

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

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On the public highway, two Rolls-Royces sped along the road, one black and one silver in color. They resembled two storm clouds that were racing each other down.

In fact, this seemed to have turned into some sort of competition. Both cars seemed to be competing to see who could reach the destination first.

“How fascinating!”

Inside the car, Zachary gave a small chuckle, his eyes filled with anticipation...

This woman had a habit of showing up in front of him in the most curious of ways. Every time she appeared, she managed to turn his entire life upside down.

The last time at Sultry Night, she had mistaken him for a gigolo and demanded that he compensated her.

This time, she had appeared as his business rival who was attempting to one-up him in everything.

Zachary wanted to know what sort of tricks she had up her sleeve this time.

Here, he mused that the games between them were becoming more and more intriguing.

Charlotte could toy with him as much as she pleased. However, she would never be able to escape from his grasp.

Both cars arrived at Ashenville Garden at the exact same time, kicking up a huge cloud of dust.

The parking lot was full of luxury cars. All the businessmen had already arrived with their bodyguards and were canvassing the field for other people to network with. It was very busy indeed.

However, when the two Rolls-Royce screeched to a deafening halt at the entrance, sending a strong gust of wind blowing into the carpark, they attracted everyone's attention immediately.

Everyone stopped talking and turned to look at the Rolls-Royce, aghast.

One of the cars had a license plate that was embossed with a golden 'N', while the other one had a golden 'L' on it. Everyone knew who had arrived immediately.

The people from the powerful Nacht Group and Lindberg Corporation had arrived!

An excited murmur ran through the crowd. Everyone was full of anticipation. The arrival of the Nacht Group and Lindberg Corporation representatives had taken the conference up a notch.

The doors of the two cars swung open at the same time. The bodyguards in the passenger's seat got out immediately and opened the door for the people in the backseat.

Zachary stepped out from the car, his jet-black suit shining like a diamond under the sun. He carried himself with the inherent aloofness of an important man, which drew everyone's eyes towards him at once. His eyes were deep-set and narrowed, which gave him a rather severe look.

Meanwhile, a long pair of legs stepped out of the other car. A beautiful woman appeared, attired in a pair of black pants and a simple white blouse. However, because of the chic style of her clothes, she looked more stylish than businesslike.

Her face had a light dab of powder, and she wore a pair of pearl earrings on her ears. She had put her hair up in a knot, which accentuated the sharp look on her face. With her beautiful face that looked as though it had been crafted by the gods themselves, she became the belle of the ball immediately.

Everyone turned to gaze at her.

They looked rather shocked. Who was this beautiful, smart-looking girl that had appeared out of nowhere at all?

Meanwhile, Zachary was still reveling in the fact that he could finally see her up-close at last...

His heart was beating faster than ever as he tried to swallow the taste of bitterness in his mouth...

His suspicions were confirmed at last. This woman was Charlotte, and there was no doubt about it.

Mr. Potter, the person in charge of the conference, came hurrying up to them with his bodyguards in tow. "Welcome, Mr. Nacht and Ms. Lindberg!"

He shook hands with Zachary enthusiastically, before turning to Charlotte and saying, "Ms. Lindberg, your reputation precedes you. You've just entered the business world, but you have already had so many accomplishments under your belt. What a young talent!"

"Mr. Potter, you mustn't say that!" Charlotte said, laughing mockingly. "What if Mr. Nacht gets angry? After all, all my achievements were built on the failures of the Nacht Group!"

Hearing this, the crowd fell silent immediately.

Color drained from the businessmen's faces. They shot hasty looks at Zachary, silently castigating Charlotte for being so arrogant. How could she dare to challenge him like this in public?

Another murmur ran through the chagrined crowd.

Mr. Potter had achieved his position due to his great ability to converse with all sorts of people and make them feel at home. He was well-known for being able to talk his way out of anything, but even Charlotte's words rendered him completely speechless.

Looking rather awkward, he forced a smile onto his face and wiped the sweat from his brows with a shaky hand.

"The floor might be beneath our feet, but it fears us not, because we rely on it to stand firm on our feet." Zachary smiled as he gazed straight at Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg, you are young, and still have much to learn."

This time, it was Charlotte who was left speechless. Evidently, Zachary was no amateur when it came to dissing people himself.

His words had a deeper meaning to them. He wanted to let everyone know that the Lindberg Corporation had beaten the Nacht Group this time only because the Nacht Group had let them. There was nothing jaw-dropping about Charlotte's achievements at all.

