

Mistaking a Magnate for a Male Escort

chapter 331

"Understood!"

Behind him, the medical superintendent, doctors, and trusted members of the family all bowed in deference.

The corner of Spencer's lips curled into a smile as he thought what a great blessing it was for the children to gain old Mr. Nacht's support. Their parents should count their lucky stars that the trio would probably have little cause for worry for the rest of their lives.

He wondered which divines they had to express gratitude towards.

"Come, tell me..." the old man asked in earnest as he pinched Robbie's face affectionately. "Where does your mom work? Let me send someone there to take care of that nasty boss of hers!"

"My Mommy works at a place called..."

"Mr. Nacht!"

The bodyguard's insistent voice cut Robbie off. "Mr. Zachary's here!"

"What's he doing here?" Old Mr. Nacht frowned.

"Who is Mr. Zachary?" Jamie asked.

"He's my unbecoming grandson!" His face darkened slightly upon the mention of that name, but he quickly reverted to his kindly demeanor towards the children. "Have your meal first. I'll be back shortly!"

"Okay!" Robbie pulled Ellie aside and helped the old man up. "Don't worry about us, Grandpa Nacht. We'll keep ourselves occupied."

"Good boy!" Mr. Nacht ruffled his hair before turning to Jamie and Ellie. "I'll be back before you know it!"

"See you later, Grandpa Nacht!" the duo said as they waved him goodbye.

"Let's all head out so the children could rest." The elderly gentleman leaned on his crutch for support as he made his way out. "Just leave a few paramedics behind to take care of them."

"Yes, sir."

As the room resumed its calm, Jamie and Ellie returned to stuffing themselves with food while Robbie became pensive.

"What's wrong, Robbie? Doesn't the food taste good?" Jamie asked as he saw his brother deep in thought.

"We still can't reach Mommy and Mrs. Berry. I'm worried about them," Robbie said with a furrow.

Ellie became worried as well when she heard this. "What could have happened to them? Were they kidnapped by bad guys?"

"Let's go and rescue Mommy." Jamie then peeled the blanket off himself and prepared to get out of bed.

"Stop fooling around." The older boy stopped him. "There's nothing we can do right now except to wait here. It's only here that you can get the medical attention you need and Ellie could be taken care of."

"But we can't just go on like this," Jamie argued. "Or why don't you call Mr. Brown and get him to help us find Mommy."

"I thought about that too, but I don't have his number."

Robbie's brows were knitted as he racked his brain.

"What should we do?" Jamie asked as the bun seemed to have lost its flavor in his mouth.

"I want Mommy. I want Mrs. Berry..."

Ellie pursed her lips as tears began to well up in her eyes again.

"Your mommy will be here very soon, Ellie dear." The paramedic immediately came over. "You shouldn't cry, or your tonsils are going to get infected again."

"Why don't we ask Grandpa to help us find them?" Jamie said to Robbie. "He'll be able to think of something."

"Sounds like a plan," replied Robbie after some thought. "I'm going to try to call Mommy again. If we still can't reach her, then we could go to Grandpa!"

"Uh huh." Jamie nodded.

"Miss, could we borrow your phone?" Robbie asked the nurse politely.

"Of course. Here." She passed it to him.

Robbie went out to the balcony and dialed Charlotte's number. This time, it indicated that her phone had been switched off.

The boy felt discouraged, and at the same time, anxious as he wondered if his mother was really in trouble.

She did not pick up when he called previously. He was afraid that she might have rejected it, thinking that it was a nuisance call. Hence, he had sent her a text as well, just in case. There was no reply for that either, as the phone itself was off.

The more he thought about it, the more his unease grew. He decided that he was going to ask Grandpa Nacht for help when the latter returned.

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Meanwhile, Michael and Charlotte had arrived at the Garden Villa—old Mr. Nacht’s residence in the northern suburbs.

Michael alighted to request an audience with the master of the house but was told by the bodyguard that he had gone out early and had not mentioned when he might return.

The guard offered no opposition when Michael said he would like to wait outside the gates.

When the man returned to the car, Charlotte asked, “How did it go?”

