

Madam Winters 251

Chapter 251 Adina anxiously clenched her fists. To hire Brenden, she told Duke about her unpleasant past.

She revealed those things in hopes that Duke would introduce her to Brenden.

If Brenden was willing to file the lawsuit for her, she would be able to keep her custody of the kids.

Displeasure flashed past Duke's eyes. He knew that she had two children, but he had never connected her with any man. When he heard her talking about the children's father, he suddenly realized that she would have had to sleep with a man to birth two kids. The thought of something happening between her and another man five years ago... When he remembered that she had given birth to two kids for another man, his heart became filled with gloom. It flooded him like raging waves, suffocating him a little. He did not know why he felt like that. He just knew that he was very uncomfortable. Why was the adorable and pretty Melody Tyson's daughter? Why was the brilliant and cunning Alden Tyson's son? Melody called Duke "Daddy," so she was supposed to be his daughter... The moment Duke thought about that, he immediately snapped out of his daze. Was he insane? How could he think of such a scary thought?

"Mr. Winters?"

When Adina noticed that he had not answered her, she called out to him. She took a deep breath before she slowly said, "If it's really inconvenient for you, just forget it."

"There's nothing inconvenient about it." Duke curled his lips nonchalantly. "I'm just wondering why I should help you."

Since he said that, there was still room for discussion. Adina's tension was finally relieved.

She smiled and said, "Feel free to raise any condition you have, Mr. Winters. If I can do it, I won't refuse."

Duke fiddled with his fingers.

What condition?

He did not have a condition.

He just felt uncomfortable when he thought about how she had a tie with Tyson that she could never cut off. All of a sudden, he felt like he was being unreasonable. He looked up and saw Harold. Harold was scratching his head while talking to Alden.

Alden had said something, and Harold was thinking about it for a long time with a frown. That made him look like he had a very low IQ. MB

Duke pursed his lips before he said, "Harold enjoys eating the food that you cook." Adina's eyes lit up. "Are you saying that if I take care of Harold's daily meals, you'll be willing to introduce me to Mr. Watson?" When Duke saw the light in her eyes, he was stunned. He added, "You just have to prepare dinner for Harold in the Winters family villa every night." Adina frowned. "But I still have to take care of Alden and Mel." "Bring them along to the villa," Duke said indifferently. "You can bring the kids home after dinner with the Winters family." Adina seriously considered it for a few seconds. It seemed fine for her to prepare dinner in the Winters family villa.

It also seemed fine for her to take her kids to the villa and eat there. However, she would interact with Duke more, and it would also be easy for her to meet Dew.

Chapter 252 Dew was a venomous snake. If she did not pay attention, she would be bitten. Adina said, "We better let Harold eat in my house. I'm used to my own kitchen."

Duke stared at her and calmly said, "What are you afraid of?"

Adina knew this man was brilliant and she could not hide anything from him.

She did not beat around the bush and just said, "We met Dew in the Winters family villa previously, and she nearly injured Mel. I don't want to take the risk again." Duke suddenly broke into a faint smile. He lowered his head and said, "Why do I feel like you're jealous?" Adina instantly widened her eyes. "Stop talking nonsense. Who's jealous? When did you see me being jealous?" "Okay, you're not jealous."

Duke shrugged.

Adina was speechless.

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She was not jealous in the slightest! Why would she be jealous? Was this man not too narcissistic? If she did not want him to do her a favor, she would have chased him and his son out! "Don't worry, Dew Daugherty won't be coming over to the Winters family villa anymore." Duke schooled his expression and said, "I've told Mr. Brown that she isn't allowed to step into the villa again." Adina was a little surprised. Was this man that heartless? Dew's dresses and piano were in the Winters family villa, but he just kicked her out on a whim? But following further consideration, she could also understand. Dew had slapped Harold. How could a person like Duke allow others to hurt his son?

If she were him, she would have slapped Dew ten times over. When Adina thought about it, she felt more at ease. "Okay, I'll make dinner every night in the Winters family villa then." Duke nodded. "Okay, I'll take you to Brenden at 3.00 pm tomorrow." Right after they made the agreement, Harold walked over with his short legs. "Dad, you can talk with Aunt Adina for a little longer. I'll go upstairs and play with

Mel.” “We’re going home now,” Duke said indifferently. The little boy’s expression darkened. “I’ve just been playing for an hour. I’m not done yet.

