

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort chapter 1385

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Ben cleared his throat a little. Things had become so awkward that he didn't know what to say.

"Mr. Nacht is still sleeping, Ms. Gold, so may I suggest you go have breakfast for now?" advised Raina softly.

"I've lost my appetite," replied Nancy as she stared lovingly at Zachary, "I want to stay with him for a little while. Don't worry. I won't disturb him."

Raina stared at Ben in exasperation.

Ben was speechless as well. He didn't know what to say, and it was not like he could chase her out. Nancy was the one who got Helen to fly over for Zachary, after all.

Hence, it was socially inappropriate for them to chase her away at that moment.

"Okay, then please take a seat, Ms. Gold," said Raina before she got a chair over.

Nancy sat down and stared quietly at Zachary. Heartache shone from her eyes.

Raina poured Nancy a cup of water before she continued wiping Zachary with the warm towel.

"Let me do it."

Nancy took the warm towel away from Raina and started wiping Zachary. Every stroke she made, from his face to his neck to his arm, was gentle and sweet.

Both Raina and Ben felt awkward watching from the side.

Just then, a subordinate came in to report something to Ben, so he had to leave for a moment.

"Please go get another towel. This one has gone cold."

Nancy handed the towel back to Raina.

"Okay," replied Raina. She held the towel and went into the washroom.

Zachary and Nancy became the only ones left in the room. She gently stroked his frown like she was trying to take his troubles away.

Zachary seemed to have sensed her. His eyelashes fluttered a little, and his hand moved.

"Mr. Nacht," said Nancy excitedly. She reached out to hold his hand as she promised, "Don't worry. I am right here..."

Zachary looked like he was trapped in a nightmare. He held Nancy's hand tightly. His nightmare eventually scared him awake, and his entire body trembled. Sweat dripped down from his forehead like never before.

"It's fine. You're okay. I'm here," cooed Nancy with a broken heart. She held his hand tightly and caressed his face.

Perhaps her coos were working, but it didn't take long before Zachary calmed back down. He slowly opened his eyes. His vision was blurry when he looked at her, and his dried lips parted like he was calling out to something.

"What is it?" asked Nancy. She got closer to listen to him.

"C-Charlotte."

Zachary's voice was raspy and ridiculously soft, but he was calling out to Charlotte in the most loving tone.

Nancy instantly stiffened. It felt like someone had tossed a bucket of icy water on her passionate and burning heart. Every inch of her felt cold.

She stared sorrowfully at Zachary as a complex emotion rose up in her. Nancy hated that feeling.

I don't get it. Why does he love that woman so much? What is so good about her? Is she really worthy of his love?

"Mr. Nacht is up!"

Raina exited the washroom at the time and saw how Zachary had woken up. She hurried over to examine him.

Nancy had no choice but to move away and stare quietly from the side.

"I'll go get my medical kit."

Raina went to grab her medical kit to measure Zachary's pulse rate and temperature.

Nancy, on the other hand, held the warm towel. She wanted to continue wiping Zachary's body.

Zachary's vision slowly cleared up, and he realized that the woman in front of him wasn't Charlotte. He instinctively moved his hand away upon seeing Nancy.

Nancy was disappointed about how he reacted, but she wasn't upset. Instead, she patiently reassured, "It's nothing. I just wanted to take care of you."

"T-thank you," replied Zachary. He had to struggle to say those words.

Just then, Ben rushed in. He heard about how Zachary was up. Zachary saw the guy and weakly waved to signal Ben.

Ben quickly informed, "Ms. Gold, I need to help Mr. Nacht change his clothes. Perhaps you should..."

"I understand."

Ben had a poker face on and spoke respectfully, but Nancy knew that Zachary's earlier hand gesture had instructed Ben to chase her out of the room.

Perhaps Zachary did that because he didn't want to show her his weaker side, or perhaps he wanted to protect his reputation of being strong. Either way, this means that he still sees me as an outsider.

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Fortunately, Nancy knew better than to let the little things in life bring her down. Besides, if she didn't have the tolerance, she never would've made it to where she was today.

Her lips curled into a smile as she gazed tenderly at Zachary. "I'll take my leave now. Get some rest, all right? I'll come by again later."

Zachary said nothing else, merely blinking to show his acknowledgment.

With that, Nancy gave Ben and Raina a polite nod and walked away.

Ben couldn't help but admire her. He was impressed at how Nancy always kept her cool and remained friendly to everyone, regardless of the situation. Most people could never be like her, no matter how hard they tried.

