

ABANDONED 1041

Chapter 1041 Too Late

“Mommy...” The kids leaned on Roxanne’s knee anxiously as they said, “We’re fine, Mommy! Don’t worry about us.” Roxanne’s expression darkened as she examined the wounds on their arms.

“I know you're all missing Essie, and don’t blame you. But take a look at your injuries! Why did you lie to me?” She could tell that the injuries weren’t the result of a simple fall. Furthermore, it was unlikely for both kids to fall at the same time.

Noticing their mother on the verge of tears, Benny glanced at Archie guiltily and muttered in a low voice, “We bumped into a few older kids along the way, and they chased after us.”

He then explained further, “Thank goodness Archie was there to defend me, and we were able to return home!”

Seeing that Benny finally told the truth, Archie decided to shoulder the blame himself. “If anyone is to blame for this, it’s me, Mommy. I was the one who wanted to bring Benny out.

Roxanne’s gaze darkened. “Why would they chase after you? Were they trying to rob you?”

Just when Archie was about to speak, Benny blurted out, “No. Archie wanted to give them some money, but they declined. They even claimed to have already received their payment...”

Upon hearing those words, Archie quickly shot Benny a look that made the latter shut his mouth meekly. “I suppose it was just an accident.” Archie added nonchalantly, “Maybe they mistook us for someone else. We didn’t know them at all.”

Still, Roxanne had already thought of something. Forcing a smile at the boys, she said, “Okay. Come here and let me bandage your wounds. After that, I’ll take you both out to dinner.”

Archie and Benny dared not to say anything further as they let Roxanne dress their wounds.

After she was done, Roxanne reminded the kids to be careful with the injuries before heading upstairs to call Lucian. Meanwhile, in the Farwell residence, Lucian felt exasperated as he watched Estella, who was having another autistic episode. In front of him, Sonya patiently held Estella in her arms as she tried to coax her to speak by offering her snacks and toys. Nonetheless, Estella didn't even bother looking at them. She simply lowered her head and fiddled with her fingers.

"Essie, are you happy that you're attending a new school next week?" Sonya asked, grinning widely at Estella.

Estella had a reaction right after her new school was mentioned. She merely pouted in reluctance.

Lucian frowned, wanting to persuade his mother. "Since Essie isn't willing to attend school, let's just homeschool her instead."

Sonya shot him a glare and said, "I have already found a good school for Essie. If she continues to behave like this, she will need to interact with people more often."

With that, she continued playing with Estella, who was still in her embrace.

Sonya was not discouraged at all despite Estella ignoring her. She was content as long as Estella was away from Roxanne, Archie, and Benny. Lucian was about to say something further when the phone on the table suddenly rang.

After seeing the caller ID on the phone, his eyebrows furrowed. Immediately, he grabbed the phone before Sonya could notice the name.

"Let me take this call outside." Sonya gave him a dubious look as she watched him leave the room. wonder who's calling him. Why is he acting so mysterious?

As he stood in the courtyard after emerging from the mansion, Lucian frowned heavily while he stared at the phone, which was still vibrating in his hand.

The only reason she's calling at this hour is to check on Essie's condition. At that thought, Lucian's lips curled into a wry smile.

Isn't it a bit too late for her to be concerned about Essie now?

Chapter 1042 Should Not Be Asking This

Roxanne waited for quite a long time, but no one answered the phone. After that, the call was disconnected. If it were in the past, she would never try calling back.

But this time, since it was about Archie and Benny, she had no choice but to make the call again. It took Roxanne several tries before the other end finally answered the call.

"What is it, Ms. Jarvis?" Lucian's voice was extremely cold and hostile, a far cry from his usual tone of speech. Roxanne couldn't help but freeze for a brief moment before she remembered the purpose of her phone call.

"Mr. Farwell, why do you always involve the children in matters between us adults?" With a cold voice, she uttered, "Even though you forced Essie to transfer to another school without considering her condition, don't have anything to say about that since she is your daughter. But how can you be so narrow-minded that you would reject Archie and Benny's visit?"

