

## Madam Winters's Fight For Her Children Chapter 481

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Yet she continued to make up lies. "A coworker bought some spicy grilled fish this afternoon and shared it with us. It was quite good. I had two pieces in a row. As a result, my lips became swollen."

Alden fastened his seatbelt and said, "Don't eat too much spicy food next time, Mommy. It's bad for your stomach, and it may cause acne."

"Alright. I got it. I won't eat it anymore."

Adina clenched her teeth to herself. If Duke kissed her without her permission again, she would slap him.

She would not let it happen again!

"Mommy, is that a tattoo on your collarbone?"

Alden paused for a second and suddenly asked.

Adina knew that she could not keep it hidden from him for long. She smiled tenderly and said, "Yes, I got it with my coworker. What do you think? Does it look pretty?"

"It's quite nice, very artistic."

Alden said nonchalantly. Somehow, the design of the tattoo looked very familiar to him. He felt like he had seen a signature with this style of design before.

He thought about it for a moment. He could not recall where he had seen it from, so he set it aside.

Adina's car drove slowly away from the gate of the preschool. When she reached the fork in the road, she stopped for a moment and then turned right. Melody was looking out the window. Seeing that she had turned right, the little girl could not help but say, "Mommy, you took the wrong turn."

“No, I didn’t,” Adina said as she gripped the steering wheel. “We are making dinner in our house today. Al, call Georgie and Hal, and tell them to come to our house for dinner.”

After what happened today, she did not know how to face that man. Perhaps it was better that they did not see each other for the time being

Alden nodded obediently and took out his phone to call them.

Duke was driving home. As he passed a florist, he went in and bought a bouquet of lilies.

This was his first time buying flowers. As he gazed at the bouquet of flowers on the passenger seat, he somehow felt nervous.

When he arrived at the villa, he parked the car in the garage and walked into the villa with the lilies.

Mr. Brown came to greet him. “This bouquet of lilies is so beautiful. Should I put it in the living room or in your room, sir?”

Duke was speechless.

Could he not see that he had bought this to give it to someone?

However, Mr. Brown had already brought over a vase filled with water. “We can put the lilies in this clear vase. Give me the flowers, sir.”

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Duke pursed his lips. “I bought them for someone.”

Mr. Brown understood it immediately. A disappointed expression quickly appeared on his face. “Sir, why would you give her lilies? You should give her roses, bright red roses. Even if you don’t have 999 roses, you should at least give her 99 roses. That is exactly what a man should give a woman! Let me handle this bouquet of lilies for you right now!

Mr. Brown took the lilies away without waiting for his reply.

Duke was speechless.

He had selected lilies after consulting with the shopkeeper at the florist.

One of the reasons was that his and Adina's relationship had not yet been confirmed, and the second was that red roses were an overly direct expression of love. He was worried that he would scare her.

Mr. Brown walked a few steps farther. Then, he turned

around and said, "By the way, sir, the young masters have packed their clothes and gone to Ms. Daugherty's place. They said they are not coming home tonight."

Duke was speechless.

Was this woman avoiding him on purpose?

Come to think of it, it was true that he had been too bold today. He should not have kissed her so assertively.

However, if he was given another chance, he would still do the same.

He said, "I'm going out now. I will have dinner outside."

A satisfied smile emerged on Mr. Brown's face. He reminded him, "Sir, don't forget to get the roses."

Duke pulled open the car door and got in.

He sat in the driver's seat with all sorts of thoughts flashing through his head.

Actually, Mr. Brown was not wrong.

He had already kissed her. It did seem improper to give her lilies.

He did need to give her red roses, but he also had to prepare something else for her.

Duke drove toward the largest mall in Sea City.

Adina's car had just pulled up in front of the house when she saw George and Harold who arrived at the same time.

The two boys had been driven over by the bodyguard. George was carrying a suitcase. It looked like they had

decided to stay with her for a few more days.

Adina grinned as she took over their luggage. She asked tenderly, "Have you told Daddy that you were coming over?"

