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Zachary paused what he was doing and turned toward Henry. The kids were staring at him in shock.

Everyone in the audience was equally stunned as they gave Henry puzzled looks.

With a solemn expression, Spencer pushed Henry toward the stage.

Taylor knowingly stepped back and returned to his seat.

"Kids, I have something to discuss with daddy. You should go back to the holding room with Mr. Spencer. Be good now."

Looking at the children, Henry's gaze recovered its usual compassion as he let out a warm and gentle smile.

The children turned toward Zachary and Charlotte in unison.

"Go along now." Zachary patted them on their heads. He knew a confrontation was about to happen and Henry was just trying to protect the children.

"Come along kids," Spencer coaxed the children, "let's go get something to eat."

With that, the nurses came over and escorted the children away under the watchful eyes of the bodyguards.

Robbie turned to look at Charlotte, who waved at him with a smile, signaling him not to worry.

However, she was already a bunch of nerves. Clasping her hands together, she couldn't help but turn the ring on her finger. For some strange reason, she was overwhelmed by a sense of dread, as if something terrible was about to happen.

"Grandpa, whatever it is, let's talk about it later." Despite furrowing his eyebrows, Zachary remained calm and ordered the pastor, "Let's continue!"

And then, holding Charlotte's hand, he prepared to put on her ring.

"I'm putting a stop to this." Henry interrupted Zachary again before turning toward the guests, "Ladies and gentlemen, please proceed to the lobby for the reception. My apologies for the abrupt change in itinerary."

The guests were all puzzled by the fact that they were asked to leave before the wedding ended.

However, Henry had made his stance clear and no one dared to disobey.

The guests quickly moved to the lobby.

"Grandpa..." Zachary asked with a frown, "What are you doing?"

"The ring hasn't been put on and the marriage isn't registered." Henry announced, "I hereby declare this wedding null and void!"

Stunned, Charlotte gave Henry a puzzled look. "Grandpa, why?"

"Don't ever call me grandpa," Henry scowled.

Charlotte was taken aback and didn't understand what she did wrong.

"What did Zara tell you?" Zachary questioned angrily. "You must know that her intentions are never good..."

"Regardless of her intentions, the truth cannot be denied," Henry interrupted Zachary with a roar. "I'm warning you now that I will not allow this woman to step foot in our home. Even from my grave, I'll still forbid it!"

"Why?"

Zachary was stunned. Despite how much Henry hated Charlotte or objected to the wedding earlier, he would never adopt such a harsh stance. At that moment, his resolve seemed unshakeable.

"Let me ask you..." Henry ignored Zachary. Instead, he interrogated Charlotte, "Is your mom Isabella Lindberg?"

Shaken to the core by Henry's domineering tone, Charlotte instinctively replied, "Yes..."

Upon hearing her response, Spencer dropped the documents he was holding onto the floor while Taylor's eye widened emotionally. He gasped, "So, it's true!"

Henry shut his eyes tightly as her answer had put the matter beyond any doubt.

"What has this got anything to do with our wedding?" Charlotte asked nervously. "Grandpa, what is going on? Didn't you agree to the wedding? What did I do wrong?"

"Your only mistake was getting to know Zachary." Henry was in no mood to continue speaking to her. Opening his eyes, he barked, "Leave at once before I have the urge to kill you. Disappear from my sight right this moment!"

Charlotte recoiled in horror as the bouquet in her hands dropped to the ground.

Urge to kill me? Henry has gone from not accepting me to wanting me dead?

What is going on?

What did I do to have him desire to take my life?

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"Why the urge to kill?" Zachary questioned in shock. "What is going on?"

Henry didn't say a word further.

All he did was gesture to the bodyguards, who approached Charlotte. "Ms. Windt, please."

"Insolence! Stand down!" Zachary barked.

"Do you want me to kill her?"

Henry had lost his patience while his eyes were filled with murderous intent.

Zachary knitted his eyebrows as he had never seen such a reaction from Henry over the last twenty years. The last time he acted this way was during his father's death. Henry's fearsome gaze looked as if he wanted to kill all those that were responsible.

"Ben..." Zachary ordered, "take her to the holding room and wait for me there."

"Right away." Ben approached Charlotte respectfully, "Ms. Windt, please."