Aunt Adina, I don’t want to go. I don’t want to leave you. Whaa...” Adina held him up with a smile and said, “I’ll go to your house tomorrow night. Now, are you happy?”

Harold widened his eyes. “Really? Are you really going to my house, Aunt Adina? Don’t lie to me.”

“I’ve talked to your dad. I’ll go to your house and make dinner for you every night.” “Wow! Awesome! I’m happy!” Harold cheered. He danced nonstop, and he was extremely delighted “Good boy. Go back and sleep early. We’ll meet tomorrow.” Adina lifted him and walked over to Duke before she placed him in Duke’s arms. Duke carried him impatiently. He then grabbed Harold by the collar and plopped him on the floor.

It was getting dark. Harold held Duke’s hand and turned around from time to time as he left. Alden slowly walked over. “Mom, why are you going to Harold’s house and making dinner for him?”

Adina had thought about the explanation. She bent down and softly said, “Harold’s a picky eater. He’s actually the same age as you, but he’s a few pounds slimmer than you. It’s because he doesn’t eat every day. His father and I are business partners, so I promised to make him dinner for some time so that he can grow healthily.”

Alden looked down. While he had stood at the staircase and talked to Harold, he had also occasionally looked out of the corner of his eye at his mother.

He had noticed his mom and Duke discussing a very serious topic. Assuming that it was about work, he did not pay attention to it. Even so, he felt like his mom was hiding something from him.

However, it was fine for them to go to the Winters family villa for dinner. He could find a chance to obtain Duke’s hair. This time, he had to conduct a paternity test no matter what.

Chapter 253 At 3.00 pm, Adina drove to the office building that she had visited yesterday... The building’s entrance was quiet today. Nobody was around. Only two security guards watched the entrance.

As soon as she parked her car, a black car parked beside her. Duke stepped out after he pushed the car door open. Adina unfastened her seatbelt before she also got out of her car.

The two of them walked toward the office building side by side, and nobody stopped them. Duke took the elevator and walked to an office in a familiar way. He raised his arm, knocked on the door, and directly pushed it open. “You really came to find me. I thought you were messing with me!” The man sitting in the office chair stood up. Before he continued, he saw Adina behind Duke. He was slightly surprised as he asked, “When did you get yourself such a

beautiful secretary?" "She's not my secretary," Duke answered coldly. Adina smiled faintly and took a step forward. "Hi, Mr. Watson. I'm Adina Daugherty. Mr. Winters and I are business partners."

Brenden pushed his glasses up a little, and his gaze on Adina was sharp. Then, he looked at Duke. "Just business partners?"

Based on his intuition as a lawyer, these two people were definitely not merely business partners.

Duke cast a cold glance at him.

Brenden came from a poor family. His landlord had chased him out while he was studying abroad. Just as he arrived at a dead end, he coincidentally met Duke. Duke's family was rich, and he lived alone in a three-story villa. After they met, Brenden became attached to Duke.

Brenden lived in Duke's house for more than a year. After he graduated and became successful, he always wanted to repay Duke's kindness.

However, Duke lacked nothing. Brenden wanted to have a meal with him, but he never got a chance. Since he returned from abroad, the two of them never had a proper meal together. "I need your help," Duke said indifferently. Brenden's eyes immediately lit up. "Say it! Tell me now!"

He had been wishing for Duke to ask him a favor all these years. He could not wait to repay the kindness he owed him in the past.

Duke motioned Adina to move forward. When Brenden saw her, he immediately understood.

He looked at Adina with a judgmental gaze.

Back when they were studying abroad, Duke was known as the genius in school, and countless juniors wanted to get close to him.

But from the time Duke graduated till he returned, no female student ever got lucky enough to be with Duke. This dude did not seem to like having women around him. In the past, Brenden had even suspected Duke of having different kinds of interests...

Once he saw Adina, he realized that it was not this guy who did not like women, but those previous women were simply not his cup of tea.

"Mr. Watson."

When Adina noticed that Brenden kept sizing her up, she smiled faintly and interrupted his gaze.

"I would like to ask you for help with keeping custody of my children."
Brenden became puzzled and shocked. "Ms. Daugherty, you have children?"

