

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1071

Charlotte did not ask any question further as she lowered her head and pondered.

By the time she reached home, Ellie was having lunch at the dining table. The latter ran toward Charlotte when she saw her back. "Mommy, why are you back so early?"

"I can't carry on my errand, for now, so I came back early." Charlotte caressed Ellie's forehead. "Good. It seems like you don't have fever anymore."

"Yeah, Dr. Felch said I've recovered," Ellie responded right away. "I have had no fever for the whole day."

"Good to hear that." Charlotte carried Ellie back to the dining table.

Dr. Felch smiled at Charlotte. "Ellie's condition is stable now. Just be careful for two more days."

"Thanks, Dr. Felch." Charlotte placed Ellie on her chair. "Ellie, be good and eat your food."

"Mommy, so tonight, can I go over to Daddy's?" Ellie cast a glance at her, full of anticipation.

"Sure." Charlotte did not want to back on her promise. "But you'll have to go over a bit later. Daddy's usually busy around dinner time. After he's free, I'll arrange for a driver to send you there, okay?"

"Okay." Ellie nodded obediently.

"Good girl. Then eat your lunch now and take a nap later. After you wake up, do your rehab. You may watch cartoons for a while after that. Then it'll be about time."

“All right.”

After settling down Ellie, Charlotte greeted Dr. Felch and headed to the study room.

She wanted to sort out the documents for the South Sea project, as she planned to bring them over tonight.

Since everyone would be at the funeral, she planned to get their signatures there. Then, she could put the whole matter to an end.

Lupine was there to help her out, and both of them knuckled off until around four in the afternoon.

Just then, Lupine’s alarm sounded, and she reminded Charlotte. “Ms. Lindberg. It’s time to get changed. We should go.”

“Okay.” Charlotte nodded and stood up after settling the last piece of documents. “Bring all the documents with you.”

“Got it.” Lupine got right into it.

Charlotte came to Ellie’s room to check on her the next moment. The latter was still napping while Olivia was reading books beside her.

Upon seeing Charlotte, Olivia immediately stood up. “Charlotte, is there anything?”

“I’m heading out now.” Charlotte took a glance at the clock. “I’ll send someone to pick you and Ellie up around eight.”

“Okay. I got it.” Olivia nodded slightly upon hearing that.

“It’s windy tonight, probably going to rain. Please make sure Ellie puts on more clothes. You should wear a jacket too.” Charlotte patted Olivia’s shoulder.

“Got it.” Olivia let out a smile. “Please focus on your work. Don’t worry and leave the rest to me.”

“Okay.” Charlotte nodded faintly. Before she turned to leave, she suddenly recalled something. “Did you make up your mind already?”

Are you sure you're going to follow me to Erihal? I won't be coming back here once I leave this time."

"I've thought it through." Olivia sounded utterly firm. "I have no ties here, and I've got no purpose in life. I should go with you."

"How about Peter? Isn't he your ties?" Charlotte asked in a low voice.

Olivia's expression changed instantly upon hearing that. "Why do you mention him out of nowhere?"

"I know that you have feelings for him." Charlotte had realized that a long time ago. "It's such a pity that he's a playboy, and he can't give you happiness. But there's no right or wrong in a relationship. If you like him, you should give it a shot."

"It's impossible between us." Olivia lowered her head. "All I wish for now is to leave this place with you and have a fresh start."

"All right then." Charlotte did not further advise her upon hearing her response. "After we get to Erihal, let's make a new plan for your future. Whether you want to further your study, or you want to find a boyfriend, I'll arrange for you."

"Thanks, Charlotte!" Olivia could not suppress her gratitude enough. "You're so kind to me!"

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"Silly girl! You're family. You don't have to thank me!"

Charlotte patted Olivia's shoulder, and then she turned and left.

Staring at Charlotte's disappearing back figure, Olivia displayed a complicated expression.

When Charlotte touched the doorknob and was about to leave, Olivia suddenly shouted, "Charlotte!"

“Yes?” Charlotte turned around with a confused look. “What’s up?”

“It’s windy out there. Remember to put on an extra piece of clothes,” Olivia reminded with a soft voice.

“I got it,” Charlotte responded with a smile and left after that.

Staring at the closed door, Olivia lowered her head despondently.

At that moment, she fell deep in sorrow. As she glanced toward Ellie, who was still in bed, her gaze turned utterly complicated.

Getting back to her room, Charlotte put on slight makeup and got changed into a black dress. Then, she headed out with her subordinates.

Before leaving, she instructed the subordinates at home to keep an eye on everyone’s safety.

All the subordinates nodded with utter obedience.

After getting into the car, Morgan asked suddenly, “Why don’t we bring Ms. Elisa with us now?”