"No, but we did tell Grandma and Mr. Brown!" Harold wrapped his arm around Adina's. "Grandma said we could stay at Mommy's place for a few more days!"

Adina's heart felt warm.

She had thought that Mrs. Winters was imposing and was not easy to get along with, but now she found her to be rather nice.

She smiled and said, "That's great. You boys will stay with me for a few more days. Today is your official sleepover. What do you say? How about a party?" "Yes, yes!" Harold clapped his hands happily. "Mommy, just tell me if you need me to help you with anything!"

Adina took the kids into the house. She said with a smile on her face, "Georgie, you will clean up the living room. Al, come help me in the kitchen. Hal and Mel, you will decorate the living room. Is this arrangement okay for you?"

"Mommy, I will make sure the living room is cleaned up!" "Mommy, I will take good care of Mel!"

Alden followed Adina into the kitchen obediently.

"Al, just peel the beans for me." Adina handed him the green beans and deftly prepared the ingredients needed for the party.

First, she made a cake. She began preparing dinner after putting the cake in the oven. The food was simple because it was a party. Fruit salad, French fries, fried chicken, small, healthy, and nutritious cookies, and some satiating cornbread were on the menu. Then she served everything on the long table. The living room was tidied up. The floor was decorated with many cute dolls. Melody even took out the brightly colored light bulbs and hung them on the wall. The living room looked very lively.

Adina clapped her hands. "And so I declare, let the party begin!"

As soon as she finished speaking, the children clapped their hands and cheered.

Alden's brows furrowed suddenly. "Mommy, I think we got a visitor."

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Adina frowned as she looked out the window.

A black car pulled up in front of the villa. Flanked by the yellow headlights, a tall, upright figure slowly walked toward them.

The moment Adina saw that figure, she could not help but recall everything that had happened during the day.

Her face turned red at once.

It was a good thing that only the small colored lights were on in the living room. The light was dim. Even Alden, who was the most sensitive one in the room, did not notice her unusual reaction.

"It's Daddy!"

Harold was about to run out to greet him when he abruptly stopped.

He would not be able to kiss and hug Mommy anymore if Daddy came in. He felt a little reluctant to let Daddy in. What should he do?

"What is Daddy doing here now?" George said with puzzlement. "I remember our company having a very important meeting in the evening. It was postponed from yesterday to today, so it can't be postponed again. Why didn't Daddy go to the meeting?"

The corner of Alden's lips twitched a little.

He glanced at Harold and said indifferently, "It's a kids' party today. We won't be able to have fun if Daddy is here."

I think we shouldn't let Daddy come inside."

"Yes, that's right!" Harold clenched his fists. "He will only ruin the mood if he comes in."

Adina was speechless.

She suddenly felt a bit sorry for Duke. His sons actually disliked him to this point.

However, she did not know how to face this man either.

She needed some time to calm down, so she could look at this relationship objectively.

Ding-dong. Duke had walked to the front door of the villa. He raised his hand and pressed the doorbell.

George, Alden, and Harold did not move. They really did not want Duke to come in.

Once Daddy came in, they would not be able to express themselves to their hearts' content. Then tonight's party would be no fun at all.

Although Adina felt bad for Duke, there was no way she would go over and open the door.

She could not wait to run away from him. There was no way she would walk right into it.

However, a fluffy little doll darted to the door. She stood on tiptoe and turned the doorknob. Then, she pulled the door open.

"Daddy!"

The little girl ran into Duke's arms. She was picked up by the man and lifted high into the air and spun around.

The silvery laughter of the little girl echoed throughout the house.

Adina was speechless.

George was speechless.

Harold was speechless.

Alden was speechless.

They had all these plans in their mind, yet they forgot about Melody.

All Harold's emotions were displayed on his face. He pouted unhappily, "Daddy, what are you doing here?"

Duke gave him a cold stare.

He had spent four years raising George and Harold for nothing

Fortunately, he still had his little girl. As long as his little girl was here, the road should not be too harsh for him.

