

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 981

Cynthia urgently exchanged a glance with Taylor.

Taylor instantly understood and began sweating bullets. "Mr. Nacht, Cynthia would never do it. They are insulting her by investigating her in such a way. Please do her justice."

"Let her go first." Henry slammed his palm onto the table.

Lupine pay no heed to his command.

She finally let Cynthia go after receiving a knowing glance from Charlotte.

Cynthia tripped and nearly fall.

Taylor hurriedly held her. "What have we, the Blackwoods, have done? We are here to help and treat others, but all we received were insults and humiliations. We were hit yesterday, then subjected to such humiliation today."

Cynthia's entire body was swaying as though she could fall at any moment.

Henry didn't have the heart to look, so he admonished Zachary. "Don't believe what that woman said. How could you suspect Cynthia?"

"I'll apologize to her if there's no poison in the broth." Zachary continued to sip his tea.

"You..."

"Cynthia was there when Ellie was poisoned at the Seacrest Restaurant. That is the main reason I'm doing this." Zachary explained calmly, "Charlotte suspected Cynthia was the one who poisoned Ellie; hence, her antagonistic acts toward Cynthia."

“How could Cynthia have poisoned Ellie?” Henry insisted on believing Cynthia’s innocence. “When Ellie was sick, it was Cynthia who took care of her day and night.”

“You’re right, and that is what I thought exactly.” Zachary nodded with agreement. “I’m not suspecting Cynthia. Aren’t I investigating this matter with everyone present? If there isn’t any problem with the broth, it means Cynthia is innocent. Charlotte won’t bother her any longer.”

“But-”

“Mr. Nacht.”

At that moment, Spencer spoke, “We’re merely checking the contents of the broth and not the individual. It’ll be fine once things clear up.

“You have to understand that to be on the receiving end of the Lindbergs revenge is a very frightening experience. It’ll be fine if we investigate the matter now. Ms. Lindberg won’t target Ms. Blackwood anymore. Isn’t that good for everyone involved?”

“As we can see, Mr. Spencer has common sense.”

Charlotte raised her cup of tea and drink with Spencer.

“Mr. Spencer, how could you-”

“He’s right.” Henry interrupted Taylor. “Nobody can touch Cynthia with me here today. If they want to investigate Cynthia, let them. If there’s no issue, you...”

He pointed at Charlotte and said harshly, “Must apologize to Cynthia.”

“What if there’s a problem?” Charlotte asked with an arched brow.

“Then-”

“Mr. Zachary, the result is out.”

Soon, Raina walked over with an analysis report. She gave Cynthia a knowing expression.

Cynthia paled when she met Raina's gaze and instantly lowered her head in guilt.

Zachary gave a cursory glance at the report, then passed it to Henry without saying anything.

Henry was shocked as he read the report. His face paled almost immediately.

Taylor caught a glimpse of the report from the side. He almost fainted.

"What in the world happened?" Henry interrogated Cynthia with the report in hand.

"Mr. Henry, I don't know..." Cynthia sobbed as she signed. "I was telling the truth when I said I saw a bug in the broth. That was why I didn't want Zachary to drink it."

"Yes... yes..." Taylor agreed urgently. "Even if there's poison in the broth, you can't deduce it was put there by us. Even the judges need evidence before they pass the verdict."

"If I were the one who poisoned the broth, why would I flip the bowl? Wouldn't that action betray that I'm the culprit? I'm not dumb." Cynthia cried as she signed.

"That's true." Henry was hesitant. "Why would she flip the bowl over if she was the one who poisoned it? Nobody would've suspected her if she didn't do what she did."

"Simple. The person she wanted to poison was me, not Zachary." Charlotte sneered, "When I about to drink the broth, she was merely sitting there. But she panicked when Zachary was about to drink it."

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"Yes, I hate you. I never did you wrong, but you've been targeting me at every turn, bullied me, tried to kill me, and even pierced my face with a needle..."

Cynthia signed wildly. "That's why I didn't want to tell you when I saw a bug in your medicinal broth. You can drink the bug for all I care. But it's a different story when I saw Zachary reaching out for the broth."

"Keep it up!" Charlotte glared at her coldly. "Do you think you can get off scot-free with some lame excuse? The truth will come pouring out after going through your medical kit. This might even be the same poison Ellie was poisoned with..."

