

Madam Winters 441

Chapter 441

Harold counted his father's strengths on his fingers.

Meanwhile, Duke pursed his lips and cleared his throat." Enough. Quiet down now. Some things don't have to be pointed out."

Adina was speechless.

What? Did this man think that Harold was right?

Why did she not feel that this man liked her?

Maybe he liked her, but he just liked some of her aspects. After all, he never hid his interest in her body. Adina cleared her throat and said, "Hal, the tires of my car have been punctured. Do you have anything to do with

it?)

Harold shook his head like a rattle. "It wasn't me! I have nothing to do with it!"

Duke's aura instantly turned cold.

Adina looked to the side, and Duke's cold aura immediately vanished. He even walked a few steps to the side.

"Hal, I want you to be honest," Adina seriously said." Even if you did it, I won't blame you. But I want you to be honest."

Harold blinked. "Will you hate me if I lie?"

"No matter what you do, I'll still love you, but..." Her expression was stern and serious. "If you develop a habit of telling lies, I'll be extremely disappointed. I don't want you to be such a kid."

Harold lowered his head. "Sorry, Mommy. It's my fault."

It sounded like he was starting to sob. "I don't want you to go back. I didn't want to be away from you, so I secretly punctured the tires. Sorry... I'm really sorry."

"That's okay. You know what you did wrong, and you can make it right. You're a good boy." Adina stroked his hair. "But you can't do it anymore, alright?"

Harold nodded.

Adina gently held him in her arms.

When Duke saw that, he felt extremely complicated.

TO

Whenever Harold did something wrong in the past, no matter how he interrogated him, the brat would never admit his mistakes. In the end, he would punish Harold by making him stand at attention.

LIL

This was Duke's first time seeing the brat obediently admit his mistake.

"Mommy, I... I also made another mistake." Harold blinked guiltily. "If I confess now, will you forgive me?"

Adina continued to smile gently. "Of course."

"I... I went to dad's room' just now." He kept rubbing his left foot back and forth on the floor as he slowly said, "I... on dad's bed and the wardrobe..."

Adina could not hear some of the words clearly. "What did you say? What did you do on your dad's bed and wardrobe?"

Mr. Brown already sensed that something was wrong. He took a step back and was about to run away from the scene.

"I peed on dad's bed."

Harold closed his eyes and hopelessly confessed. Adina was completely shocked. "Aren't there toilets? Why did you pee on your dad's bed?"

"I... I..." Harold could feel a strong killing intent, and he nearly cried out of fear. "Papa Brown put some dust on dad's bed, but I felt that it didn't do anything. I wanted to pee, so..."

Duke's expression was pretty much as dark as charcoal.

He had severe mysophobia. Now that his bed was stained with pee, he no longer wanted that bedroom anymore. The corners of Adina's lips twitched, and she looked over at Mr. Brown. "Why did you make the bed dirty?"

Mr. Brown had never felt so awkward before.

Why did he do such a thing at his age?

Chapter 442

Yes, he did it, but Young Master Harold turned on him!

He was so embarrassed. "Um, it was just an accident..." Mr. Brown stroked his nose. "It's late. I need to go to bed. I'll go ahead and get some rest... Sigh, this old man can't stay up late nowadays

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He walked away as he sighed. Then he entered his room and locked the door.

Adina was speechless once more.

She suddenly understood the reason for Mr. Brown's actions.

She really did not know how to express her opinion.

"Dad, I'll look for George and others!" Harold moved out of Adina's arms and rushed upstairs.

In the living room, Adina and Duke looked at each other at a loss.

A few seconds later, Adina stood up. "Since Mr. Brown is already resting and the servants aren't around, I'll help you clean the room."

Duke initially wanted to say that it would make no difference if he slept in another room, but he noticed that

Adina had already walked up the stairs. He pursed his lips and followed her.

The master bedroom was the biggest room. Once the door was opened, a terrible smell wafted out of the room.

When Adina stepped in, she saw an unknown liquid spread out on the white bedsheet.

LIT

She was always gentle and patient when dealing with children, but even she felt like grabbing Harold over and spanking him at that moment.

She rolled up the bedsheet and blanket before she threw them in the corridor outside. Then she looked up and asked, "Are there new bedsheets and blankets?"

