

Madam Winters 331

Chapter 331

Ding! Duke received a text message on his phone. The system notified him that someone had sent him an email.

He switched on his computer and downloaded the attachment. Soon, a surveillance video was added to his hard drive.

It was part of the surveillance of the corridor on Grand Emperor Hotel's eighteenth floor from five years ago. The compressed video had ten minutes of footage.

The lighting in the corridor was very dim, and service assistants would walk back and forth from time to time. At 1.00 am, two women appeared in the corridor.

Although the image was blurry, Duke recognized them as Adina and Dew. Adina was clearly drunk. Dew supported her while they walked into the corridor, and they soon stopped in front of a room. The room door opened, and Dew supported Adina inside. The video abruptly stopped at this point. Duke narrowed his eyes before he gave Trent another call.

Trent's voice was filled with laziness. "What is it this time?"

"The surveillance stops at 2.00 am. What about the footage after that?" "Oh, I remember. My assistant said that the hard disk's capacity was limited, so they only kept the surveillance videos for the first half of the night. The remaining footage has been automatically formatted." Duke's gaze darkened. "Is it possible to get it back?" "The new surveillance video directly occupies the memory of the previous video. Even a top hacker won't be able to recover it." Trent yawned. "Duke, why do you want to look at surveillance from five years ago? Don't you know who you slept with? If you really don't know, you can reminisce with a few more women. I guarantee you'll be able to recall it immediately."

Duke hung up.

He leaned on the chair as he stared at the scene on his computer screen.

The scene was paused. Adina and Dew were standing outside a room, and the room number could not be clearly seen.

He had already forgotten what happened that night five years ago, but his instincts told him that something seemed off...

Was Dew truly the one that night?

Dew had done a maternity test with the boys, so that meant Dew was really their mother.

He had only slept with one woman in his entire life, and he had done it that night in a daze. Aside from Dew, who else could it be?

He should not have been hallucinating. Duke closed his eyes and suppressed the various guesses he had.

On Saturday, the sky was bright, and the wind in late autumn was filled with warmth. Adina drove the kids to the biggest concert hall in Sea City. As soon as she took the kids out of the car, a black car

approached them. Before the car was parked, Harold jumped out of the car. "Aunt Adina, you're stunning today!"

He rushed into Adina's arms and gave her a kiss on the cheek before he pulled out a figurine from his coat. "Mel, I personally carved this figurine to look like you. What do you think? Is it pretty?"

"So you were secretly carving this at night. It's ugly." George walked over and said indifferently. "It's not ugly!" Harold said defiantly. "The nose, lips, and eyes look identical to Mel's. If you say my carving is ugly, that means you're saying Mel is ugly!" "My sister isn't that ugly," Alden said indifferently. "I might believe you if you say you carved yourself."

Harold felt hurt and pouted. "Mel, do you think this looks like you or me?" The little girl blinked before she stretched out her chubby finger and poked Harold's shoulder.

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"What?! Is it really ugly?" Harold held the figurine and kept looking at it. He had stayed up all night, carving this figurine for over ten hours. It was so adorable. Why did everyone dislike it? Right then, a soft chubby hand extended over and grabbed the figurine. Melody blinked and smiled faintly. Then, she put the figurine into the little bag that she carried.

Harold was finally happy. "See, Mel likes the present that I gave her!"

Adina chuckled.

She found the scene of the four children standing together visually attractive and harmonious. It was as if everything else in her life was no longer important.

As long as the children could laugh with joy, her life was complete.

While she looked at the children and smiled, someone else also stared at her. Duke's sharp gaze was filled with a gentleness that he did not notice.

He suddenly wanted time to freeze at that moment.

Adina felt a burning gaze on her. When she raised her head, her gaze met the man's black eyes. His eyes were so dark and profound. They were charming like deep ancient wells, which gave her the desire to look into them.

She wanted to know what emotions were at the bottom of that gaze. The two of them stared at each other for a long time and did not look away. "Shush!"