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"You're right, Mr. Nacht. I'll make sure to learn as much as I can from you."

Charlotte didn't seem affected by his words at all. Smiling long and meaningfully, she turned and left with her bodyguards in tow.

"Oh, move out of the way!" Lupine made sure to give Ben a hard shove as she pushed past him.

"You..." Ben gnashed his teeth, furious.

Seeing that Charlotte had left, everyone else dispersed quickly, knowing that the show had ended as quickly as it had begun.

However, it had been an exciting show-down while it lasted. As everyone walked away, they started discussing the matter amongst themselves.

"Gosh, did you see how haughty Ms. Lindberg was? She kept on mocking Mr. Nacht, but he remained gentlemanly and refused to lose his temper. If it was somebody else, however, he would've exploded at them immediately."

"Doesn't he hate being mocked by people the most? What happened just now? Why did he let her off so easily?"

"In my opinion, Mr. Nacht knew the value of retreating in order to advance."

"Yeah, right! I think he was just trying to get that beautiful girl out of her bind."

"Haha!"

Hearing this, Ben's face turned steely with rage. However, Zachary seemed rather nonplussed. His eyes continued to follow Charlotte as she walked further and further away...

A few businessmen wanted to network with him, but their friends held them back. "Mr. Nacht is probably stewing right now. If you go up to him now, nothing good will come of it!"

The businessmen felt that their friends were right. Timidly, they went up to Zachary and said hello to him before darting away quickly again.

As he gazed at Charlotte, Zachary's heart swelled with emotion. He tried to keep them under wraps...

He had thought of her day and night for two years, tormented by the guilt in his heart. He finally had a chance to set those feelings free today...

She had returned at last!

She had really appeared in front of him in flesh. This time, she wasn't a mirage or a dream he had conjured up in the middle of the night— she was actually here.

He had stood close by her just now. Their short conversation stirred up some of Zachary's memories from the past...

Back then, she had enjoyed bickering with him thoroughly. Although she never managed to beat him in a battle of wits, she liked issuing a challenge to him anyway.

As he thought about this, his lips curved into a smile. The expression in his eyes became much gentler than before.

Had she pretended not to recognize him because she was still mad at him about what had happened all those years ago?

No matter. He would take it one step at a time.

Slowly but surely, he would erase whatever negative feelings she had towards him, and make her return to his side.

“Mr. Nacht, Ms. Lindberg is young and reckless. Please don’t take her words to heart,” Mr. Potter said, trying cautiously to calm Zachary down. “When I find the chance, I’ll make sure to give her a good talking-to.”

If another person had mocked Zachary like that, the fight would’ve ended horribly for them. Even the event organizers would’ve been implicated in the matter. Hence, Mr. Potter felt obliged to apologize for the earlier altercation.

“What a woman! She has some character.”

Zachary smiled brightly and walked away.

Ben and the bodyguards hurried after him.

“Um...” Mr. Potter stood rooted to his spot, feeling a little lost for words. “W-what just happened?”

“Couldn’t you tell what happened, Mr. Potter?” his assistant asked with a smile. “Mr. Nacht has developed feelings for Ms. Lindberg.”

“That can’t be true!” Mr. Potter exclaimed in horror. “The Nachts and the Lindbergs are arch-enemies!”

“All’s fair in love and war.”

Mr. Potter was speechless.

He thought the entire situation was unlikely, but since Zachary had decided to let the matter slide, Mr. Potter decided not to cause more trouble for himself.

Seeing that Zachary was about to leave, he snapped out of his daze and chased after him. “Mr. Nacht, wait for me! I’ll lead the way for you.”

...

Ashenville Garden had very nice scenery. It was located on sprawling grounds and complete with a golf course, a hot spring resort, a racing ground, and a luxurious banquet hall.

It was already late in the evening. The businessmen had returned to their hotel rooms to get ready for the banquet that night.

The Aplot Chamber of Commerce had reserved the entirety of Ashenville Garden for that night. Because there were a limited number of rooms, each participant could only bring two of their aides with them. The others would have to stay in the hotel over at the golf course.

As two of the most prominent families, representatives of the Nacht Group and Lindberg Corporation found themselves staying at the best villas Ashenville Garden had to offer.

However, the villas at Ashenville Garden were all duplex houses. Since both families had similar statuses, members of the Nacht family and the Lindberg family had been assigned to adjoining houses.

