

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 781

"This is our fault, Charlotte. We should have talked with Zachary about this." Louis looked guilty. "Please don't be upset, Zachary. Just see this as a normal dinner. We can talk about work later."

"I invested ten billion for my shares. This is a fair trade. Why should we delay the talk?" Charlotte shot back.

"That Koandrian offered fifteen billion for ten percent of the shares, but I refused him anyway." Zachary looked at her coldly and asked Louis, "How much did you give her?"

"I..." Louis whispered, "Fifteen percent."

"Fifteen?" Zachary was vexed. "What do you think this project is? Something you can use to hook up with the ladies?"

"What nonsense are you spouting!" Charlotte growled. "I might not have much in this project, but I have my resources! Lindberg Corporation can help this project tremendously!"

"Oh, really?" Zachary arched his eyebrow. "Fine then. We're planning on expanding this project to Erihal. We can talk about your participation after you show me Erihal's authorization letters."

"Why you..." Charlotte couldn't argue against that.

"Let's not fight, Zachary. At least for my sake, okay?" Louis tugged at Zachary, seemingly in a panic. "The partners are watching. We don't want to fight in front of them. It's just a gathering today. We can talk about the project later."

Charlotte didn't interject. She couldn't afford to enrage Zachary at that point. If he were to voice his objection, Louis and the partners wouldn't help her.

Zachary glared at Louis coldly, still irked about his actions. Zachary had a lot of projects on his hand, and he didn't need more. The only reason he helped Louis was on the basis of altruism. He didn't care about Louis' royalty status.

Louis had been too sheltered, and he knew nothing about the darkness of the world. He still acted like a child even though he was already twenty-eight. If he didn't deliver anything of value, he'd be the laughing stock of the other royalty members. Worse, he might be stripped of his title.

After what happened that night though, Zachary realized Louis was no more than an incompetent businessman. What he did was taboo for Zachary. He would not have tolerated it if the guy weren't Louis. But he couldn't bring himself to do it when the kid was pleading with him, and Charlotte being there didn't help. Left with no choice, he went along with Louis.

Charlotte was surprised that Zachary would relent. The rumors said he's cruel and merciless, but he looks like a nice guy to me. He kept relenting every time we met. What is he trying to do? Is this a trap?

"Be careful, Ms. Lindberg," Lupine whispered. Even she thought Zachary was being too amicable that night since Mr. Lindberg would have been yelled at if he was in the same situation.

"Hello, Mr. Nacht." All the partners greeted him and introduced their partners.

"Greetings," Zachary replied curtly. He hated formal situations like that, and all he wanted to do was get away from everyone.

And then one of the partners' wives asked, "Why did you come alone, Mr. Nacht. Where's your wife?"

Zachary froze and glanced at Charlotte, who was coming with Louis, and they sat down beside him.

"I saw the news of your marriage two years ago, and it was so touching. You have three beautiful children, don't you? Oh, that's so great." The lady smiled. "I heard they're triplets, yes?"

"Yes." Zachary glanced at Charlotte, whose interest was piqued at the mention of children. "Triplets?"

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"Ah, I don't think you know about this, Ms. Lindberg." The lady quickly huddled closer with Charlotte when she picked up the interest Charlotte showed. "He has two boys and a girl, and oh, how wonderful are they. They look just like the cherubs in those oil paintings we see. If I'm not mistaken, they're Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie, aren't they?" The lady beamed at Zachary.

"Yes." Zachary looked at Charlotte quietly.

A few scenes popped up in Charlotte's mind, and she wanted to immerse herself in them, but she started having a headache, and she held her head, trying to keep everyone from noticing.

"Oh, and they have a little parrot at home." The lady seemed delighted. "It's called Fifi."

"Fifi?" Lupine and Morgan looked at each other. That's the name of our pet.

"How do you know so much, Mrs. Morgana?" The other ladies were interested.

"Of course I do." Mrs. Morgana arched her eyebrow proudly. "I read everything about Mr. Nacht's wedding. His love story is so much more romantic than any romance movie, and I was moved to tears."

"I saw it too, but I didn't pay much attention to the content." another lady said. "All I know is that his wife is the young heiress of the Synder Group."

Zachary froze and looked at Charlotte.

Synder Group? Charlotte stared back at him with a complex gaze.

