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Zachary withdrew his arms lamely. Although he seemed very nonplussed on the surface, as though he couldn't care less about the kids' behavior, he felt very disappointed indeed.

Turning to Ruby, he said, "I'll entrust the kids to you then."

"Of course, of course! I'll take very good care of them. Don't worry, Mr. Nacht!" Ruby and the other higher-ups exclaimed at once, nodding vigorously.

Zachary took one last look at the kids before leaving.

As he walked away, Jamie stared after him. He opened his mouth to say goodbye, but seeing as Robbie wasn't saying anything, he decided to keep quiet too.

"Goodbye, Uncle Zack!"

In the end, it was Ellie who opened her mouth first. She sounded a little cautious despite her adorable voice—nonetheless, she still managed to melt Zachary's heart.

He turned around to look at her, his lips curving into a smile. "Goodbye!"

"Goodbye, Uncle Zack..." Jamie finally summoned up the courage to wave to him.

Zachary returned his wave. He then turned to look at Robbie, who had remained silent up till now.

Robbie seemed a little aloof. He looked down at the ground instead of Zachary, but waved politely anyway.

Feeling slightly better, Zachary turned to leave at last.

At the very least, he could confirm that the children did not detest him. This meant that he had succeeded in his first step!

"Mr. Nacht, I'll send you off," Ruby said, leading the way back to the drop-off point.

"Alright, children, we'll continue distributing the presents," the teachers called, gesturing at the students to settle down. "These are from Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie. What should you say to them?"

The students look at each other, rather confused. Finally, one of them raised his hand and said, "Thank you to Robbie, Jamie, and Ellie's Daddy for these presents..."

Zachary stopped dead in his tracks. He turned around to look at the children, only to find that they were all looking at him, too.

Ellie twiddled her fat little thumbs awkwardly, bowing her head to look at the floor.

Robbie opened and shut his mouth as though he wanted to say something, but chose to remain silent in the end.

However, Jamie returned their smile gamely and chirped, "No problem! Hope all of you like them."

"Thank you!" The students let out another whoop of happiness before returning to their presents excitedly.

Zachary smirked, feeling a sudden wave of relief wash over him. Children were rather simple creatures. If you were kind to them, they would be nice to you as well...

•••

Charlotte was resting at home when she heard a sudden commotion of cars outside the house.

She flipped out of bed and walked over to the floor-length windows, where she saw a convoy right outside the gates. Under the watchful eyes of the bodyguards, a group of workers was delivering a bunch of items into the house.

Charlotte squinted and realized that most of the items were medical supplies.

She felt a little confused, but she didn't ask any questions.

"Move quietly!" Mrs. Rawlston hissed urgently. "Ms. Windt is resting upstairs."

The workers nodded immediately, afraid that they might wake Ms. Nacht up if they moved too loudly.

At that moment, there was a knock on Charlotte's bedroom door.

"Come in!" she called.

A maid pushed open the door and stepped into the room with a new phone in hand. "Ms. Windt, this is the new phone that Mr. Nacht has bought for you. The SD card has already been replaced, and your phone number is the same as before."

"Thank you." Charlotte took the phone from her. After the maid left, she closed the door and turned on the phone immediately.

This was her third phone in the span of two months. Something always seemed to happen to her phone—it either fell onto the ground and shattered into pieces, or went missing all of a sudden.

However, Zachary always replaced her phone quietly after those incidents.

It had been a few days since she last contacted Mrs. Berry and Olivia. They were probably worried sick by now. As soon as she managed to turn on the phone, Charlotte gave Mrs. Berry a call. For some reason, however, nobody picked up.

She called Olivia instead. Thankfully, Olivia picked up the call immediately. "Charlotte!"

"Olivia, are you alright?" Charlotte asked, feeling rather guilty. "The last time you came to my house, something happened to you. When I sent you to the hospital, something bad happened again..."

"Please, I'm the one who should be worried, alright?" Olivia exclaimed. "The property management office said you had gone missing. I nearly called the police!"