Chapter 254 “I have a son and a daughter. They are four years old.” Adina was honest. “I’ve raised my children alone for four years, and their father has approached me recently. He wants to take custody of them. Do I have a chance of winning?”

Brenden tried very hard to suppress his shock.

He initially thought that there was something between Duke and Ms. Daugherty. It looked like he had the wrong expectation.

He pushed his glasses up and finally remembered that he was a lawyer. He schooled his expression and said, “Ms. Daugherty, please tell me everything about the kids, their father, and how you’re raising the kids at the moment.”

Adina nodded and sat down across from Brenden. “Five years ago, because of an accident, I ended up sleeping with the kids’ father. Eight months later, I gave birth to my kids prematurely, and I brought them out of the country. I’ve been raising the kids alone over the last four years, and their father has never shown up. He has also never paid any child support. The kids don’t know who their father is. “The man is Tyson Osborne. He’s an entrepreneur, and Osborne Corporation is worth about \$ 5,000,000,000.” Brenden quickly recorded everything with his pen. Meanwhile, Duke was holding a teacup not far away, and a profound light flashed in his eyes. Adina told Brenden whatever she knew. “So, the children’s father is a successful entrepreneur, and his family is very rich. On top of that, to outsiders, he has a harmonious family,” Brenden concluded. “Ms. Daugherty, your family is rich as well, but you’re single, and the children have been living in a single-parent family.”

He gave his glasses a push before he resumed. “The judge will make a decision based on the children’s mental health development, and they’ll most likely give custody to the father.” Adina curled her fingers. “Will the law still favor him even though he hasn’t put in any effort and money for the kids all these years?”

Brenden nodded. “If he’s known of their existence but has refused to take responsibility, the court won’t favor him. But from your explanation, I understand that you gave birth to the kids without the father’s knowl

Adina pursed her lips.

When she first found out that she was pregnant, she had thought about aborting her babies.

However, once she lay down on the operating table, she suddenly did not want them to be gone. She recklessly got off the operating table and ran away. She would rather be locked up than lose her babies.

She knew this day would come, but she never expected it to happen so early. The kids were just four years old. She could not lose Alden and Melody. Adina’s throat was dry. “I still can’t salvage the situation even with your help?” Brenden slowly said, “I have a very high success rate in lawsuits, and there is a chance of salvaging the situation, but I think you want your probability of winning to be 100%.”

Adina nodded.

If she did not want it to be 100%, why would she spend so much effort to come and look for Brenden?

“There’s a method

for you to win custody 100%,” Brenden said. There was a glint in Adina’s eyes. Please tell me, Mr. Watson.” “Ms. Daugherty, you’re the children’s mother, and you’ve raised them for four years on your own, so the children will definitely choose to be with you. If you can find them a father, the court will definitely let you keep the children. When Adina heard what

Brenden said, her expression suddenly changed. She could do anything for the kids, except... get married. She could not just marry any man. “A fake marriage is still a marriage. You can get a divorce after the lawsuit,” Brenden said indifferently. “Of course, if you refuse to take this suggestion, just pretend as though I never mentioned it. I’ll try my best to win this lawsuit for you.”

Chapter 255 Adina stayed in the law firm for about an hour.

After she spoke with Brenden, she realized that the situation was not as optimistic as she had imagined

Tyson was the children’s biological father, and she had secretly given birth to them. The court would definitely favor Tyson in that regard.

Besides, Tyson’s public reputation was of a good father and a good husband. He also had a stable family.

That would be very

advantageous in the lawsuit. Meanwhile, she was all alone. She had to juggle both work and the children. She would neglect a lot of things. If she were the judge, she might give the children to Tyson too without any inside information.

At the moment, the only solution seemed to be marrying a man.

As long as she had a stable family, Tyson would lose all advantages.

If both of them stood on even ground, she would have a higher chance of winning.

“If you have a stable relationship, the judge will take it into consideration,” Brenden slowly added. “Even though the case is going to trial, it will take at least one month. Don’t be anxious, Ms. Daugherty.” Adina nodded before she said, “Tyson will bring his

lawyer to the preschool and pick the kids up today. What reason can I use to stop him from meeting the kids?”