At that moment, Charlotte's heart was in turmoil as she held onto Zachary's hand, unwilling to let go. Looking at him with a distraught expression, she was worried that he would abandon her.

"Don't worry." Zachary squeezed her hand and gently comforted, "No matter what happens, I won't leave you. Now, go to the holding room and wait for me."

"Mmm-hmm." Having been reassured by his promise, Charlotte bowed at Henry before leaving with Ben.

"The wedding is now annulled. The children can stay while their mom has to go. This is my final act of mercy," Henry declared outright.

"Grandpa, you..."

"There is nothing you can say that will change my mind." Henry squashed any intention of Zachary's to do so. He added angrily, "Unless your father can rise from the dead and come back to me, that woman will never be allowed to be part of the Nacht family!"

"What did you say?" Zachary was stunned. "What has this got anything to do with father?"

"She is the daughter of your father's murderer. Isn't that enough?"

Henry handed Zachary the picture.

Zachary stood stunned and took a long while to regain his composure. "What are you babbling about? How is that possible?"

"See for yourself." Henry gestured for Spencer to hand over the documents and photo to Zachary.

Zachary was blown away by what he saw. He responded frantically, "This is impossible. It must be Zara who fabricated it."

"Can you not tell if the picture has been doctored?" Henry sneered in return. "Stop lying to yourself. She is Isabella's daughter. Her mother caused the death of your father while the Lindbergs are our family's enemies. How can you marry her? Do you want your parents to roll in their graves? Or do you want Nacht Group to be taken over by the Lindberg Corporation?"

Furrowing his eyebrows, Zachary held onto the documents in silence.

He refused to accept the truth and felt that there must have been a mistake somewhere. There just had to be.

"I have decided to spare her life on the account of the children. That is the greatest mercy I can grant her." Henry gritted his teeth while trying his best to rein in his anger. "Or else, I would have ordered her to be torn apart just for having the same face as Isabella."

"Mr. Nacht, please calm down," Taylor carefully advised. He then reminded, "I'm afraid we have to cover this matter up. If the Lindbergs find out..."

Henry was suddenly shaken and quickly ordered Spencer, "Lock down all information with regards to the wedding. Make sure that no videos or pictures are leaked."

"Right away." Spencer went about it immediately.

"Don't you see?" Henry ranted, "Have you thought about the consequences if the Lindberg family finds out about her identity? We may still be able to keep it under wraps for now. But what about the future? Are you going to cover up her face for eternity? Also, what if they discover that the three children belong to their family..."

Henry was outraged just by thinking about it. "No, we definitely cannot allow them to find out!"

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"As long she is not around, we can then hide the children's identity." Henry knitted his eyebrows. "Now, there's no time to lose. Let me handle the situation. I'll send her someplace far away..."

"No!" Zachary interrupted Henry. "She can't leave..."

"Now that you know the truth, why are you insisting to have her by your side?" Henry fumed. "What's wrong with you? Don't you know what's more important?"

"The sins of the past are not for her to bear." Zachary's thoughts were crystal clear. "She was raised by her father and never met her mother. Other than a name, she has no idea who her mother is, let alone be aware of her relationship with the Lindberg family. What right do you have to insist that she pays for the sins of the previous generation?"

"You..."

"With regards to your concerns about the Lindberg family finding out, I can keep the information under wraps and destroy all traces of evidence. That way, no one will know. As for her resemblance to Isabella, we will just have her keep a low profile and not appear in public. That should solve it..."

"You really have gone mad!" Henry roared with a sullen expression. "There's no way you can hide something like that forever. Can you wipe away everything related to her existence? Even if you can, the people she meets may leak it. Do you intend to kill them all? Furthermore, her father used to be someone influential in the business world. It's just impossible to destroy all the links to her. As long as they have some clues, the Lindberg family will definitely find out."

He continued, "As for the three children, they have been raised by her alone and their identity hasn't been made public. Hence, there's little evidence of their existence. All we need to do is to give them new identities and they will be fine..."

Zachary fell silent at Henry's words as he did see the logic in them. From a rational perspective, there was no way Charlotte could stay.

However, he couldn't bring himself to let her go.

