

Chapter 361

Adina walked towards the balcony while staying on the call. Her gaze was icy cold. She pursed her lips and said coldly, "Tyson, do you know what consequences will the Osborne family get if you were to successfully kidnap my children tonight?" "Don't make a fool of yourself here. The two children belong to the Osborne family. I'm just bringing them back to Central City to see their grandparents! I'm not kidnapping them!" Tyson said furiously, "If you're any wiser, you better give me back my two children. Or else, don't you dare to dream of living the rest of your life peacefully." Adina said plainly, "Did you do the paternity test?" "There's no need for that, don't you think?" Tyson sneered, "You climbed into my bed five years ago. That's a sure—  
fire fact." "Don't be too confident." Adina fiddled her finger. "Do you know who the man in my house is? That's the chairman of Winters Corporation, Duke Winters." "I was right! You're courting Duke Winters!" Tyson gritted his teeth in anger. "Do you really think he'll like a single mother like you? He's just fooling around with you! If you come to me, I'll make you Mrs. Osborne someday!" Adina's patience ran out after she heard Tyson's arrogant words. She said coldly, "Alden and Melody don't belong to the Osborne family. They belong to the Winters family. If you dare to touch the Winters children, you're making Winters Corporation your enemy. Do you think the Osborne Corporation can go against Duke Winters?"

"What did you say?!"

"Mr. Osborne, you've seen my son before, haven't you? Don't you think he's the spitting image of Duke?" Adina sneered, "How bold of you to snatch Duke Winters' son from him!" She ended the call after she finished speaking. 'If Tyson is smart enough, he knows he shouldn't provoke the Winters family.

'Alden truly looks similar to Duke. If I were to compare them side by side, they would seem more like they have been carved in the same mold.

"The Osborne family won't send anyone to pester us for the time being." Adina was not able to sleep for the rest of the night. After breakfast, she sent her two children to preschool.

Alden was in the backseat. He pondered for a moment before asking, "Mother, did someone come to our house last night?"

He had heard some noises outside in his sleep.

Adina said with a smile, "Uncle Duke came over, remember? He came in for a while and went home afterward."

Alden pursed his lips and said nothing.

He suddenly got a notification from his smartwatch.

He took a glance at Adina, and only opened the notification when he saw that she was focusing on the road.

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"Sir Daugherty, you're from Sea City, Cairnstan, right?"

Alden sent a nodding GIF.

“Do you know who Shura is? He’s one of the top three bosses on the bounty list. Someone saw him in Sea City. Be careful.”

Shura...

‘I know him.

“Just like my name, he leaves a trail of hell in his wake.

‘His bounty has also reached a terrifying eleven figures...’

Alden turned off his smartwatch. ‘This is none of my business. I’m just a four-year-old preschool kid, and Shura will never come to look for such a child.’

## **Chapter 362**

Adina drove to her office after watching the children walk into the preschool. Just as she entered the office, Serene approached her. She whispered, “We got a visit from a very strange man, Ms. Daugherty.” Adina’s eyebrows rose as she asked, “What do you mean by strange?”

“He claimed to be the owner of an overseas media company, and he would like to speak with you about a business deal. I’ve asked him to wait in the lounge.” Serene continued, “He has a mask on. He looks strange. You’d better brace yourself before you go in, Ms. Daugherty.”

Adina nodded thoughtfully.

She went into her office to get the files before knocking on the door of the lounge.

A deep and raspy voice came from inside. “Come in.”

It was just a voice, but for some reason, when she heard it, she felt as if the voice lowered the temperature of the room and brought chills down her spine. Adina smoothed out her hair before she pushed the door open and walked in.

Two people were in the lounge. An assistant was standing on one side, and a man wearing a silver mask was sitting on the couch.

The silver mask covered up two-thirds of the man’s face, revealing only a pair of dark, deep set eyes.

Adina quietly speculated that the man’s face had probably been scarred, which was why he chose to wear a mask regardless of the strange looks he would attract.

She shifted her gaze away indifferently to put on a smile and said, “Hi, I’m Daugherty, the general manager of LaStar Technology Corporation. How should I address you?”

The man’s cold gaze slowly shifted toward her. His attention gradually fell on Adina.

Adina instantly felt as if she was being targeted by a venomous snake.

