

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

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"I didn't know you guys are such gossip lovers." Zachary was getting impatient. "Are you leaving or not?"

"Alright, alright, let's go." Louis relented after Zachary got angry. "But we want to talk about the project."

"Let's take this to your place." Zachary forcibly pushed them out, and Ben told the servants to close the door immediately.

Cain and Kyle finally managed to break free from being caught up by Marino, but when they arrived, Zachary was already gone like the wind.

"I told you it's just Louis and his girlfriend. You gossip lovers, you," Marino teased.

"Something seems odd." They thought something was off, but they didn't pry any further.

"Just go in."

"Mr. Nacht, your girlfriend would be left alone if you come with us, won't she?" Charlotte poked fun at him, but all Zachary did was look at her coldly.

"It's fine. He'll go back in a minute," Louis stopped their argument once again. "This'll only take a second."

"True." Charlotte smirked. "It's not even ten. We won't disturb their night."

"Someone seems jealous." Zachary approached her, his gaze passionate. "I can stay with you if you want."

"Why you..." Charlotte's face turned scarlet.

"What are you doing, Zachary?" Louis quickly sat between them, separating Zachary from Charlotte. "Stop this. She's my girlfriend."

"I wonder if that's the case." Zachary arched his eyebrow.

"What does that have to do with you?" Charlotte glared back.

"Of course it has something to do with me." He teased, "I want you."

What the heck? Louis was shocked. "Are you for real?"

Charlotte was equally shocked. She thought she was hearing things.

"Consider it, Charlotte." He shoved Louis away and closed in on her. "I know you better than Louis does."

"Zachary, what are you doing?"

"You're joking." Charlotte frowned, glaring back at him with doubt. "You can't have fallen for me, can you?"

"Let's see..." Zachary smirked. "If I hadn't fallen for you, how did you take down the South Sea territorial waters?"

"If I hadn't fallen for you, why did I tolerated your behavior? And that I let you go despite the fact you lost that night? Do you really think an eagle's enough to stop me?"

"If I hadn't fallen for you, why do you think I was in a hurry to save you back then?"

"If I hadn't fallen for you, why do you think I didn't kill you when you came to my home with your pet eagle?"

"If I hadn't fallen for you, why do you think you can still sit with us despite telling Louis to pull off all that offensive stunts? I would have kicked anyone else out of the partnership, but you're still here."

"Why do you think that is the case?"

Charlotte couldn't come up with any rebuttal for that, and Louis was aghast, while Morgan the driver was sweating from her palms. Lupine frowned as if an enemy was behind her.

Ben kept quiet, though he looked at his employer knowingly. He knew there were two reasons Zachary was doing that. One, he was worried that Louis might take Charlotte for himself, and two, he was worried Charlotte might cause a lot of trouble for the Nacht Group if she kept it up. When that time came, he'd be hard-pressed to take action against her, except that he wouldn't be able to. That'd pose a big problem.

"You must be kidding, Zachary." Louis finally snapped out of it and was agitated. "I thought you have a girlfriend now. Why'd you fall for Charlotte?"

"She's not my girlfriend," Zachary answered curtly.

"What a joke." Charlotte was infuriated. "You think you can kick me out of the partnership with that kind of cheap trick? I gave Louis my money, so I am not—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Zachary held the back of her head and kissed her.

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Charlotte was caught off guard by the kiss and stared at Zachary in wide-eyed disbelief.

She froze up, unable to react.

It all felt very surreal and yet so familiar...

At the same time, both Louis and Ben were taken aback and looked on in astonishment. Ben, however, quickly recovered and averted his gaze.

Morgan, who had witnessed it all from the driver's seat, was just as startled. She momentarily lost control of the steering wheel, causing the car to swerve violently.

The sudden swerve brought Charlotte back to her senses. She tried to push Zachary away, but he was just too strong.

The more she struggled, the louder the buzzing in her head was. In a moment of panic, she bit down hard on his lips.

Her bite drew blood and left a metallic taste in her mouth.

Though reluctant, Zachary finally let go of Charlotte. He cupped her face and gently brushed her lips with his thumb.

"B*stard!" Charlotte raised her hand, ready to strike him.

Zachary grabbed her wrist in time and pulled her into his arms. "What's wrong? Haven't had enough?"

"You..." Charlotte wasn't sure if she was red from anger or embarrassment.

"Zachary, you've gone overboard!" Louis exclaimed as he hurriedly pushed him away and shielded Charlotte from him. "Even I have never kissed Charlotte, how dare you..."

"That's good to know." Zachary nodded smugly. "We can remain as buddies."

"What?" Louis went berserk at his display of arrogance. "Who wants to be buddies with you? You're a girlfriend-stealing piece of sh*t!"

"Give it up. You aren't suitable for each other," Zachary replied sternly.

The rage built up inside of Louis rendered him speechless.

"Pull over!" Charlotte suddenly ordered.

Once Morgan stopped the car, Lupine immediately got out to open the door.

"Get out!" Charlotte bellowed as she continued to glare at him.

"Weren't we supposed to discuss a collaboration?" Zachary replied, his mouth curled into a shameless grin.

"I said – GET! OUT!" Charlotte screamed while trying to kick him.