“Of course not! If we bring her along now, how are we supposed to settle our business?” Lupine rolled her eyes toward Morgan. “Mr. Lindberg’s men are waiting at the foot of the mountain, and they are probably going to create a fuss. It will be troublesome if Ms. Elisa tags along.”

“I see. You’re right.” Morgan came to the realization. “But if things get out of hand, it would be inappropriate to send Ms. Elisa to his place later, though. How about we just keep her at home?”

“That’s unlikely.” Lupine analyzed rationally. “I guess Mr. Lindberg merely wants to display the influence and the power of Lindberg Corporation. And he wants the person in charge of the South Sea project to sign the documents.”

"I suppose so." Charlotte nodded slightly. "No matter how Danrique dislike the Nacht family, he won't create trouble at a funeral!"

"Good to hear that." Morgan let out a sigh of relief while she started the car and drove off.

By then, around eight cars had been waiting under the mountain. All of them were wearing black. They even switched from their usual silver cars to black cars.

Charlotte furrowed her brows upon seeing such a large group of people. "It seems like Danrique wants to intimidate the Nacht family!"

"What should we do?" Lupine asked in a low voice.

"What else? We stick to our plan."

Charlotte got out of the car and greeted Danrique's men. Then, they followed the convoy and headed toward Garden Villa of the Nacht residence.

Morgan expressed her confusion on the road. "Lupine, what does it mean by, to intimidate the Nacht family?"

"After what happened to the South Sea project, and since we're going to retreat from H City, people might think we're afraid of the Nacht family," Lupine explained.

"I got it." Morgan started to comprehend the situation. "So Mr. Lindberg's gesture is to tell the world that the Lindberg family is not afraid of the Nacht family. We merely don't want to play the game anymore."

"Finally you understand it." Lupine let out a smile.

"You should learn more from Lupine. If not, based on your level of intelligence, you might suffer sooner or later," Charlotte reminded sternly.

"Got it." Morgan bit her lips, not daring to voice out her questions again.

Lupine was gloating within upon hearing that. Just when she was about to talk about the documents with Charlotte, her phone rang suddenly. "Hello!"

Lupine's expression darkened as she listened to the phone. A moment later, she uttered anxiously, "Ms. Lindberg, I've just got the news that Sharon escaped from prison!"

"What?" Charlotte's heart fell with a thud. "Isn't she being locked up? How could she possibly escape?"

"Since the hearing has not yet started, she has been kept in the detention center. Today she suddenly became ill and got sent to the hospital. She grabbed the opportunity and escaped from the hospital," Lupine explained.

"Stop the car in front," Charlotte commanded abruptly. "Send your men to search Sharon!"

"Yes!"

With that, Morgan stopped the car by the road. Then, Lupine got into another vehicle with her subordinates and headed off to look for Sharon.

Lupine was well aware of how important Sharon was to Charlotte. After all, Sharon was the person who humiliated her and murdered Mrs. Berry in cold blood.

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Staring at the dark sky outside, Charlotte got overwhelmed with uneasiness. She felt as though something terrible would always happen on a rainy day.

She feared the whole thing might fail in the end.

"Ms. Lindberg, you don't have to worry." Meanwhile, Morgan was not bothered at all. "Taylor is already arrested, while Cynthia and Zara are dead. Sharon won't be able to make waves by herself."

"I bet you're right." Charlotte nodded in agreement. Sharon is the only one left in the Blackwood family. I doubt if she would be able to make a difference.

However, Charlotte still could not help but worry as she deliberately made a call to Olivia. "Olivia, please be extra careful when you leave the house later. Please wait for my men to pick you up. Don't leave alone, understand?"

"Understood. Don't worry." Olivia hesitated before she spoke again, "Did something happen?"

"Nothing..." Charlotte did not want to startle her. "Make sure you keep Ellie company. I'll call you again later."

"Okay."

Hanging up the phone, Charlotte looked out of the car again. By then, they had entered the path inside the Garden Villa. Soon, they would be arriving at the Nacht residence.

Sharon should be alone now. After she has escaped, the only place she can go is the airport. Even though the Synder Group is gone now, she should be able to get her hand on some money. I bet she will try to buy a fake passport and a flight ticket to leave H City. Nonetheless, how did she manage to escape by herself?

Charlotte could not wrap her head around it.

"Ms. Lindberg, we're there!" Just then, Morgan reminded her.

Only then did Charlotte come back to her senses and realize the car had stopped moving. The next moment, two bodyguards opened the car door from outside.

Charlotte put on her sunglasses and walked out of the car. She entered the place triumphantly, with eighteen subordinates following her.

All the journalists who had been waiting outside immediately surrounded them. The bodyguards of the Nacht residence swiftly

went to control the scene as those journalists almost messed up the barricades.

Bruce appeared abruptly and greeted them with a troubled look. "Ms. Lindberg, why are you here?"

"To pay my last respect to Mr. Henry."