Remembering the fiasco from before, Mr. Potter asked if Zachary wanted to switch to a different house. However, Zachary replied cheerfully, "No need to change! I like this place."

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Of course he didn't want to switch houses. He wanted to be as close to Charlotte as possible.

Here, an even more alluring smile appeared on Zachary's lips. He turned around and walked straight into the villa.

Mr. Potter didn't dare to question his decision or ask even more questions. He had no choice but to keep his mouth shut and continue making arrangements for Zachary.

The master bedroom of the villa was huge. The last rays of the evening streamed through the floor-length windows and pooled into a golden spot on the ground.

Zachary took off his suit jacket and unbuttoned his stifling shirt. Carrying a wine glass, he made his way to the balcony and sat down on the marble-white recliner. Squinting in the sunlight, he turned to look at the balcony of the adjoining house.

Almost immediately, the balcony door slid opened and out stepped a familiar-looking person. The woman was barefoot and wore her hair down around her shoulders. In a long, flowing silk dress, she looked both relaxed and careless.

Without her aloof, arrogant façade, she appeared more like the innocent, simple Charlotte from the past.

“Well, I didn’t expect to see you here, Mr. Nacht.”

Charlotte sat down on the same marble-white recliner. She stretched out her hand towards Morgan, who promptly passed her a glass of ready-made cocktail.

“I like admiring the beautiful scenery and beautiful women alike,” Zachary remarked.

He smiled at her and raised his eyebrows with an ambiguous look on his face.

“You’re quite the playboy, Mr. Nacht,” Charlotte commented with a taunting laugh. “What happened to the frigid, ice-cold man that everyone knows?”

“I only show this side of me to certain people.”

Zachary shot her a look. It had been two years, but she hadn’t changed a bit. After taking off her makeup and letting her hair down, she looked quite the same as before. However, her eyes had taken on a rather arrogant quality, and for some reason, she looked sharper and more intelligent than she once had.

With status came great power!

“Are you making fun of me, Mr. Nacht?” Charlotte asked, laughing coldly. “I heard that you’re a married man.”

“Yes. In fact, you look a lot like my wife...” Zachary tried to provoke a reaction from her. “She has been missing for two years now. Could you possibly be her?”

“Hahaha...” Charlotte burst into mocking laughter immediately. “Mr. Nacht, your method of getting girls is quite pathetic, don’t you think?”

“Do you really not recognize me?”

Zachary looked rather confused. Charlotte's response didn't seem fake— if it was fake, however, she had to be an exceptionally talented actress to pull it off.

She seemed neither flustered nor panicked. In fact, she seemed to have no recollection of the past, and neither was she displaying any sort of yearning towards it.

It was as if Zachary was a complete stranger to her. To Charlotte, he was nothing more than her business rival.

"Why would I know you?"

Charlotte raised her eyebrows provokingly, laughing frostily as she gazed at him.

Although she seemed to be full of mockery towards him, her heart was actually full of complicated emotions.

When he told her that she looked a lot like his wife, the needle in her heart had wedged itself a little deeper. The jolt of pain in her heart had been the most tormenting yet...

It was as though his words had truly cut her somehow...

She couldn't help but wonder if they had met each other before.

"Charlotte..." Just as Zachary was about to continue, there was a loud commotion downstairs. "You foolish people, don't you have eyes? Don't you know who I am? Let me in right now—I'm here to look for Zachary."

This voice sounded rather familiar.

Zachary turned around and spotted Sharon immediately.

They hadn't had a single interaction in the past two years. Why had she chosen to show up in front of him again today?

Ben hurried over and whispered in Zachary's ear. "She's probably here as one of Synder Group's representatives. She was informed that you were attending this conference and decided to pay you a visit."

Zachary waved his hands idly, signaling that Ben should go settle the matter for him.

Charlotte had seen everything. She snorted loudly and said, "What a way to play with a girl's feelings, Mr. Nacht. I wonder if this woman looks like your wife, too!"

"Ms. Lindberg..."

Just as Zachary was going to explain himself, Charlotte turned and returned to her room.

Her female bodyguards slid the balcony door shut and tugged the curtains close. Zachary couldn't peek into the room at all.

He couldn't help but frown in disappointment. What a ruined opportunity!

However, Sharon's arrival gave him another idea. Seeing an old enemy of hers might make Charlotte give up this act of hers.

"Mr. Nacht, I've settled the matter," Ben said, returning to Zachary's side. "She has returned to her room, but I wager that she'll come and harass you again tonight. Do you want me to put a stop to it first?"

