

Madam Winters's Fight For Her Children Chapter 551

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Adina had become an absentee CEO, leaving Serene in charge of the company's affairs while she was preoccupied with her wedding plans.

But suddenly, something had gone wrong, so she had to head back to the company to rearrange the work tasks for the next few days.

Early in the morning, Adina drove to the company.

As she stepped into the entrance, dozens of colleagues from the company suddenly gathered around her.

"Happy Wedding, Ms. Daugherty!"

"May Ms. Daugherty and Mr. Winters forever be in love, and may you grow well into old age together!"

"May Ms. Daugherty and Mr. Winters have a baby soon!"

"Hey, what are you talking about? Ms. Daugherty has already given birth to a child, so let's dispense with this blessing."

"It's better to have more kids than fewer!"

Adina was speechless.

Everyone in the office burst into laughter and made noise.

Adina rubbed her nose, thinking that they knew she had two children, but they were unaware that she also had two children of the Winters family.

She already had four children, and they still wanted her to have more children.

Did they genuinely think she was a sow?

"Okay, everyone, please be quiet. I am going to give out a bonus to you all." Adina cleared her throat and said, "To celebrate my big day, the salary of each entry-level employee will get a ten percent raise, and the year-end dividend will also be doubled up."

Once these words came out, everyone in the office got hyped up.

“Wow! Ms. Daugherty, you’re brilliant!”

“I’ll stick with Ms. Daugherty in the future!”

LaStar Technology Corporation had only been established for less than half a year, and these employees had only been working for two to three months, so they could all be considered new intern employees in other companies. However, after such a short stay in the company, they already had their salaries increased manifold.

They began to believe that choosing to work for LaStar Technology Corporation was the wisest decision they had ever made.

Adina smiled and said, “The sixth day of this month happens to be a weekend. Anyone available can approach Serene to receive an invitation to my wedding.”

As soon as she finished her words, the crowd in the office erupted in excitement once more.

The wedding of the CEO of Winters Corporation must be a

wedding the likes of which have never been seen before, and never will be seen again. The people that were invited to attend the wedding banquet must also be the Sea City’s dignified big shots.

They had hoped to be able to have Adina’s wedding candy, but now she had even offered invitations to them.

This was an honor that many outsiders could not even ask for.

When everyone was thrilled to bits, Adina clapped her hands.” Alright, all get ready for a meeting.”

Everyone immediately suppressed the excitement in their hearts and went into the office with their project documents.

The main objective of the meeting was to plan the work for the next few days. The collaboration with Xavier Corporation was one of them. The other two were the redundant work on Daugherty’s side, as well as the three to four projects LaStar Technology was in charge of. Several other projects were either ongoing or nearly complete. The project with Elitos had just only started.

Adina sat down on a chair and said indifferently, “Bring the newly signed contract over to me.”

Serene pushed the contract over.

This contract seemed to have no major issues, but it split the chip project's profit into two portions, one-half each for LaStar Technology and Jones Corporation.

LaStar Technology completed eighty percent of the entire chip design framework on its own but was bound to receive only half

of the profit. They had been silently ripped off.

Adina laughed. "Those who are responsible for this project should take a few days off. You will get paid as usual."

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552 The employee froze for a while, then continued, "But Ms. Daugherty, this project has to make its first progress report in three days."

"We have already completed eighty percent of the work. Let the Joneses take care of the remaining twenty percent." Adina pushed the contract away and said lightly, "Serene, you liaise with the technical department of Jones Corporation. Today's meeting may now be adjourned. I will personally be there on the day of the report."

Adina coldly curled up the corners of her lips.

Since Mr. Benny of Elitos and Zhenny had joined hands to set her up, she had no choice but to let Elitos bear a substantial loss.

Elitos was a big company that could afford to sustain certain losses.

Adina returned to her office to continue arranging the follow-up work. When she had only just been busy for a half hour, Serene came in while holding a phone, with a quondary look on her face. "Ms. Daugherty, Ms. Yackley from Jones Corporation specified that she wanted to talk to you, and she said that if you refused to talk to her, she would come to our company in ten minutes."

Adina reached out with her hand. "Give me the phone."

Just as she put the phone to her ear, Jasmine's voice came over, "Adina, you're going too far."

Adina gave a light laugh. "Ms. Yackley., tell me, how am I going too far?"

"My company programmers can't even understand the chip framework that was designed by LaStar Technology Corporation. You must send a representative over as the technical advisor!" Jasmine said coldly, "If you object to this request, Jones Corporation will refuse to complete the remaining twenty percent of the work."

