

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 1225

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Charlotte felt uneasy about Sherlyn's words; she could not, however, deny that anyone would naturally be worried about their future daughter-in-law meeting an ex-husband alone at a hotel.

Instead of voicing her discomfort, she set down her cutlery and declared, "I'm going to see Danrique's kids. Please enjoy your dinner."

"All right," Sherlyn acknowledged briefly before turning back to her meal.

Louis placed his cutlery on the table and offered, "I'll accompany you, Charlotte."

She dismissed his offer coolly. "That won't be necessary; you should stay here with your parents. I want to be alone for a while."

Charlotte scuttled off soon after.

Louis watched her departing figure with a forlorn expression. His efforts to grow closer to her were always met with a frosty demeanor.

Despite their engagement, Charlotte had never once opened her heart to him.

Nothing he did could convince her to accept him as a romantic partner.

In the meantime, Charlotte had arrived at the playroom to meet Danrique's kids.

The triplets seemed unusually listless that day, fiddling with their Legos distractedly. Their chattering selves were nowhere to be found, plunging the room into silence.

Charlotte asked gently, "What's wrong? Why aren't any of you playing?"

Alpha pouted and replied, "Ellie isn't here, so it's not fun. Robbie's missing too. He doesn't play with us, but he always sits beside us like he's protecting us."

"Aunt Charlotte, where did they go?" Beta tugged on Charlotte's sleeve and asked, "Where did Jamie go? He looks like Robbie, and he knows how to do cartwheels. It was so cool! Where did they go to?"

"Did a bad person take them away?" Gamma asked with puppy-dog eyes.

She added, "Yesterday, I saw a super tall man wearing black clothes. He looked so fierce, just like a bad guy! Did he take Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie away?"

"That's their father. He's not a bad guy," Charlotte explained with a smile.

"Really?"

Her answer piqued the curiosity of all three kids, who crowded around her, bursting with questions of their own.

"So that tall, fierce bad guy was Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie's father? Does that mean he's your husband?"

"No, he doesn't have to be her husband. Mommy and Daddy aren't married, but Daddy is still our Daddy."

"Oh yeah, you're right. Aunt Charlotte is marrying Sir Louis, so Sir Louis is her husband."

"Then, who should we call Uncle?"

"Silly, of course it's Sir Louis."

"Then what do we call that tall fierce man?"

"We'll call him the tall, fierce bad guy!"

“That’s too long. I can’t remember it.”

“Then we’ll just call him bad guy!”

“Okay! I can remember that!”

The triplets chattered among themselves and even came up with a nickname for Zachary.

Charlotte could not help but laugh at their antics, though it was a bittersweet moment that reminded her of her missing children.

She wondered how Zachary would explain things to them. If they found out about what happened, would they hate me?

Charlotte could not sit still any longer and told Lupine, “Get the car ready. We’re leaving for Pillere in half an hour.”

“Huh? Aren’t we setting off tomorrow morning with Sir Louis and his family?”

“I can’t wait anymore. Let’s go now. I’ll get Dr. Felch, and I want you to settle the travel arrangements ASAP. We’ll go to Pillere with these kids and the doctor,” came Charlotte’s firm orders.

“Got it.” Lupine immediately got to work.

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Charlotte felt sorry for making Dr. Felch run around with her, especially at his old age.

Still, it would be far worse to leave him and Danrique’s children at the manor while she traveled to Pillere alone; after all, her relationship with the Laurents was, at best, strained.

Louis was as loving as ever toward her, but Robert and Sherlyn had begun to behave differently around her.

Charlotte knew that Danrique's continued absence as the wedding approached complicated matters.

Robert and Sherlyn had probably begun to assume that Danrique's agreement to the marriage was no more than a safety net for Charlotte and her children.

They might even be beating themselves up for allying with the wrong family now that the Lindberg Corporation was in trouble while the Nacht Group had successfully made a comeback.

If the Lindberg Corporation toppled, they would have nowhere to turn to after Sherlyn's irredeemable behavior toward Zachary.

They would have lost more than they had expected.

While Robert and Sherlyn's behavior was understandable, it spoke volumes about their lack of compassion.

