## Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1333

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"I wanted Morgan to go at first, as Marino is easier to deal with. However, I thought about it and felt that Morgan is more careless, so I've decided to send you instead," Charlotte said in a grim tone. "Ben is Zachary's trusted subordinate. If there's anything wrong with Zachary, Ben will certainly know."

"I understand." Lupine nodded. "Don't worry, Ms. Lindberg."

"Remember, you have to be sneaky about it," Charlotte reminded. "Ben is a wary man. Your first step is to attack him through the emotional route. When he's caught off guard, find out about Zachary's condition from him."

"Got it." By then, Lupine's face was a little red. "I, too, thought that something was up when they were leaving earlier. Ben was supporting Mr. Nacht carefully as if the latter was going to fall at any time."

"I know what you mean." Charlotte was fighting a rising panic, and that was why she was sending Lupine to find out more. "All right. It's almost time now. Hurry along."

"Okay." Lupine left.

in the meantime, Charlotte paced in her room. She looked at the sofa that Zachary sat on earlier before looking at the spot where the tea had been spilled. The more she ruminated about what happened earlier, the more anxious she became.

Zachary had been avoiding eye contact with her, and he had missed the things he wanted to take a few times. Clearly, there was something wrong with him.

Then, she thought about the time when she brought Robbie and Ellie to Erihal. During those two months, Zachary had not contacted the children. In the end, she had to contact Ben before Zachary called them.

Nevertheless, every call of his only lasted minutes at most.

She had sensed something amiss back then, but Ben told her that he had gone to M Nation to deal with the headquarters' matters. He had also

explained to her that there had been an assassination attempt on him on his way there and that he was injured, so Charlotte did not dwell too long on that matter.

Now that she thought about it, she could not help but wonder, Was his injury severe? Is there some long-lasting effect of it?

Her legs were wobbly with fear. Charlotte truly hoped that Lupine would be able to get some clues from Ben.

Meanwhile, at Southridge.

When Zachary heard the sound of a car starting up outside, he cried out, "Ben!"

"Sir." Marino tiptoed into the room. "Mr. Nacht, Ben has gone out. Is there anything you'd like me to do?"

"Why is he going out so late at night?" Zachary asked.

"I don't know because he didn't tell me anything. He seemed like he was in a rush, however."

Noticing the lack of lights in the room, Marino asked, "Do you want me to turn on the lights?"

Zachary knew that Marino was young, and he was not as guarded as the rest of them. Fearing that Morgan would set up a trap for Marino to gain information from him, he had sent Marino out on various tasks recently.

Therefore, Marino still did not know about how he had abruptly lost his vision earlier in the day.

"It's fine." Zachary then asked, "Ben was in a rush when he went out? Did he take anyone with him?"

"Yes, he was really in a hurry. I saw him running down the stairs, but he didn't take anyone with him."

"Call him," Zachary instructed. "Tell him that I know he went out."

"Huh?" Marino was confused—he did not know what Zachary meant—but he still did as he was told to.

Ben was already at the back of the mountain. When he stepped out of the car, he spotted Lupine walking down the slope.

She seemed to have dressed up, for she was wearing a dress. The night breeze billowed her skirt, and she looked gorgeous.

Ben's hands were cold and clammy, and he hurriedly combed his hair while looking at the rearview mirror. Right as anticipation filled his chest, the phone in his pocket rang.

He quickly picked it up. "Hey, Marino, what's up?"

"Ben, Mr. Nacht knows that you've gone out," Marino repeated what Zachary had told him.

Ben froze before squeezing out, "What did he say?"

"Nothing. He just asked me to convey this message to you."

Right as those words left Marino's mouth, he nervously turned to glance at Zachary, fearing that the latter would be mad at him.

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"All right. I understand." Ben raised his head to look at Lupine, who was getting closer and closer to him, and he snapped back to reality. "Tell Mr. Nacht that I'll be back soon."

"Oh, okay."

After ending the call, Marino cast a tentative glance at Zachary and said, "Ben said he's going to come back soon."

"Okay." Zachary then made a dismissive gesture.

With a lowered head, Marino left, closing the door behind him quietly.

In the dark, Zachary continued to smoke as he mulled over his emotions. He had instantly realized that Charlotte had asked Lupine to invite Ben out so that she could sound him out.

Ben was a smart man; he should have realized that as well.

Nevertheless, he still went.

Perhaps it was because he could not reject Lupine, or perhaps he wanted to use that way to relieve his guilt in leaking out the secret so that Charlotte could go back to the Nacht family.

Regardless of everything, by meeting Lupine, Ben was prepared to become a traitor.