Adina was on the verge of laughing out, while she was just as furious. "The profits are split into half and shared between Jones Corporation and LaStar Technology Corporation. LaStar Technology has already helped Jones Corporation to do an additional extra 30 percent of work, and I have been generous enough to do it as a favor. It does not mean that you can take an inch and make it a mile. Ms. Yackley can, of course, choose to refuse to complete the remaining work, but Jones Corporation will need to bear the responsibility for the consequences."

After saying that, she hung up.

Serene said with some concern, "Ms. Daugherty, Jones Corporation is known for being adamant in the business field. Will we offend them by doing this?" Adina asked rhetorically. Serene shook her head. "It was Jones Corporation who wanted to sit idle and get a piece of the pie. They've gone too far."

"That's fine." Adina said in a light voice, "If we are reasonable, then we have nothing to fear from them. Don't worry too much

about this matter. I've got this under control."

Serene felt immediate relief from her anxiety.

She looked at Adina, respect and admiration welling up in her eyes.

She was only a year older than Adina, but every time she encountered such a difficult matter, she would always be there for her.

Some people were destined to be extraordinary when they were born. Ordinary people could be compared to them.

When it was about time to leave work, Adina instinctively wanted to go to the kindergarten to pick up her children from school. However, just as she picked up her bag, she remembered that the task to pick up the two little ones from school had been taken over by Mdm. Winters.

She heard the shriek of a shouting voice coming from the office when she was about to leave.

“Oh my God, is that Mr. Winters down there?”

“Mr. Winters is considerably more attractive than those young men who have nothing but looks to bolster their popularity.”

“I am so envious of Ms. Daugherty. How did she find such a handsome husband?”

“You can also find one if you are as beautiful as Ms. Daugherty.”

“Boohoo, I can’t even compare to the hair strands of Ms. Daugherty.”

Adina stood up and looked out of the window, and saw there was a black luxury car parked downstairs.

Duke was wearing a silver suit, leaning against the car door. He just stood motionless. He attracted the eyes of every passer-by.

After publicly announcing his wedding, this man seemed to care little about their reactions.

The reason he made such a big move was so that the media would be able to capture him on purpose.

She laughed and walked out of the office. The employees teased her. “Ms. Daugherty, are you going on a date, since you go back home at 4 pm?”

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Adina cleared her throat.

She looked at her colleagues in discomfort and said, “Don’t work overtime today, everyone, go relax at the bar. Serene can put it on my tab.”

“Wow! You’re the best, Ms. Daugherty!”

“You’re the one getting married, but we get to enjoy life? This is great!”

“Ms. Daugherty, you should get on with your date, we’ll be getting off work soon.”

Under the strange gazes of her colleagues, Adina fled downstairs through the elevator.

As she approached Duke, she felt the weight of a hundred eyes on her.

She looked back and saw that her colleagues from the office had all followed her downstairs, pretending to just be passing by while giving her obvious winks.

'Why are they so nosy...?'

Meanwhile, Duke took her by the waist and whispered, "How was your day?"

"We're in public." Adina smacked his hand away. "We can talk in the car."

Duke chuckled.

This woman used to be so cold, but ever since they slept together, she blushed at every little touch.

He truly adored this side of her.

Duke was about to open the door to the passenger seat when his phone started vibrating.

Jake's voice sounded from the phone, "Mr. Winters, we've cornered Earl Winters at Golden Sun Bar. Would you like to come over now?"

Duke frowned.

When he was out with Adina as she tried on bridal dresses, he had left her side to catch him, yet Earl still managed to get away. But this time...

He pursed his lips and said, "Keep him detained, I'll be there soon."

After he hung up, Duke put on an apologetic expression. "Sorry, Adina, but I have to go take care of something."

Adina frowned. "Earley hasn't been found yet?"

"He got away." Duke's lips stretched into a taut line. "But he can't hide forever."

"Then you'd better get going." Adina's expression turned serious. "Nothing else matters, I'm afraid he might come after our children. The sooner we catch him, the safer our children will be."

"I'll send you home first." Duke opened the car door for her.

Adina smiled and shook her head. "Since you're going to be busy, I'll join my colleagues for a drink at the bar."

Duke narrowed his eyes. "The bar?"

From his expression, Adina could sense his jealousy.

She grinned and said, "Call it my bachelorette party. What? I'm not allowed to have one?"

Duke raised his hand and pressed a rough fingertip against her red lips, wiping away her lipstick. In a low voice, he said, "Of course, you can. I'll come and pick you up when I'm done."

"Then hurry and find Earley."

Adina ushered him into the car. After his car disappeared onto the road, a group of people immediately ran out from their hiding spots.

Surprised, Serene asked, "Ms. Daugherty, why didn't you go with Duke?"

"Going out with him isn't as fun as drinking with you guys. Come on, let's head to Golden Sun Bar. Drinks are on me, so order whatever you want."