She did not want her children to know that they had such a terrible father.

Compared

with not having a father, having an immoral father was clearly more unacceptable. Brenden cast a glance at Duke

who was sitting nearby. He talked to Adina for more than an hour, and Duke was seated at the side the whole time.

He had asked Duke out for a meal yesterday, but the man had told him he was busy.

Yet, such a busy man had waited here for such a long time.

It looked like Ms. Daugherty was a very important person to Duke.

In that case, he could not simply deal with her.

Brenden pushed his glasses and said, "Let me meet Mr. Osborne. I'm your defense attorney, after all. After we meet Tyson's lawyer, let me do the talking."

Adina was incredibly grateful. "Thank you, Mr. Watson."

Brenden packed up the documents on the table before he got to his feet and said, "Let's go together."

Duke stood up as well, and the three of them walked out.

Adina and Duke drove over, and Brenden directly entered Duke's car. "Ms. Daugherty, please lead the way."

Adina nodded. She started the engine and drove ahead."

Brenden sat in the passenger seat while he lazily leaned back. He was completely different from his public posh attorney persona.

"Duke, are you interested in Ms. Daugherty?" he said and winked. Duke stared straight ahead without looking around. "Do you want me to throw you out of the car?"

"Hey, let me

be honest. Ms. Daugherty's quite pitiful. She raised her kids alone, and just as things started to look up, the kids' father came to her." Brenden shook his head. "I actually don't have complete confidence in this lawsuit, so I had to ask her to get a boyfriend. It'd be the best if she could find a rich and powerful one." Halfway through his sentence, he could feel a cold gaze on him.

He continued adding fuel to the fire. "Hey, I think I fit the bill. I've been rated by the media as the most popular young and talented bachelor among women. If I become Ms. Daugherty's fake boyfriend, she'll win without filing a lawsuit." Duke's gaze was extremely sharp. "You talk too much nonsense."

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He abruptly floored the gas pedal as he held the steering wheel and drifted aggressively.

"Hey, have you lost your mind?" Brenden scrambled for the handle. "This is the main road. Drive slowly! Slowly! Ah!"

The car charged down the road and quickly overtook Adina's car.

Adina frowned

Why was Duke speeding? Even if they arrived at the preschool right now, class would not be dismissed yet.

Besides, there was a speed limit on the road. Was he trying to help the traffic police out with their KPI?

A black car was parked outside Golden Sun International Bilingual Preschool. Ava was surrounded by a few people, and she dealt with them while she felt incredibly stressed. "Mr. Osborne, even if you're Alden and Melody's biological father, you can't see them right now. We have to take responsibility for

the children on their guardian's behalf." Ava took a deep breath and said, "If you insist on meeting the kids, please contact Alden's mother. If their mother agrees, I'll bring the kids out immediately." Tyson took a step back and allowed his lawyer to move forward.

"The law states that parents have visitation rights, and no one can deny a child's parents visitation rights. If you stop Mr. Osborne from visiting his kids, you'll violate at least three acts. If this recorded conversation gets exposed, this preschool will be under heavy criticism from the public, and that would be the least of it. If we decide to call the police, you'll be arrested by the police for investigation," Victor said indifferently.

Ava's face turned pale.

She was just a young lady in her early twenties. She had never experienced such a situation before.

However, she remembered the call that Adina had made. No matter what, she would not hand the children to this man.

Victor resumed. "Ms. Jones, if you insist on stopping a father from visiting his kids, we will have to take some extreme measures."

He waved his hand, and two bodyguards walked over from behind him.

Ava was so scared that her legs were trembling.

At that moment, a black car suddenly stopped at the preschool's entrance.

When the car door swung open, Duke stepped out first. He was dressed in a black suit, and he emanated a cold aura.

The second Tyson saw Duke, his expression changed.

It was Duke, who had brought Adina away, on the cruise the other day. Adina had to be acquainted with the Winters family. That was why she refused to bring the children to the Osborne family.

Victor lived in Sea City, so he naturally knew Duke. He fell into a contemplative silence while he sized Duke up, choosing not to say anything for now.

He always remained silent before he figured out a situation.

Right then, Brenden finally snapped out of his daze and got out of the car. It had been a wild ride all the way there, so he felt nauseous.