With Nancy gone, Raina proceeded to give Zachary a thorough check-up. "Mr. Nacht, I'm going to start with taking your blood pressure..."

Ben stood at the side, relieved that Zachary had regained consciousness and was slowly recovering. "It's good to have you back. You had all of us worried sick."

Zachary squinted his eyes and murmured, "What time is it?"

"It's half-past seven in the morning. The kids are awake and having breakfast downstairs. I told them you were still resting and that they shouldn't disturb you—"

"Is Charlotte here?" Zachary interrupted.

Ben was stunned for a moment as he exchanged nervous glances with Raina. After collecting himself, he replied, "Ms. Lindberg reached Mount Phoenix last night and is now paying her respects to Dr. Felch. When I spoke with Lupine, she said they might return a little later."

Upon hearing that, Zachary nodded contentedly and slowly dozed off.

Ben heaved a silent sigh of relief even though deep down he was still in a complete state of panic.

It was his first time lying to Zachary, after all, but what other choice did he have? Zachary was so weak that Ben couldn't risk worrying him and aggravating his condition.

Even though Zachary continued to drift in and out of sleep, his condition had stabilized enough for Ben to give Raina a much-needed break. More importantly, she needed to rest well to take care of Zachary throughout the night.

After getting two of her most reliable medical staff to stay behind, Raina made her way downstairs.

"Dr. Langan!" Nancy greeted when she saw her walking over. "How is Mr. Nacht?"

"His condition is stable, and it's all thanks to you. Thank you for getting Dr. Wright to assist us."

A smile of relief crept across Nancy's face. "Don't mention it. I'm only glad to have been of help. By the way, if there's anything else you need, feel free to ask me."

"Don't worry. I know."

"I'll be off now then," Nancy said as she threw one last reluctant look up the stairs. "There's nothing I can help with anyway, and I'd only get in your way if I stayed."

"N-No, not at all—" Raina stammered.

"It's okay. I'll come back when Mr. Nacht wants to see me," Nancy cut in, still smiling warmly.

Raina then walked Nancy to her car and only returned to the house when she had driven away.

"Has she left?" Ben asked as he walked down the stairs.

"Yes," Raina replied, albeit with a tinge of guilt. "If she hadn't brought Dr. Wright here last night, the consequences would have been disastrous. But now that we no longer have a use for her, we're sending her home. It's so—"

"Once Mr. Nacht has recovered, he can thank her personally," Ben interjected. "There's nothing we can do for now."

"That's true... All right, I'll take my rest now. Watch over Mr. Nacht, and call me if anything comes up."

"Sure."

As soon as Raina left, Ben immediately ordered Marino to take the three children to Northridge for a short stay.

Even though Ben gave the excuse that the children miss the three little girls, the truth was that he didn't want them to worry about Zachary and vice versa.

Naturally, Marino knew Ben's real intention and did his best to coax all three children to follow him to Northridge.

Even when Jamie insisted on bidding goodbye to Zachary, Marino had to stop him with various excuses. Thankfully, Robbie stepped in just as Jamie was about to protest. "Daddy's still sleeping. Let's not disturb him!"

"Oh, okay then!" Just like that, there were no more questions asked as Jamie happily hopped into the car.

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Zachary continued to be in and out of sleep for the rest of the day. Whenever he woke up, he'd only ask for the time and the well-being of his children and Charlotte before going back to sleep again.

Because of that, he hadn't eaten anything except for the sips of water when he took his medicine.

It was past nine at night when Zachary roused from his sleep and once again asked if Charlotte had returned.

Ben remained calm and collected as he replied, "Lupine informed me that they'd be staying at Mount Phoenix for a couple more days. Ms. Lindberg was very worried about your injuries and even asked me how you were doing. I assured her that you're all right and recovering well—"

"No. Don't tell her about my condition," Zachary firmly instructed.

"Okay, okay, I got it."

Fortunately, Ben knew the right words to say so it wouldn't arouse Zachary's suspicions. It also helped that Zachary was too out of sorts to detect Ben's lies.

"Don't call too much either, or Charlotte will suspect something..." Zachary mumbled, his eyes getting heavier by the second. "Remember to inform me when she's back."

"I know. Stop worrying and go to sleep," Ben said as he adjusted the blanket.

Zachary ended up sleeping for more than twenty hours, but even then, he still looked exhausted.

Despite that, there was no denying that his condition was gradually improving, thus proving that Dr. Wright's operation was a success.

Ben, however, hadn't slept a wink in two nights. Although everyone begged him to take a nap, he just couldn't lay his worries to rest and insisted on staying up to watch over Zachary.