Together, they went to the bar.

This was the largest bar close by. A lot of companies liked to have their gatherings here. When the employees of LaStar Technology Corporation arrived, the main hall became a full house.

Work tended to be stressful, so when people came to this sort

of place, they could let loose, drink, and enjoy the atmosphere. For so long, Adina's life had just been about work and her children. She rarely got to relax with some alcohol and have fun.

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"Hey, Ms. Daugherty, why's Mr. Winters here, too?" Serene said as she took Adina's arm and pointed at the bar counter.

Adina looked toward where Serene was pointing and a man sitting at the counter. Although it was just his side profile, the silhouette alone confirmed that it was Duke.

'Didn't he go searching for Earley? Why is he here?'

Adina was about to get up when she realized that Duke was facing an equally familiar figure.

It was a woman with blonde chestnut hair and a deep-set face. A foreigner...

'Wasn't this woman the one who visited Duke at the hospital the other day? I think her name was Catherine, and she's a therapist. What are they doing here?'

Adina's doubts disappeared in a flash. She stood up and walked towards them.

"Ms. Daugherty, call Mr. Winters over for a drink with us," Serene said with a wink.

Although everyone was fearful of Duke's aura, they were more curious about what he would look like with Adina by his side, even if it meant having to witness public displays of affection.

Adina laughed. "Alright, I'll get him to come and drink with us."

After she whispered this to Serene, when she raised her head

and looked back at the counter, she realized that Duke had disappeared. Catherine was left sitting alone there with a glass in her hand.

'Where did he go?'

Adina rushed over. Even after a cursory look around, she could not find Duke's figure.

"Ms. Daugherty, what a coincidence."

Catherine put down her glass and leveled Adina with a penetrating gaze. A faint smile tugged at the corners of her mouth.

Adina returned her gaze with a frown. "Where's the man who was just drinking with you?"

"Just now?" Catherine raised her eyebrows. "I've been drinking alone here all the while; no one else was with me. Maybe you were mistaken."

Adina's brows furrowed even tighter.

If it had only been her, she could have seen wrong. But Serene had also seen him.

Duke must have seen her from that angle just now. Why did he leave without saying a word to her?

Adina said airily, "Why are you drinking alone, Ms. Catherine?"

"Work has been too hectic, so I came here after work to de stress." After finishing half her glass, Catherine's eyes fell on Adina and ineffably said, "I really admire you, Ms. Daugherty. You are only two years my senior, yet you have already settled

down with a happy family, four cute kids, and Duke's unconditional love. You are the luckiest woman in the world."

Adina thought what she said was quite strange. With the same airy tone, she said, "You'll meet your destined one, too, and have children of your own. You don't need to admire me for this."

"Is that so?" Catherine bitterly downed the rest of her glass.

She did have someone she loved, but that man lived in the darkness. That was why she knew that she would never be in a loving relationship of her own.

Adina was thinking about Duke and was about to give him a call when she heard a commotion at the bar.

Several bodyguards suddenly stormed into the bar and blocked all the exits.

Then, a man in a suit walked in with his own group.

Catherine's hand shook when she saw the newcomer. Through pursed lips, she said, "I need to use the washroom."

She set down her glass and hurried away.

Adina frowned again.

She clearly saw Duke drinking with Catherine earlier. Why was he walking in from outside?

The more she thought about it, the more puzzling she found the situation.

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Duke surveyed the bar coldly.

Every exit here had been blocked by his bodyguards. He doubted Earl would be able to flee.

In the next instant, he caught sight of a beautiful figure.

He frowned and hurried towards her. "Addy, why are you here?"

"I told you I was going to drink with my colleagues at the bar," Adina pursed her lips and said, "Were you here long, or did you just only arrive?"

Duke could not understand why she asked this, but he still gave a serious reply. "I've been in my car outside the bar searching for Earl's tracks this whole time. I just came in, why do you ask?"

Adina sniffed. She did not smell any alcohol on Duke.

But earlier, she had seen him drink at least two glasses of whisky...

...unless she really was mistaken?

While she was mulling over this, a shriek came from the washroom.

Duke's eyes turned cold, and he rushed towards it.

Adina followed him.

"This is the ladies' room. What do you think you're doing?"

Catherine stood in front of the entrance to the ladies' room,

glaring at three or four bodyguards in black suits.

The lead bodyguard said coldly, "Another word from you, and it'll be your last, now move aside!"

"No!" Catherine held the door shut, determined. "If you dare go in, I'll report you for sexual assault!"

The bodyguards were furious, but they dared not rush in, in case there really was a woman using the toilet inside. They would then be accused of something they did not do, and they would be labeled as criminals forever in the eyes of the people.

