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Right after Mdm. Xavier posed the question, Adina's eyes turned

red.

She sniffled and held back the sorrow that suddenly flooded her being. She looked dow n and said, "We didn't have a fight."

The two of them did not even talk. How could they fight?

"Addy, you're disappointed because Duke didn't come back with you, right?" Mdm. Xavi er patted the back of Adina's hand and said, "I've seen the news. On your wedding day, something happened to the Winters Cemetery. Someone intentionally set it on fire. He n eeds to spend some time investigating it. Besides, due to the wedding, his work has been put on

hold. Now that the wedding is over, he naturally has to put in the time to catch up on his work. He went

on this trip so that he can be with you in the future. Don't get emotional. Just wait for him to return from his business trip."

Adina continued to look down without answering.

She was not an inconsiderate woman. She would not ask her husband to stop working and just keep her company either.

Her grievance was due to the fact

that Duke had seemingly changed. He was completely different before and after the we dding.

As much as he cherished and cared for her before the wedding, that was how indifferent and distant he was toward her following their matrimony.

He would not even do that to a stranger, right?

"Addy, I can tell that Duke really loves you." Mdm. Xavier resumed. "He's done so much for you. Do you still doubt his love for you?"

Adina's fingers froze.

She recalled every scene from the time they first met.

They did not know each other for a long time, but they had been through a lot.

This man was even willing to risk his life for her, but she was doubting his love for her.

Even if he might change his mind one day, he could not have stopped loving her in one night.

Either she was overthinking it or Duke had neglected her for something more important.

"I got it, Grandma." Adina smiled faintly and said, "Duke and I are still very close. Don't worry about us."

Mdm. Xavier smiled. as well. "It's great that you've figured it out. Since it's no longer out of your grasp, take the kids home and call Duke. The two of you should talk."

Adina nodded.

She walked outside and saw that the four children were chasing each other.

It was Alden's turn to chase the others around. He ran across the yard like a prancing white horse and instantly grabbed

Harold by the back of his collar.

"Alden, you're too fast. I wasn't ready. Let's start over!"

Harold started to act shamelessly, and Alden loosened his fingers. "I'll let you do it again."

Harold immediately tried to run away. But just as he started to move, his collar was grabbed once again.

He pouted unhappily. "This isn't fun. This isn't fun at all! Alden, you're too quick. You can't join this game!"

Alden scoffed. "You don't have any say now. It's your turn to catch us!"

He turned around and ran. After he ran to a safe distance, he made a face at Harold. "Hal, come and catch me. Let's see if you can catch me!"

His smile was dazzling under the evening sun.

Adina broke into a genuine smile too.

Alden had finally become a carefree kid. He could play happily like a normal child at long last.

It should be something that gave her the greatest joy during this time.

"Babies, it's time to go home."

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Adina waved at them, and the children, who were sweating heavily from playing, immediately gathered. Then, they obediently said goodbye to the Xavier family members.

When Adina stopped her car in front of the Winters family's mansion, she noticed that Mrs. Winters was sitting in the pavilion absentmindedly. Her eyes were dull and lifeless.

Adina asked Mr. Brown to get the kids ready for a shower before she walked toward the pavilion.

"Mom," Adina said, but Mrs. Winters did not respond at all. Adina raised her voice and called out to her again.

"Oh, Addy, you're back." Mrs. Winters snapped out of her daze and flashed Adina a smile. "How did the children settle in with the Xavier family?"

"They had fun." Adina paused for a while before she softly said," Mom, do you have Duke's new contact number?"

Mrs. Winters' face became stiff all of a sudden.

It seemed like she did not expect Adina to ask about that. She paused for a moment bef ore she said, "Duke's business trip is in a European suburb. There's no signal tower the re, so his phone can't receive any calls or messages."

"It's okay. I'm not contacting him now. I just want to save his number ..." Adina smiled and said, "In case he comes back and calls me, but I don't know who it is."

Mrs. Winters suddenly sighed. "Addy, my son has wronged you."

Adina slowly stopped smiling. "Mom, why do you say so?"

"He couldn't toast to the guests with you during your wedding, and he went on a business trip on the first day of your marriage. Hasn't he wronged you?" Mrs. Winters' gaze

was dodgy. "When he returns from his trip, I'll definitely ask him to keep you company for much longer. It'd be best if you could go on a honeymoon together and add a few more children to the *Winters* family,"

The second she talked about having kids, Adina could no longer continue the conversation.

That night, when she gave birth to the kids four years ago, had been extremely dangerous, and it had caused her a lot of trauma. She never wanted to get pregnant and give birth anymore.

"Mom, please carry on with your tasks. I'll go inside and check on the kids."

