### Madam Winters's Fight For Her Children Chapter 584

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Chapter 584

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At 12:00 am, Alden sat in bed while he tapped on his laptop's keyboard.

[Surveillance at the entrance to Auguste's manor has been destroyed.

(Surveillance on the left side of the manor has been destroyed...

(The alarm at the southwestern corner is going off virtually. Half of the men have gone to the southwestern corner.

(The alarm at the southeastern corner is going off virtually. The other half of the men have gone to the southeastern corner.]

As the mission progressed, Auguste's manor fell into chaos.

A sturdy figure took advantage of the chaos and entered the manor.

He was a standard Cairnstanian. He had black and short hair, as well as heroic features, but there was a scar extending from his eyebrow to his lips. He appeared ferocious and scary.

He rolled into the mansion and entered like it was nobody's business.

A commanding voice then echoed in his headphones.

"Two concealed guards are approaching at nine o'clock... Maids passing by at four o'clock...

#### "Auguste

is at the center of the study. There are four bodyguards outside the study, and each of them is holding a

machine gun."

The man's gaze deepened before he lifted his trenchcoat and took out two grenades from his pants.

He bit off the pins before he threw them.

Boom!

Following the sound of the explosion, the four bodyguards at the door were immediately blown up.

At the same time, the bodyguards who had been lured away by the sound bite were all drawn to the explosion.

The men quickly entered the study amidst the thick smoke.

A shield was installed in the study, so Alden lost control over Auguste's manor.

The athletic figure who assassinated the Black Party's leader kept appearing in his mind . For some reason, he found the figure *v*ery familiar.

"That Cairnstanian soldier is amazing!" K kept talking through the headset. "Auguste's m anor is heavily guarded. Even though we covered for him, a normal person would not be able to find Auguste so quickly. But he abruptly released those grenades. Although he's managed to achieve a temporary victory, he's ignored the fact that the sound of the explosion will attract more opponents. Although he's lucky enough to kill Auguste, he won't be able to run out of the manor."

lct

As soon as k spoke, nearly a hundred guards clad in black flocked to the study's vicinity.

The lead guard wore a cold expression as he raised his hand in greeting. "Fire!"

Bang! Bang!

Numerous bullets were fired indiscriminately, creating countless holes in the study's door.

"What the heck? That guard

is a traitor! Even if Auguste wasn't killed, wouldn't he be shot to death by those guards? We may be carrying out a job, but we still have a chance to watch such an interesting power grab! This is truly interesting. Interesting!"

"How is our client?" Alden asked.

K said, "Oh, god! Our client must have also died in the indiscriminate strafing! This project was supposed to be worth \$ 500,000,000! Now, my \$500,000,000 is gone! Ahh!"

"He won't die." Alden calmly said. "He'll live."

He did not know why he was so sure of this.

It was silent in the study.

After ten minutes, the bodyguards finally entered the room to clean up the mess.

Soon enough, two bodyguards carried a Cairnstanian man, who was covered in blood, out.

"I told you he's dead!" K shouted regretfully. "I just lost my \$ 500,000,000..." Alden sudd enly felt his heart ache.

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#### Chapter 585

Adina did not know where she was.

There was suddenly a bloody fog in front of her, and a huge rush of blood flooded over her. Then, an infinite feeling of suffocation gradually came over her.

She breathed heavily, but she heard the familiar voice of a man, which came from deep within the bloody fog.

"Addy...

"Addy..."

She heard it again and again; it sounded like the desperate cries of someone facing death.

"Who are you? Where are you?!"

Adina screamed at the top of her lungs, and her voice resounded in the bloody fog, but she stopped hearing any replies.

Her heart instantly tightened as if someone had stabbed her in the heart with a knife and twisted it viciously.

It was painful...

Her heart was in pain...

She was in agony...

When Adina opened her eyes abruptly, she realized that it was just a nightmare.

She had been experiencing the same nightmare for a dozen days after she fell asleep every night.

The person who kept calling her name in the dream was Duke, right?

She had to be having this dream repeatedly because she missed that man so much. They had been separated for too long after all.

Adina touched her hair that was drenched in sweat before she got up and entered the bathroom to take a shower.

She calculated the time. It was the sixteenth day of Duke's business trip. She did not know when he would come back.

