

## **ABANDONED 1501**

### Chapter 1501

As she stepped out of the hotel, Aubree's mind drew a blank. She had no idea what to do next.

There was no way she could return to the mansion on the outskirts, as Lucian would definitely have it watched. The same could be said of the hotel.

Feeling desperate, she gave Frieda a call.

The latter, who was already sound asleep, was woken up by the ringing of her phone.

Just as she was about to end the call by reflex, she was jolted awake by a glimpse of the caller ID. It was then that a glint of annoyance flashed across her eyes.

Aubree! When is she going to stop bugging me?

Upon regaining her composure, she answered, "Aubree, is there anything | can do for you?"

"Where are you now? Come to the hotel. I'm downstairs waiting for you. Remember, don't let anyone find out!" The tension in Aubree's voice couldn't be any more obvious.

Her tone caused Frieda's heart to inexplicably sink. Before she even replied, she had already gotten out of bed. "What's wrong? Did something happen? Why do you want to see me?" she asked while getting dressed.

Aubree answered flatly, "They have evidence against me and have probably called the police too. That's why I've gone into hiding. If you lead anyone to me, I'll drag you down to hell with me!"

Frieda froze as panic began to fill her eyes. Aubree is on the run from the police. Should | help her now? What if | lead them to her?

While she was hesitating, Aubree's voice rang out again. "If you don't show up. the first tiling I'll do when I'm caught is to expose your crimes. When that happens, | can't guarantee what my tongue will let slip. If you cross me, I'll definitely make you suffer for it!"

Faced with the blatant threat, Frieda lost her temper and snapped. "You better not cross the line!"

Aubree snorted in response. "You chose this path back then. It's too late for regrets now. You have twenty minutes. If | don't see you, you're going down with me!"

With that. Aubree ended the call.

As the call-end tone rang out from her phone, the furious Frieda glowered insidiously. It was then that Cory's words began to echo in her mind.

If | had known this was going to happen, | would've worked with him that night! Unfortunately, it was too late for regrets now;

Frieda had no choice but to get herself ready and slip out of her room stealthily.

To avoid her family's notice, she didn't even drive her car. Instead, she flagged down a taxi by the street to send her to the hotel. She knew' the location well since she was the one wrho made the hotel reservation on Aubree's behalf.

By the time she arrived, twenty minutes had passed. There was also no sign of Aubree anywhere. A sense of dread began to swell within her, and she scanned the surroundings anxiously.

"I'm here!"

Aubree's voice rang out from an inconspicuous alley.

Given a fright, Frieda took a few seconds to regain her composure before walking over.

"What's your plan?" She gave Aubree a wary look.

The last thing Aubree had was a plan. "Anything will do as long as I can escape!"

Frieda suggested unreservedly, "Fleeing overseas is your only option. If you stay in the country, the Farwell family will get you even if the police don't."

Chapter 1502

"Overseas?" Aubree seethed insidiously. "If I leave, won't that b\*tch, Roxanne, get what she wants? How can I do that before I have my revenge against her?"

Sensing the insidious aura Aubree was exuding, the tense Frieda carefully persuaded the former, "If you don't go and end up being captured by the police or the Farwell family, you will fall into even worse circumstances than you're currently in. When that happens, you can kiss vengeance goodbye!"

Frieda didn't dare infuriate Aubree given the latter's state of mind. Worried that Aubree would go mad, Frieda tried her best to calm her down.

After all, it was also in her interest if Aubree were to flee overseas.

With that thought in mind, Frieda suggested, "If you're worried about money, I can prepare it for you. Even though it isn't much, I can spare ten to twenty million now that I have returned to the Queen family."

Panic struck Aubree when she heard of the fate that awaited her. Nevertheless, she was reluctant to let Roxanne go just like that.

Gritting her teeth, she replied, "There has to be another way!" Meanwhile, Lucian was looking displeased in his study at the Farwell residence.

"Let it go. The police will think of something. You should grab a bite first," Roxanne advised Lucian softly despite the anxiety she felt after learning of Aubree's refusal to meet.

Since Catalina had served the food a while ago, it would soon grow cold if left untouched. However, Lucian furrowed his brows as a murderous intent began to swell within him. If Aubree dares to cause any more trouble, I'll definitely...