Harold pressed his finger to his lips and pulled Melody, as well as George, a few steps back. He lowered his voice and excitedly said, "This should be what the book means by 'casting sheep's eyes at someone.' We mustn't interrupt Dad and Aunt Adina from falling in love."

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George was speechless.

He silently took a step back.

Right then, his dad and Aunt Adina were not gazing at each other like a couple would.

Alden stood next to Adina. He pursed his thin lips tightly, and his gaze became intense.

Did his mom want to be with Duke after she discovered that Duke was his and Melody's biological father?

If that was the case, he should not have told his mom about it.

Alden looked down and contemplated deeply, subconsciously clenching his fists.

"Mel, do you want your mom and my dad to get married?" Harold leaned close to Melody's ear and persuaded her. "If your mom marries my dad, you can openly call my dad 'Daddy.'

Wouldn't you be happy?"

There was a bright glint in the girl's big watery eyes.

Harold continued. "Mel, do you know what happens next after this dramatic scene?"

Melody shook her head.

She rarely watched TV, and it was even more impossible for her to watch soap operas. Harold blinked. "At this time, the onlooking crowd will shout, 'Kiss!' Your mom and my dad will kiss, and they'll be together. They can get married! When that happens, we'll have a dad and a mom!"

Melody's eyes were even brighter like light pieces were shining in her eyes.

She turned around, moved her lips, and suddenly said, "Kiss!"

Harold was stunned. He had just said it without thinking. Why did Melody suddenly...

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Adina instantly turned around.

She looked at Melody in disbelief, and her voice trembled slightly. "Mel, what did you just say?"

She had only heard Melody saying "Daddy" twice. Other than those occurrences, Melody had never made a sound again.

Adina had consulted a psychiatrist before, and the psychiatrist said that it was important to take things slowly and not rush. She had always acted as if she did not care about it, but nobody wished to hear Melody speak more than her.

She finally heard another word besides "Daddy."

Adina squatted down, put both hands on Melody's shoulders, and slowly said, "What did you just say? Please say it again." The girl tilted her head and blinked, but she did not speak again. "Aunt Adina, Mel asked you and my dad to kiss!" Harold came over and said excitedly "Mel finally spoke again. Aunt Adina, hurry up and kiss my dad. Hurry!"

“Harold!”

Alden frowned before he moved forward and pulled Harold away.

Harold was slightly afraid of Alden’s cold and intense gaze. He pouted and hid behind George.

Adina did not hear what Harold had said because all her attention was on Melody.

The girl tilted her head. She moved her pink lips and finally pronounced two short syllables.” Mommy...”
When Adina heard the word clearly, her eyes turned red.

It had been more than four years and a thousand days. She finally heard her daughter call her“
Mommy.”

The psychiatrist had told her that she might only be able to hear Melody call her “Mommy” once
Melody was older, but it happened a dozen years earlier. She should be happy. She should not cry.

“Mel, you’re my good girl.” Adina hugged her daughter, and her tears kept falling. “Mommy...” Melody
called her again. She raised her hand and wiped her tears for her. Then, she hesitantly asked, “Why
won’t you kiss Daddy?”

Adina was speechless.

The daughter whom she had given birth to after an eight-month pregnancy called her“

Mommy” for the first time to get her to kiss a man?

Alden was at a loss for words too. Melody could say such a long sentence, after all. Why had she not
spoken to him yet?

Harold clapped and exclaimed, “Kiss! Kiss!”

“Okay, the concert’s going to start,” Duke said indifferently. “Harold, if you continue to make so much
noise, I’ll get Mr. Brown to bring you home.”

Harold became speechless.

He was not noisy. He was helping his dad to pursue Aunt Adina!

Nevertheless, he was still afraid of his father’s stern gaze, and he obediently kept his mouth shut.

Adina wiped away her tears before she bent down and carried Melody. The group of six then walked
toward the concert hall.

As soon as they showed up in the hall, they attracted the attention of countless people. “Wow! They’re
quadruplets. The family’s genes are strong.” “The boys look like their father, and the girl looks like her
mother. This family of six looks so happy.”

“The man is really good-looking, but his kids are already quite grown. This handsome man got married
early!”

