After pouring out everything to Henry, Spencer sighed, "The three kids are brought up well by Ms. Windt, and Mr. Zachary really likes her a lot. Since she's being secretive of her kids' background, I'm pretty sure that she never has the intention to let the secret unveiled and take advantage of the Nachts. She's undoubtedly not the type of materialistic and manipulative woman."

"Why are you suddenly speaking up for her?" Henry stared at Spencer with great displeasure.

"Mr. Nacht, I'm not speaking up for her. I just comment based on the facts." Spencer smiled again and continued, "Since young, Mr. Zachary is indifferent toward everyone and seem to be not keen on anything. Have you ever seen him treating anyone with such persistence and gentleness?"

"You're right in a way," Henry agreed and nodded.

"The three kids are really adorable and they are really close to their mother. If we place them under the Nacht's custody without accepting their mother, they will surely loathe you for doing that."

Upon hearing Henry's words, Henry was silent again...

Spencer did not say anything again, giving Henry time to think.

When Zachary sent the three kids home, Mrs. Berry had prepared a sumptuous dinner.

Charlotte was seated on the sofa in her cozy casual wear. Flipping through the magazine aimlessly, she seemed to be lost in her thought.

Upon hearing the sound of the car engine, Mrs. Rawlston and the others went out at once. Mrs. Berry nudged Charlotte's arm and said softly, "Miss, they are back."

"Alright." Charlotte put her magazine down and walked out together with her.

"Mrs. Berry, Mommy..."

Once the three kids got out of the car, all of them lunged toward Charlotte.

Squatting down, Charlotte opened her arms to welcome them.

The moment they were in her arms with their with their adorable faces pressed against her neck, her mouth lifted into a cheerful smile.

Kids really had superb healing powers. Any frustration or unhappiness could be squeezed out of her mind in an instant whenever they were around.

"Be careful not to knock Mommy down," Zachary reminded them gently.

"Mommy, I miss you so much. Do you miss me?" Ellie rubbed her delicate cheek against Charlotte's face and asked coquettishly.

"Of course, I miss my Ellie so much!" Charlotte kissed her cheek lovingly.

"Mommy, me too!" Both Jamie and Robbie leaned closer to her.

Charlotte planted a kiss each on one side of their cheeks as well.

"Me too!." Fifi also leaned closer with its furry head.

Charlotte gave it a kiss as well and stoop up to enter the house with the kids. Zachary was about to approach her, yet she did not give him a glance at all.

Zachary was stunned and froze in his steps. Why is she reacting like this? Is she angry with me?

"Dinner is ready. We've prepared all your favorite dishes such as corned beef, grilled pork ribs, chicken nuggets, fish fillet, salad, mushroom soup..."

Mrs. Berry introduced the dishes one by one as she waved at the kids, signaling them to be seated at the dining table.

Then, she turned toward Zachary and said, "Mr. Zachary, we didn't forget about your favorite French cuisine. Miss has also prepared wine for you!"

"Thank you," Zachary thanked Mrs. Berry courteously.

Later, he glanced at Charlotte, thinking of having a chat with her. However, she did not spare him any glance at all and was engaged in a conversation with the kids.

Zachary was baffled and could not help wondering. Is she doing this on purpose?

"Daddy, can we start eating now?" Ellie looked at him eagerly.

Zachary recollected himself and nodded. "Sure. Let's eat!"

"Mrs. Berry, Daddy and Mommy, let's eat!"

The three kids greeted the three of them politely before they started eating.

Charlotte had her meals silently with her head lowered all the time, and only raised her head occasionally to check on the kids.

Zachary cut a small portion of fish fillet and put in in her plate. She just thanked him softly without having any eye contact with him.

At that instant, Zachary confirmed that she was ignoring him intentionally.

But why? Have I done anything wrong and infuriated her?

I really don't understand why she's treating me so coldly...

After dinner, the three kids requested their parents to accompany them to go for a walk in the garden.

Charlotte had initially agreed with them, yet there was throbbing pain on her arm again when she was about to put on her cardigan. Trying to hide it from her kids, she headed toward the washroom hurriedly...

"What happened to Mommy?" Jamie looked at Charlotte in puzzlement.

"I guess Mommy must be having an upset stomach and needs to poo. I'm always like that, too." Ellie commented.

"Daddy, did you quarrel with Mommy?" Robbie asked abruptly with his brows furrowed. "Mommy seems to be unhappy."

Zachary explained patiently to the kids, "No, we didn't quarrel. Maybe she's not feeling well. Let me check on her. You guys go ahead and have fun."

"Alright." The kids nodded obediently.

Zachary let Mrs. Rawlston and the three nurses accompanied the kids to the garden. Then, he darted toward the washroom and yelled as he knocked lightly on the door, "Charlotte! Are you all right?"

