Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1006 - 1010

"Aren't you leaving?" Charlotte lost her patience and summoned her subordinate, "Is someone here?"

"Yes!" Two bodyguards approached her in a flash.

"Get him out of my sight now," Charlotte commanded.

"Noted." As much as the bodyguards wanted to discharge their duty, they were intimidated by Zachary's horrifying gaze. Like a mouse, they turned to Charlotte for help.

"Quit staring and get to work!" Charlotte insisted.

"Err..." The bodyguards were well aware of Zachary's identity and his relationship with Charlotte. They dared not disrespect him, yet they did not want to disobey Charlotte either.

"Rubbish." Charlotte pointed a gun at Zachary. "Get out!"

"You've got a very short fuse. Watch your tongue or you might scare the kids to wits..."

"Whoa!" Coincidentally, Ellie's cry was heard loud and clear.

Hayley had just brought Ellie back from the clinic, and they both witnessed the moment...

Hayley gasped in disbelief while the horrified Ellie started wailing on the spot.

"Ellie!" Charlotte swiftly kept the gun and rushed over to hug her daughter. "Don't be scared, Ellie. I was just fooling around with Daddy."

"Mommy, don't hurt Daddy, please..." Her whole body was shaking uncontrollably. Crying out of breath, she added, "Daddy loves us. Don't kill him."

"No, no, I won't do that." Charlotte panicked. "I was really just role-playing with him."

She turned and gave Zachary a look. "Right?"

"Yes. Don't be afraid, Ellie. Mommy was just playing with me," Zachary came forward and consoled the little girl.

"Daddy..." Ellie stretched out her arms and embraced Zachary.

He picked her up and caressed her back, comforting her gently, "Have no fear, Daddy's here."

"Don't go, Daddy..." Ellie wrapped her arms tightly around his neck. Sobbing, she shared, "I'm very scared."

"Okay, I won't go anywhere. I'll stay here with you. Now, let me take you back to your room," Zachary tried his best to coax her.

Then, he requested Charlotte to lead the way.

Reluctantly, Charlotte glared at him before walking them upstairs.

Bruce saw what happened and had an aha moment. I can see that being thick-skinned is quite effective in getting what you want.

"What happened to Ellie?" Robbie and Jamie ran out of their rooms upon hearing Ellie's cry.

Seeing their sister bawling her eyes out, they went ahead to pat her. "Don't worry, Ellie, we're here for you."

"Hmm... Your mommy wants me to leave, but Ellie misses me so much. Hence..." Zachary put on a downcast face.

"You..." Suppressing her urge to curse, Charlotte gritted her teeth.

He's such a shameless fellow.

"Mommy!" Jamie held her hands and pleaded, "Don't ask Daddy to leave, okay? I beg you."

"How about we let Daddy stay here for a couple of days until Ellie gets better?" the thoughtful Robbie suggested.

"No way, Robbie..." Before Charlotte could refute further, Ellie burst into tears again.

Immediately, Charlotte had no choice but to change her mind. "All right, all right, he can stay. Please stop crying, Ellie. You're not feeling well, so please don't cry, or else it will affect your health."

"Mommy!" Ellie threw herself into Charlotte's arms and acted coquettishly while wiping her nose on her blouse. "You won't make Daddy go away anymore, right? You won't beat him either?"

"Yes." Charlotte spat out an affirmative answer as she stared daggers at Zachary.

"Thank you!" Subsequently, Zachary rose to his feet and yelled at the door, "Bruce, bring my suitcase in!"

"Sure!" Bruce was impressed at how that shrewd man achieved his hidden agenda.

"Yeah! This is awesome!" Jamie exclaimed. "Finally, our entire family can live peacefully together. Without Ms. Cynthia and Great-grandpa, there will be no more arguments."

"That's right!" Robbie was beaming.

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After settling the children down, Charlotte pulled Zachary into her room and gave him an earful.

"Zachary, what's the matter with you? Don't you know that this place is full of my brother's spies? As much as I can try my best to tolerate you for the sake of the kids, Danrique won't! I can't even imagine the consequences if he finds out that you're here."

"Danrique will be too occupied to be bothered about me, so don't you worry," Zachary said confidently.

"What do you mean? What did you do?" Charlotte was dubious about his statement.

"Oh, you haven't heard? His illegitimate child is exposed," he gloated with a raised eyebrow. "Someone's getting busy."

"An illegitimate child?" The news came like a bolt from the blue. "Are you kidding? My brother has never had a girlfriend, let alone a child?"