"Synder Group's young heiress? Is she the one who stood against Ms. Lindberg?" Mrs. Morgana glanced carefully at Charlotte and stopped talking.

"No. That's Sharon, an illegitimate daughter. Mrs. Nacht is the lawful daughter of the Blackwoods. I'm sure she's—"

"I'll be leaving now if all everyone does is gossip," Zachary interrupted Mrs. Lorenzo and stood up to button his suit. "Go on ahead without me."

Mr. Lorenzo quickly stood up to apologize, "I'm sorry for my wife's behavior, Mr. Nacht. I'll have a long talk with her later."

"Yes, same here," Mr. Morgana apologized too. "Why don't we send the ladies back home and talk about the project?"

Everyone quieted down and looked at Zachary expectantly. At the same time, Charlotte knew she was powerless before Zachary in the business world. All he did was say he'd leave, and he had already forced her out of the game.

Zachary looked at her coldly. "The project, huh?"

"Mr. Nacht!" Charlotte beamed. "Why don't the three of us have a little chat?"

"We'll see." Zachary left, but not before giving her one last, emotionless glance.

Nice! Ben cheered quietly as he followed Zachary out. Marino shared his sentiment. For once, they finally managed to teach those wenches a lesson.

"Goddammit!" Lupine gnashed her teeth.

"Um..." Everyone looked at one another at a loss.

"I'm sorry, everyone," Louis apologized quickly. "This is an oversight on my part. I didn't tell him about my plan. He was just angry at me, not you guys."

Charlotte looked at Louis gently. He's kind. The first thing he thinks about is Zachary's reputation instead of his.

"Don't mind it, Sir Louis. We were in the wrong. We shouldn't have talked out of line and anger Mr. Nacht." Mr. Lorenzo and Mr. Morgana raised a toast in apology.

"Your wives said nothing wrong, Mr. Lorenzo, Mr. Morgana. Mr. Nacht is just too easily offended." Charlotte smiled. "To our friendship. Let's go on without him."

"Is that really the right thing to do?" Everyone was nervous. "Why don't you talk to Mr. Nacht, Sir Louis? We're fine by ourselves."

"Um..."

"Louis and I will see him later. Let's have our dinner for now," Charlotte said.

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Zachary went back to the villa feeling annoyed. He wanted some peace and quiet, but then he noticed Cain and Kyle observing him from the shadows. He knew they were tasked by Henry to observe him and Cynthia, so he had to keep the act up no matter how reluctant he was.

He changed into casual attire and came to the hot spring, where Cynthia was resting.

Cynthia was wearing a thin silk dress, her hair tumbling down her back, and she was soaking her feet in the hot spring. The nurses who were taking care of her praised, "You're beautiful, Ms. Blackwood."

"Yeah, you look so pure and innocent, Ms. Blackwood. You're like a fairy."

"Yeah, she does give off that vibe."

The girls chatted away, and Cynthia smiled. The breeze blew and her hair danced along, elevating her beauty to greater heights.

She was different from Charlotte. Cynthia looked pure and innocent, like she was a fairy from outside this world, while Charlotte was noble and elegant, just like an angel. Zachary looked at her for a few moments and approached the lady.

"Mr. Nacht!" One of the nurses quickly bowed when she noticed him.

"Mr. Nacht." Everyone else backed off. Cynthia was flustered at the sight of him. She tried to take her cape, but her movements were hindered by her wound, and she almost fell into the spring, but Zachary managed to save her in time.

She loosened up and fell into his embrace. Zachary noticed the smell of flowers coming from her as she leaned against his chest like a damsel in distress.

"Are you alright?" Zachary pushed her away easily and covered her with his suit.

'Thank you,' Cynthia gestured as she threw a loving look at him.

Zachary sat on the recliner and waved the servants down. At the same time, Cain was hiding in the bushes nearby, holding up a phone and turned it in their direction.

He was video calling Henry, and Henry was delighted when he saw Zachary and Cynthia looking so intimate.

'There was a downpour earlier. Did you get into anything on the way?' Cynthia tried to initiate a conversation.

"Would I be here if I did?" Zachary blurted, and Cynthia stiffened up. Well, how should I keep this conversation going?

She tried her best, but Zachary could shut her down easily no matter what she tried to say.

