

# Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

## chapter 1166

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“W-What happened to you?”

Charlotte could sense that something was off, but she couldn't quite pinpoint it.

“I am dealing with some issues in the headquarter in M Nation now,” replied Zachary grimly, “I got some minor injuries.”

“Are you okay?”

Charlotte frowned deeply. She remembered how Zachary was literally stabbed in the back. That cut was deep, but he never even moaned when they stitched him back together. His voice right now suggests that it is not a minor injury at all.

“Are you worried about me?” asked Zachary softly.

“The kids are,” replied Charlotte, who instantly became annoyed. She handed the phone over to Robbie and informed him, “It's your daddy.”

Robbie took the phone right away and greeted excitedly, “Daddy!”

“Robbie.”

It had been a while since Zachary heard his son's voice. Hearing Robbie calling him Daddy made him feel all better. It felt like the pain he was enduring suddenly eased up.

“Daddy, are you okay?” asked Robbie in a worried tone, “Why did you turn your phone off? I couldn't find you for a while. What happened?”

"I have been working in M Nation and can't get to my phone," replied Zachary sweetly, "It's getting colder in Xendale. Are you and Ellie adapting well there? How is her treatment going?"

"Ellie and I are fine. She's recovering well, too..."

Robbie spoke discreetly and left out the part where they were in F Nation at that moment.

"I'm glad to hear that."

"Robbie, is that Daddy?" asked Ellie, who saw them and hurried over to request, "I want to talk to him too."

Robbie handed the phone over, and Ellie shouted into it immediately after. "Daddy, Daddy!"

"Ellie..."

"Daddy," said Ellie. She couldn't help sobbing a little as soon as she heard her dad's voice. She shared, "I miss you so much, Daddy. Why didn't you call us?"

"Be good, Ellie. I miss you too," cooed Zachary softly, "I have been working in M Nation, so I couldn't get to my phone."

"You truly frightened me. Robbie and I were so worried about you and thought that something bad might've happened," replied Ellie as she wiped her tears away.

"Silly kid. Daddy is fine. It's cold in Xendale, so remember to put on thicker coats to stay warm, okay? That way, you won't catch a cold. I will go pick you up as soon as you recover."

"We're not in Xendale now, Daddy. We're in Arkfield. It's so pretty here, and the vineyard is so big..."

Ellie got excited the second the topic involved the manor. She neglected the warning that Robbie was signaling with his eyes and kept talking.

"Dr. Felch and I went to the winery and the vineyard today. We picked so many grapes, and they are so sweet. We also went to the pasture..."

"Ellie," interrupted Robbie, "Let me talk to Daddy."

"Okay," murmured Ellie before she returned the phone unwillingly.

"Be good, Ellie, and go play with the others," cooed Charlotte to get Ellie to leave.

"Daddy, are you really okay?" asked Robbie softly.

"I'm fine," promised Zachary, "Don't worry. I promised I'd go to you when that day comes, and I will keep that promise."

"I'm glad to hear that."

"Hand the phone back to your mommy," instructed Zachary.

"Okay," replied Robbie before he handed the phone to Charlotte. He looked a little worried at the time.

"Go play with the others," cooed Charlotte as she stroked Robbie's tiny head.

"Okay," muttered Robbie before he left quietly.

"What?" asked Charlotte to get right to the point.

"Why did you go to F Nation?" asked Zachary, who was being just as direct.

"What does that have to do with you?" challenged Charlotte icily.

Zachary took a deep breath like he was trying his best to suppress something. He forced himself to calm down as much as possible before he made his offer.

"You can come back to H City if things are bad in Erihal. My men will protect everyone, and you didn't need to travel all the way to

F Nation. The Laurent family might be royalty, but they are inexperienced in dealing with hooligans...”

“Enough,” interrupted Charlotte, “Danrique sent some men to protect us, so there is no need for you to worry. I’ll hang up now if there is nothing else you’d like to share.”

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Charlotte ended the call. She frowned down at the empty black screen of her phone. Her emotions were all over the place, she quickly rearranged her face into a neutral expression and turned her attention back to the children.

Zachary was lying in bed, holding his phone to his chest. His exposed torso was crisscrossed with various tubes.