Charlotte made a gesture, and Danrique's men immediately brought forward the wreaths and the condolences stand.

A long eulogy was written on the wreath, signed by Danrique and Charlotte.

Those journalists acted as though they had discovered a new piece of news. They rushed one after another to capture the big moment.

Bruce whispered into his subordinate's ear as he blocked Charlotte's way. "I'm sorry, Ms. Lindberg. But I'll have to get Mr. Zachary's permission before I can let you in."

"Are you trying to feed more news to the journalists?" Charlotte's lips curled into a smile. "I don't mind it."

Meanwhile, all the journalists were still taking photos endlessly while casting questions toward Charlotte.

"Ms. Lindberg, are you here to attend Mr. Nacht's funeral?"

"Ms. Lindberg, there's a rumor that says that Mr. Nacht's death is related to you. Can you confirm that?"

"Ms. Lindberg, there's a rumor saying that Mr. Zachary's children are yours. Is that true?"

"Ms. Lindberg..."

Upon seeing that scene, Bruce immediately commanded his subordinates to chase those journalists away.

Some of the guests had come out to watch the bustle. They were shocked upon seeing the vast line-up that Charlotte brought, and they immediately headed inside to inform Zachary.

The sky had begun to rain, and Charlotte, who was standing in the rain, started to lose her patience.

When she was about to lose her calm, Marino rushed out and told Bruce. "Bruce, Mr. Zachary asked you to let Ms. Lindberg in."

"Did you inform him clearly that Ms. Lindberg had brought many men?" Bruce reminded in a low voice. "Do we let them all in?"

"He's seen it already," Marino replied softly. "He says the Lindberg family is our honorable guest, and we should treat them respectfully."

With that, Bruce had no choice but to welcome Charlotte. "Ms. Lindberg, please enter!"

As such, Charlotte marched into the hallway along with all her subordinates.

Morgan followed closely behind as she cut a glare at Marino.

Marino's heart skipped a beat as he led the way quietly.

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The hall seemed utterly solemn, decorated in black and white tones, while a sentimental atmosphere permeated all corners.

The guests came forward to pay their respect one after another and then took their seats.

Apart from the deep mourning music and the emcee's voice, greetings from the guests and thanks from the family members echoed through the hall.

But when Charlotte walked in with her large group of men, everyone at the spot was struck dumb.

The crowd was stunned momentarily as they shifted their gaze toward Zachary, wondering what his response would be.

However, Zachary merely glanced at Charlotte casually and then continued to greet the other guests.

Meanwhile, Robbie and Jamie were in all black at the family seats, greeting the guests who came to pay their respects.

When they saw Charlotte entering, Jamie was about to call her Mommy. But Robbie immediately stopped him and shook his head.

Zachary did not say anything in front of the kids, but Robbie knew the importance of keeping the secret, especially with the current unstable situation in the Nacht family.

Zachary already had a hard time trying to ease the current crisis. If those people were to find out Charlotte was the kids' mother, the escalation would be beyond imagination.

After all, the Lindberg Corporation was the biggest enemy of the Nacht Group.

Not to mention, all the crises that the Nacht Group was facing now were caused by the Lindberg Corporation.

If Zachary's personal relationship were to get exposed, surely Zachary would lose the trust of the shareholders and those investors.

Charlotte cast a deep glance toward the kids, signaling them to remain composed. Then, she stepped to the front and bowed at Henry.

Henry's picture still displayed his usual domineering aura, and Charlotte could feel as though the former was watching her.

Right then, Charlotte pretended to express her condolences. "Mr. Henry was as fit as a fiddle. How could he pass on just like that? What a shame."

"He's lived an abundant life," Zachary responded courteously. "Thank you, Ms. Lindberg!"

"You're welcome."

Charlotte let out a faint smile and brought her men to the seats.

The initial stern atmosphere became even tenser with Charlotte's arrival as the entire crowd shifted their attention upon her.

Many started gossiping secretly about her purpose for coming here.

Charlotte took a sip of tea calmly, not bothered by those glances from others.

The eighteen bodyguards standing behind her deterred anyone from sitting at the same table with her.

A few guests already at the same table were thinking about changing their seats. But they sat right back in after being stared sharply by those bodyguards.

They ended up feeling like sitting on pins and needles.

"Please sit over there. I've made the arrangements." Just then, Zachary approached the table and spoke.

The few guests felt relieved and they immediately left the table.

"All of you are Mr. Lindberg's good men. Please don't just stand there," Zachary offered a polite invitation to those bodyguards. "Have a seat!"

All the bodyguards were baffled by Zachary's gesture. They had always heard that he was a heartless man, but he turned out to be the total opposite.

Naturally, they would not dare to sit, and they turned to look at Charlotte.

“Since Mr. Nacht has offered, what’re you guys waiting for? Plus, do you want to scare the others by standing up for the whole night?”