When he saw the group standing at the side out of the corner of his eyes, he forced himself to suppress his discomfort. After he stood up straight, he became the cold and noble lawyer, Mr. Watson, again.

He walked over and pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose. His eyes were sharp behind the shining lenses.

Victor was shocked. He immediately stretched his hand forward. "Are you Mr. Watson?"

"Are you Victor Jenkins, Mr. Tyson Osborne's defense attorney?" Brenden asked indifferently.

Victor nodded. "Yes, I'm taking Mr. Osborne's case for the time being. Um, how did you know?"

It could not be, right? It should not be what he thought, right?

Brenden was his idol. He became a lawyer mostly because Brenden inspired him.

If he and Brenden became opponents in court, he would not stand a chance of winning...

Chapter 257

"Hi. I'm Brenden Watson, Mdm. Adina Daugherty's defense attorney. I'll take full charge of this case involving her children's custody. In the future, please contact me directly, Mr. Osborne and Mr. Jenkins."

Brenden took out a black gilded business card from his pocket and passed it to them.

He spoke firmly, and his expression was stern as well as serious. He gradually emanated an imposing manner. Tyson frowned.

He was not involved in the legal industry, so he had never heard of Brenden's reputation.

However, he knew Victor, whom he had hired with a large amount of money, was the most famous attorney in Sea City. If Victor helped him, he would definitely win this case.

The only uncertainty now was whether Duke would get involved in this case.

If Duke got involved, it might become a little challenging.

"I heard that you want to visit the children, Mr. Osborne?" Brenden smiled faintly, pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose, and slowly said, "The law states that parents have visitation rights, but only with their guardian's consent. If the child is taken without the guardian's knowledge, it's equivalent to trafficking. Mr. Osborne, if you would like to have a cup of tea in the police station, you may give it a try."

When Tyson saw Brenden's sharp eyes, he felt frightened for some reason.

He looked away, scoffed, and said, "Mr. Jenkins says that I can visit, so I will. Do you think I'm a three-year-old kid who can be scared away by your words?" Victor coughed awkwardly.

What he said earlier was completely fine to scare off people who had little legal knowledge.

If he played that trick in front of Brenden, he would humiliate himself like a clown.

He looked down and said, "Mr. Watson, I was too hasty indeed. I'll leave with Mr. Osborne."

Tyson was completely taken aback. When did Victor say that he wanted to leave?

He wanted to see his children! He was the children's biological father. Why could he not see them?

Victor dragged him to the road. Once they were far away, Victor sighed and said, "Mr. Osborne, I'm sorry. I think I can't accept your case."

"What are you talking about?" Tyson glared at him. "Didn't you say that you were totally confident about winning custody for me? Didn't you say that you had the professional ethics

of a lawyer and you would help me fight this case until the end no matter what happens? You've taken my money, and this is how you work?" Tyson criticized Victor, but Victor could not refute him.

Why was he so unlucky to encounter Brenden?

When Brenden had just graduated, he had defeated an international team of lawyers alone, and that had boosted his reputation ever since. Victor became Brenden's fan because of that case too.

He was aware that he was nowhere near Brenden's current skills. If he filed a lawsuit against Brenden, not only would he offend his idol, but it would also make him look incapable. On top of that, he was the best lawyer in Sea City. If he was defeated, it would be an embarrassing look for him, so why not just give up? "I'm sorry, Mr. Osborne. I'll triple your compensation." Victor and Tyson negotiated.

She raised her eyebrows in surprise. Had it been solved that quickly? Was Brenden that amazing?

She should have driven faster.

After Adina got out of her car and walked over, Brenden smiled faintly and said, "Ms. Daugherty, Mr. Os

borne won't be coming to visit the children in the near future. If he dares to pester you and the kids, please just give me a call."

Chapter 258 "Thank you, Mr. Watson," Adina said sincerely.

"You don't have to thank me. You can thank Duke. If he hadn't come to me, it would've been impossible for me to get involved in such a lawsuit." Brenden raised his wrist and glanced at his watch. "I still have things to do, so I need to leave first. Ms. Daugherty, let's keep in touch."

Brenden walked up to Duke and patted him on the shoulder. "I'll drive your car. You should cherish this opportunity." Before Duke could say anything, he took his car key and drove away.