Although she couldn't tell what was on his mind, Roxanne could feel the sudden tension in the room. She got up to hold his arm and lead him to the couch. Thereafter, she brought the food that was served to him.

Staring at Roxanne, Lucian cast aside his frustrations and relished the attention she was showering him. Just as both of them were sharing a quiet meal, a knock on the door was heard. Catalina's voice subsequently rang out. "Mr. and Mrs. Farwell are here."

Roxanne stopped what she was doing in response to Catalina's words. Looking at Lucian, she spoke hesitantly. "You should go down. I'll wait for you here."

She had no intention of seeing Sonya unless it was necessary.

However, Lucian calmly finished the food she served before getting up from the couch. He replied in a deep voice, "We'll head down together. She'll have to accept you and the kids sooner or later."

Giving her no choice, he grabbed her wrist and led her out of the study.

Roxanne finally relented because she found no real reason to protest.

Upon descending the staircase together, they saw the two figures sitting on the couch.

Sonya was evidently outraged, her chest heaving vigorously. Elias, with an equally grave expression, was trying his best to calm her down.

Further infuriated by the unexpected sight of Roxanne, Sonya jumped to her feet. "Why are both of you together at this hour?"

When Elias saw Roxanne, he nodded to greet her.

Roxanne reciprocated with a polite nod before returning her gaze to the furious Sonya.

Just as she was about to reply, Lucian preempted her, "There's nothing wrong with us being together. Instead, I'm more curious as to what both of you are doing here at this hour."

Sonya turned toward Elias, hoping that he would say something.

When he saw the look in his wife's eye, Elias explained in resignation, "Why did you call the police so late at night? The police chief just informed me about it. What's going on?"

Chapter 1503 Sonya fixed Roxanne with a cold-eyed stare, clearly suspecting that Lucian had caused a commotion because of her.

Lucian stepped between his mother and Roxanne protectively, then led the latter downstairs and made her sit in the armchair while he stood beside her.

"I wouldn't have bothered the police at such a late hour, but I caught a woman named Ophelia Smith trying to pour lubricant over the brakes on Roxanne's car this afternoon. Had I not discovered what she was doing, I'm afraid Roxanne and the children could be dead by now."

Sonya's expression changed. "What? Didn't that person know Estella would be riding in that car too?" Lucian's tone turned grave as he replied, "She knew, of course. After all, the mastermind behind it all is Aubree." "What did you say?" Sonya was so enraged that she lost her balance and staggered backward into Elias.

He immediately helped her to the couch, then asked, “What’s going on? How can you be sure that it was Aubree’s doing? Hasn’t she learned her lesson after her family’s fall from grace?”

Lucian nodded indifferently. “I’m also curious why she’s still so incorrigible after her family’s downfall and keeps pestering Roxanne and the children.”

His response confirmed to his parents that Aubree had orchestrated the whole thing.

Nodding, Elias said, “If that’s the case, she deserves to be arrested. In fact, she should’ve been arrested after what happened previously.

However, Sonya was still a little doubtful. “Aubree’s—”

“I’m sure you’ve seen the photos of her in a robe at a hotel. Isn’t that enough to tell you what sort of person she is? Now that the situation has already come to a head, do you still think she couldn’t have done such things? How long are you going to let her hoodwink you?” Lucian’s voice grew a few notches colder, and a hint of anger flashed in his eyes as he looked at his mother.

Sonya looked away, recalling how she felt when she had seen those photos. He’s right. Aubree’s a liar. But...

Narrowing his eyes, Lucian suddenly said, “If you still don’t believe it, you can always call and ask her to come over so that you can confront her face-to-face.”

Roxanne caught on almost at once. Aubree is backed into a corner now. If Sonya calls her, she’ll surely see Sonya as a lifeline and come to meet Sonya!

As the realization dawned on her, Roxanne could not help feeling somewhat nervous. She desperately hoped that Sonya would agree and lure Aubree out naturally. Sonya looked uncertain as she gazed at Lucian, then at the woman behind him.

“If you’re worried, why don’t you just call and ask?” Elias urged her. Only then did Sonya take her phone from her handbag, pull up Aubree’s number, and make the call.

