come to H City all of a sudden? You didn't even inform me of your arrival."

"I'm here with my dad," Louis answered, his voice gruff.

He was a different man now. The smile that used to light his face was gone. In its place was a dark expression.

His words merely served to deepen the frown marring Lupine's brows.

"Sir Robert is in H City, too?" Charlotte arched a brow. "Is he here to persuade me to pull out of the Gymnasium Project?"

After a few seconds of silence, Louis turned to look at her. "Charlotte, have you ever loved me? Even for a split second?"

"I've always thought of you as a friend," came Charlotte's honest reply. "Didn't I say that when we first got together?"

"Okay," Louis replied with a dejected nod.

"What's wrong, Louis?" Charlotte shot him an anxious look. "Are you all right?"

"I tried my best to forget you, but nothing worked," Louis revealed with a hand on his chest, seemingly upset. "I couldn't sleep or eat anything. You're the only person I can think of. My heart feels like it's about to rip apart anytime..."

Seeing how forlorn Louis was, Charlotte felt a stab of guilt. She chided herself for agreeing to marry him. If I hadn't agreed to marry him, perhaps he won't be this hung up on me.

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"Charlotte," Louis uttered and reached out to take her hand. His eyes turned red as he pleaded, "Never mind if you don't love me, as long as you remain by my side. I want to see you and keep you company every day. Please?"

His antics had Charlotte completely lost. She didn't know how to respond to his desperate and pitiful plea.

She thought Louis would've forgotten about her after some time, but clearly, he was still hung up on her.

"Charlotte, come back to me. Please..."

Without warning, Louis flung his arms around Charlotte and hugged her tightly, rendering her short of breath.

Instead of disentangling herself from his arms, Charlotte allowed him to hold her. She knew she shouldn't provoke him now by struggling out of his reach.

Just then, a Rolls-Royce zoomed past them. Zachary, who was in the car, happened to see them in a tight embrace.

Instinctively, Charlotte looked up and met Zachary's gaze. Once she realized the iciness and anger in his eyes, her heart sank. She immediately shoved Louis away.

Alas, both cars had driven past each other by then.

"Charlotte..." Louis reached out for another hug, but Charlotte knitted her brows and snapped, "Louis, if you do that again, I shall get off this car."

Louis' hands stopped midair. He fell silent, not daring to offend her anymore.

Charlotte wound up the window and took a deep breath to calm herself down.

Zachary must've seen us. I wonder what he thinks of me. Ah, forget it. There's no way we'll get back together, so it doesn't matter what he thinks.

"Charlotte, what should I do so you'll come back to me?" Louis asked tenderly. "I can't live without you."

"Louis, grow up." Charlotte earnestly tried to make him see reason. "Life will always go on, even if we don't end up together. Not every relationship ends in marriage. Though we're no longer together, we can still be friends. Don't be stubborn—"

"I tried," Louis cried. "But I can't do it!"

"You can," Charlotte insisted. "Actually, you should make more friends, especially girls who are amazing. That way, you won't be hung up on me."

"No, you're the most amazing girl in the world," Louis exclaimed. "You're the only girl I love..."

Charlotte fell silent, not knowing what else to say.

"Er, I think that was Sir Louis pestering Ms. Lindberg." Ben quickly spoke up to lighten the situation. "He followed her all the way back to Northridge, so she had no choice but to get into his car. Yes, that must be it—"

"Stop talking." Zachary lowered his gaze calmly, as though what he saw earlier didn't faze him at all.

Yet, Ben saw the flicker of emotions in his gaze.

It's not good to keep everything to himself, Ben thought worriedly.

Lost in thought, he heard his phone buzzing. It was a call from Nancy. Answering it, he greeted, "Hello, Ms. Gold."

"I texted Mr. Nacht, but he didn't reply. That's why I called," came Nancy's gentle voice. "I want to invite him to dinner tonight. Is he free?"

"Er, well..." Ben turned to look at Zachary.

The latter took the phone from him and told Nancy, "Send the address."

"Yes, I'll do that now," Nancy responded, delighted at his reply.

After hanging up, Zachary ordered, "Go to the restaurant."

"Yes." The driver promptly turned the car around.

It was obvious to Ben that his employer was mad, but he couldn't really say anything. He can be with anyone as long as that makes him happy. His condition is deteriorating. If he spends all day brooding, that won't benefit his condition. Though Charlotte upsets him every day, Nancy can heal him. That's good enough. They won't end up together, so they should enjoy each other's company for now.

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1318

Louis brought Charlotte to a restaurant by the beach that they used to frequent.

The restaurant was beautifully decorated, but Charlotte wasn't in the mood to enjoy them. She felt really exhausted.

She had run out of words to convince Louis to change his mind.

The man was still lost in his own world as he grabbed her hands in a pleading manner. "Charlotte, are you still upset over Diana? Mom sent her away. I won't see her again, ever!"

"No, it's not that." Charlotte sighed, feeling weary. "Even if Diana doesn't exist, we can't get back together."

"Why?" Louis stared at her in disbelief. "Is it because of Zachary?"

"It has nothing to do with him." Charlotte gave him an apologetic glance. "Louis, it was all my fault. I should've rejected you and insisted on remaining friends back then. If I had done that, you might've found happiness by now."

Alas, Louis paid no heed to her advice. He was engrossed in his own feelings. "No, you're the only one that can make me happy. No one else can do that."

"Louis..." Before Charlotte could say more, someone greeted politely, "Mr. Nacht, Ms. Gold, welcome!"

"Did you prepare the stuff I requested for earlier?" A melodious voice rang out.

"Yes, but..." The manager glanced at the couple seated by the window, seemingly torn. "They are VIPs, too. We dare not turn them away."

Both Zachary and Nancy followed his gaze and spotted Charlotte and Louis at the table by the window. The four of them froze in surprise.

What a coincidence!

The sight of Zachary caused Louis to bristle in annoyance. He gripped his utensils tightly as hostility blazed in his gaze.

Seeing Zachary together with Nancy, Charlotte felt conflicted.

If that encounter back in Sultry Night was arranged, this must be pure coincidence. Louis and I decided to come here without making any reservation, but Nancy and Zachary must've had a reservation. Looks like they are indeed dating.

Charlotte looked away and put on a calm front, but her grip on her wineglass was so tight it might shatter any minute.

Zachary felt a wave of fury course through him when he saw Charlotte together with Louis.

"It's fine. We're friends," Nancy assured the manager. She took the initiative to greet Charlotte. "Fancy seeing you here, Ms. Lindberg!"

They both made their way to Charlotte. Zachary placed an arm around Nancy's waist nonchalantly, which came as a surprise to the latter.

"Ms. Gold, we meet again," Charlotte whirled around and responded.

The sight of Zachary placing his arm around Nancy's waist went straight to Charlotte's heart like an iron shard. The pain turned her inside out.

She pretended to stay calm and flashed a smile, standing up to shake Nancy's hand.

Louis was initially smoking in anger, but the weird situation confused him.

He stared at Zachary, utterly baffled. Why is Zachary with another woman? Charlotte seems unfazed. She is even greeting the woman politely!

"Do you remember who I am, Sir Louis?" Nancy inquired with a smile.

"You are..." Louis couldn't recognize her.

"My name is Nancy Gold. We've met several times during public events. Perhaps you don't remember who I am," Nancy explained pleasantly. "I didn't expect to see you here. What a coincidence!"

"Oh, I see." Louis regained his composure and looked at them in bewilderment. "The both of you..."

"We're here for dinner," Nancy revealed. "We'll leave you both to your meal, then."

"Mm." Louis bobbed his head.

Nancy led Zachary to the table right beside them and sat down.

Zachary didn't utter a word throughout the entire exchange. He stood beside Nancy silently the whole time.

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"Hey, what was that?" Louis asked in a low voice. "Why is Zachary with Nancy Gold? Are they..."

He trailed off, realizing Charlotte was acting strangely.

Though she seemed at ease before Zachary and Nancy earlier, right now, disappointment was evident on her face.

She hung her head low, cutting her steak into pieces. Her steak was about to become minced beef, but she hadn't eaten any of it.

Louis' brows creased into a frown. He cared about Charlotte, so naturally, he noticed every slightest change in her expression. It was clear as day whom she loved.

She couldn't deceive him.

Still, Louis was delighted to see another woman by Zachary's side, for that meant he had a chance to get Charlotte back.

"Charlotte, you can have mine." He offered his plate of steak, which he had cut into tiny bites.

Taking her plate, which practically looked like minced beef, he said, "You have a weak stomach, so don't skip meals. Have some soup first."

"Thank you," Charlotte answered distractedly.

Beside them, Zachary was almost choking on his rage when he overheard their conversation.

"Sir Louis is so sweet," Nancy whispered.

Zachary pretended not to hear her as he sipped on his wine.

"Don't drink too much," Nancy reminded him gently. "Let's have some tea. I'll brew some for you. I've brought some great tea along."

With that, she summoned the restaurant manager to prepare the equipment.

Zachary didn't reject her offer and gazed at her as though he were admiring a piece of painting.

Anger rose in Charlotte like a tide when she noticed his soft gaze.

"Ah!" Suddenly, Nancy accidentally spilled some tea on her hand.

"What's wrong?" Zachary took her hand. "Let me take a look."

Unable to hold in her anger anymore, Charlotte threw her utensils down, rose to her feet, and marched away.

"Charlotte, where are you going?" Louis called out anxiously.

"The restroom." Charlotte was heading for the restroom. Though she wished to leave at once, that would only make her look really petty.

I insisted on breaking up with Zachary and asked him to stay away from me. Now that he's with another woman, I should be happy for him. I can't let anyone realize I'm dismayed about that.

After stepping out of the restroom, Charlotte saw Nancy washing her burned hand under the running tap water.

Nancy saw her and gave her a friendly grin.

Charlotte's lips curled into a polite smile as she washed her hand in the adjoining sink.

They stood beside each other in a friendly manner, but their hearts were overwhelmed with mixed feelings.

"How are you doing? Is everything fine?"

The women looked up and turned at their shoulders when a gentle voice rang out.

Zachary didn't even bother looking at Charlotte and gave Nancy a concerned look.

"I'm fine." Nancy grinned, shaking her head slightly.

Zachary strode over to her and took her hand to study it carefully. "It isn't a serious wound, but remember to put some ointment so it won't leave a scar behind."

"Mm. I shall do that at night," came Nancy's reply.

"I asked Raina to come here." Zachary wasn't about to let the matter slide. "You should put some ointment on now."

"Ah?" His action took Nancy by surprise. "It's just a minor burn. Why did you ask Dr. Langan to come?"

"Go." Zachary gave her hand a pat. "I'll be there in a jiffy."

"Mm." Nancy turned to leave obediently. Before she stepped out, she gave Charlotte a polite bow.

Charlotte kept her head low as she scrubbed her hands violently, as though there was a stain that cannot be removed. Her hands were turning red from the force.

"You shouldn't be scrubbing your hands. Instead, I suggest you scrub your heart," Zachary suddenly uttered icily.

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"What do you mean?" Charlotte glared at him.

"After doing all you can to escape from the Laurent family, now you want to go back to him?" Zachary demanded irritably. "Did you forget what he did to you just after a few weeks? What is inside that heart of yours? It must be filthy and foolish."

"You're nuts." Charlotte didn't want to waste time arguing with him. "It's none of your business," she declared heatedly.

Having said that, she spun on her heels to leave. Without warning, Zachary grabbed her wrist and pinned her to the wall.

He growled menacingly, "Charlotte Lindberg, if you weren't the mother of my children, I would've stayed out of your matters. Pull yourself together, please. You're a down-and-out socialite from the Lindberg family, so the Laurent family won't be nice to you. You'll merely invite death if this goes on."

"Have you said enough? Let me go!" Charlotte bristled and tried to free herself, but Zachary refused to let her leave.

They were in the midst of a struggle when a furious voice barked, "Let her go!"

Looking up, Charlotte saw Louis standing not far away, breathless with anger. He was glowering at Zachary with his fists balled up.

"You have no right to interfere in our business." The sight of Louis merely stoked Zachary's fury. He declared arrogantly, "Your engagement is over. I was the one who rescued her from your family."

"She's my fiancée! Let her go now!" Louis roared like a ferocious beast.

The more he acted this way, the more infuriated Zachary got.

In response, Zachary held Charlotte's waist possessively and said in a provoking manner, "Your fiancée? She has been mine all the while—in the past, and right now."

"Hey!" Rage ran red through Louis' brain. He whipped out a dagger out of nowhere and aimed right for Zachary. "Die, Zachary!"

"No, Louis!" Charlotte screamed.

Zachary's gaze narrowed as he clenched his fists, ready to retaliate.

Suddenly, Charlotte shoved him out of the way and grabbed the dagger.

Silence ensued. It was as if time itself had come to a standstill.

Zachary widened his eyes in shock as he stared at Charlotte incredulously.

Louis halted in his tracks, shocked by her reaction.

Charlotte held on to the dagger firmly, and the sharp edges cut into her palm.

Blood trickled down and stained her white shirt.

"Charlotte!" Louis shrieked. He released his grip on the dagger, trembling profusely. "W-Why did you..."

"You're crazy!" Zachary sent him flying with a kick before taking Charlotte's hand to stop her from losing too much blood. He swiveled his head to yell, "Raina!"

Raina hurried over at his urgent call. She was dumbfounded by the sight that greeted her eyes. At once, she stopped the bleeding in Charlotte's palm and dressed her wound.

"Oh, dear." Lupine panicked at the bloody scene. "Ms. Lindberg, what happened?"

"I didn't do it on purpose. Charlotte, I didn't mean to harm you..." Louis wailed. "Why did you do that?"

"Scram!" Zachary hollered angrily.

"It was all your fault!" Louis threw the blame on Zachary. "If it wasn't for you, Charlotte and I will still be together!"

His words caused fury to spring to life within Zachary. The latter was about to beat him up when Charlotte tugged at him.

Making sure she had a grip on Zachary's shirt, Charlotte told Louis weakly, "Louis, you should leave."

"Charlotte—"

"Leave!" she growled fiercely.

"Sir Louis, let's go. Don't stir Ms. Lindberg's anger," his subordinates uttered carefully.

Louis crawled to his feet and left with his subordinates in a disheveled state.

"The wound is deep, so I have to stitch it up." Raina bandaged her wound briefly and said urgently, "We have to go to the hospital now."

"Prepare the car!" Zachary ordered.

"Yes." Ben quickly did as instructed.

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Before Zachary could pick her up, Charlotte stopped him. "I can go to the hospital myself. You don't have to come with me, Mr. Nacht," she said coolly.

"Can you stop putting on an act?" Zachary snarled, his teeth gritted angrily.

"You—"

"Shut up!" Zachary didn't give her a chance to speak as he picked her up and stalked out.

"Zachary Nacht, let me down this instant!" Charlotte hissed. "Let me down!"

Ignoring her cries, Zachary brought her to his car. He was about to get in after her when Ben reminded him, "Er, Ms. Gold is still here."

It was only then that Zachary remembered Nancy's existence. He turned at his shoulder and said apologetically, "I'm sorry, but I have to go to the hospital now."

"It's fine. I understand." Nancy flashed a smile. She urged, "You should hurry and send Ms. Lindberg to the hospital. We can meet up another time."

"Mm," Zachary grunted in response. He told Ben, "Give Ms. Gold a ride home."

"Yes."

Lupine drove the car to the hospital, and Raina occupied the passenger seat.

By then, Charlotte was already shaking like a leaf. Her face was as pale as a sheet, but she forced herself to stay quiet by biting down hard on her lip.

The dagger was extremely sharp. If she had held it any tighter, her right palm would've been sliced off.

A fresh swell of rage rose in Zachary at the sight of her trembling figure. "Are you a fool? Why did you grab the dagger with your bare hand? Do you think I'm not his match? Even if he tried to attack me, I could've pinned him down easily. There was no need to act foolishly."

"Don't overthink. I wasn't trying to protect you," retorted Charlotte in a disdainful tone. "I don't want this to escalate into a fight. If I don't stop him, and one of you gets hurt, the consequences will be horrible."

"You..." Zachary trailed off, speechless. He couldn't bring himself to blame her, for she was already wounded.

Soon, they arrived at the hospital. Raina promptly got to work on Charlotte's wound as Lupine and Zachary stood aside silently. Ben and his men showed up later on.

Finally, when the clock ticked past nine at night, Charlotte's wound was stitched up neatly. Raina prescribed some oral medicine and ointment before reminding Lupine to take good care of her. She also offered to pay a visit a few days later to check on Charlotte's wound and change the dressing.

Arrangements were made, but Zachary wasn't satisfied. "What if your wound gets in contact with water? What if it gets infected? Raina, bring a few nurses with you and stay with her until she recovers completely."

"But I have an important surgery tomorrow," Raina replied, torn. "And Dr. Wright is arriving a few days later."

"Won't you listen to my order?" Zachary frowned.

"Well..." Raina caved in. "All right. I'll make the arrangements now."

"No need," Charlotte interjected. "It's just a superficial wound. You don't have to trouble her."

"Charlotte—"

"Thank you for your help, Raina. You can leave now," Charlotte told Raina.

Raina shot a timid glance at Zachary, her feet rooted to the spot.

"You may leave now." She only made to leave when Zachary made the order.

On the way back home, Charlotte leaned into the seat weakly with her eye shut.

Zachary's expression was grim. A heavy silence hung in the air.

Both Ben and Lupine dared not utter a word.

Ring, ring!

Right then, Charlotte's phone rang.

She tried to use her left hand to take the phone in her right pocket, but it proved to be a difficult mission.

Furrowing his brows, Zachary took her phone out and glanced at the screen. It was a call from Robbie, so he answered it promptly. "Robbie!"

"Daddy?" Robbie was shocked to hear his voice. "Are you with Mommy right now?"

"Yes. Mommy's right beside me." Zachary turned on the loudspeaker.

"What's wrong, Robbie?" asked Charlotte.

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1322

"Mommy, when are you going to come back?" came Ellie's voice from the other end of the line.

Then, the three other younger children began butting in. "Aunt Charlotte, Aunt Charlotte, come back quickly to tell us bedtime stories!"

"All right. Aunt Charlotte will be back soon. I'm on my way," Charlotte coaxed gently. "Shower first, okay? Then you can wait for me to come back to tell you stories."

"Okey-dokey!" the three children sang in unison.

"Mommy, are you with Daddy?" Even Jamie had come over to ask. "Will you be coming back together? Could you ask Daddy if he can bring my Transformers over?"

"We won't—"

"Of course," Zachary interrupted. "We'll be there in half an hour. I'll bring your Transformers over."

"Okay, thanks, Daddy!" Jamie cheered.

"My laptop too, Daddy," Robbie reminded. "I've forgotten about it this afternoon because I was in a rush."

"Got it," Zachary said to the children. Unbeknownst to him, the look on his face had softened. "Shower first. Daddy will be there soon."

"Okay. Bye, Daddy."

"Daddy, Mommy, we'll be waiting for you."

"All right."

After the call ended, the gentle smiles remained on their faces until they looked at each other. Almost immediately, their expressions turned solemn.

"Who told you to say yes to them? I didn't agree to let you come to my house," Charlotte hissed out.

"Then are you planning to walk back?" Zachary retorted.

"I..." It was then Charlotte recalled that she was not driving; She and Lupine were riding Zachary's car.

"So what?" Charlotte then turned to Lupine and instructed, "Call Morgan and tell her to pick us up."

"Understood," Lupine answered as she took out her phone.

"Do you really have to do this?" Zachary frowned. "Firstly, this will waste your time. Secondly, it'll affect the children's moods. Moreover, your hand's hurt. You can't even hold a book, so do tell me how you're going read them bedtime stories."

Charlotte realized that he was right. When Zachary heard nothing else from her, he instructed Ben, "Get someone to send Robbie and Jamie's stuff over."

"Yes, Sir." Ben chanced a glance at Lupine before making a call.

Charlotte did not stop him, thinking, I guess it'll be good to have the kids be happy for a night. Zachary's only doing this for the kids. All we need to do is to make sure we keep a distance from each other.

Soon, they reached Northridge. By then, the Nacht family's bodyguard had brought Robbie and Jamie's stuff over.

After Zachary stepped out of the car, he turned around to help Charlotte out.

Nevertheless, Charlotte rejected his offer. He rolled his eyes at her before walking straight toward the house.

"Daddy!"

Jamie and Ellie were waiting in the living room. When they saw Zachary and Charlotte entering the house, they ran toward them.

The two were exceptionally excited, a stark contrast against Robbie, who seemed calm. In fact, Robbie seemed to be quietly studying Zachary.

"Mommy!" Ellie beamed at Zachary before launching herself into Charlotte's arm. However, Zachary swiftly pulled her toward him. "Mommy's hurt, so Daddy's going to be the one to read you your bedtime stories tonight. Don't disturb Mommy, okay?"

The three children quickly huddled over to anxiously ask, "What? What happened to Mommy?"

"Mommy's fine. It's just a scratch," Charlotte reassured them. "Don't worry. It's all right."

"Ah! Mommy's hand is hurt!" Ellie shrieked when she saw Charlotte's bandaged hand, her face white as sheet.

"Let me see!" Robbie and Jamie then took Charlotte's hand and carefully checked it. "What happened?"

"Your mommy was really brave. She was the damsel who saved the hero, and that's why she's hurt," Zachary joked.

"Was that hero you, Daddy?" Jamie asked curiously, his head tilting upward to look at him.

"That's right. It's me." He nodded.

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1323

"Daddy, you're bad!" Ellie complained as she pouted. "You're a man. You should be protecting Mommy. How could you let Mommy protect you instead?"

"Ellie's right," Jamie agreed.

"I want to protect her too, but your mommy was adamant about playing the hero. Before I could do anything, she had rushed headlong into the situation."

At that, Zachary cast a disapproving look at Charlotte.

"You—" Charlotte was furious. She did not know why he was telling the children that.

"Mommy, don't play the hero next time. You have to protect yourself first and foremost," Robbie said to her. "It pained us to see you hurt."

"Yes, yes." Ellie then grabbed Charlotte's hand and gently blew on it. "Mommy, the bandages are wrapped around your hand tightly, so I'm sure it must hurt a lot."

"It's fine. It doesn't hurt," Charlotte answered lightheartedly. Seeing her children had lifted her spirits.

"Mommy, who's the one who hurt you?" I'll beat them up for you," Jamie exclaimed as he swung his little fists. "I'm going to teach the naughty person a lesson."

"It's okay. We've dealt with the person." Charlotte pinched his cheek. "Okay, it's time to go back to your room. It's late now."

"Yes, go back to your rooms. I'll read you the bedtime stories," Zachary chimed in.

"Daddy, are you not going to leave tonight?" Jamie asked, excited, as he held Zachary's hand. "Are you going to be staying here tonight?"

Even Robbie and Ellie were looking at him.

"I'll leave after reading the stories to you." Zachary ruffled their hair.
"Hurry upstairs now."

"All right," the children replied, crestfallen.

"Aunt Charlotte! Aunt Charlotte!"

Just then, Danrique's children rushed out of their room with bottles in their hands and diapers around their waists.

When they spotted Zachary, they skidded to a stop before watching him with wary eyes.

"Why is this Angry Uncle here?"

Alpha then quickly hid her bottle behind her as if Zachary was there to snatch that from her.

"Maybe he's here to see Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie," Beta quietly replied.
"He's their daddy."

"Hmph!" Gamma then stepped forward and pointed her bottle at Zachary.
"Meanie, why are you here?"

"Alpha, Beta, Gamma, don't be rude to my daddy."

Ellie stepped out from behind Zachary's legs before solemnly replying,
"Daddy's here to tell us bedtime stories."

"What?" The other three children widened their eyes. "This fierce meanie is going to tell us bedtime stories? Really?"

"Duh!" Jamie grinned smugly. "My daddy tells great stories."

Alpha sniffled before answering dumbly, "Oh. So is he going to tell us stories too?"

"Can we listen to your stories?" Beta tilted her head back to look at the tall man.

"I-I want to hear stories too." Gamma's face was red. and her hands were clenched into fists as she nervously looked at Zachary.

"All right, come on." Zachary then motioned to them to go up the stairs.

"Yay!"

The three smaller children hurried behind Ellie their bottles. Like a line of kindergarten children, they entered the room.

In the meantime, Charlotte smiled when she saw the scene.

Zachary was rather skilled at taking care of the children; he was even getting along well with the three more difficult children.

“Ms. Lindberg, let me help you back to your room.” Once they were back in the room, Lupine said, “You haven’t had a good dinner, so I’ll get the kitchen staff to make something for you.”

“No, it’s fine. I’m not hungry.” Charlotte tiredly leaned back on the sofa. “Pour me a glass of water instead. Then you can leave. It’s been a tiring day, so you should rest earlier.”

“What about yo—”

“I’m fine by myself.” Charlotte wanted some time alone.

“All right.” Lupine then poured her a glass of water. After putting it beside her, she left.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1324

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1324

Charlotte stared at numerous missed calls and messages on her phone, all of them from Louis.

Without needing to look at the messages, she knew what they were about. Apologies, then expressions of his love. He would ask for her forgiveness before telling her of his wish to start over with her.

Charlotte was in a world of frustration. She did not know what she could do to make Louis give up. It felt like he refused to listen to whatever she said to him as long as it was not the answer he wanted.

Right as she was lost in her train of thoughts, someone called. The number seemed familiar, but she did not have it in her contacts. After a moment of hesitation, she picked it up. “Hello?”

“Hello, Ms. Lindberg, I’m Nancy Gold.”

Nancy's voice was always as soft as cotton. It was as if she was someone who did not have a temper nor ever experienced negative emotions; it was as if her control over her emotions was impeccable.

"Hello," Charlotte greeted back, uncomfortable to hear that name.

"I just wanted to ask how you're feeling today," Nancy uttered. "There were many people at the restaurant today, so I didn't get a chance to ask you that."

"It's nothing serious," Charlotte replied politely. "Thank you for your concern."

"I'm glad to hear that. Rest well, then," Nancy said before ending the call.

Charlotte did not know why she had made that call. What can she possibly do with a few polite questions? Is she trying to remind me about her existence?

Maybe that's that.

After the call, Charlotte had indeed been reminded that Zachary was dating Nancy and that she should be more firm in keeping her distance away from Zachary.

In other words, Nancy was asserting dominance.

At that thought, the discomfort in Charlotte's heart grew. She rose to her feet, planning to look for Zachary to get him to leave earlier.

"The little prince climbed onto the top of the snowy mountain to look for the legendary Angel's Flower. As long as he finds the flower, he'll be able to save his beloved princess. Although it was cold here, and there were many beasts around, he was still brave as ever. The little prince knows that his princess is waiting for him back at the castle."

Zachary was sitting on a chair, telling the children a fantasy tale with his magnetic voice.

Meanwhile, the six children were sitting in odd poses—some were sprawling and lying down—as they listened to his storytelling intently.

A while into the story, Ellie cocked her head to the side and said, "Daddy, this isn't right. I'd read this book before, and I remember that the little prince goes to the moon and not a snowy mountain."

"That's right. The little prince isn't looking for Angel's Flower, but a sapphire. Also, the little prince doesn't have a princess..."

"Just listen to the story. Why do you have so many questions?" Robbie chided them as he cut them off. "It's more original if Daddy changes it up a little."

"Oh." Both Jamie and Ellie lowered their heads before falling silent.

"That's right, that's right. Go on, Angry Uncle!"

Alpha, Beta, and Gamma were all fascinated by the story as they stared at Zachary with wide, eager eyes.

"What did you call me earlier, hmm?" Zachary furrowed his brows in a mock solemn look.

"Oh." Alpha, Beta, and Gamma shared a look before answering in unison, "Uncle Zachary!"

"That's right. Good girls." Zachary smiled in satisfaction. "All right, it's late now. It's bedtime."

"No! Finish the story," the three girls whined.

They were no longer afraid of him, and they even dared to whine to him now.

"Yes, Daddy, finish the story," Ellie muttered as she rested her chin on her hands. "I've never heard of this story. I'd like to know what's the ending."

"Yes, yes. Did the little prince find the flower in the end?" Jamie asked.

"We'll continue another day." Zachary put the book down as he turned off the table lamp. "All right. Sleep now."

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1325

“Okay...” The children were disappointed, but they obediently went to bed.

Zachary stood up and walked out of the room. However, he only took two steps before knocking into the corner of the table.

Thump! The loud noise startled the children.

“It’s nothing, it’s nothing. It’s just too dark in here,” he reassured them as Ben darted over to support Zachary.

Charlotte was at the doorway, and when she saw the scene, a strange feeling washed over her.

She abruptly felt that there was something odd about Zachary.

Zachary had undergone strict training since he was a child; he possessed superior physique and senses than the average person. Even if the entire room was dark—the room was still lit with a dim wall lamp—he should be able to walk around without crashing into anything.

Moreover, she realized he seemed to have been careful on his way to the outside of the room.

Furthermore, Ben seemed excessively nervous.

“Daddy.” Robbie ran out for Zachary, but he spotted Charlotte by the doorway. “Mommy!”

The moment Ben realized Charlotte was standing there, panic flickered past his eyes. Nevertheless, he recomposed himself quickly and smiled at her. “Ms. Lindberg, you’re here. Mr. Nacht has been sitting on that tiny chair for too long, so his legs had pins and needles.”

“The children’s chair is indeed a little too short for him,” Charlotte nonchalantly agreed with him as she glanced at Zachary’s legs. “It must have been a hard time for his long legs.”

“Good to know that you know,” Zachary snapped.

"Mommy, Daddy he..."

"Robbie, go back to your room with Jamie and sleep," Charlotte interrupted softly. "I'll send your daddy back."

Robbie opened his mouth, but in the end, he swallowed the words that were at the tip of his tongue. Instead, he said, "Daddy hasn't had a drink after telling us such a long story. Mommy, why don't you offer him a drink before he leaves?"

"My son's a sensible boy." Zachary smiled happily. "However, it's late now, and I should be going back. Rest earlier, all of you."

"No, it's fine. It's better if you have a drink before you leave," Charlotte promptly said. "Otherwise, the boy might think that I'm torturing you."

"Very nice of you." Zachary grinned before leaning toward her. "Shall we drink in your room?"

"Sure," came her swift response. "Emma, prep the tea."

"Understood."

Zachary froze. He thought that Charlotte was sure to reject him if he were to tease her. To his surprise, her agreement had come quick.

Ben anxiously peeked at Zachary, thinking, What now?

In the middle of the story earlier, Zachary's vision had abruptly gone blurry. He could not read the words in the book, so that was why he had come up with his own version of the story.

Ben watched them both at the side, his heart racing. However, with Robbie's cooperation, Zachary managed to keep up with the act.

Then, he tried to look for an excuse to leave. However, due to his blurry sight, when he stood to leave, he knocked onto the corner of the table again. Ben quickly grabbed him.

They wanted to leave as soon as possible. That way, he would not be found out. Yet, they had encountered Charlotte.

"Since you're so enthusiastic about it, then I won't resist."

Unlike Ben, Zachary was calm and steady as if there was nothing wrong with him.

"This way." Charlotte brought Zachary back to her room before casually saying to Ben, "I think Lupine's caught a mild cold. Why don't you have a look at her?"

"No, no, I shouldn't. She..." Ben was about to reject her when Zachary secretly gestured at him. "I don't know if she'll chase me out of this place."

"How would you know unless you've gone there?" Charlotte teased. "Men should take a more active role."

"Well, she's quite ferocious." Ben scratched his head, embarrassed.

"This way please, Mr. Nacht."

Charlotte opened the door to her room as she motioned to him.

Zachary ambled in.

The entire time, Charlotte was keeping her eye on him. He seems fine now. Was I overthinking things?

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1326

Once they were in the room, Zachary headed straight to the sofa. Everything seemed fine.

However, he had been averting his eyes from Charlotte.

On the other hand, Charlotte was staring at him. At the start, she was stealing glances at him, but now, she was straight-up staring at him. It was because she realized that he was unresponsive even when she had her gaze on him.

The anxiety in her head thrummed, and she creased her forehead as she observed him.

Is there something wrong with his eyes?

Knock knock! Right then, knocking sounds came from the door.

"Come in," Charlotte said.

Emma came in with a dining cart. After putting the snacks on the coffee table, she bowed at the two of them and stepped out of the room.

Charlotte poured a cup of tea and handed it to Zachary. "Have some tea."

"Put it on the table first. It's hot." Zachary raised his arm to pinch the bridge of his nose, looking exhausted.

Hence, Charlotte put the cup down in front of him. However, to test him, she intentionally put it at the edge of the table where half the cup was in midair. With any gentle push, the cup would fall.

Indeed, when Zachary reached out for the cup, he knocked it over.

The cup of hot tea splashed all over his pants, and that included his crotch area.

"Sh*t!" Zachary roared. "You wicked woman!"

"You were the careless one, but you're blaming me for this?" Charlotte quickly took out a few tissues to hand them to him. Glancing at his crotch, she anxiously asked, "Are you okay? Do you need to go to a hospital?"

"You did this on purpose!"

Zachary grabbed her hand and tugged her toward him.

"Ah!" Charlotte cried out, having not expected the sudden action from him as she fell into his arms. Before she could come back to her senses, he had smashed his lips against hers.

His kiss was intense and wild. It was as if he was taking revenge on her, or perhaps he was punishing her.

He ravished every part of her mouth that was beyond her teeth. He stole every breath she took and made her heave for more.

Charlotte's mind went blank from his unexpected kiss.

All of a sudden, it felt like they had gone back to the time when they were deeply in love. Back then, all they had for the other was devotion and adoration. Back then, no matter what they did, it felt as if the love was not enough.

Every time they were close to each other, they yearned to become one so that they would never separate.

That familiar feeling was back.

Charlotte was honest at that moment. She did not want to push him away nor did she want to reject him. Selfishly, greedily, she wanted to drown herself in that moment of warmth.

Her acceptance made the affection in Zachary for her bloom. He embraced her tighter as he continued to kiss her harder.

He was afraid that Charlotte would find out he could not see things clearly anymore. That there was something wrong with his eyes. That he was sick. That he was doomed to die soon.

He knew that she was suspicious and that she was testing him. His keen instincts could let him temporarily dismiss her suspicions, and that was why he was using this way to distract her.

Yet, this kiss was the key to unlocking the feelings that they both buried deep in the recesses of their hearts.

After what seemed like ages, Zachary reluctantly let go of Charlotte before pressing his forehead against hers. As he kissed her lips longingly, he whispered, "I still have a place in your heart."

Charlotte did not speak. Her eyes were closed as she quietly immerse herself in the feelings that had collected dust in her heart.

Something else was growing in there; something sour with a bitter, sorrowful tang.

"You still love me, don't you?" Zachary questioned, biting down her lower lip. "You've always loved me."

"I..."

Just as she was about to answer him, her phone rang. She jumped in fright before snapping her head in the direction of her phone. It was then she saw her vibrating phone on the coffee table, its screen lit up with a name on it—Louis.

Zachary's heart sank. In the next second, he pushed her away.

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1327

Charlotte's injured hand hit the sofa, and she sucked in an audible gasp of pain.

Zachary frowned, and there was apparently upset in his eyes, but still, his features were schooled into a cold look.

Charlotte then took her phone and ended the call.

"Be mindful of what you're doing," Zachary uttered. "Sir Robert came to my office to look for me earlier today. As for why they were there... I'm sure you know."

"I do," Charlotte replied.

The tense atmosphere had no traces of the passionate moment from a while ago.

With an acrid taste on his tongue, Zachary stood up and left.

Charlotte watched as he went. Again, she saw nothing amiss with him. Am I really overthinking it?

No. Something is amiss.

Zachary's hand was on the handle. Right before he opened it, Charlotte yelled, "Zachary Nacht!"

Zachary halted in his tracks. He did not turn around, but his heart was thumping loudly.

Does she want to keep me here?

"Look down," Charlotte said as she pointed at his pants. "Are you going to leave like this?"

It was only then Zachary recalled that he had spilled a cup of tea on his pants earlier. It would be an embarrassing moment if he were to walk out immediately. Thus, he called Ben to grab some new clothes for him.

"Take a shower." Charlotte handed him a bathrobe.

After taking it from her, he went into the bathroom.

Charlotte still had attentive eyes on him. That's strange. He seems completely fine now.

In the meantime, after Zachary closed the bathroom door, he squinted and looked at himself in the mirror.

Perhaps his optic nerve was pressed on again, for his vision had gone blurry and flickered earlier. That was why he had come up with whatever he could think of while telling the children their bedtime story earlier.

Yet, after kissing Charlotte, his vision had returned to normal. Therefore, he had not knocked into anything else after that.

Thinking about the kiss made his throat dry.

Then, when he thought about Louis, his mood turned foul.

He wanted to leave the place as soon as possible, but unfortunately, his pants were stained. Hence, he had no choice but to stay for a while longer.

He knew that Charlotte had to have sensed something odd about his behavior. Otherwise, she would not have set up a trap for him in an attempt to find out what was going on.

That woman was indeed much smarter than she used to be two years ago.

Nevertheless, she was of no match for him; her witty little tricks were nothing to him.

After a hot shower, he walked out with the bathrobe wrapped around him.

For reasons he could not think of, his vision was blurring again. All that was left was a sight of foggy white.

"Are you done?" came Charlotte's voice.

Zachary turned to her, but he could only see her silhouette, not her face.

She hunched over to put something on the coffee table before saying to him, "I've asked the kitchen staff to make some oatmeal, so come and have a taste."

Zachary could only rely on his memory as he avoided the furniture in the room before reaching the sofa.

He dared not look at her. If he did, and if she were to look closely, she would realize there was indeed something wrong with him as she had suspected.

Thus, he kept his head hung and made it seem like he was in a bad mood.

"Why do you have a sour face on?" Charlotte hissed. "You make it seem like I've owed you something."

"Don't contact Louis anymore," he demanded.

"I'm not contacting him," Charlotte explained. "He's the one looking for me, and it's not like I can stop him, can I? Moreover, you have no right to demand that from me."

"Just be firm in your stance. You can leave the rest to me," he blurted out. After a beat, he added, "Don't misunderstand my words. I just don't want the kids to be affected by this."

"I know. No misunderstandings," Charlotte snapped before handing him the oatmeal."

"No, thank you." Zachary could only hear her voice; he could not even see where her hands were, so he could only utter the first excuse he could think of, "Who knows if you've poisoned it or not."

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1328

"You're a lunatic," Charlotte hissed out. "I was kind to make you food. How could you say that? Tell me then. What poison could I possibly put in there?"

"Aphrodisiac," Zachary blurted out.

Charlotte was speechless at that.

"Look at the expression you had. Clearly, you're lusting for more," Zachary teased. "You were looking for tons of excuses tonight, and you brought me to your room. Then, you spilled tea on my pants. All of these are to keep me here, right? Did you think that I'm clueless?"

"You—" Charlotte's face reddened from anger. "Do you have no shame, Zachary?"

She slammed the bowl on the coffee table before huffing out, "Forget it if you don't want to eat it. I'll let an ingrate like you starve to death."

As some of the oatmeal had splashed onto her hand, she went to the bathroom to wash up.

Her fading footsteps told Zachary that she was gone. Instantly, he began searching for his phone on the sofa.

After washing her hands, Charlotte heard a quiet tone. When she lowered her head, she noticed Zachary's phone in the clothes he had changed out of.

Picking up the phone, she then noticed that he had a message. It was from Nancy. Mr. Nacht, are you home yet...

The rest of the message was not shown. Even then, the name of the sender itself made Charlotte's heart sink into the abyss.

"Is my phone in the bathroom?" Zachary asked. He could not see, but that meant that his hearing had become better.

"Yes," Charlotte answered as she walked out of the bathroom with the phone. "What's the matter with you? You've even left your phone in there."

Zachary reached out for his phone, and it was then Charlotte realized his eyes seemed to be unfocused.

Her heart leaped to her throat. She then deliberately stretched out her arm in a different direction before saying, "Someone sent you a message. There, take it."

Just as she expected, Zachary's hands grabbed the air instead of the phone.

Shock struck Charlotte like a bolt from the blue. Her eyes widened almost impossibly as she stared at him.

He... can't see?

Zachary stiffened when he realized he had not reached out for his phone. Nevertheless, he quickly snatched the phone from Charlotte in the next second and bellowed, "You peeked at my phone?"

"Yes, but I wasn't peeking," Charlotte snarled in mock anger. "I was looking openly."

She did not want him to find out what she had just figured out.

Her angry tone made Zachary sigh quietly in relief. She's not all that smart. I don't think she found out anything.

Right then, someone knocked on the door. Ben's voice then came from the outside. "Ms. Lindberg, I've brought Mr. Nacht's clothes here."

Charlotte walked over to the door and took the clothes from Ben. Then, faking a cold tone, she hissed out, "Get changed and get out."

After taking the clothes from Charlotte, Zachary immediately undid his robe to reveal his muscular figure.

"Ah!" Charlotte shrieked before promptly spinning around. Her face was hot with a bright blush as she stammered out, "W-What are you doing?"

"It's not like you've never seen it before. Why are you so scared?" Zachary teased as he slowly changed.

Although he could not see anything, he could feel the logo and the buttons of the clothes, so he managed to put on his clothes right.

Charlotte was furious, but she wanted to be certain about his eyes. Hence, she mustered up her courage and turned back to him.

By then, Zachary was done putting on his pants. He was in the middle of doing the buttons of his shirt.

He was elegant and was having no problems with them.

Furthermore, his head was hanging, so she could not see whether or not he could see clearly.

"Zachary," Charlotte started, trying to come up with a topic so that she could have a clear look at his eyes. "Are you dating Nancy?"

"Why, are you jealous?"

Zachary grinned, but his eyes remained unfocused.

"If you really like her, then be nice to her. From now on, we'll have to keep our distance from each other." Charlotte stared at Zachary's eyes before

tentatively saying, "If you don't like her, and you're using her to annoy me, then you should stop."

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"Why would you think that I'm using her to annoy you?" Zachary questioned.

Charlotte's heart sank. "So you're dating her for real."

"You seem disappointed," Zachary pointed out, delighted by the despondent trace in her voice.

"What does that have to do with me?" Charlotte snarled. "You can be with whoever you want to be!"

"What if I tell you that we're not dating?" Zachary softened his voice as he stepped closer to her. "What if I say that I never had any women other than you? Will you come back to me?"

Charlotte froze. Her heart was in turmoil when she heard those words from him.

She never thought that Zachary would say such things to her anymore; she thought he had already let go of her.

"That's a no, then."

Zachary waited for a long time, but he heard nothing from Charlotte. Disheartened, he turned to leave.

"Zachary," Charlotte called out for him again.

He stopped, cocking his head to the side and waiting for her to speak.

"If you don't like Nancy, then stop using her," Charlotte told him in a serious tone. "Don't be like me. Don't make a mistake so major it's unsalvageable."

"What do you mean by that?" Zachary furrowed his brows. "What mistake have you made?"

"I had agreed to marry Louis due to various external factors back then." Charlotte was overwhelmed with regret every time she thought about it. "Louis used to be so cheerful and optimistic, but now..."

"Do you mean that you agreed to marry Louis not because of love?" Zachary asked, eager. "What about later on? Did you grow any feelings for him?"

"I've always thought of him as my best friend."

"But, you and him—"

Those words nearly escaped his lips.

Zachary did not wish to broach the topic, yet he could not help but think about that particular scene whenever Louis was mentioned. It was like a thorn in his heart, and it had grown roots in there.

Charlotte's lips parted, about to explain, but at that moment, Zachary's phone rang. She instinctively looked over and saw that it was a call from Nancy.

In an instant, she snapped back to reality. It was then she recalled that neither of them could go back to what they used to be.

Someone knocked on the door again, and Ben's voice could be heard. "Mr. Nacht, I have news to report to you."

Zachary did not pick up the call. Instead, he walked toward the door and opened it before heading out.

"Ms. Lindberg, we shall excuse ourselves now."

Ben bowed at Charlotte before closing the door. Then, he held onto Zachary as they hastily left.

Meanwhile, Charlotte stood in the room alone, filled with all kinds of emotions.

She had probed him for so long, but her efforts were fruitless; she still knew not if there was something amiss with him.

Although her instincts told her that something was indeed wrong with his eyes, his behavior stated otherwise. It made Charlotte question herself and wonder if she was overthinking everything.

Furthermore, their complicated relationship only worsened her mood.

He had denied dating Nancy. She knew Zachary well. Even if he was extremely far from a flawless man, there was one good point about him—he was honest.

If they were really dating, then he would not have lied to her about it.

Maybe Nancy is courting him, she thought, and he didn't give her any obvious rejections. That must be it.

Nevertheless, genuine feelings were bound to grow romantically between Nancy and Zachary.

Even if Zachary did not fall for her now, it did not mean that he would not do so in the future.

The very thought of that tightened her chest, and she reminded herself not to dwell on it anymore. We can't go back to how it is. It ended a long time ago.

Be firm. Be clear with him. Stay away from him.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1330

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1330

After Ben and Zachary stepped into the car, Ben urged the driver, "Drive now."

"Got it."

The moment the car sped off, Ben let out a sigh of relief. He then muttered, "Lupine was staring at us when we were going down the stairs earlier. That was frightening."

"That's all in you?"

Zachary was calm, for he was sure that Charlotte had not figured anything out yet; he was confident in his acting skills.

"Ms. Lindberg didn't figure anything out, did she?" Ben asked. "She actually invited you to her room tonight. Was she suspecting that something was up? Was she trying to sound you out?"

"Why can't she be trying to patch things up with me?" Zachary retorted.

"Um..." Ben fell silent.

"I guess she's suspicious." Zachary stopped messing with Ben as he resumed his solemn demeanor. "I'll have to avoid her these few days. Tell Marino to be wary of the words that leave his mouth."

"Understood." Ben nodded. In a softer voice, he said, "Your phone has been ringing since earlier. I think Ms. Gold is calling you."

"Ignore her," Zachary said, thinking about what Charlotte had said earlier. "Nancy is a good girl. I shouldn't be leading her on."

Those words only made Ben even more anxious. He tentatively reassured, "Bruce is doing everything to find Francesco. I'm sure we'll find him soon."

"What's coming will come, and we'll meet it when it does. It's inevitable."

Zachary sighed, no longer anxious at the thought.

"Have your vision not recovered yet?" Ben asked worriedly. "Why don't we stop by the hospital for a checkup? The episode came so suddenly, and it's lasting quite a while."

"I won't die from it." Zachary closed his eyes. "Arrange a meeting with Mr. Williams and Mr. Spencer tomorrow. Oh, and Johann too."

"Mr. Nacht."

"Skip the nonsense." Zachary was tired. "Just work on it."

"Yes, Sir," Ben answered, not daring to say more than that. However, he had a grim look on his face.

Zachary's current condition was far from good. He had been experiencing dizziness and blurry vision in his earlier episodes, but a while ago, he had lost his vision.

Moreover, he had not regained his vision even after an hour.

Ben did not know if any worse symptoms would rear their ugly heads after this.

Nevertheless, Zachary refused to go to the hospital, and they were unable to find Francesco. In other words, their hands were tied.

Back at home, Ben helped Zachary out of the car. Once his feet were on the ground, Zachary blinked and realized some of his vision was back. At that, he mumbled, "It's fine once I'm home. Can't be that the air at Northridge is toxic, right?"

"Maybe you've been working too hard lately. You should rest more," Ben softly suggested. "I'll help you in."

"There's no need." Zachary pushed Ben aside. Squinting, he then slowly made his way into the house.

He had to get used to life in the darkness as quickly as possible. After all, if he were to have a full-blown episode, his vision would be first to suffer. He would then plunge into a world of darkness.

Before he was six feet under, he had to get used to that life. At the very least, he had to make sure that Charlotte did not spot anything wrong with him and that the children would not worry.

Now that some of his vision returned, he could see the vague outlines of things in front of him.

That was how Zachary made his way back into the house as he avoided the obstacles in front of him. Step by step, he entered the building, went up the stairs, and into his room.

The entire time, his subordinates quietly stood by the side, fearing that any noises they made would disrupt his judgment.

Even Ben was holding his breath as he stuck by Zachary's side.

He only let that breath out when Zachary entered his bedroom, unscathed.

However, in the next second, Zachary's knee crashed into the cellaret, and a loud noise echoed in the room.

"Mr. Nacht!" Ben dashed over to lend Zachary a helping hand. "Are you all right?"

"I'm fine."

Zachary's eyes were narrowed, but the room remained dark. It was then he realized that no matter how well-trained he was, and how keen his senses were, it was difficult for him to move freely around in a world of darkness.

It seems like I really need some time to get used to this.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1331

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1331

After the inhumane treatment period and various other events, Zachary no longer cared much about life, death, and sickness.

He was no longer as despondent as he used to be, and he was no longer anxious. Instead, he calmly let nature run its course.

Zachary, who was on the couch, calmly instructed, "Find an instructor who can guide me through the blindness. From tomorrow onward, I'll have to train myself to move around without relying on my sight. That way, I'll have the freedom of movement even if I really go blind in the future."

"Mr. Nacht." Ben's eyes were red from hearing his words, but he dared not say anything else. "I understand. I'll work on it tomorrow."

"About the appointment with Mr. Williams and Mr. Spencer, do separate their appointments. I want to meet them one by one," Zachary continued, sounding like he was talking about his last words.

"I understand." Ben nodded.

"There's something else." Zachary mulled over it for a while before saying, "Check on Danrique's status."

"Huh?" Ben was surprised.

Zachary and Danrique were archenemies. When news of Danrique's incident spread, there were rumors in the corporate world that Zachary was involved in what happened to Danrique.

Zachary did not care about it, nor did he intervene in it. Nevertheless, he knew that Danrique's trusted subordinates were investigating him in the shadows, hoping to find out if he was involved in Danrique's incident.

Zachary had not been involved. Furthermore, he had been undergoing treatment in solitary, so he never appeared in public. Therefore, no one could find any evidence of his involvement.

However, for him to abruptly look into Danrique's whereabouts might cause an uproar in the corporate world.

"Do everything to find out about Danrique's current status," Zachary ordered.

"Understood, but I have to ask... Why?"

Ben dared not disobey him, but he could not wrap his mind around why Zachary would do that.

"Have you seen how many people have added insult to injury after Lindberg Corporation went downhill?"

Leaning back on the sofa, Zachary lit a cigarette and inhaled it.

"Before anything happened to Danrique, he removed Charlotte's ties to Lindberg Corporation before making arrangement for her and the children. As far as I know, he has been a good and loyal brother to Charlotte. If he's back unharmed, then Charlotte and the kids will have someone to back them up. After all, many vultures would be eyeing the assets that they're holding."

"Mr. Nacht, what is the meaning of this?" Ben panicked. "You're still fine. Nacht Group is still all right!"

"If I die, Nacht Group will spiral into chaos," Zachary quietly said, a hint of sorrow in his tone.

Instantly, Ben's eyes welled up with tears. His lips trembled, and the words died in his throat.

"What happened to Lindberg Corporation yesterday will happen to Nacht Group in the future," Zachary added before taking in a deep breath of his cigarette and slowly huffing it out.

"If Grandpa was alive, perhaps it would have lasted a few more years. However, he is not. If I die, Nacht Group will be orphaned. Most importantly, Charlotte has not come back yet. Her current identity would not be appropriate for taking over Nacht Group."

"Why don't we..." Ben trailed off, losing all courage to say it out loud.

"All right. You can go back to your work." Zachary wanted some time alone.

"Yes, Sir." Ben hung his head and left.

"How's Mr. Nacht?" Bruce asked in a quiet voice that could not conceal his anxiety. "I came back right after receiving the message. How is he now?"

Ben then pulled him to the side and conveyed Zachary's order to him.

"Is that how serious Mr. Nacht's condition is now?" Bruce was alarmed to hear that. "He's planning for his posthumous matters?"

"Pah!" Ben spat. "B*stard, can't you say anything nicer with that mouth of yours?"

"Wait, but what you've said are..." Bruce dared not repeat himself, but he could not calm himself down. "No. Even if I turn this world upside down, I have to find where Francesco is."

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1332

"Yes, what's most important now is to find Francesco." There was still a trace of hope that Ben had leaned on. "As long as we find Francesco, Mr. Nacht will be saved."

"Indeed. Still, we have to be prepared," Bruce said. "By the way, how is Ms. Lindberg? When is she going to come back?"

"Come back?" Ben was simultaneously furious and anxious when Charlotte was mentioned. "Mr. Nacht had been so careful in making sure that she doesn't find out about his illness. Furthermore, she's cautious. Their relationship is still tense."

"Why won't they just be honest with each other? We're already at this point!" Bruce blurted out. "If anything does happen to Mr. Nacht, no one will be leading the Nacht family. When that happens, it'll be nothing but chaos!"

"I know. I'm anxious about it too." Ben sighed. "If Ms. Lindberg comes back, we'll have someone to lead us, at least. With Mr. Spencer and Mr. Sterk's support, as well as our protection, no outsiders will try to wreck chaos."

"What is Ms. Lindberg thinking? Even if she doesn't think for her sake, she has to consider the children, right?" Ben's heart lurched. "The three kids are still young. As great a man as Mr. Spencer, he is but a servant at the end of the day. He can't become the head of the family like Ms. Lindberg."

"We're just pointlessly fretting now. Let's just work on what Mr. Nacht has instructed us to do first," Ben finally said.

"I think it's time for you and Marino to do your part," Bruce said, glancing at his surroundings. "If Mr. Nacht refuses to say anything, the two of you will pretend to accidentally spill some beans. I'm sure that Ms. Lindberg will come back once she finds out about the truth."

"If Mr. Nacht finds out about it, we'll be in big trouble." Ben hesitated. "He's very nonaccepting of that idea; he hopes that Ms. Lindberg comes back to the Nacht family out of love and not pity."

"Is there any difference?" Bruce groaned. "A woman only feels bad for a man if she loves him. Why would she care about him otherwise?"

"Huh. You're right." Ben was starting to waver with his decision.

"I'm always right," Bruce huffed. "I just can't stand you all beating around the bush in a relationship. It's so annoying. If I were you, I'd just snatch the person home if I happen to fall in love with her."

At that, Ben cast Bruce a look of admiration. "I never thought you'd be that bold."

"Stop babbling and get to work."

"Got it."

The brothers then split up and began working on the task that Zachary had assigned them.

After Ben arranged a meeting with Spencer, Johann, and Rodney, he returned to his room. He hesitated, wondering if he should call Lupine and leak bits of the secret to her.

Nevertheless, Lupine called at that moment. "Let's meet."

"Now?" Ben panicked. Like Bruce had said, Ben was the most cowardly one when it came to romantic relationships.

He was nervous to hear Lupine inviting him out in the middle of the night, alone.

"Yes. Right now," Lupine demanded. "Meet me at the large tree at the back of the mountain in Northridge. I have to see you in ten minutes!"

With that said, Lupine ended the call.

Ben held the phone with shaky hands. After a moment of hesitation, he went downstairs.

"Ben, it's late. Where are you going? I can help you with it," Marino said when he entered the house and encountered Ben.

"I'm going out for a while. Stay right outside Mr. Nacht's room in case he needs anything," Ben told him.

"I don't think I'm up for the task," Marino worriedly said. "What are you going to do? Why don't I go on your behalf? Mr. Nacht is used to having you around. I don't get what he's trying to say sometimes."

"I'll be back soon."

As if someone was running after him, Ben darted out of the house before speeding off in his car.

Marino watched him leave, sensing something fishy about him. Despite that, he dared not ask too many questions as he hurried upstairs to guard Zachary's room.

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1333

"I wanted Morgan to go at first, as Marino is easier to deal with. However, I thought about it and felt that Morgan is more careless, so I've decided to send you instead," Charlotte said in a grim tone. "Ben is Zachary's trusted subordinate. If there's anything wrong with Zachary, Ben will certainly know."

"I understand." Lupine nodded. "Don't worry, Ms. Lindberg."

"Remember, you have to be sneaky about it," Charlotte reminded. "Ben is a wary man. Your first step is to attack him through the emotional route. When he's caught off guard, find out about Zachary's condition from him."

"Got it." By then, Lupine's face was a little red. "I, too, thought that something was up when they were leaving earlier. Ben was supporting Mr. Nacht carefully as if the latter was going to fall at any time."

"I know what you mean." Charlotte was fighting a rising panic, and that was why she was sending Lupine to find out more. "All right. It's almost time now. Hurry along."

"Okay." Lupine left.

in the meantime, Charlotte paced in her room. She looked at the sofa that Zachary sat on earlier before looking at the spot where the tea had been spilled. The more she ruminated about what happened earlier, the more anxious she became.

Zachary had been avoiding eye contact with her, and he had missed the things he wanted to take a few times. Clearly, there was something wrong with him.

Then, she thought about the time when she brought Robbie and Ellie to Erihal. During those two months, Zachary had not contacted the children. In the end, she had to contact Ben before Zachary called them.

Nevertheless, every call of his only lasted minutes at most.

She had sensed something amiss back then, but Ben told her that he had gone to M Nation to deal with the headquarters' matters. He had also

explained to her that there had been an assassination attempt on him on his way there and that he was injured, so Charlotte did not dwell too long on that matter.

Now that she thought about it, she could not help but wonder, Was his injury severe? Is there some long-lasting effect of it?

Her legs were wobbly with fear. Charlotte truly hoped that Lupine would be able to get some clues from Ben.

Meanwhile, at Southridge.

When Zachary heard the sound of a car starting up outside, he cried out, "Ben!"

"Sir." Marino tiptoed into the room. "Mr. Nacht, Ben has gone out. Is there anything you'd like me to do?"

"Why is he going out so late at night?" Zachary asked.

"I don't know because he didn't tell me anything. He seemed like he was in a rush, however."

Noticing the lack of lights in the room, Marino asked, "Do you want me to turn on the lights?"

Zachary knew that Marino was young, and he was not as guarded as the rest of them. Fearing that Morgan would set up a trap for Marino to gain information from him, he had sent Marino out on various tasks recently.

Therefore, Marino still did not know about how he had abruptly lost his vision earlier in the day.

"It's fine." Zachary then asked, "Ben was in a rush when he went out? Did he take anyone with him?"

"Yes, he was really in a hurry. I saw him running down the stairs, but he didn't take anyone with him."

"Call him," Zachary instructed. "Tell him that I know he went out."

"Huh?" Marino was confused—he did not know what Zachary meant—but he still did as he was told to.

Ben was already at the back of the mountain. When he stepped out of the car, he spotted Lupine walking down the slope.

She seemed to have dressed up, for she was wearing a dress. The night breeze billowed her skirt, and she looked gorgeous.

Ben's hands were cold and clammy, and he hurriedly combed his hair while looking at the rearview mirror. Right as anticipation filled his chest, the phone in his pocket rang.

He quickly picked it up. "Hey, Marino, what's up?"

"Ben, Mr. Nacht knows that you've gone out," Marino repeated what Zachary had told him.

Ben froze before squeezing out, "What did he say?"

"Nothing. He just asked me to convey this message to you."

Right as those words left Marino's mouth, he nervously turned to glance at Zachary, fearing that the latter would be mad at him.

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"All right. I understand." Ben raised his head to look at Lupine, who was getting closer and closer to him, and he snapped back to reality. "Tell Mr. Nacht that I'll be back soon."

"Oh, okay."

After ending the call, Marino cast a tentative glance at Zachary and said, "Ben said he's going to come back soon."

"Okay." Zachary then made a dismissive gesture.

With a lowered head, Marino left, closing the door behind him quietly.

In the dark, Zachary continued to smoke as he mulled over his emotions. He had instantly realized that Charlotte had asked Lupine to invite Ben out so that she could sound him out.

Ben was a smart man; he should have realized that as well.

Nevertheless, he still went.

Perhaps it was because he could not reject Lupine, or perhaps he wanted to use that way to relieve his guilt in leaking out the secret so that Charlotte could go back to the Nacht family.

Regardless of everything, by meeting Lupine, Ben was prepared to become a traitor.

Therefore, Zachary had told Marino to make the call and tell Ben that he knew he had gone to meet Lupine.

Even now, Marino still had trouble comprehending what they meant. On the other hand, Ben understood them immediately.

If Zachary knew that he had gone out in secret to meet Lupine, that meant he knew about what he and Lupine were about to do. If he were to say the wrong words, then he would no longer be able to return to the Nacht family.

That was why Ben had snapped back to reality and regained his rationality.

Lupine's little trick was bound to fail.

In terms of scheming, Charlotte could never win against Zachary.

Nevertheless, he was delighted to find out that she had done all those to figure out what was wrong with him.

That meant that she was worried about him.

"Ben!"

"Lupine!"

It was the first time the two had met in private, let alone on a dark night like that.

They could not help but feel nervous and shy.

Although Ben had been to almost everywhere with Zachary and had seen countless scenarios, it was the first date of his life.

"Are you cold?" Lupine murmured.

"I'm not." Ben then lifted his head to look at Lupine, thinking, *She's so pretty today. With a little bit of dressing up, she looks like a beautiful girl.*

However, those were the words he did not dare to let pass his teeth.

"I'm cold," Lupine grumbled.

"Oh," Ben answered dumbly. It took a second or two before he recollected his senses. "Then let's hurry into the car. It's warm inside."

Lupine was speechless. She thought he would take off his jacket and put it on her. That way, she would be able to lean into his arms and begin their intimate moment. Then, she would be able to pry the information from him.

Yet, Ben was telling her that the inside of the car was warmer.

In the meantime, without much thought into it, Ben opened the door to the front passenger seat.

Left without a choice, Lupine stepped into the car. After Ben turned on the heater and adjusted the temperature, he softly asked, "Are you still cold?"

"Not anymore." Now, Lupine did not know what she could do to make him talk. The jacket trick had been something Morgan taught her.

"H-Have you had your dinner?" Ben asked.

"Yes." Lupine rolled her eyes. *This guy's just asking a bunch of silly questions.*

"Then, can I know why you've asked me to come out?" Ben's heart raced as he gazed at her.

"Must I have a reason to invite you here?" Lupine huffed out.

"No, no," Ben denied. "I'm just worried if anything has happened to you. I hope I can help you out."

"You're finally talking," Lupine commented as her mood brightened up. In a shy voice, she muttered, "There's nothing, really. It's just that we're living close by now, and since there's nothing going on for my side, I wanted to meet you."

Ben's heart skipped a beat when he heard her words. "You're right. We've never gotten a chance to sit down and have a nice chat by ourselves."

"Now we do." Lupine then mustered her courage to look into his eyes. "If you're free, you can come and look for me."

"How could I possibly be free? I'm so busy all the time," Ben blurted out before he realized what he had said. "Still, I'll come and meet you when I have the time."

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1335

"What are you busy with?" Lupine complained. "Lindberg Corporation isn't fighting against you nowadays; Nacht Group is monopolizing the corporate world. What could you possibly be busy with?"

"It's true that everything's going fine in the company, but..."

At that point, Ben realized what Lupine was doing. If not for his wary nature, he would have let the secret slip without noticing.

"But what?"

"I'm Mr. Nacht's right-hand man. I have to do everything myself. Naturally, I won't have a lot of free time," Ben said with a smile. "Nevertheless, I can still come out here once in a while."

"Oh, all right." Lupine realized that her plan had failed, so she decided to change her strategies. "There's something in your hair."

"What?" Before Ben could react, Lupine had reached out toward the top of his head, causing him to stiffen up.

Her fingers gently combed his hair, seemingly casual but affectionately. His heart began thumping loudly.

"It's a leaf!" Lupine took out a dried leaf from his head and chuckled. "Were you at a forest? How did the leaf get into your hair?"

"Oh. Maybe it was from earlier, when I was under the tree."

Ben was so nervous to the point his face was as red as a tomato, and he was almost hyperventilating.

"By the way, did you skip dinner tonight?" Lupine took out a small bag of something from her pocket. "I made these green pea tartlets myself. Have a try."

You made these?" Ben took them and placed one in his mouth. Its sweetness reached all the way into his heart. "This is delicious!"

"I'm glad you like them. I'll get you more tomorrow." Lupine giggled. "Robbie, Jamie, Ellie, and the three other little ones like them too. The three little ones, especially. They're always pestering me to make more for them."

"Haha! The kids are adorable." Ben beamed.

"You like them too, right?" Lupine asked in a merry tone. "Ms. Lindberg was worried that Mr. Nacht wouldn't like the three little ones, but it seems like they're getting along with each other. I'm sure Ms. Lindberg will be relieved."

"Indeed. Mr. Nacht looks cold, but he's a kind man inside." Pride swelled in Ben's heart when he talked about Zachary. "The kids adore him."

"Yes. After Mr. Nacht left, I went to tuck the three little ones into bed. They even told me that they hoped Mr. Nacht would be able to tell them more stories tomorrow."

Then, with a smile, Lupine asked, "Will Mr. Nacht come tomorrow?"

"I don't think so," Ben replied before his mind truly registered the question.

"What's the matter?" They had finally reached the main topic Lupine wanted to know more about. "I noticed something off with him when you were leaving earlier. Is he sick?"

"No, no, he's fine," Ben explained. "Maybe his legs went numb when he was reading the kids bedtime stories. Moreover, it seems like he was scalded when he was chatting with Ms. Lindberg in the bedroom."

"Is that all?" Lupine wondered out loud. "It looks to me that he's feeling some discomfort in his eyes."

"Maybe something got into his eyes when he came down the stairs earlier," Ben said dismissively.

"All right." There was nothing Lupine could do when Ben refused to give her any answers.

"It's getting late. Let me send you back."

The longer they chatted, the likelier he might blurt something he should not, so it was best for him to end the date as quickly as possible.

"You're going back?" Lupine asked, disappointment evident in her voice.

"Bruce went out to work on something, and I'm not home, so I'm a little worried." Ben did not have the courage to stay out for long with Zachary's current condition. "Everyone else is careless, so I have to stay home by Zachary's side."

"Okay." Lupine then stepped out of the car. "I'll walk myself back. It's just a short path home. You should hurry home too."

"I'll leave when I see you reach the door."

Ben then turned on the car lights to illuminate her path.

His gesture warmed her heart, and she waved at him before jogging up the path.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1336

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1336

Lupine got home and reported everything about Ben to Charlotte.

Charlotte knitted her brows and responded in disbelief. "Are you sure? You mean I was wrong?"

"I don't think he lied." Lupine thought about it. "But before they left, I did feel there was something weird about Mr. Nacht..."

"Continue to monitor and test them," Charlotte ordered. "Try asking him out again tomorrow."

Lupine nodded and consoled Charlotte. "Don't worry, Ms. Lindberg. No news is good news. Perhaps there's nothing wrong with Mr. Nacht?"

"I hope so." Charlotte let out a sigh. "I'm afraid he's keeping things from me."

"You still care for him." Lupine could tell. "And I think he cares for you too. Why don't you two get back together?"

"It's easier said than done." Charlotte sighed. "Besides, there are still many obstacles that get in our way..."

"What obstacles?" Lupine was puzzled. "Since Mr. Henry is not around anymore, no one can stop the two of you from getting back together anymore."

"Whatever that has happened in the past, I can't just let them be bygones," Charlotte uttered with a bitter smile. "Our feuds may be in the past, but the pain remains."

Besides, it's not just a relationship problem but a feud between the Nachts and Linbergs. I'm in no position to say or do anything at this point. What would others think of me if I return to the Nacht family when Danrique is still missing? And what if Danrique returns?

"You're right." Lupine did not know what else to say anymore.

"It's getting late. Go and get some rest." Charlotte gently patted her shoulder.

Lupine nodded. "You too. Remember don't wet your injured hand. Call us if you need any help."

"Got it."

The room quietened down once again after Lupine had left.

Charlotte lay on the bed and could not sleep.

Everything that had happened today flashed across her mind, and she remembered how agitated Zachary was when she got injured. The way he looked her in the eyes had stirred her emotions.

Charlotte could feel the love he had for her, but she did not have the courage to start afresh with him.

Despite not being able to get back together with him, she still wanted the best for him.

Hence, she must get to the bottom of that matter.

Zachary, who also had trouble falling asleep, sat alone in the dark. The room was so quiet that the only sound in it was his breathing.

The hours gradually ticked away yet he was still wide awake.

He was afraid that he might not wake up had he fallen asleep.

It was the first time Zachary's vision was lost entirely ever since he fell ill three months ago. Though he had regained his vision, he felt his time on earth was running out.

He was worried.

Before I die, I must make all the arrangements properly. I must make sure my family, career, children, and Charlotte are all taken care of even when I'm gone!

He believed everything was under his control, but not Charlotte. He did not know what to do with her.

Just when he was deep in thoughts, Ben knocked on the door. "I'm back."

"Come in," Zachary responded.

Ben apologized and entered the room slowly. He then reported the conversation he had with Lupine to him. "It was clear that she was testing me, but I didn't say anything."

"You would have told her had I not reminded you, wouldn't you?" Zachary questioned him.

Ben lowered his head and kept mum. He dared not lie as he knew Zachary could read his mind.

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"Listen." Instead of blaming Ben, Zachary warned. "I don't want someone to love me out of sympathy. A relationship built upon sympathy is meaningless, and I don't need it!"

Ben kneeled before him on one knee and begged for his forgiveness. "I'm sorry, Mr. Nacht. Please forgive me."

"All my life as a businessman, I've been through hell, but nothing had ever taken me down. Even now I'm on the brink of death, I'm not afraid of dying, because I've lived my whole life with dignity. So please don't take the last shred of dignity away from me. You hear me?" Zachary said in a calm but sorrowful voice.

"Got it." Ben kept his head down. Tears began to well up in his eyes.

It must have taken this egoistic man a lot of courage to admit how vulnerable he was at this point. Zachary must have trusted Ben wholeheartedly to make that remark.

He hoped Ben could understand him and stop doing anything that would upset him further.

"All right." Zachary let out a deep sigh. "You may go."

"I'm so sorry..." Ben apologized in a hoarse voice and left the room.

After a final puff at his last cigarette, Zachary returned to his bed. He was a little worn out, and his back hurt. Suddenly, he recalled how weak Dr. Felch was before he passed away.

Right now, he felt just as weak and sickly.

I can't sleep. I got to stay awake!

Zachary had to remind himself to stay awake as he was afraid he would pass away in his sleep.

After fighting off sleepiness for some time, he gave in and dozed off.

In his dream, countless demons grabbed him from below as if they were trying to pull him into the abyss.

He struggled to escape but to no avail. His body was so stiff that he did not have any energy to fight back.

All of a sudden, he heard Henry's voice from afar. "Stay strong, Zachary. You cannot fall. The entire Nacht family depends on you."

All these years, he had pushed himself beyond his limits, but at this point, he could not take it anymore.

"How are you feeling? Are you tired? Come, take a break." His father's gentle voice emerged from the other side.

Zachary knew his father had never cared about power or prestige. All his father ever wanted was for him to be happy.

Yet, in reality, Zachary never had the chance to experience such love and care, as his father passed away at a young age.

Growing up, Zachary had no choice but to live up to Henry's expectations and fulfill all the responsibilities as a Nacht.

"Honey, come to Mommy. Come here..." His mother's compassionate voice emerged next.

The love and care his parents showered upon him in his dream had comforted him for a bit. How he wished he could leave everything behind and not have a care in the world.

But soon, all sorts of voices echoed in his ear. "You mustn't fall, Mr. Nacht! Divine Corporation needs you, and Nacht Group needs you! The Nacht family cannot survive without you!"

"Our livelihood depends on you, Mr. Nacht. Our lives are in your hands!"

Once again, these voices reminded him of all the responsibilities he had to shoulder.

Zachary dared not put his guard down. He had no choice but to persevere.

In his dream, he also saw the innocent smile on his children's faces. "Daddy! Daddy!"

Zachary felt much better after seeing their adorable faces and hearing their vibrant voices.

A pair of dainty hands gently tapped on his. The person then whispered in his ear, "Don't worry, I'm here with you. I'll be with you till the end of time."

Charlotte...

What Charlotte said in his dream gave him hope.

He grabbed her hands and tried to crawl up from the ground. Yet, all of a sudden, she pulled her hands away and shoved him into the abyss.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1338

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Zachary was jolted awake from the nightmare. His eyes were wide open as he had not recovered from the shock.

His mind turned blank when the dream ended, but the fear continued to haunt him even after he had woken up.

It took him a while to pull himself together. He placed his palm on his forehead, trying to regain his composure.

He looked out of the window and realized it was already the next morning.

The sky was drizzling, and he could hear car noises from a distance.

Zachary looked at the clock and noticed it was only seven in the morning. He wanted to go back to sleep, but something seemed to have triggered him, causing him to open his eyes.

He could see now.

In fact, his vision was so clear that he could see everything around him.

Unlike how weak and stiff his body was last night, he felt energetic today.

False alarm, I see...

I don't think I'll die so soon. At least not now. Thank God!

Zachary took a deep breath and got up from his bed. He must not waste any time as he had to accomplish as many plans as possible while he still could.

"Daddy, Daddy!" Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie barged into his room.

"Hey. Welcome home." Zachary bent down and extended his arms to embrace them.

While Jamie and Ellie ran up to Zachary and hugged him, Robbie observed him from a distance with knitted brows.

"It's time to go to school now." Zachary rubbed Jamie and Ellie's head. "You're half a semester behind, so you must work harder to catch up!"

"Okay, Daddy!" Jamie and Ellie responded with a nod.

Robbie remained silent. A glint of confusion continued to flash across his eyes.

"What's wrong, Robbie?" Zachary turned to him and asked. "Don't you want to go to school?"

"Don't you remember, Daddy? I'm learning much faster than what the school taught because I have a private tutor," Robbie answered softly.

Zachary reached out his hands and embraced him. "Are you not bored? You should go to school with Jamie and Ellie if you're bored."

Jamie stepped in and said, "We'll go together tomorrow. There'll be a celebration in school tomorrow, and Mommy has given us permission to bring Alpha, Beta, and Gamma with us."

"I'm so excited! I wonder if they'll like our school," Ellie chuckled. "Can they come with us, Daddy?"

"Go ahead, since Mommy has given you the green light." Zachary gave Ellie a peck on her kiss. He then turned to Robbie, "Will you join them?"

"Yes," Robbie replied. He then turned to Jamie and Ellie, "You two should better get going."

"Oh, no. We're going to be late soon!" Jamie took a glance at his watch. "Mr. Marino, prepare the car! I'll go and grab my bag now."

"Wait for me!" Ellie, too, dashed out of the room. Before leaving, she turned around, ran to Zachary, and kissed his cheeks. "Bye, Daddy! Bye Robbie!"

"Bye, Ellie." Robbie waved at her.

"Have you taken your breakfast?" Zachary asked.

"Yes, at Mommy's place..." The two little ones put on their bags and scurried to the car.

After sending Jamie and Ellie off, Zachary squatted down and rubbed Robbie's head gently. "You don't look happy. Is everything okay?"

"Are you sick, Daddy?" Robbie asked. "You couldn't see anything last night, right? You made up a story because you couldn't read the words in the book. Are you sick? Tell me now." Tears started rolling down his cheeks.

Zachary looked at Robbie and froze right there. So that's what's bothering my poor child. He doesn't deserve to go through this. He's only six years old...

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The boy had easily seen through something that none of the adults had noticed.

On top of that, he even kept it to himself and played along so that no one would discover the truth about his father's condition.

Only after everyone had left did he finally bring up his worries.

My poor boy, he must have suffered a lot.

"You silly boy." Zachary put on a relaxed front despite the stabbing pain in his chest. With a smile, he said to Robbie, "Look at me. Aren't I just fine? I can see your charming little face, and I can also see your light blue shirt and navy knitted vest. You look like a gentleman! What made you think there's something wrong with my eyes?"

"Are you really okay?" Robbie waved a hand in front of his father's face.

"I'm fine. Really."

Suppressing his heartache, Zachary took Robbie's hand and pulled the boy into an embrace.

"You're only six years old, Robbie. You should be as carefree as Jamie and Ellie are, living your life without any worries. Leave the important matters to the adults."

Robbie choked up. "I know that, but I just can't stop myself from overthinking. Sometimes, I also feel that being too smart isn't a good thing. It's like I understand everything that's happening, but there's nothing I can do."

Zachary held his son even more tightly. In truth, he used to feel the same way when he was young.

As a child, he saw through everything that happened between the adults around him.

Yet, he did not have the power to protect his loved ones.

It would have been better not knowing anything and simply growing up like every other naïve child.

Unfortunately, just like Robbie, the young Zachary could not stop worrying.

Such conflicting feelings were utterly tormenting.

"I'll protect you no matter what happens, Robbie," Zachary said gently while patting the child on the back. "You don't have to be afraid of anything as long as I'm with you. Don't worry about anything. Just grow up happily like every other kid, okay?"

Robbie wanted to agree, but he knew he could not do as asked.

"All right, lad, I have some sorting out to do. Mr. Spencer's coming over in a while. Why don't you go play in the garden?" Zachary coaxed.

"I have to deal with some matters, so I'll be in my study." Robbie gazed at him. "If something comes up, could you let me know? Maybe I can be of help."

"You've already been a great help. Have you forgotten? Divine Corporation's managed to come up with several new tech products thanks to you." Zachary stroked the boy's head.

"I meant—" Before Robbie could say anything more, a knock sounded at the door, followed by Ben's voice. "Mr. Nacht! Mr. Spencer has arrived."

"Lead him to the dining room. I'll be right there to have breakfast with him," replied Zachary.

"Yes, Sir." Ben headed downstairs.

"Well, I'll be going now." Robbie gave Zachary a hug before turning to leave.

Zachary's chest tightened as he watched his son walk away, albeit feeling assured about having a successor at the same time.

At least I know that when I'm gone one day, Nacht Group will be safe in his hands. Still, someone's going to have to call the shots before that day comes.

At that thought, Zachary grew solemn. I have to be extra prepared. If Charlotte doesn't come back, I need to keep Nacht Group alive for at least twelve more years until Robbie turns eighteen. That's still a long way to go. I'll have to lay all the foundations out before that.

Then, he quickly washed up, changed his clothes, and headed downstairs to meet Spencer.

Meanwhile, Robbie sat in front of his computer in the study, searching for Danrique's whereabouts.

He had inadvertently found out from Marino that Zachary was looking for someone named Francesco, who was Danrique's close friend. I have to find Uncle Dan first.

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1340

Spencer had been recuperating at Garden Villa ever since Henry's passing and would seldom leave the place unless Zachary summoned him.

When Zachary underwent treatment for those two months, he occasionally took charge.

Although he had no idea what happened to Zachary, he figured the latter had run into some problems.

Since Zachary's return, he had been waiting for the young man to contact him.

After receiving Ben's phone call the night before, Spencer could not sleep a wink, for he could tell that something big was about to happen. That was why he rushed over first thing the next morning.

Coincidentally, he bumped into the three children who had just come back from Northridge and chatted with them for a while. The sight of them zooming upstairs to look for their father made him smile.

Mr. Henry used to love the kids most when he was still around. It was like he saw a glimpse of hope in his life along with the Nacht family's future whenever he met them.

Soon after, he quickly comforted himself. No, stop thinking such thoughts. Mr. Zachary's just fine, and so are the Nachts. Everything's perfectly fine.

"Mr. Spencer," greeted Zachary as he walked downstairs in a set of comfortable loungewear.

"Mr. Zachary," Spencer responded, rising to his feet. However, when he noticed how thin the man had become, he furrowed his brows. "It's only been about two months since we last met; what happened to you?"

"My diet plan was a success," Zachary joked.

Spencer could not bring himself to laugh, raising the corner of his lips ever so slightly. "I just met the children. They've grown up so much. Such adorable little ones."

"Indeed. They grow up so fast."

As soon as Zachary took his seat, Hanna summoned the housemaids to serve breakfast.

Spencer stared at him intently. "I met Johann a few days ago. He told me you'd been back at work for the past two weeks. How are you? Are you feeling well?"

"I should be asking you that instead." Zachary smiled faintly. "You're not young anymore, so you should take extra care of your health."

"I'm doing pretty swell since I've been recuperating for a long time. My leg's gotten much better now." Spencer chuckled. "You, on the other hand, have lost quite a lot of weight."

Zachary did not respond and drank his coffee in silence.

Just then, Hanna and the maids returned with breakfast. "Let's eat, Mr. Spencer. We'll have a talk in the study later," he proposed.

"All right." Spencer's expression turned grim, and he had lost all his appetite.

The two shared a simple breakfast before heading to the study. By then, Hanna had already prepared them some tea and fruits. At the sight of their arrival, she excused herself and left.

Ben wheeled Spencer into the room and stood next to him.

A stack of papers was placed on the coffee table. Passing them to Spencer, Zachary said, "Have a look at these."

"What are these?" Spencer took the documents. Then, his eyes widened in shock as he glanced at them. "What is the meaning of this, Mr. Zachary?"

"I've spoken to your doctor. You're in great health, and you'll live to see another decade as long as nothing major happens to you."

Zachary took a sip of his coffee before continuing, "That's why I've gotten Mr. Williams to draw up a will for me. In the event that something happens to me, you will have the guardianship of my three children. I want you to look after them well."

"Mr. Zachary..." Spencer panicked, his hands beginning to tremble. "What on earth is happening? Don't scare me like this."

"Nothing," Zachary answered with a faint smile, feigning nonchalance. "This is just a backup plan."

"A backup plan? What for?" Spencer demanded agitatedly. "You're still so young, and Nacht Group's fate rests on your shoulders! You can't go yet..."

While speaking, the older man's breathing grew erratic, and Ben quickly served him his medication.

"What the hell is going on here?" Not daring to lose his temper at Zachary, Spencer proceeded to slap Ben on the back of his head. "You'd better explain everything to me loud and clear."

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1341

Ben pouted aggrievedly, not daring to utter a word.

"Don't take it out on him," Zachary said calmly. "The truth is I've been struck with an incurable disease, and I don't know how much longer I'll live. That's why I drafted this will—just in case anything happens."

"What?" Flabbergasted, Spencer fell into a daze and snapped back to reality after a long while. "What incurable disease? Are you joking around, Mr. Zachary? D-D-Don't do this to a geezer like me. I won't be able to take it at this age."

"I'm not joking," Zachary answered coolly. "Do you remember Cynthia Blackwood?"

"You're talking about Taylor Blackwood's eldest daughter, right? Yes, I do remember her. But why are you bringing her up now?" Spencer replied anxiously.

"After I exposed her tricks in front of Grandpa back then, she threw some poison at Charlotte, but I took the bullet instead."

Zachary recounted the previous incident calmly and sighed.

"She shot me a vicious look before being taken away by the cops, signing that I would join her soon. I thought nothing of it at first, and it was only later that I realized what she had meant. I never expected the poison to be so deadly that I'd fall sick from it just by getting some in my eyes."

"How could this have happened? That horrible woman!" Spencer shook with rage. "Have you talked to Dr. Felch? He's an expert in toxins, isn't he? If he could cure both Charlotte and Ellie, surely he'd be able to help you too—"

"It's too late," Zachary cut him off. "Dr. Felch has passed away."

Spencer froze in astonishment. "He's gone? When did that happen?"

"Just a few days ago. Charlotte and I sent him off after taking care of everything necessary," Zachary answered flatly. "That's why there's no one who can cure me anymore."

"How is that possible..." Spencer refused to accept the truth. "No, there has to be another way."

"There's a guy called Francesco, who used to be Dr. Felch's apprentice. We've been searching for him all this while, but we haven't got a clue about his whereabouts," Ben chimed in.

"Don't ever give up as long as there's hope," insisted Spencer. "I know Francesco. He's a close friend of Danrique Lindberg. You'll be able to find him if you find Danrique."

"We've been looking for him too, but he's also currently missing," Ben responded softly.

"How useless could you be? You can't even locate a guy!" Spencer was so infuriated that he hit Ben with his crutch. "I trained both you and Bruce, and this is all you're capable of?"

"I'm sorry, Mr. Spencer."

Ben looked down in shame.

Indeed, he felt extremely remorseful after being reprimanded by Spencer, and he despised himself for not being able to find Francesco.

All their problems would have been solved long ago otherwise.

Spencer glared at Ben before turning to Zachary. "By the way, were you receiving treatment during your two-month disappearance? Did Dr. Felch not come up with any way to cure you?"

"Dr. Felch had followed Ms. Lindberg to Erihal at that time, so we had another medical team assist us—" Ben blurted out.

"Shut your mouth!" Zachary cut him off with a glare. "You've grown some guts, haven't you? How dare you interrupt me while I'm talking to Mr. Spencer?"

"I'm terribly sorry." Ben hastily backed away, afraid to say anything more.

"You should've gotten Dr. Felch to help you back then! Why didn't you?" Spencer demanded frantically. "Does Charlotte know you've been poisoned?"

"She doesn't." Zachary hastened to explain, "Ellie was also poisoned back then and needed Dr. Felch. There's no way I'd have gotten him to treat me instead of them."

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1342

"But you could've all received treatment together! They shouldn't have gone to Erihal. The three of you should have stayed behind so that none of you would miss out on Dr. Felch's treatment!"

"Dr. Felch was old; he wouldn't have been able to manage. He collapsed right after treating Charlotte and Ellie. If he had to treat me too, none of us would have made it."

"But—"

"That's enough, Mr. Spencer," Zachary interjected. "It's too late now. There's no point bringing up the past."

"All right." Spencer lowered his head, choosing not to say any more despite feeling slightly resentful toward Charlotte.

The older man refused to believe that the doctor would be unable to cure one more person and secretly blamed Charlotte for Zachary's current predicament.

"I called you over because I want to leave the Nacht family in your hands," Zachary said gravely. "Ben and Bruce have stayed by my side for many years, but they still have a long way to go compared to you. You have the ability to take the helm here. The only problem is that you may seem less convincing because of your identity, so I'll find a way to change that."

"I understand." Spencer no longer opposed to his decision. "I'll do everything in my power to carry out your will and protect the Nacht family for as long as I live."

"That's what I like to hear." Zachary felt especially relieved. "Take care of your health, and please do not fall until the kids have grown," he exhorted.

"Okay." Spencer nodded, his eyes reddening slightly.

"You can leave now. I'll be meeting Johann soon." The corner of Zachary's lips quirked into a smile. "Take good care of yourself. I'll talk to you again when I've made all the necessary arrangements."

"Got it." Spencer gazed at the younger man before him. He wanted to say something more but ultimately stopped himself.

"See Mr. Spencer off," Zachary instructed Ben.

"Yes, Sir." With that, Ben wheeled Spencer away.

"Bring me for a stroll at the courtyard since Johann has yet to arrive. Mr. Henry used to love sitting in there." Spencer could not help but lament as he stared at the familiar-looking garden.

"Sure, but it's raining now. Give me a moment while I get someone to pass us an umbrella."

Moments later, Ben wheeled Spencer into the garden while holding a large, black umbrella.

The garden was well maintained by the gardener and looked exceptionally beautiful, but Spencer simply did not have the heart to enjoy the view. "Tell me the truth. Is Mr. Zachary's illness that serious?" he asked solemnly.

"It's been about three months since we discovered the problem. Before this, he would experience blurred vision and dizziness from time to time, but last night, he completely lost his sense of sight for a few hours. According to the doctor, it's because the poison has reached the brain and affected his sensory nerves."

After elaborating, Ben added sorrowfully, "We held onto the last sliver of hope when we went to see Dr. Felch. He was already barely hanging on back then, but he never forgot about Mr. Zachary's illness and even went on to write a prescription during his last moments. Unfortunately, he couldn't make it. However, before taking his last breath, Dr. Felch told us that his apprentice, Francesco, would be able to understand the unfinished prescription and cure Mr. Zachary. That's why we've been doing whatever we can to find Francesco, but there's still no news on his whereabouts."

"I'll think of something too." A frown creased Spencer's forehead. "We can't give up as long as we have a chance, no matter how slim it is."

"That's right." Ben nodded. "We've never given up and have been trying our best to find a cure."

"Mr. Zachary is all the family has now. If he were to collapse, it would be the end of the Nacht household's century-long legacy..."

Spencer's eyes watered as he spoke. "I promised Mr. Henry to watch over Mr. Zachary. How am I going to face Mr. Henry if anything were to happen to his grandson?"

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1343

Ben looked down despondently, unsure of what else to say.

Suddenly, the roaring sounds of a car engine could be heard from outside. Ben glanced behind and quickly recollected himself. "Mr. Sterk's here. I'll escort you to your vehicle now."

Spencer nodded. "It's fine. You may go ahead. I'll get my men to help me."

Since Henry's passing, all the bodyguards and maids responsible for serving him were ordered to take care of Spencer.

However, Spencer had half of them sent over to Zachary, leaving only a few employees by his side.

He believed that an old servant like him did not require the care of so many people.

Even so, Zachary respected him greatly and ensured that he was given the same amount of care Henry used to receive.

At present, Ben left Spencer in Kyle's hands, watched them leave, and then went to receive Johann.

When Johann got out of the car and caught sight of Spencer's car, he grew unsettled. Tugging at Ben's sleeve, he asked in a low voice, "Why did Mr. Nacht call me over? Did something big happen?"

All these years, Zachary would meet him at the company or anywhere else outside, regardless of how grave the issue was.

Given that it was his first time being invited to the Nacht residence, he could not help but fear the worst.

"You'll find out when you meet him," Ben answered respectfully. "This way, please."

Hanna had brought over a fresh pot of tea by the time Johann arrived at the study with Ben.

Zachary sat cross-legged on the couch, gazing at the document in his hand. Upon hearing the sounds of footsteps, he looked up and smiled. "Welcome, Mr. Sterk."

"What's the occasion today, Mr. Nacht? Why did you suddenly call me over to your home?"

Johann felt sick with apprehension.

"Have a seat." Zachary gestured toward the couch.

As Johann sat across from him, Hanna placed the teapot at the coffee table before leaving the room.

Johann was about to pick up the teapot when he noticed the document on the table, and it intensified the restlessness gnawing at him.

"This is for you." Zachary handed the document over to him. "Have a look at it."

Johann's hands that were reaching out to pour himself a cup of tea froze at once. After putting his reading glasses on, he read through the document. "What is this, Mr. Nacht? What are you doing, drafting a will at such a young age and asking me to take over your position as the head of Divine Corporation?" he exclaimed in shock.

"Go through it carefully." Zachary reminded him with a smile. "It says that you'll be taking my place if anything happens to me. As for the headquarters in M Nation, Spencer will remain in charge, whereas you will assist him."

"What on earth is going on?" Johann was in a frenzy of anxiety. "Nacht Group has been growing steadily, and you're at the height of your career! Why did you draw up a will all of a sudden?"

"I'm doing it just in case." Zachary had no intention of telling him the truth. "Life is full of surprises. No one knows what might happen tomorrow, right?"

"But—"

“Read the document carefully and tell me what you think,” Zachary cut him off. “If you have any objections, I’ll get my lawyer to amend it. If you accept the terms, then it’s all settled.”

“I...”

Seized by fear, Johann could not sit still. He had a clear feeling that something must have happened to Zachary, but he also knew that there was no point in inquiring. If the latter wanted to tell him the truth, he would have done so.

He and Spencer were different. Spencer had lived with the Nachts all his life and was a close acquaintance of Zachary despite being a servant, whereas Johann’s relationship with Zachary was solely professional.

Thus, Johann was aware that there were some things Spencer could know, but not him.

“All right. I’ll go through it.”

Casting his doubts aside, he proceeded to take a proper look at the document.

As he did so, a subordinate brought the said lawyer into the room, who greeted him and Zachary before taking note of anything Johann wanted to amend in the will.

Zachary drank his tea, patiently waiting for Johann.

A while later, Johann spoke grimly. “I’ve gone through everything. I don’t have an issue with anything mentioned in the document; it’s just that the terms seem to favor me a little too much. I’ve only been around for ten years, but you’re planning on giving me ten percent of the company’s shares. You don’t have to, honestly. I’d do my best to safeguard Divine Corporation even without these shares.”

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Johann took out a pen and crossed out the clause related to his receipt of the shares. “Please remove this clause, or I won’t accept your terms,” he declared earnestly.

“Safeguarding Divine Corporation is no easy feat,” Zachary responded seriously. “The company’s operating steadily with me around now, so it’d be easy for you to take my place. But this will only come into effect when I’m gone, and that’s also when Nacht Group will be thrown into unrest. You’ll face great challenges ahead, and your life might even be in danger. That’s why giving you ten percent of the shares really isn’t that big of a deal.”

“But does giving me these shares mean I won’t have to deal with all the challenges coming my way?” Johann asked in return. “Whatever happens will eventually happen, and no amount of shares you give me is going to change that. My two daughters have gotten married and are currently living abroad. They’re doing well and don’t need my money anymore, so I wouldn’t know what to do with the shares anyway. In fact, more people might have their eyes on me because of these shares, which would only put my life in greater danger. Let an old man like me live for a few years longer, will you?”

Zachary wavered slightly upon hearing that. He could not really find a way to insist, given the way Johann was rejecting the shares.

Divine Corporation had powered through trials and tribulations of all sorts for the past years. While some people had grown to be part of the company, others had left—all except for Johann. Even though the two men were constantly getting into squabbles with each other, Johann was always around when it came to the crunch.

“Thank you.”

That was the only way Zachary could express his gratitude.

“No, I should thank you for contributing so much to modern technology,” Johann remarked. “Ordinary people like me have no way of popularizing tech products through commerce, but you used your own abilities and market power to allow an old man like me to do my part.”

“It’s all thanks to our combined effort.” Zachary smiled. “If you don’t want the shares, tell me what you want. I’ll do whatever I can to fulfill your request.”

“There’s nothing I want at the moment, but I won’t hold back when I’ve thought of something.” Johann stood up. “Well, if that’s all, I’ll be leaving now. We have a new product to test, and I have to be there.”

“Go ahead.” Zachary nodded and turned to Ben. “See Mr. Sterk off.”

“Yes, Sir. This way, Mr. Sterk.”

As Johann got up and walked toward the door, he suddenly remembered something and turned to Zachary. "By the way, Mr. Nacht, I'd like to meet Robbie in private if that's okay with you. I think he's very gifted, and I'd love to discuss some tech-related matters with him."

"Actually, he's home right now. I'll leave it to you, Ben."

Zachary was more than happy to let Johann meet Robbie. After all, having him guide the boy personally was nothing but good news.

"Yes, Sir." Ben immediately led Johann to Robbie.

Meanwhile, the lawyer, Rodney Williams, showed Zachary an updated electronic version of the will. "Have a look at it, Mr. Nacht. Is there anything else that requires amending?"

Zachary glanced at the screen. "Leave it as it is for now. Also, I want you to draw up a supplementary agreement that no one else apart from you and me should know about."

"Understood."

"This will be the contents of the agreement: In the event of my death, all of my properties shall be divided equally between Charlotte Lindberg and my three children."

Rodney jotted down everything Zachary had described.

Meanwhile, Robbie was in the midst of working on his latest invention when Johann showed up. The boy immediately stood up to greet the man, and the two began to converse.

With Hanna watching over the child, Ben headed downstairs to return to Zachary.

Suddenly, a subordinate came rushing up to him. "Ben, someone named Ms. Gold is here, and she's requesting to meet Mr. Nacht."

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“Uh...” Ben spaced out for a moment. “Nancy Gold?”

“Yes, that’s her name.”

The subordinate had remained in the villa long-term, so he did not know Nancy.

“Give me a moment. I’ll go talk to Mr. Nacht.”

“Okay.”

Ben hurriedly made his way to Zachary’s study.

By then, Rodney had finished drafting the new supplementary agreement and was letting Zachary go through it.

“Mr. Nacht, Ms. Gold is here,” Ben reported. “She’s waiting outside in the courtyard.

“How did she find this place?” Zachary frowned.

“I don’t know,” Ben answered awkwardly. “But I guess your residence isn’t that big of a secret to those in the corporate world. They’d be able to find you if they tried hard enough.”

Zachary fell silent for a few seconds before instructing, “Tell her to have a seat in the garden. I’ll be right there.”

“Yes, Sir.” Ben quickly did as told.

After checking the agreement and leaving Rodney a few more words, Zachary changed his clothes and headed to the garden’s dining area.

Nancy sat on the chair elegantly, her eyes downcast as if she was deep in thought.

“Ms. Gold,” Zachary greeted as he walked over, and the woman jumped to her feet in response. “Mr. Nacht! I’m terribly sorry for bothering you.”

"How did you know where I live?" he asked with a smile.

"I-I found out from other people," Nancy answered, feeling slightly abashed. "I'm sorry. I know it's not right, but I..."

Unable to continue her sentence, she bit her lip in embarrassment.

Zachary understood what she meant. They were getting along well during their meeting back then—until Louis showed up and ruined everything. After that, he stopped replying to her texts or picking up her calls.

That was why she could not wait any longer and came over.

"I do feel bad about our past two meetups being cut off short, so let me treat you to a meal today. You can decide where to go," Zachary offered gracefully.

"Really?" Nancy was elated. "How about right here at your place?" she asked hesitantly.

"We have guests here, and the kids are around, so it's not too convenient right now." Zachary rejected her straight out. "You like the sea, don't you? Let's head there instead."

"Sure thing." Nancy nodded fervently. Even if Zachary had denied her request to dine at his place, the fact that he was willing to take her out to the sea meant she would have plenty of alone time with him.

Turning around, Zachary ordered, "Ben, go and make the arrangements."

"Understood, Sir." Ben went off at once.

"Let's go."

After informing Hanna of his activities, Zachary entered the car with Nancy.

Robbie furrowed his brows as he caught sight of them through his window from upstairs. "Who is that woman?" he asked the maid next to him.

"She seems to be a friend of Mr. Nacht," the maid answered.

It only took Johann one glance to recognize the woman. "That's Ms. Gold from Koandria. She's the young female vice-president of Rockenan Group. In the past two years, she has grown quite popular in the corporate world."

“Oh.” Robbie said nothing more.

“Don’t worry about the affairs of grown-ups,” Johann remarked with a smile. “Come, let’s continue where we left off.”

“Okay.” Robbie put his thoughts aside and resumed his discussion with Johann on his latest invention.

Meanwhile, Zachary’s car headed straight down the mountain in the direction of the South Sea.

Inside the vehicle, the jovial Nancy talked about some light topics with Zachary.

The man would respond briefly from time to time—until they got to the subject of the Gymnasium Project in Pillere. “I’m guessing Sir Robert’s approached you within the past two days?” he asked.

“He has.” She nodded. “The terms were extremely favorable, and he was hoping I’d invest in it. But I turned him down.”

“Huh? Why?” Zachary was slightly taken aback.

“If it were just a matter of usual business rivalries, I certainly wouldn’t have passed up the offer,” Nancy answered candidly. “But this has something to do with Ms. Lindberg. She’s your wife, and I don’t want to cause you any trouble because of that.”

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“Well, it’s not like it’d be that much of a trouble...” Zachary felt a little guilty. “But still, thank you.”

“Not at all. This is just a matter of my own principles. It has nothing to do with you.” Nancy smiled. “Besides, you’ve never mentioned it to me. I just didn’t want to be entangled with it.”

“I see,” he replied.

"Mr. Nacht, the truth is, I came over today to—"

A white car drove by them before Nancy could even finish her sentence.

Zachary instinctively glanced in its direction. That's Louis' white Bentley!

"Turn the car around!" he immediately ordered with furrowed brows.

"Yes, Sir." The subordinate quickly made a U-turn.

Nancy stilled for a moment before asking, "Did you leave something behind, Mr. Nacht?" Astonishment was evident in her voice.

"Sorry, but I don't think I'll be able to treat you to a meal today." Still frowning, Zachary said, "I'll drop you off at the road ahead. Let's take a rain check."

"But..." The woman wanted to say something but held her tongue at the last moment. Trying to be understanding, she replied, "It's all right; I understand. Take care of your matters. Remember to contact me when you're done."

"Okay," Zachary replied regretfully, "I'll call you."

"Sure thing." Nancy smiled warmly. She always handled her emotions well, no matter the situation.

As the car stopped in front, she got off and entered her own vehicle parked by the roadside.

Zachary's car headed back to the mountain in Northridge's direction.

As Nancy stood at the side of the road and watched the man's vehicle speed away, a look of disappointment slowly replaced the smile on her face.

That was the third time her date with Zachary was interjected midway.

And every single time, it was because of Charlotte.

"I think that was Sir Louis' car," said her subordinate. "Apparently, Ms. Lindberg lives in Northridge. Mr. Nacht probably went back after seeing that Sir Louis was about to meet her."

"I know that."

Nancy's face darkened, and she could no longer conceal the grimness in her eyes.

"Then..." The subordinate glanced at her cautiously.

"We'll wait right here for Sir Louis to head down," she commanded as she got into the car.

"Yes, Ma'am."

When Charlotte awoke in the morning, her hand continued to ache terribly. With Lupine's help, she freshened up and got dressed before heading downstairs together for breakfast.

The house was silent as Morgan had taken the three children down the mountain to play. For some reason, Charlotte could not get used to it.

"You should drink less coffee, Ms. Lindberg. It's not good for your stomach." Lupine reminded kindly.

"I'm sluggish now because I didn't sleep well last night." Charlotte rubbed her temples. "I need an energy boost since I have to deal with a matter today."

"A matter? What matter?"

Lupine was rather surprised as there was not much else for them to do apart from looking after the kids.

"Even if you don't go looking for trouble actively, trouble will find its way to your doorstep."

Charlotte stared at her phone. She had received a missed call from Robert early in the morning but had yet to return his call. Therefore, she had a feeling that he would soon show up at her doorstep.

"What trouble—"

"Ms. Lindberg, Sir Robert has arrived," a female bodyguard hastily announced before Lupine could inquire further.

"How many men did he bring with him?" asked Charlotte.

"Three subordinates. Sir Louis isn't with them."

"Let them in."

Charlotte put her cutlery down and shot Lupine a look.

With that, the latter immediately gathered some forces and placed them on alert.

Robert had completely burned his bridges when he ordered his men to capture Charlotte right after she left.

Since he had the audacity to appear before her again, Charlotte certainly had to have her guard up.

The entrance to the courtyard opened, and the white Bentley made its way in.

Lupine brought a group of people to welcome them. The car doors opened, and Robert alighted with three subordinates. "Charlotte! It sure took me a while to find this place," he said, wearing a gentle smile on his face.

"Long time no see, Sir Robert!" Charlotte remained seated on the couch in the living hall and gazed at the man frostily. "I didn't think you'd spend so much time finding your way here. To what do I owe the pleasure?"

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"Can't I drop by to see you as your elder?"

Sweeping his gaze across his surroundings, Robert evidently relaxed when he noticed there were hardly any bodyguards around. "Are the kids not home? No wonder your place seems so much quieter."

He knew how much the children's safety mattered to Charlotte. The woman would always have a large group of bodyguards accompanying the children whenever they head out.

At that moment, only three bodyguards remained in the villa.

"You can stop looking around now." Charlotte saw right through him. "Even just three of them are more than enough."

Robert cleared his throat and smiled sheepishly. "There's no need to be so hostile! I came here to discuss the project, not start a fight."

"Your memory seems to be rather lacking," she commented with a smirk. "Was it not you who ordered those men to capture me just a while ago?"

"I was merely inviting you back to our manor. Louis can't bear to lose you," he declared brazenly. "You're the paranoid one for assuming that they were going to hurt you."

Charlotte sneered. What a pretentious old fart.

"Well? Are you not going to invite me in?" Robert cocked an eyebrow.

"Of course I am. This way, please," she replied, making a gesture.

As Robert walked in, Lupine stood in his subordinates' way.

The haughty men were about to force their way in when Robert shot them a glance. With that, they retreated and waited outside the door.

Two female bodyguards kept their eyes on them, whereas Lupine watched over Charlotte inside the building.

Unbeknownst to Robert, there were two other bodyguards on the alert upstairs.

"Come on, now, Charlotte. There's no need to be so antagonistic toward an elder, is there?" Robert began to play nice as soon as he sat down. "Danrique and I are such good friends, after all!"

"Save it." Charlotte was not having any of his nonsense. "If you have something to say, get to the point."

"All right." He nodded with his lips curled. "In that case, I'll stop beating around the bush."

Then, he placed a document on the table. "Once you sign this, we won't owe each other anything, nor will we have anything to do with one another ever again."

The woman took the document and glanced at it before scoffing. "How bold of you to ask me to back out of the project just like this? What about my twenty billion worth of investment? Is that free money for you?"

"The fact that you could even invest in the project in the first place was thanks to Louis' arrangements in private, anyway, and you've benefitted

from it too,” Robert said matter-of-factly. “Besides, it was your fault that the wedding was canceled, and this has caused irreparable damages to the Laurent family as well as Louis’ mental wellbeing. Twenty billion isn’t too much to ask for, don’t you think?”