"Anything?" Charlotte gritted the word out with great difficulty. She broke into a cold sweat and slumped on the floor, enduring the excruciating pain. She was too feeble to say anything else; there was a sense of weariness in her voice.

"Are you all right?" Zachary asked again, sensing something strange in her voice.

"I'm just having an upset stomach..." Charlotte forced herself to sound as natural as possible. "Don't worry about me. You go ahead and accompany the kids first."

"Alright."

As Zachary did not have any experience staying under the same roof with women, he did not know how to read a woman's mind.

He really thought that Charlotte was just having a normal upset stomach and needed to answer nature's call. It was quite embarrassing for both of them if he continued to stand outside the washroom and ask further. Hence, he decided to give her some space and just walked away.

At the moment, Charlotte was writhing in pain on the floor.

As time went by, the unbearable pain on her right arm spread gradually to her right shoulder. Even the right side of her head was in pain now...

Meanwhile, Mrs. Berry started to wonder why it took Charlotte so long to join them in the garden. She instinctively stepped into the house to look for her. "Where is Miss?" she asked the maids when there was still no sign of Charlotte.

"She's in the washroom," she replied.

"She's in there for such a long time?" Mrs. Berry started to sense something amiss and ran hastily toward the washroom. She knocked on the door while yelling, "Miss, are you inside? Miss..."

There was no response. Mrs. Berry twisted the door handle anxiously, yet it was locked from the other side.

Instantly, her face turned pale. She was about to knock herself on the door with full force.

At the same time, the door was suddenly opened.

Mrs. Berry almost lost her balance and bumped into the wall.

She managed to balance herself and turned to look at Charlotte. To her astonishment, Charlotte was lying on the floor. Her face was as pale as a sheet, and she was drenched in sweat.

"Miss!" Mrs. Berry panicked and quickly helped her to sit up.

"Shh... don't let anyone hear you..." Charlotte signaled and whispered at her weakly.

"Miss, w-what happened to you?" Mrs. Berry started to quiver. "Let me call... Dr. Langhan now..." she said incoherently.

"Don't call her!" Charlotte gripped her hand and stopped her. "Just help me back to your room first. I'll be fine after having a rest there."

Mrs. Berry helped her up at once.

Charlotte was too weak to stand, so she leaned on Mrs. Berry.

Mrs. Berry helped her out from the washroom and headed slowly toward her bedroom. Fortunately, all the other maids were occupied so none of them discovered anything.

Mrs. Berry's heaved a sigh of relief when they reached her bedroom. She let Charlotte lie down on her bed and closed the door hastily. After that, she poured some warm water for her.

After taking a sip of the warm water, Charlotte was still in pain and did not have any strength to move.

Mrs. Berry brushed her hair aside and wiped the sweat off her forehead. Looking at Charlotte's piteous condition, her heart ached as she asked anxiously, "What's the matter with you? You're not feeling well? Why don't you see a doctor?"

"I was poisoned. It's useless to see doctor. Dr. Langhan had carried out a full body checkup for me, yet nothing could be traced..." she smiled bitterly at Mrs. Berry.

"What? You have been poisoned? Don't scare me! What type of poison is that?" Mrs. Berry was astonished.

"I've no idea..." Charlotte held her hand and replied weakly, "Mrs. Berry, looks like I need to leave for a while. I'll try to see if I can come across any TCM doctor who is able to treat me."

"Alright. Let me tell Mr. Zachary..."

"No! Don't tell him about this!" Charlotte grabbed hold of her arm anxiously before she could finish her sentence.

"Why? If you tell him, he'll make arrangements to get you the best treatment. Besides, you're his family. You should be honest with him instead of keeping it to yourself," Mrs. Berry advised.

"Those doctors who are reputable and well-known are not necessarily good. Dad once told me about a reliable doctor who has exceptional medical skills. The doctor has moved away, but we can look for him. Perhaps he can help me out," said Charlotte as she panted heavily.

Mrs. Berry nodded vigorously. "Yes. I remember. It's Dr. Felch. I'll go and find out his whereabouts now."

"No. We'll be exposed as soon as you make a move." Charlotte was out of breath and had difficulty speaking. "Let Mr. Judd handle this. He'll notify us once he locates Dr. Felch. However, I'm thinking to move out temporarily in case Zachary finds out about my condition."

"Why are you keeping this from Mr. Zachary?" Mrs. Berry was puzzled.

"I'm in bad shape and I don't know if I can work this out." Charlotte cast a bitter smile. "What if I can't... So if I leave quietly, the devastation of parting with each other can be lessened."

"My whole world crumbled when Dad died. If it weren't for the kids, I wouldn't have made it through. I don't want them to go through the heart-wrenching pain as I did."

"They finally have a happy home and a safe harbor. Zachary will take good care of the kids and they can grow up safely and happily. I just want them to stay happy forever."

