

Madam Winters's Fight For Her Children Chapter 456

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Chapter 456 Zhenny narrowed her eyes.

She did not quite understand what Adina meant.

At that moment, Adina raised her voice and said, "Someone, please turn Mdm. Jones' proposal to page 16. I guess you haven't seen the formula on this page before, have you? And I suppose you're also very unfamiliar with the newly-built module on page 28, right? The design drawings on pages 34 and 35 also implement the new building module. These are fresh ideas." Everyone nodded.

The secretary behind Zhenny coldly said, "This is a brand-new build formula developed by our Technical Department under Mdm. Jones' leadership."

"Is that so?"

Adina chuckled, and her gaze was filled with mockery.

For some reason, Zhenny felt flustered as a result of Adina's gaze. "Ms. Daugherty, just spit it out. Don't try to put on a show here," she said in annoyance. "Six months ago, my mentor at Harfard was working on this subject, and he showed me his paper before it was published. It contained this formula along with the same building blocks." Adina smiled faintly. "My supervisor's paper was published in a very niche technical journal abroad, so I don't think many people in Cairnstan have seen it, but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist. The paper was published half a year ago, while Mdm. Jones started her proposal three months ago, but more than 80% of your formula modules overlap. Mdm. Jones, how do you explain this to us?"

Zhenny's complexion turned blue and pale. She gritted her teeth and said, "That's nonsense."

Right after she spoke, some people in the hall ran a search on their phones.

They connected to a foreign network, entered the formulae for the modules in her proposal, and immediately saw a paper that had been published overseas.

"Oh, my goodness! Ms. Daugherty is actually telling the truth!"

“The paper was published six months ago, and its contents are exactly the same as Mdm. Jones ‘proposal!”

“What the f*ck? So, Mdm. Jones plagiarized someone else’s work, but she framed Ms. Daugherty for plagiarizing hers?”

Everyone in the banquet hall gave Zhenny judgmental looks.

Zhenny had never been scrutinized by people in that way. She gritted her teeth and slowly suppressed her anger.

She took a deep breath. “This is Professor Phyllis’ teaching paper in Harford. I did use it as a reference, but it’s not plagiarism. Before I used this paper as a reference, I bought the copyright from Professor Phyllis.”

She found herself a perfect excuse, and the disapproving gazes in the banquet hall faded away.

Her expression darkened as she said, “It was my fault for being abrupt today. I’ll be the host and treat you to a meal as an apology next time, Ms. Daugherty. Let’s go.”

She turned around and walked out. The people whom she had brought followed suit.

As soon as Zhenny stepped out, she made a call. “Contact Professor Phyllis from Harford University now Buy the copyright of the paper that he published six months ago. Get it no matter how much money it costs!”

Right after she hung up, she received a call. When she saw the incoming call remark, gloom filled her face

When she picked up the call, a furious growl came from the other end of the call. “Jones Corporation is on the news now. Look at the stupid thing you did!”

Zhenny breathed in. “I’ve been the CEO of Jones Corporation for twelve years, and I’ve never made a mistake. Can’t I be given a chance after just one mistake?”

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After Zhenny left the banquet in anger, the remaining people in the banquet hall looked at each other at a loss.

It was their first time seeing the CEO of Jones Corporation so embarrassed.

And it was because of Adina.

They began to look at Adina with conflicted gazes. Trent raised a wine glass and flashed her a teasing smile. "I finally understand why I always suffer defeat at your hands. You can even take down an experienced business player like Zhenny, so what's a man from a rich family like me who just entered the business industry?"

Adina did not pay attention to him. Instead, she took her phone and sent someone a message.

Trent twirled his glass of red wine and continued. "Hey, do you think Zhenny really bought the copyright for that paper? Adina, go ahead and ask your mentor now."

Adina chuckled. "Of course she didn't."