Lupine fumed as she listened to his words. If Morgan were around, she would have cursed at the man out loud for being shameless.

“Ha!” Charlotte scoffed. “First of all, I have never gained anything out of the project. Secondly, I believe I’m not the only one responsible for the cancelation of the wedding. Have you forgotten all the nasty things Lady Sherlyn and Diana did? In fact, you should instead be thanking me for saving your reputation by keeping all these incidents a secret.”

“Diana was the one behind all those schemes. What does my wife have to do with them?” Robert denied that Sherlyn masterminded the whole matter. “And what do you mean by that? Are you threatening me?”

“I was hoping we could part amicably, but you’re the one harboring malicious intents. Don’t blame me for treating you in the same manner then.” Charlotte cocked an eyebrow and retorted. “If you want me to back out of the project, sure, I can do that. But only if you return my investment to me. Otherwise, please leave!”

“I’m surprised at the dire state Lindberg Corporation is now in,” Robert commented mockingly. “To think that you’re even fighting over a mere twenty billion. I suppose Mr. Lindberg is at his wits’ end now!”

“It doesn’t matter if it’s twenty billion or just twenty. What’s mine will always be mine, and no one gets to take it away from me.” Charlotte gritted her teeth. “Also, my brother will be back. Just you wait!”

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Hearing that, Robert could not help but tense up slightly.

Is there a new lead on Danrique’s whereabouts? No, that can’t be. The Lindbergs are declining now. He’s rumored to have died in an explosion while out at sea, so there’s no way he’ll come back!

At the thought of that, he continued to threaten Charlotte, "We'll talk about that when he actually comes back. But for now, you'd better sign this contract, or else..."

"Or else what?" the woman barked, raising an eyebrow haughtily.

"You're all alone now. I can do whatever I want to you, and I don't even need to do it myself." Robert sneered. "Do you really think a few female bodyguards will be able to protect you?"

"You..."

"They can't, but I can."

Suddenly, a cold, dignified voice came from outside. Robert froze momentarily before turning his head, only to see Zachary striding into the house with a frosty expression on his face.

"Zachary..."

The older man turned ghastly pale in an instant. He had gone looking for the other shareholders after parting with Divine Corporation on bad terms, but no one else had dared to budge without Zachary's permission.

That was why he had to resort to coercing Charlotte instead.

Robert had assumed that Charlotte would give up her investment sum out of desperation to protect herself, but he did not expect her to be this strong-willed.

Just as he was about to make things even more difficult for her, Zachary decided to show up.

"What are you doing here?"

Charlotte was just as astonished to see Zachary. She had felt conflicted upon receiving word early this morning that Nancy was headed to Southridge. Nancy was so brilliant and proactive that it was only a matter of time until Zachary fell for her—or so she thought.

Yet, here he was instead.

"I was heading down the mountain when I saw Sir Robert's car, so I decided to join in on the fun."

Zachary sat next to Charlotte, picked up that document, and sneered upon browsing through it.

"Which lawyer did you hire to draw up such an outrageous contract, Sir Robert? You went ahead and acted on your own without my approval. This is against the rules, you know?"

"Let's talk about this in private, Zachary." Robert's eyebrows were deeply furrowed.

"Haven't we already done that yesterday? Don't you remember what I told you? I guess you still haven't managed to comprehend my words."

Zachary had implied that Charlotte was someone that even he dared not cross, so he hoped that Robert would be a little more sincere and call a truce with her.

Yet, the older man had done the complete opposite and threatened Charlotte instead.

This made Zachary boil with rage.

"I—"

Refusing to listen to Robert's nonsense, he interjected, "That's enough. I wanted to give you a chance and let you settle this on your own, but clearly, you don't respect my opinions at all. In that case, I'll take care of things here on your behalf."

"Zachary, w-what are you talking about?" Robert asked in bewilderment. "What do you intend to do?"

"I'm going to call upon all the other shareholders and hold a meeting three days later. You'll get your answer by then." Zachary tossed the document into the older man's arms. "But for now, I want you to take this contract with you and leave!"

"Zachary—"

"Send him off!" Without even giving him a chance to speak, Zachary chased him out.

"Yes, Sir!" Lupine and Ben immediately walked over and stood on each side of Robert. "This way, Sir Robert."

Livid, Robert flushed. However, he dared not act rashly and held onto the contract before leaving grudgingly with his men.

Only after Robert's car had left the courtyard did Charlotte retract her gaze to look at Zachary. "Thank you," she said, her eyes filled with unfathomable emotions.

"Leave this to me." Zachary glanced at her before turning to Ben. "Get some people to guard this place. No outsider is allowed to come near without my permission."

"Yes, Sir." Ben quickly did as instructed.

"What are you doing?" Charlotte asked in shock.

"Don't you get it?" Zachary frowned in displeasure. "He treated you like that because he thought you have no one to lean on. But with my men here, no one will dare pick a fight with you again."

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Despite the animosity in his tone, Zachary's words carried the weight of a man's responsibility and promise.

Charlotte expressed her gratitude again and was then stumped for words.

"Why are you so useless?" He glared at her. "Aren't you always acting like a tyrant whenever you're with me? Why were you being such a coward in front of him?"

His bombardment of questions stunned her. "When was I acting like a coward? I retorted him!"

"Retorted? You should've thrown that contract right in his face!" Zachary was exasperated. "Didn't you see the way he picked on you? Grow a spine, why don't you?"

Charlotte was speechless.

"You only bare your teeth at your own family, but you're a coward whenever you deal with outsiders!" the man spat out with a glare before turning to leave.

Charlotte stared at his back, unable to retaliate.

Bare my teeth at my own family? Are we even still considered family?

As that thought crossed her mind, an unusual emotion surged within her.

Upon getting into his car, Zachary ordered Ben, "Gather all the shareholders of the Gymnasium Project and have them see me in three days."

"Yes, Sir." Ben relayed his order at once.

At the same time, Zachary's phone kept ringing. Seeing that it was Robert trying to reach him, he rejected the call and blocked the latter's number.

"I've contacted all the shareholders," said Ben after hanging up his phone. "What do you intend to do, Mr. Nacht?"

"Robert has gone too far. He knows who Charlotte is to me, yet he went ahead and tried to push her around." Zachary seethed. "It's about time I teach him a lesson."

"Understood." Ben understood how protective he was of Charlotte. No matter what became of their relationship, Zachary would never let anyone pick on her.

Besides, the fact that Robert completely defied his warning and came looking for Charlotte infuriated Zachary even more.

Ben would have tried to talk his boss out of doing anything rash if it were before. However, he no longer intended to do so, considering Zachary's condition.

He can do whatever he wants. Nothing else matters as long as it makes him happy.

"It's still early. Do you want to see Ms. Gold?" Ben asked carefully.

Zachary pondered for a moment before replying flatly, "Not now."

"All right." Ben took his phone out. "I'll reply to her text, then. She was asking about you."

"Just tell her I'll meet her another day."

"Yes, Sir."

Back in the middle of the mountain, Nancy was still waiting in the car. Since Zachary would pass by this route after dealing with his affairs, she was hoping to meet him again.

Yet, after waiting for so long, all she got was Ben's text informing her that Zachary would not be heading down the mountain that day. As a result, they would not be able to meet.

Nancy felt utterly dejected. Every time she met Zachary, she would get her hopes up, only for her plans to be ruined time and time again. At that point, the usually placid woman could no longer keep a cool head.

It's about time I take action.

"They're here, Ms. Gold," her subordinate reported softly.

Nancy raised her gaze and saw the white Bentley making its way down the mountain. It was the Laurent family's car.

As expected, the fancy car came to a stop when the passenger in it caught sight of Nancy. Robert exited the vehicle with his subordinates and approached her. "Ms. Gold! What brings you here?" he asked courteously.

"If you hadn't come by, Sir Robert, I probably would've been on board Mr. Nacht's yacht by now."

Nancy spoke tactfully, but the meaning behind her words was obvious.

Robert was taken aback for a moment but quickly responded, "It looks like I've inadvertently ruined your date with Mr. Nacht. I'm truly sorry about that!"

"Did you come to see Ms. Lindberg?" Nancy asked, smiling.

"That's right," the man answered straightforwardly. "I wanted her to back out of the Gymnasium Project, but she refused. It doesn't help that Mr. Nacht's decided to interfere, so I'm in a bit of a tough spot now."

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"I'd suggest that you stop bothering Ms. Lindberg," said Nancy directly. "Although Mr. Nacht and her have separated, they are still friends. If someone bullies her, he'll definitely intervene!"

"That's weird." A puzzled look crossed Robert's face. "Mr. Nacht has an intricate relationship with Charlotte. Furthermore, he already has you, so why would he still protect Charlotte?"

"You'll have to ask Mr. Nacht about that. I'd like to know the answer too." She smiled. "I'm just reminding you kindly not to seek trouble for yourself. After all, you can't afford to offend Mr. Nacht."

"Do you have any advice?" He gazed at her broodingly.

"If I'm not mistaken, you must have hit a snag with Mr. Nacht earlier," said Nancy meaningfully. "Looking at how calm you are, it means that he has not threatened you yet. However, according to my understanding of him, he'll probably take action soon."

Robert was stunned. "Ms. Gold, are you saying that..."

"You shouldn't forcefully keep something that isn't yours. I suggest that you return the investment fund to her and act honestly. Perhaps, you might have a chance to survive."

She continued bluntly, "I know that your financial situation isn't doing well. If you rely wholly on this project to turn the tables, you'll lose everything once excluded from it."

"Are you saying that Zachary wants me out of this project?" Robert exclaimed in disbelief, "No way!"

"Why not?" Nancy sneered. "You've probably forgotten that he has never shown any mercy to his business rivals. Furthermore, your son snatched his beloved woman, and then you tried to coerce her into doing something against her wishes. Not only did you refuse to heed his warning, but you had also bullied her so openly. Don't forget who's on her side. Even if Charlotte has fallen from grace, she's still the mother of his children. By constantly testing his patience, you have already struck his raw nerve, so he'll definitely not show you any mercy."

Aghast, he thanked her hastily, "Thank you for your advice, Ms. Gold. I'll definitely repay your favor in the future!"

With that, he quickly entered the car with his subordinate. The moment the car doors slammed shut, he called his lawyer. "Return Charlotte's twenty billion investment to her immediately! Don't say anything and carry out my order right now!"

When the car moved forward, Robert even rolled down the car windows and waved at Nancy gratefully.

She inclined her head in acknowledgement.

After watching Robert's car zoom away, Nancy entered her car and headed down the mountain with her subordinate.

"I don't understand, Ms. Gold. Why did you advise him?" asked the subordinate, feeling puzzled.

"If he keeps seeking trouble with Charlotte, Mr. Nacht will keep protecting her. In that case, I'll have no chance to get closer to him," she explained calmly. "I advised him mainly because I want him to leave F Nation with his son quickly and stop interfering with my affairs. Furthermore, if I do him a favor now, it might help me in the future."

"I see." The subordinate nodded. "However, won't you be helping Charlotte indirectly too?"

"That is the third benefit." Nancy smirked. "She'll find out that I helped her soon enough. In that case, she'll owe me one."

"But even if you don't help her, Mr. Nacht will still intervene," replied the subordinate carefully. "The problem will still be solved."

"Charlotte might not agree to let Mr. Nacht help. Furthermore, even if he does take action, his harsh methods will definitely cause an outcry among the corporate world and damage Nacht Group's reputation. Neither of us wants him to do that, be it Charlotte or me."

Gazing at the villa at Southridge outside the window, Nancy raised her eyebrows. "Well, by doing this, I'm killing three birds with one stone. Charlotte will surely thank me!"

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1351

Meanwhile, Zachary was at Southridge, instructing Rodney to deal with the Gymnasium Project's shareholder contract.

Suddenly, he received a call from Charlotte.

Surprised, he immediately accepted it. "Hello?"

"Just now, Sir Robert returned me the twenty billion investment fund." There was a hint of shock and uneasiness in Charlotte's voice. "Did you do something?"

That took him by surprise. Narrowing his eyes, he asked, "When did that old man become so sensible?"

"What did you do?" Charlotte pressed. "Don't do anything that'll affect you just for my sake. Although Nacht Group's position is stable, your reputation will be damaged if you threaten him and kick him out of the project. You'll even offend the royal family of F Nation."

"Are you worried about me?" asked Zachary.

"I'm dead serious!" She panicked. "Can you be serious for once too?"

"I haven't done anything yet," he replied succinctly. "Are you satisfied now?"

"What happened, then?" Charlotte was flabbergasted.

"Perhaps, someone advised him." Zachary already had a guess. "However, you don't have to bother yourself over it. What matters now is that the problem is solved."

"Who advised him?"

"I already said that you don't have to bother about it," he insisted adamantly. "Just focus on yourself."

Slightly infuriated, she replied, "Fine, as long as it wasn't you who did it. I don't want to owe you a favor."

"You owe me plenty of favors." Zachary's anger surged when he heard that. "Even your life is mine!"

"You..." Charlotte was rendered speechless. "I can't even be bothered to speak to you!"

With that, she ended the call.

Displeased by her attitude, Zachary frowned. A second later, he lifted his gaze and instructed Ben, "Tell Mr. Williams that he doesn't need to come over anymore."

"What about the shareholders?" asked Ben.

"The plan remains the same." Zachary placed his phone down. "Even if we don't kick that old man out of the project, we must still intimidate him."

"Understood." Ben immediately went to inform Rodney.

Then, Zachary picked up his phone, searched for Nancy's number in his contacts, and dialed it. "Ms. Gold, why don't we meet at six in the evening at Seacrest Restaurant?" he asked when she answered the call.

"Sure, Mr. Nacht!" Nancy agreed happily before asking, "You won't stand me up again, right?"

"I won't." He smiled slightly. "Send me your address, and I'll pick you up."

"Okay, I'll send it to you now."

After hanging up the call, Nancy sent him her address.

As instructed by Zachary, Ben quickly made the arrangements and asked, "Ms. Gold was the one who advised Sir Robert, right?"

"Even you guessed it?" Zachary smirked. "She's a smart woman."

"Impressively, her cleverness isn't annoying," Ben said softly. "By advising Sir Robert, she managed to make him return Ms. Lindberg's funds in time while making it unnecessary for you to intervene. That's killing two birds with one stone."

"What's her objective in doing this?" Zachary was analyzing the situation. "Does she want both me and Charlotte to owe her a favor?"

"There's probably one more reason," suggested Ben. "Because of Ms. Lindberg, you've already stood her up thrice. Furthermore, it's always Sir Louis and Sir Robert troubling Ms. Lindberg. By doing this, she can put an end to it."

"Indeed. She has put in a lot of thought into this," replied Zachary flatly.

"Ms. Gold really likes you," Ben remarked while observing his expression. "Do you..."

Zachary nodded. "She's a nice woman, astute but bears good intentions. Moreover, she's very thorough with whatever she does too. It's almost impossible to hate her. Well, we can be friends."

"Then..."

"I should still clarify it with her so that I won't waste her time." Zachary placed his phone down and massaged his temples tiredly. "I'm going to rest now. Remember to plan tonight's meeting well."

"Understood."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1352

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1352

Recently, it had been extremely easy for Zachary to feel lethargic. Although he had just woken up in the morning, he wanted to take a rest again.

Noticing how his health had been deteriorating, Ben could not help but feel concerned. If we still can't find Francesco, I'm afraid that...

At that thought, he was ridden with worry. After making the rest of the arrangements for Zachary and Nancy's meeting in the evening, he was thinking of calling Bruce when Lupine's call came in.

As she had asked to meet him, he had no choice but to delay the call.

Due to the lesson from last time, Ben became much warier and kept reminding himself not to let her pry out information from him.

Meanwhile, before Lupine left, Charlotte exhorted her repeatedly, "Remember what I said! You must dig out the truth from Ben."

"Understood." Lupine nodded.

"Go on, then." Charlotte gestured for her to leave, and she hurried out.

Ever since Charlotte discovered by chance that Zachary would lose his sight intermittently, she had suspected that something was wrong with his health. Although she had sent Lupine to investigate it, she did not find anything.

When she met Zachary earlier that day, she thought he looked rather pallid. Even his eyes seemed clouded. At that observation, worry gnawed at her.

Hence, she instructed Lupine to ask Ben out and fish for some clues.

Although Lupine was brilliant, she could not compare to Ben. With that in mind, Charlotte taught her a method and told her to act as instructed.

Ben and Lupine arrived at the agreed-upon meeting place simultaneously.

After getting into his car, she passed him an apple.

"Thank you!" Delighted, Ben took a bite of it.

Seeing how happy he looked, Lupine felt conflicted. Although he seemed like a capable man, he was actually easily coaxed. She promised to bring him some homemade food but only got him an apple as she did not have the time to cook. Yet, he was still contented with it.

"Thank you for today," said Lupine. "Sir Robert is simply too much. We were already prepared to take action, but we didn't expect Mr. Nacht to rush over and solve the problem."

"Although their relationship is very tense now, Mr. Nacht still cares about Ms. Lindberg deeply. He won't ignore her if she's in trouble," said Ben seriously. "If anything happens in the future, you must inform me in time. If we hadn't spotted Sir Robert's car while descending the mountain, things would have been messy."

"Ms. Lindberg doesn't want to be indebted to Mr. Nacht." She sighed. "I think that they care about each other deeply too. It's really pointless for their relationship to remain like this."

"I understand where Ms. Lindberg is coming from, though. After all, the Nacht family has harmed her greatly in the past. Family grudges can't be forgotten so easily."

He added, "However, from another perspective, she should put the past behind her now that Mr. Henry is dead, and Zara and the Blackwoods have fallen from grace. Furthermore, since Mr. Lindberg is missing now, the two families should join forces and work together."

"That's what I think too. It's just that Ms. Lindberg has too many concerns. Perhaps, they just need more time. Let's take it slow," she remarked woefully.

"We can't take it any slower," Ben blurted out. "Time won't wait for us."

"What?" Lupine shot him a puzzled glance.

He explained hastily, "Oh, I mean that the children are growing up, and they need their parents' love. Plus, Lindberg Corporation is in a crisis now, and Ms. Lindberg needs Mr. Nacht's help. We should think of a way to reconcile them."

"You're right. That's what I had in mind, too," she concurred.

"Great!" Ben was delighted. If Lupine were willing to cooperate, it would be much easier.

"I need to leave in ten minutes." Lupine glanced at her watch. "Dr. Langhan is coming over later."

"Raina? Is she going to treat Ms. Lindberg's wound? How is her recovery going?"

In response, she sighed. "Not great. It's been hurting terribly for the past two days. I even have to help wash her face in the morning."

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"The wound is too deep." Frowning, Ben took out his phone and said, "I'll ask Raina to prepare some painkillers."

"It's fine," said Lupine quickly. "We've got some at home."

"External injury takes some time to heal. It'll probably become better in a few days," he reassured. "Raina is a talented surgeon, so dealing with this should be a piece of cake for her."

"The thing is, Ms. Lindberg is more used to traditional medicine. If only Dr. Felch is still around."

"Yeah, if only Dr. Felch didn't die..."

Ben was overwhelmed with mixed feelings. If Dr. Felch is still around, Mr. Nacht's illness could've been cured.

"It'll be good if Mr. Lindberg is around too." Lupine sounded despondent. "His friend, who's a doctor, is very skilled too."

"Are you referring to Francesco?" asked Ben immediately.

"Yeah, Francesco." She nodded and said, "Whenever Ms. Lindberg fell ill in the past, she would always go to him, and she'd be cured in no time."

"Are you still in contact with him?" he asked tentatively.

"We aren't, but Sean probably is," she replied in a nonchalant tone deliberately. "If Ms. Lindberg's wound doesn't heal in a few more days, I'll call him."

"Are you talking about Sean Lowe?" asked Ben hurriedly.

"Yeah." Lupine nodded.

Excitement coursed through his body. How could I've overlooked this? Since Francesco is a close friend of Mr. Lindberg, Sean, his assistant, would probably be in contact with Francesco. Ms. Lindberg would most likely be

able to reach Sean... In other words, if we contact Sean, we can find Francesco!

Glancing at her watch, Lupine said, "Time's up. I've got to go now."

"Okay." Ben got out and opened the car door for her.

After getting out of the car, she said, "I'll go back first. It's going to be a busy day today, so I'll contact you tomorrow."

"Okay. Take care of yourself!" He reminded her gently.

Nodding, Lupine walked away briskly as she knew Charlotte was still waiting for an update from her at home.

If Ben contacted Sean, it meant that something was wrong with Zachary's health.

Ben watched Lupine until she disappeared from his line of sight. Immediately, he started the engine and drove back, intending to tell this piece of good news to Zachary. It might be possible for them to find Francesco through Sean.

At the same time, Lupine rushed home and headed directly to Charlotte's room.

"Ms. Lindberg!" She knocked on the door and entered the room, still breathless.

"How did it go?" Charlotte poured her a cup of hot tea. "Sit down and tell me."

After taking a sip of tea, Lupine said while panting, "I followed your instructions. Initially, he refused to divulge any information. But when I mentioned Francesco, his eyes immediately lit up. Even his gaze changed. I could feel his eagerness to contact Francesco, but he held himself back at the most critical moment. If something bad actually happened to Mr. Nacht, he'll probably contact Sean soon."

Upon hearing her recount, Charlotte pursed her lips, her face turning grim.

I should've realized this long ago. Zachary lost so much weight in the brief span of two months. Even his complexion has worsened. If he had only suffered a minor injury, he wouldn't have been in such a terrible state.

At that thought, she tried to make a guess. Does he have a terminal disease? But that seems rather unlikely. After all, none of his ancestors

had a medical history of cancer. Even Henry lived till ninety-eight years old. Why would he fall ill then?

Moments later, Charlotte shook off those thoughts and decided to figure out Zachary's condition as soon as possible. Only then could she think of a solution.

Considering how prideful he was, she did not know how long he would put on a tough front and pretend to be fine.

"Ms. Lindberg," Lupine asked softly, "what should we do now?"

"Tomorrow is the memorial service for Dr. Felch, so I'll make a trip to Mount Phoenix." Charlotte quickly made a decision. "We'll know the outcome by then."

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"I understand now." Lupine had a sudden revelation. "If Mr. Nacht has a terminal disease, he must have looked for Dr. Felch before. In that case, Hayley and Sam would definitely know about it."

"Yeah." Charlotte had mixed feelings. "No wonder he kept looking for Dr. Felch while avoiding me. Furthermore, it seemed like Dr. Felch had an unfulfilled wish before taking his last breath, judging by how he kept grabbing Zachary's hand."

"Since we haven't verified this, don't worry yet, Ms. Lindberg. We might be overthinking things," consoled Lupine. "Mr. Nacht has such a strong physique. He doesn't look sick."

"Let's go to Phoenix City tomorrow first." Charlotte changed the topic. "Arrange the private jet while I call Hayley."

"Okay." Lupine nodded and asked, "Are we bringing the kids along?"

"It's a long journey, so let's not bring them along. You can just follow me there."

"All right."

Lupine immediately left to make the arrangements.

At that moment, Morgan stalked in furiously. "I'm so upset!" she grumbled.

"What happened?" Charlotte frowned as she looked at her.

"I thought that Mr. Nacht is a loyal man, but I didn't realize that he's such a playboy!" exclaimed Morgan indignantly. "He instructed Marino to pick Nancy up just now!"

"They might be discussing business matters." Lupine glanced at her and chided, "Stop overreacting!"

"I'm not!" Still vexed, Morgan explained, "You only claim that I'm overreacting because you don't know what they've done! They booked the entirety of Seacrest Restaurant and even sent people over to decorate it. Isn't that a date?"

Lupine quickly shot her a look, signaling for her to stop talking.

"Why does that matter?" Charlotte remained calm. "I had already broken up with Zachary a long time ago. Isn't it normal for him to date someone else?"

"But—" Morgan was about to say something when Lupine pinched her. Only then did she return to her senses and say, "Fine, I was just being nosy."

"You're beyond nosy!" Lupine growled furiously. "If Mr. Nacht finds out that Marino revealed his tasks to you so easily, Marion would be doomed."

"Um..." Stunned, Morgan quickly explained, "He didn't tell me. I-I overheard it by chance. Ms. Lindberg, he didn't—"

"That's enough," interrupted Charlotte. "The kids are going to wake up from their afternoon nap soon. They want to eat at Fairytale Land with Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie. Go and prepare for it."

"Okay." Morgan left hurriedly. Before leaving, she even shot a pleading look at Lupine, asking the latter to explain on her behalf.

Lupine waved her hands, urging her to leave quickly.

When the door closed, Lupine consoled Charlotte, "Ms. Lindberg, please don't be bothered by what Morgan had said. I think Mr. Nacht is only

meeting Nancy for the Gymnasium Project. It's definitely not a date! He even stood up for you this morning."

"Whatever," said Charlotte flatly. "He can date whoever he likes, and it's none of my business. Furthermore, since he can still date girls, it means that his illness isn't severe. I don't have to worry about Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie no longer having a father."

Feeling awkward, Lupine was at a loss for words.

"All right, you may leave. I'll call Hayley."

"Okay."

While Lupine left silently, Charlotte grabbed her phone. The look of indifference on her face was gradually replaced with a solemn one.

She was both worried about Zachary's health and his date with Nancy.

If she had to make a choice, she would rather he remain healthy. As for their relationship, she had come to terms with it.

Perhaps, this was their fate.

Letting out a sigh, Charlotte called Hayley.

Upon hearing that she was planning to visit tomorrow, the latter was delighted and told her to take her time since the memorial service would be held at night.

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After ending the call, Charlotte started packing for her trip to Mount Phoenix on the following day.

Just then, her phone rang. Seeing that it was from an unknown caller, she was about to reject it until she noticed the last few digits of the number and decided to pick it up. "Hello?"

"Charlotte?" An attractive voice sounded from the other end of the line. "Is that you?" the man asked tentatively.

Charlotte was stunned for a moment before realizing who it was.
"Michael?"

"It's really you! That's great!" Michael was so excited that he started speaking incoherently. "I thought I would never be able to see you again. I really didn't expect... Where are you now? Can we meet up? I just returned to H City."

"I..." She paused to think for a moment and decided not to tell him her address at Northridge. "Where are you staying at? I'll go to you instead."

"I'm staying at Skyview Hotel." After replying, he hastened to ask, "Charlotte, is it far from you? I can pick you up."

"No need," she responded, glancing at her watch. "I'll see you at the hotel's restaurant in an hour."

"Sure, I'll be waiting. See you later."

"Mhm."

Hanging up the phone, Charlotte ordered Lupine to get the car ready and set off for Skyview Hotel to meet Michael right away.

On the way down the mountain, she saw how the sunset gave a beautiful orange tinge to the sky and illuminated the forest.

Charlotte gazed at the glorious scenery outside with narrowed eyes as memories of the past came to her mind.

After dating Hector at a young age, she was entangled with Zachary by accident, followed by Louis. Throughout all the events, Michael had always been her constant friend.

Back when she decided to get engaged to Hector, Michael left for overseas and was unreachable for five years. Subsequently, she got together with Zachary, breaking his heart again.

Later on, because of Hector and Helena's incident, which caused the Brown family and the Sterling family to get into trouble, Michael returned to settle some matters. After that, she lost touch with him again.

Even when Charlotte and Zachary got married, the man did not return. He also did not show up when she was in deep water.

Yet, he returned all of a sudden.

Even though Charlotte did not know the reason for Michael's return, he would always be her most trusted friend.

"Ms. Lindberg, I did some investigations just now. After her act of conspiring against Luna was exposed, Helena was jailed and has likely been released recently. My guess is that Mr. Brown is here to bring Helena back to M Nation," Lupine reported while handing over her findings to Charlotte.

Charlotte frowned after browsing through the information. "Helena was the one who instigated the men to rape Luna and even tried to kill people to keep a lid on that matter. How is it possible that she's only jailed for twenty-seven months for committing such a heinous act?"

"The Brown family must have pulled some strings for her to be released early," Lupine replied. "I checked the previous records. She was supposed to serve a thirteen-year sentence."

Charlotte remained silent, the crease between her brows deepening. She was considered a witness for the crime back then and was even threatened by Helena. If it were not for Zachary, she would have been killed.

However, as she was unable to betray her conscience, Charlotte still ended up testifying against Helena.

I suppose she must hate me to the core.

"Do you think Helena is also staying at Skyview Hotel?" Lupine asked, frowning. "If she's there, it would be awkward for you two to meet."

"Given Michael's considerate nature, he will ensure that we don't bump into each other," Charlotte said confidently. "Besides, even if we do meet, Helena should be the one feeling awkward. She's the vicious one who did terrible things, not me."

"That makes sense." Lupine nodded before continuing, "Oh, while I was investigating Helena, I also looked into Mr. Sterling's situation."

"Hmm?" Charlotte turned to look at her.

"Mr. Sterling received a two-year sentence and was released a few months ago," Lupine said softly. "It's not known if he has contacted anyone from the Brown family. I remember that when he got into trouble back then, his parents migrated to Caspardon with his son, Timothy."

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"That kid is quite pitiful..." Charlotte could not help but feel sorry for Timothy. "He's the same age as Ellie, yet he has already experienced the dark side of humanity. I'm afraid that he would be deeply traumatized by what had happened."

"Yeah, I heard that he stabbed Helena with a knife at the wedding," Lupine said regrettably. "Was he only four years old back then?"

"Mm." Charlotte sighed and said, "A four-year-old kid is supposed to be innocent, not ridden with hatred." At the end of her sentence, she let out another sigh.

"News about that incident can still be found on the internet," Lupine said softly. "Photos and videos of it are also still available."

"After the Sterling family's downfall, they probably could not afford to have all traces of it removed from the internet." Shaking her head, Charlotte smiled bitterly. "I'll let you handle it. Wipe out everything related to that boy. Otherwise, he may be triggered if he chances upon them after growing up."

"Sure," Lupine replied, dealing with the matter right away.

As the two of them chatted, the car soon arrived at Skyview Hotel.

It was a five-star hotel that only started operating a few years back. As it was situated near the coast of the South Sea, guests had access to a vast sea view through the windows.

Recalling Morgan's mention of Zachary and Nancy's date, Lupine remarked, "I think Seacrest Restaurant is just nearby."

"That's none of our business," Charlotte replied in displeasure. "Stop gossiping about others."

"Yes." Lupine quickly lowered her head and did not dare to speak any further.

"Charlotte?"

Charlotte looked up, searching for that familiar voice that she had just heard. Then, she saw Michael standing at a distance. He was looking at her excitedly.

"Michael!" Overjoyed, Charlotte quickly strode toward the man. "It's been such a long time! You... You look so different!"

Michael used to look like a dreamy artist, spotting long hair with a slender figure and a melancholic look. However, he had gotten a haircut and was wearing a suit, looking absolutely dashing and sharp.

A calm and composed look also replaced his usual sorrowful gaze.

"Two years ago, because of what happened to Helena, my uncle's company was seized. My dad was so upset that he fell ill, so I had no choice but to step up and take the helm."

Michael was overwhelmed with a myriad of emotions when he saw Charlotte.

"Back then, my family forced me to break off all ties with the outside world and had me learn the ropes in seclusion. That was why I couldn't attend your wedding and was unaware that you were in an accident... I'm so sorry."

"Please don't say that." Charlotte felt guilty. "You have always been there for me, helping me whenever I'm in deep water. However, I have never done anything for you. That incident was my own predicament, and it was something I had to overcome by myself."

"I've heard so much about the second-largest shareholder of Lindberg Corporation, who is rumored to be an extremely charismatic lady. I've never expected that person to be you!"

Michael got increasingly emotional as he spoke. "I've been busy with doing business in Dartan in recent years and did not have time to find out what's happening in the corporate world here. That was why I missed out on your news. When I got back this time around, I heard my friends mentioning that lady by chance, but they couldn't be sure if it were you. I used all means to get your number and tried to contact you, but I did not expect you to really..."

At that, he paused and hugged Charlotte tightly before continuing, "Charlotte, I'm so glad to see you again. I'm so happy!"

"Me too."

Charlotte returned his hug as warmth filled her heart. Even though they had gone through their fair share of tribulations in life, Michael never changed, so was the pure and genuine friendship they shared.

"It's really windy here. Let's chat inside." Michael put his arms around her shoulders as they entered the hotel together. "Charlotte, how did you become the second-largest shareholder of Lindberg Corporation?"

"Actually, I'm no longer a shareholder there." She let out a bitter laugh and continued, "But I'm indeed a Lindberg. My name is Charlotte Lindberg now."

"What happened? How have you been doing for the past two years?" he asked in concern. "Didn't you marry Zachary?"

"It's a long story..." Charlotte proceeded to summarize her life over the past two years to him.

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Chapter 1357 Go On Our Own Paths

After hearing Charlotte's account, Michael was shocked. "So, it turned out that your mom is Mr. Lindberg's aunt? I once heard from my father that she used to be a legend in the business sphere."

"Oh? Mr. Brown knows about my mom?" She was surprised to hear that. "No one told me that my mom was a businesswoman. I thought she wasn't involved in the family business at all."

"That's not possible," he replied with a look of admiration on his face. "Everyone in the Lindberg family is a business whiz."

"Danrique hasn't mentioned it before." Charlotte's heart sank at the thought of her cousin.

"Am I right to assume that the legendary Mr. Lindberg is your cousin?" Michael asked. "I've heard stories about him. The word is that he has a god-like presence, so I'm sure he'll return safe and sound."

"Mm." Charlotte nodded before changing the topic. "Michael, how have you been for the past two years? Is your company doing well?"

"I'm all right. My business is doing well too," he replied, smiling. "You know that I have zero interest in business, and I lack confidence in it. However, I had no choice but to try as I couldn't bear to let the business, which my dad had painstakingly built up, tumble."

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"You're too humble. Results have already proven that you're a genius in business," she joked. "Seems like you've inherited the talent of a businessman from your dad."

Michael laughed heartily. "I've been hearing that a lot, but I've only taken it as flattery. But coming from you, it makes me really happy."

"I'm just glad that you're happy," Charlotte replied sincerely. "I'm also happy to see that you're doing so well."

"Do you have any plans?" he asked, fixing his gentle gaze on the woman. "Are you planning to continue being involved in the corporate world? Or are you intending to lead a peaceful and quiet life?"

"I want to find Danrique first," Charlotte said with a hint of sorrow in her voice. "I have a feeling he's still alive..."

"He's such a capable man, so I'm sure he's still alive," Michael comforted her. "I'll try asking around to see if I can find out anything too," he then offered.

"Thanks," Charlotte replied with a faint smile. "How long are you intending to stay here this time round?"

"I had originally planned to leave tomorrow night," Michael replied. Deciding to be frank with her, he confessed, "Helena has been released from prison, and I'm here to bring her home."

"I see." Charlotte did not ask any further, choosing to stay away from any matters related to Helena. Even though that woman never harmed her, she insisted on distancing herself from such a vile person.

"I know you don't like her. In fact, even I resented her back then for committing such an unforgivable act. However, I can't just ignore her as she's still my cousin, after all."

With a sigh, he continued, "Since my dad is more than a decade older than Uncle Steven, he's like a father figure to him and took great care of him since young. My uncle had originally led an average life, but with my dad's help, he managed to gain both status and wealth eventually. After Helena took over the family business, the company expanded due to her good business acumen and strong capabilities. I really did not expect her to lose her mind over love."

Michael paused and heaved another sigh.

"However, regardless of what had happened, she has already received the punishment she deserved. My dad has asked me to bring her back to M Nation. With us watching over her, I don't think such an incident will ever happen again."

"I hope so," Charlotte simply replied.

The man cleared his throat awkwardly and diverted her attention with a question. "Are you still in touch with Hector?"

"Nope." She shook her head. "I have stopped contacting the people from my past after assuming my new identity. I don't think he even knows that I'm back."

"That's quite likely." Michael nodded. "Given his current circumstances, he probably won't have access to any information in the higher social class within the corporate world. If that's the case, he probably wouldn't know anything about you too."

"Let's not talk about the past anymore. It's all water under the bridge. Likewise, there's no need for me to meet people from my past again," Charlotte said with a sigh. "It's better for us to go on our own paths."

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Chapter 1358 Fallen Object

"I suppose." Michael nodded before asking, "What about me then? I'm also someone from your past. Do you intend to cut me off as well?"

"You're different," Charlotte replied, gazing at him gently. "No matter what happens, we'll always be friends!"

"I'm glad to hear that." Feeling guilty, he said, "I used to be really willful and had caused you a lot of trouble. I've grown a lot after everything that has happened in the past two years. I know you don't have any romantic feelings for me, and I also know love can't be forced. From now onward, I'll be by your side as your good friend and put my feelings for you behind me. I promise to be there whenever you need me!"

"Thank you, Michael." She was deeply moved by his words. "You have to take good care of yourself too. I hope that you'll find your happiness soon!"

"I will." He nodded. "It's a beautiful night. Shall we head to the beach for a stroll?"

"I don't think I can." Charlotte glanced at her watch and said, "I have to go back now. The kids are waiting for me to read them a bedtime story."

"All right then." Reluctant to part with her so soon, Michael offered, "Let me see you out."

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"Sure." After Charlotte put on her coat, the two of them walked out together.

The sound of the waves brought back memories of the past, and he started reminiscing about the good old days with her.

Smiling, Charlotte listened attentively and would respond to him from time to time. Unbeknownst to her, someone had been observing her from a window upstairs, eyes gleaming with malice.

"Ms. Lindberg!" Lupine suddenly nudged Charlotte.

The latter looked over and saw a car approaching the hotel entrance. It was Zachary's Rolls-Royce.

Zachary's subordinates got out and opened the car doors at the back. A second later, Zachary and Nancy stepped out from different sides.

Nancy looked shy and dainty with his suit jacket draped around her shoulders.

After leaning over and saying something to her, Zachary walked side by side into the hotel with her. However, he had barely taken a few steps forward when he looked up and saw Charlotte exiting the hotel through the revolving doors with a man next to her. That sight made him halt in his tracks.

"Ms. Lindberg?" Ben looked at Charlotte in shock, not expecting to see her there. Wait a minute! Isn't the man next to her...

"Michael!"

Zachary recognized Michael right away. Furrowing his brows, he strode into the hotel, completely forgetting that Nancy was beside him.

Nancy was taken aback for a second, but she soon snapped out of her daze and quickly caught up with Zachary.

Meanwhile, Ben and the other subordinates entered from the side entrance.

"Michael!" Zachary called, fixing his cold gaze on Michael. "Why are you here?"

"My family owns this hotel," Michael replied calmly. "I was here catching up with my old friend, and I doubt I need your permission for that, Mr. Nacht."

Zachary glared at him coldly before turning his attention toward Charlotte. "Why did you come out when your hand is injured? Go back now."

"What has it got to do with you?"

Anger welled up in Charlotte's chest when she noticed Nancy standing behind Zachary. However, she tried her best to put on a calm front.

"Charlotte—"

Just as Zachary was about to speak, Nancy walked toward Charlotte and greeted her politely, "Ms. Lindberg, what a small world! It's a pleasure to meet you again."

"I know," Charlotte replied. Looking at Nancy, she continued with a faint smile, "H City is so huge, yet we seem to bump into each other all the time."

"Since we are all here, shall we have a drink together?" Nancy suggested smilingly.

"Unfortunately, I'll have to decline your offer. I need to go back now." Charlotte rejected her directly. "You guys have fun. I'm going to take off now!"

She then glanced at Zachary before walking away.

"Charlotte, wait for me."

Michael was about to catch up to her when an object suddenly fell from above. Right before it hit Charlotte, a figure suddenly dashed toward her and pushed her away.

Bam! A loud crash was heard.

"Mr. Nacht!"

"Ah!"

Ben and Nancy screamed at the same time.

When Charlotte turned around, she saw that a vase had hit Zachary's head, and blood began to gush out from his wound.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1359

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1359 Could Never Compare

Someone had dropped a glass vase from above.

Zachary was bleeding profusely, and half of his face was covered in blood in no time. Soon, blood stained his white shirt, coloring it scarlet.

Charlotte widened her eyes in shock as she stared at him dumbfoundedly. Her heart was aching so much as if that vase had struck it.

If Zachary had not pushed her away, the vase would have landed on her head, and she would be the one bleeding instead of him.

Stupefied, Michael stood rooted at the spot.

"Mr. Nacht!" Ben dashed over and supported Zachary while instructing, "Call Raina now! Quick!"

"Understood." One of the subordinates made the call immediately.

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"Mr. Nacht, you..." Nancy was in so much shock that she started crying. "Why are you so silly? Why did you..."

"I'm fine." Zachary had his head lowered as he pressed his hand against his wound. He was obviously in so much pain since even his face had turned pale, yet he remained calm and gave out an order. "Ben, send Ms. Gold home."

"Yes, Mr. Nacht."

"That's not what you should be worrying about now," Nancy said in between sobs. "I'll take you to the hospital."

"It's okay." Zachary held up his hand and rejected her offer. "Have you forgotten that you... Go back now."

"But—"

She wanted to say something else, but he was not in the mood to listen. Instead, he turned toward Charlotte and pointed at the woman. "Get in the car with me," Zachary ordered domineeringly.

Charlotte was still standing motionless, her face as white as a sheet.

"Charlotte..." Michael snapped out of his shock and gave her a nudge.

"Ms. Lindberg, get in," Ben said while helping Zachary into the car.

At the same time, one of Zachary's subordinates escorted Charlotte into the vehicle.

Michael watched as the car sped off and only regained his senses when it was out of his sight. Immediately, he instructed his subordinate, "Check which room did that vase drop from. Go now!"

"Yes!" At once, his subordinate brought a group of men into the hotel to run the investigation.

A second later, another subordinate reported, "Mr. Brown, the Nacht family's bodyguard has already gone to investigate. The media might get wind of it if the matter is blown up. Should we..."

"No matter what, we should still find out the truth first," Michael bellowed in displeasure. "Someone is injured because of an object that was thrown out of our hotel room's window. The first thing we should do is find the culprit and give the victim an explanation, not try to suppress the news. That's not the behavior of a righteous man."

"I understand." The subordinate immediately lowered his head, no longer daring to say another word.

Meanwhile, Nancy had just broken out of her trance and was staring at Michael deeply.

"Ms. Gold, if you don't mind, shall I get someone to send you back?" Michael offered, like how a gentleman would.

"My subordinates will be here soon." Nancy rejected politely. "Thanks for the offer, though, Mr. Brown."

"Don't mention it," Michael replied. "You must be in shock. Don't worry. I'll definitely investigate the matter thoroughly and give Mr. Nacht an explanation!" he then declared apologetically.

"Thank you." She nodded her head in gratitude. Just then, her subordinate arrived and asked in concern, "Ms. Gold, are you all right?"

"I'm fine," Nancy replied. After getting into the car, she looked at Michael through the rearview mirror and instructed, "Look into that man's background."

"Understood, I'll get to it right away," the subordinate replied.

"Ms. Gold, what happened? Why is there so much blood on the floor? Where's Mr. Nacht?" another subordinate asked.

"He's injured..."

Nancy could not help but feel her heart aching as she recalled the earlier scene.

At that crucial moment, Zachary had risked his life to save Charlotte. It was apparent that in his heart, that woman's safety was more important than his own.

Since he loves her so much, why did he go on a date with me? Was his gentleness toward me all a pretense?

"Are you sure you're fine?" one of the subordinates asked cautiously. "Are you hurt? Should we go to the hospital—"

"Shut up!" Nancy scowled in frustration. Her mind was in a mess.

Deep down, she felt that she could never compare to Charlotte, no matter how perfect she was.

Have I really lost?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1360

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1360 Tell Me The Truth

After a long while, Charlotte was still looking at Zachary in a daze, not knowing what to do.

Meanwhile, Ben had taken off his shirt and pressed it on Zachary's wound as a makeshift bandage to stop the bleeding.

However, the man gradually lost consciousness from the excessive loss of blood.

"Zachary..." Charlotte caught Zachary as he fell sideways. In a state of panic, she burst into tears. "Stay with me, Zachary!"

"The hospital is right ahead; we're reaching soon!" Ben yelled anxiously. "Mr. Nacht, please hold on!"

Just then, the car came to an abrupt halt. A team of medical staff, led by Raina, rushed over. They opened the car door hastily and lifted Zachary onto a stretcher.

Ben, Charlotte, Lupine, and the rest followed the medical team until Zachary was brought into the emergency room.

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While they were waiting outside, Lupine tried to comfort Charlotte. "Mr. Nacht will be fine, so don't worry."

The latter did not respond, merely standing at the doorway with her eyes fixed on the emergency room. Her hands were trembling, and her face remained pale.

She dared not imagine a life without Zachary.

What would I do without him? What will happen to the kids...

As she thought about it, fear and remorse washed over her.

Ring, ring.

Just then, Charlotte's phone suddenly rang. Lost in her thoughts, she did not hear it at all until Lupine nudged her. "Ms. Lindberg, your phone."

Charlotte whipped out her phone with her bloodied hands and saw it was Jamie. Immediately, she walked toward the side and picked it up. "Hello?"

"Mommy, when are you coming back?" Jamie asked.

Over the line, Charlotte could also hear the sounds of the other kids playing.

"Aunt Charlotte, come back soon! We're waiting for you to read us a bedtime story!" Alpha shouted in her adorable voice.

"No, we want Angry Uncle to read us a bedtime story instead!" Beta corrected her sister seriously while sniffing.

"You can't call him Angry Uncle. He's Uncle Zachary!" Gamma corrected her siblings in a stern manner.

"That's right! You are all such smart kids," Ellie praised her cousins before speaking into the phone. "Mommy, we're sleeping with you tonight. We've already gotten permission from Daddy."

"Mommy, is Daddy coming over today?" Jamie asked. "We miss him."

"He has to continue reading us the bedtime story from yesterday," Ellie added on in her sweet voice.

"Mommy, why are you so quiet?" Jamie asked anxiously.

"All right, that's enough. You guys are too noisy." Robbie walked over and chided his siblings. "Go over there and play. Pass me the phone."

"Robbie, you're so fierce! You're becoming more and more like Daddy!" Jamie said, feeling indignant. "Here's the phone!" Reluctantly, he handed the phone over to his brother.

After accepting the phone, Robbie walked to a quieter place and asked, "Mommy, are you all right? Where are you now?"

"I'm still outside." Charlotte tried her best to compose herself so that she would sound like her usual self. "Robbie, I won't be able to go home tonight. I have some things to settle. Daddy won't be going over as well. All of you should rest soon. Be good, yeah?"

"Did something happen?"

Even though she hid her emotions well, Robbie could still feel something was amiss with her. "Did something happen to Daddy?" the boy asked anxiously.

"It's not that. Robbie, don't overthink—" While Charlotte was still speaking, the voice of a nurse sounded. "We need more bags of blood, hurry!"

Hearing that, Robbie could no longer hold back his emotions and questioned agitatedly, "Mommy, what exactly happened to Daddy? Stop hiding it from me! Tell me the truth, quick!"

"Robbie, calm down. Daddy is injured. We're at the hospital now," Charlotte quickly replied. "It's just a minor wound, nothing serious. He'll be fine tomorrow."

"I don't believe you..." Robbie started crying. "Is Daddy sick? I've long noticed that something's wrong with him. Which hospital are you at? I want to come over..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1361

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1361 I Will Not Stand In The Way

Charlotte was devastated when she heard Robbie crying over the phone. Guilt ate her up as the child sobbed. This wouldn't have happened if Zachary had not pushed me away. The children wouldn't be as heartbroken if I were the one hurt.

"Mommy... Please, say something..."

Robbie was still pleading for an answer.

"Don't cry, Robbie. It's just a minor injury. It's nothing serious. I will stay with Daddy at the hospital, so everything will be okay. I promise we will go home tomorrow morning, okay?" Charlotte coaxed gently.

"But, Mommy..."

"Trust me, Robbie." Charlotte hardened her voice. "Don't let Jamie or Ellie know."

"Okay, Mommy..."

00:00/00:00

Robbie was a considerate child. Despite being deeply troubled by Zachary's condition, he knew he had to collect himself and behave maturely. Now that his parents were not around, he had to be responsible for his siblings as the eldest brother.

"I'll hang up first, alright? Get some rest, Robbie. I'll see you tomorrow."

Charlotte ended the call after bidding goodbye.

She reminded him of his role as the eldest child because she knew Robbie was a responsible person. He would get himself together thinking of his siblings.

Although she knew that was not the best thing to do, she had no other option. Given a choice, she would readily sacrifice herself for Zachary. Never once did she ever want Zachary to get hurt because of her.

The guilt was unbearable for her.

Back at home, Jamie was astonished when he found his brother crying silently in the corner. "What happened, Robbie? Is everything okay?"

"It's nothing." Robbie hurried to dry his tears, but he still felt disturbed. "Go and look after the girls. Make sure they don't see me crying."

"But you'll have to at least tell me what's going on, Robbie!" Jamie was like a cat on hot bricks looking at his brother. "Did Daddy and Mommy fight? Or is Daddy getting married to another woman?"

Robbie looked up at Jamie with tears in his eyes. How he wished things were as simple as Jamie thought. He would be spared of all the worry and grief if he could be less mature and just act like a child like Jamie.

"Robbie..."

"It's not that," he said, wiping his tears, "Jamie, you need to start growing up and behaving, okay?"

Jamie nodded his head immediately. "I will, Robbie. Please don't cry anymore."

Robbie felt an urge to just tell him everything, but he refrained from doing so.

Over at the hospital, Charlotte was still waiting anxiously at the hospital. The elevator door opened and Nancy and her few subordinates came out.

The two women saw each other and a brief silence ensued.

"Is there anything I can do for you, Ms. Gold?" Ben came over and asked politely.

"Is Mr. Nacht okay?" Nancy was concerned.

"They are still trying to get him back," Ben replied solemnly, "The injury is not looking good, but he's not in danger."

"Is there enough blood in the blood bank? Do the doctors need anything?" Nancy showered Ben with a series of questions.

"Everything is fine. No worries," Ben replied, stealing a quick look at Charlotte. "It's already late, so why don't you go back and rest first?"

"How can I sleep while Zachary's life is still on the line?" Nancy sighed, "Don't worry, I won't cause any trouble. I just want to make sure he's safe."

Speaking, she turned toward Charlotte, looking at her searchingly. "I hope you don't mind me staying, Ms. Lindberg?"

"I don't have the right to answer that," Charlotte replied lightly.

"Alright. I'll stay then." Nancy sat down beside her.

Since Charlotte did not stop Nancy from staying, Ben accepted the decision and stepped back.

Lupine, who had been quiet all this time, finally spoke. "I'll get you a cup of warm water, Ms. Lindberg."

Ben quickly followed her when she went to get water.

"I can't believe that woman found us," Lupine grumbled.

"She's just worried. You can tell she cares for him," Ben replied.

"Of course, she cares for him. They even went to a hotel together. How can she not care?" Lupine answered sardonically.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1362

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1362 We Do Not Need So Many People Here

Ben looked at Lupine and explained the situation. "There's a misunderstanding here. Mr. Nacht and Ms. Gold were having a walk by the beach when she realized her period came, so they went to a nearby hotel."

"Uh-huh. What a scheming woman. She can well settle it on her own. Why does she have to bring him along?"

"Well... She didn't realize it herself. I was the one who found out."

"You?" Lupine's eyes widened in disbelief and rage. "I didn't know you're that observant!"

"Just what are you thinking? She's wearing a white dress and she's walking in front of me," Ben explained frantically, "It's not like I'm looking at her on purpose!"

"Whatever! I won't believe a word you say." Lupine pushed him aside forcefully, spilling all the water on him.

Ben shook his hand dry and lowered his voice, "It's not the time to fight over this. You can do anything you want after Mr. Nacht comes out safe. We don't even know if he will pull through yet. Can we deal with this later?"

00:00/00:00

Lupine looked away. "I know. I'm not that unreasonable. I'm sure Mr. Nacht will survive. You just wait."

She filled up another cup and walked off.

Charlotte was looking blankly at the emergency room when Lupine came over. Zachary had been in there for an hour, but they had received no updates about his condition.

"Have some water, Ms. Lindberg," Lupine said, passing Charlotte the cup.

Beside her, Ben came over with a cup as well. "Have some water, Ms. Gold."

Nancy took the cup but did not drink. Her hand was shaking.

She was trying to get a grip of herself, but she was so nervous she could not stop shaking.

"The doctor's here!"

Everyone stood up the moment someone shouted.

A surgeon emerged from the emergency room and took off his mask. "He's fine. He lost a lot of blood, so it'll take some time before he regains consciousness. We need to monitor him tonight."

"Is there other complication?" Ben asked.

"We've dressed his wounds. There won't be a problem. Don't worry. He'll be awake by tomorrow morning."

"Thank you so much!" Charlotte cried out in relief, but Ben still looked worried.

He knew the doctor was unaware of Zachary's sickness. That was why he said everything was fine with the patient.

Ben did not want this injury to develop into something more complicated later on.

The poison had already affected Zachary's sensory nervous system, causing him to lose his vision. Ben was disquieted. What if this leads to something else?

Just as Ben was still deep in thought, Raina came out from the emergency room and talked to the surgeon.

"Thanks, Dr. Hansel. I'll take over from here. You should get some rest."

"Sure. Thanks, Dr. Langhan."

Dr. Hansel excused himself and left.

Raina looked at Charlotte and Nancy before turning over to Ben. "Mr. Nacht is still unconscious. He needs to rest. I don't think we need so many people here."

"Understood," Ben replied and walked over to Nancy. "Why not you rest at home while we wait, Ms. Gold? I will inform you once Mr. Nacht wakes up."

"Sure. I'll make a move first then," Nancy said readily, standing up. "Do you want to leave together, Ms. Lindberg?"

Although Ben did not ask Charlotte to leave, Nancy went ahead. It was obvious that she was asking Charlotte to let Zachary have a good rest, but although her message was clear and direct, her tone was polite.

"I'll leave in a bit."

Charlotte knew what Nancy was trying to get at, but she did not want to play along.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1363

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1363 Staying By His Side

Nancy took a long look at Charlotte and then at Ben.

Ben did not say a word but lowered his head.

Nancy understood his body language. They did not want unnecessary company.

"Then I'll get going first. See y'all."

Nancy nodded at Charlotte courteously and left.

Ben sent a few subordinates to stand guard outside and the emergency room became less crowded.

"Can I go in and see him?" Charlotte asked Raina softly.

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"Sure." Raina brought her to get a change and went into the room with Charlotte.

Zachary was sleeping on the bed with an infusion needle attached to the back of his hand. He was on a ventilator and there was monitoring equipment beside his bed.

His wound was already dressed neatly with layers of bandages around his head, but there was still a hint of blood smell wafting in the air.

Charlotte was brought to tears looking at him in such a state.

She did not dare to move closer. She was afraid she would disturb his rest, but at the same time, she wanted him to see her when he woke up.

"Mr. Nacht kept calling out for you when he came in. You should just stay here tonight," Raina told her.

"I will." Charlotte walked over to the bed slowly without taking her eyes off Zachary.

"I'll step outside first. I need to talk to Ben."

Raina and her assistant left as Lupine came in to accompany Charlotte.

When Ben saw Raina coming out of the room, he dashed over and asked, "How's everything?"

Raina looked back at Charlotte from the corner of her eyes and closed the door. The two stepped aside and discussed softly. "We don't see anything peculiar as of now, but it's difficult to say what this injury will do to his body with the poison in his system. I can't tell for sure what will happen, so we can only keep monitoring his condition."

"Gosh. Things are already serious enough as it is and now he's got another injury to deal with. He doesn't even care about himself," Ben said with a sigh.

"I heard he got injured because he saved Ms. Lindberg?"

"Yes." Ben moved on to fill Raina in on what happened.

Raina looked at Ben in resignation after learning the whole happening. "She's the only person he cares for."

"But he's already sick! He should think of himself too. You have no idea how worried I am."

"There is nothing we can do, isn't it. The only solution is to find Francesco. I've been asking around among my colleagues as well. Dr. Wright will be here in a few days. I'll ask her to look into this."

"Thanks."

"I'll go request for a room for Mr. Nacht first. See you around."

"Sure. See you."

Raina transferred Zachary to an isolated room so Charlotte and he can be alone.

Lupine got Charlotte some clothes from home and Charlotte showered and changed into some casual outfit. She made herself comfortable on the chair and waited for Zachary to wake up.

She switched off the lights, leaving behind a dim yellow light just so she could keep an eye on Zachary.

He was deep in sleep and his breathing was barely audible. The beeping sound from the electrocardiograph was the only sign that assured her that he was still alive.

Other than that, the whole room was in dead silence. Charlotte watched him as she thought of how he risked his own life just to save her.

She held his cold hand and brought it close to her face, hoping she could bring him some warmth.

Tears rolled down her cheeks and fell on his hand, but the senseless patient was still asleep.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1364

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1364 Her Warmth

Charlotte dozed off as she waited and lay down her head beside Zachary's bed.

She did not let go of his hand even in her sleep.

The night drew nigh and the outside world fell into silence, as did the ward. Charlotte slipped into slumber on Zachary's bed, just as how she always did before.

Zachary had a dream that night. He lost his way in the desert and did not know how to get out. He was stranded in a vast and endless piece of grey and blurry sand land without any light.

His whole body ached as if it was about to burst. He felt as if he was on the verge of losing his sense of hearing and vision completely.

He desperately wanted to escape, but his vision kept failing him and he could not hear a thing.

All he could do was keep going forward, but even taking a step felt like a formidable task. He felt emptiness under his feet every time he took a step. He kept changing direction, but every direction pointed him to an endless abyss.

00:00/00:00

He was trapped in a place of no escape.

He was lost, helpless, and resentful, but it was then that he felt a hand reaching out to him.

He was apprehensive in the beginning. He was afraid that this hand would lead him to another bottomless pit, but this hand did not push him into another chasm.

Instead, it held onto his hand tenderly, leading him to the light at the end of the tunnel.

His heart was assured and he kept following the leading hand until he finally saw light again, but just as he was about to reach the other side, a violent wind ravaged the desert and blew away the hand.

He wanted to cling onto it, but he could not.

Zachary was shaken up by the nightmare. He opened his eyes gradually and realized Charlotte was beside him, holding on to his sleeve as if she was afraid he would vanish.

His gaze softened and he reached his hand to touch her face. He realized her face was still wet.

Did she cry? Was it because of me?

Zachary let his thoughts lead him astray. A gush of cold wind blew through the window. He tried to cover her with his blanket, but he was too weak to move a muscle.

The chilly air sent a shudder down Charlotte's spine and it woke her slightly. She muttered his name and grabbed his hand instinctively, but she accidentally rubbed against the wounds on her hand.

She opened her eyes in pain but immediately saw that Zachary was awake and was looking at her. She dismissed the pain and asked softly, "Are you awake? How are you feeling?"

Zachary did not reply but looked at her tenderly.

"I'll ask Raina to come over and check on you."

Charlotte wanted to get up to press the emergency button, but Zachary put his hand around her waist.

"What are you doing?" she asked, "Let me go."

"Over my dead body."

Those were Zachary's first words after he regained consciousness. His voice was hoarse and deep.

Charlotte lay back down as he wanted, moving carefully so she did not hurt him.

"It's been a while since I hugged you."

Zachary moved closer, indulging in her scent. Everything felt so familiar.

"Stop it. I should go and get the doctor."

"I'm not letting you go. Never," Zachary insisted like a child.

"Zachary Nacht."

Charlotte wanted to give him a stern warning, but the moment she said his name, tears choked her voice and she broke down as her emotions finally took over her.

"Why did you push me away?" she questioned, sobbing, "You were bleeding all over and your clothes were all red. Everyone was so scared something might happen to you."

"What about you? Were you scared too?"

Zachary planted a kiss on her hair, taking a deep breath.

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1365

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1365

Words failed Charlotte. She wanted to say she was afraid she would lose him. She wanted to tell him she thought he would really leave her.

She wanted to let him know that she would rather be the one who died, but ultimately, she remained silent.

"Seriously, Charlotte, you're such a cold-blooded person." Zachary was disappointed.

He dipped his head and bit her shoulder.

"Ouch!" Charlotte shrieked. She tried not to struggle for the fear of hurting him. She lay there without putting up a fight and let him have his way.

Zachary did not let go until he tasted blood in his mouth. "Is it painful?"

"Yes."

00:00/00:00

A satisfied smile curved on Zachary's lips. "Good. Then you'll remember me forever."

Charlotte looked up at him, her gaze complicated. Zachary had already lost some weight before this. His jaw and cheekbones became more prominent because of his sickness, but he looked more worn out now. She could even see the red veins in his eyes.

"Why did you save me?" Charlotte asked.

"I don't know. It's a knee-jerk reaction. I shouldn't have risked my life for a heartless woman like you," Zachary replied, ruffling her hair.

Charlotte laughed. A tear rolled down her cheek when her eyes curved into a crescent shape.

She did not want him to see her crying, so she buried her face on his chest and quickly collected herself, but none of her actions went unnoticed by Zachary.

He knew she cried. He knew she was moved, but actually, he did not do it on purpose to win her over. It was like a reflex for him to save her.

She had always been his and it was only natural for him to protect what was his, so there was no motivation or reason why he saved her, but Zachary did not tell her this.

He patted her on the shoulder. "You're hurting me," he said softly as if he were comforting a child.

Charlotte smiled and moved her head instantly as she wiped away her tears. She wanted to get off the bed but he pulled her into his embrace. "Stay here. I'm so tired."

"Alright." Charlotte did not move further but slept beside him. She felt safe beside him. His scent and his warmth felt like home to her.

All their grievances, painful past, and resentment melted away.

Charlotte simply wanted to stay by his side. She wanted time to stop so they could stay this way forever.

Zachary was still weak after the surgery and he fell back asleep in no time.

Charlotte, on the other hand, could not sleep a wink. he looked at her quietly as he slept, just like how a simple girl would admire her lover. That was how Charlotte used to be.

In his sleep, Zachary felt her gaze drilling through him and he opened his eyes. Their eyes met and he kissed her.

Charlotte was taken aback. She wanted to push him away, but her hands hesitated when she touched his chest. She did not want to hurt him.

The kiss was soft and loving. Charlotte could even taste the blood in his mouth from the bite earlier on, but she followed his lead and let him kiss her.

Zachary turned and pressed against her as their kiss intensified.

He started running his hands down her body but stopped immediately when he felt pain in his wounds.

He rested his forehead against hers and smacked his lips.

"Charlotte..." he called her name.

"Yes?" Charlotte let down her defense.

"You have to bear full responsibility for my injury," he said, grabbing her chin, "You have to take care of me until I get well again."

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1366

Zachary did not sound like he was making a request. It sounded more like an order.

Usually, Charlotte would put up a fight and disagree with him, but this time, she just nodded and caved. "Yes. I will take care of you."

"Good."

Zachary pulled her into his embrace and dozed off peacefully.

I should've known this is the easiest way to bring her back to me...

Charlotte snuggled in his arms without moving, listening to his heartbeat. His heartbeat sounds normal. I think he's healthy. I'm probably thinking too much.

She could finally shake the worry off.

00:00/00:00

Over at the door, Ben stopped Lupine just before she knocked on the door.

"What are you doing? I'm sending Ms. Lindberg breakfast."

"I don't think she wants any breakfast now," Ben replied, moving aside and tilting his head, signaling at Lupine to look at the couple herself.

Lupine cocked her head and stood frozen.

Zachary and Charlotte were resting together in the bed, just like how couples in love usually did.

It seemed like they really did not need to eat anything.

"Just leave them be."

Ben pulled Lupine away and gestured at the subordinates to stay outside.

"I should be happy for them, but I don't know why I feel so unsettled," Lupine said.

"Why?" Ben was curious. "I've been hoping for this day all this while. Didn't you say you wanted them to get back together as well?"

"Yes..." Lupine wanted to say more but did not. "It's nothing. I just want Ms. Lindberg to be happy."

Then, she left.

Ben looked at her as she walked off, unable to understand what was in that head of hers. She clearly said she wished they got back together. Why did she change her mind?

What is she thinking exactly?

Lupine went over to the staircase and sat down, eating the breakfast she bought for Charlotte alone. Her heart became heavier as she ate away.

Back then, she was so frustrated looking at Charlotte hiding her true feelings about Zachary, but now that they patched things up, Lupine was worried about Charlotte.

What if he dies? What will become of her?

Charlotte would probably get over it faster if they did not reconcile. She would go through his death easier if she were not as invested in the relationship.

Now that she has opened up to him, it will be insufferable for her if anything happens to him. This kind of pain is unbearable for her.

Lupine sighed at the thought.

Meanwhile, Ben was secretly happy that Zachary and Charlotte had finally mended fences. He saw this accident as a blessing in disguise for the two.

He quickly called Bruce and shared the good news with him. He also told Bruce that Sean probably knew where to find Francesco.

"I'm glad to know they're back together," Bruce said tritely, "As for Sean, of course, I'm aware that he might know where Francesco is. I've thought of contacting him, but he's disappeared together with Danrique. There's no getting hold of him at all."

"For real?" Ben was shocked. "I thought Lupine has always been in touch with Sean?"

"Really? Then there might be something we don't know," Bruce conjectured, "From what I know, Sean has gone missing together with Danrique, but it's possible that it's all a show to hide something from everyone else."

"Are you implying that Sean did not go missing at all and that he's still contacting Ms. Lindberg?" Ben made a bold guess. "Does this mean Danrique is not actually dead? Is all this just a trick to beguile everyone?"

"Probably, but I still can't trace them. We might need to get some information out from Ms. Lindberg. You need to think of a way to do that."

"Alright. I know what to do. Mr. Spencer's here, I need to hang up."

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Ben ended the call hastily and went over to greet Spencer.

"What is all this? Why didn't you tell me about what's going on?" Spencer glared at Ben.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Spencer." Ben lowered his head guiltily. "Everything happened too quickly. Mr. Nacht's condition is stable now, so we didn't call you."

"What do you mean by 'stable', huh? What's the situation now?"

"He lost too much blood and he fainted. He already woke up in the morning. He's just asleep now."

"Let me see him," Spencer said. His men pushed him toward the ward.

"Um, now might not be a good time, Mr. Spencer," Ben said slowly.

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"Why can't I go in?" Spencer frowned.

Ben looked around and bent down to whisper in his ear. "Ms. Lindberg is inside."

Spencer was taken aback when he heard that. He asked his subordinate to push him closer and he opened the door slightly.

When he saw the couple resting through the small crack, his expression became serious and he closed the door after that. He looked at the door for a bit and left quietly.

"What happened exactly? How did he get injured?" Spencer finally spoke when Ben was sending him off.

"Well..."

"I can see through all your lies, so you'd better tell me the truth," Spencer warned, "I'll get to the bottom of this if you keep it from me."

Ben knew there was no getting away, so he gave an honest account of everything.

"Again?" Spencer was indignant. "These two are just not meant to be."

"I've already sent some men to look into this. Don't worry. You can't blame Ms. Lindberg for this too. Mr. Nacht protected her because he wanted to. What matters most is now things are back to normal between the two of them," Ben said carefully.

"It's still too early to say if this is a good thing," Spencer said with a sigh, "You take good care of him. Let me know if something happens."

"Sure thing, Mr. Spencer."

When Ben got back in, Raina was already there with a few other doctors. "How's Mr. Nacht?"

"He woke up already. He seems okay so far."

"Why didn't you call me?" Raina ran over to the ward.

"Hey, wait..."

Before Ben could say anything, Raina had already opened the door. She was stunned when she saw Charlotte and Zachary on the bed together. She immediately stepped outside and closed the door behind her. "Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

"I was about to tell you, but you went in already..."

"Ben!" It seemed like Zachary was awakened by the commotion outside.

"Yes," Ben replied instantly, going into the room.

"I don't want anyone to disturb us for the next half an hour."

"Understood."

Ben gestured at all the men to retreat.

Back in the room, Charlotte was awakened too. She rubbed her eyes as she got up, avoiding the wounds on Zachary's body.

"You're not going anywhere." Zachary stopped her and pulled her back into his arms.

"They are still waiting outside."

Charlotte felt bad. She knew Raina was here just now. Zachary needed to get his wounds checked.

"Let them wait."

Zachary turned and put his forehead on Charlotte's, rubbing his nose against hers.

"Zachary..." Charlotte saw his slender face and felt an urge to ask him about his health.

"Yes?" Zachary's lips brushed against her cheek as he spoke.

"Um..." Charlotte changed her mind. "I think you should really let the doctors come in."

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Charlotte knew Zachary was intractable. He would never show his vulnerability before his family.

He would not breathe a word even if she asked. It would only bother him further, so Charlotte decided to just swallow her question.

"Alright. I'll let you off the hook this time." Zachary let her go reluctantly.

Charlotte got out of the bed and pulled on a cardigan before going over to wash up. She changed into a new set of clothes and came over to help Zachary wash up.

She had never taken care of other people. The maids at home saw to it that she did not need to lift a finger to take care of anything at home in the past two years, but it felt so natural for her to attend to Zachary.

Zachary's heart warmed looking at her. It reminded her of the days they spent together. Everything was so blissful and now there was finally a chance for them to resume their relationship.

"All done." Charlotte wiped Zachary's hands clean and headed for the door.

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"Good morning, Ms. Lindberg."

Ben, Raina, Lupine, and the others greeted her the moment they saw her coming out from the ward.

"Come on in," she said.

"Yes." The tree headed in. Ben went over and stood beside Zachary while Raina checked on his wounds.

As for Lupine, she went next to Charlotte and reported back on her work. "The private jet is ready. It's ready for takeoff at two in the afternoon.

"Noted." Charlotte nodded.

"I want to go home if there's nothing else to do at the hospital," Zachary said.

Raina was concerned and tried changing his mind. "This is not a minor wound, Mr. Nacht. It'll be better to stay for a few more days. I know that Southridge has a hospital as well, but their equipment and facility are not as extensive. It's better to stay at this hospital. We'll be able to offer the best care in case..."

"In case?" Zachary cut her short impatiently, "There won't be any emergency. There's no need to be paranoid."

"But..."

Raina hushed when she met Zachary's fierce glare.

She looked at Ben beseechingly for help, but to her dismay, Ben did not object.

"Alright. I'll make the necessary arrangement."

Raina knew all hope was gone.

"Great," Zachary said, turning toward Charlotte. "Get over here."

Charlotte's brows stitched looking at him. Seriously. He's showing his true color just when he's getting better.

"What do you want?" she said begrudgingly, going over.

Zachary pulled her hand. "You're moving back home."

"What?"

"I was injured because of you. You have a price to pay."

Charlotte wanted to refute, but she knew there was no good reason for her to reject him.

"What about the kids?" This was the best excuse she could give.

"They're coming back as well," Zachary said. He wanted the whole family reunited. The thought of having the whole family back together put a smile on his face. "I can still read them bedtime stories even though I'm sick."

"I mean the three girls. We can't just leave them in Northridge."

"It's true that they are a handful, but they're adorable. Bring them along." The smile on his face deepened.

"What?" Charlotte knew Zachary was fond of children. He knew how to deal with kids well, but still, those girls were his enemy's children.

There was no way he would want to be under the same roof with them all the time.

"They are very playful. It'll be difficult to control all of them in one go. What about you go home and rest first. I have something to do for the next few days. I'll drop by your place after that."

"Where are you going? You're not leaving." Zachary's grip tightened around her hand.

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"I need to run an errand. I will be away for two days. I'm flying at two later. I will be back by tomorrow night."

"What do you have to do? I can send someone to get it done," Zachary insisted, still holding her hand. "I don't want to leave you."

"Dr. Felch just passed and I need to check if everything was properly taken care of. I need to see to this myself. This is the last thing I can do for him."

"Alright..." Zachary finally let go of her.

"I will be back in no time. You take care," she said gently.

Zachary nodded lightly.

"I'll go home first to check on the kids," she added, looking at her watch. It was already eight in the morning. She would need to hurry. She held Zachary's hand and bent down. "I'll see you tomorrow night."

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"Sure." Zachary did not want her to leave, but he knew she had to. "Bring more men with you. I'll make sure the kids are fine."

"Thanks." Charlotte took another reluctant look at him before leaving.

"We'll make a move first, Mr. Nacht," Lupine said with a bow.

Zachary looked grave watching them leave.

"The wounds look fine. I'll get the paperwork ready to check you out," Raina said.

"Great," Ben replied.

He closed the door after the doctors left and poured Zachary some water.

"Call Hayley and Sam. Make sure they don't tell Charlotte anything," Zachary reminded.

Ben looked at him in bewilderment. "Do you think she will ask them?"

"I think so. We need to take preemptive steps," Zachary said solemnly with his gaze low.

"I'll do it right away." Ben went out to make a call. After about ten minutes, he entered the room again. "It's all done, Mr. Nacht."

"They are trustworthy people. They won't betray us. I'm just afraid they will give in to Charlotte's entreat or accidentally say something wrong. Did you make it clear to them?"

"Yes, I did. I told them to hurry her home after she paid her respects."

"Good," Zachary said weakly. He sat back down to rest, gradually closing his eyes into a slumber.

Ben pulled his blanket over him and stood watch beside him. He was worried about Zachary.

Outside the hospital, Lupine had been making a few calls. "Ms. Lindberg, as you expected, I can't get through to Hayley. It keeps saying she's on another call. Do you think she's been over the phone with Ben?" Lupine asked.

"Hayley and Sam don't have a lot of friends. They don't know anyone else other than us," Charlotte noted seriously, "It will be too coincidental. Her phone has been busy ever since we came out of the hospital."

"Does this mean Mr. Nacht is really hiding something from us?" Lupine was worried sick.

Charlotte fell into silence, a stoic expression hanging on her face.

Morgan's car pulled up in front of the hospital and the two women were about to get in when a silver Maybach drove over. The window on the backseat rolled down to a beautiful face. "Do you have a few minutes to spare, Ms. Lindberg? It won't take long."

Charlotte looked at her watch and went into her car with Lupine.

Morgan's car followed closely behind.

The two cars drove toward Rakan Hill and Nancy spoke first. "Is Mr. Nacht awake?"

"Yes, he is. You should go check on him if you're worried," Charlotte said briefly.

"I will drop by later, but I'd like a word with you before I see him. I'll send you home, so I won't delay you. I hope you don't mind just having short chitchat with a friend."

"What is it you want to talk about?" Charlotte went straight to the point.

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"In truth, I have known Mr. Nacht since a long time ago," Nancy spoke frankly, "I had met him at a business conference a few years ago. I knew he was the man I wanted to marry the first time I saw him."

Although Charlotte expected Nancy to say something like this, hearing it in person still disconcerted her.

She used to think that Nancy pursued Zachary for power and business interests. Now that she found out that Nancy really loved him, she was perturbed.

"I was still young when I first saw him, so there was nothing I could do about my feelings for him, but now I'm the heir of my family's company. I now have the social position to date and marry him. I'm a woman worthy of his love."

Nancy's tone was confident as if she was declaring war.

"I'm aware that you guys were married and have three children together. I'm also aware that he still has feelings for you, but none of these matters to me."

Nancy took a look at Charlotte and continued, "What matters here is that I'm the most suitable candidate for him."

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Lupine clenched her fists listening to Nancy.

"You think too highly of yourself, Ms. Gold," Lupine spoke up, "There would always be people better than you. There are still a lot of capable women out there. Besides, it doesn't matter how capable you are if Mr. Nacht doesn't like you."

"How do you know if he likes me or not?" Nancy questioned.

"You won't be talking to me right now if he likes you," Charlotte intervened, "You should be talking to him if you want to win him over. It's useless talking to me."

"I'm well aware of that. I'm here to tell you that I won't go easy on you anymore. I will do all it takes to win his heart."

"I wish you all the best then," Charlotte said, "Stop the car."

The driver slowed down and gradually moved to the side of the road.

"You guys are not made for each other. He gets hurt every time he's with you. He would not injure himself if it weren't for you," Nancy added.

"This has nothing to do with you. He's willing to risk his life for me, but what about you?"

"I..." Nancy could not answer.

Lupine smiled triumphantly, feeling rather satisfied.

The car finally came to a stop and Nancy took a deep breath. "Never say never, Ms. Lindberg. Nothing is constant in our lives. He's willing to sacrifice his life for you, but that doesn't mean he will do the same in the future. I will become his wife one day."

"Let's see if that happens."

Charlotte shot her a smile and went out. Before she closed the door, she turned back and said, "By the way, you don't have to keep informing me about your next step in the future. You can just go ahead."

"Really? You'll regret saying this one day," Nancy replied, looking at her with a subtle smile.

"Till next time."

Charlotte closed the door and went back to Morgan's car.

Nancy looked at her from the rearview mirror as the silver Rolls-Royce sped off and vanished in her sight ahead of her. "Just you wait and see, Charlotte Lindberg."

"How dare she talk to you like that, Ms. Gold. The Lindberg family has already fallen. She's in no place to talk down to you"

"Social status is not a big factor when it comes to relationships. Besides, Mr. Nacht doesn't care about this."

Nancy was able to read the situation objectively. "Her trump card is her kids. They had a past, but she forgot that Mr. Nacht is not the only man who had a past with her."

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Morgan drove on after Lupine and Charlotte got into the car. "What does Ms. Gold want with Ms. Lindberg?" Morgan asked.

"She declared war," Lupine said angrily, "She said she and Mr. Nacht were made for each other and that she would do everything she could to win him over."

Morgan lost it when she heard this. "Is she crazy? Who does she think she is?"

"I know right? I almost lashed out just now. Thank God Ms. Lindberg put her in her place," Lupine replied, looking at Charlotte, "Good job back there, Ms. Lindberg."

"Seriously, I should've just ram into her car," Morgan seethed, her grip tightening around the steering wheel. "I'll teach her a good lesson when I see her."

"Uh-huh, what are you gonna do to her?" Charlotte said.

"Well, I..." Morgan took a peek at Charlotte and said no more.

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"What she did was way better than those devious people who do things behind your back. Do you think I'd survive her ploys if she were to use some underhanded ways?"

"True that..." Lupine said softly.

"She'd be a worse enemy if she had questionable moral."

Despite what Charlotte said, she still felt threatened.

"She's always polite and honest in her dealings. This made her a bigger rival."

"Don't overthink, Ms. Lindberg. Mr. Nacht put his life on the line just to save you. He loves you a lot. He won't fall for that woman."

Charlotte lowered her gaze and kept quiet. She had a lot on her mind.

Sensing her mood, Lupine changed the topic. "How are the kids? Did they throw a tantrum because we didn't go back yesterday?"

Morgan clicked her tongue upon the question. "Don't even talk about it. They kept pestering me to read them stories. I read them three stories and yet they refused to let me go. They even made me sleep with them."

Morgan was in charge of the kids when Charlotte was away. She rambled on and on about the children with Lupine.

Lupine talked to her as she observed Charlotte's expression.

Charlotte fixed her gaze outside the window as the journey continued. She looked troubled.

Since it was a weekend, all the children were home when they arrived.

Charlotte went over to see Ellie and the three girls before going over to see Robbie and Jamie.

Jamie was studying with Robbie when Charlotte reached home. "Robbie, could you teach me this?"

Robbie would usually clear his doubts patiently, but he was a little testy today. "I thought I explained this to you already?"

Jamie was upset. "You're so fierce towards me! You don't have to talk to me like this even if you don't want to teach me."

"I've already taught you once, but you didn't understand. This question is so simple. I don't know why you don't get it. You're so dumb."

"How can you say that?"

Jamie pouted his lips and was on the verge of crying. He opened the door and dashed outside, running right into Charlotte.

He stopped in astonishment when he saw Charlotte and broke down crying.

"Jamie!" Charlotte hugged him and looked at Robbie. "It's okay. Don't cry, Jamie. Your sisters are gonna laugh at you if they see you crying."

"Mommy!" Jamie wailed harder when Charlotte hugged him.

"What happened, Jamie? Come on, stop crying, I'll bring you something nice for breakfast," Lupine said.

"Go with Lupine and get some food. I'll talk to you later, alright?" Charlotte said, passing Jamie to Lupine before going into the room. "Robbie, we need to talk."

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Charlotte had always been extra gentle and patient with Jamie, Ellie, and Danrique's girls, but when it came to Robbie, she could always speak to him frankly.

After all, Robbie was mature for his age.

When the boy realized he did something wrong, he lowered his head and walked over to his mother. "I'm sorry. I shouldn't get mad at Jamie," he said softly.

"Robbie, you're like a teacher to Jamie. It's totally okay if you want to give him constructive comments so he improves, but you might want to consider doing it in a better way," Charlotte comforted him with a smile.

"I know, Mommy."

"I know you're in a bad mood because you're worried about Daddy," Charlotte replied, caressing his head, "But Daddy and Mommy set you a good example. We've never projected our emotions onto you guys."

"I'm sorry, Mommy... I won't do it again."

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"That's my boy," Charlotte said, pulling the boy into her arms.

"How's Daddy going, Mommy? Is his injury serious?" Robbie looked at her with his red eyes, trying hard not to sound too anxious.

"He was knocked by a vase and he bled a lot, but he's out of danger already. Don't worry. He's going home later, so I guess Mr. Ben will be picking you guys up to go over later. You'll be able to see him then."

"He's checking out so fast? Who did this to him?"

"Daddy took the impact for me. The vase fell from above and we still have no idea who did it. They're running an investigation to look into it right now. Mr. Ben will tell us what happened when he gets more information about this."

"Alright," Robbie said quietly. He thought for a bit and asked, "Is Daddy okay? Is he hurting elsewhere other than his head?"

"You also realized there's something off with Daddy?"

Charlotte was shocked that Robbie actually sensed there was something wrong with Zachary.

She spotted Robbie's evasive gaze. He looked restless.

Although Robbie was a mature boy, he was not good at hiding his feelings. After all, he was just a six year-old.

Charlotte knew the boy was trying to keep it a secret from her, so she decided to try a different approach. "I feel something is not right too. I'm worried that Daddy is hiding his sickness from us and bearing it all alone. I need to get to the bottom of this."

"How are you gonna find out the truth?" the boy asked.

"I'm going to Mount Phoenix to pay my respects to Dr. Felch. I'll ask Hayley if she knows about Daddy. Don't say a word to anyone about this, okay?" Charlotte instructed.

"I won't, Mommy," the boy replied instantly, his voice betraying a hint of thrill. "You still care about Daddy, don't you? I thought you'd just let him be."

"Of course, I care about Daddy. I know he doesn't want to let me know, but I'm still gonna find out," she said, patting his head.

"I actually wasn't planning on telling you this, but you're a smart boy. I won't be able to keep this from you for long, so it's better to just lay all the cards so you won't worry too much about Daddy."

Robbie nodded. "Thanks for telling me this, Mommy. I actually realized there was something wrong with Daddy. When Dr. Felch passed away, he was already at his place before we arrived. That means he went to see Dr. Felch earlier on, but Dr. Felch was not someone who likes socializing. Although he was good friends with great-grandpa, Dr. Felch only went to see him when there were important matters. As for you and Ellie, Dr. Felch had cured your disease, so there's no good reason for Daddy to see him privately."

The boy spelled his doubts to Charlotte coherently. It was apparent that he had put in a lot of thoughts about what he observed.

"Besides, he suddenly stopped halfway when he was reading us a story. He stopped for a good minute and he seemed disturbed. Then he started making up a weird ending for the story. I feel like there's something wrong with his vision. That's why he made up the story."

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Charlotte was amazed that Robbie realized everything before she even noticed any peculiarity with Zachary.

When she thought about it, she would not have overlooked these details if she had cared more about Zachary.

This made her feel indebted to him.

"Mommy, I heard that they were looking for a doctor called Francesco. It seems like he's the only person who can save Daddy. He's Uncle Dan's good friend. Do you know him?"

Robbie finally asked the question that had bugged him for a long time.

"Francesco?" Charlotte looked away, thinking hard. "Lupine mentioned him before. He's the one who treated me when I was poisoned. I heard that his skills are impressive, but I don't have his contact. I'll do everything I can to find him."

"That's great. Mommy, you have to do everything to find him. Mr. Ben and Mr. Bruce have been looking for him all over."

"I know. I'll try my best. I won't leave Daddy alone. I will do everything I can to save him. You just need to take care of yourself. Don't worry too much, okay?"

"I can help you keep an eye on how things are at home, Mommy," Robbie suggested in all seriousness.

"It's fine, Robbie. We can solve this on our own. You're still a child. All I want is for you to be healthy and happy. I'll be able to focus on finding a cure for Daddy if I know all my children are well."

"Alright, Mommy. I'll do that," Robbie nodded obediently.

"Good boy," Charlotte said, touching his cheeks, "Go and play with Jamie. I'm sure he's waiting for you to talk to him again."

"I bet he is," Robbie said in embarrassment before running out to look for Jamie.

Charlotte looked at him darting off and a smile curved on her lips. If there were anything she was proud of in this world, it would definitely be her children.

Knock! Lupine was here. "Ms. Lindberg, Ben is already here to pick up the kids."

"Alright. Ask them to get their things ready. I'll be down in a minute. I need to get a change."

"Sure." With that, Lupine executed her orders.

Charlotte got a change and went downstairs to send off the kids. Although Southridge and Northridge were close by, the children were still reluctant every time they had to say goodbye.

The three girls were especially sad when they found out that Charlotte was going out and that Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie were going home. They sulked as everyone left.

Jamie and Ellie had to placate them and promise to come over tomorrow to make the girls smile again.

Charlotte sent the children off and watched their car leave. After that, she talked to the three girls before packing her bags and departing for the airport.

She only brought Lupine and two other female bodyguards with her this time around. The rest of the security personnel stayed behind to take care of the children.

Charlotte got a call from Michael when she was on the way to the airport.

"Hey, Charlotte, I have some information about the incident. Apparently, a cat ran over the vase that dropped on Mr. Nacht. The cat owner was so fearful upon knowing what happened. The hotel guest is currently talking to Ben to work out possible compensations."

"A cat?" Charlotte interrupted, "I thought the hotel has a no-pet policy. Even if the guest is able to bring the cat in, how is it possible that the vase fell from above? I checked out the room layout. It's a room and a balcony right above the door we were at. How is it possible there's a vase on the balcony? And even if the guest moved the vase to the balcony, it should be placed on a table or a coffee table, not on the guard rail, so there's no way the cat knocks the vase over. This just doesn't make sense."

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"I had the same doubts too upon hearing that. I talked to the cat owner and got a statement of what happened. Then, I simulated the crime scene based on the statement. I'll send you the video right away."

Charlotte looked at the video after Michael sent it. The owner had bought some fresh roses and took the vase over to the balcony to place her flowers in there, but before she was done, her phone rang and she ran back into her room to get the call.

It was then that the white cat jumped from the floor to the balcony, sending the vase dropping downward.

At first glance, everything seemed legitimate, but Charlotte still felt something was off.

There's still something odd about this incident, but I can't seem to figure what it is...

"Did you see it already?" Michael called back after a while.

"Yeah. I can't find anything wrong with the video, but we can't just take her for her word. She might not be telling the truth."

"Of course. I've already directed her to Ben. They will decide what to do with the case. I'm really sorry for what happened. I'll do everything I can to make it up to Mr. Nacht."

"That's a job well done. Thanks for your help. I'm proud of how you handled everything, Michael."

"Come on, I'm almost thirty. I have to know how to handle something like this," Michael replied with a laugh. "Luckily the room is on the fourth floor and the vase's not big. Things could have been more serious if the room were higher. The impact could be fatal."

"I know right..." Charlotte replied. It still unnerved her to think about what happened. "But his wound is still pretty big."

"I'm really sorry for everything. I went to the hospital in the morning to see Mr. Nacht, but he had already left, so I could only ask Ben to relay my apology. I also told them that I'm more than happy to make any form of compensation."

"Don't say so. It's just an accident," Charlotte comforted, "I really have to go, Michael. I'm at the airport already. I'll talk to you later."

"The airport? Where are you off to?" Michael questioned.

"I'm going back to the countryside. I need to attend to something. I'll be back tomorrow night."

"Alright. I'm leaving the day after tomorrow. Can we meet up again after you come back? I have something I need to tell you," Michael asked reluctantly.

"We'll see how things turn out. I'll keep you updated."

Lupine pulled up beside the entrance and got off to open the door for Charlotte. "I really got to go, Michael. Talk to you later."

"Alright. See you."

Carrying her baggage with her, Charlotte got off in a rush with her three bodyguards following her.

"I don't think it's just an accident," Lupine said her piece of mind, "The vase could have fallen right on you if Mr. Nacht had not pushed you away. Everything happened a little too perfectly — this is just too coincidental, don't you think so?"

"I think it's weird too, but Michael will never lie to me. He has probably gotten to the surface of things. I bet he doesn't know what actually happened, but it's okay. Ben has a lot of experience when it comes to things like this."

"I agree. I know he'll untangle all this mess."

"Let's board first. We'll talk about the rest later."

"Sure."

The four women boarded the plane.

Over at Southridge, Zachary snickered after looking at the video. "Seriously? Do they really think I'll buy this?"

"Do you think it's Michael? I don't think he's that kind of person though," Ben stated.

"It's not him." Zachary was sure about this. "It's someone else and this person wants Charlotte dead."

"Who can it be?" Ben asked, "I sent someone over yesterday night, but the hotel staff said they could not let us look at the room because of guest privacy. Then Michael allowed us in later on, but I guess the instigator had already left."

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Zachary looked away and fell into deep thought. "Continue investigating. I want you to find out who checked in to the hotel yesterday."

"Sure." Ben left to carry out the order.

Zachary massaged his brows and got ready to go through some documents, but before he could work, the voices of children came from outside. "Daddy! Can we come in?"

Zachary quickly sat up to make sure he looked okay. "Come in!"

The children opened the door and ran in happily, but the moment they saw the bandage on Zachary's head, their faces changed.

"Daddy..." Ellie broke down in tears when she saw him.

"What happened to you..."

Behind her, Jamie was trying his best to force back his tears. Robbie had told him to stay strong and hold back their tears no matter what; however, despite his efforts, tears still rolled down his cheeks.

"Are you okay, Daddy?"

Even Robbie was starting to choke on his words.

Daddy had always been their superhero. There was nothing he could not do. They had never seen him sick before.

Seeing him hurt was a huge blow for the children.

They felt as if their whole world was crumbling.

"I'm fine."

Zachary held out his hands and hugged the children affectionately.

The kids hugged him back carefully, afraid that they would hurt Zachary.

"How dare they do this to you," Jamie warned, "I'll beat them up to a pulp!"

Zachary laughed and ruffled his hair. "Leave this to Mr. Ben. He can do a better job than you. You can save the world in the future after you grow up."

"Hey, Daddy, are you looking down on me? Fine. I will grow up into a superman."

“Ha. Are you sure? I’ll still be around when you grow up though. I’ll still be the superman of the world.”

Everyone giggled at the banter and the tension eased.

“Exactly. There’s no way I can beat you, Daddy,” Jamie said timidly.

Zachary pinched his cheek and nodded. “Robbie, how are studies coming along with Mr. Sterk?”

“He’s a great scientist. I’ve learned a lot from him.”

Robbie went on to share all the interesting knowledge he learned.

“Mr. Sterk is already old. He doesn’t remember things as well as he used to, so just make sure you’re patient with him, alright?”

“I will, Daddy,” Robbie replied.

“What about you, Ellie? How are...”

“My studies are fine. I’ve been attending piano and dance classes.”

The little girl did not even wait for Zachary to finish his sentence. “Don’t worry about me. You need to rest and get well soon so you can play with us.”

“Since when did you take after your mother, huh?”

Zachary squeezed her cheeks tenderly.

“Daddy, are you saying that Mommy nags too much? I’m gonna tell her.”

Ellie puckered her lips and frowned at Zachary. “I’m gonna ask Mommy to punish you!”

Zachary chuckled looking at the cute girl. He figured this must be how Charlotte looked like when she was young.

“Daddy...” Ellie became downcast again looking at Zachary. “You have to be safe, okay? I want you to stay healthy so you can see all of us grow up.”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1376

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1376

Hearing Ellie's baby voice and seeing how she's pretending to be an adult by talking that way made Zachary's heart melt.

He wanted to say something, but the second his lips parted, a sting in his heart constricted his throat. In the end, he couldn't get himself to say even a word. All he could do was to hug Ellie tightly.

He felt his heart aching like never before.

If he could, he wished that he would live happily and healthily as well. He wanted to watch them grow up, but... I don't think I can last that long...

"You're being stupid, Ellie. Daddy will be fine," scolded Robbie. He took a deep breath, and in a voice thick with tears, he insisted, "Daddy will recover. He definitely will."

Robbie had faith that he and his mother would find Francesco to heal his father.

"Yeah, Daddy is just suffering from a minor injury. He will recover soon, so don't cry, Ellie," cooed Jamie. His way of thinking was simpler.

"He's right. I'll be up soon to play with everyone."

Zachary picked himself up and put on a smile to coo his kids. "Be good. I have to work, so you three go play among yourselves for now."

"Okay," replied the kids. They nodded obediently before leaving reluctantly.

Zachary's heart felt heavy once more as he watched the kids exiting. He had gone through dozens of wars and had never feared death. Yet, at that moment, he was suddenly terrified.

He worried that his kids would not have a father once he was gone.

What if I die and no one is there to teach Robbie or to train Jamie or to coo Ellie?

And what if no one is around to protect Charlotte?

He truly, and honestly didn't want to die!

Ben saw everything when he was standing by the door. His eyes reddened with tears.

We can't put this off anymore. Once Charlotte returns, I will tell her the truth and ask her to get in touch with Francesco. We have to heal him as quickly as possible...

He was about to call Lupine when a subordinate came to report, "Ben, Ms. Gold is here."

"Ugh, why is she here again?" complained Ben who seemed troubled by it.

"What do we do? Her car is parked right outside," informed the subordinate.

"Let me go ask Mr. Nacht," said Ben. He then went into Zachary's room to report, "Ms. Gold is here, Mr. Nacht."

"Okay, let her in," replied Zachary. He was reading his texts at the time and saw that Nancy had sent multiple texts over. She said that she wanted to visit him, so he wasn't surprised to hear that she was there.

"Should I get her to the garden or...?" asked Ben carefully.

"Have her meet me in the study room," instructed Zachary as he forced himself out of bed.

"Understood," replied Ben. He had his men take care of that while he himself helped Zachary change his clothes.

It didn't take long before Nancy entered the villa. She had two subordinates with her and brought a lot of supplements with her. Everything looked expensive.

Ben went down the stairs to welcome her. They exchanged some pleasantries before he took her to the study room.

The last time Nancy was there, Zachary had her wait for him in the dining room inside the garden. Hence, she was pleasantly surprised to see that she was being invited into the house. She felt like she and Zachary were getting closer.

"This way, please."

Ben opened the door to the study room and led Nancy inside.

Nancy's subordinates waited outside.

"Mr. Nacht..."

Nancy was understandably surprised to see Zachary sitting behind his desk like that. She thought that he was so sick that he could only lie on his bed and couldn't move a muscle. It looks like he is doing pretty well...

"Last night didn't count as me missing our appointment, did it?" asked Zachary with a smile.

"Not at all," answered Nancy. She grinned awkwardly before teasing, "I'm not here to demand an explanation for that, you know?"

"I'm glad to hear that," replied Zachary before he gestured for her to take a seat.

Nancy handed the gifts over to Ben and sat down opposite to Zachary. She was mocking herself a little when she smiled and pointed out, "It feels like we're talking business."

"Well, I truly am bad at this," said Zachary before he grinned as well.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1377

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1377

"I was just heartbroken," said Nancy. She looked a little sad and stared at Zachary before adding, "You don't actually need to see me as an outsider. It doesn't matter what state you're in. You'll always be a hero to me."

That was the first time Zachary had heard anyone professing their love for him that boldly. He couldn't help being taken aback.

The truth was that he had always been on the top and had been strict with himself. He had also been a perfectionist when it came to love, so he didn't have much romantic interactions with women.

He didn't get close to Sharon and Cynthia of his own free will, and he had never felt anything for them.

Hence, in a way, Nancy was the only woman he had ever willingly got close to, aside from Charlotte.

Nancy was undeniably perfect. Her family background, her education, her aura, her serene temper, her beauty... Everything was flawless.

The most important bit, however, was that she was especially attentive to Zachary.

"Sorry, I may have been a little too direct," apologized Nancy when she saw how Zachary hadn't replied in a while. She understandably panicked a little and added, "I just wanted to say that you don't need to pretend to be strong all the time. We're all just human, and we all fall sick sometimes."

Her voice was soft and trembling a little, but it was not because she was nervous. Her voice only sounded that way because she was heartbroken.

"Thank you," replied Zachary when he finally spoke up. Unfortunately, all he could offer were those two words. He later asked, "So, why did you drop by?"

"I just wanted to visit. I'm glad to see that you're okay," answered Nancy. She was quick to get her emotions in check because she was worried that he would get sick of her.

"Oh, thank you," thanked Zachary once more. He didn't know what else to say after that.

"There's one more thing," shared Nancy. She seemed to have just recalled something and was quick to inform, "I heard that Sir Louis is missing, and Sir Robert is looking everywhere for him. You should be wary when you leave the house these days."

"Louis is missing?" blurted Zachary. He was a little surprised and immediately ordered, "Ben, go look into the matter."

"Understood," replied Ben before he went to carry out his task.

"Rumor has it that something had happened in F Nation, and it hurt Sir Louis bad.

"He even tried to slit his own wrist, but he was rescued in time. Unfortunately, the wound in his heart couldn't heal that easily.

"By the way, he seemed to have showed signs of being depressed. Lady Sherlyn had asked a few experts over to examine him and had kept that news hidden.

"After that, Sir Louis snuck over to H City. He did that to look for Ms. Lindberg, but he bumped into you instead. In a fit of agitation, he attacked, but he missed and hurt Ms. Lindberg.

"When he returned, Sir Robert reprimanded him. Sir Louis made sure that no one was around and ran away from home after that."

Nancy gave Zachary a cliff's note version of what had happened.

"Is that really necessary? So he got dumped. What's the big deal?" said Zachary in an exasperated tone.

"I think it's more than that. I heard that something vile happened within the Laurent family, and Ms. Lindberg got into a fight with them as a result. Didn't she tell you about it?" asked Nancy in a meaningful tone.

"What happened?" asked Zachary.

"I don't know the specifics," answered Nancy while shaking her head, "Sir Louis is involved in it somehow, and it's supposedly embarrassing. The Laurent family kept it well hidden and made sure that no one could get to the truth, though. Even I don't know the whole story."

Zachary didn't reply. He simply frowned deeply.

If the matter involved Louis, then it surely involved Charlotte as well.

Zachary had long thought that things were strange because it seemed weird that Charlotte and the Laurent family became so hostile toward each other all of a sudden.

It was too extreme for the Laurent family to keep her locked up and send their men over to kill her, even if wanted to bully her after Danrique had fallen.

Moreover, why did Louis try to kill himself? And his depression... I'm guessing something happened behind the scenes.

Gah, it's so frustrating that Charlotte refused to talk about this. What the hell happened between her and Louis?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1378

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1378

"Mr. Nacht, I just looked into the matter and it is as Ms. Gold had said. Sir Louis is missing, and he was diagnosed with depression. It seemed that the family is hiding a huge secret as well," reported Ben hurriedly at that moment.

"I want the specifics! D*rn it, is that all you have to tell me after I told you to investigate the matter?" scolded Zachary.

"Right, of course. I'll further investigate the matter..."

"Leave!"

Zachary was losing his temper and was getting frustrated again.

His most recent injury showed him that Charlotte still cared, and their relationship was getting better.

However, he learned about how there was a secret between Louis and Charlotte. That got him agitated once more.

He thought about what he saw at the time in the hotel in Arkfield, and a sting ambushed his heart. It hurt so much that he felt like he was suffocating.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Nacht. I shouldn't have shared all that with you. I was just worried that Sir Louis will hurt you and wanted to warn you," said Nancy while staring apologetically over.

"I understand. Thank you," replied Zachary. He regained his footing and added, "I have been busy working on my own matter lately and forgot about keeping an eye on the situation. Hence, I'm glad you reminded me."

"I'm just doing my part," replied Nancy as she stared lovingly at him, "By the way, my project is kicking off on the first of next month. I'll throw a banquet then. If you recover by then..."

"There's still nine more days till the banquet. I should be fine and will be there," promised Zachary.

"That's good to know," said Nancy while smiling happily. She handed the invitation card to him and added, "We've only invited thirty guests for this event, and they are all business tycoons. My father will be there too. You'll be the most prestigious guest we have there, though, so I truly wish to see you there."

"Okay, I'll be there on time," replied Zachary as he accepted the invitation card.

"Then I better leave now so that I won't disrupt your rest," said Nancy as she stood up and added in a concerned tone, "You must rest well. If you haven't recovered when the month ends, maybe..."

"Don't worry, I'll be there," promised Zachary once again.

"Pinky promise," requested Nancy before she extended her hand to him.

Zachary was slightly taken aback, but he eventually reached out and gave her a pinky promise.

Nancy grinned gleefully before leaving reluctantly.

Ben walked her out, then returned to the study room to share the fruits of his investigation with Zachary. "For now, all we can figure out is what Ms. Gold had just shared with us. The Laurent family is keeping the secret well hidden, so it will take us some time before we get to it," reported Ben.

Zachary didn't even bother reading the file handed to him. He tossed it aside and got up to return to his room. Unfortunately, the pain from his injury was too severe, and he turned pale from it.

"Mr. Nacht..." said Ben as he hurried over to help Zachary up.

Zachary crouched down but had one hand on the sofa to support himself. He put his other hand on his head. The pain he experienced was so sharp that it got him to distort his face.

"I'll go get Raina over right away..."

Ben thought that the source of Zachary's pain was the injury on his head, so the former rushed to call Raina.

"No!" halted Zachary. He reached out to stop the guy, then fell onto the sofa and said, "It's not my injury. It's..."

The pain was so intense that Zachary couldn't even finish speaking. He gritted his teeth and leaned against the sofa as his sweat dripped down.

"Is the poison acting up again? How did this happen? It had never hurt you that badly before, so why... Mr. Nacht? Mr. Nacht!"

Zachary fainted on the sofa before Ben could even finish speaking.

That prompted Ben to call Raina immediately. The latter was staying in Southridge, so she was quick to show up with her medical staffs.

Marino, Cain, and the others kept the kids away from the room. They made up some excuses and banned the children from entering the room because they didn't want to traumatize the kids.

Raina and her team started treating Zachary right away. They treated his issue as an emergency.

Ben stood at the side and was so worried that he was trembling. This can't go on. If things keep progressing this way, Mr. Nacht might actually...

As Ben walked away, he dialed Lupine's number. He couldn't reach her, though.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1379

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1379

That evening, a private jet landed in Phoenix City.

It was a rather small place, so even the airport felt a little deserted.

Charlotte led her people out of the plane and got into the car they prepared beforehand. All three of them got into the car and made their way to Mount Phoenix right away.

As they traveled, Lupine turned on her phone and noted that there were a few missed calls. She was about to call back when she suddenly noticed how several black cars were tailing them.

"Ms. Lindberg..."

"Yeah, I know," replied Charlotte who was keeping her eyes on the rearview mirror. She calmly instructed, "Change of plans. We're not going to Mount Phoenix anymore. Change route now."

She didn't want to drag Hayley and Sam into the mess.

"Understood."

The ladies' car made a turn and tried to shake off their tail.

"Who the hell are they? It doesn't look like they're from Erihal," commented Lupine curiously.

"Let's figure that out after we've lost them."

Charlotte had been monitoring her enemies via the rearview mirror. She wanted to apprehend them and figure out who they were as well, but she didn't have many subordinates with her. On top of that, they didn't have any weapons. Things will get ugly if we get into a fight, thought Charlotte.

They have five cars in total and about twenty men with them, so they are clearly out for blood.

However, they didn't use their weapons on us and are trying to force our car into a corner. That means they want us alive...

As the fight got more intense on Charlotte's side, Zachary remained unconscious in Southridge.

Bruce rushed over once he heard the news. When he saw how terrible Zachary looked, he punched the wall out of worry and declared, "We can't keep waiting like this. I'll go to Erihal and look for Francesco myself!"

"I was going to do exactly that," replied Ben, "Francesco has to be in Erihal. I'll work from here and locate him as quickly as possible. After that, I will share his location with you, and you can go straight to him once you land."

"Alright," agreed Bruce, "Work as quickly as possible, and stop hesitating! Don't worry so much about the future. We have to save him, even if it means he will end up being chased out of the Nacht family."

"I know," shared Ben in a thick voice, "I was too cowardly to betray him earlier, but the way things are now... We can't afford to worry about anything else."

