

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!”

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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.

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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..."

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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."