“If I were ten years younger, I could have become this handsome man’s wife. Haha!” “You’re robbing
the cradle. How shameless can you be?”

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Adina heard the discussion among the crowd, but she walked inside indifferently and did not mind it.

But Duke slowly broke into a happy smile.

He had booked VIP seats, which were in the front row, so the group of six walked ahead.

Harold instantly forgot Duke's warning and started to talk noisily again. "Mel, can we sit on this side?"

Melody jumped down from Adina's arms and sat at the side with Harold.

"George, you sit on my left. Alden, you sit on Mel's right."

Harold arranged the seats clearly. In the end, the remaining two seats on the other side belonged to Adina and Duke.

Adina sat next to George, and she could hear

Harold speaking from time to time.

"Mel, the concert's going to start. Are you happy?"

"Mel, I've never been to a concert before. If I don't get it later, don't laugh at me."

"Mel, can I hold your hand? Wow, your hand's so soft."

"Harold Winters, can you be quiet?" George spoke and sounded annoyed.

Harold pulled a face. "Mel likes to listen to me. Bite me! Mel, isn't that true?"

"Um!"

The girl gave a hard nod and even cooperatively uttered a short syllable.

Harold became more prideful. "See, George! Mel lets me speak!"

Watching the children's interaction, Adina smiled gently.

Perhaps being accompanied by her biological brothers helped Melody to start accepting this world and gradually learn how to speak.

Harold's cheerful, carefree, and casual personality in particular was a complete contrast to Melody's quietness. No wonder Melody was willing to sit next to Harold. They were biological siblings, and the same blood flowed in their bodies, so they were drawn together by that power.

The piano concert started, and the lights above the audience's seats dimmed. Harold finally stopped talking as well.

The first piece was a magnificent ode. Two famous pianists played a duet, and every note was full of praise and love for the great nature. Its melody flowed with enthusiasm.

Adina enjoyed piano concerts, but she never had a chance to attend any all these years.

She had to work and take care of the kids, so her time was fully occupied.

She was immersed in the piano piece, and there was light in her eyes.

Duke turned to the side When he looked at her eyes that sparkled in the dark, something seemed to hit his heart.

It was an emotion that he had never felt in the past.

He felt like a traveler who had suddenly seen a clear stream after months of walking in the desert.

The feeling was indescribable.

Duke slowly leaned down and subconsciously moved closer to Adina.

Thud!

The sound of a heavy object falling on the floor instantly snapped him out of his daze.

He immediately sat up straight and acted calm and indifferent.

Adina lowered her head and looked over. Her water bottle had dropped to the floor. She quickly bent down to pick up the bottle.

However, the light above the seat had been turned off, and the current lighting was very dim. It was totally dark under the chair, so she could only feel around the floor.

Duke looked to the side and noticed that she was bending down to look for her bottle.

While the light was dim, he could still see her exquisite features and silhouette.

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Duke stared at Adina's exquisite face and could not help but gulp.

"Mr. Winters, please move your leg a little. My water bottle is under your leg."

Adina bent down and patted his leg under the chair.

Duke suddenly tensed up.

This woman had just touched the hem of his pants, but he felt it in his heart for some reason.

He recalled her red face and curvy figure on the cruise that day... and the faint scent of her body.

He subconsciously leaned forward and breathed in when he faced the back of her neck.

It was the same scent that belonged to that woman from five years ago.

How was it possible that she was not the one who had slept with him that night?

"Mr. Winters, please move aside..." Adina reminded him.

Duke snapped out of his daze again and immediately realized what he had just done.

Was this not something that Trent loved to do? Was he possessed by Trent's spirit?

He glanced at the children next to them. They were listening to the piano music intently, so they did not notice the movement on this side.

He took a deep breath and said in a low voice, "I'll help you pick it up."

He bent down and searched around his left side, but he touched a soft hand.

Before he realized it, the hand shrunk back like it had been electrocuted.

Adina immediately pulled her hand away.

She raised her head slightly and looked Duke in the eyes.

The two of them were bending over the back of their chairs while leaning down. In such a cramped space, it looked like something was going on between them from the way they gazed at each other.

