

# Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

## chapter 1397

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Charlotte returned Cain's phone to him, then led Jade and Emma into the ward to take care of Lupine.

Despite the numerous questions she had in her mind, she did not persist with her questioning.

After all, Cain and Kyle did not know much, so it was pointless to ask since she would not get an answer.

Moreover, Lupine was still in the emergency room. Her life could still be in danger, so Charlotte was in no mood to be jealous.

It was best to settle the problems she was facing at the moment. As for others, she would deal with it at a later time.

A restless night passed.

When Ben returned in the morning, his face was a mask of fatigue. On the bright side, he had settled everything and gotten the approval from the doctor to bring Lupine back to H City.

To ensure Lupine's safety on their way back, Ben had hired a few doctors and medical staff to accompany them.

With everything set and ready to go, they took the private jet back to H City at nine-thirty in the morning.

On the plane, Charlotte and Ben stayed by Lupine's side.

"I'm glad that she's fine," said Charlotte as she gently wiped Lupine's face with a warm towel.

"Ms. Lindberg, I have something important I need to discuss with you," Ben said softly.

"Shoot." Charlotte lifted her gaze from Lupine to focus on him.

He pondered briefly then said straightforwardly, "Firstly, I have Sir Louis and his subordinates in my hands. I have arranged for them to be taken back to H City for Mr. Nacht to deal with."

Charlotte was surprised. The previous day was chaotic, and with Lupine getting shot, she was too restless to think about other things.

She thought Ben was busy cooperating with the police, but instead, he went to catch Louis and the assassins.

As expected of Zachary's right-hand man.

"I figured I should inform you on this."

Ben's gaze was on Lupine as he spoke.

"Personally, as a man, I had to take revenge on them for daring to threaten you with Lupine and the others' lives and even shooting Lupine. Professionally, I received orders from Mr. Nacht to rescue you, so I should catch everyone involved and let him deal with them. It's also to avoid any further mishap. However, since Louis was once... your fiancé, out of respect, I had to inform you."

"Ben, firstly, I'm very gratified to hear you say that." There was admiration in Charlotte's gaze. "As a man, you shoulder your responsibility well and treat Lupine with much loyalty and affection. I feel at ease to give her hand to you. But there's one thing I need to clarify. Louis was my fiancé indeed, but that was in name only. Besides, with everything that had happened afterward, we had separated—"

"Wait a minute," Ben interrupted in astonishment, "you're saying him being your fiancé was in name only? T-Then that time when you were in the manor in Arkfield, you and him—"

Charlotte did not elaborate. "That was a misunderstanding. I will leave out the distasteful details. All in all, I never had a romantic relationship with him from the start till the end.

"I didn't have the heart to finish him off because I felt that this tragedy happened because of me. If it wasn't for me agreeing to his proposal for my selfish reasons, he might not have ended up like this.

"But just because I feel sorry for him, it doesn't mean that he can do whatever he likes. Therefore, I do not have any objections to you catching him and his assassins. However, the mastermind behind the entire incident is Sir Robert.

"It has nothing to do with Louis, so catching him is pointless. If something happens, I fear it will cause trouble to you and Zachary, so I suggest you hand him over to me once we arrive at H City. Let me negotiate with Sir Robert."

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"Ms. Lindberg, I'll get right to the point since there's only the both of us here," Ben said somberly. "Since you've been in the company of Sir Robert for quite some time, you should know he's an avaricious person. As of now, he won't regard you as an equal because you don't have a strong backing. Not only will you not gain anything from negotiating with him, but you may even infuriate him."

"That's true."

Charlotte lowered her head in deep thought. If Zachary didn't come forward during the incident regarding the refund of my investment fund, Sir Robert might've already pocketed that twenty billion. He's an unreasonable man, so it's pointless no matter how I plan to negotiate with him.

"I suggest you let us handle this matter," Ben advised. "Please be assured. Based on my understanding of Mr. Nacht's character, he won't harm Sir Louis. Especially..."

He felt slightly awkward to speak of it. "Especially if he knows there's nothing between you and Sir Louis. He will be even lenient with him."

"Mm." Charlotte nodded. "I agree with the arrangement. Anything else you want to add?"

"Two more things..." Ben glanced at Lupine as he said earnestly, "I want to ask you for Lupine's hand. I will take good care of her. Please believe me."

"I believe you, but—"

"I know you need her too. I'm not saying now, but in the future, after the matters of the Lindberg family are resolved, and everything has settled down..."

