

Madam Winters's Fight For Her Children Chapter 576

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"I'm really busy." Earl pursed his lips. "I need to take a flight to Europe for a business trip this afternoon, and I'll only be back half a month later."

Adina was stunned.

He was going out for a business trip on the first day of their marriage?

It was not that he could not go, but this man would not do such a thing with the way he felt about her.

"What would you like from Europe? I'll bring it back for you." Earl touched his thin lips. He had a chronic smoking habit, and he wanted to smoke again at that moment.

Adina pursed her lips. "If Mel finds out that you'll be on a business trip for half a month, she'll be very sad."

Mel?

The image of a little girl popped up in his head.

He had only seen the little girl from a distance. He had not officially met the girl after becoming Duke.

Earl smiled faintly and said, "I'll bring her a present so that she won't be sad." He suddenly stood up. "Okay, I'll get ready to go to the airport. Be careful on your way home."

He walked out of the meeting room before he ordered his assistant and secretary to prepare some things with a cold gaze.

Adina stood in the corridor outside the office, and the look in her eyes was profound.

Did he not care about her anymore after he obtained her?

Or did he never care about her?

Perhaps he only married her because of the kids?

Adina clenched her fists, and the mocking smile on her face grew wider.

Before she turned eighteen, she had treated the Daugherty family sincerely, only for them to totally hurt her.

Now that she was twenty-three, she ended up believing in Duke's sweet talk as well. She was truly dumb.

She should have realized that she was just fresh meat to Duke. How could she... allow herself to be carried away?

Adina took the elevator downstairs with a blank gaze and sat quietly in the car alone for a long time.

She should not be too pessimistic now.

The Winters Cemetery had just caught on fire yesterday, and there were many things that needed to be handled in Winters Corporation, so it was normal for Duke to pay her less attention.

Their life should be back to normal once he returned from his business trip.

Adina then drove back to the Winters family's mansion.

Everything at home was normal.

The children were already awake. George and Alden were reading, while Harold and Melody were sitting on the floor and assembling some toys.

"Mommy, you're back!"

Harold was the first to rush over. He climbed onto Adina's body and gave her a big kiss on the cheek.

However, he felt guilty at the next moment as he took a peek behind Adina. Then, he patted his chest and spoke as if he was scared. "Luckily, Dad didn't come back with you, or else, he'll beat me up again."

Every time after he kissed his mom, his dad would look at him as though he wanted to kill him.

Melody also looked past Adina. "Mommy, why didn't Daddy come home?"

Before Adina could speak, George calmly said, “Dad went to Europe for a business trip. There’s something wrong with a big project there, so he needs to go over and handle it.”

There was a glint in Adina’s eyes. “Georgie, did your dad call and tell you?”

George shook his head. “I was working earlier, and my assistant told me that Dad just checked in half an hour ago. He’ll arrive at his destination tonight. But...”

He frowned and said, “Winters Corporation’s factory in Europe is in the countryside, and the signal there isn’t very good. We

might not be able to contact him for a long time.”

Melody’s eyes became teary. “But I miss Daddy. I want to call him.”

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When the girl started to cry, her three elder brothers panicked.

George wiped the tears off her face. “Dad will be back in half a month. After that, you can be with him every day.”

Alden stroked his sister’s hair. “You have Mommy and your brothers with you. It’s okay if Daddy isn’t here.”

“Mel, have a lollipop!” Harold put a strawberry-flavored lollipop in her mouth. “How is it? Sweet?”

Melody’s tears turned into laughter. “It’s so sweet!”

Adina forced herself to smile.

A child's world was as simple as that. A lollipop could sweep away all the gloom.

An adult's world, on the other hand, was always complicated.

Adina

sat on the couch as she contemplated whether she should send Duke a message, asking him to call Melody after he arrived at his destination.

The little girl would really get worked up if she could not see her dad for half a month.

She searched her contact list and found Duke's name. Just as she was about to send him a message, her fingers suddenly froze.

How could she forget him telling her last night that he had lost his phone in the fire and gotten a new number?

She went to the company today but forgot to ask him for his new number.

In other words, she did not even know how to contact the man she just married.

Adina put the matter aside for the time being.

If Duke really cared about the kids, he would call them. She should not worry about it.

She waited until the next morning, but there was still no call from Duke.

She saw the four children playing without a worry in the courtyard. Alden was smiling more than he ever had over the past four years.

Alden was an overthinker. If he knew that something had gone wrong between Duke and her, he would hold himself back again.

Adina pushed her emotions to the back of her mind before she went downstairs and talked to the kids. "I'll go to the company and work today. I'll come back later and have dinner with you."

"Goodbye, Mommy."

"Come back early, Mommy."

"I'll miss you, Mommy!"

"Bye, Mommy!"

After Adina bid the children goodbye, she drove toward her company.

She was a wise person, so she would never bring her personal emotions into the workplace. Her normal working progress would not be affected either.

LaStar Technology Corporation was in the process of merging with Daugherty Corporation.

Daugherty Corporation had been established for more than twenty years. It was a large company with a wide range of activities and several factories. Meanwhile, LaStar Technology Corporation was just a small newly-established company. It was difficult to merge them together, so Adina had been working on it lately.