"Come on, how can a normal man have no girlfriend? Unless he's gay." Zachary continued placidly, "He's just very good at hiding his dirty little secrets from you."

"How did you find out?" she asked suspiciously.

"We are rivals. Needless to say, I must know him very well." He smiled smugly. "He's been giving me a lot of headaches. I'm just returning the favor."

Charlotte paused. "What is that supposed to mean? Did you hire an impostor?"

"Of course not. I just leverage on a little situation..." He shrugged. "Anyhow, there's nothing for you to fret about. Even if he knows I'm here, let him come to me. All you have to do is to put the blame on me."

As he spoke, he scanned around Charlotte's room and slumped on the bed. "What a great place! I'll take this room..."

"Get up!" Charlotte tried to pull him up, but he managed to turn her over and pin her on the bed instead.

"What are you doing? Let go of me right now," Charlotte roared while pushing him away.

"Stay still." He clasped her hands and looked her in the eyes. "I just want to hug you."

His gaze was gentle and affectionate.

Within a split second, Charlotte almost fell for his charm. She soon recollected herself and kneed him in the groin.

"Ahh!" Zachary shouted in agony. He curled into a fetal position and muttered, "Darn it. Why did you do that?"

It was not Charlotte's first time to hit him on the same spot. The last time, it was in Seacrest Restaurant.

Unfortunately, he never learned his lesson.

"This is my house." Charlotte pushed him away angrily. "I'm Charlotte Lindberg, not Charlotte Windt who lived at the mercy of others."

"It's your loss if you handicapped me." Zachary just had to emphasize that, though he was in excruciating pain.

"There are plenty of men around. Do you think that you're my only option?" Charlotte taunted. "I just need to snap my fingers and there will be a long queue of excellent men fighting to marry me."

"I shall see who is brazen enough to do that." Suddenly, Zachary turned solemn. "I'll announce to the whole world tomorrow that you are the mother of my children."

"I doubt that there's no courageous man around who's up for the challenge." She rolled her eyes at him. "Do you think that everyone else is a coward?"

"Try me." Zachary arched his brow.

"I've had enough of your nonsense," she uttered. "Leave now while the kids are sleeping soundly."

"No way! Are you going back on your words? You promised the triplets that you'd let me stay here." Zachary sulked. "They will all cry if I'm not around by the time they get up..."

"I'll just comfort them." Charlotte cut him off. "That's how children grow and learn."

"Why are you so cruel? Why can't you just let me stay for a few days? What's the big deal?" He could not understand her decision.

"Are you leaving?" She started to get impatient. "Otherwise, I'll drag you out."

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"You..."

Knock! Knock! Knock!

The knocking on the door stopped Zachary from saying further.

Charlotte gestured him to fix his clothes while she went ahead to answer the door. "What's up?"

"There's a car parking nearby, seemingly spying on us," Lupine reported softly. "I've looked into it. It's probably one of Mr. Nacht's men."

"This is preposterous!" Livid, Charlotte cursed, "What does that damned man want?"

"Hey, watch your words." Zachary quickly explained, "I told him that I'm here to accompany the kids for a period of time. That's why he let me bring them over. I'm pretty sure that those men are sent to monitor me, to check if I lied to him. So, I'm the target, not you."

"You should leave at once and take his men along with you." Charlotte went ballistic. "Or else, I'll take action against you lot."

Zachary didn't refute her but signal Lupine to shut the door and leave, to which the latter obliged.

"Has Danrique never taught you to maintain your composure when dealing with issues?" He became serious all of a sudden. "How are you expected to handle bigger matters if you're always acting this rashly?"

"How dare you give me a lecture?" Frowning, Charlotte shot him a death stare. "I get all upset whenever I see you."

"It goes to show that I matter to you..." He smirked.

"You..."

"Don't hit the ceiling." He made a truce gesture. "Come, let's analyze the situation. You can think of it this way, if I leave now, the kids will definitely feel sad when they wake up. As a consequence, their impression of you as their mommy is going to turn bad."

He added, "Moreover, Ellie's condition is quite serious now. You do know when she cries, she goes hysterical, and it's bad for her health, don't you? Are you willing to see that happen? Just take a look at how much weight she's lost. I'm afraid something like this will be detrimental to her health."

Charlotte fell silent upon hearing that. Deep down, she could not bear any of it. She actually felt distressed whenever Ellie cried. If possible, she really hoped to take the place of Ellie's suffering.

She acknowledged that it was a bad move to drive Zachary away because the children would feel miserable without him.