He said coolly, "Mr. Brown said you all headed here. I was worried that your mother would not be able to take care of all of you, so I came here to help." George frowned. "Daddy, we are over four years old. How could we possibly still need Mommy to take care of us? Don't worry. I will take good care of my brothers and sister. There is no need for you to take the time to come over. You should go back to work now. Daddy."

"That's right, Daddy. Work comes first," Alden said. "You should work hard. Then, Mommy won't have to work so hard and work overtime in the future."

That was exactly what Duke had in mind.

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However, even if these little brats splurged the Winters family's money, they would still have enough to last them several lifetimes, so there was no need to put far more important things on hold in order to make money.

Duke got closer to the little girl's ear and whispered, "Could you help me get something from the car?"

Mel's eyes immediately lit up.

She was the youngest in their family, and her mommy and brothers never allowed her to do anything.

It was the first time someone had asked her to do something, so she jumped out of Duke's arms and bolted straight to the car that was parked in the yard. She opened the door to the passenger side and immediately exclaimed in awe, "Wow! This is so pretty!"

Everyone in the house turned their attention in her direction.

They could only see the little ball of fluff coming out of the passenger seat with a bouquet of fiery roses.

There were at least ninety-nine roses in that bouquet, and when the little girl held it in her arms, her body was completely obscured.

Adina could only see a big bouquet of flaming red flowers moving toward her.

Ba-dump!

Ba-dump!

She could hear the sound of her own heart pounding crazily in her chest.

This man must have wanted to give her the bouquet of flowers!

'Why is he gifting me flowers? What's he trying to do? Is he trying to confess?'

Adina had never felt this nervous before. Her hands curled into fists, and even her breathing became a little more shallow.

Alden took a glance at her, pursed his lips, and cutely said, "Daddy, how did you know that Mel liked red flowers? The bouquet of flowers is very beautiful, and it's exactly the kind that Mel likes..."

"Wow! I had no idea Mel liked red flowers." Harold quickly saved that information in his mind. "I'll buy a bunch of these flowers for Mel as well tomorrow."

Duke was bewildered.

How did he end up giving Mel red roses?

Why did it not sound quite right?

Just as he was about to question Alden, he saw the little girl hugging the bouquet and taking deep sniffs. She seemed really happy, and even her eyes sparkled in genuine happiness.

Alright. Who said he could not give Mel red roses?



As long as Mel liked it, he would give her anything.

“Thank you, Daddy,” Mel said sweetly while hugging the roses.

Duke was speechless.

It was his fault. He should not have asked Mel to go take the roses for him.

“I’m glad you like it,” Duke replied with a low voice. “The flowers are a little heavy. You can put it on the table.”

Mel hugged the roses, sprinted upstairs, put them away in her room, and dashed backdown.

While Adina exhaled a sigh of relief, she also felt slightly disappointed.

She felt relieved because how was she supposed to reject him if he gave her the red roses? Since she was an adult, she could not just pretend to not know the meaning of red roses. It would be ridiculous if she acted dumb. He would feel humiliated in front of the kids if she refused to accept the flowers. In the end, the fact that the flowers were gifted to Mel by accident would count as a perfect solution to the embarrassing scene that might arise.

But she also felt disappointed because... What if she was thinking too much? What if this bunch of flowers was actually for Mel?

Perhaps she had just misunderstood.

Without even looking at Duke, Adina smiled and told the kids, “All right, the party continues!”

The disco ball’s bright lights filled the room, the TV played music, and a microphone was plugged in. Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes was the opening song.

Adina picked up the microphone and asked, “Who’s going to sing the first song?”

“This song is too childish. Only three-year-olds sing it,” Harold said dismissively.

It was even more implausible for George and Alden to sing such childish songs.

Adina had originally prepared the song for Mel, but she glanced at Duke and said with a smile, “Why don’t we let your Daddy sing the first song?”

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Four pairs of eyes turned to look at him in sync.

Duke was speechless.

This woman was trying to set him up.

Everyone knew how to sing that song, but he was a man in his twenties. Would it not be hilarious if he sang such a song?

