

## Madam Winters's Fight For Her Children Chapter 571

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Chapter 571

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"Sorry, Addy. It all happened so suddenly that I didn't have time to tell you."

Duke's voice

came from the other end of the line. There seemed to be shrieks of panic from a crowd and roaring fire from a collapsing beam.

Adina felt even more worried, and she spoke in a serious, as well as stern manner, "You have to be careful. The cemetery can be rebuilt if it burns down, but if you..."

She pursed her lips. "In short, be safe. The kids and I will be waiting for you."

"Okay, I'll go home as soon as I can. Don't worry."

After Adina hung up, her heart remained dejected. She felt burdened as if a disaster was coming.

"Addy, are you done calling Duke? We have to go and make a toast now." Mrs. Winters walked over and handed her a glass of champagne.

Adina placed the phone in her pocket before she flashed Mrs. Winters a smile. "Okay, let's go."

There were a few hundred tables of guests at the wedding banquet. Experts from different industries were seated at each table, and they were all famous and reputable VIPs.

After Adina gave a toast to so many tables, she was exhausted.

She only took a small sip whenever she made a toast, but by the time she went through all those tables, she had drunk at least several glasses.

"Mommy, your face is so red!"

Harold blinked and curiously asked, "Will my face turn red too after I drink this?"

Melody licked her lips. "I want to drink it too."

"Kids can't drink this," Alden said indifferently. "But we can ask Grandma to prepare some fruit wine for you."

The last time the little girl had fruit wine, it was sweet and particularly tasty, so she nodded and said, "Okay, I want some fruit wine."

"Your mommy's exhausted. Let her catch her breath in the resting lounge first. I'll take you to get some fruit wine." Mrs. Winters then brought the four kids to a private room.

It was their parents' wedding today, so the children were very excited. Even Alden, who was the most mature and brilliant, slowly let down his guard and accepted the Winters family.

The private room had been reserved for the four children. It had a table of cakes, desserts, and an endless supply of fruit wine.

Melody took a sip of the fruit wine and excitedly asked, "Grandma, how much can I drink today?"

Previously, Mr. Brown had been afraid that the kids would get tipsy, so he only allowed each child to drink half a glass in the Winters family's mansion.

Mrs. Winters smiled and said, "It's a big day for our family, so you can drink as much as you want!"

She put four big glasses of fruit wine in front of the kids, and Melody licked her lips before she drank half a glass in one go.

Alden frowned. "Mel, you'll feel tipsy if you drink that much."

"It's so delicious!" Melody narrowed her eyes and smiled. "It tastes even better than ice cream. Al, I want to drink more."

Her face instantly turned red as if she had put on makeup.

Mrs. Winters smiled and said, "Alden, don't worry. You'll just feel sleepy after you drink the wine. It's not a big deal. Later, I'll take the four of you home with your daddy and mommy!"

"Thank you, Grandma!"

Melody lowered her head and drank the remaining half of the wine.

Adina had also drunk a lot of wine. She lay on the couch in the resting lounge next door and took a short nap. After some time, she jolted awake.

She took a look at the time and could not believe that an hour had passed.

She rubbed her head and sat up before she fixed her makeup and left the resting lounge. She noticed that almost all the guests in the hall had left.

Just as she was about to call Duke, a notification for a news article popped up on her phone.

(The CEO of Winters Corporation was supposed to enjoy his wedding today, but the Winters Cemetery suddenly caught on fire. The groom, Duke Winters, personally rushed to the scene of the fire and only managed to rescue the late Mr. Winters' tombstone.)

A photo was even attached to the article, which showed Duke rushing out of the cemetery with a tombstone.

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There was a wet blanket over his body, and it looked like he was not injured.

Adina sighed in relief. She immediately dialed Duke's number, but nobody picked it up after the phone rang for a while.

When she turned around, she saw Mrs. Winters walking over after sending off the guests. "Mr. Brown came to take the children home earlier. Let's go home now."

Adina held her phone and asked, "Mom, is Duke back yet?"

"He went to the police station to make a statement." Mrs. Winters seemed to avoid her gaze slightly. "It appears that someone set fire to the Winters Cemetery. Not only the cemetery was destroyed, but the entire row of nearby shops and houses

was also burned down. It's a big deal, so Duke has to help the police with the investigation."

Adina nodded and did not say anything else.

Once the wedding banquet ended, the hall became very quiet. The Winters family's mansion was desolate upon their return as well.

The courtyard was full of balloons and string lights, yet Adina felt lonely.

Had she suddenly become a resentful wife just because her husband did not toast with her at the wedding?

Adina chuckled in resignation.

She went to the children's room and took a look. Their faces were red from the red wine. She wondered how much wine they had actually consumed.

Her children were born prematurely, so they were not the strongest. They should not indulge in such a beverage.

However, her mother-in-law encouraged it. Adina could not say anything about it as a result.

She returned to her room and slowly removed her makeup. Then, she took a shower. It was already 9.00 pm by the time she was done.

Even so, she had yet to receive a reply from Duke after she sent him a text message.