Lucian raised his brows when he heard Roxanne's words.

Initially, he thought the reason she called him was to ask about Estella's condition.

It hadn't occurred to him that she would call to confront him.

In truth, Lucian had expected both Archie and Benny would come looking for Estella. Still, he never thought they would come so early to see her.

Realizing that, Lucian's gaze was filled with mockery. "You've used Archie and Benny before, so there's no guarantee you won't do it again. I'm just taking precautions, that's all. Is there a problem with that?"

Roxanne was at a loss for words. She knew Lucian was referring to the previous incident in which Archie and Benny had gone looking for Estella without her knowledge.

Despite the fact that the incident had not been resolved, Roxanne had no intention of explaining any further.

"Even if that's the case, it's fine if you won't let them inside. However, you should have made sure the kids were safe and sound outside your house, Mr. Farwell.

Upon hearing her words, Lucian's expression darkened instantly. "What do you mean?"

Roxanne's voice was brimming with rage. "Archie and Benny were both injured when they got back from your place. They told me they were chased by a few juveniles. Do you need me to notify the police since the area around your house is terribly unsafe?"

Roxanne could only think of one person who would pay the juveniles to hurt Archie and Benny, and that person was Aubree. As she recalled the scene she saw that night, Roxanne had already associated Lucian and Aubree together.

Since this was Aubree's doing, Lucian may have been involved as well!

On the other hand, Lucian knew nothing about Archie and Benny going to the manor that morning, let alone know about the boys' dreadful encounter.

Despite the fact that he had already planned to comply with Roxanne's request and cut off contact with them, Archie and Benny had actually grown attached to him. Deep down, Lucian was also fond of them as well.

When he learned that the boys were hurt, Lucian was very much displeased. "Who did that to them?"

What kind of person would dare to harm Archie and Benny in broad daylight? And they even had the audacity to do it near my manor!

Yet, Roxanne questioned him instead, "Shouldn't be asking you this question, Mr. Farwell?" Hearing that, Lucian suddenly realized that the true reason for Roxanne's phone call was actually about this matter. At the end of the day, both Archie and Benny's injuries happened near his residence.

With that thought in mind, Lucian's tone softened gradually. "Honestly, just found out about this. Don't worry about it. Since this incident happened on my turf, will seek justice on behalf of Archie and Benny. promise shall get to the bottom of this matter."

Before she could regain her senses and organize her thoughts, Roxanne had already blurted out, "I hope you are a man of your word, Mr. Farwell. No matter who is the mastermind behind the attack, you should provide an explanation for the boys. After

all...

Chapter 1043 Safety Not Guaranteed

Lucian furrowed his brows slightly as he sensed what Roxanne would say next would be crucial. However, Roxanne fell silent for a long while. In the end, she ended the conversation abruptly. "I'll be waiting to hear from you then, Mr. Farwell."

Roxanne's frustration lingered long after she hung up the phone. She felt a knot tightening in her chest, knowing that every interaction with Lucian seemed to be a battle. But her thoughts quickly returned to Archie and Benny. She had to ensure their safety above all else.

As she paced her living room, her mind raced with various thoughts. She considered calling the police herself but decided against it for the moment. Lucian had promised to investigate, and she wanted to give him the benefit of the doubt, even if it was just this once.

Meanwhile, Lucian sat back in his chair, his mind occupied with the latest revelation. He couldn't shake off the unsettling feeling that someone was targeting the children. Despite his strained relationship with

Roxanne, he couldn't ignore the fact that Archie and Benny were innocent kids who didn't deserve to be caught in the crossfire.

The following day, Lucian began his investigation. He called his trusted security team and tasked them with looking into the incident. They were to gather any available surveillance footage from around his manor and interview witnesses who might have seen something.

Hours turned into days, and Lucian's frustration grew as leads seemed to go cold. His team reported that the area around the manor had limited surveillance, and the juveniles who had chased Archie and Benny were proving difficult to identify.