She could not help but purse her lips and take a step back. “I’m Wynters,” the man uttered in a deep voice. “You may call me Mr. Wynters.” “Winters?” Adina paused for a

second. "Mr. Winters?" "Wynters with a Y, not I." The man corrected her. His voice grew even colder. Adina's smile grew wider. She said, "Hi, Mr. Wynters. What sort of service would you like us to provide?"

The man raised his hand. The assistant who was standing behind him walked forward. "I heard that your company has done an outstanding job in the smart chip segment. Our company needs to design a smart chip. Would you take the deal?" "Of course." Adina continued to smile. "A smart chip for what, specifically?" "A smart chip for the human body." The assistant continued. "We need you to design a chip that can be implanted into the human body. It should be able to accurately read all kinds of

biological information about the person. Moreover, it should be able to be implanted in the human brain, and read the person's memory, emotion, intelligence, creativity, and inspiration."

Adina had always been composed. However, she could not suppress the shocked expression on her face at this point.

Why did this project sound like human experimentation?

This was a taboo within the industry.

"Would you take this job, Ms. Daugherty?" the assistant asked respectfully after he finished.

Adina sneered and said, "This is a project that goes against ethics and morals, I will not participate in it. You should leave."

"This project offers lucrative returns. We just need six months. In just six months, we will make you the richest person in Sea City." That man spoke again. It was as if his voice had just taken a trip to the freezer. It sounded so cold that it froze her heart up.

His eyes were calm and emotionless as he stared at Adina. He said slowly and with a low voice, "I will give you a few days to think about it. There is no need to reply to me in a hurry. I will come back for an answer next time." After he finished, he got up and headed out the door. His assistant rushed after him. Only after he left did the temperature in the lounge gradually rise. And only then, did Adina feel that the gloomy aura threatening to suffocate her dissipate.

Chapter 363 in Winters Corporation.

"Chairman Winters, he is here in Sea City."

Jake placed a stack of photos on the desk.

Duke ran his fingers over the photos. A dark look gradually emerged on his face.

He asked coldly, "Where else did he go besides LaStar Technology Corporation?"

Jake shook his head. "He's been in the bar all afternoon, and he's not out yet." Duke picked up the lighter and started burning through the stack of photos on his desk. The silver mask on it was gradually engulfed by eerie blue flames.

After the photos were gone, he raised his wrist and glanced at his watch. The time was 5 p.m.

“Postpone the evening meeting.”

He grabbed his suit and headed out.

“Chairman Winters, the meeting this evening is a briefing on last quarter’s performance. It’s an important meeting.” When Jake went after him, Duke was already in the elevator.

He walked to the parking lot. He opened the car door and sat inside. Then, he sent a message to Adina. “I will reach your office in 20 minutes.”

Adina was in a meeting. She was a little surprised when she saw the message.

Why would this man want to come to her office?

She sent a question mark over.

“I promised Mel that I would pick her up from school today. I’m going to the preschool with you.”

When Adina saw Duke’s message, she replied, “Okay.” She put down her phone. After she summarized the meeting, she went back to her office. She wrapped up her work for the day and tidied her desk. She was just waiting for Duke to come, so she could get off work.

Her phone suddenly vibrated, and it was Ethan who was calling.

“Addy, such a big incident happened last night. Why didn’t you tell me about it?”

Adina paused for a moment. “How did you find out?”

“The security office called me and told me about what happened last night, otherwise, I’d still be in the dark,” Ethan sighed and said. “You’re a single mother with two kids living there alone. I’m really worried about you. How about this? Why don’t you move to our house with me and Grandma around, no one would dare to tell you what to do.”

That villa belonged to the Xavier family. The security office probably gave Ethan a call after they investigated the attack last night.

Adina really did not expect that the matter would become known to her cousin.

She said in a resigned manner, “Grandma still hasn’t heard about this, right?”

“I wouldn’t dare to tell Grandma.” Ethan paused and said, “The guard at the security office told me that those two men in black shirts were sent by the Osborne family. I thought your children had nothing to do with Tyson? Why did they still send men over to mess with you?”

Adina had held a press conference before to clarify the identities of her children. Ethan naturally believed what she said.

Adina said as she gathered the documents, "It's true that Al and Mel have nothing to do with the Osborne family. I've made that point very clear to Tyson. I don't think he will come anymore. Don't worry, Ethan. I will protect Al and Mel. If I ever need any help in the future, I promise that you will be the first one I call."