Adina was truly exhausted today, and she had also drunk at least two glasses of wine. She lay on the bed to wait for Duke to get back, but she ended up falling asleep.

She dreamed that she was in the middle of a white foggy valley, while the white fog around her blocked her way. Her hands and feet were weak, and she could not exert any strength at all.

She wanted to walk out of the fog, but when she stood up, she simply fell.

A fire suddenly illuminated the fog.

The fire dispersed it, and she could finally see what lay ahead.

There was a church at the edge of the cliff and a figure twisted in pain amidst the fire.

“Addy, help me! Help!”

She recognized the voice. It was Duke!

Adina could not be bothered with anything else. She scrambled up the side of the cliff on both feet and worked her way up, but no matter how hard she tried, she was always a few dozen meters from the cliff.

Crash!

The church abruptly collapsed, and the familiar figure disappeared in the fire.

“Duke!”

Adina screamed in shock and woke up from her nightmare.

Right then, she realized that she was sweating profusely and her back was soaking wet.

She breathed heavily before she checked the time with the light from her phone. It was already 3.00 am.

But Duke was still not back.

Her heart tightened, and a sense of infinite suffocation flooded over her.

Just as she was about to give Duke another call, she noticed that a man was standing on the balcony.

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The sky was dark, and scattered moonlight fell on the balcony.

The man’s figure was straight and slender.

Adina pulled the blanket away before she gently got off the bed. She held a dagger that she had hidden in the drawer as she slowly walked toward the man on the balcony.

Then, she pulled the balcony door open, lunged forward, and restricted the man's arm with one hand. At the next second, she pointed the dagger at the man's neck.

The man was forced to turn around. When the moonlight shone on his face, his features looked clear and blurry at the same time.

"Duke, why... why are you standing on the balcony?"

Adina quickly released him and threw the dagger on the tea table on the balcony.

She scrutinized the man under the faint moonlight.

His illuminated features appeared profound and cold, while his gaze was intense. He just emanated an unwelcoming aura.

It was just like when they first met.

No, this man's aura was even colder today than when they first met.

Adina looked at him and asked, "What happened to the fire at the cemetery today? Did you find anything?"

The man just stared at her before he suddenly took one step forward and held her face. "What did you just call me?"

"I called you 'Duke...'"

As soon as Adina said that, she felt embarrassed.

They used to be together every day before the wedding, so this man would shamelessly call her "Dear." He even wanted her to call him "Dear" in return.

She told him that she would do it after the wedding, initially thinking that she could trick him.

Unexpectedly, this man still remembered what she said.

She cleared her throat and said, "I'll call you 'Dear.' Is that okay, 'Dear?'"

Her ears and the side of her face turned red in the moonlight, giving her the charm and shyness of a young girl.

The man's gaze became more profound. He put his hands on her shoulders and caressed her discreetly.

"It's our wedding night," he said in a husky voice.

When Adina heard that, she knew what he wanted to do.

Right as she wanted to reply, she was taken aback.

Why did Duke's voice sound so strange?

She frowned and asked, "Did you burn your throat?"

"There was too much fog and dust earlier, so my throat's a little irritated." The man moved his hands from her shoulders down

to her waist.

Then, he slapped her behind.

"This night is precious. Let's go to bed."

The man held her as they entered the bedroom.

Adina suddenly felt extremely uncomfortable.

She had been with Duke for some time, and this man would never be that uncouth with her...

The gesture of slapping her behind made her feel slightly insulted.

Duke was a highly-refined man. Where did he learn this gesture from?

She tried to suppress her discomfort, but the man was getting closer to her.

He pinned her down on the bed and moved his lips along her neck.

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A strange aura permeated the room, and Adina immediately pushed the man away. She rolled over to the right side of the bed and switched on the light with a snap.

The moment the light came on, the man covered his face.

Adina frowned and looked over with a sharp gaze. When the man covered his face, she found his demeanor very unfamiliar for some reason.

It was as if the original Duke had suddenly disappeared.

“The fire burned my eyes today. Switch off the light first.”

The man covered half of his face as he spoke in a husky voice.

Adina crawled from the corner of the bed, pursed her lips, and said, “Show me. If it’s severe, you’ll need some medication.”

She raised her hand and moved the man’s fingers away one by one.

An extremely familiar face appeared before her. Adina saw his eyebrows that were furrowed, a habit that he had developed, and she also observed his tall nose and thin lips that he had used to kiss her.

“Addy, why are you looking at me like that?” the man asked as he stared at her.

Adina suppressed all the strange thoughts in her mind. “When you went to put out the fire at the cemetery today, I called you many times. Why didn’t you answer my call or reply to any of my messages?”

The man curled the corners of his lips. “I dropped my phone in the fire. Someone will send me a new phone tomorrow.”

The way he curled his lips was once again strange to Adina.

She pulled the blanket over and covered herself. “It’s 4.00 am. I have to get some sleep since I’ll need to greet the elderly tomorrow.”

She raised her hand and switched off the light before she put her head under the blanket.



Meanwhile, the man, who was sitting on the other side of the bed, darkened his gaze like a demon that just crawled out from hell.