“Ms. Daugherty, Mdm. Jones is here!” Serene ran into her office and said in a low voice, “Mdm. Jones brought her daughter, Ms. Yackley along. I don’t know what they’re here for. If you don’t want to see them, I’ll just turn them away.”

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Adina leaned back in her chair and nonchalantly said, “Maybe they’re delivering money to me. Let them in.”

She had been feeling gloomy recently. Earning some money could give her a temporary sense of happiness.

Zhenny and Jasmine soon walked into the meeting room in succession. After Serene served them coffee, she sat beside Adina.

Adina put on a fake smile. “Mdm. Jones, Ms. Yackley, may I know the purpose of your visit?”

Jasmine scoffed before she looked to the side as if she was full of dissatisfaction.

“First of all, congratulations on getting married.” Zhenny drank some coffee before she resumed indifferently. “I just heard this morning that my daughter offended you during the first chip design presentation in

Elitos, so I've purposely brought her along to apologize to you. I hope that you can be generous and not hold it against a kid."

Adina leisurely replied, "Ms. Yackley should be twenty-two this year, right? She's just a year younger than me. I don't think a person of her age is still considered a kid."

As soon as Adina said that, Jasmine was triggered.

She was so angry that her face turned red, and she wanted to fight back, but Zhenny pressed the back of her hand down. Only then did she give up, but she still scoffed loudly.

"Mdm. Jones, it seems to me that Ms. Yackley doesn't want to apologize." Adina smiled brightly and said, "Since she doesn't want to apologize, let's drop the act. Mdm. Jones, why don't you just tell me your purpose for coming here today? Perhaps we can just hit it off."

Zhenny looked at Adina with a scrutinizing gaze.

This young woman was too smart. She had not said a word, but Adina had already guessed her intention.

No wonder Duke married this woman without caring about her social position.

Zhenny hid her scrutinizing gaze before she indifferently said, "In that case, I'll get straight to the point. Jones Corporation and LaStar Technology Corporation are working together to develop the chip for the Elitos project. There's 20% of the first phase of work left, but since the first 80% of the framework is too difficult for the technical staff of Jones Corporation to understand, I'd like to ask you to lend a helping hand."

"We are business partners, so I'll naturally help you if I can. But after I help you, how will I benefit?" Adina asked indifferently.

Profit was everything in the business world.

Zhenny had prepared a contract. "The labor cost for this chip design is \$40,000,000, and Jones Corporation will not take any of the labor cost. Besides..."

She added, "When it comes to the share of product sales at a later stage, Jones Corporation will only take 40% while LaStar

Technology Corporation will take 60%."

Adina narrowed her eyes and fell into contemplative silence. The profit from this project was split into two payments. The first part would be the labor fee, which would be settled once the project was done.

The second part was a profit draw, where the designer would obtain a share of every profit made from the sale of a product embedded with the chip.

Adina chuckled. "In other words, LaStar Technology Corporation will complete this chip independently. So, may I ask why I can only get 60% of the profit? It's not a good deal for me."

Zhenny narrowed her eyes. "So, are you turning down the collaboration?"

"Of course not." Adina shook her head. "I'll take 80% of the share, and you'll get 20%."

Zhenny's expression turned cold. "Ms. Daugherty, young people shouldn't be so greedy."

"Jones Corporation doesn't have to put any energy and time into the chip design, yet you're able to get 20% of the profit. You've earned it." Adina picked up her coffee cup with a straight face. "Mdm. Jones, if you think I'm asking too much, I won't stop you from leaving."

"You!" Jasmine stood up in anger. "Adina Daugherty, don't expect us to tolerate you now that you're Mdm. Winters! I'm telling you that even if Duke Winters stands here, he won't be allowed to suppress us like this!"

Adina put her cup down with a strong thud and glared at Jasmine.

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Her gaze was as sharp as two sharp knives, and Jasmine dared not look her in the eyes as a result.

"Who's the one being suppressed here?" Adina sneered. "You used Mr. Krisman to force your way into becoming a collaborator on this project. You're making me complete the whole project, yet you still intend to take 40% of the profit. Do you think I'm an easy target? If I really wanted to

suppress you, I would have kicked you out by now. Why would I give Jones Corporation 20% of the profit?"

Jasmine was furious, but she was helpless.

This was the stepping stone for her to become the heir of the Jones family. She had to get things done perfectly so that she could impress her grandpa.

If this b*tch, Adina, did not exist, she would have completed her task successfully. She would not have to lower her status and come here to seek a collaboration.

She gritted her teeth and said, "Adina, you purposely designed a chip framework that has never appeared before. You intentionally made it this way so that other designers wouldn't know what to do. You're horrible!"

"Before I designed the plan, I didn't know that someone else would share a portion of it." Adina smiled in an unbothered manner. "If I had known that Jones Corporation would become my collaborator, I would've designed the simplest chip."

That did not physically hurt, but it was extremely insulting.

Jasmine's expression darkened even further.

Zhenny was much older, so she managed to hold back and school her expression.