After about half a month of treatments, he had lost a lot of weight. His eyes were sunken in and his entire body looked haggard. It was difficult to look at him in this state.

Zachary had shown no signs of improvement and at this point, no one could be sure whether the treatment was even working as they had hoped.

However, there was no other choice but to be patient and continue with the treatments before any progress could be seen. After all, Zachary had only just started on the treatment.

The doctors had warned them that this sort of treatment could be very arduous treatment and it would take very strong willpower for a patient to go through it.

Back when Charlotte herself was undergoing the treatment, she had fallen into a deep coma. However, Zachary had not.

He was undergoing the treatment while fully conscious. He was not even given any anesthetics in order to protect his brain from any damage.

For the past six months, he had been treated like a test subject; he was poked and prodded all over his body daily.

He endured an unimaginable level of pain and discomfort, but he tolerated it all without even a sigh.

It was a miracle that he was able to hold onto his consciousness just by his own sheer willpower.

On that day, he finally felt a little stronger and he insisted on calling Charlotte and the children.

“Mr. Nacht, Erihal is now in chaos. Mr. Lindberg has requested Ms. Lindberg to take her children to F Nation for their safety,” Ben said cautiously, trying to calm him down.

“If Danrique’s rival finds Arkfield, they will all be in danger.”

Zachary closed his eyes. His brows were knitted tightly together from the pain. He held the phone tightly in one hand. He had just gotten off a phone call with Charlotte and the children and he still felt their presence all around him.

“Why don’t I ask Bruce to go over to them?” Ben suggested.

“Do not interfere with their lives; just watch over them secretly,” Zachary said slowly and laboriously. Every word felt painful. “Get him to report back to me every day on how they’re doing.”

“I understand,” Ben nodded and left to contact Bruce immediately.

“You should rest. Don’t worry too much,” the doctor who had been standing by his bedside advised gently. “You shouldn’t even have been allowed to make that phone call today. Any instability, both physically and emotionally, will affect your treatment.”

“I won’t die so easily...” Zachary whispered as he slipped into unconsciousness. The silhouette of Charlotte appeared in his dream, just like an angel.

She was standing in a vineyard, gazing at him with a beatific smile as if she was saying to him, "I'm waiting for you to come back to me."

Only his willpower was keeping him alive. He chanted repeatedly to himself, "You must endure. You must live on. You must go to F Nation and bring Charlotte and the children home."

Ben could not bear looking at Zachary's face, all twisted up in pain. He had always thought of Zachary as an invincible god-like figure and it was disconcerting to see him this way.

He fervently hoped that he would recover soon.

Ben relayed Zachary's order to Bruce who immediately rushed to F Nation with a group of his men. At the same time, he also directed some men to find out in which manor was Charlotte and Louise staying in.

Arkfield was, as always, cold and damp. There was a slimy quality to the atmosphere that made one feel rather icky.

On their third day at the manor, after completing the morning treatment, Charlotte and Louis took the children to the farm to pick fruits and vegetables. Then, later that day, they went to the flower fields to pick out their favorite blooms.

By the end of the day, the children were entertained and exhausted, and every one of them went home happy.

Even Dr. Felch was enjoying life at the manor. He was seated on their horse-drawn carriage, casually smoking a cigarette as he watched the children laughing and chasing each other in the countryside. A contented smile stretched across his face.

Sam, too, could not help sighing happily. "It's such a good day."

"It's a good day indeed." Dr. Felch looked into the horizon and frowned. "It looks like it's about to rain though."

"Really?" Sam looked up at the sky, squinting against the sun. "You're right. A storm is coming."

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Charlotte, too, noticed that the fair weather that they had been enjoying was about to turn. She waved the children over and told them to get into the car.

Louis, however, was untroubled by the darkening sky. "Why are you in such a hurry to get home? It's just a little rain! Look at how happy the children are!"

"Children should not be playing in the rain," Charlotte replied. She felt inexplicably uneasy.

"All right! You're their mother," Louis yielded and bundled the children into the car.

Then, they headed back towards the manor as the rain began to pour violently down on them.

