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"It's better if they don't meet." Charlotte could not suppress her anger anymore.

"Why, Mommy?" Ellie looked at her nervously.

"Nothing." Not wanting to mention these nasty incidences in front of the kids, Charlotte hugged Ellie and consoled her gently, "Sleep for a little while, Ellie. We'll only reach the hospital half an hour later."

"Okay." Ellie drifted off to sleep in Charlotte's arms. She gripped Charlotte's shirt with one hand and Zachary's hand with the other, afraid that they would leave her.

When Zachary and Charlotte saw that, they glanced at each other subconsciously.

There was a complicated look in Zachary's eyes, but Charlotte turned her head around coldly and refused to look at him.

"Daddy, I want to sleep too." Jamie snuggled into Zachary's arms.

"Sleep, then." Hugging him, Zachary coaxed him to sleep.

Jamie fell asleep quickly and even snored.

"Robbie, you should sleep too," said Zachary.

"Mommy, Daddy, I'd like to talk to you."

Seeing that his younger siblings were already asleep, Robbie finally mustered his courage and asked.

"What do you want to talk about, Robbie?"

Charlotte felt sorry for Robbie. Ever since he was young, he was more mature than his peers and more thoughtful. While he was very intelligent, it was extremely tiring for him too.

"Are both of you going to be separated completely?" asked Robbie softly. "Is there no chance of a reconciliation?"

Zachary did not know how to respond to his question. He wanted to deny it and express his reluctance, but he knew that Charlotte's hatred for him could not be erased so quickly...

"Yes." On the other hand, Charlotte's reply was firm. "I know that my answer will make you sad, but I don't want to lie to you. I'll never reconcile with your father. However, regardless of our relationship, we'll love you all the same!"

"I understand...."

Robbie nodded. He wanted to put up a strong front, but tears still streamed down his cheeks.

"I'm sorry, Robbie..." Charlotte hugged him, her heart aching terribly.

"Mommy, you shouldn't feel sorry. Everyone has a right to choose the lives they wish to lead," reassured Robbie as he wiped his tears.

"However, I hope that you can let Ellie and Jamie make their own choices. They're not like me. As they're still emotionally immature, they don't understand a lot of things and can't adapt that well..."

As Robbie spoke, he was crying so badly that he could not speak anymore. No matter how much he pretended to be strong and sensible, he was only a six-year-old child.

Looking at Robbie, Zachary felt miserable. Guilt and sorrow engulfed him. He hated himself for being unable to control the situation and allowing things to lead this way...

When Charlotte heard Robbie's request, she hesitated. Actually, she knew that although Robbie would choose to follow her, Jamie and Ellie would most likely follow their father instead. To both of them, Zachary was more interesting than her and knew how to interact with kids better. Furthermore, one would feel safer with him.

"Mommy, I'm begging you!" pleaded Robbie tearfully as he grabbed Charlotte's hand.

Her heart ached terribly, for this was the first time she saw Robbie crying like that. She knew that he was the one who understood Jamie and Ellie the best, so he knew what they needed the most.

No matter how reluctant she was, Charlotte still nodded with tears in her eyes. "Okay, I promise you."

Robbie threw himself into her arms and wailed. He knew that he would soon be separated from his father and siblings...

Perhaps because Jamie and Ellie could sense their brother's sorrow, they woke up. When they saw Robbie sobbing, they immediately cried and asked, "What happened, Robbie?"

Wiping his tears away, he told them in a mature manner, "Jamie, Ellie, make your choices now. Do you want to be together with Mommy or Daddy? We need to choose now so we won't have to be sad another time."

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When Ellie heard that, she burst into tears and jumped into Charlotte's arms, like a snail burying itself in its shell. It was as if by doing so, she would not need to confront the cruel choice she had to make.

Jamie's tears streamed down his cheeks. However, instead of wailing like Ellie, he merely sobbed sadly.

"It's fine, Robbie. You can choose later." As Zachary could not bear to force the kids, he quickly said, "You can stay with Mommy for the time being! After I'm done dealing with work..." "Let them choose now." On the other hand, Charlotte was very resolute. "I'm returning to Erihal three days later, so there's no time to consider. It's better to end things now than prolong our suffering!"

Zachary was stunned when he heard that. She's returning to Erihal! No wonder she's so determined. Looks like she really wants to cut off all ties with me...