Adina interrupted Mrs. Winters before she turned around and left the pavilion.

As soon as she entered the living room, she halted in her steps. She had intended to as k Mrs. Winters for Duke's contact number. Why did the subject change abruptly?

Did Mrs. Winters not have Duke's contact number either?

Adina sat on the couch and pursed her lips.

She had no idea if she was overthinking the matter. She just felt

that after the wedding, Duke had totally changed. Now, Mrs. Winters seemed different as well.

What went wrong?

She massaged her forehead while all kinds of thoughts filled her mind.

Alden had just stepped out of the shower. He stood near the staircase on the second floor, and he could see Adina frowning.

In a daze, he remembered that he had

seemingly caught his mom frowning and looking gloomy when he passed by her

study yesterday.

Based on his understanding of his mom, something must be on her mind!

Alden pursed his pink lips and attempted to walk downstairs.

Right

then, his smartwatch vibrated. He tapped on it and took a look. It was a text message from K.

(Sir Daugherty, hurry up and come online. Do you want to accept a \$500,000,000 order?]

When Alden looked downstairs, he saw that Adina had entered the kitchen to boil some water. He turned around,

went back to his room, and switched on the laptop that was hidden under his bed.

Recently, he had

been spending two hours every night establishing his hacking studio. It was beginning to take shape.

However, the studio was new, and they were not trusted by others, so they had not received any big orders.

In the

few seconds that he took to switch on his laptop, K sent him a few more messages in a frenzy.

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[This \$500,000,000 order is going to take a top ten spot on the Dark Net.

(The person who issued it is very mysterious. There's no trace of him online. I can only speculate that he's a Cairnstanian soldier.

(But he claimed that he would pay the \$500,000,000 after we help him with this order.

[In our industry, we always work after we receive payment. He's clearly violating the rule s. I think we better not take this task.

[Sure, \$500,000,000 is very attractive, but what if we're being fooled?]

Alden pursed his lips and contemplated for less than a second after he read the long list of messages, which K had sent continuously.

He tapped away speedily on his keyboard. (What's his mission?]

K replied, [I'll ask him.]

One minute later...

[What the heck?! Sir Daugherty, we better not accept this mission! This Cairnstanian sol dier takes himself very seriously. He wants

to kill Auguste! He wants us to assist him in hacking the surveillance system in Auguste's manor and creating chaos on the

web for the Auguste family. He wants to kill Auguste alone. Don't you think he's mad?]

You would not find anyone on the Dark Net who did not know Auguste.

He was the leader

of an illegal organization in an unregulated territory overseas. After he developed it for about eight years, his

illegal organization now had thousands of followers, and he had carved out a path to claim his throne.

Businessmen and politicians who passed by his territory would need to pay a toll.

"A toll" was putting it nicely. In reality, it was blackmail and kidnapping. If they could not pay, they would die. Countless people had died in his territory.

The organization committed crimes everywhere, so regular people dared not step into the region.

International organizations did not want to get

involved with this mess, so they turned a blind eye to it, which caused this illegal organiz ation to grow increasingly vicious.

It was Alden's first time hearing that someone wanted to kill Auguste.

Alden said, (Tell him that we'll accept the task.)

(What... Do you even know who Auguste is?] K responded.

Alden replied, [1 know. So, even if this person doesn't pay us the commission, I'll still help him because I'm also a Cairnstanian.]

K then said, (Is this what the so-called Cairnstanian brotherhood is? Okay, since you want to accept it, I'll have to do it with you!

Three minutes later, K sent Alden another message.

[Everything has been finalized. He'll arrive at Auguste's manor in three hours.)

Alden nodded.

It would be 12:00 am in three hours' time.

It was best for him to start his mission after everyone at home fell asleep.

Right then, it was daytime in Europe.

A man with exquisite

features and a profound gaze ruthlessly threw a cup of coffee on the floor.

"Didn't I ask you to watch him closely? How could he run away?"

A bodyguard in a black suit trembled as he knelt on the floor." He was in the unregulate d territory, so our people couldn't pursue him. Besides, even if we're allowed to enter the region, we wouldn't be able to come out. I thought he would be trapped there for the rest of his life. Who would have expected that he would kill the leader? He even stole two submachine guns. He's so skilled at martial arts that our people lost him halfway."

The man's eyes were filled with disdain.

Initially, he had only wanted to ruin Duke's face to prevent him from returning.

Unexpectedly, the wounded man managed to escape those vicious combatants.

If Duke rushed back to Sea

City, then everything he had carefully planned would be ruined.

"Guard every exit at the border. Capture him alive as soon as he's spotted!" "Yes, Sir!"