With that, Charlotte made a gesture and split those men into two tables.

Only then did the atmosphere in the hall start to ease, and the other guests began resorting to their normal self.

“The person in charge of the South Sea project is over there.” Just then, Zachary pointed at the table behind them. “If you want to sign the documents, you can bring them over there directly.”

“Thanks.” Charlotte cast a glance at Morgan.

Morgan responsively grabbed the documents and stood up from her seat. Before she even got close to the table behind, a few people in charge had already stood up. Without hesitation, they all signed on the documents, worrying Charlotte might create a fuss at the funeral.

“Now everybody will know that the Lindberg Corporation is not afraid of the Nacht Group. They will also know that you withdrew from H City merely because you didn’t want to play the game anymore, and not because of me. Will that be enough for you?”

Judging from how Charlotte entered in such high profile, the wise Zachary had seen through her intention.

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“I didn’t come here to create troubles.” Charlotte shrugged her shoulders. “I truly came to pay my respect to Mr. Henry. Shouldn’t you be thanking me?”

“Thanks so much!” Zachary displayed a genuine look. “Would that be enough?”

“Are you trying to chase me out?” Charlotte’s lips curled into a smile as she leaned toward him. “Sharon has escaped. Did you know that?”

“Yes,” Zachary replied in a low voice. “The cops are looking into it right now.”

“You knew she’s my biggest enemy. Why do you keep protecting her? Now that she has escaped. Are you happy now?”

Rage boiled within Charlotte as this came into her thoughts.

“Let’s talk about this later.”

Zachary responded briefly while standing up, getting ready to leave.

“What are you afraid of?”

Just then, Charlotte suddenly raised her tone and attracted the crowd’s attention. In an instant, many shifted their gaze upon Zachary.

Zachary was rendered speechless by that. This b*tch. She likes to create a fuss in public.

Zachary would not have dropped this so quickly if it were not for Henry’s funeral. But right now, he was not in the mood to start a fight with her.

Hence, he turned to Charlotte. “Let’s talk outside.”

With that, Charlotte followed him to the back of the hall.

Morgan wanted to follow too but was stopped by Charlotte.

Both of them went to the lounge at the back while Ben closed the door for them.

Zachary poured Charlotte a cup of tea and started explaining, "The cops have sent out their troops to arrest Sharon. And I've also sent my men to track her..."

"Don't," Charlotte interrupted him abruptly. "It's better that you stay out of this. I've sent my men. I won't let her escape this time."

"We're not in Erihal." Zachary furrowed his brows as he reminded, "Everything goes by the law here!"

"Thanks for reminding me." Charlotte let out a smile. "But, I can take her to Erihal and kill her over there!"

"You..." For an instance, Zachary did not know how to react.

"Why?" Charlotte observed his expression closely. "Do you have any deal with her?"

Pondering for a while, Zachary eventually confessed, "Back then, she promised to become the witness to accuse Zara under one condition. That's for me to ensure her safety!"

"I didn't expect she has a brain after all." Charlotte bit her lips while smiling. "She knew I would go after her life. That's why she brought up this term with you."

"Yes." Zachary furrowed his brows. "I've no intention to protect her whatsoever. Instead, I've been trying to control her from the beginning and put her to justice..."

"Cut all your noble excuses." Charlotte was not buying into what he said. "She murdered Mrs. Berry. She deserves to die!"

"She committed the crime in T Nation and managed to find a loophole in the law," Zachary uttered in a low voice. "But with all her other crimes back in the country, she'll get sentenced not less than ten years."

"Do you seriously think that amount of years is enough to pay for Mrs. Berry's life?" Charlotte was beyond exasperated.

"I understand your feelings." Zachary chimed.

“That’s why I said I’m going to bring her back to Erihal and settle the scores here.”

Charlotte was not interested in continuing the conversation as she dropped her final warning.

“I don’t care what you’ve promised her. I’m going to find her now, and you’d better not stand in the way. Or else don’t blame me for the consequences!”

Upon saying that, Charlotte stood up and left.

Zachary furrowed his brows as he stared at her back figure. There’s nothing I could do to stop her now. Or maybe I should not stop her at all.

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“Mr. Nacht,” said Ben as he knocked and entered the room to report, “Ms. Lindberg is gone.”

“Is Ellie here?”

Zachary received a call from Ellie that day. She claimed that her mother would drop her off that day because she wanted to pay her respect to her great-grandpa.

“No,” replied Ben while shaking his head, “Morgan called earlier and said that they will be here at around eight o’clock. I’m guessing they’re trying to avoid something.”

“Okay,” murmured Zachary before he nodded and instructed, “Tell Cain and the others to be careful when they find Sharon. Don’t act impulsively. Instead, call me right away.”