Duke stroked his chin and thought. "I don't know. Where do you usually keep them?"

Adina was stunned.

This was not her house. How would she know where they were kept?

"Wherever you usually put them, Mr. Brown should have kept them there as well," Duke explained.

Adina pulled the wardrobe open, and it released a terrible smell too. Alright! All the clothes in the wardrobe were ruined.

She turned back and noticed that Duke looked sullen. A murderous intent was visible in his eyes.

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She could only pretend as if nothing had happened." They're a little smelly, but you can still wear them after they're washed in the washing machine and dried under the sun."

The clothes could still be worn, but she guessed that this man would not want to wear them again.

"A few years ago, Alden peed on this trench coat. I washed it, and I've been wearing it for years." Adina looked for a blanket while she casually said, "It's very normal to get dirty when you're raising kids, so you don't have to mind it too much. The kids usually help 'treat' our mysophobia."

LLLL

Duke suddenly fell silent.

He looked at her and only spoke after a while. "Was nobody there to help you look after Alden and Mel in the

past?"

Adina chuckled and said, "I fled abroad in disarray back then, and I only had a few thousand dollars. How could I have had the money to afford a babysitter? I took care of Alden and Mel by myself. Later, once Alden was old enough, he slowly learned how to take care of Mel for me. I felt much more relieved too."

When Duke looked at the messy room again, he somehow found it a more pleasant sight. He had been living with George and Harold for four years,

but Mr. Brown and the servants had been taking care of the boys. He never really put in any effort.

He also wanted to experience what Adina had been through

He walked up to the side of the bed and softly said, "I'll make the bed with you."

They both pulled the bedsheet, shook it, and spread it on the bed.

Bang! Right then, the room door abruptly closed.

Chapter 443

Adina thought the wind had pushed the door shut. But when she saw Duke's dark expression, she instantly came to a realization.

She quickly walked to the door and pulled the doorknob. Sure enough, the door was locked from the outside.

"Dad, Mommy, you can sleep together tonight!"

They could hear Harold's mischievous laughter outside.

Adina pursed her lips. "Hal, you're a good boy. Open the door now."

"I can't hear anything. Something seems to be wrong with my ears. George, help me clean my ears," Harold said as he ran away.

Soon, it became silent outside the room.

Adina felt her head ache. Harold was truly a mischievous boy.

Just as she was about to call Alden to open the door, Duke suddenly held her hand.

Then, she heard his low and husky voice. "If we don't fulfill Harold's wish this time, he'll try to put us in the same room again in the future. Instead of guarding against his unexpected actions, we should just do what he

wants."

Adina narrowed her eyes. "Why do I feel like you're desperate to be in the same room as me?"

"Cough!"

Duke covered his lips with his fist and coughed unnaturally.

He said, "You're the mother of my children, so I'll respect you. Don't worry. Even though we're in the same room, I won't do anything to you."

Adina pursed her pink lips.

Since they first met, this man had expressed a strong interest in her body more than once.

She really wanted to know whether this man genuinely liked her or just her body.

She had to admit that he was a charming man.

He had on a suit at the moment, and the white shirt made his stern expression slightly gentler. His features looked exquisite and glowed under the chandelier too.

His face alone was sufficient to make anyone fall for him.

What he had recently done also made her like him more.

If the same continued, she would agree to marry into the Winters family one day.

Adina's long lashes drooped.

If this man's feelings for her surpassed his interest in her body, perhaps she could consider the first option.

"If you're afraid, I'll call Mr. Brown and get him to open the door."

Duke took out his phone.

Adina raised her head and indifferently said, "You're right. Even if we successfully get out this time, the same thing will happen over and over again. We should just do what the kids want. Sleeping here for a night is nothing. You can take the bed. I'll sleep on the couch."

She bent down and started making the bed. After she was done, she took out another blanket and put it on the couch.

While it was a bedroom, the couch inside was still big enough to let her, a 1.65-meter-tall woman, lie down and sleep for the night.

Right after she made the couch, Duke sat on it and nonchalantly said, "You can take the bed. I'll take the couch."

Adina frowned. "But you're so tall. This couch can't accommodate you."

"It's not a problem." Duke crossed his legs and lay on the couch. He curled his lips slightly. "Isn't that all I have to

do?"