The sky had turned threateningly dark and the atmosphere turned violent as the wind began to howl at their ears.

A cold fear gripped Charlotte's heart and she urged Morgan to go a little faster.

As soon as their carriage stopped in front of the manor, a loud 'boom' sounded in the distance. The children screamed in fright and covered their ears. Lupine, Morgan, and their men were immediately on full alert.

Charlotte stuck her head out of the car window and looked in the direction of the sound. There seemed to be an explosion in the distance. A fire was raging and clouds of thick smoke had begun to choke the air.

"Paul, what happened?" Louis asked urgently.

“Don’t worry, Sir Louis, I’ll dispatch my men to check out the situation immediately.”

Paul immediately sent his men to investigate the source of the explosion. At that moment, the bodyguards from the manor’s security team called with a report.

“An accident occurred on the road next to the manor. An oil tanker collided with the truck transporting our wine. The relevant authorities are on their way to deal with the situation.”

“Oh, it’s just a traffic accident,” Louis said with a sigh of relief.

“Noted. Don’t worry.”

Charlotte kept quiet. She still felt uneasy. Something’s not right...

Once they were back inside the manor, Charlotte calmed the children down and quietly ordered Lupine to send some men to check out the scene of the collision.

At the moment, Gordon appeared and reported, “Ms. Lindberg, I have already investigated the situation. It is indeed a traffic collision, but it is unclear whether it was sabotage.”

“What do you mean?” Charlotte frowned.

“It could be the case that someone had deliberately caused the accident as a diversion while they try to sneak into the manor,” Gordon explained. “I have sent men to deal with this. If my suspicion is right, the culprits will be caught soon.”

“Who could it be?” Lupine wondered suspiciously.

“Could it be an enemy of the Laurent family?” Morgan speculated.

“It shouldn’t be...” Gordon countered as he analyzed the situation in his head. “It could be people from Erihal.”

Lupine and Morgan were shocked to hear Gordon’s speculation. They were all highly trained elite bodyguards who feared none of the rivals.

Even so, the people from Erihal were not to be easily dismissed.

“Don’t worry, I’ll handle it,” Gordon said calmly. “In the meantime, be on alert until I’ve caught the culprits.”

“Yes, we understand.” Lupine and Morgan nodded.

“Thank you for your assistance, Gordon,” Charlotte said gratefully. “Please watch out for your own safety as well.”

“I will, Ms. Lindberg.” Gordon turned to Lupine and Morgan. “Leave the external security matters to me. You two just focus on guarding Ms. Lindberg and the children.”

“We understand.”

Gordon nodded in satisfaction and left the room.

Charlotte ordered Lupine and Morgan to have their best men watching over the children. She would not allow anything to happen to them.

Lupine immediately left to arrange for her best bodyguards to be on duty over the children.

Only Morgan stayed on to look over the room for any signs. He could not help sighing and said rather dejectedly, “I thought it would be safe here in F Nation. Never would I have thought that those people would pursue us all the way here. It would have been better for us to have stayed put in Xendale. At least Mr. Lindberg’s men would be there to protect us.”

“No, it won’t be better for us there.” Charlotte countered. She had a clarity of mind that she did not. “If we had stayed on in Xendale, there would be a terrible fight, but here in F Nation, they wouldn’t dare to attack us openly. Instead, they would try to sneak up on us. Gordon can easily thwart their plans.”

“You’re right.” Morgan nodded. “Well then, I guess we’ll just have to be extra careful.”

“I don’t need you here. Don’t worry about me. Go and help Lupine guard the children,” Charlotte said with a wave of her hand.

“Arrange for four men to watch over each one of the children in rotation. Do not let them out of your sight.”

“Yes, Ms. Lindberg.”

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After Morgan had left the room, Charlotte probed the room herself. She found nothing out of place, and prepared to shower and sleep.

At that moment, Louis knocked on her door. “Charlotte, can I come in?”

Charlotte pulled on a cardigan and opened the door. “Louis, is something wrong?”

“I just wanted to check up on you. I hope the explosion didn’t scare you too much,” Louis said, his voice tinged with concern. “Paul has already investigated the incident. It was just a mere traffic accident; nothing to be worried about. However, I’ll still get the guards to increase their watch on the perimeters just to be safe.”