Adina's heart suddenly pounded so fast that it was out of control.

She took a deep breath to calm herself down, but she suddenly smelled a familiar scent.

It smelled like the man from that night five years ago!

It was that man! It was Duke!

Adina's lashes suddenly trembled. The dim light brought her five years into the past.

The man had rushed toward her like a starving wolf and recklessly torn off her clothes.

In the end, she was thrown on the hotel bed like a broken toy.

"Your water bottle."

Duke picked up the water bottle and handed it to Adina.

He stared at Adina's trembling lashes and frowned slightly. "What's wrong?"

Adina stuffed her water bottle back into her bag, and her voice was extremely low. "I'm fine."

Duke continued to stare at her.

He clearly saw panic and fear in her eyes.

She looked the same as she did that night on the cruise.

Did he frighten her that much?

If that was the case, why did she ask him to be her boyfriend?

By then, the piano concert had reached its climax. A dozen pianists played a famous symphony, and the piece was exciting as well as inspiring.

Adina's emotions slowly dissipated, and she was completely immersed in the music.

Just then, she heard the man's cold and deep voice.

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“I’ve thought about your suggestion.”

Duke was very close to her. When he spoke, she could feel the warmth of his breath.

She moved to the side uncomfortably before she turned and slowly asked, “What’s your decision, Mr. Winters?”

“I can be your boyfriend, but...” Duke firmly said, “...I’m not good at acting. Unless, you agree to let me be your real boyfriend.”

What?

Real boyfriend?

Adina was stunned.

She looked up at him. “Mr. Winters, you don’t have to act or do anything. You just need to be my nominal boyfriend to convince the judge.”

“Do you think the judge can be easily fooled?” Duke smiled faintly and looked at her. “You need me to be your boyfriend in order to win custody, and I also need you to be my girlfriend to keep my mother off my back. Since both of us have a need, why don’t we try to be a real couple?”

Adina found herself speechless.

There were so many women around this man. Did he really need her to keep Mrs. Winters off his back?

Besides, pretending to be his girlfriend could also put Mrs. Winters off. Why did they have to be a real couple?

“Ms. Daugherty, if you refuse, you don’t have to bring this up again.”

Duke turned back and watched the performance on the stage seriously.

However, Adina could not focus on watching the performance because of what he said.

She turned to him and looked at the man’s side profile. The dim light blurred his sharp silhouette, making him appear gentler.

“Mr. Winters.”

When she spoke, Duke faced her and quietly waited for her to speak.

Adina pursed her lips. “I don’t mind it, but we have to make an agreement—”

Halfway through her sentence, Duke said, “No agreement is needed. Don’t worry, I won’t do anything to you that oversteps the boundary unless we’re forced to act intimately in front of my mother.”

When Adina saw his righteous behavior, she believed him.

She nodded. “Okay, from now on, we’re in a relationship.”

It was sufficient as long as she had a reason to visit the Winters family villa.

Regarding their relationship, she could break up anytime she wanted, so she did not have to be mentally burdened.

Adina quickly convinced herself before she continued watching the performance.

Duke smiled faintly. His curled lips showed the happiness in his heart at that moment.

Two hours later, the piano concert finally ended.

The group of six then walked out of the concert hall.

“Wow, the concert was really nice!” Harold held Melody’s hand and kept talking. “Mel, you have to bring me along whenever you attend another concert. I think I have the potential to become a musician too.”

“You don’t even know how to read a music sheet. Are you sure you can become a musician?” George said sarcastically.

“Blergh! It’s none of your business!” Harold pulled a face at George. “Mel will teach me how to play the piano. Then you’ll be jealous!”

George pursed his lips.

He was truly jealous when he saw the unreliable Harold being so close to Melody.

However, with how his personality was, he could not shamelessly approach Melody. Therefore, he could only hold back his anger.

Adina smiled faintly. Just as she was about to speak, someone held her hand.

The man’s rough and warm palm instantly shocked her. She wanted to move out of his grip by reflex.

Unfortunately, Duke’s grip was so strong that she still could not move away successfully after two attempts.