"We're running tests on the poison right now. We'll find out in a bit." Raina reported. "As for the medical kit..."

"Let's get to the bottom of things," agreed Zachary.

"Ok." Raina immediately took Cynthia's medical kit.

"Zachary, you..." Cynthia cried. "I did everything for you. Why are you treating me like this?"

"Zachary, why do you not trust Cynthia?" Taylor exclaimed. "She wouldn't have stopped you from drinking that medicinal broth just now if she wanted to scheme against you."

"Calm down." Zachary was cool as a cucumber. "I'm doing this because I want to do Cynthia justice. Don't worry, I will apologize to Cynthia if she's innocent at the end of it all."

"You..." Taylor panicked. He turned to Henry for help. "Mr. Nacht, please help."

Henry stared at Zachary for a long while before he spoke up. "We should get to the bottom of things since we found out that the medicinal broth was poisoned. Don't worry, no one can do you wrong since I'm around."

"This..."

Taylor fell into despair. They would know that something is up if they check the medical kit.

However, Cynthia remained calm. "Any excuse will serve the tyrant. How can I escape if someone really wants to frame me?"

"Frame you?" Charlotte sneered. "So you mean to say that even if we found poison in your medical kit, it would be from me?"

"Finally, you admit." Taylor quickly played along.

"So you're implying that I put a bug in the medicinal broth and pretended that I was going to drink it?" Charlotte rubbed her temples, feeling frustrated. "But how would I know that Zachary would snatch the medicinal broth away from me? How can I tell that you're going to stop Zachary from drinking the medicinal broth?"

"This..." Taylor was rendered speechless.

"Love is blind." Tears of despair ran down Cynthia's cheeks. "I never thought that Zachary would go that far for your sake..."

She then lowered her head and cried.

"Huh!" Charlotte couldn't help but laugh. "So you're implying that we put on a show just to plot against you?"

"That's certainly a possibility." Zachary nodded. "I will do anything for you."

"You..." Charlotte was rendered speechless. What is he thinking?

"Grandpa, that's exactly what you're thinking, right?" Zachary turned to face Henry.

Henry frowned. He was completely caught off guard when he heard it from Zachary because that was exactly his thought.

He knew better than anyone else how much Zachary loves her.

He would do anything for her sake.

It was certainly a possibility for the two of them to put on a show just to force Cynthia to leave and gain his trust in order to stay at the Nacht residence.

However, he pushed the thought away after hearing it from Zachary.

“Cynthia, you’re certainly a smart one.”

Zachary took a sip of tea and said calmly.

“You know you’re going to get exposed soon, and also knew that I’ve set a trap up for you. So you gave up on me and placed all your hopes and dreams on Grandpa instead. You didn’t hesitate to pull me down in order to gain his trust. Everything just makes sense. You’re really good at manipulation.”

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“You...” Cynthia stared at Zachary in bewilderment.

“What are you trying to do?” Henry frowned.

“Ok, let’s stop the act.” Zachary waved his hand.

Ben immediately pulled his phone out and projected a video on a white screen.

Very soon, the video started to play...

It was a CCTV footage from Nacht residence from two days ago.

“What is this?”

Everyone stared at the screen.

The first clip was during Charlotte's arrival at Nacht residence.

Cynthia and Taylor were having a discussion in Zachary's study.

"This is not the time to back down. After doing so much and arriving at the cusp of success, I cannot retreat from this!"

"We're only avoiding her for a while. It's not like we're not coming back. She has yet to recover her memory. But, if she finds out that you masqueraded as her during the wedding, she will definitely strangle you to death. Also, if she knew that you planted the..."

"This is Zachary's study. I hope there aren't any CCTVs in here."

The second clip showed Cynthia leaving the study and instructing Freya what to do in a quiet corner with hand gestures.

Freya was then seen moving stealthily towards Ellie's room with a bowl of herbal concoction. Along the way, she poured a packet of medicinal powder into the broth.

The third clip showed Freya and two medical staff forcing Ellie to drink the medicine. Freya even pinned her down and tried to force the medication down her throat.

Luckily for Ellie, Jamie and Fifi were around to stop Freya from doing so. Hence, Ellie only drank a little bit. However, the drug quickly took effect.