Ethan was silent for a few seconds before he asked tentatively, "Addy, may I know who the biological father of Al and Mel is?"

Adina fell silent the moment he asked that question.

"I'm sorry, Addy. I know this is your private matter. I shouldn't have asked that. Forget I asked."

"Ethan, it's not that I don't want to tell you. I just haven't figured out how to tell you." Adina leaned against the balcony window. She looked out the window at the skyscrapers without really focusing on them.

Sometimes, after keeping something to yourself for too long, you just needed to talk to someone about it

### **Chapter 364**

Ethan had been so kind to her. She did not want to keep it from him anymore,

"Actually, I gave birth to quadruplets four years ago."

Ethan was completely stunned by her words,

There had actually been a lot of news about his cousin online,

A lot of people said that Adina's twins had died four years ago. He did, however, see Alden and Melody alive and well, so he assumed that news on the internet was just rumors.

But now, Adina said she had quadruplets? There were four babies, but only Alden and Melody were left. What about the other two babies? What happened to them?

"I had always thought that my other two sons had died. I only found out a few days ago that they did not die. They are still alive and well."

Adina's voice trailed off.

This was the first time that she had told another person about her past.

After she told him all about the darkness and the past that had been piled up in her heart, only then did the sunlight seem to faintly shine into her heart.

Ethan never once interrupted her. He listened to her quietly.

"Ethan, you know, it turned out that I've met them long ago. They are very close to me, and I can't help but want to see them. I didn't understand the reason before, but I've finally learned that this is the traction and bond of blood ties. No matter how the world changes, the power of blood ties would never be reduced. My sons and I would still travel halfway across the earth and find each other." Only Adina's soft voice could be heard in the quiet office. Outside her office, the sound of leather

her shoes stepping on the floor came to an abrupt halt. Duke was about to knock on the door when he heard words that completely shocked him.

Trent had asked Adina about the two kids before, but she had denied it.

She said she had quadruplets. She said her two sons, who she thought were dead, were still alive.

Her two sons were still alive.

Somehow, George and Harold's figures appeared in Duke's mind.

Some kind of bizarre speculation occurred to him.

Before he could think any further, he heard a voice in the office once again.

"Al and Melody's father is Duke. The paternity test was done by Al himself.

"Ethan, I know you're shocked. So am I. I don't want to tell Duke about this just yet. Could you keep this between us for now?"

Duke's fingertips, which were resting on the doorknob, immediately stiffened. His dark eyes widened with disbelief. A storm was surging in the depths of his pitch-black pupils

He turned around and left LaStar Technology Corporation. Adina hung up and took a deep breath. She felt a lot better now that she had told someone about those things. She looked at the time. It had been twenty minutes. Why was Duke still not here? She sent him a message. "Are you going to get here anytime soon?"

Five minutes later, there was still no reply from Duke.

She frowned and sent him another message. "It's getting late. I need to pick up the kids at the preschool. There is no need to come." She grabbed her bag and got out of her office.

Serene, who was busy at the front desk, was going to call Adina and tell her that Duke had stopped by and left. However, seeing that Adina seemed to be leaving in a hurry, she assumed that they had agreed to meet downstairs, so she did not say anything to her. Duke, at that moment, was driving quickly towards the Daugherty family's house.

## **Chapter 365**

Dew was practicing the piano at home

Her fingers flew over the black and white keys. However, she gave up halfway through the song. No matter how much she practiced, she was never able to play the way that Adina could play.

The confidence she had built up was fragile in front of Adina.

She held her head up in chagrin, wishing she could smash the piano.

Just then, she got a call. She did not save the number as a contact on her phone, but she knew the number by heart.

She picked up the phone and pressed the accept button. "Dew, are you free tonight? See you at our usual spot." A man's voice came from the phone.

Dew leaned back on the couch and said coquettishly, "You're so annoying. Can't we meet somewhere else besides the hotel?"

"It's more convenient to do things at the hotel. Dew, I know you like this too. Don't be coy."

The man's flirtatious words softened up Dew's body.

What she could not get from Duke, Dylan gave her dozens of times over.

She knew that Dylan was just obsessed with her body, but so what? She enjoyed sleeping with him.

She was about to say yes when she suddenly noticed, out of the corner of her eye, that a familiar car had stopped in front of the Daugherty family's villa.