Therefore, Zachary had told Marino to make the call and tell Ben that he knew he had gone to meet Lupine.

Even now, Marino still had trouble comprehending what they meant. On the other hand, Ben understood them immediately.

If Zachary knew that he had gone out in secret to meet Lupine, that meant he knew about what he and Lupine were about to do. If he were to say the wrong words, then he would no longer be able to return to the Nacht family.

That was why Ben had snapped back to reality and regained his rationality.

Lupine's little trick was bound to fail.

In terms of scheming, Charlotte could never win against Zachary.

Nevertheless, he was delighted to find out that she had done all those to figure out what was wrong with him.

That meant that she was worried about him.

"Ben!"

"Lupine!"

It was the first time the two had met in private, let alone on a dark night like that.

They could not help but feel nervous and shy.

Although Ben had been to almost everywhere with Zachary and had seen countless scenarios, it was the first date of his life.

"Are you cold?" Lupine murmured.

"I'm not." Ben then lifted his head to look at Lupine, thinking, *She's* so pretty today. With a little bit of dressing up, she looks like a beautiful girl.

However, those were the words he did not dare to let pass his teeth.

"I'm cold," Lupine grumbled.

"Oh," Ben answered dumbly. It took a second or two before he recollected his senses. "Then let's hurry into the car. It's warm inside."

Lupine was speechless. She thought he would take off his jacket and put it on her. That way, she would be able to lean into his arms and begin their intimate moment. Then, she would be able to pry the information from him.

Yet, Ben was telling her that the inside of the car was warmer.

In the meantime, without much thought into it, Ben opened the door to the front passenger seat.

Left without a choice, Lupine stepped into the car. After Ben turned on the heater and adjusted the temperature, he softly asked, "Are you still cold?"

"Not anymore." Now, Lupine did not know what she could do to make him talk. The jacket trick had been something Morgan taught her.

"H-Have you had your dinner?" Ben asked.

"Yes." Lupine rolled her eyes. *This guy's just asking a bunch of silly questions*.

"Then, can I know why you've asked me to come out?" Ben's heart raced as he gazed at her.

"Must I have a reason to invite you here?" Lupine huffed out.

"No, no," Ben denied. "I'm just worried if anything has happened to you. I hope I can help you out."

"You're finally talking," Lupine commented as her mood brightened up. In a shy voice, she muttered, "There's nothing, really. It's just that we're living close by now, and since there's nothing going on for my side, I wanted to meet you."

Ben's heart skipped a beat when he heard her words. "You're right. We've never gotten a chance to sit down and have a nice chat by ourselves."

"Now we do." Lupine then mustered her courage to look into his eyes. "If you're free, you can come and look for me."

"How could I possibly be free? I'm so busy all the time," Ben blurted out before he realized what he had said. "Still, I'll come and meet you when I have the time."

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"What are you busy with?" Lupine complained. "Lindberg Corporation isn't fighting against you nowadays; Nacht Group is monopolizing the corporate world. What could you possibly be busy with?"

"It's true that everything's going fine in the company, but..."

At that point, Ben realized what Lupine was doing. If not for his wary nature, he would have let the secret slip without noticing.

"But what?"

"I'm Mr. Nacht's right-hand man. I have to do everything myself. Naturally, I won't have a lot of free time," Ben said with a smile. "Nevertheless, I can still come out here once in a while."

"Oh, all right." Lupine realized that her plan had failed, so she decided to change her strategies. "There's something in your hair."

"What?" Before Ben could react, Lupine had reached out toward the top of his head, causing him to stiffen up.

Her fingers gently combed his hair, seemingly casual but affectionately. His heart began thumping loudly.

"It's a leaf!" Lupine took out a dried leaf from his head and chuckled. "Were you at a forest? How did the leaf get into your hair?"

"Oh. Maybe it was from earlier, when I was under the tree."

Ben was so nervous to the point his face was as red as a tomato, and he was almost hyperventilating.

"By the way, did you skip dinner tonight?" Lupine took out a small bag of something from her pocket. "I made these green pea tartlets myself. Have a try." You made these?" Ben took them and placed one in his mouth. Its sweetness reached all the way into his heart. "This is delicious!"

"I'm glad you like them. I'll get you more tomorrow." Lupine giggled. "Robbie, Jamie, Ellie, and the three other little ones like them too. The three little ones, especially. They're always pestering me to make more for them."

"Haha! The kids are adorable." Ben beamed.

"You like them too, right?" Lupine asked in a merry tone. "Ms. Lindberg was worried that Mr. Nacht wouldn't like the three little ones, but it seems like they're getting along with each other. I'm sure Ms. Lindberg will be relieved."