At 5.00 pm, the late autumn sky was haloed with the yellowish-orange evening sun. The sunlight shone on the wall tiles outside the preschool, creating charming refractions. Adina stood outside the preschool and softly said, "Mr. Winters, thank you."

Duke turned to the side slightly and stared at her. She had an exquisite face, and as the sunset glow shone on her, she seemed to be surrounded by a layer of golden light.

She was wearing a pair of pearl earrings. When the warm sunlight illuminated her side profile, it made her look gentle and charming. Duke pursed his lips and asked, "Have you felt tired all these years?"

Adina was stunned.

When she was in Brenden's office earlier, she had revealed all the details of her unpleasant past in front of Duke. She thought he would pretend as if he had heard nothing.

Unexpectedly, he would ask her about it.

She looked at the preschool and slowly said, "Feeling tired has only been one-millionth of my life in the past few years. It's been filled with much more happiness. Alden and Mel are the most wonderful gifts that God has given me."

Duke did not realize it, but his eyes overflowed with tenderness. Ring! Ring!

At that moment, the preschool bell rang.

The initially quiet preschool instantly became noisy. The happy laughter of children could be heard everywhere. "Mr. Winters, please wait here for a moment. I'll bring the kids over."

Just as Adina took one step, she heard the sound of leather shoes buckling on the ground behind her. When she turned around, she saw Duke following her.

The man flashed her an extremely faint smile. "I'll go with you." Adina did not turn him down.

So, the two of them walked side by side toward the preschool's entrance.

Ava led the children to the lobby and immediately saw the two people in the crowd.

Compared with Mr. Osborne, she thought this handsome gentleman looked more like Alden and Melody's father. "Alden, Melody, your mom's here. You can go home now."

Ava held the children's hands and walked to the entrance

CA Adina thanked her sincerely. "Ms. Jones, thank you for not letting the kids meet that irrelevant person." Ava smiled shyly. "It's my responsibility. You don't have to thank me, Ms. Daugherty."

After Adina spoke to Ava for a while, she

finally brought the children to the car. Meanwhile, Duke automatically sat in the front passenger seat.

When Adina fastened her seatbelt, a question suddenly popped up in her head.

Why did Duke not leave together with Brenden?

Why did this man stay? Did he just want to keep her company as she picked up the children?

However, when Adina saw Melody's faint smile, she felt that it was actually not bad for this man to stay.

Chapter 259 Adina drove to the Winters family villa. Duke had introduced her to Brenden today, so she needed to keep her promise by going over and preparing dinner for Harold. She held her children's hands and walked into the Winters family villa, while Duke followed her from the side.

When Mr. Brown came out to receive them, the setting sunlight shone on their faces.

They looked like a family of four to him.

Besides, the boy's features actually resembled the master's. When he glanced at the boy, he looked quite like Young Master George.

If he had no idea that this boy was Ms. Daugherty's son, he would have almost thought that there were three young masters in the Winters family.

Mr. Brown suppressed his surprise before he grinned and said, "Young Master Alden, Ms. Melody, we meet again."

When Harold had been admitted to the hospital some time ago, Mr. Brown had gotten to know these two children.

Ms. Melody did not like to talk, but that did not stop her from being adorable. She was wearing a pink dress, and she looked like a cute little princess.

Mr. Brown desperately wished for the master to have a daughter because she would definitely look as cute and pretty as Ms. Melody. "Papa Brown, you can just call me Alden and call my sister Mel," Alden said obediently. Mr. Brown caressed Alden's face. He squatted in front of Melody and said, "Ms. Melody, let me carry you inside. I've prepared a lot of desserts. There's chocolate black forest cake and strawberry ice cream..." The little girl's initially low-

spirited gaze lit up. Mr. Brown took the opportunity to carry her, and she did

not push him away either. She just went along obediently. Adina was a little surprised. "Mel doesn't reject Mr. Brown?"

"Harold's a handful, so Mr. Brown has mastered the secret of coaxing children," Duke explained from the side. "He already started preparing once he heard that you were coming today."

Adina nodded and walked inside.

When she entered the entrance hall, a maid brought her a pair of pink slippers. It looked like they had just been bought.

"You'll be coming over often, so I got them to prepare a pair for you," Duke said indifferently.