On top of that, he'd call Cain every two hours to ask about Charlotte and Lupine's whereabouts. Unfortunately, the search for them was still underway, and Cain could offer no further updates.

As such, Ben decided to deploy a few people to Phoenix City.

Charlotte, Lupine, please be all right!

Time continued to pass by, and it was early morning when Zachary finally woke from his deep slumber. Not only did he look a lot more energetic, but he also clamored for Hanna's beef stroganoff.

Naturally, Ben was more than happy to accede to his request.

Just like Ben, Hanna had been so worried about Zachary's safety that she hadn't had a good night's sleep. When she heard that he was craving her food, she shed happy tears and rushed off to cook.

Zachary sat up in bed with Ben's help and stretched his limbs. "Wow. How long have I been sleeping? My body feels like it's falling apart."

"You've slept for almost two days," Ben replied with a chuckle. "But everything's fine now. You look like you're in good spirits."

"Yes, I feel full of energy too," Zachary muttered as he rubbed the sleep out of his eyes. "Fill the tub for me. I'm going to take a nice, long bath before I knock everyone out with my odor."

"Hahaha, will do!"

As Ben hurried off to the bathroom, Zachary retrieved his phone from under the pillow. Alas, all he saw were concerned text messages from Nancy. With nary a call or text from Charlotte, he couldn't help but feel a pang of disappointment.

Oh, forget it. Charlotte has always been like that. I shouldn't be so calculative.

He called Charlotte immediately after, only to find out that her phone was switched off.

Could she be on her way back in the private jet? Is that why she had to turn her phone off?

"Mr. Nacht, your bath is ready," Ben announced while walking out of the bathroom.

"Has Lupine called you?" Zachary suddenly asked.

"Yes, she just did. They're still up in the mountains..."

Ben went on with his carefully fabricated lie, but the more he said, the more he realized Zachary's expression had changed.

"Mr. Nacht, I—"

"Idiot!" Zachary thundered as he kicked Ben to the floor. "How dare you lie to me!"

Now that Zachary was awake and lucid, Ben could no longer pull the wool over his eyes.

“Mr. Nacht, I—”

“Tell me the truth!” Zachary demanded, rage pulsing through his veins.

Under such circumstances, Ben had no choice but to come clean with Zachary. “We’ve lost contact with Ms. Lindberg since last night...”

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“What?” Zachary replied with a scowl. “What the hell is going on?”

Ben proceeded to tell Zachary everything in detail, which only made him boil with even more anger. “B*stard!” Zachary shouted as he threw an ashtray at Ben. “How can you keep something this big from me?”

Ben kept his head down, too scared to even breathe.

“Get the private jet ready. I’m going to Phoenix City!”

“Mr. Nacht, please calm down,” Ben pleaded. “Dr. Wright has specifically ordered bed rest for you. You aren’t supposed to go out or do anything strenuous. Otherwise, who knows what might happen?”

Alas, his words fell on deaf ears. “Get out!”

“Please, Mr. Nacht, please listen to me,” Ben exclaimed as he grabbed Zachary’s legs. “You have no idea what a close shave this had been for you. If Ms. Gold hadn’t brought Dr. Wright here in time, you’d be...”

Ben paused, unable to get that dreaded word out of this mouth. “I’ve already sent two groups of people to look for Ms. Lindberg, but if you’re still worried, I can get Marino to join the search.”

When Zachary didn’t say anything, he continued, “No matter what, I can’t let you leave the house. Even if you don’t do it for yourself, do it for your children. If something happens to you, what are they going to do? Besides, what can you help with, given your current state? And what if Ms. Lindberg comes back only to see you keel over with exhaustion? Is that what you want?”

Fortunately, those words were enough to persuade Zachary.

"I can't let Marino go. He has to protect the kids," Zachary said after calming himself down. "What about Bruce?"

"Bruce has gone to Erihal to look for Francesco. I've deployed Kyle and Cain instead. They're old and experienced, so I'm sure—"

"They aren't capable enough," Zachary interrupted as he turned toward Ben. "I need you to go. I need you to bring Charlotte back safe and sound."

"W-What? Me? But what's going to happen to you if I leave? There's no one else around you to—"

"What do you mean there's no one else? We have plenty of people at home!" Zachary fumed. "Do you think I can't survive without you?"

"N-No, that's not what I meant..."

"Then do as I instructed! Or are you no longer obeying my orders?"

Left with no other choice, Ben nodded in reluctance. "Very well then, I'll leave right now."