The paper had been published in a niche local magazine, which sold less than 100,000 copies a year. It was on the verge of being discontinued. Very few people had read that paper, so it was unlikely that anyone would catch her plagiarism. That was the only reason why Zhenny dared to righteously hijack someone's hard work and make it her own. "Since she didn't purchase it, we should take her down at once." Trent scoffed. "Sunderland Corporation collaborated with Jones Corporation last year. When we divided the benefits, Zhenny took a large portion by force..." "Let's not be so pushy for the sake of future meetings. There's no need to make a big deal out of this," Adina said indifferently. Besides, Professor Phyllis was too poor. University professors usually owned two houses, but Professor Phyllis had been renting a house. As a result, his wife and kids left him. He just spent his days in the laboratory working on things that were not of interest to the market and made no money at all. That only caused him to be poorer and poorer. Adina hoped that Zhenny would give Professor Phyllis a huge amount of money. That way, she would not need to worry about her mentor dying of starvation.

Trent's gaze on Adina was filled with more admiration.

"Excuse me, I need to go to the restroom."

Adina lifted the hem of her dress and went to the restroom to touch up her makeup. As she rounded the corner of the restroom, she saw a tall figure leaning on the balcony's railing from the corridor.

Her cold eyes were indifferent. "Mr. Wynters."

Earley turned around. Under the light, his eyes were dark, and he was also dressed in a black suit. If his silver mask had not reflected some light, Adina would not have noticed him there.

When she looked at the figure, she found him familiar for some reason. He seemed to resemble someone a lot.

She walked over and spoke in a flat tone. "Mr. Wynters, are you waiting for me?"

"Your performance tonight was outstanding," Earley slowly said. "I just watched the news. You and Zhenny are on the headlines now. Your reputation as the most beautiful woman in Sea City has been greatly boosted."

Adina smiled faintly. "Thank you for your compliment, Mr. Wynters." Earley stood up straight and stared at her with his dark eyes. "Ms. Daugherty, regarding the collaboration that I suggested previously, I wonder if you've thought about it?"

Adina's smile remained unchanged. "I've signed the contract with Elitos, so I obviously want to work together with you."

"Ms. Daugherty, you clearly know I'm not talking about this project." Earley suddenly bent down, and his silver mask drew close to her ear. When he opened his mouth, Adina felt his breath on her neck

His breath was not warm but cold.

She was so shocked that she immediately took a step back and narrowed her eyes slightly. "Mr. Wynters, please behave yourself. If others see that, they might think you're harassing me." Earley suddenly let out a low chuckle. "Ms. Daugherty, you know martial arts. Are you still afraid that I'll harass you?"

Adina looked up coldly. "You looked into my background?" "I chose you as my collaborator, so of course I had to investigate your background." Earley fiddled with his fingers. "If you agree to participate in that project, I'll maximize your profit." Adina chuckled and said, "I'm sorry. I have too many projects on my plate right now. I can't deal with it. Mr. Wynters, you better hire someone better." After she spoke, she lifted the hem of her dress and left the corridor.

Earley continued to stand there, and his dark gaze did not leave her back until she disappeared from his sight.

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Adina returned to the banquet hall and continued talking to everyone.

She was gorgeous and capable. For a moment, countless people handed their name cards to her.

At 9.00 pm, people slowly left the banquet. "Addy, let me send you home." Ethan caught up with her and spoke like a gentleman. Before Adina could answer, a tall figure walked over from the entrance of the banquet hall.

She turned around to find that it was Duke.

Had this man arrived a long time ago?

She would have left earlier if she had realized it.

"Ethan, someone's here to pick me up. Thank you for the offer," Adina smiled as she said. Ethan frowned and looked at Duke before his frown deepened. "Addy, are you and Mr. Winters

"Ahem!" Adina stroked her nose awkwardly. "Alden and Mel are with the Winters family, so I'm going back with Mr. Winters to pick them up." Ethan pursed his lips and did not say anything else.

Duke was Alden and Melody's father. It was inappropriate for an outsider like Ethan to interfere with the kids living in their biological father's house.

