

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1329

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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.

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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.

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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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"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.