"Indeed. Mr. Nacht looks cold, but he's a kind man inside." Pride swelled in Ben's heart when he talked about Zachary. "The kids adore him."

"Yes. After Mr. Nacht left, I went to tuck the three little ones into bed. They even told me that they hoped Mr. Nacht would be able to tell them more stories tomorrow."

Then, with a smile, Lupine asked, "Will Mr. Nacht come tomorrow?"

"I don't think so," Ben replied before his mind truly registered the question.

"What's the matter?" They had finally reached the main topic Lupine wanted to know more about. "I noticed something off with him when you were leaving earlier. Is he sick?"

"No, no, he's fine," Ben explained. "Maybe his legs went numb when he was reading the kids bedtime stories. Moreover, it seems like he was scalded when he was chatting with Ms. Lindberg in the bedroom."

"Is that all?" Lupine wondered out loud. "It looks to me that he's feeling some discomfort in his eyes."

"Maybe something got into his eyes when he came down the stairs earlier," Ben said dismissively.

"All right." There was nothing Lupine could do when Ben refused to give her any answers.

"It's getting late. Let me send you back."

The longer they chatted, the likelier he might blurt something he should not, so it was best for him to end the date as quickly as possible.

"You're going back?" Lupine asked, disappointment evident in her voice.

"Bruce went out to work on something, and I'm not home, so I'm a little worried." Ben did not have the courage to stay out for long with Zachary's current condition. "Everyone else is careless, so I have to stay home by Zachary's side."

"Okay." Lupine then stepped out of the car. "I'll walk myself back. It's just a short path home. You should hurry home too."

"I'll leave when I see you reach the door."

Ben then turned on the car lights to illuminate her path.

His gesture warmed her heart, and she waved at him before jogging up the path.

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Lupine got home and reported everything about Ben to Charlotte.

Charlotte knitted her brows and responded in disbelief. "Are you sure? You mean I was wrong?"

"I don't think he lied." Lupine thought about it. "But before they left, I did feel there was something weird about Mr. Nacht..."

"Continue to monitor and test them," Charlotte ordered. "Try asking him out again tomorrow."

Lupine nodded and consoled Charlotte. "Don't worry, Ms. Lindberg. No news is good news. Perhaps there's nothing wrong with Mr. Nacht?"

"I hope so." Charlotte let out a sigh. "I'm afraid he's keeping things from me."

"You still care for him." Lupine could tell. "And I think he cares for you too. Why don't you two get back together?" "It's easier said than done." Charlotte sighed. "Besides, there are still many obstacles that get in our way..."

"What obstacles?" Lupine was puzzled. "Since Mr. Henry is not around anymore, no one can stop the two of you from getting back together anymore."

"Whatever that has happened in the past, I can't just let them be bygones," Charlotte uttered with a bitter smile. "Our feuds may be in the past, but the pain remains."

Besides, it's not just a relationship problem but a feud between the Nachts and Linbergs. I'm in no position to say or do anything at this point. What would others think of me if I return to the Nacht family when Danrique is still missing? And what if Danrique returns?

"You're right." Lupine did not know what else to say anymore.

"It's getting late. Go and get some rest." Charlotte gently patted her shoulder.

Lupine nodded. "You too. Remember don't wet your injured hand. Call us if you need any help."

"Got it."

The room quietened down once again after Lupine had left.

Charlotte lay on the bed and could not sleep.

Everything that had happened today flashed across her mind, and she remembered how agitated Zachary was when she got injured. The way he looked her in the eyes had stirred her emotions.

Charlotte could feel the love he had for her, but she did not have the courage to start afresh with him.

Despite not being able to get back together with him, she still wanted the best for him.

Hence, she must get to the bottom of that matter.

Zachary, who also had trouble falling asleep, sat alone in the dark. The room was so quiet that the only sound in it was his breathing.

The hours gradually ticked away yet he was still wide awake.

He was afraid that he might not wake up had he fallen asleep.

It was the first time Zachary's vision was lost entirely ever since he fell ill three months ago. Though he had regained his vision, he felt his time on earth was running out.

He was worried.

Before I die, I must make all the arrangements properly. I must make sure my family, career, children, and Charlotte are all taken care of even when I'm gone!

He believed everything was under his control, but not Charlotte. He did not know what to do with her.

Just when he was deep in thoughts, Ben knocked on the door. "I'm back."

"Come in," Zachary responded.

Ben apologized and entered the room slowly. He then reported the conversation he had with Lupine to him. "It was clear that she was testing me, but I didn't say anything."

"You would have told her had I not reminded you, wouldn't you?" Zachary questioned him.

Ben lowered his head and kept mum. He dared not lie as he knew Zachary could read his mind.