"Think about it..." Henry continued to persuade, "Even if we set aside the hatred over your father's death and the interests of the Nacht family, you have to at least consider the three children. Just for their sakes alone, she cannot stay."

"Stop..."

Zachary slumped in his chair and felt his heart being pulled at opposite ends. One was the rational side of him, while the other was emotional. Both were pulling so hard that he could feel his heart being torn apart.

Meanwhile, Zara was about to leave when Bruce quickly surrounded her with a group of bodyguards.

"Ms. Nacht, please hand over the antidote." Bruce approached her and began negotiations.

"What if I don't?" Zara sneered, "I dare you to lay a finger on me."

"It appears that there really is an antidote." Bruce was delighted. "Ms. Nacht, please hand it over peacefully and don't force our hand."

"Try me." Zara raised her eyebrow.

At Bruce's cue, a group of men surrounded Zara and aimed their guns at her head.

Zara's expression drastically changed as she didn't expect them to train their guns on her. She scowled, "Bruce, how dare you!"

"I'm sorry, Ms. Nacht. I'm just following orders." Bruce waved his hand. "Take her away."

"Mr. Nacht."

At that moment, a bodyguard hurried over and reported something.

Henry frowned as he looked toward Zachary. "Why did you capture your aunt? She was just here to reveal the truth, nothing more. Let her go this instance."

"She has poisoned Charlotte, causing her to be tormented by pain," Zachary sneered. "Coincidentally, you can order her to hand over the antidote."

"Fine," Henry readily agreed. "But you must break up with Charlotte."

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"I'm sure you know how stubborn your aunt can be. She will never hand over the antidote to you," Henry threatened again, "unless I tell her to!"

"Grandpa..."

"You should also be aware of what I'm capable of." Henry didn't allow Zachary a chance to speak as he continued, "If I choose to protect her, there is no way you can lay a finger on her."

Zachary furrowed his brows as he knew Henry was right.

"If I disallow Zara from handing over the antidote, Charlotte will die without me having to lift a finger," Henry threatened viscously. "I am only showing her mercy on the account of the three children by allowing her to live."

Zachary fell silent having heard Henry's words.

Weighing his options, he realized he didn't seem to have a choice other than to leave Charlotte.

She was the daughter of his father's murderer and a descendant of their natural enemies. Even if he disregarded the bad blood between them, she would still be a burden to the Nacht family and the children would also be dragged into it... More importantly, if he didn't break up with her, she would still die without the antidote.

"Think carefully about it." Henry didn't give Zachary a choice. "Sending her away is for the best."

Just as he spoke, Bruce entered in a hurry. After bowing to Henry, he whispered into Zachary's ear. "We have her but she refuses to hand over the antidote no matter what we say. Furthermore, we don't dare torture her."

At the same time, Olivia barged in, sobbing desperately, "Mr. Zachary, come quickly, Charlotte..."

"What happened?" Zachary ran out immediately.

"She suddenly had a splitting headache and lost a lot of blood..."

Olivia's voice trembled as she choked.

Zachary rushed to the holding room and saw Charlotte lying on the sofa. She was grimacing in pain while holding her head. Blood was flowing out of her nose, smearing all over her white wedding gown.

Mrs. Berry was holding her hand, crying and trembling at the same time. "Miss..."

Hayley was beside her using acupuncture to relieve the pain but it didn't seem to work at all.

Charlotte was still in excruciating pain.

"What's going on? The pain was never this serious before." Hayley panicked as she was at a loss.

"Mr. Nacht." Raina looked at Zachary and reported, "Ms. Windt is having a relapse. The painkillers don't seem to be working either. Shall we give her a sedative?"

"No," Hayley interrupted, "I've some medication here. She will sleep right after drinking it."

"Step aside." Zachary hurried over and held Charlotte's hand tightly. Looking at how she was suffering, he felt so heartbroken that it suffocated him. He then made a decision. "Give her the medication."

"Alright." Hayley quickly fed it to Charlotte.

Very quickly, Charlotte began to calm down. Holding Zachary's hand, she fell into a deep sleep.

Suddenly, Zachary felt that there was something in her hand. When he opened it, he saw that it was his ring.

She had held it in her hands, wanting to put it on for him. Alas, she no longer had the opportunity to do so.