Henry was trembling with rage as he watched. He pointed at Cynthia and yelled furiously. "You... How dare you..."

Cynthia went pale with fright and panicked. She never thought that her actions would be recorded on surveillance cameras. But why are there surveillance cameras in the Nacht residence?

I thought they don't have it...

"Don't fret. Watch on." Zachary reminded.

The fourth clip showed Jamie carrying Ellie on his back as they went downstairs to look for Charlotte.

Cynthia gestured at Blackwoods' medical staff. She quickly ran behind Jamie and pushed him down the stairs.

As Jamie and Ellie tumbled down the stairs, Cynthia rushed forward in an attempt to break their fall.

However, everything was done just to gain sympathy.

The fifth clip was about Zachary carrying Charlotte, who went into relapse, back home.

Frustrated, Cynthia carried her medical kit upstairs when Zachary wasn't around and used Zachary as an excuse. She then tried to pierce Charlotte with a needle.

But who would have thought that Charlotte managed to defend herself and Cynthia pierced her own face instead?

That would also mean that the poison needle belonged to her all along.

The sixth clip showed Taylor and Cynthia in a room.

Taylor just found out that Cynthia had been disfigured. Their conversation and the way they told the medical staff to take the medical kit clearly indicated that Cynthia was the one behind it all...

The seventh clip showed Cynthia instructing Taylor to get Freya to prepare the medicine after Henry and Zachary left.

She even instructed the two medical staff to poison Charlotte.

The eighth clip was about the two medical staff poisoning the medicinal broth.

The truth was revealed after these eight clips.

Cynthia slumped on the floor in despair.

She could no longer talk her way out of this.

Everything she had done up till now was presented clearly in front of everyone. It felt as if she had been stripped naked and placed under the sun with nowhere to hide.

“Y-You...”

Henry trembled with rage. He pointed at Cynthia with his frail hand. He wanted to chastise her but couldn't come up with anything to say. He placed a hand on his chest and almost had a heart attack.

“Mr. Nacht...” Taylor fell on his knees and begged. “Jealousy got the better of Cynthia. She never once thought of hurting Zachary. She just wanted to stay by his side. Please forgive her.”

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“In order to be with me, you even harmed my children?” Zachary questioned incredulously. “Did you think that you could convince me using such low-handed despicable means?”

“No, it wasn't like that...” signed Cynthia while shaking her head desperately.

“Enough!” Zachary did not want to see her defending herself. “Perhaps I have been too easygoing lately, so you and your father think that I can be easily manipulated!”

“No, Zachary, it's not like that...” Taylor tried to explain in a hurry, “Cynthia dislikes Charlotte for always bullying her but she had no intention of hurting you or your children. She had been helping you and Ellie.

“When Freya poisoned the food, she was acting alone. Cynthia was not involved. Cynthia was only gesticulating that she wanted to feed Ellie, not asking Freya to poison the food.”

“Even now, you are still trying to lie your way out?”

Charlotte wanted to take the father and daughter duo out right away.

Zachary made her sit down and spoke calmly...

“Yes, where the video was shot, Cynthia did not clearly instruct Freya to administer the medicine. In these videos taken at home, we can only see that she clearly ordered someone to give Charlotte the medicine. However, it is undeniable that she gave poison to Ellie at Seacrest Restaurant.”

“There is no proof that Cynthia did that.” Taylor was still arguing, “Zachary, don’t be fooled by others and accuse Cynthia. She is innocent.”

“Do you say that I’m accusing her wrongly? I’ll show you the proof.” Zachary turned around and called out, “Raina!”

“Yes, sir.” Raina handed the laboratory analysis report to Spencer. “The analysis just now showed that the poison in the medicinal broth is the same as the type Ellie took.”

“This...” Taylor was panicky but still continued to deny everything, “This does not prove that Cynthia administered the poison. It is possible that the darned servant did it...”

“Bring the witness,” Zachary ordered.

In a short while, Bruce brought someone over and placed her right in front of Taylor.

“Freya?” Taylor’s eyes widened in surprise. “How did you...”

I phoned her and asked her to dispense the medicine last night. How did she end up here?

“Help me, Uncle Taylor...”

Freya was unharmed but her spirit was broken, obviously after stern interrogation.