Adina shrugged. "Okay, don't blame me if you wake up with your back hurting tomorrow morning."

She turned around and headed to the washroom, but she realized that she did not have clothes to change into.

Chapter 444

She pursed her rosy lips and looked at Duke, who was lying on the couch, through the frosted glass in the bathroom.

AN

Since they would spend the night in the same room, she should not waste such a great opportunity.

She wanted to see if the father of her children was a real righteous man.

Adina walked out of the bathroom and appeared indifferent as she said, "I didn't bring a change of clothes. Can I wear your clothes first?"

Duke got up and walked to the wardrobe. When he pulled the door open, he smelled a horrible odor.

Luckily, there was more than one wardrobe in his room.

He then opened the other one, took out a white shirt, and handed it over to her. "You should be able to wear it as a dress for one night. I'll get them to send you some clothes for tomorrow."

11

"Thank you."

Adina took the shirt and entered the bathroom.

Duke pursed his thin lips. A while later, he heard the clattering shower in the bathroom.

The bathroom was partitioned by frosted glass. When he glanced over, he could see a captivating silhouette on the glass.

He forced himself to look away, but he could not help but gaze in the bathroom's direction

He was a hot-blooded man who was full of vigor. In the past twenty years, he had never been with a woman except for that one night five years ago... Duke felt that he was losing control over the heat inside his body. He stood up and walked to the balcony. He finally felt a little more comfortable when the cold wind outside blew on his face.

The heat gradually faded, and the water sounds in the bathroom finally disappeared. Duke sighed in relief before he turned around. When he saw the situation in the room, he held his breath again.

Adina was wearing his white shirt, and it barely wrapped around her hips. The huge shirt did not outline her figure, but it made his imagination go wild.

She did not seem to be wearing anything underneath, and the view of her chest was alluring.

Duke slowly walked into the room without realizing it.

After he went inside, he smelled the scent of the body

shampoo from the woman.

It was the body shampoo that he always used, and the smell used to only be on his body, but now, it was on Adina as well.

The subtle ambiguity made him gulp.

Adina looked down and curled her lips into a sneer.

Then, she raised her head, rubbed her hair, and said, "Mr. Winters, where's the hair dryer? I can't find it in the bathroom."

"It's at the top of the cabinet."

When Duke spoke, his voice was extremely hoarse. He sounded as if he was trying his best to suppress some kind of emotion.

Adina's curled lips expressed her contempt.

Five years ago, this man had ripped her apart without a care for her.

If that same nightmare happened this time, she would seek justice and fight for herself.

Adina entered the bathroom and looked at the highest shelf. She could not reach it.

She took a stool and stepped on it with her bare feet to reach the cabinet door.

She stood on tiptoes as she stretched her hand out to look for the item.

The stimulating scene made Duke's mind go blank, and he could not help but walk inside.

Chapter 445

Adina took the hair dryer and came down before she noticed that Duke was staring at her with his dark and profound eyes.

She pursed her lips and calmly said, "Mr. Winters, are you taking a shower? I'll go out and blow dry my hair."

Duke suppressed the heat that was about to erupt from his body. "Your hair's too long. Let me help you blow dry your hair," he softly said in his deep voice.

Adina passed the hair dryer to him before she obediently sat in a chair.

Duke ran his fingers through her hair and gently dried it.

His blow-drying technique was not professional, but he was very gentle, as though he was worried that he would hurt her. He protected every strand of hair carefully.

Adina pursed her lips.

She suddenly felt like she was being vicious by testing the man like that.

If this man really had any unwarranted thoughts toward her, did that mean she could criticize and deny him on the high ground of morality?

Adina felt discouraged.

A test like this turned out to be quite uninteresting.

She stood up abruptly and calmly said, "I better do it myself."

Duke suffered great psychological distress with every second he blew dry her hair. It took all of his will to restrain himself from doing anything too far to her.

He passed the hair dryer back to her. "You do it yourself then."

After that, he turned around and left the bathroom. Then, he stood on the balcony and kept breathing deeply.

Finally, the sound of the hairdryer in the bathroom stopped. He heard Adina's footsteps, followed by the subtle sounds of a blanket being turned over.

She had to be on the bed and sleeping now.

He should go inside after she fell asleep.