"Don't worry, I'm fine," Charlotte said comfortingly. "And what about you?"

"I'm fine. I was just startled to death the other day, but I woke up from my coma soon enough. As for you...oh, by the way, your boyfriend's subordinate—Ben, was it?—came to look for me."

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"What? Why was he looking for you?" Charlotte asked, feeling a little startled.

"To thank me for taking care of you, apparently. He even offered me a position as your assistant, and asked if I wanted to take it." Olivia asked curiously, "Charlotte, are you the CEO of your own company now, or some movie starlet? Why do you need an assistant all of a sudden?"

"Huh?" Charlotte felt rather suspicious. "Are you very sure it was Ben?"

"Yes, it was, I promise," Olivia said certainly. "Back at Sultry Night, he accompanied your boyfriend everywhere he went. He is the weirdest and fiercest man I've ever seen—I won't forget that face."

"Oh, alright then," Charlotte said, feeling rather hapless. "I didn't even know about this! I'll ask Ben about this when I see him."

"Yes, you should," Olivia said seriously. "If you really need me, Charlotte, I'll drop everything and go to you immediately."

"Thanks, Olivia," Charlotte said gratefully. "Please take good care of yourself. Call me if you need anything."

"Alright. Also, I've already returned the uniform to Ms. Fuller. However, she says that you can come back anytime if you need the job again."

"Didn't she put me on a ban because she was afraid that I would drag the company down?" Charlotte asked stiffly.

"Don't ask me, I have no idea why she changed her mind. The news got suppressed really quickly. Now, you can hardly find a trace of it on the internet. Ms. Fuller says that it means you won't be suffering any damage to your reputation anymore. Besides, you were always one of the best pianists, so she would like to have you back anytime..."

"Got it. I've been feeling very unwell lately, so I've been in bed all day. I'll contact her again when I'm a little better."

"Take good care of your health then, Charlotte. I'll call you again."

"Alright."

After she hung up, Charlotte quickly went to look at today's news. Olivia was right—the news about Luna had completely disappeared off the internet, as though the incident had never happened at all. In addition, all the news about Hector and Helena had vanished, too...

Charlotte frowned slightly. The Browns must have paid the media outlets a hefty sum to cover up the news.

However, Amanda would stop at nothing to take revenge for her daughter. Even if the Browns paid off the media outlets, Amanda could put up a post on social media under her own account. However, there was no mention of any of those people or incidents...

What was going on?

Had the Whites met their downfall?

Charlotte felt a little unsettled. Although Amanda and Luna had done so many things to harm her, they had already met their punishment. Charlotte couldn't help but feel sorry for what they were going through now...

Here, Charlotte's phone started beeping with a string of text notifications. She had called Mrs. Berry and Olivia the moment she turned on her phone, so she hadn't managed to check her phone for texts yet. Now, all the texts were coming in at one shot.

She quickly went to take a look at the texts. During the time she had been away, she had received texts from Mrs. Berry, Olivia, and Felicity. To her shock, Amanda and Simon had texted her repeatedly to ask for help too...

"Charlotte, we're your blood relatives. Can't you save us this once?"

"We didn't think Hector would be so cruel. He wants to have all of us killed! Charlotte, please save us."

"Helena is a witch! She wants to kill Luna to eliminate all the witnesses. Charlotte, please save Luna..."

"Charlotte, please help your Uncle Simon out..."

Seeing these messages, Charlotte felt a tug in her heartstrings. She didn't want to involve herself in this matter—back then, she had only called the police out of common decency.

However, now that a person's life hung in the balance, it would be too cruel of her to ignore their pleas for help...

After hesitating for a while, Charlotte gave a call to Amanda. However, she was unable to reach her.

She tried calling Simon's number instead, but the call didn't go through either.

Charlotte felt a sudden feeling of dread. Had something horrible really happened to the three of them? What could she do to help them now?

If she wanted to help them, she needed Zachary's help.

But she still faced a glaring dilemma-should she save them or not?

That was a problem...