"I don't have any objections if she's willing." Charlotte felt gratified. "I'm happy that you brought this up with me."

"Thank you." Ben nodded his head with gratitude. "Lastly..." His voice trailed off as he hesitated to tell her about Zachary's condition.

Will Mr. Nacht chase me out if I tell her? With his character, he might really do so. I don't care about myself, but currently, he needs people he can trust by his side, so I can't leave at such a juncture.

"You want to talk to me about Zachary?" Charlotte guessed accurately then lied, "I already know about his condition."

"Huh? You..." Ben held his tongue before he could spill any information and pretended not to understand her words. "Know about what? I don't understand."

“Stop acting.” She intended to sound him out. “Hayley told me about it. I knew all of you had warned her and Sam not to tell me the truth. But think about it. Is Hayley closer to you guys or me?”

Ben lowered his head, concealing the solemn expression on his face. Her words make sense. After all, Hayley is quite naïve and doesn't have any idea about power or status. She only knows that Ms. Lindberg is the closest person to her. Therefore, the warning and reminder from the Nacht family might be ineffective toward her. She might really have told Ms. Lindberg everything with a bit of coaxing.

“Louis' men shadowed me when I got off the plane. Hayley coincidentally called me to ask if I had arrived. And when she heard the gunshots at my side, she was terrified. I seized that opportunity to interrogate her about Zachary's condition. Finally, she told me the truth after I put the wind up her.”

Observing Ben's expression, she continued to lure him into her trap.

“Ben, I know you're loyal to Zachary, and you don't want to betray him. I understand if you don't tell me the truth, but think about it. What are you going to do if something happens to Zachary? Wouldn't you regret it for the rest of your life?”

“I—”

“I know you've assigned Bruce to search for Francesco's whereabouts, but you will never find him even if you searched under every rock without my help.”

Charlotte continued, “Give me a definitive answer. What happened to Zachary? As long as you tell me the truth, I'll help you search for Francesco.”

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“Mr. Nacht, he...” Ben hesitated briefly but came clean in the end. “He doesn't have long to live.”

“What did you say?” Charlotte froze and widened her eyes in disbelief.

“This is what happened...”

He then recounted everything to her, starting from three months ago when Zachary realized something was wrong with his eyes and confirmed he was poisoned.

Following that, he explained how Zachary accepted Charlotte's conditions and hid himself away for treatment, where he suffered excruciating pain alone.

After two months of treatment, Zachary still did not fully recover despite showing some improvement. When he heard that Charlotte was going to marry Louis, he dropped everything and headed to Arkfield to see her. Unfortunately, he was greeted by a heartbreaking sight.

Everything he did—taking away the children and deliberately creating a misunderstanding to infuriate the Laurent family—was so that she could return home and take over the Nacht family as the lady of the household after his passing.

It took an entire hour for Ben to relate everything that had happened.

He even told her that nothing was going on between Zachary and Nancy. All this while, Zachary had been using Nancy to make Charlotte jealous. Whenever he tried to clear the air with Nancy, something would prevent him from doing so.

This time around, Nancy brought in Helen at the crucial moment to treat Zachary. That was why Ben allowed her to stay at the house for the time being.

Having heard his words, Charlotte was moved to tears. It never crossed her mind that Zachary was suffering alone when she had misunderstood him all this while.

In spite of that, he still selflessly saved her at the crucial moment. Yet, when he was struck down by sickness, she was not by his side and even became a burden to him.

"Ms. Lindberg, I know that I'm disobeying Mr. Nacht by telling you all this now. However, I'm at my wits' end."

Lowering his head, Ben explained agonizingly, "Mr. Nacht's condition is extremely serious. If we can't find Francesco, he may be done for."

By then, Charlotte's hand trembled uncontrollably as feelings of guilt swamped her. She hated herself for not letting go, not forgiving Zachary, and not reconciling with him earlier.

If she had realized her folly earlier, she would have been able to seek Francesco's help sooner, and Zachary's sickness would not have escalated to such a severe extent.

"Ms. Lindberg..."

When Ben saw Charlotte remain silent, he assumed she was still bothered by the past animosity between them.

Hence, he anxiously advised, "I know that the Nacht family had treated you badly. However, whatever bad blood there was is now gone. Mr. Henry, Zara, and the Blackwood sisters are all dead. Who else is left for you to hate? Do you really want to see Mr. Nacht die at such a young age? Or have the children be fatherless?"