He was worried that he would have a nosebleed in front of her otherwise. That would be horrifying.

Adina lay on the unfamiliar bed and had trouble falling asleep. She was still worried about Alden and Melody. Would the two kids be able to sleep in a strange environment?

What she did not know was that in the study next door, George and Harold were staring at Alden, while Melody was pulling Alden's arm. The three kids were trying to get

Alden to budge.

Harold pouted and said, "Didn't we agree that we would go and open the room door if Mommy calls you? But it's been a long time, and Mommy hasn't called you. That means Mommy wants to spend some alone time with Dad. Besides, it's very late. She has to be sleeping now. Do you want to wake her up?"

Alden pursed his lips.

That logic did not seem right to him. He would only feel at ease after he saw his mom.

Melody shook his arm and softly said, "Al, I want to sleep. Can you help me untie my hair?"

Harold happily said, "Mel, I'll untie your hair for you. I'll be very gentle. I won't hurt you. Come on, let me take you to your room. George, Dad, and I prepared it for you!"

Melody cheerfully went to the third floor with Harold. All their rooms were on the third floor.

Alden stood in the corridor and slowly walked to the master bedroom. He stood outside the door and listened for a while. It was really quiet inside, so his mom should have fallen asleep.

"Don't worry. Dad won't bully Mommy."

George stood behind him. He extended his hand and said, "Come on, I'll bring you to your room."

Alden took a look at George's hand that was extended toward him, but he did not stretch out his own hand. He pursed his lips and silently walked to the third floor.

As George walked, he said, "Dad personally decorated your room and Mel's, while Hal and I set up the decorations. Look, do you like it?"

He pushed open the room door and motioned Alden to enter

Chapter 446

Alden stood at the door and looked at the decoration in the room. Suddenly, his heart was filled with warmth.

The room was decorated just like the room in his house. The bedsheet was in the same color, the curtains were exactly the same, and even the color of the carpet was identical. However, there were also many things that his house did not have. He should be able to fall asleep in this room.

It showed that the Winters family members had really put in the effort.

Therefore, Duke actually cared about Mel and him, right?

Alden raised his head and seriously said, "Georgie, thank you."

George smiled. "I'm your eldest brother, so you don't have to thank me. Come on, let's go and put Mel to sleep first."

The four children told stories in Melody's room, and the atmosphere was harmonious as well as serene.

Meanwhile, the master bedroom had become completely silent.

Adina had drunk some wine at dinner, so she was not entirely clear-headed throughout the whole night.

She lay in bed and felt sleepy as she closed her eyes.

She had thought that she would not be able to fall asleep on the unfamiliar bed, and she would just toss around the whole night, but she quickly drifted off.

When the clattering sounds of water rang out, she suddenly woke up with a start.

She immediately sat up straight. Seeing the unfamiliar decoration in the room, she remembered where she was.

The chandelier in the room was not lit. Only a yellow night light was on. The light was dim, and she could barely see the man who was showering in the bathroom.

Adina supported her head with her hand and suddenly felt a little thirsty.

Just as she pulled the blanket away and got off the bed, the sounds of water in the bathroom stopped.

Duke just wrapped a towel around his waist. When he pushed open the bathroom door and came out, he saw that the woman had woken up and was standing by the bed.

He immediately turned around and went back into the bathroom. He grabbed a bathrobe and put it on before he softly said, "Did I wake you up?"

Adina shook her head. "No. I'm thirsty, and I want to drink some water. Is there any water in here?"

Duke walked to the cabinet that was near the balcony and took out a bottle of mineral water. He passed it to her after he turned the lid open.

Adina raised her head and drank a lot of water. Finally, she felt a little more comfortable.

She took a look at the time. It was only 11.00 pm.

She would usually be working at this time, but today, she was already sleeping:

She sat on the bed, pursed her lips, and asked, "Mr. Winters, should we talk?"

Duke sat on the couch that was far away. He nodded and asked, "What do you want to talk about?"

"Let's talk about the kids." Adina stared at him. Under the dim light, the contour of the man's features appeared much gentler. She just said whatever came to mind, "I think we should talk about the kids' education. Now that I'm their mother, don't I also have the right to voice my opinion on George and Harold's education?"