What if his image in her mind plummeted only because he sang this song?

"You don't know how to sing the song, Duke?" Adina suddenly said.

The way she called his name was too much for him to bear.

Hearing her soft voice made him feel as though all the bones in his body had melted.

It was also the first time Adina had addressed him in such a manner.

Although he was aware of her intentions, he nevertheless gave in without hesitation.

He took the microphone, cleared his throat, and started singing along with the accompaniment. "Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes..."

Even when he sang upbeat children's songs, his voice was very low and had a calm tone.

Adina stood a meter away and looked at him.

He simply stood there, his tall, slender frame swaying slightly to the music as he sang in a deep voice.

Obviously, he was a little nervous, but he still sang the whole song.

He actually did as she asked.

A cloud of mixed feelings flashed through Adina's eyes.

The song ended in a flash.

"Wow! You're excellent at singing, Daddy!" Mel exclaimed as she clapped enthusiastically.

Duke patted her hair and said, "Thank you for the compliment, Mel."

Then, turning to face Adina, he asked, "How about you? How would you rate my singing?"

"Not bad. Have a glass of champagne."

Adina handed him a glass of champagne.

Originally, there were only drinks for the children on the table. After that man came, she brought out the champagne her client had previously gifted her.

The wine tasted great. It was too much for one person to finish, but just right for two people to enjoy.

As they clinked glasses, Duke said, "Thank you."

"Why are you thanking me?" Adina cocked her head and asked.

"This is the first time I'm seeing George and Harold so happy, and it's all because of you." Duke took a sip of wine and said softly, "

The Winters family only got to experience love because of you. We feel more like a family and more at home because of your love."

His jet-black eyes were gleaming unbelievably brightly as he spoke.

Adina's heart skipped a beat with the way he was staring at her.

"This is my song," she announced as she hurriedly set down her drink and grabbed the microphone. "I'm going to sing."

She began singing as the melody of an old love song filled the living room.

Her voice was breathy, and a little husky, which made the song sound more enticing.

Duke sat back on the couch and grabbed his glass of champagne. After taking in her figure and voice, he slowly slipped his hand into his pocket.

Inside his pocket was the diamond ring he had bought at the mall today.

He liked her. He could even say he loved her. He kissed her, they had four kids together, and tonight he planned to confess and pop the question to her.

But he was still a little scared.

When he gave it more thought, it was quite funny. He used to venture out on his own to start businesses, took down all of his powerful enemies by himself, and even traveled great distances to save his father. At the time, he was alone and brave, but today he was timid.

Even though it was just a few sentences, he was terrified to say it.

With a bitter smile, he downed the wine from his glass and poured another for himself.

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He drank wine, which they all claimed to be "liquid courage," but in spite of that, he still felt like a coward.

Adina returned after finishing her song, only to find that a big portion of the freshly-opened champagne had already vanished.

Duke's eyes were already unfocused.

She was speechless.

He claimed to be here to help look after the kids, did he not? He was, however, getting drunk instead.

She gave him a quick look before deciding to keep a safe distance from him.

The children were having a great time. They were singing, dancing, and playing around, and it was soon ten o'clock at night.

After turning off the music, Adina clapped and said, "All right, time for bed, now. Line up and go take a bath, one by one."

The children were really obedient. The three boys proceeded to shower in Alden's room, while Adina took Mel to the upstairs bathroom.

The four kids were already sound asleep in their beds by ten thirty at night.

When Adina went downstairs to clean up, she saw Duke leaning back on the couch, his eyes closed and the wine glass still in his hands.

That man had downed the majority of the champagne, and it had long since finished.

"Hey, wakeup..."

Adina approached him and called him twice, but he did not respond.

She removed the glass from his hands and helped him lie down properly on the couch. She then went upstairs to grab a thin blanket and cover him with it.

Duke slept soundly on the couch; his face serene. He had obviously consumed a bit too much wine.

Adina could not help but sigh.

He had agreed to come and help her take care of the kids, but in the end, she had ended up taking care of one adult and four children all by herself!