At the same time, Roxanne received a call from the school informing her that Archie and Benny were having a hard time concentrating in class. The boys were clearly shaken by the incident, and it pained Roxanne to see them so affected. She knew she had to do something to reassure them, to make them feel safe again.

In an attempt to distract them and lift their spirits, Roxanne planned a small weekend getaway. She took the boys to a nearby beach, hoping the change of scenery and fresh air would help them relax. As they built sandcastles and played in the waves, Roxanne couldn't help but worry about the looming threat and how it might disrupt their fragile peace.

Back in the city, Lucian's persistence finally paid off. His team managed to identify one of the juveniles involved. The boy, pressured by the presence of Lucian's intimidating security personnel, revealed that he and his friends had been paid to harass the kids by a woman fitting Aubree's description.

Furious, Lucian decided to confront Aubree directly. He found her at a high-end café, sipping on her usual latte. When he approached her table, his presence cast a shadow over her. She looked up, feigning surprise and innocence.

"Lucian, what a pleasant surprise! What brings you here?" she asked with a saccharine smile.

Without sitting down, Lucian cut straight to the point. "I know what you did, Aubree. I know you hired those boys to scare Archie and Benny."

Aubree's smile faltered for a moment, but she quickly regained her composure. "I don't know what you're talking about. Why would I do such a thing?"

"Don't play games with me, Aubree," Lucian's voice was ice-cold. "I've got evidence and a witness ready to testify. If you don't come clean, I'll make sure the police get involved."

Seeing that she was cornered, Aubree dropped the act. "Fine, I did it. But it was just to teach them a lesson, Lucian. They need to stay away from you and Essie."

Lucian's expression hardened. "This ends now. If you ever try to harm those boys again, I will make sure you face the consequences. And don't think for a second that this will go unnoticed."

With that, Lucian turned and left, leaving Aubree seething with rage.

Lucian immediately called Roxanne to inform her of the developments. "Roxanne, I've confronted Aubree. She admitted to everything. I've warned her to stay away from Archie and Benny."

Roxanne felt a mixture of relief and apprehension. While she was glad Lucian had taken action, she knew this might not be the end of their troubles. "Thank you, Lucian. I appreciate it."

"Don't thank me yet. I still need to ensure their safety. I'll be increasing security around your house and the school. We can't take any chances."

Roxanne nodded, even though he couldn't see her. "Agreed. Let's keep the boys safe."

As she hung up the phone, Roxanne felt a renewed sense of determination. She wouldn't let fear control their lives. With Lucian's help, she would make sure Archie and Benny could go back to being carefree children again, no matter what it took.

Chapter 1044 In Need Of Evidence

Lucian ordered in a cold voice, "You guys have one day to find out what happened and who dared to mess around near the Farwell residence!"

After hearing that, Axel agreed without hesitation and immediately led people to patrol nearby the residence.

The few hooligans who took money from Aubree received an order from her to stay around the area for the next few days to keep an eye out for the two children.

Aubree felt they would come again since they didn't see Estella when they came the last time. As long as they dared to come, they wouldn't be able to escape easily as they did.

The next morning, the security team of the Farwell residence surrounded the hooligans. "Please, we didn't do anything!" The hooligans quickly squatted down while shielding their heads as they sensed the other party was not to be trifled with.

Axel looked at them coldly. "Did you people chase after two children yesterday?" They exchanged glances with each other, not daring to respond first.

These men in black attire were clearly after the people who harmed the children. The hooligans knew if they admitted they were the ones who attacked the children, they might not be able to leave safely.

"Didn't you hear me?" Axel kicked one of them in displeasure. He didn't use all his strength, but it was enough to intimidate them.

"Till talk!" the hooligan who got kicked immediately cried out as he shut his eyes. Then, he continued, "S-Someone paid us to do this! Otherwise, we would never have dared! Those two children looked like children from rich families. If someone hadn't paid us, we wouldn't dare to provoke them!"

After coming clean, he inched back into the group. "Sir, I've revealed everything. Please don't give me a hard time..." Axel frowned as he heard that and probed coldly, "Do you know the person who paid you? What does he look like?"