“Maybe we should just ignore the matter entirely?” suggested Ben carefully, “Ms. Lindberg is especially sensitive about the

matter, and it will be troublesome in the future if Sharon ended up making things even worse between you and Ms. Lindberg.”

“Even so, we must keep an eye on the matter. If Charlotte and the police found Sharon at the same time, they might get into a fight,” replied Zachary while frowning.

“That’s true. Ms. Lindberg has a terrible temper. If Sharon taunts her, she might just shoot and kill the woman on the spot. If the police saw that, they will have something over her,” said Ben while nodding.

“That is what I am most worried about. She has already decided to leave H City, so I can’t afford to let anything bad happen at a crucial time like this,” said Zachary while looking grim.

“Understood. I will make the call right away.”

“Wait,” said Zachary, who was still too worried. He instructed, “Cain might not be able to do everything on his own. Have Bruce take Marino to join forces with Cain.”

“Understood. I’ll relay the message right away,” replied Ben before he hurried out of there.

Just then, Robbie and Jamie entered with lentil soup. They said, “Daddy, you haven’t eaten anything all day. Here, have some soup.”

“Thank you,” replied Zachary as he stroked his sons’ cheeks. He was touched by their gesture. He asked, “Did you get to see your mommy?”

“Yeah,” answered Jamie happily, “Before she left, she secretly gave us both a hug at the back entrance. She even said that she will drop Ellie off tonight. Is that true?”

“Yeah,” informed Zachary as he grinned at Jamie, “Mommy’s employees will drop Ellie off tonight. She wants to pay her respects and see great-grandpa one last time.”

“Great,” said Jamie who was delighted, “Does that mean she is no longer sick?”

“Yeah, she has recovered. Your mommy won’t drop her off otherwise.”

Zachary sipped some tea. He had been so busy lately that he didn’t have any appetite in the last few days. Seeing how his kids delivered the soup in person got Zachary to cheer up a little.

“I’m glad,” replied Jamie before he sighed a breath of relief.

“Daddy, did you get into a fight with Mommy again?” asked Robbie as he frowned and stared strangely at Zachary.

“No, we were just having a discussion, so don’t worry,” said Zachary as he stroked Robbie’s tiny head.

“Okay, then eat up and rest up. We’ll head out for now,” said Robbie after he nodded.

Then, he dragged Jamie away.

Zachary was about to chow down the food when his phone rang. The call was from Charlotte, and that surprised him, so he quickly picked up the call. “Hello?” greeted Zachary.

“Did you send someone to come pick Ellie up?” asked Charlotte nervously.

“Huh? No, I didn’t. What’s going on?” asked Zachary, who was stunned.

“So it really isn’t you?” blurted Charlotte. She instantly panicked and shared, “Then who came to pick Ellie up? My people said that it was the Nacht family’s car...”

As Charlotte spoke, she recalled something and immediately instructed her subordinate, “Find out where Peter Jones is right now!”

“Understood.”

“Charlotte? What’s going on? What happened to Ellie?” demanded Zachary nervously.

“Someone took Ellie and Olivia away. If you weren’t the one who did that, then it is possible that Zara’s men did so. Either that, or Sharon is behind this...”

“Where did they take them from? Was it your place?”

“Yes.”

“I will send my men and investigate the matter now. We’ll share information with each other in real-time. I am blacklisted at the moment, so remove my name from the list for now. That way, my men can investigate much efficiently.”

“Okay.”

When matters involved their kids, the two adults became in sync right away and were working together to locate their daughter.

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Zachary got his men over immediately after he hung up, “Ben, Ben!”

“I’m here,” replied Ben as he rushed over and asked, “What’s wrong, Mr. Nacht?”

“Someone from the Nacht family seemed to have taken Ellie away,” answered Zachary before he ordered hurriedly, “Investigate the matter right away. Look into whether Zara had any allies who had recently entered the city. Also, have our men investigate Peter!”

“Understood,” replied Ben, whose expression took a drastic change after he heard what had happened. He was quick to carry his tasks out.

Zachary went to look for Spencer and asked the latter to manage the funeral before he told Raina to keep an eye on both Robbie and Jamie. He left with his men immediately after.

Spencer didn't know what had happened, but he knew that things must be grave. That was why he pulled himself back together and went to the hall to greet and chat with everyone.

Robbie and Jamie waited for a long time, but Ellie never showed up, so they went to ask their dad about it. That was when they learned that he had gone to work.

Jamie frowned and complained, "Why is Daddy working at a time like this?"

Robbie, however, was quietly examining everything. He noticed how Spencer, who had been ill and therefore been resting in the room, had suddenly shown up to deal with the guests. Bruce, Ben, and Marino were gone as well, and Raina was the only babysitter there. She seems on edge and is keeping a close eye on us...

All those hints told the boy that something bad had happened.

He walked to a corner and used his smartwatch to call Ellie, but no one picked up.

That prompted him to call Olivia instead. No one answered either.