"Bring a few more men along. I'm giving you three days. If you don't bring Charlotte back home safely, you can forget about coming back yourself."

"Understood," Ben replied solemnly. "I'll make the necessary arrangements."

With that, Zachary waved his hand and sent Ben on his way. Unfortunately, Ben's departure to Phoenix City threw Raina into a tizzy. "How can you leave at a time like this? Without you and Bruce around, who's going to protect Mr. Nacht?"

Ben let out a big, heavy sigh. "Do you think I don't know that? You know how stubborn he is, so how am I supposed to change his mind?"

"What should we do then?" Raina queried, the panic in her voice even more palpable now.

After a while, a light-bulb moment came to Ben. "I'm going to give Spencer a call. Help me arrange for the private jet, will you? Also, you'll have to stay with Mr. Nacht at all times while I'm gone. We can't afford another mishap."

"I got it," Raina answered with a quick nod. "Go make your call. At this point, we'll have to get Mr. Spencer to watch over Mr. Nacht."

"Exactly."

Soon after, Ben hid in his room and called Spencer.

After hearing Ben's recount of all the events, Spencer flew into such a rage that he almost fell off his wheelchair.

"Mr. Spencer, calm down..." Ben coaxed. "Mr. Nacht won't be able to leave the house these few days anyway, so my absence won't be too much of a problem. What I'm more worried about is that temper of his. If he gets riled up and decides to do something rash, I'm going to need you to hold him down. I know he'll behave with you around."

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"Don't worry! I'll do whatever it takes to keep him in line," Spencer exclaimed. "As long as I'm around, he'll have to stay home to recuperate."

"Yes, yes, that's the spirit! Keep him at home for plenty of bed rest. No matter what happens, he can't be allowed to leave the house."

"Okay, understood," Spencer replied. "I'll go over with some of my men now."

"Great. I'll only leave after you've arrived."

At last, Ben could breathe a sigh of relief. With Spencer here, things will be a lot easier.

Meanwhile, Zachary was throwing a tantrum in his room. "Where the f*ck is Ben? Why hasn't he set off yet? What's with the delay?"

Ben signaled Raina to keep his whereabouts a secret as he remained in his room to pack his luggage.

Even if I get screamed at, I'll still only leave after Spencer gets here.

True to his words, Spencer arrived shortly at Southridge with an entourage of twelve subordinates, all packed into four cars.

To Ben's pleasant surprise, Spencer had even packed a few suitcases, further proving his determination to stay on for as long as needed.

As soon as he realized what was happening, Zachary exploded with rage. "I knew that idiot Ben would be up to no good! How dare he get Mr. Spencer to watch over me!"

"Ben did it only because he cares about you..." Raina mumbled.

"You were in on this too, weren't you? Are the both of you ganging up to lie to me?"

Raina kept her head lowered as dread engulfed her, not daring to make another peep.

"Get out," Zachary muttered.

Whenever Zachary was furious, he'd always lash mercilessly at Ben and Bruce, but thankfully, he was gentler toward women.

"But I have to stay here with you. What if you—"

"Get out!" Zachary bellowed, his patience running thin.

Not wanting to push her luck any further, Raina did as instructed. However, as a last-ditch effort, she ordered a few subordinates to stand guard in the room.

Zachary was speechless and on the verge of losing his temper again when he saw how frightened his subordinates were. In the end, he decided to swallow his frustration instead.

Being constantly monitored was horrid, but Zachary also knew that everyone only had his best interests at heart.

After all, he was now a high-risk individual, and nobody could afford to let anything untoward happen to him.

"Mr. Spencer, you sure are fast!" Ben exclaimed as he ran out, unable to hide the relief and joy he felt.

"Mr. Nacht has already thrown a few tantrums. If I stay here a second longer, he'll probably shred me to pieces. Mr. Spencer, I leave the house in your good hands. I have to rush to the airport now."

Spencer frowned and let out a deep sigh. "Now I understand why Mr. Henry used to make things difficult for that woman. She's nothing but trouble!"

"Oh, no. Don't say that," Ben pleaded. "You've always protected Ms. Lindberg in the past, and you ought to continue doing so."

"Can you blame me for being angry? After what happened to Mr. Zachary, why does she still make people worry for her?"

"She didn't mean to..." Ben mumbled helplessly. "Fate played a cruel trick on her."

"Fine, enough of that. You'd better leave now. Get her back as soon as possible so Mr. Zachary can stop worrying himself sick."

“Will do.”