"Okay, then we'll split up and work from different angles. I'll rush to the airport now."

"Take a few more men with you and keep in touch with me."

The two of them exchanged some more words before Ben took a deep breath to pick himself back up. He entered Zachary's room after that.

Raina pulled up the blanket for Zachary. She turned around and informed Ben, "I want to invite Dr. Wright over to treat Mr. Nacht. She might be able to help."

"Okay, then get in touch with her soon."

Ben was out of options. He would hold on to any shred of hope and possibility.

"I worry that she won't come. She only agreed to drop by the last time because Mr. Nacht called her in person. She might not listen to me..."

Raina hadn't even finished speaking before her phone rang. She checked the screen and blurted in surprise, "It's Ms. Gold."

"Why is she contacting you now?" complained Ben in an annoyed tone.

"She asked for my number this morning and told me to get in touch with her should Mr. Nacht's condition worsen or if we need help," answered Raina. After that, she picked up the call, "Ms. Gold..."

"Dr. Langhan, I tried to call Ben, but no one picked up so I'm calling you instead. I've hired Dr. Wright and asked her to come to treat Mr. Nacht. I also sent a private jet to go pick her up.

"Her plane should land shortly, and I am waiting to pick her up at the airport. Please ask Mr. Nacht if he's free tonight. Perhaps Dr. Wright can drop by his place to treat him?"

"Yes, of course," replied Raina in an ecstatic tone, "I was just about to ask her to drop by and was worried that she might not agree to fly over. Who would've thought that you'd already gotten her over? This is fantastic news to us."

"I'm glad to hear that. To tell you the truth, I was actually worried that Mr. Nacht might not like how I'm taking the initiative to do things and might call me a busybody," said Nancy, "I'll head over with Dr. Wright later. Is that okay?"

"Of course that's fine. When will the two of you be here? I'll go pick you both up."

Raina was extremely excited. Helen being there would, no doubt, increase the odds of Zachary surviving.

Even if Dr. Wright can't cure Mr. Nacht completely, she can still stabilize his condition and prevent it from deteriorating.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1380

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1380

"We'll be there in about an hour. The airport is some distance away, and the plane is still in the air. It'd also take some time before the good doctor passes through customs," informed Nancy.

"Please hurry," blurted Raina.

"Huh? Why? What's wrong? Did something happen to Mr. Nacht?" asked Nancy hurriedly and in a concerned tone.

"He fainted."

Raina knew that there was no point in hiding the truth because Nancy would eventually learn it since she was dropping by with the good doctor.

"How did that happen? He seemed fine when I left this morning," shared Nancy. She was instantly worried.

"It's a long story. Let's talk about it in person," answered Raina to change the topic.

"Okay, I'll head over as quickly as possible."

"Thank you."

After hanging up, Raina turned to Ben and informed, "They will be here in about an hour. It seems that we can no longer keep Mr. Nacht's medical condition a secret."

"Naturally, we can't lie to Dr. Wright because she needs to know the symptoms to treat Mr. Nacht properly. We can, however, lie to Ms. Gold and tell her that it is just a simple injury," shared Ben, who had considered everything carefully, "Dr. Wright and Ms. Gold might be friends, but the good doctor is even closer to Mr. Nacht. I'm sure she understands the importance of keeping things a secret and won't blab."

"That's true," said Raina while nodding, "Dr. Wright showing up at this time is like finding an oasis in a desert. She would help us greatly."

"We truly owe Ms. Gold a favor for this," sighed Ben.

"Please take care of Mr. Nacht. I'll go set things up."

"Okay."

Raina left after that, and Ben became the only one standing guard beside Zachary who was sleeping deeply and had shallow breaths. It looked like he might die at any moment.

Ben panicked. He knew that Helen could, at most, stabilize Zachary's condition and prevent it from worsening. She can't cure him completely. We still need Francesco for that.

Bruce has already left for Erihal, and I have to locate Francesco soon as well.

Those thoughts prompted Ben to call Lupine once more.

The phone kept ringing, but no one picked up.

Ben found that to be strange. If the phone is ringing, then it means that they have gotten off the private jet. So, why isn't she picking up?

Ordinary folks might miss a call or neglect to check their phones, but Lupine was different. Like Ben, she was a trained elite bodyguard and knew to keep in constant contact with her client and/or those close to her.

She would never ignore her call unless something had happened... Oh no!

Ben instantly panicked when he thought about that. Are they in trouble now?

He quickly called Charlotte, but no one picked up either.

That prompted him to call Hayley right away. Finally, someone picked up his call. "Hello!"

"Hayley, have Ms. Lindberg and the others reached your place?" asked Ben to cut to the chase.

"No, not yet," answered Hayley nervously, "I thought it's strange as well. By right, they should've called us once they reached the vicinity, but they never got in touch with us. I tried calling Charlotte and Lupine earlier, but neither picked up."

That means something truly had happened!

Ben's expression took a sharp turn, but his voice remained calm when he informed, "Don't worry about it. Some miscellaneous issues probably delayed them. Please inform me once they show up."

"Oh, okay."

After hanging up, Ben had Cain and Kyle take some men over to Phoenix City to locate Charlotte and the others. He commanded them to bring everyone home safely.

Cain and Kyle took over ten subordinates with them and departed right away.

The Nacht family was facing troubles from all angles, and Ben was feeling more pressured and worried than ever.

He had faced many grave issues in the past, but everyone felt strong and motivated because Zachary was around to lead them. He inspired them to be fearless.

With Zachary out of commission, the weight of the Zachary's burden fell onto them and crushed them.

"Ms. Gold and Dr. Wright are here, Ben," reported a subordinate at that moment.

"Invite them over immediately."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1381

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1381

When Nancy learned that Zachary was in trouble, she worked so fast that she only spent thirty minutes to travel down the route that should've taken an hour.

Dr. Wright retched when she got out of the car and almost vomited.

"What happened to Dr. Wright?" asked Raina in astonishment.

"She's just a little carsick," replied Nancy calmly, "She'll be fine after she had some coffee."

"Oh, okay."

Raina was quick to have someone make the good doctor some coffee.

She knew that Nancy must've made her chauffeur drive like crazy. That's the only explanation as to how she managed to rush to Southridge within such a short time frame.

Rokan Hill was famous for its winding routes, and rushing over like that meant that Helen must've had a bad experience.

She drank some coffee, but barely had time to sit and rest because Nancy urged her to examine Zachary right away.

Helen had no choice but to set her cup of coffee down and took her assistant to the second floor.

"Ms. Gold, Dr. Wright, thank you for coming," greeted Ben while rushing over.

"Ben, this is the renowned Dr. Wright," said Nancy to introduce Ben and Helen to one another before asking, "What happened to Mr. Nacht?"

"He's unconscious," informed Ben while frowning. He spoke to Dr. Wright in Ustranasian and said, "Please help him, Dr. Wright."

"I'll go check up on him now," replied Helen. She was a reliable doctor at the end of the day and was quick to enter the room. "Please have someone update me on his condition."

"Okay," replied Raina before she hurried over.

Nancy wanted to follow along, but Ben stopped her and suggested, "You must be tired from all the traveling, Ms. Gold. How about you rest up in the guest bedroom for now?"

"I'd like to see how he's doing."

Nancy's gaze slipped past Ben's arm to try to see how things were inside the room. However, Raina closed the doors as soon as she entered, and two subordinates stood guard beside the door.

All that showed that things were grave.

"Mr. Nacht is being treated now, so it's inappropriate for anyone else but the doctors to be with him," replied Ben to explain the situation, "I understand that you're worried, and I have someone get a guest bedroom ready for you. Please stay the night. You'll see that Mr. Nacht is fine when he wakes up in the morning."

"Okay, then thank you for your hospitality," replied Nancy. Staying here gives me a great advantage. I don't need to rush things for now.

"You're welcome. Let me take you to your room," said Ben as he led Nancy to the guest's bedroom, "Don't worry. I've also prepared a room for your subordinates."

"Thank you."

And just like that, Nancy and her two subordinates ended up staying in the Nacht residence.

Ben even had Mrs. Rawlston make them dinner. He made sure that everything was settled before he went to check up on Zachary.

Nancy soon realized that two maids were stationed right outside her room. They would serve her and get her anything she wanted at any hour.

However, Nancy knew that Ben only assigned those maids over to prevent her from venturing all over the place.

The precautions they took made her feel nervous, and her expression turned grim.

"I've long known that the Nacht family had a lot of rules, but I never imagined them to be that strict," commented one subordinate, "Two maids stood guard outside every room, and bodyguards are stationed all over the place. Geez, they're even stricter than a palace."

"Do you think maybe they're worried that we'd go after Mr. Nacht?" guessed another subordinate.

"I don't think that's what's happening," said Nancy while pacing around the room. "It's likely that Mr. Nacht is gravely ill, and the others are worried about the news of his deteriorating health being spread. His wellbeing determines the fate of the family and the corporation, after all. If the media learned that he is ill, Nacht Group's share prices will surely fall."

"That's true. He seems well this morning, but now..."

"Is that vase really that heavy?"

"What do you think? It smashed right on to his head! Would you like to experience it yourself to see how bad it'd hurt?" scolded Nancy.

"Sorry," replied the subordinate while bowing down. The poor sap didn't dare to even breathe too loudly.

"Have our people apprehend the perpetrator and all other individuals involved in the matter," ordered Nancy firmly.

"Understood," replied a subordinate before making the calls right away.

"And then there's that Charlotte Lindberg. She is nothing but trouble! Mr. Nacht won't be in this state if it wasn't for her," growled Nancy through gritted teeth.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1382

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1382

"S-should we punish her?" asked a subordinate carefully.

"No, we cannot hurt her," answered Nancy while frowning, "She is f*cking annoying, but Mr. Nacht cares about her. He will be affected if anything were to happen to her."

"Alright, then," replied the subordinate who didn't dare to say much else.

"I wonder how Mr. Nacht is doing now."

Nancy was on edge. She wanted to see how Zachary was doing, but she further considered the situation and realized that Ben probably wouldn't let her see him. Hence, she had to back down.

She kept reminding herself. I must remain calm.

I cannot lose my footing and must have what it takes to remain unaffected despite the overwhelming difficulty ahead. Only then will I have a shot at being Mrs. Nacht.

If I can't even do this, the maids and bodyguards will look down at me.

Still, Nancy was too worried, so she opened her door and told the maids stationed outside, "Please remember to come to get me once Mr. Nacht wakes up."

"Okay, don't worry. We'll keep you posted on the matter," replied the maid politely.

"Alright, thanks."

Nancy shot a look at Zachary's room and noted that entire floor was extremely quiet. The treatment is probably still going on.

"How is he?" asked Ben when he entered Zachary's room.

Shh! gestured Raina.

Ben clamped his mouth shut instantly and waited patiently at the side.

Helen scanned Zachary's reports and examined his injuries and his condition before sharing grimly, "You overestimated my skills as a doctor. I can't do anything about his condition."

"Please take a closer look, Dr. Wright. Think hard. I'm sure you can come up with something," urged Raina nervously.

"The best I can do is stabilize his condition and make it so that it won't worsen for the time being. Unfortunately, I am unable to cure him. You will have to hire someone else for that. The chances of him being healed are low, though," shared Helen directly.

Ben's heart gripped upon hearing those words. He had prayed that a miracle would happen and had a little hope left, but the good doctor squashed that hope.

"Let's start with stabilizing his condition, then," requested Raina grimly, "We'll be counting on you, Dr. Wright."

"I'll need some medical equipment. Please get them ready for me," requested Helen right away as she informed Raina, "I will perform a minor surgery on Mr. Nacht. If everything goes smoothly, we should be able to stabilize his condition for a while."

"Okay, sure. I'll get everything up and running right away."

The aura in the Nacht residence was grimmer than it had ever been. Every bodyguard and maid were on edge, and they struggled throughout the night.

Ben, Raina, Marino, and the others didn't sleep at all. They stood guard outside Zachary's room the entire time.

At around one-thirty in the morning, Helen performed a minor surgery on Zachary and gave him some treatments. She ended everything with a warning to Raina.

"This surgery will temporarily slow down the effects of the poison, but you must keep a close eye on him. Do not let him get hurt again. Even the angels won't be able to bring him back if you do."

"Understood," replied Raina before she nodded.

"He must recuperate for the time being, and it is best if he remains physically idle. That would further slow the poison down," advised Helen, "As for his medication, just prescribe him the same medicine he had been taking all this while. There aren't any other special medication that can help, anyway."

"Okay, understood."

The more Helen spoke, the heavier Raina's heart felt. Everything Helen had said pointed to Zachary's condition being critical.

"Pardon me for being direct, but this surgery can, at most, prolong his life by one month," shared Helen, "There is no saying how things will be after that. My recommendation is that he should prepare for everything within the month. His will, for example, can be updated and..."

Ben and the other glared over evilly before Helen could finish speaking. She changed her stance right away and said, "Let's pretend I never said anything."

"Dr. Wright, please allow me to take you to your room," suggested Raina quickly to lead the good doctor away.

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"There's no need for that," replied Helen, who didn't really want to get too deeply involved in the drama. She said, "There's basically nothing else I can do now, so I'll just go to the hotel. Ms. Gold has already gotten a room for me. You can still call me whenever you need to, though."

"That's a great idea, too. I'll have the chauffeur take you to your hotel," said Raina before she asked two subordinates to drive Helen to the hotel. Before Helen left, Raina requested, "Please rest up tonight. If possible, will you drop by my hospital tomorrow to check up on another patient?"

"Are you referring to the patient in the persistent vegetative state?" asked Helen who had always been straightforward, "Mr. Nacht called me some time ago to tell me about the patient. Who would've thought that he'd end up being worse off than the patient he was worried about?"

"I guess the future is always unpredictable," sighed Raina, "Oh, by the way, please keep Mr. Nacht's medical condition a secret. You must never tell anyone about it, or the consequences will be dire."

"Don't worry, I know how things are," said Helen with a straight face on, "If this secret is ever exposed, my career will be over, and I will be in grave danger as well."

"Please be aware that you can't even let Ms. Gold know about this," reminded Ben, "No one else but you should know anything about Mr. Nacht's condition."

"Don't worry, I know what to do. I won't want to get myself in trouble, either," replied Helen while nodding.

Raina cleared her throat a little before suggesting, "Let me walk you out."

"Okay," murmured Helen. She was quick to walk down the stairs and was eager to leave.

"To ensure your safety, I will send two bodyguards over to you," promised Ben as he gestured for two bodyguards to follow along.

"Okay, whatever you say."

Helen knew that her safety was just the bodyguards' secondary mission. Their main objective was to keep an eye on her and make sure that she wouldn't blab.

Still, Helen dealt with major issues all the time, so she didn't mind minor inconveniences like that.

"Thank you for everything you're doing," said Ben before he bowed to her and turned around to walk up the stairs.

Raina walked Helen to the car and asked the subordinates to be nice to Helen before returning to the Nacht residence.

The former was walking up the stairs when she heard a melodious voice, "Dr. Langhan!"

Raina shifted her gaze over and blurted in surprise, "Ms. Gold, you're still up?"

"I've been waiting for updates about Mr. Nacht's condition. How is he? Is he up?" asked Nancy as she walked out of her room.

"Not yet," answered Raina softly, "He'll probably wake up in the morning. Dr. Wright's treatment had stabilized his condition, though, so there is no need to be worried."

"That's good to know. Can I go see how he's doing?" asked Nancy after she sighed a breath of relief.

"Sorry, but before Dr. Wright left, she repeatedly reminded us not to disturb him," replied Raina to reject Nancy's request then suggested, "Please rest for now. I'll have someone update you once Mr. Nacht wakes up."

"Okay," replied Nancy. She seemed a little disappointed and had turned to look at Zachary's room. Four subordinates were stationed right outside, and everyone looked grim. It seems the situation is still grave.

"Ben is guarding over Mr. Nacht in the room," shared Raina, "I just walked Dr. Wright out and am heading back in to monitor Mr. Nacht as well. Don't worry. He'll be fine."

"Okay," murmured Nancy while nodding, "Then I'll go sleep now. Please do inform me when he wakes up."

"Okay."

Raina watched Nancy leave before she entered Zachary's room herself.

Ben had dismissed everyone else and was standing guard beside Zachary's bed.

Raina suggested softly, "Take a nap. I'll take over and stay guard."

"I can't sleep," said Ben. He had been so busy that he didn't have the time to even sip some water. Hence, his voice had turned raspy. He added, "Dr. Wright claimed that the surgery will only buy us one month. That means we have to find Francesco within that time frame or..."

"We have to count on Ms. Lindberg now," murmured Raina, "She is the only one who can find Francesco."

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"Ah!"

Ben suddenly recalled how Charlotte and the others had been missing for the entire night. He immediately called Lupine again, but her phone was turned off.

Similarly, Charlotte's phone was switched off too.

Ben worried even more. Charlotte can't get into any trouble at a time like this. If she does, we'll all be in hot water.

"Did something happen to Ms. Lindberg?" asked Raina worriedly.

"We lost contact with her. My guess is that she got ambushed. I've already sent my men over to check things out, but they haven't reported back," replied Ben while frowning deeply.

"Then find her quickly. Don't let anything happen to her," urged Raina nervously, "Mr. Nacht practically sacrificed his life for her. If anything were to happen to Ms. Lindberg..."

"I know."

Ben called Kyle and Cain right away.

It didn't take long before he received the report of how they had just arrived in Phoenix City. They were searching for Charlotte, but they hadn't found any clues just yet. The only thing they could be certain of was that the ladies were followed as soon as they landed.

Ben instructed them to find Charlotte at all costs and to take everyone home safely.

He worried endlessly after he hung up.

Raina spoke up to offer some comfort. "Ms. Lindberg is no longer the woman she used to be and is now a force to be reckoned with. Moreover, she has well-trained bodyguards with her, so I'm sure she's fine."

"I hope that's true."

That night, Zachary slept deeply on his bed. He had no idea what had happened.

No one else could sleep, though.

Helen had explained that Zachary's condition was stabilized, but everyone would still be worried so long as he remained unconscious.

Ben and Raina stood guard in the room until the sun rose on the following morning. The sunlight streamed in via the gaps between the curtains, and warmth seeped in.

Raina went to pull the curtains close while Ben pulled up Zachary's blanket for him. When he saw that Zachary was still sleeping deeply, he understandably got worried and asked, "It's already seven in the morning. Why isn't he up yet?"

"Let's wait a little longer," said Raina. She had a warm towel with her and was wiping Zachary's face.

Knock! Knock! A series of knocks came from the door. A servant then said, "Breakfast is ready, Ms. Gold. Please head down the stairs to eat up."

"I'd like to see Mr. Nacht."

"But..."

Ben and Raina looked at each other. An understanding passed between them, and Raina put her medical equipment away immediately. After that, she went to open the door, "Good morning, Ms. Gold."

"Morning. It seems I'm intruding a little. Did I get in the way?" asked Nancy apologetically.

"No, not at all. Mr. Nacht is still sleeping," answered Raina.

"Can I see him? I just want to see how he's doing. I couldn't sleep last night because I was too worried," begged Nancy.

Raina's heart softened upon hearing that. A rich heiress with high social status had lowered her stance so much that she was begging like that... How can I refuse her request?

"Then please come in."

"Raina..."

Ben wanted to stop her, but Raina had already opened the door, so he wasn't in a position to say anything else.

Nancy had her subordinates wait outside the room. She was the only one who entered it. When she saw how Zachary was lying unconscious on his bed, her nose became runny, and her eyes became teary. She was about to walk up when she saw something that stunned her in place.

Hanging on the wall right on top of the bed was the wedding photo Zachary took with Charlotte. The two of them were looking at one another and were smiling happily.

Zachary was hugging Charlotte tightly in his arms and had tilted his head down to stare at her. His eyes shone with the kind of love and tenderness that Nancy had never seen before.

"Oh, that's the wedding photo they took two years ago," informed Ben softly, "Mr. Nacht kept it in the room and never took it down."

Nancy's expression stiffened, and her gaze became unsettled. It didn't take her long before she regained her footing, though. She smiled and insisted, "It's all in the past now, so it's not important."

It sounded like she was responding to Ben's words, but it also looked like she was telling it to herself. Either way, it was obviously her way of trying to comfort herself.

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Ben cleared his throat a little. Things had become so awkward that he didn't know what to say.

"Mr. Nacht is still sleeping, Ms. Gold, so may I suggest you go have breakfast for now?" advised Raina softly.

"I've lost my appetite," replied Nancy as she stared lovingly at Zachary, "I want to stay with him for a little while. Don't worry. I won't disturb him."

Raina stared at Ben in exasperation.

Ben was speechless as well. He didn't know what to say, and it was not like he could chase her out. Nancy was the one who got Helen to fly over for Zachary, after all.

Hence, it was socially inappropriate for them to chase her away at that moment.

"Okay, then please take a seat, Ms. Gold," said Raina before she got a chair over.

Nancy sat down and stared quietly at Zachary. Heartache shone from her eyes.

Raina poured Nancy a cup of water before she continued wiping Zachary with the warm towel.

"Let me do it."

Nancy took the warm towel away from Raina and started wiping Zachary. Every stroke she made, from his face to his neck to his arm, was gentle and sweet.

Both Raina and Ben felt awkward watching from the side.

Just then, a subordinate came in to report something to Ben, so he had to leave for a moment.

"Please go get another towel. This one has gone cold."

Nancy handed the towel back to Raina.

"Okay," replied Raina. She held the towel and went into the washroom.

Zachary and Nancy became the only ones left in the room. She gently stroked his frown like she was trying to take his troubles away.

Zachary seemed to have sensed her. His eyelashes fluttered a little, and his hand moved.

"Mr. Nacht," said Nancy excitedly. She reached out to hold his hand as she promised, "Don't worry. I am right here..."

Zachary looked like he was trapped in a nightmare. He held Nancy's hand tightly. His nightmare eventually scared him awake, and his entire body trembled. Sweat dripped down from his forehead like never before.

"It's fine. You're okay. I'm here," cooed Nancy with a broken heart. She held his hand tightly and caressed his face.

Perhaps her coos were working, but it didn't take long before Zachary calmed back down. He slowly opened his eyes. His vision was blurry when he looked at her, and his dried lips parted like he was calling out to something.

"What is it?" asked Nancy. She got closer to listen to him.

"C-Charlotte."

Zachary's voice was raspy and ridiculously soft, but he was calling out to Charlotte in the most loving tone.

Nancy instantly stiffened. It felt like someone had tossed a bucket of icy water on her passionate and burning heart. Every inch of her felt cold.

She stared sorrowfully at Zachary as a complex emotion rose up in her. Nancy hated that feeling.

I don't get it. Why does he love that woman so much? What is so good about her? Is she really worthy of his love?

"Mr. Nacht is up!"

Raina exited the washroom at the time and saw how Zachary had woken up. She hurried over to examine him.

Nancy had no choice but to move away and stare quietly from the side.

"I'll go get my medical kit."

Raina went to grab her medical kit to measure Zachary's pulse rate and temperature.

Nancy, on the other hand, held the warm towel. She wanted to continue wiping Zachary's body.

Zachary's vision slowly cleared up, and he realized that the woman in front of him wasn't Charlotte. He instinctively moved his hand away upon seeing Nancy.

Nancy was disappointed about how he reacted, but she wasn't upset. Instead, she patiently reassured, "It's nothing. I just wanted to take care of you."

"T-thank you," replied Zachary. He had to struggle to say those words.

Just then, Ben rushed in. He heard about how Zachary was up. Zachary saw the guy and weakly waved to signal Ben.

Ben quickly informed, "Ms. Gold, I need to help Mr. Nacht change his clothes. Perhaps you should..."

"I understand."

Ben had a poker face on and spoke respectfully, but Nancy knew that Zachary's earlier hand gesture had instructed Ben to chase her out of the room.

Perhaps Zachary did that because he didn't want to show her his weaker side, or perhaps he wanted to protect his reputation of being strong. Either way, this means that he still sees me as an outsider.

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Fortunately, Nancy knew better than to let the little things in life bring her down. Besides, if she didn't have the tolerance, she never would've made it to where she was today.

Her lips curled into a smile as she gazed tenderly at Zachary. "I'll take my leave now. Get some rest, all right? I'll come by again later."

Zachary said nothing else, merely blinking to show his acknowledgment.

With that, Nancy gave Ben and Raina a polite nod and walked away.

Ben couldn't help but admire her. He was impressed at how Nancy always kept her cool and remained friendly to everyone, regardless of the situation. Most people could never be like her, no matter how hard they tried.

With Nancy gone, Raina proceeded to give Zachary a thorough check-up. "Mr. Nacht, I'm going to start with taking your blood pressure..."

Ben stood at the side, relieved that Zachary had regained consciousness and was slowly recovering. "It's good to have you back. You had all of us worried sick."

Zachary squinted his eyes and murmured, "What time is it?"

"It's half-past seven in the morning. The kids are awake and having breakfast downstairs. I told them you were still resting and that they shouldn't disturb you—"

"Is Charlotte here?" Zachary interrupted.

Ben was stunned for a moment as he exchanged nervous glances with Raina. After collecting himself, he replied, "Ms. Lindberg reached Mount Phoenix last night and is now paying her respects to Dr. Felch. When I spoke with Lupine, she said they might return a little later."

Upon hearing that, Zachary nodded contentedly and slowly dozed off.

Ben heaved a silent sigh of relief even though deep down he was still in a complete state of panic.

It was his first time lying to Zachary, after all, but what other choice did he have? Zachary was so weak that Ben couldn't risk worrying him and aggravating his condition.

Even though Zachary continued to drift in and out of sleep, his condition had stabilized enough for Ben to give Raina a much-needed break. More importantly, she needed to rest well to take care of Zachary throughout the night.

After getting two of her most reliable medical staff to stay behind, Raina made her way downstairs.

"Dr. Langan!" Nancy greeted when she saw her walking over. "How is Mr. Nacht?"

"His condition is stable, and it's all thanks to you. Thank you for getting Dr. Wright to assist us."

A smile of relief crept across Nancy's face. "Don't mention it. I'm only glad to have been of help. By the way, if there's anything else you need, feel free to ask me."

"Don't worry. I know."

"I'll be off now then," Nancy said as she threw one last reluctant look up the stairs. "There's nothing I can help with anyway, and I'd only get in your way if I stayed."

"N-No, not at all—" Raina stammered.

"It's okay. I'll come back when Mr. Nacht wants to see me," Nancy cut in, still smiling warmly.

Raina then walked Nancy to her car and only returned to the house when she had driven away.

"Has she left?" Ben asked as he walked down the stairs.

"Yes," Raina replied, albeit with a tinge of guilt. "If she hadn't brought Dr. Wright here last night, the consequences would have been disastrous. But now that we no longer have a use for her, we're sending her home. It's so—"

"Once Mr. Nacht has recovered, he can thank her personally," Ben interjected. "There's nothing we can do for now."

"That's true... All right, I'll take my rest now. Watch over Mr. Nacht, and call me if anything comes up."

"Sure."

As soon as Raina left, Ben immediately ordered Marino to take the three children to Northridge for a short stay.

Even though Ben gave the excuse that the children miss the three little girls, the truth was that he didn't want them to worry about Zachary and vice versa.

Naturally, Marino knew Ben's real intention and did his best to coax all three children to follow him to Northridge.

Even when Jamie insisted on bidding goodbye to Zachary, Marino had to stop him with various excuses. Thankfully, Robbie stepped in just as Jamie was about to protest. "Daddy's still sleeping. Let's not disturb him!"

"Oh, okay then!" Just like that, there were no more questions asked as Jamie happily hopped into the car.

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Zachary continued to be in and out of sleep for the rest of the day. Whenever he woke up, he'd only ask for the time and the well-being of his children and Charlotte before going back to sleep again.

Because of that, he hadn't eaten anything except for the sips of water when he took his medicine.

It was past nine at night when Zachary roused from his sleep and once again asked if Charlotte had returned.

Ben remained calm and collected as he replied, "Lupine informed me that they'd be staying at Mount Phoenix for a couple more days. Ms. Lindberg was very worried about your injuries and even asked me how you were doing. I assured her that you're all right and recovering well—"

"No. Don't tell her about my condition," Zachary firmly instructed.

"Okay, okay, I got it."

Fortunately, Ben knew the right words to say so it wouldn't arouse Zachary's suspicions. It also helped that Zachary was too out of sorts to detect Ben's lies.

"Don't call too much either, or Charlotte will suspect something..." Zachary mumbled, his eyes getting heavier by the second. "Remember to inform me when she's back."

"I know. Stop worrying and go to sleep," Ben said as he adjusted the blanket.

Zachary ended up sleeping for more than twenty hours, but even then, he still looked exhausted.

Despite that, there was no denying that his condition was gradually improving, thus proving that Dr. Wright's operation was a success.

Ben, however, hadn't slept a wink in two nights. Although everyone begged him to take a nap, he just couldn't lay his worries to rest and insisted on staying up to watch over Zachary.

On top of that, he'd call Cain every two hours to ask about Charlotte and Lupine's whereabouts. Unfortunately, the search for them was still underway, and Cain could offer no further updates.

As such, Ben decided to deploy a few people to Phoenix City.

Charlotte, Lupine, please be all right!

Time continued to pass by, and it was early morning when Zachary finally woke from his deep slumber. Not only did he look a lot more energetic, but he also clamored for Hanna's beef stroganoff.

Naturally, Ben was more than happy to accede to his request.

Just like Ben, Hanna had been so worried about Zachary's safety that she hadn't had a good night's sleep. When she heard that he was craving her food, she shed happy tears and rushed off to cook.

Zachary sat up in bed with Ben's help and stretched his limbs. "Wow. How long have I been sleeping? My body feels like it's falling apart."

"You've slept for almost two days," Ben replied with a chuckle. "But everything's fine now. You look like you're in good spirits."

"Yes, I feel full of energy too," Zachary muttered as he rubbed the sleep out of his eyes. "Fill the tub for me. I'm going to take a nice, long bath before I knock everyone out with my odor."

"Hahaha, will do!"

As Ben hurried off to the bathroom, Zachary retrieved his phone from under the pillow. Alas, all he saw were concerned text messages from Nancy. With nary a call or text from Charlotte, he couldn't help but feel a pang of disappointment.

Oh, forget it. Charlotte has always been like that. I shouldn't be so calculative.

He called Charlotte immediately after, only to find out that her phone was switched off.

Could she be on her way back in the private jet? Is that why she had to turn her phone off?

"Mr. Nacht, your bath is ready," Ben announced while walking out of the bathroom.

"Has Lupine called you?" Zachary suddenly asked.

"Yes, she just did. They're still up in the mountains..."

Ben went on with his carefully fabricated lie, but the more he said, the more he realized Zachary's expression had changed.

"Mr. Nacht, I—"

"Idiot!" Zachary thundered as he kicked Ben to the floor. "How dare you lie to me!"

Now that Zachary was awake and lucid, Ben could no longer pull the wool over his eyes.

"Mr. Nacht, I—"

"Tell me the truth!" Zachary demanded, rage pulsing through his veins.

Under such circumstances, Ben had no choice but to come clean with Zachary. "We've lost contact with Ms. Lindberg since last night..."

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"What?" Zachary replied with a scowl. "What the hell is going on?"

Ben proceeded to tell Zachary everything in detail, which only made him boil with even more anger. "B*stard!" Zachary shouted as he threw an ashtray at Ben. "How can you keep something this big from me?"

Ben kept his head down, too scared to even breathe.

"Get the private jet ready. I'm going to Phoenix City!"

"Mr. Nacht, please calm down," Ben pleaded. "Dr. Wright has specifically ordered bed rest for you. You aren't supposed to go out or do anything strenuous. Otherwise, who knows what might happen?"

Alas, his words fell on deaf ears. "Get out!"

"Please, Mr. Nacht, please listen to me," Ben exclaimed as he grabbed Zachary's legs. "You have no idea what a close shave this had been for you. If Ms. Gold hadn't brought Dr. Wright here in time, you'd be..."

Ben paused, unable to get that dreaded word out of this mouth. "I've already sent two groups of people to look for Ms. Lindberg, but if you're still worried, I can get Marino to join the search."

When Zachary didn't say anything, he continued, "No matter what, I can't let you leave the house. Even if you don't do it for yourself, do it for your children. If something happens to you, what are they going to do? Besides, what can you help with, given your current state? And what if Ms. Lindberg comes back only to see you keel over with exhaustion? Is that what you want?"

Fortunately, those words were enough to persuade Zachary.

"I can't let Marino go. He has to protect the kids," Zachary said after calming himself down. "What about Bruce?"

"Bruce has gone to Erihal to look for Francesco. I've deployed Kyle and Cain instead. They're old and experienced, so I'm sure—"

"They aren't capable enough," Zachary interrupted as he turned toward Ben. "I need you to go. I need you to bring Charlotte back safe and sound."

"W-What? Me? But what's going to happen to you if I leave? There's no one else around you to—"

"What do you mean there's no one else? We have plenty of people at home!" Zachary fumed. "Do you think I can't survive without you?"

"N-No, that's not what I meant..."

"Then do as I instructed! Or are you no longer obeying my orders?"

Left with no other choice, Ben nodded in reluctance. "Very well then, I'll leave right now."

"Bring a few more men along. I'm giving you three days. If you don't bring Charlotte back home safely, you can forget about coming back yourself."

"Understood," Ben replied solemnly. "I'll make the necessary arrangements."

With that, Zachary waved his hand and sent Ben on his way. Unfortunately, Ben's departure to Phoenix City threw Raina into a tizzy. "How can you leave at a time like this? Without you and Bruce around, who's going to protect Mr. Nacht?"

Ben let out a big, heavy sigh. "Do you think I don't know that? You know how stubborn he is, so how am I supposed to change his mind?"

"What should we do then?" Raina queried, the panic in her voice even more palpable now.

After a while, a light-bulb moment came to Ben. "I'm going to give Spencer a call. Help me arrange for the private jet, will you? Also, you'll have to stay with Mr. Nacht at all times while I'm gone. We can't afford another mishap."

"I got it," Raina answered with a quick nod. "Go make your call. At this point, we'll have to get Mr. Spencer to watch over Mr. Nacht."

"Exactly."

Soon after, Ben hid in his room and called Spencer.

After hearing Ben's recount of all the events, Spencer flew into such a rage that he almost fell off his wheelchair.

"Mr. Spencer, calm down..." Ben coaxed. "Mr. Nacht won't be able to leave the house these few days anyway, so my absence won't be too much of a problem. What I'm more worried about is that temper of his. If he gets riled up and decides to do something rash, I'm going to need you to hold him down. I know he'll behave with you around."

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"Don't worry! I'll do whatever it takes to keep him in line," Spencer exclaimed. "As long as I'm around, he'll have to stay home to recuperate."

"Yes, yes, that's the spirit! Keep him at home for plenty of bed rest. No matter what happens, he can't be allowed to leave the house."

"Okay, understood," Spencer replied. "I'll go over with some of my men now."

"Great. I'll only leave after you've arrived."

At last, Ben could breathe a sigh of relief. With Spencer here, things will be a lot easier.

Meanwhile, Zachary was throwing a tantrum in his room. "Where the f*ck is Ben? Why hasn't he set off yet? What's with the delay?"

Ben signaled Raina to keep his whereabouts a secret as he remained in his room to pack his luggage.

Even if I get screamed at, I'll still only leave after Spencer gets here.

True to his words, Spencer arrived shortly at Southridge with an entourage of twelve subordinates, all packed into four cars.

To Ben's pleasant surprise, Spencer had even packed a few suitcases, further proving his determination to stay on for as long as needed.

As soon as he realized what was happening, Zachary exploded with rage. "I knew that idiot Ben would be up to no good! How dare he get Mr. Spencer to watch over me!"

"Ben did it only because he cares about you..." Raina mumbled.

"You were in on this too, weren't you? Are the both of you ganging up to lie to me?"

Raina kept her head lowered as dread engulfed her, not daring to make another peep.

"Get out," Zachary muttered.

Whenever Zachary was furious, he'd always lash mercilessly at Ben and Bruce, but thankfully, he was gentler toward women.

"But I have to stay here with you. What if you—"

"Get out!" Zachary bellowed, his patience running thin.

Not wanting to push her luck any further, Raina did as instructed. However, as a last-ditch effort, she ordered a few subordinates to stand guard in the room.

Zachary was speechless and on the verge of losing his temper again when he saw how frightened his subordinates were. In the end, he decided to swallow his frustration instead.

Being constantly monitored was horrid, but Zachary also knew that everyone only had his best interests at heart.

After all, he was now a high-risk individual, and nobody could afford to let anything untoward happen to him.

"Mr. Spencer, you sure are fast!" Ben exclaimed as he ran out, unable to hide the relief and joy he felt.

"Mr. Nacht has already thrown a few tantrums. If I stay here a second longer, he'll probably shred me to pieces. Mr. Spencer, I leave the house in your good hands. I have to rush to the airport now."

Spencer frowned and let out a deep sigh. "Now I understand why Mr. Henry used to make things difficult for that woman. She's nothing but trouble!"

"Oh, no. Don't say that," Ben pleaded. "You've always protected Ms. Lindberg in the past, and you ought to continue doing so."

"Can you blame me for being angry? After what happened to Mr. Zachary, why does she still make people worry for her?"

"She didn't mean to..." Ben mumbled helplessly. "Fate played a cruel trick on her."

"Fine, enough of that. You'd better leave now. Get her back as soon as possible so Mr. Zachary can stop worrying himself sick."

“Will do.”

After that, Ben hurriedly left with a handful of Spencer’s subordinates so he could even out the number of people back home.

Knowing that Ben had left for the airport, Zachary finally took his long-awaited bath.

Meanwhile, Hanna ordered Henry’s room to be prepared for Spencer’s stay while she whipped up his favorite dishes.

As for Spencer, he knew it’d be useless to talk sense to a still fuming Zachary. Given the current situation, he’d be better off staying silent and keeping a watchful eye over Zachary.

Raina didn’t dare to stray far from Zachary either. As such, she arranged for the doctors at the hospital to contact Helen and have her treat Olivia.

That afternoon, Peter called Raina to express his gratitude.

“Don’t thank me,” Raina said. “You should be thanking Ms. Lindberg and Mr. Nacht instead. They were the ones who made this possible for Olivia.”

“Please pass on my thanks to them. I’ll drop by personally when I have the chance to.”

“All right. Take good care of Olivia.”

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For the next few days, Zachary stayed home to rest and recuperate.

According to Helen, there weren’t any other treatments or medications needed at that point. She had made an incision behind Zachary’s ear to drain the blood, and all he could do now was to rest as much as possible.

Raina and the other subordinates followed Zachary around all day like a shadow. Even when he headed downstairs for his meals, they took extra caution to ensure that he didn’t trip and fall.

Spencer, too, kept droning on and reminding Zachary to be careful.

Naturally, Zachary was beyond frustrated. I'm a grown man, for goodness' sake! I don't need to be babied by them! Do they even know how humiliating this is for me?

It went without saying that Zachary lost his temper several times. However, Spencer would always plead with him and remind him of Henry, all the while choking back tears.

That tactic, unfortunately, was very effective against Zachary. Whenever he saw how Spencer was on the verge of tears, he'd clam up and return to his room, only to curse at Ben under his breath.

After all, Ben knew about Zachary and his weaknesses, which was why he intentionally got Spencer to watch over him.

As much as he hated it, even Zachary had to admit it was really clever of Ben.

Since he couldn't bear seeing Spencer upset, Zachary had no choice but to tamp down his irritation and be the compliant patient everyone wanted him to be.

Fortunately, the children had been home every day to join Zachary for his meals. And thanks to Spencer's constant reminders, they were all very well-behaved, making sure not to aggravate their father's injuries.

For the rest of their time, the children spent it playing with the three girls at Northridge.

Morgan, who was just as wild as they are, even brought all six children to fly kites in the mountains.

With Fifi and Little Fifi joining in, everyone had a lot of fun.

Robbie, however, would always sit alone on the tree swing and fiddle around with his tablet. As for what he was up to, nobody had a clue.

Just like that, two days passed peacefully.

On the third day, seeing as how there was still no news about Charlotte, a panic-stricken Zachary decided to call Ben first thing in the morning.

"Don't worry, Mr. Nacht. We've found clues pointing to her whereabouts and are heading to the location now."

"You have to find her before dark and bring her home. Understood?" Zachary ordered.

Ben swore he'd complete his mission and that finally set Zachary's mind at ease.

Just then, there was a knock on the door as a voice rang out. "Mr. Nacht, Ms. Gold is here."

"Have her meet me in the study room."

Zachary quickly changed his clothes before letting Raina help him to the study room.

Before long, one of the maids walked in with Nancy in tow.

"Mr. Nacht!" Nancy greeted with a smile, happy to see Zachary back to his old self. "I'm so relieved to know you're well again!"

"I heard it was you who brought Dr. Wright here in the nick of time. Thank you so much!" Zachary said earnestly.

"Don't mention it," Nancy replied as she gazed fondly at him. "It was no trouble at all."

"I know how hard it is to get Dr. Wright. Not only do you have to pay a pretty sum, but you also have to pull favors. But most importantly, I'm impressed that you had even thought about getting her to help!"

The thought of asking Helen to stabilize his condition had genuinely never crossed Zachary's mind, yet it came so naturally to Nancy.

"Well, I thought of it because I cared enough," Nancy replied with a chuckle. "Besides, anything that concerns you is far more important than my own matters."

With such an abrupt but affectionate confession directed at him, Zachary was at a complete loss.

Nancy caught on to his uncomfortable silence and quickly changed the subject. "Relax, I'm not trying to stress you out or put you in a spot. By the way, I'm here today because I have something to tell you."

"Oh, go ahead."

"I don't think it's appropriate for me to bring this up, but..." Nancy blurted out after a moment's hesitation.

"Don't worry. I have absolute trust in you. You can speak freely."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1391

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1391

Nancy hemmed and hawed before asking, "I heard that Sir Louis has been tracking Ms. Lindberg, so I'm just wondering if she's safe."

Zachary's gaze instantly darkened.

He, too, had had his suspicions from early on. Danrique had taken all the necessary precautions to ensure that Charlotte wouldn't pose a threat to those in Erihal. And given that Charlotte never had many enemies to begin with, who else would want to go after her?

As it turned out, that person was none other than Louis.

"I think he went crazy and hired a few men to track down Ms. Lindberg's whereabouts. I don't know what he's up to, though..."

After a pause, Nancy added, "Sir Robert has been trying to collaborate with me, so I've had people monitoring their family activities to make sure they're above-board. That's how I came to know so much about the Laurent family."

"I understand," Zachary answered with a somber nod. "Thank you for informing me."

"If anything should happen to Ms. Lindberg, you know who and what to investigate first," Nancy whispered. "I know this has nothing to do with me, but I also know how much you care about her. I'm sorry if I've overstepped the line."

"No, not at all. Thank you," Zachary said sincerely.

"All right then, I shan't disturb you any longer. Rest well, and I hope to see you at my banquet in a few days!"

Zachary nodded politely and ordered Raina to see Nancy out.

As luck would have it, Nancy bumped into Spencer downstairs and briefly chatted with him.

Despite the brief meeting, she had certainly made an impression on Spencer, who sighed when she left. "Ms. Gold is such an exemplary woman. Not only is she from a prominent family, but she also carries herself with poise and sophistication. She and Mr. Zachary would be the perfect match."

"That's true, but Mr. Nacht only has eyes for Ms. Lindberg," Raina replied softly. "Mr. Spencer, when have you started to worry about such matters like Mr. Henry?"

"I'm only thinking," Spencer answered with yet another sigh. "I do remember Mr. Henry saying that we should never interfere with affairs of the heart."

"Exactly. We should let Mr. Nacht decide for himself."

Spencer nodded his head, but his mind continued to race. "I'm only just beginning to understand what Mr. Henry must have felt. Now that I'm looking at it from a different perspective, it's hard not to be anxious and worried..."

Raina's lips curled into a smile as she patted Spencer's shoulders. "Of course, that's perfectly understandable. Well, I'm going up to accompany Mr. Nacht. Enjoy your reading."

When Raina returned to the study room, she found Zachary sitting on the sofa and staring blankly at his phone.

"Mr. Nacht, do you want to take a stroll in the garden?" Raina gently asked while she handed him a glass of water.

However, Zachary said nothing, his eyes still trained on his phone.

Raina decided not to disturb him and merely stood quietly at the side. She knew, better than anyone else, that Zachary was waiting for Ben's call.

Meanwhile, Ben was storming a villa in a small town with a group of men.

After several days of investigation, he learned that Charlotte and Lupine were taken away by a group of foreigners and imprisoned in the villa.

Having ordered Cain and Kyle to surround the villa, Ben was ready to charge in with the other men when a video call from Zachary came in.

Thankfully, his phone was already on mute as Ben hastily answered it. "Mr. Nacht—"

"Livestream it. I want to see what's going on," Zachary demanded.

Even though the request had stunned him, Ben quickly nodded. "Understood!"

With that, Ben held onto his phone and crept stealthily into the villa. To his surprise, the place was quiet, and the aroma of food wafted from the kitchen.

Ben then carefully pushed the kitchen window open and looked in, only to see Charlotte cooking in a sexy strap dress.

The next second, a topless Louis walked in with just a towel around his waist. He hugged Charlotte from behind and kissed her neck passionately. "Thank you for making dinner, my dear wife. I love you so much..."

With Ben's phone capturing every scene, Zachary, unfortunately, saw and heard them all too clearly.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1392

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1392

Ben was shellshocked as he struggled to comprehend what he had just witnessed.

Only when he finally snapped out of his daze did Ben then end the video call, afraid that the scene might upset Zachary.

Unbeknownst to him, Zachary had already erupted in anger.

He flung his phone toward the wall, causing it to shatter upon impact.

"Mr. Nacht, please calm down. It could just be a misunderstanding..." Raina advised. "I'm sure Ms. Lindberg isn't like that."

"She's exactly like that!" Zachary yelled. "Back when I was on the verge of death, I continued to search for her. Yet all she could think of was to sleep with Louis! Now that I got injured from saving her, she even used the excuse of paying her respects to Dr. Felch to rendezvous with him! How dare she! She..."

The more emotionally charged Zachary was, the more his head started hurting again. This time, it felt as if a hammer was splitting his head open.

Zachary held his head, gritting his teeth as his face slowly contorted into a grimace of pain.

"Mr. Nacht! Calm down! If you get overly agitated, you'll suffer a relapse! You have to try to calm yourself down..."

As much as Zachary wanted to control his emotions, he was far too distraught to do so. The veins on his forehead and hands popped, and before long, his nose and the wound behind his ear started bleeding too.

Raina was so scared that she immediately called Helen. When the call failed to get through, she rang Nancy up instead. "Ms. Gold, Mr. Nacht is suffering a relapse! Can you please bring Dr. Wright here?"

"How did that happen? I only just left—"

"I don't have time to explain! Hurry!"

"Okay, okay, I'll get someone to send Helen over."

Then, Nancy called her subordinates and told them to send Helen to Southridge right away.

After which, she turned to her subordinate at the wheel and ordered him to turn the car around.

"I shouldn't have told him all that," Nancy mumbled guiltily. "I didn't think it'd affect him that much..."

"It's not your fault. All you did was provide the information. You haven't done anything wrong," the subordinate reassured. "Who knows what sordid affair Charlotte and Sir Louis have gotten up to? That must be what angered Mr. Nacht."

"In any case, I shouldn't have rushed it..." Nancy groaned. "I may have dirt on Charlotte and can easily get rid of her, but doing so will only hurt Mr. Nacht! If anything happens to him, I'll never be able to live with myself..."

"With Dr. Wright around, he'll be fine."

"Drive faster!"

"Yes!"

Meanwhile, Southridge was once again in complete disarray. When Spencer heard that Zachary had suffered a relapse, his anxiety level got to an all-time high.

Just then, Nancy arrived and allayed Spencer's fears with the assurance that Helen was on her way. Immediately after, she rushed to help Raina take care of Zachary.

Even under such chaotic circumstances, she was calm and in control, truly the perfect woman to run the house.

Back at the villa, Ben was about to barge in when he heard an annoyed Charlotte speaking to Louis. "We've put on this act for three days, haven't you had enough?"

"How is this an act?" Louis whimpered. "You're my wife, and I'm your husband. You've taken care of me and showered me with love for three days. Is nothing real?"

"Wake up, Louis!" Charlotte hollered. "If you hadn't captured Lupine and the others and threatened me with their lives, I'd rather die than to put on this husband and wife act with you!"

"Charlotte, why are you treating me like this? You know how much I love you, don't you? Why must you continue to hate me so?"

"Because you've changed! You used to be innocent and kind. What happened?" Charlotte asked, feeling both mentally and emotionally exhausted. "I know I was in the wrong. I shouldn't have agreed to your proposal, nor should I have toyed with your feelings. But it's time to let that go. We can't continue to make mistakes..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1393

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1393

Louis, unfortunately, was adamant. "I don't see anything wrong with this. If it weren't for Zachary, we'd be happy together."

Charlotte was both speechless and exasperated. She knew that no matter what she said, Louis would never listen.

She had spent three days running herself ragged, trying to talk some sense into Louis but to no avail. He was just way too stubborn.

"Charlotte, you have to believe me. I'm the only one whose feelings for you will never change."

Louis cupped Charlotte's face and gazed longingly at her as he continued, "Look at Zachary. How many women does he have around him? There were the Blackwoods' sisters in the past, and now there's a Nancy Gold. I, on the other hand, have only had eyes for you all this time."

"Didn't you have Diana too?" Charlotte retorted coldly.

"That's different. I've never liked her!" Louis exclaimed, clearly triggered by the mention of Diana.

"I took her for you... In any case, I'll never let such a shameful incident happen again. Trust me, Charlotte, I've never betrayed you. You're the only one I love—"

"Enough, Louis!" Charlotte interrupted. "None of that is important. I've always treated you like a good friend, even till now. Do you really want to destroy the last ounce of friendship we have between us?"

Louis stared back with a frown. "What do you mean?"

"Tell your men to release Lupine and the rest. I still have a lot to do, and I don't want to carry on this charade anymore."

Charlotte had agreed to this act, not only because Louis had threatened her with Lupine and the others, but also because she felt guilty toward him and wanted to make it up to him.

Now that the three days were up, it was time for her to call it quits.

"Charade? This is the furthest thing from a charade! Everything that I've done and said, I meant them from the bottom of my heart."

Charlotte sighed in resignation. "Okay, that's enough. Louis, are you going to let them go or not?"

"I can let them go, but not you," Louis said as he gripped Charlotte's shoulders. "Please, Charlotte, give me one more chance. I promise to love you and only you. You have to trust me—"

Before Louis could continue with his plea, Charlotte had shoved him away and held a knife against his neck. Knowing the assassins were outside, she yelled, "Let them go now!"

Louis froze in his tracks, still in utter disbelief that Charlotte would pull a knife on him.

No matter how she had treated him in the past, he never could bring himself to hurt her. Even when she had insisted on leaving, he had to threaten his parents with his life before they agreed to let her go.

Why is she doing this to me now?

When the assassins saw the scene in front of them, they hurriedly trained their guns on Charlotte and shouted in Ustranasion, "Damn it! Put the knife down!"

"Sir Louis, I've told you before that this woman is no pushover," one of the assassins scoffed as he glared at Charlotte. "See what happens when you let your guard down?"

"Shut up!" Louis screamed.

"Let them go now!" Charlotte repeated, her anxiety growing with every second. Zachary's injured and waiting for me at home. Hayley and Sam are probably worried sick about me too. And my kids... Oh, how I've missed them!

"Charlotte, do you truly hate me that much?"

Louis stared at her sadly, and instead of ducking, he moved in even closer. "Go ahead then. As long as it's you doing the deed, I can die without regrets!"

Charlotte was about to reply when Louis took another step forward, causing the knife to cut his neck.

As blood slowly oozed out of the wound, Charlotte could only stare back in astonishment.

Several assassins quickly pulled their triggers and shouted, "Stop right there!"

"Put your guns down," Louis ordered.

"Sir Louis..."

"I told you to put your guns down! I'll kill anyone who hurts her!" Louis ordered in exasperation.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1394

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1394

The assassins dared not provoke Louis or put their guns down, afraid that Charlotte would harm him.

After all, if anything happened to Louis, their mission would not be considered accomplished.

"Louis, I don't want to hurt you." Seeing the man hurt, Charlotte did not have the heart to continue. "If you don't want me to hate you, then let them go."

"All right." Louis ordered the assassins, "Let them go."

Two assassins soon brought Lupine and the other two female bodyguards of the Lindberg family over.

However, instead of freeing them, the assassins threatened Charlotte with their lives. "Put your knife down, or else I'll kill them all."

"Ms. Lindberg, leave us and go!" Lupine shouted anxiously.

"You think I don't know the truth about your employer?" Charlotte placed her knife against Louis' neck as she roared, "Louis seems to be your employer on the

surface, but in actuality, you work for Sir Robert. If something happens to Louis, do you think he will let you off?"

"You..." The assassins panicked at Charlotte's accurate assessment.

"You all..." Louis was baffled. He thought he was their employer for the whole time since he engaged them to work for him. Unexpectedly, it turned out that his father had arranged everything without him knowing.

"Let them go," Charlotte chillingly ordered again.

This time around, the assassins had no choice but to let the trio go. In their eyes, Louis' life carried a heavier weight than Lupine and the other two bodyguards.

They could still recapture the trio after releasing them. However, if Louis was harmed, the repercussions they would face were unthinkable.

"Ms. Lindberg!"

Lupine and the two bodyguards dashed for Charlotte once they were free. Lupine even removed her suit jacket and covered Charlotte with it.

Detaining Louis, Charlotte moved toward the exit while Lupine and the bodyguards cautiously watched every movement the assassins made.

Outside the window, Ben and the others were still lying in wait for the opportunity to ambush.

"Let him go now."

The assassins pointed their guns at Charlotte as they slowly and carefully followed her, fearing she would hurt Louis.

They were in a stalemate until they reached the courtyard, where two assassins rounded to the back to sneak up on Charlotte.

At that moment, Ben struck. He swiftly held down the two assassins then fought the others.

Lupine could not contain her joy when she saw him.

Seizing the opportunity, Charlotte pushed Louis away and planned to leave Lupine and the bodyguards. However, he held her arm tightly. "Charlotte, don't go," he pleaded.

"Let me go!" Charlotte struggled to extricate herself from his grip.

"No! Don't leave me," Louis sobbed while shaking his head. "I can do everything for you. I can even die for you."

"I said let go!" Unperturbed, Charlotte pulled his hand away from her, hoping to release herself.

"Charlotte..."

Yet, Louis still would not let go. Suddenly, an assassin opened fire on Charlotte.

"Ms. Lindberg!" Lupine rushed to place herself in front of Charlotte, shielding the latter from harm.

A loud bang exploded in everyone's ears, and blood splattered.

Shell-shocked, Charlotte could only watch as Lupine fell to the ground limply with a gunshot wound in her chest.

"Lupine!" Charlotte urgently bent down and took Lupine into her arms. She shouted emotionally, "Lupine, hang on..."

Louis was stunned for a second before turning to yell at the assassin furiously, "Why did you do that! Didn't I forbid you from shooting her?"

"She wanted to kill you," the assassin retorted matter-of-factly.

"You..."

"Go to blazes!"

Charlotte picked up the gun on the ground and fired a couple of shots at the assassin.

With that, the assassin dropped dead to the ground.

"Charlotte, listen to me—"

Louis wanted to explain, but Charlotte cut his explanation off by pointing the gun at him. "Louis, do you want me to die?" she screamed hysterically.

"No! Charlotte, I don't!" Louis shook his head furiously. "I rather die than be separated from you."

"Then why don't you die?" She placed her finger on the trigger but could not bring herself to pull it. In the end, she smiled as tears flowed down her cheeks. "Never mind. I was the one who caused you to end up like this. I shall recompense you with my life."

Charlotte then turned the gun toward herself.

"Charlotte, don't!"

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1395

Louis tried to stop Charlotte frantically, but she had pulled the trigger without hesitation.

At that crucial moment, a dart flew over and hit the gun in Charlotte's hand.

Struck by it, the gun clattered to the ground and diverted the trajectory of the bullet.

The shock from Charlotte's action had Louis down on his knees. His entire body went limp, and he was sweating buckets.

His heart felt as though it was smashed into smithereens by that silent gunshot.

"Ms. Lindberg!"

Ben rushed over and carried Charlotte and the unconscious Lupine away.

Louis did not stop them anymore, merely staring at Charlotte's figure in despair until she was gone from his sight.

He finally realized he would never win her heart over no matter what he did, as she would rather die than be with him.

Everything he had done only incited her disgust and hatred.

"Lupine! Lupine!"

After carrying Lupine into the car, Ben glanced at her gunshot wound and became anxiety-ridden. "It was all my fault. I couldn't protect you."

"Hurry to the hospital! Quick!" Charlotte urged urgently.

"Understood."

The crimson sunset at that moment reflected Charlotte's despair.

She hated herself for not being decisive and ruthless. If she did not drag her heels, she would not have been entangled with things that were inherently wrong time and again.

She even involved those around her.

First, it was Morgan, then it was Lupine.

If anything happened to Lupine, she would never forgive herself.

When the car came to a halt at the hospital, Ben dashed into the building with Lupine in his arms. "Somebody help!" he yelled desperately.

Ben had been by Zachary's side for over a decade. Throughout the years, he learned to be level-headed. Other than matters related to Zachary, he had never lost control of his emotions.

For the past few months, he had maintained a passive attitude toward Lupine as though he was unmoved by the feelings he had for her.

In the eyes of others, he seemed to be disinterested in the relationship.

Yet, he could no longer mask his feelings at that moment. His anxiety, heartache, and panic betrayed his concern for Lupine.

Charlotte trailed behind the doctor closely and repeatedly exhorted, "You must save her no matter what. Nothing can happen to her."

"We'll do our very best."

The hospital was humming as the medical staff flurried into the operation room. Charlotte paced outside, anxiously waiting for the operation to end.

Ben gave Zachary a call, but no one picked up. Mr. Nacht is probably angry.

However, he did not think much of it at that time because Lupine's life was in danger. Therefore, he pocketed his phone and sat outside of the operation room.

Unbeknownst to him, there was a flurry of activity at Southridge too.

With the fastest speed, Nancy quickly had someone bring Helen over.

Once Helen had a complete understanding of the entire situation, she rebuked, "I said that he needed rest and that he shouldn't be agitated, nor should he move around! It has only been a few days since his treatment."

"Dr. Wright, please calm down and check on Mr. Nacht," Nancy urged nervously.

"I wouldn't have given a damn about him if it wasn't for the pay. Even God can't save such an uncooperative patient."

Helen entered Zachary's room with quick steps and began examining and treating him.

Outside of the room, Spencer paced up and down while interrogating Raina.

Raina dared not say it was because of Charlotte, so she merely explained Zachary got agitated from a call he received.

As for the content of the call, they would have to wait for Zachary's explanation after he woke up.

Spencer's expression turned grim as he knew the call was related to Charlotte. Yet, he did not mention it before the outsiders, merely ordering everyone to keep silent and not disrupt Zachary's treatment.

At that moment, he had decided to talk with Charlotte for the sake of Zachary's health.

Meanwhile, Charlotte had no idea about Zachary's condition.

She was a bundle of nerves while waiting in the hospital.

At midnight, the doctor finally exited the emergency room. He pulled his mask off and said, "The patient has passed the critical stage. Luckily, the bullet didn't strike her heart, so her life isn't in immediate danger."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1396

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1396

"That's great news."

Charlotte exhaled a sigh of relief. She was glad that Lupine was fine. Otherwise, she would never forgive herself.

After everything that had happened, Lupine and Morgan were like sisters to her. Everyone around her had left one by one, her father, Mrs. Berry, and Danrique. Lupine and Morgan were all she had left.

She did not want to lose anyone else.

"Can I go in and have a look at her?" Ben asked immediately.

"Sure, but you'll have to put on an isolation gown." The doctor continued, "Also, we have informed the police as her wound was a gunshot wound. The police will be here soon, and I ask for your cooperation."

Ben was bewildered by the doctor's reminder but quickly recollected himself and nodded. "All right. We'll do that."

"Thank you." The doctor sighed. He was worried Ben would cause a scene, so he had not expected him to be so cooperative. It seems like he's not a bad guy.

Charlotte wanted to check on Lupine as well, but she knew the latter needed Ben more than her at that moment, so she stayed outside.

"Ms. Lindberg, have some water." Cain handed her a glass of water.

"Thanks." Charlotte asked, "Why are you guys here?"

"After losing contact with you a few days ago, Ben was worried about your safety, so he sent us in to search for you. We couldn't find you, so he rushed over to join the search."

Cain explained the situation succinctly.

"Who gave you the order? Ben or Zachary?" she asked puzzledly.

"Ben did." He blurted out, "Mr. Zachary, he—"

Before he could continue, Kyle nudged him to cut him off. Getting the hint, Cain immediately held his tongue.

"What? What happened to Zachary?" Charlotte had a suspicion that something terrible had happened to Zachary, so she hurriedly probed. "Did his condition worsen?"

Cain simply lowered his head in silence.

Kyle and the rest dared not say anything either.

"Give me your phone."

The assassins discarded Charlotte's and Lupine's phones, so she could not contact Zachary.

Cain handed his phone to her meekly.

Charlotte reached for the phone and called Zachary immediately. However, no one answered the call even after a long time.

Her stomach was in knots as she redialed the number.

Someone finally picked up the second time, but it was not Zachary's voice. It belonged to a woman. "Hello?"

Charlotte was stunned for a brief moment before she asked, "Nancy?"

"Charlotte?" Nancy sounded surprised too. "Is there anything I can help you with?"

"Where's Zachary?" Charlotte tried to keep her tone even and her emotions in check as she asked.

"He's not available at the moment." Nancy continued casually, "You can leave a message with me, and I'll pass it on to Zachary."

"It's fine."

With that, Charlotte hung up the phone. The call had ended, but her emotions were tumultuous like a raging sea.

Zachary has always been careful not to let anyone touch his phone, so why is his phone with Nancy? It's quarter to one in the morning, yet they're still together... Moreover, I called using Cain's phone, so she wouldn't have known I was calling. That proves that Nancy wasn't acting. What is the meaning of all this?

Insecurity and anger coursed through her body.

Thoughts of Zachary and Nancy being intimate with each other flashed through her mind. Even the mere thought of them cuddling together in bed spiked her anger.

"Ms. Lindberg," Ben called as he came out of the emergency room. "Why don't you catch some rest? I need to assist the police and provide a statement. Also, I've already talked to the doctor. If Lupine's condition stabilizes tomorrow morning, we can take a private jet back to H City."

"Right. Thank you." Charlotte nodded. "You go ahead. I'll stay here with Lupine."

"Okay." Ben left in a hurry.

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chapter 1397

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1397

Charlotte returned Cain's phone to him, then led Jade and Emma into the ward to take care of Lupine.

Despite the numerous questions she had in her mind, she did not persist with her questioning.

After all, Cain and Kyle did not know much, so it was pointless to ask since she would not get an answer.

Moreover, Lupine was still in the emergency room. Her life could still be in danger, so Charlotte was in no mood to be jealous.

It was best to settle the problems she was facing at the moment. As for others, she would deal with it at a later time.

A restless night passed.

When Ben returned in the morning, his face was a mask of fatigue. On the bright side, he had settled everything and gotten the approval from the doctor to bring Lupine back to H City.

To ensure Lupine's safety on their way back, Ben had hired a few doctors and medical staff to accompany them.

With everything set and ready to go, they took the private jet back to H City at nine-thirty in the morning.

On the plane, Charlotte and Ben stayed by Lupine's side.

"I'm glad that she's fine," said Charlotte as she gently wiped Lupine's face with a warm towel.

"Ms. Lindberg, I have something important I need to discuss with you," Ben said softly.

"Shoot." Charlotte lifted her gaze from Lupine to focus on him.

He pondered briefly then said straightforwardly, "Firstly, I have Sir Louis and his subordinates in my hands. I have arranged for them to be taken back to H City for Mr. Nacht to deal with."

Charlotte was surprised. The previous day was chaotic, and with Lupine getting shot, she was too restless to think about other things.

She thought Ben was busy cooperating with the police, but instead, he went to catch Louis and the assassins.

As expected of Zachary's right-hand man.

"I figured I should inform you on this."

Ben's gaze was on Lupine as he spoke.

"Personally, as a man, I had to take revenge on them for daring to threaten you with Lupine and the others' lives and even shooting Lupine. Professionally, I received orders from Mr. Nacht to rescue you, so I should catch everyone involved and let him deal with them. It's also to avoid any further mishap. However, since Louis was once... your fiancé, out of respect, I had to inform you."

"Ben, firstly, I'm very gratified to hear you say that." There was admiration in Charlotte's gaze. "As a man, you shoulder your responsibility well and treat Lupine with much loyalty and affection. I feel at ease to give her hand to you. But there's one thing I need to clarify. Louis was my fiancé indeed, but that was in name only. Besides, with everything that had happened afterward, we had separated—"

"Wait a minute," Ben interrupted in astonishment, "you're saying him being your fiancé was in name only? T-Then that time when you were in the manor in Arkfield, you and him—"

Charlotte did not elaborate. "That was a misunderstanding. I will leave out the distasteful details. All in all, I never had a romantic relationship with him from the start till the end.

"I didn't have the heart to finish him off because I felt that this tragedy happened because of me. If it wasn't for me agreeing to his proposal for my selfish reasons, he might not have ended up like this.

"But just because I feel sorry for him, it doesn't mean that he can do whatever he likes. Therefore, I do not have any objections to you catching him and his assassins. However, the mastermind behind the entire incident is Sir Robert.

"It has nothing to do with Louis, so catching him is pointless. If something happens, I fear it will cause trouble to you and Zachary, so I suggest you hand him over to me once we arrive at H City. Let me negotiate with Sir Robert."

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"Ms. Lindberg, I'll get right to the point since there's only the both of us here," Ben said somberly. "Since you've been in the company of Sir Robert for quite some time, you should know he's an avaricious person. As of now, he won't regard you as an equal because you don't have a strong backing. Not only will you not gain anything from negotiating with him, but you may even infuriate him."

"That's true."

Charlotte lowered her head in deep thought. If Zachary didn't come forward during the incident regarding the refund of my investment fund, Sir Robert might've already pocketed that twenty billion. He's an unreasonable man, so it's pointless no matter how I plan to negotiate with him.

"I suggest you let us handle this matter," Ben advised. "Please be assured. Based on my understanding of Mr. Nacht's character, he won't harm Sir Louis. Especially..."

He felt slightly awkward to speak of it. "Especially if he knows there's nothing between you and Sir Louis. He will be even lenient with him."

"Mm." Charlotte nodded. "I agree with the arrangement. Anything else you want to add?"

"Two more things..." Ben glanced at Lupine as he said earnestly, "I want to ask you for Lupine's hand. I will take good care of her. Please believe me."

"I believe you, but—"

"I know you need her too. I'm not saying now, but in the future, after the matters of the Lindberg family are resolved, and everything has settled down..."

"I don't have any objections if she's willing." Charlotte felt gratified. "I'm happy that you brought this up with me."

"Thank you." Ben nodded his head with gratitude. "Lastly..." His voice trailed off as he hesitated to tell her about Zachary's condition.

Will Mr. Nacht chase me out if I tell her? With his character, he might really do so. I don't care about myself, but currently, he needs people he can trust by his side, so I can't leave at such a juncture.

"You want to talk to me about Zachary?" Charlotte guessed accurately then lied, "I already know about his condition."

"Huh? You..." Ben held his tongue before he could spill any information and pretended not to understand her words. "Know about what? I don't understand."

"Stop acting." She intended to sound him out. "Hayley told me about it. I knew all of you had warned her and Sam not to tell me the truth. But think about it. Is Hayley closer to you guys or me?"

Ben lowered his head, concealing the solemn expression on his face. Her words make sense. After all, Hayley is quite naïve and doesn't have any idea about power or status. She only knows that Ms. Lindberg is the closest person to her. Therefore, the warning and reminder from the Nacht family might be ineffective toward her. She might really have told Ms. Lindberg everything with a bit of coaxing.

"Louis' men shadowed me when I got off the plane. Hayley coincidentally called me to ask if I had arrived. And when she heard the gunshots at my side, she was terrified. I seized that opportunity to interrogate her about Zachary's condition. Finally, she told me the truth after I put the wind up her."

Observing Ben's expression, she continued to lure him into her trap.

"Ben, I know you're loyal to Zachary, and you don't want to betray him. I understand if you don't tell me the truth, but think about it. What are you going to do if something happens to Zachary? Wouldn't you regret it for the rest of your life?"

"I—"

"I know you've assigned Bruce to search for Francesco's whereabouts, but you will never find him even if you searched under every rock without my help."

Charlotte continued, "Give me a definitive answer. What happened to Zachary? As long as you tell me the truth, I'll help you search for Francesco."

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"Mr. Nacht, he..." Ben hesitated briefly but came clean in the end. "He doesn't have long to live."

"What did you say?" Charlotte froze and widened her eyes in disbelief.

"This is what happened..."

He then recounted everything to her, starting from three months ago when Zachary realized something was wrong with his eyes and confirmed he was poisoned.

Following that, he explained how Zachary accepted Charlotte's conditions and hid himself away for treatment, where he suffered excruciating pain alone.

After two months of treatment, Zachary still did not fully recover despite showing some improvement. When he heard that Charlotte was going to marry Louis, he dropped everything and headed to Arkfield to see her. Unfortunately, he was greeted by a heartbreaking sight.

Everything he did—taking away the children and deliberately creating a misunderstanding to infuriate the Laurent family—was so that she could return home and take over the Nacht family as the lady of the household after his passing.

It took an entire hour for Ben to relate everything that had happened.

He even told her that nothing was going on between Zachary and Nancy. All this while, Zachary had been using Nancy to make Charlotte jealous. Whenever he tried to clear the air with Nancy, something would prevent him from doing so.

This time around, Nancy brought in Helen at the crucial moment to treat Zachary. That was why Ben allowed her to stay at the house for the time being.

Having heard his words, Charlotte was moved to tears. It never crossed her mind that Zachary was suffering alone when she had misunderstood him all this while.

In spite of that, he still selflessly saved her at the crucial moment. Yet, when he was struck down by sickness, she was not by his side and even became a burden to him.

"Ms. Lindberg, I know that I'm disobeying Mr. Nacht by telling you all this now. However, I'm at my wits' end."

Lowering his head, Ben explained agonizingly, "Mr. Nacht's condition is extremely serious. If we can't find Francesco, he may be done for."

By then, Charlotte's hand trembled uncontrollably as feelings of guilt swamped her. She hated herself for not letting go, not forgiving Zachary, and not reconciling with him earlier.

If she had realized her folly earlier, she would have been able to seek Francesco's help sooner, and Zachary's sickness would not have escalated to such a severe extent.

"Ms. Lindberg..."

When Ben saw Charlotte remain silent, he assumed she was still bothered by the past animosity between them.

Hence, he anxiously advised, "I know that the Nacht family had treated you badly. However, whatever bad blood there was is now gone. Mr. Henry, Zara, and the Blackwood sisters are all dead. Who else is left for you to hate? Do you really want to see Mr. Nacht die at such a young age? Or have the children be fatherless?"

"Why didn't you tell me earlier?" Charlotte finally said something. She was so shaken that her voice was trembling. "Given how grave this matter is, why did you wait till now to tell me?"

"I..." Briefly stunned, Ben took a second before he started explaining. "Mr. Nacht ordered me not to do so no matter what. He said that he wanted you to return home out of love and not out of pity."

"That fool!" She gritted her teeth.

"He declared that he rather die a proud man than live in shame." Thinking about Zachary, Ben was filled with guilt. "I was in a dilemma. The only thing I could do was try my best to locate Francesco, hoping to have the best of both worlds."

"There's no way you can find him." Charlotte took a deep breath to recollect herself. "Only I can do it."

"Really? Can you really do it?" Ben could not suppress his excitement.

"It's not going to be easy, but I will definitely find him for Zachary's sake." Seized by anxiety, she asked, "How much longer before we arrive in H City?"

"Soon, the plane is preparing for descend."

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"I'll take care of locating Francesco." Charlotte checked her watch for the time. "After going back, I'll contact Gordon and Sean at once."

"That's wonderful! Thank you, Ms. Lindberg." Ben was extremely grateful. "With your help, Mr. Nacht can finally be cured."

"No, wait." Charlotte suddenly thought of something important. "Didn't you just say that Zachary's condition had stabilized when you left?"

"That's right. He was extremely worried about you and wanted to look for you. However, he decided against it after I got on my knees and pleaded with him."

"That's not the point," she interrupted him. "Was his condition really stable then?"

"Relatively so. Dr. Wright said that as long as he didn't go out, he would be fine for about a month," he explained earnestly.

"But..." The more Charlotte thought about it, the more suspicious she became. "When I called Zachary last night, it was Nancy who answered."

"Huh?" Stunned, Ben frantically explained, "That's not right. By the time I left, Nancy was already gone. Unless she came back later? But don't worry, Ms. Lindberg. Given how sick Mr. Nacht is, nothing is going to happen between them—"

"That's not what I'm concerned about." The woman's expression was grim. "I'm worried that he's suffering a relapse."

Her words struck fear into Ben. "That's entirely possible. Back then, when I arrived at the villa, he wanted me to start a video call. I did as told and captured you and Sir Louis..."

At there, he raised his hand to slap himself in remorse. "It was all my fault. I shouldn't have started the video call. Why was I so stupid?"

"You're not to blame." Charlotte uttered coldly, "I think someone must have said something in front of him."

"Do you mean Ms. Gold?" Ben asked meekly. "That's unlikely. She seems to be quite an honest person."

"Precisely. Due to her honesty, everyone assumes she will only tell the truth." A wry smile hovered on her lips. "Because of that, Zachary will believe her words, which makes her a formidable adversary."

"Uh..."

"However, that's for another day. I should find Francesco as soon as possible." Charlotte was well aware of her priorities. "Once we disembark from the plane, you should settle Lupine down while I will return to Southridge."

"Sure." Ben repeatedly nodded as he could not be happier. However, at the thought of something, he asked in concern, "As for Mr. Nacht, can you..."

Flashing him a faint smile, she assured, "Don't worry. I know what must be done. I won't put you in a spot."

"That's good. Thank you."

Ben heaved a sigh of relief.

Half an hour later, their private jet landed in H City.

Ben had already contacted the medical staff at Kindness Hospital to meet them at the airport. After that, he and a few other subordinates accompanied the unconscious Lupine to the hospital.

At the same time, he arranged for Cain, Kyle, and the others to escort Charlotte back to Southridge.

Ben bowed at Charlotte respectfully before the two groups went their separate ways. "Ms. Lindberg, the fate of the Nacht family is in your hands!"

"Don't worry." The woman nodded. "I'll leave Lupine with you."

"Mmm-hmm."

The road leading back to Southridge was shrouded in rain and mist.

Charlotte switched her SIM card to a new phone and contacted Gordon at once.

However, when Gordon did not reply after a long while, she dropped Sean a message and told them to call her the moment they saw her note.

Cognizant of the fact that they might be tied down in Erihal, she reckoned they might not be able to check their phone in time. Nevertheless, once they saw her message, they would get in touch with her at once.

All she could do was wait patiently.

Soon, the car drove into Southridge. When Charlotte alighted, she saw a few unfamiliar bodyguards stationed outside. That was when she realized they were not the Nacht family's men but the Gold family's instead.

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If it were before, Charlotte would definitely be infuriated. In fact, she might even mock Zachary and storm off. However, since she knew the truth, her mood was entirely different.

"Ms. Windt, you're back!"

When Hanna's excited voice rang out, Charlotte looked up. Among everyone in the house, only she came out to welcome her happily. "It's good to have you back. Mr. Zachary has been worried sick about you."

"Where is he?"

Just when Charlotte was about to enter the house, she was stopped at the door by Spencer's subordinates, who used to work under Henry.

The two men stepped in her way and forbade her from entering.

"Ms. Lindberg, if you don't mind my lowly status, I would like to speak to you in private." Despite Spencer's humble words, there was an air of intimidation behind it.

"Spencer..." Just when Hanna wanted to say something in Charlotte's defense, she held her tongue when she saw the look on his face.

"Mr. Spencer, I would like to see Zachary first. We can talk after that, all right?"

Charlotte treated Spencer with the utmost respect. That was because when Henry made life difficult for her, Spencer would always adopt an impartial attitude and even protect her sometimes.

"You infuriated Mr. Zachary that he..." The moment Spencer brought the topic up, his entire body trembled in anger. "I will look past the fact that the first time he suffered a relapse was from saving you. However, just when he was rescued from the brink of death, you provoked him again, causing him to now be..."

Just as he spoke, his eyes reddened.

With a tone filled with anger and pain, he continued, "Charlotte, when Mr. Henry was still around, I would always advise him to be impartial and considerate no matter how difficult he made your life to be. But now, after seeing Mr. Zachary in this condition, I can no longer be forbearing."

"What happened to him?" Charlotte was ridden with anxiety that she barged into the house and demanded, "I want to see him!"

"Stop right there!" Spencer barked. When his subordinates were about to block her way, she shoved them aside angrily. "How dare you stop me?"

"You—"

"Who is causing a ruckus down here?"

Just as Spencer was about to speak, a frosty voice sounded from upstairs.

Charlotte turned to look and saw Nancy standing by the railings on the second floor. The latter looked down at her in a condescending manner. "Charlotte Lindberg, where are your manners? How could you barge into someone else's home without permission?"

"Since when do you have the right to say anything here?" Charlotte glared at her.

"You are not the one to decide that." Nancy gradually walked down the stairs. "Now that Mr. Nacht is being treated, he needs peace. So please leave immediately and don't disturb him."

"What gives you the right—" Charlotte roared.

"The fact that I brought the doctor over and saved Mr. Nacht's life." Nancy raised her eyebrows. "Why don't you ask everyone in this house who deserves to stay?"

"You—"

"It goes without saying that it's Ms. Gold," Spencer proclaimed calmly. "In both of Mr. Zachary's relapses, I shudder to think of the consequences if Ms. Gold hadn't brought Dr. Wright over. As of now, Dr. Wright only takes orders from Ms. Gold. You can't leave Mr. Zachary's side, Ms. Gold."

"Did you hear that?" Nancy taunted while glaring at Charlotte. "What are you waiting for?"

Charlotte was disheartened by the words she had heard. She had only left for three days, yet Nancy had taken over the entire household.

Directing her gaze at the bodyguards and maids in the living hall, she saw them lowering their heads in silence.

Only Hanna looked at her with misty eyes. Nevertheless, she, too, did not have the courage to speak up.

Charlotte was incensed and heartbroken at the same time. Just when she was about to give Ben a call, a tender yet authoritative voice sounded. "No one can chase my mommy away."

Turning to look, Charlotte saw Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie alighting from the car together with Kyle. The kids then sprinted inside the house and stood before her to protect their mother.

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Just like an angry lion, Jamie held up his fist and stared daggers at Nancy. "You evil woman. This is my home. I won't allow you to chase my mommy out!"

"Mr. Spencer, why did you help outsiders bully my mommy?" Running up to Spencer, Ellie held his hand and questioned him while crying. "You have always loved us. How could you do this?"

"Be a good girl, Ellie. Don't cry." Spencer quickly wiped the tears off her face.

Approaching Nancy calmly, Robbie asked, "Ms. Gold, I presume?"

He conducted himself with the utmost politeness, but there was a fearsome and intimidating air to his voice.

"Thank you for bringing the doctor to treat my daddy. As for the expenses, I will have my people pay you back manyfold. Once my daddy has recovered, our whole family will visit you to express our gratitude. But for now, please apologize to my mommy!"

"Uhm..."

Nancy was stunned by the sight of the children. When she regained her senses, she frantically explained with a smile, "Kids, I didn't bully your mommy. It's just that your daddy is undergoing treatment now. The doctor says he needs peace, but your mom has been causing a ruckus. Hence, I simply requested for her to go out—"

"This is my home," Robbie interrupted her. He then declared haughtily, "An outsider has no right to call the shots here!"

"You..." Nancy's beautiful face crimsoned as she choked with fury.

"Besides, my mommy has always been gentle and well-mannered. She never kicks up a fuss. So, how could it be her that's noisy?" the boy retorted steadily. "Even if someone is causing a scene, she would be the last one to do so!"

His comments were aimed at Spencer.

Color flooded Spencer's face, but he dared not utter a word. Back when Henry was still around, Robbie was his favorite great-grandson. Henry even commented that the boy was a genius, so no one dared to challenge him.

Having been rebuked by Robbie, Nancy wanted to retort but realized she did not have a strong case for defending herself. Moreover, with everyone in the house looking at her, she was fully aware that continuing arguing with a kid would not look good on her.

Hence, it was the smarter choice for her to make concessions. Lowering her head, she apologized to Charlotte, "Ms. Lindberg, I'm sorry for my inappropriate words just now. I was just caught up in my desperation to save Mr. Nacht. Hence, I hope you will forgive me."

She found a good excuse by blaming it on her desperation to treat Zachary.

Regardless of her sincerity, the fact was that she did save him.

Therefore, Charlotte knew she could not castigate her. Otherwise, Spencer and the other servants might think lesser of her.

"Ms. Gold, you're being too modest. You have saved my children's father, so I should be the one to thank you. Though you were too eager to make me leave..."

Charlotte, too, knew how to use that tactic. After all, it did not belong to Nancy solely.

"It's my fault." Nancy continued to hang her head.

"Koandrians are really courteous. Unfortunately, I'm used to being forthright. Hence, I'm not good at such pleasantries." A half-smile appeared on Charlotte's face. "Since Dr. Wright is still here, we should let her continue with the treatment. As for the household matters..."

She then turned her attention toward Spencer. "Mr. Spencer, I'm sure we don't have to trouble Ms. Gold, isn't it?"

"Ms. Gold, she..."

Just when Spencer was about to speak, he noticed Robbie staring at him intensely. Hence, he changed his tune. "Ms. Gold, we are extremely grateful to you for inviting Dr. Wright over. We will definitely visit you to thank you properly at the end of all this. As you have been working hard for the past two days, I think it's time for you to get some rest at home."

Everyone at home knew Spencer was able to throw his weight around Zachary, but Robbie had the power to do the same to him.

"All right then. I'll be taking my leave."

Suppressing the rage that surged within her, Nancy forced a smile at Charlotte. However, her eyes had an icy glint in them.

"Ms. Gold, please show yourself out."

Stepping aside, Charlotte gestured toward the exit.

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With that, Nancy left furiously with her subordinates.

Charlotte was thrilled to watch Nancy leave. As the latter had been civil to her, she did not intend to make things difficult for her.

However, when Nancy tried to take over her place in the Nacht residence and openly challenged her, Charlotte chose to take her gloves off.

Nevertheless, she does know a thing or two. In just a few days, she had the entire Nacht family eating out of her hands. Luckily, the kids protected me. Or else, I would have been at a terrible disadvantage.

Holding that thought, Charlotte asked Kyle in a low voice, "How did it occur to you to bring the children over?"

"Ben reminded me to. He was worried that you might face some trouble here. Hence, he instructed me to bring them here," Kyle replied in the same volume. "When we're at the middle of the mountain, I drove toward Northridge to pick them up."

"Smart," she praised.

"Mommy, you should go upstairs to see Daddy." Exuding the air of a head of a household, Robbie began to take charge. "Jamie, Ellie, both of you should play upstairs. However, don't be too loud as to disturb Daddy."

"Okay." Jamie and Ellie nodded before proceeding upstairs obediently.

"Mr. Spencer, shall we talk?" Robbie turned toward Spencer.

Frightened by his gaze, Spencer began to cough nervously. However, he dared not refuse. "Sure, sure."

"Mrs. Rawlston, please prepare a cup of tea for Mr. Spencer," Robbie instructed Hanna before beaming at the older man. "I remember he loves tea, doesn't he?"

"Yes, yes, right away." Hanna quickly went to prepare it.

"That's right. I'm surprised that you remember."

Spencer was always fearful of Robbie as he exuded the Nacht family's intimidating aura every time he spoke. Despite his young age, he had an incredibly sharp gaze.

Furthermore, he was already very good at playing mind games.

At that moment, Spencer recalled how Henry used to praise Robbie. He mentioned that every new generation surpassed the preceding one. Compared to Zachary when he was the same age, Robbie demonstrated capabilities that exceeded those of his father.

Seeing that Robbie had dealt with Spencer and settled down Jamie and Ellie, Charlotte was extremely relieved. Hence, she strode upstairs to see Zachary.

Outside the master bedroom stood four bodyguards and two maids. As they were already aware of the confrontation downstairs, they greeted her respectfully and allowed her to enter.

"Zachary..." Charlotte called out the man's name emotionally.

However, the moment she did so, she was stunned by the scene before her.

Zachary lay motionless in bed. Helen was treating the wound behind his ear while Raina and another nurse were assisting her.

When Helen saw Charlotte arrive, she shot her a glance and reminded her in Ustranasion. "Keep quiet!"

With light footsteps, Charlotte walked to the side of the door and barely dared to breathe aloud.

After a while, the wound was finally dressed.

Helen sighed in exhaustion and said to Raina in Ustranasion solemnly, "He's not in critical condition anymore. However, he will need to lie in bed for three days. He cannot be provoked or move unnecessarily. Otherwise, don't call me over anymore as there won't be anything else I can do for him."

"I understand. Thank you, Dr. Wright." Raina offered, "I'll walk you out."

"Don't worry about it. I'll show myself out."

After washing her hands in the bathroom, the doctor left with her assistant. When she walked past Charlotte, she looked at her intently without saying a word.

Charlotte found Helen's response strange. However, she quickly figured that the doctor must have thought she was the cause of Zachary's dangerous condition.

With everyone gone, the room fell silent again.

Raina hastened to greet Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg, you're finally back. When Mr. Nacht was injured the last time, we assumed he was fine. However, we didn't expect the vase to hit a vital part. Therefore—"

"I understand."

Charlotte was aware that Raina was making up an excuse to prevent her from finding out about Zachary's poisoning. Instead of exposing her lie, she pretended to be clueless.

She figured it would be less stressful for everyone that way.

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"His injury has affected some of his important nerves, which resulted in his dangerous condition."

Concerned that Charlotte did not realize the gravity of the situation and might hurt Zachary further, Raina exhorted, "I'm sure you heard what Dr. Wright just said. We have been very mindful of Mr. Nacht's condition lately."

"I know." Charlotte nodded. "Don't worry. I'll be careful."

"Also..." Raina explained awkwardly, "Due to the special circumstances, my assistant and I will stay by his side around the clock."

"Understood."

Charlotte knew that Raina's mind could not be at ease as she was fearful of any more accidents. After all, it did involve a man's life.

"That's good." Raina heaved a sigh of relief. "Why don't you go see Mr. Nacht? I'll be packing up the things."

"All right."

With that, Charlotte walked up to the bed. As she started at the unconscious Zachary, remorse washed over her.

If only I had noticed the problem earlier and forgiven him, he wouldn't have ended up this way. He has done so much for me behind my back and suffered so much alone. Yet, he never let me know.

She had always assumed that his domineering character led him to force her to stay by his side. Only then did she finally realize his true intentions.

Ben is right. The animosity of the past is now water under the bridge. Everyone involved in the matter is no longer around. It's time to let it go.

"Ms. Lindberg, have some tea." Raina poured Charlotte a cup of hot tea. "Did you just return? Were you injured?"

"Yes, and I'm fine. When will he wake up?"

"Dr. Wright speculated that it might be tonight or tomorrow morning. But it's still anyone's guess." Raina kept her voice low, worried that she might disturb Zachary's rest. "Mr. Nacht was in grave danger this time. I almost thought that..."

She stopped mid-sentence before rephrasing, "The vase hit a critical part of his head. If not for Dr. Wright, the consequences would have been dire."

"It's all my fault!"

Charlotte was overwhelmed with regret. Considering Zachary's prior medical history, the vase had acted like a fuse that ignited the problem in his nerves, heightening the risk of his condition.

"Don't say that," Raina comforted her. "It was an accident. Don't blame yourself for it."

"I came straight here right after I got off the plane and hadn't managed to change yet." Charlotte suddenly realized that she might be bringing germs to Zachary. "I'll go wash up in the guest room before coming back."

"All right." Raina had someone lead her to the guest room.

When Charlotte entered the room, she did not hasten to shower. Instead, she gave Gordon and Sean a call. When the calls still did not get through, she began to worry. Hence, she tried contacting Danrique's other subordinates.

However, she failed to reach any of them.

Filled with anxiety, Charlotte gave Morgan a call and instructed her to continue reaching out to Danrique's men. Even if it was a lowly subordinate, they had to establish contact no matter what.

When Morgan tried to ask about what happened, she stopped her and told her to do as told.

Given how rare it was to see Charlotte so anxious, Morgan went off at once to get it done.

After washing up and changing into a set of comfortable clothing, Charlotte returned to Zachary's room.

At that moment, Raina and a few other medical staff had packed up their equipment and were holding warm towels to wipe Zachary's body. Seeing that, Charlotte walked up and offered, "Let me do it."

Raina handed her a towel and warned, "Be careful not to touch his head."

"Got it." Charlotte carefully avoided Zachary's head. When she started wiping his hand, she was shocked by what she saw.

The back of his hand and even his wrist were a mass of needle marks and bruises left from acupuncture treatment.

However, she had never noticed them before.

Filled with guilt, Charlotte felt tears welling up in her eyes. She then unbuttoned his collar to wipe his torso and unexpectedly found bruises all over his chest.

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The marks meant that Zachary had been undergoing treatment the whole time, yet she was oblivious to it.

It was not until he experienced a relapse and lost his vision that she finally noticed.

At that thought, Charlotte blamed herself for everything that had happened. Considering how severe Zachary's condition had gotten by then, it would be well and good if he could be cured.

If he ended up dying at a young age because of her, she would never forgive herself for the rest of her life.

"Ms. Lindberg, why don't you let me do it?" Worried that Charlotte would notice something, Raina frantically came up with an excuse. "Your hand hasn't recovered yet, so you shouldn't let it come into contact with water."

"At most, my wound will only worsen." Charlotte took a deep breath and choked out, "But he... He is in danger of losing his life. I don't know how much time I have left to take care of him."

Raina was stunned to hear her words. Realizing something, she asked in a panic, "Ms. Lindberg, d-do you—"

"Yes, I know." Charlotte let out a sorrowful sigh. "All of you should have told me earlier."

"How did you... Did Ben tell you?"

Raina was flustered. If Zachary woke up and learned that Charlotte knew the truth of his condition, he would definitely lose his temper.

"Not him." Charlotte cooked up an excuse. "I coerced Hayley into telling me about it. Besides, I'm not a fool. How can he be so grievously injured because of a vase?"

"Since the cat is out of the bag, could you help us contact Francesco?" Raina could no longer care less about hiding the truth and asked candidly. All they wanted was for Zachary to recover.

"I'm on it." Charlotte gently stroked Zachary's face. "By hook or by crook, I'll find him!"

"That's wonderful!" Raina was overwhelmed with emotions. "I told them that we should have told you about this. After all, only you can locate Francesco."

"Leave Francesco to me. Once I have a lead, I'll fly to Erihal at once." Charlotte turned toward her and urged, "Once he wakes up, you should pretend that I'm still unaware of his condition. If not, he will feel burdened."

"Yes, definitely." Raina nodded profusely. "I share your sentiment. After all, Mr. Nacht is a proud man. If he finds out that you know about his condition, he won't be able to accept it."

"That's why you and Ben should mind your words," Charlotte warned.

"Understood." Raina smiled wryly with teary eyes. "Now, I can finally rest easy. Or else, your frequent quarrels with him would aggravate his condition."

"It won't happen again."

Charlotte cupped Zachary's face and gently ran her fingers over his cracked lips. Tormented by her guilt, she swore that she would care for him and never hurt him again.

When Raina saw her reaction, she felt a sense of relief, for she knew that the couple's relationship depended on Charlotte.

Despite his cold demeanor, Zachary's affection for Charlotte was deep. As long as she was willing to let go of the past, both of them would definitely be able to reconcile, just like old times.

Since Charlotte was aware of the truth, Raina quietly left the room, not wanting to disturb them further. Before she left, she reminded Charlotte to press the button by the bed if she ever needed help.

Staying by Zachary's side, Charlotte teared up as she recalled everything that had happened in the past.

Meanwhile, in the study downstairs, Robbie questioned Spencer directly, "Mr. Spencer, do you have something against my mommy?"

"Robbie, sometimes, the affairs of adults are hard to explain," Spencer replied softly. "However, I will never harm your mommy."

"Sometimes, treating someone indifferently and shunning them is a form of abuse." Robbie stared into his eyes. "Although you didn't bully mommy as Great-grandpa did, she would still be hurt by your attitude."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1406

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Chapter 1406 Inferior To A Child

"I..."

Stumped by Robbie's words, Spencer had nothing to say in his defense.

"Ms. Gold is a decent person. She isn't as fiery as Ms. Sharon nor as malevolent as Ms. Cynthia. She comes from a well-to-do family and is extremely smart and capable. Also, she is open with others..." Robbie calmly commented. "However, no matter how good she is, she will never be able to top Mommy. Jamie, Ellie, and I will only have one mommy. As for Daddy, he only loves Mommy. I'm sure you're well aware of this."

"Yes, I understand." Spencer nodded fervently. "I won't interfere in their relationship. All I wish is for your daddy to recover faster and your mommy to refrain from arguing and provoking him as it will affect his recuperation."

"That is also my wish." Robbie's expression turned grim at the mention of Zachary's illness. "Mr. Spencer, don't worry. Mommy cares for Daddy as much as the three of us. She has been trying to find a doctor for him."

"Really?" Spencer's eye lit up at his words. "Is she looking for—"

"Francesco." Robbie finished the older man's sentence. "Only Mommy can find him."

"Right, right," Spencer quickly responded. "Given the urgency of this matter, we need to locate him as soon as possible."

"Mommy will think of a way." Robbie was sure of it. "The doctor that Ms. Gold brought can only buy us some time. Only Mommy is capable of truly saving Daddy. Therefore, Mr. Spencer, I'm sure you're now clear who the lady of the house is?"

"I am, I am." Spencer nodded repeatedly. "Don't worry. I understand."

"Thank you, Mr. Spencer." Robbie slid down the sofa and bowed at him. "On behalf of Jamie and Ellie, I would like to thank you sincerely!"

"Come on, Robbie, there's no need for this." Spencer quickly helped him up.

"Daddy respects you a lot while we also admire you. Your acknowledgment and blessings are crucial to the happiness of our family." Robbie looked at the older

man sincerely. "Furthermore, now that Daddy is sick, you are in charge of all the family affairs. Therefore, you must be on the same page as us."

"You're right."

Spencer hung his head in shame. Despite Robbie's simple words, the underlying meaning it carried was deep and unfeeling.

If they were not of one mind, their enemies could exploit their weakness.

Since the Nacht family was facing a crisis, it was even more important for them to stay united.

After his discussion with Spencer, Robbie went to see Jamie and Ellie. He reminded them to be obedient and sensible. They were not allowed to kick up a fuss, much less bother their parents.

Other than going to school, they were to stay at Northridge to accompany their cousins so that they would not disturb Zachary.

Although Jamie and Ellie were unaware of the happenings, they nodded to acknowledge Robbie's instructions.

After all, their eldest brother's words were never wrong.

When Ben returned in the evening, he went to see Spencer.

The older man was relieved to hear that Charlotte knew about Zachary's condition and was working hard to locate Francesco.

Ben then explained to Spencer what happened at Phoenix City and wished that the latter could forgive Charlotte. He hoped that all of them could stand together in the face of the crisis.

Spencer nodded to express his support.

Recalling Robbie's words, he was mortified. Even though everyone saw him as the wise one, he was inferior to a child in certain aspects.

After some self-reflection, Spencer figured that there was no need for him to remain since Charlotte was around.

Ben consoled him for some time before arranging for some men to escort him back to Garden Villa, saying he would bring him back after Charlotte left.

After all, someone had to be in the Nacht residence to take the helm.

Spencer nodded in agreement and stood by in Garden Villa.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1407

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1407

Once everything was settled, Ben went to see Zachary.

When he was sending Lupine to the hospital, he had spoken to Marino over the phone. Upon learning that Zachary had suffered a relapse, he knew it would be chaotic at home, and Charlotte would face obstacles there. That was why he ordered Kyle to pick the children up from Northridge to protect their mother.

Finally, it was all resolved. Nancy had left while Spencer had also gone home.

When peace returned in the house, Hanna and the other maids sighed in relief.

With Charlotte around, they could feel the previously bleak villa begin to bristle with warmth.

Ben reported Lupine's condition to Charlotte. "Lupine has woken up in the afternoon, and Morgan brought the three girls to accompany her in the hospital."

Given how noisy the group was, he dared not speak and instead slipped out of the ward.

Picturing the scene, Charlotte could not help but smile. Morgan was a lot more animated than Lupine. With her around, the atmosphere would definitely be lively.

Because of Morgan's demeanor, the three girls loved to play with her. Naturally, Charlotte assigned her to take care of the children.

Lupine would surely recover a lot faster with them to keep her company.

At that moment, Charlotte began to miss the three girls after not seeing them for a few days. In fact, she felt bad for not spending time when Danrique had entrusted them to her.

However, she could only wait till her own affairs were dealt with before she could focus all her attention on them.

While they were speaking, Charlotte's phone suddenly vibrated. When she saw the caller ID, she answered at once. "Hello, Gordon!"

"Ms. Lindberg, you wanted to talk to me?"

"Yes, how are things at your end? Did you manage to find Danrique?"

"Not yet, but I've confirmed that he's still alive!"

"Really? That's wonderful!" Charlotte was thrilled. "I knew he would be all right."

"Now that his enemies are hunting him down, we dare not act hastily. Hence, the only thing we can do now is to bide our time."

"Yes. You must be careful. You cannot let his enemies find out about his location from your end."

"I understand. Ms. Lindberg, you take care of yourself too."

"I know. One more thing..."

"Go on."

"Do you know where Francesco is?"

"Francesco? He has always been secretive about his movements. Therefore, no one seems to know his location."

"Does anyone know how to get in touch with him?"

"What happened?"

"Someone extremely important to me is gravely ill. Time is of the essence, and only Francesco can save him. Gordon, please rack your brains. Is there anyone who can contact him?"

"Let me ask Sean. However, I suspect he doesn't know either. Only Mr. Lindberg does."

"Help me contact Sean first and find out about the details. Also, be quick about it."

"All right. I'll do so right away and get back to you once I hear from him."

After ending the call, Charlotte felt dispirited. Gordon and Sean were Danrique's right-hand men. If even they were not aware of Francesco's location, no one else would be.

Of course, Danrique definitely knew. However, since his whereabouts were unknown, it would be too late by the time he was found.

With that in mind, she began to grow anxious.

"Ms. Lindberg, don't fret yet. I'm sure we can come up with something," Ben comforted her.

"Time waits for no man." Looking at the sleeping Zachary, Charlotte pondered for a moment before making a decision. "When he wakes up, I'll have to return to Erihal."

"Huh?" Stunned, Ben dissuaded her, "Mr. Lindberg had painstakingly removed you from the conflicts of the Lindberg family because he doesn't want you to be in harm's way. By going back now, aren't you putting your life at risk?"

"I have Danrique's trusted subordinates by my side, so I'll be fine." Her expression was sullen. "Actually, I'm most worried about the children, especially Danrique's triplets. He had tasked me with taking care of them, but I have not been doing a good job."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1408

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Chapter 1408 Waking Up From A Nightmare

"Don't worry about the children. We will take good care of them," Ben replied earnestly. "Nevertheless, it's still too dangerous for you to go back to Erihal. I'm sure you know how important you are to Mr. Nacht. If anything happens to you, it will be meaningless even if you found Francesco."

Charlotte was touched by his words. She never knew how important she was to Zachary.

"In my opinion, we should try and locate Francesco first," Ben suggested. "Bruce is now in Erihal, so he can take action the moment he receives your instruction. I believe he will be able to bring Francesco back to H City very soon."

"You don't know how difficult Francesco is." Furrowing her eyebrows, Charlotte remarked, "He might look like a doctor on the surface but is actually a mysterious and massively wealthy man. No one knows his true identity. When he was treating me back then, he wore a mask all the time. Hence, even I don't know what he looks like. Furthermore, he's quite eccentric. Other than my brother, he doesn't respect anyone else. Even if we found him, he may not agree to follow Bruce back to H City."

"Huh?" The news unsettled Ben. "That does sound troublesome."

"Let's focus on getting a lead first." Charlotte sighed. "Actually, he might not agree to help even if I see him personally. Unless..."

"Unless what?" he asked frantically.

"Unless Danrique makes the request." Charlotte held onto a sliver of hope. "As of now, the ideal solution would be to find Danrique first and get him to ask Francesco."

"But Mr. Lindberg might not be willing to save Zachary." Ben lacked confidence.

"Begging him to do it is certainly easier than begging Francesco." Charlotte was still hopeful. "Danrique might seem cold, but he treats me very well, unlike Francesco, who doesn't have a relationship with me. I'm afraid he won't agree to do it on my account. At the same time, I'm not sure if he will make an exception for Dr. Felch's sake. After all, Dr. Felch was the one who disowned him back then. Moreover, they had not been in touch in the last ten years. Anyhow, we still need to find him first."

"That's true." Ben sighed. He had assumed that everything would be solved once they located Francesco. To his dismay, he only realized then that Francesco might not be willing to cooperate.

Consequently, the matter was more tricky than he had thought.

"All right now, you must be exhausted after what had happened in the last few days." Charlotte changed the topic. "You should get some rest while I stay by Zachary's side."

"Mmh." Ben nodded at her before taking his leave.

With that, she remained by Zachary's bedside quietly, grateful that she could still have the chance to do so.

She recalled everything that had happened between them, the ups and downs, the joys and miseries.

By then, Charlotte came to realize how much their past felt like a story.

Regardless, it was all water under the bridge. What mattered was appreciating those who were still in her life.

With that thought in mind, Charlotte laid her head beside Zachary and fell asleep.

Probably because she barely slept over the last four days, including three in which she was kidnapped, she was overwhelmed with exhaustion.

Consequently, she fell into such a deep slumber that she did not even realize Zachary had awoken.

Jolted awake from his nightmare, Zachary was covered with cold sweat.

He had dreamt of Charlotte and Louis' wedding. When he ran into the venue to stop it, Charlotte pointed a gun at him and ordered him to leave.

Meanwhile, Louis fanned the flames by urging Charlotte to pull the trigger.

Nevertheless, Zachary was certain that she would not shoot and tried his best to salvage their relationship by bringing up the children and all the wonderful memories they shared. However, all his pleas for her to return to his side fell on deaf ears.

Finally, she vengefully listed all the pain he had brought upon her before proclaiming her love for Louis. She insisted on marrying him and demanded Zachary to get lost.

In the heat of the moment, she mercilessly fired a shot at his chest.

And that was the moment he woke up.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1409

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Chapter 1409 Her Hug

The room was covered in darkness, with the dim emergency light on the ground as the only source of illumination.

When Zachary opened his eyes, he stared blankly at the ceiling. The scenes from his dream were still replaying in his mind.

In his dream, Charlotte was cruel and heartless. The frosty expression and the hateful gaze she had looked extremely frightening.

Zachary felt as if someone was crushing his heart. The pain was so excruciating that he could barely breathe.

Gradually, the pain turned into hatred, causing him to clench his fists. It was as though he would strangle Charlotte to death if she appeared before him.

However, he realized that something was pressing on his arms, causing them to feel heavy and numb. In fact, he could not even lift them.

While trying desperately to move his arms, he turned to look and was shocked by what he saw.

Am I dreaming? Is... Is that Charlotte? Why is she here?

Although Charlotte's face was buried in her arms, Zachary recognized her easily from the contours of her head and body.

Having shared a bed with her many times in the past, he was extremely familiar with her form and scent.

Hence, he was certain it was her without needing to see her face.

Furrowing his eyebrows, he began to replay the intimate act between her and Louis.

In his video call with Ben, he saw them embracing each other, dressed in provocative clothing.

That scene caused his blood to boil, and he almost burst a blood vessel.

Why is she here now? Could there be something wrong with my memory? Could it be that I didn't call Ben and she wasn't together with Louis? Was I unconscious for a long time, and she had returned from Mount Phoenix?

Zachary quickly cast that thought aside. He clearly remembered the video call, and every scene of it was etched on his mind.

I couldn't have been mistaken, but why is she here now?