The hooligans shook their heads fervently and answered, "It's a lady, but she covered herself fully. We couldn't see her face at all."

Looking at the tall man in black in front of them, the hooligans felt miserable.

They realized they should have noticed earlier that things wouldn't be as simple since the woman covered herself so cautiously. The hooligans thought they got lucky and didn't expect to get into huge trouble.

Axel looked at the hooligans with a scrutinizing gaze and saw them trembling in fear.

It was clear they wouldn't dare to lie.

After confirming the information, Axel gave a gesture to his subordinates.

Shortly after, the hooligans got surrounded by the team and started to wail in pain.

Axel stopped the team after some time and warned coldly, "This is a lesson for you all. Stay away from this area in the future!"

The hooligans were wounded differently, and when they heard what Axel said, they nodded while covering their wounds.

After Axel watched them leave, he led the team back to the manor and reported to Lucian. Lucian had been staying at the manor for the past two days.

He was working in the study when Axel returned.

The look in Lucian's eyes darkened when he heard Axel.

So, they were following someone else's order. Who could it be? Who dares to do such a thing on my turf? According to the hooligans, they were hired by a woman who covered herself completely.

A conjecture flashed across Lucian's mind, but he forcibly suppressed it. "Carry on with the investigation," Lucian instructed coldly.

Although he had a guess in mind, he needed concrete evidence.

Axel assented without hesitation and turned to leave.

Meanwhile, Lucian frowned as he picked up his phone.

It was natural for him to inform Roxanne since there was progress in the investigation.

Chapter 1045 The Answer Is Clear

Roxanne was changing Archie and Benny's dressing when her phone suddenly rang. When the boys saw the caller ID on the screen, their eyes lit up.

In contrast, Roxanne's eyes dimmed. The only matter she had with Lucian at the moment was the matter of the boys' injuries.

If nothing else had happened, Lucian had to be calling because he found something regarding the incident. wonder if he has found out who the culprit is yet.

"Mommy," Benny urged. "Mr. Farwell is calling!" Roxanne came back to her senses and smiled at the boys. "Mhm. I'm going upstairs to take the call. Be careful of your wounds, okay?"

The boys were disappointed to hear that Roxanne was not going to take the call while they were in hearing range. Nevertheless, Roxanne did not notice their looks of disappointment as she went upstairs and into the study.

"I've looked into the matter, and indeed, someone bribed them. However, still haven't found who that someone is," Lucian said just as Roxanne picked up the call.

Roxanne turned grim upon hearing that. "Have you not found out who it is, or do you not want to tell me the identity of the culprit?"

She guessed that it was Aubree, and she did not believe that Lucian would not be able to find a single clue pointing toward Aubree's involvement after such a long time of investigating.

Lucian frowned. "What do you mean, Ms. Jarvis? told you that I'd look into this properly for Archie and Benny. If had found out who was behind this, why would hide the identity of the person from you?"

Roxanne sneered. "What if that person is Aubree Pearson, your fiancée? There's nothing can do if you want to cover up for

her. Lucian froze.

In a mocking tone, Roxanne went on, "Mr. Farwell, are you saying that you still have no leads on who drugged the kids the other time?"

At that, Lucian's expression darkened.

Even if Roxanne did not say anything outright, he could guess that Roxanne was telling him Aubree was the one who drugged the kids.

However, his men had been keeping a close eye on Cory the entire time, and they had not seen Cory contacting Aubree. Still, Lucian did not think that Roxanne was accusing anyone; he just wanted concrete evidence for her words.

"Didn't you always want to know the result of my investigation? I'll tell you now, then. found out that a researcher who used to work at the Pearson family's research institute stole a batch of bacteria from another institute and is now missing," Roxanne uttered coldly. "Is that evidence enough for me to feel suspicious about Aubree's involvement?"

Lucian knew little about the bacteria, let alone the fact that Roxanne had already found many clues pointing toward Aubree's involvement.

“Why didn’t you tell me about this?” he questioned her.