Meanwhile, Aubree was fretting like a cat on a hot tin roof, unable to come up with a single solution. When she saw Sonya’s call, she instantly fell back to her habit of thinking of Sonya as her lifesaver and hurriedly answered it.

“Mrs. Farwell, you’ve got to help me!” she cried out in a tearful voice.

Hearing that, Sonya felt her heart lurch as she realized everything Lucian had said was true. Nonetheless, she still harbored a trace of pity for Aubree in her heart. She asked, “Was it really you who put Ophelia Smith up to it?”

Aubree sobbed, “I know it was my fault, Mrs. Farwell. | lost all rationale for a while. Please help me. | won’t do it ever again!”

## Chapter 1504

Although Aubree did not admit to it directly, her apology could be considered an indirect confirmation that she had instigated Ophelia’s actions.

Utterly disappointed, Sonya said flatly, “How could | have trusted someone as heartless as you all these years?”

Hearing the indifference in her voice, Aubree quickly explained, “I swear that's the only thing | lied to you about, and it was because | was too madly in love with Lucian! You understand that, don't you? | promise I'll never do it again.”

Sonya was infuriated by her words. “That's the only thing you lied about? You don't think that's enough, do you? You nearly killed my granddaughter!”

Although they were only speaking over the phone, a shiver ran down Aubree's spine. She began sobbing even harder. “[ ] was wrong! I'll even prostrate myself and apologize to Essie if you want. Please forgive me this time! Have you forgotten? You said you'd only acknowledge me as your daughter-in-law. | won't marry Lucian anymore, so please ask him to show me mercy.”

Sonya was already fuming over the fact that Aubree had deceived her. However, seeing that the latter had dared to bring up what she had said in the past, she was absolutely livid. “Get over here and apologize to Essie, then!”

All of a sudden, Aubree fell silent. Get on my hands and knees before that little kid and apologize? How can | do that? Besides, won't Lucian know if | go back there? Where will | run then?

The silence caused Sonya's voice to turn even icier as she said, “I'm giving you one last chance. Come back and explain everything clearly to my face. If you don't even have the guts to meet me, there's nothing left for us to say.”

Aubree clenched her jaw and ended the call without uttering a single word.

“What happened, Aubree?” Frieda, who had been watching Aubree on the phone, felt uneasy. The outcome that'd be the most favorable for me is if Aubree were to leave the country and flee as far away as possible. If Sonya agrees to help Aubree, however, my plan will fail, and Aubree will end up remaining in the country and continuing to be a nuisance to me!

Aubree clutched her phone so tightly that her hand shook. “That old hag! She's in cahoots with that b\*tch! She wants me to go back. Does she take me for a fool?” After saying that, she gritted her teeth and turned to Frieda. “You mentioned going abroad. How do we go about that?”

Still looking a little troubled, Frieda replied, “I can get the money ready, but if you're to leave with things as they are now, it'll be quite difficult to send you off without the Farwells finding out.”

Feeling defeated, Aubree slumped against the wall. “I'm done for...”

“The Pearsons used to have many friends among the other prestigious families. Is there really no one who could help you? Try and think again,” Frieda urged, visibly anxious.

“Let me think...” Aubree mumbled.

Back in the Farwell residence living room, Sonya remained shaken for a long while. It's only now that I'm finally seeing Aubree's true colors.

“How could | have been so blind? How could | have trusted someone like that?” She shook her head in deep regret. | even entertained the thought that Aubree would probably turn over a new leaf after what happened to her family and would be a suitable candidate for my daughter-in-law. Now, I've no choice but to admit | fell for the same person's trickery twice!

Lucian had expected her response, and he did not press for details. He merely asked, “How did it go? Is she willing to meet with you?”

## Chapter 1505

Not wanting to say anything further, Sonya simply shook her head with a gloomy expression. The fact that she had been tricked by someone like Aubree was humiliating enough.

She was not about to admit it in front of Roxanne.

Lucian and Roxanne exchanged solemn glances when they saw her response.

“What do you plan on having the police do to her?” Elias asked.

“They will handle her accordingly based on what she did. However, we don't know where Aubree is right now, so we'll need to find her before we even worry about that,” Lucian replied coldly.

Sonya frowned the moment she heard that. “Why didn't you tell me about this sooner? | wouldn't have taken that tone with her if you had told me about it!”