"Mommy..." Pulling Charlotte's hand, Jamie cried sorrowfully, "Don't do this! I don't want you to separate. I want our family to be together!"

"It's impossible, Jamie." Although tears were welling up in her eyes, Charlotte insisted mercilessly, "Your father and I can never be together. You can only choose one of us!"

"No!" Jamie could not help but burst into tears again.

"Stop crying!" interrupted Robbie with a frown. "I'll choose first. I choose Mommy!"

He was very straightforward, without showing any signs of hesitation. However, he dared not look at Zachary.

When Zachary gazed at Robbie, there were no signs of blame or confusion in his eyes. Instead, all he felt was guilt and pity.

"Jamie, choose now!" Like an elder brother, Robbie ordered, "At the count of three, announce your choice."

He knew how to deal with Jamie and Ellie the best.

"No..." Jamie shook his head, feeling terrified and worried.

"One!" Robbie counted directly.

"No, don't make me choose! I won't choose anything!" wailed Jamie anxiously.

"Two!" Robbie ignored his emotions.

"No, Robbie!"

"Three!" Robbie called out. "If you don't choose, I'll assume that you're following Mommy."

"Daddy! I choose Daddy!" blurted Jamie.

After that, he glanced at Charlotte flusteredly. "I'm sorry, Mommy!"

Although she had already expected it, she could not help but feel an agonizing sense of disappointment. Squeezing out a smile, she reassured him gently, "It's fine, Jamie. You can stay with Daddy. I'll visit you frequently!"

Not daring to speak, Jamie stared at Robbie intently.

"Mommy's right." Robbie was very calm. "Regardless of who you choose, it's fine. We're just living in separate places! It won't affect our relationship."

"Yeah." Only then did Jamie felt relieved.

Ellie watched everything unfold in a daze. Her initial anxiety had faded significantly. Staring at Charlotte timidly, she looked like she had something she wanted to say, but dared not...

"It's your turn, Ellie." Robbie looked at her. "Do you choose Mommy or Daddy? Do you want me to count down?"

"I choose to stay with Daddy..."

Ellie's voice was extremely soft, but everyone heard her.

She lowered her head, not daring to look at Charlotte. Fiddling with her fingers, she said tearfully, "Mommy, I love you, but I don't want to go to Erihal. I want to stay in H City!"

"I understand."

Charlotte cupped Ellie's face and wiped her tears away, but she was crying herself too.

"It's fine. I'll leave Dr. Felch with you for your treatment. After you're cured, I'll come back and visit you."

"No!" interrupted Zachary quickly. "You're receiving treatment too, so you cannot be separated from Ellie."

He remembered that Dr. Felch had mentioned that Charlotte's treatment required three months. Furthermore, it could not be interrupted, for all the previous efforts would go to waste.

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"What should we do, then?"

Ellie panicked as she gazed at Zachary tearfully.

"Ellie..." Zachary hugged Ellie and comforted her gently, "Follow Mommy first. After you're done with your treatment, I'll pick you up!"

"You can let Dr. Felch treat Ellie first. I'll just continue with my treatment afterward."

When Charlotte saw how reluctant Ellie was to leave Zachary's side, she felt a bit upset.

"Dr. Felch said that your treatment must not be interrupted," said Zachary seriously. "This is not up for negotiation!"

Charlotte was stunned upon hearing that. An indescribable emotion surged through her...

"When I asked Dr. Felch earlier, he said that the treatment needs to last for three months. A month has passed, so there are two months remaining." Zachary counted the days. "After two months, I'll go to Erihal to fetch Ellie."

"Are you okay with that, Ellie?" Charlotte asked her.

"Yes." Ellie nodded. "It's more important that you receive your treatment, so I'll accompany you!"

"Good girl!" Charlotte was touched.

"That's settled, then," announced Zachary. "We must keep our promises!"

"I know." Although Charlotte felt reluctant to accept it, she had no choice but to respect the children's decisions.

At that moment, the car stopped outside Serene Hospital.

Outside, Ben announced softly, "Mr. Nacht's here!"

Zachary and Charlotte alighted the car with the kids.

They walked into the hospital, looking like a perfect family.

All the passers-by could not help but stop in their tracks and look at them.

The subordinates split into two neat rows, creating a path for them to walk.

Ben and Marino followed behind closely.

Marino asked softly, "They're such a compatible family, so why must they split up?"