Click-clack.

The sound of leather shoes against the floor echoed, followed immediately by Duke's cold voice. "Ms. Catherine, are you sure you don't want to move aside?"

"I'm sure." Catherine fearlessly stuck her chin out.

Crash!

A loud sound came from the ladies' room; it was the sound of glass shattering.

Catherine breathed a sigh of relief, smiled, and stepped aside. "Since Mr. Winters has a hobby of going into the ladies' room, then please, go ahead."

Duke was livid. "After him!"

Four or five bodyguards rushed into the ladies' room and jumped out the broken window. The road was quickly filled with the sound of cars honking.

Catherine gave a semblance of a smile. "Mr. Winters, a word of advice: forgiveness is a virtue."

"I'll give you a piece of advice, too: don't sleep with the devil," Duke said coldly, "lest you get burned."

"Then let's see who suffers in the end!" Catherine spat. She took her purse and stormed out in her high heels.

Adina walked towards Duke, frowning. "Duke, what's going on? Do Catherine and Earley know each other?"

"They do," Duke said in a low voice, "Catherine came to Sea City to start her own therapy clinic. I thought she was here to expand her market, but now I know: she's here to be Earley's shield."

Adina's brows drew even tighter.

Earley was a problem.

She nodded and said, "Catherine and your mother seem close. Have your mother stay away from Catherine."

That was what Duke had planned even before Adina mentioned

His face was dark, like a thundercloud.

When he was fifteen years old, he lost his father because of Earl Winters.

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He did not want Earl to destroy his happiness again.

Duke's anxiety was only growing stronger, and he could not calm himself down.

When the two of them drove back to the Winters family's mansion, his expression was still cold.

Adina beckoned to Melody.

The little girl understood her mother's gaze, so she climbed onto Duke's lap and softly said, "Daddy, are you not happy today?"

The cold expression rapidly melted away.

He lifted the girl and put her on his shoulder before he softly said, "I was just thinking about work just now. I'm not unhappy."

Melody grinned and said, "Daddy, I want you to lift me up!"

Duke lifted the girl high and threw her into the air before he caught her with both arms. Then, Melody's giggles could be heard in the living room.

"Daddy! Daddy! I also want to play!"

Harold fearlessly rushed over and grabbed Duke's pants.

Perhaps Duke had realized just how gloomy he had been, which led to him being more patient at the moment. He put Melody down, smiled faintly, and said, "Four of you, line up. We'll play one by one."

"Yeah! Awesome!" Harold happily climbed onto Duke's lap. "I like you lifting me up high. I love it!"

Duke felt slightly ashamed.

He had lived with his sons for four years, but it seemed that he never nurtured any father-son bond with them.

The situation became slightly better after he met Adina.

He needed to make up for the loss of father's love for Alden and Melody, and he also had to make it up to George and Harold.

Duke threw Harold into the air before he caught him. After a few rounds, he looked at Alden. "Come, Alden, it's your turn now."

Alden pursed his lips. "I don't like being lifted high."

"No kids would not like being lifted high."

Duke just lifted him up and threw him into the air.

Alden was so scared that he closed his eyes.

Harold covered his belly and laughed loudly. "I finally know what Alden is afraid of now. He's afraid of heights!"

"I'm not afraid of heights."

Alden opened his eyes, but he was thrown up again. He was so scared that his face turned pale.

Adina also laughed.

No wonder, when they visited the theme park, Alden refused to take the Ferris wheel. So, apparently, he was afraid of heights!

This boy hid his thoughts so well that she, as the mother, only learned of his fear of heights after so long.

It looked like she had to pay more attention to the kids.

Mrs. Winters stood on the staircase on the second floor, and she flashed a smile of relief.

As soon as she smiled, her phone vibrated. When she saw the caller ID, her hand shuddered. As if she was scared that people downstairs would hear her ringtone, she immediately canceled the call.

But the person called again.

Mrs. Winters cast a glance at the warm and harmonious

situation downstairs before she bit her bottom lip, walked into the study room, and answered the call.

“Most of the people in Sea City have received the wedding invitation card from the Winters family. Why haven’t I received it yet?” Earl’s voice was dark. “Am I not qualified to attend my own brother’s wedding?”

Mrs. Winters held her breath.

Duke was searching for Earl’s whereabouts all over Sea City. How could Earl still have the courage to request an invitation to the wedding?

She took a deep breath and said, “Earl, leave Sea City now. The further you go, the better it is. Don’t ever show up in front of your brother again. Please, I’m begging you.”

“I have one last request, which is to attend my brother’s wedding,” Earl coldly said, “After the wedding ends, I’ll immediately leave Sea City. I’ll never come back again. Can’t you agree to such a tiny request?”