She accepted her fate and continued tidying up the living room. There was a lot of stuff scattered on the floor. She picked them up one by one and threw them in the trash before sweeping and mopping the floor.

As she was busy cleaning, she heard someone calling her name.

"Addy..."

"Addy..."

He called her again and again, softly at first, and then the volume increased.

Adina thought Duke had awakened, so she turned to look at him, but his eyes were closed, and his thin lips were moving to call her name again and again.

She felt as if her heart had taken a dip in boiling hot water, and she froze on the spot.

"Addy!"

Duke's hand grabbed at the air, and he managed to catch Adina's arm with precision.

When she saw the man suddenly open his eyes, she was shocked and wanted to escape instinctively.

Those eyes were filled with hazy drunkenness, and it was totally different from the usual eyes Duke had.

It appeared as though he had suddenly taken off his tough armor, revealing his raw, genuine self.

His gaze focused on Adina, and he slightly tightened his hold on her.

"Addy, I have something to tell you."

Duke slowly said in a raspy voice, and Adina could not help but stop herself from trying to run away.

She pursed her lips and asked nervously, "W-what are you trying to say?"

"Addy, do you know that you're the first woman I care about so much?"

Upon hearing that, Adina's heart suddenly stopped beating, and then the next second, her heart started to beat faster. She felt as though her heart was almost beating out of her chest.

Her suspicions were true; the man had come here tonight to confess.

He did not dare to confess, so he had downed the champagne to gain courage.

She stayed still, biting her crimson lips, and put all of her focus on her ears as she listened carefully to the man's voice.

"I don't remember when I first became so concerned about you... At first, I had no idea who the father of your children was, and I was so jealous of that man. I felt really envious of him..."

Duke's voice was hoarse, and his words were a little slurred.

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"Do you know how thrilled I was to discover that the woman from that night five years ago was you?"

The corner of Duke's lips curled into a smile.

Adina observed the smile on his face and thought the Duke in front of her was no different from a kid.

The smile on his face was pure, and his eyes were filled with sincerity.

She believed every word he said.

"I immediately felt really lucky when I realized I was the father of your children, and that you were the mother of my children." Duke looked at her with his dark eyes and continued, "Addy, our fates became one five years ago, and in the time that has passed, we have missed out on a lot. I don't ever want to be separated from you again. I like you, Addy. I love you. I, I..."

He suddenly stopped midway through his sentence.



Adina was feeling even more nervous, and with her breath hitched, she continued to listen to what he was going to say.

However, Duke's hold on her hand went loose all of a sudden, and his arm fell limply to the edge of the couch.

Those jet-black eyes fluttered close as well.

Everything had happened too abruptly, and it made Adina think she had been imagining the entire scene.

"You jerk!" Adina cursed under her breath.

Although it was just a confession, he had gotten so drunk while confessing, and she had actually paid close attention to the whole thing!

He was just wasting her time!

Adina gave him a venomous glare before stomping upstairs while purposefully making her steps louder.

But Duke was too far gone, and even the loud noise was unable to wake him up.

Adina returned to her room and started removing her makeup, but as she did so, she caught a glimpse of her apple-red cheeks in the mirror. Her cheeks were flushed and were a bright red color.

She had never seen herself like this.

She was incredibly relieved that Duke was drunk at the moment because otherwise, he would have seen her in that state.

She felt slightly better after washing her face with cold water.

Adina had long been haunted by the same recurring nightmare, and each one would include a man. It was the same man who destroyed and tore her to pieces five years ago.

Over the past few years, she was in agony every time she dreamed of the night from five years ago.

But on that particular night, the person in her dreams was very gentle, and he kissed her lips patiently.

In the dream, they were enjoying themselves and were tangled up in each other...

It was not until a light entered and shone on the man's face that

Adina suddenly jolted awake from the dream.

She actually had a dream about her and Duke doing the deed...

Oh no, oh no!

She had lost her mind!

When Adina turned to look out the window, the sky was already bright, the autumn sun was flooding in, and her room looked bright and fresh.