"There will be no need for that." Zachary wanted to see how Charlotte would react when she finally laid eyes on Sharon again...

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As Zachary was changing his clothes, his phone buzzed with a text notification. Thinking that it was some sort of spam, he ignored it completely.

Ben hurried into the room and exclaimed, "Mr. Nacht, they're coming out of the house now!"

"So fast?" Zachary frowned and put on his shoes quickly. "Hand me my watch, quickly!"

"Oh." Ben passed him his watch immediately.

Zachary put on his shoes and flew down the stairs while putting on his watch, his feet moving at an alarming pace.

Ben followed behind him hastily.

The moment he stepped out of the door, Zachary slowed down immediately. Putting on an act of extreme serenity, he walked out onto the lawn at a perfectly normal pace.

Charlotte was in a white, strapless gown. With her hair down around her shoulders and a diamond-encrusted necklace around her neck, she shone as brightly as an angel. Everyone gaped openly at her, mesmerized by her beauty.

Two of her bodyguards opened the car door for her. Charlotte stepped into the car...

"What a coincidence!" Zachary greeted Charlotte coolly.

Charlotte turned to look at him and smiled a little. Without another word, she got into the car immediately.

"Mr. Nacht!" Ben held the car door open for him.

Zachary got into the car, frowning. An unhappy expression was written all over his face.

"You have to take it slow. Wooing a girl takes lots of patience, you know."

Ben thought Zachary was upset because of Charlotte's cold reaction towards him.

"What's with that awful dress..."

Zachary trailed off in the middle of his sentence, but his face had clouded over completely.

In the past, he had demanded to see every single one of Charlotte's outfits. Strapless gowns were a no-no—he ordered her stylist to sew on some lace to cover her exposed chest. He disapproved of every gown that showed off her shoulders. However, that gown she had been wearing just now broke all of his rules...

It was way too sexy for his liking!

Ben felt a little speechless. He finally understood the reason behind Zachary's unhappiness.

He was annoyed that his wife was wearing such a revealing gown!

Ben thought darkly, it remains to be seen whether she'll even consider herself your wife or not...

Things were heating up in the banquet hall. A luxurious crystal chandelier hung from the ceiling, casting a warm glow down on the occupants of the banquet hall.

Calm, lulling music flowed into every corner of the banquet hall. Businessmen walked in and out of the room, sipping from glasses of red wine or champagne as they discussed business matters in hushed voices.

Charlotte's arrival drew the attention of a large crowd of people. As everyone's gazes fell on her, some people ventured daringly to greet her. "Good evening, Ms. Lindberg!"

Charlotte smiled and nodded at them in acknowledgment.

The banquet echoed with the sound of greetings as everyone greeted her warmly.

Someone walked up to her and tried to shake her hand. "Ms. Lindberg, it's great to see you here!"

Charlotte smiled and returned his greeting politely. She was kind and generous and courteous to a fault.

This was the first time she was attending a business event. Everyone had seen how arrogant and callous she could be that afternoon, and had tried their best to steer clear of her. However, stunned by her elegance and propriety now, they hurried forward to introduce themselves to her.

Charlotte became the center of attention immediately. Everyone was looking at her—including Sharon!

When she spotted Charlotte, Sharon's face had turned white as a sheet.

W-Wasn't this Charlotte?

Hadn't she died a few years back?

What was she doing here again?

Sharon was so frightened that the color had completely drained from her face. Grabbing a glass of wine from a passing waiter, she gulped down its contents in one go, trying to calm her nerves.

Don't panic, don't panic...she might just resemble Charlotte, that's all...

She overheard two people chatting about Charlotte next to her. "What's this woman's family background?"

"I heard she's Mr. Lindberg's younger sister. She's the second-largest shareholder in Lindberg Corporation."

"She's so accomplished for her young age!"

"I know, right? I heard she managed to turn the tables on the Nacht Group yesterday and sealed a deal with regards to the South Sea territorial waters for thirty billion yesterday! She's so young and talented!"

"Yes! Besides, look how beautiful she is!"

"Be careful of what you say. Ms. Lindberg has a horrible temper. She tried to provoke Mr. Nacht in the carpark this afternoon."

"What? She dared to provoke Mr. Nacht? Is this true?"

"Of course it is. I saw it with my own eyes."

"Then I must make sure to steer clear of her..."

Hearing this, Sharon became even more confused? When did Charlotte become a member of the Lindberg family? And when had she become the second-largest shareholder in Lindberg Corporation? Was she really so powerful?