Achuckle came from Roxanne. “Is there a point for me to tell you about it? How am I going to make sure that you won’t cover up for your fiancée like this time?”

Frankly, this was something she did not want to voice to him, but Aubree had been hurting her children again and again. Therefore, Roxanne no longer cared about trying to keep things civil between them.

After a period of silence, Lucian slowly said in an indifferent tone, “We need solid evidence to prove that Aubree’s behind this. Your words aren’t enough.”

Right as those words left his mouth, a dead silence took over the conversation. For a long while, Roxanne did not reply to him.

In the end, she laughed, but it was a sound tinged with resignation. “In that case, then I really do not have any solid proof. There isn’t anything I can do if you think that I’m just slandering her, Mr. Farwell.”

With that, she barked out another self-deprecating chuckle before ending the call. She thought that the answer would be clear to Lucian after telling him about the clue she found. Who would have known that Lucian would be that defensive of Aubree?

How was she ever going to find concrete evidence with the power she had?

Chapter 1046 Know Your Limits

Frieda soon conveyed Aubree’s message to Cory. Initially, Aubree thought that the deal could be done via the internet. After all, Lucian’s men were still monitoring Cory.

However, when the day of the transaction came, Aubree found herself ill at ease. If she did not watch him with her own two eyes, how was she going to make sure that Cory really deleted the photos?

With that thought in mind, Aubree paused in her motions and uttered to Frieda, "Tell Cory that I'm going to watch him delete those photos myself." Frieda stiffened. "But we might get exposed for this..."

Tamping down the feelings of displeasure in her heart, Aubree said with as much patience as she could summon, "If don't do this, who knows if Cory's going to lie to us?"

Frieda did not agree with Aubree, but she still told Cory about Aubree's intention. Naturally, Cory was not interested in meeting Aubree in person.

Nevertheless, ten million was too great of a temptation for him to resist. After a moment of contemplation, Cory sent an address to Frieda. That was where they were going to meet.

Frieda agreed to it. The next morning, Frieda drove Aubree to the location. The place was at an unfinished building, which was also the place Cory had prepared for himself to go into hiding.

He never thought he would end up using it for this. When the two women arrived, Cory was already waiting in the unfinished building.

"Hand me the money, and I'll delete the photos," Cory said as he lazily waved the camera at them when he saw the two women. That must be the camera he used to take pictures of me!

Aubree gritted her teeth and hissed, "I'll transfer half first. Once you delete the photos, I'll transfer the other half." Cory readily agreed to it before gesturing for her to transfer the first half.

As a private investigator, Cory was a well-prepared man. He had even prepared an account for Aubree to transfer the money to. In no time, Aubree transferred five million to him. Then, Cory deleted the photos while she watched him.

After that, he showed her the camera to let her make sure that no photos were left.

It was only then Aubree transferred the other five million to him resentfully.

“ never thought you’d be someone like this!”

Cory raised a brow at that. “Of course, people like us who are in illegal dealings have to keep an ace up our sleeves. What are we going to do if our client runs off without paying?”

Aubree growled out, “You'd better have deleted everything, or else I’m never going to let you off the hook!”

“Don't worry. I’m a man of my word as long as you pay up.” Cory curled his lips. “Also, thanks to you, we’re now in the same boat. I’m not that stupid to pull a dumb move like that.”

He was speaking the truth.

If not for Aubree’s cruelty in laying a finger on the three children while spying on Roxanne, Lucian would not have tracked Cory down.

They were now in the same hot water.

If Lucian found any concrete proof against one of them, the other would not be able to escape unscathed. The realization of that only irked Aubree even more.

After all, why would she want to work with someone who might stab her in the back at any time?

Still, she had to cooperate with Cory.

As Cory walked past them to leave, he reminded Aubree, “As long as you know your limits and do not enrage Mr. Farwell again, you might be able to keep what happened a secret. But if you...”

Chapter 1047 Was She Good

On Monday, Sonya sent Estella to the new kindergarten herself. The new kindergarten was not far more luxurious than the old one. The only difference between them was the different teachers and classmates.