It was still very early when she stepped out of the shower. The children had not woken up yet.

Mrs. Winters, on the other hand, was arranging a pot of valuable orchids in the courtyar d.

When she saw Adina

coming out, she raised her head with a smile and said, "I heard that you're moving your office today? I'll ask Mr. Brown to bring some people there to help you."

Adina smiled and said, "There's no need. I already hired a moving company. It's not a big deal."

She paused for a while before she continued. "Mom, did Duke tell you when he'll be back?"

Mrs. Winters' hand froze all of a sudden while she was watering the plants. She looked aloof as she said, "He never tells me about such things. Ever since he turned fifteen, he's been very

independent and opinionated. Sometimes, he won't even inform me when he goes overseas on a business trip. I'm already used to it. Addy, don't worry. Duke is a responsible and committed man. He won't mess around."

Adina pursed her lips.

She was not worried about Duke messing around. She just felt that it was abnormal for a newlywed couple to not contact each other in half a month.

On top of that, she had been feeling anxious over the past half a month as if something serious had happened without her knowledge.

Adina sighed before she drove to her company.

LaStar Technology Corporation had integrated with Daugherty Corporation over the past two weeks. The logo on the facade

of Daugherty Corporation's building had already been replaced with a relief of LaStar Te chnology Corporation.

A few dozen staff members of LaStar Technology Corporation needed to move to Daugherty Corporation's address.

From this day forth, LaStar Technology Corporation was officially established in Sea City.

There were not many office supplies in a small office of around one hundred square met ers, but the dozen or so employees had already made two to three trips to move them out.

Mr. Roberts from the company next door stood in the corridor with an envious expression as he watched the staff of LaStar Technology Corporation work busily.

"She's just relying on Winters Corporation." His secretary rolled his eyes contemptuously. "This is like the Cinderella story where a poor girl marries a prince and becomes a princess."

"Shut up!" Mr. Roberts lowered his voice and scolded him in anger. "I planned to get along with Ms. Daugherty

in the beginning, but you were the one who kept rambling about how terrible she was, which made me lose a possible business collaboration partner. Okay, I don't n eed a secretary like you either. You can go to the HR Department and complete the resignation procedure."

The secretary widened his eyes in shock. "Mr. Roberts, everything I've said and done has been for the company's sake. What did I do wrong to warrant this firing?"

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"One more sentence, and you won't receive your salary this month!" Mr. Roberts reprimanded his secretary before he turned around and entered his office.

His secretary stomped his feet in dissatisfaction, but he could not do anything.

Adina had no idea what was happening in the company next door.

The moving process was fast. In less than an hour, everything had been moved to Daugherty Corporation's building.

Adina instructed the HR Department to place the office supplies, and everything was back to normal. When she returned

from the restroom, she suddenly felt everyone around her look at her with a strange gaz e.

"Ms. Daugherty, please have some rest in your office first." Serene walked Adina to the CEO's office. She spoke in a way that felt like she was embarrassed. "Ms. Daugherty, if you have time, you can check out the news on your phone."

Adina did not understand. "Is the news related to me?"

Serene's eyes were filled with sympathy. "It's related to Mr. Winters."

Adina's heart sank for some reason.

She took out her phone. Before she tapped on the news page, a message popped up on her phone's notification bar.

[Duke Winters, the CEO of Winters Corporation had fun with a dancer at a nightclub last night. He seemed flirtatious and playful, raising suspicions.)

After she opened the news, she found the bottom of the page filled with netizens' comments.

(What the heck? I thought

Duke didn't like being around women? Why is he messing around when he just got married half a month ago?]

[Is the most beautiful woman in Sea City not beautiful enough? Why does he want to have an affair?]

(Didn't they say that they've been married for five years? He must be bored with her, so he's looking for excitement and something fresh outside.]

(But Duke loves Adina so much. How could he have an affair? Someone must have intentionally photoshopped this! I don't believe it!]

Adina did not want to believe it either.

However, the photos that the paparazzi had taken were clear. The laser lights in the nightclub were shining on the man's face, and his features did not look very different from how they did half a month ago

But he had seemingly become slimmer, and his facial outline was sharper...

The man's thin lips had been captured with a playful smile as he held the dancer's chin with his long fair hand.