It's not so bad with Robbie and Jamie as they are easily persuaded. But it's not the case with Ellie. In addition, her condition worsens when she cries...

Yet, Charlotte did not want to get entangled with Zachary. She feared the outcomes if Danrique found out about it.

"Besides, Grandpa's men are still lurking around, monitoring us. If I were to leave at this moment, I would be caught red-handed. Then, he will surely send more people to come and snatch the kids away.."

"How dare he?" Charlotte was up in arms.

"Okay... Okay..." Zachary attempted to cool her down. "I know you're a strong woman, and I know you're not afraid of him. However, just think it over from a different angle. Who's at a disadvantage if this tussle prolongs? Who gets hurt? It's the kids, don't you think?"

As if that was not enough, he illustrated further. "Do you remember Timothy, Hector's son? He witnessed how his father and stepmother hurt his mom. Did

you know how traumatized he was? A three-year-old toddle ended up slashing someone with a knife. Have you forgotten?"

As the past memories flooded her mind, Charlotte began to recall some scenes vividly...

At the wedding, she saw how Timothy dashed to the stage and stabbed Helena with a knife. That incident really impacted her tremendously. At that time, she even vowed not to let her child turn out the same way...

"Both our families have been rivals for ages; as a result, the children are the real victims here. Each time we fight, it creates an adverse psychological effect on the children. Last time, Robbie and Jamie saw you aiming a gun at me. Today, Ellie saw the same with her own eyes. It's going to stick with them like childhood trauma."

Zachary was resolute. "Just do it for the sake of the kids. Even if you're putting up a show, do it for a month. Let's create a welcoming and loving environment for them, shall we? Take it as a trial period for them to adapt and adjust themselves. We'll talk about everything else once Ellie gets better. All right?"

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Charlotte's stance was a little shaken. Anyhow, she brought up another critical point, "You're in big trouble if Danrique knows about this..."

"What can he do to me? End my life?" Zachary disagreed, "He barely has any free time to worry about me, given the current mess he's in. Even if he knows I'm here, he'll only lash out on you at most, and then request that you kick me out of the house."

After mulling over, Charlotte thought that what he said made sense. The Lindbergs and the Nachts have always been at war with each other. If anything bad happens to either of the head of the house, the police will surely investigate the other family. When that happens, the other party will probably be the biggest suspect, and none of these can be resolved easily...

After all, this group of rich and famous are so used to standing at the top of the food chain. They disregard any form of secret attacks but prefer to beat their rivals in business. Therefore, their battleground is in the trading realm. No one will really strike the other with a weapon openly.

"That's it. This matter is finalized." Seeing that Charlotte had been convinced, Zachary strode toward the bathroom. "I'm going to take a shower. Bruce will help to bring my suitcase up in a bit."

"Hey!" She grabbed his collar and yanked him back. "This is my room. Yours is the guest room."

"Your room is huge. It's such a waste to sleep here alone. Let me keep you company," Zachary proposed shamelessly. "It's the rainy season now. You'll be scared to your wits when the thunder roars..."

Before he could finish, she kicked him out of the room and shut the door with a loud thud.

Her action left Zachary speechless.

"Mr. Nacht, your suitcase is here," Bruce announced.

Instantly, Zachary turned and spoke in an icy tone, "Place it in the guest room."

"Noted." Bruce noticed his mood was off, but he did not dare to ask his boss any question.

"This way, please." Upon learning that Charlotte did not drive Zachary away, Lupine knew that she had acquiesced to his decision of staying. Hence, she led him to the guest room above Charlotte's floor. "Mr. Nacht, you and your subordinates can occupy these rooms."

"Why am I not placed on the second floor?" displeased, Zachary questioned.

Lupine explained, "Second floor is reserved for Mr. Lindberg, Ms. Lindberg, and the three children. The study room and other facilities are also located on the second floor. Morgan and I are on the third floor, the same floor as the guest rooms. Ms. Lindberg's room is just right below yours."

"Fine, let it be then."

Zachary headed toward the French windows to check on the situation outside. Staying right above Charlotte could be a good thing too. It helps to create opportunities for me to get near her.

"The rest of you can stay next door." Lupine informed Bruce politely, "Ms. Lindberg advised against bringing too many people over."

"I'll stay back with two other subordinates and arrange for the rest to leave." Bruce was very cooperative.

"Great." Lupine nodded. "Feel free to let me know if you need anything."

"Sure, thanks."

After Lupine left, Bruce helped Zachary to hang his clothes up.