"It's such a pity!" Ben could not help but exclaim. "If it weren't for those complex relationships and resentment intertwining them, they would probably be the happiest family in the world."

The family arrived at the special wards in the hospital.

Half an hour ago, Henry had been moved from the emergency room to a special ward.

Raina was waiting at the lift entrance anxiously. When the lift doors opened, she quickly welcomed them. "Mr. Zachary, Mr. Nacht is on the brink of death!" "Great-grandpa..." Ellie was so scared that she wanted to cry.

"Don't cry, Ellie. You'll scare Great-grandpa!" Charlotte comforted her softly. "We must send him off nicely and let him go to heaven in peace!"

"Yeah." Ellie quickly wiped her tears away.

Robbie and Jamie were also taking deep breaths to calm themselves down.

Feeling grateful, Zachary said sincerely, "Thank you."

"I'm doing this for the kids." Charlotte did not even want to spare a glance at him.

Naturally, Zachary knew that she was doing it for the kids. After all, this memory would be imprinted in their minds forever. Perhaps, even after they become adults, they would still remember this scene.

Hence, no matter how much Charlotte hated Henry, she would place her grudges aside and guide the children with kind intention.

Even that was very tough to ask of her.

Carrying the kids, Zachary was prepared to head into the adjacent room to change into the isolation gowns.

However, Raina said tearfully, "There's no need to change your clothes, Mr. Zachary. Just go in directly!"

This meant that Henry was so critically ill that there was no chance of survival.

Frowning, Zachary entered while holding Robbie and Jamie's hands.

"Wait!" Charlotte passed Ellie to him. "I'll wait for you outside."

"Let's go in together. Grandpa wants to meet you." Zachary looked at her in anticipation. "Do you think that's possible?"

Charlotte glared at him coldly. She was willing to place her grudges aside for the kids, but it was impossible for her to meet Henry.

"Okay, then..."

Unable to force her, Zachary had no choice but to enter with Ellie, Jamie and Robbie.

"Just hang in there for a while longer, Mr. Henry. Mr. Zachary and the kids will be here soon!" coaxed Spencer through tears as he held Henry's hand.

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"Great-grandpa!"

Crying out loud, the kids pounced toward him.

Although they agreed not to cry, their tears still gushed out of their eyes upon seeing Henry.

However, remembering what Charlotte had told them, they immediately wiped their tears away and squeezed out a smile.

"We're here to visit you, Great-grandpa!"

"I'm Robbie!"

"I'm Jamie!"

"And I'm Ellie!"

"Can you see us, Great-grandpa?"

The kids crowded around the bed and called out to Henry eagerly.

Henry opened his eyes slowly and looked at them through his blurry vision. With tears glistening in his eyes, he stretched out his frail hand, as if he wanted to say something to them.

"Great-grandpa..."

The kids walked over and placed their hands in his.

As Henry held their hands, tears rolled down his cheeks. With much difficulty, he opened his mouth and said in fragmented words, "R-Remember... your last name is Nacht... Y-You will... always be... the children of the Nacht family!"

Although his words were slurred, the children heard what he was saying.

Still crying, Jamie and Ellie glanced at Robbie in a fluster, not knowing how to respond.

With tears in his eyes, Robbie nodded and promised Henry solemnly, "Don't worry, Great-grandpa. Our last name will always be Nacht. That will never change!"

Robbie knew what Henry was thinking about. He was afraid that if they left with Charlotte, they would change their last name to hers.

Although Robbie agreed to follow Charlotte, he had already made up his mind to keep his last name.

"Good!" repeated Henry.

He held the children's hands tightly, unwilling to let go.

Staring at Zachary, he looked like he wanted to say something. However, he was struggling so much that he could not articulate a single word.

"Don't worry, Grandpa. The kids won't leave if I'm here."

Zachary knew that Henry's death wish was to let the children stay in the Nacht residence. At this point in time, he had no choice but to say a white lie.

"She... she..." mumbled Henry.

Spencer quickly explained, "Mr. Nacht wants to meet Charlotte!"

"She's outside. I'll go and get her."

Although Zachary was not confident at all, he had to fulfill Henry's death wish.

Charlotte was replying to Morgan's message outside. Zachary walked out of the ward and whispered, "Grandpa wants to see you."

"We have nothing to talk about."

She did not wish to forgive Henry. The act of bringing the kids over to visit him and waiting there calmly was already a huge gesture of kindness.