"I detained her immediately after she was driven away," Zachary said plainly.

"During Bruce's interrogation, she confessed everything—how Cynthia instructed her to poison Ellie and what you did this morning, ordering her to dispense the medicine. Should I ask her to repeat it?"

Taylor looked at Cynthia as he panicked.

Cynthia was now totally disorientated and in a panic too.

"This is the witness and there is also evidence."

Zachary signaled to Bruce.

Bruce took out a box in which were pieces of broken pottery.

"This is..." Lupine looked carefully and then recognized it. "The cup from Seacrest Restaurant."

"There were twelve cups. The eleven cups that were taken away were fine," Bruce explained, "The one that was used was removed by Cynthia, who later broke it and threw it into a trash bin three kilometers away. I found it later on."

"I see." Lupine began to understand.

"Straightaway, I sent the cup to the police station for testing, and it really contained residual toxins as well as Cynthia's fingerprints," Bruce continued to explain.

"What else do you have to say now?" Zachary looked at Cynthia with a cold frosty gaze.

"I never intended to harm Ellie, really, I didn't..." Cynthia gesticulated in panic. "The cup of tea was meant for her."

Cynthia pointed at Charlotte, signing anxiously, "I never thought that Ellie would drink it. I have never thought of harming Ellie, really, I didn't..."

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"If you had never intended to harm Ellie, why did you mix her medicine with poison and feed it to her?" Charlotte questioned her.

"That wasn't poison, rather it was a type of medicine which only made her feel unwell, temporarily," Cynthia explained anxiously, "If it were poison, I would not be able to make her well again so quickly..."

As she spoke, Cynthia crawled up to Zachary's feet, crying while making signs. "Zachary, I have saved you before. Please forgive me for this once. As for Ellie, if not for me, something really bad could have happened to her."

"That was only because they took the medicine given by Ms. Lindberg."

Lupine was furious...

"After Mr. Nacht was poisoned by snake venom, Ms. Lindberg immediately fed him her life-saving potion so he would not suffer any ill effects at all. As long as he recuperated for a period of time, the snake venom would naturally be ejected from his body.

"After that, Ms. Lindberg sneaked into the hospital without telling anyone and fed Ellie the potion as well. That was how she recovered so quickly. In order not to be discovered, we rushed over to the South Sea Hotel. Coincidentally, you arrived to treat Ellie making everyone think that you were the one who healed her. That was ridiculous. If you could heal her, why couldn't you heal yourself? If I am not mistaken, there is still poison on your silver needle, isn't it?"

As she spoke, Lupine took off Cynthia's mask. Sure enough, one side of Cynthia's face was so infected that it was horrifying to see.

“Oh, my goodness! Cynthia...”

Taylor was anxious and worried when he saw Cynthia this way. Yesterday, the infection was only the size of a pea. Today, it had spread to cover her face.

“You can’t live by committing sins.” Zachary looked at Cynthia coldly, “When you try harming others, you harm yourself. This is your fate!”

“This is all?” Charlotte’s fists cracked as she clenched them tight. “It’s horrible enough she had harmed me so badly. Is this punishment enough for harming my daughter as well?”

“I had no intention of hurting Ellie. It was just you!”

Cynthia glared at Charlotte with utter hatred in her eyes, gesticulating with intense emotion...

“We are both women. Why should I be the replaceable stand-in? I’ve done so much for the Nacht family. In order to please them, I’ve lowered myself to the level of soil; yet, Zachary has not even looked at me properly even once. As for you...? You go on and on to antagonize him; yet, he likes you so much. Your family and the Nachts are sworn enemies, so you should not have come back. In fact, you should have died two years ago. Then, I would have been Mrs. Nacht by now, and the three children would call me Mommy. We would be one happy family...”

“Stop dreaming!” Zachary interrupted her impatiently, “Even if she didn’t come back, I won’t marry you.

“Two years ago, when she had that mishap, I had already decided never to marry again. “If I ever get married, the bride can only be Charlotte!”

Hearing this, Charlotte’s trembled slightly. Zachary has said it under such circumstances and in front of so many people. He has to be sincere.

She was very moved...

"Since you love her so much, why did you let me impersonate her two years ago?" Cynthia asked in a choked voice, "I was just an unloved daughter of a wealthy family, living in humiliation in a world of my own.