“Thanks for taking the trouble to do all that,” Charlotte said. “Good night, then. You should rest well.”

“I...” Louis hesitated. He seemed reluctant to leave.

“What’s wrong?” Charlotte narrowed her eyes at him.

“I...” Louis sounded nervous. “Well, there’s a bar in the manor. I wanted to invite you for a drink.”

“Now?” Charlotte frowned. “After what happened earlier today, it’s best for us not to go out so late.”

“Huh?” Louis looked confused. “What do you mean by ‘late’? It’s just a little past nine o’clock.”

"Let's go another day, okay?" Charlotte said simply. "You should sleep early. Good night."

She did not wait for Louis to reply and closed the door on his face after saying that.

Louis stood on the other side of the door, feeling very disappointed. He had thought that they would spend more time with each other once they arrived at the manor.

However, Charlotte had not allowed him any chance to be alone with her. Every time he tried to approach her, she would find some excuse to avoid him. He had finally mustered up the courage to ask her out directly and she had still turned him down.

He had no other choice but to continue waiting on her patiently.

Louis sighed to himself and turned to leave.

Inside her room, Charlotte was stunned speechless by Louis' invitation earlier. That man really has no sense of danger! He does not care about safety at all! He dares to ask me to go to a bar with him at a time when we should all be on high alert!

However, this was Louis' personality. His life had been smooth sailing ever since he was a child, and he had never experienced any terrible crisis. It was only natural that he would develop such a gentle and trusting personality, and a lack of a sense of danger.

Charlotte shook her head to herself and put him out of her mind. She was still worried about the children. She left her room and went to check up on them.

Lupine had scheduled four of her men to watch over each of the children in shifts, even when they were asleep. Luckily, the children loved the excitement and did not mind the bodyguards' presence around them.

Only Robbie, the most perceptive of all the children, asked Charlotte, "Mommy, was the explosion this afternoon a sneak attack on us?"

"It was a car accident," Charlotte explained gently. "Mommy's just taking extra precaution now to be safe. Don't worry about it. Go to sleep now. Sweet dreams."

"Okay," Robbie said sleepily and dropped the subject. "You should sleep early too, Mommy. Ellie and the others are all tired from playing today and they're already sleeping soundly."

"They must have a lot of fun sleeping in the same room." Charlotte smiled as she thought of them playing together happily before bed, "Ellie really likes playing with them."

"I'm not much fun. Ellie was probably bored to death with just me around. Now that she has three girls to play with, she is much, much happier," Robbie said with a laugh.

"Haha! What about you? Are you bored?" Charlotte asked with a smile.

"I'm not. I spend my time reading or surfing the internet or painting... There's so much to do!" Robbie replied. "On the other hand, Mommy, you must focus on your treatment!"

"I will." Charlotte pulled Robbie in for a hug. "Time for bed. Mommy wants to go to sleep too."

"Good night, Mommy!"

"Good night, Robbie."

Charlotte walked back to her room. She caught sight of Louis drinking alone in the bar downstairs. She frowned to herself but did not say anything.

Guilt pricked at her heart. She clearly had no feelings for him. Yet, she had said yes to his proposal and let herself enjoy his affection.

His days consisted of playing with the children and making her happy. He did not do much for himself at all. Could he be pressuring himself too much?

Suddenly, the loud noise of car engines interrupted her thoughts. Charlotte walked over to the window and peered outside. It was a convoy of seven cars ferrying the Laurent family.

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In an instant, Charlotte heard the maids yelling, "Lady Sherlyn is here. Go down and welcome her now!"

Her heart skipped a beat. Ah! So Louis' mother, Lady Sherlyn, is here!

Knock! Knock! After a while, she heard someone knock on the door.

"Come in," Charlotte responded briefly.

Lupine stepped into the room hastily and notified her, "Ms. Lindberg, Lady Sherlyn is here. Do we have to go down and welcome her?"

"The kids are asleep, aren't they?" Charlotte asked her instead, without replying directly to her question. She glanced at her watch and noticed that it was already half-past nine.