The two of them were looking into each other's eyes, and the whole thing gave off a seductive air.

Adina's heart instantly sank.

"Ms. Daugherty, this... this should

be a misunderstanding..." Serene comforted her awkwardly. "The paparazzi always cre ate their own stories based on pictures. They must also have created this story with their photos..."

"It's fine. Carry on with your work."

Adina patted Serene on the shoulder and flashed her a smile as if she could not be both ered.

Serene cast a worrying gaze at her and left, but she kept looking back.

Adina then walked into her office and closed the door.

She stood in front of a French window and looked at the buildings outside indifferently.

If the news was real, that meant her husband had already returned to Sea City from his business trip yesterday, but he did not come home.

Instead, he went dancing with a nightclub dancer.

A flirtatious gaze did

not mean anything, but the Duke Winters she knew would not have done such a thing.

She could understand his sudden coldness and detachment, but she could not believe that a man who had not been around women for more than twenty years would suddenly enjoy

hanging out at nightclubs. Had he just been pretending to avoid women in the past?

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Adina held a red wine glass and finished its contents.

Before she finished her work at the

company, she took her car keys and drove back to the Winters family's mansion.

It was 3:00 pm when she

arrived at the Winters family's mansion. The children were still having classes in preschool. It was the new education plan that Adina had set for the kids.

Harold and Melody would attend preschool five days every week, while George and Alden would

attend it three days a week. No matter how smart the children were, they had to

follow a child's normal path of growth step by step.

Mrs. Winters was sitting in the living room and watching TV. She turned around when she heard the sound of the car engine. The moment Adina walked in, she was taken aback, but it soon dawned upon her.

"I'm back, Mom."

Adina stood at the hallway's entrance and changed her shoes. She appeared calm.

Mrs. Winters dared not confirm her guess. She walked over with a smile and asked, "Aren't you moving your office today? Done so soon?"

Adina nodded before she indifferently said, "Duke's back in Sea City. He came back yesterday. Did you know?"

".... I just found out..." Mrs. Winters looked away, sighed, and

said, "Duke's a workaholic. Once he

starts working, he can't be bothered with anything else. I just read the news. I think it was an impromptu performance with a client during the discussion of a collaboration. Addy, you wouldn't be angry at Duke because of this, would you?"

Adina stared at Mrs. Winters for a few seconds before she smiled without answering.

Winters Corporation had the power to manipulate Sea City. It was always Duke's clients who cooperated with him. How could Duke provide an impromptu performance for the client?

Her mother-in-

law had the audacity to give such an obviously flawed excuse to defend her son.

"Of course I won't get mad." Adina smiled faintly. "I was just wondering why he didn't inform me when he came back to Sea City. I'm still his wife, after all."

"Maybe... Maybe he was too busy." Mrs. Winters smiled awkwardly and said, "Addy, don't worry. I'll teach him a lesson for you. He'll never dare do this again."

"Let's hope so."

After Adina said that, she walked to the master bedroom on the second floor.

Once she closed the door, Mrs. Winters finally sighed in relief and leaned on the couch weakly.

"Madam." Mr. Brown walked inside. "I saw on the news that the master is back from his business trip. Will he come home today? Do we need to prepare a welcoming dinner?"

Mrs. Winters chuckled in resignation. "Just make preparations for it."

She could not

contact this son, and she had no idea whether he would come back either.

Things had completely spiraled out of her control now. She did not know what to do.

She had already lost a son. No matter what, she had to keep covering this up.

Mrs. Winters suppressed the tears in her eyes before she softly said, "Let's go and pick the kids up from preschool."

Lately, Mrs. Winters had always been the one to pick the kids up from preschool.

When the car stopped in front of the preschool, the children held hands and entered the car together. They called her "Grandma," which made her really happy.

"I have some good news for you." Mrs. Winters grinned and said, "Your dad is back!"

"Wow! Really?" Melody was the happiest one. She covered her face and said, "Papa Brown, drive home now. Hurry! I want to go back and see Daddy!"

"Young Masters, Young Lady, don't rush. The master will only be back later," Mr. Brown responded as he drove.

"Okay." Melody-looked disappointed before she excitedly said," No matter how late Daddy gets home, I'll still wait for him!"