Meanwhile, Zachary opened the glass door to access the balcony. He took a peek downstairs and noticed that Charlotte's room was still brightly lit. Her curtains were fluttering, indicating that her sliding doors were open...

She still holds the same habits, sleeping with the windows open. She prefers the natural breeze to air-conditioning. I guess she won't notice if I slink out and sneak into hers...

No, I should stop!

Zachary dismissed his random thoughts and reminded himself not to upset Charlotte anymore. Now that she has allowed me to stay, I'd better walk on eggshells.

Bearing these thoughts in mind, he shut the windows and went to the bathroom.

Charlotte was sipping wine on her sofa. She had been staring at the balcony for half an hour. Upon realizing that it was all peaceful and quiet, she knew that Zachary was being prudent with his actions.

Very good, he's being sensible.

"Ms. Lindberg, the car has left," Lupine reported.

"Okay," Charlotte replied nonchalantly. "Looks like Mr. Nacht is convinced now."

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"I thought Mr. Nacht has repented his mistakes after what happened to Cynthia. However, he still sent some men to keep an eye on us," Lupine said disgruntledly.

"He won't repent easily..." Charlotte snickered and said, "I understand that he wants the give the best to the children. However, if he stops me from going after Zara, I'll not hold back anymore!"

"We're still searching for Zara. Humph! She's really good at hiding. On the other hand, Sharon is being kept at Southridge ever since she was captured. Do you think we should get her, given that the Nacht family is in trouble now?" said Lupine.

"It's fine," Charlotte replied without hesitation, "Sharon is just a nobody, and we don't have to waste our time on her. For now, let's focus on searching for Zara!"

There was another reason Charlotte let Sharon off the hook for now—she didn't want to have a row with Zachary because Ellie was undergoing treatment. As such, she would settle a score with Zachary after Ellie recovered.

"Understood. I'll send more man to search for Zara," Lupine said politely, "I've assigned enough men at the hospital. Anyway, it's time for me to take over the shift."

"Okay." Then, Charlotte nodded in response and stood up to go with Lupine. "I want to visit Morgan."

"It's rather late now. Why don't you get some rest?" Lupine said, "Dr. Felch has checked up on Morgan and prescribed some medicine for her too. I believe she'll recover soon."

"I'll feel relieved only after visiting her." Charlotte felt guilty whenever she recalled that Morgan was shot because she wanted to save Charlotte. "After Mrs. Berry died because of me, I don't want anyone to get hurt for me anymore!"

Many people from the upper class didn't value their subordinates and maids at all. Hence, Lupine felt touched because Charlotte treated them as her family.

Later, Charlotte went to Morgan's room. When Charlotte wanted to open the door, she heard Morgan speaking in a soft voice over the phone.

Since Charlotte knew that Morgan was calling Marino, she withdrew her hand from the doorknob and murmured to herself, "Well, I shouldn't disturb her."

"She must be drenched in love now," Lupine added teasingly.

"It's not a bad thing, isn't it?" Charlotte smiled and continued, "You guys should live your own life instead of sticking around me."

After returning to her room, Charlotte took a shower and blow-dried her hair.

When Charlotte lay on the bed to get some rest, she realized that it was silent upstairs. Deep down, she felt surprised that Zachary didn't make any noise.

Charlotte was probably exhausted, for she fell asleep soon with a pillow in her arms.

Meanwhile, Zachary, who was upstairs, couldn't fall asleep. Although I'm closer to her now, I can't be right next to her. I wonder what she's doing now?

Zachary walked to the balcony and secretly looked downstairs.

He was surprised to find out that the lights were off. At that time, only some faint light passed through the curtains.

How could the heartless woman fall asleep?

Zachary cursed in his heart and returned to his room to get some sleep.

••••

At the Garden Villa, Henry didn't go to bed, for he had to wait for the news from Northridge.

Although his subordinate, Cain, had reported the situation to him over the phone, Henry couldn't put his mind at ease and wanted to hear it from him in person.

Cain rushed back to the Garden Villa and reported, "Mr. Zachary stays in Northridge, along with Bruce and a subordinate. They've parked a car in the courtyard while the rest have left."

"Are you sure they stay there and not putting up an act?" Henry seemed a bit unconvinced.

"I'm sure," Cain said with certainty, "Bruce also carried two large suitcases for Mr. Zachary."

"In that case, it's confirmed." Spencer was delighted.

"But it's weird," Henry said worriedly, "even if Charlotte let the cheeky rascal stay for the sake of their children, Danrique wouldn't agree to it. Since Danrique is so overbearing, I can hardly believe he will allow Charlotte to do so."