"How's the villa?" Zachary looked at the place.

"It's nice," Cynthia answered. "I quite like it."

"Glad to hear that." He nodded and pointed at the hot spring. "You should go in there more. It's good for you." Zachary then tried to leave, but Ben gave him a look. He knew Henry's spies were still observing him, and Henry was most probably watching him too. Dammit. I have to keep this up for a while longer.

He found it odd that he couldn't speak well with women. Well, technically he could, but he'd end the conversation quickly, since he'd get bored no matter what they had to say. Only Charlotte could hold up his interest.

'Are you upset about something?' Cynthia asked.

"Huh?" Zachary was surprised. "How did you know?"

'Because you're frowning, and your eyes tell me you're troubled.' Cynthia smiled and gestured, 'You saw Sir Louis, didn't you? Is it about the project?'

"How did you know I met Louis?" Zachary finally started paying attention to her.

'Mr. Potter told me you went to meet an important friend in the banquet hall. I heard Sir Louis is in H City recently, so I thought you might have gone to see him.' She smiled. 'And did you forget that I major in psychology? I can see when you're troubled.'

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"Oh, right." Zachary nodded. "Guess why I brought you here then."

'You want to keep up the act so Mr. Henry would assume we're dating. Only then would he go back to Mr. Henry.' Cynthia turned away when she gestured that in case the spies caught that on camera.

"Smart." Zachary smiled and was about to leave, but then he heard a car stopping outside.

"Mr. Nacht!" Ben trotted to him and whispered, "Sir Louis and Ms. Lindberg are here."

"What business do they have here?" Zachary frowned and quickly went out. At the same time, he said, "Tell Raina to keep an eye on Cynthia and don't let her come out. And keep an eye on Henry's henchmen. They must not see Charlotte."

"I understand." Ben quickly went to make the necessary arrangements.

Cynthia noticed Zachary was in a hurry, and when she saw the headlight outside, she knew someone had come, but she wondered who it might be. Zachary seems to think that the guest is important.

"Oh, you're done, Ms. Blackwood." Raina hastened to her. "I'll take you in." Raina waved his hand, and two servants helped Cynthia up.

Cynthia tightened Zachary's jacket around her and wore her slippers before going into the room. At the same time, a group of people came in, and she reflexively turned around. She saw Louis, of course, and there was another lady with him. She couldn't see too clearly because of the distance, but she knew the lady had a sexy figure and an angelic vibe that permeated the air.

"Let's go in, Ms. Blackwood," Raina urged her, and she looked away. Cynthia went into the room with Raina, albeit with some difficulty.

Charlotte noticed Cynthia too, and she smirked. "No wonder you were in a hurry, Mr. Nacht. I see you have a girlfriend here. I can understand that you want to spend time with her."

Zachary looked where she was looking, and he frowned. Raina's really slow.

"Girlfriend? What girlfriend?" Louis looked around, but all he saw were the nurses cleaning up near the hot spring. However, he noticed the flowers and handkerchief on the chair, and he realized there was a lady in the hot spring before he came.

"Your girlfriend is here, Zachary?" Louis got excited. "You should have brought her out to meet us, you little rascal."

"She's just a friend," Zachary explained calmly.

"As if!" Louis looked excited. "I never saw you going on a date with any lady except your wife. This is the first in all these years."

"Ah, so you're cheating, huh?" Charlotte looked disgusted. "You keep a mistress despite having a wife? How crude."

"Someone sounds jealous." Zachary arched his eyebrow.

"Why you..."

"Alright, stop it," Louis stopped them. "Why do you guys keep fighting every time you meet?" Then he explained on Zachary's behalf, "I think I have to explain, Charlotte. Zachary's wife has been missing for two years, and he has been sparing no effort to search for her, but there's no news about his wife. Legally speaking, he's single, so having a girlfriend is normal."

"She's missing?" Charlotte was inexplicably uneasy after hearing that.

"Let's take this outside." Zachary didn't want his grandfather's henchmen to see Charlotte.

"Why the hurry?" Louis was upset. "Don't want us to see your girlfriend? Is she Medusa or something?"

Charlotte, too, wanted to know who the woman in Zachary's suit was. She wasn't fond of gossips, but for some reason, she wanted to know right away.