However, he could not understand Duke, and he did not know if it was a good thing for Addy to be with him either.

"Mr. Xavier."

Duke spoke casually and extended his hand.

Ethan reached out to shake Duke's hand gently. "Mr. Winters, please take good care of Addy. It hasn't been easy for her all these years."

Adina pursed her lips.

Ethan must have misunderstood and thought that she was in a relationship with Duke! She thought that Duke would explain the situation.

But the man softly said, "I will. I will take good care of her. Please don't worry."

Perhaps his voice was stable and powerful, or perhaps the members of the Winters family were trustworthy, but Ethan instantly felt a lot more relieved.

He stood outside the banquet hall as he watched Adina enter Duke's car.

As soon as Adina got into the car, she felt more relaxed.

She had been dealing with all kinds of inexperienced businessmen the whole night, and it was mentally exhausting.

"Are you tired?" Duke held the steering wheel and softly asked.

Adina leaned back in her seat, closed her eyes to rest, and said, "I'm fine." She paused for a while before she continued. "Mr. Winters, do you know Earley Wynters, the CEO of Elitos in Sea City?"

After some thought, she noticed that Earley's figure was at least 90% similar to Duke's. One was Winters, while the other was Wynters. Her instincts told her that there seemed to be some connection between the two of them.

Duke's grip on the steering wheel tightened. His gaze instantly became severe. "Was he there at the party tonight?" Adina nodded. "This is the third time I've met him. He wears a mask every time. People in the banquet hall were asking if his face was scarred. Otherwise, why would a person frequently show up with a face mask? We have no idea."

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"Stay away from him." Duke held the steering wheel tightly as he slowly replied.

Earley Wynters was Earl Winters.

He was Duke's biological twin brother. Duke softly said, "Earley Wynters is a very dangerous person. Nothing good comes to those who approach him."

Adina looked at the person who was driving.

Why did she feel that something was off with Duke's emotions when she brought Earley up?

That supported her theory even more.

Duke drove the car slowly on the road at night and stopped in front of the Winters family villa in less than twenty minutes.

Duke got out of the car first and pulled open the passenger door for Adina like a gentleman. When the two of them walked up to the mansion's door, all their four children rushed over.

"Mommy, you're finally back. I miss you so much!" Harold was always the most excited kid. He ran into Adina's arms and instantly climbed onto her body.

Melody used to be a shy and reserved girl, but she had also become mischievous due to Harold's influence. She learned how to climb onto Adina's body from him.

Adina carried a thirty-kilogram kid in each arm, and they were heavy.

Two more kids looked at her expectantly with their dark eyes.

"Your mom can't carry you. I'll hold you."

Duke squatted down and waved at George and Alden. George awkwardly took a step back. "I'm a big boy now. I don't need a hug."

"I don't need one either," Alden said indifferently.

Duke found himself speechless.

Okay, these four kids did not need their father anyway.

"Daddy, hug me!"

Melody stretched out her arms.

Duke's poor heart was finally comforted. Unexpectedly, Mrs. Winters walked out of the house at the next second. She smiled and said, "Mel, come here. Grandma wants you to pick a necklace."

The girl's eyes lit up, and she rushed into Mrs. Winters' arms.

Mrs. Winters carried Melody with a smile and said, "Addy, Mel and I just hit it off. Let her sleep with me today."

As she said that, she carried Melody into the living room regardless of whether Adina agreed or not.

Adina was stunned.

Was Melody not autistic? With the exception of her dad, mom, and brothers, did she not dislike others getting close to her? How did she get on with Mrs. Winters so quickly?

Soon, Adina understood the reason.

She saw Mr. Brown and five servants step out of the collection room on the upper floor with many wooden boxes in their hands. Then, they opened the boxes and placed them in front of Melody.