While he pondered the question, Charlotte shifted in her sleep and turned her face toward him before falling back asleep.

As he stared at her gorgeous face, emotions raged in his heart. They cycled through resentment, rage, doubt, confusion, and discontentment.

Overwhelmed with anger and impulsiveness, he felt like pulling her up and demanding to know why she cheated and betrayed him.

However, the moment he moved his hand, he felt agonizing pain shooting up his body.

At the same time, Charlotte was awakened by his movements. After sitting up abruptly, she stared at him in shock. When she finally regained her senses, she exclaimed, "Y-You're awake!"

Extending her hand to touch his face, she asked anxiously, "How do you feel? Do you feel pain anywhere? I'll get the doctor at once."

Just as she spoke, she reached for the button, but he held her hand back.

His arms were feeble, so he could only tug at one of her fingers. "N-No need," Zachary uttered with much difficulty.

Scrutinizing him intently, Charlotte heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that he was fine. "Are you really okay?"

Zachary struggled to shake his head.

"That's great!" Hugging him tightly, Charlotte choked out beside his ear, "You gave me a fright. I thought you were never going to wake up."

Her hug brought him a sense of warmth and familiarity.

Zachary was suddenly befuddled. It felt as if they had returned to the time when they were still madly in love with each other.

However, he quickly regained his senses when reminded of the heart-wrenching scene.

Wriggling to free himself from her embrace, he murmured, "Y-You and—"

"What's wrong? Am I hugging you too tightly?"

Charlotte quickly let him go as she thought her forceful hug was causing him discomfort. She then gently held his face and comforted him, "You need to get some proper rest. The doctor said you can only get out of bed after three days of bed rest."

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Chapter 1410 Be Honest With Him

Zachary looked at her with knitted eyebrows, questions running in his mind.

Why is she acting as though nothing had happened? It's as if time had stopped at the hospital where both of us were still on good terms. But she had obviously gone to see Louis, and even...

"All right. Time to sleep." Charlotte took off her jacket and slipped underneath the quilt beside Zachary. She even yawned out of exhaustion. "I'm beat—I haven't slept a wink for four days."

With that, she stuck close to him like a little kitten and gradually dozed off.

However, Zachary was still staring at her intently. His mind constantly reminded him of how she deceived and betrayed him, and he should not forgive her.

However, his body subconsciously adjusted itself so that she could sleep more comfortably.

When Charlotte was about to nuzzle up against him instinctively, she suddenly remembered his injury and moved backward instead. In a daze, she reminded herself. "Mmm, no... I can't stay too close to you, or I'll touch your wound."

Her gentle purr warmed his heart at once.

Tilting his head, Zachary looked at her and decided to relish that moment despite his puzzlement.

Let me indulge in my self-delusion just this once.

Closing his eyes, he gradually drifted off to sleep.

With that, both of them slept in the same bed together.

In the middle of the night, Charlotte constantly cuddled up to Zachary by reflex but quickly backed away when she realized it.

Worried that she would accidentally hurt him, she decided to turn her back toward him instead. After that, she curled up to sleep on the side of the bed.

The sudden distance struck Zachary with a sense of emptiness. Having been woken from his sleep, he struggled to reach out an arm to pull her back into his embrace. Unfortunately, he was too weak to do so. The moment he tried to move, he tugged on his wound, and pain enveloped his entire body.

Zachary retracted his hand in resignation. He then closed his eyes and tried to get back to sleep.

In spite of that, fury continued to simmer in his heart. Hence, he tried to use his leg and a few other methods to pull her closer.

However, whatever he did was futile.

Instead, he began to cough after straining himself.

"What's wrong?" Jolted awake, Charlotte leaned over and put her hand on his forehead. "Are you feeling unwell?"

Raina had instructed her to check on Zachary's temperature constantly. If there was any indication of fever, however low, Charlotte was to inform her at once.

Otherwise, the consequences would be dire.

Therefore, the first thing Charlotte did when she awoke was to feel his forehead and cheeks.

"No." When Zachary saw that she had leaned over, he was secretly delighted. However, that incident still felt like a thorn in his flesh. Seizing the opportunity, he demanded, "Where... did you go... during the last three days?"

Too frail to form a complete sentence smoothly, he could only speak intermittently.

At his question, Charlotte snapped out of her grogginess. After giving it some thought, she explained earnestly, "I was trailed the moment I got off the private jet. After a night of pursuit, I was still captured by that person, who turned out to be Louis..."

Charlotte related everything to Zachary, including how she agreed to pretend to be Louis' wife for three days. No details were spared.

By the time he heard the whole story, Zachary's face was as black as thunder. Even though the truth was not as bad as he had thought, it was still enough to infuriate him.

Charlotte quickly added, "I know you're furious and that this incident has triggered you. But now, there are two matters that I want to clear up. Firstly, nothing concrete has ever happened between Louis and me. The incident at Arkfield was a plot hatched by Lady Sherlyn. Furthermore, someone masqueraded as me that night. The person who actually slept with Louis was his cousin, Diana."

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1411

“Secondly—”

Before Charlotte could continue, Zachary grabbed her hand anxiously. Summoning whatever strength he could, he asked, “Why... didn’t you say anything... back then?”

“I was equally confused and assumed it did happen.” With an embarrassed look on her face, she explained, “Deep down, I felt that nothing happened between us. However, all the evidence seemed to indicate that it was. Before I got a grasp of the situation, I didn’t dare to tell you anything.”

“R-Really?” Zachary could not rein back his emotions.

“If you don’t believe me, you can investigate it yourself.” Charlotte did not explain further. “When we returned to the Laurent family’s castle, Diana pulled the same trick again, but I caught her. By installing a pinhole camera, I captured everything as evidence and used it to coerce Sir Robert and his wife to call off the wedding. Devastated by the incident, Louis fell into depression. Even now, I can feel that he’s mentally deranged...”

At that point, she could not help but sigh. “To be honest, I, too, am responsible for it. But the problem mainly lies with his parents and Diana.”

Zachary finally believed her. Previously, he found it odd as to why Robert and Sherlyn would let her go and why their relationship ended on such bad terms. As it did not make sense, he was convinced there must be an inside story.

Finally, the truth was revealed.

“The first matter has been cleared up.” Rubbing her tired eyes, Charlotte continued, “The second thing I want to say is that I will not have anything to do with Louis going forward. Hence, I hope you will stop being angry over the matter.”

“Really?” Zachary asked again.

Knitting her eyebrows, she shot him a look of displeasure. “Do you not believe me?”

“I just hope that... you will... keep your—”

"I will. Don't worry," Charlotte interjected. Sighing, she continued, "Besides, Louis is close to turning into a lunatic. The best solution is to stay away from him and let him undergo treatment."

"You still... care about him." That was what bothered Zachary the most.

"Why are you still fixating on that?" She was peeved. "I'm only concerned about him as a friend, nothing more."

Zachary put up his hand to indicate that he did not want to discuss it further.

Since Charlotte had cleared the air and declared that she would keep her distance from Louis, there was no need for him to dwell on the topic any further.

After all, the darkest days were already over.

Zachary felt reinvigorated.

However, he still felt as if he was forgiving her too easily, so he continued to feign a frosty and dissatisfied expression.

"Are you feeling unwell?" Charlotte scrutinized his condition.

"No." Closing his eyes, the man responded distantly.

"Go back to sleep then." Utterly drained of energy, she let out a yawn, curled underneath the quilt, and carefully maintained her distance from Zachary.

When Zachary tried to squirm toward her, Charlotte thought she had accidentally touched him and turned around instead. She was so far away that the quilt barely covered her.

Zachary was speechless. She really is dense!

That night, both of them fell asleep in the face of repeated disruptions.

At nine in the morning, Charlotte was awoken by some muffled sounds. Opening her eyes groggily, she noticed that Raina and the nurses had arrived. They were preparing to give Zachary an examination.

However, the man gestured for them to leave so that they would not disturb her rest.

Nonetheless, Charlotte was already awake. She quickly got out of bed. "I'm sorry! I was too tired and overslept."

"It's all right, Ms. Lindberg. Why don't you go wash up while I give Mr. Nacht a checkup?" Raina replied awkwardly.

"Sure." Charlotte hurried out at once.

Staring at her silhouette, Zachary could not help but feel dejected.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1412

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Chapter 1412 Another Quilt

"The bathroom is filled with your medication and medical supplies, so Ms. Lindberg has to use the guest room to wash up," Raina explained when she saw through Zachary's thoughts. "I'll have someone tidy it up later so that she can shower in here."

Zachary nodded in approval.

"Do you want to add a small bed by the side?" one of the nurses asked. "That way, Ms. Lindberg can sleep on it when she accompanies you at night. She won't disturb your rest, and neither will she come into contact with your wounds."

"That's right." Another nurse voiced her approval. "Mr. Nacht, considering your current condition, you have to be careful not to touch your wounds. Otherwise—"

"Cut the crap," Zachary interrupted as he glared coldly at them.

The two nurses paled with fright and lowered their heads, no longer daring to utter another word.

"The examination is completed. Why don't the two of you pack up the items in the bathroom?"

Being thoughtful, Raina got them out of the fix.

"Yes, Dr. Langan." The nurses headed to the bathroom as instructed.

After taking Zachary's temperature, Raina remarked softly, "They're not wrong, you know. Considering your wounds, it would be terrible if she touched them. Why don't we bring in another quilt instead of a small bed?"

"You're such a busybo—"

"That's a wonderful idea!"

Just as Zachary was about to admonish Raina, Charlotte returned from freshening up.

While putting on facial moisturizer on her milk-like skin, she commented, "I was just thinking about sleeping on the sofa tonight, but it's just too hard and uncomfortable. Actually, a small bed is also a good idea. Considering how big the room is, there should be no problem accommodating it at all."

Raina observed Zachary's expression and noticed he was visibly upset. However, Charlotte was oblivious to it still. In fact, she was estimating the measurements with her hands while talking to herself.

"This spot should fit a queen-size bed. However, it will definitely look strange. I bet a perfectionist like him would be unsettled by it. Oh well, forget it. I think I'll just sleep on the sofa. Please add a mattress on top of it. Also, please get me a thicker blanket. I'm afraid of the cold."

"Ms. Lindberg..." Raina quickly called out when she saw Zachary's expression turning darker. "The sofa is too far away. It would be hard for you to notice if Mr. Nacht has any discomfort. Why don't you sleep on the bed? I'll get you another quilt instead."

After contemplating over it, Charlotte agreed, "That makes sense." If not for her being particularly attentive the previous night, she would not have noticed Zachary constantly stirring throughout the night.

Upon seeing how frosty Zachary looked, she thought he disdained him. Hence, she quickly reassured, "Don't worry. I'll behave and definitely not touch you."

Rolling his eyes, Zachary no longer had the energy to scold her, nor did he feel like talking to her anymore.

"All right. That's settled then." Seeing that his mood had lightened, Raina added, "Ms. Lindberg, I have ordered the bathroom to be tidied up. From today onward, you can shower there instead of the guest room."

"Really? That's great!" Charlotte was looking at her phone. "I'll get someone to bring me a change of clothes. I felt too embarrassed to go downstairs in my nightgown."

"I have already ordered someone to prepare them," Raina quickly replied. "Your clothes and toiletries are ready."

"I'm still more used to using mine."

Charlotte gave Morgan a call to bring her things.

Over the phone, Morgan reported, "Ms. Lindberg, I have been contacting Mr. Lindberg's subordinates. However, only Gordon has replied. He said he had gotten in touch with you. As for the rest, I didn't hear anything from them."

"I understand. Go and prepare my clothes first."

As she spoke, Charlotte checked her messages. Gordon had sent her one, telling her that he had reached out to Sean and had him help search for Francesco. Hence, Sean was on the case.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1413

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Chapter 1413 In His Hands

Charlotte was delighted by the progress.

Since he managed to reach Sean, Danrique would soon find out about this. If his situation permits, he should be getting in touch with me soon. When that happens, I will plead with him to find Francesco.

"Why are... you smiling?" Zachary snapped suddenly.

"Huh?" Regaining her senses, Charlotte deleted the message and responded, "It's nothing. You should get some rest while I go have breakfast."

With that, she left the room.

The man was still upset. Even though they had cleared up the misunderstanding about Louis, he still felt insecure and restless.

She's behaving as if nothing had happened and doesn't seem to be concerned about me.

"Mr. Nacht!" At that moment, Ben rushed into the room. He was absolutely delighted to see that Zachary was awake. "It's wonderful to see that you've regained consciousness! I was worried sick about you."

"Ben, stay with Mr. Nacht as I need to give Dr. Wright a call."

Raina planned to update Helen on Zachary's condition and ask about the medical follow-up.

"All right. Go ahead." Ben nodded.

After Raina left with the nurses, he approached Zachary excitedly. "Has Ms. Lindberg explained everything to you? It was all an accident. Actually, there was nothing going on between her and Sir Louis—"

"I know." Zachary cut him off, no longer wanting to talk about it.

"How do you feel?" Ben probed cautiously. "Do you feel unwell anywhere?"

"My body aches all over."

Zachary sighed. All this while, he was a proud and invincible man. Yet, he was reduced to being a puppet on a bed, to the extent of not being able to move.

"You should feel much better in two more days," Ben comforted. "Dr. Wright said you should be able to start walking after three days of bed rest."

"Mmh," Zachary grunted as he closed his eyes.

"Furthermore, Bruce told me that he has found a lead on Francesco. I'm sure we will be able to locate him soon."

Ben cooked up a lie as he dared not let Zachary know that it was Charlotte who had seen some progress at her end.

"Even if... we find him, he may not... be willing to come to... H City."

It took Zachary a lot of effort to complete that sentence. Although he was physically weak, his mind was still sharp.

"We will definitely find a way," Ben reassured him. "At least we are seeing some progress. You have to have faith and overcome your sickness. Both the children and Ms. Lindberg need you."

"Stop being melodramatic!"

Zachary shot him a glare as he did not want to hear such cringe-worthy words. In truth, he, too, was desperate to find Francesco and receive treatment. However, the repeated disappointments had caused him to lose hope.

Furthermore, he knew his own condition well. Given how severe it was, Francesco might not be able to cure him even if he was invited over to the residence.

"Fine, fine. Let's not talk about this anymore." Knowing what a proud man Zachary was, Ben was aware that he did not like hearing such talk. Hence, he diverted the conversation. "There are a few things I would like to report."

"Go on." Zachary's spirits were only lifted with the mention of official business.

"First, the shareholders of the Gymnasium Project have arrived at Ashenville Garden two days ago. Since you were unconscious at that time, they didn't dare to bother you. When they found out I had returned today, they asked me about the situation.

"Secondly, Sir Louis engaged people to kidnap Ms. Lindberg. They had threatened to hurt Lupine and the others to force her into submission. When Ms. Lindberg tried to flee by holding Sir Louis hostage, one of his men fired a shot at her.

"At the crucial moment, Lupine shielded Ms. Lindberg and took the bullet on her behalf. Although her life is no longer in danger, I still felt outraged, so I captured Louis and all of his subordinates and brought them back to H City. Their fate is in your hands."

"Well done!" Zachary's expression darkened. "She didn't... tell me... these details."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1414

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1414 Anything For You

Ben whispered, "Ms. Lindberg was against the idea of taking things to the point of no return and thought it was enough to take out the one assaulting Lupine. However, I'm not going to forgive the mastermind from the Laurent family."

After much consideration, he thought of sharing the rest with Zachary. "Sir Louis might have sent the hitmen, but Sir Robert was the one pulling the strings behind the scenes. This might be one of his attempts to get his revenge against you. After all, you forced him to return the initial invested capital. They must've not learned from their lessons."

"A-Announce the termination of collaboration between Nacht Group and the Laurent family!" Zachary instructed with his fists clenched.

"All right." Ben nodded in return.

Shortly after he delivered his instructions, Zachary announced with his brows furrowed, "A-As for Louis, keep him imprisoned for another fortnight!"

"Yes!"

"Get going at once!"

"All right, I think Ms. Lindberg is going to—"

Halfway through Ben's speech, Hanna marched into the room with Charlotte and a cart. "Mr. Zachary, you're finally awake. Ms. Lindberg has made you something to eat."

"It's something you need as of now," Charlotte assured the injured man with a satisfied beam.

"Ms. Lindberg, I'll excuse myself since Mr. Nacht is in great hands." Ben brought himself out of the room shortly after he wrapped up his conversation with them.

Similarly, Hanna made an excuse to leave the room.

Zachary was at a loss for words when Charlotte showed him the serving of oatmeal with some fruits she made him.

"I-Is that it?" he asked with a frown and thought it was an attempt of hers to get him back.

Is she seriously serving me a freaking bowl of oatmeal after I've been unconscious for three days? Isn't she aware I'm in desperate need of something nutritious, especially proteins?

"The doctor warned us not to serve you any solid food for the time being. Isn't this the best amongst your least preferred liquid foods?"

"C-Can't you make me a soup or something else?" Zachary's disappointment was written all over his face.

"You're not really supposed to consume anything greasy after being unconscious for such a long time." Charlotte took a seat next to him and urged, "Be good and finish this, okay?"

He gave in eventually and was being treated like a child who couldn't care for himself.

Charlotte made sure the food was at optimum temperature before feeding him. On top of that, there was a napkin around his neck to stop him from making a mess.

"I-I'm not a freaking baby!" Zachary was rendered speechless at her actions.

"It's just a habit of mine as a mother of three. I mean, I've been feeding our children in a similar manner throughout the years. Speaking of which, it's almost their birthday."

"I-In another two months, they're going to be seven years old."

Zachary couldn't help but wonder if he would still be around on his children's birthday.

"Time sure flies, huh?" As she continued feeding the man, she urged, "You need to take good care of yourself and return to Happy Avenue with me once you're feeling better. Mrs. Berry's belongings are already there. I wish to drop by and sort everything out, but I'm constantly occupied with different things."

"Mmm!" He couldn't stop staring at the woman in front of him after the ups and downs he had gone through all this while.

"I know you're not really a fan of oatmeal, but just bear with me for the time being. I'll make you some vegetable beef soup a few days later," Charlotte promised him.

"No! I want more!" Zachary recalled the few dishes she used to make him. Although those were the only dishes she could make, he had been craving for those.

"You know what? I'll make you whatever you want once you're fully recovered!" Charlotte assured the man with a satisfied beam.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1415

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Chapter 1415 A Showdown

Zachary felt nothing but bliss at that moment. Like the average married couple, Charlotte was taking care of Zachary meticulously. As they reminisced about their good times together, it made them anticipate the better days ahead.

Zachary felt peaceful and hoped that they could remain this happy forever. It was then Charlotte asked while staring at him in the eyes, "Zachary, will you marry me again?"

"H-Huh?" Zachary thought that the question was part of his imagination.

"Forget about it." Charlotte rolled her eyes and thought it was about time to leave since she was done feeding him.

The moment she got up from her seat, Zachary grasped her hand and asked, "W-What did you say?"

"Will—"

When she was about to repeat herself, a maid knocked on the door and announced, "Mr. Nacht, Ms. Gold is here to visit you."

Charlotte's expression darkened the moment she heard the maid. She turned around to look at Zachary.

Looking in the direction of the entrance, Zachary was about to say something when Charlotte announced ahead of him, "Let her in!"

"Yes!" Seeing as Zachary was silent, the maid then returned to the foyer.

After the maid left, Zachary repeated his question, "What did you say?"

Unwilling to carry on with the conversation, Charlotte replied in a callous tone, "It's nothing. I'll excuse myself since you have a guest."

He thought of stopping her, but she had made it to the entrance of the room.

Coincidentally, the maid had returned with Nancy. The duo exchanged glances when they encountered one another at the entrance.

Nancy made a face as soon as she caught a glimpse of Charlotte and the cart next to her. In spite of her effort to keep her thoughts to herself, her repugnance was written all over her face.

The maid greeted Charlotte before showing Nancy the way to Zachary's room.

Irritated, Charlotte changed her mind and thought of joining them in the room. Shortly after she handed the cart to the maid outside of the room, she returned to join the duo in the room.

"Mr. Nacht, I'm glad you're finally awake. How are you feeling? Are you still having a fever?" Nancy expressed her concerns over his condition.

Zachary inched away from her when she tried placing her hand on his forehead.

At that time, Charlotte remarked sarcastically, "Thank you so much for your concerns over the father of my children, Ms. Gold. The doctor you sent to check on him has been of great help."

Nancy turned around and asked with her brows arched, "Ms. Lindberg? Didn't you leave already?"

"What do you mean? Where else am I supposed to go when my children stay here? Please get a glass of water for our guest," Charlotte instructed the maid as if she was a household member seconds after she answered Nancy's query.

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg."

When the maid was about to leave, Nancy remarked, "Why don't you stop causing the servants trouble when you're also just another guest of the family?"

Nancy's remark was meant to warn Charlotte to stay away from Zachary since she was no longer affiliated with the Nacht family.

Smirking, Charlotte answered, "I'm afraid I can't because my children are household members of the family. Hence, it's not too much to consider myself a member of the family."

“Ha! I’m afraid you’re going to have to leave us alone because there’s something I wish to discuss with Mr. Nacht in private.”

“Am I supposed to leave?” Charlotte ignored Nancy and looked at Zachary to ascertain if he agreed to the latter.

Meanwhile, Zachary, who had remained silent throughout the conversation, thought Charlotte seemed to have changed her mind. She wouldn’t pick on Nancy unless she had a thing for him.

What made her change so fast? Not only did she disclose the matters between Louis and her, but she is also confronting Nancy now. Has she found out about my actual condition?

Colors drained from Zachary’s face when he considered the possibilities of Charlotte’s drastic change of attitude.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1416

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1416 Unexpected Turns

“See?”

Nancy shrugged her shoulders mockingly in an attempt to make fun of Charlotte because Zachary had remained silent.

“Zachary—”

The man stopped her from finishing her sentence and requested, “Can you leave us alone for a few minutes?”

“Y-You—” Charlotte’s eyes widened in disbelief when she heard him asking her to leave them alone.

Meanwhile, Nancy was all smiles. She thought she had the upper hand in the run for Zachary’s affection.

Nancy felt a sense of achievement when Charlotte stomped her way out of the room after glaring at Zachary in the eyes.

She turned around and carried herself in an aggrieved manner in front of the man. “I’m afraid Ms. Lindberg might have misunderstood me.”

He looked at her in the eyes and assured her, “It doesn’t really matter since you were the one who had rushed to my rescue. You have my thanks.”

The woman returned the favor with an intimate gaze. "It's nothing worth mentioning at all since I consider you a close friend of mine. Speaking of which, I've asked my father to delay the banquet for another week."

"Why?"

"I'm afraid you can't make it since you're still not feeling well. It's not much of a big deal to delay it for another week."

"Are you merely here to share the news with me today?"

"Actually, I wish to stay here to look after you, but I'm afraid Ms. Lindberg would be against the idea," Nancy replied with her lips pursed.

"What do you mean? Did anything happen when I was unconscious?" the intrigued Zachary asked.

"She quarreled with Mr. Spencer the moment she came home last night. She warned me to keep my mouth shut when I tried reminding her to be mindful of her volume. Therefore, I had to leave..."

Zachary asked with a frown, "Why did she pick on Mr. Spencer?"

"I'm not sure as well. I mean, Mr. Spencer is such a friendly man. Most of us look up to him, but Ms. Lindberg seems to—"

Nancy's voice trailed off as she seemed hesitant to continue her speech.

After a brief pause, she said, "Forget about it. Let's talk about something else. Sir Robert has been calling me to which I ignored. I wonder if he has something to tell me."

"You would better stay away from him," Zachary warned her.

"I'll keep that in mind. I'm glad Ms. Lindberg is fine. I was really worried when someone told me she went missing for three days after Sir Louis sent someone to go after her—"

Zachary interrupted her and asked, "What exactly do you wish to tell me?"

Startled by the man's question, it took her a few seconds to regain her composure. "I-It's nothing! I'm just wondering if Sir Robert was trying to get in touch with me about Sir Louis!"

"Have I not made myself clear? If you don't stop poking your nose into others' affairs, you need to bear the consequences of your ignorance," Zachary repeated himself in a callous tone.

After a few seconds, he remarked, "I consider you a friend of mine because of your straightforward personality. However, the way you speak is really getting on my nerves nowadays."

It was finally Nancy's turn to feel anxious. She tried explaining herself, "Mr. Nacht, there must be a misunderstanding. I'm just—"

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Hello, Ms. Gold," Ben greeted Nancy when he returned to the room with an agreement for Zachary.

He knew something was wrong since she merely responded with a nod. Thus, he said, "I'll excuse myself since I have something else to tend to."

Zachary stopped Ben from leaving and asked, "Wait, since you're here, why don't you tell me if Mr. Spencer has picked on Charlotte last night?"

His question took Nancy by surprise as she thought he would hold Charlotte accountable for disrespecting Spencer.

To her surprise, he took Charlotte's side and deemed Spencer the one at fault instead.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1417

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Chapter 1417 She Is The One

Ben glanced at Nancy awkwardly before he answered with a sheepish grin, "It was just a misunderstanding. They have sorted things out already. I'll share the details with you in a while."

"What's the matter? Why can't you tell me now?"

Left with no choice, Ben whispered, "Mr. Spencer thought Ms. Lindberg was the one accountable for your injuries since you had put your life at stake to save her when you were in the middle of recovery."

After a brief pause, Ben took a peek at Nancy before adding, "That was the reason why he picked on her when she came home. However, as soon as Robbie and the rest returned home, the problems were resolved."

Glaring at Ben in the eyes, Zachary asked, "What were you doing at that time?"

"I was on the way to the hospital with Lupine because she was in a critical condition. She needed someone to keep her—"

Zachary stopped the stuttering Ben from sharing the rest with him and instructed, "That's enough. Get out of my sight at once."

"Y-Yes!" Afraid of getting on Zachary's nerves, Ben rushed out of the room.

Things had gotten increasingly awkward for the duo in the room because Zachary had just exposed Nancy's little tricks in front of her.

She regretted getting full of herself and trying something as rash as such. Instead of driving them apart, she was the one who had offended the man.

Zachary looked at Nancy in the eyes and deadpanned his reply, "I'll send you an expensive gift during the banquet. Thank you so much for your time and effort. I appreciate you sending Dr. Wright to check on me all this while."

"Mr. Nacht, I—"

Once again, the man stopped her and remarked, "Ms. Gold, I'm aware of your feelings for me, but it isn't mutual. I consider you a friend of mine and nothing else. Therefore, you need to stop wasting your time on me."

"No, Mr. Nacht! You have to listen to me!"

"It's almost time for my nap," Zachary made something up because he had no intention to carry on with the conversation.

Nancy was unwilling to give up just yet. She tried her best to remain calm and asked with her eyes brimming, "Can you please answer my last question?"

"What is it?" Zachary opened his eyes and asked.

"Did you turn me down because of Charlotte? Are you going to fall for me if she's not around?" Nancy could barely suppress the urge to cry.

"Isn't that more than a question? I have no intention of entertaining your what-ifs, but Charlotte is the one and only woman I hold dear in mind. She was the one who taught me the proper way to love—I'll never fall for anyone other than her."

Torrents of grief streamed down Nancy's cheeks when the man made himself clear things would never work out between them.

Unwilling to embarrass herself in front of others, she turned around and rushed out of the mansion at top speed.

Staring at the woman's departing figure, Zachary let out a long sigh of relief and thought he needed a break from something like this.

Charlotte barged into the room and asked the moment he closed his eyes for his nap, "Why did Nancy rush out of the mansion crying? What have you done?"

As exhausted as Zachary might be, he turned around and looked at her in the eyes with a deadpan look, indicating he was speechless.

"Wait, what could you have possibly done when you're in such a bad shape? Have you told her anything?" Charlotte finally returned to her senses and thought it was very silly of her to ask something as absurd as such.

Irrked by the questions she had for him, Zachary glared at her in the eyes and thought of ignoring her and her foolish questions.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1418

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Chapter 1418 A Heartless Woman

Charlotte leaned over and repeated her questions, "Are you deaf? Can you hurry up and tell me the things you've told her?"

"It's time for my nap," Zachary announced with a frown.

Unable to keep her curiosity in check, she asked, "Hmm... Did she confess her feelings for you only to have you turn her down?"

Zachary remained silent with his eyes shut tight because it was really time for him to take a nap.

"How is that possible? Didn't you take her side and chase me out of the room?"

The jealous Charlotte continued making fun of him, "Did you guys quarrel because of me?"

"Are you done yet?" Zachary couldn't take it anymore.

"All right, I'll leave you to take your nap! I can finally take a break from everything since no one is around to keep me occupied."

Charlotte tucked herself in next to him and inched away from him a few seconds after she joined him in bed.

He ran his legs across her legs and asked, "What was your question just now before Nancy came in?"

"What do you mean? Did I say anything?" It had been four days since she had a proper sleep. Thus, Charlotte was feeling groggy at that moment as she hugged the pillow.

"You asked me something after my meal! What was it? Hurry up and tell me!" Zachary wanted to hear it once more to confirm his guess.

"Are you sure? I don't recall anything like that."

"Y-You—" Zachary gritted his teeth since he couldn't move around. Otherwise, he would definitely teach her a lesson.

"All right. Let's get some sleep, shall we? According to the doctor, adequate sleep is vital for your recovery," Charlotte persuaded the man as if he was a little boy.

"Charlotte, you—" He stopped once she started snoring in front of him when she was still wide awake a few seconds ago.

Charlotte had fallen into a deep slumber when he thought of bringing up something else.

How is that possible? Has she seriously fallen asleep when we're in the middle of a conversation? She's such a heartless woman!

Zachary was at a loss for words, but he was glad the goofy woman he was head over heels in love with had finally returned to him. At the very least, she would never leave him again.

He inched over and nestled against her. Similarly, when she caught a whiff of the man's familiar scent, she returned the favor and wrapped her arms around him.

He kissed her on the forehead and fell asleep with her in his arms. It had been a long while since they last spent some carefree days together.

Although there was nothing special about it, Zachary thought those little things in life were the ones he sought after the most.

In the afternoon, Charlotte roused from her sleep when she heard the alarm going off. Afraid of startling Zachary, she tried to stop the alarm, but she was too late.

The man next to her had also roused from his sleep due to her motion and the alarm.

"I'm so sorry for getting in your sleep, but I need to return to Northridge and make the little ones something to eat. I'm in quite a hurry because they're about to return home from school."

Zachary asked, "Why don't you bring them here?"

"Apart from Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie, the three little girls are around as well. It's has been quite some time since we last spent some quality time together."

Charlotte ran her fingers through her unkempt hair and walked in the direction of the bathroom.

Unwilling to be apart from her, he suggested, "Just bring them here."

"Hmm?" Charlotte couldn't hear him since she was brushing her teeth.

Zachary remained silent until she was done and returned to join him in the room again.

Once she got herself changed into another set of clothes, she asked, "What did you say?"

"Why don't you bring them here?" Zachary resisted the urge to go berserk and repeated himself.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1419

/ [The Protector](#)

Chapter 1419 Tell Me

"Are you sure it's fine when we're talking about the children of your arch-enemy?"

Instead of answering her query, Zachary looked at her in the eyes with a deadpan look.

"You know what? They're really huge fans of yours, and they insist on having me sharing your tales with them every day."

He remarked in a serious tone, "Just bring them here and share the tales of the almighty man with them whenever they want. It's not necessary for you to travel here and there and tire yourself out."

"What do you mean? Are we officially patching things up?" Charlotte made of fun him because it was such a rare opportunity.

"Can you stop asking the obvious?"

The series of questions she directed at him turned out to be her effort to trick him into begging her to return to him.

She's such a nasty foe! I guess there's nothing I can do since I'm head over heels in love with her, huh?

"Maybe I've accidentally gotten full of myself again, huh?" Charlotte carried on with an aggrieved look. "I'll send Ben to keep you company when I'm away with the children at Northridge."

"What? I don't need him to keep me company. You need to return once you're done—"

"I'm afraid that's impossible because I've promised to tuck them in and read them bedtime stories."

Shortly after Charlotte put on her coat and her pair of shoes, she brought herself out of his room. "If you're bored, get them to play you a movie."

"Char—"

He couldn't even stop her because she had left the room.

Shortly after her departure, Ben walked into the room and announced, "Mr. Nacht, Ms. Lindberg has returned to Northridge. She says I'm supposed to keep you—"

He couldn't even finish his speech because of Zachary's glare the moment he joined him in the room.

Ben felt a shiver running down his spine. He asked, "W-What's wrong?"

"Get out of my sight!" Zachary yelled.

Ben was afraid to leave Zachary alone, but he knew he wasn't supposed to get on the man's nerves as well.

"I have to stay here to look after you since Raina is away to look for Dr. Wright. I'll keep my mouth shut unless I have your consent to speak," he assured the frustrated man on the bed.

Zachary let out a long sigh and tried moving around, but he ended up growling in pain due to the racking sensation he felt.

Ben rushed over and urged, "You need to stay still for another two days; two days is all it takes!"

Two days in bed was a luxury Zachary couldn't afford because he was in a race against time.

Meanwhile, Charlotte rushed into the kitchen to get the ingredients she needed for dinner ready shortly after she returned to Northridge.

Although she was merely capable of preparing a few simple dishes, the little ones couldn't be bothered at all.

Hanna had tagged along to prepare the children's favorite hot cross bunnies and mac and cheese. On top of that, she made Mrs. Berry's signature dishes for everyone as well.

In the evening, the little ones rushed out of the car the moment they reached home.

As soon as they caught a whiff of the pleasant scent coming from the kitchen, they knew Charlotte was home to honor her promise with them.

Without a second thought, they rushed in the direction of the kitchen while yelling, "Mommy!"

"Aunt Charlotte!"

Apart from Robbie, who had taken a seat at the dining table with his laptop after washing his hands, the rest of them surrounded Charlotte and greeted her to express their excitement.

"Hello, everyone!"

Charlotte greeted those around her and continued advancing in the direction of the dining table to serve the dishes she made.

Once she had everything served, she got her hands washed and instructed, "Jamie, Ellie, go get your hands washed before the meal."

"All right, Mommy!"

Charlotte wrapped her arms around the little girls and asked, "Alpha, Beta, Gamma, come over here and let me see if all of you are doing fine."

Alpha answered Charlotte's queries while counting her fingers, "We had a great time savoring a lot of delicacies, including sweets and desserts, when you weren't around."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1420

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Chapter 1420 Away From Erihal

Beta snuggled against her aunt and shared, "Aunt Charlotte, me too! I think I've gained a little more than a pound after having so many things every day!"

"I'm glad all of you are doing fine!" Charlotte held Beta firmly in her arms and played along with the little girl. "I think you've put on quite some weight, huh? What about you, Gamma?"

"A-Aunt Charlotte—" Gamma felt a prickling sensation behind her eyes the moment Charlotte directed the question at her.

"What's wrong, Gamma?" Charlotte wrapped her arms around the youngest of the triplets and asked, "Why are you crying? Did someone bully you?"

"I miss Mommy, Aunt Charlotte." Sniffing, the little girl asked, "When will we get to meet her in person again?"

Seconds after her sisters heard her, they burst into tears in a similar manner.

Unsure of the proper things to share with them, Charlotte held them in her arms in an attempt to console the heartbroken little girls.

To be precise, she wasn't sure of the things to tell them as she wasn't aware of their parents' situation either.

It was inevitable for them to go through another emotional breakdown because it had been two months since Charlotte took them away with her from Erihal.

All of a sudden, Ellie joined them in the dining hall and assured her cousins, "Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Mommy will definitely try her best to search for your parents, okay?"

"I-I need Mommy! Can I call Mommy?" Gamma begged while sniffing.

Charlotte reached for her phone and asked, "Can you remember her number? I'll try to get in touch with her on your behalf!"

"I'll give it a try." Shortly after Gamma took Charlotte's phone away from her, she tried reaching her mother, but it was another futile attempt.

The call couldn't even make it through to the intended recipient on the other end. As a result, the little ones continued wailing at the top of their lungs, "M-Mommy has left us!"

Startled by the little girls' response, Charlotte reassured them, "I'll try my best to look for her, okay? I'm sure we're going to find her in no time!"

Their mother must be an ordinary woman. Otherwise, Danrique would've long gotten married to her.

Maybe he has sent her away because he's worried about getting her involved since he's having it tough on his end.

As long as I have her contact number, I think there's a huge possibility I can find her. Well, if I can't, I can always count on Sean and Gordon to fill me in with her details.

"You mean it, Aunt Charlotte?" The little girls stopped weeping when they heard the promising statement coming from Charlotte.

"Of course! I'll definitely honor my promise just like today!" Charlotte kissed them on their cheeks.

"You're the best, Aunt Charlotte!" Overwhelmed by emotions, they wrapped their arms around their aunt again.

"All right, why don't you guys go ahead and get your hands washed as well? It's almost time for dinner."

Charlotte asked her daughter to show her nieces the way to get their hands washed with a few maids to keep them company.

Shortly after she regained her composure, she put her apron aside and joined her sons at the dining table.

"Mommy, have a seat!" Jamie rushed over to show his mother the way to her seat.

Once Charlotte took a seat, she noticed Robbie was still occupied with his laptop. Therefore, she asked, "Robbie, what are you up to?"

Her son showed her his laptop and announced, "I'm trying to locate Uncle Dan, but it turns out he's not in Erihal anymore."

Astonished by the news, Charlotte asked, "What? How did you figure out he's no longer in Erihal?"

"I developed a global positioning system when we were in Erihal. Uncle Dan and those affiliated with him assisted me with a few of my trials. Although his phone wasn't in use anymore, I found out it was last accessed at the airport prior to being disposed of. I ran a series of investigations on the locations of those affiliated with him and found out he was no longer in Erihal."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1421

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Chapter 1421 Supermom

"Is this for real? If that's the case, are you aware of his current whereabouts?" Charlotte asked.

Robbie shook his head and answered with his face scrunched up, "I'm still trying to locate him as of now."

"If he's no longer in Erihal, where is he?"

Charlotte was confused by the news of Danrique's disappearance. She thought he might have been brought somewhere else after the incident.

Sighing, Robbie remarked, "It's quite challenging to locate Uncle Dan because he's a pretty cautious man. In short, he's a nasty target."

Charlotte found her son hilarious because he made it sound as if he had been in the industry for a few decades. She teased him in return, "You do realize you're just a seven-year-old boy, don't you?"

Grinning, her son shared his plan with her, "Haven't you promised them to look for their mother? Why don't you hand me her contact number? I'll give it a try and see if I can locate our mysterious aunt."

"Unfortunately, her phone seems to be out of reception at the moment. Can you locate her when she wasn't even involved in the trial?"

Once Robbie took note of his mysterious aunt's phone number, he started trying his luck with the system. It was a fruitless attempt, but he wasn't about to give up just yet.

"Aunt Charlotte, we're hungry! Is it time for dinner yet?"

The three little girls finally returned to join them at the dining hall.

"Of course!" Charlotte brought them to their seats and introduced the dishes she made to the rest, "I've made a lot of everyone's favorites, including hot cross bunnies!"

"Great!" The little girls couldn't stop gulping because of the tempting delicacies in front of them.

Things were lively in the dining hall. The maids put the bibs around the little girls' necks and served them their meals.

"Robbie, it's time to put your laptop away." Charlotte served her eldest son a hot cross bunny and reminded him it was time for dinner.

Robbie had to put his computer aside and get his hands washed again before joining the rest of the family.

Throughout the meal, they had fun catching up with one another. The little ones would share the things they went through at the playschool with Charlotte.

They couldn't stand staying home without the companion of their cousins. Therefore, Charlotte got them enrolled in a playschool associated with her children's elementary school.

More often than not, they thought peers of their age were childish because they were too mature. With that being said, they weren't allowed to join the kindergarten because they were too young.

Gamma brought Little Fifi to the classroom and garnered the attention of her peers. Intrigued by its presence, they couldn't resist the urge to touch it.

As a result, Little Fifi flew away because it was startled by the curious children. It refused to return to Gamma until Jamie and Ellie showed up.

"You must've had a long day as well, Little Fifi."

The horrified Little Fifi growled when Charlotte started running her fingers across it.

"Therefore, we've made up our mind to bring Fifi to the classroom with us instead of Little Fifi!" Gamma announced once she gulped her mouthful of food.

Charlotte was very close to spilling the food in her mouth when she heard her niece. "There's no way I'm allowing it because I'm pretty sure it's going to startle your classmates."

"No, Aunt Charlotte. That won't be the case. Fifi's going to listen to us," Alpha begged in a mellow tone.

"She's right, Aunt Charlotte. Fifi is so adorable as compared to Mommy's fierce pet eagle," Beta remarked in a barely audible voice because of her mouthful of food.

"Mommy also has a pet python and leopard," Gamma said nonchalantly shortly as she chewed her food.

The confused Charlotte couldn't help but wonder if her future sister-in-law was just another ordinary woman from the streets.

Jamie couldn't care less and thought those were merely jokes from his cousins. "I'm pretty sure they're just kidding. They once mentioned their mother was a supermom."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1422

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1422 A Lead

Ellie commented, "We have quite a mysterious aunt, huh? Well, they might have mistaken her as the characters from their favorite shows."

Robbie was of the same idea. He said, "That's most probably the case because children only develop the capacity to remember when they're almost three years old. Maybe they've mixed up the identity of their mother with someone else."

As her children's analysis made sense, Charlotte repeated herself, "I think so. Anyway, none of you are allowed to take Fifi to school along with you. Am I clear?"

Charlotte's nieces were slightly upset, but they knew they had to listen to their aunt. "All right, Aunt Charlotte. We'll keep that in mind."

"My nieces are such good girls. I'll think of something to locate your mother as soon as possible. Just leave everything to me."

"Thank you so much, Aunt Charlotte."

Charlotte took them out for a stroll in the garden after their meal. Once she tucked them in and read them a bedtime story, she returned to her room to give Sean a call.

It turned out that the little ones weren't the sole reason Charlotte had to spend another two days at Northridge.

She might have appeared to be carefree whenever she was around Zachary, but she was equally anxious because of his condition. After all, Ben told her Zachary's condition might spiral out of control after a month.

Francesco's whereabouts were still unknown when Charlotte was in the middle of a race against time. Unable to remain calm anymore, the latter returned to Northridge in an attempt to work something out.

Charlotte thought of trying out her luck with Gordon because she couldn't reach Sean. It took Gordon quite some time to pick up her call.

"Hello, Ms. Lindberg."

"I tried calling Sean, but I couldn't reach him. Is he in the middle of something again?"

"I think that's most probably the case. Ms. Lindberg, Sean has told me that now is probably not the best time to locate Francesco," Gordon said tactfully.

"What? Why? Someone's life is at stake!" Charlotte was on the verge of letting loose of her emotions.

"May I know whose life are we talking about?" Gordon asked in confusion.

Charlotte went dead silent and lost herself in a train of thoughts.

I'm afraid Sean's going to turn a blind eye to Zachary's condition. Gordon might consider returning Zachary's favor of saving his life, but that's not the case for Sean. There's no way he's going to locate Francesco on behalf of Zachary because of Danrique's current situation.

To her surprise, the man on the other end asked, "It's not Mr. Nacht, is it?"

Charlotte thought there was no point in hiding from Gordon. Hence, she confessed, "Yes, he is poisoned because of me. Besides, I can't possibly watch the father of my children die."

"I'm well aware of your concerns, but—" Gordon paused again. A few seconds later, he added, "I'll inform Sean and see if he has an alternative way. Meanwhile, you need to try to look for other doctors."

"Thank you so much! Could you tell Sean to revert to me once he's free?"

"I'll definitely deliver the message on your behalf."

Charlotte felt a strong sense of unease immediately after she hung up the call.

Is Sean reluctant to help me because he's aware Zachary's the one in desperate need of medical attention? It's safe to assume Sean is currently keeping Danrique safe. In short, Danrique must be aware of Zachary's condition as well.

However, he might not want to do anything about it since he's in an equally nasty situation. If I can meet him in person, I can try asking him to do me a favor, but I don't even know his current whereabouts.

Sighing, Charlotte thought it was over. Suddenly, her eldest son knocked on the door and greeted, "Mommy!"

"Robbie? Come on in!" Charlotte answered the door and gestured for her son to enter.

He joined her in the room with his laptop. Unable to contain his excitement, he gasped out the great news, "Mommy, I've finally found our mysterious aunt! She's currently in Zarain!"

"Are you serious? Which city is she currently in?"

"I'm not sure, but I have the record of her entering the border of the nation. It's merely one of my speculations, but I think she's currently with Uncle Dan."

"Are you telling me as soon as I find her, I'll find Danrique?"

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Chapter 1423 The Affectionate Man

Robbie said while nodding, "I'm not sure, but that might be the case! It's not much of a challenge to locate her as compared to locating Uncle Dan."

"Well, we'll try our luck with your mysterious aunt and bring her daughters to her even if Danrique isn't here with her."

"I'll try my best, but it's going to take some time." Staring at the screen of his laptop, Robbie was determined to bring her cousins back to their mother.

"It's okay. Just try your best." Charlotte leaned over and kissed her son on the cheek.

As a result, her son flushed and asked, "Mommy, what do you think you're doing? I'm no longer a kid!"

"Who's this flushing little boy in front of me? You're aware you'll always be my son no matter how old you are, aren't you?" Charlotte teased the flushing Robbie.

"T-That's it for today. It's time to call it a day." Robbie rushed out of the room with his laptop once he wrapped up the conversation with his mother.

Charlotte laughed, thinking that things weren't as terrible as she thought since Robbie had finally gotten his hands on a useful lead.

She had faith she would reach Francesco in no time and acquire his aid to do something about Zachary's condition.

Charlotte had a great night sleeping like a log because of the great news. Meanwhile, Zachary, who was at Southridge, couldn't even fall asleep.

He picked on Ben, who was there to keep him safe, out of something trivial more than once to vent his frustration.

Ben felt aggrieved and thought it would be another hectic night because Zachary showed no signs of sleeping at all when it was already one o'clock.

Zachary got increasingly irked as he couldn't toss and turn due to the racking sensation he would feel.

When he was about to pick on Ben, Ben asked in a hushed voice, "Shall I go get Ms. Lindberg?"

Zachary had the same idea, but he played hard to get and remarked, "You're aware it's your suggestion and not mine, right?"

It wasn't much of a challenge for him to converse with others after the countless naps he had throughout the day.

The intelligent Ben played along with him and asserted, "Yes, I'm the one who's trying to get her to keep an eye on you on my behalf because I wish to drop by the hospital and visit Lupine."

Glaring at his assistant in the eyes, he asked, "Come again? Are you telling me you're going to ignore your employer because you're in a relationship now?"

“H-Huh? N-No! I’m not! Are you saying I’m not supposed to get Ms. Lindberg?”

When Ben thought Zachary was against the idea of having Charlotte there, Zachary urged, “Get her at once unless you wish to get on my nerves more than you already have.”

“There’s no way—” Upon another glance at Zachary, Ben rephrased himself, “I’ll go get her immediately!”

“I want you to make the call in front of me,” Zachary instructed as he couldn’t wait to figure out Charlotte’s reply.

“I wonder if she’s currently asleep since it’s literally the middle of the night,” Ben muttered to himself while trying to reach Charlotte through a phone call.

Zachary had his eyes glued to Ben’s phone in anticipation of Charlotte’s voice. However, the person on the other end failed to pick up the call.

Zachary’s heart sank to the bottom of his stomach once Ben hung up the call.

Ben glanced at the man on the bed and asked, “I think Ms. Lindberg has fallen asleep. Am I supposed to keep trying until I reach her?”

“That won’t be necessary.”

Zachary’s dejection was written all over his face. He thought she couldn’t care less about him. Otherwise, there was no way she could fall asleep when he was in such bad shape.

“Maybe she’s going to return early in the morning. I’ll call her if she doesn’t.”

“It doesn’t really matter. It’s time to call it a day,” Zachary remarked petulantly.

“All right.”

Ben thought it was finally time to sleep, but once he put his phone aside, the increasingly irked Zachary reprimanded him, “Why did you bring up such a silly suggestion when I’m about to sleep? If she reverts to you in the morning, tell her it’s your idea to get her back!”

Ben’s lips twitched against his will because of Zachary’s mood swings.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1424

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Chapter 1424 Stop Picking On Me

Charlotte tried calling Ben when she saw a missed call once she roused from her sleep in the morning.

"Hello, Ben. Why did you call me? Is everything fine? Has Zachary's condition—"

"Mr. Nacht is doing fine. I thought of dropping by the hospital to keep Lupine company. Therefore, I needed someone else to look after him. I couldn't think of anyone else other than you." Ben was pretty mindful of his reply as he had to carry on with the conversation in speaker mode.

Charlotte heaved a sigh of relief. "I literally had the shock of my life a few seconds ago! I thought something had happened to him!"

"He was—" Ben was about to tell Charlotte the truth until he caught a glimpse of Zachary's glare. He rephrased his reply again, "He was fine last night, but he doesn't look too good now."

Astonished by the news, Charlotte asked, "What's wrong? Have you summoned the doctor to check on him? I'm on my way there!"

"All right, we'll talk once you're here."

It was Ben's turn to let out a long sigh of relief when he caught a glimpse of Zachary's satisfied beam. He asked, "Ms. Lindberg will be here soon. So—"

Zachary finished on Ben's behalf, "Go keep Lupine company at the hospital once she's here. You're not really supposed to leave your girlfriend alone at a time like this."

Thrilled, Ben expressed his gratitude, "Thanks, Mr. Nacht!"

Zachary reminded Ben once more, "With that being said, you need to keep in mind that you were the one who asked her over to check on me!"

"All right. Don't worry. I know what to do."

"Come over and help me up! It's time for me to get myself a shower after spending such a long time in bed!"

"Yes, Mr. Nacht."

Charlotte couldn't even join her children and nieces for breakfast because she was in a hurry to Southridge.

Shortly after she got out of the car, she rushed upstairs to the man's room.

"Zach—" Once she barged into the room, she saw Zachary savoring the dumplings prepared by Hanna.

When Zachary noticed Charlotte's presence, he pretended to be weak and stammered, "T-Take this away. I-I don't have the appetite."

Ben immediately took the dumplings away and played along with his boss. "Mr. Nacht, this won't do. You haven't had anything in days! Is there anything else you're craving for?"

"What's wrong? Is he in pain because of the wounds? Is something else wrong with him? Have you summoned the doctor, Ben?" Charlotte asked once she joined the duo.

"He couldn't even sleep due to the pain, but he stopped me from summoning the doctor to check on him," Ben remarked while shrugging his shoulders.

"You're not supposed to listen to him! Go get Dr. Wright at once," Charlotte instructed.

Taking a peek at Zachary, Ben carried on with the conversation with a melancholic look. "Dr. Wright told us there was nothing she could do. We have no choice but to wait until a miracle occurs."

"What about the pain killer?" the heartbroken Charlotte asked because of Zachary's haggard look.

"It doesn't really work against the serious wounds—"

Cough! Cough! Zachary cleared his throat, signaling Ben to stop exaggerating as it would arouse Charlotte's suspicion. After all, it was only a flower vase that struck him.

At that point, Zachary was still unaware that Charlotte already knew about his actual condition.

Overwhelmed by guilt, Charlotte murmured, "It's all my fault. You're hurt because of me. I'll go make you some oatmeal. You're not allowed to have something as greasy as such."

When she was about to rush out of the room, Ben got in her way and said, "I'll get Mrs. Rawlston to make Mr. Nacht something to eat. Why don't you stay here and keep him company?"

"Great, thanks!" Charlotte sat by the bedside and asked while placing her hands on his forehead, "Are you still having a fever?"

"I'm still kicking and alive."

He made it sound as if it wasn't a big deal all while playing weak because it worked like a charm against Charlotte.

As long as he continued playing weak, she would get increasingly worried. In other words, she would stay around to keep an eye on him.

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chapter 1425

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1425

Overwhelmed by sadness, Charlotte leaned over and wrapped her arms around him.

All this while, she played the role of a heartless woman to prevent him from figuring out that she had found out about his actual condition.

She has been counting down ever since the day the doctor shared the bad news with her.

He only has twenty-six days left! I need to get Francesco here during this time! Otherwise, his life is going to be at stake again!

Zachary figured he had gone overboard, looking at Charlotte's response. Thus, he confessed, "I'm really fine. It was just another attempt to pull your leg."

Unwilling to show him her vulnerable side, Charlotte went dead silent with her arms wrapped around him.

It doesn't make any sense! Has she figured out something's wrong with me? Why is she weeping?

"You wouldn't have sustained such a serious injury if it weren't because of the flower vase." Charlotte was guilty. After all, she was the reason he was injured in the first place.

Otherwise, his condition wouldn't be as severe; his life might not be at stake as well.

Zachary made use of the things she brought up and threatened, "You need to take care of me since I'm injured because of you."

Chuckling, she pinched his cheeks while asking, "Why are you bringing up something similar to the ones you've brought up at the hospital? What else do you want from me when I'm already here?"

"I'm not talking about the present! I want you to stay with me till death do us part!" Zachary repeated himself in a serious manner.

Irked, Charlotte reprimanded him, "What sort of nonsense are you talking about? Can you stop making it sound as if you're about to die in such a casual manner?"

"I—I—"

"If you're really dead, I'll get married to someone else and get our children to acknowledge a stranger as their father!" It was finally Charlotte's turn to threaten him.

"How dare you!" Zachary's face scrunched up in irritation the moment he heard her.

"Go ahead and try me! On top of that, I'm going to spend all the fortune you're giving our children! Since no one is around to stop me, I'll splurge to my heart's content!"

"Charlotte, you..." Zachary was enraged. He felt a strong urge to vent his frustration on her, but he felt his limbs turn stiff when he tried moving around.

"What? You can't even move around without others' support! What else can you do?" Charlotte went all out in an attempt to provoke the man.

"You!" The man next to her glared at her in the eyes to express his frustration.

Charlotte found the helpless man hilarious, but she continued threatening him, "If you don't want that to happen, then listen to the doctor and stop being such a difficult patient! You can pick on me all you want once you're fully recovered! Otherwise, I'll bring upon the downfall of the Nacht family soon!"

Zachary was no longer infuriated when he figured out it was merely an attempt of hers to motivate him. He stretched his arms and held her in his arms intimately.

I know she's merely trying to provoke me and motivate me to stay alive. It seems like she's aware of the truth as well. She's just worried something bad is going to happen to me.

It's not really necessary to address the elephant in the room as long as she's here with me. I need nothing else as long as she's around.

Knock! Knock! Knock! Hanna walked into the duo in the middle of an emotional session. "I-I'll return in a while!"

Charlotte stopped her from leaving and requested, "It's fine, Mrs. Rawlston. Just hand me the oatmeal."

"Sure, Ms. Lindberg." Hanna rushed out of the room after she took a peek at the duo and placed the oatmeal on the nightstand.

Seated next to the man on the bed, Charlotte urged, "You need to hurry up and finish this."

He was against the idea of finishing the oatmeal, but he couldn't bear to turn Charlotte down since she truly cared about him.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1426

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1426

Apart from returning home to join her children for a meal in the evening, Charlotte spent most of her time taking care of Zachary. She would return to keep Zachary company once she tucked them in and read them to sleep.

Occasionally, she would drop by the hospital to check on Olivia and Lupine.

Lupine was recovering well. Her relationship status with Ben was confirmed. Therefore, Ben would drop by the hospital to take care of the injured woman.

Morgan was envious of her colleague. Although Ben wasn't as romantic as Marino, the former was quite a reliable man.

They had fallen for one another after making it through life-threatening situations more than once together. That was precisely the reason they knew they weren't supposed to take each other for granted.

Charlotte was glad those affiliated with her had finally found their significant half.

Olivia's condition had drastically improved after the surgical operation conducted by Helen.

Although it would take a long time until her complete recovery, Peter thought it was the best out of the worst possible outcome. He paid Charlotte and Zachary a visit to express his gratitude.

At that moment, everything seemed to progress smoothly, except she still couldn't get her hands on Danrique and Francesco's whereabouts.

Furthermore, Sean and Gordon had disappeared into thin air as well.

To make things worse, Robbie was having a tough time locating his targets.

Charlotte had no intention to pressure her son. Therefore, she tried getting in touch with Gordon. Soon, she figured out she wasn't supposed to do so. Otherwise, she might put Danrique and his party at risk.

Her mind was all over the place, but she had to put on a strong front, especially in front of Zachary and her children. Otherwise, the situation might get increasingly tense.

When Ben figured out the situation, he knew it was time for him to stop getting his hopes high. Thus, he started getting in touch with renowned specialists from all around the globe as an alternative.

Zachary had finally regained the capability to walk around without others' support after another five days.

His condition had improved significantly as well. However, his diet was under the strict regulation of Charlotte. She would make him different servings of oatmeal with a variety of condiments.

Initially, he thought it was fine. However, it merely took him a few days to figure out he was wrong. Occasionally, he would get his hands on things Charlotte forbade him from eating.

Charlotte would rush to him and stop him from finishing the food the moment the maid informed her.

Zachary stuffed the food he had to Ben and reprimanded the innocent man, "You need to stop tempting me with these! Aren't you aware I'm not allowed to eat these?"

"I-I'll keep that in mind and stay away from you whenever I'm eating in the future." Ben had to play along with his boss when he wasn't even the one at fault.

Glaring at the man she loved, she said, "You can have your favorite food once you're fully recovered, but please bear with me for the time being."

"All right, I'll keep that in mind."

Once Zachary nodded obediently, she urged, "Now, you need to head downstairs and finish your oatmeal for today."

Charlotte tiptoed and kissed him on the chin before walking out of the room.

Sighing, Zachary turned around and took another peek at his favorite snack Ben bought him.

I guess it's true when others consider health as wealth, huh? I can't even enjoy my favorite snack! Well, I need to make sure I'm in my prime again soon!

It was very ignorant of me to ignore dad's advice when he warned me to take good care of myself. I thought health would never be an issue bothering me, but I was very wrong.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1427

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1427

Three days later, Zachary was no longer a helpless patient. He could spend a few hours every day sorting out the pertaining issues requiring his attention.

Helen told Raina it was fine for Zachary to consume everything he desired. However, he wasn't supposed to tire himself or hurt himself again.

Thrilled by the great news, Zachary instructed Hanna to prepare the things he had been craving for ever since the day he regained consciousness.

Without a second thought, Hanna instructed the maids to get the ingredients ready for the feast to celebrate the joyous occasion.

Zachary, who was in a great mood, instructed Marino to pick up his children and nieces to join them for dinner. He promised to take them elsewhere for a stroll after the meal.

When Zachary learned of Lupine's discharge from the hospital, he asked Marino to invite Ben and Lupine to join them in the evening.

He instructed the maid to get the entire place decorated for the guests of Northridge and Southridge and thought of holding a banquet to celebrate the joyous occasion.

Things were lively for those affiliated with the family because it had been such a long time since they gathered for a feast.

As soon as everyone had their respective tasks assigned, they headed out to get everything ready.

Charlotte didn't stop Zachary as it had been such a long time since she last saw the man smiling. Moreover, the ones affiliated with them were equally thrilled. Hence, it wouldn't be wise to be a party pooper.

Zachary wrapped his arms around her and asked when he found her in the courtyard, "Are you happy?"

"Of course."

In truth, she wasn't happy at all because the man had only eighteen days left and Francesco had yet to be found.

Zachary seemed to be in his prime, but he had lost quite a lot of weight over the past few days. In fact, he was skinnier than he was before the accident.

She was heartbroken, but he couldn't care less and started carrying himself in a friendly and courteous manner whenever he was around others.

To be precise, he stopped reprimanding Ben and Marino over every trivial thing. Her mind was all over the place when she thought his drastic change of attitude had something to do with his condition.

Out of the blue, he asked, "Have you prepared the little ones' favorite chicken nuggets? You're not going to let them down, are you?"

"I've asked Mrs. Rawlston to get me the ingredients I need. Once Ben returns with the ingredients, I'll join them in the kitchen."

"Great!" Zachary was in a great mood. It almost felt as if it was a banquet held for the festive season.

"Daddy, Mommy!"

"Uncle Zachary, Aunt Charlotte!"

Once Marino and Morgan returned with the little ones, the atmosphere got increasingly lively at the gigantic mansion.

Jamie and Ellie were about to catapult in the direction of their father, but Robbie warned them, "Don't forget Daddy's still not feeling well!"

They brought themselves to a halt in the nick of time and remained standing in their spot.

Meanwhile, the three little girls had come to Charlotte's side and shared the things they went through at the playschool with her.

Fifi was also there. It landed on a tree nearby to join the family of its owner.

"Robbie, Jamie, Ellie, come over here!" Zachary asked his children to join him, but they were afraid of hurting him.

"Daddy, how are you feeling? Are you still in pain?" Ellie caressed her father's cheek and asked in a hushed voice.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1428

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1428

"I'm fine. It doesn't really hurt anymore. See? I'm a strong man." Zachary showed his children his triceps, assuring them it wasn't a big deal.

"Hooray! Daddy has recovered!" Ellie started jumping for joy.

"Soon, I'll pick you up from your piano class again." Shortly after the man promised his daughter, he turned around and held Jamie in his arms. "Jamie, we can go for a soccer session too."

"Robbie, if there's anything you need, you can always let me know—"

"All right, that's it! Why don't all of you show your cousins the way around the mansion since they're here for the first time?" Charlotte interrupted their conversation because she was afraid he might hurt himself if he continued squatting.

"Sure, Mommy!"

Jamie and Ellie went to their cousins and brought them around the courtyard.

Robbie remained standing as he had something to tell his father. After much consideration, he changed his mind and thought of keeping his concerns to himself. "Daddy, I'll go ahead and join them as well."

Zachary spanked his son playfully and urged, "Run along now."

Robbie ran away with a smile, but he was heartbroken deep down. He knew their father hadn't recovered. Otherwise, their mother would not bring up something else to divert their attention.

"Why did you chase them away?" Zachary staggered as he felt lightheaded when he tried bringing himself up after squatting for a little more than a few minutes.

Thankfully, Charlotte was there to stop him from falling. In order to stop the man from overthinking things, she remarked in a sarcastic manner, "See? I'm sure it's one of the aftereffects of your injuries."

Despite saying so, the couple was fully aware that it was not the aftereffects of his injuries. However, they seemed to have a consensus to not address the elephant in the room.

He leaned over and whispered intimately, "Can you stop nagging me over something trivial? I have recovered. If you don't believe it, try me—"

"Ben and Lupine are here!" Charlotte rushed in the direction of the duo when he wasn't even done with his suggestive speech.

Zachary was slightly irritated since he was very close to persuading her to spend a night with him. Nonetheless, he was glad Charlotte had a great time with her friends from Northridge.

It was finally time for the commencement of the banquet since everything was ready after a few hours of preparation.

Zachary asked the members of the household, including the maids and the bodyguards, to join them for the first time in forever, expressing his gratitude towards their hard work over the years.

The man was never a friendly figure throughout the past twenty-eight years.

The ones who were unaware of the things going on were touched and thought they were finally acknowledged. Meanwhile, the ones who were aware of his actual condition were upset.

They knew he wished to return the favor of those around him since he might not make it through another fortnight.

It seemed to be another banquet for a joyous occasion, but that was not the case—it might be the last supper for Zachary.

With that being said, there were only a few aware of Zachary's actual condition. He thought of keeping it confidential to stop troubling others.

It was the same for Charlotte—she had to force a smile and join the rest in spite of the concerns she had in her mind.

Similarly, Ben and Zachary's most-trusted aides pretended as if they weren't aware of the truth and joined the rest to have some fun.

"Thanks, Mr. Nacht!"

Surprised by the speech that came out of nowhere, most of them brought themselves up from their seats to express their gratitude.

"Just take a seat and enjoy yourself for the night!" Zachary beckoned the rest to remain seated since it was merely a gathering amongst close acquaintances.

"Hooray, it's finally time for dinner!" The little girls officiated the banquet with their cheers.

The rest started savoring the dishes along with the commencement of the symphony.

Charlotte served Zachary a serving of steak and asked, "I made this. Give it a try."

Surprised by her announcement, he asked, "Are you serious? Since when have you learned to prepare steak?"

He took a bite and remarked, "Mmm! It tastes not bad at all!"

Chuckling, Charlotte said, "I'm glad it turns out fine because this is the only successful one amongst the several pieces I have prepared."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1429

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1429

Zachary replied nonchalantly, "Actually, you don't need to tire yourself out since others are around to prepare our meal."

"What? Are you telling me to stay away from the kitchen because of my subpar culinary skills?" Charlotte brought up something else for a change of mood.

"You know what? Just cook whenever you feel like it. I'll finish everything you make."

Zachary was no longer the arrogant and indifferent man—he had no intention to spend the last moments of his life arguing with the ones he held dear in life.

It's fine as long as she's around to keep me company. As awful as it might taste, I'll finish everything she cooks.

"Speaking of which, you're not really against the idea of them getting into a relationship with one another, are you?" Shortly after she directed the question at him, she took a peek at Lupine and Ben as well as Morgan and Marino.

Zachary rolled his eyes and asked rhetorically, "Do I really have a say when you're the one in charge of Northridge, Southridge, and the family?"

"You're right, but are you against the idea of them getting into a relationship?" Charlotte guffawed in a mischievous manner.

Halfway through their conversation, Zachary mentioned something in a suggestive tone, "Well, you need to show your sincerity if you want me to agree to it."

Unaware of the filthy thoughts he had in mind, she asked, "What do you want?"

"What do you think?" Zachary leaned over in an intimate manner and started running his fingers across her arms.

Once she returned to her senses, she stuttered, "Y-You! There's no way I'm allowing it since you're not fully recovered yet!"

"Go ahead and see for yourself if I have fully recovered or not!"

He pressed her hands against his pecs, allowing her to feel his heartbeat.

"Cut it out! Aren't you aware we're in the middle of a banquet with a lot of people around us?" Charlotte reprimanded the man with reddened cheeks.

"I'm going to teach you a lesson to behave yourself once we're back in the room."

Zachary pinched her face before turning around to savor his meal.

It was a great night for everyone. As the adults continued drinking after the meal, the children gathered around for some fun in the courtyard.

Marino and Morgan, who had tagged along to keep an eye on the children, couldn't stop themselves from flirting around with one another.

On the other hand, Ben was next to Lupine throughout the banquet. Occasionally, he would turn around to check on Zachary.

Zachary thought it was too much of a hassle for Ben to tend to him and his significant half at the same time. Thus, he said, "Just take good care of our guests and leave me alone."

"Thank you so much, Mr. Nacht!" Ben was thrilled and thought Zachary was also a caring employer at times.

"Lupine, how are you feeling?" Charlotte asked concernedly.

"I'm doing fine, Ms. Lindberg. You're the one who seems to have lost quite some weight."

"Are you serious?" Charlotte started examining her face when she heard the remark.

Zachary interrupted the duo's conversation and said, "It might have something to do with her exhausting herself for my sake over the past few weeks. She hadn't been eating properly since oatmeal was the only thing available for us."

"Shall we forget about it since you no longer have to consume those on a daily basis? With that being said, you're not really supposed to have too much greasy food. Most importantly, you're not allowed to drink," Charlotte warned.

"See? She's going to nag on me over something trivial again! How have you guys been dealing with her all this while? Is she different in front of you?" Zachary directed the question at Lupine.

Lupine defended Charlotte, "I'm sure she's merely trying to remind you to take good care of yourself. She's one of the most caring employers out there."

"Mr. Nacht is a pretty great employer as well," Ben remarked when it had nothing to do with him. As a result, Lupine turned around and shot daggers at him.

What's wrong with him? Is he trying to prove he has a better employer than me? Is it even necessary?

Aware he was the one at fault, Ben turned around and looked elsewhere to avoid the confrontation awaiting him.

Charlotte couldn't resist the urge to laugh because of the duo's interaction. Similarly, Zachary played along with Charlotte and remarked, "At the end of the day, it's doesn't really matter since we're a family."

"What are you talking about?" Charlotte asked in a sarcastic manner, but she was all smiles.

Instead of answering her question, Zachary held her firmly in his arms and kissed her in front of others.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1430

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1430

After the banquet, the group drove up to the mountain for some fireworks.

Ben had made prior arrangements for someone to get an array of fireworks ready at the peak.

When the fireworks were displayed, they bloomed brilliants across the horizon, illuminating Rokan Hill.

The children were enthralled by its beauty. They jumped for joy while clapping and cheering gleefully.

Little Fifi hid inside Ellie's hoodie, trembling in fear. Yet, from time to time, the curious parrot would pop its head out to admire the night sky.

As for Fifi the eagle, it rested on a tree branch steadily, as if nothing in this world could ever startle it. However, its claws gave it away. They were seen clenching on the branches tightly, quivering a little.

Animals were generally afraid of fire. On the contrary, men, be it young or old, would always be thrilled by fireworks.

The two couples, Marino and Morgan as well as Ben and Lupine, enjoyed their romantic moments.

"Folklore has it that when you wish upon the fireworks, your dreams will come true. Let's make a wish!" Morgan pointed at the sky and yelled happily like a little girl.

"Oh, really?" Everyone followed suit.

Charlotte pressed both hands together, shut her eyes, and made a wish.

Zachary was hugging her while quietly appreciating the colorful skies above their heads. Though his lips were curled up, his eyes had gradually lost their sparkle.

He had been undergoing intensive training to inherit the family business since he was eight years old. To date, twenty years had passed.

Zachary attained fame at a very young age. Over the years, he had been very active in the business world, living by his own rules arrogantly. There was absolutely nothing that he was afraid of; neither had he lost any battle.

However, fear had crept up on him all of a sudden. He was worried that all the success that he had was just a dream. Besides, he was also disturbed by the thought that he would not live long, and soon, he would leave his beloved family and lover.

Although he did not believe in fate, he made a wish with the hope that he could stay alive.

I don't want to die. There are many things I wish to do. More importantly, I don't want to leave Charlotte and the ones I love...

"I'm done." Charlotte opened her eyes and kissed Zachary.

"What did you wish for?" He gazed at her gently. She looked exceptionally enchanting under the illumination of the fireworks.

"I want us to be together forever," Charlotte said with a pair of smiling eyes as she doted on Zachary.

He did not say much but proceeded to hug her tightly. I really want to tell her the truth, to pre-empt her that I may not be able to continue this journey of life with her. Perhaps, she needs to shoulder the responsibility of leading this family on her own. All that I owe her can only be repaid in the next life.

Unfortunately, he did not have the heart to ruin the blissful moment for her. It was also his selfish desire to cling on to the precious moment as long as he could.

"Zachary..." Charlotte was feeling sentimental while hugging him. She tried to control her emotions and put on a bright smile. "Will you marry me?"

"Of course!"

Zachary heard her enunciating the words clearly in the midst of the loud fireworks.

He did not doubt his hearing, neither did he pursue further. Instead, he seized the opportunity to share the feelings that had been buried inside his heart for years.

On a serious note, he said, "Let's get married. I'll hold a perfect wedding ceremony!"

"Sure!" Charlotte's eyes welled up. No matter what happens in the future, I just want to cherish all of our time together. Even if it means we only have a day, two days or a month left. Every second counts as long as we're together.

The decision made them both extremely delighted. Immediately, Zachary shouted, "Ben!"

"Yes, Mr. Nacht?" Ben hurried over.

"Tomorrow, no, go prepare for my wedding now! I'm getting hitched!" Zachary declared loudly to ensure that everyone present heard it.

Ben froze for a moment, but quickly caught on and blurted, "Is that for real? You two are seriously tying the knot?"

"What nonsense!" Zachary glared at him. "Hurry up and go get ready!"

"Got it. I'm on it now." Ben nodded.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1431

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1431

"That's great news! Congratulations!" Everyone was ecstatic.

Clapping her hands, Ellie was teary. "Aww... That's great! Daddy and Mommy are getting married!" she choked up.

"Hehe, I'm going to be the first person in my class to attend his own parents' wedding ceremony." Jamie was so worked up as he began to imagine the wedding. "I want to invite all my girlfriends to the banquet!"

Robbie, on the other hand, fell silent. Grinning from ear to ear, he looked at his parents lovingly. He had actually waited for this day for a very long time.

On the other hand, the triplets were sitting on a big rock, admiring the fireworks. When they heard the news, they widened their eyes with utmost curiosity. Then, they questioned, "Ms. Morgan, what does 'getting married' mean?"

"It means..." Morgan pondered before explaining, "It means that two people will stay together forever and never part ways with each other."

"Whoa! Then can Beta and Gamma get married?" asked Alpha, cupping her chin.

"No, no, no..." Morgan quickly corrected, "Getting married is for two adults who love each other; who want to give each other the promise of a lifetime."

"Oh, I see." The three children were inquisitive. Beta continued, "So, can our Daddy and Mommy get married?"

"Of course, they can, as long as they are willing to." Morgan chuckled.

"Daddy doesn't seem to like us." Alpha felt sad at that thought. "He always fights with Mommy."

"They don't behave like Aunt Charlotte and Uncle Zachary who kiss and hug all the time. They aren't very nice to each other." Beta looked glum. "Does it mean that they won't get married?"

"Hmph! Mommy wouldn't want Daddy." Gamma added, "Daddy is so fierce, and he doesn't smile. On the contrary, Mommy is cute. She should be with someone who's equally cute."

"You're right!" The three little ones started counting with their fingers and discussing names of more suitable candidates for their mother.

Morgan was amused by their antics.

The glorious fireworks continued to light up the night sky, enhancing its beauty while adding joy and blissfulness to the wonderful evening.

Zachary embraced Charlotte warmly underneath the vibrant fireworks.

They had decided to let bygones be bygones. Henceforth, their only goal was to cherish each other and treasure each moment spent together.

The two had an amorous night following their surprise decision.

The dimly lit lights, alluring breaths, and shadows on the bedroom wall were witnesses of their passionate love. Everything looked so perfect like a nicely painted masterpiece.

Zachary continued his fervid advances into midnight. As he lay entwined in her arms, he could not stop kissing her.

"Are you tired?" cupping his face, Charlotte asked gently.

"Silly girl, how is that possible?" Zachary bit her lips softly. His desire for her was endless!

"The doctor said that you shouldn't exhaust yourself." Charlotte was worried.
"Get some sleep, okay?"

"It's only been two times..." He was yearning for more. "Give it to me..." He rubbed his palms against her body, trying to explore further.

"No way." She stopped him. "You haven't fully recovered. Don't overwork yourself. It's been one whole night... Mmm..."

Charlotte's words were cut off when Zachary sealed her lips shut with a rough kiss.

Without further ado, he pinned the woman underneath him and smothered her once again with wild and hot kisses...

"Mmm... Ah..." Charlotte attempted to push him away, but she dared not use too much force.

"Just one last time," Zachary muttered as he savored her neck. "I'll let you go after this..."

"But your body..." Her voice was weak and soft.

"Be good and listen to me. Then, I won't be as tired..." He instructed her, "Come on top of me!"

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1432

"Mmm..." Though Charlotte was almost in tears, she had no choice but to give in to him.

She was not very experienced in this field despite her identity as a mother. After all, she lacked practice. Actually, it was the same for Zachary. The only difference was that men had an innate talent for this sort of thing.

The next morning, Charlotte slept in till ten. When she opened her bleary eyes, she realized that Zachary was no longer resting on his pillow.

She heard the water running in the bathroom, so she assumed that he was in the shower.

Upon rubbing her eyes, she glanced at the clock, only to jump out of her wits. It's already past eleven?

Instantly, she hopped out of her bed and put on her nightgown. When she entered the bathroom, she was surprised to see the tap was left running while no one was inside.

Feeling anxious, she quickly searched the dressing room as well as the study for Zachary, but to no avail.

Right when she was about to leave the room, she bumped into Hanna and the food cart at the door. "Oh, you're awake, Ms. Lindberg. Great, I've prepared some breakfast for you—"

Charlotte interrupted her, "Where's Zachary?"

"Mr. Zachary went to the office early in the morning. He said that you were tired, and he warned us not to disturb your sleep." Hanna giggled a little as she spoke. "He has also instructed me to prepare something nutritious to send your way once you get up."

"Oh, thank you, Mrs. Rawlston." Charlotte blushed while cursing Zachary in her heart. How could he say something so private to others?

"You're most welcome. It's my duty to do so." Hanna wheeled the cart in and served them on the table. "Shall I get someone to assist you in your bath?"

"Oh, there's no need for that. I'm good." Charlotte was slightly embarrassed.

"In that case, I'll arrange for housekeeping, okay?" As a wise and experienced person, Hanna suggested subtly. "Please go ahead and take a bath. The room would be cleaned after your bath."

"All right. Thanks!" Charlotte took a quick glance at the messy bed. Turning scarlet, she scurried into the bathroom.

When she saw the puddles on the floor, she felt a bit uneasy. Zachary has always been a careful man. Why didn't he turn off the tap before he left? Is he just being forgetful? Was it because he was too exhausted from the night before and fell unwell this morning? Or did his health condition worsen?

Insecurity and anxiety washed over her. She took a quick bath and exited the room to get her phone.

"Ms. Lindberg, is there anything I can help you with? Are you looking for something?"

At that moment, the room was already tidied up. The maids were replacing a new bouquet for the vase.

"Where's my phone?" Charlotte asked.

"It's charging over here." A maid handed her phone over.

Coincidentally, Zachary called. "Hello?" she answered at once.

"You're up?" His doting voice sounded from the other side of the line.

"Yup." She felt shy.

Seeing so, the two maids bowed and left the room.

"You must be hungry. Go ahead and have something to eat." Zachary was extremely caring.

"Will do. Why didn't you wake me up this morning?" Unknowingly, Charlotte acted coquettishly. "I didn't see you when I got up, and I thought that you were taking a shower..."

I've gotten enough sleep during my recovery. So, I couldn't sleep more nowadays. I didn't have the heart to wake you up when I saw you sleeping soundly." Zachary coaxed her affectionately, "Be good. Enjoy your breakfast and bask in the morning sun. Your Hubby will be home soon to keep you company."

"All right." Charlotte felt comforted upon hearing his voice. Hence, she did not speculate further. "Don't push yourself too hard at work, okay? Take care." A warm and fuzzy feeling rose within her.

"Sure. I need to reserve some energy to serve my Queen tonight," Zachary teased her.

"Stop it, will you?" Charlotte's face turned red.

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1433

"Haha..." Zachary guffawed at her remark. "Fine, I won't tease you. Hurry up and eat something now, okay?"

"Yup, I'll cook dinner tonight and wait for your return," Charlotte said under her breath.

"Nice!" His heart was full.

All that he longed for these days was to see the entire family gathering for meals, supporting and caring for one another.

After hanging up, Charlotte was still reminiscing about the sweet and wonderful feeling. She regretted not letting go of her past sooner in order to embrace all the positivity she now received.

Sometimes, we were the ones to put the shackles on and constrain ourselves. We will learn and grow from experiences.

After breakfast, Charlotte went downstairs to prepare some ingredients to make the dishes that she was familiar with. She also prepared to bring the kids over to have a meal together.

Hanna and a few maids assisted her in the kitchen. The ladies seemed to have fun cooking.

In the evening, the house was bustling with life when the children showed up.

The bodyguards and maids were super happy to see the kids. They even prepared snacks and juices for them in advance.

Charlotte spent some time chatting with the trio and realized that they took the eagle to school and scared the living daylights out of their teacher.

It made Charlotte laugh boisterously. Nonetheless, she did not forget to reprimand the kids, "Alpha, Beta, and Gamma, do you remember what you've promised me? You're not supposed to bring Fifi to school. We need to be considerate. Your teachers and classmates might not have seen an eagle before. That's why they were frightened to see such a bird."

The children sighed in unison.

Feeling wronged, Alpha pouted. "I told my friends yesterday that we have an eagle at home. I did ask if they wanted to see it, to which the whole class responded enthusiastically. That's why I brought Fifi to school."

"That's right. A few of our classmates even indicated that we're telling lies if we don't bring the eagle to school." Beta frowned and continued angrily, "That's the reason why we brought it to school to show it to them."

"Yes, that's true." Gamma nodded. "Mommy says that we ought to be trustworthy, and we did exactly that!"

Charlotte struggled to come up with an appropriate response. Well, the kids do have a point. It's just that...

"Who knew that the teacher was a coward and fainted on the spot," Alpha complained with a disdainful look on his face. "And so did a few kids in the class. In fact, those were the ones who taunted us the loudest!"

Beta nodded firmly. "Exactly!"

"Here you go, that's what happened. We didn't tell lies." Gamma exclaimed in delight, "We are good children!"

Upon hearing that, Charlotte did not know what to do with them. Before she could say anything, Ellie came out from the bathroom and lectured them with a straight face, "Alpha, Beta, and Gamma, what did I tell you when we were on the way here?"

"We..." The three kids exchanged glances with one another. They stuck out their tongues but kept quiet.

"It's good to keep your promise. However, we must be mindful of the situation." Ellie gave them a piece of her mind, "For example, if a thief or a bad guy leads you to do something nasty, and you happened to say yes. Do you think you should still help him?"

A brief reprimand caused the kids to be stumped.

"We must first weigh the consequences and find out if it's the right thing to do before we act, right?" Ellie went on.

"But it's not a bad thing to bring Fifi to school, is it?" Alpha raised her hand and asked softly.

"Aunt Charlotte has addressed that just now." Ellie explained again patiently, "Regular people have never seen an eagle in real life, so they are bound to get scared when they actually see one. That's why a few of your teachers and classmates fainted on the spot. Don't you feel bad upon seeing what your action has caused them?"

"Yes..." The three children said in unison.

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1434

"Good. Now, come on over and have some snacks." Jamie eased the situation and ended the topic.

As an elder brother, he was always doting on his three little sisters.

"Hmm... Jamie did it again. He's the one spoiling them instead of teaching them a lesson." Ellie shook her head helplessly and proclaimed like an adult, "I have no choice but to be the bad guy here."

"Haha! It must be hard on you." Charlotte caressed her face and urged, "Go ahead and have some snacks."

"All right, I'll bring them to wash their hands first." Ellie had become very responsible ever since she was made a big sister.

Jamie assisted her to take care of the three younger girls whereas Robbie headed upstairs with his laptop. The latter even requested the maid to deliver some snacks to his room.

"Robbie, don't you want to hang out and eat with us?" Charlotte was concerned.

"My laptop is running out of battery. I need to go back to my room and work on something," Robbie replied briefly and then darted to his room.

Charlotte was well aware that he was anxious about Francesco. Her heart ached when she saw him behaving in that way. Desperate moments call for desperate measures. I have to try whatever that works...

Charlotte took over the snacks from the maid and decided to personally deliver them to Robbie.

When she opened the door, Robbie was typing speedily on his keyboard. He heard someone coming in and simply responded without lifting his head, "Just leave them on the table. Thanks."

Charlotte did exactly what he asked for, but she did not leave the room. Instead, she sat down quietly next to him.

"You may leave..." He stopped when he raised his head. "Oh, it's you, Mommy."

"I came to bring you some snacks." Charlotte gazed at him lovingly. "Don't be so stressed. Have some snacks before continuing your work."

"Okay." Robbie saved his document, washed his hands, and returned to eat.

"Robbie, how is the lead on your aunt?" Charlotte brushed some hair off his forehead.

"Yes, I am. I could clearly see the clues right below my nose, but I keep getting stuck at the same spot." Knitting his brows, Robbie vented his frustration.

"Daddy's health is getting worse. I heard from Mr. Ben that he has only sixteen days left to live. During this critical period, we must locate Francesco. But first,

we must find Aunt and contact Uncle Dan via her. Then, we'll be able to get to the doctor. We're running out of time..."

"Don't get too worked up, Robbie," Charlotte comforted him, "Mr. Ben and Mr. Bruce are coming up with a solution, and so am I. This is not your burden to bear for you're only a child. You just need to do your best."

"But I want to save daddy..." Robbie choked up as he thought about his father's illness. "It wasn't easy for the both of you to make up. Now that your wedding is just around the corner, Jamie, Ellie, and I are going to have a happy family soon. I don't want to lose daddy at this juncture, he..." Tears streaked his little face.

"Oh, Robbie!" Charlotte hugged him tightly. Her heart wrenched seeing him so downcast. "It's all my fault. If only I had detected the issue earlier and stayed in H City for the treatment instead of bringing Dr. Felch to Erihal... Perhaps things would be different for your daddy..."

"Mommy, we don't have time to lament now. We need to find a way soonest possible." Robbie panicked. "Can you try contacting Uncle Gordon and Uncle Sean?"

"Sure." She nodded. "I've been trying to get in touch with them, but..."

Charlotte was in a dilemma. If I don't reach out to them, Zachary's life is at stake, and we'll lose our last trace of hope. If I do, I might get Danrique implicated in the process.

"Are you out of contact with them? Is someone tracking them down through the communication device that they are using?" It was a piece of cake for Robbie to see through the dilemma Charlotte was in.

"Yup." She nodded. "It's been an extreme challenge to do so lately. Anyway, I'll try my luck and make a trip to Mount Phoenix."

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"What do you plan to do at Mount Phoenix?" Robbie was completely baffled. "Dr. Felch is no longer there."

"I was just thinking that Dr. Felch might have some books or records of some sort left in his house, which could shed some light into providing a cure for the poison."

She added, "Also, Hayley and the rest are quite knowledgeable in medicine. I would like to invite them over to check on your daddy. Whether they could heal him completely, that's secondary. We could really use their help and expertise, especially during an emergency. It's better than just letting it be," Charlotte shared her thoughts openly.

"All right. You go ahead and do that, Mommy." Robbie nodded firmly. "Rest assured that I'm with you all the way."

"I'll discuss with your daddy tonight." She hugged him. "Now, be good and finish your snacks. Don't overwork yourself, okay? I'm heading downstairs."

"Sure, mommy."

When she went downstairs, Zachary was already home. He was instantly surrounded by the children because he brought along with him a ton of snacks and a handful of beautiful dolls.

"Whoa, these are so pretty!" the three children sang in unison. "Uncle Zachary, are these for us?"

"Yes, all of these are my gifts to you. Welcome to our home." Zachary bent down to the child's eye level and patted their heads gently.

"Thank you, Uncle Zachary!"

"Ellie, Jamie, go and pick your favorites too. See if there's something you'd like to eat."

"It's fine. I'm a boy. I don't play girls' toys and neither do I like junk food," Jamie straightened his back and declared his stance like a man.

"Hahaha!" Zachary burst into laughter. "I'll play soccer with you later."

"Yeah, awesome!" Jamie nodded repeatedly.

"No way," Charlotte objected to the idea. "Your daddy needs to keep me company tonight. Jamie, you can play with Mr. Marino."

"All right. I get it. Mommy comes first." Being an obedient child, Jamie winked at his father and reminded him, "Daddy, stick with Mommy. You'd better be nice to her."

"Haha, you cheeky rascal!" he chortled while pinching his son's face.

These few days were perhaps the most he had ever laughed in his life. He felt extremely positive and delighted at everything.

Seeing how happy he was, Charlotte could not help but feel a tinge of sadness.

She was of the opinion that he was just trying to keep his spirits up, seeking joy amidst his sorrows. With each passing day, she was truly afraid of losing him completely...

"What's the matter?" Zachary reached out to pinch her cheek lovingly when he saw how preoccupied she was. "Are you sulking because I didn't get you any toys?"

"Tsk!" Charlotte smiled sheepishly. "How come you're home so early today?" Habitually, she ran her arms around his.

"Because I missed you." He leaned over and kissed her.

"Oh dear, this gives me goosebumps." Ellie covered her eyes and scurried away.

"Hahaha..." Jamie chuckled and went out to play.

"How could you do that in front of the children? Hmm..." Before she could push him away, he acted fast and sealed her lips with another kiss.

Hugging her in his arms, he lifted her head and planted yet another passionate kiss.

Although it only lasted for several seconds, it was enough to make Charlotte's heart skip a beat, especially when it happened in the living room in front of so many pairs of eyes.

"Let's return to our room," he said suggestively as he nibbled on her earlobe. "I've got something to tell you..."

"Mmm-hmm." Blushing, Charlotte nodded. "I have something to discuss with you too."

With that, both of them interlocked their fingers together and strode upstairs.

The maids and bodyguards turned green with envy. Everyone was really happy at how things had turned out for them.

Back in the room, Zachary took out a stack of documents. He then passed her a pen and instructed, "Sign them."

"What are they?" Charlotte wanted to read first but was stopped by Zachary.

He placed his hand on the documents and urged, "Quick, sign it."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1436

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1436

"What is it? Why are you so fearful for me to read them?" Charlotte was amused.

"Hurry up and sign it already." Zachary was getting impatient. "Are you worried that I might trick you?"

"No, it's not that." She knew he had no malicious intention against her. So, she signed her name on the document as he had requested. Subsequently, Zachary handed her a stamp pad for her to affix her thumbprint.

As soon as she had completed the signature, Zachary removed his hand on the contract. Charlotte was stunned when she read the title. It was a stock transfer agreement!

Baffled, she asked, "What's this? What are you trying to do?"

"Are you scared that I'm selling you off?" he teased her while packing away the contract. "Don't worry, a skinny woman like you isn't worth much. Moreover, I'm reluctant to let you go."

Then, he kissed her forehead and left the room.

"Where are you going?" Charlotte called out for him.

"To the study room. I'll be back in a jiffy." He did not even turn his head.

All he wanted to do as soonest possible was to sort out his post-death matters, including matters related to his will.

Otherwise, he was afraid that the remaining time he had was not sufficient for him to list down the handover matters for such a big corporation.

Although Charlotte did not see what was written on the papers, she was well aware of his intentions and purpose in doing so.

He knows that he doesn't have much time left. So, he's making all the necessary arrangements within the limited time that he has.

The more she thought about it, the more worked up she became. Coincidentally, Hayley called.

"Hi, Hayley," Charlotte answered right away.

"Charlotte! It's great to hear from you again. Is everything okay?"

Many things had happened after Charlotte was rescued from Louis who kidnapped her. She had not had a proper chance to call Hayley and only had her subordinate pass a message.

"I'm fine," Charlotte replied. "I'm sorry for not calling you sooner, Hayley. These couple of days have been crazy. Nonetheless, did you get the message I sent via a subordinate?"

"Yes, I did. I was informed that you were fine, but I still wanted to verify it with you in person." Hayley heaved a sigh of relief.

"Thank you." A fuzzy feeling rose within Charlotte. "Hayley, did Dr. Felch leave behind any books related to medicines? Is there anything written about curing poisons? Additionally, do you know if he had a way to contact Francesco?"

"He did leave some books behind, but I'm unsure if they are helpful to you." Hayley continued, "As for Francesco's contact, I really have no idea. Let me go look for it. Coincidentally, I'm sorting out Dr. Felch's belongings lately."

"I'll pay a visit one of these days." Charlotte was feeling hopeful. "Don't chuck away his stuff, they might come in handy."

"I know." Hayley nodded. "Be more vigilant when you're out and about. Fingers crossed nothing untoward will ever happen again. Sam and I are still frightened to our wits from the last incident that befell you."

"No worries. I'll be fine." After assuring Hayley, Charlotte went to see Zachary in his study.

Right when she was about to knock on the door, it opened. Rodney walked out and greeted her politely with a bow, "Mrs. Nacht."

"Huh?" Charlotte was startled. Before she could connect the dots, Zachary's crisp laughter sounded from the room. "Haha, you've got a brilliant future!"

Rodney courteously nodded at the duo and left.

With her face turning scarlet, Charlotte entered the room and asked, "What did he address me as?"

"Mrs. Nacht." Gazing at her, Zachary was all smiles. "People around me are aware that we're getting married. There's no turning back, Mrs. Nacht."

"How did Mr. Williams find out about it when you haven't even announced the news?" Charlotte's beaming face had given her true feelings away.

"Well, the upper management knows it." Zachary pulled her into his embrace. "Wake up earlier tomorrow. Dress up nicely and accompany me to the office."

"To the office?" Charlotte was nervous. "Why do I need to go there with you?"

"We're tying the knot, so I should formally introduce you to the various departments. In addition, you can assist me with some work since you're not that busy recently." Zachary pinched her cheeks. "You should learn how to share my burdens. Get it?"

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chapter 1437

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Deep down, Charlotte knew that the only reason Zachary did that was to make her familiarize with the operations of the company. When he was no longer around, he hoped that she could take over Nacht Group.

Her heart sank at that thought. Yet, she brushed it aside and replied with a smile, "Duly noted. However, I want to pay Mount Phoenix a visit. I missed the chance to pay my final respect to Dr. Felch's the last time, and I felt really bad about it. Hence, I really wanted to go visit his grave."

"You can go there next time." Zachary held her hands and said, "I don't want you to leave me now."

"I'll only be gone for a day. I asked Morgan to arrange for a private jet to take me there in the morning. I'll be home in the evening." Charlotte pacified him, "Don't you worry. I'll bring more people along on this trip. Rest assured that nothing bad will happen."

Actually, she had no intention of leaving Zachary's side too, especially at this critical moment. Time was not on their side. How she wished to stay with him forever and ever!

"Okay then." He gave in to her decision. "Let me take over the arrangement of the private jet and get someone to send you over."

Charlotte agreed. "Sure, I shall set off tomorrow morning."

"All right, leave it to me." He kissed her forehead. "Go and spend some time with the kids. I need to work on a document."

"Okay." As soon as Charlotte exited the study room, the smile on her face faded. It was replaced with a frown and a heavy heart.

I might not gain anything from this trip to Mount Phoenix. Anyhow, I must stay hopeful. I must try my best and have a positive mindset even if the chance of success is slim.

"Dinner is ready, Mrs. Nacht," Hanna announced in a gentle tone.

Charlotte was taken aback. Immediately, she responded with a question, "What did you call me, Mrs. Rawlston?"

"Mrs. Nacht," Hanna replied with a wide smile. "You and Mr. Zachary are getting married. So, we should address your title correctly."

"Mrs. Nacht!" Right then, Cain, the bodyguard reported, "The private jet is all set to take off at eight tomorrow morning. We will return at nine at night. Is that fine?"

"Yes, this will do. Thank you for your help." Charlotte nodded approvingly.

"I shall help you to pack your luggage, Mrs. Nacht." All the maids in the house began to address her as such.

Charlotte felt slightly awkward with her new title. In fact, she was feeling uneasy about the change.

"You'll get used to it." Hanna stroked her back dotingly. "I shall bring the kids down for dinner."

"Let me do that. The bunch of monkeys are too noisy," Charlotte said casually. "Could you get Zachary instead?"

"Sure, Mrs. Nacht." Hanna let out a smile before heading upstairs.

Shortly after Charlotte headed out to the garden to look for the children, she heard a sudden scream from Hanna. Terrified, she went back in. "What happened?"

"Oh, nothing, Mrs. Nacht. I accidentally knocked over something and smashed it to pieces."

When Charlotte dashed upstairs, she found Hanna.

"Where's Zachary?" She darted toward the study room, and she bumped into Ben, who was walking out. "Mr. Nacht is getting changed. He will head down very soon."

"Is everything all right with him?"

Charlotte's heart was pounding rapidly as her face turned pale. Yet, she stopped in her tracks.

"Everything's fine," Ben assured her. "Why don't you wait downstairs? We will be down in a minute."

"Sure." Charlotte took a quick glance at the door and went away.

The flight of stairs felt like a never-ending winding road through the hills. She trudged through each step with immense difficulty.

At that point, she felt like a big rock had knocked the breath right out of her, leaving her gasping for air.

Something must have happened to Zachary, but Ben and Mrs. Rawlston didn't want the children and me to know. So, they are covering up for him.

A dark cloud was hanging over Charlotte's head. She wanted to rush in and embrace Zachary so badly. At the same time, she knew that it would be a bitter pill for him to swallow if she did that.

He was always a proud person; more arrogant than anyone she knew. He would never ever let her see him at his worst. Therefore, she could only pretend to be ignorant as a wave of sorrow enveloped her bleeding heart.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1438

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1438

After washing their hands, the kids took their seats at the dining table. Their tiny faces lit up as they looked forward to devouring the sumptuous dishes on the table. However, they did not dare to make any move until Charlotte and Zachary were present.

Charlotte helped out in the kitchen while waiting for Zachary to come down from upstairs.

Pacing back and forth, she was very anxious. When she was about to check on him again, Marino showed up and informed her, "Mrs. Nacht, Mr. Nacht asks that you go ahead with the children first. There's an urgent matter which needs his attention."

Hearing that, Charlotte's trembled in fear. She knew it at once that Zachary's condition had worsened. Yet, she had to maintain her composure and not make the children worry.

I must stay calm.

"Okay, got it," she said, suppressing her bad feelings. She put on a straight face and feigned calmness. "Mrs. Rawlston, please save some for Zachary and Ben. The kids and I will eat first."

"Sure, Mrs. Nacht," Mrs. Rawlston choked on her words as she spoke, but she, too, tried to be composed.

"All right, darlings, let's dig in," Charlotte invited the little ones for dinner.

Immediately, they started eating without hesitation.

Ellie was concerned. "Mommy, why is Daddy so busy?"

"Ya, can't he work after dinner?" Jamie looked in the direction of the staircase. "Shall I bring him some food?"

"Oh, there's no need for that. Daddy is still working, so let's not disturb him. Once he's done, he will come down."

"But—"

"Why do you have so much to ask? Just eat your food," Robbie barked.

Jamie was taken aback by the sudden reprimand. Feeling wronged, he grumbled, "Why did you yell at me, Robbie?"

"Just eat your food." Robbie glared at him.

"You have a terrible attitude, Robbie." Jamie was enraged. "You're always sullen and scolding others for no apparent reason. How annoying!"

"Oh, Jamie..." Right when Charlotte was about to coax him, Robbie rose to his feet and left the table.

"Look at him, Mommy!" Jamie went ballistic. He pointed at Robbie and complained, "He had a run-in with me out of a sudden and then stormed off. This is too much!"

"Don't be so upset, Jamie." Charlotte comforted him with a hug. "I'll go check on Robbie. You guys continue with your dinner."

With that, Charlotte trotted after Robbie, only to find him by the lake in the garden, all alone.

He was furiously punching and kicking the tree bark. Though his knuckles were wounded, he had no intention to stop.

Charlotte gazed at him from afar. She did not stop him nor disturb him. Tears streaked her face as she felt so sorry for both Zachary and Robbie.

Jamie accused Robbie of simply taking out his anger on others. Little did he know that Robbie had been going through a tough time, shouldering immense pressure.

He knew that Zachary's condition had worsened to a detrimental stage. Hence, he exhausted all means to look for Francesco, but to no avail. All of these unfavorable happenings had landed him in a state of anxiousness and panic.

Therefore, when faced with the immaturity of his siblings, Robbie lost control of his emotions and ended up lashing out at Jamie.

Charlotte completely understood how he felt and the emotional turmoil that he was going through. Her heart sank every time she thought about the immeasurable pressure that Robbie had to face as a child.

"Why? Why?" After releasing his anger, Robbie sat on the ground and started bawling his eyes out.

Charlotte did not console him right away. She remained watchful from a distance, giving him the time and space he needed to regulate his emotions. Perhaps, he will feel much better after this.

After what seemed like an eternity, Robbie wiped away his tears and asked Charlotte, who appeared before him. "Mommy, when are you going to Mount Phoenix?"

"First thing tomorrow morning." She propped him up and bandaged his wounds with a handkerchief.

Sobbing, she said, "Robbie, I know how awful you feel about all these. I also understand that you're under a lot of pressure. Though I have no idea how to make you feel better, I want you to be well. Leave the rest to me, will you?"

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"Let's do our best together." Robbie's voice was a little hoarse. "We can put our heads together and think of a solution."

"Robbie..." Charlotte felt bad for him. "You're still so young. I don't want you to feel burdened."

"I want to save Daddy." Furrowing his little eyebrows, the boy maintained a stubborn expression. "I'm sure I can solve the problem. Also, I have requested Mr. Sterk to come and help."

"All right. We will think of something together." Heart aching for her son, she reached out to hug him. "Let's go back now. I'll help you put on some medication."

"Mmm-hmm." Obediently, Robbie went back inside with Charlotte. "Mommy, you should check on Daddy and see if—"

"He doesn't want us to see him. Let's not make it any more difficult for him, all right?" she exhorted as her eyes reddened.

"I understand." Robbie lowered his head.

Back in the dining room, Jamie turned his head away petulantly when he saw Robbie.

"Robbie, what happened to your hand?" When Ellie saw that Robbie's hand was injured, she rushed to his side. "Oh, you're hurt!"

"What happened?" Morgan hurried over to check on him. "Robbie, how did you hurt yourself?"

"Bring him to dress his wound," Charlotte instructed.

"Yes." Morgan did as she was told.

When Jamie saw that Robbie's hand was wounded, he could not help but worry, so he caught up to them and said, "Robbie, let me help you."

"Jamie, I'm sorry about just now. I didn't mean to lose my temper at you."

"Don't worry about it. I'm used to it."

"Erm..."

"After all, you're the eldest. There's nothing I can do about you scolding me."

"That sounds about right."

"You..."

"Hahaha..."

Given that they were still kids, they patched up their relationship in the blink of an eye.

Looking at both of them, Charlotte felt a surge of warmth in her heart. Even though she continued eating with the children, she barely had any appetite. Instead, she kept looking upstairs and wondered how Zachary was coping.

Meanwhile, in the study on the second floor, Zachary was lying on the sofa. With a face as pale as a sheet, he seemed extremely weak.

"Raina is on her way. You should have a drink first."

Ben helped Zachary up and wanted to feed him some water.

However, Zachary made a gesture of rejection.

After lying down for half an hour, he had gradually recovered from the earlier shock. As a result, his mind began to clear.

"We can't keep this up." With red-rimmed eyes, Ben asked, "Should we go to the hospital?"

Too weak to speak, Zachary closed his eyes.

A second before he collapsed, the last thing he told Ben was to hide his condition from Charlotte and the children.

That was the only thing that mattered to him.

In fact, he was not even hoping to survive.

"Mr. Nacht..."

Looking at Zachary's condition, Ben felt tears welling up in his eyes. If it were possible, he would gladly suffer on his behalf.

In the meantime, Raina arrived with her assistant in haste. However, when she entered the hall and saw Charlotte with the children, she slowed down and feigned a relaxed manner as she said, "Mrs. Nacht, I'm here to change the dressing for Mr. Nacht's wound."

"Go ahead." Despite feeling worried, Charlotte put up a calm front.

"All right." Raina nodded before rushing upstairs with her assistant.

"Quick!" Marino was waiting for them by the staircase.

The moment Raina entered the room and saw Zachary lying on the sofa, her knees buckled, but she forced herself to rush to his side. After examining his condition while kneeling, she gave him his medication.

"What medication is that? Will it be of any use?" Ben asked.

"I spoke to Dr. Wright before I came," Raina explained in a low voice. "She suggested this."

"What else did she say?" Ben probed. "Does she have any other ideas?"

Raina shook her head dejectedly but said nothing else.

After taking the medication, Zachary gradually fell asleep. His expression eased significantly compared to before.

Putting a blanket over him, Raina explained, "Let him sleep. He will feel much better once he wakes up."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1440

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1440

"What did Dr. Wright say? Why did he go into shock suddenly?" Ben was extremely anxious.

"She said that going into shock is considered the best-case scenario." Raina sounded pessimistic. "If not for Mr. Nacht's strong constitution, I'm afraid..."

Upon hearing that sentence, he slammed his fist against the wall in frustration.

Boom! Along with the shaking wall, everyone's heart sank.

That dire circumstance weighed heavily on everyone's minds.

"With Dr. Wright's help, we have been trying to contact doctors from all over the world. Unfortunately, everyone backed out after hearing about his condition." Raina could not help but sigh. "I'm feeling equally distraught. Given the circumstances, we can't afford to experiment with other treatments too."

"Did you hear anything from Bruce?" Marino asked softly.

"No." Ben shook his head.

"What about Ms. Lindberg?" Raina questioned.

"Ms. Lindberg has been brainstorming ideas non-stop. However, she has lost contact with Sean and Gordon," Ben explained. "Considering that Mr. Lindberg's enemies are hunting him down, it's not a surprise that they have cut off communications."

"What are we going to do?" Raina's brows were deeply furrowed.

"Ms. Lindberg plans to go to Mount Phoenix tomorrow and see what she can find at Dr. Felch's," Marino revealed softly. "I heard from Morgan that Dr. Felch left many medical books there before his death. Perhaps, Ms. Lindberg wants to search Dr. Felch's study for any clues on how to contact Francesco."

"Great, great. That's a good idea." Ben nodded repeatedly. "Maybe she can discover something useful."