All she could do was hold on to it tightly. Even when she was beset by pain, she didn't let go. Her grip was so tight that it made a deep imprint in her palm.

Zachary took the ring from her and put it on his ring finger. After that, he placed the back of her hand on his cheeks and murmured, "Please leave us. I want to be alone with her for a while."

"Of course." Mrs. Berry ushered everyone else out.

Ben and his troop of bodyguards stood guard vigilantly by the door.

Mrs. Berry, Olivia, and Hayley were filled with concern as they paced around outside.

"Mrs. Berry, take the ladies to grab a bite. With us here, Ms. Windt will be fine," Ben reassured her. "Come back when you're done."

"I have no appetite." Mrs. Berry could only think about Charlotte. But when it occurred to her that Olivia and Hayley were guests, she remarked, "Olivia, Hayley, come with me."

After that, the three of them left.

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Gently, Zachary arranged Charlotte's hair as he wiped away the splatters of blood across her cheeks. The sight of her bloodstained bridal gown sent a stab of pain through his heart.

Charlotte was in a deep slumber. It seemed like she was free from the pain of the poison.

Zachary stroked her cheek with a tender touch and ran his thumb over her lips as he looked at her with a gaze full of longing.

I love her. I wish Charlotte nothing but happiness and peace.

He had endured countless obstacles in order to walk down the aisle with Charlotte.

Yet all of a sudden, his path was blocked off once again. It seemed as if his insistence would kill countless people, including her.

This forced him to halt his progress and search for another path.

Knock knock! Suddenly, someone knocked on the door. Spencer's voice rang out, "Mr. Zachary, we're coming in."

As the door was pushed open, Spencer pushed Henry, who was in his wheelchair, into the room. Dozens of the Nacht family's elite bodyguards trailed behind them, holding Zara captive.

"Have you made up your mind?" inquired Henry icily.

Without saying anything, Zachary removed his blazer and covered Charlotte's body.

"Still can't bear to part with her?" Henry stared at an unconscious Charlotte and declared, "If this drags on, she'll die before I even take action!"

At his words, Zachary stirred. He turned and glared at Zara menacingly. "Give me the antidote."

"Who do you think you are?" sneered Zara. "When your father was alive, he dared not talk to me this way."

Without warning, Zachary's fist landed on the coffee table. Bang! Glass shards flew everywhere.

Everyone was taken aback, including Zara.

Grabbing a knife from the table, Zachary pressed it on Zara's neck. "If you don't give me the antidote, you'll die!"

"Ha!" Zara arched a brow sarcastically, unfazed by his threat.

"Insolent fool!" Henry spat angrily. "Put down the knife!"

Instead of putting down the knife as told, Zachary twisted the knife so its sharp edge cut into Zara's skin. Immediately, blood trickled down her neck.

"Do you seriously think I will hand out the antidote to you this way?" Zara seemed indifferent. "As a Nacht, I'm not afraid of death!"

"If you want the woman to die right here, go ahead and kill me."

Henry made a gesture. At once, his bodyguard pointed a gun at Charlotte.

"How dare you?" Zachary hissed.

"You're already holding a knife at your aunt's throat." Henry was adamant. "Put the knife down, and we can talk. Otherwise..."

He pointed at Charlotte using his cane. "I'll send her to hell now!"

The bodyguard cocked his gun.

Molten anger rolled through Zachary as he released his grip on the knife reluctantly.

Zara burst into excited giggles. "Father, I thought you've never loved me. Turns out, I was wrong."

"Cut the crap," Henry uttered and stretched his hand out. "Give me the antidote!"

"Why do you want to save this woman?" Zara was stunned. "Her mother was the one who killed Harrison and Beatrice!"

"I said, give me the antidote. Don't make me repeat myself." Henry's voice grew stern.

"Why do you always defend him?" Zara was upset. "He hit Chris and attacked my company deliberately. Not only did you not punish him, you even asked me to give you the antidote to save the enemy's daughter?"

"Give me the antidote. I'll ask him to stop attacking your company and transfer five percent of Nacht Group's shares to Chris," offered Henry. "Will that do?"

Zara was briefly startled but soon regained her composure. Flashing a grin, she replied, "Father, you should've said that earlier. We're a family, after all."

With that, she took out a tiny bottle from her pocket and handed it to Henry.