Hearing that, Mrs. Berry let out a deep sigh.

"Besides, I know Zachary is in a tight spot right now. He didn't bring me along to meet Mr. Nacht because he didn't want to provoke his grandpa. If Mr. Nacht finds out I'm the children's mother, he'll never accept me."

"So I'd better go away for a while and leave each other some space. Zachary can take his time to handle his family affairs while I receive treatment elsewhere. If I get better after that and he manages to persuade Mr. Nacht by then, that will be a happy ending for all."

After saying that, Charlotte was exhausted. "Mrs. Berry, I didn't mean to worry you in the first place, but now I need your help to cover me," she said with her weak voice.

Tears welled up in Mrs. Berry's eyes. She wiped her tears as she said, "Silly girl, I'll always be there for you no matter what happens."

"Thank you, Mrs. Berry. I'll take a quick nap..." Charlotte's eyelids grew heavier, gradually feeling sleepy.

"Okay. Go ahead and sleep. I'll be here to watch over you."

Mrs. Berry gingerly placed a blanket on her and caressed her forehead. She then wiped Charlotte's body with a hot towel.

Looking at Charlotte's pale face, her heart was torn into halves.

"Where's Mommy?" The triplets were drenched in sweat and they looked for Charlotte as soon as they came home.

"Your mommy should be in Mrs. Berry's room. Do you want to see her?" a maid asked.

"Yes!" Ellie was excited.

"No." Robbie stopped her and said thoughtfully, "Mommy is talking with Mrs. Berry. We shouldn't disturb them. Let's attend the class first."

"Yeah! Let's go to the class!" The triplets enjoyed attending class with Zachary.

"You wait for me upstairs." Zachary wanted to take a look at Charlotte.

"Alright, Daddy!"

The three of them went upstairs excitedly.

The nurses quickly followed them and took care of them so that they didn't fall down the stairs.

Zachary headed to Mrs. Berry's room and gently knocked on the door.

"Who is it?" Mrs. Berry asked.

"It's me. Is Charlotte with you?" Zachary asked politely.

"Um... Yes..." Mrs. Berry was a little panicked. She hurriedly walked over and opened the door in a small gap. "She had an upset stomach just now. She is resting after taking some medicine," Mrs. Berry spoke softly.

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"What happened? I'll ask Raina to come over now." Zachary immediately took out his phone to make a call.

"No, it's alright. It's no big deal. She has taken the medicine. Just let her rest for a while and she'll be fine." Mrs. Berry turned around and took a glance at Charlotte. "She has just fallen asleep. I'll escort her upstairs after she wakes up. Don't worry about her. Go get busy."

"Alright then."

Zachary turned around and walked away, but he was still worried about Charlotte. Therefore, he called Raina and asked her to come over before he headed upstairs.

Charlotte finally woke up after sleeping for over an hour. She seemed like her usual self as if nothing had happened.

Mrs. Berry was worried sick about her condition. "Miss, what kind of poison is it? It seems weird."

"I have no idea." Charlotte touched her face and it was a bit chilly. Moreover, her clothes were soaked in sweat and she found it unbearable. "I have to go now. I need to take a shower before their class ends. Otherwise, Zachary will notice something is wrong," she said.

"Dr. Langhan is here. She's waiting outside. Mr. Zachary came over when you were asleep. I told him you had an upset stomach so you were taking some rest in my room. I already told him not to worry, yet he still asked Dr. Langhan to check on you. Perhaps he's worried about you."

"Alright. I'll handle this." Charlotte walked out of the room.

Upon seeing her, Raina immediately picked up her medical kit and walked towards Charlotte. "Are you alright, Ms. Windt?" asked Raina.

"I'm fine. Why did Zachary summon you? I told him it's not a big deal." Charlotte shook her head as she replied.

"That's good to know." Raina heaved a sigh of relief. She scrutinized Charlotte's expression and the latter looked fine indeed. Raina took out a pack of medicine from the kit and handed it to Charlotte. "You can take this if you have a stomachache again."

Charlotte smiled at her. "Thank you, Raina. I'm sorry that you have to come all the way here."

"It's fine. Usually, I just stay in the clinic at night, but I happened to have something to deal with tonight. Your place is just on my way, so it's no trouble for me. Feel free to contact me if you don't feel well," said Raina.

"Alright. Thank you."

After Raina left, Charlotte went upstairs. As she passed by the study room, the kids were laughing out loud. Her lips unwittingly curled upward upon hearing their laughter.

She headed to her room and went straight to the bathroom.

Her hair was drenched in sweat. She turned on the shower and washed herself. Suddenly, blood dripped down from her nose.

Charlotte was scared stiff. She quickly pinched her nose, but it wouldn't stop bleeding no matter how she tried.