She turned around and glared at Duke with her indifferent and cold eyes. She stared at him and said in a low voice, “Let go of me, now.”

Duke interlocked his fingers with hers and nonchalantly said, “This is the duty of a girlfriend.”

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Duke held Adina’s hand tightly, and she was unable to move away.

She gritted her teeth and said, “You said that we just needed to act like a couple in front of your mother. You’re going against the agreement!”

Duke’s expression was indifferent. “Harold and Mel want us to be together. Do you want to disappoint them?”

Adina turned around and looked over. She saw Harold and Melody standing together and talking. The children’s eyes were as bright as the lights in the night sky.

Her heart melted for some reason.

Her initial intention of letting Duke be her boyfriend was also for the children's sake.

"Uncle Duke, what are you doing?"

Alden walked over, and his face was full of anger. He pushed Duke away with great strength. "Let go of my mom!"

Duke did not want to fight a child, so he released Adina's hand.

"Mom, is he harassing you?" Alden bit his bottom lip and looked mature as well as headstrong, which did not fit his age.

"No, Uncle Duke didn't harass me." Adina stroked his head.

"I saw him dragging your hand by force, Mom. You couldn't move out of his grip after you struggled twice." Alden sounded gloomy. He was still too young, and he could only watch when others mistreated his mother.

"No, that's really not what happened." Adina tried to explain, "I was just having fun with Uncle Duke."

Alden widened his black eyes. He did not understand why this was considered fun when Duke was clearly forcing his mom to do something she did not like.

Before he could ask again, Duke walked over again and put his hand on Adina's shoulder.

Adina's body froze.

She suddenly regretted suggesting that this man be her boyfriend.

He had promised not to cross the boundary, but he never stopped touching her ever since they stepped out of the concert hall.

She initially wanted to move away, but she saw Alden glaring at Duke with his black eyes, and his face was full of rage. He looked like a lion cub that was ready to attack.

"Alden, don't misunderstand. Actually..." Adina paused for a while before she resumed, "...I'm in a relationship with Uncle Duke, so it's normal for us to hold hands and hug. Uncle Duke didn't harass me, so don't be angry..."

Alden's anger turned into shock. "Mom, what did you say? You're in a relationship with him? Why?"

"It's because..." Adina tried to explain, "...we like each other, so we're trying to be a couple. Alden, I hope you can understand me..."

"Wow! Aunt Adina, is that true? Are you really in a relationship with my dad?" Harold jumped really high. "Does this mean I can call you 'Mom?'"

Melody tilted her head and asked, "Can I call Uncle Duke 'Daddy?'"

She rarely spoke, so her voice was hoarse. But her words were clear. Her soft voice was clean, and it was filled with suppressed excitement.

Adina wanted to nod because she was Harold's mother...

Because Duke was Melody's father.

But she dared not nod.

She slowly turned to the side and looked at Duke.

The man's usually cold side profile appeared gentle, and he slowly said, "Mel, didn't you call me Daddy in the past? If your mommy doesn't disagree, you can always call me that."

Melody's eyes lit up. She looked at Adina, and her gaze was filled with expectation.

Adina struggled before she nodded. "Yes."

"Daddy!"

Melody happily rushed into Duke's arms, and she was so delighted that she danced.

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"What about me? What about me? Can I call Aunt Adina 'Mommy?'" Harold raised his head and asked.

Duke carried the girl as he nonchalantly said, "As long as Aunt Adina's fine with it, you can call her whatever you want."

Harold widened his eyes and looked at Adina, while he excitedly but carefully asked, "Aunt Adina, can I?"

Adina felt dejected, but she suppressed the feeling as she smiled faintly and said, "Of course, you can."

"Yeah! I have a mommy too! I'm so happy. I have a mommy! Mommy! Mommy!" Harold circled Adina and shouted as he ran around her.

Adina looked at him gently. When she looked up, she saw the two other children, George and Alden, standing one step away from her.

Alden had a complex mind, so he might not accept her relationship with Duke that easily. She would slowly explain it to Alden once they went home.