Robbie's expression turned grim. He wanted to call his Mommy, but he decided against it just before he made the call.

Mommy and Daddy are probably busy dealing with this, so it's best if I don't distract them.

"Robbie, what's wrong?" asked Jamie nervously, "You look off. Did something happen?"

"It's fine," cooed Robbie, "Mommy and Daddy are busy, and that's probably why Ellie is late."

"I'm scared. I have a bad feeling... Like something bad is about to happen," replied Jamie, who sounded like he wanted to cry.

"It's fine. Come on. You're a man, so you gotta be brave. We are supposed to protect Ellie together," said Robbie as he tapped on Jamie's shoulder.

"You're right," replied Jamie. He took a deep breath and held his head up to steel himself.

"Come on. We should head over. Daddy's busy, so we should help him tend to the guests."

"Okay."

The boys were obedient and politely thanked the guests, and Spencer was glad. The Nacht family has been in turmoil lately, but one thing's for sure. They are truly blessed to have triplets like them...

The triplets...

Spencer suddenly trembled. He turned to Raina and asked, "Where's Ellie? Didn't they say that she will be here tonight for Mr. Henry's funeral?"

"M-Maybe they're running a little late. Ellie has always been physically weak, and her illness acted up once more. Ms. Lindberg is probably tending to her now," lied Raina. She shifted her eyes and a strange glow was in them.

"So, you will not tell me the truth, huh? Then I will have no choice but to call Mr. Zachary," threatened Spencer, who could immediately tell that Raina was lying.

As he spoke, he got his phone out to make the call.

"Mr. Spencer," halted Raina hurriedly. She shot a look at Robbie and Jamie, who were standing just a short distance away, and lowered her voice before confessing, "Ellie is missing. Mr. Zachary and Ms. Lindberg are looking for her now. I didn't tell you earlier because I didn't want you to worry."

“How did that happen?” blurted Spencer in a horrified tone.

“All I know is that Ellie and one of Ms. Lindberg’s friends, a lady by the name of Olivia, were taken away. The driver used one of the Nacht family’s cars, so it looked like they were working for the Nacht family. I don’t know anything else.”

“How did this happen?” complained Spencer angrily and anxiously, “Why didn’t the bodyguards from the Lindberg family call to verify everything? How could they let others take Ellie away just like that?”

“I suspect that Olivia is the problem,” guessed Raina while frowning, “Ms. Lindberg treats her like a close friend, and the people working for the Lindberg family saw her as one of their bosses. The bodyguards definitely won’t stop them from leaving if Olivia claimed that she had verified everything with Ms. Lindberg.”

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“Ellie is already sick. Things will be really bad if anything else were to exacerbate her illness,” murmured Spencer, who was worried sick.

“Ms. Lindberg is going all out to look for the kid, and Mr. Nacht is leading his team to investigate the matter as well. I’m sure everything will be fine,” said Raina to offer some comfort. After that, she suggested, “But perhaps you can help by thinking back. Does Ms. Zara have any allies that had slipped through the system and fled?”

“I don’t think so,” replied Spencer as he frowned deeply, “Ms. Zara’s men were all unreliable, and she had always been too proud to mingle with others. I think Shirley was the only one who was ever close to Ms. Zara.”

“Shirley died some time ago,” reminded Raina.

"I know, but I simply can't come up with anyone else," said Spencer as he murmured, "A powerful figure who is on Ms. Zara's side... Unless..."

Spencer suddenly thought of someone. That got him to stiffen instantly. "N-No. That shouldn't be possible," muttered Spencer.

"Who are you talking about?"

"I'm sure Mr. Zachary has already thought of the person I am thinking about..."

"Are you talking about Mr. Broid?"

In the car, Ben was flabbergasted after hearing Zachary's analysis. The former pointed out, "No way! He has always been a playboy and has never been interested in power or money. Why would he kidnap Ellie?"

"I pray that it isn't him either," replied Zachary while frowning deeply and looking grim, "We're close friends, after all. My fight against Aunt Zara had been intense, but it never affected him. I just hope that he isn't blinded by his emotions and did something stupid."

"That's true. Mr. Broid and you are close friends," commented Ben sadly, "If Zara isn't that stubborn, the two of you would still be great pals."

"Your hypothesis truly made sense, though. Zara never had anybody close to her, and the allies she had were basically useless."

"He is the only one who is powerful enough to fake being a part of the Nacht family's convoy and take Ellie away. "Still... Mr. Broid doesn't seem like he is the kind of person who would scheme like that. I feel like he couldn't have done this."

"For now, let's see if Chris had entered the city lately," instructed Zachary.

“Understood,” replied Ben before he made the call to investigate the matter. It didn’t take him long before he replied, “The airport had confirmed that Mr. Broid never entered the city.”