"I have some business to take care of tonight. We'll meet tomorrow."

Dew hung up.

She hurriedly got up and looked in the mirror. After seeing that her makeup was still neat, she walked toward the gate of the villa.

The door of the black car at the gate swung open violently. The first thing that caught her eye was a pair of incredibly long legs. As she expected, it was Duke. Dew raised her hand and surreptitiously pulled down her neckline before she greeted him with a smile. "Duke, what brings you by? Have you had dinner? I'll have my chef make you your favorite food."

Before she could finish, she was met with a pair of extremely gloomy eyes. Duke walked coldly toward the villa. His tone was icy. "All of you, leave us."

The servants in the living room had never seen such a situation. They all ran away in fear.

Dew was so afraid that her face turned pale.

She had no idea what had happened, nor did she know why Duke was here.

She forced a smile. "Duke, no matter what happened, we can talk about it. You're scaring me by acting like this."

Duke turned around immediately. His sharp gaze fell on her. "You fooled me for four years!"

Dew's heart pounded fast.

She used all her strength to suppress the panic she felt. "Duke, what are you talking about? When have I ever fooled you? I never lied to you." Duke raised his hand and choked her coldly.

He had been the CEO of Winters Corporation for so many years. He had managed the entire corporation so well. He would not be able to do it if he lacked the necessary skills. He had never been a kind and merciful man. Those who had offended him had never gotten away unscathed.

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His fingers coldly squeezed Dew's throat as he asked, enunciating each word, "Tell me, how exactly did you manage to cover up the truth about the children from everyone?" Dew's courage, which she had tried so hard to work, collapsed at that moment.

She saw the coldness in Duke's eyes. A murderous impulse seemed to be looming in there.

A man like this would never allow himself to be lied to by someone for four years, nor would he allow himself to be played by someone.

Even so, she had fooled him for four years. "Duke, you've misunderstood. It's not what you think." Dew continued to struggle and shake her head. "Let me go first. I can't speak. Let go of me, and I will explain, okay?" Duke loosened his grip a little, but he still did not let go completely. His five fingers were still squeezing her neck.

## Chapter 366

George was extraordinarily smart. He had always assumed that George inherited his intelligence. He took pride in his high intelligence, yet he had been deceived by a woman for four years.

When this woman showed up in front of him four years ago with two children in her arms and a paternity test report, he believed her. This woman was his sons' biological mother. Therefore, he tolerated the presence of such a woman in his life.

However, all of this turned out to be a lie.

Duke tightened his grip on her neck as he thought about that. "Adina is lying to you. The truth is not what she said. I really am George's mother."

Dew managed to get some air and tried to lie her way out of it.

She felt like she was dying. If she did not break free from this man's grip soon, she was certain that she would die here today. Adina had clearly promised her yesterday that she would keep the secret, so how did Duke find out today?

That b\*tch must have said those words just to make her put her guard down. It was all Adina's fault that she was in this situation

now! "Duke, we did the paternity test. I am their mother." Dew continued to gasp for air as she said, "Haven't you seen my contribution to the children over the past four years? How can you denounce everything that I have done for them just because of what Adina said?"

Duke's gaze had turned as sharp as a knife.

He had been sure that Adina was the children's mother the moment he heard what Adina said.

Even if there was no evidence to prove that, he was adamant about it. Adina carried the exact scent of that woman from five years ago.

Harold was so attached to Adina.

He had no resistance to Melody. Melody called him Daddy There were many, many more concrete facts that raced through his mind.

Adina was the woman who slept with him that night.

Adina was the mother of George and Harold.

Melody and Alden were his children. He had missed out on four years of his woman and his children's life.

It was all because of Dew!

His eyes filled with a strong murderous intent. His grip continued to tighten. It was getting harder for her to breathe. Dew finally understood what it was like to be suffocated. She opened her mouth wide and breathed in the air greedily, but she was being grabbed by the neck The air in her chest cavity was squeezed out just as quickly as it entered. "H-Help!"

Dew slumped to the floor. She raised her hand and slapped the table lamp to the ground.

However, the servants outside did not have the courage to come in. Madam Daugherty was not home either.

No one in the large villa of the Daugherty family could come to save her. Duke loosened his grip in disgust as he noticed her face turning pale and her breathing becoming shallow. He stared down at her and said, "I will give you one last chance."