She rolled out of bed, changed her clothes, and headed downstairs after freshening up.

The living room was surprisingly lively.

Mr. Brown had brought over a lot of breakfast, and the dining table was filled with food. The four kids sat at the table and were in the midst of having their breakfast, while Mr. Brown was busy tending to them.

When Mr. Brown saw Adina coming down the stairs, he greeted her with a smile and said, "Good morning, Ms. Adina. Come have some breakfast."

When Adina's gaze landed on the couch, she only saw the neatly folded blanket. The man had already left.

"Where's your Daddy?" she asked calmly.

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"I don't know," Harold answered with his mouth full of food. "I didn't see Daddy when I woke up this morning."

George swallowed the food in his mouth and said, "There are a lot of things to take care of at the Winters Corporation. Daddy must've gone to work at the company."

“It’s Saturday today. Mr. Duke doesn’t need to go to the company,” Mr. Brown said with a smile.

“Is that true, Papa Brown?” George frowned.

‘Although the company staff was not required to work during the weekends, Daddy worked every day of the year, especially since there have been a lot of company affairs recently. Daddy should be in a hurry to deal with them...’

“Of course, it is,” Mr. Brown continued. “Mr. Duke has arranged activities for the four of you. I’ll send you kids over after you’re done with breakfast.”

“What kind of activity?” Harold asked curiously.

“Young Master George, Harold, and Alden are required to take an IQtest at the IQtesting facility.”

After hearing Mr. Brown’s words, Harold immediately shook his head and said, “I don’t want to go!”

George raised an eyebrow. “Haven’t we taken the test before?”

“That was in the past, now is the present.” Mr. Brown smiled and said, “Ms. Adina and Mr. Duke intend to enroll Young Master

George and Harold in preschool, and most prestigious schools require an IQtest report. So you have to go take the test.”

“I guess I don’t need to go, then,” Alden said with pursed lips.

“Mr. Duke intends to do a comparison.” Mr. Brown said calmly, “If Young Master Alden’s IQ is higher than Young Master Harold’s, then he’ll consider changing the sequence.”

“That’s impossible!” Harold suddenly became nervous. “I’m much smarter than Alden. I’m the second child, and the second older brother. I don’t want to be the younger brother! ”

“We’ll know once you’ve done the test,” Mr. Brown smiled.

Adina was a little hesitant.

The kids did not really need to take IQ tests or anything of the sort.

It was unnecessary to rank them in order of intelligence.

Duke would hurt Hal if he did that.

She was ready to oppose when she noticed Mr. Brown winking at her.

She realized right away that the intention here was to get the kids out of the way.

“Madam Winters said that she wants to take Miss Melody out to go jewelry shopping. Miss Melody, do you want to go?” Mr. Brown asked softly while carrying Mel in his arms.

“Yes, I want to buy a lot of shiny jewels!” When Mel answered, her eyes shone brightly like pearls.

Adina was speechless.

She did not particularly adore jewelry, and she wondered why Mel was so obsessed with it.

Mr. Brown had to use a lot of coaxing and lying before the four kids finally got in the car. Each of them gave Adina a cheek kiss before they left.

Adina remained in a daze even after everyone left the house.

It was clear that Mr. Brown took the children away on purpose. So, what was next, then?

While she was spacing out, she received a text.

It was from Malvin. [Addy, I'll come to fetch you in two hours. Wait for me.]

Adina's heart started picking up pace.

She sat down on the couch while slowly typing down her reply and sent it. [Okay.]

Was that man going to finish what he started yesterday?

She suddenly felt excited about it. What should she do?

'No, I can't get nervous. Relax. I need to relax.'

Adina hurried upstairs, reapplied her makeup, opened her wardrobe, and tried on each piece of clothing one by one.

She suddenly found her available wardrobe lacking, and now that she was going out with a guy, she did not know what to wear.

She tried on many outfits before settling on a beige skirt with a knitted cardigan on top. After that, she went downstairs and waited patiently.