"Ellie and the three little ones are asleep, but Robbie is still reading," Lupine replied.

Charlotte instructed, "Don't interrupt them. You go down with Morgan and me. As for the others, get them to keep an eye on the kids. Just let them go over to greet her tomorrow morning."

"Ms. Lindberg, Noted. I will proceed with the necessary arrangement." Lupine nodded respectfully and left the room.

By the time Charlotte had gotten changed, Lupine and Morgan were already waiting for her outside the door. Without hesitation, she went down with both of them.

Coincidentally, Louis was advancing toward them with his mother. There were about twenty subordinates following behind them, carrying luggage of various sizes. The lineup was rather overwhelming.

“Charlotte, this is my mom. Mom, this is Charlotte.” Louis introduced them to each other.

“Lady Sherlyn, nice to meet you,” Charlotte greeted her with a curtsy.

Sherlyn’s face lit up as she complimented Charlotte, “Ah! You look even more stunning in person! I have been looking forward to meeting you. Once I knew that you were coming to F Nation, I requested Louis and his dad to arrange for us to meet. However, they keep telling me that you can’t meet me so soon as you are currently under treatment. Hence, they can only arrange for us to meet after your recovery. However, I can hardly wait to meet you, so here I am!”

“Lady Sherlyn, I feel bad as you have to come all the way here. I should be the one to visit you first, but I was worried that I might disturb you. Thus, I’m planning to visit you only after my treatment,” Charlotte explained courteously.

“It doesn’t matter who’s the one to pay a visit first. After all, we will be a family soon.” Sherlyn held Charlotte’s hands jubilantly and scanned her from head to toe. “Undoubtedly, my son has a good eye!”

“Haha! Mom, I knew it! I foresee that you will like Charlotte very much!” Louis laughed triumphantly.

Louis was over the moon and planned to assign the maids to prepare a welcoming banquet for his mother.

Nonetheless, Sherlyn stopped him at once. “It’s already quite late, don’t wake the kids up. I will have a quick wash up in the room first. After that, let’s go to the study room for a chit-chat while enjoying coffee. What do you think?”

“Good idea.” Louis nodded. He assigned the maids to prepare coffee and desserts.

Sherlyn patted the back of Louis’ hand and advised him, “You are not young anymore and mustn’t be so reckless. You should bear in mind to put the kids as the top priority all the time.”

“Mom, you have a point. Thanks for reminding me.” He turned to look at Charlotte with a grin.

“Lady Sherlyn, thanks for your understanding,” Charlotte thanked her sincerely.

She used to presume that Sherlyn, from the royal family, might have her nose in the air and tend to make a big fuss out of nothing. It never crossed her mind that she was a good-tempered and easy-going person. On top of that, she was thoughtful and catered to the kids’ well-being.

“I will go up to have a quick wash up. Just wait for a while. I won’t take long.” Sherlyn headed toward the staircase excitedly.

Meanwhile, an elegantly dressed young lady quickened her pace and tried to catch her up. “Aunt Sherlyn, let me accompany you.”

The young lady nodded to Charlotte respectfully when she walked past her.

“Oh yeah, Diana, wait a minute. Charlotte, I forgot to introduce you two. Meet my cousin, Diana.” Louis introduced her to Charlotte at once. “Diana has been by my mom’s side these two years. She has good medical skills, and she is my mom’s great helper.”

“Ms. Lindberg, nice to meet you.” Diana bowed to Charlotte again humbly.

“Nice to meet you too,” Charlotte replied with a smile and scrutinized Diana for a while. No doubt, she was a typical beauty with a dainty face and attractive figure. Apart from that, she had a pair of beautiful blue eyes gleaming with wisdom.

“Diana, just address her as Charlotte. She will be a member of our family soon,” Sherlyn said jokingly to her.

“Yes, Aunt Sherlyn,” Diana bowed with her head lowered; her lips were curved into a smile all the time. She was apparently exuding a vibe of nobility through her perfect royal etiquette.

“We will go up first.” Sherlyn smiled gently at Charlotte and said, “Louis, wait for me in the study room with Charlotte.”

“Sure,” Louis replied casually.