Duke nodded. "Of course. You can raise as many suggestions as you want." "The four-year-old kids should be studying, whether in preschool or an academy for gifted children. George should be receiving systematic education, not going to the company every day." Adina swept her hair back. "As for Hal, he should be learning with children of the same

age, not be grounded at home alone and forced to study boring stuff."

While she spoke, she subconsciously lifted her leg.

She had forgotten that she was wearing Duke's white shirt.

When she raised her leg, her fair thigh became more exposed. Under the shadowy light, it evoked all kinds of wild imagination.

Duke felt annoyed as he got up. "I'm sorry. I have to go and take a shower."

Chapter 447

Pitter-patter!

The sounds of water hitting the floor came from the bathroom.

Adina stroked her hair. Did that man not just take a shower? Why was he taking another shower?

She turned around and looked at the bathroom's frosted glass. There was no hot water vapor, which meant he was taking a cold shower.

It was autumn, so it was freezing. Yet, he was showering with cold water?

Something seemed to register, and Adina lowered her head. When she realized that she was wearing the man's shirt, she subconsciously chuckled in resignation.

Did she not want to test the man? It looked like she had her result.

He would rather take a cold shower than cross the boundary.

It meant he had started to learn how to respect her.

Adina buttoned up the shirt's first button before she pulled the blanket over and lay in bed.

The situation was not conducive for them to talk about

the children. They should talk about it again next time.

The moment she lay on the bed, she quickly fell asleep.

By the time Duke came out of the bathroom, Adina was already sleeping. One of her fair, long legs was exposed outside the blanket. Duke walked over and gently covered it with the blanket.

He dared not look at Adina again. He was really afraid that he would have to take a third shower. He lay down on the couch and had difficulty falling asleep.

Adina, on the other hand, slept well.

The next day, she stretched her body and got up. She habitually got out of bed and put on her slippers, but she realized that the slippers were gray and huge.

She was dumbfounded for a while. It was not until she turned around and looked at the unfamiliar scenery that she recalled where she was.

She instantly turned back and looked at the couch. Duke was already gone, and the blanket on the couch was also neatly folded.

Meanwhile, a whole set of clothes had been placed by the bed. They included shirts and inner wear.

Adina laid the clothes out. She cast a glance at the size, and it was correct.

Her gaze was a little conflicted. After she entered the bathroom, got ready, and changed her clothes, she put on the slippers and finally left for downstairs.

As soon as she pulled open the door, she saw an elegantly – and decently-dressed woman in front of her.

Adina was completely stunned.

She could pretend to be calm and indifferent in front of Duke, but when she faced Mrs. Winters, she did not know how to react.

She had stepped out of Duke's bedroom. Would Mrs. Winters think she..

"Addy, just tell Mr. Brown what you want to eat for breakfast." Mrs. Winters had a gentle gaze. "Make yourself at home. Don't be shy."

“Thank you, Mrs. Winters,” Adina replied awkwardly.

“Why are you still calling me ‘Mrs. Winters’? Just call me Aunt Mabel.” Mrs. Winters chuckled. “I still have something to do today. I’ll treat you to some tea tomorrow.”

As she spoke, she smoothed out her collar and elegantly walked downstairs. Then, she left after she changed her shoes.

Adina was very confused.

Mrs. Winters must have thought something had happened between Duke and her.

No, she and Duke had slept together, otherwise, how could the four children have existed?

Mrs. Winters’ attitude was really... out of her expectation.

She originally thought that Mrs. Winters would criticize her for being shameless and hypocritical... Forget it. She was better off not caring about it.

Chapter 448

Adina composed herself, appearing calm and aloof as she went downstairs.

Nobody was in the living room, but some laughter came from the dining room not far away. She slowly walked over. When she stood at the dining room entrance, she saw an extremely warm and harmonious scene.

Melody was in Duke’s arms, eating something with a pout. Harold and George were standing on either side of her and feeding her food continuously, while Duke was struggling to braid her hair.

He was an adult man, and his actions were clumsy. The braid he made was not the best.

Before Adina could comment on it, Alden could no longer bear the sight. He frowned and said, “Mel looks ugly with that hairstyle.”

As soon as he said that, the corners of the little girl’s lips instantly curved down. She pouted unhappily.