As for George...

"Georgie, come here." Adina waved at him.

George felt conflicted as he walked over.

He had changed his mind toward Adina slightly, but he still found it hard to believe that this woman was his father's girlfriend.

Now that she had become his father's girlfriend, she would become his fiancée very soon. Then, she would become his and Harold's stepmother.

Once this woman married into the Winters family and achieved her purpose, would she still treat Harold as nicely as she did now?

Even their biological mother did not love them, but this woman who held a grudge against their mother would?

“Georgie, you don’t look good when you frown.”

Adina raised her hand and smoothed out his frown.

Her voice was clear and gentle. “You and Dew are different individuals. I hope that you can put Dew aside and get to know me from scratch again. Can you do that?”

“Okay.”

George pursed his lips and nodded gently.

Since Dad and Harold liked this woman so much, he would get to know her.

While they spoke, Duke carried Melody and walked up to Alden.

The 1.86-meter-tall man squatted down, but he was still taller than Alden.

“I know what you’re thinking about, but don’t worry. No matter what, I won’t hurt your mom,” he said calmly.

Alden stared at him and clenched his fists. “I hope you can keep your promise.”

Otherwise, he did not know what scary things he would do.

A black extended luxury car parked at the entrance of the concert hall. After the group of six got into the car, the driver started the engine and slowly drove toward the Winters family villa.

Once they arrived at the villa, Harold held Melody’s hand, and they went to play the piano. Alden took a book, sat beside Melody, and read, while George went upstairs to work.

Adina entered the kitchen, and Duke followed her.

After Mr. Brown lectured them, the kitchen staff knew that they could not be third wheels, so all of them left in an instant.

Adina took a tomato and slowly washed it. She spoke without turning around, “Mr. Winters, I think— ”

“Don’t you think Mel’s very happy?” Duke interrupted her and leisurely said, “I’ve never seen Mel speak so much, and I’ve also never seen Mel look so happy. As long as she can be this full of joy, I’m willing to do anything...”

Adina remained silent.

This man knew where her soft spot was, so he had her under his control, and that convinced her to keep going along.

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Adina lowered her head, and her exquisite chin accentuated her perfect jawline under the light.

She was wearing a white shirt, and her collar was unbuttoned. It revealed the clavicular line of her collarbone and her fair skin, which was undulating slightly.

Duke struggled to look away.

Over the past twenty years, his mind had always been clean. Even if a naked woman stood in front of him, he would not be bothered to look at her.

But the ridiculous thought of taking Adina's clothes off invaded his mind at that moment.

He thought he was a righteous man, but right then, he finally realized that he was no different from a playboy like Trent.

He had just never met a woman whom he was interested in previously.

"I'll help you put on the apron."

Duke took out an apron from the cabinet and helped Adina to put it on.

Duke's musky scent was faintly discernible, and it surrounded Adina like an invisible net.

When she first smelled him, she was terrified. But after she got used to it, she actually felt alright.

Adina cut the vegetables while she said, "Mr. Winters, if you just want to find someone to keep Mrs. Winters off your back, there's actually a better candidate, like Dew, who happens to be George and Harold's mother."

When she said that, her knife tilted, and she nearly cut her finger.

Duke curled his lips. "She's like Gorilla Tape. Once she sticks to me, I'll never be able to get rid of her, but you're different."

Adina pursed her lips. "Dew's the mother of your children.

Aren't you going too far by describing her like that?"

"She should feel lucky to be George and Harold's mother, or else..."

Duke's eyes were filled with terrifying coldness.

He did not finish his sentence, but Adina could already guess what he wanted to say.

She looked down and said, "You hate Dew so much... Is it because she gave birth to two sons without your consent?"

"You can say so."

Duke's lips were filled with ruthlessness.

Dew had given birth to the boys behind him. The next day after the boys were born, she carried the babies to the Winters family. She even suggested that they do a paternity test.

She was just using the boys to marry into the Winters family.

If he really married Dew, he would fall into her trap.

Adina immediately held the knife tightly.

She was actually the person who had secretly given birth to the boys of the Winters family four years ago.