"Overnight, I was made Mrs. Nacht, adored and respected by everyone. Everywhere I went, relatives surrounded me and put me on a pedestal.

"Furthermore, from the time I was fifteen years old, I had started admiring you. In my dreams and fantasies, I wished to marry you many times. I really thought my dreams had come true.

"However, it was all just a falsehood.

"Since you never liked me or admired me, why did you give me hope? "Then, you pushed me to fall from heaven into hell with your own hands. "Why?"

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Cynthia wept as she asked these questions. She broke down mentally and emotionally. She wept, losing all hope...

See her in this manner, Zachary's severe accusing gaze slowly diminished...

She was telling the truth. She was just an outsider who was totally uninvolved. It was the Nacht family who dragged her in and gave her hope. Then, they pushed her out into the depths of despair...

No one could have accepted that type of treatment easily.

As a matter of fact, when Henry opposed his relationship with Charlotte earlier on, this sinful idea did cross Zachary's mind...

If Henry had insisted on Zachary marrying one of the Blackwood daughters, setting aside the ill-natured Sharon, he would really consider the gentle Cynthia!

However, he quickly put that idea away.

The reason was that it would destroy someone's life.

Furthermore, it would not be fair to Charlotte.

Hence, he did not act upon that idea.

Nevertheless, it never occurred to Zachary that Henry would go behind him and pull this trick on him. Of course, it was done with Taylor's support.

The crying of a mute was very penetrating, full of despair and grief over life.

Perhaps from her point of view, she was indeed an innocent victim. As she said, she was living humbly in her own world and had already accepted her fate. Out of the blue, someone suddenly gave her great hope. Of course, she would do everything to hold on to that hope...

"Mr. Nacht, I beg you. Please let Cynthia live." With a thud, Taylor knelt down, crying and begging, "Fortunately, there is no serious harm done. Ellie has almost fully recovered. Zachary and Ms. Lindberg were not poisoned. Cynthia's face is destroyed and that will be her punishment. If you can let us go, we will go far away and never come into your lives again. It was all my fault for not teaching my daughter well. Please, I beg of you to give her a chance!"

"If you had tried to harm me, I could forgive her," Charlotte continued, "but she poisoned my daughter. I'll never let her off just like this!"

"She had no intention of harming Ellie..."

"She has to be responsible for her actions even if it was not intentional!" Charlotte yelled. "Though the first poisoning was directed at me, did she think about the consequences when she administered poison to Ellie? Ellie was once robust and healthy. Look at what she has become now! She can't even stand up! This

toxin is likely to bring her lifelong side effect! You say she has recovered. Is she the healthy robust child she once was?"

Taylor was silenced by her yelling. There was nothing he could say.

"No matter who she poisons, it is unforgivable." Zachary was very cold and distant. "I will not lynch you, but I will let the law punish you. This is my last kindness to you! I have submitted all the evidence to the police and the police car should be here soon. Prepare to spend the rest of your life in prison."

"Ahh..."

Cynthia cried, shaking her head vigorously as she picked up the fruit knife from the table and attempted to cut her own wrist.

Bruce leaped forward and took the knife away, pushing her onto the floor. "If you die here, how could we explain to the police?"

"No, death will not come so easily to you," Lupine said, gritting her teeth, "You should die a slow painful death."

Cynthia's palm was cut by the knife and blood was dripping onto the floor where she slumped crying desperately...

"Mr. Nacht, I beg you. Please let her go..." Again, Taylor pleaded with Henry, "For the time I saved Harrison, please forgive Cynthia, this time. She is so young, please don't let her do time in jail."

"Just because you saved my father once, the Nacht family has protected your Blackwood family all our lives. Haven't we already finished paying back the favor?" Zachary was angry. "Your daughter is in this situation all because of you!"

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"I..."

“Right from the start, it was you who wanted to marry your daughter into the Nacht family. You tried to persuade my grandfather to force me into marrying your daughter. On the surface, you look like a modest gentleman, but you are truly a hypocrite!”

Zachary finally said what he had kept in his heart for years...

“Right from the start, you knew what Cynthia was doing but you did not correct her or stop her from her wrongdoing. Instead, you shielded her and aided her. In fact, you are the accomplice.”