Dew clutched her neck, gasping for air. She had literally just escaped the jaws of death. She had experienced what it was like to die.

This man wanted to kill her. He really wanted her dead!

If she continued to lie to him, there was no way she would live to see another day!

## **Chapter 367**

"Four years ago, after Adina gave birth to them, the two children really came out as stillbirths."

Dew was kneeling on the floor. Tears were rolling down her cheeks. Her voice was choked and hoarse. She was trembling all over.

"The Daugherty family's house was destroyed by a fire that night. There was nothing left. We thought Adina was dead, but the two boys who were supposed to be dead started breathing again. The boys lost their biological mother, and their lives in the future would be difficult. I'm their aunt, I'm considered their half-mother. I took them to the Winters family's house to find their real father. What's wrong with that?"

"Back then, I thought that George and Hal were the only children left by my sister. That's why I falsified the paternity test report. I wanted to be their mother. I wanted to protect them on my sister's behalf. I did that for their own good. I sacrificed four years of my youth for them."

It's true that I made a mistake, but without me, they wouldn't have had a mother for four years. I stepped in to fill the void in their lives. I gave them the opportunity to be raised in a complete family from the time of their birth. Was that a wrong thing for me to do?"

Dew covered her face and bawled.

Duke looked at her with cold eyes. There was an impassive look on his face.

How this woman managed to make her misdeeds sound so noble had really stunned him.

He had to think about ways to make this woman pay.

Duke's lips curled, and a bloodthirsty glow emerged in his eyes. Dew had been with him for four years. She knew his personality very well. She had fooled him for four years. There was no way he would spare her and the Daugherty family.

The only thing she could do now was to keep him stable. And then, she would pack her stuff and get out of Sea City, a land full of troubles.

"Duke, I know I made a lot of mistakes, but I really do love the boys. And I really love you," Dew paused and said.

"On the contrary, Adina, she doesn't love you at all. She is a scheming fox. She got close to you just to take Harold and George away from you. You have to stay away from Adina. She is vicious. She would get back at you for what happened five years ago."

Duke lifted his foot and stepped on Dew's femur.

Bullying a woman was beneath him, but Dew was just too horrible. Asking his men to do it for him would not grant him any satisfaction. "Duke, you have to trust me. I have a recording as proof."

Dew endured the severe pain and hastily picked her phone up. When she was talking to Adina last night, she happened to have the recording on. Their conversation was recorded.

"You don't like Duke?"

"If it wasn't for the children, I would never have crossed paths with him."

The conversation between them came out clearly from the phone.

Even though he already knew that Adina had only agreed to be his girlfriend for the sake of the children, Duke was still a bit irritated when he heard such words from her.

He was falling for that woman.

Yet she did not even care about him.

She negotiated terms with Dew calmly and coolly, with only the children in her mind.

She did not even seem to see him as a person.

What's more, she had already found out that he was the father of the children, but she did not even bother to tell him.

What was he to her?

While Duke was lost in thought, Dew grabbed her phone and ran toward the door in a panic. All the servants, who were guarding the door, were scared out of their minds. They moved out of her way and let her pass.

Dew grabbed the car keys and drove off.

She did not want to stay here anymore. She did not want to be alone with Duke anymore. She would get killed. Duke stood in the living room of the Winters family's villa, gently rubbing his fingers together. When he closed his eyes, he could see Melody and Alden's faces. They were his own son and daughter.

Chapter 368

While still reeling from his shock, he could hear the soft voices calling him "daddy".

That little girl was his daughter. Slowly, the rage and frustration in Duke's chest faded. He had truly lost control just now and had nearly killed Dew. He wanted to teach Dew a lesson, but there were many more other ways for him to do so. Why should he get his hands dirty for that?

He chuckled coldly and turned around to look at the family portrait hanging in the Daugherty family's living room. There were only the three of them—Aaron, Ruby, and Dew—in the family portrait.

Adina would always be the outsider in this family. But did Aaron and Ruby know about the incident that happened four years ago? Duke really wanted to rush to the preschool right away and give his long-lost kids a proper hug. But he still held himself back.

If the Daugherty family were not dealt with, he would never feel at ease. He slowly walked out the door, turned to face the servants surrounding the door, and asked coldly, "Where are Aaron and Ruby?" A much braver servant obediently informed him, "The master and madam are still at the company. They haven't returned yet." Duke pulled open the car door and got inside. While seated in the car, he pulled out his phone and noticed two texts from Adina.

