Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1377

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"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. okav."

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."