She could not bring herself to visit her enemy, who had humiliated and harmed her multiple times.

"I'm begging you." Zachary walked to her front and pleaded softly, "He's about to die. His last wish is to see you, so please give him a chance to do so."

He had never begged someone like that before.

Still wearing the clothes from last night, he looked extremely haggard. His arm was still injured from her gunshot, with a bandage wrapped simply around his wound. Stubbles filled his chin, exhaustion was written all over his face and his eyes were bloodshot...

It was heartbreaking to see him like this.

Charlotte recalled what happened last night. Hatred still burned within her and her instinct was to refuse his request. However, when she raised her head and met Zachary's reddened eyes, her resolve wavered. "You're so annoying!"

Although that was what she said, she still walked toward the ward.

Zachary rushed forward and opened the door for her.

In the ward, the kids were surrounding Henry and encouraging him.

"Great-grandpa, I was awarded two patents a few days ago! I've even brought the certificates over for you to see!"

"Great-grandpa, get well soon! You still need to play soccer with me."

"Great-grandpa, didn't you say that you'll bring me to M Nation to see the horses you've reared? I haven't even been there! You can't break your promise..."

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Charlotte held a strong grudge against Henry since he was the one who had forced Zachary into submission and drove her apart from her children.

Had that not been the case, she wouldn't have been humiliated by others. At the same time, her daughter wouldn't have been poisoned, had Henry not fallen for Cynthia's words.

To make things worse, he continued siding with Zara and indirectly caused Zachary to point a gun at Charlotte. In short, he was the one bringing upon his own undoing.

Therefore, he couldn't blame others for his miserable life since those were the consequences of his decisions. He was about to pass on shortly after taking out his daughter. With that being said, Charlotte's mind was all over the place when her children started weeping.

At the end of the day, as vicious as he might be, he had always been the three little ones' beloved great grandfather. Therefore, they shared great affection for him as well.

Zachary announced, "Grandpa, she's here."

Truth be told, Henry couldn't see those around him due to his blurred vision. Charlotte was merely just another silhouette in front of him.

He tried to open his mouth as if he had something to tell her, but none of them could hear him.

Zachary showed Charlotte the way to his grandfather. He leaned over and asked, "Grandpa, are you trying to say something?"

Henry narrowed his eyes to a slit and enunciated with all his might, "I-I am sorry."

Torrents of regret streamed down his cheeks as soon as he expressed his utmost apology towards Charlotte.

Similarly, Charlotte felt overwhelmed when she saw the dying man's tears. She stopped holding a grudge against him when she found out his dying wish was to beg for her forgiveness.

He might have reflected upon his actions and found out he was the one at fault during his final days.

The man, who had never begged for others' forgiveness throughout his life, expressed his utmost apologies for the things he did at the last moment of his life since he truly regretted his decisions.

Meanwhile, Charlotte remained silent throughout the session and looked at Henry in the eyes. Truth be told, she was just afraid of letting loose of her emotions.

"I-I am so sorry."

Shortly after he repeated himself for one last time, Henry closed his eyes and thought it was finally time for him to leave everything behind in the mundane world.

He had never expected Charlotte would forgive him. Nonetheless, he felt the need to make himself clear prior to leaving the world. It was just one of his attempts to make peace with himself.

Holding Henry's hand, Zachary yelled, "Grandpa! Stay with me, Grandpa! I'll go get the doctor at once!"

Zachary rushed out of the ward and yelled, "Doctor! Get me the doctor!"

The doctor rushed into the ward to check on Henry, but there wasn't anything they could do to turn the tables.

"My deepest condolences, Mr. Nacht! He has already passed on!"

"G-Great-grandpa! B-Boohoo!"

Charlotte stepped aside and had her eyes glued to the ones around Henry.

Zachary lowered his head as he stood next to Henry, weeping as he held his grandfather's hands for one last time.

Her children, including the most level-headed Robbie, surrounded their great-grandfather and bawled their eyes out.

Spencer leaned against the wheelchair and started weeping in silence. He just couldn't take it because the mainstay of his life had passed on.

Bruce, Ben, Cain, and Kyle, who were next to the rest, couldn't resist the urge to weep as well.

Charlotte was the only one who was calm and collected. Staring at the late Henry on the bed, she thought it was about time to move on.

The grudges she held against him seemed to have passed on along with Henry to the realm of the afterlife.