Had I known about this sooner, | would've pretended to care about Aubree and tricked her into coming back!

Of course, Lucian knew what Sonya had in mind. “She's extremely cautious. | only told you to call her to test her out, so | wasn't expecting much to begin with.”

Realizing that Sonya was about to get mad again, Elias quickly stood up and pulled her into his arms. “Your mother and | will leave you two alone now that we know what's going on. Just give me a call if you ever need anything. As for Aubree, I'll have our men continue searching for her.”

“I'll go see Gina and Samuel again and tell them to talk some sense into Aubree. Hopefully, they'll be able to convince her to surrender,” Sonya said coldly after forcefully suppressing her anger.

Feeling relieved that she was finally starting to understand, Lucian flashed her a smile and nodded in acknowledgment. “You two should get some rest too,” Elias reminded them after walking Sonya to the door.

Lucian arched an eyebrow at him in response. “Got it. Be careful on the road.”

Sonya waited until they were inside the car before expressing her guilt and regret.

“How could | have missed all the signs? | can't believe Aubree is so cruel and heartless! Our poor granddaughter suffers a lot as is, and yet, Aubree still targeted her anyway...”

Elias turned to look at her after slowly starting the car. “That's why | told you not to interfere with Lucian's affairs.”

Sonya frowned and was about to say something in response, but Elias retracted his gaze as he continued, “Why do you think Lucian chose not to marry her after all these years? Why do you think Essie still refuses to accept her?”

Sonya opened her mouth, but she couldn't find the words to say in response to his questions.

The answers are obvious... Lucian still can't bring himself to let go of Roxanne, and Essie has seen right through Aubree's pretense long ago. My poor granddaughter suffered so much at Aubree's hands for so long, and yet she couldn't even tell anyone about it. I've always been trying to get Essie to spend time with Aubree, so it's only natural for her to dislike me. | feel so bad for her...

“Why did Lucian want you to call Aubree just now?” Elias pressed on when he received no response from her.

Having been snapped out of her train of thought, Sonya replied reluctantly, “He just wanted me to see Aubree's true intentions. Tell me, have | been making a complete fool out of myself this whole time?”

“Lucian is the only one who can decide who he marries. If you interfere, then he might end up marrying someone like Aubree. Do you really want to put the Farwell family in the hands of a woman like that?” Elias asked.

Sonya simply snorted and kept quiet after that.

## Chapter 1506

Roxanne glanced at the time after Sonya and Elias left. “It's getting late. | should be heading back now. | can't rest easy knowing that the kids are home alone.”

“I'll send you home,” Lucian said with a frown.

It was indeed rather late, and Aubree's whereabouts were still unknown. It was possible that she would pop out of nowhere and try to take Roxanne's life. Lucian didn't feel safe letting Roxanne go home by herself.

Roxanne knew he was worried about her safety, so she chose not to turn his offer down. “Thanks.” After getting into the car, the two of them talked about Aubree as Lucian drove slowly toward Roxanne's house.

“| wonder where Aubree is right now. | can't rest easy until she's behind bars...” Roxanne mumbled with a worried look in her eyes while gazing at the scenery outside.

Lucian slowed the car down a little as he reassured her, “We have solid evidence against her, so the police won't let her get away with it. In the meantime, | will also do everything | can to find her. Until she is caught, | will have my men protect you and the kids in secret.”

Roxanne felt somewhat at ease when she recalled that Lucian had averted the recent crisis in time. “Thanks.” She also couldn't help but question her own ability to ensure the safety of her kids.

Lucian's eyes dimmed when he saw the look of self-blame on her face. “I should be apologizing to you. Aubree wouldn't have targeted you and the kids if it weren't for me. | failed to protect you all before due to my negligence.”

Roxanne frowned and was about to say something when Lucian continued, “From now on, | will increase the level of security around you and the kids. I'll also try to come up with more ways to keep you all safe.”

“| just hope we can catch Aubree as soon as possible. Hopefully, she'll repent her ways and change for the better after she's behind bars,” Roxanne said.

Lucian nodded, and the two of them continued chatting away. It was already eleven by the time they arrived at Roxanne's house.

After spending the entire day working at the research institute and going through a roller-coaster of emotions in the evening, Roxanne was extremely exhausted.