“Maybe I am overthinking it, and this has nothing to do with Chris,” muttered Zachary as the burden in his heart lightened a little, “Maybe the culprit never used our cars. Maybe the Lindberg family’s bodyguards messed up...

“Call Bruce again and find out if he has located Sharon.”

“He just reported in and said that he and his men are checking the airport. For now, he found nothing out of the ordinary. Do you think that the two matters are related?” asked Ben.

“The Blackwood family had fallen, so how could Sharon have fled prison on her own? Someone must’ve helped her,” deduced Zachary, “And the timing is too convenient. She just escaped prison, and the next thing we know, Olivia and Ellie are kidnapped.”

“Speaking of, do you think that there is something off with Olivia?” asked Ben carefully as he tested the water, “The Lindberg family’s bodyguards are all highly trained, so they would not have let the kid go if Olivia didn’t give them the thumbs up.”

“Yes, and that is why I asked you to investigate Peter,” replied Zachary before he asked, “Did you receive any news?”

“Let me follow up,” informed Ben before he called his subordinate. The answer Ben received prompted him to report to Zachary immediately. The former said, “Turns out, Peter has been missing for quite some time now, but we don’t know why or how. All we know is that he went to look for Olivia just before he disappeared.”

“He was probably kidnapped when he went to look for Olivia. Someone is threatening his life and forcing Olivia to get close to Charlotte. They were biding their time and were waiting for the opportunity to strike,” guessed Zachary.

“But... why would she kidnap Ellie?” asked Ben in confusion.

“They probably want to hold her hostage,” replied Zachary, “We won’t dare to hurt a hair of their head if they have Ellie with them.”

“Then Sharon must’ve been the one who ordered Olivia to kidnap Ellie,” blurted Ben as realization hit him, “And they did that because a mastermind is helping Sharon out from behind the scenes.”

“Exactly,” said Zachary, who finally managed to see the whole picture, “Our first priority is to find them as quickly as possible. The airport is the most crucial location. If I am right, Sharon will keep Ellie hostage until after they left H City because Sharon cannot survive in the city.”

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“Bruce already has the airport surrounded, and he claimed that Lupine is there too. I’m guessing Ms. Lindberg came to the same conclusion as you did,” informed Ben.

“Search everywhere. We must find them!” commanded Zachary.

“Understood,” replied Ben before he relayed the message.

Zachary looked out the window. The sky was gloomy, and it felt like something huge was about to happen.

For some reason, he felt like something was off.

Just then, the Lindberg family’s convoy zipped past from the side. They were as quick as the wind.

Zachary’s chauffeur yelped and exclaimed, “That Morgan really knows how to drive.”

“Marino isn’t here, so there is no way we can overtake them. Just focus on being safe and drive slowly,” reminded Ben.

“Understood.”

“They should be heading to the airport as well,” said Ben as he turned to look at Zachary. The former added, “Don’t worry, Mr. Nacht. We have so many people on our side, so there is no way Sharon can flee H City.”

“Yeah,” muttered Zachary. He got his phone out to call the police and ask about the details of how Sharon escaped prison. He hoped to find some clue.

At the same time, Charlotte was looking out the window and looking as grim as the gloomy weather.

She had received proper treatment, so her illness no longer hurt her as much. Still, she would get strangely agitated whenever it rained.

She analyzed everything and came to the same conclusion that Zachary did.

Thinking back, she remembered how Olivia looked off and wanted to confess something when Charlotte left that afternoon. Her guilt was probably eating her alive.

The silver lining was that Charlotte believed that Olivia would never hurt Ellie. It is still f*cked up that she obeyed the criminal’s words and kidnapped Ellie to rescue Peter.

Cynthia poisoned Ellie and hurt Ellie so badly. Ellie’s medical condition has just turned for the better when someone kidnapped her. Her weakened physical state can’t handle the stress. If anything were to happen...

Charlotte didn’t even dare to imagine what would happen.

“That woman is vile. You’ve always treated Olivia nicely, but she betrayed you for a guy,” growled Morgan angrily, “If I ever get my hands on her, I will freaking skin her alive!”

“If the situation was switched and someone kidnapped Marino to force your hand, what would you do?” challenged Charlotte.

"I will save him myself. If I fail to do so, then we'll just die together. It's nothing to be afraid of. I will never drag an innocent person down with me and will never betray you for anything or anyone," replied Morgan without hesitating.

"That's good to know."

Charlotte tapped Morgan's shoulder and was a little touched. Unfortunately, the former soon thought about Olivia, and that got her down once more. I am careful with everyone, but I never had my guard up against Olivia. I never thought that she'd betray me...

Even at that moment, Charlotte still couldn't accept the truth.

"At the end of the day, that ass*le, Zachary Nacht, is to be blamed. None of this would've happened if he hadn't hidden Sharon away or handed her to the police. Everything would've been fine if he had just let you shoot that woman!" growled Morgan angrily when she thought about it.