When she recalled Zara, Henry, and Cynthia were dead while Sharon had been thrown behind bars, she thought she had finally achieved her goals.

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Instead of staying around to keep the rest company, Charlotte brought herself out after another few minutes.

Prior to her departure, Zachary stopped her and asked, "Can you allow them to stay with me for another few days? I'll send them back as soon as we're done with Grandpa's wake and funeral!"

Charlotte wasn't against the idea, but she warned the man, "That's fine with me, but you better not try anything silly!"

Zachary couldn't stand against the pent-up fatigue anymore, he assured Charlotte, "You have my words. I'll definitely honor my promise."

The woman wrapped up their conversation with a nod and brought herself out of the hospital since she had no intention to mourn with the rest.

Morgan couldn't move his eyes away from Charlotte throughout their way home. She asked, "Ms. Lindberg, are you okay?"

"I'm fine. Take me to Oakhill Mausoleum," Charlotte instructed in a callous tone.

It took Morgan a few seconds to grasp the situation. "H-Huh? O-Okay!"

That happened to be the resting ground of Richard and Mrs. Berry. She once swore to take out Zara and Sharon to avenge them.

It was time for her to share the great news with them since she had finally avenged them. With that being said, she wasn't thrilled at all. Instead, she felt lost and upset. Charlotte showed up with a raincoat and made her way through the drizzle with two bouquets for her father and the woman she was forever indebted to for the rest of her life. She announced, "Dad, Mrs. Berry, I have finally avenged both of you! The two of you can finally rest in peace!"

Out of the blue, she thought her father must have kept her in the dark in fear of her seeking vengeance against those bringing upon his misfortune.

Similarly, Mrs. Berry urged her to stay alive at all costs during the last moments of her life.

It was evident they merely wanted her to live a happy and simple life instead of getting herself involved in another feud.

Sighing, Charlotte thought those weren't relevant anymore since she had avenged them. She also thought it was about time to leave the city that had brought upon her a fair share of joy and despair.

Morgan inched over and whispered, "Ms. Lindberg, Jade had just informed me of Sir Louis' arrival. I believe Mr. Lindberg has sent him to pick you up."

The moment she finished her sentence, Charlotte received a call. She picked it up and greeted the man on the other end, "Louis!"

"Charlotte, your brother has sent me to pick you up! Is it fine for me to drop by your place?"

"Sure! I'm currently on my way back! I'll see you in a while!"

"Alright, I'll see you then!" Louis was thrilled—he carried on with the conversation in a sprightly tone.

Charlotte was relatively calm since she knew she could turn him down if she was truly against the idea of marrying him.

As influential and as domineering Danrique might be, he had never forced her into submission.

I have no intention to get myself involved in another feud. Maybe I'll get to start all over again and live a peaceful life once I marry Louis.

After all, that man with a great personality is the perfect better half I can ever ask for. As a member of the royal family, he's highly regarded by the people of H Country.

He has never gotten himself involved in any form of conflict. Thus, I might get to live a peaceful life once I get married to him.

Charlotte was aware that Louis was the perfect candidate she could ever ask for. It was also one of Danrique's many attempts to ensure she could live a happy and carefree life. Hence, she hadn't turned him down.

On her way back to Rokan Hill, she couldn't help but think of the good old days she had with Zachary. Nevertheless, she knew it was time to let bygones be bygones since things would never be the same.

Charlotte, it's time to move on since everything is over.

Meanwhile, Zachary, who couldn't stand the pent-up fatigue anymore, supported himself against the wall after sorting out the things for his late grandfather's wake and funeral.

His vision blurred the moment he tried to look ahead. He shook his head in an attempt to get rid of his blurred vision, but his effort was to no avail.

What's going on? Is something wrong with my eyes?

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"Mr. Nacht, countless journalists had surrounded the hospital in an attempt to get their hands on Mr. Henry's condition. I had sent someone to stop them from barging into the hospital, but they seemed to have figured out what's going on." "Mr. Nacht, we have caught a few journalists sneaking their way into the hospital! Are we supposed to inform the person in charge of the hospital to barricade the hospital?"

"Mr. Nacht, Ellie is having another fever! Shall we send her to Ms. Lindberg's place?"

Zachary had no time to spare himself. Shortly after he snapped out of confusion, he instructed, "Raina, send Ellie to Northridge at once! We can't afford to put her life at stake!"

"Yes!"