Mrs. Winters' gaze turned bitter.

She hid her emotions and softly said, "Your Dad's been very busy during his business trip this past half a month. He hasn't gotten enough rest, so he'll be quite grumpy. Remember, don't upset him later."

George frowned. "Grandma, are you trying to say that Daddy's temper has gotten worse?"

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"... I guess so." Mrs. Winters sighed. "Things were challenging in the European factory, and Winters Corporation has lost a lot of money. Your dad had to deal with clients every day. It'd be strange if he doesn't become more bad-tempered."

"But... Dad shouldn't bring his bad temper from work home," Alden said indifferently.

"I'm just saying." Mrs. Winters stroked the children's heads." Once your dad's back, he'll realize

that George is taller, Alden's hair is longer, Harold's forehead has two pimples, and Melody is prettier..."

Half a month was not long, but it was definitely not short either.

Anyone could change.

So, they should not be surprised if their dad was different from before.

They had also changed, right?

Mrs. Winters clenched her fists tightly and kept convincing herself to carry on

At 6:00 pm, dinner was ready in the Winters family's mansion.

The four children were playing in the courtyard while waiting for their father to come home.

Even Harold, who was at odds with his father the most, frequently looked out the door this time.

He had parted with his father for half a month. He really missed his dad.

Although his father was very strict, he loved his father very much. Of course, he loved his mom more.

Harold looked out of the door at the mountainous road again and appeared disappointed. "Is Dad not coming back today?"

Adina smiled and

said, "Your dad's busy with work, so it's no surprise that he isn't coming home today. Le t's go and have dinner first. We can continue waiting for him after dinner, okay?

The kids obediently nodded.

After dinner, night came, and the children waited until they felt sleepy.

After the children showered with Adina's help, she carried them to bed and told them three bedtime stories. Then, they slowly fell asleep.

She cast a glance at the time. It was already 11:00 pm.

Duke was still not back.

It looked like he would not return again tonight.

Adina chuckled before she walked into the master bedroom and got ready to wash up and rest.

At this

time, the bright light of a car shone in from the mansion's entrance, and a black car was driven into the

courtyard.

Adina stood at the stairs indifferently as she watched the man

walk in slowly wearing a black suit.

They had not met for half a month. It did not seem like he had changed much, but his aura gave her a strange feeling.

Was this the man she used to love?

She still loved him, but when he actually showed up in front of her, she realized that her heart was not filled with the same kind of affection.

Adina doubted herself deeply.

Then, their gazes met.

"You're still up at this hour. Have you been waiting for me to come home?"

Earl walked in and curled

the corners of his lips. It looked like a happy smile at first, but it was more of a smirk.

Adina recalled the photo from the news. She pursed her pink lips and slowly walked down the stairs.

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"These are gifts for you and Mel."

Earl casually passed her a paper bag.

Adina took it with a look of indifference.

There were two gifts inside the paper bag. One was a bottle of perfume, while the other one was a Barbie doll.

These two gifts...

She chuckled again. "Did you ask your assistant to buy these?"

#### She and Melody

already had the same perfume and Barbie doll respectively. If this man had personally bought the gifts, he would not have brought them the same things from afar.

Earl dodged her gaze before he nonchalantly said, "I was too busy, so I didn't have time to go to the gift shop. Why? Don't you like them?"

Adina smiled indifferently before she simply threw them on the couch.

When she looked up again, her gaze became scrutinizing. "Duke Winters, we should talk," she said firmly.

"What would you like to talk about?"

The man suddenly raised his hand and lifted the strands of her hair that had fallen on her chest.

For some reason, Adina thought of the scene where he lifted the

dancer's chin when she saw his actions.

She felt disgusted.

She raised her arm to swing his hand away and sternly said," Let's talk about last night."

He smiled happily. "Why? Are you jealous?"

As he spoke, he suddenly clenched her chin.

He lowered his head a little, and his face was now less than a centimeter away from Adina's.

He chuckled and explained, "I just got married. I haven't even had the chance to experience the joys of a new marriage with my wife. Why would I mess around out there? Don't worry. I was just joining in the fun. Don't take it seriously."

His tone and

frivolous actions made it impossible for Adina to suppress her feeling of disgust.

She quickly took a step back.

But the man held on to her waist.

