

The Billionaire's Twins Play Matchmaker Book One: Chapter 12



Macey sighed trying to marshal her courage. The car door opened and a hand reached in to help her out. She stared at it several moments before she placed her hand in it and stepped out to face Stephen. With a nod he gave her hand to the waiting Augustus.

"You look beautiful, my dear."

Macey gave him a wry look. Tonight she wore a dark blue gown similar in style to the green one of the night before. The material and texture were different but both hugged her figure. This one had rhinestones sewn in to the hem and skirt giving it added sparkle. It also had a high neck and covered her chest like first one but this time the material was black lace showing a lot more skin but still modest enough for her sensibilities. Though she was not adept at complex hairstyles she managed a French braid that helped tame her abundant curls.

"Are you sure I need to be here?" Macey asked. "You know how much I hate these kinds of things."

"Now, now. You'll be debuting at the end of the week so it's best to get everyone used to seeing you before then. Besides I haven't had the privilege of a beautiful woman on my arm in decades."

I also don't want to disrupt my grandchildren's plans. Augustus added internally his mind going back to his meeting earlier in the day.

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"So, what do you think of your father?" Augustus asked once Stephen successfully retrieved the children after an hour with their father.

They were in the garage headed toward a limo that would take them to the DaLair estate. Aria and Caden walked on either side of their grandfather each consumed with their own thoughts. Finally Aria spoke looking up at Augustus for answers.

"He's very nice but he seems really sad."

"Well, yes." Augustus nodded. "He's been missing your mother for a long time so I imagine he would be very sad."

"He really misses mommy?"

"Yes. He does."

"Then why did he chase her away?" Caden asked. The question had been bothering him ever since their grandfather first told them about their father.

"Well...adults don't always do things logically," Augustus said. "You know I'm the one who first suggested they get married. I knew your mommy was in love with my son but Julius...well let's just say he was never very bright in matters of the heart. I thought if they married and spent more time together he would realize your mom's feelings and figure out his own but that was probably the wrong approach."

The twins nodded as they listened and waited for him to continue.

"I guess he just wasn't ready. After your mom left your dad finally started realizing what he had. He's spent six years trying to find her so he could tell her how he really feels."

"What do you think Caden?" Aria asked looking to her brother.

As far as she was concerned this confirmed her hope for their father but she wanted to make sure her brother felt the same way before they proceeded. The plan would not work unless they both agreed.

"I think it is worth giving him a second chance," Caden nodded. "He does seem very sorry and mommy's sad without him."

"Okay. Then we proceed with Phase Three and Four," Aria announced. "But we'll need your help grandpa."

"And what do you need from me?"

"For Phase Three we need to get mommy and daddy together so they can talk," Aria said.

"That means they need to be in the same place but they can't know they will be in the same place," Caden said. "It has to be a surprise."

"That's right," Aria agreed.

Augustus thought for a moment. It would be easy enough to arrange a family dinner and invite Macey along but that seemed to go against the twins' idea. They wanted a more public setting where there would be a lot of guests mingling to allow their father the opportunity to approach Macey on his own.

"What about Mister Church's invitation for tonight?" Stephen suggested. Normally he remained the silent shadow but he felt it was time to offer a suggestion since he handled Augustus's schedule.

"Oh, right. What was that again?"

"Apparently he purchased a new Picasso and wants to show it off," Stephen answered.

"Ah, yes. That."

"Mommy doesn't like Picasso," Caden said thinking it was silly that they didn't know that.

"But it would be a good excuse to ask her to attend with me," Augustus said, "after all I don't know anything about art."

Aria and Caden shared a look as they considered the information before Aria asked, "And daddy will definitely be there?"

"Yes. He and Church are old...friends..." Stephen carefully qualified not sure how much he should tell ones so young or if they would even understand adult issues.

"You don't sound sure," Caden commented with a scowl. Adults talked down to them all the time thinking they didn't or were too young to understand.

"Well, they are drinking buddies," Stephen clarified and decided to tell the truth. "Your father drinks when he is depressed. And he has been very depressed since your mother left."

The twins nodded. They noticed their father smelled of alcohol when they went to see him. He even had a drink on the desk. Yet he hadn't touched it the entire time they were with him. While they were there he laughed and smiled too so maybe what Stephen said was true and their daddy only drank when he was sad.

"Okay," Aria announced, "Grandpa you invite mommy to see the Picasso so she and daddy can meet each other."

"What about us?" Caden asked.

"We're not going," Aria said. "This is for grown-ups."

"I mean what is mommy going to do with us?" Caden clarified. "Mommy won't go if we don't have a babysitter and I don't think she's going to trust the one from today."

"Oh, right." Aria's face fell. Their mother trusted very few people with their care and she certainly wouldn't trust that woman again after they disappeared out from under her nose.

"That's not a problem," Augustus assured him. "Your aunt and uncle can watch you."

"You mean Auntie Rose and Uncle March?"

"That's right. I know they want to spend more time with you and your mother definitely trusts them."

"Okay. Phase Three is a go!" Aria exclaimed raising a fist. Once they achieved Phase Three then they would be halfway to getting their parents back together.

* * *

Unaware of her father-in-law's thoughts Macey rolled her eyes at his seemingly careless comment. Nonetheless she threaded her arm through his and accompanied him inside. She knew he was trying to introduce her to New York high society before the exhibit. He wanted her to be accepted and it meant to world to her he was being so attentive to her and the kids.

The doorman let them pass without requesting their invitation. Augustus was a notable figure wherever he went and never barred from entry. Anyone hosting an event hoped for his attendance to elevate the prestige of their gathering. Once inside he led her around stopping only when he found someone worthy to talk to. In this crowd that was few and far between but he made the most of it to avoid attracting her suspicion.

In truth he wasn't very fond of the host. Frederick Church was an annoyingly small-minded man. He was so used to spending his parent's wealth he never learned how to build his own. Thus far his greatest accomplishment was becoming one Julius's acquaintances. Augustus would be pleased if Frederick encouraged Julius to do anything other than drink.

It was a known fact Julius's drinking was worse on nights he was in Frederick's company but tonight would be different. Augustus was confident his son would not waste this opportunity. Tonight's celebration was due to Frederick's purchase of a new Picasso currently displayed on the wall. Once again he was spending money rather than earning it.

Augustus would never have considered attending such an event if it wasn't for his grandchildren's idea. Even now he couldn't help but chuckle at the audacity and conniving natures of his grandchildren. He wondered if Macey had any idea her perfect angels were actually such devious imps.

Probably not.

Convincing Macey to accompany him had been surprisingly difficult, but perhaps not that shocking. She was never one to put on airs and social gatherings made her uncomfortable bringing back unpleasant memories of the past. Though she was beautiful Macey never saw herself in that light and having a humble beginning she lacked confidence among entitled elites.

But that was the younger Macey. She was older, more mature and more confident having forged her own path much like her father. Augustus watched her growth and felt the difference in her even if she didn't. He wouldn't have asked her to come back if she wasn't ready.

Yet she was a mother first and just as Caden predicted she was paranoid after their disappearance. No amount of reassurance from the kids had an effect. It wasn't until Augustus suggested March and Rose could watch the twins that Macey finally agreed.

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