"Bruce, send Robbie, Jamie, and Mr. Spencer home! Make sure to look after them and get them to have adequate rest!"

"Alright, I'll get going at once!"

"Ben, announce the news of Grandpa's passing! However, warn them to stop getting in the family's way! Otherwise, we'll press charges against them if they try anything silly!"

"Yes!"

As soon as he had everything sorted out, he made his way back to the company since he had to do something about the sudden dip in the company's share price.

The stakeholders of Nacht Group were on their way to the hospital as soon as they heard of the bad news.

Johann and Lucy had been trying to get in touch with Zachary, but they just couldn't reach him since he was occupied with the arrangements of his late grandfather's wake and funeral.

Instead of tending to them, he gathered the legal team around to sort out the will of his late grandfather before making his way to meet the board of directors. He had no time to take his condition into consideration because of the things he had on his plate. Since it merely lasted for a few seconds, he thought it wasn't a big deal and paid no heed to it.

Zachary thought it might be the aftermath of pulling a few all-nighters. After all, no ordinary person could stay awake for a few consecutive days without sleeping.

Meanwhile, shortly after Louis pulled over at the courtyard, Charlotte showed up.

"Charlotte!" The moment Charlotte looked in his direction, she saw the man greeting her with a bright grin as if he had been waiting for her.

"It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance again! Danrique wants us to make our way to Erihal in two days! I already have everything sorted out for the journey!"

Charlotte responded with a nod and suggested, "I'm sure you're exhausted after such a long journey. Why don't you go ahead and take a short break? I have quite a few things to sort out as well."

"Sure, I'll stop getting in your way. I'm sure you have a lot of things to sort out since we're leaving soon!"

"Lupine, please show Sir Louis the way to his room."

"Yes! Please come with me, Sir Louis!"

Once Lupine brought Louis and his subordinates upstairs, Charlotte made her way into the mansion and told Dr. Felch her upcoming plan. She made herself clear she needed him to go abroad with them since he was the only one Ellie could rely on.

Dr. Felch was against the idea of leaving, but he couldn't afford to leave Charlotte and Ellie when their lives were at stake.

On top of that, he was afraid they might not acquire the medical attention they needed since the conflicts between Nacht Group and Lindberg Corporation had gotten to the point of no return. After much considerations, Dr. Felch nodded and assured, "I can't turn you down since you and your daughter's lives depend on me."

"Thank you so much, Dr. Felch!"

Charlotte was glad he wasn't against the idea of leaving with him. She couldn't imagine the things awaiting her had Dr. Felch turned her down instead of leaving with them.

Dr. Felch asked in return, 'When are we departing? I need to get everything ready as well."

"We'll depart in another two days! I'll have everything sorted out soon! Thus, you don't have to worry!"

"I need to get a few herbs with me since I can't get them abroad. Since we're in such a hurry, I'll get Hayley and Sam to get everything ready."

"Alright, I'll get Morgan to help them out as well!"

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Charlotte instructed Morgan to assist Hayley and Sam to procure the herbs they might need.

Once she instructed Lupine to take over the project at South Sea, she made her way to Louis's room.

Louis had gotten himself changed into a casual set of loungewear. He was seated on the couch after he had his shower.

When Charlotte knocked on the door, he was in the middle of checking his email with a glass of wine. Thrilled by her presence, he put everything aside and asked, "Charlotte, are you done?"

Charlotte nodded and made her way into the man's room with some light refreshments. "Why don't you help yourself with these since we're still an hour away from dinner?" "Thanks!" Louis thought of reciprocating her effort. He showed her a delicate-looking jewelry box and suggested, "I have something for you as well!"

"Is it another necklace?" Charlotte asked with a beam since he had bought her different types of necklaces. To be precise, he had bought her so many that she couldn't even store them in her jewelry box anymore.

Louis urged with a cheeky smile, "Yes! Hurry up and check it out!"

Charlotte wasn't particularly thrilled, but she was utterly dumbfounded the moment she saw the necklace.

I-Isn't this Mom's sapphire necklace? I sold this to someone else in exchange for food on the table when Dad passed on seven years ago! I can't believe I'm getting my hands on it again!

Zachary had always picked on me for being a fool when I told him I wasn't given much of a choice but to sell it off for the sake of our children!

"I have been searching high and low just to get my hands on this! In the end, I found it at an auction in F Nation! I guess fate must have brought it to me! It belongs to your late mother, doesn't it?" Louis shared the great news with a bright grin.