“No, I’m not. I had no idea what she was doing...” Taylor blurted out, “I had nothing to do with all these, really.”

“Do you mean to say that all these were Cynthia’s doing?” Charlotte asked.

“Nevertheless, I had nothing to do with them,” Taylor replied without hesitation.

Hearing her father’s words, Cynthia laughed sarcastically. She had never imagined that he would shrug off all responsibility at a time like this.

He was afraid of being charged as an accomplice and going into prison.

So, he would rather put all the blame on his daughter.

“Nevertheless, she was confused when she did that...” In the end, Taylor felt guilty about blaming Cynthia and he kneeled in front of Zachary and begged, “Zachary, I beg you to forgive her this once, please...”

“Mr. Blackwood, please rise. Don’t do this.” Spencer went to him and pulled him up from the floor.

“I am also partly to blame,” Henry finally admitted. “It was my idea for letting Cynthia stand in for Charlotte two years ago. I must be responsible for my part in this. However, Cynthia, you should

never have poisoned a child. If you felt oppressed, you should have come to me and I would give you justice. Why did you poison a child?"

"I did not..." Cynthia wept as she signed.

"Say no more." Henry stopped her and said sadly, "If you had made other mistakes, I would have forgiven you. However, you will not be forgiven for harming a child. This applies to everyone, not just you! Zachary is showing you the last mercy by handing you over to the police. Learn from your mistakes and turn over a new leaf when you are released from prison!"

Henry was Cynthia's last hope. Now, she was totally hopeless...

At that moment, the sound of police sirens was heard, and a subordinate came to report, "Mr. Zachary, the police are here."

Zachary signaled.

Bruce asked Freya and the medical staff to move forward, preparing to capture Cynthia...

Cynthia pushed his hand away angrily, and gestured emotionally, "I won't go to jail. I can't go to jail..."

She glared at Charlotte with bitter hatred. "You are responsible for all of this. You made me do this. Even if I want to die, I will drag you into the grave with me!"

As she spoke, Cynthia took out a bottle and leapt towards Charlotte.

"Ms. Lindberg, look out!"

Lupine screamed and moved forward to save Charlotte.

At the critical moment, Zachary leaped in front of Charlotte and sent Cynthia flying with a kick.

However, the bottle of potion in Cynthia's hands was splattered on Zachary's face.

“Darn you!” Bruce immediately cursed Cynthia, “We let you live but you still sneak attack us.”

Zachary’s kick was a heavy blow and Cynthia lay on the floor, bleeding from the mouth...

“I’ll kill you...” Lupine was furiously murderous, but she was stopped by Bruce. “Calm down. The police are here. If you kill her now, you can only bring trouble upon yourself.”

“Bend your head quickly.”

Charlotte quickly washed the potion off Zachary’s face with water.

“It’s nothing. It didn’t get me.” Zachary was unperturbed.

Cynthia looked at Zachary with a horrifying gaze. “You really love her. Unfortunately, you will not have time together. Very soon, you will be with me in the next world...”

With that, Cynthia drank the remaining poisonous potion...

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Everyone was stupefied by how obsessed and crazy Cynthia had become.

“Cynthia...”

Taylor wanted to step forward and stop her, but Cynthia’s terrifying gaze had him rooted to the spot as he stared at her in shock.

“If there is a next life, I don’t want to be your daughter!” Cynthia signed and let out an eerie cackle before starting to vomit blood.

“Get her to the hospital! Hurry!” Henry shouted frantically.

“Leave it to us.”

The police arrived in the nick of time and arrested everyone suspicious, including Cynthia who had been poisoned.

“Why am I handcuffed too? I didn’t do anything! Help me, Mr. Nacht! Mr. Nacht...” Taylor screamed as the police took him away.

This time, Henry kept quiet and simply tightened his grip on the wheelchair’s armrest, his reddened eyes were filled with pain and regret.

“My goodness, that was so scary!” Mrs. Rawlston exclaimed while patting her chest, her face pale from fear.

“Thank god that evil woman is finally arrested! I knew she was up to no good!” Molly said.

The other maids were all horrified at the realization that they had been spending so much time around such a dangerous person who was highly capable of poisoning others.

