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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 and. "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 Rokan 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."