She hurriedly turned off the shower and walked to the mirror to check on her nose. However, there were no signs of injury on her nose.

But blood just kept flowing out of her nose non-stop.

Charlotte began to panic. Does it have something to do with the poison?

Right then, footsteps could be heard outside the bathroom. Zachary was back and he was walking right towards her.

Charlotte immediately locked the door.

As soon as the door was locked, the doorknob was twitched from the other side.

Zachary paused his action as he realized the door was locked from the inside. "What are you doing?" he questioned.

Since the two of them started being together, they never had a habit of locking the door.

If one of them was in the bathroom, the other one could just go in anytime. They always kept the door unlocked.

Zachary was displeased by Charlotte's sudden change in behavior.

"I'm taking a shower." Charlotte held her head up in a panic, trying to stop the nosebleed.

"Then why did you lock the door?" Zachary bellowed.

"I locked it because I wanted to." Charlotte simply made an excuse. "Go away. Come back after I'm done."

Zachary's face turned ashen with anger, but he walked away anyway.

After a long while, the nosebleed finally stopped. She washed away the blood and cleaned herself up thoroughly, then she walked out of the bathroom in a bathrobe.

"Charlotte Windt, what are you trying to do?" Zachary questioned her harshly.

Charlotte had been giving him the cold shoulder after he came home. First, she refused to join him and play with the kids in the garden. Then, she avoided him when he tried to talk to her. And now, she locked the door while taking a shower.

Charlotte felt rather guilty. Instead of answering him, she kept silent and proceeded to dry her hair at the dressing table.

Zachary was pissed by her response. He strode towards her and turned off the hairdryer. Zachary turned her around and looked her in the eyes. "Are you doing this just because I didn't bring you along to visit Grandpa?" he asked.

"What did I do?" Charlotte spoke with a distant tone. "Whether or not to bring me along, it's your choice. I'm in no position to make the decision for you."

Right. I can take this opportunity to pick a bone with him, then I can move out for a few days.

"I didn't bring you along because..."

Charlotte interrupted him before he could explain himself. "Whatever. It didn't really matter to me. Your grandpa doesn't like me anyway. It'd be better if we don't see each other."

Zachary was infuriated by her attitude. He couldn't help but raise his volume. "What's with this attitude? I'm trying to communicate with you. Why are you getting all worked up?"

"I'm just speaking the truth." Charlotte raised her head and looked at him. "I talked to you about vengeance for my dad this morning. You ignored me, didn't you?" she said in an icy tone.

"Why are you bringing that up now? We're talking about what happened in the evening."

The crease between Zachary's eyebrows deepened. It's said that women hold grudges. I guess that's true.

"What? I can bring that up anytime I want." Charlotte started throwing tantrums at him. "Your problem matters so is mine. Or are you saying my problem doesn't matter at all?"

Zachary was speechless. It was almost impossible to have a proper talk with a woman when she was throwing tantrums. She was merely being unreasonable.

"I'm done talking to you!"

Zachary's face turned grim. He turned around and headed to the bathroom.

"You're such a bossy and controlling man! You're always like that. You only care about your family and you never care about mine." Charlotte found fault with everything he did.

"What's wrong with you?"

Zachary could barely contain himself.

If he were still his old self, he would've blown his fuse. However, ever since he had the triplets, he had tempered his aggressiveness and learnt not to lose his temper easily.

He was especially gentle to Charlotte.

But Charlotte had been testing his limit and he couldn't hold it in for much longer.

"Why are you still defending your aunt after all the crazy stuff she did?" Charlotte questioned him in anger.

"I never defend that woman." Zachary's tone turned cold.

"If you didn't defend her, why didn't you take her to the police and bring her to justice? She killed my father! She's a murderer!" Charlotte questioned him relentlessly and refused to let that go.

"Can you think before you speak?" Zachary pulled her over and poked her forehead. "Everything in business works in the grey areas. We can report her to the police, but what's the point? With her connection, she can easily clear her name."

Charlotte nodded and started getting emotional. "Alright then! If the law can't punish her for the crime she has committed, you can make her life a living hell with your connection. You're the father of my children and you're going to be my husband. You should avenge your children's mother and their grandfather then!"

Unexpectedly, her words didn't frustrate Zachary. Instead, he listened to her and pondered over her words, then he rationally explained the situation to her.

"First of all, she had destroyed your father's company indeed, but she didn't kill him with her own hands. Your father took his own life. I can't take revenge against her on an invalid accusation.

"Secondly, she's my own blood. She's Grandpa's biological daughter. Even if we fight against each other for our own benefit, we will never kill our own blood.

"Nonetheless, you're right. Now that I'm your future husband and the father of the children, I should seek justice for the Windt family."

He paused for a few seconds, then he said, "Give me some time. I'll think about what I can do for you."