In spite of that, Sonya was delighted with her arrangement. My granddaughter is finally away from Roxanne's kids! She'll still be able to make new friends here, anyway.

Sonya was so preoccupied with thinking about Estella's future that she completely neglected Estella's feelings. After handing the girl off to the teacher, Sonya turned and left.

The teacher drew her brows together as she looked at the tear-stricken face of Estella. The children who were admitted into the kindergarten were either from rich families or powerful families, so they had to be carefully handled.

Their parents were even more troublesome to deal with than them. If those parents were to find out that their children had cried at kindergarten, she might be fired from her job the next day.

With that thought in mind, the teacher quickly crouched down to console the girl. "Be good, Essie. The kids are waiting for you in the classroom. You're such a pretty girl; I'm sure everyone will like you!"

It was only when the teacher was talking to Estella did she realize the girl had delicate features and was a silent crier. Hence, her crying did not frustrate anyone—it only made others feel bad for her.

The teacher's words did not reach Estella at all. Estella just kept crying with her head hung low.

The teacher was stumped. The only thing she could do was lead the girl into the classroom and introduce her to the other children.

As Estella looked sweet and cute, some of the other children soon gathered around her to console her. Yet, Estella ignored them all, wringing her hands as she continued to sob.

Anxious, one of the children hurriedly grabbed her hand, hoping for Estella to stop ignoring them. However, the touch startled Estella. As she moved away from the child, she screamed.

“What's the matter?” the teacher cried out, swiftly approaching the crowd to find out what happened.

Even the children were stunned by Estella's response. Once they came back to their senses, they began treating her in a completely different manner.

“She's so strange!”

The children started thinking of Estella as a weirdo. Not only was Estella ignoring them, but she was even screaming non-stop. At that, the teacher frowned as certain thoughts made themselves known in her mind.

This girl... doesn't seem normal.

A headache formed in the teacher's head when she realized that. In the end, she asked the other children to return to their seats as she tried to console Estella herself.

Unfortunately, Estella was unresponsive to anything she said.

Luckily, Estella had stopped screaming; she was now only ignoring everyone.

The teacher gave up, thinking, This is fine as long as she doesn't disrupt the other kids.

Estella barely participated in any group activities that day.

Even during break times, she continued to sit on her chair in silence.

The teacher started to panic but did not know what to do.

When classes were over, Sonya came to pick Estella up. At the same time, she asked the teacher, “How was Essie? Was she a good kid today?”

The teacher pursed her lips.

She figured that Estella had some kind of psychiatric disorder, but she did not dare to say it to Sonya, a woman from a rich and powerful family.

Hence, she said in as much of an indirect manner as she could, "I... don't think Essie can adapt to the new environment. She's quite rejecting of the kids."

Sonya patted Estella's head, unfazed. "Didn't tell you that you should make more friends? Why are you ignoring them?"

Chapter 1048 Will Hit You

The teacher glanced at Estella before turning to Sonya. She then rephrased her sentence. "It's not that Essie is ignoring the other kids; it's that she screams when they come close to her."

Then, as if life was trying to prove the teacher's words, Sonya noticed a few children who were getting picked up by their parents whispering as they looked in Estella's direction. Along with the teacher's words, Sonya could guess what those children were whispering about.

"Our Essie takes a while to warm up to strangers. It's her first day here, after all. hope the teachers will be more patient with her," Sonya said, maintaining her polite demeanor. "Essie will be a good kid once she's used to them."

Then, Sonya lowered her head to look at Estella and asked, "Right, Essie?" Estella pressed her lips tightly together as she continued to hang her head. It was as if she did not hear Sonya.

Sonya furrowed her brows and crouched down patiently. "I'm talking to you, Essie." The girl blinked before looking away from Sonya.

"think it's best for Essie to return to her previous school. The girl will feel safer with people she knows around her," the teacher suggested.

The mention of Estella's original school reminded Sonya of Roxanne and her two boys.