"Mmm, I hope that's the case." Raina felt hopeful again. "But we don't have much time left. If we don't find Francesco soon, it will—"

"It's premature to talk about that now. Anyway, you should stay here for the next few days in case something happens to Mr. Nacht," Ben instructed. "In the meantime, I'll help him back to his room."

"Okay."

When Raina came downstairs, she told Charlotte she had re-dressed Zachary's wound and that he fell asleep due to his weak condition.

Immediately, Charlotte went upstairs to check on him and found him sleeping in his bed peacefully.

Afraid that she would feel distressed, Ben carefully explained, "Mr. Nacht was just too tired. He will be better when he wakes up."

"Stop hiding it from me. Did he pass out?" It sounded like there was a lump in her throat as she spoke.

"No," he replied softly, "he was in shock."

Closing her eyes, she swallowed the sigh that almost left her lips.

"He has been given his medication and should wake up tomorrow morning," Ben comforted her. "You should stay with him. I'll take my leave first."

Charlotte nodded in response before shifting her gaze to Zachary.

Overwhelmed by heartache and anxiety, she could not stop herself from giving Danrique another call. However, she was still unable to get through to him. The result was the same when she called Sean and Gordon.

Holding her phone in hand, Charlotte sat by the bed with her shoulders slumped.

At that moment, her only hope lay at her trip to Mount Phoenix on the next day. Hopefully, I can find some valuable clues in Dr. Felch's study...

After wiping Zachary's body and changing him into his pajamas, Charlotte stayed by his side quietly.

Tears streamed down her face uncontrollably when she saw how haggard he looked.

Stricken by remorse, she regretted not setting aside her hatred earlier, not noticing Zachary's condition, and not staying in H City.

If she had done so back then, Dr. Felch would have been able to treat Zachary. And perhaps, Zachary might even be cured by then.

He would not need to be tormented by his sickness or be in critical condition.

Consequently, she blamed herself for everything that had transpired.

As she dwelled on the past, her tears fell onto Zachary's face unknowingly.

When she reached out to help him wipe it away, she felt a warm palm grip her hand. Then, a raspy voice murmured, "I'm not dead yet. Don't worry."

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Chapter 1441 You Are Mine Forever

The moment Charlotte heard his words, she could not hold back her emotions any longer. Leaning on his body, she began to cry her heart out.

Still weak, Zachary extended his hands to hug her with his eyes closed.

He was aware that she had long known about his condition.

Nevertheless, neither of them exposed each other.

He did not want her to worry while she, too, felt the same way. Hence, both of them hid the truth out of concern for each other.

At that moment, Zachary suddenly realized that all his concerns were unnecessary. He was worried that Charlotte would stay by his side out of responsibility and for the children's sake. However, he finally came to understand that she truly loved him.

By then, Charlotte's tears had drenched his collar. The sorrowful cries and warm tears of hers were the proclamations of her love for him.

Although it broke his heart to see her that way, a warm smile graced his lips.

That was because he suddenly felt that his life was complete.

He had achieved the pinnacle of his career, had adorable children, and the love of his life also loved him deeply. Everything he wanted was already his.

The only regret in his life was that he could not grow old with his family.

At that thought, he felt that it was truly such a pity.

Charlotte sobbed for a long while before finally coming to a stop. With her face still buried in his shoulder, her hands reached out to grab a tissue. Only after wiping off her tears did she gradually raise her head.

Zachary chuckled when he saw how snotty she looked. "You're an ugly monster!"

"You're the one who's an ugly monster!"

Even when she turned away to wipe her nose clean, she was still sobbing.

"Silly girl!" His eyes were filled with affection as he looked at her. "You should take a shower."

"Mmm."

Moments later, Charlotte came out of the bathroom. Her long hair was in a bun, while her body was only wrapped in a towel. Instead of putting on clothes, she burrowed down beneath the covers and leaned against the man's warm body.

Putting his arm over her shoulder, Zachary pulled her into his embrace and pecked her on the forehead.

Just like a kitten, Charlotte curled meekly in his arms. Considering that there was nothing else she could do, she resigned herself to staying with him. Only by feeling his heartbeat could she feel at ease.

None of them talked, simply hugging each other and relishing the moments of serenity.

"I want you." When Zachary felt her body rubbing against him, he could not help but feel aroused.

"No." Charlotte was stern. "You ended up this way today because we overdid it last night."

The moment she spoke, her voice began to quiver again.

"It has nothing to do with that, silly girl!"

As Zachary ran his hand over her body, the wonderful sensation he felt from her flawless skin excited him.

"Stop touching me..." Charlotte raised her head and kissed his chin. "Go to sleep at once!"

"How can I fall asleep?" Nibbling her earlobe, he began to let his hands wander all over her soft body. "Call me Hubby!"

"Hubby!" the obedient Charlotte muttered in a kittenish tone.

"Again!"

"Hubby, Hubby..."

"Good girl!" Zachary lowered his head to kiss her.

However, Charlotte felt nervous, so she put her hand on his chest to stop him. "Hubby, no. Your body—"

“Just a kiss.”

Zachary gently kissed her on her forehead, eyes, cheeks, and finally, her lips, leaving his mark all over his body.

Leaning closely to his chest, Charlotte immersed herself in the kisses he was lavishing her with.

When he kissed her earlobe, he whispered, “Remember this—you are mine forever. Even if I’m dead one day, you will still be mine.”

“Mmm.” Charlotte nodded with tears in her eyes. She no longer argued with him about his condition and gave in to him instead. Whatever orders he issued to her, she would gladly oblige, as long as it would make him happy.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1442

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Chapter 1442 A Lead

By the time Zachary awoke the next morning, Charlotte had already left.

When he touched her pillow and the space beside him, inevitably, he felt desolate. All of a sudden, a sense of emptiness crept into his heart.

Before he knew it, he heard his phone ring. It was a message from Charlotte: Hubby, I’m boarding the plane now and will be back in the evening. Be a good boy and get some rest! Wait for me to come home!

Her gentle words felt like a ray of sunlight that filled the void in his heart with warmth.

Moved by her gesture, Zachary broke out into a smile. It never crossed his mind that she could behave so obediently.

If only time could slow down and my life could be extended, everything would be perfect.

With that thought in mind, Zachary supported his frail body up. He had no time to lose, as he still had to deal with a lot of things.

By the time Charlotte arrived at Mount Phoenix in the afternoon, Hayley and Sam were waiting for her at the village entrance. When they saw her car approach, both of them waved at her excitedly.

After alighting from her car, Charlotte chatted with them while walking.

Given that she had missed Dr. Felch's memorial service, she headed to his grave to pay her respects first.

When they returned home, Charlotte's subordinates stood guard outside while Sam went to cook. In the meantime, Hayley led Charlotte to the study.

Inside were old wooden shelves filled with all sorts of books. Some of the books were even handwritten. Other than that, there were also medicines on the shelves. Everything was neatly categorized.

Hayley explained them to Charlotte one by one, hoping that she could find something useful.

"Did Dr. Felch ever talk to you about Francesco?" Charlotte asked while flipping through the books. "What does he look like? How old is he? Where does he stay? Do you have his contact information? Any old information would be useful."

"Actually, Bruce has asked me the same questions before," Hayley replied. "Dr. Felch seldom talked about him. In fact, he would be infuriated every time Francesco was brought up. Dr. Felch would call him a rascal, a rebel, and nothing else."

"Try and think harder to see if you can remember any other clues." Charlotte was persistent.

"As for his age..." Hayley thought hard about it. "I remember now. Dr. Felch did scold Francesco for his desire to leave the mountain when he thought he had learned everything. Also, he berated him for being conceited despite being just a teenager."

Counting with her hands, she added, "I was taken in as Dr. Felch's apprentice one year after Francesco left. At that time, I was fourteen. In other words, Francesco is probably about my age."

"That can't be!" Charlotte was shocked. "Hayley, you're only nineteen this year. Are you saying that Francesco is around the same age as you?"

"Perhaps, he might be a little older." Hayley scratched her head. "But anyway, he is still relatively young."

"A teenager is someone below eighteen. Even if he were eighteen then, he would only be twenty-three now." Charlotte was baffled. "Is the legendary Francesco only twenty-three? Before this, I assumed he's a middle-aged or elderly man."

"No, no, no." Hayley shook her head repeatedly. "He's definitely a young man. When Bruce asked me about him, he didn't inquire about Francesco's age. Hence, he must have also assumed that Francesco's someone much older."

"This is good news. At last, we have a lead." Charlotte was brimming with excitement. "Hayley, do you have other clues? Try thinking about it harder."

“Other clues...” Knitting her eyebrows, Hayley continued to rack her brain. “I’m afraid I really don’t have anything else for you.”

At that moment, Sam walked in with coffee and interrupted them, “There’s one notable thing about him. He likes to keep beasts as pets.”

“That’s right!” Hayley shuddered at that thought. “When I first came here, there was a wolf in the backyard which belonged to Francesco. Dr. Felch instructed me to feed it, and I was frightened to death. In the end, he released it instead.”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1443

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Chapter 1443 A Picture Of Francesco

When Charlotte heard their words, her mind wandered to Danrique. He, too, enjoyed keeping beasts as pets. No wonder he and Francesco are on such good terms.

“What else is there?” she asked.

“That’s all we have.” Hayley shook her head earnestly. “Actually, Bruce asked the same questions when he called. I didn’t remember these two points despite racking my brains back then.”

“It’s fine. I’ll let him know.”

With that, Charlotte quickly shared the new information with Bruce before continuing her search in Dr. Felch’s study.

Suddenly, she stumbled upon an old photo. In it was a figure kneeling beside a young wounded wolf.

It was a photo taken from the side, and the photographer seemed to be standing quite far away. Also, it had turned yellow as if it had been submerged in water before. Hence, the already blurry figure was harder to discern.

In spite of that, one could still make out the slender figure in it. He seemed to be a short-haired youth in his teenage years, wearing a pair of pants with camouflage prints, a green t-shirt, black rubber shoes, and a straw hat.

“Who is this?” Charlotte asked Hayley hurriedly.

“That’s Francesco,” the latter answered in delight. “Charlotte, where did you find this?”

"That's Francesco?" Charlotte put the photo underneath the light to get a better look. Nonetheless, it was simply too blurry to make anything out of it. Other than the slender figure, nothing else could be seen.

"Yes." Hayley nodded. "When I first came here, the photo was here in the study. However, it went missing after some books and medications were moved. How did you find it?"

"Are there any other photos?"

Feeling excited, Charlotte took a picture of the photo and sent it to Ben and Bruce so that they could run investigations according to the lead.

"No, that's the only one." Hayley was sure of it. "Dr. Felch said that some university students took this photo by accident. After that, they sent the picture over to him. In fact, he mentioned that Francesco didn't like taking photos."

"Why do you address Francesco by his name instead of his title? Isn't he a senior to you?" Charlotte asked while sending Bruce the information.

"Dr. Felch forbade us from doing so," Hayley explained. "He was upset when Francesco left this place to learn modern medicine because he thought traditional medicine was all that was needed. When Francesco disobeyed him, their relationship soured."

"That's right. Later on, Dr. Felch refused to acknowledge him as an apprentice anymore," Sam chimed in as he picked something up. "In recent years, Dr. Felch never mentioned him again. If it wasn't for Mr. Nacht—"

He held his tongue at mid-sentence, worried that he would spill something.

Knowing that they were still trying to hide the truth from her on behalf of Zachary, Charlotte sighed. "Considering that I'm here looking for Francesco, don't you think I already know?"

"Uh, that's true."

Hayley and Sam exchanged glances the moment the realization dawned on them.

Since both of them were not exposed to the outside world, their thought processes were relatively simple. Hence, they were less able to connect the dots on many issues.

"By the way," Charlotte asked, changing the topic, "what are your plans going forward?"

"We don't have any plans at the moment. All we want to do is repair this house," Sam replied. "It leaks when it rains. Thus, I'm worried that Dr. Felch's books will get wet."

"I hope you can go back with me," Charlotte requested grimly. "Zachary's condition is worsening. Since we have yet to find Francesco, I'm worried that—"

"Charlotte, we would definitely help since you need us," he quickly replied. "Anyhow, I still hope to repair the house before leaving. It may take a couple of days. Is that all right?"

"Yes, of course." She nodded at once. "In that case, I'll send someone to pick you two up then. As for today, I'll take some of these books and the photo back with me."

"No problem!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1444

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1444 Get Mommy To Treat Uncle Zachary

In the evening, Charlotte picked some books about poison treatments and left Mount Phoenix with the photo.

The golden hue of the setting sun bathed the road down the mountain.

After Hayley's and Sam's figures disappeared from the rearview mirror, she retracted her gaze and looked at the old photo she was holding.

Prior to leaving, she had already sent the photo and all the relevant information she discovered to Bruce, hoping that the new leads would assist him in finding Francesco.

Time waits for no man. As of then, they only had fourteen days left.

With a heavy heart, Charlotte ordered, "Drive faster so that we can get home sooner."

"Yes, Mrs. Nacht."

After sleeping for the entire day at home, Zachary forced himself to get up and take a shower before going downstairs to dine with the children.

He thought he had recovered his strength. Unexpectedly, his legs buckled when he was going down the steps. If not for Ben catching him, he would have fallen down the staircase.

"Mr. Nacht, I have something to report."

Pretending that he had something important to share, Ben talked as he walked down the steps with Zachary.

In truth, he was using his own strength to support Zachary.

As a result, the other subordinates and maids did not realize anything was amiss.

The moment Zachary arrived downstairs, the children surrounded him.

"Daddy, Daddy!"

"Uncle Zachary, Uncle Zachary!"

"Hi, kids!" Zachary gently pushed Ben away before bending down to pick the children up. To his surprise, he was struck by a dizzy spell the moment he did so.

"Mr. Nacht..." Ben was extremely worried.

"All of you are being too noisy!" Robbie yelled. "Return to your seats and sit down, now!"

Momentarily stunned, all of them obediently went back to the dining table, albeit pouting.

When the children were climbing back onto their chairs, Ben seized the opportunity to help Zachary to his seat. Then, wearing a smile on his face, he chatted with the children. "Kids, did you have a good time at school today?"

"Yes, we did!"

"There was an exam today, and I got full marks for all the subjects."

"Me too!"

"We learned how to sing today..."

"And also how to draw..."

The kids recounted everything they did in school to Ben. Only Robbie did not say a word. Instead, he quietly brought Zachary a glass of warm water. "Daddy, have some water."

"Thank you, Robbie."

Zachary was so weak that he could not even carry a conversation with the children.

Hence, Ben spoke to them on purpose in an effort to distract them.

Nonetheless, Robbie saw through it all.

When he saw how lethargic his father was, he was utterly heartbroken. Even so, he kept his emotions to himself and could only ask, "Daddy, you look really tired."

"I'm fine." Zachary tousled the boy's hair. "Go back to your seat. It's time to eat."

"Okay." Robbie returned to his seat.

After Hanna and the maids had served the last dish, everyone began to eat.

Not having much of an appetite, Zachary forced himself to take a few bites before preparing to head back upstairs. However, the instant he got to his feet, he fell.

"Mr. Nacht!"

Although Ben managed to reach him in time, it was still too late. Zachary had fallen by the dining table.

"Daddy!"

That was the first time Zachary failed to hold himself together and collapsed in front of the children.

In an instant, everyone fell into a state of panic.

Ben quickly brought Zachary to his bedroom and requested Raina's presence.

Meanwhile, Jamie and Ellie stood by the bed. Even though their bodies were trembling as they cried, they covered their mouths, not daring to make a sound.

As for Robbie, he stood by the corner and did not dare to approach. Nevertheless, tears were streaming down his cheeks uncontrollably.

Back at the dining room, Hanna and the maids were disconcerted by Zachary's unexpected condition.

Only Danrique's children continued eating at the table, oblivious to what was going on.

"Is Uncle Zachary sick?"

"Looks like it."

"He definitely is."

“His condition seems to be serious.”

“Why didn’t Aunt Charlotte get Mommy to treat him?”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1445

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1445 In His Remaining Days

Everyone was busy with their own work. Although Morgan and the other female bodyguards were watching over the trio, their attention was focused on upstairs.

All of them were worried about Zachary. Thus, no one paid attention to the conversation between the three children.

After a while, things began to settle down.

However, that time around, even Raina broke down in tears. "I really don't know what else I can do. When I called Dr. Wright, she told us to prepare for the worst. I—"

"There has to be a way." Ben refused to give up. "I'll give Bruce a call right away. Earlier today, he told me that Ms. Lindberg had provided him with some new leads. Perhaps, just perhaps—"

"Ben, Ms. Lindberg has returned," Marino interjected to report Charlotte's arrival.

Ben hurried over to receive her.

At that moment, Charlotte had just gotten out of the car. When she saw the look on the bodyguards' and subordinates' faces, her heart sank, and she dashed into the house.

"Ms. Lindberg!" Ben ran into her at the staircase.

"What happened to him?" she inquired anxiously.

"He fainted right after having dinner. But for now, his condition has stabilized." His voice was quavering. "H-However, at this rate, he..."

Charlotte's expression froze as she rushed into the bedroom. When she saw how frail Zachary looked on the bed, her body began to tremble.

"Mommy..."

The children, who had been led out a while back, came back in crying when they heard that their mother had returned.

"Mr. Nacht fainted by the dinner table, which frightened the children," Ben whispered.

Charlotte's heart broke when she saw the children crying so hard to the point that they were even trembling. Squatting down to hug them, she put on a strong front and reassured, "Kids, don't cry. Daddy will definitely recover."

Despite the children's desperate attempt to stop crying, they still could not hold back their sniffles.

"Mommy, is Daddy going to die?" Ellie could not help but ask.

"No, he isn't," Charlotte replied in a shaky voice. "Daddy will definitely get better. I will save him no matter what."

"But, but—"

"There are no buts," Robbie interrupted. With tears streaking down his cheeks, he asserted, "If Mommy says that Daddy will recover, he definitely will. We have to have faith in Mommy!"

Covering her mouth, Ellie trembled from bawling. Even so, she did not dare to make a sound.

"It's all my fault for being too naughty. Daddy must have been so angry with me that he has fallen sick." Jamie was filled with remorse. "If I behave well, will Daddy recover?"

"He will, Jamie." Charlotte stroked his head. Taking a deep breath, she maintained her composure and instructed, "All right now, I have something to discuss with Mr. Ben. You should go back to your rooms."

With that, Lupine and the maids led the children away.

Yet, as they walked, the triplets kept turning to look at her with misty eyes.

After rising to her feet, Charlotte wiped off her tears and ordered, "Mrs. Rawlston, get everyone to turn in for the night. Don't worry. Everything will be fine tomorrow."

"Yes, Mrs. Nacht." Hanna went off to carry out Charlotte's instructions.

"Marino, stand guard outside," Charlotte commanded.

"Yes, Mrs. Nacht." Marino nodded and left.

At that moment, only the unconscious Zachary, Raina, Ben, and Charlotte were left in the room.

"Raina, be frank with me. How much time does he still have left?" Charlotte inquired.

"I spoke to Dr. Wright on the phone today, and she mentioned that it doesn't look good," Raina forced out. "Based on the earlier estimates, he only has fourteen days left. As the days go by, his condition will only deteriorate further."

"If we still can't find Francesco, the consequences will be dire." Ben was extremely distraught. "But now, we have run out of ideas."

"I managed to find some clues." Charlotte took out some of the medical books and handed them to Raina. "Raina, why don't you go through them quickly to see if they're of any use?"

"Also, there's this." Charlotte handed the photo over to Ben. "This is a picture of Francesco. Can you try and see what you can find out from it?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1446

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1446 The Culprit

When Ben examined the photo, he was shocked by it. "That's Francesco? This is a picture of a young man. In fact, he looks like a teenager."

"It was taken a few years ago." Doing a quick calculation in her head, Charlotte added, "Around seven to eight years ago."

"Even then, he's still very young. This means that he's probably in his twenties now." He was astounded. "All this while, I've assumed that Francesco's an old man."

"Me too." She nodded. "Therefore, we've been barking up the wrong tree. Anyway, you should start your investigations anew. I have also sent the picture to Bruce, but you can investigate through other means."

"I'll get to it right away." Ben then hurried away with the photo.

"Ms. Lindberg, as for these medical books, I need to refer them to traditional medicine specialists because this is not within my area of expertise." Holding the books, Raina added, "Also, do you mind if I scan these and send them to Dr. Wright so that we can look at them together?"

"At this juncture, such things no longer matter," Charlotte replied. "Anyway, get it done quickly."

"All right."

After everyone had left, Charlotte looked at Zachary despondently. She then walked over to the bedside and pulled the covers up around him. Gently stroking his face, she vowed softly, "I will definitely save you!"

At that moment, her phone vibrated. It was Michael on the line. Holding her phone, she walked out to the balcony and answered the call, "Hi, Michael!"

"Charlotte, I'm sorry. I hope I'm not bothering you." Michael was gentle and caring as usual.

"It's fine. What's up?" she asked softly.

"You haven't been replying to my messages over the last few days, so I was worried about you. Anyway, I just want to tell you that I'm returning to M Nation tomorrow. I wonder if you have the time to—"

"Michael, I'm sorry. I won't be free these days. I wish you a safe journey back."

"All right." Michael sounded disappointed. "In that case, please keep in touch with me. If you run into any problem, you can look me up anytime."

"Thank you." Just when Charlotte was about to end the call, she heard a voice in the background. "Ms. Brown, you can't go in. Ms. Brown—"

"Michael, I don't want to go back to M Nation. I want to stay here in H City to look for Hector—"

"Helena!" Michael shouted. He then said to Charlotte in a low voice, "Charlotte, I've got to go. Sorry."

"Bye." Charlotte frowned after ending the call.

That was Helena's voice just now. Despite how long it has been, she still pines for Hector. She is undoubtedly devoted to him. Unfortunately, it never ends well for the wicked.

Just as she was about to re-enter the room, she caught a glimpse of the flowerpot on the balcony. It reminded her of how Zachary was struck by a vase at the hotel.

Michael's investigations revealed that a cat had accidentally knocked over the vase, but she remained unconvinced and kept feeling that something was odd about the incident. Unfortunately, she did not have the time to investigate further as Zachary's condition had begun to worsen.

In hindsight, she wondered if someone had done it out of vengeance.

Could Helena have been that person?

As that speculation flashed across her mind, Charlotte felt her chest tightening.

If someone did it to seek vengeance, I wouldn't let the matter slide easily. If Zachary hadn't been hit by the vase, his condition wouldn't have deteriorated so quickly. Therefore, the person who threw the vase is the real culprit, and I will make whoever did it pay for it!

Holding that thought, Charlotte went to seek Ben right away. After sharing her speculations with him, she sent him off to reinvestigate the matter.

"All right. I understand. I'll get to it right away." Ben nodded. "As for the photo, I have already made copies of it, so I'm returning the original to you."

"Mmm." Charlotte received it. "Go now."

With that, Ben left hurriedly. Initially, she intended to return to Zachary's room, but when she stepped out of the study, she suddenly saw Gamma walking out of the bedroom while hugging her doll. "Aunt Charlotte..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1447

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1447 Is Francesco Male Or Female

"What's wrong, Gamma?" Charlotte rushed over to pick her up. "It's already so late. What aren't you asleep yet?"

"I had a nightmare. I'm scared." Gamma hugged her neck. Leaning against her, she sobbed, "Aunt Charlotte, I miss Mommy."

"Don't cry, Gamma. I'm trying my best to find your mommy. We will be able to locate her soon," Charlotte gently comforted the little girl. "Be a good girl, and go back to sleep now."

With that, she carried Gamma back to her room and put her on her bed. Suddenly, Gamma saw the picture Charlotte was holding and asked curiously, "Eh, what's that?"

When Charlotte told her it was a photo, Gamma reached out to grab it. Upon taking a closer look, she said hesitantly, "This... looks like..."

All of a sudden, her eyes widened as she shouted, "It's Mommy!"

"Huh?" Charlotte was stunned for a moment. Nonplussed, she replied, "How can he be your mommy? This is a boy."

"No, this is Mommy. It's Mommy," Gamma repeated as she stared intently at the picture.

"All right now, settle down." Charlotte did not think too much about it. "Be a good girl, and go to sleep."

As she spoke, she got up and tucked Gamma in. Then, when she tried to pull the photo out, the latter refused to let go. "This is a photo of Mommy. Aunt Charlotte, can you give it to me?"

"Gamma, this photo is very important to me, so I can't give it to you." Charlotte gently pulled the photo away. "All right now, time for bed!"

"But—"

"Shush..." Charlotte put a finger before her lips to remind Gamma not to wake Alpha and Beta up.

Hence, Gamma had no choice but to sleep, pouting.

After giving her a peck on her forehead, Charlotte got up to leave. While closing the door, she gave Gamma a gentle wave, signaling her to go to sleep soon.

However, Gamma was still staring intently at the photo with widened eyes. In fact, tears were already welling up in them.

Holding the photo, Charlotte was about to return to the room when she saw a small figure waiting by the door.

"Robbie!" she called while striding over to his side. "Why aren't you sleeping yet?"

"I can't sleep." Robbie looked at her glumly. His eyes were still moist and bloodshot from crying earlier. "Mommy, is Daddy's condition really severe?"

Charlotte hung her head as she could not find the words to explain.

"I'm really useless for not being able to find Uncle Dan." Due to the overwhelming sadness, tears brimmed in Robbie's eyes. "If I can find him, Daddy may be saved."

Charlotte hugged him and consoled, "It's not your fault. You're still a child, and you've done your best."

"But—"

"Don't worry. I'll think of a way. I will definitely save Daddy." Charlotte took out the photo to reassure him. "Look, I found a picture of Francesco and shared my discoveries with Bruce. I believe he will be able to find a clue very soon."

"What picture? Let me see." Robbie examined it. "Is Francesco so young? This person looks like a young lady."

"How can it be a young lady? He's obviously a young man." She was nonplussed. "This picture was taken when Francesco was in his youth."

"You're wrong. It's a girl." He pointed at the photo and explained, "She might have short hair and dresses like a boy, but Mommy, look at her shoes."

Taking a closer look, Charlotte saw a flower on top of Francesco's sandals.

"It's not just the sandals alone; even her frame looks like a girl's." Robbie was certain. "Mommy, did you get the wrong photo? Or perhaps, Francesco is actually a girl?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1448

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Chapter 1448 Francesca

The moment Charlotte heard Robbie's words, she had an epiphany. Her mind was suddenly flooded with information.

"There's one notable thing about him. He likes to keep beasts as pets."

"Fifi is so adorable as compared to Mommy's fierce pet eagle!"

"Mommy even has a leopard!"

"Mommy is very, very awesome."

"This is Mommy. It's Mommy."

"This is a photo of Mommy. Aunt Charlotte, can you give it to me?"

As those memories flashed across her mind, Charlotte's heart began to race. The next moment, she went back to the triplet's room with Robbie in tow.

Just as she was about to knock on the door, she heard the children chatting inside.

"Alpha, Beta, I saw Mommy just now."

"Huh? Really? Where is she?"

"Quick, take us to her."

"Mommy isn't here. I just saw a photo of her."

"Photo?"

"Yes, Aunt Charlotte has it. I wanted her to give it to me, but she refused."

"In that case, let's go and see her."

At that point, Charlotte pushed the door open hurriedly.

"Ah!"

The triplets were sitting on their beds, talking while holding their small nightlights. When the door suddenly opened, it gave them a fright. Only when they saw Charlotte did they calm down.

"Aunt Charlotte, you scared us!"

"Alpha, Beta, Gamma, come over and take another look. Is this really your mommy?"

After switching on the light, Charlotte showed the children the photo.

"Yes, that's Mommy!"

"It's Mommy!"

"No, that's Mommy when she was younger. Mommy now has long hair."

"No matter what, it's still Mommy!"

"Is this really your mommy?" Stunned, Robbie questioned anxiously, "Is your mommy a doctor?"

"Yes, many people seek out Mommy for treatment," the three children replied earnestly. "Is Uncle Zachary sick? Aunt Charlotte, who don't you get Mommy to treat him?"

Overcome by emotion, Charlotte called out, "Wait, let me get this straight!"

She could not believe that the Francesco she had been looking so hard for was a woman, let alone the fact that she was her future cousin-in-law.

Could this be a mistake? Do I have the wrong photo? Or maybe, the kids got it wrong. No matter what, I can't verify this solely based on the words of three two-and-a-half-year-old kids.

"Kids, let me ask you. What is your mommy's name?" Robbie questioned further in disbelief.

"Grandma calls her Francesca."

"Grandpa calls her Francesca too."

"Daddy likes to call her a bad woman!" Gamma hissed through her teeth, mimicking Danrique.

"Francesca!" Stupefied, Charlotte asked for a confirmation. "Could it be that your mommy is really Francesco?"

"Yeap, some people address her that way." Alpha nodded earnestly. "However, Grandpa and Grandma call her Francesca."

Even though Charlotte was thoroughly convinced, she still found it unbelievable. Hence, she called Hayley right away.

The ringing tone rang for a long while before Hayley's befuddled voice sounded. "Charlotte, what is it?" It was apparent she had been sleeping when Charlotte called.

"Hayley, I have a question for you. Is Francesco male or female?" Charlotte asked anxiously.

"Uh..." Hayley took a long time to become clear-headed enough to respond. "Charlotte, why are you asking me this all of a sudden? Can it be that he isn't a guy? Dr. Felch used to refer to him as the rascal—"

"Is there any way to verify this?" Charlotte asked anxiously.

"Yes, the old lady who lives near the village entrance has seen him before. I'll ask her first thing in the morning."

"Please update me once you hear something."

"Okay."

After ending the call and settling the children, Charlotte went to see Ben at once. "Ben, sharpen this photo and publicly post our search on the internet."

"What? The internet?"

"Yes, only by doing so would she be able to see it and come to us voluntarily."

“Understood, I’m on it now.”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1449

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1449 Luring Her Out

That night, Charlotte could not sleep at all, eagerly awaiting Hayley's reply. At the same time, she was also hoping to hear from Ben.

As of that moment, she was certain that Francesco was Alpha, Beta, and Gamma's mother.

Moreover, Francesco would likely be by Danrique's side.

Considering the situation at hand, finding Danrique and Francesco was an impossible task.

Therefore, she had no other choice but to lure Francesco out with this method.

During breakfast at six-thirty in the morning, Hayley called. "Charlotte, I went to see the old lady, and she confirmed that Francesco is a girl! Also, she told me that Dr. Felch found Francesco at the foot of the mountain when she was three. He raised her as a boy and often called her a cheeky rascal. Therefore—"

"What's her name?" Charlotte interjected.

"Dr. Felch named her Francesca Felch. Later on, she changed it to Francesco."

It all became clear to Charlotte. "I understand. Thank you, Hayley."

Upon ending the call, she could no longer contain her excitement. By then, she was completely certain that Francesco was her future cousin-in-law.

Back when Francesco treated her, she was unconscious most of the time. Every time she saw Francesco, her face was covered, so she never knew what she looked like.

All this while, I've assumed that Francesco is a short and thin man. Never did I expect Francesco to be a woman... After everything we've done, I can't believe we got the wrong gender in the first place. No wonder we couldn't find her at all.

"Ms. Lindberg, I've already posted the notice, so people from all over the world should be looking for her now..." Ben sounded apprehensive. "By doing so, would we be causing Mr. Lindberg trouble? Would his enemies find him because of this?"

"So be it," Charlotte responded.

"Huh?" That reply left him flabbergasted as he had no idea what she was up to.

"If they do find him, the Nacht family will fight by the Lindberg family's side," she declared. "I'm confident that Danrique's enemies are no match for the combined strength of the Nacht and Lindberg families."

"That's true." When the realization finally struck Ben, he exclaimed, "Ms. Lindberg, you're brilliant!"

Instead of being overcautious like a coward, Charlotte figured it was better to search for them openly. In the event that they did attract the attention of Danrique's enemies, the Nachts would fight against them, along with the Lindbergs.

With both families united, they would be invincible.

Regardless of how powerful their enemies were, they had nothing to fear.

"However, I have yet to discuss this with Zachary." Charlotte was unsettled by the idea still. "Will he be angry?"

"He won't. As of now, you're in charge of the Nacht family," Ben reassured her with a smile. "We will do anything you say."

As long as Zachary could be cured, they were willing to do whatever it took.

Furthermore, they could use the opportunity to resolve the animosity between the two families. Looking at that matter from that viewpoint, it was a wonderful plan.

"You have to monitor it closely. Let me know right away once you hear something," Charlotte instructed. "Also, pay particular attention to the triplets. Watch for any stranger who attempts to approach them."

"Are you saying that Francesco would come and see the children because she's worried about them?" Ben quickly grasped her plan.

"Yes," she replied while nodding.

A second later, she added, "She must be in hiding because she's worried about burdening Danrique. But once she sees the news, I doubt she would be able to hold herself back. Since I'm searching for her so desperately, they could probably guess that something major must have happened. While Danrique can probably tell that I'm doing it for Zachary's sake, Francesco, as a mother, will surely be worried about her children's safety. Hence, she would come for them regardless of the consequences."

"I understand." Ben was deeply impressed by her. "Ms. Lindberg, this tactic of yours is amazing!"

Charlotte sighed and said, "Now, all we need to do is wait. I hope she shows up as soon as possible, as we are running out of time."

"What if..." He pondered for a moment and asked cautiously, "What if she doesn't come over?"

"Don't worry, I have a backup plan," she declared confidently. "Robbie has been investigating their whereabouts the whole time. As long as Francesco gets in touch with us, he will be able to pinpoint her location."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1450

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1450 Time Would Not Stop

"That's wonderful!" Ben exclaimed. "Ms. Lindberg, you are always two steps ahead of us."

Looking at Zachary, who was lying in bed, Charlotte proclaimed, "In the past, he has always fought alone. But this time, I will stand by his side and face this with him!"

"We're lucky to have you here," Ben remarked gratefully. "Mr. Nacht has a keen eye indeed!"

"That goes without saying." His flatter made her chuckle. "All right now, you should get to work while I stay with him."

"Roger."

Charlotte, who had not slept for a night, could finally take a breather since her plan was already in motion.

After taking a shower and changing into her pajamas, she returned to the bedroom and found that Zachary was still in deep slumber.

Lifting the sheets, she carefully lay down beside him. Although she was worried about waking him up, she still could not resist the urge to touch his handsome face.

Then, she leaned closer, kissed him on his cheek, and whispered, "I will definitely save you. There's no doubt about it."

As if he heard her words, Zachary moved slightly.

Putting her arms around him, she gradually fell asleep.

Due to exhaustion, she slept so soundly that she did not even notice when Zachary was awake.

Having woken up from a nightmare, Zachary was drenched in sweat. Instinctively, he looked to his side. Only when he saw Charlotte snuggling up to him did he finally calm down.

A moment ago, he dreamt that he was in a place that was enveloped in darkness. There, he searched for a ray of light or even a path to escape. Unfortunately, he found neither.

As he continued to walk forward aimlessly, he noticed that he was standing by the edge of a precipice. Any misstep would cause him to fall into the abyss.

Stopping in his tracks frantically, he dared not take another step. However, he had no idea where else to go either.

Suddenly, a ray of light emerged from behind him. Just when he turned around to walk toward it, he felt a pair of hands pushing him, causing him to fall into the abyss.

The excruciating pain he experienced from having all his bones shattered felt so real. It was as if he was not dreaming.

Therefore, the moment he awoke, his eyes were filled with terror. Luckily, when he saw Charlotte beside him, he slowly recollected himself.

With her by his side, he feared nothing.

Putting his arm around her shoulder, he gently pulled her close. Then, he leaned forward to kiss her forehead. When he caught a whiff of her refreshing scent, all he felt was bliss.

At that instant, he truly hoped that time would slow down.

Unfortunately, time would not stop.

Just like that, the days went by one by one.

Francesco did not appear, neither did she contact Charlotte.

When the global search notice was issued, it caused an uproar on the internet. Many came forward to provide information. Unfortunately, there was still no progress at all.

Ben and the others grew increasingly anxious while Robbie was ready at all times. The moment Francesco showed herself, he would pinpoint her location at once.

Much to their disappointment, three days passed without a word from her.

Consequently, everyone felt disheartened to the extent that they doubted themselves, wondering if they had gotten something wrong.

As for Zachary, his condition had improved a lot. Therefore, he went to the office every day and held meetings with the company's upper management. He would also entrust Johann and Spencer with a myriad of matters.

After all, he no longer held out any hope that he would ever recover. All he wanted to do was to make all the necessary arrangements in his remaining days so that Charlotte would inherit a company that was on a firm footing.

At the same time, his urgency for organizing the wedding increased. At the very least, he wanted to give Charlotte a proper wedding before his passing.

On that day, Lucy came forward to remind Zachary. "Mr. Nacht, Gold Group is holding a banquet tonight to celebrate the launch of their project. Ms. Gold called just now and wanted to know if you're attending."

Zachary had almost forgotten about the matter and only remembered when Lucy asked him about it. Nodding, he replied, "Yes, have you prepared the gift I told you to?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1451

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1451 Joyous News

"It's ready." Lucy handed an exquisite-looking box to Zachary.

"Good, go make the necessary arrangements now," he ordered.

"Yes, Mr. Nacht."

After she left, Zachary opened the box. Staring at the documents inside, he fell into deep thought.

Despite being fully cognizant that he was making a risky move, he was still willing to gamble.

Ring! Ring!

At that moment, his phone suddenly rang. It was Nancy.

Zachary picked up at once. "Hello?"

"Mr. Nacht, I'll be seeing you tonight."

Although her voice sounded distant compared to before, there was a hint of unmistakable anticipation to it.

Ever since Zachary spoke with her frankly, she had stopped bothering him.

At the end of the day, she was a highly educated and cultured lady of a prominent family. No matter how deeply she loved Zachary, she would not cling to him out of desperation.

She was well aware that clinging onto someone like Zachary would only breed resentment within him.

As a result, she chose to give up on courting him. Even if she had to be tortured by her unrequited love every single night, it was better than having him loathe her.

Although they could not be together, she still wanted him to have a good impression of her.

Perhaps, she might still stand a chance in the future.

"See you tonight too," Zachary replied.

After ending the call, he continued to work.

While he was occupying himself with the documents, he heard the doorbell ring. However, that person did not announce their identity.

Glancing at the security camera live feed on the computer beside him, he was taken by surprise. After using the voice command to open the door, he stood up to welcome his guest. "Why did you come over?"

"Hubby!" Charlotte entered with a smile while holding two lunch boxes in her hands. "Are you hungry? I made you lunch. Come try it quickly."

"How sweet of you!" Zachary watched as she took out the compartments of the lunch boxes one by one. When he saw the scrumptious spread, an alluring smile appeared on his face. "These are all my favorites."

"I spent the whole morning preparing them." Charlotte handed him his cutlery. "Go on. Try them."

"All right." After trying every dish, he nodded with a grin. "You have improved!"

"Haha, that's because I have been cooking for the last few days." With her chin propped in the palm of her hand, she felt herself swelling with bliss from

watching him eat. "The kids requested to have meat fondue last night, so we'll be having that for dinner. I've instructed Mrs. Rawlston to prepare the ingredients."

"I'll be attending a banquet tonight," Zachary casually remarked. "So, I might be home late."

"What banquet?" Charlotte furrowed her eyebrows.

Recently, she had been worried about Zachary coming to the office. Every day, she would remind Ben to keep a close eye on him in case something untoward happened.

Even bringing him lunch was an excuse for her to check on him.

Hence, she wondered why he insisted on going to a banquet.

"It's organized by the Gold family," Zachary answered candidly. "Prior to this, Nancy has helped me. In return, I promised her that I would attend the banquet. Considering that they delayed the banquet on my account, it would be rude for me to miss it."

Despite feeling upset, Charlotte found his explanation to be reasonable. Hence, she did not voice her dissatisfaction. "Fine. Go ahead if that's what you want."

"Are you jealous?" Zachary's eyes turned to crescents as he beamed at her.

"No." She gave him the side-eye and threatened, "You'd better come home early. Or else, I'm not going to let you into our room."

"Haha, all right." Zachary chortled. "I'm going there to return their favor, so I'll come home after I give them the gift."

"Be home before nine," Charlotte ordered. "Remember!"

"I know." He stroked her face affectionately before feeding her some food. "You should have some too."

When they were done with lunch, Zachary brought Charlotte to attend the board meeting. There, he officially introduced her to everyone and announced that they would be getting married the following Monday.

The company's upper management was delighted by the news. Over the last few weeks, they had seen Zachary's condition gradually deteriorate and were worried that he would collapse at any time.

Hence, they were happy for him when they learned about the sudden joyous news.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1452

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1452 The First Dance

Even Charlotte was surprised. She was aware that Zachary was planning the wedding, but the date had yet to be decided. Therefore, she did not expect him to announce it at the board meeting.

We will be married next Monday, which is the seventeenth!

To her, it felt like a dream that was too good to be true.

After the meeting ended, Zachary escorted Charlotte downstairs. In the elevator, he hugged her and whispered, "Get some rest when you're home. Don't overwork yourself in the kitchen."

"I know." She returned the embrace. "I'll be waiting for you to come home."

"Don't worry. You won't lose your husband." Zachary kissed her on her forehead. "Be a good girl now."

After Charlotte got into the car, Zachary stood at the entrance and waved at her with a smile. She, too, waved back at him.

Even when the car drove off, she looked at him in the rearview mirror, feeling reluctant to part with him.

For some reason, she felt apprehensive that something terrible would happen to him, even though he was just attending a banquet.

Holding that thought, she gave Ben a call. "Ben, you have to be extra vigilant during tonight's banquet. Nothing can happen to him."

"Don't worry. I've got this," Ben answered softly. "Now that we are in a crucial period, we will all be extra careful."

"That's good." Charlotte sighed in relief. "The main reason Zachary is attending the banquet is to return his favor to Nancy. Once he has given her the present, he should return home without delay."

"Understood."

After ending the call, Ben began to gather his men. Although Zachary would only be attending the banquet for a short while, Ben still decided to bring more than ten bodyguards along.

With that, he was certain that he had all bases covered.

In the evening, Zachary arrived at South Sea Hotel as scheduled.

Ben was surprised that Nancy chose to hold the banquet at the Brown family's hotel, where Zachary was hurt by the vase the last time.

As the owner of the hotel, Michael was also invited to the banquet at the very last minute.

"Ms. Gold sure is impressive," Ben praised in a low voice. "In just a few days, the Gold and Brown families have grown closer to each other. It looks like they're about to form a partnership."

"An excellent business person knows how to seize every opportunity available."

Zachary let out a faint smile.

Nancy is as shrewd as ever. Considering that the Brown family is growing in influence, they are a much better partner than the declining Laurent family.

"All right. Ms. Gold is a shrewd businesswoman indeed," Ben concurred.

"Mr. Nacht!"

At that moment, Nancy sauntered over with an amiable expression on her face.

It had been a while since they last met, and it seemed like she had lost some weight.

That evening, she was clad in a white mermaid dress that accentuated her curvaceous figure. Combined with her stunning features, she looked dignified and mesmerizing at the same time.

"Ms. Gold, congratulations!" Zachary shook hands with her in a polite yet distant manner.

"I thought you wouldn't be coming tonight." The look Nancy gave him was as affectionate as always. "I'm happy that I can still meet you."

Her remark made him chuckle. "You're making it sound like I'll no longer be alive tomorrow."

"No, no, no. I'm not that doctor," she frantically explained. "What I meant was... I still thought you hated me. That's why—"

"I owe you one, Ms. Gold, so how could I resent you?" Zachary interrupted before presenting her the gift in a chivalrous manner. "I wish you success in your first domestic project!"

"Thank you." Nancy received the gift as if it was a priceless treasure. "Can I open it?"

"Of course." He nodded with a smile.

Just when she was about to open the box, the spotlight suddenly shone on both of them.

On the heels of that, music started playing while the host spoke in Ustranasion. "Ladies and gentlemen, let's invite two of our guests of honor to lead the first dance!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1453

/ [Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo](#)
Chapter 1453 I Can Help You

Despite being caught by surprise, Nancy looked at Zachary with anticipation.

As a gentleman, the latter offered his hand to her.

Nancy gladly took it and put her arm around his waist.

Holding each other intimately, they waltzed to the romantic music.

As for the crowd, they made way for the beautiful pair to have the dance floor to themselves.

Meanwhile, Ben furrowed his eyebrows as he watched them. Mr. Nacht is physically weak now, so he's already drained from working in the office every day. How could she still make him dance...

"How is Mr. Nacht's recovery coming along?"

At that moment, a charming voice rang out from behind him.

Ben turned around and responded to the man cordially, "Mr. Brown, Mr. Nacht is recovering well."

"That's good." With an apologetic tone, Michael added, "I noticed that he doesn't look too good, so I thought he hasn't fully recovered."

"Mr. Brown, weren't you supposed to have returned to M Nation?" Ben asked.

"I was supposed to leave yesterday. However, I received Ms. Gold's invitation at the very last minute, so I decided to stay for a couple more days." As he spoke,

Michael scanned the crowd as if he was looking for someone. "Did Charlotte not attend the banquet tonight?"

"Ms. Lindberg's wedding is just around the corner, so she's staying at home."

Knowing that Michael still had feelings for Charlotte, Ben deliberately revealed the wedding. After all, it would be announced to the world very soon.

"Wedding?" Just as expected, Michael was shocked. "With who?"

"With Mr. Nacht, of course," Ben replied with a grin. "Who else could it be?"

Knitting his brows, Michael did not respond. Instead, he stepped aside and took out his phone to send a message.

Ben knew that the message must be directed to Charlotte.

On the dance floor, the music continued playing.

While Zachary and Nancy danced, the guests surrounded and watched them with muted delight.

Staring longingly at the man, Nancy let out a gentle smile.

Suddenly, Zachary voiced, "There's a rumor going around recently. Word has it that your elder sister is fighting you for the position as the heir."

"Erm..." After being briefly stunned for a moment, she hastened to reply, "Mr. Nacht, where did you hear that from?"

"I have my ways." He stared intently at her. "It seems like the rumor is true."

At his words, panic washed over Nancy. Nonetheless, she regained her composure quickly. "It's inevitable for a prominent family like ours to have a competition for power. Since my father is advanced in age, he's prepared to hand the reins to me. My sister does have some objections, but it's not going to pose a problem."

"Is that so?" Zachary smirked. "If it isn't a problem, why isn't your father here tonight?"

"I..." His remark unsettled Nancy. She would have easily countered that comment if it were anyone else. However, Zachary's eyes were as sharp as an eagle's, causing her to feel bare before him.

"Ms. Gold, you've saved my life. Therefore, if you need my help, ask away, and I will do so without hesitation," he said thoughtfully.

"Hmm?" Nancy was caught by surprise. "If my memory serves me right, you never like to interfere in the affairs of others."

"That's right." Zachary nodded. "That's why I want something equivalent in return."

"What do you mean?" Although she was taken aback for a moment, she composed herself quickly. "Why don't we discuss this at the lounge?"

"Sure."

Before the music was over, Nancy held Zachary's arm as both of them headed to the lounge.

While the guests made way for them and watched them leave, they speculated behind their backs in hushed voices.

"It seems that there's more to Mr. Nacht and Ms. Gold's relationship than meets the eye."

"That's right. Mr. Nacht never liked attending banquets such as this. And yet, he has made an exception for Ms. Gold. It seems that there's something going on between them."

"Precisely. Mr. Nacht has been cooped up at home for most of the year, so I was surprised that he attended tonight's banquet."

"Are they in a relationship?"

"Maybe. After all, they look like a match made in heaven."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1454

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1454 I Want To Be Your Woman

When Ben heard the gossip, he began to worry and quickly followed them.

At the same time, Charlotte, who was on the phone with Michael, heard the comments over the line too.

"Charlotte, ignore them. They must have gotten the wrong idea," Michael quickly assured her. "All Mr. Nacht did was dance with her, nothing more—"

"Where is he?" she asked.

"It seems they have gone to the lounge... Hello? Hello? Charlotte?"

Before Michael could finish his sentence, Charlotte had ended the call. With her phone in hand, she rushed out of the house. "Prepare the car!"

"Ms. Lindberg, what's wrong?"

At that moment, Lupine and Morgan were going downstairs with the children.

"I'm on it."

Reacting swiftly, Lupine ordered the car key to be brought to her as she followed after Charlotte.

With that, both of them got into the car and sped toward South Sea Hotel.

When Lupine saw the look on Charlotte's face, she comforted softly, "Ms. Lindberg, please calm down. I believe that there's nothing going on between Mr. Nacht and Ms. Gold. After all, his body—"

"Of course, I know there's nothing going on between them," Charlotte snapped. "I'm just worried that it's a trap. With his current condition, even a minor injury can be fatal."

"That's true." Lupine nodded, then grumbled, "What's Ben doing? Why isn't he keeping a close eye on Mr. Nacht?"

"It's not his fault." Thinking about it alone was enough to blow Charlotte's fuse. "If anyone is to blame, it's Zachary. Despite knowing how weak he is, he still insists on dancing with Nancy!"

"Please calm down, Ms. Lindberg." Lupine hastened to pacify her. "I'll drive faster so that we can arrive there sooner."

"Not too fast. Your gunshot wound has yet to recover fully." Charlotte sighed. "Men... they always make us worry!"

"Exactly!"

At the same time, in the lounge at South Sea Hotel, Nancy poured a cup of coffee for Zachary and gently suggested, "Mr. Nacht, there are no outsiders here. You can speak freely."

"I'll get to the point." After scanning the room and making sure it was safe, he proposed, "I would like to make a deal with you."

"What kind of deal?"

Given that important negotiations were going on in the room, Ben, Cain, and the Gold family's bodyguards guarded the entrance closely. No stranger was allowed near the lounge.

The security was so tight that it seemed nearly impossible for any accident to happen.

In spite of that, Zachary noticed that Nancy was out of sorts after he was done telling her his proposal.

Her face was flushed, and she seemed dazed. With her lips slightly parted, she kept fanning herself with her hand.

Furrowing his eyebrows, he asked, "Are you all right?"

"It's hot in here..." Nancy kept leaning toward him. "Mr. Nacht, what did you say just now? I didn't hear it properly..."

"You don't look fine." Zachary kept his distance from her by scooting to the side. "Forget it; let's talk another day."

Just as he stood up to leave, Nancy pounced on him. As she wrapped her limbs around his body, her face came close to his.

"Mr. Nacht, don't leave."

"Ms. Gold, what are you doing?"

Zachary attempted to push her away, but she grabbed his wrists and pinned him down on the sofa. Brushing her cherry lips across his cheek, she purred in his ear, "I want to be your woman."

"F*ck, are you drugged?"

Realizing the problem, Zachary tried to push her away. However, he quickly noticed that his body was falling limp.

Instantly, he looked at the cup of coffee on the table. Could it be...

"Mr. Nacht..." Nancy clung tightly to him, unwilling to let go. "Don't go... Don't leave me."

As she spoke, she tried to kiss him, but Zachary managed to dodge it and mustered the strength to push her way. The moment he rose to his feet to leave the room, his head spun, causing him to collapse onto the sofa.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1455

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1455 Counterattack

"Mr. Nacht, Mr. Nacht..."

Shocked, Nancy kept shaking Zachary's body. Unbeknownst to her, a figure stepped out from the closet and approached her from behind.

Sensing the murderous intent, Nancy turned around reflexively. Unfortunately, she was knocked unconscious by a club before she could get a good look at the person.

The perpetrator was dressed as one of the hotel waitstaff and was wearing a baseball cap. Holding a sharp dagger in her hand, the person kicked Nancy aside before bearing down on Zachary.

"Zachary, you will pay for what you and Charlotte have done to me. It's a shame that she isn't here today. Nevertheless, I will kill you first before exacting my revenge on her!"

While speaking, she raised the dagger, prepared to stab him with it.

Suddenly, the door burst open with a bang. Following that, a dart flew into the room, which struck her wrist.

"Argh!" Screaming in agony, the assailant dropped the dagger.

Zachary, who was lying on the sofa, opened his eyes at that moment. After kicking her, he roared, "Helena, it really is you!"

With the doors open, Ben barged in with his subordinates. Behind him were the Gold family's bodyguards and a shocked Michael.

"W-What's going on?" Michael stared at the assailant in bewilderment. "Helena, what are you doing?"

Before Helena could answer, Ben had seized her and grabbed the dagger away.

Pinning her on the ground, he bellowed, "I knew you were the one who threw the vase the last time, but I didn't have any evidence. This time around, I've finally caught you red-handed!"

"Zachary, so you've set up a trap to lure me in," Helena hissed. "You were lucky that I didn't kill you the last time!"

"Shut up." Ben stepped on her to keep her down. "You're in the face of death, yet you can't stop talking."

"I dare you to kill me!" Helena screamed as she tried to struggle free. "Even if I'm arrested, I would only be locked up for a few days, at most. Michael will bail me out."

"Helena..." Michael was almost driven mad by rage. "So you were the one who threw the vase? Why did you do that?"

Helena sneered. "Why? Charlotte and Zachary destroyed my life and caused me to lose everything. And yet, you ask me why? I was imprisoned for twenty-eight months. Do you know how I lived through those days? Also, I was three months pregnant when that b*stard stabbed me. Because of that, I can no longer bear children! And all this is Charlotte's fault! If not for her, that b*stard wouldn't have survived, let alone murder me. Moreover, if Zachary hadn't targeted our family, Hector and I wouldn't have ended up this way."

"Since both of them are my mortal enemies, there's no way I can watch them live in peace. I'm going to drag them down to hell with me even if it's the last thing I do!" she roared like a madwoman.

With a vicious expression and venomous gaze, she looked like a beast that had gone berserk.

"Helena, everyone has to suffer the consequences of their own actions. You have to be held accountable for your crimes according to the law, so stop being obdurate."

Michael walked into the room and knelt in front of her. "Listen to me. Apologize to Mr. Nacht and return to M Nation with me," he persuaded anxiously.

"I don't want to go back there. If I do, I will lose the opportunity to have my revenge," Helena thundered in reply. "Once we're back there, you and your dad will lock me up and force me to receive psychiatric treatment. There, I won't be able to find Hector nor exact my revenge. My life would be meaningless!"

"Helena..."

"Mr. Brown," Zachary said coldly, "you're just wasting your time. She has committed too many crimes, so there's no way she can be forgiven."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1456

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1456 A Successful Plan

Michael pleaded, "Mr. Nacht, I know Helena is guilty, but she didn't do any real damage this time. I beg you to let her go this one time. I swear that I will take her back to M Nation, and she will never set foot in H City ever again."

"No real damage?" The word struck a nerve with Ben. "Do you know that vase almost—"

"I know, I know." Michael sounded apologetic. "Mr. Nacht is a distinguished person, and if anything were to happen to him, it would set off a chain reaction. I'm sure his injury must have caused a massive impact. Therefore, the Brown family will bear responsibility for all of the consequences. All I ask of you is to let Helena go this one time."

"Bear responsibility? Can you even afford it?"

Ben was livid. Nonetheless, he understood that Michael assumed Zachary's injury from being hit by the vase was nothing serious. Since the wound had healed, Michael must have believed that the issue could be solved without the cost of Helena's life.

Little did he know that the vase almost took Zachary's life.

If not for the wound, they would have a lot more time to locate Francesco, and Zachary's life would not be hanging by a thread.

"Mr. Nacht, I—"

"Ms. Gold!"

At that moment, Nancy had regained her consciousness. Rubbing her head, she settled down on the sofa. When she saw the situation before her, she quickly understood what had transpired. "It looks like the plan worked. We finally caught the perpetrator."

"Thank you for helping me with the act." Zachary took off his jacket and draped it over her. "You should leave now; I'll take care of the rest."

"All right." Wearing his jacket, she stood up with the help of her subordinate. After giving Helena a cold hard glance, she suggested to Zachary, "This person has attacked you, knocked me unconscious, and even conspired to harm us. You can't let her off lightly."

"Don't worry," he acknowledged.

When Nancy walked past Michael on her way out, her eyes met with his dark ones, and she stopped in her tracks and remarked, "Mr. Brown, don't hold it against me. All I wanted to do was to lure the perpetrator out."

"Is that why you approached me and organized the banquet at my hotel?" He glared at her. "You used me!"

"As if you aren't in the wrong for helping a criminal." Nancy raised her chin. With a righteous tone, she said, "If I hadn't cooperated with Mr. Nacht to put on this show, we wouldn't have caught the mastermind. Who knows what devastating consequences could have awaited us in the future."

"You..." Despite his outrage, Michael still had his reason. "It's not wrong for you to lure the mastermind out, but why can't you let me know in advance? I wouldn't protect her if I knew the truth."

She did not believe him. "That's hard to say. Everyone has a selfish side to them."

"You..." Michael was rendered speechless by her retort.

"Nevertheless, I would like to apologize for lying to you." Inclining her head, Nancy apologized, "I'm sorry, and I hope we can still be friends."

With that, she left the room.

Coincidentally, Charlotte had just arrived with Lupine. When she saw Nancy coming out from the lounge with Zachary's jacket draped around her, her face darkened.

Nonetheless, she maintained her composure and asked calmly, "Where's Zachary?"

"Inside," Nancy responded coldly and left right away.

Although she had given up on Zachary, it did not mean that she could be friendly to Charlotte.

"Stand right there!" Lupine blocked her way.

"What do you think you're doing?" Nancy raised an eyebrow.

"Who knows if you have done anything to Mr. Nacht?" Lupine snapped. "Before we get to the bottom of this, you're not allowed to leave."

"What a joke! I insist on leaving, so what are you going to do about it?"

Right after Nancy spoke, the Gold family's bodyguards prepared to strike Lupine.

"Don't you dare lay a finger on her!" Charlotte stepped forward to shield Lupine.

While both sides refused to back down, Cain came out of the room. "Ms. Lindberg."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1457

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1457 Does Not Deserve To Be Forgiven

"Cain, where's Mr. Nacht?" Charlotte asked anxiously.

At that moment, a familiar figure stepped out. "I'm here."

"You..." Upon seeing how unkempt he looked, she knitted her eyebrows. Not only did he not have his jacket on, but the collar of his white shirt was open with two buttons missing.

"Why are you here?" Zachary walked toward her.

"Explain to me. What is going on?"

Just as she was about to flare up, Michael showed up and pleaded, "Charlotte, please help me persuade Mr. Nacht."

"Michael, why are you here?"

His appearance caught her off guard. However, she soon understood that there was more than met the eye. At once, she gave Lupine a look.

Only then did Lupine step aside, no longer blocking Nancy's way.

"Now that everyone is here, it's time to clear the air," Nancy remarked. Displeased with Charlotte's earlier actions, she turned to face her and snapped, "Ms. Lindberg, next time, please get a clearer picture of the situation before jumping to conclusions."

With that, she left in large strides.

Barely grasping what was going on, Charlotte was pulled by Zachary into the private room. Just when she was about to question him, she was shocked by the scene that greeted her.

Ben was restraining someone who was dressed in a strange outfit. The person kept struggling and hurling vulgarities at both her and Zachary.

When Charlotte got a closer look, she exclaimed in shock, "Helena?"

"She was the one who threw the vase..."

Only after Zachary explained the situation briefly did she catch on. "I was wondering why the banquet was held at this hotel. As it turned out, you were trying to lure the culprit out."

"It seems that we've accused Ms. Gold wrongly," Lupine admitted awkwardly.

"I was the one who sought her help to put up this act," Zachary explained. "My main objective is to remove all the threats and obstacles that would hinder you in the future."

He had said those words in a nonchalant manner, but it made Charlotte's heart ache.

He wants to solve all the problems for me with whatever time he has left so that my life would be smooth sailing from here on.

"Charlotte, I'm going to kill you. I'm going to kill you!"

Helena was still raging at them. Nonetheless, after being pinned on the ground by Ben's foot for such a long time, she no longer had any residual strength to struggle. All she could do was hurl insults incessantly.

"Helena, you are beyond salvation."

Looking at Helena, Charlotte was reminded of her past misdeeds and found herself being engulfed by sorrow and hatred.

"Back then, you plotted against Luna for your own selfish gains. Despite being punished by the law, you're still blaming me for everything. To make matters worse, you even planned on harming me too. Even death would be too good of an ending for you!"

"Ms. Lindberg, we have collected all the evidence of her wrongdoings and are prepared to hand them over to the police," Ben reported indignantly. "This time, no strings can be pulled. She can never be bailed out and will rot in prison for the rest of her life."

"No, please," Michael begged. "Charlotte, I know what Helena did was wrong, and I apologize to all of you on her behalf. Just now, I told Mr. Nacht that as long as you agree, I'll bring her back to M Nation and never let her set foot in H City again. No matter what, she did not cause any significant harm this time around. Hence, I hope you can forgive her for my sake."

"What do you mean by no significant harm?" Charlotte thundered. "Do you know she caused my husband—"

However, she held her tongue at mid-sentence because Zachary's condition could not be revealed to outsiders.

Michael continued to plead, "Charlotte, please let her go this one time on account of our friendship. I know that you are all angry because Mr. Nacht was hurt, but his injury has almost recovered. I can punish her in other ways or compensate you—"

"Enough, Michael," Charlotte interrupted him. "If you still think of me as a friend, stop begging for mercy on her behalf. She has lost her reason. A vile and heartless person like her does not deserve to be forgiven."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1458

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1458 What Goes Around Comes Around

Michael could not wrap his head around Charlotte's stance. "I can understand why Zachary vows to seek Helena out for payback. After all, he's not a man to be trifled with. But I can't fathom why you're so adamant as well. You were willing to forgive Luna and even lent her a hand previously, so why are you being hard-hearted toward Helena?"

He then added sorrowfully, "Do you know that she's suffering from severe depression? If she ends up in prison again, she won't be able to survive."

"She only has herself to blame for that! What goes around comes around!" Charlotte snapped, overcome by her hatred toward Helena.

She could not care less about his feelings.

Dumbfounded by her words, Michael stared at her in incredulity. With an aching heart, he said, "Charlotte, you've changed so much..."

Indeed, in his eyes, she was a forgiving person who could pardon everything.

Regardless of how Luna had placed her in hot water, she still gave her and her family a hand when they were in trouble. Even after Zachary had broken her heart numerous times, she was still willing to forgive him and even got back together with him! So why can't she forgive Helena? After all, Helena hasn't inflicted any harm on her so far. Undeniably, she has borne malice in the vase incident, but she did not do her wrong. Why must she insist on having her jailed?

"Michael, it doesn't matter if you can't get my point now. You'll understand it one day." Charlotte was determined to pay Helena back in her own coin.

The next moment, she instructed firmly, "Take her away!"

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg." Ben nodded and assigned his subordinates to take Helena away.

"Let go of me! Charlotte Windt! Zachary Nacht! Both of you'll surely die a horrible death for doing this to me!" Helena roared hysterically, still struggling to break free.

"Shut up!" Infuriated, Charlotte moved forward and slapped her on the face.

That slap sent Helena into a frenzy. She lunged toward Charlotte maniacally as if she was a ferocious beast pouncing on its prey, but Zachary kicked her aside.

Consequently, she fell and sprawled on the ground. Soon, blood trickled down the corner of her lips.

"Helena!" Michael dashed toward her to help her up before bellowing at Charlotte and Zachary, "That's too much!"

"Take her away!" Zachary instructed coldly, paying no heed to him.

Cain and the other subordinates stepped forward at once to bring Helena away. Michael wanted to stop them, but Ben stood in his way. "Mr. Brown, you should be thankful that we're handing her over to the police instead of taking matters into our own hands."

Michael rebuked, "Even if Helena did bear malice, she did not commit a grave mistake. With that, I'm sure she'll not be charged with a serious offense. I bet you must be thinking of exacerbating her situation with the prominence of the Nacht family! Am I right?"

Ben sneered. "Pfft! Didn't you have her prison sentence reduced by making use of the Brown family's influence years ago? Surprisingly, she was only sentenced to imprisonment for two years after committing such a heinous deed. Wasn't your family the one manipulating everything at that time, huh?"

"You..." Michael was at a loss for words.

Charlotte furrowed her brows and tried to talk him out of backing Helena up. "Michael, heed my words. Helena can't be left at large, for she's thoroughly wicked. Even though she's your cousin, you should be impartial."

"Thanks for your reminder!" Michael responded frigidly and stormed off.

Looking at his retreating figure, Charlotte was in anguish. Even though she knew he would be harboring a grudge against her because of Helena, she had no choice.

That woman's indeed a scourge! We must get rid of her so that others won't fall victim to her ruthlessness again!

Utterly exhausted from the commotion, Zachary was eager to leave.

"Come, let's go home," he said as he put his arm around Charlotte's shoulders.

Holding a jacket, Ben caught up to them and put it on him.

When they left through the back door and were about to enter the car, Nancy darted toward them and called out, "Mr. Nacht!"

Zachary halted in his steps and turned back to look at her. "Ms. Gold, thank you for your help tonight!"

She smiled at him. "Don't mention it. I've just had a look at your gift. It never crossed my mind that—"

Zachary cut her off by saying meaningfully, "You've saved me, so you deserve it. As for the matter I mentioned earlier, I hope you'll think it through."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1459

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1459 Love Rivals And Allies

A solemn expression surfaced on Nancy's face instantly. "It's a serious matter, so I do need some time to consider. Anyway, I'll give you a reply once I've finalized my decision!"

Zachary shot a glance at the banquet hall. "I hope your banquet isn't affected."

She smiled while shaking her head. "No worries. Since we took care of everything at the back of the hall, the guests are completely oblivious to what had happened moments ago. However, Mr. Brown seems to be enraged."

"Don't be bothered by him," he replied nonchalantly. "I'm glad to hear that you're not affected."

"I have to bear the responsibility for your previous injury as well, so I'm relieved for being able to help you lure out the culprit." Nancy chuckled.

"It has nothing to do with you, so you don't have to feel sorry for that. All right, I'll be making a move first. See you." Zachary flashed her a smile and walked away.

"Goodbye." Nancy remained in the same spot and watched as their car sped off. Her eyes were gleaming with the usual affection toward the man.

Charlotte, staring at Nancy through the rearview mirror, could not help but feel uncomfortable.

"Are you jealous?" Zachary looked at her with a gentle gaze and held her hand.

"You seem to trust Nancy a lot. Why did you take the risk to request her to act out this show with you when you know that she has feelings for you?" she asked quizzically.

"I only wish to eliminate the lurking threats for you as soon as possible. No doubt, I'd still be able to get to the bottom of the matter if I carry on with my investigation, but I'm running out of time." His nonchalance sent another wave of indecipherable mixed emotions into her heart, but she could not utter any words.

"Nancy might be a little crafty, but she's far from wicked. Not to mention, she's sensible and considerate. If you can develop a friendship with her, you'll surely stand to benefit from that!" Zachary added meaningfully.

In a split second, displeasure was written all over Charlotte's face. "Friendship, huh? I'll never develop one with her. You're praising her, aren't you? Do you mean to say that I'm insensible and inconsiderate?"

"Undoubtedly, you tend to be swayed by emotions..." He paused and tried to reassure her by saying, "Don't get me wrong..."

"Hmph!" Charlotte snorted, turning her back to him.

While smiling, Zachary patted her on the shoulder. "Are you angry at me? Don't be petty."

"Since she's better than me, go and look for her then. After all, she hasn't given up on you!" she grumbled, sulking.

"I'm just stating the facts. When it comes to business, you have a lot to learn from her." He smiled again.

"Zachary Nacht!" Charlotte was about to explode with anger.

Wrapping his arms around her, he coaxed her by mumbling gently, "Don't be angry, okay? I'm worried that you won't be able to support the whole family by yourself when I'm gone. That's why I wish to get you a few allies who will help you overcome the obstacles in the future. Do you get it?"

"Stop talking nonsense. You'll be fine. I'll save you by all means!" Charlotte stretched out her hand to cover his mouth instantly, for she did not want to listen to him speak so pessimistically. Anxiousness coursed through her body, causing tears to well up in her eyes.

After kissing her forehead, Zachary pressed her face lightly against his chest. "Silly girl... Trust me. I'll never fall for anyone else. Even if I seem to be close with anyone, it's for your sake."

She nuzzled into his chest, whining coquettishly, "I don't care! You mustn't love anyone else except me!"

Planting kisses on her lips, he shook his head resignedly. "Yes, yes. You still sound like a kid. When will you grow up and be more mature?"

"I don't want to grow up when you're with me," she murmured, hugging his waist and listening to his heartbeat.

Ben, who was at the driver's seat, could feel his eyes turning misty. He was the only one who knew that everything Zachary did was for the sake of Charlotte and their family.

Although Lupine was puzzled, she knew for a fact that Zachary was trying to convince Nancy to be Charlotte's ally.

Even so, she could not see the feasibility of his plan.

After all, the two women were love rivals.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1460

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1460 All Taken Care Of

Likewise, Charlotte could not wrap her mind around Zachary's intentions.

No matter what, I do not wish to cross paths with that woman anymore in the future. It would be best if she could vanish from my sight and never show up again!

Nonetheless, seeing that he was adamant about getting it done, she relented as she did not wish to dispute with him about that matter. Due to his deteriorating condition, everyone complied with his wishes unconditionally.

Time flew by, and two more days had elapsed. Sadly, they were still unable to track down Francesco's whereabouts.

Zachary had made proper arrangements for everything related to the corporation. In the past few days, both Robert and Sherlyn had been meaning to talk things out with him, hoping that he would let Louis off the hook.

After being kicked out of the Gymnasium Project, they had admitted defeat and solely wished to bring their son back to their side.

Ever since Ben seized Louis in Phoenix City, the latter had been held captive for ten days. As Louis had suffered punishments, his mental condition was worrying. Hence, Robert and Sherlyn were apprehensive that he might sustain a mental breakdown if he was confined for any longer.

With snots and tears all over their faces, the couple pleaded with Zachary to grant Louis mercy and let him off.

Even so, Zachary was devoid of expression as they yowled. Half an hour later, he looked at his watch and said placidly, "I need to attend a meeting. Please excuse me."

As he spoke, he stood up to leave.

Heart sinking, Robert went on his knees. In an ever so servile manner, he pleaded, "Zachary, I know what you care about the most. Please accept my sincerest apology and spare my son's life. I swear I will keep a close eye on him and restrain him from pestering Charlotte again."

"We won't let Louis step into H City again. Please let him off. We don't want the money or the project anymore. Our only request is to bring our son back," Sherlyn begged piteously.

Zachary snapped at them coldly, "You should be begging for mercy from someone else, not me."

The couple exchanged looks and knew at once what Zachary meant. Apparently, he was hinting at them to plead with Charlotte.

Ben even gave them another clue, saying that Charlotte was on her way to the office for a meeting with Zachary.

Without hesitation, the couple turned to plead with her upon her arrival, repeating everything they had mentioned to Zachary moments ago.

Charlotte felt guilty for placing Louis in such a predicament. Things would not have turned out that way if she did not agree to his proposal.

Not to mention, Louis had paid the price for his misdeeds. Since Robert and Sherlyn had swallowed their dignity to plead with her, she decided to be merciful and talked Zachary into letting Louis go.

In the presence of Robert and Sherlyn, Zachary agreed to spare Louis, declaring that it was all for Charlotte's sake. On top of that, he advised them to discipline Louis after bringing him home. If not, he would never go easy on him the next time.

After thanking them profusely, the couple picked up their son and left H City as promised.

Still, Ben did not dare to let his guard down and asked Zachary if there was a need to assign someone to keep an eye on them.

However, Zachary was convinced that they would not be able to turn the table on them as the royal family of F Nation was displeased with the Laurents for being kicked out of the Gymnasium Project.

With the royal family oppressing them, the Laurent family would not have the energy to stir up trouble again for a few years, to say the least.

Ben heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing his explanation.

The arrangement for the handover of work within the corporation was completed by then. Zachary even introduced Charlotte to the employees formally so that she could gain everyone's recognition.

Apart from that, with Spencer and Johann at the helm, the corporation would still be in safe hands even if anything untoward were to happen to him. The matters in the Nacht family had also been taken care of.

The only thing left to do at the moment was to locate Francesco as soon as possible.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1461

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Chapter 1461 The Night Before The Wedding

To their dismay, Francesco seemed to have vanished into thin air as there were no signs of her at all.

Charlotte did not obtain any feedback from the global search notice that she assigned Ben to issue.

In other words, everyone had run out of solutions.

As for Zachary, he had given up all hope long ago. The only thing on his mind at the moment was the preparations for the wedding ceremony. He even arranged to retake the wedding photos with the kids during the weekend.

The wedding ceremony was quite different from the previous one, and it would be held at Southridge.

Other than those from the Nacht family and the upper management of the corporation, Zachary did not invite any other influential figures.

That was because he wished that his family members would be the only ones there to witness their love.

Charlotte, too, quite liked the simple and low-profile wedding.

Even their wedding photos were taken near Southridge. The whole family, including Danrique's triplets, Fifi, and Little Fifi, formed quite a lineup in the forest.

Needless to say, the unique theme suited both Zachary's and Charlotte's vibes perfectly.

On the day before the wedding, Charlotte assigned Lucy to post their latest family portrait of their big family of ten on social media as the official announcement of their marriage.

In no time, it caused a global uproar.

The netizens were all discussing the perfect, unique, and grand wedding and the grudges between the two families.

Of course, some also enthusiastically discussed the six children and the two pets.

Zachary and Charlotte paid no mind to the various comments, doubts, and speculations around their announcement. They only wished for the ceremony to go on smoothly, thus resolving their regret for their incomplete wedding two years ago.

On that day, they had their marriage registered. Everything was good to go.

Hayley and Sam came all the way from Mount Phoenix to attend the wedding ceremony. As they could not cure Zachary, they could only do their best to help out.

Jeffrey, Peter, and the others reached in time to attend the wedding ceremony.

At night, Zachary instructed Hanna to prepare a banquet to serve all their relatives and friends. He also seized the opportunity to express his sincerest gratitude to both Spencer and Johann, telling them that he might need to entrust Nacht Group to them in the future and solemnly requesting them to assist Charlotte and the children in protecting the Nacht family.

Touched by his speech, Spencer and Johann broke into tears and pledged to dedicate their lives to the Nacht family.

At the same time, Bruce also rushed back from Erihal to attend the wedding ceremony. Since Francesco was not in Erihal, Charlotte felt it would be a waste of time if he stayed there. Therefore, she instructed him to return as they might need his help.

The atmosphere at Southridge and Northridge were lively as everyone celebrated the upcoming joyous event.

Charlotte had arranged for the guests to stay over at Northridge and would head over there with Danrique's triplets later at night. Zachary would then pick her up with his convoy the following morning.

After the banquet, the maids cleaned up while Lupine and Morgan looked after the children. Bruce and Ben were making arrangements for the security measures and the wedding ceremony, respectively.

In the meantime, Zachary and Charlotte were strolling in the garden. As they laid their eyes on their beautifully decorated home, a blissful smile appeared on their faces.

Holding Charlotte's hands, Zachary said, "I'm finally going to marry you. This time around, I'll make sure our wedding is a perfect and memorable one for you!"

Charlotte wrapped her arms around his waist and rested her face on his chest. His steady heartbeat made her feel secure and blissful. "Hubby! I strongly believe that we'll spend the rest of our lives happily together. Trust me!"

Zachary pulled her into his arms, caressing her hair gently. While gazing at the glittering stars in the sky, he whispered a prayer inwardly. God, please protect my wife, and bless her with happiness and peace for the rest of her life.

At the same time, Charlotte also looked intently at the moon high up in the sky, making a wish in her heart. Dear God, please bless my husband with health. I'm willing to sacrifice the rest of my life for his recovery!

Both of them were making a wish simultaneously, ready to sacrifice themselves for the other's health and happiness.

Nonetheless, no one knew if heaven could hear them and grant their wishes.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1462

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Chapter 1462 Zachary Is Worried

At late night, peace and quiet returned to Southridge.

The venue was well-decorated for the long-awaited moment, and there was an unmissable hint of blissfulness in the air.

The maids were already in bed as they had to wake up early for the wedding ceremony the following morning.

As for the bodyguards, they were taking their posts as scheduled.

Lupine and Morgan brought the soundly asleep triplets back to Northridge. Reluctantly, Charlotte bid Zachary goodbye. "Hubby, I'm going back now."

Zachary gazed at her lovingly. "Go ahead then. We'll get to see each other again tomorrow morning. It's just a few hours."

"But I don't feel like parting with you now." She tightened her arms around his waist.

Somehow, an inexplicable sense of fear surged within her, as if she had a premonition that a tragedy would occur.

"Then don't go over there. Just stay the night here." He stroked her long, ruffled hair as he coaxed.

Charlotte blushed as she rejected his suggestion. "No way! We still have to follow the custom. You'll need to pick me up from Northridge tomorrow morning!"

Zachary burst into laughter and teased her, "We've been living together as a family anyway. There's no need to go through so much trouble!"

"Hey!" Charlotte punched him lightly on the chest.

Pinching her cheek affectionately, he pointed at the triplets in Lupine's and Morgan's arms and said, "You'd better go back now. The three of them are already asleep. It's getting colder at night, so they might catch a cold if you stay here any longer."

"All right. I'll go now." Charlotte hugged him again before pulling herself away from him reluctantly.

When she turned to look for Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie, Hanna told her they had gone to bed. Thus, Charlotte had no choice but to leave without them. After all, Zachary would go over to Northridge the following morning, and they would be reunited again.

When Zachary sent them off, he reminded Marino and Cain to keep their guard up in Northridge.

After the convoy from Northridge left, he turned to walk back to the house and get some sleep. All of a sudden, he was overcome by a wave of dizziness. Within seconds, his whole body went limp, and he was going to fall onto the ground. In the nick of time, he stretched out his arms to hold onto the wall, preventing himself from collapsing.

Ben dashed toward him to help him up. "Mr. Nacht! Are you all right?"

"Help me in..." Zachary did not wish to bump into anyone else when he was in such a frail state.

"Yes, Mr. Nacht!" Ben was about to support him, but he lost his balance and fell onto the ground.

"Mr. Nacht!" Bruce darted toward them and helped Zachary back into the room with Ben.

"I'll give Raina a call now!" Ben whipped out his phone and was about to make a call, but Zachary raised his hand to stop him.

Ben exclaimed anxiously, "Mr. Nacht, but you—"

"It's useless," Zachary murmured weakly.

Overwhelmed by sorrow, Ben was stumped for words.

Bruce clenched his fists, despising himself for not being able to help with anything.

"Bruce," Zachary called out to him feebly.

"Mr. Nacht, I'm here." He moved forward at once and knelt on one knee at Zachary's bedside, awaiting his instruction.

"Bring your men to... stand guard... at Northridge... We mustn't let an accident happen again..." Zachary was apparently becoming weaker, but he was still mustering up his strength to give Bruce a command.

"Yes, Mr. Nacht. I'll bring them over now." Bruce nodded respectfully.

He knew too well that Charlotte was devastated when the wedding ceremony was ruined two years ago and understood that Zachary was extra vigilant because he did not wish for her to experience the pain again.

Zachary yearned to present Charlotte with a perfect wedding before he breathed his last. Hence, he instructed Bruce to bring along most of the subordinates to protect her in Northridge.

"Go ahead. I'll be here." Ben moved closer and crouched down next to Zachary's bed, ready to listen to his instruction. "Mr. Nacht, do you have any other orders?"

Zachary was weak as a kitten, but he was still filled with worry. "Send your men to protect Johann and Spencer... They're the guardians of Nacht Group. If anything happens to them... Charlotte and the kids would be defenseless..."

Ben reassured him, "Mr. Nacht, I get it. Don't worry. I've arranged for Cain, Kyle, and the others to go over. Everything is already taken care of."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1463

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Chapter 1463 A Mysterious Figure

"Good..." Zachary's voice trailed off as he nodded weakly. Gradually, he drifted into a deep sleep.

Ben pulled the covers around him and stood at the side silently.

His heart ached at the sight of Zachary's wretched condition. Sharing the same sentiments as Bruce, he resented himself for being useless. If he could, he wished to endure the excruciating pain and sorrow on behalf of Zachary.

Ring! Ring! His phone rang abruptly, snapping him out of his thoughts.

It was a call from Charlotte, and he answered it hastily. "Ms. Lindberg."

"What's the matter? Why did Bruce come over with a large group of men to guard my place? Did Zachary instruct him to do so?" Charlotte questioned.

Ben replied softly, "It was an instruction from Mr. Nacht a while ago. He's already asleep."

"I'm fine here, so he doesn't have to instruct Bruce to do so. In fact, I'm worried about him over there..." Somehow, she started to feel a prickle of restlessness.

Sensing her anxiety, he tried to reassure her by explaining, "Ms. Lindberg, don't worry. There are still quite a few of us here. Since this is an instruction from Mr. Nacht, we dare not go against him. After the incident two years ago, he's traumatized and is worried that something will happen to you."

"Nothing will happen to me." Charlotte sounded sorrowful.

"He'll only feel at ease if your safety is assured. Please just go along with him." Ben's voice was a bit deep.

With that, she had no choice but to give in. "All right. Make sure you keep an eye on him. Just leave the matters to Marino and the others."

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg. Please rest well."

Before hanging up, Charlotte reminded him again. "You have to stay by his side at all times. Don't let anything happen to him."

"Ms. Lindberg, I know what to do."

After ending the call, Ben lay on the sofa while keeping an eye on Zachary.

Exhausted from being occupied the past few days, he gradually dozed off.

That night, Marino was in charge of security in Southridge.

Because most of them were transferred to Northridge, only sixteen bodyguards were left in Southridge. However, some were relieved from duty, so only eight men were stationed to stand guard.

Under normal circumstances, it would have been enough since Northridge and Southridge had been peaceful throughout the years.

Even so, Marino reminded everyone not to let their guards down while standing guard. Nothing untoward was allowed to occur before the wedding ceremony.

Therefore, all the bodyguards were on alert.

Soon, it was three after midnight. The entire place was as silent as the grave.

Connor, one of the bodyguards, was on patrol in the garden. When he spotted a figure flashing across one side of the swimming pool, he darted forward and yelled, "Stop right there!"

As the figure stopped in its tracks, Connor could make out the silhouette that appeared exceptionally tall under the dim light. Ah! It's Mr. Nacht!

He stammered apologetically, "M-Mr. Nacht? I'm sorry for yelling at you. I couldn't see clearly just now, and I thought that—"

"Leave me alone!" An authoritative voice cut him off.

"Yes, Mr. Nacht." Connor retreated hastily with his head lowered.

However, the figure did not leave at once but sneaked into the kitchen through the back door.

No sooner had Connor taken a few steps than he started to sense something was awry. Instinctively, he turned to look in the direction where the figure showed up moments ago, then the balcony of the master bedroom. "Mr. Nacht is already asleep, isn't he? How did he show up here?" he mumbled to himself.

Right at that instant, Marino, who was also on patrol, made his way toward him. "Connor, what're you doing?"

Connor moved forward hastily. "Marino, guess what happened just now! I happened to see a figure move agilely from one side of the swimming pool. Thinking that it might be an intruder, I went after him at once. But then it turned out to be Mr. Nacht!"

Marino reprimanded, "Have you gone nuts? Mr. Nacht had gone to bed hours ago. How is it possible for him to appear in the garden?"

"I know it sounds absurd, but I'm certain that I saw him a while ago!" Connor emphasized.

"You must be seeing things!" Marino replied and was about to walk away. Suddenly, he halted in his tracks as a thought occurred to him. "Could it be that someone impersonated Mr. Nacht to sneak into this place? Did you get to see his face?"

Connor shook his head. "No, I only saw his silhouette. But it has to be Mr. Nacht! If that person turns out to be an impostor, I've got to hand it to him. He looked so much like Mr. Nacht!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1464

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Chapter 1464 Waited For A Long Time

"Continue patrolling. I'll head upstairs to take a look."

Realizing that something was amiss, Marino rushed upstairs to check things out.

The villa was completely silent. Everything seemed normal, but there was an indescribable sense of eeriness looming in the air.

Marino scanned his surroundings warily but did not discover anything, so he rushed upstairs and lightly knocked on Zachary's door.

Ben opened the door and asked, "What's going on?"

"Ben, where's Mr. Nacht?" asked Marino.

"He fell asleep." Ben asked softly, "What exactly is going on?"

"Has Mr. Nacht been sleeping all this while? He didn't go downstairs?" Marino's eyes widened.

"Of course!" Ben frowned.

"That's weird..." Marino became more uneasy. "Connor mentioned that he saw Mr. Nacht in the garden just now. Apparently, Mr. Nacht appeared beside the swimming pool, and he moved agilely..."

"When did that happen?" Ben was utterly confused.

"Just now! Around a few minutes ago."

Marino peeked into the room. Underneath the dim light, he could vaguely see Zachary lying on the bed and sleeping soundly.

"How is that possible?" questioned Ben softly. "Mr. Nacht returned to the room at eleven tonight and has been asleep all along. How can he possibly appear in the garden?"

"I find it weird too." Marino asked anxiously, "Do you think that someone has sneaked in here?"

"Turn on the lights and search the place," instructed Ben. "I'll inform Bruce to send our men back here."

"Okay." Marino was about to turn on the lights, and Ben was about to make the call when a loud crash sounded downstairs.

An explosion suddenly erupted in the kitchen, sending random objects flying everywhere. Not only was the sound deafening, but it also caused the entire villa to tremble vigorously.

At the same time, a blazing fire spread out from the kitchen, flaring in all directions and engulfing the dining room and living room rapidly.

"Alert everyone! Now!" Ben ordered at once.

"Yes!" Marino immediately dashed downstairs to gather everyone.

When Ben returned to the room, Zachary was already awakened by the explosion outside. "Leave with the kids first," he quickly instructed.

"What about you, Mr. Nacht?"

"Go now!" urged Zachary.

"Okay." Ben headed out to look for Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie.

Meanwhile, all the maids and bodyguards in the house were jolted awake. Screaming in fear, they fled in all directions.

Thrown into shock, Robbie and Jamie ran out of the room, shouting, "Daddy, Mommy!"

"Robbie, Jamie, follow me quickly." Ben grabbed the two children anxiously. "Where's Ellie?"

"She's in her room." Jamie pointed at Ellie's room.

"Connor!" Ben yelled out to Connor, who was downstairs. "Bring Mr. Robinson and Mr. Jamison down!"

"Yes!" Connor rushed upstairs and took Robbie and Jamie away.

"Where's Daddy?" asked Robbie worriedly.

"Don't worry. I'll save him after picking Ellie up."

With that, Ben went to look for Ellie.

Meanwhile, Zachary dragged his frail body out of bed. After putting on a coat, he was about to leave when a figure suddenly strolled the room.

"Who's that?" Alerted by the unexpected guest, he turned his head around and immediately felt a shiver run down his spine. "Who are you?"

"I'm flattered to see that you're shocked." Shrouded by the darkness, the person approached him gradually. A wicked grin was playing on his lips as he said, "Looks like my plastic surgery is so effective that I almost look like the real deal."

"It's you?" Zachary's eyes popped in shock.

"You recognize me, huh?" The person smiled eerily. "Did you think that I've died and is no longer a threat to you?"

"You are the one behind the explosion?" Zachary went straight to the point. "What are you trying to do?"

"Of course, I'm here to retrieve everything I've lost!" The person whipped out a gun and pointed it at him. "Since we used to be family, I'll make this quick for you!"

"Have you lost your mind?" Zachary yelled furiously. "Do you know what you are doing?"

"When you destroyed my family and caused me to suffer endless humiliation, did you ask yourself that question?" A look of intense hatred glinted in the person's eyes. "Zachary, I've waited for this day for a long time..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1465

Chapter 1465 Francesca

Immediately after the person spoke, he pulled the trigger and was prepared to shoot.

At that moment, Ben barged in with Ellie. "Mr. Nacht!"

When he opened the door and saw a silhouette that looked identical to Zachary, he froze. Ellie, too, stared at the person in disbelief.

However, Ben was quickly brought to his senses and rushed forward to snatch the gun away.

Just as he moved, he was shot.

"Ah!" Fear-stricken, Ellie screamed and dropped her plushie onto the ground.

"Shh..." The mysterious man shushed her before aiming his gun at Zachary. "Die, Zachary!"

At that instant, Zachary mustered the last ounce of his strength and grabbed the man's hand. While he grappled with the man, he yelled, "Run, Ellie!"

Ellie's legs were trembling. Rooted to the ground, she could not move at all.

However, Little Fifi kept squawking beside her ear and repeating what Zachary had said, "Run, Ellie! Run, Ellie!"

Only then did Ellie return to her senses and sprint out hurriedly.

By then, the entire place was already surrounded by flames. As soon as she ran out of the room, she bumped into a few masked men. While she screamed in terror, those men attempted to capture her.

At that juncture, Fifi flew in from the window and circled the masked men, driving them away from capturing Ellie.

Under Little Fifi's lead, Ellie ran down the spiral staircase.

However, no sooner had she taken a few steps down the staircase than a masked man dashed forward and grabbed her from behind. Having lost her footing, the little girl tumbled down the stairs.

Meanwhile, in the room, the mysterious man had pinned Zachary against the table. Pressing the gun against the latter's head, he yelled through gritted teeth, "Do you think you can still fight me? Let me tell you this! Everyone here will die tonight! Your wife and assets will all be mine; even your children will have to call me their father. I'll replace you and become the new Mr. Nacht! Go to blazes, Zachary Nacht!"

He pulled the trigger and was about to shoot when a silver needle came flying in. It pricked his neck, causing him to shudder. Before he could react, his body became numb gradually.

A petite figure flipped in through the windows and said in annoyance, "I hate people who only rely on sneak attacks! If you're truly capable, you should confront others openly!"

The newcomer was fully clothed from top to bottom, wrapped in a green cape that revealed only a pair of bright eyes. A green snake wrapped itself around her wrist, glowing eerily in the dark.

"You..." The mysterious man wanted to aim the gun at the intruder but could not raise his hand. Clutching his neck, he could feel his body stiffening gradually.

"What about me?" The petite person yelled furiously, "I'm here to look for my babies. Now that you've burned this house, where can I find them?"

Instead of responding, the mysterious man pressed the alarm in his hand.

Soon, a few masked men barged in.

"You sly bastard!"

Infuriated, the petite person immediately whipped out a red smoke bomb and threw it downward. The instant it came into contact with the ground, sparks flew, followed by an anesthetic gas.

The masked men covered their noses, not daring to move forward anymore.

Just when the petite person was about to leave through the window, she spotted Zachary lying on the ground. It seemed like he was on the verge of passing out.

Frowning, she mumbled to herself, "Francesca, don't be nosy. Don't be nosy. Don't be nosy!"

Hardening her heart, she was about to leave when she accidentally spotted a photo frame beside Zachary.

In the photo, Zachary and Charlotte were running in the forest hand-in-hand. Charlotte was holding her three children's hands while Alpha, Beta, and Gamma were sitting on Zachary's shoulders.

The triplets were hugging Zachary's head with wide grins on their faces. When the man gazed at them, his eyes were filled with affection and tenderness.

Francesca's gaze changed immediately. Without missing a beat, she helped Zachary up, flipped out of the window with him, and escaped.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1466

Chapter 1466 Burned To Ashes

Southridge was in utter chaos. When the news arrived at Northridge, Charlotte and her subordinates rushed over to save everyone.

However, the entire villa in Southridge was already engulfed in flames. All that remained of the elaborately decorated wedding venue was nothing but ashes.

"How did this happen?"

Horried by the scene before her eyes, Charlotte could barely stand straight.

She charged forward like a madwoman, but Bruce and the rest held her back. "Ms. Lindberg, you can't enter now. The fire fighting equipment will arrive soon."

"Let go of me!" Struggling to break free, Charlotte screamed agitatedly, "Hubby! Robbie! Jamie! Ellie!"

"Mommy, we're here."

With Hanna escorting them, Robbie and Jamie ran over, both wrapped in a blanket. Trembling, they said through sobs, "Daddy and Ellie are still inside. Mr. Ben, Fifi, and Little Fifi are there too..."

"Robbie, Jamie!" Charlotte hugged them tightly. "Don't be afraid. They'll be fine! I'll save them now."

Having said that, she charged in without hesitation.

"The protective suits are here!" Bruce and the rest immediately put them on.

"Where's Marino? Did anyone see Marino?" asked Morgan anxiously.

"Marino went in to save the rest."

"Did he wear the suit?"

"No... There was no time."

"I'm going in to save him."

In the house, Marino was searching everywhere amid the flames. Finally, he spotted Ellie and Fifi on the staircase.

Fifi suffered grievous injuries from shielding Ellie underneath its wings.

Marino immediately carried Ellie and Fifi. While he was dashing out, a railing fell and crashed onto him.

At the most critical moment, he protected Ellie and Fifi in his arms and tried his best to free himself from the railing. Dragging his injured leg behind him, he crawled out.

However, the fire became even more intense. There were no paths ahead of him, and his surroundings were filled with smoke.

Marino could barely catch his breath. His strength, too, was slowly depleting.

Just when he was about to lose all hope, he suddenly heard Morgan's voice.
"Marino! Ellie!"

With much difficulty, Marino raised his head and glanced over. Morgan rushed in with a few others and saved Marino, Fifi, and Ellie.

Meanwhile, Charlotte, Bruce, and Lupine dashed upstairs with fireproof blankets over them.

They found Ben lying unconsciously on the floor after being shot but did not spot Zachary anywhere.

Bruce instructed Lupine and Charlotte to leave with Ben first, but Charlotte refused to give up. She frantically looked for Zachary amidst the raging flames.

I can't lose Zachary like this. I can't! We're supposed to get married today. I was about to become his wife! My bridal gown has already been prepared. How could this happen...

"Hubby! Hubby! Zachary, come out! Come out!"

While searching everywhere, she cried out agitatedly.

Yet, not a single response could be heard.

After taking in too much of the toxic smoke, her voice soon became so hoarse that she could not utter a single sound.

The flames burned her hair and hands, but she ignored her injuries and continued to search for Zachary.

Unfortunately, she still could not find him.

Morning arrived three hours later.

The sky rained over Southridge as if heaven was weeping for them.

By the time the police and the firefighters arrived, the fire had already been doused by the rain.

When they went into the house to search, they found Little Fifi's corpse underneath the railing of the first floor.

As for Zachary, he remained nowhere to be found.

The investigations revealed that fire was also set off in the main bedroom on the second floor, which was Zachary's room. The fire contained a potent toxin that could burn a human into ashes.

Hence, the police deduced that Zachary might have already died, and his corpse had been burned to ashes.

When everyone heard the news, they were stunned for a while before breaking out into tears.

Charlotte's legs turned weak. Falling to her knees, she wailed miserably, "No!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1467

Chapter 1467 The Suspect

Charlotte's cries sounded desolate as if she was protesting against the injustice of fate.

Everyone in the Nacht family were in tears.

Spencer, who had rushed over, fainted as soon as he learned about the news.

Johann fell ill upon hearing the tragedy.

When the guests at Northridge heard about it, they were stupefied.

The happy wedding had turned into a disaster.

Within a night, Southridge was ruined.

Charlotte refused to believe that Zachary was dead. He must still be alive. He must be...

Still clinging onto some hope, she ordered her subordinates to investigate it.

Given the Nacht family's current situation, someone had to keep the household in order.

No matter how devastated or heartbroken Charlotte was, she had to pull herself together and support the family.

The Nacht family had suffered significant losses from the disaster. Connor perished in the fire, while Little Fifi was burned to death from protecting Ellie.

As for Ben, he had fallen into a deep coma due to inhaling a lot of the toxic smoke after being shot. The doctor said that he did not know when Ben would regain consciousness.

Although Ellie did not get burned under Fifi's protection, she had tumbled down the stairs and injured her head. Combined with the inhalation of the smoke, she was also in a coma.

Everyone in the Nacht family was imbued with sadness, their hearts aching for the tragic disaster.

Charlotte had no more strength to weep. Despite her agony, she had to stay strong.

Firstly, she made arrangements for the guests and ordered her subordinate to seal off Southridge. Then, she requested the police to continue searching for Zachary's whereabouts.

At the same time, she instructed Raina to treat Ellie, Ben, and the rest of the wounded to the best of her abilities.

Charlotte firmly believed that since Ben had been in Zachary's bedroom before fainting, he should know where Zachary was and what happened that night.

According to what the surviving bodyguards described, some mysterious masked men intruded Southridge that night. First, they placed an explosive in the kitchen. Once it was ignited, they made use of the chaos and launched a surprise attack.

The only clue Marino provided after he regained consciousness was that Connor spotted someone who looked similar to Zachary before the explosion. That person might be related to the incident.

However, the police thought the clue was too vague to be useful.

When Charlotte heard Marino's recount, a figure flashed across her mind. Chris!

Chris was Zara's son and Zachary's cousin.

He had inherited the Nacht family's genes. His height, physique, and demeanor resembled that of Zachary a lot. In terms of looks, he also bore some resemblance to Zachary.

Ever since what happened to Zara, Chris' shares and position in Nacht Group had been withdrawn. To restrain Chris, Zachary kept him under some form of control. However, he was merciful to his cousin, allowing the latter to live.

Afterward, Chris left the house and broke off contact with the Nacht family.

Evidently, he was a strong suspect.

Charlotte immediately instructed Bruce to investigate Chris.

Bruce passed the orders to his subordinates. At the same time, he also voiced his doubts. "Mr. Broid has been incompetent from a young age. Other than squandering money, he only knows how to toy with women. He's nothing but a frivolous playboy, so I doubt he's capable or smart enough to do all these."

"We can't be too sure." Charlotte frowned. "Since his life was turned upside down, his personality might change drastically. In the past, he was incompetent because he had a high social status and wealth without needing to do anything. After Zara died, he had nothing left. Humiliated and mocked by others, he might grow to resent Zachary."

"You aren't wrong." Bruce analyzed, "However, Mr. Nacht merely took Chris' shares in Nacht Group and stripped him of his position. His inheritance from his mother is probably sufficient for him to spend for the rest of his lifetime. It's not true that he has nothing."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1468

Chapter 1468 Take Charge 1

"You say that because you think that what he has left is enough for him. However, his drop in status is like a fall from heaven to hell. That makes things completely different. Not everyone can handle that sudden change. Furthermore, his mother had committed so many evil deeds. I'm afraid that others from the Nacht family might not be kind to him. Some might even make things difficult for him, humiliate and scorn him. His life used to be smooth-sailing in the past, with people rushing to curry favor with him. When his life took such a drastic turn, he might not be able to handle it. It's possible that his personality would change..."

Charlotte gave a detailed analysis.

"You're right." Bruce nodded. "However, I still think that he's not capable enough—"

"Don't underestimate your opponent," she exhorted with a frown. "Chris might seem like a frivolous playboy, but he still carries the Nacht family's genes. This means that he's probably quite smart too. He used to be unmotivated and incompetent because he felt no pressure. However, when one is pushed to the wall, one's intelligence will return. Isn't that the same case for me too?"

"Um..." Stunned, Bruce quickly said, "Okay, I'll investigate it now."

Charlotte sighed and got ready to head to the hospital. When she turned around, she discovered Danrique's triplets standing behind the door. With their heads popped out carefully, they stared at her with restless expressions on their faces.

"What's wrong, Alpha, Beta, and Gamma?" Charlotte took a deep breath. Forcing out a smile, she walked over. "I've been busy lately, so I didn't have time to accompany you. I'm sorry. After I'm done with—"

"Don't be afraid, Aunt Charlotte." Alpha stretched out her hand and touched Charlotte's face gently. With a cute voice, she consoled Charlotte, "Uncle Zachary and Ellie will definitely get better!"

When Charlotte heard her comforting words, she could no longer hold her tears back.

She had been trying her best to stop herself from crying and remembering all those things, but Alpha's words made her break down.

"Don't cry, Aunt Charlotte!" Beta wiped the tears away from her cheeks and consoled her anxiously, "We'll look for Daddy and tell him to punish the evil man!"

"No one is allowed to bully you!" Gamma clenched her fists and declared furiously, "We'll protect you, Aunt Charlotte!"

Moved, Charlotte pulled the three kids into her arms.

She thought that they were too young to know anything, but to her surprise, they understood everything that was going on.

They knew that someone had burned Zachary's house down, causing him to go missing, Ellie and Ben to be in a coma, and the handsome Connor to die in the fire.

Hence, they had come to console Charlotte.

Charlotte's tears kept flowing down her cheeks. However, she tried her best to keep her emotions under control. Forcing out a smile again, she said to the kids, "All of you have grown up! You speak so clearly now."

"Hehe!" As if embarrassed, the triplets scratched their heads and blushed.

"Okay, I'm going to the hospital to visit Mr. Ben and Ellie. Stay at home, and do not wander around, okay?"

Charlotte stroked their faces.

"Okay, Aunt Charlotte." The kids nodded.

After hugging them, Charlotte wore her coat and left hastily with Lupine and the rest.

The car drove down the hill. Halfway down, they encountered the Gold family's car.

"Why is she here?"

Lupine frowned, not wanting anyone to stir up any more trouble at such a juncture.

Nancy hurriedly got out of the car, walked over, and knocked on the car window.

Charlotte lowered the car window and gazed at her calmly. "What's the matter, Ms. Gold?"

"What happened? Mr. Nacht, he..." Nancy was panicking. When she mentioned Zachary's name, her voice trembled. "What happened to him?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1469

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Chapter 1469 Take Charge 2

After a few seconds of silence, Charlotte said calmly, "This is the Nacht family's matter. You shouldn't bother yourself over this, Ms. Gold."

"That's enough, Charlotte!" bellowed Nancy. "Can you tell me what happened? Aren't you two supposed to get married? Why was there a fire at Southridge? Why did Mr. Nacht go missing? Why—"

Instead of replying, Charlotte pressed the window switch silently.

"Charlotte, you—"

Nancy rapped on the car window angrily, trying to stop Charlotte. However, the window was already shut.

Ignoring her, Charlotte waved her hand, and the car drove away directly.

"Charlotte Lindberg!" Behind, Nancy stomped her feet in fury.

However, no one paid any heed to her. Charlotte's car was already long gone.

"Ms. Gold is quite love-struck," remarked Lupine.

"Yeah." An unfathomable look crept into Charlotte's eyes while she gazed at Nancy through the rearview mirror. "Lupine, do you think that one will become smarter when in agony?"

"Probably." Lupine stared at Charlotte worriedly. "What's wrong, Ms. Lindberg?"

"Nothing." Charlotte cast her eyes downward and saw her phone screen flickering. Lucy was calling her. It looks like something is going on in the company. Have those troublemakers appeared already?

Charlotte answered the call without much thought. "Hello?"

"Ms. Lindberg, those at the headquarter requested to have a board meeting immediately. They insisted on seeing Mr. Nacht."

"What are they trying to do?" Charlotte frowned.

"Mr. Nacht's schedule has been cleared for the past three days, so Mr. Sterk took his place in the board meetings. As there were no updates regarding the wedding, and Mr. Spencer had fallen ill and is still unconscious, those at the headquarter probably realized that something bad had happened to Mr. Nacht. So..."

"Three in the afternoon." Charlotte glanced at her watch. "I'll attend the board meeting on time."

"All right, I'll relay the message." Lucy continued, "Also, some important clients have requested to meet Mr. Nacht. About the Gymnasium Project—"

"Let's talk about it when I arrive at the office." Charlotte frowned. "From today onward, I'll go to the office at three in the afternoon. Schedule the work then, and I'll handle them all at once."

"Understood."

After hanging up, Charlotte barely had time to catch her breath before Johann called. "Charlotte, when are you free? We need to meet."

"Mr. Sterk, I have to attend a board meeting at three. I'll arrive half an hour earlier, so shall we meet in Zachary's office?"

"Okay. Take care of yourself. The Nacht family is counting on you."

"You too! Nacht Group and Divine Corporation depend on you."

Her utterance hit a nerve in him, and his firm voice suddenly became hoarse and shaky. After a moment of silence, he forced out, "I-I will!"

When Charlotte heard his response, tears welled up in her eyes. Having said a reply to him, she hung up.

She did not want to cry anymore. If she did, her eyes would become even more swollen. Those in the company might realize that something was amiss if they saw her in such a state.

Hence, she must and have to stay strong to face everything.

Since Zachary's survival was still unknown, the fate of the family and the corporation were in her hands. She must not let him down.

"Ms. Lindberg..."

Lupine hugged Charlotte, her heart aching for her. She yearned to console her but did not know what to say.

In truth, Lupine was devastated as well. Ben was severely injured and was still in the ICU. Despite being his girlfriend, she could not keep him company. That made her feel guilt-ridden.

She had never been superstitious in the past. However, she had begun to pray every day, hoping that heaven would show mercy so that the disaster would end soon and everything would get better.