Charlotte could not believe how she had ever thought of Louis' family as noble and sincere people. I must've been blind.

She went to the loft to tell Dr. Felch about her plans to go to Pillere.

He seemed confused as he asked, "Aren't you and Sir Louis getting married in three days? Why are you heading to Pillere early? Did something happen?"

Charlotte knew she would eventually have to come clean about her motives. "To tell you the truth, Zachary came by a couple of days ago and brought our children away. I'd like to talk to him in Pillere about it."

"All right." Dr. Felch smiled in response. "I'm always in this loft preparing medicine when I'm not treating anyone, and I've been sorely unaware of the happenings in the manor."

She eked out regretfully, "I'm sorry for forcing you to travel again, Dr. Felch. After I've settled things in Pillere, I promise I'll send you home."

“Are there direct flights from Arkfield? I can fly back myself.” Dr. Felch had been planning on returning home for a while now.

“You’re thinking of leaving now? But I haven’t been able to thank you properly for your service yet,” Charlotte said uneasily.

The doctor merely smiled and replied, “There’s plenty of time for that. You and Ellie have almost recovered, so there’s no need for me to stay any longer.”

Just then, his thoughts drifted to Zachary. “I do recall Zachary falling sick some time ago. Is he feeling better now?”

Clueless about his illness, Charlotte answered, “He lost a lot of weight when I saw him last, though he seemed to be in good spirits. I guess he has recovered.”

“That’s wonderful.” Dr. Felch nodded before adding, “I’ll get going then; the two of you have almost completed your courses of medication anyway. Please feel free to visit me in Phoenix City if you require my services in the future.”

“Okay, I’ll handle your travel arrangements right away.”

Charlotte had Morgan hire a private jet for Dr. Felch. There were no routes directly connecting Arkfield to Phoenix City, and upon further discussion, Dr. Felch decided to transit in H City.

He wanted to pay his respects to the late Richard Windt and visit some friends. He also insisted that flying home from H City afterward would not be a hassle.

Charlotte assigned two bodyguards and two maids to accompany Dr. Felch, Sam, and Hayley to the airport. She instructed them to take care of the doctor and ensure his safe return to his home in Phoenix City.

After settling Dr. Felch’s travel arrangements, Charlotte was ready to depart for Pillere with Danrique’s kids in tow.

Her convoy began approaching the gates of the manor, only to be stopped a moment later by bodyguards from the Laurent family. “Apologies, Ms. Lindberg, but you cannot leave the manor without Sir Robert and Lady Sherlyn’s permission.”

Charlotte was furious. They must've told their staff that only Dr. Felch was allowed to leave.

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Morgan exploded, "Ms. Lindberg isn't a puppet of the Laurent family. They don't have the right to control her movements. Now step aside!"

"I'm sorry, but I'm just following my orders." The bodyguards refused to budge.

Meanwhile, one of them had contacted Robert and Sherlyn about Charlotte's plan.

Soldiers soon surrounded the convoy, making it impossible for them to leave.

Charlotte scoffed at the outrageous effort to keep her in the manor. They must be worried about becoming the laughingstock of the nation if I became a runaway bride.

She suspected that Dr. Felch's departure tipped them off about her early departure plans. They got all these soldiers here in time to stop me. They're practically covering me into submission! How lovely!

Gordon piqued up, "Ms. Lindberg, say the word, and we'll run these men over. Don't be scared of these soldiers. They're a bunch of weaklings!"

As Danrique's right-hand man, Gordon typically bustled through life fearlessly.

Dozens of soldiers were nothing but child's play to him.

"It's fine. We shouldn't clash with the Laurent family directly before Danrique appears. He's the one who agreed to this marriage, after all," Charlotte declared calmly.

Lupine asked quietly, "What should we do now?"

"Now, we wait." Charlotte leaned into her car seat and stroked Fifi's feathers. She even instructed the maids to keep the sleeping children warm.

A disgruntled Morgan complained, "Why should we wait for them? I'm confident they wouldn't fire their guns even if we barged through their troops. Even if they did, there's nothing to be scared of."