After that, Ben hurriedly left with a handful of Spencer’s subordinates so he could even out the number of people back home.

Knowing that Ben had left for the airport, Zachary finally took his long-awaited bath.

Meanwhile, Hanna ordered Henry’s room to be prepared for Spencer’s stay while she whipped up his favorite dishes.

As for Spencer, he knew it’d be useless to talk sense to a still fuming Zachary. Given the current situation, he’d be better off staying silent and keeping a watchful eye over Zachary.

Raina didn’t dare to stray far from Zachary either. As such, she arranged for the doctors at the hospital to contact Helen and have her treat Olivia.

That afternoon, Peter called Raina to express his gratitude.

“Don’t thank me,” Raina said. “You should be thanking Ms. Lindberg and Mr. Nacht instead. They were the ones who made this possible for Olivia.”

“Please pass on my thanks to them. I’ll drop by personally when I have the chance to.”

“All right. Take good care of Olivia.”

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For the next few days, Zachary stayed home to rest and recuperate.

According to Helen, there weren’t any other treatments or medications needed at that point. She had made an incision behind Zachary’s ear to drain the blood, and all he could do now was to rest as much as possible.

Raina and the other subordinates followed Zachary around all day like a shadow. Even when he headed downstairs for his meals, they took extra caution to ensure that he didn’t trip and fall.

Spencer, too, kept droning on and reminding Zachary to be careful.

Naturally, Zachary was beyond frustrated. I'm a grown man, for goodness' sake! I don't need to be babied by them! Do they even know how humiliating this is for me?

It went without saying that Zachary lost his temper several times. However, Spencer would always plead with him and remind him of Henry, all the while choking back tears.

That tactic, unfortunately, was very effective against Zachary. Whenever he saw how Spencer was on the verge of tears, he'd clam up and return to his room, only to curse at Ben under his breath.

After all, Ben knew about Zachary and his weaknesses, which was why he intentionally got Spencer to watch over him.

As much as he hated it, even Zachary had to admit it was really clever of Ben.

Since he couldn't bear seeing Spencer upset, Zachary had no choice but to tamp down his irritation and be the compliant patient everyone wanted him to be.

Fortunately, the children had been home every day to join Zachary for his meals. And thanks to Spencer's constant reminders, they were all very well-behaved, making sure not to aggravate their father's injuries.

For the rest of their time, the children spent it playing with the three girls at Northridge.

Morgan, who was just as wild as they are, even brought all six children to fly kites in the mountains.

With Fifi and Little Fifi joining in, everyone had a lot of fun.

Robbie, however, would always sit alone on the tree swing and fiddle around with his tablet. As for what he was up to, nobody had a clue.

Just like that, two days passed peacefully.

On the third day, seeing as how there was still no news about Charlotte, a panic-stricken Zachary decided to call Ben first thing in the morning.

"Don't worry, Mr. Nacht. We've found clues pointing to her whereabouts and are heading to the location now."

"You have to find her before dark and bring her home. Understood?" Zachary ordered.

Ben swore he'd complete his mission and that finally set Zachary's mind at ease.

Just then, there was a knock on the door as a voice rang out. "Mr. Nacht, Ms. Gold is here."

"Have her meet me in the study room."

Zachary quickly changed his clothes before letting Raina help him to the study room.

Before long, one of the maids walked in with Nancy in tow.

"Mr. Nacht!" Nancy greeted with a smile, happy to see Zachary back to his old self. "I'm so relieved to know you're well again!"

"I heard it was you who brought Dr. Wright here in the nick of time. Thank you so much!" Zachary said earnestly.

"Don't mention it," Nancy replied as she gazed fondly at him. "It was no trouble at all."

"I know how hard it is to get Dr. Wright. Not only do you have to pay a pretty sum, but you also have to pull favors. But most importantly, I'm impressed that you had even thought about getting her to help!"

The thought of asking Helen to stabilize his condition had genuinely never crossed Zachary's mind, yet it came so naturally to Nancy.

"Well, I thought of it because I cared enough," Nancy replied with a chuckle. "Besides, anything that concerns you is far more important than my own matters."

With such an abrupt but affectionate confession directed at him, Zachary was at a complete loss.

Nancy caught on to his uncomfortable silence and quickly changed the subject. "Relax, I'm not trying to stress you out or put you in a spot. By the way, I'm here today because I have something to tell you."

"Oh, go ahead."

"I don't think it's appropriate for me to bring this up, but..." Nancy blurted out after a moment's hesitation.

"Don't worry. I have absolute trust in you. You can speak freely."