He pursed his lips and sent a reply that said, (I'll be back to the Winters family's mansion shortly.)

He exited the chat with Adina before sending a message to his assistant, and then he drove to Daugherty Corporation. Twilight arrived then, painting the sky red from the setting sun. The autumn evening sky was clear.

It was rush hour, and Daugherty Corporation's employees were leaving the office one by one.

Duke entered the building through the main entrance, drawing many people's attention.

"God, I'm not hallucinating, am I? I think that's the CEO of Winters Corporation, Duke Winters!"

"Oh my goodness, he really is very attractive. How could such a handsome man exist?!"

"Stop fangirling. Do you guys know why Duke would visit Daugherty Corporation at such a late hour?"

"I think he's here to talk with Mr. Daugherty about a partnership. If we manage to work with

Winters Corporation, we won't have to worry about the company's profit over the next few years."

Duke made his way to the elevator as the employees continued chatting, and went up to the top floor

He had visited Daugherty Corporation a few times before, so he easily found his way to the CEO's office.

Before he even knocked on the door, he could hear arguing coming from the inside. "Aaron, you bastard, are you really cheating on me behind my back with the office secretary? What makes this little bitch so great that you would throw away your morals and principles?!"

Then came the sound of things shattering and a woman crying.

Duke frowned.

He pursed his lips in annoyance and opened the office door with a kick.

"Who's that? How rude of you to enter without knocking first! Do you want to lose your job?" Ruby cursed while turning around, but she was absolutely taken aback when she saw Duke standing coldly at the door. "D-Duke, what brings you here? Why didn't you tell us before you came?"

As she said that, she turned and glared angrily at the crying secretary by the side. "What are you crying about? Hurry up and get a glass of water!"

### **Chapter 369**

As the saying goes, one should not wash their dirty linen in public. As intense as Aaron and Ruby's argument was, it was now impossible for them to continue after Duke showed up.

Aaron straightened the collar of his shirt, cleared his throat, and asked, "What brings you here at the company at such a late hour, Duke? It is something important, I presume?" Duke's lips curled into a cold smirk. "I have something I wanted to ask you."

"You can ask us anything, Duke," Ruby said with a smile. "As long as I know the answer, I'll definitely tell you everything I know."

"I've never got the chance to ask this before, but which hospital were George and Harold born in?" The grin on Duke's face slowly grew wider as he asked. "I asked Dew, but she said she had forgotten."

"Ah..."

The smile on Ruby's face immediately dropped. Her eyes darted in every direction and she avoided looking at Duke as she spoke. "That happened four years ago, who still remembers it so clearly? Oh, right, why are you suddenly asking about this, Duke?"

Duke cast a glance towards Aaron and coldly asked, "Did Mr. Daugherty forget about it too?"

After receiving such an intense gaze from Duke, Aaron felt his chest tightening up. He was unsure of Duke's reasons for asking those questions, but he had to be careful not to let him catch any dirt.

After a brief pause, he said, "Everything happened too suddenly that day, and Dew gave birth to the two kids before she was even taken to the hospital. They were born at home, and the servants were in charge of delivering the birth."

"But Dew has always said that she bled heavily on the day she gave birth. If she had given birth at home, how was that situation sorted out?" Duke smirked as he said.

His words had left Aaron speechless.

Dew had consistently brought that up to make sure George remained obedient. Who would have thought that Duke would ask about the past four years later?

"We also have a family doctor, and the bleeding stopped on that very night," Ruby chuckled dryly. "Did someone say anything weird to you, Duke? Here, drink some water and calm down."

She handed Duke the glass of water that the secretary had just poured for him.

Duke received the glass of water, then abruptly let go of it, causing the glass to shatter. Shards of glass flew all over the place.

Ruby and Aaron had long suspected that Duke had not shown up with good intentions, and their suspicions were confirmed when the glass hit the ground.

Aaron frowned. "Duke, you can just cut to the chase. What exactly are you trying to ask? Don't try to cause a scene in my office! Although our family is not comparable to the Winters, I am

still George and Harold's grandfather. So, I suggest that you be careful with *your words* and actions."

"I know that you really are their grandfather but," Duke turned to look at Ruby and continued, "I'm not too sure if you are really their grandmother."