Zachary managed to dodge her attack and got out of the car.

Ben swiftly followed behind, only to have Lupine surprise him with a kick to his butt.

The kick almost sent him flying, but Ben remained silent as he gritted his teeth in anger.

Lupine shot him a death stare as she got back into the car.

With that, the Rolls-Royce sped off.

The Nacht family car that had been following behind this whole time promptly pulled over. The subordinates stood around in bewilderment, unaware of what had happened.

Meanwhile, Zachary smirked as he looked at the Rolls-Royce in the distance.

"Mr. Nacht, what are you trying to achieve with this?" Ben whined.

"Isn't this good?" Zachary snickered. "Louis doesn't want me around Charlotte, and Charlotte now thinks I'm a pervert. Because of that, the chances of her backing out of the project are very high. Their interest in Cynthia seems to have died down too, so I can fully concentrate on my work."

"That's true." Ben nodded.

"The most important thing is..." Zachary cocked his eyebrow. "The kiss was so intense for her that Louis would always be second to me."

Ben was so impressed with Zachary's wit that he couldn't hide his excitement. "Killing three birds with one stone! Brilliant!"

In the meantime, Raina had been waiting in the yard when Zachary returned to the villa. Upon seeing him, Raina immediately rushed toward him. "Mr. Nacht, I have failed you."

Raina had heard from Marino that Charlotte and Louis had spotted Cynthia due to her negligence. She decided it'd be better to own up to her mistake first than to have Zachary find it out himself.

"Thankfully, it was from a distance, so they only saw a silhouette," Zachary replied coldly. "You've always been very conscientious, so I don't want you making any more mistakes."

"Yes. I understand," Raina said, her head bowed in apology.

"I'll overlook it this time. Don't let it happen again," Zachary warned, his voice still cold and hard.

"Yes, Mr. Nacht."

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Zachary walked past Cynthia's room, only to see the door left slightly ajar. Cain was alert as he stood in the corridor, guarding the place.

After some thought, Zachary decided against going upstairs and knocked on Cynthia's door.

Two nurses came running to open the door and greeted him.

"Is she still awake?"

"Yes, Mr. Nacht. Ms. Blackwood has been waiting for you." The nurses then smiled and excused themselves from the room.

Waiting for me?

Zachary's curiosity was piqued as he walked slowly in.

Cynthia was dressed in a white lace nightgown with her hair let down in the room. After fiddling about at the incense table, a wisp of purple mist slowly appeared, emitting a fresh fragrance.

The effect of the mist accentuated Cynthia's beauty even more. She broke out into a warm smile when she saw Zachary and gestured in sign language. "Grandpa said you haven't been sleeping well. I've mixed some lavender oil for you to place in your room. It will help you sleep better."

"Oh, thank you."

Ben waited for Zachary's order before he went in to take the lavender oil and aroma lamp from Cynthia.

"Rest early." Cynthia remained still and looked tenderly at Zachary.

After saying goodnight, Zachary glanced at Cynthia and left the room.

Cynthia continued standing in her spot, watching Zachary walk away until he was completely out of sight.

Ben finally heaved a sigh of relief when they got back to Zachary's room. "Do you want to light the aroma lamp?" he asked.

"Go ahead."

For the last two years, Zachary had had nightmares every night, which took a toll on his mental health. Henry told him that Cynthia might be able to help, but he never gave it much thought. Since she had already prepared it for him tonight, he decided to give it a try.

"It looks like it's going to rain tonight," Ben remarked as he lit the aroma lamp. "I'll close the windows for you. Have a good sleep after your shower."

Zachary nodded and went into the bathroom, completely unaware that his phone was vibrating.

Ben left the room after finishing his tasks, closing the door behind him. He got two subordinates to stand guard outside Zachary's before heading to his room to retire for the night.

At that moment, Zachary finished his warm shower and stepped out of the bathroom. The lavender scent from the aroma lamp had engulfed the entire room. He had to admit that it had a very calming effect.

After a few glasses of wine, Zachary sat on the sofa to towel-dry his hair.

Just when he thought he could sit back and relax, his phone started vibrating again. It was Louis.

"Zachary, I need to talk to you. The more I thought about it, the angrier I got," Louis barked over the phone. "You're aware of my feelings toward Charlotte, so why did you do that?"

"She won't like you," Zachary advised. "It's best to give up now before you waste any more of your time."

"How do you know she won't like me?" Louis got increasingly agitated by the minute. "She caught my hint yesterday and said we could date and see where it leads us. I even made preparations to profess my love to her tonight, but you've ruined all that..."

"Oh really? That's wonderful news!" Zachary replied with a smirk.

That was the straw that broke the camel's back. "Zachary Nacht, I thought you were my best friend. But after the way you've treated me, we're no longer friends!"

Zachary was about to explain himself when a deafening clap of thunder rang out.

Soon after, he heard a blood-curdling scream over the phone.

That voice sounded so familiar that it stunned Zachary. "What was that?"

"I think that was Charlotte," Louis muttered. "I'm hanging up now. I need to check on her."

With that, the call ended.

Zachary held on to his phone with furrowed brows. That voice definitely belonged to Charlotte, but why was there so much fear and panic in it?