"We haven't seen each other for half a month. Don't you miss me?"

The man yanked her close with great force and abruptly ripped her collar open.

An obvious tattoo was revealed before him.

It was not the tattoo of an alphabet, but a word, (North.]

His gaze instantly turned dark. "When did you get this tattoo?"

"During the half a month you were away." Adina lifted her collar and sounded extremely unbothered . "Didn't you ask me to get

it?"

Earl's gaze was suddenly filled with ruthlessness.

He pressed Adina's shoulder down and bit her collarbone out of nowhere. He kept kissing and biting the tattoo on her collarbone.

Meanwhile, he continued to rip her shirt with his free hand.

Adina could not believe it.

She got a strong grip on the man's short hair on the back of his head and gave him a hard slap. Slap!

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The clear slap made the silence in the living room more pronounced.

Earl's tongue had been against the left side of his face, which Adina ended up slapping. As a result, his gaze became more ruthless. "Why? Shouldn't you fulfill your duty as a wife?"

"This is marital r\*pe!" Adina glared at him. "Duke Winters, I don't understand why you're completely different now after the wedding! Are those promises that you made when you married me fake? Did you marry me only because you wanted to give the kids a complete family?"

The man stared at her with cold and profound eyes. "I don't want to explain."

There was no need for him to explain.

He was not Duke Winters. Why should he pamper Duke's woman and children? But this woman tasted really good.

The man licked his lips, and his tone grew softer. "Addy, we haven't seen each other for half a month. Don't you miss me? We never slept together after our wedding. I still owe you a wedding night. Let's make up for it today."

Adina felt truly repulsed.

She did not know why she felt that way when she saw his face and heard his words. She still loved him deeply.

She covered her collar and firmly said, "Duke Winters, you're also a public figure. You should know that many media outlets are watching whatever you say and do. I hope you can be careful with your behavior. At least, don't let something like what happened last night get in the headlines. It's fine if I'm the only one who sees it. I'm just afraid that the kids will see it too."

Her voice began to sound colder and deeper. "I won't force you to be a good husband, but I hope you can try your best to be a good father."

After she spoke, she turned around and slowly walked upstairs. Then, she slammed the master bedroom door shut and locked it with a loud click.

The light from the chandelier in the living room fell on the man's shoulders. He raised his hand and touched his face, which had been slapped, before he sneered. "How interesting."

This was the first time that a woman had ever slapped him since he was born.

Did this woman not love his useless brother very much? Yet, she refused to be in the same room as him.

Had she realized that he was not Duke?

That was impossible.

Based on this woman's conduct, she would have stabbed a knife into his heart if she knew that he was not Duke.

"Earl…"

Mrs. Winters' voice suddenly rang out in the spacious living room.

The man cast a cold glance at her. "Who are you calling?"

"Duke, you're Duke." Mrs. Winters' voice trembled. "Tell me. Did your brother die? Is he really dead?"

"He's dead. He died after he got shot twenty-eight times." The man's voice was intense. "So, you only have one son left in this world, and that's me."

Even though Mrs. Winters had anticipated and known the truth, she still could not help but cry in sorrow.

She punched her own chest as tears streamed down her cheeks.

"If you want the Winters family to continue from generation to generation, you have to keep this secret until you die," the man said seriously. "Also, don't ever call me Earl.

Earl Winters died twenty-six years ago. That man doesn't exist in the world anymore."

Mrs. Winters covered her mouth and tried to force back her sad cries.

She sobbed as she intermittently said, "I'm sorry, Earl. It's my fault. If you have a grudge, vent it on me. Why did you do that to your younger brother?" "He was seeking death. What does it have to do with me?"

The man started to seem impatient, and he lit a cigarette. His annoyance was finally suppressed a little after the smoke entered his lungs.

He just wanted Duke to live without dignity. Who would have thought that Duke would seek death?

He did not know whose idea it was to ask Duke to assassinate Auguste alone. "Since you've become Duke, can you please play Duke's role well?" Mrs. Winters grabbed his arm while she begged him. "You don't have to treat Addy and the kids nicely. Just maintain a harmonious relationship on the surface at least. Once you've been married for three years... no, one year... I won't stop you if you want to divorce her and marry another woman as well as have your own kid."