If Duke knew the truth, he might not go easy on her. 1

She had to keep this secret to herself.

“Mr. Winters, please help me wash some potatoes.”

Adina changed the subject indifferently.

Duke looked to the side and stared at her. “I’m your boyfriend. Isn’t it too formal for you to call me ‘Mr. Winters?”

Adina did not look up. “Duke, help me wash some potatoes.”

Her calling him “Duke” instantly brightened his mood.

He quickly found the potatoes, turned on the tap, and carefully washed them.

Adina glanced at him out of the corner of her eye, and much of her gloominess faded.

If she did not think of that incident that happened five years ago, it was actually not bad being this man’s girlfriend. After all, who would have thought that the noble Mr. Winters would wash potatoes for a woman in the kitchen?

Duke helped to wash the vegetables, while Adina quickly turned on the stove and cooked the food. A while later, she finished preparing a few dishes.

At the dining table, Harold was the only one who kept talking noisily. George spoke to embarrass Harold from time to time, Melody smiled faintly as she listened to them, and Alden frowned.

“Daddy, you’re the boyfriend. You have to take the initiative and add some food for Mommy!” Harold grinned and said. Calling Adina “Mommy” came naturally to him.

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“Daddy, Mommy likes to eat potatoes/” Melody suddenly spoke. She supported her chin with both hands and looked at Duke for a while before she glanced at Adina.

Adina suddenly felt embarrassed when her own daughter stared at her like that.

Her intention was to look after Harold and George. Why were the children watching her be “in a relationship”?

“I washed the potatoes. You can see how they taste.”

Duke placed a piece of potato on Adina’s plate.

Adina could only lower her head and take a bite of the potato. She felt that all the five people at the table were staring at her.

She raised her head before she awkwardly smiled and said, "It's delicious."

She was the one who cooked it, so obviously it was delicious. Did it have anything to do with this man's washing?

Dinner ended in a lively manner.

Adina thought about Alden's feelings, so she informed them that they were going home.

Harold pushed Duke outside. "Daddy, send mommy out. Don't forget the goodbye kiss."

His voice was just coincidentally loud enough for Adina to hear him.

She felt her head tingle, so she just held the children's hands and walked toward her car.

"Wait."

Duke's voice came from the back. Adina immediately sped up as if she was afraid that the man would catch up.

"Don't you want your car keys?"

Duke quickly walked over, and his voice was filled with a teasing tone. "Addy, why are you walking so quickly?"

He called her "Addy," which made her heart pound very quickly.

She turned around and grabbed the keys from the man and acted calmly. "You don't have to send us. We'll be leaving now. See you tomorrow," she said.

However, Duke suddenly grabbed her arm. He raised his hand to pick a leaf out of her hair.

The moment he extended his hand, Adina avoided him by reflex, and there was fear in her clear eyes.

But the terrified look disappeared in an instant.

She quickly appeared normal and indifferently said, "Thank you."

Then, she pulled open the car door, got into the driver's seat, and drove speedily out of the villa's compound.

Duke pinched the leaf with a slight frown.

He was just helping her to take out a leaf from her hair. Did she have to avoid him like that?

Also, what was going on with the fear in her eyes?

Adina parked her car outside her home. By the time she pushed open the car door and got out, Alden was already holding Melody's hand and standing outside their mansion.

"Mel, can you go inside and play 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star!' forme?"

Adina walked over and stroked the girl's hair.

Melody nodded before she turned around and walked into the house. Soon, they heard the happy and cheerful music of the piano.

Adina squatted down in front of Alden and softly asked, “Alden, are you unhappy that I’m with Uncle Duke?”

Alden pursed his lips and said, “Mom, you know the relationship between Uncle Duke and Dew. Why do you still want to be with him?”

“Actually, Georgie and Hal are...”

Adina moved her lips and nearly blurted out the secret.

She stopped talking in time and did not resume.

Alden had always worried too much ever since she could remember. If she told Alden about this, he would definitely keep thinking about helping her to gain custody of his brothers.

She could slowly plan things out. Alden just needed to grow up happily.