Estella was her granddaughter. Yet, the girl seemed close to Roxanne and her boys while being exceptionally distant from her, her own grandmother. In what way am I not treating her well?

With those thoughts in her mind, Sonya turned furious. She had to get Estella to say something to her. "Do you want to go back to your old school?" Sonya questioned with an icy look on her face.

Estella pursed her lips. Right as she was about to nod her head, Sonya continued speaking.

"I put a lot of effort into finding a new kindergarten for you. Can you bear to let me down? The kids here like you too. As long as you can accept them, you'll surely be good friends with them," Sonya said, completely ignoring the fact that she had given Estella hope before cruelly crushing it.

Tears soon sprang into Estella's eyes. Sonya froze. In the next second, Estella's tears fell uncontrollably, and she began bawling in front of the kindergarten.

"Ah..." Out of habit, the teacher stepped forward, about to comfort the girl. However, Sonya pulled Estella over to herself and uttered, "Stop crying!"

Estella bawled even louder. She had been living with Lucian all this while. Although Sonya knew about her condition, she had never seen Estella in a meltdown. Her temples throbbed even harder at the sight of the girl's crying, and she became extremely frustrated. "Stop crying!" she yelled

by the girl's ear. Startled, Estella paused for a few seconds.

She resumed crying a moment later. The teacher panicked, but she did not dare to take a step closer to the girl and her grandmother.

When Sonya realized that threatening Estella worked, she lifted her hand as if she was going to hit her in the next instant. "If you keep crying, I'll beat you!"

Frightened out of her wits, Estella hiccupped and started crying in silence instead.

Sonya had no idea that the girl was frightened. Instead, she thought that her method worked, and she stood back up in satisfaction.

The teacher's heart ached after she saw how Sonya treated her. "I'll talk to her when we get home. I'm sure she'll be more cooperative tomorrow."

With that, Sonya lifted Estella into her arms and turned to leave.

Chapter 1049 Lesser Interactions

Estella silently sobbed the entire ride back to the Farwell main residence. Meanwhile, Sonya managed to calm herself down. Her heart ached when she saw Estella crying her eyes out.

"wasn't really angry with you. was just scaring you. Don't cry." Naturally, Estella was unconvinced. She pursed her lips as fat tears continued to roll down her cheeks.

Sonya had no choice but to try and coax her. However, not only did it not help, Estella's eyes were now swollen from how much she had cried.

As Lucian was worried about Estella, he came over to check on her after finishing work for the day. "Why is she crying so much?" He frowned when he saw how swollen Estella's eyes were.

Sonya couldn't help but feel guilty. "It's because she's not used to the new environment yet. After all, it's only been a day. She'll be fine after a while." Hearing that, Lucian glanced at Estella suspiciously.

was the one who sent Essie to kindergarten back then. Because of her autism, she does not know what the outside world is like. Even if she finds herself in an unfamiliar environment, she will hide away in a corner to avoid any interaction. When did she ever cry this hard?

However, as Estella refused to speak, there was no way for Lucian to discover the truth. "Since she isn't used to it, she doesn't have to go anymore. I'll take her home and find a tutor to homeschool her."

With that, he held out a hand to Estella. Although Estella was still angry with him, her dislike for Sonya was currently even stronger. She immediately hugged her daddy's arm, tears streaming down her face.

When Lucian saw her reaction, he knew that his conjecture was right. My mother must have made her cry somehow.

Regardless, Sonya stubbornly refused to admit it. "Essie had been recovering well before, but Roxanne had to ruin it! If it weren't for her, Essie's condition wouldn't keep relapsing."

She only knew Estella was now able to speak and was unaware that it was all thanks to Roxanne, Archie, and Benny. Meanwhile, Lucian was fully aware of it. If it were not for her, Estella would probably still refuse to speak.

When he heard Sonya's words, he frowned deeply and retorted, "You said yourself that it was because of a change in environment. It has been a long time since Essie has had any contact with them, so what does this have to do with them?"

Sonya instantly got upset. "Are you taking her side?" Lucian had already recomposed himself and looked at her with a casual expression. "I was just telling the truth."