"How have you figured it out?" Charlotte was astonished as she couldn't recall sharing those with the man in front of her.

"I saw a photo of your mother standing next to Danrique with this necklace in his office and recalled Zachary acquiring a similar ruby necklace in the past. Danrique told me you sold the necklace of your late mother when you were in desperate need of cash back in the day. He had been searching for it as well."

Charlotte responded with a self-deprecating smirk and remarked, "It turns out he still cares about me, huh?"

Louis was slightly upset. He asked, "Huh? Aren't you supposed to compliment me for a job well done? After all, I was the one who had found the necklace!"

"Well, I guess you deserve a part of the credits as well! Thanks!"

"You're welcome! It's worth it as long as it puts a smile on you! Trust me, Charlotte! I'll make you the happiest woman in the world!"

Charlotte went dead silent and stared at the necklace in front of her when she heard him. Her mind was all over the place since she didn't know what to tell him.

Louis was equally anxious. He asked, "What's wrong? Are you upset or something? Don't you love me?"

Charlotte gave it a thought and asked, "Louis, are you aware of the past I had with Zachary?"

"I shared the sort of affection I had for you with him because I wasn't! I got suspicious when he started showing up and continued getting in our way whenever we were out for a date! He even tried to drive us apart from one another! When your brother told me things would never work out between both of you, I finally figured out he was the father of your children! You're not going to return to him, are you?"

Charlotte nodded and sighed. "I'm afraid that's impossible since things will never work out between us."

"Actually, Zachary was serious about you. He was at his worst when something happened to you two years ago. If it weren't because of your children and his responsibilities as the person in charge of Nacht Group, he might not have made it—"

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Charlotte stopped Louis from finishing his sentence and remarked, "It's time to let bygones be bygones since things won't work out between us anymore."

"It's such a shame." Louis made it sound he felt bad on her behalf, but his tone suggested otherwise. Afraid of hurting the man, Charlotte added in a hushed voice, "With that being said, I merely consider you a friend of mine as well!"

To her surprise, Louis couldn't be bothered at all. He assured her, "It's fine as long as you're not against the idea of staying with me! We can take it easy and see if things work out in the near future! Things turn out just fine for my parents since they merely fell in love with one another only after they got married!"

"H-Huh?" Charlotte was at a loss for words to carry on with the conversation because she had heard of Louis's parents being a match made in heaven.

Their healthy relationship was the reason they had brought up such a remarkable son. Thus, she couldn't believe they weren't actually in love in the first place.

"I have told your brother to stop forcing you into submission. We'll just take it easy and see if we're meant for one another. When you think it's time to take our relationship to the next level, we'll consider getting married. With that being said, we can get married if you're keen. My parents are of the same idea. They thought of meeting your brother in person to sort out the details of the wedding ceremony—"

Knock! Knock! Someone knocked on the door and interrupted the duo's conversation.

"Yes?" Charlotte asked.

The maid gasped out her announcement, "Ms. Lindberg, Ms. Elisa has returned, but she's having a fever."

Charlotte brought herself out of Louis' room, Louis followed her.

Raina was seated on the couch with Ellie in between her arms. She assured the little girl, "It's going to be fine, Ellie! Your mother will join us soon!"

"Ellie!" Charlotte rushed down the stairs the moment she saw her weeping daughter.

The little girl sniffled and stretched her arms. "M-Mommy—"

Charlotte rushed over to Ellie's side and placed her hand on her daughter's forehead to check on the little girl's temperature, instructing the maid, "Go get Dr. Felch!"

"Yes!"

"I'm so sorry, Ms. Lindberg—it might have something to do with her wailing for such a long time. I dared not administer anything since she's currently under Dr. Felch's care."

"It's fine. I'm well aware of your concerns." Charlotte knew Raina must have tried her best to ensure Ellie's safety.

However, there wasn't anything much Raina could do since Ellie was currently under the care of Dr. Felch.

Dr. Felch marched out of the study and instructed, "Take her to the laboratory!"

Without a second thought, Charlotte rushed Ellie in the direction of the laboratory.

"Ms. Lindberg, I'll excuse myself." Raina made her way back shortly after she ensured the little girl was in good hands.

Dr. Felch ensured everything was fine and assured Charlotte, "She's not feeling well due to inflamed tonsils. Just take it easy since it's not a big deal. She's going to be fine in no time once she finishes the medicine."