“Mr. Nacht’s away, but I plan to stay here and wait. Shall I have someone send you back first?”

“I won’t be able to settle myself down if I were to go back without them.” Charlotte sounded disconsolate. “Michael, I’ve left my phone at home. I’d like to go back to get it. It’ll be terrible if I were to miss any of their calls.”

“Very well. In that case, I’ll go with you.” Michael then had his chauffeur drive them to her place.

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At the hospital, old Mr. Nacht met with Zachary at the medical superintendent’s office.

“What are you doing here?”

“Can I not come?” Zachary appeared frustrated. “Your chauffeur drove my car over someone and their parents called the police on me.”

"The children's parents called the police?" The old man was astonished. "Where are they? I have been trying to get in touch with them."

"Let me handle this, just in case." Zachary tried to look for an excuse.

"Let you handle what?" Old Mr. Nacht flatly refused. "Those children and I have a connection. I will be assuming responsibility for them as I swore to protect them."

"No matter what you do, you're neither their father nor mother," Zachary posited. "We have to return them eventually."

"You may be right about that," the old man concurred after some thought. "Why don't we do it this way. You bring the parents here so that I could apologize to them and discuss the terms of compensation before I hand the children over personally."

"The car involved is registered under my name and I'm the one the traffic police department contacted. If someone is trying to stir up controversy, I'll be the one in trouble. Surely you don't want me to get implicated, do you?"

Old Mr. Nacht found his logic hard to refute. "How do you intend to handle this?"

"We'll return the children, offer compensation, and try to keep everything low-key," Zachary said in all seriousness. "I've checked in with the hospital. The kid's fine, so it'll be a trivial matter. They won't be looking to pursue it further."

"I see." The old man nodded. "These three children are adorable and I quite like them. Be sure to do your best to satisfy their parent's demands. Am I clear?"

"Understood. I will." Zachary nodded before he turned to Ben. "Send Mr. Nacht home!"

"Yes, sir."

"One moment. I want to say goodbye to them."

Old Mr. Nacht issued instructions to Spencer while he made his way back to the ward with the aid of his crutch.

"Bring over the presents I've got for them, and the smartwatches as well. Save my number into them so they could reach me at any time."

"Right away." Spencer nodded in acknowledgement.

"What's he thinking?" Zachary frowned when he regarded the old man from behind. "Giving them presents and leaving his number? Does he think he's reacquainting with long-lost relatives?"

"I've heard from Spencer that old Mr. Nacht is very fond of the children, and had been spending time in the hospital with them himself over the past few days," Ben said cautiously. "Mr. Nacht, I think he's quite serious about them, so they're untouchable!"

"They're not family." The very thought of it made Zachary's blood boil. "Compared to them, who's closer to him?"

"You, of course. But..."

"Then shut your mouth and just do as you've been told," Zachary said.

"Understood."

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Old Mr. Nacht returned to the ward with a few bodyguards in tow bearing various gifts. They placed them all down upon the bed and covered every inch of space on top.

"Grandpa Nacht..." Ellie ran up to him and threw herself into his arms. "We're so glad that you're back, Grandpa. Hurry and help us find our Mommy."

"I still can't reach Mommy, Grandpa Nacht. We may need your help." Robbie approached him and bowed. "Please help us!"

"Don't worry, children. Your parents have already gotten in touch with my grandson through the police," the elderly gentleman said as he held Robbie and Ellie affectionately. "We'll get all of you home very soon."

"Really? That's great!" Ellie clapped her hands and jumped for joy.

"Can I go home too, Grandpa Nacht?" Jamie asked. "I don't want to stay in the hospital. I want to be with Mommy and Mrs. Berry."

"I've checked in with the doctor and you are good for discharge. You need only return here in a month for a check-up," The old man said kindly. "All of you rest assured that I'll drop in for a visit often in the future."

"Yay!" Jamie was so excited that he started chatting up the pretty nurse next to him. "Don't miss me too much when I'm gone, ladies."

"Haha, I think we will for sure," the nurses replied, quite amused.

"You are always welcomed at our home, Grandpa Nacht. Mrs. Berry's cooking is yummy." Ellie's brows raised in enthusiasm as she gesticulated. "The buns she makes are this huge. There's also the vegetable beef soup..."