Adina looked up at Melody not far away. She was now wearing a pair of little plush bunny slippers.

Meanwhile, Alden was wearing a pair of plain gray slippers. It fit his personality very much,

"Thank you," Adina said softly.

"I would also like to thank you. Harold's a fussy eater, so we hire a new batch of chefs once a week on average. If I had another solution, I wouldn't have made this request," Duke gently explained as he led her into the kitchen.

The kitchen was huge. The place where they kept the ingredients was full of fresh produce. It was no less than what you would find in a small food market.

The chefs stood at the side and appeared as if they were waiting for instructions.

Adina walked inside, took a quick look at the ingredients, and slowly said, "You can take a break. I'll make dinner."

The chefs respectfully said, "Ms. Daugherty, you can just instruct us based on whatever dish you want to cook. We'll prepare the ingredients for you."

Everyone in the kitchen then got to work in an orderly manner,

Duke stood outside and fixed his eyes on Adina.

He suddenly felt that it was not so bad having a woman at home.

He leaned on the kitchen door and kept watching until Alden walked over.

"Uncle Duke, can I ask you a few questions?" Alden pulled the hem of Duke's shirt.

Duke snapped out of his daze before he caught a glimpse of the book in Alden's hand. "Do you study music as well?" Alden was holding a piano staff book.

Dew had bought it when she previously practiced her piano playing in the Winters family villa, and she had casually placed it on the book rack.

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"Melody recently started to learn the piano, so I'm studying a bit too." Alden frowned and said, "But I don't understand a few points here. Do you know a lot about the piano?"

Duke had learned some piano when he was about five years old, but he put it aside once he lost interest later on. Nevertheless, he had no problems reading the music staff.

He took the book, sat on the couch, and slowly asked, "Which part don't you understand?"

Alden walked up to him and also sat down on the couch.

The two of them were seated closely, and that surprised Duke a little.

Alden had always kept a distance from him when he was in the Daugherty family home previously. There was always some kind of animosity hidden in the boy's gaze whenever he looked at Duke.

But this boy was so near him now. Did Alden finally accept him?

Duke curled his lips slightly as he nonchalantly said, "This is the most basic piano staff. Every music note represents..." He kept talking. Meanwhile, Alden slowly glanced at Duke's shoulder.

His black suit was incredibly neat, and Alden could not see any fine dust.

It took Alden a long time before he finally saw a strand of short black hair on Duke's collar.

There was even a hair follicle at the end of the hair.

Alden calmly raised his hand and said, "Uncle Duke, there's dust on your shirt."

He reached out to pat it. Duke did not realize anything strange and handed the staff book back to him. "Can you understand if I explain it this way?" "Thank you, Uncle Duke. I understand."

Alden took the book and continued reading with great concentration.

Duke observed Alden's side profile, and for some reason, he found that

the boy was beginning to look more like George. Meanwhile, Melody was taking big bites of her cake.

Mr. Brown had placed all the desserts in front of the little girl. He grinned as he watched her eat. "Ms. Melody, take your time. Don't choke. There's still ice cream over here. Eat some ice cream after you take a few bites of the cake. It's really tasty. Young Master Harold loves this ice cream flavor the most."

As he said that, Harold stomped down the stairs.

Harold had heard Adina's voice a long time ago, but he was in a class. The teacher had blocked the door and refused to let him come down. As such, he had been really worked up.

In the end, the teacher only released him after he quickly completed two mathematical questions.

"Mel, I miss you so much." Harold rushed over and held Melody's shoulders.

Whenever he met Melody, he would hug her. However, the little girl heartlessly pushed him away.

Harold had just rushed down the stairs and had yet to gain a firm footing. When Melody pushed him, he could not avoid falling to the ground. Melody did not expect Harold to fall from a casual push either.

She immediately got on her feet so that she could help Harold up. But she suddenly thought of something and sat down again. She lowered her head and continued eating the cake.

"Mel, don't you like me anymore?" Harold sat on the floor and felt

slighted as he raised his head. "You weren't like this before. Why don't you like me all of a sudden? What did I do wrong?" When Melody previously avoided him in Aunt Adina's house, he had assumed that Melody was not in a good mood, so he did not mind it. But Melody had actually pushed him today.