Charlotte didn't reply to that. Morgan is straightforward, and she doesn't always use nice words, but she always tells the truth.

Just then, Charlotte thought of something. Even if Sharon had planned ahead and sent someone to kidnap Peter and threaten Olivia, it still wouldn't add up.

Synder Group has declared bankruptcy. Assuming that Sharon got lucky and slipped out of prison, she still could not afford to hire anyone to fake being the Nacht family's convoy. So who sponsored her and helped her take Olivia and Ellie away?

There is a mastermind behind it all.

But... both Zara and Cynthia are dead while Taylor is imprisoned. Who else is there to help her out?

Moreover, that person must be powerful. How else could he or she have a fake Nacht family convoy?

Who could it be?

Charlotte simply couldn't make heads or tails of the matter...

"You know, it's strange," commented Morgan suddenly, "Sharon should be on her own when she kidnapped Olivia and Ellie, so by right, we should've already found her. Lupine had so many people with her, so why haven't they found anyone?"

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"Maybe they never went to the airport?" guessed Jade, another bodyguard.

"That is not possible," refuted Morgan firmly, "She will inevitably die if she stays in H City, so her only shot at survival is to leave. That is why she is definitely at the airport."

"Maybe she has a disguise on?" tried Jade again.

"Lupine would have found her even if Sharon is wearing a disguise," replied Morgan, who thought things were strange, "Lupine even had someone take Fifi over. That bird's eyes are so sharp that it could identify Sharon, even if she has a disguise on."

"That is strange..." commented Jade. She thought about it before she guessed again, "There's only one airport in H City, so could they have gotten on a train instead?"

"That is ridiculous. H City's railroad doesn't travel across the border," replied Morgan before she rolled her eyes at Jade and added, "We would've found her quickly if she simply went to another city."

"That's not quite right," replied Charlotte, who suddenly thought of something, "She will reach Wildefield in one hour if she travels by train. There's an international airport there too..."

"Huh? Could it be...?" blurted Morgan as she slowed down the car.

"They were gone for an hour," commented Charlotte as she checked her watch, "Make a U-turn and head to Wildefield International Airport now!"

"Understood," replied Morgan before she turned the steering wheel.

They saw the Nacht family's convoy when they reached the highway, and Morgan commented, "Looks like Mr. Nacht came to the same conclusion you did... again."

"Ignore them. Just head over to Wildefield International Airport now," urged Charlotte.

"Understood," replied Morgan before she sped as quickly as she could toward Wildefield International Airport.

While Morgan was doing that, Charlotte was calling Lupine to order, "We will head to Wildefield International Airport now. You are to stay guard at the airport in H City. Take Sharon down if she shows up. Don't let anyone stop you from doing so!"

"Understood. Don't worry. I will apprehend her and rescue Ms. Elisa as soon as she shows up," promised Lupine, who knew just how important her mission was.

"Great," replied Charlotte before she hung up. She checked her watch again and urged nervously, "Hurry up! Things will spiral out of our control if Sharon actually manages to slip out of the country with Ellie."

Their influence didn't extend overseas, so there were things that were beyond their reach.

If that were to happen, finding Ellie would become as difficult as finding a needle in a haystack.

Things will be easier if she is an adult who knows what to do. The Lindberg family has what it takes to locate her someday. Unfortunately, Ellie is just a kid, and she is weak. She can't handle the stress...

Charlotte's heart ached. How I wish I am already at the airport now...

Inside the Nacht family's car. Zachary had already contacted the police in Wildefield and had hoped to get them to stop all flights. Unfortunately, it would take some time for the officials to get things together.

Zachary had his men help the police out right away and called the politicians in his network.

In short, Zachary was doing everything he could to stop Sharon from taking Ellie away.

At that moment in Wildefield International Airport.

Sharon and four of her subordinates were in disguises when they took Olivia and Ellie, who were in disguises as well. Everyone was going through customs.

Olivia had drugged Ellie, so the latter had been sleeping since she got into the car.

The former, on the other hand, kept carrying Ellie and never let go.

Unfortunately, Ellie was already six years old, so she was getting heavier. That got Olivia's arms all weak and sore after holding her for such a long time. She wanted to rest at the side with Ellie, but Sharon stopped her from doing so. They hadn't gone through the customs, so they weren't safe just yet.

Sharon signaled her subordinate, and a tall foreigner walked over to carry Ellie.

Olivia, however, held Ellie tight and insisted firmly, "I can do it. I can hold her, and I don't need your help."

After saying her piece, Olivia bit down her lips and held Ellie up to go through customs.

Sharon had prepared fake documents for Olivia and Ellie.

The officer checked the documents and found nothing wrong with them. However, his suspicion rose when he saw how Ellie was sleeping that soundly. He asked, "What's up with the kid?"