"Wow, my mouth's already watering just listening to you describe them." Old Mr. Nacht laughed. "I think I'll definitely need to go give it a try!"

"Yes, you must come, okay. Pinky promise!" Ellie stuck out a plump little finger.

"Ha ha ha, Grandpa can't become that."

The old man and the little girl interlocked their little fingers and then sealed it with their thumbs before they both broke into laughter.

Robbie watched by the side in silence. He felt something was off. Parents? We don't have a father...

Could Grandpa have been duped?

"Mr. Nacht, the car's ready," Spencer said.

"Alright." The old man nodded before he said to the three children, "I have to go now. My grandson will send all of you home later. Give me a call when you see your Daddy and Mommy."

With that, he went on to put on the smart watches on the children's wrists himself.

"This is what Grandpa got all of you. They have my number in them. Call me whenever you miss me, alright?"

"Understood!" Jamie and Ellie replied at once. "Thank you, Grandpa."

"Why are you so quiet, Robbie?" The elderly gentleman patted the older boy's head when he noticed that he seemed to be lost in thought. "Are you missing me already?"

"Does this smartwatch have GPS, Grandpa?" Robbie asked as he raised the watch in his right hand. "Will it send you a message if we are in danger?"

"Does it have this function?" the old man asked Spencer.

"The smartwatch has a built-in GPS, but it isn't that comprehensive," Spencer replied as he shook his head. "Shall we ask Mr. Zachary to have that feature installed? As Divine Corporation deals in technologies, it shouldn't be that difficult for them to do."

"Divine Corporation?" Robbie's face turned ashen-faced when he heard the name. "Is your grandson's company called..."

"Divine Corporation!"

A cold voice rang out and interjected.

It was accompanied by the entrance of a slender silhouette and Zachary's overbearing presence.

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Robbie lifted his gaze to stare right into a pair of domineering eyes. The man curled his lips into an unfriendly smile. "Have you heard of that name, little man?"

The strapping Zachary towered over the diminutive Robbie like a massive beast.

As they regarded each other, their difference in physical stature culminated in striking contrast.

"It's you?" Robbie's fist tightened against itself as he met Zachary's eyes head-on.

"Ah!"

Ellie suddenly let out a scream in terror and ducked behind old Mr. Nacht. She shivered as she held on to his shirt.

"Don't be afraid!" The old man quickly shielded Ellie behind him and coaxed gently, "This is my grandson, Ellie. He's not a bad guy."

He then poked his finger at Zachary and snapped at him, "Look what you've done. You've frightened them."

"He's your grandson?" Robbie was shocked.

"He..."

The little girl sputtered as she struggled to enunciate her words, and could only hide behind old Mr. Nacht as she trembled uncontrollably.

"Why? Are you not able to see the resemblance?" The corner of Zachary's lips lifted into an exaggerated smile. "You don't have to be afraid of me. Not only will I not hurt you, but I'll also send you home."

"That won't be necessary." Robbie furrowed his brows as he glared at the man.

"What's wrong, Robbie?" The elderly man went over to the boy when he sensed something was off. "If you don't want him to send you, then I'll do it instead."

He then turned to Zachary reproachfully. "Now, you've gone and scared them. Enough of this. I have to send them back myself."

"But I haven't done anything at all," Zachary said with a shrug. "Perhaps I look a little intimidating?"

"Stop it. Get out!" The old man gave Zachary a slight shove in annoyance.

"I'm the one who's your own grandson, Grandpa!"

Zachary was rendered speechless at the old man who had shown favor to someone else's offspring instead.

"Didn't you hear me? Get out," The elderly man said as he raised his crutch over his own head.

"Robbie, Jamie, Ellie..."

Gentle voices accompanied the arrival of Ruby, Lexie, and the homeroom teacher from the Apple Kindergarten.

"We are so glad to finally see you. You three have really had us worried."

"Yeah. We've even called the police."

"Ms. Longman, Ms. Cheney, and Ms. Krasny!" Ellie rushed into Lexie's arms, nearly bowling the frail lady over. "Boy, am I ever so glad to see you!"