He raised his arm and patted the blanket. "Go ahead and sleep first. I'll take a shower."

He entered the bathroom and closed the door behind him. Then, he flicked open a lighter and lit a cigarette.

Duke never smoked, which meant he had to hide while he smoked from now onward.

The man looked at the familiar yet strange face in the mirror, and he slowly curled the corners of his lips. He wore a vicious and profound smile.

"Duke Winters, I told you I would take everything that belongs to me." He stared at the mirror and firmly said, "And it's time for you to experience my life in the past twenty years. It's up to you to decide whether you live or die.

"From now on, I'll be Duke Winters."

The man put out his cigarette and flushed it down the toilet.

Adina did not sleep soundly that night. When she woke up in the morning, she looked at the pillow beside her, as though it was a habit. The blanket had not been moved. That meant her husband, Duke, did not get in bed last night.

She tussled her hair and washed up before she went to the room next door to check on the kids. All her four children were still sleeping.

Mr. Brown respectfully said, "Good morning, Mdm. Winters, just invited the family doctor over to examine them. The young masters and young lady got a little inebriated, so they'll be

sleeping for at least twenty-four hours. Please don't worry."

Adina pursed her lips.

She finally understood how some problems could arise between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law.

She did not know how Mrs. Winters could allow four-year-old children to drink without limitation.

Adina finally walked down the stairs after she kissed each of her kids on the cheek.

According to the custom in Sea City, the bride and the groom had to greet their elderly the day after their wedding.

Mrs. Winters was already sitting in the living room downstairs, but Adina did not see Duke at all.

“The master received a call from the company in the morning for a meeting.” After Mr. Brown explained, he handed her a cup of Earl Grey tea. “Madam, please.”

Adina held the cup of tea and walked to Mrs. Winters before she politely said, “Mom, please enjoy some tea.”

Mrs. Winters picked up the teacup and drank from it. Then she put a bangle on Adina’s hand.

“Addy, I’m really happy that you’ve become my daughter-in-law.” Mrs. Winters held her hand and said, “Although the Winters family is a powerful family with a lot of property, there are very few members in it. You don’t have to feel burdened as Mdm. Winters. I just wish that you can help Duke to extend the

family’s prosperity and wealth. Of course, it would be much better if you can give birth to a few more grandchildren for me.”

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The morning passed by as Mrs. Winters rambled on.

While Adina listened to Mrs. Winters’ rambling, the scenes from last night played out in her mind.

For some reason, the odd feeling in her heart intensified.

She pursed her lips before she smiled and said, "Mom, did Duke go to the office? I'd like to pay him a visit and have lunch with him."

"Aww! The two of you are still sweet newlyweds," Mrs. Winters teased. "I was thinking of asking you to have lunch with me."

Adina appeared apologetic as she said, "I have something very important to discuss with him. I'll have dinner with you tonight."

"Go ahead. Have a safe journey."

Mrs. Winters stood at the door while she watched Adina drive away. Worry slowly filled her eyes.

Adina had a smooth journey and soon stopped in front of Winters Corporation.

Duke and Adina had just gotten married yesterday, so everyone in the city knew that Ms. Daugherty was now the lady boss of Winters Corporation.

As soon as she stepped into the lobby, the receptionist escorted her to the elevator respectfully. "This elevator will bring you to the CEO's office directly. Mdm. Winters, this way please."

After Adina thanked her, she entered the elevator.

It was not Adina's first visit to the CEO's office in Winters Corporation, but she felt more occupied than she ever did in the past.

She walked out of the elevator, stood in the corridor, and slowly made her way toward the CEO's office.

The office door was not shut, so she could see the situation inside clearly.

A few executives were giving a report on their work.

"Mr. Winters, this is the profit statement for the last quarter. Please take a look."

"Mr. Winters, this project will start only after you approve it. Please sign here."

"Mr. Winters, there's a problem with the project in Europe. We need to send an executive there for planning and consolidation. May I know if you have any candidates in mind?"

One task after another piled up on the desk. They had accumulated because of the wedding.

Adina stood at the door before she silently took a few steps back and entered the meeting room.

She lowered her head and gently took a sip of the coffee while various complicated thoughts flashed across her mind.

Her heart would flutter for Duke at certain times, but last night, the bizarre feeling and resistance that came from her heart confused her.

She would only marry someone for love, and she would leave a person without hesitation if she did not love him.

Adina visited him today because she just wanted to know where the odd feeling was coming from.

She waited for half an hour before Duke pushed the meeting room door open and walked inside.

He loosened his tie and casually sat on the couch. Then, he crossed his long legs and rested them on the tea table.

He curled his lips and flashed her a playful smile. "Why are you here?"

Adina looked at him.

In her heart, Duke was always elegant and noble no matter what he did.

However, he looked like a gang member now. Whether it was the way he sat or the tone of his voice, he had lost the nobility of a gentleman.

But...

Adina chuckled.

The same elegant and decent man was also a shameless person in bed.

He would unabashedly call her "Dear."

He would act cute and ask her to kiss him.

He had many sides. It was a shame that she only saw this side of him today. "Are *you* very busy?" Adina slowly asked.