"Ms. Daugherty, you're right. Let's redraw the agreement and make it a 20/80 split," she said indifferently.

Adina's smile was bright again. "Serene, prepare the contract."

Serene stood up and handed them two sets of newly-printed contracts not long after.

Zhenny cast a deep glance at Adina before she signed at the bottom of the page. Adina also picked up a pen and dropped her signature.

"Ms. Daugherty, I hope we can work together happily in the future."

After Zhenny shook hands with Adina, she finally brought Jasmine out of LaStar Technology Corporation.

"Mom, Adina's so shameless!" Jasmine stomped her feet angrily. "If we only take 20% of the profit, Jones Corporation won't even get \$10,000,000 in annual benefits. This proje

It was supposed to give Jones Corporation at least \$50,000,000 in profit. If Grandpa finds out that I screwed this up, he'll never agree to let me be the heir."

"Why are you afraid?" Zhenny

said coldly. "We signed this contract privately with Adina. There's also a confidentiality agreement in the contract. If you keep your mouth shut, your

grandpa won't know a thing about this.

As for the annual profit, I'll allocate a couple dozen million dollars to you from Jones Corporation's public account. I'll also hire

an experienced accountant to create the accounts of this project for you. Don't worry. He won't know."

Only then did Jasmine sigh in relief. "After I become the heir of Jones Corporation, I'll settle this with Adina."

"Enough. She's Mrs. Winters now. You can't match her status. Don't keep causing yourself trouble." Zhenny massaged her forehead and said, "It won't be too late to step on her after she and Duke get a divorce."

Jasmine gritted her teeth with rage.

Unless that b*tch, Adina, became old and no longer had a beautiful face, Duke would never divorce her.

It would take at least ten years if she wanted to wait for that day.

Fine, it would never be too late to avenge herself. She would just wait.

"Ms. Daugherty." Serene could not help but softly say, "You're Mrs. Winters now. If you say something, Elitos won't let Jones Corporation continue participating in this project. Their participation is actually unjustified and undeserving..."

Adina pursed her lips and nonchalantly said, "It's fine."

Even though she and Duke had a strong, affectionate relationship, she would not ask her husband for help when it came to work.

Besides, Duke and her...

As newlyweds, they had not been in contact for three whole days.

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Even if she said it out loud, she would not be able to believe it.

“Ms. Daugherty, you need to go home this afternoon, right? Just leave the company to me. You can go home without worry.”

When Adina heard what Serene said, she suddenly remembered that Mdm. Xavier had called her last night to ask what she and the kids loved to eat.

Going home on the third day after one’s wedding was a traditional custom.

As such, Adina packed up her things before she drove back to the Winters family’s mansion.

“Madam, these are the gifts that Mrs. Winters prepared for you to bring back.” Mr. Brown and the servants took out dozens of big boxes, and he gave an introduction to each of them. “This is for Mdm. Xavier. This is for your eldest uncle and his wife. This is for your second uncle and his wife. These are for the younger ones...”

Every gift box was labeled, and it was clear which box went to which person.

Adina felt a little touched.

As someone of the younger generation, she never knew such courtesy, but Mrs. Winters had prepared everything without a word.

She had been busy with work lately and rarely looked after the

kids. Despite that, all of them were smiling happily.

One could say that Mrs. Winters was very competent as a mother-in-law and a grandmother.

“Mommy, Great-grandma just called. She’s asking us to hurry over.” Alden smiled and said.

Adina held her children’s hands and got into the car.

The children were still tiny, so they could fit in one row as they sat in the back

When the car stopped at a junction with a traffic light, Adina could not help but ask, "Georgie, have you been busy with your company recently?"

George nodded. "Some serious problems have been found in the last quarter in the European factories. We need to recall our products and provide compensation. We also need to file a lawsuit. The headquarters here have to handle a lot of things."

When his dad was not around, he needed to decide on a lot of things in the company.

Adina's gaze became dour, and she said, "Do you discuss things with your dad before you make a decision?"

"Of course not!" Harold acted cute and said, "George is really smart. He can handle everything alone. He doesn't need to ask Dad for his opinion."

George nodded. "I can take care of the small problems."

Adina pursed her lips.

It looked like George had not contacted Duke either.

She stopped thinking about it and quickly drove the car to the Xavier family's mansion.

"Oh, my four little babies!" Mdm. Xavier hugged each of the kids and wore a loving smile on her face. "I asked them to make some chocolate balls today. There are also fried chicken and strawberry cakes. They're all your favorite foods!"

"That's awesome! I like you so much, Great Grandma!" Harold shouted excitedly.

"It's great that you like them." Mdm. Xavier then took the kids inside.

All the members of the Xavier family were around, and the children obediently greeted every one of them.

"Come on, don't just stand there. Sit down and eat." Richard gathered the dozen or so people and got them to sit around a long table.

The atmosphere in the Xavier family's mansion was quite good today. Sophia, who always made a fuss, did not cause any trouble. She just sat down quietly and finished her dinner.

"Addy, come with me." After dinner, Mdm. Xavier dragged Adina to the balcony. "From the moment you entered the house, I could feel that your mind was occupied. Tell me. Did you have a fight with Duke?"