Then, he directed his attention to Estella, who was lying in his arms. After getting away from Sonya, Estella slowly stopped sobbing and relaxed leisurely against her father's shoulder.

"I gave it some thought and concluded that it won't be beneficial for Essie to stay at the Farwell main residence in her current condition. You and Dad don't have any experience in taking care of her. I'd be a lot more at ease if I did it myself," Lucian said in a low voice.

When Sonya heard that, her expression twisted, and she looked at him suspiciously. "What are you planning? Are you going to let Essie meet Roxanne again?"

"No," Lucian replied as a frown formed on his face.

Since Roxanne had already given up, her interactions with Estella would become lesser.

He couldn't allow Estella to continue relying on her.

Nonetheless, Sonya didn't really believe him and still insisted on making Estella stay. "Yes, we don't have experience, but we can hire a psychologist to look after her."

"James is the only psychologist Essie has been seeing and trusts. He also has his own responsibilities to deal with," Lucian retorted right away.

In other words, he was turning down Sonya's suggestions yet again. Sonya still wanted to try and convince him, but Lucian had already turned away and left with Estella.

"It's getting late, so you should get some rest. It's time for Estella to go to sleep too."

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With that, Lucian strode out of the Farwell main residence with Estella in his arms. Sonya was fuming as she watched her son take Estella away just like that, but there was nothing she could do about it.

As Lucian drove home, he glanced at the rearview mirror, where Estella sat quietly in her car seat. Her eyes were still red and swollen from crying, and she clung tightly to her stuffed animal. Lucian's heart ached seeing her like this, and he resolved to make things right.

When they arrived home, Lucian carried Estella inside and gently set her down on the couch. He crouched down to her eye level, his expression softening. "Essie, I want you to know that you're safe here. You don't have to go back to Grandma's if you don't want to."

Estella nodded slowly, her small hands gripping the stuffed animal even tighter. "I don't want to go back, Daddy," she whispered.

Lucian's heart broke a little more at her words. He pulled her into a gentle hug. "You won't have to, sweetheart. I'll make sure of it."

Over the next few days, Lucian arranged for a tutor to come and teach Estella at home. He also made sure that James, the trusted psychologist, was available for regular sessions. Gradually, Estella began to settle into her new routine, though she still had moments where she would retreat into herself.

One evening, as Lucian was working late in his study, he heard a soft knock on the door. "Come in," he called out, looking up from his papers.

The door opened slowly, and Estella peeked her head in. "Daddy, can I stay with you for a while?"

Lucian smiled warmly and gestured for her to come in. "Of course, Essie. Come here."

She walked over to him, clutching her stuffed animal, and climbed onto his lap. Lucian wrapped his arms around her, feeling the weight of her small body against his. They sat like that for a while, neither of them speaking, just taking comfort in each other's presence.

"Daddy, do you think Mommy will ever come back?" Estella's voice was barely above a whisper, and Lucian could hear the hope and fear intertwined in her question.

He sighed, knowing that he couldn't give her the answer she wanted. "I don't know, Essie. But no matter what happens, I'll always be here for you. I promise."

Estella nodded, seeming to accept his answer for now. She nestled deeper into his arms, and Lucian felt a sense of peace wash over him. He knew that the road ahead wouldn't be easy, but as long as he had Estella by his side, he was ready to face whatever challenges came their way.

As days turned into weeks, Estella's condition slowly improved. She started to open up more during her sessions with James, and her tutor reported that she was making good progress with her studies. Lucian made sure to spend as much time as possible with her, doing everything he could to make her feel loved and secure.

One afternoon, as they were playing in the garden, Estella looked up at him with a shy smile. "Daddy, thank you for taking care of me."

Lucian felt a lump form in his throat, and he pulled her into a tight hug. "You're my little girl, Essie. I'll always take care of you."

In that moment, Lucian realized just how much his daughter had come to mean to him. She was his world, and he would do anything to protect her and make her happy. As he held her close, he made a silent vow to never let anything or anyone come between them again.