Duke cleared his throat and said, “Alden, I’m still learning. It’s normal for me to not braid nicely. Can you stand over on this side and teach me?”

Alden carefully said, “Comb the hair out before you divide the hair into three equal parts. Then, you slowly braid them.”

Alden taught Duke in detail, and Duke learned in a serious manner.

Adina’s face was filled with tenderness.

Alden used to say that he did not need a father, but he must be very fond of Duke.

She had never seen that expression on Alden’s face before.

LIT

She walked into the dining room with a faint smile and said, "Let me comb Mel's hair."

Duke looked at her.

He had purposely chosen her outfit for her. It was a goose yellow top with a beige wrap skirt, which accentuated her figure.

He suddenly remembered what she had worn last night. Adina was the most attractive when she was wearing his shirt.

"Mommy, you're awake!" Harold rushed over happily and climbed onto Adina's body using his little limbs.

He unintentionally put his hands on Adina's chest, and his head rubbed against her chest too.

As a result, Duke got angry all of a sudden.

He walked over, grabbed Harold by the collar, and threw him on the floor. "How old are you? Why do you always need to be hugged?" he said coldly.

Harold felt hurt. "Isn't Mel four years old too? Why can she be hugged?"

"Mel's a girl, and you're a boy. Are you two the same?" George glanced at him indifferently.

Adina was speechless.

She had found Duke to be quite gentle toward Harold yesterday, but he had revealed his true self again today.

She walked over, carried Harold, and put him on her lap. She smiled and said, "Hal, have you had your breakfast?"

"I've eaten!" Harold held Adina's neck and happily said, "Mommy, there's all kinds of breakfast food in the kitchen. What would you like to eat? I'll go and get it for you."

Right after he spoke, Alden returned from the kitchen. He placed a plate on the table and indifferently said, "Mommy, it's your favorite toast."

Harold stuck his tongue out. Alden had made his move so quickly that it made Harold look like he was just all talk and no action.

Even so, Adina was elated.

Her life had never been so complete. All her four children were alive, and they were by her side. Could anything else bring her more joy?

She looked at Duke. He had just finished combing Melody's hair. He quietly stared at her with his intense black eyes, and her figure was reflected in his pupils.

Her heart suddenly pounded fast.

She looked away awkwardly. Casting a glance at the time, she said, "I have to attend a celebration party tonight. Mr. Winters, can you help look after the kids?"

Duke nodded indifferently. "You don't have to worry about leaving the kids with the Winters family. After lunch, I'll send you to get your styling and fitting done. You should be able to make it." Adina thanked him softly.

Chapter 449

The Winters family had a dozen servants, including those who specially took care of the young masters. Some cleaned up, some did the gardening, and others cooked... After Alden and Melody joined the family, Mr. Brown recruited a few more educators. There were servants everywhere in the Winters family home.

Since there were people to specifically take care of each child, Adina did not need to worry at all.

The children living in the Winters family home would really be happier than living with her. At the very least, there were people to help them with many things in their daily life.

Adina looked down and hid her conflicted gaze.

After she took her lunch, Duke sent her to the banquet hall.

She initially wanted to drive there, but Harold had ruined her car last night. All four tires were deflated, so Mr. Brown sent it for repairs this morning. Half an hour later, the car stopped in front of the biggest styling studio in Sea City. Adina pursed her lips. "Mr. Winters, I'm not a celebrity. I really don't need all this." She had attended many similar occasions. She could just deal with it by putting on a gown and heavy makeup. Having her hair styled and getting a fitting on purpose made her seem inexperienced

Duke parked his car and nonchalantly said, "Many celebrities are attending the party tonight, and all of them are collaborating with Elitos Corporation. You're the most beautiful woman in Sea City. How can you lose to them?" Adina glanced at him. "You even pay attention to all that?"

Duke cleared his throat awkwardly.

He would pay attention to anything related to this woman. He cared about her, so he hoped that she would be the most dazzling and attractive person no matter where she went. However, after Adina exited the dressing room, Duke regretted it.

This woman should have been dressed more conservatively. She should not appear in the spotlight because he did not want other men to desecrate her with their gazes.

Adina looked at herself in the mirror.

She was wearing a black halter dress, and the big cut on her chest, her back, as well as her waist, exposed her fair skin. The dress was cinched at the waist, which outlined her slim figure.