The boxes contained either diamond necklaces, pearl earrings, or jade wristlets. They looked like they were worth at least a few million dollars. However, those items were like toys in Melody's hands. Once she got bored after playing with them for a while, she simply threw them away. Mr. Brown seemed hurt as he went to pick them up and put them back in the boxes. But Mrs. Winters did not seem to be bothered. "You don't like these either? It's okay, I still have a lot of shiny jewelry in the collection room. I'll get Papa Brown to take them down. You can bring whichever one you like home." The corners of Adina's lips twitched.

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She walked over, took a deep breath, and said, "Mrs. Winters, if you do this..." Mrs. Winters raised her head. "Call me Aunt Mabel." "Aunt Mabel." Adina immediately changed her address. "If you do this, you'll spoil Mel. These are too expensive."

"Kids don't know that these things are expensive. To them, these are just toys." Mrs. Winters stroked Melody's hair. "Girls like shiny jewelry. Next time, I'll bring Mel to a jewelry mall and buy her more jewelry so that she can bring them back and play with them." Adina was speechless. She really could not understand the world of the rich. Harold walked over and casually picked up a pair of emerald earrings. The moment he picked them up, Mrs. Winters snatched them away. "Don't touch them. You'll break them. This pair costs \$6,000,000." Harold was at a loss for words. Why could Melody simply throw them on the floor when he could not even touch them? It was fine when his dad no longer showed him love after Melody appeared. But why did his grandma stop loving him as well?

Sob... He was so pitiful. Melody took the emerald earrings from Mrs. Winters before she held them over Adina's ear. "Mommy, you look pretty," she said in her tiny voice. "Okay, let's give them to your mommy." Mrs. Winters generously waved and pushed the brocade box that had been used to keep the earrings to Adina. "No, I can't accept these." The item was like a hot potato to her, so she immediately put it back on the floor. "It's better to keep them for Melody as a toy." Melody was the granddaughter of the Winters family, so it was nothing even if she ended up breaking the expensive jewelry. She was just an outsider. How could she accept a pair of earrings that cost \$6,000,000?

If that went out, people might think that she was using her daughter to take advantage of the Winters family's wealth.

Duke, who was standing not far away, subconsciously chuckled.

She desperately avoided the emerald earrings that his mother had given to her, but what if he gave them to her instead? He had to admit that Melody chose well. Adina would look truly stunning with the emerald earrings on, and her beauty would take anyone's breath away. It appeared that he had to find some time to look at jewelry Duke glanced around and suddenly saw a gift box on the tea table in the living room.

He walked over and nonchalantly said, "Mr. Brown, who came to visit today?"

Mr. Brown shook his head. "There were no guests today. Mrs. Winters brought this gift box back."

Darkness suddenly filled Duke's gaze.

"It's getting late now. Addy, you should take the kids back and rest," he said softly. "No, Mel is sleeping with me tonight," Mrs. Winters said in an overbearing manner. "Mel even promised me earlier."

Adina felt her head ache.

If it were Duke, she could still refuse. But this was Mrs. Winters. She was an elder, and she had really pampered Melody. For a moment, Adina did not know how to proceed.

“Mel isn’t used to strangers. It’s not suitable for her to be separated from her mother and stay in the Winters family villa for the time being.” Duke fiddled with his fingers and replied with a straight face.

Mrs. Winters had initially wanted to ask Adina to stay for the night as well. After all, Adina had also done the same last night. When she raised her head, she noticed Duke’s agitated gaze. He was her son. Although they had parted for a few years, she still understood him very well. Duke’s gaze meant something serious had happened. Mrs. Winters lowered her head and spoke affectionately. “Mel, I’ll go and pick you up tomorrow. Go back with mommy tonight. Sleep tight. Don’t kick your blanket off the bed, okay?” Melody gave her a hard nod. When she left, she reluctantly glanced at the pearl jewelry that was scattered around the floor.

Then, Mrs. Winters ordered Mr. Brown to pack everything and stuff them into the trunk of Adina’s car.

Adina was unable to reject them. She could only bring the children with her and leave the Winters family villa.

Right after they left, Duke sternly said, “George, Harold, go upstairs. I have something to discuss with your grandma.”