“Everyone will have to move out temporarily while we carry out a thorough search of the house. We need to make sure there aren’t any more areas that contain poison. My men have already searched the study room and the master bedroom, and we will now continue to search the rest of the house. Have Mrs. Rawlston help you out,” Ben instructed as he came downstairs.

“All right, I’ll summon the maids...”

“Thanks!”

With that, Raina and her team began their search.

Charlotte looked at Zachary worriedly. “Are you okay? Do you want to have a doctor examine you?”

“I’m fine. It just got spilled on my body. If I were poisoned, the symptoms would’ve started showing by now,” Zachary said while taking his coat off.

“Are you sure?” Charlotte was still concerned.

Zachary reached out and pulled her into his arms. "Are you worried about me?"

"Hey, cut it out!" Charlotte pushed him off with a frown before turning to face Henry as she said, "I hope you'll take some time to properly reflect on yourself after this incident. First, it was Sharon, and now Cynthia... The women you have insisted that your grandson marry were all cruel and heartless. Is this what you mean when you said it was for his own good? Most of the tragedies could've been avoided if you didn't act so stubbornly and selfishly!"

Charlotte then stormed off angrily with Lupine and the other bodyguards following closely behind.

"Ms. Lindberg!" Ben called out to her and anxiously reminded Zachary, "You should go after her, Mr. Nacht!"

Zachary let out a sigh. "With how chaotic things are at home, it's probably best to let her stay outside for a couple of days. I'll go see her when I've taken care of things."

"Okay."

Ben stared longingly at Lupine, who also turned around to cast him a glance.

There had been some slight changes in their relationship ever since their near-death experience when they tracked down Sharon.

"You should go back to your room and get some rest, Grandpa."

Zachary was about to leave after saying that, but Henry called out to him all of a sudden, "You sure are amazing, Zachary!"

Zachary paused in his tracks and looked at him as he asked, "What are you trying to say?"

Henry flashed him a wry smile and replied, "You could've exposed Cynthia and punished her yourself, but you chose to set all this up just so you could have me witness her wrongdoings. You wanted me to see her reveal her evil side so I would reflect on myself, feel bad for Charlotte, and try to accept her. Isn't that right?"

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“You’re half correct. I did do all this to show you Cynthia’s true colors because it was the only way to make you realize your mistake. However, the thought of making you feel bad for Charlotte so you’d accept her has never crossed my mind. Honestly, it no longer matters if you accept her. She’s not the Charlotte you used to know, and she doesn’t need anyone to accept her. In fact, it’s me who’s begging her to accept me.”

Henry was left speechless after hearing that.

“Since when did you notice something was off about Cynthia, sir?” Spencer asked in confusion.

“After Ellie was poisoned, I confronted Danrique thinking it was him who did it, and he lashed out angrily at me for wrongly accusing him. He even showed me how he would poison someone. Danrique is a very prideful man, and he would never deny it if he was the one who did it.

“Having made sure that he didn’t do it, I had people investigate the incident and found Cynthia suspicious shortly after. Since I didn’t have any solid evidence at the time, I could only keep my suspicions to myself and not trust her fully.

“I could’ve had hypnotized her or have Bruce interrogate her to get a confession out of her, but I knew Grandpa trusted the Blackwoods and would surely intervene.

“That’s why I decided to show him their true colors this way. I had people install hidden cameras in the house before bringing Cynthia home, and that woman got way ahead of herself the moment she set foot in the house.

“She began abusing her power, and Taylor’s behavior grew increasingly radical too. I was already disgusted by them at that point, but I held on just so I could prove it to Grandpa once and for all.

"In the end, Bruce found the cup with the poison, and they showed their true colors..."

Having realized what was going on, Spencer said, "I see... So that's why you were acting a little strange last night... You deliberately told Cynthia that Ms. Lindberg would leave today morning and provoked her into poisoning Ms. Lindberg so you could catch her in the act!"

Zachary nodded. "That's right. I was actually planning on waiting a couple more days for Dr. Felch first, but then I found out that she was going to harm Charlotte, so... I had to move things forward."

Spencer was deeply impressed. "You really have excellent foresight!"

"Must've been a lot of work putting up an act for so long!" Henry said sarcastically.

Zachary stared at him as he replied, "This is my least preferred method, but it was the only way to put on a good show for you."

