

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

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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"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.