"Everything will be fine. It will." Charlotte took a deep breath and reminded herself to pull herself together. "Everything will get better. It definitely will."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1470

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Chapter 1470 Take Charge 3

When they arrived at the hospital, Charlotte brought Lupine to visit Ben in the ICU first.

After three days of emergency treatment, the doctor announced, "The patient is no longer in critical condition. However, since he inhaled a lot of toxic fumes after being shot, his situation is quite dire. It's possible that..."

"What?" asked Lupine anxiously.

"He might never wake up," continued the doctor with a frown. "We'll need to observe him for a longer period to be certain of his condition."

Lupine was appalled to hear that, so much so that she staggered to her feet, swaying a little.

Charlotte quickly grabbed her and consoled, "Don't worry, there must be a solution. I've already asked Raina to invite Dr. Wright over. If there's hope for Olivia, there's hope for Ben too."

The overwhelming sorrow made it impossible for Lupine to say a single word. Hugging Charlotte, she burst into tears.

She had always been much calmer and stronger than Morgan.

However, she could not control her emotions anymore.

She regretted not being nicer to Ben in the past and not spending more time with him. Instead, she kept bullying and ignoring him. Lupine was truly afraid that he would never wake up. In that case, there would be no way for her to make amends to him.

"He'll definitely get better. Trust me!" Charlotte patted her back and reassured her, "I'm here for you. Don't be scared!"

As of then, Charlotte was everyone's pillar of support.

Unfortunately, there was no one for her to rely on.

After visiting Ben, Charlotte went to check on Ellie.

The doctor said Ellie's injuries were not severe, but she sustained a minor concussion from the head injury. He also explained that she had yet to regain consciousness because she was heavily frightened and inhaled too much smoke.

Gazing at Ellie, who was lying on the bed, Charlotte felt her heart aching terribly. Ellie was the weakest among the three children, so she had always been particularly protective of her.

Yet, over the past few years, accidents always befell Ellie.

Firstly, Cynthia poisoned her, then Sharon kidnapped her and held her captive. That time around, she was injured in a fire.

Remorse ate away at Charlotte. She despised herself for failing to protect her child well.

"Don't be too worried, Ms. Lindberg. Ellie will be fine," consoled Raina softly. "From a medical perspective, she's not in critical danger. The biggest reason why she's still unconscious is that she was too traumatized. She'll be fine two days later."

"When will Dr. Wright arrive?"

Charlotte had no time or energy to be sad. All she could think of was to deal with the problem at hand.

"She'll arrive tonight," said Raina. "I've already reached an agreement with her. She'll be staying in H City for the long-term, at least until Ellie and Ben have fully recovered."

"Okay." Charlotte nodded. Patting Raina's shoulder, she said, "I'll leave everything in the hospital to you. Thanks in advance."

"It's what I should do." When Raina spoke, she sounded like she was on the verge of tears. "Although I can't help you with Mr. Nacht, I can still help you with Ben, Ellie, and the rest..."

"Ben's injuries are quite severe. You and Dr. Wright must treat him carefully," exhorted Charlotte.

"Don't worry," Raina promised. "Although Ben's situation is quite grave, I think there's still hope. You can just leave this to me and go ahead and deal with the other matters."

"And Marino..."

"Marino's injuries are only external. There's no need to worry about him."

"That's good."

After settling everything in the hospital, Charlotte went to visit Spencer in Garden Villa instead of heading straight to the office.

Ever since Zachary went missing, Spencer fell ill and had been bedridden for a few days.

Although Johann also fell sick, he had forced himself to head to the office the previous day. In comparison, Spencer seemed to be in a worse situation.

Charlotte had the right to helm Divine Corporation, but those in Nacht Group's headquarters were still unconvinced of her abilities. Hence, she needed Spencer to take charge first.

Those troublemakers in the board of directors were all from the headquarters.

Therefore, Charlotte needed to get Spencer to go with her.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1471

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1471 The Leader

Charlotte had only been there once, and it was when Henry passed away.

At that time, she had come to stir up trouble under Danrique's command and managed to infuriate Zachary.

Though the people and place remained the same, her emotions were vastly different.

Charlotte had already cast aside her animosity and grudges toward the Nacht family. As of then, they were no longer enemies but a family.

When she entered Henry's residence, the subordinates, bodyguards, and maids were no longer wary of her. Instead, they welcomed her respectfully and greeted, "Mrs. Nacht!"

"Where's Mr. Spencer?"

Charlotte strode forward, displaying a regal bearing with every step she took.

Her demeanor had changed entirely—she was no longer like her weak self in the past.

Even when she reconciled with the Lindberg family, she was not as domineering as then.

After all, she had Danrique as her backing at that time. No matter how powerful she was, the shadow of her past still lingered.

Yet, both Danrique and Zachary had gone missing.

Charlotte was the only one left in both the Nacht and Lindberg families.

Hence, she had to pull herself together and be the most reliable leader for everyone.

"Mr. Spencer is waiting for you in the study," replied the butler respectfully.

Charlotte entered with Lupine and the rest. Just as she was about to step into the study, she saw Henry's portrait on the wall and fell into a daze.

His portrait had been hung there since his passing. Every day, Spencer would talk to it about the recent happenings in the Nacht family.

When Spencer saw her stopping in her tracks, he quickly instructed, "Take the portrait down now."

"There's no need for that." Charlotte affected a calm expression and strode into the room. "I should keep Grandpa updated too."

"Did you just call Mr. Henry as..."

"Although the wedding ceremony did not happen, Zachary and I are legally married. Now that I'm officially part of the Nacht family, I ought to change the way I address him."

Charlotte sat on the sofa across from Spencer.

"Your demeanor reminds me of Mr. Zachary in the past." Looking at her, Spencer could not help but lament, "It's a pity... Why did this happen..."

At the thought of Zachary, tears streamed down his cheeks as his heart ached terribly.

"I still think that he's alive." Although Charlotte felt emotional, she remained strong. "Perhaps, the masked men took him away, or..."

"Considering how ill he is, even if the masked men had brought him away, I'm afraid that the chances of him surviving are slim," said Spencer amidst sobs. "Of course, I wish that there'll be a miracle too, but..."

"I know that it sounds impossible, but..." Trying her best to suppress her sorrow, she declared firmly, "I still believe in miracles!"

Spencer heaved a deep sigh and fell silent.

At that moment, the butler served some tea.

After taking a sip of the hot tea, Charlotte went straight to the point. "I believe Mr. Sterk has contacted you, right? A board meeting is going to be held this afternoon."

"He did call me." Spencer leaned against the wheelchair weakly, already exhausted by the short conversation. "I'll follow you to the company in the afternoon. However..."

There, he drew out his vowels for a long time, his tone filled with misgivings and hesitation.

Naturally, he was aware of the current situation and that Charlotte was alone without any support. At that moment, he had to be her backing.

Prior to the incident, that was what Zachary kept reminding him of. Hence, he had to do a good job.

Yet, to be honest, he lacked confidence. Firstly, he did not know if Charlotte was capable enough to support the family. Secondly, he was unsure if she would remain with the Nacht family forever.

After all, she was still so young. It was possible for her to remarry to someone else.

Furthermore, the grudges between the Nacht and Lindberg families could not be dismissed just like that.

If Danrique returned one day and took Charlotte away, the Nacht family's future would be bleak.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1472

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Chapter 1472 Two Promises

Even if Spencer did not voice his worries, Charlotte understood them all.

Frankly, he was still slightly wary toward her. From the start, he always believed that Zachary's illness would not have worsened if she had not insisted on bringing the three children and Dr. Felch back to Erihal.

He had never stopped brooding over that fact.

However, Zachary had reminded him sternly not to bring that matter up anymore.

Hence, Spencer never mentioned it at all.

After all, he was not Henry. Regardless of how dignified his status was in the Nacht family or how much Zachary respected him, he was just an old servant.

His status and glory were all given to him by the Nacht family. He was cognizant of all that.

Since Zachary chose Charlotte, Spencer had no right to voice any opposition.

Even then, he dared not show any signs of his concerns.

"I know what you're thinking about, Mr. Spencer," Charlotte pointed out. "There are two things that I think I should explain to you. Firstly, I'll do my best to support the family. As long as I'm here, the family stands. Secondly, even if Zachary never returns, I'll remain with the Nacht family until Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie become adults and can support everyone."

As a matter of fact, she had wondered what she should do if Zachary were never to return.

Perhaps, when she grew old, she would spend the rest of her life alone in a tranquil place.

"Ms. Lindberg... No, Mrs. Nacht..." After correcting himself, Spencer said emotionally, "Thank you. I truly thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

"This is what I'm supposed to do." Charlotte smiled wryly. "I'm not only protecting this family for Zachary's sake, but also my kids'. Therefore, you have nothing to worry about!"

"I'm sorry. I was being petty," he apologized.

"No, I understand how you feel," she said sincerely. "The Nacht family has nothing now, and my children are still young. If I ever thought of leaving, the Nacht family would be ruined. As the only elder remaining in the family, it's normal for you to be concerned. Hence, I came over today to explain everything to you clearly and reassure you."

"I'm glad to hear that. It looks like Mr. Zachary made the right judgment." Spencer was overwhelmed with emotions. "Don't worry. As long as I'm still alive, I'll protect you to the best of my abilities."

"Thank you!" Charlotte stood up and bowed grave thanks.

"There's no need for that, Mrs. Nacht..."

Spencer wanted to help her up, but he could not stand up.

"You have to accept it," she stated with a smile. "I have to settle some things, so I'll leave now. Remember to be at Divine Corporation by three in the afternoon."

"Don't worry." Spencer saw her to the door. After watching her get into the car, he remarked, "Mr. Zachary is right. If she weren't around, the Nacht family would've been doomed!"

Charlotte did not rest in the car. Instead, she continued looking through the messages on her phone. Later, she had to meet a few shareholders and major clients personally and reach a mutual agreement with them before the board meeting.

Some of them were the shareholders of the Gymnasium Project in F Nation, Theo, and the rest.

To save everyone's time, they agreed to meet in a private club at the foot of the hill.

At that moment, they were already awaiting her arrival for a long time.

While the car drove toward the private club, Lupine searched up some information and reported, "Ms. Lindberg, the private club is the Gold family's property. Should we change the venue?"

"There's no need for that." Charlotte was unperturbed by the information.

"Ms. Gold has a good relationship with Mr. Murphy and the rest. If she tries to stir up trouble, it'll be very troublesome."

"I know," Charlotte replied coldly. "We can't avoid the inevitable. If she intends to play some dirty tricks, there's no way I can get away from it. It's better to confront her upfront!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1473

Chapter 1473 Confrontation

They arrived at the private club, which seemed like it had just been opened. Charlotte had never heard of its existence prior to the meeting.

Unexpectedly, the person waiting for her in the lobby was not Theo but Nancy.

Dressed in white, the woman sipped at her tea elegantly in her seat.

It seemed like she had been waiting for Charlotte for a long time.

Undeterred by her presence, Charlotte walked forward, sat down, and drank tea.

"Are you finally free enough to talk to me in person, Ms. Lindberg?" Nancy shot her a cold glance.

"I arrived five minutes earlier to make time for you."

Charlotte continued sipping at her tea, not even sparing a single glance in Nancy's direction.

"Hah!" Nancy scoffed but did not choose to dispute with her at that moment. Instead, she probed relentlessly, "Where exactly is Mr. Nacht?"

"I want to know too." Charlotte glanced at her. "If you know, please tell me."

"You..." Although Nancy was fuming, she humbled herself to say, "You're already legally married to him. Now that you're part of the Nacht family, I'm no longer a threat to you. I just want to know if he's still alive. Am I not even allowed to do that?"

When Charlotte heard that, her attitude softened. A moment of silence passed before she replied softly, "He went missing..."

"Missing?" Nancy's eyes popped in shock. "How did he go missing? Weren't you two holding a wedding? What happened?"

"A fire happened at Southridge the night before the wedding..." Charlotte evaded the question and gave a vague description of what happened that night. "I've searched the entirety of Southridge, but I couldn't find him at all. The police said that h-he has already been burned to ashes..."

Nancy was stunned. "That's impossible! How can someone so powerful like Mr. Nacht die just like that? That's simply impossible!"

"I find it impossible too." Charlotte let out a pained smile. "However, I just can't find him."

"Impossible... He must still be alive!" Nancy was extremely agitated. "Perhaps, he was taken away by those culprits who started the fire! Maybe..."

Charlotte lowered her head and continued drinking tea. She did not want to tell her that Zachary was suffering from a terminal illness. Even if the fire did not happen, his days would still be numbered.

According to Helen's predictions, the next day would be his last.

If he had been taken away by the masked men, his illness would probably have relapsed by then. Without any treatment, he would die.

"Have you sent anyone to run investigations? Who are the culprits?" Nancy pressed on anxiously. "Why don't you tell me everything that you know? I'll instruct someone to investigate it. As for the police, I'll look for the highest-ranking officer and..."

As Nancy spoke, she ordered her subordinates to contact the said person.

Charlotte watched as she went about with her business.

"Tell me the clues, and I'll order my subordinates to investigate what exactly happened..." Nancy asked worriedly, "Also, which police officer is currently in liaison with you?"

"There's no need for that. Don't waste your effort on this futile endeavor." Charlotte gazed at her calmly.

"Charlotte..."

"All right, time's up." Charlotte placed her cup down, stood up, and strode toward the private rooms.

"Charlotte..." Nancy quickly blocked her path. "How can you still deal with other matters? Isn't finding Mr. Nacht the most important thing now? Do you care about him or not?"

"I care about him more than anyone else." Frowning, Charlotte stared at her. "Hence, I have to settle his family's business well now. I'm really busy, so you'd better stop creating more trouble for me!"

"You..."

Nancy wanted to say something, but Charlotte had already walked off briskly.

Glaring at her back, Nancy gritted her teeth and said to her bodyguard, "Since she doesn't want to investigate it, I'll do it myself. Contact the police right now. I want to find out the details of this case."

"Understood, Ms. Gold."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1474

Chapter 1474 Dominance

When Charlotte met Theo and the rest, she announced that she would take charge of the Gymnasium Project temporarily and that everything else would go according to plan.

Theo and the rest dared not voice their doubts. After all, Nacht Group held the biggest shares. Even if something were to happen to Zachary, the company would still be capable enough of operating as usual.

However, they couldn't help but worry that something else would pop up and affect the project's progress.

Charlotte announced icily, "Even if something pops up, Nacht Group will take the brunt of it. We've invested more than the total of your investments, right?"

Having heard that, they fell silent.

Rick Newark, one of the shareholders, however, plucked up his courage to say, "Ms. Lindberg, you can't say that. The Nacht family is an affluent family, and the investment is nothing to you. However, for the rest of us, we've invested our savings into this project. If something happens, we'll have to declare bankruptcy."

"Yes, that's right," the others chimed in.

"What do you want?" Charlotte arched a brow. "You want to pull out? It's not too late for that."

"Well..." The shareholders shared a look anxiously.

"Not to that extent, of course," Theo answered hastily. "I don't know what the others have in mind, but I will remain loyal to Nacht Group. No matter what, we'll get through this together!"

"Oh? We'll get through this together?" Charlotte shot Theo an arctic look. She turned to the others and declared, "Everyone, I won't stop you if you wish to pull out. I can ask Mr. Williams to come over to draft an agreement before returning your investment to you."

The other shareholders promptly voiced in unison, "We'll stick with Nacht Group and get through this together!"

"Have you made up your minds?" Charlotte gave them a frosty look.

"Yes, of course." They nodded profusely.

"Since you've made up your minds, I'll be frank, then." Charlotte raised her brow authoritatively. "This project has already started, so I can actually force you to comply using the contract if you hesitate. But because you've known my husband for a long time, I made an exception by giving you a choice. Now that you've agreed to continue with the collaboration, please give me your full cooperation. If you bring this topic up again in the future, I shall demand compensation as per the contract!"

"Yes, we understand." They bobbed their heads fearfully.

"Good." More of that arctic staring before Charlotte announced, "I'll be pretty busy lately, so Lucy, the vice president of Divine Corporation, will handle this project. Please cooperate with her. I don't want someone else to bother me at the slightest movement."

The men could only nod in agreement.

"I need to leave. Enjoy your meal. I've already paid the bill."

Charlotte rose to her feet and strode out with her eight female bodyguards trailing behind her.

After their footsteps faded away, the shareholders heaved a collective sigh of relief.

His heart still racing, Rick asked, "I thought she's supposed to be inadequate? Why do I find her as domineering as Mr. Nacht?"

"She's Danrique's sister and Mr. Nacht's wife. How dare you say she's inadequate?" Theo chided. "Be careful of your words. She's no pushover."

"What? You were the one who told us to come!" Rick huffed.

"My suggestion was that we sound her out, not to protest against her," Theo explained. "Anyway, I'm going to stick until the project is done. Even if Mr. Nacht is in trouble, Nacht Group won't fall that easily. Besides, I received news that Danrique is going to make a comeback."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1475

Chapter 1475 Taking Over

"What? Really?" The others gathered around him. "Didn't Danrique's yacht explode in the sea?"

"That's just his escape plan."

"Then..."

"But that's just a rumor. No one has confirmed it yet. But I think Danrique won't reveal himself easily. Perhaps he'll make a comeback soon."

"If Danrique makes a comeback, Mrs. Nacht is going to be an amazing figure."

"We can't be sure about that. Both the Nacht family and the Lindberg family are still at odds. Ms. Lindberg got back together with Mr. Nacht when Danrique was missing. Perhaps Danrique doesn't approve of their relationship at all."

"That could be possible. Perhaps Danrique will come to H City to take her with him. If that happens for real, the Nacht family will be doomed. No one will be able to keep the order."

"Another possibility is that Danrique has planned to take over Nacht Group when Mr. Nacht is in trouble. After that, the Nacht family will no longer exist, and only the Lindberg family will remain standing."

"Oh, dear. I don't think so..."

"Why not? Have you forgotten what Danrique is like? He could even kill his own sibling, let alone Zachary. Zachary is his family's enemy."

"Well..."

"If that's the case, will our investment go down the drain?"

"I don't think so. It will take some time for Danrique to take over Nacht Group if he has that in mind. Nacht Group is a huge company, and he can't do that alone. We need to speed up, complete the project, and get our share of money before Danrique takes action."

"You're right..."

The men were involved in a heated discussion. They had no idea that Lupine, who had returned to grab something she had left behind, had overheard their entire conversation before leaving with a grim expression.

Back in the car, Lupine reported what she had heard to Charlotte. Worried, she asked, "Ms. Lindberg, will Mr. Lindberg really object to you staying at the Nacht residence?"

Charlotte said nothing. In fact, she had already expected it. However, she was too busy recently to dwell on it.

Now that rumors were circulating in the outside world, she had to start pondering about it.

No matter what or who she encountered, she could forge ahead without fear. Alas, the mere thought of Danrique made her anxious.

Danrique was the only person she feared in this world.

If he wants to bring me back or has something else in mind, I'll be in deep trouble.

"Ms. Lindberg? Ms. Lindberg!"

"Mm." Charlotte snapped back to reality.

"Let's go to a restaurant." Lupine glanced at her watch. "You haven't eaten a proper meal in days."

"I've got no appetite," Charlotte answered bluntly as she rubbed her temples. "It's time to go to the office."

"But you haven't—"

"Just ask the cafeteria to send a sandwich to my office."

"All right."

Lupine said nothing after that, but she was worried about Charlotte.

After the incident, she hasn't slept for three days and four nights. She didn't even get to eat as she had to keep the order and deal with various situations. No one was as upset and full of grief as her, but she didn't even have the time to cry. When she gets some time alone, she'll stare out of the window aimlessly.

"Hubby, where are you?" Charlotte muttered to herself as she stared at Roka Hill.

Her heart sank to the bottom of her stomach.

She didn't have time to think about Zachary when she was busy, but he'd occupy her mind the moment she came to a stop.

Even though her instincts told her that Zachary was still alive, she couldn't help but panic at his disappearance.

Today is the last day. If he was kidnapped by the masked man, he should be suffering a lot now. It's hard to say whether he'll survive the ordeal.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1476

Chapter 1476 Being Questioned

The board meeting held that afternoon was a grand affair.

The board of directors from the headquarter had arrived at H City to attend the meeting at Divine Corporation.

Back when Zachary was here, he had rarely gotten them to gather here. Every time, one or two board members would miss the meeting due to personal reasons. However, each and every one of them was free this afternoon and had shown up today on level 68.

When Johann and Spencer arrived, everyone else stood up to greet them before asking about Zachary's situation.

They both refused to answer questions and told the rest to wait for Charlotte's arrival.

In her office, Charlotte was munching on a sandwich. It was five minutes to three in the afternoon, but this was her first meal of the day.

She gobbled up the sandwich without paying heed to her image.

Her heart aching, Lupine handed Charlotte a glass of milk. "Have some milk. Don't choke on your food," she reminded gently.

Charlotte took the glass readily. She was about to drink the milk when Lucy knocked on the door and entered hastily. "Ms... Mrs. Nacht, everyone has arrived. Mr. Sterk and Mr. Spencer are here. They are waiting for you," she reported.

"It's two minutes to three," Charlotte answered after a brief glance at her watch. She resumed her action of drinking the milk.

Without a word, Lucy stood aside and waited for her.

After downing the glass of milk, Charlotte whipped out a piece of tissue and wiped her mouth. She then put on her coat and strode out.

One second before the clock struck three, she entered the conference room haughtily.

The board members who had come from the headquarter were frowning as they gazed at the clock hanging on the wall. They held back their annoyance and waited for the so-called Mrs. Nacht to show up.

After showing up before the clock struck three, Charlotte swept a cursory glance across the crowd before heading to the president's seat. Overlooking everyone else, she announced in an icy but polite tone, "Welcome to Divine Corporation!"

"Thank you!" a board member from the headquarter answered and gave her an imperious look. "Ms. Lindberg, though rumor has it that Mr. Nacht has announced his marriage to you, you're not yet married, right? It doesn't seem right for you to occupy that seat."

Upon her arrival, someone from the headquarter had outfoxed her.

The rest didn't utter a word and waited patiently for Charlotte's reply.

Spencer was about to say something, but Charlotte made a hand gesture. At once, Lupine slammed a marriage certificate on the table. "Ms. Lindberg and Mr. Nacht have registered their marriage. This is their marriage certificate!"

The board members immediately furrowed their brows at the sight of the marriage certificate.

"A marriage certificate proves nothing," Kallum Nacht continued with his verbal attacks. "Everyone here has worked hard to develop the Nacht family alongside Mr. Henry Nacht. It does not belong to you. Even if Mr. Nacht owns some of the shares, they are part of his pre-marital assets. That has nothing to do with you, Ms. Lindberg."

Lupine was livid. She was about to retort when Rodney came in to announce, "Ten days ago, Mr. Nacht has transferred the shares he owns in Nacht Group and all his assets to Charlotte Lindberg and her three children."

Rodney and Lucy then showed the photocopied documents to the board members.

The board members' faces turned purple in rage.

"Nonsense!" Kallum slammed his fist on the table furiously. "How could he hand the company to someone who's not a Nacht?"

“That’s right. How could he?”

The remaining board members were worried, but they dared not step out and waited for Kallum to seek an answer.

“The Lindberg family has been the rival of the Nacht family for years. I won’t mention the past generation’s grudges. Just two years ago, Mr. Lindberg got the Sterlings and the Browns to go against us. Did you forget how they made things difficult for us?” Kallum declared furiously. “Now that the company is run by a Lindberg, will its name change to Lindberg Group in the future?”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1477

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Chapter 1477 Who Else

"Kallum, Danrique and Ms. Lindberg are different beings. You can't compare them," Spencer said calmly. "Now, she's Mrs. Nacht, Mr. Zachary's wife!"

"So what?" Kallum refused to listen to him. "There are plenty of women in history who have killed their husbands to get their husbands' wealth!"

As soon as he said that, the air in the room tensed up.

The shareholders stared at Charlotte and Kallum fearfully.

With her gaze lowered, Charlotte sipped on her tea without bothering to respond.

Johann broke into a cold sweat. I can't believe Kallum is that arrogant to defame Charlotte!

However, he wasn't in the right position to speak up for Charlotte. Thus, he had to remain silent as his heart leaped to his throat.

"Kallum, don't go overboard!" Spencer retorted. "Ms. Lindberg is married to Mr. Zachary. How could you disrespect her? Do you even respect Mr. Zachary?"

"Spencer, you're too old to be aware of how dangerous the corporate world is," Kallum replied with a frown. "Look at you, trembling in your seat. You should head home and rest. Stop butting into my business."

"Hey!" Spencer went wordless with rage.

However, Kallum didn't even spare him another glance.

The other board members advised, "Mr. Kallum, let's return to the topic. You can't be rude to Mr. Spencer."

"I was just concerned about his health," came Kallum's answer.

"Kallum Nacht, right?" Charlotte finally spoke. "You're the CEO of Nacht Group's company based in M Nation. As you're three generations apart from my husband, we're considered relatives."

"You flatter me," Kallum uttered icily. He assumed that Charlotte wanted to butter up to him.

However, Charlotte's tone did a one-eighty. "But as I'm your superior, I can fire you for spouting nonsense here."

"How dare you?" Kallum fumed.

"Why not?" Charlotte lifted an eyebrow. "I'm the biggest shareholder in Nacht Group. I can fire you if I like. What can you do about it?"

"You..." Kallum was at a loss for words.

Johann immediately shot a look at Charlotte to remind her not to act recklessly. After all, Kallum was representing all thirteen board members from the headquarter.

As expected, the other board members chimed in, "Ms. Lindberg, you're so authoritative, huh? Why don't you fire us all?"

"That isn't what she meant," Spencer offered hastily.

"Those who disagree can leave now." Instead of giving in, Charlotte gave a court order. "Lucy, hand every board member a resignation letter. Those who wish to leave can sign the letter and complete the procedure now."

"Hey!"

Her order immediately created an uproar.

Besides those from the headquarter, even those from Divine Corporation and other branches were abuzz with discussion.

The tension in the air increased under Kallum's incitement.

Some board members started reprimanding Charlotte for her arrogance. After accusing her of abusing her authority, they started to suspect her motives.

Growing anxious, Spencer asked Johann to dissuade Charlotte.

Rising to his feet with difficulty, Johann was about to go to Charlotte as requested when she parted her lips to say, "Why? Do you want to resign, Mr. Sterk?"

At once, everyone fell silent and gazed at her in disbelief.

Stunned, Johann replied instinctively, "Of course not."

"Sit down, then." Charlotte made a gesture with her hand.

Johann immediately sank down.

"Who else wants to resign? We can go through the procedure now." Charlotte gazed at them calmly. "Don't worry. Nacht Group will give you what you deserve. You won't receive a cent less."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1478

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1478 A Domineering Female President

Johann and Spencer gaped at Charlotte. They had no idea what she was getting at.

Though some board members remained skeptical, they held important positions in the company. If they were to leave, the company would be in a total mess and had to stop operation.

"Charlotte Lindberg, this is too much!" Kallum exclaimed, slamming on the table. He rose to his feet and declared, "She's messing around to destroy Nacht Group!"

"What will I get in return when Nacht Group is destroyed?" Charlotte retorted icily. "Even if you refuse to admit it, my children are the heirs to the company. Mr. Henry Nacht has left his shares to them."

The rest promptly calmed down at her words.

Those who were talking earlier quietened down and gazed at her curiously, for they were unsure what she meant.

"You can doubt me, but I won't allow you to doubt Henry or my husband," Charlotte announced haughtily. "I believe you know Henry's will. Before his death, he left everything to his great-grandchildren, and I am their mother. That means I'm their guardian for now. My husband has also transferred his shares and assets to me. You should know that they are smart and capable enough to avoid being controlled by a woman. Why can't you trust their decisions? Instead of seeing what I can do, you immediately found fault with me. What will you gain from kicking me out? If Nacht Group is in a mess, who will take charge? Kallum?"

At her explanation, everyone swiveled around to stare at Kallum.

Spencer was beaming inwardly. Good job for turning the target to Kallum! She successfully made everyone assume that Kallum is creating trouble because he's ambitious enough to take over the president's position.

Kallum's expression changed drastically as he hurriedly explained, "That wasn't what I meant! I only want the best for Nacht Group and the Nacht family. The Lindbergs are our enemy. I did nothing wrong by questioning you!"

"You can question me, but instigating the others isn't the right thing to do," came Charlotte's cool answer. "This isn't our company's anniversary. I didn't receive any reminder in advance, but thirteen board members from the headquarter turned up in H City. What about your jobs? This is a clear threat."

"No, don't make things up."

"You know what you did," Charlotte said harshly. "Everyone here is smart enough to know that."

"How dare—"

"Let me repeat myself." Charlotte swung around to face the rest of the board members. "Those who want to leave can sign on the resignation letter. I'll approve it without further delay!"

The other board members exchanged looks without saying anything.

Some of them hung their heads low in order to avoid being named.

In fact, none of them wanted to leave. To become a board member or upper management in Nacht Group was a dream come true for most of them.

"Kallum." Charlotte turned to look at Kallum.

"Why? Are you going to force me to resign?" Kallum rebutted in a fit of rage. "Impossible! I've been working in Nacht Group for thirty years and I deserve credit for my efforts! I won't leave!"

"I'm glad you'll stay." A grin appeared on Charlotte's lips as her tone grew soft. "We can still be a family if you stay. The outside world is waiting for something to happen to Nacht Group after Zachary went missing. We should work together to face our enemies together!"

The tension within the room quickly dissipated.

Besides giving Kallum an out, she also exuded warmth as though everyone here was part of the family facing the same problem.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1479

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1479 Success

Spencer was impressed by Charlotte's actions.

At the same time, Johann finally understood what she was getting at.

"Of course, I need to answer Kallum's questions." Charlotte's voice was gentle now.

"First, I'd like to clarify that I'm just the acting president of Nacht Group. When Zachary returns or the company's operation resumes to normal, I'll leave without taking a cent," she revealed.

The board members relaxed visibly at her words.

"Second, when I'm in charge, Nacht Group will never merge with another company. There's no way it will be taken over by someone else, for example, my brother Danrique Lindberg!"

The shareholders exhaled in relief, for that was what they were worried about.

Danrique was famous for his ruthless actions, so they were afraid he'd take the opportunity of Charlotte's position to take Nacht Group away from them.

"Third, when I'm in charge of Nacht Group, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Sterk will have to give their stamps of approval before I am to make any important decisions. Thus, you don't have to worry that I'm incapable or being reckless."

There was no mistaking the delight on the board members' faces.

"Note them down, Mr. Williams. Prepare an agreement, and the rest shall be our witnesses!" Charlotte ordered.

"Got it, Mrs. Nacht," answered Rodney with a nod.

"Anything else to object?" Charlotte turned to face the rest of the board members. "If you do, state it now. We can discuss it together!"

"That's it," someone answered. "I think this is good enough."

"I have something to say." Right then, Johann spoke up. "Everyone, you may not know Mrs. Nacht well, but I have witnessed how she got together with Mr. Nacht until now. I trust her character. Though Nacht Group is facing a slight problem, Mr. Lindberg left a lot of money to her before his accident. She is operating a lucrative business, so there's no need for her to take over Nacht Group's mess. She could've lived a great life with her children. But why did she take the risk of taking over this hot potato? Part of it is for her children, but mostly it's because she loves Mr. Nacht. Mr. Nacht left the entire family and company in her hands, so we need to trust his decision. We have to help Mrs. Nacht, just as we helped him to develop Nacht Group!"

"That's right!" Spencer nodded. "Even if you have no trust in an outsider, you trust me, right? I've been working for Mr. Henry Nacht since I was nine, and it has been eighty years since. I don't have any private assets or pursuits as I only hope

to protect the Nacht family. Now, I'm sitting here because Mr. Henry told me to take care of Mr. Zachary before he died, and Mr. Zachary told me to protect his wife, just as how I protected Mr. Henry. I believe Mrs. Nacht will lead Nacht Group well. Remember, many outsiders are targeting us, so we can't have an internal conflict!" His tone was sincere.

"You're right. We'll do our best to be of help," the board members immediately offered.

They were Henry's men who trusted Spencer greatly.

Charlotte's words had convinced them, so they had no reason to disagree with Spencer.

Divine Corporation's employees were already on Charlotte's side. The ones from other regions promptly agreed to support her after hearing the headquarter's stance.

Though Kallum was indignant, he couldn't keep arguing, for that would only serve to increase the others' suspicion. He had no choice but to agree to stay in his position and do his job well.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1480

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1480 Impressed

The board meeting ended in a peaceful manner. Before leaving, Charlotte gave Kallum some assurance to pacify him.

His pride restored, Kallum strode off.

After the meeting, Johann and Spencer came to the president's office to talk to Charlotte.

She was busy signing some documents. "Mr. Sterk, Mr. Spencer, you're here!" She looked up briefly to greet them.

"Give us three minutes to talk to you," requested Johann with a pleasant smile.

"All right. Take a seat. I'll be with you right after I finish signing these documents."

Charlotte returned to her work, while Lupine ushered them to their seats and prepared hot tea for them.

Lucy soon came in with more documents, but Charlotte put her pen down and pinched the bridge of her nose. "These shall wait. I need to talk to Mr. Sterk and Mr. Spencer."

"Sure!" Lucy got her a cup of coffee.

Taking her seat on the couch, Charlotte flashed a shy smile. "I'm sorry. It's been pretty busy lately..."

"Thank you," Spencer said apologetically. "I've always thought of you as a young lady, but you changed my mind today."

"Yes. Back when I was a secretary at level 68, you were totally different," Johann remarked.

"Pfft!" A crimson red crept up Charlotte's cheeks. "Did you drink the chip placed accidentally in your cup?" she joked.

Johann laughed heartily at her joke, and Spencer soon joined in.

This was the first time they had laughed after what happened back at Southridge.

Today, they had won the battle, and it was a good start.

They had to deal with the internal threat first before focusing on the external threat.

Now that the internal conflict had been resolved, they could focus on their rivals.

"Actually, I knew that all along, but I never got the chance to show it. Now that I think of it, Danrique has protected me too well. He taught me a lot but never gave me the chance to face difficulties alone," Charlotte lamented.

"Danrique is a business whiz. He taught you well." Johann gave his honest opinion.

"That was my first experience dealing with such a problem," Charlotte revealed with a grin. "I only used a basic trick and resolved the problem easily. It proves that the board members didn't want to kick up a fuss. They only wanted to know my attitude and determination."

"You're right." Spencer was pleased. "Though they tried to put you in a tight spot, they are loyal to Nacht Group. After all, they used to work for Mr. Henry. Back when Mr. Henry got sick, he had eliminated those questionable employees. He also did a cleanup when Mr. Zachary got sick, too. The ones left behind don't have any outstanding issues, including Kallum. He may be reckless and competitive, but there's nothing wrong with his character. I was worried you'd unleash a killing spree, but you surprised me with your decision and vision. I must say I'm impressed!"

Charlotte chuckled. "I'm not the same now. Don't worry. There are more surprises to come."

"Thank you. Thank you so much!" Though Spencer had a lot in mind, he could only express his gratitude.

"I'm here at Divine Corporation, so you don't have to worry," Johann said. "Though we've gained their support, you need to be extra careful in some matters. We'll always be here if you need us."

"Thank you!" Charlotte nodded gratefully. "Let's work hard to overcome this obstacle."

"Yes, let's do that." Spencer and Johann bobbed their heads in agreement. "We'll leave you to your work now."

After leaving her office, they shared a smiling look before sighing in relief.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1481

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1481 Realizing What Happened

With Nacht Group under control, Charlotte could now relax.

As Nacht Group was influential and had gained a foothold in the corporate world, as long as there was no internal chaos, they could face the outside world together. No one could cause them any harm.

However, there might be some unpredictable changes.

They might be stable now, but no one knew what would happen in the future.

Just as she had told the board members earlier, there should be plenty of rivals planning to make things difficult for Nacht Group.

She dared not let her guard down.

No matter how busy Charlotte was at work, she'd head to the hospital and police station once a day.

Every day, she'd urge the police to find out where Zachary was, but they insisted that he had perished in the fire.

There was nothing else to do but to wait for Ben and Ellie to regain consciousness before they could get more clues.

Ben was injured badly and wouldn't be regaining consciousness for the time being. Hence, Ellie was their only hope, but she remained comatose.

No matter how anxious Charlotte was, she had to regain her composure back at home to comfort Jamie and Robbie. They had been wallowing in sorrow after the incident.

This was especially so for Robbie, who locked himself in his own room and refused to see anyone.

Charlotte had wanted to give him some time to calm down, but he had been staying in his room for four days. Worried, she decided to knock on his door after coming home that night.

"Robbie, it's Mommy!"

Silence greeted her.

Concerned, Charlotte continued saying, "Robbie, I'm coming in."

Having said that, she pushed the door open and headed in.

To her surprise, the room was well lit. Robbie was seated before his desk with a pair of noise-canceling headphones covering his ears. He was typing on his keyboard furiously as though he were a workaholic.

There were no signs of despair, sorrow, or even negativity, for he was busy thinking of a solution.

Charlotte felt her heart ache at the sight.

"Mommy!" Sensing her presence, Robbie looked up and removed his headphones hastily. "Why are you here? Did you receive news about Daddy? How are Mr. Ben and Ellie doing?"

Charlotte hugged him tight and replied in a choking voice, "Daddy will return for sure. Ellie and Mr. Ben will also recover soon."

"Mm, I know." Robbie gave a firm nod as determination shone in his eyes. "I'm still finding out where Aunt Francey is. Though there are no updates for now, I'm sure I'll get to it. As long as I can locate Aunt Francey, Daddy will be saved when he gets back."

"Robbie"—Charlotte inhaled sharply before cupping his cheeks gently—"Mommy will take care of it. This is not your responsibility."

"But I want to contribute," Robbie insisted, his eyes bloodshot. "I'll only wallow in despair if I don't do anything..."

Charlotte was at a loss for words. She felt her heart aching for him.

"Mommy, don't worry about me. I'm fine." Robbie wiped her tears away softly. "I know you're busy and tired, but you must take good care of yourself. Don't get sick."

"Mm." Charlotte nodded.

"Jamie and I want to hold a wake for Little Fifi. We've been in a daze for the past few days before coming to the realization that Little Fifi died to save Ellie. We're very upset..." Robbie trailed off and burst into tears.

His brave front had disappeared.

Just then, Jamie walked in and flung his arms around Charlotte. He wailed, "Little Fifi's gone, Mommy. It's gone for real!"

It took them a few days to realize Little Fifi had left them for real.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1482

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1482 Taking Action

"Jamie"—Charlotte wrapped her arms around him in a comforting manner—"Little Fifi was born the same year as you, and it's seven this year. As an elderly bird, it was a courageous bird that had sacrificed itself to save Ellie and went to heaven earlier than expected. I believe Little Fifi will end up as a little angel in heaven."

"Mm." Jamie sobbed pitifully. "Can we hold a wake for it?"

"Of course you can." Charlotte bobbed her head. "But I think you should wait for Ellie to wake up before holding the wake."

"How is Ellie doing? When will she wake up?" Jamie asked.

"She's not badly hurt. Little Fifi and Fifi did their best to protect her," Charlotte said, trying hard to be optimistic. "I believe she'll regain consciousness soon. We just need to give her some time."

"All right!" Both Jamie and Robbie nodded vehemently. "Can we visit Ellie and Mr. Ben at the hospital tomorrow?"

"Sure. I'll ask Morgan to bring you there," she promised while patting their heads dearly. "Now, be good and go wash your hands. Let's have dinner together downstairs. From today onward, you will eat your meals on time with the girls so they won't be scared, okay?"

"Okay!" Jamie and Robbie replied in unison.

Seeing how obedient and strong they were, she felt relieved.

After calming them down, she went and had fun with the girls.

The girls had been obedient for the past few days, a far cry from their usual craziness. They would play with toys in the playroom quietly, watch a cartoon, or read books without kicking up a fuss.

Knowing that Charlotte was busy dealing with a crisis, they dared not bother her and their cousins.

When Charlotte came to spend time with them, they comforted her and said, "Don't worry, Aunt Charlotte. We're finding Daddy and Mommy. They will be here to help soon."

"Thank you, girls." Charlotte paid no heed to their words, as they were merely kids. "All right, my darlings. I need to get back to work. Be good and go to bed. Tomorrow, if you're bored, ask Jade to accompany you to pick some grapes."

"Okay, Aunt Charlotte. You should get some rest!"

The girls watched Charlotte leave before huddling together for a discussion.

"Alpha, Beta, should we summon Mommy now?"

"Yes, I think it's time. Look how upset Aunt Charlotte is. Robbie and Jamie have locked themselves in their rooms, and Ellie is hurt. I feel bad for them..."

"Aunt Charlotte, Uncle Zachary, and our cousins love us. We need to do something for them."

"Let's take action tonight."

"I agree."

Meanwhile, Charlotte returned to her study room and buried herself in work.

Back when Zachary was feeling unwell, work had piled up. Now that he was missing, a lot of projects were waiting to start earlier than planned, so Charlotte had a lot to deal with.

She had been working nonstop for the past few days, but work never seemed to end. However, the continuous work allowed her to forget the pain and become stronger.

"Mrs. Nacht..." Hanna knocked on the door before coming in with a tray of food. "You haven't eaten a proper meal in days. Have something to eat before resuming work."

"Thanks, Mrs. Rawlston," came Charlotte's answer. She didn't even bother looking up as she flipped through the file in her hand.

"Your health will suffer if this goes on," Hanna said in a sympathetic tone. "If you get sick, what about the children? What about your family? And what will happen to the company?"

"All right." Charlotte put down the file and got up. Right when she stood up, her head went dizzy, and she collapsed to the ground.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1483

/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort
Chapter 1483 A Mysterious Call

"Mrs. Nacht!" Hanna held her hastily. "Are you okay?"

"Oh, Ms. Lindberg!" Lupine happened to walk in and witnessed the scene.

She immediately led Charlotte to rest on the couch.

"Hurry, have some medicinal broth." Hanna came over with the bowl of broth she had prepared. Her eyes turning red, she asked, "Are you exhausted, or are you starving and suffering from low blood sugar?"

"Both, I suppose."

After Lupine fed Charlotte some of the medicinal broth, the latter's cheeks turned rosy.

"Stop doing this!" Lupine huffed. "As a human being, you need to rest! Many of us are injured. Do you want to add on to the list?"

"All right. Cut the crap," Charlotte replied weakly.

"I don't care. You have to rest tonight!" Lupine declared, her eyes turning red. "Otherwise, I'll inform the children!"

"You're bold enough to threaten me now, huh?" Charlotte remarked, covering her heating forehead lazily.

"Listen to us, Mrs. Nacht. Eat something and go to bed." Hanna brought something over. "Here, have some oatmeal."

Charlotte had to give in to them and sipped on the oatmeal slowly. Underneath their watchful gazes, she returned to her room to take a hot shower before going to bed.

Yes, she was exhausted, but she was afraid of going to bed.

Every time she closed her eyes, the image of Zachary struggling helplessly in the fire would pop up. That thought alone would make her go crazy.

"Have a good rest. You're tired and need some sleep." Lupine sat beside her to keep her company. "Don't think too much and close your eyes."

Closing her eyes, Charlotte gradually drifted off to sleep.

Lupine carefully brushed her hair away from her cheeks before pulling up the covers for her. She then sat aside patiently.

Hanna set down a thermos flask and said in a low voice, "There's some tea inside. If Mrs. Nacht feels unwell after waking up, she can have some."

"Thanks, Mrs. Rawlston. You can leave now," Lupine thanked her gratefully before sending her out.

Exhaustion caught up to Charlotte, and she soon fell into a deep sleep.

Lupine covered herself in a blanket and made herself comfortable on the couch. As she recalled the recent events, her heart sank in despair. She felt utterly powerless.

Danger is lurking all around, so Charlotte is barely hanging on. It's just the beginning. If she collapses now, what will happen next?

She was deep in thought when her phone began vibrating. Pulling it out, she frowned at the sight of an unknown number. However, she still headed to the bathroom to answer it. "Hello?"

"It's me," came a deep and cold voice.

"Mr. Lindberg!"

Lupine nearly jolted in fright, but she hurriedly covered her mouth and turned at her shoulder.

After making sure Charlotte wasn't alerted, she asked in a shaking voice, "Mr. Lindberg, it's you? A-Are you all right?"

"I'm fine," came Danrique's curt reply.

"I—"

He cut in, "Listen, don't tell Charlotte I called."

"Yes, yes." Lupine nodded.

"I have a few questions for you. Be honest with me."

"Sure!"

"Is Zachary Nacht really dead?"

"Well..." Lupine hesitated before answering honestly, "I'm not sure. After the fire, the police didn't find him at the scene. They said a fire happened in the room, ignited by a poisonous substance. It supposedly can burn a man to ashes, so..."

"A poisonous substance?" Danrique murmured.

"Yes, that was stated by the police. They suspected that Mr. Nacht had perished in the fire, but Ms. Lindberg refused to buy their account. She thinks he's still alive."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1484

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1484 Little Savior

"Did Charlotte take over Nacht Group?" Danrique queried.

"Yes," came Lupine's honest reply. "Before that incident, Mr. Nacht had transferred his shares and assets to Ms. Lindberg and the children. He even introduced her to the shareholders and upper management of Divine Corporation ahead of time. After he went missing, the headquarter had tried to find fault with her. There was a board meeting this afternoon to put her in a tight spot, but Ms. Lindberg dealt with it easily. Now, everyone has agreed to work together to get through this."

"Are the children all right?" Danrique asked. This was his third question.

"Ellie got hurt. Jamie and Robbie were scared out of their wits. They aren't doing well after what happened in their house, but the girls are fine. They were in Northridge with us when that incident happened."

"Okay," Danrique answered. "If there's a crisis, contact Sean."

"Mr. Lindberg—" Before Lupine could say anything further, Danrique had already hung up.

With her phone in her palm, Lupine felt excited. At least Mr. Lindberg is still alive. He's also concerned about Ms. Lindberg. But what does his last order mean?

"If there's a crisis, contact Sean," she repeated to herself.

That means we shouldn't bother him if there isn't a crisis. If it's a serious issue, contact Sean. That must be it!

At once, Lupine felt more confident. Though Mr. Lindberg hasn't taken action yet, at least he is on her side. If Ms. Lindberg is in trouble, he'll definitely take action.

She beamed, her fear all gone.

However, Lupine had no idea what had happened ten minutes earlier in the playroom.

The three girls huddled together and shone their flashlights on a smartwatch before dialing a number with much difficulty.

"Are you sure we can find Mommy?"

"Before she left, she said we can call this number if we run into trouble."

"But we aren't in trouble."

"Aunt Charlotte is in trouble. We need to protect her!"

"You're right."

Ring, ring...

They waited anxiously for the call to be answered.

Alpha said, "We didn't call her when we missed her. Will she pick up?"

"Mommy said we can't call her even if we miss her or cry. We can only call her when we're in trouble."

"Why isn't she picking up?"

"Hello?" Suddenly, a cold voice answered the call.

"Uh..." The children were stunned.

"Who is this?"

"It sounds like..."

"Scary Daddy?"

"What's wrong, girls?" A hint of warmth crept into the stern voice.

"Are you our daddy?"

"Of course!"

"Can you prove it?"

"When your mommy gets mad, she'll act like a lion and call you by your full name—Adolpha Lindberg, Bethany Lindberg, and Gamarra Lindberg."

"Oh, it really is our daddy!"

"Daddy, it's me, Alpha!"

"I'm Beta!"

"I'm Gamma!"

"Did Mommy leave this number to you?" Danrique asked.

No one else knows this number, not even Charlotte. She's the only exception.

"Yep. Before Mommy left, she said we can call this number if we run into trouble..."

"What happened? What trouble did you run into?" Danrique quickly asked.

"We're fine. It's Aunt Charlotte and Uncle Zachary who ran into trouble. And also Ellie..."

The children explained what happened slowly. In the end, they implored, "Daddy, can you please help Aunt Charlotte? We feel sad for her. Can you help her find Uncle Zachary?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1485

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Chapter 1485 I Am The Only One

Danrique fell silent at their pleas. Some time later, he asked, "Uh, did Uncle Zachary treat you well?"

"Yes, he is awesome!" Alpha nodded. "Uncle Zachary told us stories, prepared breakfast for us, taught us how to ride a horse, and even brought us to have fun in the woods!"

"We even took a family portrait with Uncle Zachary!" Beta chimed in. "When we got tired, Uncle Zachary hoisted us up to his shoulders! He's as tall as a mountain. We're not afraid at all because I can hold on to his hair."

"I held on to his ears so I wouldn't fall down," Gamma said. "Even if we fall down, he'll catch us."

"Right!" Alpha nodded fervently. "Ellie said they used to sit on Uncle Zachary's shoulders when they were young. They are used to it."

"Uncle Zachary's shoulders are wide, so I won't fall!" the children chattered excitedly. "Uncle Zachary has a nice voice. He looks handsome when he tells us stories. He—"

"Okay, okay. That's enough!" Danrique interjected. "Since it's nothing, go to bed. Children need to sleep more to grow up to be clever adults."

Though he seemed unfazed, he felt uncomfortable deep down to hear his children praising his arch-enemy happily.

Is Zachary Nacht really that great? Charlotte loves him, and now the girls have been conquered.

"Daddy! Daddy, you haven't said yes yet!" The kids didn't forget what their mission was. "Please help Aunt Charlotte find Uncle Zachary! Pretty please!"

"All right. Go to bed. I'll hang up now." Danrique cut the line without hesitation.

The children pouted unhappily in the dark as they whispered among themselves.

"Was that a yes?"

"I don't think so."

"I think so."

"Jeez..."

Danrique stared at his phone for some time before dialing Lupine's number.

And that was how Lupine had received his phone call.

Of course, she had no idea it was all the girls' doing. If it weren't for them, Danrique wouldn't have called her.

Though it didn't seem that Danrique was about to do anything, he promptly relayed his orders after ending the call with Lupine. "Did you find her?"

"Not yet, Mr. Lindberg. Dr. Felch is nowhere to be seen after she sneaked away a few days ago. We can't contact her."

"Did she go to the kids? I know how much she misses them..."

"The kids haven't seen her until now."

"Well... Go find her. You must get her to come back."

"Even if I manage to find her, she may not come back with me," Sean muttered to himself. "You know how stubborn Ms. Felch can be..."

"Just say that I need to talk to her." Danrique furrowed his brows.

"But she may not listen to me." Sean seemed stumped. "Back when I went to her, she stabbed my acupuncture point and made me cry. I've never been humiliated in such a way."

"Wouldn't you put your guard up?" Danrique hissed.

"She was too quick!" Sean's expression fell. "She gets irritated easily and takes action when things aren't going her way. Before I realized it—"

"She gets irritated easily? Says who?" Danrique glared at him, menace visible in his gaze.

"I-I mean... I deserve to get beaten up..."

"That's right. I'm the only one who's allowed to criticize her. No one else can say bad things about her!"

"Understood, Mr. Lindberg!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1486

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Chapter 1486 A Mysterious Car

"Well, what are you still standing there for?"

"I'm sorry, Mr. Lindberg. I'll look for her now!"

Sean immediately scurried away to look for Francesca.

Truth be told, none of them were confident of convincing her.

Though Francesca was petite, she was no pushover.

Mr. Lindberg was the reason she left in a huff. Isn't he asking us to seek death by searching for her? Francesca Felch is full of tricks. She'll definitely pull pranks on us! Ugh, I really don't want to look for her.

Sean's face scrunched up in worry at the thought, but he had no choice but to carry out Danrique's order.

I'll have to find her no matter what, as per Mr. Lindberg's order. When will the rain stop, though?

Back in Northridge, the rain battered down as tree branches slammed against the windows noisily.

Charlotte jolted awake from a nightmare. Cold sweat had formed on her forehead.

"Ms. Lindberg, are you all right?" Lupine immediately went over to her.

"I dreamt about Zachary," Charlotte revealed, panting heavily. She stared at the ceiling as tears wetted her lashes. "I dreamt that he was heavily wounded and was struggling in the fire. He even told me that he was in pain..."

Her entire being was trembling as fat tears rolled down her cheeks.

"It's fine. Oh, it's fine. It's just a dream." Lupine patted her back and offered her a cup of tea. "Here, have some tea to calm down."

Charlotte refused to drink and covered her face. She couldn't stop the tears from streaming down her cheeks.

"Ms. Lindberg..."

As Lupine was about to reveal Danrique's secret, someone knocked on the door. "Ms. Lindberg, Ms. Elisa has regained consciousness."

"Ellie!" Charlotte got to her feet at once. "We need to go to the hospital now!"

"But it's raining heavily. Should we—"

"We need to go now. Prepare the car," Charlotte urged. "Ellie is afraid of the dark. She'll cry if I'm not with her."

"Got it." Lupine immediately got to work. "Wake Morgan up so she can drive."

"Okay."

In the middle of the night, they sped toward the hospital.

Morgan was back for her shift, and she drove them to the hospital.

Her presence made them feel safe.

"Ms. Lindberg, don't worry. Ellie will be fine," Morgan assured. "I've been taking care of Ellie every day, and she's recovering swiftly."

"Drive faster," Charlotte commanded.

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg." Morgan stepped on the accelerator.

The winding road was dangerous, especially on a day when it was raining cats and dogs. Normal people wouldn't dare to drive on such days, but Morgan was experienced enough to remain calm.

She had to control the speed to prevent slipping and falling down the cliff.

Morgan was familiar with the road, and she was professional enough to speed up and be in control.

When they were about to reach the foot of the hill, a black car that didn't switch on its headlights suddenly came at them. Shocked, Morgan immediately swerved out of its way.

"Damn it!" she cursed under her breath. "If I wasn't fast enough, we would be dead by now."

"Calm down," Lupine reminded with a frown.

"I know," Morgan answered. She glanced through the rearview mirror and commented, "I can't believe the driver didn't switch on the headlights on such a treacherous hill."

"Why would a car head up the hill at this hour?" Lupine's frown deepened as she stared at the car behind them.

"There are only two villas up there, and a manor near the foot of the hill. There's also a club at the foot. Who could that be?"

"Could it be Nancy Gold's men?" Morgan guessed. "She never gave up on finding Mr. Nacht."

Instead of answering her, Charlotte ordered, "Go check it out."

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg." Lupine got to work at once.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1487

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Chapter 1487 Worried

Once they arrived at the hospital, Charlotte got down from the car in a haste. Before she reached Ellie's ward, she could hear the child's fearful cries from afar.

Rushing in, she gave Ellie a tight hug. "Ellie, don't be afraid. Mommy's here. I'm right here..."

"Mommy!" Ellie was shaking in her arms.

"Good girl, Ellie. You're fine now. It's all right. Mommy's here. No one can hurt you." Charlotte patted her back gently to comfort her.

Before long, Ellie finally calmed down and dozed off.

Raina revealed in a low voice, "The drug must be causing her sleepiness. She'll be fine a couple of days later."

"How about her wounds?" Charlotte inquired. "Her voice sounded hoarse."

"Her throat is a little infected after she took in too much of the poisonous smoke. She'll be fine after getting some rest," Raina replied. "There are no big issues. It's only a mild concussion."

"I think she's traumatized," Charlotte said, staring at Ellie worriedly.

"Yes, she is," came Raina's answer. "I've arranged for some psychologists to examine her the next time she wakes up."

"Okay." Charlotte sat beside the bed. "You can leave now. I'll keep Ellie company."

"All right. I'll go check on Ben. Call me if anything happens."

"I..." Lupine hesitated.

"Leave with her. We're fine here." Charlotte knew what was on her mind.

"I'll stay with Ms. Lindberg," Morgan offered. "Go, Lupine."

"Stay with her. Don't leave her alone," Lupine instructed.

"Of course."

Lupine left with Raina, while Morgan stayed with Charlotte.

Charlotte switched off the lights, leaving behind a dim yellow light just so she could keep an eye on Ellie. Her heart was overwhelmed with anguish and guilt.

Gently, she held Ellie's tiny hands to give her warmth.

It was four in the morning, and Charlotte should be exhausted by now, but she couldn't sleep a wink. Keeping Ellie company made her feel better.

Time trickled by, and the sun eventually came out.

Lupine returned to report, "Our men sent back word that the car belonged to the restaurant at the foot of the hill. There's nothing suspicious about it."

"Fine, then." Charlotte didn't dwell on the matter. "Prepare to head to the company."

"It's still early. Aren't you heading back to get some rest?" Lupine asked with concern.

"I'm fine." Charlotte's brows knitted together. "There is too much work for me to relax. I can't sleep well. I'll rest when everything comes to an end."

"But your health—"

"Stop it," Charlotte cut her off. "Morgan, let's go to my office. Lupine, stay here at the hospital."

"I—"

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg," Morgan answered hastily.

Though Lupine felt uneasy, she dared not disobey Charlotte's order.

Her heart ached at how Charlotte was putting others before her until now.

She knows I'm worried about Ben. That's why she switched my shift with Morgan's shift so I can stay in the hospital. Though it seems like a task, she's actually being kind.

Right then, Raina had arrived with the psychologists. "Ms. Lindberg, I've made the arrangements. Once Ellie regains consciousness, they'll start counseling her. Don't worry. But during the session, it's better to have someone to stay with her."

"But I—"

Charlotte was about to explain that she was heading to work when two familiar voices rang out. "Mommy!"

Robbie and Jamie ran in with Ellie's favorite plushie.

"We'll keep Ellie company. You should get some rest," Robbie said gently. "It's still early, so you can take a nap and go back to work in the afternoon."

"Yes, Mommy. Don't exhaust yourself." Jamie hugged her. "We'll be worried if you get sick."

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Chapter 1488 Evil Woman

"All right." Charlotte nodded. "Robbie, Jamie, I'll leave Ellie with you guys."

"Okay." The boys nodded as well. "Don't worry, Mommy. We'll take good care of Ellie."

Charlotte embraced her two children lovingly before leaving with Morgan and the rest.

She had to deal with many matters at the corporation that day, so she could not afford to waste any more time. Besides, she had to press the police for an update. It had been four days since Zachary's disappearance, but there was still no news about him. On top of that, the nightmare she had from the night before made her feel extremely unsettled.

Charlotte had a lot on her plate, be it the company or her family. Everything was dependent on her.

She was as busy as a bee every day, but the tasks seemed to be endless.

Even in the car, she had to go through documents.

Suddenly, the car came to an abrupt halt. Morgan yelled, "Do they have a death wish or something?"

"It looks like Ms. Gold's car." Emma, sitting in the front passenger seat, remarked.

At her utterance, Charlotte raised her head and looked ahead. Indeed, Nancy's car was blocking the way, and she seemed furious.

"She's crazy! What is she trying to do?"

Morgan's hot temper remained the same. Nothing about her changed.

At that moment, Nancy came out of her car, strode toward them, and knocked on the window.

Charlotte pressed on the window switch. As the window lowered, she looked at her glacially.

"Charlotte, you'll suffer retribution for what you've done." Nancy forced out those words through gritted teeth. "You are thoroughly black-hearted!"

"What are you talking about?" Charlotte knitted her eyebrows.

"You're still pretending, huh?" Nancy sneered as she stared her down. "Never mind. Your true colors will be exposed soon enough. Just you wait!"

After shooting her a nasty look, she turned and stormed off.

"She's crazy," Morgan spat. "What the heck was she even talking about?"

"Ignore her. Let's go." Charlotte did not want to delay further.

"Okay." Morgan started the engine and drove off.

As the car continued to head toward the company, Charlotte had her head lowered, focused on reading the documents. Yet, an inexplicable sense of dread crept into her heart as she recalled Nancy's words.

That can't be right. Although Nancy dislikes me, she's not the kind of person that will make baseless accusations. What did she mean earlier? Is there a reason behind her outburst?

At that thought, she immediately took out her phone, planning to ask someone to investigate the matter. Coincidentally, Lucy called her.

“Ms. Lindberg, something bad has happened. Please check out the news now.”

“What news?”

While replying to her through the Bluetooth earpiece, Charlotte checked the messages on the tablet in which she saw the plethora of links sent by Lucy. The moment she opened them, her face turned pale.

Evil Woman Killed Her Ex For Money.

Fallen Heiress Took Revenge On Her Ex—Arson And Homicide.

Only By Being Ruthless Can Women Secure Their Position.

There was a multitude of weirdly worded headlines, which seemed to be insinuating something.

Charlotte clicked in and found that the contents were all directed toward her.

Some said that she burned down the Nacht residence and killed Zachary right before their wedding ceremony because she coveted the assets of the Nacht family.

Others claimed that she returned to take revenge on the Nacht family, so she seduced Zachary only to kill him afterward.

Some even suggested that she conspired with her lover to kill Zachary. As of then, she had seized the assets of the Nacht family and even became the new president of Nacht Group.

In short, there was a variety of rumors, and all of them suggested that Charlotte killed Zachary for the assets of the Nacht family.

Some even provided evidence, analyzing the incident as if they knew the truth.

The photo of Charlotte and Michael was even released, claiming that he was her lover.

Charlotte frowned. Everything was fine yesterday, but today, all hell is breaking loose. Who’s the one responsible for this?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1489

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Chapter 1489 They Came Prepared

"It's preposterous!" Emma, too, started browsing the news on her phone. Fuming with anger, she said, "Ms. Lindberg is doing all she can to support the Nacht family. How can they say this?"

"Someone must be behind all these." Morgan leaned over to glance at the news and was instantly riled by them. "Could it be Nancy Gold's doing?" she suggested.

"She has to be the main suspect," Emma spat. "It can't be anyone else."

"I don't think it's her." Charlotte kept her cool and analyzed the situation. "If she's the culprit, then it doesn't make sense for her to come all the way to scold me."

Though she was not fond of Nancy, she felt that the latter truly loved Zachary. Nancy must be more concerned about his safety, so there was no need for her to complicate the situation by releasing those fake news.

If it isn't her, then who else would do such a thing? Ever since Zachary went missing, some conglomerate businesses have been plotting to gain control of Nacht Group. Could it be them?

While Charlotte was deep in thought, her phone rang again. That time around, it was Johann who called. She immediately answered the call. "Mr. Sterk."

"Charlotte, the stock price is plunging." Johann went straight to the point. "I think there's a need for you to explain the situation in a press conference. Or else, our stock price will hit rock bottom, and we'll suffer massive losses."

"I'll be arriving at the company shortly. Let's discuss face to face there," she responded decisively.

"Sure."

After ending the call, Charlotte checked the stock market. Indeed, the stock price of Nacht Group was crashing. Evidently, the ongoing discussions on the internet had left a profound impact.

Moreover, the rumors suddenly emerged in the morning, with almost every well-known media company producing the same content simultaneously. Not only were the headlines eye-catching, but they were also spreading like wildfire. Everything seemed so organized and well-prepared.

Usually, the media dared not cross Nacht Group. However, considering the involvement of so many media companies, Charlotte had reasons to suspect that a highly influential person was pulling the strings.

Then, Spencer called, and she immediately answered, "Hi, Mr. Spencer."

"Charlotte, you must handle the issue with great care. Find out who did this as soon as possible! Based on my experience, this matter will only get worse if not dealt with immediately."

"I know that, Mr. Spencer. I'm dealing with it right now."

"We've put in a lot of effort to persuade the board of directors yesterday, and yet, this happened. There must be someone behind this. Do you have any suspect?"

"I can't think of one at the moment. I'll investigate it."

"Okay. Be quick. I've been receiving calls the whole day. The shareholders have been looking for me, so I'll go and deal with them first."

"Sure."

Just as Charlotte put down the phone, Michael called. Frustrated by the endless calls, she frowned. "Michael."

"Charlotte, what's going on? Why did I become your lover?"

"I'm not sure. I'm investigating it now." Charlotte almost let out a sigh. "Now, I can only say for sure that they're coming after me. You just happened to be dragged into this mess."

"No, no, that's not what I meant. I don't mind getting involved in this. I'm not really affected since I'm all alone. More importantly, you're in the center of the storm. Please be careful."

"I know. I'll deal with it. I'm sorry, Michael."

"Don't worry about it. Let me know if you need my help. I'm always available."

"Mmm, got it."

Once the call ended, Charlotte massaged her temples to soothe her headache. In the meantime, they had arrived at the company's building. At the sight of their car, a group of journalists swarmed toward them.

"Such annoying people!"

Morgan's expression darkened.

She wanted to chase the group away, but the security guards forestalled her and dispersed the crowd.

Morgan immediately drove the car toward the parking lot in the basement.

Charlotte looked at the time. It's only nine in the morning, yet the journalists have already gathered here. The mastermind sure has come up with a well-formulated plan.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1490

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Chapter 1490 Final Nail In The Coffin

When Charlotte arrived on level 68, Johann, Lucy, and the upper management of Divine Corporation were already waiting for her.

After a discussion with Johann, they decided to hold a press conference the next afternoon, and Lucy would announce the event to the public.

However, Johann was still anxious. "Judging from the situation, I think the media companies have been bribed. What if they refuse to listen to your explanation and solely condemn you? How should we deal with it?"

"Have the legal team join the press conference." Charlotte came up with a decision without hesitation. "We'll speak with evidence. Record the attendance of all the media companies. Should there be any attempt to defame me, we'll issue a letter of demand immediately."

"That's a great way to do it." He nodded and said, "I've sent someone to investigate the matter. Let's hope we'll find out the culprit soon enough."

"Come to think of it, to be courageous enough to go against Nacht Group openly, the person behind this must be some formidable force." A deep frown creased her forehead.

"Who can it be?" Johann could not wrap his head around the situation. "I really can't think of anyone."

"Let's put this aside for now. Get ready for the press conference instead." Compared to him, Charlotte was more levelheaded. "We'll take it one step at a time."

"All right."

Johann left afterward.

Charlotte was prepared to go through the documents when Lucy came to report to her. "Ms. Lindberg, a new rumor has been released."

"What is it about?" Charlotte was still flipping the pages.

"This time, they've gotten Mr. Lindberg involved. He's accused of being the mastermind of your revenge plan..." Lucy said in a soft voice.

That made Charlotte stop looking through the documents. Extending her hand, she took the tablet from Lucy. Rage colored her features as she scrolled through the page.

The rumors claimed that the downfall of Lindberg Corporation was due to Danrique's mismanagement and that he had instructed Charlotte to target Nacht Group because he lacked the resources to rebuild their family's legacy.

At the same time, they also listed out examples and pieces of evidence that showed how Lindberg Corporation plotted against Nacht Group in the past. The article was written in a convincing fashion, and one would easily believe that it was the truth.

Fury blazed up within Charlotte after she read everything.

This is too much! It's one thing to accuse me, but to drag Danrique into this! Danrique is a principled man. He's not the kind of person that will covet things that don't belong to him. Heck, he might not even accept them even if they were presented to him as a gift!

"This article went viral, and many netizens believe it." While observing her expression, Lucy uttered cautiously, "Now, many media companies are trying to get in touch with our public relations department, hoping to get updates."

Charlotte was enraged, but she remained rational. Putting down the tablet, she replied calmly, "We'll deal with this at tomorrow's press conference."

"But..." Lucy looked at her worriedly. "New rumors keep sprouting. If we wait till tomorrow, the stock price of Nacht Group may—"

"What do you mean by new rumors?" Charlotte was exasperated.

"Just a minute ago, there's another article..."

Lucy's voice trailed off, for she was too afraid to continue the sentence.

"What is it about?" Charlotte asked impatiently.

"L-Look at it yourself." Lucy opened up a link on the tablet.

Charlotte took over the tablet. Upon reading the content, she flew into a rage. Slamming her fist on the table, she stood up and roared, "What the f*ck!"

The article claimed that Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie were not Zachary's children but Danrique's.

Attached to the post were photos of the three children, and the author claimed that they all looked like Danrique but not Zachary.

However, the post omitted the relationship between Charlotte and Danrique, giving the readers the wrong impression while stirring up ripples of suspense.

Nevertheless, it was like the final nail in the coffin, thwarting Charlotte's plans to clear her name.

If she could not furnish any solid evidence, then the matter might be beyond salvaging.

However, Zachary had gone missing, and Henry was dead. Even if she wanted to perform a DNA test, she could not find anyone to prove her children's biological relationship with the Nacht family.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1491

Chapter 1491 A Dire Situation

"Now that new rumors are popping up every few minutes and are supported by so-called evidence, things might go out of hand if we wait till tomorrow," Lucy said anxiously. "Besides, many of the doubts are directed toward you, so Mr. Sterk and Mr. Spencer are in no position to speak up."

She continued explaining the graveness of the situation, "You're going to face hundreds of media companies all alone tomorrow, all of whom are sharp-tongued. In addition, they all seem prepared and are set out to tarnish your reputation. I'm afraid you'll be driven into a corner..."

With her eyes downcast, Charlotte mulled over the situation.

Lucy is right. The current situation is critical, and things will only worsen the longer we dragged on...

"Go and make the arrangements. Bring forward the press conference to today at two in the afternoon," she ordered. "No, make it at eleven in the morning!"

"It's almost a quarter to ten. Eleven's not that far off." Lucy checked her watch and asked worriedly, "The timing is good, but are you ready?"

"There's nothing to prepare." Charlotte frowned. "No matter how much I prepare for it, I wouldn't know what tricks they will throw at me. Representatives from over five hundred media companies will be attending the press conference. How can we anticipate everything?"

"You are right." Lucy nodded. "Then, shall I proceed with it now?"

"Please." Charlotte motioned her to leave with the wave of her hand.

"Understood." Lucy sprang into action.

Having lost the mood to deal with work, Charlotte closed the folder. Instead, she walked toward the windows, looked at the beautiful city view below, and started sorting out her thoughts.

She had to stay calm, eliminate all distractions, and think of a proper solution.

"Ms. Lindberg!"

A familiar voice came to her ears.

Charlotte turned her head. "Lupine, why are you here? Didn't I ask you to stay in the hospital?"

"I've sent Jade and Emma over." Lupine hurriedly approached her. "I can't leave you alone when you're facing such a huge problem!"

"I'm not alone. Aren't Jade and Emma people?"

Charlotte rolled her eyes at her, but her lips quirked into a smile. As Lupine had always been a reliable person, she felt more at ease to have her around.

"That's not the same. I know you best, so I'm the one who's most fit to help you." Lupine looked at Charlotte empathetically. "Ms. Lindberg, I met Lucy on my way here. She mentioned that you're holding a press conference at eleven?"

"That's right." Charlotte nodded. "There's no time to lose. I need to deal with this immediately."

"Then, I'll have my men get ready." Lupine started making calls on her phone.

"What do you mean?" Charlotte blurted out, but it soon struck her. Security would be a major concern since the press conference would be held on an enormous scale.

"You're meticulous as always. I almost forget about that." Charlotte massaged her temples. "I'm so fortunate to have you here with me."

"Those media companies are obviously puppets used to bring you down. If security is not properly dealt with, it will exacerbate the already dire situation."

While making calls, Lupine added, "We're short on people, but I'll think of a way to solve this."

After everything that had happened, Southridge was ruined entirely. The remaining bodyguards of the Nacht family were sent to protect Ben, Ellie, Johann, and Spencer.

Only Charlotte's female bodyguards were available. However, some had to stay at home to protect Danrique's triplets. Obviously, there was a serious lack of manpower.

However, the current circumstances necessitated the deployment of a large group of men.

Stricken with worry, Lupine was hesitant to contact Gordon and Sean.

"They are too far away." Charlotte knew what was on her mind. "It's of no use to ask Gordon for help now."

“But—”

Lupine was about to respond, but Charlotte’s ringtone cut her off. The caller was Gordon.

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chapter 1492

Chapter 1492 On Deck

“Speak of the devil,” Charlotte said and answered the phone immediately.

“Ms. Lindberg!”

“Gordon, it’s great to hear from you again.”

Urgently requiring aid, she quickly asked, “Are you still in Erihal? Have you made contact with Danrique?”

“Not yet,” Gordon replied. “However, I’ve confirmed that Mr. Lindberg is still alive and is safe. Hence, I’ve returned to H City to protect you and the triplets.”

“You’re back in H City? That’s great!” Charlotte exclaimed. “Your timing can’t be any better. I need help now!”

“We just arrived at the airport and are at your beck and call.”

“Bring your men to Nacht Group now,” Charlotte instructed immediately.

“Understood, I’ll come over now!”

“No, wait...”

All of a sudden, Charlotte calmed down. There are already rumors that claim that I returned to the Nacht family for revenge under Danrique’s command. If his men are to appear by my side at this juncture, it’ll only raise more suspicions.

“Don’t worry about it. I brought some new faces along with me this time. No one will recognize them.”

Gordon understood her concerns.

“When I met with Sean in Erihal, I had some of his men join me. Although they’ve always been following Mr. Lindberg, they never showed themselves in public. Therefore, no one knows who they are. During the press conference, I’ll lay low

and protect you in secret. At the same time, I'll try to find out the culprit who engineered this."

"What a well-thought-out plan," Charlotte praised, delighted. "Then, come here right now. I'll send Lupine to receive you."

"All right."

As soon as she ended the call, Lupine immediately said, "That's great. With Gordon around, we've gotten ourselves a great aid."

"He sure appeared at such a good timing." Charlotte was also exhilarated, but she soon started casting doubt on Gordon's timely arrival. "Wait, it feels like he returned to H City earlier than expected because he foresaw I would be in trouble."

"Didn't he mention that he had originally planned to return here? It's just a coincidence."

Charlotte shook her head. "No, I don't think it's a coincidence but more like he had planned to return to protect me from the very beginning."

"Maybe—"

"Maybe Danrique found out what happened to the Nacht family and is worried about me. That's why he sent Gordon to my aid," Charlotte deduced. "Danrique has always been like this, tough on the outside but soft on the inside."

"You are right."

Lupine was gratified that Charlotte managed to hit the mark, even though she had not said anything.

"Let's start prepping." Charlotte shifted her focus back to the matter at hand. Glancing at her watch, she exhorted, "We can't lose this battle. Or else, I will be disappointing Zachary."

"It's going to be fine. After all, we're innocent," Lupine consoled her. "All right. I'll go make the arrangements for security."

"Go on."

Clutching her phone, Charlotte paced the office. It's already ten, an hour till the press conference.

Since Gordon would be in charge of security, she could finally heave a sigh of relief.

She could rebut the accusations the media had thrown at her and even provide evidence to the contrary.

However, she had no idea what would ensue.

While she was out in the open, the culprit remained hidden in the dark. It was impossible to be prepared for the lurking threats.

Nonetheless, there was no point in mulling over it. She could only cross that bridge when she came to it.

Charlotte sat down and continued her work. Regardless of the situation, she had to remain levelheaded.

In the meantime, Lucy had informed others that the press conference was rescheduled while Lupine met with Gordon to settle the arrangements for security.

"Gordon, this is a detailed plan of the building. I'll distribute a copy to each of your men just in case."

"Mmm." Gordon took the plans from her. Without even looking at them, he passed them to his men. "I've seen it before. Everything is in my mind."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1493

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Chapter 1493 A Conference For Condemnation

Because of Gordon's help, Lupine and Morgan felt more assured.

That was especially true for Lupine, for she knew Danrique must have sent Gordon over to help them out. Although he was sharp-tongued, he had always protected Charlotte secretly.

An hour's notice was sufficient to gather a huge crowd of journalists from famous media companies in H City.

Surprisingly, everyone seemed prepared. Even those not usually in H City managed to arrive at Nacht Group in an hour.

The large conference room was filled to the brim. Both the journalists and cameramen were all waiting for Charlotte's arrival eagerly.

After putting on simple makeup, Charlotte changed into a white suit that fitted her perfectly.

All the cameras were instantly locked on her when she entered the venue. The camera flashes never stopped as the cameramen kept clicking the shutter.

Charlotte sat on the main seat. No one else was seated beside her. As that matter involved only her, it was inapt for Spencer and Johann to attend.

They could only watch the live stream in their office, their hearts in their mouths.

"Should we address you as Ms. Lindberg or Mrs. Nacht?"

Someone from the crowd blurted the question, his tone reeking of sarcasm.

"Since we're in the company, call me Ms. Lindberg." Charlotte raised her head and stared at the journalist with a sharp gaze. "You're Jayden Duncan, a journalist from H City Reports, am I right?"

"Uh..." That journalist froze, for he did not expect her to recognize him, much less know his name. Even though the cameraman behind him had the logo of H City Reports, his name was not written.

At that thought, Jayden looked at his badge pass. His name was not on it either.

"If I recall correctly, your company was the one who released an article questioning my husband's whereabouts, am I correct?" Charlotte continued to ask.

She knew full well that a proper media company like H City Reports would not publish news baselessly. However, every time they did, they would usually find some glorious excuse to support their statements as if they were fighting for a righteous cause.

"That is correct," Jayden replied, having recollected himself quickly. With his head held high, he continued, "Not long ago, Mr. Nacht held a press conference announcing his wedding, but the media was not invited to the ceremony. Since then, he has been out of circulation. Now, we received news that Mr. Nacht died in a fire. This is utterly astonishing! Ms. Lindberg, would you like to offer an explanation regarding this matter?"

Charlotte asked in return, "Why should I explain anything to you? It's a family affair, and you have no right to know."

"Ms. Lindberg, it sounds like you're trying to evade the question. I take it that you're feeling guilty?" Jayden was relentless.

"That's right," someone concurred.

At the same time, the others started questioning Zachary's death.

"Security of the Nacht family has always been top-notch. No matter where Mr. Nacht goes, he would be accompanied by at least eighteen bodyguards. Why did a fire break out? Even if there was one, why is it that he's the only one who died in the fire? That's too bizarre..."

"Rumor has it that the fire had something to do with you, Ms. Lindberg. Is that true?"

"Also, why are you in charge of Nacht Group when a tragedy has befallen Mr. Nacht? Shouldn't his subordinate take the helm instead?"

"Some said that Mr. Nacht transferred all his assets and shares to you before this incident. That's even more bizarre. It's like those situations where the wife insures the husband, then he dies all of a sudden, and all the compensations go to the wife's pocket."

"That's right. That's even more dramatic than a soap opera!"

Charlotte had merely uttered a single sentence, but what ensued was a barrage of questions from the media. She had no opportunity to retort. As the unanswered questions piled up, the tension in the air started building.

It did not seem like a press conference but a conference for condemnation.

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Chapter 1494 Retaliate

Instead of retorting or disputing, Charlotte merely sneered and listened to them.

Those from Divine Corporation were worried on her behalf.

Spencer and Johann, who were watching the live stream in the office, were particularly nervous, afraid that the situation would spiral out of control should Charlotte fail to address the issue properly. After all, the press conference was broadcasted live and watched by netizens from all over the country.

As of then, many netizens were criticizing Charlotte, calling her cruel and foolish for confessing her guilt readily. Some even claimed that she would reveal her true colors soon.

All in all, she was in a very unfavorable situation.

Yet, Charlotte continued sipping her tea calmly while waiting for them to finish what they had to say.

After an hour, the journalists finally stopped talking. Some began to question her. "Why aren't you saying anything, Ms. Lindberg? Are you rendered speechless because every word we said was right on the money?"

"You're never going to get off scot-free. Surrender yourself to the cops if you had done it," another journalist said icily.

An awkward silence ensued. Everyone was eagerly waiting for Charlotte to reply.

After drinking three cups of black tea, Charlotte gradually raised her head, swept her gaze across them, and asked, "Done talking?"

The journalists remained quiet, awaiting her response.

"Mr. Williams," she called while making a gesture, and Rodney immediately came forth with his team.

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg," he greeted.

"Have you noted down the things they said and identified who they are?" Charlotte asked calmly.

"We've noted everything down clearly," Rodney answered while his legal team began to take their seats.

All the journalists were stunned, clueless as to what was going on.

"Is there anything else you all would like to add?" Charlotte grinned and looked at the press. "I'll answer your questions once you're done."

"Uh..." some of the journalists stuttered, no longer daring to speak.

They could tell that Charlotte and her legal team were ready to retaliate by filing a lawsuit against those who continued to defame her. It was no doubt that she was being serious about it.

Those who had thrown all sorts of allegations at Charlotte earlier started panicking, wondering if their earlier utterances were recorded and if she would take legal actions against them.

"All right. Let the press conference begin officially, shall we?" Charlotte extended a hand, gesturing for them to speak. "Who wants to go first?"

However, the journalists had lost the courage to voice their queries. Instead, they all exchanged looks, hoping for someone to volunteer.

"No questions? Fine. I'll answer the questions you've asked earlier then."

Charlotte looked around the room and identified the journalist who was the first to question her. "The first question came from H City Frontier's Terence Mawk. You asked me why do I own my husband's assets and stock. I'll answer you right now."

She explained, "My husband and I are legally married, and our child is still young. In the event of any mishap, I have the right to his inheritance. I don't have to explain the legal process, but if you're interested to find out more, do your research."

"Next, Mr. Henry had transferred his stock in Nacht Group to his three great-grandchildren, who are, well, obviously my children. Naturally, as their mother, that grants me the right to oversee Nacht Group's operations. The board of directors had gone through several rounds of reviews and verifications with the corporation's legal team before approving my appointment. There's no way for me to take up this position had they rejected my appointment," she added.

Charlotte continued, "I don't understand why you journalists suddenly came to interrogate me under the pretext of justice. Do you think you know how Nacht Group operates better than its board of directors? Are you trying to imply that they were so dumb that they were all deceived by me?"

Her speech rendered the members of the press speechless.

"Let's move on to the next question." She then went through every single question in sequence and answered them steadily.

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Chapter 1495 He Is Still Alive

It took Charlotte about forty minutes to answer all the questions. After doing so, she laced her fingers together and asked, "Are you satisfied with my answers? Let me know if you need any further clarifications."

Everyone fell silent.

While she was answering the questions, Rodney revealed all the legal documents and evidence to support her claims. He even challenged the journalists to report her to the authorities if they refused to believe her story.

At the same time, Charlotte announced that she had no qualms in defending herself before the authorities.

Once again, the journalists were dumbstruck.

It was as if the claims they hurled at her had turned into a flagrant provocation, utterly unreasonable and baseless.

As of then, the tables had turned, and Charlotte had successfully made a comeback.

Seeing that she had solved the crisis, Spencer, Johann, and those from the upper management heaved a sigh of relief.

Charlotte regarded the press coolly. "I'll ask this one last time. Are there any more questions? If yes, raise them now."

Yet, no one could muster the courage to respond, aware that countering her would not bode well for them.

"All right. Since no one intends to speak, it's time to end this conference!" In an authoritative voice, she announced, "But before that, there's something else I would like to add."

Leaning against the chair, she scanned the press. "I don't know what I've done to deserve such hostility from all of you. You might think the things you wrote about me were just casual remarks, but have you thought of the damage you've caused to my reputation?"

Charlotte continued warning the journalists in a stern voice, "God is watching your every move. Think of your family, and be a good role model for them!"

The expressions on the journalists' faces turned grim almost instantly.

Their arrogance subsided, and they no longer dared to repeat the allegations they had raised earlier.

"That's all. You can leave now." Knowing that she had won the confrontation, Charlotte no longer wished to waste her time.

Just as she stood up to leave, someone shouted, "Hold on!"

She froze and looked in the direction of the voice.

One of the journalists exclaimed, "I've just received an anonymous message which claims that Mr. Nacht is still alive and has been sent to the hospital."

"What?" All the journalists were shocked.

In just a matter of seconds, the other journalists, too, received the same text message on their phones.

Charlotte knitted her brows with a sense of foreboding.

"Ms. Lindberg..." Rodney walked up to her and passed her his phone. "I've also received the message."

Charlotte read the text: Zachary Nacht is still alive. He was sent to Rayson Hospital a minute ago.

Attached to the text was a video. Upon playing it, Charlotte paled with shock.

The man in the video did look like Zachary.

Although he was injured and bandaged up, she could tell from his form and half-covered face that he was Zachary.

"What is going on?" The turn of events got all the journalists excited.

"Get the car ready. We're going to Rayson Hospital," Charlotte ordered while trying to suppress her emotions.

"Yes," Lupine answered and went on to carry out her order.

Having registered the information, the journalists dashed out of the room and left for Rayson Hospital, hoping to be the first to get the latest update about Zachary.

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Chapter 1496 Something Is Amiss

As soon as news about Zachary's condition was spread on the internet, it immediately caused an uproar. Zachary Nacht Is Not Dead But Severely Injured And Sent To Rayson Hospital.

Charlotte immediately instructed Gordon to seal off the hospital and made her way there with Lupine.

Spencer and Johann, who were also excited about the news, followed right behind them in a different car.

Charlotte knew they were not the only ones heading to the hospital. Every major media company and others who received the news would also be there.

On the way there, she tried her best to regain her composure and ordered Lupine, "Seal off the hospital and do not allow outsiders to enter. Also, have Gordon verify if the man is actually Zachary."

"I know. I've texted Gordon. He should know what to do." Lupine could not contain her excitement. "How great would it be if that man is Mr. Nacht!"

"But something doesn't feel right to me." Morgan, on the other hand, expressed her reservations about the news. "If Mr. Nacht is still alive, why didn't he contact Ms. Lindberg? And if someone had saved him, why would they take him to Rayson Hospital, which is rather far away?"

"It's easy to guess. Mr. Nacht had sustained grievous injuries and was most probably unconscious. How do you expect him to call anyone? Besides, the person who rescued him might have just sent him to a random hospital," Lupine analyzed.

"Then, who saved him?" Morgan was puzzled. "Since Mr. Nacht went missing in Southridge, the intruders should be the ones who took him away. Why would they send him to the hospital?"

"Maybe he escaped from them, and then a passerby helped him?"

Though Lupine sensed something fishy about it, she was still hopeful. "We'll find out once we arrive at the hospital."

At that moment, Morgan pointed out a critical issue. "Most importantly, who was the one who sent the journalists that anonymous message? Could they be the same person who instigated the journalists to attack Ms. Lindberg?"

Her query silenced Lupine, who cast an anxious look at Charlotte.

If even Morgan the scatterbrain could raise such suspicions, Charlotte must have thought of them too.

Seeing that she remained silent throughout, Lupine guessed that she was also mulling over it.

In fact, all Charlotte could think of was verifying the man's identity. Deep in her heart, she hoped that the man was Zachary.

Nothing else matters as long as he's still alive. As for the other issues, we can face and solve them together.

"I still feel that the whole incident is a scheme." Morgan failed to notice Charlotte's expression and continued, "Considering that so many media companies suddenly bombarded Ms. Lindberg with allegations on the internet, it has to be premeditated. Then, toward the end of the press conference, the journalists received the same anonymous message at the same time. Everything must be connected."

"Shush." Lupine nudged her to stop her from continuing.

Only then did Morgan catch on. Looking at the visibly troubled Charlotte through the rearview mirror, she hurriedly consoled her, "Please ignore what I've said just now, Ms. Lindberg. I was merely spouting nonsense."

"You're right." Charlotte finally spoke. "But I want to believe that he's still alive. As long as he's alive, I'll have the courage to face any obstacles."

Upon hearing that, Morgan and Lupine could feel their hearts aching for her.

Suddenly, Lupine's phone rang. She picked it up and looked at the screen. "It's Gordon."

"Yes, Gordon?" she said into the phone.

"I'm at the hospital now. That man does look like Mr. Nacht."

"What do you mean by he does look like Mr. Nacht?" Lupine questioned quizzically.

"Give me the phone." Charlotte took over the phone and asked eagerly, "Did you see him? Is it really him?"

"It should be, but I can't help but feel that something is amiss," Gordan answered.

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Chapter 1497 Trust Her

"I'm glad it's him; I'm glad he's still alive."

Charlotte was so excited that she only paid attention to the first part of his sentence. As for the second part, she ignored it directly.

"You should confirm it when you're here." Gordon did not say anything else. "Also, the Gold family owns this hospital, and they have already strengthened the security. No one from the media or the public is allowed to enter. I had to think of a way to sneak in with my men. Should I go downstairs to receive you?"

That information stunned her. "The Gold family owns it? Why is he sent to the Gold family's hospital? Who sent him there?"

"I don't know. I'm still investigating," he said softly. "I think that the Gold family has prepared everything beforehand. The security arrangements don't seem to be done in the last minute."

"All right, I got it." Charlotte regained her rationality slowly. "You don't have to pick me up. I'll go up myself."

"Will those from the Gold family make things difficult for you?" Gordon was still worried.

"She won't dare to," she replied haughtily. "Even if she does, I'm not afraid of her."

"All right, just contact me if anything happens," said Gordon. "I'll go and investigate what exactly is going on."

"Okay."

After ending the call, Charlotte fell into deep thought. It's weird enough for Zachary to appear in such a way, but it's even stranger that he's in the Gold family's hospital. Just like what Morgan said, this whole thing seems like a scheme. It feels like there's a mastermind manipulating everything. Who is the person? Why would they do that? What is their objective?

Countless questions crossed her mind, but she was still baffled.

"I've already said that Nancy is a b*tch!" Morgan could not help but curse out loud. "See, this definitely has something to do with her!"

Lupine's brows were tightly knitted. "That's really odd... This matter is obviously a scheme, but the other party isn't planning to conceal it at all. What are they trying to do?"

"Let's think on our feet."

Charlotte glanced at the window. The hospital was right in front of them, and it felt like she could see Zachary waiting for her inside. Even if traps or danger were lurking, she had to barge in and bring him home.

The two cars stopped at the entrance of the hospital. Charlotte got out of the vehicle while Spencer's and Johann's subordinates helped them out of theirs.

"Charlotte..." Johann walked over and asked excitedly, "Is he really Mr. Nacht?"

"I don't know. Let's go in and look at him first." Charlotte walked over and held Spencer's arm. "Mr. Spencer, you don't have to come all the way here. I can just go in myself."

"This is such an important matter! How can I not worry?" Spencer was very agitated. "Charlotte, I keep thinking that there's something amiss about this. When you enter, you must be very careful."

She nodded. "Okay. I'll go in and take a look first. Both of you should take your time."

"Wait for a while more. I've already instructed Bruce to rush over with his men." Spencer was still worried. "If something happens, at least your safety is guaranteed."

"I'll be fine. You should wait here for Bruce before entering. I'll go in first."

Unable to wait for a second longer, Charlotte strode into the hospital briskly.

Spencer felt a bit uneasy as he watched her go in.

On the contrary, Johann was much calmer. "Nothing bad will happen in broad daylight, especially with everyone watching. Regardless of what happens, we just need to trust Charlotte as usual."

"Do you have any doubts, Johann?" Spencer felt that he was implying something.

"I think that this is a very complicated issue." Johann frowned. "The other party's probably targeting Charlotte. There might be worse troubles awaiting her. No matter what, I'll always trust her, and I hope you do so too."

"Of course," replied Spencer firmly. "She's the leader of the Nacht family now. Who else could I trust other than her?"

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Chapter 1498 Friend Or Foe

Johann heaved a sigh of relief when he heard Spencer's declaration. Then, he looked over his shoulder, waiting for Bruce to arrive with his men.

At that moment, it felt as if they were about to confront an impending war. Everyone was extremely tense as they steeled themselves for it.

The whole time, Charlotte kept reminding herself to be calm and collected. She must not panic or act flustered, lest someone took advantage of it.

However, the moment she entered the hospital, she could not help but pick up her pace. She wanted to meet the person as soon as possible and ascertain whether he was Zachary.

Filled with hope, she prayed he was Zachary. Even if it was part of a huge scheme, she could not care less. All she hoped for was that Zachary was still alive and well.

As long as he was alive, she did not mind any chaos or dangers that might descend upon her later.

"Stop right there!"

At that moment, a few bodyguards stopped Charlotte and the rest at the hospital entrance. "This private hospital has been sealed off. Outsiders are not allowed to enter. Please leave immediately!"

"How outrageous!" Morgan bellowed. "Do you know who we are? How dare you block our path?"

"Regardless of who you are, you have to leave right now." The bodyguard did not back down either.

"You..."

"This is the Gold family's hospital, right?" Lupine held Morgan back and said calmly, "Please tell Ms. Gold to come out."

"Ms. Gold is busy, so she doesn't have time to entertain you." The bodyguard's stance was firm.

"Really?" Charlotte's patience had already run out. "What if I insist on entering?"

Remaining silent, the bodyguard made a gesture, and a few men surrounded them.

"How audacious of you!"

While yelling, Morgan clenched her fists, prepared to attack.

Unfazed, the bodyguards from the Gold family were about to retaliate when a clear voice rang out.

"Stop!"

Hearing the voice, Charlotte raised her head and saw Nancy walking over with a large group of subordinates.

"Take a closer look. This is Ms. Lindberg, the current president of Nacht Group. How dare you bar her from entering?" chastised Nancy in a meaningful tone.

When the bodyguards heard what their employer said, they quickly made way for Charlotte.

Nancy shot an unreadable look at her. "Ms. Lindberg, come in."

"Thank you!" Charlotte replied curtly and strode in.

"Ms. Lindberg, you'll face retribution for the misdeeds you've done."

Nancy walked beside Charlotte. Although her voice was very soft, it was charged with overbearingness.

"So?" Charlotte raised an eyebrow and gazed at her. "What are you trying to say?"

Nancy's face was glowering. "Mr. Nacht is so nice to you, yet you still tried to kill him... How vicious of you!"

"Others might believe this rumor, but are you fooled as well, Ms. Gold?" Charlotte found it amusing. "Before my husband got into the accident, he told me that you're a smart woman and that I should befriend you. It looks like his judgment was wrong."

"You..." Nancy was purple with rage.

Ignoring her, Charlotte sped up and soon left her line of sight.

Nancy gazed at her figure with an inscrutable expression as if she was pondering something.

"Ms. Gold, do you think that the rumors are true?" her subordinate asked softly.

"We'll find out after seeing Mr. Nacht." A solemn look surfaced on Nancy's face. "I find it weird. Is that man really Mr. Nacht? Who was the person who sent him to our hospital? Why did they contact my dad instead of me?"

"This is certainly quite fishy." The subordinate added, "But Mr. Gold should probably know something."

"I asked him, but he refused to tell me anything and even scolded me." Nancy seemed to be in awe of her father as she spoke. "Never mind. I'll confirm if that man is Mr. Nacht first."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1499

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Chapter 1499 It Is Him

After rushing for a while, Charlotte finally found the ward.

The closer she was to it, the faster her heart rate became. Toward the end, she was almost sprinting into the room.

As soon as she flung the door open and caught sight of the frail man sleeping in the bed, her heart skipped a beat.

It's him! It's really him! He's still alive!

Unable to contain her excitement, she ran over and hugged him tightly. "I thought I would never see you again..."

The man on the bed opened his eyes slowly as if he was feeling suffocated by Charlotte's tight embrace or because he had sensed something.

"Hubby..." Charlotte cupped his cheeks and exclaimed, "Thank goodness that you're still alive! Thank heavens!"

The man stared at Charlotte, dazed for a moment before a gentle look crossed his eyes.

As if he was mustering all of his strength, he raised his arms slowly and hugged Charlotte back.

"Everything's fine now." Charlotte kissed his forehead, her sorrow replaced by joy. "Let's go home!"

As she spoke, she was about to instruct Lupine to handle the paperwork so that they could transfer him to another hospital when a group of police officers entered.

One of them said to Charlotte sternly, "Are you Charlotte Lindberg? Please follow us to the police station to assist with our investigation."

"What do you mean by that?" Lupine immediately stepped forward to enquire about the situation.

"We've received an anonymous tip-off which accused you of committing arson to kill Mr. Nacht." The police's attitude was solemn. "They provided evidence which proved that you're related to the fire at the Nacht residence in Southridge. Please follow us back to aid with the investigation."

"How is that possible?" Morgan bellowed. "Mr. Nacht is Ms. Lindberg's husband. How can she possibly harm him? What kind of logic is this?"

"Yeah!" Lupine concurred. "This anonymous person must be framing her on purpose!" she then spat.

"We'll only find out after an investigation," insisted the police sternly. "She's just being asked to assist us in the investigation, not being charged for the crime. If you keep interfering, it'll mean that you're guilty."

"What are you talking about?" Morgan lost her temper. "What's your badge number? I'm going to file a complaint against you!"

"I'm just doing my job."

"You—"

"Morgan!" Charlotte shouted.

With that, Morgan had no choice but to keep quiet and retreat to the back. However, she was still glaring at the policeman with fury blazing in her eyes.

"Sir, as a good citizen, I'll definitely assist the police with the investigation." Charlotte walked over and asked politely, "However, I need to bring my husband home first. Can I go to the police station later?"

"No, you must come with us right now." As if he had expected Charlotte to say that, the police officer refused directly. "Since we haven't figured out what's going on, we don't know if Mr. Nacht will be safe with you."

"You..." Even Charlotte became furious. Just when she was about to fly into a rage, a haughty voice sounded. "This is a hospital. Please do not disturb the patient's rest."

Charlotte looked up and saw Nancy rushing over with her subordinates. "Ms. Lindberg, I think you should cooperate with the police and stop disturbing the other patients here," the latter exhorted.

Immediately after she spoke, she spotted the man on the bed and froze. A beat later, she exclaimed, "It's really you, Mr. Nacht!"

Paying no heed to those present, she ran over and hugged Zachary.

"Hey, you..."

Just when Morgan was about to lash out at her, Zachary raised his arms slowly and pushed Nancy away.

In a feeble voice, he said to the police officer, "Sir, I think you're mistaken. Charlotte's my wife; she'll never hurt me."

Staring at him, Charlotte grew emotional.

His voice and tone are identical to Zachary's. Furthermore, he's defending me. He's definitely my husband!

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/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1500 Instinct

The police officer hastened to ask, "Mr. Nacht, do you know who started the fire?"

"I don't know..." Although Zachary's voice was frail, his tone was very firm. "Anyway, it's not my wife!"

Having said that, he held Charlotte's hand.

His attitude moved her. It did not matter if everyone else doubted her as long as he trusted her.

Nancy's expression turned gloomy when she saw that scene. Nonetheless, she still stepped forward and said, "Sir, this is a hospital. You should let the patient rest first. Besides, I don't think Ms. Lindberg can escape for the time being. If you need her assistance with the investigation, you can contact her later."

Charlotte was surprised to hear Nancy standing up for her.

"All right then." The police officer finally relented. "Charlotte, please come to the police station within the next twelve hours to aid in our investigation. You must remember to do so."

"Okay." Charlotte nodded.

The police officers left hastily.

"How are you doing, Mr. Nacht?" Nancy expressed her concern toward Zachary. "I'll summon the doctor here—"

"There's no need for that," Zachary interrupted her. "Thank you for your kindness. Since my wife is here to pick me up, I should go home now," he said politely.

Nancy's expression froze at his utterance. Suddenly, she felt like a fool for assuming he needed her.

She was humiliating herself simply by standing there.

As for Charlotte, she was touched and glad by his attitude. All her past worries and doubts were dispelled in an instant.

Lupine and Morgan were delighted too. Perhaps, we were overthinking.

"Let's go home, Wifey."

The way Zachary held Charlotte's hand revealed how much trust and dependence he had for her.

"Yeah, let's go home!"

Charlotte hugged him before helping him up.

Lupine and Morgan also hurried forward to support him.

Meanwhile, Spencer and Johann had just rushed over, escorted by Bruce and his men. Like the ladies, they were excited to see Zachary, especially Spencer.

Tears welled up in his eyes as he repeatedly mumbled, "Thank heavens! Mr. Henry must have given us his blessing! Mr. Zachary is finally back!"

"All right, let's go back."

Afraid that more troubles would arise, Charlotte did not want to stay there any longer.

After Bruce helped Zachary to a wheelchair, the large group accompanied him out of the hospital.

Standing at the side, Nancy watched everything silently while disappointment engulfed her.

She thought it was fate that Zachary ended up in her family's hospital and that the heavens were giving her a chance.

Yet, all her hopes had been dashed.

Zachary's words and distant expression were like a dagger stabbing at her heart.

After getting into the car, Zachary hugged Charlotte as affectionately as before. He whispered beside her ear, "It's great that I can still hug you like this..."

"Yeah," Charlotte exclaimed, "how wonderful it is!"

Cupping her cheeks, he inched over to kiss her.

However, she gazed at him and turned her head away instinctively, avoiding his kiss.

Dumbfounded, Zachary froze.

Even Charlotte was shocked, not knowing why she had avoided him.

"Ms. Lindberg..." At that moment, Morgan pushed the car door open and entered the vehicle. When she saw that scene, she quickly spun around. "I'm sorry!"

"Get into the car." Putting that matter aside, Charlotte urged, "Go to Kindness Hospital now."

"Okay."

After Lupine and Morgan got into the car, they sped off.

"There's no need to go to the hospital." Zachary was exhausted. "Let's go home."

"But your injuries haven't healed yet. And your body—"

He insisted firmly, "I'm fine. Let's go home!"

"Fine." Charlotte could understand where he was coming from. Perhaps, he knew that his illness was too severe and that a trip to the hospital would be useless. Hence, he did not want to go through all that trouble again.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1501

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1501 Overthinking

At that thought, Charlotte could feel her heart aching terribly for him. Holding Zachary's hand, she consoled, "It's fine, Hubby. I'm already thinking of a way to find Francesco. You'll be fine soon..."

The man did not reply, merely holding her hand tightly and stroking the back of her palm gently with his thumb.

There seemed to be something weighing on his mind.

"Hubby, where have you been for the past few days? What happened? Can you tell me?" she asked uneasily.

"I don't know either..." Zachary rubbed his temples and explained tiredly, "When I was sleeping that night, I felt that the house was on fire. Then, someone barged in, and I fainted. When I regained consciousness, I saw you in the hospital."

"I see..."

His answer confused Charlotte. It was so vague that she learned nothing new from it.

"What exactly happened?" he asked in return. "Why did the police say that you're involved in this case? Where's Ben?"

"Hubby, this is what happened..."

Charlotte told him all the details of that night. However, as she did not want him to feel pressured, she did not tell him anything that happened after that.

In the end, she added, "Ben was shot and is still in a deep coma. However, he's not in critical condition, so don't worry. Ellie isn't severely injured, but she's so traumatized that she locked herself up and refused to talk to anyone..."

"Why did that happen? Have you found her a doctor?" asked Zachary worriedly.

"Yeah. Raina arranged for a child psychologist to check up on Ellie. We also invited Dr. Wright to treat Ben..."

"That's good. They'll definitely recover after receiving treatment," he said, but his questions did not stop there. "Why did someone barge into our house? Who are those men in black? What did the investigation reveal?"

For some inexplicable reason, Charlotte felt that something was amiss.

Although Ben is Zachary's subordinate, they are as close as brothers. Yet, even after knowing that Ben was shot and is in a coma, he dismissed it lightly. It's the same for Ellie too. Zachary has always doted on the children, especially Ellie. He did appear anxious upon realizing that she was unwell, but... There's something seriously weird about this.

However, she could not put her finger on what exactly was strange.

Charlotte felt like something was weighing down on her—a strange and uncomfortable feeling.

"What's wrong?" Zachary held her hand.

"I'm wondering who those men in black are," she replied, evading the question. "Why did they start a fire at Southridge the night before our wedding? The security at your place is so strict. How did they sneak in?"

"I find it weird too..." Zachary frowned. "I'm afraid that we'll only know the truth after Ben wakes up."

When Charlotte heard this, her doubts started to fade. This does seem like Zachary's train of thought. He always identifies and realizes the critical parts of a problem quickly...

"Let's leave this to the police." Then, she changed the topic of conversation. "Your health is our utmost priority. How are you feeling now?"

“These are just some superficial injuries. It’s nothing major,” Zachary blurted. After saying so, he quickly added, “As for my old illness, it can’t be cured so quickly, anyway. It’s already fortunate that I’m still alive now.”

Nothing was wrong with his statement.

Only those in the family knew about Zachary’s terminal illness—outsiders knew nothing about it.

His reaction was very normal.

Charlotte suddenly felt that she was being too skeptical. Perhaps, he didn’t make any further comments because he believed that Ben and Ellie would definitely recover. Or maybe his reaction is slower because of his condition. I’m probably overthinking...

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1502

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Chapter 1502 Drinking Alcohol Secretly

However, the events that happened that day were simply too strange. Charlotte felt oddly unsettled the whole time, as if something major was about to happen.

“What are you thinking about?”

Zachary cupped her cheeks and moved closer to kiss her again.

"Nothing." Charlotte avoided him once more. "You should rest for a while. We'll be reaching home soon."

For some reason, her body was instinctively averse to being intimate with him.

Logically speaking, there was nothing wrong with him. Yet, her sixth sense was telling her that something was amiss.

In the past, it was true that Zachary loved to be affectionate with her regardless of the setting. However, he only did that in front of his subordinates. When he was with her female bodyguards, he would be very mindful of his behavior.