She had never put on such a revealing dress, so she felt really uncomfortable.

Suddenly, a black coat landed on her shoulders.

Then, she heard the man's cold and deep voice. "This dress is ugly. Change it." The stylist was experienced, so she knew why this man would say that the dress was ugly. She

immediately flattered him and walked over. "If the black dress isn't good, you should try this pink gown. It's looser, so you'll be very comfortable while you wear it." Adina gave it a glance. The gown had a turtleneck, and its collar, which had been designed based on the shape of a lotus, looked quite pretty.

Besides, the dress was 3/4 in length, and the cutting at the waist was loose. It was a divine dress, and she would be very comfortable in it. Before Adina could reply, Duke nodded. "I think you'll look more beautiful in pink." It was mainly because the design was conservative. Her chest and back would not be visible, so it was just nice. Despite that, Duke regretted it again after Adina changed into the dress and stepped out of the dressing room. How could this woman look so sexy in such a loose dress?

On top of that, her face was stunning, and she seemed to be glowing in the pink dress. With such an appearance, she was destined to stand out from the crowd. Those celebrities and famous models were not even comparable to her.

Chapter 450

Duke fell into contemplative silence before he asked, "Do you have to attend the banquet tonight?"

Adina gave him a sideways glance. "What's wrong?"

It was a celebration party organized by Elitos, so those who attended the banquet today were business partners that were going to collaborate with Elitos. She could use this opportunity to expand her network, hence she wanted to attend it if possible.

Duke was at a loss of words when she stared at him.

Could he tell her that he did not want other men to see her beauty, so he was hoping she would not attend?

He would never say that out loud.

His words died in his throat, and he indifferently said, "Hal's very dependent on you, so I just wanted to ask what time you'll be home." Adina tidied her hair as she answered, "About 9.00 pm." "Okay, I'll go and pick you up," Duke said with a straight face.

Adina wanted to decline at first, but her car was still under maintenance. Plus, Alden and Melody were still with the Winters family. It seemed that she could only return to the Winters family villa for the time being.

She lowered her head and smoothed out her dress without saying anything else.

After she changed gowns and got her hair styled, Duke watched as Adina entered the banquet hall. Just as he was about to drive away, he received a text message from Catherine on his phone.

(Mr. Winters, I'm planning to open a counseling center in Sea City soon. May I know if you can help me rent out an office?)

Duke tapped on the keypad and sent a one-word reply. [Okay.]

Catherine had taken care of his mother for so many years, and it was not very difficult for him to help rent an office for her. He could just leave it to his assistant.

As soon as Adina entered the banquet hall, Serene approached her.

“Wow! Ms, Daugherty, you look stunning today. You look like a lotus fairy.”

Adina chuckled from Serene’s amusing description. “So, do I look like a walking lotus?”

“No, you’re a lotus fairy. You’re innocent, attractive, sexy, and charming.” Serene covered her face dramatically. “If I were a man, I would risk everything I have to pursue you, Ms. Daugherty.”

“Okay, don’t be silly.” Adina scanned the banquet hall. “Tell me about yesterday afternoon’s bidding session.”

Serene nodded and walked as she said, “The biggest winner yesterday was Xavier Corporation.

They became the biggest chip provider for Elitos.”

Adina glanced around the banquet hall, and sure enough, she saw her uncle, Richard, and her cousin, Ethan.

After Xavier Corporation launched a new and improved smart product, it became one of the top three Internet-related enterprises in Sea City. Elitos truly made a wise move to collaborate with Xavier Corporation.

“Meanwhile, the Walker and Sunderland families became Elitos’ spare part suppliers.” Just then, Adina saw Trent and Eilam walk toward her with a glass of champagne. “Ms. Daugherty, you’re a real genius.” Trent raised his champagne glass and toasted to Adina. “You were able to defeat the CEO of Jones Corporation. You’re extraordinary. No wonder you’ve got Duke hooked.”

Adina raised her eyebrows indifferently. “Mr. Sunderland, you’re not that bad either. You do nothing but hook up with women. I didn’t expect you to also establish a collaboration with Elitos. I’m impressed.”

Trent instantly felt attacked. This woman had a really sharp tongue. Whenever they argued, he would always lose to her.