"Why didn't you tell me earlier?" Charlotte finally said something. She was so shaken that her voice was trembling. "Given how grave this matter is, why did you wait till now to tell me?"

"I..." Briefly stunned, Ben took a second before he started explaining. "Mr. Nacht ordered me not to do so no matter what. He said that he wanted you to return home out of love and not out of pity."

"That fool!" She gritted her teeth.

"He declared that he rather die a proud man than live in shame." Thinking about Zachary, Ben was filled with guilt. "I was in a dilemma. The only thing I could do was try my best to locate Francesco, hoping to have the best of both worlds."

"There's no way you can find him." Charlotte took a deep breath to recollect herself. "Only I can do it."

"Really? Can you really do it?" Ben could not suppress his excitement.

"It's not going to be easy, but I will definitely find him for Zachary's sake." Seized by anxiety, she asked, "How much longer before we arrive in H City?"

"Soon, the plane is preparing for descend."

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"I'll take care of locating Francesco." Charlotte checked her watch for the time. "After going back, I'll contact Gordon and Sean at once."

"That's wonderful! Thank you, Ms. Lindberg." Ben was extremely grateful. "With your help, Mr. Nacht can finally be cured."

"No, wait." Charlotte suddenly thought of something important. "Didn't you just say that Zachary's condition had stabilized when you left?"

"That's right. He was extremely worried about you and wanted to look for you. However, he decided against it after I got on my knees and pleaded with him."

"That's not the point," she interrupted him. "Was his condition really stable then?"

"Relatively so. Dr. Wright said that as long as he didn't go out, he would be fine for about a month," he explained earnestly.

"But..." The more Charlotte thought about it, the more suspicious she became. "When I called Zachary last night, it was Nancy who answered."

"Huh?" Stunned, Ben frantically explained, "That's not right. By the time I left, Nancy was already gone. Unless she came back later? But don't worry, Ms. Lindberg. Given how sick Mr. Nacht is, nothing is going to happen between them—"

"That's not what I'm concerned about." The woman's expression was grim. "I'm worried that he's suffering a relapse."

Her words struck fear into Ben. "That's entirely possible. Back then, when I arrived at the villa, he wanted me to start a video call. I did as told and captured you and Sir Louis..."

At there, he raised his hand to slap himself in remorse. "It was all my fault. I shouldn't have started the video call. Why was I so stupid?"

"You're not to blame." Charlotte uttered coldly, "I think someone must have said something in front of him."

"Do you mean Ms. Gold?" Ben asked meekly. "That's unlikely. She seems to be quite an honest person."

"Precisely. Due to her honesty, everyone assumes she will only tell the truth." A wry smile hovered on her lips. "Because of that, Zachary will believe her words, which makes her a formidable adversary."

"Uh..."

"However, that's for another day. I should find Francesco as soon as possible." Charlotte was well aware of her priorities. "Once we disembark from the plane, you should settle Lupine down while I will return to Southridge."

"Sure." Ben repeatedly nodded as he could not be happier. However, at the thought of something, he asked in concern, "As for Mr. Nacht, can you..."

Flashing him a faint smile, she assured, "Don't worry. I know what must be done. I won't put you in a spot."

"That's good. Thank you."

Ben heaved a sigh of relief.

Half an hour later, their private jet landed in H City.

Ben had already contacted the medical staff at Kindness Hospital to meet them at the airport. After that, he and a few other subordinates accompanied the unconscious Lupine to the hospital.

At the same time, he arranged for Cain, Kyle, and the others to escort Charlotte back to Southridge.

Ben bowed at Charlotte respectfully before the two groups went their separate ways. "Ms. Lindberg, the fate of the Nacht family is in your hands!"

"Don't worry." The woman nodded. "I'll leave Lupine with you."

"Mmm-hmm."

The road leading back to Southridge was shrouded in rain and mist.

Charlotte switched her SIM card to a new phone and contacted Gordon at once.

However, when Gordon did not reply after a long while, she dropped Sean a message and told them to call her the moment they saw her note.

Cognizant of the fact that they might be tied down in Erihal, she reckoned they might not be able to check their phone in time. Nevertheless, once they saw her message, they would get in touch with her at once.

All she could do was wait patiently.

Soon, the car drove into Southridge. When Charlotte alighted, she saw a few unfamiliar bodyguards stationed outside. That was when she realized they were not the Nacht family's men but the Gold family's instead.