While saying that, his gaze was as if he were staring at a dead person. Ruby took a step back subconsciously because she felt like all of her wrongdoings were about to be revealed.

At that precise moment, the secretary rapidly knocked on the door.

Aaron was considering not letting the secretary barge in at this time due to the tense atmosphere, but he heard Duke chuckling lightly while saying, "Come in."

As soon as he was done speaking, the secretary walked in and anxiously said, "Mr. Daugherty, something bad is happening. The stocks of our company fell by three percent as a result of a trader scalping the market. We lost at least fifty million in just thirty minutes, and the numbers are still rising." "What did you just say?!" Aaron's expression suddenly changed. "Go find out who the fuck is targeting Daugherty Corporation." "There's no need for that," Duke said with a cold laugh. He peeked at his watch and added, "After another thirty minutes, Daugherty Corporation's stocks will hit another bracket lower."

"Duke, are you crazy? Why are you targeting our company? What advantage can you get from allowing traders to manipulate stocks?" Ruby exclaimed as she turned pale from shock "You really don't know the reason?" Aaron said as he pulled out a chair and sat down. "There are still thirty minutes

until the stock hits the limit down, so you two can take time and think properly about what you did to offend me. If you come clean on your own record, I can still let Daugherty Corporation off the hook. However, if you choose to be stubborn, then – ” As he spoke, a nasty smirk appeared on his face. Both Ruby and Aaron felt chills running down their spines. They already had a vague idea of the cause behind it, but they were not quite certain.

### **Chapter 370**

What if they reveal the truth about the children, only for it to not end up being the answer Duke wanted?

The atmosphere in the office was eerily quiet.

Minute by minute, time passed,

Adina was almost ready to head home after picking up the two kids from preschool, but she changed her mind and went to the Winters family’s mansion instead.

No matter how Madam Winters treated her, she was still obligated to keep her promise to Harold.

She was focused on driving at the front, but was momentarily distracted when she heard Alden ask, “What’s wrong, Mel? Are you feeling alright?”

Adina peeked at the rearview mirror and saw Mel, who had always sat quietly, was now squirming in her seat and looking agitated.

“Mel, tell mommy, what’s wrong?”

Adina slowed down the car and asked softly.

Melody shook her head and said in a small voice while hugging a cushion, “I’m not feeling sick.”

There just seemed to be a general sense of unease.

After a pause, she continued softly. “Mommy, where’s daddy?”

Before she went to sleep the night before, her daddy had promised her that he would pick her up from school.

“Your daddy had something to do and went home first. You can see him when we get home later,” Adina said with a gentle smile.

After hearing that, Melody’s expression brightened a little.

Adina smiled in relief.

Recently, Melody seemed less like an autistic child as she grew closer to Duke.

Although she was still hesitant to talk, she was willing to calli her mommy and her brothers, while opening up to trying out new things. She was slowly starting to look like a normal four year-old.

About seven in the evening, the car pulled up at the entrance to the Winters family’s mansion.

Mr. Brown was politely waiting at the entrance. "Ms. Adina, you were ten minutes late today. I thought you were not coming."

"I had things to tend to just now," Adina said while holding the two kids' hands. "Is Madam Winters home?"

"Madam Winters is attending a charity event tonight, and she probably won't be back until ten." Mr. Brown lowered his head and smiled. "Miss Melody, can you give Papa Brown a hug?"

Melody spread her arms wide and let Mr. Brown carry her.

"Mel! Mommy!"

Harold raced out from the mansion cheerfully and flung himself onto Adina with both arms and legs like a little monkey.

With a pout, he said, "I've been feeling worried and uneasy since six o'clock. I thought you weren't coming tonight, Mommy."

Adina was about to soothe him, but she suddenly stopped in her tracks.

'Didn't Mel feel uncomfortable on the way here as well?'

She lowered her head to look at Alden and asked, "Do you feel any discomfort, Al?"

Alden pursed his lips and said, "I feel a little stuffy. I'm not sure if it's because it's about to rain, but I do feel a little uneasy."

Mr. Brown, who was carrying Melody, chuckled and said, "I just checked the weather forecast, and it says it's going to be clear for these few days. It'll only rain the day after tomorrow."

Adina's fingers stiffened.

'All three of the kids are feeling uneasy. Is something going to happen?'

She looked up and said, "Mr. Brown, can you please call Georgie and ask him where he is right now?"