As Lucian was driving really slowly, she got even sleepier along the drive and was barely awake when she got out of the car. “It's really late. Be careful on your drive home,” she reminded him while struggling to keep her eyes open.

Feeling touched that Roxanne was still concerned about him even when she was so tired, Lucian reached out and gently caressed her face.

“What's wrong?” Roxanne asked, staring at him in confusion.

“| think | might have been traumatized by the incident earlier this evening. | don't feel like letting you out of my sight,” Lucian replied.

Roxanne let out a chuckle when she heard that. “Come on, stop joking!”

She couldn't seem to believe that Lucian would get traumatized by anything.

The next thing she knew, Lucian had pulled her into his embrace.

Unlike their hug outside the study, Lucian was being somewhat cautious when he hugged her this time.

“How much longer are you going to make me wait?”

Roxanne was about to hug him back, but she paused when she heard what he asked and nervously pulled her arms back.

Lucian tightened his hug when he noticed her response. “Are you regretting it?”



Roxanne had a hesitant look in her eyes as she asked, "I want to know what you think of Archie and Benny. Tell me honestly, did you only choose to accept them because of me?"

"You know me. Except for Essie, I have no patience for kids in general. But things are different with Archie and Benny. I'm not sure if it's because they have your blood running through their veins, but I felt an odd sense of closeness with them the moment I first saw them," Lucian replied without any hesitation.

He then released his grip on Roxanne as he continued, "I was prepared to accept them the moment I first saw them. It's just as I said in the announcement. From now on, I will treat them as our children, which is no different from how I treat Essie."

Roxanne felt a wave of melancholy sweep over her when she heard that.

Lucian said he felt a sense of closeness with them because they're my children, but in reality, they're his children too... Who would've thought being related by blood would have such a strong effect on people? Lucian has been proving his words with the way he treats Archie and Benny. If Sonya can genuinely accept Archie and Benny into the family, then I will tell Lucian the truth about their identities. I will let him know that Archie and Benny are our children!

Lucian had his arm around her waist as he observed the changes in her expression.

While he couldn't tell what she was thinking, the firm yet gentle look in her eyes caused his heart to skip a beat.

As Lucian slowly moved his hand up to her face, Roxanne went along with his movement and got closer to him.

The sexual tension between them increased as the two of them got closer to each other.

Their lips were about to touch when a childish voice called out to Roxanne from above.

"Mommy! You're back—"

Archie quickly held a hand over Benny's mouth to stop him from interrupting the kiss.

He then grabbed Benny by the arm and tried to sneak back into the room so they could pretend nothing had ever happened. However, Roxanne had heard him and tensed up all of a sudden.

Lucian frowned slightly as he tried to move in for a kiss, but Roxanne turned to the side at the last second, so he only managed to kiss her on the cheek.

She then pushed him aside and shot him a glare in response.

Lucian looked up at the balcony on the second floor and called out to the three kids who were about to sneak away, "It's really late. Why are you three still awake at this hour?"

Roxanne had wanted to stop him, but it was too late.

The kids stopped in their tracks when they heard his voice.

After exchanging glances with each other, Benny decided to step forward and wave at them from the balcony.

“| didn't mean to stay up, Daddy! | just thought I'd greet Mommy since | heard her coming home. | didn't know you two came back together!”

| would've hidden in my room and pretended to be asleep if | had known!

Of course, Lucian wasn't going to punish Benny or anything. He just wanted to show Roxanne that the kids knew everything.

Chapter 1508

“It's really late. You should go to bed. Don't go anywhere for the next few days,” Lucian reminded them.

The kids nodded profusely in response.

“Okay! We'll be going to bed now!” Archie said as he casually led Benny and Estella back inside.

Lucian said nothing further after watching the three of them leave the balcony.

Roxanne, on the other hand, was burning bright red.

Lucian and | were just hugging the last time they caught us together. This time, they nearly caught us kissing! Roxanne shot Lucian another glare at the thought of that.

“It's really late. | thought they had all gone to bed,” Lucian replied with an innocent look on his face.

Roxanne felt speechless when she saw how calm he was about it. “As you said, it's very late. | need to go to bed now. You should head home too, Mr. Farwell!”