"We've been looking all over for you," Lexie said as she held the little girl close.

“What brings you here?”

When Robbie saw the teachers and the police behind them, his knitted brows seemed to untangle just a little as he felt a lot safer in their presence.

“Miss...” Jamie reacted to the teachers as though he had seen family, and tried to get out from the bed.

“No, don’t move.” Ruby went forward to pacify the boy. “Don’t be afraid now. We’re here to take you home.”

“What do you think about that?” Zachary shrugged at his grandfather. “Now, you may return home with peace of mind. Just leave the rest to me!”

“That’s better.” The old man gave him a look before he reminded him sternly, “You have to get them back to their parents safely. And you are not to frighten them again.”

“That’s the mug I was born with. Not much I can do about that,” Zachary replied.

“Can’t you at least learn to smile? Act friendlier, huh?” the old man said. “Always wearing a frown with that poker face of yours. Anyone would be afraid of you!”

“Why should I smile at him? He’s not my son,” Zachary replied.

“You’ll be the death of me, you rascal!” The old man said as he spanked the man on the rear with his crutch, “If you could have a son as adorable as this, I would die a happy man!”

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The children felt safer around those familiar faces from school.

Old Mr. Nacht bade them goodbye before he left. He reminded them to call him whenever they were met with difficulty or danger so that he could protect them.

The three children were deeply moved and held him tightly in gratitude before they saw him off.

The hospital's staff had the kids placed in an ambulance. With a pediatrician alongside a team of three paramedics attached, the kids were sent back together with the teachers.

This arrangement had many of the children staying in other wards quite envious.

With the police car clearing the path in the lead, the ambulance in the middle, followed by Zachary's car propping up the rear, the convoy drove towards Happy Avenue in concert.

Meanwhile, Charlotte had found her phone at home. She wanted to charge it as the battery was flat.

"Bring along your charger and do it in the car. It's not safe here," Michael said as he got her a coat.

"Okay," she replied as she followed him out in a hurry.

The two of them go into the ride and made straight for the Garden Villa.

En route, the familiarity of the streets made her feel overwhelmed. She wanted very much to be reunited with her children as soon as possible, and never be apart from them again.

"Charlotte," Michael said as he held her hand. "We'll explain everything to old Mr. Nacht later. I'm sure he can make Zachary give up the children."

"I hope so..."

Charlotte breathed in deeply as she turned her attention to switching on the phone.

She failed to notice then that the convoy which ferried the children sped past along the road on the opposite side of the forested area towards home.

The phone records showed several missed calls from an unknown number. There was also a message. "Gods. Robbie called several times, but I missed them all."

"When was it?" Michael asked.

"It's all my fault..." Charlotte was filled with self-reproach. "Why didn't I notice them? Robbie must be so anxious when he couldn't reach me."

"Let's not talk about that right now. Call him back, and quickly," Michael said.

"Alright." Charlotte then dialed the nurse's number.

"Hello."

"Hi, I'm Charlotte, Robbie's mother. May I know if you're from Serene Hospital? Are my three children there with you?"

"Yes, Ma'am. We are. The children have been with us the past two days, but they have left about half an hour ago."

"They were taken? By whom?" Charlotte asked.

"Mr. Nacht," the nurse replied casually. "Weren't they already in contact with you? Aren't you aware?"

Charlotte was shaken to the bone when she heard that Zachary had taken them. And it happened just half an hour before.

"Hello, Ma'am? Are you still there?"

Charlotte was trembling so badly that she could not hear the nurse hailing her. She hung up outright before she called Zachary directly.

"Please, Charlotte..." Michael wanted to end the call but it had already gotten through.

"Look who's calling..." Zachary said coldly.

"Zachary, you are insane!" Charlotte screamed into the phone. "Why did you take my children? Why?"

On the other end, her heightened pitch nearly hurt his eardrums. His phone was then switched to hands-free. "Keep hollering if you never want to see your kids again!"

Then he hung up.

"You..." Before Charlotte could speak, she heard the dead tone repeated itself. She was losing her mind as the phone trembled in her hand.