Yet, he seemed overly eager to be affectionate with her on that day. His hand kept stroking her arm as if he was tempted to do something.

"Fine," came Zachary's reply before he leaned against the seat and closed his eyes.

Charlotte scrutinized him. His face, figure, and demeanor tell me that he's my husband, but why do I have such a strange feeling? Even so, I can't pinpoint where that strangeness came from.

Slowly, her gaze inched down from his face to his waist. To confirm whether he was Zachary, she just needed to look at the tattoo on his waist.

The moment they reached home, a bunch of people surrounded them. Gazing at Zachary with snots and tears on her face, Hanna cried, "You're finally back, Mr. Zachary. I knew you'd definitely return!"

"Thank you for your concern, Mrs. Rawlston." He smiled at her.

"You must be tired, Mr. Zachary. Go back to your room and rest," Spencer urged, his heart throbbing with pain at how exhausted and weak Zachary looked.

"Yes, Mr. Spencer," replied Zachary before struggling to stand up.

Bruce immediately rushed forward to help him up.

"Where's Charlotte?"

Zachary scanned the house. She was nowhere to be seen after they got out of the car.

"Ms. Lindberg is handling some matters," explained Bruce. "The children went out today and will be back a while later. There are some matters that she has to settle in the office too..."

"Mmm," responded Zachary before heading to his room upstairs with Bruce's help.

When they were in the room, Bruce poured Zachary a cup of hot tea, but the latter frowned and ordered, "Get me a glass of wine."

"Mr. Nacht, your condition forbids you from drinking," advised Bruce.

Displeased, Zachary raised his head and glared at him.

"You really can't drink." Unlike Ben, Bruce was much more stubborn. "Just bear with it for a while longer. After you recover, I'll drink with you."

All of a sudden, Zachary asked, "How is my condition?"

"The toxins in your body haven't been eliminated yet, and your condition has become very severe. Have you forgotten?" Bruce became anxious. "Furthermore, you got injured from the fire, and your wounds haven't healed yet. How can you drink now?"

"All right, I understand." Zachary grew impatient. "Go out."

"Rest well. I'll excuse myself now. If you need anything, just call out for me."

With that, Bruce lowered his head and left.

The moment the door closed, Zachary got up and poured himself a glass of wine. Leaning against the sofa, he sipped at it slowly.

As he stared at the cup of hot tea on the table, he narrowed his eyes as though deep in thought.

“Hubby...”

At that moment, Charlotte pushed the door open and entered.

Zachary hastily placed the glass of wine down and grabbed the cup of tea. Unfortunately, she caught him red-handed. “Are you secretly drinking alcohol again?”

She emphasized the word “again.”

In the past, Zachary would drink alcohol secretly all the time. Even when his health had deteriorated to the worst state, he still could not restrain himself.

In truth, Charlotte knew that he was not an alcoholic. It was just that he would become less conscious after drinking, which would make him feel less troubled.

“I-I just—”

“You aren’t allowed to drink anymore.” Charlotte frowned and said sternly, “With your current condition, you have to abstain.”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1503

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1503 Something Different About Daddy

"I won't die from drinking a few more glasses. Even if I stop drinking, the toxins will not be cleared." Zachary smiled wryly.

Instantly, Charlotte's attitude softened. She hugged him and said, "Hubby, you'll be fine. I'll definitely find a way to save you, I promise."

Lifting his arm, he hugged her in return. As he caressed her waist, a subtle glint of lust flashed across his eyes.

All of a sudden, he pinned Charlotte to the sofa and was ready to plant a kiss on her lips.

"Hubby, you..." Charlotte was stunned.

Right then, someone rapped on the door anxiously.

At that, Zachary could only halt. With a frown marring his countenance, he asked, "What is it?"

"Daddy? Daddy, is that you?" Jamie asked eagerly.

Robbie, too, was thrilled. "It's Daddy's voice. It's him!"

"The kids are back." Charlotte pushed him aside, straightened her clothes with her hands, and went to open the door.

When she saw the kids, she called out, "Robbie, Jamie!"

"Mommy, is Daddy..." Before Jamie could finish asking the question, he saw Zachary standing behind her. Unable to contain his excitement, he immediately embraced the man and exclaimed, "Daddy!"

"Daddy..." Robbie was about to give Zachary a hug too, but he suddenly halted in his tracks.

He noticed Zachary's expression was not filled with the usual joy and affection when Jamie went into his arms. On the contrary, the man frowned, visibly annoyed.

However, that only lasted for a split second, for Zachary soon plastered a smile to his face and embraced Jamie gently.

Although Robbie felt that something was amiss, he could not quite put his fingers on it.

"Come over here, Robbie." Zachary lifted his head and smiled at him.

"Daddy." Robbie slowly walked over and studied the man from head to toe. "Are you okay? Where have you been in the last few days? We were worried about you."

"Something happened, but I'm home now. You don't have to worry about me anymore." Zachary rubbed the children's heads in a seemingly affectionate manner.

Somehow, Robbie felt that something was weird about Zachary. It felt as if he was interacting with a stranger, who did not bother to look into his eyes when he spoke.

"I thought I would never see you again, Daddy. I was so scared." Hugging Zachary, Jamie burst into tears.

"But I'm back now, Jamie. Don't cry anymore." Zachary patted his back and comforted him gently.

He then softly pushed Jamie aside, but as he did so, the child's snot dripped on his hand, and he instinctively frowned in response.

Once again, Robbie was stunned to see the changes in Zachary's expression. He had so many doubts in his mind.

It was not unusual for Jamie and Ellie to accidentally drop their snot, tears, food crumbs on him, but Zachary would always smile and clean their faces with his hands.

He might be particular with hygiene, but he was never disgusted with his children.

"What a crybaby." Charlotte pulled Jamie into her arms and cleaned his tears and snot with a piece of tissue.

Meanwhile, Zachary took a piece of wet towel and carefully wiped the snot from the back of his hand.

"Daddy..." Jamie wanted to hug him again.

A slight crease formed between Zachary's brows, but the man did not stop him from approaching.

"Enough, Jamie." Charlotte took a glance at Zachary before turning her attention to the boy. "Daddy still has injuries on his body. You have to be extra careful not to hurt him."

"Oh... sorry, I forgot about that." Jamie took a few steps back. "I'm sorry, Daddy. I hope I didn't cause you any pain."

"I'm fine." Zachary lifted a corner of his mouth. "Why don't you go out and play?"

"But I still want to talk to you." Jamie was reluctant to leave.

"You can talk to Daddy tomorrow, okay?" Charlotte coaxed. "Daddy had just come home from the hospital, and he needs to rest now."

"Okay..." Jamie nodded and walked away.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1504

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1504 Very Weird

"Rest well, Daddy." Robbie expressed his concern to Zachary before turning his attention to Charlotte. "Mommy, don't forget to visit Ellie in the hospital when you're free."

"How's Ellie?" Charlotte hastened to ask, "Did she talk to you today?"

"She said she's scared, but when I asked her what she is scared of, she cried immediately and wouldn't talk clearly..." Robbie explained. "When we left just now, she kept asking for you."

"I'll visit her at the hospital later," she said. "Okay. Go back to your room now."

"All right." Robbie looked at Zachary and inclined his head as a greeting before leaving.

"What happened to Ellie?" Zachary asked.

"The fire incident traumatized her," Charlotte answered briefly before heading to the closet. "I told you before when we were in the car."

Zachary wanted to follow her to the closet, but his injuries hurt so bad that he had to walk over slowly. By the time he reached the closet, she had already changed into a fresh set of clothes.

"I'm going to the hospital now. Take a good rest at home," she said while tying up her long hair.

"I'll go with you," he quickly offered. "Ellie is my child too. I'm worried about her."

"I know, but you're not feeling well either, so you should rest more." Charlotte cupped his face with her hands. "Besides, there's still a lot of work waiting for us to settle. I need you to recuperate fast so that you can help me out with it."

"But—"

"All right, I have to go now." Charlotte kissed him on his forehead and left in a hurry. "Go and take a shower. Mrs. Rawlston will bring your meal over soon."

Zachary's eyes darkened as he watched her leave.

Once the sound of Charlotte's footsteps faded, he started looking around as if studying the room. Then, he made his way to the bathroom.

In the meantime, Charlotte told Morgan to stay in the house while she and Lupine brought a few maids to the hospital.

Halfway down Northridge, they bumped into Gordon and his men.

After parking the cars aside, Gordon got out of his car and asked, "Have you brought that man home?"

"You mean Mr. Nacht?" Lupine took a glance at Charlotte before persuading Gordon in a gentle voice, "Gordon, Ms. Lindberg and Mr. Nacht are now married. Regardless of the family feud in the past, we should show Mr. Nacht some respect now."

"That's not what I meant..." Gordon frowned as if he was hesitant to speak.

"What's wrong?" Charlotte knew something was on his mind, so she suggested, "Let's talk in the car."

"Okay."

After instructing all the other bodyguards to travel in another car, Lupine took the driver's seat while Gordon was in the front passenger seat.

While Lupine was driving, Gordon started voicing out his concern.

"Ms. Lindberg, don't you feel there's something weird about Mr. Nacht? He was actually awake when I sneaked into the ward. The moment he saw me, he was evidently shocked and panicked."

"You met him?" Charlotte asked.

"Our eyes met for about three seconds, but his reaction was very weird," he said with a frown.

After thinking about it for a while, he analyzed, "Mr. Nacht and I might have only met a few times before this, but from what I know, he's a sophisticated man who's capable of handling any situation calmly. Yet, when he saw me, he looked stunned. I could even sense panic in his eyes. There's just something bizarre about that man."

Upon hearing that, Charlotte was silent for a moment before she asked, "Did you speak to him?"

"Nope. When I was about to approach him, a doctor came in, so I had to sneak out through the window," Gordon replied. "Judging from the hospital's security, they must have made preparations for this beforehand!"

Chapter 1504 Very Weird

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Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1505

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Chapter 1505 Danrique Helped You

Gordon raised his doubt. "Think about it. The hospital is a private institution for the wealthy elites, so there should be patients and visitors in the wards, right? But not today. There's only one patient in the entire building. I believe the Gold family took in that man a long time ago. Maybe they were also related to the rumors."

"What is Nancy trying to do?" Lupine asked, exasperated.

"I don't think Nancy has anything to do with this," he deduced. "According to my initial investigations, I believe her father, Jesse, is the mastermind behind this set-up since he has the power to control the media."

That shocked her. "But why would Jesse do this?"

He then explained in a serious tone, "Nacht Group is in a mess, and the entire organization is vulnerable right now. Isn't it the best time for them to strike?"

"You're right. Everyone is waiting to prey on Nacht Group, hoping to get a piece of it, but I'm surprised the Gold family is also a part of the rat race." Lupine's brows were tightly furrowed as she replied to him.

"They're not saints, to begin with," Gordon said. "Jesse gained his current standing by seizing his relatives' assets! Though he had managed to whitewash his dirty past over the years, it's not difficult to trace back the misdeeds he had committed!"

"Are you trying to say that Jesse is engineering all these things because he wants to seize Nacht Group?" Confused, she continued, "But how did he manage to control Mr. Nacht? Even if Mr. Nacht has fallen sick, it's impossible to manipulate someone like him. Unless Jesse has dirt on him?"

"That man might be an impostor!" Gordon made a bold guess.

"What?" Lupine gasped. "But that man clearly is Mr. Nacht! Who else could he be?"

"Perhaps someone who has a strong resemblance to him?" Gordon looked deep into Charlotte's eyes. "Remember what Marino said? On the day of the incident, one of his men noticed someone in the garden. That person's silhouette resembled Mr. Nacht a lot."

"You're giving me goosebumps." A shiver ran down Lupine's spine.

All of a sudden, everyone in the car fell silent.

Lupine dared not speak, merely taking a peep at Charlotte from the rearview mirror.

With her head lowered, Charlotte wore a solemn expression on her face. Even her usually bright eyes turned dull.

Lupine knew Charlotte found it hard to accept it. If the man in the house was an impostor, there was a strong chance that Zachary was already dead.

Charlotte was not afraid of facing all kinds of schemes or obstacles in life, but she would lose all the motivation and courage to continue fighting the battle if Zachary was dead.

In a gentle voice, Gordon said, "Of course, whether or not he's an impostor, that requires your judgment. Only you can tell him apart. After all, you're the one who knows him best since you're married to him."

"Gordon..." Charlotte finally spoke. "Danrique told you these, didn't he?"

"Uh..." That took him by surprise, and he avoided her gaze.

Charlotte continued, "Without a doubt, you're smart and observant. But it seems unlikely for you to be able to find out the Gold family's background, deduce the identity of the mastermind, and infer the key issue from the incidents in such a short time."

She then lifted her head to look at Gordon. "Unless Danrique is helping you."

Lupine and Gordon exchanged glances, not daring to speak.

"You're aware of this too?" Charlotte glared at Lupine. "Why didn't you tell me that you've made contact with Danrique?"

"Please don't be mad at me, Ms. Lindberg," Lupine explained. "He's worried about you, but he doesn't want you to know about it, so I—"

"Yes, Mr. Lindberg sent me here," Gordon interrupted, deciding to be frank. "I've been reporting all the incidents that happened today to Mr. Lindberg. He instantly spotted the problem and instructed someone to investigate the Gold family. Then, he had me tell you the findings of his investigations by posing them as my deductions."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1506

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1506 Bait

After a long moment of silence, Charlotte let out a sigh. "Since even Danrique said so, then that man must be an impostor."

"You mean you noticed that too, Ms. Lindberg?" Lupine was surprised.

Charlotte frowned and said, "The resemblance is uncanny. Even the way he moves and speaks is just like Zachary's. But the man's eyes—there's something in his eyes that tells me he's not Zachary."

She continued, "I was a little conflicted at first, thinking I was being too skeptical until I saw the disgust on his face when Jamie's snot dripped on him and how he had avoided having eye contact with Robbie. From then on, I knew something was wrong with that man."

"So if he's not Mr. Nacht... Who is he?" Lupine could not believe it. "How can someone look exactly like Mr. Nacht?"

"It's strange indeed." Gordon then asked, "Should I take him down and interrogate him?"

"Not now." Charlotte shook her head. "To be safe, let's make a confirmation first. Before the incident, Zachary had experienced a certain degree of memory loss. Someone could have taken the opportunity to manipulate him, so that may be why he's behaving differently."

"But..." Gordon did not know what to say. Charlotte's hypothesis was not scientific by any means, but it was not totally impossible.

Moreover, the illness that had plagued Zachary before the incident was also an inexplicable one.

"I understand all the evidence shows that he's suspicious, but I'm still hopeful. I hope that he's Zachary. At least it means that he's alive." Charlotte was utterly conflicted.

"Then, please confirm his identity as soon as possible," Gordon exhorted. "If that man is the Gold family's puppet, you've put yourself on the line."

"Gordon's right." Lupine could not help but shudder at that thought. "What if something happens to the kids?"

"How about I go back with some men now to keep an eye on him? With me around, I'm sure he wouldn't dare to try anything funny," Gordon suggested hurriedly.

"It's fine." Charlotte stopped him. "In fact, we have to lie low if he's not Zachary. We can use him as bait to help us lure out the mastermind."

"So you're saying..." Gordon began to understand her plan.

Charlotte deduced, "I believe in Danrique's judgment, but I also suspect that Jesse is not the only person involved in this plan. The Gold family doesn't know much about the Nachts, Zachary, me, and the kids, but that man clearly knows a lot about us. If he's not Zachary, he's definitely more than just an impostor!"

"Could he be the one you suspected the last time?" Lupine asked.

"Let's not draw a conclusion so soon." Charlotte did not want to continue with the topic anymore. "Anyway, I'll ascertain that man's identity first. If he's not Zachary, then we'll use him to lure Jesse out."

"Wouldn't it be too risky?" Gordon was still concerned. "You're playing with fire. You can get the kids and yourself burned."

"We have to move the kids to another place." Charlotte frowned. "Lupine, let's make a trip to Garden Villa."

"All right," Lupine answered and immediately did as told.

"Gordon, get down at the front and keep watch over the hospital," Charlotte ordered. "Those people know Ben and Ellie are the most important witnesses to the case. Once they recover, that man's identity will be exposed. Hence, I'm worried that they will target Ben and Ellie."

"Got it. I'll take care of it." Gordon nodded. "But what about the girls?"

"I'll make the arrangements. Don't worry." Charlotte took out her phone and called Spencer. "There's something I wish to discuss with you, Mr. Spencer. I'll meet you in twenty minutes."

"Sure. I'll wait for you at the door," Spencer replied.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1507

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Chapter 1507 Mutual Trust

Charlotte and Lupine then went to meet Spencer. Without any hesitation, Charlotte said, "I need you to take care of the children for a while."

Spencer froze for a bit and nodded right away. "Sure, no problem. When should I pick them up?"

"Now." Charlotte looked at her watch and reminded, "Go and visit Zachary and bring all five kids back. Tell him he needs to recuperate in peace, and you don't want the kids to disturb him."

"Is he fine with the arrangement?" Spencer asked.

"I'm sure he'll be more than happy." A corner of Charlotte's mouth quirked up.

Looking at how disgusted he was with Jamie's snot, I'm sure the three little girls will drive him mad. I'm pretty sure that man would be pleased if Spencer takes the kids away.

"Happy?" Spencer got confused. "But he loves his kids so much. He also enjoys spending time with your brother's kids, doesn't he?"

"That's why I don't want the kids to see how sick he is right now." Charlotte made up an excuse, as she did not want to reveal too much to Spencer.

She further explained, "Zachary has always enjoyed being alone, and kids being noisy all the time would give him a headache. Besides, he's not feeling well. He wouldn't want the kids to see how weak he is now."

Upon hearing that, Spencer's eyes reddened, and he could not help but let out a sigh. "You're right. I'll pick the kids up right now. You could have just called me instead of making this trip. I understand how busy and tired you are since you're totally in charge of the family and company now."

"I just want to come and explain to you personally to avoid any misunderstanding." Charlotte then asked gently, "Do you trust me, Mr. Spencer?"

That question rendered Spencer speechless. "The Nacht family depends on you. If I don't trust you, who else can I trust?"

"Great." Charlotte needed that assurance. "No matter what happens, I need you to trust me. Please protect the kids during this period, and don't worry about the rest."

"What do you mean?" Spencer panicked. "You mean something bad is going to happen?"

"I'm afraid so." Charlotte sighed. "Look at all the rumors about me, and I believe this is just the beginning."

She paused for a moment before continuing, "But don't you worry. I'll take care of everything. Besides, my brother's men are here to help me. With their help, I'm sure I can overcome the challenges ahead."

"So you did hire the man named Gordon to help you?" Spencer was pleased to know that. Initially, he had doubts about Gordon, but he was now relieved that Charlotte took the initiative to clarify the matter.

She's doing it for the Nacht family too.

"Don't worry, Charlotte. I trust you," Spencer said in a steady voice. "No matter what happens, I'm with you."

"Thank you." Charlotte nodded and was ready to leave. "I'll also station Cain and Kyle here to protect the children's safety. I need to rush to the hospital now. Please bring the kids back as soon as possible."

"Okay. I'll see to it right now." After sending Charlotte off, Spencer immediately made the necessary arrangement to pick the children up himself.

"Why do I feel like Ms. Lindberg was insinuating something?" One of Spencer's subordinates wondered. "So many things happened lately, and even the cops suspect her. Do you really still trust her?"

"To be honest, I had my doubts before she came. But now, yes, I trust her wholeheartedly," Spencer said. "She wouldn't have entrusted her children and her brother's kids to me if she's trying to play dirty."

"That's true." The subordinate nodded. "She also decided to send Cain and Kyle over instead of people from the Lindberg family. I suppose she trusts you too."

"So, you see, how can I not trust her when she trusts me first?" Spencer got choked a little. "I can't assume the worst of her anymore."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1508

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1508 In Trouble

Charlotte looked relieved after leaving Garden Villa. At least she did not need to worry about the children for now.

"Do you really think it's safe to leave the kids with Spencer, Ms. Lindberg?" Lupine asked. "Somehow, I feel he doesn't trust you completely."

"I'm aware of that." Charlotte nodded. "That's why I want him to take care of the kids."

Lupine responded with a puzzled look but soon understood her intention. "You did this to gain his trust?"

"Not only that," Charlotte said. "Mr. Spencer might have doubts about me, but he's loyal to the Nachts. I'm sure he'll take good care of the children."

She explained, "As for the three little ones, no one would dare to lay their fingers on them. After all, their parents are Danrique and Francesco. They would not let anyone who tries to harm their daughters off easily."

"Moreover, Mr. Spencer is kind in nature. Even if I have a fallout with the Nachts in the future, he will not harm the kids," she added.

"I guess you're right." Lupine nodded.

"I believe in establishing mutual trust," Charlotte said. "And I believe I have won him over. A storm is brewing right now, and his support would mean a world to me!"

"Yes, I could tell that he's quite emotional too." Somehow, Lupine still could not let her guard down. "Do you think Cain and Kyle can handle the situation if anything goes south? What if Jesse or the other masterminds decide to target the children? Should we get Gordon to deploy more people over here?"

"That won't be necessary," Charlotte said with a smirk. "Danrique might not be physically around his children, but he knows where they are. If they are in danger, trust me, he'll emerge out of nowhere."

"Got it." A revelation hit Lupine. "So you're saying Mr. Lindberg has all this while been secretly protecting his little princesses?"

"I feel it's all because of the three sisters that Danrique had decided to step in and help me." A corner of Charlotte's lips quirked up as she recalled how the three little girls had promised that they would ask their parents to help her.

She did not pay much attention to what they said at that time. But come to think of it, the three little ones must have contacted their father.

Otherwise, Danrique would not have intervened in Nacht's family and business affairs.

He would not even care if Zachary was dead or alive.

"That's true." Lupine got all excited when she recalled their adorable faces. "The three little ones are sweet little angels, aren't they?"

"That's because Zachary doted on them a lot, and they like him very much too." Charlotte sighed. "If only they had contacted Francesco earlier..."

"Don't think about it anymore, Ms. Lindberg. Come, let's go to the hospital," Lupine suggested.

Charlotte nodded. Suddenly, her phone rang. It was a call from Robinson. "Yes, Robbie?"

Robbie answered, "Mommy, the three little ones got into trouble..."

"What happened?"

"They climbed all over Daddy's shoulder and pulled his hair. He's hopping mad right now..." the boy reported.

Charlotte froze and did not know how to react. She then replied with a smirk, "Don't worry, Daddy will not be mad at them. He's probably having as much fun as they do. He has always enjoyed their companion, hasn't he?"

"But this time, Daddy looks like he's really, really angry!" Robinson spoke like a child, but somehow, Charlotte could read between the lines.

"They're just kids. Daddy won't mind." Charlotte stated that on purpose. "Oh, before I forget. Mr. Spencer will come and pick all of you up and bring you to Garden Villa. You'll be staying with him for a while. Start packing now."

"Oh? We're going stay with Mr. Spencer?" Robinson paused for a moment but nodded. "Okay, Mommy. Got it."

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chapter 1509

Chapter 1509 Out Of Control

There was something unique between Charlotte and the boy. They could understand what they were trying to convey without saying it directly.

After ending the call, Robinson tilted his head aside and looked at three little girls and the miserable-looking Zachary. Yet, he did not step in to ease the situation.

One of the girls shrieked, "You're so fierce, Uncle Zachary!"

"You're not nice anymore!"

"I don't like you!"

"I don't like you too!"

"I'll tell Aunt Charlotte you bully us!"

"I'll tell my Daddy about it!"

"Yeah, and I'll tell Mommy about it!"

The three girls started crying after voicing out their frustration.

Zachary kept his eyes shut and took in a deep breath. He calmed himself down and said in a gentle voice, "Fine. It's my fault. I shouldn't have screamed at you. I just don't like people crawling all over me and grabbing my hair."

"You've never treated us like this in the past when we did this to you." Alpha pouted with a frown.

"In the past, you would bend down and allow us to sit on your shoulders. You would remind us to grab tightly to your hair, ears, and collars because you were afraid that we would fall. And you would never yell at us!" Beta exclaimed with teary eyes.

"Today, you shouted at us and threatened to spank us. My Daddy is also a very fierce man, but he has never spoken to us like this before!"

"Yeah! Our Daddy has never hit us before!" Gamma clenched her fists. "We shouldn't have asked Daddy and Mommy to rescue you! You're a bad guy. Bad guy!"

Zachary's mouth twitched. Her remark had rendered him speechless.

"Daddy, I must say it's your fault this time," even Jamie could not help but chime in. "You used to like them very much and would never get mad at them. What's wrong with you today?"

"Yes, Daddy." Robinson looked at Zachary. "If I didn't stop you in time, you would have spanked them, wouldn't you? But they're Uncle Dan's daughters. How could you do this to them when Uncle Dan has never punished them like this? Uncle Dan will come after you if you dare to lay your fingers on his kids."

Zachary shut his eyes as if he was trying to regain his composure. He grabbed the corner of his shirt and tried to calm himself down.

"Are you okay, Daddy?" Jamison asked when he noticed how tortured Zachary looked. "You've never hit a kid before. Were you mad because you're not feeling well recently?"

"I guess so." Zachary tried to relax. He lifted his head to look at Jamison. "I can't control my emotions because I'm sick..."

"Don't worry, Daddy." Jamison extended his arms and embraced Zachary. "Mommy will find the doctor who can help you recover. You'll feel better soon."

Upon hearing what Jamison had said, Robinson went deep into thought.

He recalled patients would often experience emotional instability, and such a condition was beyond their control.

Daddy has experienced memory loss before. I suppose his condition had become worse after the fire? He might have forgotten how he had interacted with the girls in the past.

Probably this is also why he thought Jamie's snot was disgusting?

Or maybe he behaves like this just because he's sick and tired?

"Thanks, Jamie." Zachary patted Jamison's back and apologized, "I'm so sorry. I haven't been feeling well lately. You must be disappointed with how I acted, right? But don't worry. Once I recover from the illness, I'll spend time with you and play with all of you."

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Chapter 1510 Sending The Little Devils Away

"Daddy..." Jamie choked up. "It's all my fault for always being naughty. I've caused you to worry all this while. From now on, I will behave and take care of them. You have to focus on recuperating. I'm sure you will recover."

There was a minute change in Zachary's gaze when he heard those words.

The triplets felt even more guilty. Hanging their heads, they apologized to him one by one. "We're sorry, Uncle Zachary. You're both sick and injured. We shouldn't have bothered you."

"Mmm-hmm. We are in the wrong and won't do it again."

"Let's play the horse-riding game when you've fully recovered."

"Uncle Zachary, don't be angry. We won't tell Aunt Charlotte about it."

"I won't get Daddy to beat you too."

While the three children expressed their remorse, Robbie watched on with mixed emotions.

Zachary chuckled as he stroked their heads. Although he wanted to say something, he was unsure of what he should say.

"All right now, Jamie, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, it's time for us to go. Let's not disrupt Daddy's rest." Robbie finally stepped in to defuse the situation. "Daddy is sick and needs some peace."

"Okay." Jamie quickly let Zachary go and carefully stood back. "Daddy, you should rest well. I will look after them, and they won't bother you again."

"We don't need you to watch over us. We're good kids!" the triplets protested.

"Uh..."

"Kids!" At that moment, Morgan shouted from outside, "Mr. Spencer is here to pick you up, so come out right now."

"Why is Mr. Spencer here for us?"

The triplets ran out at once.

"He's taking all of you over to his place so that Mr. Nacht can rest well at home," Morgan explained with a smile. "I have already packed your stuff. Come, let's grab a quick bite before leaving."

"Is Robbie and Jamie going with us too?"

"We are," Robbie answered. He then turned to Zachary. "Daddy, we're staying over at Mr. Spencer's for a few days. You should have a good rest at home."

"Sure, you kids have fun."

Zachary wanted nothing more than that. In fact, he could barely hide his delight.

"Daddy, don't worry about us. We'll be back in a couple of days," Jamie said, reluctant to leave.

"You should stay a few more—" Zachary blurted but quickly rephrased his sentence. "Spend more time with Mr. Spencer."

"Mmm-hmm. Bye, Daddy!"

"Bye!"

"Bye, Uncle Zachary!"

"Bye!"

After waving goodbye to Zachary, the children followed Morgan downstairs for their snacks.

At the same time, Jade and the others brought the five children's baggage downstairs and loaded them in the trunk.

Standing in the corridor on the second floor, Zachary watched the children leave before letting out a long sigh.

"Mr. Zachary!"

At that moment, Spencer was wheeled upstairs by his subordinate. Filled with concern, he reassured Zachary, "With the kids at my place, you can get some proper rest and enjoy some privacy with Ms. Lindberg. She has been working very hard lately, so you should spend more time with her."

"That goes without saying." Zachary was elated. "Thank you, Mr. Spencer."

"Don't mention it, Mr. Zachary. As for the company—"

"Let's talk about that tomorrow instead. I'm tired, so I'm heading inside to rest."

"Okay, rest well then."

Spencer found it strange that Zachary seemed to be avoiding the topic.

That's odd... Zachary used to always care about the company. Even if the sky's falling, he'd still prioritize work. Yet, it doesn't seem like he wants to deal with it at all. But then again, he's sick and has just survived a fire. Having escaped from the jaws of death, he probably just wants some peace and quiet, which is understandable.

Instead of delving deeper into the matter, Spencer left with the children. Before doing so, he exhorted Hanna and Bruce to take good care of Zachary.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1511

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Chapter 1511 Time For Action

Standing by the windows on the second floor, Zachary watched as Kyle and Cain carried the children one by one into the car before driving off.

When Jamie waved at him from inside the car, he waved back with a warm and affectionate smile.

The convoy drove away and soon disappeared from his sight.

Heaving a sigh of relief, Zachary drew the curtains before turning around to scrutinize the room. Once he was certain that the coast was clear, he took out his phone to make a call.

“Hello?” he said into the phone.

“How is it? Did everything go as planned?” A deep voice sounded from the other end of the line.

“You can say that. But I was almost tortured to death by the three little Lindberg devils.”

At the thought of the triplets, a frown creased his forehead.

“You must not lay a finger on the Lindberg children no matter what. Regardless of what they do, you just have to bear with it,” the person on the other end of the line warned grimly.

“I know. Luckily, Spencer has taken the children away. So now, I can finally have some peace.”

As he spoke, the man lay on the sofa leisurely and put his legs on the coffee table.

“Taken the children away?” The person was briefly stunned before asking solemnly, “Does Charlotte suspect you?”

The man on the sofa knitted his brows, taken aback by the question. “I don’t think so...”

He hesitated in his reply. In truth, he was not sure about it too.

“Regardless of whether she does or not, we have to act soon,” the person suggested. “Charlotte isn’t a problem, but she has the Lindbergs by her side. Therefore, don’t underestimate them.”

“Do you mean Gordon?” The man on the sofa sounded equally solemn. “He is very sharp indeed, merely taking a glance at me to know something was amiss.”

“He is Danrique’s right hand and isn’t someone to be trifled with.” The person on the other end of the line instructed at once, “Follow my instructions, and take action as soon as possible.”

“Okay. Also, I heard them mention that Ellie has woken up. She saw me during the fire.”

“I’ll take care of it. You should just act according to our plan.”

“Understood.”

After ending the call, “Zachary” spun his phone around as if he was planning something.

At that moment, a subordinate knocked on the door and reported respectfully, “Mr. Nacht, Kallum is outside and is asking to see you.”

Kallum?

“Zachary” raised his eyebrows and replied at once, “Let him in.”

“Yes, Mr. Nacht.” The subordinate went off as instructed.

At that moment, Bruce was coincidentally going upstairs. When he saw the subordinate going down to lead Kallum in, he could not help but feel puzzled. Thus, he knocked on the door and entered the room. “Mr. Nacht, when you weren’t around, Kallum instigated the board of directors at the headquarters to trouble Ms. Lindberg. Now that he wants to see you, I’m afraid he brings nothing but bad news.”

“Is he even a threat to us?” “Zachary” remarked haughtily.

“I...” Bruce could not answer him.

“Where’s my phone?” “Zachary” suddenly asked. “Help me find it.”

“Yes, Mr. Nacht.” Bruce found the phone quickly and handed it to him. “Mr. Nacht, your old phone was destroyed in the fire. This is a new one, but the SIM card is the same as before.”

“All right. You’re dismissed.”

Receiving the phone, “Zachary” began going through its contents.

Meanwhile, Bruce was feeling unsettled by the exchange. In the past, Zachary would always share his thoughts with him, but he no longer did so.

“Is there anything else?” “Zachary” looked up at him.

“No, there isn’t.” Bruce lowered his head and left.

Just then, the subordinate escorted Kallum in. Before the latter even got close to “Zachary,” he exclaimed, “Mr. Nacht, I finally get to see you. I’m glad that you’re all right.”

“Uncle Kallum, it’s been a while.” Looking at him, “Zachary” let out an impassive smile. “Have a seat!”

As the maid prepared coffee, the subordinate was ordered to wait outside.

Seeing the scene before him, Bruce could not suppress the odd feeling in his mind.

Mr. Nacht has always been cautious and never invited anyone for discussions in the bedroom, let alone an outsider like Kallum. But why did he do so today... This is really strange.

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chapter 1512

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Chapter 1512 Further Deductions

Nevertheless, Bruce did not think much of it. He simply assumed that it was one of Zachary’s tactics.

Maybe he has a motive for doing this? Is he using the carrot and stick approach with Kallum?

The more he thought about it, the more troubled he was. Hence, he reported the situation to Charlotte, who had just arrived at the hospital.

Holding her phone, Charlotte replied calmly, “Perhaps, he just wants to have a good talk with Kallum.”

“Okay. Since you don’t see any issue with it, I won’t dwell on it further.” The earlier suspicions Bruce had fled his mind. “I just find that there’s something strange about Mr. Nacht ever since he returned.”

“Before the fire, he was experiencing memory loss due to the poison invading his brain. Hence, it’s not surprising for him to act strangely.” Charlotte did not plan on telling him the truth. “We have to be more understanding and accommodative of him.”

“I understand.” Bruce could not help but feel disheartened by her words.

“Take good care of him. I’ll handle my matters first.”

“Yes, Ms. Lindberg.”

After ending the call, Charlotte frowned. She was surprised at how quickly Kallum showed up and even met "Zachary" in private.

"Do you want me to capture Kallum and interrogate him?" Lupine knew what was going on in her mind.

"It's fine." Charlotte analyzed the situation rationally, "Considering that he's meeting Kallum at Northridge in front of so many others, it's unlikely for him to do anything drastic. Or else, the conflict would be out in the open, and their well-laid-out plans would go to waste."

"In that case, what should we do?" Lupine asked.

"We don't have to do anything other than wait for them to make their move." Charlotte hurried into the ward. "Ellie..."

After going through therapy with the psychologist, Ellie was no longer as paranoid as before. Nonetheless, she was still constantly unsettled. When the little girl saw Charlotte, she did not jump into her arms excitedly like she used to. Instead, she scrutinized her intently as if to see if the latter was truly her mother.

"Ellie, it's me. Don't you recognize Mommy anymore?"

When Charlotte saw the look on Ellie's face, she was heartbroken. Pulling Ellie in to give her a tight hug, she consoled, "Ellie, don't be afraid. Mommy is here. No one will be able to hurt you."

However, Ellie did not speak, nor did she move. Instead, she trembled in Charlotte's embrace as though she was stricken with fear.

"Ellie, what's wrong?" Charlotte was overwrought. "Why don't you recognize me anymore? Huh?"

Ellie remained silent. In fact, she did not even dare to look at her, lowering her head and recoiling in fear until she reached her bed. Hugging her pillow, she burrowed herself underneath the covers.

"Ellie..." Charlotte called out when she saw the covers tremble along with Ellie's body.

"Ms. Lindberg!"

At that moment, Raina hurried into the room and held her back. "Ellie hasn't recovered yet. Let's not rush her. Give her some time."

"Why is this happening?" Charlotte was seized by desperation. "Why doesn't Ellie recognize me?"

"Let's talk in my office." Raina consoled her, "Don't worry, there are plenty of medical staff here. They will look after her."

"Lupine, stay here," Charlotte instructed.

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg."

After Charlotte followed Raina into her office, Raina invited the child psychologist to explain Ellie's situation to her.

"Ms. Lindberg, I gave Ellie a myriad of tests and realized that she's deeply traumatized. In fact, she is suspicious of those closest to her. I have reason to believe that she has been hurt or frightened by her family members."

"Frightened by her family members?" Charlotte's heart sank. "How can that be? Why would anyone in the family hurt her?"

"We find it hard to believe too. Nevertheless, that's what we have concluded from the results. In truth, most of the traumas suffered by children are caused by those closest to them. Ms. Lindberg, can you think of anyone that's particularly suspicious?"

Upon hearing the psychologist's words, Charlotte had a strong hunch that the person who looked exactly like Zachary had frightened Ellie.

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Chapter 1513 Dilemma

If there really were someone who looked exactly like Zachary, then all their deductions would be valid.

However, no one dared to say with certainty that such a doppelganger existed.

Ultimately, deep down in everyone's hearts, they wished that Zachary could survive.

"Her condition is quite complicated. If we intend to help her as soon as possible, I suggest we tackle the source of her trauma," the psychologist proposed.

"The source..." Knitting her brows, Charlotte fell into deep thought.

"Ms. Lindberg, Ms. Lindberg!"

Charlotte was only brought to her senses after Raina called her a few times.

"Ellie's condition is rather complex. If we can't find the cause, she'll have no choice but to go through therapy gradually. As a result, it might take some time," Raina explained softly.

"I understand." Charlotte nodded. "I'll go accompany Ellie. Thank you for your time."

After staying with Ellie for a while, Charlotte went to visit Ben before leaving with a heavy heart.

Now that I've settled the children down in Mr. Spencer's place and the hospital's security has been reinforced, the first thing I have to do now is to verify the person's identity and determine if he's Zachary. If he isn't Zachary, I'll have to expose him as soon as possible and nip his plan in the bud. But if he turns out to be Zachary, then I'll have to change my approach entirely...

Suddenly, Lucy's call disrupted her train of thought. She told Charlotte that another wave of rumors was spreading like wildfire. That time around, they claimed that she was planning to confine Zachary at home and usurp his position since her plans of mariticide had failed.

When the board of directors heard the rumors, they panicked and demanded to see Zachary.

Before Charlotte could react, she received a call from Johann, which she quickly accepted. "Mr. Sterk!"

"Charlotte, has Lucy given you a call? The situation is grave. Despite our best efforts to quell it, chaos has resurfaced again. All the board members called me early in the morning and insisted on meeting Mr. Nacht. If they don't get to see him, they will start taking countermeasures."

Johann suggested anxiously, "Given the pressing situation, Spencer and I can't hold them back, neither can you. The way I see it, you'd better discuss it with Mr. Nacht and get him to show up."

"I understand."

Charlotte's brows were tightly knitted. Considering the dire circumstances, she would be in big trouble if "Zachary" would not align himself with her.

"Charlotte, I know Mr. Nacht isn't in good shape, but this is a special situation. No matter what, we need him to speak to them, however short it is," Johann voiced again.

"All right. I'll discuss this with him when I'm back, and I'll call you in the evening."

"Sure. I'll be waiting to hear from you."

Having ended the call, Charlotte instructed, "Let's head home."

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg."

Their car drove toward Northridge.

Lupine shot Charlotte a worried look. "Ms. Lindberg, what should we do now?"

She was cognizant of how tricky the situation was. The board of directors was waiting for Zachary to show himself, but the Zachary they had at their home could be an impostor.

If Charlotte were to expose him, it would only fuel the rumors further. By then, the public would not believe her words but instead, accuse her of coming up with another scheme to seize the Nacht family's assets after failing to murder Zachary. What ensued from that would probably be a barrage of even scarier controversies.

However, if she decided not to reveal the impostor, she would be falling into his trap.

In short, Charlotte was trapped between a rock and a hard place.

"I've been thinking of this. If that man is an impostor, he would've been busted in less than twenty-four hours. So where did he get the courage to set up such an elaborate plot to challenge me?"

With furrowed eyebrows and an inscrutable expression, she remarked, "But now, I finally understand why he isn't concerned about being exposed at all. That's because he knows that even if I do so, the public might not believe me. Instead, I would fall deeper into the controversy that's brewing."

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Chapter 1514 The Plot

"Are you saying that their plan wasn't to trick you but to deceive the public and spark outrage?"

The truth finally dawned on Lupine.

"They know how strong your relationship with Mr. Nacht is and the fact that you're an intelligent and sharp-witted person. Therefore, there was no way they could've fooled you with an impostor for long.

"Consequently, they leaked Mr. Nacht's return to the press, announcing to the world that he isn't dead and that he was sent to the hospital after suffering injuries in the fire.

"Now that they've spread rumors of you holding Mr. Nacht captive to seize the Nacht family assets, no one will believe you if you accuse him of being an impostor."

"Exactly." Charlotte's brows remained tightly knitted.

"What do we do now?" Lupine was worried. "What should we do? This feels like a lost cause."

"Let's verify his identity first," Charlotte asserted. "If he is real, everything would be worth it. Otherwise, we'll play along and use the situation to our advantage."

"Play along?" Lupine was baffled as to what she meant.

"No matter what, we can't alert them yet. All of you should treat him the same way as before and pretend that you know nothing."

"Understood." Lupine nodded. "But... will you... be in danger?"

Too embarrassed to be candid, she phrased her question vaguely. She could see that "Zachary" liked to be intimate with Charlotte. Even though he might not harm her for the sake of his plan, he might somehow take advantage of her, complicating matters when the real Zachary returned.

"Don't worry. I know what I'm doing." Charlotte was not concerned at all.

Soon, their car arrived at Northridge.

Ever since the fire at Southridge, everyone had moved to Northridge. As for then, Southridge remained sealed.

Initially, Spencer suggested for it to be renovated soon, but Charlotte forbade anyone from doing so. Firstly, it would be convenient for the police to collect evidence. Secondly, it served as a reminder for her to learn her lesson.

"Mrs. Nacht, you're back!"

When Hanna saw Charlotte, she rushed toward her. "Mr. Nacht doesn't seem to be feeling well, as he didn't eat the food that I have prepared for him. What should I do?"

"Thanks for your effort, Mrs. Rawlston. What did you cook him?" Charlotte asked.

"His favorite beef stroganoff, vegetable broth, and some other snacks." Hanna was extremely troubled. "Thinking that his appetite wasn't good, I boiled some medicinal broth for him. Even then, he refused to have any."

"Cook some vegetable beef soup then. He likes that." Charlotte smiled slightly. "Coincidentally, I feel like having some too."

“Okay, I’ll get right to it.” Hanna headed back to the kitchen and busied herself.

After walking upstairs, Charlotte headed to the study instead of returning to the bedroom.

Turning on her computer, she went through all sorts of folders containing the news articles Lucy had compiled. Some of them even had annotations made by the latter.

When Charlotte clicked into one of the articles, she saw how ridiculous the discussions had become. There were all sorts of wild speculations. Some even went as far as saying that she would soon be brought to justice.

Just as she was reading it, the police called and urged her to assist in their investigations as soon as possible. Otherwise, they would have to pick her up from Northridge.

Charlotte was about to reply when a familiar figure entered the study. The moment she looked up, their eyes met. His gaze was as gentle as it had always been.

For a split second, she was shaken, thinking that he was the real Zachary.

“Ms. Lindberg, Ms. Lindberg...”

The police officer’s voice interrupted her train of thought, pulling her back from being overwhelmed by her emotions. Very quickly, her rationality returned. “All right. I understand. I’ll be there at six.”

After ending the call, she raised her head to look at “Zachary.” “The police are urging me to assist in their investigations.”

“Ignore them.” “Zachary” walked over and hugged her from behind. “With me around, no one can bully my wife.”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1515

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Chapter 1515 Accept The Treatment

Just as “Zachary” spoke, he leaned in to kiss Charlotte’s ear, but she avoided it by reflex and even pushed him away. “There’s a huge controversy brewing now. Didn’t you read the news?”

“Just ignore them,” he reassured her. “They will naturally stop in a couple of days.”

"Stop?" She narrowed her eyes at him. "Did you actually read the news? Given how haywire the speculations have become, how can they stop naturally? When you were missing, an internal conflict occurred within the company, with the board of directors trying to remove me. After painstakingly suppressing them, we now have another controversy on our hands. Do you really think it will go away by itself if we don't do anything about it?"

"I..." The man was taken aback at first. However, he quickly apologized, "I'm sorry. It's all my fault."

"Did Kallum come and see you just now?" she asked candidly. "What did he say?"

"Nothing much. He came to see for himself whether I was still alive and asked me if the auditor could return to the company. Also, he even said..."

Looking at Charlotte meekly, "Zachary" dared not continue his explanation.

"What else did he say?" Charlotte pressed on.

"He said that it's inappropriate for a lady to be at the helm and that I should return to take control," he answered as he observed her reaction.

"He's right." Not only was Charlotte not angry, but she also lamented, "In the few days in which you were missing, I was flooded with accusations from all kinds of people. Now that you're back, a new controversy has been ignited. The last few days have been the most tiring time of my entire life. If I could, I really don't want to do this. Therefore, you'd better receive treatment so that I can hand this mess over to you once you've recovered. I truly can't be bothered anymore."

"Speaking of my health, I have something to share with you," "Zachary" remarked with an earnest expression. "These few days, I can feel my condition improving significantly, and I also feel more energetic. In fact, I was wondering if this incident had removed the toxins in my body by accident."

"Really?" Charlotte was elated. "I noticed the same about you too. Since the poison came about under strange circumstances, it wouldn't be a surprise if it disappeared in an equally mysterious manner."

"In that case—"

"I'll get Raina to come over and do a blood test for you. That way, we'll know for sure."

While speaking, Charlotte picked up her phone to make the call.

"Zachary" hastened to stop her. "Wait, I don't think there's any need to do so. If she finds out that I've not healed, it might cause me unnecessary stress."

She nodded. "That's true. Why don't you continue with the treatment Dr. Felch left behind? We can observe the results over a few days."

“There’s no need for that. It’s not like I have any symptoms—”

“What do you mean you don’t?” Charlotte grew concerned suddenly. “Ever since you returned, you’ve been behaving strangely. In fact, many have been wondering what’s wrong with you. If you hadn’t intermittently lost your memory before the fire, I would have thought that you weren’t my husband.”

Her words stunned “Zachary” for a moment, and he quickly explained, “Of course, I’m your husband. Fine, you’re right. My sickness is getting to my head. I do need to receive the treatment.”

“That’s the way.” Charlotte nodded in relief. “I’ll get Hayley and Sam to do it later. Recover as soon as you can so that you can manage the company again. As of now, I can barely keep it together by myself.”

“All right, I got it.” “Zachary” forced himself to agree. “But Kallum told me that the board of directors is causing trouble again. How are you planning to deal with them?”

“What else can I do? They don’t respect me at all. On my way home, Johann even called me to get you to show your face, even if it’s just to say a word or two. Therefore, receive your treatment tonight and follow me to the company tomorrow morning.”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1516

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Chapter 1516 The Tattoo

“Oh, okay.”

That time around, “Zachary” agreed to her suggestion readily.

Knock! Knock! Suddenly, someone knocked on the door.

“Come in,” Charlotte answered.

Hanna wheeled in a cart full of food, snacks, and two sets of cutlery.

“Mr. Nacht, Mrs. Nacht, the vegetable beef soup is ready,” she declared amiably. “I even prepared some snacks. Please try them!”

“No need—”

“All right, thank you, Mrs. Rawlston,” Charlotte responded with a smile, cutting “Zachary” off. “Sorry for the trouble.”

"It's no trouble at all. It pleases me to watch you two enjoy the food." Hanna served them a bowl each. "Come eat it while it's hot. I'll be taking my leave now."

"Will do, Mrs. Rawlston." After walking Hanna to the door, Charlotte faced "Zachary" and urged, "Have some quickly. This used to be your favorite."

"I'm not hungry." He frowned while staring at the soup.

"Mrs. Rawlston said that you haven't eaten anything the entire day. How can you not be hungry?" She handed him a bowl of soup and coaxed, "Be good, and have some quickly!"

"Thanks, Wifey!"

However, even after receiving the soup, "Zachary" kept stirring it with no intention of eating.

When Charlotte kept staring at him while having hers, he had no choice but to force himself to do so.

After taking two mouthfuls, he grimaced and almost retched.

"Hubby, what's wrong? Do you have a stomachache?" Charlotte asked with a concerned tone. "You don't have to eat it if you can't. After all, the beef soup is pretty oily. I'll get Mrs. Rawlston to make you some vegetable soup instead."

"Vegetable soup..."

"It was the same when you were sick before this. After having vegetable soup for two months, you lost over twenty pounds. It looks like you are having a relapse. No, I have to call Hayley and Sam over at once."

Just as she spoke, she quickly made the call. "Hayley, I'm sending someone over to pick you and Sam up. By the way, Zachary has returned, but he isn't feeling too good, so I need you to continue with the treatment. Just follow the same prescription Dr. Felch used to treat me. Make the necessary preparations, yeah?"

After that, Charlotte insisted on having Hanna cook some vegetable soup and had her make it blander.

When "Zachary" heard her request, he could not help but grimace again.

"Hubby, you should take a shower first. The vegetable soup will be ready by the time you're done."

With that, Charlotte began pushing him out of the room.

"Hayley and Sam are staying at the villa in Yaleview. I've arranged for someone to pick them up, and they would probably arrive only in the afternoon. Once they're

here, they will start on your treatment. After the treatment, you aren't allowed to expose yourself to water. Therefore, you have to shower now."

"I can't touch water?"

"Zachary" was unsettled by her words. "Why?"

"You'll know later."

Once they arrived at the bedroom, he grabbed her hand and leaned over affectionately.

"Wifey, let's shower together. It's been a long time since we had been intimate."

"The doctor said we can't. Have you forgotten?" Charlotte was stern. "The last time we did it, you had a nosebleed and almost fainted. I was terrified back then."

"Zachary" looked surprised. "I'm not that weak. That was before. I'm different now—"

"Whatever it is, you're not allowed to think about it until you've fully recovered." Charlotte forcefully pushed him into the bathroom. "Once you're done showering, I'll help you scrub your back."

"Really?"

Her promise elated the man. As long as she's willing to come into the bathroom, I would have a chance to...

"Cut the crap, and go shower."

The moment Charlotte closed the bathroom door, the smile on her face disappeared.

The real Zachary had a wolf head tattoo on his waist. That was the mark she used to recognize him the first time. As a result, she remembered it vividly.

As of then, all she needed to do was to check if there was a tattoo on that man's waist and if it was the right one. That way, she could finally verify his identity.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1517

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Chapter 1517 No Choice But To Endure

Standing outside the bathroom, Charlotte kept an eye on her watch. She listened to the sound of flowing water while waiting for the opportune time to open the door.

As time ticked by, she finally reached the five-minute mark. She figured “Zachary” would have undressed by then.

With a towel in hand, she entered the bathroom.

Amid the mist inside, the man looked even more towering and attractive.

As for the wolf head tattoo on his waist, it could clearly be seen despite being partly blocked by the mist.

It’s really Zachary!

Charlotte was bewildered.

How can this be? How can the tattoo be the same? Is he really Zachary?

“Wifey...”

Suddenly, “Zachary” turned around and reached out to hug her.

Charlotte, who was on alert, avoided him and slipped away at once. “Continue with your shower. I’ll go check if the vegetable soup is ready.”

“Wifey...”

“Zachary” grabbed her and refused to let go. He even pinned her against the wall and leaned in to kiss her.

Averse to his advances, Charlotte turned her head to avoid the kiss. She thundered, “Let go of me!”

“You’re my wife. I can kiss you whenever I want.”

With a brazen attitude, the man continued to approach while restraining both her wrists.

Failing to struggle free, Charlotte lifted her knee in desperation.

“Argh!”

“Zachary” curled up on the ground while holding his crotch. He was in so much pain that his face was devoid of color.

"You deserved it!" After pushing him aside, Charlotte stormed out.

When she came out of the room and saw Hanna pacing around nervously, she quickly recollected herself and greeted, "Mrs. Rawlston, what's wrong?"

"I was about to come up with the vegetable soup when I heard Mr. Nacht's cry. A-Are both of you fighting?"

Hanna felt awkward and worried at the same time.

"We're not fighting." Charlotte received the soup. "All right now, I'll take this in. Mrs. Rawlston, you can get back to work."

"Sure, sure." Hanna dared not probe further and left quickly.

When Charlotte returned to the room, she put the bowl of vegetable soup on the coffee table and declared, "Once you're done showering, come over and drink your soup. You will only have vegetable soup three times a day and a bowl for every meal from today onward. It will be served with some side dishes. Once you've done this for two months, you won't get a stomachache anymore."

"Zachary" walked out of the bathroom with only a towel wrapped around his waist. He asked anxiously, "Do you have to be so cruel?"

"This was what you did previously." Charlotte was firm and decisive. "Before this, you had soup for almost three months and didn't even have any side dishes."

"Hey, you—"

She ignored him and gave Hanna a call right away. "Mrs. Rawlston, from today onward, Mr. Nacht will have nothing but vegetable soup. By the way, don't serve him any wine or any other drinks. He is only allowed to have plain water. Furthermore, please get someone to clear the mini-bar in the room later. Remove all the alcoholic drinks, and only leave the bottles of mineral water behind."

"Yes, Mrs. Nacht," Hanna agreed at once. "What's a good time for me to come?"

"About an hour." Charlotte checked her watch. "You can come once he's done with his vegetable soup."

"All right, Mrs. Nacht." After ending the call, Charlotte smiled faintly at "Zachary" and suggested solemnly, "For the sake of your health, you have to be self-disciplined. Since you have done it before, I'm sure you can do it again!"

"Finish your soup quickly, and get yourself dressed. Mrs. Rawlston will be coming up with one of the maids to clear the mini-bar," she then urged. "I'm going to do some work now. Once Hayley is here, I'll accompany you for the treatment."

With that, she headed out of the room.

Meanwhile, "Zachary" stared at the vegetable soup with a pained expression. The thought of going through the treatment later only served to add salt to his wounds. Nevertheless, for the sake of their plan, he had no choice but to endure.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1518

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Chapter 1518 Be Strict

After Hayley and Sam arrived, they settled into a loft at the back.

Charlotte had requested Raina to set up a traditional medicine treatment room there so that Hayley and Sam would have a place to treat Zachary.

Given their dutiful nature, both of them brought along all their equipment and drugs when they heard about Zachary's return and Charlotte's request to have him treated.

The moment they arrived at the loft, they began to unpack.

"Hayley!"

When Charlotte walked in, Hayley was still unpacking the needles left behind by Dr. Felch. When she heard the former's voice, she hurried to greet her, "Charlotte!"

"Thank you for coming all the way here again."

After the fire at Southridge, Charlotte had sent both of them to the villa at Yaleview temporarily. That was because she knew Zachary would return one day, and their help would still be needed when that happened.

Indeed, she was right, for Hayley and Sam were brought back just after a few days.

"It's fine. After all, Dr. Felch sent us to take care of you," Hayley replied with a giggle. "Charlotte, is Zachary really back? See, I told you he'd be fine!"

"Mmm-hmm, he's back," Charlotte answered with a slight smile. "However, the poison in his body has yet to be removed. After giving it a lot of thought, I feel that we should employ the prescription Dr. Felch used on me to treat him."

"Charlotte, actually, we have discussed this before, but I'm worried that it won't work." Sam sounded concerned. "After all, Dr. Felch hasn't taught it to us before, and we haven't given it a try either."

"We have no other choice now. It's our only hope," Charlotte commented in resignation. "Let's just give it a try."

"All right then. I'll prepare the medication." Sam got to work at once.

"I'll prepare the silver needles," Hayley added. "When I treated you before, I have a good grasp on how to use them. After that, I ran through it with Dr. Felch again, so it should turn out fine."

"That's good. You guys continue with your preparation while I bring him here."

With that, Charlotte returned to the villa to get "Zachary."

At that moment, "Zachary" was already dressed. He sat on the sofa, watching Hanna and the maids clear out his mini-bar with a scowl on his face.

When he saw them take every single bottle of his wine away, he could not resist the urge to rebuke. Sadly, they were undeterred by him.

Hanna even responded, "Mr. Nacht, please calm down. We're just following Mrs. Nacht's orders. She's doing all this for your own good, so you'd better behave!"

That rendered "Zachary" speechless.

He probably had never imagined that a lofty person like himself would end up in such a state.

This... This isn't right.

"Mr. Nacht, prior to this, you only drank vegetable soup alone for two months. Hence, you shouldn't blame her and should be understanding. In fact, she's spoiling you by allowing you to have side dishes."

"That's right, Mr. Nacht. Mrs. Nacht suffered a lot when you weren't around."

The two maids advised "Zachary" as if he was an ungrateful husband who did not appreciate his wife's good intentions.

Remaining silent throughout, "Zachary" held his head in agony.

No, it shouldn't be like this. Given how domineering Zachary is, everyone at home should be taking orders from him. Why are the maids brazen enough to lecture me? Why does everyone listen to Charlotte instead of me? Can it be...

"Are you done cleaning up?"

At that moment, Charlotte returned.

"Mrs. Nacht, we're done," Hanna reported at once. "We have taken everything other than the mineral water. We didn't leave the coffee behind either."

"Good job." Gratified to hear that, Charlotte nodded. "We're doing this for the sake of his health, so we must be strict."

"Yes, Mrs. Nacht."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1519

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Chapter 1519 You Are Cruel

When "Zachary" saw Hanna and the other take away his things, he gritted his teeth and glared at Charlotte. "You're a cruel woman!"

"I'm doing this for your own good." Looking at the untouched bowl of vegetable soup, she frowned. "If you don't eat that, there won't be anything else for you."

"I refuse." "Zachary" turned his head away in defiance.

"Fine. Put on your shoes. We're going to the loft in the backyard," Charlotte urged. "Hayley and Sam are already waiting for you."

He furrowed his brows. "Must I go?"

"You can choose not to." Charlotte did not insist. "If you don't want to be treated with traditional medicine, you will have to see Raina and do a full body checkup. After that, you will have to accept treatment with modern medicine, and—"

Before she could even finish her utterances, "Zachary" was already putting on his shoes. "Traditional medicine is a legacy of our nation. Therefore, we should believe in it."

"That's the spirit."

Breaking out into a smile, Charlotte led him to the loft in the backyard.

Along the way, she reminded the maids and subordinates. "From today onward, Mr. Nacht will be continuing his treatment. Therefore, all of you have to monitor him closely. He isn't allowed to drink nor eat whatever he wishes to. Also, he cannot leave on his own accord. If he has any instructions, report them to me and get my permission first. And if anything happens, inform me immediately."

"Yes, Mrs. Nacht!"

Everyone took orders from Charlotte as if she was the head of the household.

Meanwhile, "Zachary" was flabbergasted by everything that had just transpired. Why does it feel like I've come to the wrong place? This place feels more like the Lindberg residence than the Nacht residence.

"Stop looking around. We're in Northridge," Charlotte stated as if she knew what he was thinking. "Although most of them are your men, they only take orders from me."

"Zachary" was rendered speechless as a gloomy look crept into his eyes. It was as if he had a premonition of imminent danger.

By the time they arrived at the loft, Hayley and Sam had prepared the herbal concoction and poured it into a wooden bucket. At the same time, the needles for acupuncture were also ready.

The moment Charlotte entered with "Zachary," the two greeted him, "Zachary, we're glad to see that you are fine. We were worried sick!"

"I'm all right. Thanks for your concern," "Zachary" answered cordially.

"Zachary, why do you look so much better than before? In fact, you look reasonably spirited." Hayley found it strange after observing "Zachary." "It's as if you are not sick at all."

"That's right. Also, I feel as if your nose—"

"That's enough," Charlotte interrupted Sam before changing the topic. "After a brush with death, he has been reinvigorated and looks better than before. However, the poison in his body hasn't cleared yet, which is why we need your help. The previous treatment Dr. Felch used on me was pretty useful. Hence, you should just repeat the same procedures on him this time. Anyway, you can begin now."

"Yes, Charlotte," Hayley replied in acknowledgment. Then, she stepped out and called out, "All of you, come over here."

"Right away." A few burly men rolled up their sleeves and gradually approached "Zachary." "Mr. Nacht, do you want to take it off yourself, or do you want us to help you?"

"W-What?" "Zachary" knitted his brows. "Take what off?"

"Your clothes," Hayley replied while giggling. "After that, you will have to soak yourself in the bucket for an hour before Sam performs acupuncture on you."

"Acupuncture?" "Zachary" widened his eyes in shock.

"Yes, look."

Sam took out his equipment and spread them out for him to see. In it were seventy-two needles with one thicker and longer than the other.

"We will stick all of them into your body so that the toxins can be excreted. By doing it once a day for eighty-one days, we will be able to see its results."

Terrified till his face lost all color, "Zachary" looked at Charlotte in disbelief. "Charlotte, isn't this too cruel?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1520

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Chapter 1520 Intimidation

Later on, Charlotte arrived at the police station to assist in their investigations, where she had her statement taken the entire night.

Given how grave the case was, the police regarded it seriously. Consequently, they had begun their investigations that day and called up everyone related to the incident to record their statement.

So far, the evidence and leads were unfavorable to Charlotte. Nonetheless, she maintained her cool and cooperated however she could. By the time she was allowed to leave the police station with Lupine, it was already late at night.

Just when she was about to get in her car, she saw the Gold family's car approach.

Due to her frequent interactions with Zachary before that incident, Nancy was also summoned by the police.

Since she was busy, it was not until then did she have the time to come in. At the same time, she probably never expected to run into Charlotte at such an hour.

The moment their cars passed by each other, both of them came to a stop.

Then, their windows were lowered, revealing two pretty faces staring at each other.

"Charlotte, if you've committed a crime, you'd better own up to it. There's no way you can remain at large." Nancy stared at Charlotte coldly.

"Ms. Gold, you should tell that to your father."

Charlotte gave her a thoughtful look.

"What do you mean by that?" Nancy's eyes widened in disbelief.

Ignoring her, Charlotte rolled up her window and had the driver drive away.

As for Nancy, she was unsettled by the comment. With her eyebrows furrowed, she remarked anxiously, "What did Charlotte mean by that sentence? Could it be that this has something to do with my dad?"

"That's impossible," her subordinate reassured her at once. "Mr. Gold has always encouraged you to befriend Mr. Nacht. Why would he harm him? Moreover, the Nacht residence is secured like a fortress. Who else is capable of doing so other than their own men?"

Nancy did not respond. Her brows remained creased as she mulled over the situation.

In the car, Lupine asked nervously, "Ms. Lindberg, why did you say those things to Nancy? Aren't you worried about alerting the mastermind?"

"Jesse probably knew early on that I would see through the impostor," Charlotte remarked frostily. "If Nancy tells him about it, it would serve as a form of intimidation. If not, she would re-evaluate her perception of the entire matter."

"Wouldn't she choose to protect her father?" Lupine guessed.

"I, too, would like to know whose side will she be on," Charlotte commented as she narrowed her eyes.

"She will probably side with her father." Lupine firmly believed in that possibility. "After all, it isn't just about their familial relationship. It also involves both her interests and future."

"Even though it might seem that way on the surface, I somehow still feel that there was some hidden meaning behind Zachary's words," Charlotte added thoughtfully. "Maybe he wanted to hint something to me."

"Would Nancy really betray her family for Mr. Nacht?" Lupine found it unbelievable. "I think it's highly improbable. After all, Mr. Nacht didn't promise her anything."

"That's true." Charlotte heaved a sigh. "We'll see. Just see this as an attempt to sound them out."

"Mmm-hmm." Lupine did not press on. Instead, she changed the topic. "What about the board meeting tomorrow? Are you really bringing that impostor along with you?"

"Yes, I must," Charlotte affirmed. "Since the board of directors forced me to bring him over, I'll do as they wish. Or else, they would continue to suspect me of confining him."

"However, will he stand on your side then?" Lupine was puzzled. "What if he stands in opposition to you in the board meeting?"

"It's still too early for him to take action." Charlotte smirked. "After all, the stock and assets have been transferred under my name. If he angers me now, how is he going to take them from me? Even if he wants to attack me with the directors' help, he will need time to prepare. Therefore, he will not strike until he's ready."

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Chapter 1521 Tie Him Up

"That's right. We will play along and turn the table on them." Twirling the phone in her hand, Charlotte smiled wryly. "I never knew that I am capable of plotting and scheming. It seems that when in desperation, people can be forced to step up to the plate."

"As of now, the future of both the Lindberg and Nacht families are in your hands," Lupine lamented. "Although Mr. Lindberg is protecting you from behind the scenes, he is still restrained by the fact that he can't show himself. The situation at the Nacht family is even worse, whereby they are entirely relying on you to lead them. You have to stay strong."

"I wonder where he has gone to." When the thought of Zachary flashed across her mind, Charlotte became dejected. "Somehow, I can feel that he isn't dead."

"Mr. Nacht will be fine. I'm sure he'll return after a while," Lupine consoled softly.

"No, wait..." Charlotte had a sudden epiphany. "Since the impostor appeared at the crucial moment to take Zachary's place, they must have planned it long ago. In that case, they might have been involved in the fire and possibly know where Zachary is."

"You're right." It dawned on Lupine. "If that's the case, should we capture the impostor and question him about Mr. Nacht's whereabouts?"

"I'm afraid it's not going to be that easy." Knitting her eyebrows, Charlotte reminded herself. "We have to stay calm and take one step at a time."

"However, considering Mr. Nacht's health, I'm worried that we are running out of time," Lupine said with concern. "We'd better do it as soon as possible."

"Yes, I know that." Although Charlotte was overwhelmed with anxiety, she clenched her fists and repeatedly reminded herself. "No matter what, I can't act hastily. Calm down and think..."

On the way home, she felt as if she was being tormented. Her fears further intensified when she realized Zachary's disappearance had something to do with Jesse and the impostor.

At that moment, she was extremely concerned about Zachary's safety. Still, she knew she had to bide her time and not act rashly.

After all, her enemies were hidden in the shadows. In the event of a mistake, she would lose Zachary forever.

The atmosphere at home was imbued with tension, and everyone's face seemed strained.

It was not until Charlotte alighted from the car did the atmosphere lighten slightly. At the sight of her, Hanna hurried forward and said, "Mrs. Nacht, you're finally back."

"Did something happen?" Charlotte could sense that something was amiss.

"Mr. Nacht threw a tantrum and smashed a lot of things. He even hurt someone," Hanna reported anxiously. "Only when Bruce returned did he stop. But he has locked himself up in his room and refuses to see anyone."

"Who did he hurt? Is it serious?" Charlotte asked with a frown.

"It was one of the maids. She has a cut on the forehead and lost quite a lot of blood. Dr. Langan has treated her wound, so it isn't much of an issue. Still, everyone is terrified."

Hanna softly explained, "Mrs. Nacht, you should go in and calm him down. Perhaps, he is thrown into a foul mood due to how excruciatingly painful the treatment is."

"No matter how painful it is, it isn't right for him to hurt anyone." Charlotte knitted her brows tightly. "When he went through the same treatment previously, he didn't behave this way at all."

"But—"

"Ms. Lindberg." At that moment, Bruce came down from upstairs. "I'm glad you've returned. Mr. Nacht's temper is still flaring, so you should check on him now."

Charlotte was infuriated when she saw the wound on his head. "Did he hit you?"

"That's not important." Bruce lowered his head. "His emotions are unstable now, and he refuses to listen to me no matter how hard I tried to persuade him. I'm afraid only you can handle him."

"Everyone, listen to me," Charlotte ordered. "If he lays a finger on any of you, restrain him and tie him up. Do not tolerate this bad habit of his."

Everyone was stunned by her instructions and exchanged glances. Yet, no one dared to say a word.

"Ms. Lindberg, we can't do that." Bruce hastened to stop her. "Mr. Nacht is the head of the household, which gives him the right to lay a finger on us. We can't disrespect him!"

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chapter 1522

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Chapter 1522 Doing This On Purpose

"If I said yes, then it means yes!" Charlotte roared. "If he can hurt you, that means he'll do the same to himself! Why didn't you think about the possibility of him hurting himself? If he does this again, pin him down and tie him up! Do you hear me?"

The others hurriedly nodded.

"You're right," Bruce said with a gasp. "I have to see him now!"

"You don't have to," Charlotte stopped him. "I'll go on my own. Treat your wounds and console that injured maid first."

"Of course." Bruce then quickly went to carry out her instructions.

When Charlotte strode up the stairs, Lupine hastily caught up to her and asked, "Ms. Lindberg, will it be dangerous?"

"Don't worry. He's no match for me," Charlotte replied.

She had tested it out earlier in the day in the bathroom. That man was not good at fighting at all, but he was a man, so he was physically stronger than her. Furthermore, he was shameless. Hence, she still had to be cautious.

Arriving at the room, and just as she was about to push the door open, an ashtray came flying at her. Charlotte nimbly stepped to the side and dodged it.

After crashing against the wall in the corridor, the ashtray dropped to the floor with a loud thud.

"What in the world is wrong with you?"

Charlotte raised her head to look at "Zachary" in the room.

The man's hair was damp, and he was wearing a bathrobe. At that moment, he was gloomily sitting on the couch, glaring at her.

Evidently, he was fuming over what had happened in the day.

He had not eaten anything for the entire day, and he had been forced to soak in a herbal bath for an hour. After that, he was tied up on his bed and was stuck full of needles.

The entire Northridge had heard his screams. It was as though he was getting slaughtered.

The agony in those screams had brought tears to Hanna's eyes and made Bruce's heart tighten with worry.

After his acupuncture session, he had passed out on his bed. But half an hour ago, he had woken up and begun throwing things around.

It was then he had accidentally hurt the maid. When Bruce came into the room to stop him, he had hurt Bruce as well.

He had just gotten rid of Bruce, but someone else had entered the room a moment later. As he threw an ashtray at the intruder, he wondered which fearless soul was there to annoy him further.

A beat later, he realized it was Charlotte.

"If you're sick, then you should be treated. This treatment plan was of your own choice too. Now that it's a little tough, you're losing your temper?" Charlotte folded her arms as she berated him, frustrated. "The last treatment you underwent was way tougher than this, but you didn't even kick up a fuss. Why are you so grumpy now?"

"Zachary" continued to glare at her, fire about to spurt out of his eyes. However, he tamped down his fury and took in a deep breath before squeezing out, "I don't want to be treated anymore!"

"You don't want to be treated anymore? How are you going to get better without the treatment?" Charlotte questioned. "The Nacht family's future rests on your shoulders, and yet you're still throwing a tantrum at a time like this?"

"This treatment is useless! The more I do it, the more uncomfortable I feel."

"Zachary" was frustrated as he loosened his bathrobe and spread his arms. Then, in an agitated tone, he said, "Look at me! Look! My skin's all burnt, and I'm covered with needle holes. I was in a way better state before the treatment!"

The more he said, the hoarser his voice became, and he even started choking on his words as his lips trembled. This isn't something anyone should undergo!

"Of course I know how difficult this is." Charlotte sighed. "I was on the brink of death when Zara poisoned me back then. This treatment was similar to mine. In fact, you're using the same treatment as I did in the past."

"You're doing this on purpose!" fake Zachary blurted out.

"What do you mean?" Charlotte bellowed as she furrowed her brows. "Zachary, you and I are married. Why are you still saying these things to me? Yes, the Nacht family has wronged me. I hated you, and I took revenge on you. However, those are all in the past. Didn't we agree to face the future together?"

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chapter 1523

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Chapter 1523 Torturous

After "Zachary" blurted out his thought about how Charlotte was taking revenge on him, he panicked, thinking that he had accidentally revealed something by saying the wrong words.

However, Charlotte's response made him breathe a sigh of relief.

I'm glad she didn't notice anything. She used to bear a grudge against Zachary, so it's nothing strange for her to talk about wanting to take revenge on him.

"I know you're doing this for my sake, but this treatment is really unnecessary."

Left without a choice, "Zachary" softened his tone and pleaded, "It's too difficult. Not only is it showing no results, but it's worsening my condition."

"How is that possible? I was cured because of this treatment." Charlotte drew her brows together. "And before that incident, you agreed with me about this treatment plan. Why do you suddenly have a change of heart?"

"I..."

For a moment, "Zachary" could not find a good excuse.

He knew that if he continued, he would expose himself.

After all, the real Zachary had been diagnosed with a terminal illness, so even if his treatment was tormenting, he would still cooperate with the others so that he could survive.

"If... you really don't want to do this anymore, I won't force you to," Charlotte mumbled dejectedly with a sigh. "I can't stand watching you getting tormented. You know what? Let's just stop..."

"Really?" A delighted look entered fake Zachary's eyes. "Then—"

"We'll go to Raina," Charlotte continued. "While Dr. Wright is still around, we'll ask her to perform another surgery and draw some blood. We should be able to stabilize your condition. Once we find Francesco, we'll use a different treatment plan."

"Zachary" was dumbfounded by her words. "D-Draw some blood?"

"Yes. We did something similar before. We'll make an opening behind your ear and let out the bad blood. Then you'll be bedbound for a month to slowly recover."

"You don't need to be so merciless, do you?" the fake Zachary nearly shrieked out. "Didn't you say that I have to go to the office tomorrow? Wouldn't I be essentially crippled if I were to be bedbound?"

His plan had to be executed soon. If he were to be bedbound for a month, he would not be able to work on his plan.

"So what do you want?" Charlotte asked in a helpless tone.

At that, the fake Zachary's mouth twitched. He was truly tormented by everything, but still, he steeled himself and said, "Let's just go with Dr. Felch's treatment plan."

As he said those words, he mentally prepared himself to face the end of the world.

That was the choice he made—he had chosen the slightly better option between the two choices he was given.

Although it was suffering to soak in scalding hot herbal baths and go through acupuncture sessions every day, he would soon be out of his misery once his plan was completed.

On the other hand, if he chose the option of surgery, he would be crippled for a month.

Furthermore, he might end up exposing himself. If that were to happen, the woman in front of him would surely skin him alive.

"You chose this yourself," Charlotte quickly said. "In that case, please cooperate with us during the treatment and stop throwing a tantrum. Also, don't hurt others anymore. I've already told them to tie you up if you go mad again. If that really happens, things will turn awkward."

"Zachary" was stunned into silence as a look of disbelief appeared on his face.

"All right. Rest early now," was all Charlotte said before turning around to leave.

"Where are you going?" the fake Zachary hurriedly stopped her. "Aren't you going to sleep here?"

"I still have a lot of work to deal with." Charlotte flung his hand away before walking out of the door. "Rest early. Good night."

"Zachary" watched as she walked away, his brows knitted. Once her footsteps faded, he hastily locked his door and checked the room. Then he made a call.

"How is it?"

"I was f*cking tortured to death today. They shoved me into a tub of hot herbal concoction before stabbing needles in me, talking about some kind of herbal concoction treatment."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1524

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Chapter 1524 Tracking Down

"Did Charlotte notice anything?" the person on the other end of the line asked.

"I'm not sure..." The fake Zachary frowned. "It seems that she's deliberately tormenting me, but at the same time, it seems that she's not suspicious of me."

"It looks like we've underestimated Charlotte," the other person said with a sneer. "This trick of blurring the line between reality and fake is the best."

"She said she'll be taking me to a board meeting tomorrow," the fake Zachary informed. "Should I try to get the shares back when that happens?"

"Not yet," the other person answered. "There are many steps to getting the shares back; you won't be able to get them back just by saying you want it. You shouldn't act rashly unless you're a hundred percent sure that you can emerge as the winner."

"Then when?" The fake Zachary panicked. "I'm getting cooked in the pot and seventy-two needles stuck in me every day! Moreover, I have to do this for what seems like a century! I'm going to die from this!"

"Don't worry. As long as you stick to my plan, you'll soon replace Zachary and take over Nacht Group."

"Hurry up! I can't wait any longer."

At that, the fake Zachary put his hand on his forehead and collapsed on the couch with a loud groan.

I thought Zachary was enjoying the time of his life with wealth and a beautiful woman by his side. I thought that coming to the Nacht residence means getting to enjoy lording over others and the company of the beautiful Charlotte, but... it's only the first day, and I'm already dying. Furthermore, that person's telling me to endure it for a little longer and take it slow! The mere thought of that is terrifying.

"Don't worry. It won't be long. I wish to see the results soon too," the person on the other end of the line consoled.

"You have to do whatever Charlotte says for the next few days. Don't go against her wishes and don't let her figure anything out. At the very least, don't be too obvious. You have to endure this for a few more days. Once all the arrangements on my side are done, we'll deal our blow."

"All right, I got it."

After ending the call, the fake Zachary's face turned tense. God, it's going to be so hard to heed everything she says.

Meanwhile, Charlotte was working in the study when her phone suddenly rang.

It was a call from Michael.

"Michael."

"Charlotte, are you free? I'd like to have a talk with you."

"Michael, I've been really busy recently. I—"

"I wish to talk to you about the news. Otherwise, I can't go back to M Nation."

Michael's tone was almost a pleading one.

"I'm sorry, Michael."

It was then Charlotte recalled that the recent news about her had involved Michael. She was sure that all major media companies had had their eyes on him. In fact, Brown Group's shares seemed to have been affected by her matters as well.

"I'm fine with it, but the company is getting affected by it. The board of directors has been pressuring me recently, and my dad is furious. I have to give the media and my family an explanation, so I wanted to discuss with you how I should deal with this."

"I understand." Charlotte glanced at her watch. "Where are you? I'll come to you."

"I'm still at South Sea Hotel."

"I'll come to you now. Let's continue this talk when we meet."

"Okay, I'll be waiting."

After the call ended, Charlotte changed and went out with Morgan.

I was the one who ended up getting him in this mess; I should give him a proper explanation.

What Charlotte did not expect was that the fake Zachary, who was fuming as he lay on the bed, had received a call and rushed out. "Prep the car. I'm going out to look for Charlotte now!"

"Mrs. Nacht just went out," Bruce said. "Mr. Nacht, is there anything you need? Do you want me to call Mrs. Nacht?"

"I said I'm going to find her right away, and I told you to prep the car. Did you not hear me?" the fake Zachary shouted. "Are you not going to listen to me?"

"No, no."

Not daring to say anything else, Bruce promptly went to get the car.

After getting into the car, Zachary's subordinate asked, "Mr. Nacht, Mrs. Nacht has driven a distance by now. Do you know where she is?"

"She's at South Sea Hotel," the fake Zachary said in an urgent tone. "Hurry and go after her."

"Yes, Sir."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1525

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Chapter 1525 Meeting

The subordinate then drove to South Sea Hotel.

Bruce, who was seated in the front passenger seat, was baffled. Why did Mrs. Nacht rush out in such a hurry? Why is Mr. Nacht going after her? What happened? Should I tell Mrs. Nacht about this?

"Don't you dare think of telling her about this," the fake Zachary warned furiously, having read Bruce's mind. "I hope you know who you're actually loyal to."

At that, Bruce hung his head and muttered, "Yes, Sir."

"Zachary" then shot him another glare before returning his focus to the road, seemingly plagued by bad thoughts.

Meanwhile, Charlotte had arrived at South Sea Hotel with Morgan.

Michael had been waiting for her for quite a while. When he saw her, he swiftly walked over and greeted, "Charlotte!"

"Why are you waiting here?"

Charlotte frowned before turning to scan her surroundings. Fortunately, there was no one suspicious around.

She quickly dragged Michael further into the building before whispering, "The whole world is watching us now. I'm even going out with just one person and an ordinary car to avoid catching other people's attention. Why are you still standing at the entrance to meet me? What if someone caught you on camera?"

"Don't worry. The people in the hotel are all my people." Unlike Charlotte, Michael was calm. "How are things on your side, Charlotte? I heard that Mr. Nacht is back?"

"Yes, he's back." Charlotte nodded. "Let's go upstairs before we continue this."

"Sure." Michael then led Charlotte to the restaurant. There was no one else around but them, for he had already cleared out the place.

After the manager served the exquisite desserts, he stood to the side.

As Michael poured a cup of steaming black tea for Charlotte, he asked, "Charlotte, what's going on? Why are there so many scandals spreading around? What's going on between you and Mr. Nacht?"

"It's a long story..." Charlotte sipped on her tea. "Let's talk about your matter first. It seems that this incident has affected you greatly. I took a peek at the Browns' shares on my way here, and it seems that the shares have plummeted by quite a bit."

"That's correct..." Michael felt depressed whenever that topic was mentioned. "Ever since my father fell ill, the company isn't functioning as well as it used to be. I've poured in my blood, sweat, and tears to stabilize the company in the past two years, but the company's reputation, as well as our profits, have suffered greatly this time..."

"I'm sorry, Michael. I'm to blame for this," Charlotte muttered apologetically. "This has nothing to do with you; I don't know why those media companies wanted to drag you into this affair."

"No, no, this isn't your fault," Michael said. "It's obvious that someone is setting us up. They're planning to make you submit. If anyone is to blame, it's them, not you."

"Still, this started because of me." Charlotte furrowed her brows. "How about this? I'll clarify things with the media company after tomorrow's morning meeting."

"I'm afraid your clarifications won't help with the current situation." Michael sighed. "There are so many photos and videos of us on the internet. There's no way we can draw the line now. Moreover, no one's going to believe your words because you're directly involved in this."

"Then we'll get Zachary to clarify things." Charlotte had already thought about it before meeting Michael. "Someone ought to believe in his words, right?"

"Uh..." Michael was taken aback by her response. "His words will work, yes, but will he do it?"

"Leave this to me," Charlotte uttered confidently. "Once this blows over, I'll find a way to compensate Brown Group's loss."

"You make it sound as though we're strangers!" Michael blurted out. "None of us saw this coming, and you're a victim too. How can I ask you to compensate for the loss? Am I a stranger to you?"

"But—"

"That's enough, Charlotte. Let's not talk about losses anymore," Michael interrupted. "I just don't want this thing to continue and affect the company. Nothing else other than that really matters. Moreover, there is something else I'd like to talk to you about."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1526

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Chapter 1526 Pawn

"What is it?" Charlotte asked curiously.

"It's..." Michael ruminated about it before saying, "It's about Helena. I'm hoping that you can let her off the hook."

Those words instantly made fury pulse through Charlotte's veins. Back then, Helena had thrown a vase at her. Zachary had been hit when he protected Charlotte and that was why his condition had worsened.

If not for that incident, things would not have turned out this way.

After that, Helena had even tried to set Zachary up again. Fortunately, Zachary was prepared for it. He had put on an act with Nancy, and they caught her red-handed.

Charlotte abhorred her for that incident. No matter how Michael pleaded on her behalf, she was going to hand Helena over to the police.

The matter was already settled, but to her surprise, Michael was pleading on Helena's behalf again.

Charlotte was overwhelmed by anger.

"Michael, we can negotiate about everything else, but this is the one thing we can't," Charlotte told him. "Helena has a wicked heart, and she has done a lot of horrible things. She has to face lawful punishment for them."

"Charlotte, my uncle had a mental breakdown after what happened two years ago. She's the only girl left at home. My dad adores her as well, and he has told me thousands of times to bring Helena back to M Nation. I know you hate her. I know she has done wrong, and she has to be punished for them. I swear to you that she'll be locked up after I take her back to M Nation. I won't let her ever step foot in H City anymore. Please let her go."

Michael rarely begged for anything, but for Helena, he was putting aside his dignity.

"Michael, it's not me who's not letting her off. She's doing these to herself." Charlotte was unfazed. "It's pointless for you to say anything else; we've already handed her over to the police. Let's leave things to the police from now on."

"Charlotte, can't you let her go on behalf of our good relationship?" Michael asked weakly.

"If you have nothing else to say, I'll be leaving now," Charlotte replied before standing up to leave.

"Charlotte!" Michael hastily stopped her. "All right, all right. I won't talk about this anymore. I won't."

"Michael, I'm sorry for dragging you into this," Charlotte said apologetically. "However, I have my morals, and I won't be able to back down on this."

"I understand." Michael sighed. "I'll be leaving tomorrow, and I don't know when we'll meet again. I know many things have happened to the Nacht family recently. If there's anything you need help with, I'm always available."

"Thank you, Michael." Charlotte hugged him. "I'll be leaving now. Take care of yourself."

With that said, Charlotte turned to leave.

Michael stared at her retreating figure with a look of sorrow mixed with other indiscernible emotions. Right then, his phone rang, and he quickly picked up the call.

"How did it go, Mr. Brown?"

"As you've said, Charlotte has agreed to settle the issues with the news, but she refused to relent when it comes to Helena's case."

"That's why I have to be the one to help you."

"If by helping you means I have to set Charlotte up, then I won't agree to it."

"Between family and love, it seems that you've chosen the latter."

"I have my principles."

"I never expected you to be so self-disciplined, Mr. Brown. Have you ever thought about how I might be able to succeed even without your help?"

"What do you mean?" Michael immediately asked.

"I'm just hoping that you'll invite her out. I'll be able to do the rest of the things myself," was what the person on the other end of the line said before ending the call.

The colors drained out of Michael's face, and he hurried after Charlotte.

At this moment, Charlotte had just entered the elevator when she sensed something amiss with her body. Instantly, she said to Morgan, "Give me the medication that Hayley has prepared. Now!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1527

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Chapter 1527 Pawn 2

Morgan hastily took out the pill and handed it to Charlotte.

After swallowing the pill, Charlotte closed her eyes and recomposed herself.

"I didn't think that Mr. Brown would betray you," Morgan commented. "What a pity we trusted him so much and thought of him as a friend."

"Michael must be a pawn for someone else," Charlotte said in a raspy voice.

Speaking seemed to have taken out too much of her air, and she could not help but think, This is quite potent. The black tea I drank earlier did not taste odd. I really didn't think I'd have fallen for it. Luckily, I was smart enough to bring the medication Hayley prepared today. This medication is something Dr. Felch came up with, so it'll easily counteract most drugs.

"A pawn? He said that everyone in the hotel is his people!" Morgan spat out. "Ms. Lindberg, we'll expose him for his lies right this instance!"

"No," Charlotte stopped her. "This probably has something to do with the one behind the scenes. Since the other person has already made their move, they won't stop that quickly. We might as well go along with their plan and lure them out."

"Oh. What do we do now, then?" Morgan asked.

Charlotte remained silent as she kept her eyes closed.

"I'm glad that you kept Hayley's pill with you. I don't dare to imagine what would happen if you didn't." Morgan's heart was still pounding from the scare.

Right then, the elevator came to a stop on the first floor. Just as the doors slid open, a fierce-looking man stormed into the elevator with a murderous look in his eyes.

Charlotte frowned before making a gesture to Morgan with a hand behind her back, signaling for her to get ready to flee.

Instantly understanding what she meant, Morgan readied herself to fight.

Thus, the two began battling.

Charlotte supported herself against the wall, seemingly about to collapse.

At that moment, Michael rushed out of the elevator. When he took in the scene, he rushed toward Charlotte to support her. "Charlotte, are you okay?"

"Michael..." Charlotte slumped into his arms.

"Charlotte, what happened? Charlotte?" Michael quickly brought Charlotte into the elevator before instructing his subordinate, "Help her out."

"Yes, Sir."

The two bodyguards then went to help Morgan out.

"Ms. Lindberg," Morgan shouted as she spun around, but when she saw the look in Charlotte's eyes, she got distracted and was kicked to the ground. Thus, she was unable to catch up with Charlotte.

In the elevator, as Michael held onto Charlotte, he asked, "Charlotte, how are you? Charlotte?"

Charlotte continued to lay slump in his arms, a dark blush spread across her face. It seemed that she was barely conscious as well.

"How did things turn out this way?" Michael panicked, but he soon said reassuringly, "Don't worry. I'm here. I won't let anyone hurt you."

When the elevator doors slid open, Michael helped Charlotte to his presidential suite.

After closing the door, Michael cautiously checked the suite for signs of other people. Once he made sure no one was around, he placed Charlotte on the bed and went to grab a damp towel to wipe her face.

At that moment, Charlotte was lying on the bed, the blush still on her face. Her lips were parted, and there was something alluring about her.

Michael was stuck in a trance as he looked at her. His hands halted midair, and his heart began thumping loudly against his ribcage.

For some reason he could not quite understand, he felt heat spreading to every part of his body.

It was then he put down the damp towel and began caressing Charlotte's face instead. In his eyes, lust emerged.

Michael leaned closer and closer to Charlotte, thinking of kissing her.

Charlotte's hands that were resting beside her slowly curled into fists as she furrowed her brows.

Right as she was about to strike, the room went pitch dark with a loud click.

Michael paused and instinctively turned around to look at the switch.

At that very second, Charlotte reached out and struck the back of his neck. Instantly, his body went limp and he collapsed onto the bed.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1528

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1528 Exciting

Charlotte then jerked upright and turned on the torch on her phone. After a round of searching in the room, she soon found a mini surveillance camera in the ceiling light.

There were two more of those cameras on the wine rack, as well as the vase. All were hidden well; no average person without training would be able to find them.

Looks like that person really came prepared. They first made Michael fool me into coming. Then they drugged me and sent someone to take me away. But it seems that Michael was drugged too. Moreover, he doesn't seem to know about that person's plan. Otherwise, he wouldn't have come after me. This is strange. What is that person trying to do to Michael?

Charlotte simply could not wrap her mind around it.

Nevertheless, it was not the right time to mull over that. I have to think of a way to lure that person out.

Thus, Charlotte took off Michael's clothes and positioned him to lie on his front. After covering the blanket over him, she went to hide in the closet before sending a text message to Morgan.

Soon, the lights in the room lit up.

However, as there were no cards inserted, the electricity did not fully return. The only lights that were lit were the dim emergency lights.

Charlotte had not removed the three cameras from their original position. However, due to the low lighting in the room, the cameras could only capture Michael's half-naked state and nothing else.

Earlier, Morgan had destroyed the circuit box for the hotel room as per Charlotte's instructions, and a while later, she had restored the electricity.

It was so that the surveillance cameras would stop working for a moment. That way, they would not be able to record Charlotte scanning the room and finding the cameras. At the same time, the dim lights would make it tough for the cameras to capture a clear image of what was happening on the bed.

If Charlotte were to remove the cameras, she would basically be telling the other party that she had noticed something odd. In that case, the other party would swiftly make themselves scarce.

On the other hand, although they would be suspicious about a sudden momentary power out and blurry visuals, they would send someone to check it out.

Therefore, all she needed to do was to wait for the fish to take the bait.

Meanwhile, the fake Zachary had reached the hotel. Just as he was about to get down from the car, another car sped toward him and stopped right beside his car.

Then, out came Nancy.

"Mr. Nacht?" Nancy was surprised to see him. "What are you doing here?"

"Who sent you?"

"Zachary" was surprised to see Nancy as well.

"I..." Nancy started as she walked toward him to lean closer to his ear. Just as she was about to continue, a group of journalists swarmed over and began taking photos of them.

At that, Bruce hurriedly escorted "Zachary" into the hotel as Nancy's subordinate did the same to Nancy.

However, those journalists had rushed into the building as well.

Oddly, it was as though the security guards in the hotel were blind, for they did not stop the hoard of journalists.

The fake Zachary's and Nancy's subordinates quickly sent them into the elevator to head to the highest floor.

"What's going on?" Nancy frowned, confused by the situation. "Mr. Nacht, who sent you here?"

"Answer my question first." The fake Zachary narrowed his eyes at her.

"I received a message from Mr. Brown," Nancy replied. "Did you receive a message from him too?"

"Zachary" did not answer her. He only lowered his eyes and fell into deep thought.

"Mr. Nacht," Bruce whispered to him. "Mrs. Nacht's car is indeed in the hotel's parking lot, but I think there's something fishy about this. Perhaps you should contact her first."

Hearing that, the fake Zachary's frown deepened as he stared at his phone and hesitated.

Right then, the elevator doors opened. Just as they were about to step out of the cramped space, a group of journalists rushed out of the elevator beside theirs and headed toward the presidential suite. At the same time, someone shouted, "I heard that Mrs. Nacht—Charlotte Lindberg—and the head of the Brown family—Michael Brown—are having an affair in this room! This is a fantastic scoop! What's even more fantastic is that Mr. Nacht has brought his rumored girlfriend, Ms. Gold, to come and catch them in the act!"

"Hahaha! That's exciting!"

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chapter 1529

Chapter 1529 Checkmate

"Zachary" was furious to the point his face was purple and his knuckles were cracking.

Bruce instantly arranged for his subordinates to get rid of those journalists, but that hoard of journalists refused to leave.

Unfortunately, Bruce could not force them to, for he only brought two men with him when he came out in a rush.

Meanwhile, Nancy stood at the side of the corridor with her subordinate, trying to analyze the scene.

"Someone is clearly trying to set us up, but why is that person trying to involve me?"

"Could it be that they want to spread rumors about you and Mr. Nacht?" her subordinate quietly suggested.

Nancy did not answer her; she only raised her head to look at "Zachary." Nevertheless, she was clearly agreeing with her subordinate.

However, there was one thing that came along with that answer.

Other than her father, Jesse, who else would want rumors to spread between Zachary and her?

Are things really just like what Charlotte has said?

With those thoughts in her mind, Nancy furrowed her brows.

“Here! Right here!”

The excited voices of the journalists traveled into her ears again, and when she lifted her head, she saw a group of people trying to barge into the room. Bruce was trying to stop them, but “Zachary” was only standing a distance away, silently watching without any expressions on his face.

“Mr. Nacht must be in shock,” Nancy said wistfully as she stared at the fake Zachary’s back.

While the group was pushing against each other outside of the room, the elevator doors opened again. A pretty figure stepped out of the elevator and asked loudly, “Why are there so many people here? Is there some event going on?”

Upon hearing the familiar voice, “Zachary” stiffened and whipped his head around to look behind him. Then his eyes went wide. “You—”

“Hubby? What are you doing here?” Charlotte walked over with a puzzled look on her face. “Are you here to take me home?”

"I..." The fake Zachary continued to stare at her, unable to reel in from the shock for a long time.

"Mrs. Nacht?" Bruce hurried over and whispered, "What's going on? They all said that..."

While they were speaking, the door to the presidential suite opened. Two bodyguards then stepped out. "What are you all doing here?"

Instantly, everyone was dumbfounded. They stared at the room for a second before turning to look at Charlotte.

Michael was the only one in the room, sleeping. Meanwhile, Charlotte had walked out of the elevator, completely dressed. Now, she was standing beside "Zachary."

The scoop they all thought they had was evidently just a misunderstanding.

"Mr. Brown is resting in his room after a drinking session. What are all of you trying to do outside his room?" the Brown family's bodyguards angrily questioned before informing the hotel's security guards to chase the journalists away.

However, those journalists were not going to give up so soon. They quickly crowded around Charlotte and asked, "Ms. Lindberg, we've received news that you're meeting Mr. Brown here. Is this true?"

"Don't you have eyes? Can't you look at it yourself?"

"I..."

"You were all here earlier than me. Shouldn't I be the one to ask you what's going on here?"

Realizing that they would not be able to get anything from her, the journalists turned to the fake Zachary. "Mr. Nacht, why don't you say something? Why have you appeared in the hotel with Ms. Gold? Did the two of you promise to meet here? Are you here to meet Ms. Lindberg, or are the two of you out on a date?"

"Zachary" panicked. He was supposed to be there to catch Charlotte in the act of cheating, but now, he was the target of the journalists' relentless questions.

"I..."

For a moment, "Zachary" was speechless. He did not know how to reply to them.

"I was the one who invited them to come," Charlotte said. "Ms. Gold helped me out a while ago, so I invited her here to thank her. At the same time, I invited my husband to join us."

At that, she turned to Nancy and said, "Right, Ms. Gold?"

"That's right." Nancy's reaction was equally swift. "You're simply too kind, Ms. Lindberg."

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chapter 1530

As I should." Charlotte gave her a small smile before sighing. "Unfortunately, I didn't pick the right place and ruined the day. I'm really sorry."

"That's fine. We'll meet another day," Nancy replied before nodding at Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg, I'll take my leave now, then. See you another time."

"All right, see you." After watching her leave, Charlotte turned to the hoard of journalists with a ferocious look and said, "It seems that the letter from the lawyer is still not enough to stop you. Maybe it's time to raise the amount."

"Ms. Lindberg, please don't be mad. This is just our job," the journalists hurriedly explained before fleeing the scene.

Soon, peace returned to the place.

Charlotte then said to the Brown family's bodyguards, "Take good care of Mr. Brown. Don't let anyone disturb him before he wakes up."

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg."

Those two bodyguards were Michael's trusted subordinates. Naturally, they understood what Charlotte meant.

It was then Charlotte's heartbeat returned to its normal rate, and she turned to "Zachary" to say, "Let's go."

Without waiting for him to reply, she led Morgan into the elevator.

"Zachary" could only follow her.

Bruce and the other two subordinates sensed something amiss about the atmosphere, but none of them dared to voice anything.

Finally, the fake Zachary could not hold himself back anymore.

"Why are you here at the hotel?"

"I'm here to meet Michael," Charlotte replied truthfully. "What about you?"

"You're a married woman. How could you come out in the middle of the night to secretly meet another man? How could you say those things without even feeling ashamed?"

"Zachary" was furious, the anger in his eyes for all to see.

However, Charlotte continued to look at him calmly, thinking, This person is good at acting. It's almost as though he's a husband himself. Anger. Jealousy. Everything he's supposed to be feeling is on his face.

"Why aren't you talking?" the fake Zachary questioned. "You've always been so close to Michael, and there were so many rumors about you and him. Why aren't you keeping your distance from him? Why are you even meeting him in secret? Do you even think of me as your husband?"

Charlotte remained quiet as she listened to the fake Zachary's angry rant.

"You'll know how bad this is tomorrow. I'm sure there will be more rumors about the two of you! The board is already unhappy with you, but you're only stirring up more and more trouble," the fake Zachary continued, still furious.

Even Morgan could not take it any longer as she snapped, "Mr. Nacht, you—"

"Shut up," Charlotte cut Morgan off before turning to the fake Zachary. "Are you done? If you're done, then start explaining what's going on between you and Nancy."

"Zachary" froze before huffing, "What's there to explain? I just ran into her at the hotel!"

"Is that so?" Charlotte raised a brow. "Then tell me why you've suddenly come here."

"I..." That question threw fake Zachary off guard, but he was quick to recompose himself. "I received an anonymous call telling me that you're cheating with Michael here, so that's why I'm here."

"Oh." Charlotte nodded before reaching out toward him. "Give me your phone."

"Zachary" panicked, but he quickly hid his panic with anger. "What are you doing? The one who is in the wrong is you! Why are you questioning me instead?"

"What did I do wrong?" Charlotte huffed, half-amused and half-annoyed. "Which eye of yours has seen me cheating?"

"You... I..."

Once again, the fake Zachary was rendered speechless. Indeed, he had failed to catch her red-handed in the process of cheating even though so many people had come. No matter what he did now, he could not accuse her of cheating.

"Has the illness made you lose your mind? Are you going to believe in every rumor you hear?" Charlotte chided him instead. "It seems that you need a few more acupuncture sessions."

"I..."

"Morgan."

Before "Zachary" could reply to her, Charlotte instructed Morgan, "Go to Hayley in a while. Tell her to add another treatment session for Mr. Nacht starting from tomorrow."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1531

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Chapter 1531 Underestimated

"Of course. I'll look for Hayley once we reach home," came Morgan's quick reply with a beam.

This feels so good. How dare this fake Mr. Nacht try to bully Ms. Lindberg? Now he's getting it!

At that, the fake Zachary's lips twitched before he hurriedly explained to Charlotte, "You're not serious, are you? I—"

"Of course I'm serious." Charlotte rolled her eyes at him. "How can I not be about such matters? You're not thinking right because you're ill, and you keep acting abnormally. If we don't treat it, your symptoms will worsen."

"But—"

"Zachary" wanted to say something else, but the elevator doors slid open, and Charlotte had walked out before he could.

He fumed, but he could only follow her out. "Wifey, wait! Let's talk about the treatment plan again."

Charlotte ignored him as she went into the car right after exiting the hotel with Morgan.

Livid, "Zachary" could only vent his anger on his subordinate.

Bruce muttered, "Mr. Nacht, Mrs. Nacht is right. You've been acting strange recently. Let's not delay your treatment anymore; let's just endure it for a little longer."

"Shut up!" the fake Zachary roared. "Who are you actually loyal to? You traitorous bunch!"

Bruce stared at him in shock, taken aback by his words. "Mr. Nacht, you never said words like these before. Mrs. Nacht is a part of the family. How are we traitors?"

Again, "Zachary" was rendered speechless.

He could only kick the tire before storming into the car. Once he sat down, he placed his hand on his forehead and grumbled under his breath.

There was a big difference between reality and fantasy.

He thought Zachary was living in a paradise. Yet, living as Zachary was like living in hell.

Finally, he was starting to think that he had stepped into a trap.

Upon reaching home, Charlotte went straight to the study room.

"Zachary" never even got to see her another time before Bruce escorted him back to his room. In fact, Bruce even consoled, "Rest early, Mr. Nacht. You have treatment next—"

However, before he could finish his sentence, a leather shoe flew toward him. Fortunately, Bruce was nimble. He dodged the shoe and quickly dashed out of the room. "Good night, Mr. Nacht!"

Once the door was closed, "Zachary" was the only one left in the room. He had a foul expression on his face. Every time he thought about the extra treatment session, he felt as though he was going to have a mental breakdown.

Right then, his phone buzzed. "Zachary" warily looked around the room. After making sure no one was watching him, he picked up the call. "Hello?"

"I can't believe the plan failed today. Did you slip up and make Charlotte wary?"

"How can I possibly slip up? I didn't even know that you asked her to go South Sea Hotel. You only told me about it after you tricked her into going there."

"Zachary" was furious. "Also, you were trying to create a scandal by getting your daughter to appear, weren't you?"

"That's unimportant," said the person on the other end of the line. "What's important is that Charlotte has captured my men."

"What?" The fake Zachary nearly jumped when he heard that. "Doesn't that mean she found out about us?"

"Don't worry. I went prepared. I only sent two goons to check things out. They know nothing, so she won't be able to find out about anything."

"So they're not going to reveal our identities?"

"They don't even know what's going on, and they don't know who we are."

"That's good..."

"No worries," the other person reassured. "For now, we're safe. However, I think Charlotte is a much tougher person to deal with than we think. She clearly drank that black tea today, but nothing happened to her. Moreover, she could even go along with the plan to try to lure us out. If she had been willing to sacrifice a little and play along with Michael, I'm afraid things would have been..."

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Chapter 1532 Support

"She didn't sacrifice herself?" the fake Zachary asked guiltily.

"She did nothing, and that made me suspicious," said the person on the other end of the line. "I'm calling to inform you that Charlotte should suspect your identity by now. We can't wait any longer. Our plan should be carried out ahead of time."

"Great!" The fake Zachary was pleased. "Let's carry out the plan ASAP. I can't hold on any longer."

"Tomorrow, follow her to the company and pretend to give in so everyone trusts and supports her. Someone will then mention their wish for you to return to the company, as you seem to be recovering well. You need to pretend to be afraid and nervous..." The person gave him detailed instructions before concluding, "Just do as I say, and we'll even the score. Tomorrow is important for us. Do your best!"

"Got it."

"Zachary" took down the person's words. Charlotte, I will win tomorrow! he told himself. I can only gain the initiative by suppressing her. And in the end, I'll own both Nacht Group and her.

At this moment, Charlotte was talking on the phone in the study room. "Yes, find out who the mastermind is. Get as many clues as you can."

"Don't worry, Ms. Lindberg. I'm good at interrogating people. I'll definitely get him to spill everything!" Gordon said confidently.

An hour and a half earlier, Michael had brought Charlotte back to the room. She had sent an SOS message to Gordon and told Morgan to cut the power off.

Gordon had arrived and lurked in the dark. Indeed, an enemy had gone to the room to find out what was wrong and got captured by him.

Before the mastermind realized what was happening, Gordon had brought his lackey away.

"I believe the mastermind has an inkling of it. He must've sent a lackey who doesn't know anything. But as he works for them, we can at least find a clue. Any clue will do, as long as we can find out who it is."

Charlotte said, "That person has underestimated me. He can underestimate me, but not my support."

"Yes, he has no idea Mr. Lindberg is helping you behind the scenes," Gordon answered. "Perhaps he knows about it, but he has no other choice."

"You're right." Comprehension dawned on Charlotte. "Thanks for that. They must've decided to take action earlier. But what could their plan be?"

"Mr. Lindberg has a message for you: observe, and act accordingly," Gordon said softly.

"Got it. Thank you!"