Lucian had an affectionate look in his eyes when he saw her get flustered. Roxanne had just walked past him when he reached out and grabbed her by the wrist. He spun her around and gave her a quick kiss on the lips.

“Take good care of yourself. My phone will be switched on at all times, so just give me a call if anything happens,” he said before letting go of her.

Having been caught off guard by his sudden kiss, Roxanne only regained her composure a few seconds later.

Whatever negative emotions she had were gone when she heard his deep and seductive voice. “You too. Stay safe on the drive home, and let me know when you have arrived.”

Lucian nodded with a smile and waited until she entered the mansion before getting into his car. Roxanne watched as his car disappeared into the distance before returning to her room.

She had just opened her bedroom door when she saw the three kids sitting on her bed.

The kids turned around excitedly when they heard the door opening.

Benny sounded a little disappointed when he asked, “Why did you come upstairs so soon, Mommy?”

Roxanne knew what he was implying with that question of his, but she ignored it and responded by asking, "I'm the one asking the questions here. Why are you three still awake this late at night?"

Unsure of what to say, the kids exchanged glances in silence. Eventually, Estella decided to speak up and replied with a pitiful look on her face, "I couldn't sleep because you weren't home yet, so I had Archie and Benny keep me company."

She then hopped off the bed and hugged Roxanne's thigh as she continued, "It's all my fault, Mommy. Please don't blame Archie and Benny!"

Roxanne had always had a soft spot for Estella to begin with, and that spot only grew softer ever since she found out about Estella's identity.

She patted Estella on the head and shifted her gaze toward Archie and Benny. "Oh, well... I have something to tell you kids anyway."

The kids immediately sat up straight with serious looks on their faces.

Not wanting to scare them, Roxanne tried her best to sound as calm as possible when she said, "I need you kids to behave yourselves and bring your smartwatches with you when you go to kindergarten. Also, stay with Ms. Ward after class is over. Do not leave the kindergarten until you see me. Is that understood?"

The kids were pretty smart, so they knew something had happened after the incident earlier that evening even if Roxanne didn't tell them.

While they were still too young to be of any help, the best they could do was not make Roxanne and Lucian worry.

"Okay!" The kids nodded obediently in unison.

## Chapter 1509

"So? Have you come up with a plan, Aubree?"

As time ticked past, Frieda grew increasingly anxious.

Aubree recalled something right then and clenched her jaw forcefully. "Have you investigated the man from that night?"

Frieda's eyes turned as wide as saucers. "You're going to ask for his help? Didn't you say he's in cahoots with Roxanne? What if he betrays you?"

Determination flashed across Aubree's eyes. "That's the only way! The man gave off an unusual aura, so I'm sure he's a powerful man!"

"But... why would someone like him work for Roxanne?" Frieda was filled with confusion.

"Did you investigate or not?" Aubree snapped, her patience wearing thin.

Frieda gave a hesitant nod. "I checked the surveillance footage and tracked down his house." "Bring me there!" Aubree said without hesitation.

Seeing that she was so determined, Frieda had no choice but to do as told.

They hailed a taxi by the roadside, and Frieda gave the driver the address of their destination. The vehicle slowly pulled away from the motel entrance.

Soon, the taxi rolled to a stop in front of a mansion.

“This is it but I'm not sure if he usually stays here,” Frieda said.

Aubree had no time to ponder her next move. She hastily flung open the car door and stepped out. The mansion was brightly lit. It was obvious it was occupied.

Aubree heaved a sigh of relief. However, her respite was brief. A moment later, her face twisted into a grimace and her gaze grew icy cold as she remembered why she was there.

Frieda stepped forward and rang the doorbell. Soon, someone answered the intercom. “Who is it?” Frieda turned to look at Aubree standing beside her.

“I'm looking for the owner of this mansion. Tell him that a woman with the surname Pearson is here to talk to him. He'll know who | am,” Aubree responded coolly.

The person on the other end grunted in acknowledgment. A brief silence later, he said, “The door is open. Come on in.” Following that, the door to the mansion opened with a click.

Aubree strode in, her face devoid of expression. As soon as she stepped into the mansion, she saw the man lounging on the couch.