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Sharon turned her head towards the person standing in front of her. Charlotte Lindberg stood proudly in the room, surrounded by a powerful and intimidating aura, composed and elegant. Every inch of her screamed wealthy.

She was obviously a world of difference when compared to the timid, ignorant Charlotte Windt from the past.

Perhaps it's just a resemblance...

Moreover, so what if she really is Charlotte Windt?

If that's the case, she's the same person that I humiliated and plotted against. The same person grovel at my feet back then!

What's there to be afraid of?

At that thought, Sharon straightened her posture and lifted her chin. The fear pounding in her heart slowly dissipated.

"Mr. Nacht is here!" All of a sudden, someone from the crowd cried out, turning everyone's attention to the entrance.

Even the merchants fawning at Charlotte Lindberg a second ago hurriedly rushed forward to welcome and greeted Zachary Nacht.

Although it's true that Charlotte had an outstanding demeanor, Zachary had an irreplaceable status in the corporate world, and the rest of the merchants present were smart enough to offend neither party.

Normally, Zachary despised socializing and dealing with pesky businessmen and businesswomen, but he was surprisingly out of character that day. Not only was he pleasantly easy-going, all smiles and courtesy, he even asked Lucy to jot down the names of all those who approached him that night in hopes of an appointment.

In just a short span of a few minutes, Zachary had stolen the spotlight from Charlotte, becoming the center of attention.

Taking in the scene, Sharon's eyes shone, feeling immense pride for Zachary.

As the crowd surrounding him finally dispersed, Sharon quickly went up to greet him. "Zachary!" she called out, waving.

Zachary instinctively frowned at the sight of her, hatred showing in his eyes. However, he swallowed the initial disgust and forced out a smile at Sharon. "Long time no see, Sharon," he greeted, in hopes to gauge Charlotte's reaction.

"Yeah, it has been a while!"

Sharon looked at him affectionately. All that had happened in the past didn't matter to her, not even the fact that he had so cruelly abandoned her. To Sharon, Zachary would always be the most flawless man, and she would always have a soft spot for him.

Zachary sneaked a glance at Charlotte. The latter was surrounded by many young men, chatting with those around her and oblivious to Zachary's attention.

Zachary took a glass of champagne from a waiter and casually walked in Charlotte's direction.

"Have you heard? I've managed to get my hands on the piece of land in Summerbank..." Sharon followed him closely, attempted to curry favor with Zachary by discussing topics he'd like. "There's also an underground casino in Lightspring that recently contacted us, hoping for partnership..."

"Casinos in Lightspring are all legally operated, you could consider the offer," Zachary replied Sharon absent-mindedly, his gaze never once leaving Charlotte.

"The business in M Nation is also now under my supervision since Daddy has too much on his plate. Good thing too, since Daddy is way too soft with the staff and so indecisive. There have been multiple headaches ever since he's in charge of the family business two years ago." Sharon pursed her lips before continuing, "We used to be one of the top thirty companies in Aplot. Now we've been ranked down to top eighty..." Relentless, Sharon still tried to get Zachary's attention. "But the Nacht family will always be the best and that's the biggest difference-

"Says who?" a voice responded icily, sending a chill down Sharon's spine.

Finally turning her gaze away from Zachary, Sharon found herself face to face with none other than Charlotte Lindberg. The latter's cold eyes bore into Sharon's soul.

"The latest data has yet to be revealed. I wouldn't be so confident," Charlotte stated with an eyebrow raised. A hint of arrogance laced her voice.

That's odd. Why does this lady look so familiar? Charlotte frowned slightly, staring at the woman in front of her.

Not only so, why am I feel so irritated by her presence? Charlotte felt a wave of unexplained fury and loathe surging through her at the mere sight of Sharon Blackwood, as if they were born to be nemesis.

Flustered, Sharon looked away, breaking eye contact with Charlotte. The glare Charlotte gave her made her skin crawl.

Nevertheless, with all eyes on her, Sharon refused to back down. As reluctant as she was, Sharon bit the bullet and retorted, "Even if the data is revealed, the Natch family is still going to come first. No one can snatch that status from them!"

"Snatch?" Charlotte narrowed her eyes into a dangerous glint. "It's all fair play in the corporate world. Everything is determined by data and numbers. Why would I need to snatch the first place from them?" The clicking sounds of her high heels rang clear in the room as she elegantly strode towards Sharon as she talked, like a predator who had cornered its prey.