"That's it, then. I'll call if something else crops up."

"Sure."

After the call, Charlotte's lips curved up at the message that Danrique had left for her.

Though Danrique didn't show up, he is my guardian angel, protecting me at all times. Warmth spread all over her heart at that thought.

I have no idea what the future holds, but I'm bold enough to face any dangerous situation. I will go with the flow, protect my family, and find Zachary.

Meanwhile, Lupine was driving back to the villa when she bumped into the van again. They nearly ran into each other, so she hurriedly honked at the van. To her shock, the van honked right back at her.

What? The cars of this restaurant normally give way to us. How dare this old van honk back at me?

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1533

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Chapter 1533 Just In Case

Lupine was in a daze when the van shot past her, nearly tumbling down the cliff.

"Who was that? That was really dangerous," Jade, who was in the car, commented.

"I can't believe they're acting this recklessly!" Emma chimed in angrily.

"The driver must be young and impetuous." Though Lupine was upset, she didn't dwell on the matter. "Perhaps he is new."

"It looks like the car we bumped into previously," Jade said. "Do you remember it?"

"Yes," Lupine answered with a nod. "Ms. Lindberg told us to check it out. Wasn't it the car of the restaurant?"

"Yes, it was driving toward that restaurant. I think it is the same car," Jade said.

"Forget it. Let's go home."

Without thinking much, Lupine sped up and drove back to Northridge.

When they arrived, she told Emma to park the car before heading to the villa.

Right then, Jade pointed at the back of the car and yelled, "Lupine, look!"

Turning at her shoulder, Lupine spotted some blood at the back of the car. Stunned, she scurried over to check it out. "What is this? We didn't bump into anything."

"Did we run over a small animal?" Jade queried nervously.

"I don't think so." Lupine frowned. "I was driving, so I'm sure about that."

"Or did we run over a dead animal?" Jade was throwing out guesses. "If we did, the blood might splatter on the car."

"If that's really the case, the blood should be on the tires," Lupine answered, pointing a finger at the tires. "Look, the four tires are clean."

"Then what happened?" Jade was confused.

"Could it be that van?" Emma came over to them and suggested.

"But I didn't bump into that van or hit it," Lupine replied, utterly baffled. "Don't tell me there was blood on that van that splattered on our car?"

"That is highly possible." Jade nodded in agreement. "But that sounds really scary."

"Yes," Emma chimed in fearfully. "No wonder they were speeding. Is it some kind of murder case?"

"Start investigating immediately. If there's something out of the ordinary, call the police," Lupine commanded.

"Got it." Jade and Emma got to work at once.

Lupine ordered someone to park the car and keep it safe so the police could gather evidence easily before going upstairs to Charlotte.

It was late at night, but Charlotte was still busy with work in her study room.

After knocking on the door, Lupine entered and reported, "As you've expected, someone tried to sneak into the hospital, but Gordon's men caught him. Gordon's questioning him now. I wonder if he can get something out of the man."

"I doubt that," came Charlotte's cool reply. "They must've discovered my plan at the hospital and sent someone to sound me out."

"Gordon said the same thing, too." Lupine nodded. "There is some progress to Ellie's condition, and Marino is recovering well. But Ben..." She trailed off gloomily. "He's still the same. Dr. Wright said she can't do anything about it."

"He'll get better," Charlotte consoled her. "Perhaps it might take some time. If Helen can't treat him, we can get another doctor."

"Mm." Lupine forced out a smile. "By the way, we encountered a strange incident on the way here..." She proceeded to explain the matter in detail before concluding, "I've asked Jade and Emma to investigate the matter. The van must be full of ingredients. Perhaps the blood came from meat or something similar."

Charlotte was unfazed. "Find out what it is just in case it's something dangerous."

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Chapter 1534 The Young Man

"Of course." Lupine bobbed her head. "I'll report back to you when the results are in."

"Mm. It's late. You should go to bed," Charlotte reminded her.

"What about you?" Lupine asked with concern. "It's almost two in the morning. Aren't you going to bed? You need to go to the company early tomorrow morning."

"I'll just read a few more documents..."

Charlotte's sentence was cut short when her phone began vibrating. She glanced at the screen and shot a look at Lupine.

Lupine immediately shut the door to prevent someone from eavesdropping on the conversation.

After answering the call, Charlotte greeted, "Ms. Gold."

"Ms. Lindberg, I hope I didn't disturb you." Nancy's careful voice sounded over the line.

"No." Charlotte hadn't expected her call. "What is this about, Ms. Gold?"

"I have some questions," Nancy stated hesitantly. "I don't know if I should pose them to you."

"Go ahead," Charlotte answered.

"I—" Nancy was about to speak when the line got cut off.

"Hello? Hello!" Charlotte said, but the call was hung up. Frowning, she wondered if she should call Nancy back but thought the better of it.

If something happened to Nancy, I might make things worse by calling her back.

"Why did the call end?"

Lupine was waiting to hear what it was, but before they could start talking, the call was ended.

"Perhaps something cropped up." Charlotte narrowed her eyes. "But Nancy must've called me because she realized something was up. That's a good thing."

"What should we do next?" Lupine asked softly.

"What else?" came Charlotte's calm reply. "The enemy is in hiding, and we're in the open. We have no choice but to wait until they take action and act accordingly!"

"All right..." Lupine was about to go on when her phone rang. She answered it hastily and demanded, "Hello, Jade. What is it?"

"We confirmed it was the van of the restaurant that was transporting some fresh beef. The packaging was torn, causing the blood to splatter on our car."

"All right." Lupine heaved a sigh of relief. "I'm glad it's nothing. You guys should return and have a good rest."

"Okay, Lupine."

After hanging up, Jade turned to the buyer. "You should drive safe instead of driving recklessly. The winding road is narrow. It's dangerous if we were to bump into each other."

"Yes, we understand." The restaurant manager nodded. He turned to the buyer and yelled, "Hear that, young man?"

"You should drive carefully, not me." The short-haired buyer was wearing a black mask and black cap. His voice was dripping with disdain as he said, "Are you in a hurry to seek death? Why did you drive so fast on a winding road?"

"Hey!" Jade flushed red in anger. She nearly gave him a slap, but Emma stopped her and frowned at the buyer. "Don't be rude."

"That's right!" Afraid of offending Jade, the manager slapped the shorty's head. "Just be careful! Don't talk back to them..."

Before he could finish, the young man pinned him onto the chopping block. The huge and sharp cleaver was right next to his neck.

The manager's eyes widened in fear.

"I'm a part-time employee, not your servant," the young man said, glaring at him. "Don't order me around!"

The manager's jaw hung wide as he trembled profusely without saying a word.

Both Jade and Emma were stunned by the sudden turn of events. They finally snapped to their senses after a moment and stepped forward to stop him. "Hey, you..."

Before they could take action, the man pushed the manager away and used the cleaver to pick his nails. "You can leave now. Remember to drive carefully!"

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Chapter 1535 Call The Police

Jade and Emma strode away angrily. If it hadn't been for Charlotte, they would've taught that young man a lesson.

The restaurant manager came to them and apologized profusely.

Thus, they couldn't vent their frustrations on him. After reminding him to discipline his employees, they flounced out of the place.

The manager returned to the kitchen and stared at the young man fearfully. Plucking up his courage, he said, "Y-You don't need to come to work tomorrow."

"Fine. I was going to resign, anyway," said the young man scornfully. "But you need to let me stay in your warehouse. You agreed to let me stay there for three months."

"No problem. It's a deserted warehouse," the manager replied. "Give me your bank account, and I'll transfer your wages to you."

"I don't have one. Pay me in cash," the young man said, stretching out his hand.

"Wait a minute. I don't have enough cash right now. Let me go get it." Soon, the manager arrived with enough cash and placed it on the chopping block away from the young man. "You've only worked for a few days, but I'm paying you half a month's wages. Two thousand and five hundred. Look how generous I am."

"Pay me what I deserve. No one asked for your generosity," the young man retorted. "I don't need your pity."

"Hey!" The manager's face turned purple in rage. Though he wanted to curse at him, he held back and said, "You worked for twelve days, so it's two thousand in total."

After taking the money, the young man glowered at him and stalked away.

The manager gritted his teeth as he stared at the man's retreating figure. A plump man whose job was to run errands asked in a low voice, "If you fire him, who will get us supplies at night? It's dangerous to drive on this windy road at night. Our previous driver got involved in a few accidents, remember?"

"I'll pay more to hire an experienced driver. If worse comes to worst, we can buy our supplies in the day," the manager returned angrily. "We can't afford to offend the people from the villa. Otherwise, I'll need to close my restaurant."

"All right," the plump man replied in disappointment. "Though that young man is reckless, he's quick. He can deal with half a cow easily and make the right cuts."

"Stop unsettling me." The more the manager listened, the more scared he was. "He sounds like a serial killer."

"Yes, that was what I thought, too!" another young man with blond hair chimed in while chopping the vegetables. "You have no idea how good he is with a cleaver. He can even cut tofu into thin slices!"

"I've long found him strange. He loves fiddling around with knives and strange stuff," another sous chef said.

"What strange stuff?" the manager urged.

"Snakes!" the sous chef replied carefully. "Some snakes came in back then, right? We were terrified, but he stuck his hand into the bag to grab them. Strangely, the snakes that were hissing retreated at the sight of his hand and didn't even hurt him."

"That's really strange," the manager said as a chill crept up his spine. "Yes, he's strange. Instead of sleeping in the dorm, he insisted on sleeping in the warehouse. He sleeps in the morning and works at night."

"Once I walked past the warehouse and smelled some herbal concoction," the plump man uttered hastily. "When I asked him about it, he said he has to drink a herbal concoction every day due to his health."

"Is he a serial killer for real?"

The more they spoke, the more afraid they got.

"Back when he came for an interview, I remembered he had a huge black sack with him. Now that I think about it, could that be a corpse?" the blonde said nervously.

At his words, the others shook in fear.

The manager's face had drained of color. "Hurry, call the police."

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chapter 1536

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Chapter 1536 Escape

Instead of doing as told, the rest's eyes rounded as they stared at someone behind his back.

"I said, call the police. Are you deaf?" the manager hollered. He whipped his phone out to dial the number. "Useless bunch of fools! I have to do this myself..."

Before he could finish, a slender arm shot out to grab his phone. An icy voice rang out, "The universal emergency number is 911."

"I know..." the manager replied before turning at this shoulder.

He froze at the sight that greeted him.

The young man was standing right behind him, dialing the number 911 on his phone!

"911, what's your emergency?"

As the dispatcher's voice rang out, the young man handed the phone to the manager. Arching a brow, he gestured for the manager to answer.

The manager's face turned colorless as his entire being trembled. All words died in his throat.

"Why are you silent? Didn't you want to call the police?" The young man raised his brows. "Speak."

"T-That's not necessary..." the manager stammered. He grabbed the phone hastily and said, "Wrong number," before hanging up without hesitation.

"If it's something serious, call the police. Don't be scared." The young man patted his shoulder and gave words of encouragement. "I'm here to pick up my stuff. Excuse me."

The manager immediately hopped out of his way. The young man strode over to pick up a chipped cleaver. "This is mine, so I shall take it with me."

"Sure." The manager nodded profusely.

The young man carried the cleaver on his shoulders and marched away.

The others went pale with fright.

After his figure disappeared from sight, they regained their composure and gathered around the manager. "Boss, what should we do?"

"If we call the police, will he kill us all?"

"Yes, it takes time for the police to come. He could've slaughtered us all before the police arrive!"

"This is scary. I want to go home," someone wailed.

"Boss? Boss!"

They were involved in a heated discussion when the manager's legs went limp as he collapsed to the ground.

The next morning, after returning from the hospital, Morgan reported to Charlotte and mentioned that the restaurant at the foot of the hill had closed down. No one was in sight.

That's strange.

Furrowing her brows, Lupine demanded, "Lupine, did Jade and Emma scare them off?"

"Uh..." Lupine turned to look at Jade and Emma.

"We're innocent, Ms. Lindberg!" Jade promptly explained everything. In the end, she concluded, "We were polite enough, but that buyer was really rude."

"Yes," Emma said indignantly. "The manager was nice enough to apologize, but that buyer was hot-tempered. He's a little short, though. Can you believe he actually pinned the manager to the chopping block when he was yelled at? The cleaver could've hurt the manager easily!"

"Yes, that manager was shaking fearfully and nearly wetted his pants."

Charlotte chuckled. "Really? You didn't make it up, did you?"

"Of course not!" Jade and Emma provided more details. "That buyer was shorter than me, but he seems really vicious."

"Okay, that's enough," Charlotte interjected. "I'm glad you weren't rude to them. Prepare the car. I'm going to the company now."

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg!"

Jade and Emma went to do as instructed, and Morgan left to deal with other matters.

Lupine suggested, "Did the owner close down the restaurant in fear of offending us?"

"I don't think so. Jade and Emma said they were polite." Charlotte sipped on her tea. "That buyer was really young and impetuous. Wait a minute..."

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Chapter 1537 Drastic Turn Of Events

Charlotte halted before ordering swiftly, "Go to the restaurant and find out if the buyer is still there!"

"Huh?" Lupine was taken aback. "The buyer?"

"Hurry!" Charlotte ordered anxiously.

"On it." Lupine left to carry out her orders.

Charlotte's hands trembled as she tightened her grip on the cup. She belatedly realized the buyer's image and temper resembled Francesco when she recalled Jade and Emma's words.

She had guessed more than once that someone might've taken Zachary away at the fire. Otherwise, they would've discovered his remains.

She even hoped it would be Francesco. If it was her, then Zachary would be safe and sound. My fantasy could be true!

That thought alone made her extremely excited. As long as Zachary is still alive, all the troubles are worth it!

"Ms. Lindberg, the car's ready. I'll depart now."

Lupine had changed her clothes, preparing to head out.

"Wait up!" Charlotte called out. "Bring Jade and Emma with you. They've seen that buyer before. If you can't find him, go find the manager and staff."

"Got it." Lupine nodded. "But you're going to the company soon. If I'm not with you..."

"If you can't come back in time, I'll ask Morgan to keep me company," Charlotte replied anxiously. "Hurry, do as told!"

"Okay."

Right after Lupine left, Morgan came in to report, "Mr. Nacht has finished the treatment this morning. He's throwing a tantrum in his room and refusing to go to work."

"Tell him he has to go get a checkup at the hospital if he refuses to go to work. After two days of treatment, it's time for a checkup to find out its effect."

Charlotte knew how to make him comply.

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg." Morgan left to convey her message.

Indeed, "Zachary" did as told obediently. "I think I can do it. Work is more important."

"Yes, that's right," said Morgan happily. "Have some rest and prepare yourself. We shall leave at nine."

"Zachary" nodded unwillingly.

Beaming, Morgan returned to Charlotte to report the good news.

"All right. Go get ready now," came Charlotte's calm reply. She then resumed eating her breakfast.

"Got it."

Though it was only seven in the morning, Northridge was already bustling.

"Zachary" was forced to wake up at five for his treatment.

Charlotte got up early to deal with work before having breakfast downstairs. As she read the news and emails on her tablet, her brows scrunched up.

For the past two days, the mastermind had been busy creating havoc at the hospital and trying to spread rumors about Charlotte and Michael, but to no avail.

Today, she was sure they'd take action ahead of time.

She could only take one step at a time, as she had no idea what their plan was.

Her initial worry was gone after receiving a clue about Zachary. Now, she had the confidence to face any obstacles in her path.

Right then, Lupine's phone call arrived. "Ms. Lindberg, as reported by Morgan, the restaurant is empty. The buyer is nowhere to be seen. I contacted the owner, and he claims that the buyer is a dangerous figure. Terrified of him, they escaped overnight. They didn't even call the police in fear that the buyer will take revenge on them."

"Go to the owner in person to find out the exact situation," Charlotte ordered. "Also, go to the buyer's accommodation to see if there are any clues."

"Got it. I'll get to it at once."

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chapter 1538

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Chapter 1538 In Control

After hanging up, Charlotte couldn't help but beam in delight. She was certain that the buyer was Francesco now.

Perhaps she saved Zachary that night and ended up hiding at the restaurant, as they couldn't go far. As long as it's her, Zachary will be safe.

Charlotte couldn't help but get excited at the thought of Zachary being alive.

Just then, Lucy gave her a call. "Ms. Lindberg, we're ready. Mr. Sterk has arrived. When will you arrive? I'll meet you at the entrance."

"Mr. Sterk has arrived? It's still early," Charlotte remarked after glancing at her watch. After all, it was barely eight in the morning.

"Yes. He's worried that something will happen at the meeting today and showed up earlier than usual," Lucy explained. "I heard that the other board members have already departed. They should be arriving earlier than expected."

"All right." Charlotte put her utensil down. "I'll get prepared and head over at once."

"Got it. I'll wait for you at the entrance."

After ending the call, Charlotte got up and went to "Zachary."

"Zachary" was still lying in bed, gazing at the ceiling aimlessly.

"Get changed. We're heading to the company now," Charlotte ordered. "You have ten minutes. I'll wait for you downstairs."

"My entire being hurts. I can't move."

"Zachary" shut his eyes, refusing to move an inch.

Clearly, he was upset at the treatment that he was forced to endure.

"Mm, all right." Instead of wasting time trying to persuade him, Charlotte opened the door and commanded, "Get a wheelchair and push Mr. Nacht out."

"Understood."

The bodyguards leaped into action. Two left to prepare the wheelchair, and two came to lift "Zachary" up.

"Hey! What are you doing? Don't touch me!" The fake Zachary struggled helplessly. "Charlotte Lindberg, don't cross the line!"

"I'm crossing the line?" Charlotte replied with an icy grin. "This is your family's company, your own responsibility. After leaving the mess in my hand, you're accusing me of crossing the line?"

Her tirade rendered Zachary speechless.

After a pause, he said, "The treatment is too painful, so I merely want some rest."

"Johann is seventy-nine, but he's already at the company. You're whining after a simple treatment? It's painful for you but easy for the others? Everyone is waiting for you at the company. How dare you demand to rest?" she retorted.

"All right, stop it." The man raised his arms and gave in. "I'll get up and change my clothes to head to work with you, okay?"

"You're making it seem as if I'm forcing you..."

"No, you didn't force me." The fake Zachary took a deep breath and stated firmly, "I'm doing it willingly. No, it's my responsibility. I need to get to work urgently!"

"That's right."

Charlotte dismissed her subordinates with a wave.

"You have ten minutes. I'll be waiting downstairs!"

After giving him a cold look, Charlotte turned and left his room. She even closed the door behind her in a thoughtful manner.

Staring at the door, "Zachary" managed between gritted teeth, "No matter how perfect a woman is, she'll turn into a devil after getting married!"

He meant what he said.

"Zachary" couldn't help but pity the real Zachary.

After changing her shoes, Charlotte sat in the hall and sipped on her coffee nonchalantly. Staring at her watch, she waited for Zachary to come down.

A minute passed.

Two minutes passed.

Three minutes...

"Zachary" came down right before ten minutes was up. He was decked in a black suit that made him look handsome. However, there was a frown marring his brows.

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Chapter 1539 Forced

"Don't put on a grim expression. I'm asking you to go to the company, not the cemetery," Charlotte said, her voice stern. She didn't forget to shoot him a frosty glare.

"I've agreed to come. What more do you want?" the fake Zachary demanded helplessly.

"Hmm?" Charlotte arched a brow without saying anything.

"All right. I was wrong. I'm sorry." He caved in at once. "It's my responsibility to go to work. No matter what, I have to head to the company. But I feel too uncomfortable to smile."

"No one told you to smile! Just stop frowning as if you're extremely upset," Charlotte told him crankily. "Forget it. Let's not waste time. Get in the car."

"Zachary" followed her into the car, obviously aggrieved.

The other subordinates got into their respective cars. Right then, Hanna ran out. "Mr. Zachary, you haven't had your breakfast yet!" she said, holding a bowl of oatmeal.

"Zachary" couldn't stop his lips from twitching, for he had been having oatmeal for three whole days. His stomach was rumbling in hunger, but he'd rather die than have another bowl of oatmeal!

Thus, "Zachary" scrambled into the car, leaving Hanna utterly confused.

After the car sped away, Charlotte handed the first document to him. "The journey takes around thirty-five minutes if the traffic is smooth. Use half an hour to finish reading the documents. I'll need to talk to you for the remaining five minutes," she said.

"What? I have to finish reading all these documents in half an hour? I even have to—"

"It used to take you three minutes," Charlotte cut in icily. "If you aren't sick, I believe you'll memorize it at first sight."

"Zachary" was speechless. He would always be at a loss for words when Charlotte talked about his past self.

"You've wasted one minute." Glancing at her watch, Charlotte urged, "Hurry up."

Left with no choice, "Zachary" read the documents obediently. However, he was pretty restless. Even if he was given three days, he wouldn't remember any of the content.

Thus, he resorted to his ploy. "Ah, my head hurts. It hurts a lot..."

"What's wrong?" Charlotte frowned at him.

"My head is aching..." He covered his forehead, seemingly in anguish.

Charlotte had expected his action. She whipped out her acupuncture needles. "I've made preparations. As I've been suffering for a long time, I've learned acupuncture from Dr. Felch. If it hurts, one needle will do the trick."

She pulled out a needle and made to push it into the fake Zachary's head.

"No," he refused at once. "I can handle it. No need for acupuncture treatment. I'll read the documents now."

Having said that, "Zachary" flipped a file open and began reading.

A smirk appeared on Charlotte's lips. She began to type a message on her phone to remind Lucy, Rodney, and the others to get ready.

She then replied to Johann and Spencer's text to discuss today's plan and make some arrangements.

Thirty minutes passed in a flash. Charlotte took the document he was reading away from him. "Did you memorize it?"

"No. My headache is affecting me a lot. I can't even finish reading it," he replied, rubbing his temples. One could tell he was in pain, for his expression was all scrunched up.

"Never mind if you can't finish it." Charlotte didn't reprimand him. Instead, she held his chin to lift his head. "I have something to tell you. Listen carefully."

"What is it?" The fake Zachary was stunned.

"First of all, some journalists will interview you once we arrive at the company. You need to record a video to clarify the rumors between Michael and me and show that you have confidence in me. Next—"

"Wait!" he cut in with a displeased frown. "I'm not sure that you and Michael are innocent. Why would I need to clarify things?"

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Chapter 1540 He Is Back

"We're husband and wife. Don't you trust me?" Charlotte's brows knitted together. "You used to trust me a lot."

"Stop talking about the past. You went on a date last—"

"We don't have time," Charlotte interjected coldly. "Just do as I say!"

"You..." Words failed "Zachary."

"Next, tell the media that we love each other dearly," Charlotte ordered.

"Anything else?" he asked, giving up on refuting her words.

"Then, explain the situation at the board meeting," said Charlotte.

"Zachary" waited for her to continue, but she showed no signs of wanting to explain what it was. Hence, he inquired, "What situation?"

"Our promise," Charlotte answered, raising a brow. "Have you forgotten about it?"

"We made plenty of promises. I don't know which one you're talking about," he came up with a great excuse.

"You promised to let me run the company for the time being," Charlotte reminded him. "Don't you remember?"

"Of course. Of course I do." He nodded vehemently. "All right. Anything else?"

"That's it. Do your best."

After Charlotte finished with her instructions, the car rolled to a stop before Divine Corporation.

At once, hordes of journalists swarmed over to them, but the security guards Lucy had arranged earlier blocked their path.

The car was about to enter the underground parking lot when Charlotte asked to be let off at the main entrance. She then got out of the car with "Zachary" in tow.

The sight of "Zachary" caused an uproar among the journalists, who began snapping pictures of him.

With a frown marring his brows, "Zachary" strode into the building coolly.

Charlotte trotted beside him, and they looked every inch the perfect couple.

However, they each had their own plans in mind.

In the elevator, Lucy was thrilled to see "Zachary." "Mr. Nacht, it's great to see you again! I thought you..."

She trailed off, her voice choking. As one of the higher-ups of Nacht Group, she had been invited to the wedding. Alas, a fire had broken out at the Nacht residence, and Zachary was rumored to have died in the fire.

Lucy had been pretty upset at the news, so she was excited to see him here.

"I'm still alive," the fake Zachary replied plainly.

"Yes, of course." Lucy bobbed her head. "You're alive and well. Luck is on both Nacht Group and Divine Corporation's side!"

"Is everyone else here?" he asked in an authoritative tone.

"Yes, but Mr. Spencer isn't here today." Lucy turned to Charlotte. "A few board members were just asking about him."

"I told him not to come," Charlotte said. "We're discussing work-related matters today, so there's no need to bother him."

“Of course.”

Soon, the elevator arrived at level 68. When the doors slid open, the executives immediately came over to greet them, especially Kallum and a few board members from the headquarter. They had been waiting anxiously before the elevator.

At the sight of “Zachary” stepping out of the elevator in one piece, they were delighted. “Mr. Nacht, welcome back!”

“Mr. Nacht, it’s great to see you again!”

“I knew luck will always be on our side.”

“That’s right...”

The crowd gathered around him and chattered eagerly.

“Thank you, all. You must’ve worked hard,” the fake Zachary said sincerely. “Though I ran into trouble, I’m still alive and standing. Don’t worry!”

“Oh, wonderful! This is simply wonderful!”

Everyone was touched, their gazes fixed on “Zachary.” No one paid heed to Charlotte.

Just then, someone thought of something important and asked, “Mr. Nacht, now that you’re back safely, you should resume the position of running the company, right?”

“Yes, Nacht Group shall grow under your lead...”

“That’s right!”

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1541

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Chapter 1541 Timidity

"This..."

Upon hearing the suggestions from the crowd, "Zachary" seemed to be in a dilemma. He stared at Charlotte cautiously, his gaze somehow filled with fear.

"Let's go to the conference room first," Charlotte responded briefly.

Some of them headed toward the conference room as told, while the rest observed "Zachary"'s reaction.

"Okay, let's go then," "Zachary" agreed.

Upon hearing that, Kallum and the rest walked toward the conference room.

"This way, please. Mr. Nacht." Charlotte stared at "Zachary" closely.

"Zachary" did not dare look at her as he walked into the conference room.

"Mr. Nacht!"

"Mr. Nacht!"

Numerous shareholders and upper management staff stood up to greet "Zachary" inside the large conference room.

They thought Zachary had died. Hence, everyone was overwhelmed with emotions after seeing him safe and sound. Some even had tears in their eyes.

"Zachary" was touched somehow upon seeing that scene. It was his first time feeling such honor after becoming Zachary,

"There's no need for the courtesy. Everyone, please take your seat," "Zachary" greeted them.

"Mr. Nacht, please be seated too." Kallum pointed at the president's seat.

For quite some time recently, Charlotte had been the one who sat on that particular black chair.

Kallum and the rest were worried that she would continue to grab power. Hence, they could not wait for Zachary to return to his position.

"Zachary" did not sit but looked at Charlotte with an uneasy expression.

"Why are you staring at me?" Charlotte smiled. "Please sit!"

"You should sit there." Not only did "Zachary" not dare to sit on it, but he even pushed the chair toward Charlotte.

Those present were exasperated upon seeing his humble gesture.

He is the president of the Nacht Group and the head of the Nacht family. How could he be so timid? That's preposterous!

Charlotte glared at "Zachary" with a complicated look. She came to realize the reason behind his move. He was trying to gain pity from the others.

"What's going on with you?" Charlotte smiled again as she pressed him down onto the chair. "This is supposed to be your place."

She acted casually but her force was strong that "Zachary" could not escape.

He seemed helpless after getting forced to sit on the president's seat. He lifted his head and stared at those upper management staff but his gaze carried a hint of insecurity.

At that moment, some of them could no longer sit still, while the others were beyond enraged. Many of them start gossiping among themselves.

A few of them shifted their gazes toward Johann, hoping that he would say something.

Johann had been observing Zachary ever since the latter entered the conference room. He felt the latter seem strange, but he could not figure out why.

If he did not know Charlotte, he would have thought that Charlotte was oppressing Zachary been like the other shareholders. However, he believed Charlotte would never do that.

Hence, he was still wondering what this couple was up to.

"Ms. Lindberg..." Just then, Lucy rushed in and whispered into Charlotte's ear. "Journalists are waiting outside. They ask if you have five minutes to do a short interview."

"Hold on a second," Charlotte responded and turned to "Zachary". "Are you feeling unwell. Why aren't you saying anything?"

"You go ahead, please."

"Zachary" seemed utterly anxious, loss for words.

Charlotte furrowed her brows as she was not amused. Nonetheless, she suppressed her rage and feigned a smile. "It must be hard on you for having to come here for a meeting even though you are not feeling well."

Right then, she told Lucy. "Let the journalists in. We will do the interview directly."

"Okay."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1542

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)
Chapter 1542 A Big Move

Without delay, Lucy went out to get the journalists.

Those shareholders and upper management were left bewildered. "What's going on? We are having a board meeting. How could we let the journalists come in here?"

"Have you gotten Mr. Nacht's approval before you did that?"

"Absolutely!"

"Before Mr. Nacht came back, we had no choice but to let you run things. But now that he's back, you should know your place."

Kallum's words were filled with dismay and doubt.

Charlotte responded politely, "I invited the journalists in here to give a clear explanation in front of everyone. I am sure we don't want any confusion in the future, right?"

"Mr. Nacht should be the one making that call too."

The shareholders expressed their protest. They did not think Charlotte was wrong but merely thought she should not be the one making the decision.

"Charlotte's opinion represents mine."

"Zachary" finally opened his mouth. However, he still seemed to observe Charlotte's response while speaking.

Everyone turned even more displeased upon seeing that. However, they did not dare to say anything since Zachary had spoken.

Soon, the journalists came in. They mostly asked about the recent news and the relationship between Charlotte and Michael. No one touched on Zachary and Nancy.

"Zachary" answered all questions according to the way Charlotte taught him. He seemed more natural in front of the journalists than facing those shareholders.

All the journalists' questions could be answered with generally three answers.

First, Zachary trusted Charlotte completely and believed she was merely friends with Michael.

Secondly, they were united as a couple, and they had never disagreed on anything.

Thirdly, he did not feel well, and he was the one who transferred the assets to Charlotte and let her manage the company.

"Zachary" expressed those three points clearly without any hesitation.

The shareholders and upper management's hearts grew wary upon hearing his statement.

Those journalists intended to ask some questions further. However, Charlotte cast a look at Lucy, and the latter swiftly invited them out.

One of the journalists suddenly asked loudly, "Mr. Nacht, we heard you are being controlled by Ms. Lindberg. Is that true?"

Instantly, the room fell into dead silence. Everyone locked their eyes on "Zachary" and Charlotte.

"Zachary" did not show his previous domineering and calm aura. Instead, he looked panicked, as though his lie was exposed.

"We heard that you got sick because you got poisoned. And it was the snake venom from the Lindberg family. In other words, the Lindberg family drugged you in order to control you..."

That journalist continued to press on the topic. "Is that real?"

His questions left everyone utterly shocked and frightened.

“Zachary”’s expression darkened, his gaze filled with uneasiness.

The color drained from the shareholders’ and upper management’s faces. Kallum and a few shareholders immediately surrounded “Zachary”. “Mr. Nacht, is that true?”

“Mr. Nacht, you don’t need to be afraid. There are so many of us. The Lindberg family won’t dare to do anything to you.”

“Mr. Nacht, please tell us the truth.”

“Mr. Nacht...”

“Zachary” remained silent throughout the whole time. Sweat kept rolling down his forehead.

Charlotte narrowed her eyes, staring at him. I finally understand what their play is. That’s brilliant...

“Please ask the journalists to leave first.”

Right then, Johann opened his mouth.

Lucy immediately asked a few security guards to escort those journalists out.

The journalists were still busy taking photos of “Zachary” who had a panicked look.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1543

/ [Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1543 A Second Big Move

After the journalists left, only Charlotte, Zachary, and the upper management of Nacht Group were left in the conference room.

The atmosphere became even more tensed.

Those who were under Kallum all treated Charlotte as their enemy.

Kallum cursed fiercely, “Charlotte, don’t ever think of leaving this place if you don’t give us an explanation today!”

"What is there to explain?" Charlotte sat on the president's seat, looking very composed.

"Please explain what the journalists said just now," Kallum said in an overbearing manner. "Did you drug Mr. Nacht? Are you trying to control him?"

"Do you believe such a joke?" Charlotte displayed a provocative smile. "Uncle Kallum, are you out of your mind?"

"You..."

"You Lindbergs are experts in deriving poison. Everyone knows that."

Just then, another senior shareholder opened his mouth. "I heard that Danrique poisoned his own family to snatch the power of the Lindberg family."

"That's right." Kallum chimed in right away. "Mr. Nacht is young and healthy. Why did he fall ill suddenly? There must be something wrong."

"Mr. Nacht has Elite Eighteen by his side all the time. He has very strong and good protection. Hence, it must be from someone close if he were poisoned."

"That someone must be you!"

"Now I come to think of it. The rumor must be true. After the Lindberg Corporation got into trouble, Danrique has been trying to find a chance to make a comeback. He must have targeted the Nacht Group. He knew you had a thing with Mr. Nacht. Thus, he let you seduce him and poisoned him. Then, after you started the fire, you used your status as Mrs. Nacht to control the Nacht Group..."

"That's right. That must be it."

"Charlotte, you're such a heartless woman!"

All the shareholders started accusing Charlotte one after another. All sounded like they were speaking justice.

At that moment, even those who backed Charlotte began having second thoughts. Johann was left puzzled as he questioned anxiously, "Charlotte, what the h*ll is going on?"

Charlotte did not rush to explain. She only stared at "Zachary" quietly, waiting for his response.

"Mr. Nacht, don't be afraid."

Kallum stood in front of "Zachary" like an honorable guardian, pointing furiously at Charlotte.

"Charlotte, now that Mr. Nacht is back, we won't listen to you anymore. Please return all your shares and assets. Maybe we will let you walk out of here alive. Or else..."

"Or else what?" Charlotte raised her brows coldly.

"Or else we will call the cops." Kallum changed his strategy as he noticed Charlotte was not intimidated at all. "You've committed so many crimes. Be prepared to spend the rest of your life in prison then."

"The truth is yet to be confirmed, and the cops have not charged me. Are you sure I did that?"

Charlotte still looked utterly calm. "Is that right, Hubby?"

"Zachary" cast a nervous look at her. He evaded his gaze again a second later, not daring to utter a word.

"Cut the crap." Another shareholder stood up. "We will know after we run a test. Please send the hospital staff here and do a blood test on Mr. Nacht. If he were poisoned with snake venom, then it must be related to the Lindberg family."

"That's right."

"Please call Raina. She is the family doctor of the Nacht family. Her judgment will be accurate."

"That's right. Make the call now."

Several shareholders agreed to the suggestion.

Without hesitation, Charlotte picked up the phone and called Raina. "Raina, please come to the company at once. Mr. Nacht wants to test his blood."

"Okay."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1544

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Chapter 1544 Countermeasure

"No need. There's no need to test my blood."

Right then, "Zachary" immediately stopped Charlotte.

However, Charlotte had already hung up the phone. "Raina will be here soon. Hubby, I've told you that you should see the doctor if you are sick. We will know what your problem is after testing your blood. Only then can we find the cure."

"I'm not sick," Zachary explained nervously. "I don't need to a blood.test."

"Why not?" Charlotte furrowed her brows. "Everyone thinks I drugged you with the Lindberg family's snake venom. Yet, you said nothing to defend me."

"I..."

"That's enough." Charlotte ignored him totally as she lifted her phone. "Everyone, is there anything more to request? I will get to it right away."

"This..."

All the shareholders were left flabbergasted, having no idea what she was up to.

"I know..." Kallum pointed at Charlotte. "She must have bribed Raina. That must be it."

"That's unlikely. Raina is loyal to Mr. Nacht." A younger shareholder said in a low voice. She, Ben, and Bruce are Mr. Nacht's favorites."

"Maybe Charlotte threatened her in some way. Anyway, Raina must be on Charlotte's side now. That's why Charlotte is so fearless." Kallum was still guessing.

"There is a possibility for that." The others started to falter. "We shouldn't underestimate this woman, after all."

"This..."

"Let's change hospital then. Find someone from Kindness Hospital," an older shareholder suggested. "Kindness Hospital was founded by Mr. Henry. It should be no problem."

"All right, all right. I have the contact number of the hospital. Let me make a call."

"Hurry."

Soon, everyone started working on their respective tasks. Some called the Kindness Hospital, while the others contacted the security department to stop Raina from coming. Some even called the cops.

In that instant, all the shareholders wanted to protect Zachary and cast Charlotte out of the Nacht Group.

However, Charlotte remained calm no matter what they did.

"Zachary", on the other hand, started to panic. "There's no need to call a doctor. I'm fine."

Everyone was confused seeing his reaction.

"It's better to run some tests." Charlotte looked at him gently. "If not, everyone will think that I have drugged you. There will be no way for me to clear my name."

"I..."

"Zachary" choked on his word. He did not know what to do to stop his blood from getting tested.

If the test result got out, it would be too late for him to refute.

"Mr. Nacht, let's run some tests." Johann finally opened his mouth again. "There's nothing to lose. Just treat it as a body check."

Johann had been observing the situation. He discovered "Zachary" was behaving peculiarly. Those journalists seemed to come prepared. However, "Zachary" response did not seem to make any sense.

He knew for sure that "Zachary" was drugged and got seriously ill.

It made sense that "Zachary" did not want others to know about his sickness. Still, Johann felt there was something wrong with the former.

Hence, Johann suggested him to comply.

"Yes, indeed. Even Mr. Sterk said so. Let's do the test."

The other shareholders agreed too.

"Of course, Mr. Nacht. Your test results should not be shown to the public. We will keep your test result a secret. I suggest that Mr. Spencer, Kallum, Mr. Martin, Mr. Reeves and I be in charge of this."

Johann voiced out his proposal.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1545

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Chapter 1545 A Vicious Scheme

"I agree, I agree."

Everyone nodded.

With that, "Zachary" could not find any excuse anymore. Sweating heavily, he ran out of options. "Let me go to the restroom."

"Mr. Nacht, I'll accompany you."

Kallum volunteered to go with him.

"Zachary" hid in the restroom and muted his phone. Then, he sent a message.

The other party seemed to know about the development as he replied swiftly.

"Zachary" widened his eyes upon seeing the reply. He seemed to have found a solution. Seconds later, he deleted the message and got out of the restroom. He was no longer anxious.

"Mr. Nacht, don't worry. You've got us. That woman won't be able to harm you." Kallum passed him a tissue and tried to please him. "Don't worry. No matter what happens, I will try my best to protect you."

"Zachary" remained silent as he walked back to the conference room.

Kallum caught up with his pace and asked cautiously, "Mr. Nacht, what's going on? Is there anything I can help you with?"

"Zachary" continued to ignore Kallum, dashing toward the conference room.

At that moment, everyone was sitting in their seats, divided into groups and started discussing in a low voice.

In the meantime, Charlotte was sitting in the president's seat, looking all relaxed while drinking coffee.

Everyone was about to stand up to greet "Zachary" as they saw him entering the room. Just then, he suddenly patted the table wrathfully. "Charlotte, tell me! Are the three kids mine?"

Charlotte was stunned upon hearing that. This is not good...

She never expected that would happen.

Everyone widened their eyes in shock, staring at the couple.

"I just received an anonymous message. It says that the three kids belong to you and another man... I..."

"Zachary" trembled incessantly as his face turned utterly pale.

"I can give you anything you want. Shares, assets, and even the power in the Nacht family. That's because I love you. Most importantly, it's because we have three beautiful kids! When I found out I was ill, I transferred everything under your name. I wish you could help me manage Nacht Group well and take care of the three kids. After they grow up, they can inherit all these from you. But why would you lie to me? Why?"

Tears started welling up in "Zachary"'s eyes. At that moment, the domineering aura on him vanished thoroughly.

Everyone's heart twitched in pain upon seeing his suffering look.

"Charlotte, that is unforgivable!"

All the shareholders and upper management were enraged. Their heart ached as though they were the ones who had been betrayed.

"If the three kids don't belong to Mr. Nacht, you deserve to be punished to death."

"That's right. She should die!"

"Mr. Nacht treats you so nicely. How dare you treat him like this?"

"Charlotte, you malicious woman..."

Those people started attacking Charlotte with harsh words. They had lost their manners and respect for her.

Charlotte furrowed her brows and stared at "Zachary" coldly.

"That's enough!"

Morgan tried to protect Charlotte, but she got pushed away by the upper management.

"You guys... please stop now!"

Johann eventually voiced out. Right after that, he clutched his chest and coughed profusely.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1546

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1546 DNA Test

Everyone had finally calmed down. Presently, the person who possessed the highest authority here was Johann.

He had prestige and was impartial in his dealings, so everyone was willing to listen to him.

"Let's not believe in the rumors and talk it out. We'll verify the truth in the end."

He pressed a hand to his chest as though he could relieve the slight discomfort in his heart while talking. His gaze was focused on Charlotte, waiting for her to give a reasonable explanation.

Before Charlotte could respond, "Zachary" spoke first. "Since the hospital staff is almost here to conduct my blood test, they could also conduct a paternity test."

A chorus of agreement sounded from the group. "That's right. I'll believe it when I see it. We'll apologize if the test result was normal. However, if there's some abnormality, then..."

"Then, you return all the assets and shares to Mr. Zachary, and remove yourself from the Nacht family," Kallum demanded.

"He's right, leave the Nacht family!"

"Leave the Nacht family!"

Under Kallum's lead, everyone started repeating after him.

Charlotte merely looked at "Zachary" with a blank face. "Zachary" didn't oppose Kallum's suggestion and even met her gaze defiantly.

Charlotte couldn't suppress her anger any longer and slapped him. A loud slap echoed against the walls of the room. The noisy room a minute ago fell silent.

"Zachary" was frozen in place from the shock. He never had expected that Charlotte would lay a hand on him.

I'm Zachary Nacht!

"You!"

Everyone was taken aback by Charlotte's actions.

"This crazy woman!"

Kallum and a few young directors rushed over to Charlotte, wanting to pay her back for her actions.

But Morgan and a couple of bodyguards immediately stepped up to stop them.

Instantly, the conference room was a huge mess again.

Charlotte was like an angry lioness trying to protect her cubs. The anger in her eyes was ablaze. She clenched her hands into balls of fists to suppress her strong urge to choke "Zachary" at that moment.

She could calmly deal with any other despicable and shameless means they throw at her, but she couldn't allow them to insult her babies.

"Enough! Stop fighting!" Johann shouted, trying to calm everyone again. But it didn't seem to improve the situation.

Suddenly, the door to the conference room opened, revealing a bodyguard pushing Spencer into the room.

"Mr. Spencer!"

Another man who could judge unbiasedly was here. The fight earlier was halted as the group of people dashed to encircle Spencer.

"Mr. Spencer, it's great that you're here!"

"Mr. Spencer, do you need a rundown of the entire situation? Mr. Zachary suspects the children aren't his, so he wants a DNA test."

"Mr. Spencer, someone suspects Charlotte poisoned Mr. Zachary, resulting in his declining health. Hence, we have already called the Serene Hospital to send some of their staff over."

"I know." Spencer gestured for them to keep silent as he continued, "I was well informed about the entire situation on my way here..."

"Then-"

"My opinion is..." Spencer paused as his gaze flitted between "Zachary" and Charlotte. "Both blood and DNA tests should be conducted."

Charlotte's heart lurched. It was at that moment she knew she had miscalculated.

Even though she had attained Spencer's and Johann's trust, she had overlooked that they would be cautious about the children's lineage.

Furthermore, they were clueless about this "Zachary" being a fake.

They wouldn't buy her words at this juncture.

It really was an oversight on her part.

"The staff from the Serene Hospital are almost here." Spencer added, "The five of us, Johann, Kallum, Mr. Martin, Mr. Reeves, and I will accompany Zachary to do the test while the others stay here."

"Right. We'll do what you say, Mr. Spencer."

Everyone nodded with agreement.

"Do you agree, Mrs. Nacht?" Spencer turned to Charlotte.

"Will my objection even be acknowledged at this point?" Charlotte gave Spencer a bitter smile.

"I believe in you, but..." Spencer averted his gaze and went on, "any lineage-related matter of the Nacht family is imperative. I just can't let Henry down."

"A DNA test was run before under Mr. Henry's instructions when he was still around," Charlotte complained. "You were a witness then, remember?"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1547

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Chapter 1547 Success Or Failure Depends On You 1

"I wasn't part of the process when Zachary had gone for the test then." Spencer lowered his gaze. "I remembered we only tested for Robbie's blood then. We didn't run any tests on Jamie and Ellie"

"That's why we're doing everything now. There must be something wrong in the process somewhere," Kallum carried on. "Maybe the DNA test results from earlier were fake."

"Shut up!" Charlotte barked.

Kallum leaped in surprise. Before he could counter, Spencer scolded, "You have no part in this discussion."

"Mr. Spencer..."

"Enough." Johann interrupted. "We'll do as Mr. Spencer said. I'll need the rest of you to stay here and be part of the discussion to come up with a plan once the results are out."

"Sure, no problem."

Everyone nodded with agreement.

"What about the kids?" Charlotte asked urgently. "Did you bring them here?"

"Don't worry," Spencer said softly, "I told them they are only here for a routine checkup, so they have no idea behind the actual reason for the test. They are currently waiting in the entertainment room on the 17th floor. Johann and I will personally lead the doctor down to take their blood, then come back up for Zachary's."

Charlotte closed her eyes and sucked in a calming breath. She knew she was between a rock and a hard place now.

A secretary had come in and informed them the staff from Serene Hospital had arrived.

"Charlotte, please head to Mr. Zachary's office with him for a short break." Johann urged, "Please care for the president and his wife well."

"Yes, sir."

Even though Johann and Spencer believed in Charlotte, they still needed to follow proper procedures.

They even assigned a group of bodyguards to protect "Zachary" as a protective measure.

It was clear that Charlotte had lost her authority to control the situation.

Even though "Zachary" was feeling uneasy, the thought of the person behind him calmed his nerves. He was agitated by Charlotte's slap earlier, so he sent her a death glare.

"Ms. Lindberg." Morgan poured Charlotte a cup of tea and asked in a low voice, "What now? Should we expose the imposter's identity?"

"Quiet," Charlotte hissed.

Morgan instantly shut her mouth, not daring to say anything further.

After a sip of tea, Charlotte picked up her phone to give Lupine a call.

I can deal with this situation easily if Lupine can find Francesco and the real Zachary in time.

"Ms. Lindberg!"

Lupine greeted as the call went through.

"How are things on your side?"

Charlotte didn't beat around the bush despite "Zachary" being within hearing range.

"Zachary" couldn't hear her conversation clearly, but listening to the confidence in her voice and the thought of her other plans had him sitting on the edge of his seat.

"The person had left. I just found the owner of the restaurant and his men. We're in the midst of interrogating them," Lupine reported in a low voice.

"From the information they revealed to us, the purchasing agent was most likely Francesco. She had accepted the restaurant's job offer the next day after the fire. She even lugged a huge black bag with her. Now that I think of it, Mr. Nacht is most likely in that bag."

"Hurry up and find him!" Anxiousness was burning Charlotte's every nerve. "It's a precarious situation at the moment, so whether we succeed or fail will depend on you."

"What happened?" Lupine guessed something serious had happened.

"Leave the situation here to me. I need you to focus on finding him," Charlotte urged.

"Right. Understood." Lupine nodded rapidly. "I've already contacted Gordon for his help--"

"You did well. Assign all the manpower we have to join the search. You must find him."

"Understood."

Clicking off the call, Charlotte lifted her head to see "Zachary" with a nervous expression on his face. From her one-sided conversation, he gathered she had found the whereabouts of the real Zachary.

Could it be that the real Zachary hadn't died yet?

"Zachary" immediately searched for an excuse to use the restroom. There was some information he needed to send discreetly to the person backing him.

"Ms. Lindberg, should we..." Morgan asked Charlotte.

"Let him go."

Charlotte narrowed her eyes as she gazed at the restroom coldly.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1548

[/ Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort](#)

Chapter 1548 Success Or Failure Depends On You 2

The mastermind should have known that I have found out the truth. It looks like this show is coming to an end. They will be making a move soon.

I want them to take action promptly. Else, the longer they drag it out, the more dangerous it is for Zachary.

The safest bet is for me to take the bait, letting them gain the upper hand. Then, the next time they make a move, they would expose themselves.

However, there's a risk to it.

The kids were now involved in this mess.

The mastermind will win this round If Lupine can't find the real Zachary in time.

Johann and Spencer will not take sides on the DNA test.

According to the plan, they will lead the doctor to the game room and take the kids' blood using a routine checkup as an excuse. Then, they'll come back to the president's office for "Zachary" blood.

At that point, "Zachary" had returned to the office from the restroom. He was already digging into his steak and sipping on his wine.

He had suppressed his cravings for the entire duration of his act. Every day he could choose between mineral water or oatmeal. And now, he could finally stop his act and just be himself.

He had done his part to leak crucial information to the mastermind. And they gave him a guarantee that Charlotte would never find Zachary even if the latter was still alive. So he had no reason to be worried.

The current "Zachary" was the real Zachary.

Hence, he could take his meals with a good appetite and wait for the test results.

In contrast, Charlotte was worried sick about Zachary's safety and that her kids would overthink.

If Francesco had rescued him, he must have gotten treatment. But Francesco didn't have the prescription from Dr. Felch before she passed. With such limited time, no one had any clue how far his treatment had gone.

No one had any idea whether Zachary had gotten injured in the fire.

But I couldn't figure out why Francesco took Zachary away and kept me in the dark. Also, does Danrique know about this?

A bunch of questions raced through Charlotte's mind. She was going mad from all the confusion.

"Mr. Nacht, you have to abstain from alcohol before your blood was taken," the doctor reminded carefully.

"It's just a few gulps. It'll be fine."

"Zachary" rolled his sleeve up and presented his arm confidently.

The doctor took a few tubes of blood then tucked it away cautiously. Once done, the doctor left for the clinic within the building to run the blood test.

Spencer had the hospital transport all the equipment needed to the company before they took his blood.

He wanted the entire process to be conducted under his watch within the company in a single day.

The directors and upper management were still waiting for the results in the conference room.

"How long will it take before we get the results?" Spencer inquired.

"We'll run the test immediately." The doctor said, "It won't take long for his blood test. But it would take at least five hours for the DNA test results."

"All right." Spencer nodded and led Kallum with the other two directors to the clinic.

Despite being overcome by weakness, Johann still held himself together.
"Charlotte, don't worry. We trust you."

"That means you trust her but not me," "Zachary" questioned with an upset tone.

"I trust the real Mr. Nacht," Johann returned.

"Zachary" was thunderstruck. If his memories were accurate, Johann shouldn't be aware of his real identity.

But now...

Johann said nothing else after that. He merely cast a knowing glance at Charlotte and slowly turned to leave. A short walk was like a marathon to him with his fragile body.

Noticing his difficulty, Lucy urgently went up to help him.

Charlotte was grateful for his trust. She had troubled him many times during the chip incident. Unexpectedly, the person who trusted her the most was him in the end.

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Chapter 1549 Test Results

Spencer had sent the kids back after they had their blood taken. He didn't want them to meet Charlotte and "Zachary".

The doctor was currently running the tests in the clinic.

Spencer, Johann, and the other three shareholders were waiting for the results on site.

Meanwhile, Charlotte and "Zachary" sat opposite each other in the president's office, silently waiting for the results.

Despite the silence, the atmosphere was thick with tension.

Success or failure wasn't the only thing riding on the result. It would determine who gets to stay or leave.

Charlotte was waiting for the test results and news from Lupine.

The news from Lupine was more crucial to her than the test results.

The results were not going to matter much to her if she could find Zachary first.

But the results would be imperative if she couldn't bring him back in time.

Both sides could only wait patiently. The victor and the loser would be announced after five hours, just like a competition.

Charlotte felt the time was passing so slowly.

She kept scrolling through her phone, checking for updates.

"Zachary" was the same. He hoped the mastermind could give him news about the real Zachary's death. Then, victory would be his.

There could still be unexpected variables to the situation, so he couldn't let his guard down.

An hour had passed, but there was still no news from Lupine.

Charlotte couldn't sit still any longer. She was ready to call Lupine when the door to the office opened.

A subordinate pushed Spencer into the room slowly, with Lucy helping Johann enter the room next, followed by Kallum, Mr. Martin, Mr. Reeves, and the rest. Even Raina, Bruce, and the doctors were present.

They all had solemn expressions on their faces.

The tension within the room thickened further.

Charlotte was puzzled. Only an hour had passed, the DNA result wasn't out yet, but the result of "Zachary's" blood test should be.

I know he is not poisoned. That must be why I'm feeling guilty.

But why were they acting so strange?

"Zachary" was getting anxious; then, he inquired cautiously, "Is something wrong?"

"Your blood test results are out," Lucy answered.

Before the doctor could announce the result, Kallum shrieked, "Charlotte, you're one cruel woman. How could you poison Mr. Zachary?"

Both Charlotte and “Zachary” were surprised at his exclamation. They instinctively turned to each other and noticed the surprise on their faces.

They were aware that “Zachary” wasn’t poisoned. So why did Kallum say that?

“What?” Morgan recollected herself and asked, “You’re saying his test results showed that he’s...”

She paused briefly and pointed at “Zachary”. “Poisoned?” she wondered out loud.

“Everyone, look at this.” Kallum was getting more worked up. “A mere subordinate dared to point at Mr. Zachary. How badly has the Lindbergs been threatening him?”

“I didn’t...”

“Shut up!” Charlotte hissed.

Morgan cut her argument off and inched back in silent.

“My apologies. I didn’t train my subordinates well,” Charlotte apologized. After a quick look at Spencer and Johann, she asked, “Doctor, you were saying his test results were out.”

“Right.” The doctor handed the test report to Charlotte. “This is the report of the blood test we ran.”

Reaching for the paper, Charlotte was baffled as she read the report.

The report indicated all indexes were out of the normal range and that meant that he had been poisoned.

Charlotte's eyes were wide as a saucer. She cast a look of disbelief at "Zachary". There were numerous questions flashing through her mind.

What's going on?

Could he be the real Zachary?

Have I made a mistake?

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Chapter 1550 Poison

"What's the result? Let me see."

"Zachary" began to feel nervous at Charlotte's reaction. He came up to her and snatched the report from her grip. After a glimpse of the contents, he was bewildered. "How can this be?"

He couldn't believe what he was reading. There's poison in my blood?

How is that possible?

Where did it go wrong?

"Mr. Zachary, you must have suffered so much." Kallum gave "Zachary" a sympathetic look. "Don't worry. Now that we're here, we won't let that cruel woman harm you anymore."

"No. This can't be."

"Zachary" couldn't fathom how he was poisoned.

He tried to recall that person's words carefully. Maybe that person had bribed these doctors and faked the report?

"Zachary" lifted his gaze from the report and swept the doctors in the room, then to Spencer and Johann. A nagging doubt crept into his mind.

That shouldn't be possible with these two there. These two old folks are as crafty as they come. Nothing could escape them if they were the ones who observed the entire process. The doctors are all Henry's people, so the issue doesn't lie with the doctors.

There's no way that person could touch these doctors.

But if so, how do I explain the test results?

"Charlotte, you evil woman! Give Mr. Zachary back all of his assets and shares," Kallum demanded.

"Shut up!" Charlotte's temper spiked, feeling restless from the questions in her mind.

"You-"

"Shut up," Spencer rasped.

"Give it a break, will you?" Johann added.

Kallum finally kept quiet despite feeling upset.

"Is it possible to know which poison is it from this test?"

Charlotte recollected her thoughts and calmed herself before asking the doctor.

"The test done could only confirm the presence of a poison in his body. It can't determine the type of poison. We'll need a more specific toxicology test for that."

The doctor answered professionally, "Mr. Spencer and Mr. Sterk had already ordered one earlier. My colleagues are running one in the clinic right as we speak. It'll take some time before the results are out."

"Understood." Charlotte nodded at his answer before she questioned again, "Are the DNA test results out yet?"

"Not yet." The doctor repeated patiently, "We'll have to wait for another four hours."

"All right. Got it." Without any more inquiries, Charlotte turned to Spencer and Johann. "I don't have anything to say at the moment. Let's talk once all the results are out."

"No problem," Johann agreed.

"I hope I didn't trust the wrong person."

Spencer cast a hopeful look at Charlotte.

Charlotte didn't respond. She sank back down on the sofa and continued sipping her tea.

"We're going back to observe the procedure. Let's talk once the results are out."

Johann spun on his heels and exited the room.

Spencer and the rest trailed behind.

“Keep watch on Mr. Zachary carefully. Don’t let your guard down,” Kallum ordered Bruce and other bodyguards. After a furious glance at Charlotte, he left too.

At that moment, Raina and Bruce had mixed feelings about the entire situation. Yet, they merely stood aside in silence.

After the group had left, the president’s office had returned to pin-drop silence.

“Zachary” was the most restless among those left in the room. He still couldn’t figure out which part of the plan had gone wrong.

Have I really been poisoned? Or was the report fake?

All is good if it is the latter. I have the situation back under my control, and I even gained the upper hand to pressure Charlotte further.

But if it is the former, then...

Uneasiness filled “Zachary” once more as he contemplated it. He lowered his voice and interrogated Charlotte.

“You evil woman! Did you ask someone to poison me? All those so-called acupunctures and herbal baths treatment. They all contained poison, am I right?”

“Use your brain and think carefully.” Charlotte frowned at him. “Why would I poison you? Do you think I’m that stupid to dig a hole for myself?”

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Chapter 1551 You Know It

After mulling over her words, “Zachary” supposed she was right. Now that the identity battle is still ongoing, so there are many variables. Moreover, she is exposed under the light while my side is shrouded in the dark. There is no reason for her to poison me at this point.

Else she will be digging a hole for herself if we are in a situation like this.

So the only possibility left is that person had bribed the doctors and faked the report. Or has the person bribed one of the staff and faked the sample?

I know I’m not poisoned. So the problem lies in the report.

“Don’t tell me you weren’t aware that you have been poisoned?”

Charlotte thought of a question and narrowed her eyes at him.

"Did your body show any unusual signs the past few days? Could there be any symptoms you might have missed? Maybe you were poisoned before you even returned."

"Zachary's" body stiffened at her consecutive speculations. His eyes were wide as a saucer with hints of disbelief and dread.

He suddenly realized that person could do that, but he pushed that thought away.

No. No way. It can't be.

"From my understanding, if one had no obvious symptom from poisoning, that could only mean it was a slow-acting poison. Slow-acting poison requires more than one or two doses. The victim needs to be dosed over a long period-"

Zachary shot to his feet and strode to the restroom quickly before Charlotte could finish.

A smirk curled on Charlotte's lips as she watched his back.

"Ms. Linberg, why did you say so?" Morgan asked by her ear. "There are slow-acting poisons that take effect slowly and do not require long-term doses. Like the one, Mr. Zachary had-"

"If I don't put it that way, how do I scare him?" Charlotte countered. "Look at him now. He was so frightened that he must have gone and questioned the person behind him."

"Right. I have managed to set up mini spy cameras at the lounge." Morgan covered her mouth with her hand and whispered, "If he contacts that person, we'll get a clue. And with that, we'll be able to determine that person's whereabouts."

"Excellent work." Charlotte picked up the teacup and took long, slow sips of her tea.

Bruce and Raina exchanged a glance. The two had mixed feelings about Charlotte. Raina had opened her mouth a few times intending to say something to Charlotte but shut it in the end.

On the other hand, Bruce had remained silent since the beginning.

After a while, "Zachary" came out from the lounge with a hostile expression. His eyes were burning with rage.

He tightened his hold on his phone uneasily.

"The call can't get through?" Charlotte pointed out after just a glimpse of his side profile. "That person has begun to reject your calls?"

"Zachary" was stunned at Charlotte's accurate assessment. But he didn't take the bait and merely stayed silent.

At that moment, awareness passed between them.

"Zachary" was certain that Charlotte knew the truth about him and the presence of a mastermind behind him. But they had to continue with the act.

"This person is truly amazing." Charlotte sighed, "I had thought it was stupid of that person to have you come back and impersonate your brother."

"Zachary" was baffled by Charlotte's right-on-target remark. "You-"

"But then I realized the ingenious plot that person had schemed. One trap after another, so closely linked. That person had calculated every step to the tiniest accuracy."

Charlotte briefly sipped on her tea before she continued, "The night before my wedding, that person had you sneak into Northridge and set fire. Then, that person added fuel to the fire by spreading all kinds of rumors when the Nacht Group was in chaos.

"There were rumors about how I was back for revenge under my brother's instruction. How I intentionally hurt Zachary for the assets of the Nacht family and there is also a rumor about my children aren't his.

"Everything builds up to the big reveal today."

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chapter 1552

“He already knew that you wouldn’t be able to hide your identity for much longer. In fact, he wasn’t afraid that I would expose who you are because what he really needed was for the whole world to know that you were Zachary. After that, he began to plan the poisoning and the matter involving the kids so that he had enough evidence to reach his goal.

“That’s why he poisoned you and planned this entire thing. It was to get your DNA through the blood test so that he could also prove my crimes. That’s how he intended to force me to return all my shares and assets and also how he got you to divorce me under Zachary’s name. After that, he chased me out of the Nacht residence.

“Sadly, you won’t be lasting as a pawn for any longer since the poison is getting to you. Of course, before anything happens to you, he’ll get you to marry his daughter as Zachary. Once your wedding is officiated, you’ll finally die. Naturally, as your lawfully wedded wife, she’ll inherit all of the Nacht Group’s inheritance. What an amazing plan!”

As she spoke, Charlotte couldn’t resist the urge to clap her hands and say, “I can’t even help but clap for him! Wouldn’t you say so, Chris?”

Chris’ expression quickly changed, and he began to look around in panic.

Meanwhile, the bodyguards stood in the corner with solemn expressions and didn’t even glance in their direction, not wanting to be roped into anything.

Raina and Bruce were taken aback but managed to calm down quickly. It was as if they had already guessed it.

"I don't know what you're talking about."

Chris was evidently in denial, but his gaze had begun to betray his panic.

Did he really poison me?

If he did, then all of Charlotte's other speculations are probably correct too.

This also means that person has been treating me as a pawn this whole time. In order to win the game, he was willing to poison me and is probably going to burn the bridges after that.

Chris was starting to freak out the more he thought about it. However, at the same time, he was thinking about what that person had said before hanging up.

"Don't worry. I've already prepared everything. We're winning for sure, but you also have to be resolute. Don't believe anything that Charlotte says."

After all, Charlotte was his enemy, so everything she said could be mere lies trying to sow discord between them.

I shouldn't believe her. Absolutely not.

"Chris, I've always thought you were just too frivolous. You don't seem like a bad person, but I never imagined you would actually get plastic surgery to look like your brother and actually try to get him into trouble."

Charlotte continued, "You've really disappointed me."

"Shut up!" Chris suddenly bellowed angrily. He turned to glare at her coldly. "Just shut up and wait for the results. Quit barking."

At that moment, he was overwhelmed with rage. If it weren't for him being Zachary right now, he would have already explained to her what "getting someone into trouble" was.

To him, Zachary was the one who got him into trouble when the former killed his mom.

"Okay!" Charlotte shrugged and looked at her watch. "Your brother will be back soon. By then, you won't be able to put on an act anymore even if you tried."

"Hmph!" Chris scoffed coldly. That's if he can come back.

After that, the two of them kept quiet and continued waiting.

Chris looked calm on the surface, but his mind was all over the place. He couldn't help but think about what Charlotte had said, wondering if that person had actually poisoned him and was trying to kill him.

No wonder I've been feeling unwell lately. I should have known that something is up.

Meanwhile, Charlotte sipped her tea languidly and gave Chris a sidelong glance. She could tell how panicked he was and that he was clearly trying to stay calm. As she sipped her tea, she smirked in triumph.

The minutes slowly ticked by, and three hours passed.

There was only an hour left until the DNA results came out.

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Chapter 1553 A Plan Within A Plan

Lupine still hadn't called, so there was no way of knowing anything from their side.

Feeling anxious, Morgan quickly called them, but nobody was picking up.

Even Charlotte was starting to get worried, her brows furrowing.

The more nervous she felt, the calmer Chris seemed, and he mocked, "You should be thinking about how to beg me. If not, I will kick you and your kids out of the Nacht residence."

"Shut up!" Charlotte gave him the death stare.

"Being adaptable is a good thing," Chris said with a cold chuckle. "Just accept your fate."

Charlotte couldn't be bothered to continue talking and picked up her teacup again. Despite it being tea of high quality, she couldn't taste anything.

Frowning, she continued to stare at her watch as she counted the passing seconds. However, Lupine still hadn't replied by then.

Chris was waiting for his victory to be announced too.

He wasn't all that confident since he was still paranoid that he had been poisoned. Still, he knew that he had to calm himself down first. Only after winning this round would he get the right to make the decision.

The more time ticked by, the more nervous everyone felt. Even Raina, Bruce, and Morgan were starting to look anxious.

It was the hardest hour that all of them had ever experienced.

All of them wanted the minutes to tick by faster so that they could hear the results as soon as possible, but they also didn't want to hear an answer they dreaded.

They remained stewing in their nerves and uneasiness until 2:55 p.m.

There were only five minutes left until the results came out.

Charlotte occasionally glanced up at the tightly shut door. Although Spencer and Johaan weren't here yet, she knew they would arrive soon.

However, Lupine hadn't updated her yet. She was unable to sit still and was about to call Lupine when her phone started to ring.

It was a call from Lupine.

Morgan called out excitedly, "It's Lupine! They must have found Mr. Nacht."

Chris' expression began to sour, and he glanced at Charlotte's phone nervously. Could it be true?

Charlotte picked up the call in front of him. "Hey, Lupine. What's up?"

Chris continued to stare at her phone unblinkingly. It was as if he was trying to hear what was being said.

"Really? That's amazing!" Charlotte exclaimed in joy. "Quick, bring him over! I'll get Raina and Bruce from my side to meet you guys!"

After that, she hung up and looked at Raina and Bruce urgently. "Lupine found Zachary! He's at the foot of the mountain. Quick, go and get them."

"Really?"

Both Raina and Bruce were overjoyed, especially the former. She seemed completely overwhelmed as she said, "That's great news! I'll get an ambulance on the way immediately. Mr. Nacht is probably still not in a good condition. We'll rush over first."

Having said that, Bruce and Raina rushed off.

Chris started to panic at his near-victory being snatched away from him. He immediately placed a call to that person, but no one picked up.

"Stop calling. He's not going to show himself right now," Charlotte scoffed coldly. "Ever since you told him that we were looking for Zachary and he failed at stopping us, he knew that he's dead meat. There's no way he would show up now."

"You—" Chris stared at Charlotte in shock. "So you purposely revealed all that information to me to draw him out of hiding?"

"Obviously," Charlotte said and raised her eyebrow. "Soon enough, my brother will take over the Gold family. Jesse wouldn't be able to deny it even if he wanted to."

"You—" Chris was panicking now. How did Charlotte know the name of the person behind the scenes? Jesse is really done for this time.

With that in mind, Chris knew he was in deep trouble.

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Chapter 1554 A Plan Within A Plan 2

Charlotte narrowed her eyes and stared at Chris coldly before checking the time again.

It was already 2:59 p.m. There was only a minute left until three o'clock.

The president's office had great soundproofing, but Charlotte felt like she could still hear footsteps slowly approaching.

The results were almost out. They were almost here!

"Chris." Charlotte stepped closer to him and lowered her voice. "If you tell the truth now and apologize to your brother, maybe we can think about letting you go."

"I—"

Chris couldn't even finish his sentence as he sweated profusely and fidgeted with his hands nervously. Obviously, he was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

"I know Jesse was behind everything. From what I know of you, there's no way you would have been able to come up with all of this on your own."

Charlotte continued to advise him kindly, "Think about it. Why else would Jesse be helping you? He obviously just wants to snatch away the Nacht family's money, right? The moment he has real control over you, you'll be nothing more than a puppet to him. Either way, you're not going to get anything good out of it."

"I never wanted to get anything out of it."

Chris finally spoke up. With a dark expression, he spat out, "I just hate him for killing my mother. She was his family too."

"He didn't kill your mother. Your grandfather did," Charlotte said coldly. "He was the one who fired the gun, not Zachary. Besides, your mother did her own fair share of horrible things. It was an act of mercy to kill her when he did."

"Shut up!" Chris bellowed.

The bodyguards finally reacted and looked over in shock.

The two of them had been whispering prior to this, so the bodyguards hadn't had the chance to actually hear anything. However, Chris' sudden shouting had just drawn all of their attention toward him.

Chris stared at Charlotte with gritted teeth, his eyes practically glowing with hatred. He looked as if he wanted to wring her neck.

Zara may have done a lot of bad things, but to him, she was still a good mother.

Not only had she taken care of him and taught him everything he knew, but she also planned out his entire life for him and was practically living just for him.

That was why he drew the line at anyone insulting his mother.

"That's still a fact even if I didn't mention it." Charlotte continued mocking him, "How have the three days of treatment been for you? It hurt, right? The pain I went through was a thousand, no, a million times worse! Your mother kidnapped me so that she could take over the role as the Nacht Group's CEO. She also threatened Zachary and poisoned me so that I would get sent away by Henry. Even then, your mother still wasn't satisfied and told Sharon to go to T Nation to kill me. I got tortured by her, and Mrs. Berry got killed because of me. All of this wasn't enough for her, though, was it? She even tried to kidnap my kids. Are you telling me that someone as toxic and evil as your mother didn't deserve to die?"

"Shut up. Shut up! Shut the f*ck up!"

Chris couldn't take it any longer and leaped up before reaching out to strangle Charlotte. "Don't you dare talk about her that way! Don't you f*cking dare put her name in your mouth!"

"Mr. Nacht, please calm down."

The bodyguards were about to come over to pull him away when the office door opened. Spencer and Johann both stood in surprise when they saw what was happening.

"W—"

"Zachary" was currently kneeling on the sofa like a hungry wolf with his hands wringing Charlotte's neck, looking incredibly sinister.

Charlotte was holding onto his hands, screaming, "Chris! I know you pretended to be Zachary to get revenge for your mother, but she died rightfully! She should have been killed a long time ago. I wish I fired even more shots at her."

"You—"

"Zachary" was bright red with anger and was about to speak when his phone suddenly rang.

He instinctively looked at the caller ID and walked off to the lounge to take the call.

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chapter 1555

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Chapter 1555 Winning

Immediately, Charlotte panicked at the sight of his phone call and rushed over as she screamed, "You're a b*stard! You're a piece of sh*t who doesn't deserve anything you got. All you could do was pretend to be your brother because you knew how f*cking useless you were. Don't even think about getting away with any of this. Your brother is coming back soon, and when he does, you're dead meat."

As she yelled, she clawed at him and tried to snatch his phone from his hands.

"Shut up, b*tch! Shut up!" Chris said as he shoved her away, trying to take the call.

The two of them kept shoving and pulling as Charlotte urgently tried to snatch the phone away. Despite her best efforts, Chris still heard everything the other person was saying.

"Don't fall for it! They still haven't found him!"

Instantly, Chris came to his senses as if a bucket of cold water had been dumped over his head. Charlotte was doing it on purpose! She put on this whole act of having found Zachary to make me lose my cool and blow my cover.

Chris immediately hung up and turned to look at Charlotte. "Wifey, what's wrong? Are you insane? Why are you calling me Chris?"

"Stop pretending!" Charlotte yelled furiously. "You're not Zachary. You're Chris! You underwent plastic surgery to look like him, and you were the one who set fire to Southridge. Not only did you try to kill Zachary, but you're also impersonating him!"

"She's gone insane!" Chris said, completely disregarding everything she was saying. He turned to instruct the guards, "Take her away."

"Yes, sir," the bodyguards said and pulled her away.

"Let go of me! Let me go!"

Charlotte struggled furiously while Morgan approached to push the bodyguards away.

"Stop pretending!" Kallum said as he jabbed a finger at Charlotte accusingly. "The DNA results are out. Those three kids don't belong to Mr. Nacht at all. The rumors were true! You schemed against Mr. Nacht and used your three bastard children to infiltrate our family. How dare you?"

"What? They aren't mine?" Chris said, exaggerating his shock. Following that, he strutted over and said, "Show me the report!"

"Here you go, Mr. Nacht."

Kallum immediately passed him the doctor's DNA report.

Chris glanced at it and yelled, "Charlotte, what is the meaning of this?"

"What exactly do you want me to say?" Charlotte rebuked, completely unruffled. She turned to ask the doctor instead, "May I ask what the results indicate?"

"The DNA report shows that the kids are not Mr. Nacht's," the doctor replied carefully.

"Did you hear that, Charlotte?" Chris roared angrily. "How much longer are you going to lie to everybody?"

"They aren't his kids, but they are biologically related, no?" Charlotte asked. "There has to be at least more than ten percent of similarities in there."

"About that..." the doctor hesitated, mildly confused. "We'll have to run more tests to find that out."

"There will be no need for that," Spencer said calmly. "Since they've already been proven not to be his kids, what else do we have to prove?"

"Spencer..."

Having said that, Johann just sighed and walked away without another word.

"Mr. Sterk?"

"Charlotte!" Spencer cut her off and said coldly, "Since the cat has already been let out of the bag, there's no need to say anything else. Mr. Williams will be coming very soon. Please sign the equity transfer contract and return everything that Mr. Zachary has given you."

Chris finally relaxed after hearing that. I've won! I've finally won.

"All of these are from my husband. Why should I return any of it?" Charlotte said angrily. "If you want me to return these so badly, then we can bring it to court."

"How shameless can you be?" Kallum hissed.

"Since you refuse to comply, then we'll call the police and expose everything you've done to the public," Spencer said with a cold glare. "I hope you know that your kids will be affected the most if that happens."

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Chapter 1556 Signing

Those words managed to extinguish Charlotte's anger almost completely.

After all, her kids were her soft spot; her Achilles' heel. No matter what happened to her or everyone else, she couldn't let her kids get involved.

Suddenly, someone knocked on the door loudly.

Rodney and his team entered promptly.

They clearly already knew what they were there for and placed the document on the table wordlessly before standing aside.

They were on Charlotte's side, but the DNA results were hard facts that no one could deny. At this point, they had to do their jobs.

Almost everyone in the house was now on Chris' side, apart from Morgan and the two female bodyguards from the Lindberg family who were on Charlotte's side. Despite that, they seemed especially helpless.

After all, the Nacht family had the upper hand now.

"Charlotte, you better sign it right now. If you do, we can guarantee your safe departure from here. If not, we'll be forced to—"

"If you don't stop barking, I'm going to kick you out," Spencer finally cracked and cut Kallum off.

"Spencer, why are you still on her side even now?" Kallum said, annoyed.

"Leave," Spencer said simply, slamming his cane against the floor.

Some bodyguards rushed over to escort Kallum out of the room.

"Okay, okay! I'll keep my mouth shut. I won't say anything else. I'll just watch, okay?" Kallum panicked and quickly made a gesture as if he was zipping up his mouth.

Chris glanced at the guards, who promptly stepped aside.

"I suggest you just sign the document," Spencer advised and pointed at the document. "Once you do that, everything will come to an end. We won't take any legal action, and we'll keep this matter from the public. However, we will be looking into the fire at the Nacht Residence as well as Zachary's disappearance. We'll inform the police of everything you did as well."

"Is this even a fair deal?" Charlotte scoffed. "These stocks and assets are incredibly valuable. Why should I let go of them for my so-called 'reputation'?"

"You may not care about your reputation, but what about your kids?" Spencer asked. "Don't you care about them and their future? If news of this got out, how are they going to show their face in public? There will be eyes following them everywhere they go."

"Exactly!" Kallum butted in.

"They may not be mine, but after calling me Daddy for so many years, I wouldn't want that to happen to them," Chris said. "I don't care about what happened in the past anymore. Now, all I want is for you to return all of your assets. That's already kind enough, isn't it? What are you worrying about?"

"Yes, how kind of you," Charlotte said, glaring at him coldly. "I hope you know that when I expose you for who you truly are, I won't be this forgiving."

"You're insane," Chris replied, avoiding her stare in guilt.

"Spencer, you remember what Zachary told you before he disappeared, right?" Charlotte was still trying her best to convince Spencer, "Please believe me. He's Chris, not Zachary. He got plastic surgery to look like Zachary, and he came back for revenge-

"Shut up!"

In his urgency, Chris slapped Charlotte across the face.

The slap was so loud that it rendered the room silent for a few seconds.

Even Chris himself was taken aback, and he stared at his hand in shock. His gaze momentarily softened in guilt, but he soon regained composure.

"How dare you!"

Morgan rushed over and berated Chris, but she got held back by the bodyguards.

Charlotte's face was still stuck looking to the side from Chris' slap. Despite the fiery pain on her cheek, she was calmer than ever, except for her tightly clenched fists.

Spencer frowned and looked at Charlotte with conflicting emotions.

"Charlotte, I didn't want to pursue the matter of you lying to me after all the years that we've been together, but I now see that I've been a fool trying to be nice to you. How could you make up such lies?"

Chris continued to yell at Charlotte, "Sign and leave! If not, I'll spread all of your disgusting actions to the public."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1557

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Chapter 1557 The Real Professional

Those words don't sound like anything that Zachary would ever say.

Spencer stared at him, and his frown deepened.

"Just sign, Ms. Lindberg," Rodney said quietly. "It'll be better for everyone."

Without another word, Charlotte simply picked up the pen and signed her name onto the documents.

Chris' eyes lit up at the sight of the thick sheaf of papers.

Even Kallum was clearly excited.

"Good," Spencer said in a low voice at the sight of Charlotte's signatures. "You can leave now. I will settle things with the board of directors."

Charlotte remained silent and glared at Chris before turning to leave.

Immediately, Morgan and the other two bodyguards followed closely behind her.

The bodyguards opened up a path for them to walk through while everybody else simply stared at them.

Lucy continued watching Charlotte with the intention to go and talk to her, but in the end, she simply remained rooted to her spot.

Everyone in the president's office watched as Charlotte left, but none of them dared to come up and talk to her.

Some executives even cursed, "She was let off too easily."

Meanwhile, Charlotte, Morgan, and the others walked into the elevator.

It was about to close when Johann suddenly emerged from the crowd and said softly, "Take care of the kids, Charlotte! I know we'll meet again."

Charlotte nodded quietly.

After walking out of the elevator, she got into the car.

Morgan finally exploded, "What the hell was up with all those people? They're so shameless! All they do is trim their sails to the wind."

"Hasn't Lupine replied?" one of the bodyguards asked carefully. "Have they found Mr. Nacht?"

"It's impossible to find him this quickly," Morgan said in disappointment. "While waiting for the results, I was in contact with Lupine the whole time. They've been putting their all into looking for him, but nothing's coming up."

"Then what was the phone call from before?"

"I purposely asked Lupine to make the call," Morgan replied. "We wanted to get to that imposter and make him think we already found Mr. Nacht so that he would panic and hopefully expose himself."

"I see!"

The two bodyguards nodded in surprise.

"We would have succeeded too if it weren't for the mastermind calling him at the last minute," Morgan said angrily. "Ms. Lindberg was doing so well! That imposter was no match for her, but that mastermind truly does have a few tricks up his sleeve."

"You're right."

"Morgan!" Charlotte said urgently, suddenly remembering something. "Go to Garden Villa and pick up the kids right now."

"All right," Morgan said, instantly starting the car.

"Call Gordon and ask him to arrange for people to greet us there," Charlotte continued.

"Understood." One of the bodyguards immediately made the call.

"Drive faster, Morgan."

Charlotte had a bad feeling that that evil man would do something to her kids. If they managed to get their hands on her kids, she wouldn't have anything left.

With her soft spot in their hands, all she could do was accept her fate.

"Ms. Lindberg, I can't get through to Gordon," one of the bodyguards said anxiously. "What do we do?"

"Call Lupine and tell her to return first."

Charlotte was really beginning to panic now. She was finally aware that she may have underestimated the mastermind.

Before that, she had assumed that she was doing well and that everything was going her way, but only now did she realize that everything had been in Jesse's control the whole time.

For every step that she made, he was always one step ahead of her. He had managed to predict everything she would do and even used Chris as a pawn for his plan, making her assume that he was merely on the same level as Chris.

Now, she finally realized that he was using Chris' incompetence to hide his actual capability.

Even now, he had complete control over every single detail. If he got his hands on the kids, there was nothing they could do even if Zachary returned.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1558

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Chapter 1558 Underestimated

Charlotte grew more anxious the more she thought about it and kept urging Morgan, "Drive faster!"

"This is the fastest I can go, Ms. Lindberg," Morgan said, almost in tears from nerves herself. "This is a public road, and there are a lot of other cars and pedestrians here. If I go any faster, we'll get into trouble."

"Tell the other family members to go to Garden Villa and pick up the kids," Charlotte said, beginning to think of other solutions. "Tell everyone to be there. Now."

"Okay!"

"Ms. Lindberg, are you saying that that monster is going to do something to the kids?" Morgan said, panicking. "Mr. Spencer's people would protect them, right? Even in the worst-case scenario, they should be able to hold out until we get there!"

"Spencer's men won't be able to last that long."

Charlotte picked up her phone and tried to call Robbie but to no avail.

This only made her more anxious. "Sh*t. They've probably been lying in wait for a long time. I can't believe they acted right after I signed that contract."

"It can't be," Morgan hurriedly said. "Didn't you say that Mr. Lindberg's guys would protect them in hiding? Nothing will happen to them."

"They were supposed to, but after what happened today, I'm afraid all of Danrique's guys are helping to look for Zachary."

Charlotte was kicking herself inwardly, and she hated herself for taking so long to think of something so important.

She thought revealing to Chris that they were looking for Zachary would result in the mastermind conducting a search for him too.

Now, however, she realized that that person had only sent a portion of his people to go after Zachary just to throw her off. The real threat was probably already lying in wait at Garden Villa, just waiting to get their claws on her children.

"Sh*t!" Morgan said and stepped on the gas pedal harder. "All we can do right now is pray."

Charlotte picked up her phone and called Gordon, but he wasn't picking up, possibly looking for Zachary in a place without cell reception.

"Ms. Lindberg, we can't get through to Lupine either," one of her bodyguards reported urgently.

At that moment, Charlotte was gritting her teeth in anger. She couldn't believe how smart that person was. He had probably intended to lead the others to an area without reception so that he could ambush them.

All of this was practically too perfect of a plan.

The more stupid Chris acted, the more she underestimated Jesse.

That was precisely why she had miscalculated everything.

Beep...

Suddenly, Charlotte's phone rang. She picked it up only to see Spencer's name.

Immediately, she answered, "Spencer?"

"What's going on? Did your subordinates come to pick up your kids?" Spencer asked urgently.

"What? Someone already picked up the kids?" Charlotte asked urgently. "When? Who was it? Were Cain and Kyle not watching them?"

"The two of them and a couple of other subordinates got taken away in a long SUV."

Spencer's voice was low, but he sounded extremely urgent nonetheless. "Believe me. Whether or not they're Zachary's kids, I don't want anything to happen to them. Besides, you know I'm on your side."

"I know," Charlotte cut him off and tried her best to control her emotions. "Listen to me, Spencer. I'll settle this on my own, but you have to follow our original plan. Don't change anything because of this."

"Are the kids really okay?"

"I'll do my best to save them. Besides, Danrique's kids are there too. There's no way he would let anything happen to them."

"Okay," Spencer said, breathing a sigh of relief. "Johann and I are still here at the company. Protect yourself and the kids."

"Got it."

After hanging up, Charlotte thought about it for a second before calling Nancy.

She only picked up after a while. In a soft voice, she answered, "Hello?"

"Nancy, if anything happens to my kids, I'm going to drag the entire Gold family to hell with me."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1559

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Chapter 1559 I Owe You One

"What are you telling me all this for? It's not like I'm involved," Nancy said coldly, almost hanging up.

"You can choose whether you want to be the hero or the villain right now," Charlotte said urgently. "Just tell me your father's phone number and identification number. That will save six kids. Both the Nacht family and the Lindberg family will owe you one!"

Nancy fell silent for a few seconds and murmured, "Crazy." before hanging up.

"Hello? Hey!"

Charlotte called out a few times urgently, gritting her teeth in anger. She thought she had lost all hope when she suddenly received a text.

Immediately, she opened it to see Jesse's phone number and identification number.

Charlotte immediately copied the numbers and pasted them into the software that Robbie had invented to find his location.

At that moment, the car was already driving into the Garden Villa's gates.

The bodyguards from Northridge had also rushed over.

Spencer's bodyguards also emerged, and the three convoys met in the middle of the junction before they went to report to Charlotte urgently.

"Ms. Lindberg, some people from Mr. Zachary's side suddenly showed up to fetch the kids. Cain and Kyle were about to go with them when they realized that something was wrong, but before they could do anything, those people had brought away the entire convoy."

"Why didn't you stop them in time?" Charlotte asked in frustration.

"By the time we realized it, the convoy had already driven away, and we immediately called Mr. Spencer-"

"Okay," Charlotte cut them off. She knew these were just a bunch of old, retired bodyguards who only had to protect Spencer most of the time. It was only natural that they weren't the most alert or skilled, and she knew she couldn't ask so much of them.

As for Cain and Kyle, they had been dragged away too.

Whoever had kidnapped them probably held the kids' safety over their heads, rendering them unable to resist.

Nevertheless, it was useless to think about all of this now.

"Ms. Lindberg, after a thorough search, we think they've gone toward the northwest," the Northridge group reported.

"Go after them, quick," Charlotte commanded.

"Yes, Ms. Lindberg."

"You guys will stay here and inform me of any updates," Charlotte told Spencer's bodyguards before rushing away.

All they knew was that the group of kidnappers was headed northwest, but none of them was sure exactly where they had gone.

Charlotte made them split up to hasten the search while she used Robbie's software to find Jesse.

However, because Charlotte wasn't a professional, she wasn't familiar enough with the software to use it properly.

Suddenly, Johann called. "Charlotte, do you happen to know who kidnapped the kids? If you have their information, I can find them through satellite tracking."

"Thank you, Johann!"

Charlotte immediately sent the phone number and identification number to him.

"I'll get started right now. Wait for me, all right?"

"Thank you so much!" Charlotte said, incredibly grateful.

Time was of the essence, so Charlotte brought her own team to look for her kids all over the place while waiting for Johann's tracking to work.

All she wanted right now was to find her kids.

Suddenly, Raina and Bruce called and asked what happened.

In order to confuse Chris, Charlotte hadn't told Raina and Bruce that it was a ruse. They had fallen for it and actually went to look for Zachary, but after finding out that it was an act, they heard from the Lindberg bodyguards that the kids had been kidnapped.

With that, the two of them immediately split up to begin searching.

Raina brought the men back to the hospital to look for Ellie while Bruce gathered more people to help Charlotte so they could find the other five kids.

Soon enough, Raina sent over some good news. It turned out that Ellie was at the hospital and was completely safe.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1560

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Chapter 1560 Rescue

Gordon had always been steady and trustworthy. He left behind several trusted men to stay put at the hospital to protect Ellie while he left with his other subordinates to look for Zachary.

Previously, someone tried to sneak into the hospital to abduct Ellie. However, they did not manage to do it successfully.

Now, she was finally in safe hands under the protection of those men.

With that, Charlotte could heave a sigh of relief. She urged Raina to help her take good care of Ellie.

In a sincere tone, Raina answered, "Rest assured, Ms. Lindberg. Ellie is Mr. Nacht and your child. I will protect her with my life!"

Charlotte was moved by Raina's response.

She was worried that Bruce and Raina would believe in those lies and misunderstand her. Nonetheless, they chose to trust and stand by her even when she did not give them any form of explanation.

"Bruce thinks the same too," Raina added. "And the Elite Eighteen as well. We've always kept Mr. Nacht's words in mind and are determined to protect you and the kids no matter what!"

"Thank you."

In truth, Charlotte was a little guilty of not divulging the truth to Raina, Bruce, and the rest when she found out that Chris was an imposter. She had done that as she wanted to garner their most authentic reactions to coordinate with her act.

Even till the later part of the plan, she did not tell any of them. Yet, they still chose to believe her like how they always did.

Disappointment engulfed her when her fellow comrades who stood by her had turned their back on her and chose to keep their distance at a critical time like when she left Divine Corporation.

Only till now did she realize that she was never alone.

"Go ahead with your work. I'll be here at the hospital."

"All right."

After concluding the call, Charlotte led the others and resumed the search. Nonetheless, they were searching everywhere blindly as they had too few clues. That method was not particularly effective, and hence they could only pin all their hopes on Johann.

Because this was a critical matter involving classified information, Johann had to personally do the work alone since it was not an option for them to enlist the help of other experts.

Johann had been an expert in technology since young. He had participated in many developments of the technological products of the Divine Corporation, and hence he was very familiar with tracking software. It was a pity that their rival seemed to have high-security settings for their communication devices.

Besides, he was no longer as fit as in the past due to his old age. Coupled with how he was not feeling well that day, it was not an easy feat to brace himself through and brainstorm for ideas.

Time ticked by, and Charlotte was only getting more and more anxious. She had ordered her subordinate to retrieve the surveillance camera footage but could only lay their hands on the one outside Garden Villa.

As for the footage for other parts of the roads, they could only wait for the police to provide them.

She had contacted the police, but the latter required them to provide case information, then file for an investigation before they could check the surveillance cameras and look for the culprit.

Those processes only made the situation even more complicated.

Just as things were becoming stagnant and there was no breakthrough point, a call from Johann suddenly rang. On the phone, he said agitatedly, "Robbie has sent a clue. I've managed to find them..."

"That's great news!"

Despite receiving that piece of clue, Charlotte did not hurry over with her subordinates. Instead, she dismissed everyone else and only took Morgan and Bruce along with her.

"Just the three of us, Ms. Lindberg? Will we be able to save them?" Morgan seemed uneasy.

"It'll be too obvious if too many people are there," Charlotte said as she frowned. "Now that the kids are in their hands, it'll be bad if they harm them."

"Got it." Morgan nodded. "I'll save them even if it's at the expense of my life."

"No need to do that. Your task is to drive the car, take the kids, and leave with you," Charlotte instructed. "You have to remember that no matter what happens, put the kids' safety as the priority."

"Ms. Lindberg..."

"This is an order," Charlotte snapped.

"Yes." Morgan did not dare to comment any further and immediately got into the car.

"Bruce..." Charlotte turned to look at him. "You're the most skilled person here, and that's why you're the only one I can bring with me. But I'm afraid it's going to be very dangerous..."

"Ms. Lindberg, you don't need to worry." Bruce understood her meaning well. "Mr. Nacht gave me my life. As a member of the Nacht family, I'm not afraid of death!"

"Thank you." Even though Charlotte was overwhelmed with mixed emotions on the inside, she did not say anything more. "Let's get in the car."

"Sure."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1561

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Chapter 1561 Alpha is Hurt

Charlotte had planned for her subordinates to lay ambush nearby and on standby, ready to be summoned.

Along with Morgan and Bruce, she then drove toward the abandoned scrapyard at the foot of the mountain in the western suburbs.

Over ten people were lying in ambush around, fully guarded.

Morgan and Bruce were visibly worried even as they prepared themselves for the worst—risking their lives in exchange for the children.

Along their way, Charlotte emphasized again that she would be in charge of luring the enemy away, and Bruce would take cover for Morgan while she tried to save the children.

Alighting near the garage, the trio then snuck into the location carefully.

Nevertheless, they did not find any suspicious person around. Even more strange was how there was not a soul seen.

Just as they thought their rival was hiding away, a burst of children's crying suddenly rang out from a distance away.

Startled, Charlotte instinctively said, "It's the girls!"

"That's Beta's crying."

Having taken care of the three children for so long, Morgan was familiar with their voices and could recognize them at once.

With their hearts racing, the trio followed the trail of sounds and in no time, they found Beta and Gamma in a pile of scrapped cars.

"Beta, Gamma!"

Charlotte and Morgan rushed over immediately.

Bruce held up his gun on standby as he watched the surroundings.

"Aunt Charlotte! Ms. Morgan! I'm scared! I'm so scared! Boohoo..." Upon seeing Charlotte, Beta and Gamma burst into tears.

"It's okay. Don't be afraid. I'm here." Charlotte carried the two kids out with Morgan before she continued, "Where's Alpha?"

"Alpha is hurt. She is bleeding badly. Boohoo..."

Beta pointed in the direction of the other pile of scrapped cars.

Charlotte immediately passed Beta to Morgan and hurried over to look for Alpha.

Indeed, the latter had suffered a head injury and was bleeding profusely. Her body also had multiple cuts from the rusty scrap metals in the surroundings.

"Alpha!"

Charlotte quickly removed her jacket and wrapped it around Alpha's body before checking on her condition.

"How is Alpha doing?" Morgan carried the other two kids and walked over.

"I think she had a fall. Her wounds seem to have got in contact with the rusty scraps. We have to hurry her to the hospital since there's a possibility she'll get infected with tetanus." Charlotte was visibly anxious. "Bring her to the car first."

"Got it."

The three of them quickly carried the three kids into the car.

"Beta, Gamma, do you all know where Robbie and Jamie are?" Charlotte asked hastily.

"Some bad guys took them away." As though she was scared out of her wits, Beta shuddered while heaving with sobs.

"They asked if we're Daddy's kids. They threw us out of the car when we said yes and took Robbie and Jamie with them." Gamma was slightly calmer and could express herself more clearly. "We're so scared and wanted to go look for you. But Alpha fell accidentally and started bleeding so much."

"Aunt Charlotte, will Alpha die?" Beta held onto Charlotte and asked while crying, "There's so much blood... She isn't talking to us and doesn't move either... We're so frightened..."

"Nothing will happen to her. We will send her to the hospital now." Charlotte hugged Alpha tightly as she was worried sick. "Bruce, bring someone along with you and continue looking for Robbie and Jamie. I'll send the girls to the hospital first."

"Understood." Bruce nodded. "Fret not. I'll take care of the things here. Get going."

"Okay."

Taking two other female bodyguards along, Charlotte and Morgan then strode out of the garage.

At the same time, as the car sped toward Kindness Hospital, Charlotte also ordered the others to join Bruce in the search for Robbie and Jamie's whereabouts.

Still hugging onto the unconscious Alpha, Charlotte could only feel anxiousness and anxiety consuming her. "Alpha, I'm sorry. Nothing must happen to you. Otherwise, I wouldn't know how to face your daddy!"

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1562

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Chapter 1562 Let Go

"Ms. Lindberg, Alpha has only sustained some physical injuries. I'm sure she'll be fine, so don't worry," Morgan assured her. "It's lucky that we've found the girls, at the very least. But we've yet to find Robbie and Jamie. How about I take the girls to the hospital myself while you go and look for the two kids first?"

"Judging from the situation at the garage, they didn't stay there for long. They probably left quite a while ago after leaving the girls there. It won't be easy to find them within such a short time, so it's pointless for me to go there. Besides, Alpha is hurt. Now that her condition is still unknown, how can I leave her side? I must be responsible for them since Danrique entrusted them to me."

Even though Charlotte's explanation was very rational, she was on tenterhooks about Robbie and Jamie's safety.

"But—" Before Morgan could say anything, Charlotte received a call from Lupine. "Hello, Lupine. What is it?" she answered immediately.

"I've yet to find Mr. Nacht. But we've confirmed that he's still alive. We found some herbal medicine dregs at the place, and Francesco may be the one treating him. But I don't understand why Francesco would take Mr. Nacht while hiding in the dark. She should know that we're looking for her." Lupine was baffled.

"I bet someone else is looking for them too. She probably ran away since she can't tell who's good and who's bad." It seemed like Charlotte had seen right through the situation. "But as long as she's alive, there'll be hope."

"Yeah, that's what Gordon said too."

"Get him to continue the search. As for you, bring more people over as soon as possible. I need more help."

"All right."

In no time, Charlotte arrived at Kindness Hospital.

Raina came over to take charge of treating Alpha while tasking two other doctors to give Beta and Gamma a check.

While waiting anxiously in the hospital for results, Charlotte could not help but be worried about Robbie and Jamie.

Meanwhile, Lupine contacted Morgan to get updates on the latest situation. She was ashamed of herself for not being able to be of great help.

After more than an hour of examination, Raina came out of the room. "Ms. Lindberg, there are some complications with Alpha's wounds. I'll need some time to treat them, but don't worry. I promise she won't be in a life-threatening situation."

"That's good to hear." Charlotte heaved a sigh of relief. "I'll leave the child in your hands. You must cure her and make sure she's fine."

"Fret not. I'll do my best," Raina assured. "Also, I've finished giving Beta and Gamma a checkup. Other than some abrasions and being shocked by what happened, there are no other problems. They've already gotten a jab, and all they need now is some rest."

"Okay."

Before rushing off with Lupine, Charlotte ordered all her subordinates to stay at the hospital with Morgan to protect Ellie and the three girls.

While driving to meet up with Bruce, Lupine reported the situation to Charlotte.

Upon hearing that, the latter frowned. "That means Jesse knew long ago that Zachary isn't dead. That's why he's been sending his men to look for him everywhere. It's no wonder why Francesco has to go into hiding."

"Why didn't she contact you?" Lupine asked curiously.

"Maybe she can't find a good opportunity. Or perhaps..." Charlotte's expression turned somber. "Zachary's condition isn't looking good, so she isn't confident that she can cure him..."

"That's possible." Lupine nodded. "She must be worried that you'll be hurt again after regaining hope upon hearing that piece of news. Or maybe as a doctor, she wanted to give it a try and cure him first before getting in contact with you."

"Hmm, I guess so." Charlotte's heart sank to rock bottom. "I didn't manage to find Hubby, and now, I've even lost the kids..."

"Ms. Lindberg, don't worry. I believe Jesse wouldn't dare do anything to the kids." Lupine comforted her gently. "The fact that he got his men to release the girls proves that he's still afraid of Mr. Lindberg..."

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1563

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Chapter 1563 Clueless

"That's right..." Charlotte smiled coldly. "Whatever it is, the Gold family are wise enough to know what to do. Just look at Nancy. She treated me with respect even when the Lindberg family had fallen from grace previously. She knows Danrique will make a comeback one day. I'm sure Jesse knows that as well; that's why he didn't dare lay his fingers on the girls. He knows Danrique and Zachary don't like to butt into others' problems. As long as he doesn't touch Danrique's raw nerves, Danrique would never interfere in the Nacht family's matters. So when he found out that he accidentally abducted the girls, he immediately asked his men to release them and then lured me to go and save them. He didn't want to provoke Danrique."

"Exactly. So I'm assuming he won't harm Robbie and Jamie either." Lupine gave her conjecture. "After all, they're Mr. Lindberg's nephews."

"Not at the moment, since he can still use them to threaten me." Charlotte knitted her brows tight. "But I can't tell if that will stay the same later."

"I've heard from Morgan that you've signed the papers. What else does he want?" Lupine sounded annoyed.

"Zachary and I are still husband and wife. Even though we've signed the papers, those assets are still his, not Jesse's or Chris'. I'm afraid it'll still take some time if Jesse wants to pocket everything himself. I'll become his obstacle if I try to block his way now. But with the children in his hands, will I still dare take any actions? Not only do I not dare, but I might also even have to submit to his threats and do things that are against my principles."

Charlotte seemed to have seen through Jesse's plot.

"I guess we've underestimated our rival," sighed Lupine. "I've always thought Chris' tactics were lowly, but it turns out that Jesse is nowhere better."

"He must've wanted to use Chris' foolishness to make us put our guards down." Charlotte rubbed her temples in exhaustion. "It's too late to say this now. We have to find Robbie and Jamie quickly. It's too risky for the kids to leave them in his hands."

"Got it." With that said, Lupine stepped on the accelerator, and the car sped through the roads.

"Oh yes..." Just then, another thought crossed Charlotte's mind. "Danrique is always flawless in his arrangement. He would've left some of his men at the Garden Villa to protect the kids when he sends the others out to help you look for Zachary today, but it seems like he didn't? And neither did he do anything after the girls got abducted?"

"Gordon didn't have the time to tell you. Mr. Lindberg has brought Sean back to Erihal this morning," explained Lupine. "I heard that there's a situation over there. Mr. Lindberg is beginning to retaliate after being in shadows for so long."

"I see." Comprehension dawned on Charlotte. "Does Jesse know that Danrique is returning to Erihal, so he deliberately chose to take action today?"

"If Mr. Lindberg is still around, there's no way he will allow anybody to take the kids away." Lupine was feeling indignant. "How despicable that man is that he could lay his hands on such young children?"

"He has set such a big trap to usurp the Nacht family's assets. Besides, he even uses his biological daughter as a pawn. I'm sure the others mean nothing to him at all!" Charlotte narrowed her eyes as she fell into deep thoughts.

"Biological daughter? Are you talking about Nancy?" Lupine questioned in confusion. "I thought she's in the same team as her dad?"

"I don't think so. She even helped us today." Charlotte scrunched her eyebrows. "But I think her doings will come to light soon. By then, Jesse definitely won't let her off."

"Then..."

"Take it as I owe her. I'll repay her kindness if there's an opportunity in the future. But now, we have to find Robbie and Jamie quickly."

"Yes!"

In the meantime, Bruce informed them that he had been to the vicinity around the garage to look for Robbie and Jamie with ten other subordinates, yet to no avail.

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1564

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Chapter 1564 At A Loss

As the identification number and phone number Jesse had used were abruptly deactivated, the system's tracking work had also been interrupted. It remained the same despite Johann's countless efforts to revive it.

In an instant, all their leads had been cut off.

Charlotte had been out for the whole day with Bruce and Morgan searching till late at night, yet there was no news whatsoever.

With the number Nancy provided, she tried taking the initiative to contact Jesse. Nevertheless, it turned out to be an empty number.

Evidently, Jesse had taken to action after realizing that his number had been disclosed.

Midnight, Charlotte stood along the coast, staring drearily at the sea while the breeze whipped her hair gently. She felt at a complete loss, just like one of the boats sailing on the sea.

She had been pulling herself together all this while because of her strong determination toward defending the Nacht family.

No matter how tired she was and what trials and tribulations she went through outside, the moment she returned home and saw the children's innocent and smiley faces, she would feel a glimpse of hope within her again.

But now, she felt utterly troubled that she had failed miserably at everything—the corporation had fallen into the hands of a villain, Zachary was still missing, and she had even lost the children.

She had thought she would be able to deal with Chris and the mastermind behind him all by herself. It was only at that point that she figured that she had thought too highly of her capabilities.

It was only the beginning, yet she had already lost the game.

Even though Jesse had never once shown up before her eyes, she had totally lost her trump card.

At this moment, Charlotte's heart was broken beyond repair.

"Ms. Lindberg..." Lupine walked over to Charlotte and covered her with a jacket. "Fret not. I'm sure we'll have a solution."

"Solution? What solution?" A bitter smile flitted across Charlotte's lips. "My mind is completely blank now. I can't think of any possible solutions at all."

"We can ask Mr. Lindberg for help.."

"Forget about it." Charlotte let out a deep sigh. "Danrique has already returned to Erihal to prepare for his retaliation against the Lindberg family. How can I disturb him at such times?"

"Then..."

"Not only did Jesse not get in contact with me, but he has even deactivated his number. It's obvious that he has no intentions to confront me head-on. Since that's the case, I shall remain passive..."

Worry began overwhelming Charlotte's mind as she held her head low.

"How about we try calling Ms. Gold? Perhaps we can ask her for help in contacting her father?" Lupine asked tentatively.

"Are you crazy?" Charlotte furrowed her brows. "Nancy has already set off the alarm and angered her father for helping us today. She'll surely be under stern supervision from now on. Contacting her now will be useless. Worse still, we might even drag her into this mess."

"T-Then... what should we do?" Lupine did not know what else to say.

"Ms. Lindberg, I believe Mr. Spencer and Mr. Sterk still trust you." Bruce tried to sound Charlotte out. "They've been in close contact with me and asked me about the children's situation. How about trying to discuss it with them?"

"There's no point in discussing with them. It's good enough that they can take care of the company right now. They won't be able to attend to such matters. Besides, they aren't good at this..."

"Then..."

"Forget it. Go back first."

All that Charlotte could do was calm herself down first since she was out of solutions.

"I reckon they won't hurt Robbie and Jamie for now. They need the kids to threaten me. Let's head home first and wait for them to call me."

"I'll continue to think of something," Bruce said with a determined look. "I vow to find Robbie and Jamie even if that means I have to turn the entire H City over."

"Thank you for your hard work." Charlotte gave him a pat on his back before turning to Lupine and said, "Let's head to the hospital now."

"Sure."