“Ms. Pearson, why are you here late at night? Don't tell me you can't forget what happened that night,” the man said flippantly even though Frieda had come with Aubree. He stood up and came to Aubree.

“What are you talking about?” Hatred filled Aubree's eyes. “How dare you mention that night? If it wasn't for—ugh! | want to tear you into pieces for what you've done!”

Shawn arched a brow in amusement. “If it wasn't for what? If I'm not mistaken, that must be the reason for your visit, Ms. Pearson. Am | right?”

Aubree glared at him. “I need your help to leave the country!”

Shawn let out a derisive snort. “It appears that you have come to seek my help. Ms. Pearson, you may have been in a position of authority for an extended period of time, so | must remind you that this is not the appropriate way to request help.”

As he spoke, he swept his gaze over Frieda.

The Farwell family and the Pearson family have called off the engagement, but Ms. Queen is still friends with Ms. Pearson. How interesting.

Frieda met his gaze, and suddenly a vivid image flashed through her mind. A few years ago, Jonathan had brought her along to attend a national business conference, and she had met this man there.

Although the man wasn't as popular as Lucian, there were still people who would flatter him. She knew he could easily help Aubree.

Chapter 1510 Aubree clenched her fists by her sides, her nails digging into her palms. “Who said I'm asking for your help? Don't you realize that I'm threatening you?”

“Threatening me?” The amused look in Shawn's eyes intensified. “I don't think you're capable enough to threaten me with your current status.”

Aubree gritted her teeth. “If you refuse to help me, I'll make a police report! You'll be sent to jail for what you did to me that night!”

The lighthearted smirk that had been on Shawn's face moments earlier had vanished. His voice was low and menacing as he spoke. “If | was scared of the consequences, | wouldn't have done what | did that night. Do you have anything to back up your claims? Anything that could possibly be used against me?”

Aubree's lashes trembled imperceptibly when she heard that. Evidence? | was planning on using him, so | didn't leave any traces behind.

Seeing her reaction, Shawn continued, “If you have nothing, I'd advise you to behave yourself. My interest in you was not due to any romantic inclination, but because of your prior relationship with Lucian. Had it not been for this connection, | doubt | would have found you particularly attractive.”

He held her chin with such force that her face contorted in pain. “If you want my help, you will ask me politely. Don't give me any attitude, or you will regret coming here tonight.”

With that, Shawn tossed her aside in disgust.

Frieda's heart sank when she saw his attitude doing one-eighty. She glanced at Aubree before suggesting tentatively, “Aubree, perhaps you should talk to him while | go and check on the status of the situation.”

Without waiting for a reply, she rushed out hastily, afraid of inviting unwanted trouble. The butler entered his room at the same time. Aubree and Shawn were the only ones left in the living room.

Aubree was sprawled on the ground, looking wretched as Shawn towered above her and looked at her as if she was nothing but a worthless piece of trash. “Will you speak nicely now?” he asked, his voice dripping with disdain.

Awhile later, Aubree struggled to her feet and hung her head low. She gritted her teeth and forced herself to speak softly. “I'm willing to do anything as long as you agree to help me.”

Shawn was filled with a sense of satisfaction as he watched the former influential socialite submit to him. “You were discarded by Lucian like a piece of trash, but even so, your body is acceptable...”

He sounded her out by inching nearer to her.

Aubree dug her nails into her palms fiercely. Her body tensed up when she heard him call her trash, and his insults stung her soul like a thousand tiny needles.

However, she reminded herself to stay put to achieve her goal.

Shawn was pleased to see the submissive side of her.

Nonchalantly, he asked, “Something serious must've happened for you to endure all my insults, Ms. Pearson. If you are unwilling to divulge the details to me, how can I be of help?”

As he stopped coming closer to her, Aubree allowed her grip to loosen and replied, “I suspect Lucian has called the police to arrest me because of that b\*tch. Please help me by sending me out of the country!”

She bit the inside of her mouth and pretended to be weak by pleading, “I'm sorry for my attitude earlier. I promise I'll do whatever you say as long as I can escape the country safely!”

“That b\*tch?” Shawn repeated the way she addressed Roxanne in amusement.

Aubree's eyes widened in surprise as she considered the possibility that he was working together with Roxanne. She was afraid that she might've provoked him.

Her heart sank to the pit of her stomach.