Heaving a sigh of relief, Charlotte remarked, "I'm just glad she's fine!"

Dr. Felch looked at Louis and asked, "Who is this gentleman over here?"

Charlotte introduced them to one another, "Oh! This is Sir Louis! Louis, this is Dr. Felch!" "Hello, Dr. Felch!" Louis greeted the doctor with a nod.

"Hello, Sir Louis! I'm impressed a foreigner can converse with us in our mother tongue without any issue!"

"Charlotte's has done a great job as my tutor." Louis turned around and greeted the little girl, "Hello, Ellie! Nice to meet you!"

Staring at the handsome man in front of her, the little girl responded with a frown and snuggled in her mother's arms.

The six-year-old little girl was conscious of the sort of relationship the man had with her mother. However, she would never acknowledge any other man apart from her father.

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Louis wasn't particularly irked. Instead, he responded with a courteous smile.

Charlotte tucked Ellie in after the little girl finished the doctor's medicine.

Once she made her way out of her daughter's room, she saw Louis was in the middle of a chess session with Dr. Felch.

Charlotte thought it wouldn't be an exaggeration to consider Dr. Felch everyone's sweetheart since he could get along with almost everyone.

Well, it's great they can easily get along with one another since we're going to spend the upcoming two months together.

Things were fine for the Lindberg family, but things were extremely chaotic for the Nacht family.

The news of Henry appointing his great-grandchildren as the inheritors of his will took the rest by surprise since no one could make use of his asset until the three little ones came of age.

Zachary was in dire straits due to the financial predicament of Nacht Group. To make things worse, Zachary couldn't rely on his grandfather's assets to resolve the issue since his children were the inheritors.

On the day Henry passed on, Zachary spent the entire day sorting out all sorts of arrangements. He took a short nap in the car on his way to the conference with the board of directors.

The members of the board of directors made their way there from all around the globe over the night. Similarly, Nacht Group's legal team had gathered around.

The conference lasted for four hours. In the end, Zachary proposed resolving the issue with his personal asset. On top of that, he would acquire a loan from the banks.

Along with two members of the board of directors, Johann assured Zachary he would support him the moment Zachary brought up the request to gather funds from them. However, some of them couldn't help but wonder about the identity of his children's mother.

They had heard rumors of the little ones' mother being a member of Lindberg Corporation. Thus, they were afraid it would be over for Nacht Group the moment Lindberg Corporation acquired ownership over the company.

After all, Lindberg Corporation was one of the most influential companies in the corporate world.

Zachary made himself clear those were none of their businesses.

"I think it's not necessary for me to share the details of my family with all of you. I'll try my best to resolve the financial predicament of the company. If any of you are willing to show me your support, I'll definitely return the favor in the future. It's not much of a big deal if any of you wish to sit this one out. Similarly, I won't stop those who wish to leave. That's all for today."

The attendees of the conference were at a loss for words as they were aware of Zachary's capabilities. On top of that, the

successors of Nacht Group were Zachary's children. Thus, they thought it wouldn't be wise to sit it out.

With that being said, they weren't sure if they were ready to put everything at stake for Nacht Group since there were so many variables associated with the financial predicament.

It would take more than a few billion to resolve the issue. Thus, apart from Johann and the two members, the rest remained silent instead of sharing their next best course of action with the rest.

In short, Zachary had to brace himself through the challenges awaiting him since others couldn't do much with their limited resources.

Johann couldn't figure out the rationale behind Henry's decision as it wouldn't make any sense for him to set aside his money for nothing when it could be the company's capital for reinvestments.

If his great-grandchildren are the appointed successors, there's nothing much they can do with the fortune he has left them! If Zachary can't brace himself through the financial predicament, how are they going to ensure the sustainability of the family?

On the other hand, Zachary was conscious those were merely part of his grandfather's plan to keep him on track. Otherwise, Zachary might stray from his path in life due to his strained relationship with Charlotte.

At the moment, Danrique had stopped coming after Nacht Group since he could focus on increasing the influence of Lindberg Corporation in different regions instead of wasting his time with them.

If that was the case, the day for the two families' showdown would be stalled for at least a few years since Lindberg Corporation couldn't do much to get rid of Nacht Group for the time being.

As much as Danrique wished to wipe Nacht Group out of existence, he would have to ensure he was a match for the company that had been around for decades.