"Why not just tell me that there's something wrong with Cynthia? Your actions have put Ellie's life at risk!" Henry questioned him angrily.

Zachary felt a little guilty about that. "Well... As perfect as my plan was, there were some errors in its execution. I know I nearly cost Ellie her life, but would you have listened if I told you? I bet you'd still be forcing me to marry Cynthia now if you didn't see it for yourself!"

"You..." Henry was furious but had nothing to say in return.

"You know how much the Blackwoods have profited from our family throughout the years. Taking advantage of your trust, Taylor persuaded you to force his daughters on me, and you listened to him each time. You chose to trust an outsider fully, but doubt your own grandson's words. How else am I supposed to convince you without resorting to such methods?" Zachary said helplessly, and Henry found himself at a loss for words.

Zachary is right... I've never listened to him whenever he tried to reason with me, and yet I stubbornly gave Taylor all of my trust! I guess my stubbornness really is the cause of all these problems...

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"Oh, and there's one more thing that you might not be aware of. Sharon was the one who attacked Charlotte and murdered Mrs. Berry in T Nation two years ago. Your daughter, Zara, was the one who instructed her from behind the scenes!"

"What did you say?" Henry's eyes went wide in disbelief. "T-That's impossible! Why would they do such a thing?"

"We found solid evidence of their actions, and I have handed it over to the police. As for why... Well, you'll have to go ask your daughter! Not only did she try to assassinate Charlotte in T Nation, she even sent someone to kidnap Robbie! In the end, it was Charlotte who rescued Robbie. Zara went as far as shooting Kyle and killing my men just to force her into battle..." Zachary said with a frown.

"No, this can't be... I know Zara is impulsive and will do anything to get what she wants, but she wouldn't hurt her own people!" Henry was still in denial.

"The dashcam has captured everything on video. If you don't believe me, you can either take a look at the footage yourself or ask the kids about it. They've witnessed everything first-hand," Zachary said as he handed him a tablet.

Henry's face went pale when he watched the footage, and his chest was hurting so much that he nearly fell off the wheelchair.

"Mr. Henry!" Spencer quickly stepped forward and fed him his medicine.

Zachary was hesitant to say any further when he saw how much pain Henry was in, but he went through with it anyway.

"I know I shouldn't be telling you this now, but I have to show you the truth. Otherwise, you would never realize how misguided you were. Rather than enforcing your control over me, you should've focused your energy on disciplining Aunt Zara instead. A lot of tragedies could've been prevented if you did..."

Spencer quickly cut him off. "Stop it, Mr. Zachary. Mr. Henry's heart can't take any more of this."

"Think about what I said."

Zachary glanced at Henry once more before walking away.

Spencer then had Mrs. Rawlston fetch Henry a glass of water and waited for him to calm down before comforting him, "Mr. Henry, please don't take what Mr. Zachary said to heart..."

Henry looked up at him and asked, "The horrible things that Zara did, and the Blackwood family's true intentions... Did you know about all that the whole time?"

Spencer frowned. "I only found out about it recently. Ms. Zara has always been rather unpleasant to get along with, but I didn't think she'd do something this crazy. As for the Blackwoods... They did a really good job at concealing their true intentions, and I only noticed something was amiss last night."

"I'm such a fool!"

Henry lowered his head in shame and regret.

It's like Charlotte said... First it was Sharon, and now it's Cynthia... Both of the women I had chosen for Zachary were vile and heartless, and yet I kept forcing him to marry them. I refused to listen to the advice from others and Zachary's protests, and my stubbornness has led to one tragedy after another... I have focused all of my time and energy into controlling Zachary and ended up forgetting that my own daughter is the true villain. Like a ticking time bomb, Zara could cause trouble for the Nacht family

anytime. By keeping Zachary under my control, I have left him defenseless against those threats...

"It's time to let go, Mr. Henry..."

Spencer voiced out the one thing he had wanted to say for ages.

"It's all my fault..." Henry mumbled, still plagued with sadness and regret.

Finally, I realize the number of mistakes I've made as a result of my stubbornness. Had I been smarter back then, my son and daughter-in-law might still be alive today! If I had trusted Zachary to manage his relationships by himself, I might've been able to prevent all of this from happening!