

The Abandoned Wife Chapter 11

The Abandoned Wife Chapter 11-In the middle of the night, Lucian tiptoed into Estella's room in the Farwell residence and tucked her in.

He watched the little girl sleeping soundly in bed for quite a while before he turned and stepped out of the room.

The moment he came out of the room, Cayden stepped forward to update him, "Mr. Farwell, I've dropped by the restaurant to investigate the matter. However, I didn't discover anything as the surveillance cameras there were broken."

"So coincidentally?" Hearing that, Lucian knitted his brows. The moment my suspicion was piqued, the surveillance cameras were broken as well?

Looking troubled, Cayden replied hesitantly, "It could be mere coincidence. After all, we haven't received any news about Mrs. Farwell- I mean, Ms. Jarvis, since she left years ago. I don't think she'd appear out of the blue in this city."

Right after he said that, he noticed his boss's expression darkening.

Cayden's heart skipped a beat. He cast his head down and dared not utter anything more.

"I got it," Lucian responded ambiguously before he turned and headed toward his room.

The following morning, after breakfast, Roxanne took her two boys to the premium kindergarten recommended by Madilyn.

As someone of high efficiency, Roxanne had stayed up late to sort things out after finalizing her option for the kindergarten the night before. She planned to enroll them in it right away.

As notified by Madilyn, the entry requirements for the particular kindergarten were relatively strict. All the students there were from wealthy and prominent families. On top of that, the kindergarten was stringent in screening their students' parents.

Right after Roxanne reached the office of the head of the kindergarten, she was requested to provide the details of her occupation and net worth with related documentation. Fortunately, she had made the necessary preparation, as reminded by Madilyn earlier.

Even though Roxanne was neither a CEO nor a director, she had made a lot of money over the past few years with her expertise in the medical field. Thus, her net worth was a lot higher than the kindergarten's minimum requirement.

After going through her documentation, the head of the kindergarten uttered courteously. "Ms. Jarvis, I'll proceed to enroll your kids now. Could you please sign here?" Roxanne placed her signature on the document as requested.

Shortly after, the head of the kindergarten summoned a teacher with a pleasant look. She instructed the latter to lead the two boys to their classroom so they could familiarize themselves with the environment and their classmates.

The two boys waved at Roxanne nonchalantly and walked away with the teacher.

Roxanne retracted her gaze after their figures were out of sight. Then, she nodded at the head of the kindergarten and left. Unlike the other parents, she had nothing to worry about when it came to her two boys.

She had started bringing them along to the research institute years ago. In other words, they were not easily shy as they had gotten used to mingling with others and could adapt to the environment well. Apart from that, the syllabus in the kindergarten was a piece of cake for the two little geniuses.

Instead of being bullied by the other kids in the kindergarten, Roxanne was even more worried that her two boys would pick on the others. After all, almost all the talented members of the research institute had fallen victim to their tricks before.

On the other hand, the two boys looked around curiously along the way as their teacher led them to their classroom.

The moment they stepped into it, their teacher introduced them gently to the other kids. "Everyone, they're our newly joined classmates. Put your hands together to welcome them, okay?"

All the other kids stared at the two boys with intrigue. Meanwhile, the duo also introduced themselves graciously.

Their adorable looks and cheerfulness were indeed irresistible to the other kids. After their introduction, everyone applauded excitedly.

Benny scanned one round before someone among the kids caught his eye. Pulling the hem of Archie's shirt, he whispered to the latter, "Archie, look! Isn't that our paternal sister? She's in the same class as us!"

The Abandoned Wife Chapter 12-When Archie looked in the direction where Benny was staring, the little girl they met the day before came into sight. Subsequently, he furrowed his brows.

In the meantime, Estella was staring at them as she clapped her hands with the other kids.

When she realized Archie and Benny were fastening their gazes on her, a hint of inexplicit excitement flickered in her crystal-clear eyes.

Never had she expected that she would meet them here. Even though she had only met them once, she could not fathom why she tended to take a fancy to them.

Even so, Archie and Benny had retracted their gazes as she kept her eyes glued to them.

“Okay! You may take your seats now. Oh, there are two empty seats over there. I’ll arrange for you two to sit together, okay?” Their teacher pointed at the two empty seats next to Estella.

Archie and Benny were momentarily stunned. Nevertheless, they nodded obediently and walked over to sit down without uttering any words.

Estella’s eyes lit up at the two boys walking toward the empty seats next to her. She gazed at them in anticipation but was soon overcome by a wave of disappointment. They’re seated right next to me, but why don’t they greet me? It’s as though they didn’t recognize me.

Down in the dumps, Estella cast her eyes down, toying with her fingers.

In actuality, the two boys were observing her reaction discreetly. Sensing the latter’s sheer disappointment, they could not help feeling guilty.

Clenching his fists, Archie reminded himself and his brother at the same time, “Daddy abandoned us and had another child with another woman. He even bullied Mommy! We mustn’t talk to her because she’s his kid with another woman! Otherwise, we’ll surely hurt Mommy’s feelings!”

Benny nodded solemnly at the former’s words. “Yeah! We should ignore her!”

Hence, the two boys sat upright throughout the class and did not even glance obliquely at Estella.

Sensing the duo’s aloofness, Estella dared not steal any glance at them again.

After class, quite a few girls huddled over to play with the two boys. They not only gasped admiringly at the two brothers’ good looks but also shared their toys willingly with them.

The outgoing Benny got along well with the others, laughing cheerfully.

On the contrary, Archie was polite, mature for his age, and friendly.

Catching sight of the two boys' bright smiles, Estella suddenly had the courage to go over and greet them again.

However, all the other kids surrounded the two boys and squeezed her out of her seat.

One of the girls even grimaced as she pushed her aside and scoffed, "Little Mute, get lost! You can't even talk, so what's the point of you squeezing with us here? Don't rain on our parade, okay?" Caught off guard, Estella lost her balance and fell backward.

All the others behind her dodged immediately. None of them stretched out their hands to help her.

Startled, Estella thought of balancing herself by grabbing the side of the desk next to her. Even so, she missed it and fell. The next second, she knocked her hand on the side of the desk. Ouch! It hurts! Estella ended up slumping on the floor. She knitted her brows in pain. At the same time, tears started to well up in her eyes.

Meanwhile, the other kids around her only watched without taking any action. A few girls cupped their mouths to stifle their giggles.

Estella had been unsociable in the class all the while. Since she was mute, she hardly had any friends.

Nevertheless, she was as sweet as a doll. Even though girls disliked her, she was well-liked by most of the boys. They even treated and served her well like a princess.

In fact, the boys, who were usually as agile as monkeys, tended to practice self-discipline in front of her. Needless to say, the girls were green with envy because of that. Tammy, who shoved her away moments ago, never failed to grab the chance to bully her.

The Abandoned Wife Chapter 13-No words could describe the pain on Estella's hand and the grievance surging from within her after the fall. She massaged her little hand instinctively, almost breaking into tears.

After a while, she sniffled and got up to her feet. Then, she took out a notebook from the desk and started writing something in it.

All the other kids were not surprised by that. Since Estella was mute, she usually communicated with them by writing in her notebook. However, it seldom appeared as there was scarcely anyone to play with her.

A while later, she flipped her notebook toward Tammy after she finished writing.

Placing her hands on her hips, the latter snorted at the word "apologize" in it and questioned sardonically, "How could you have the cheek to request me to apologize to

you? Estella, you're asking for it!" With that, she advanced toward Estella with her nose in the air and stretched out her hand, thinking of giving the poor girl another shove.

It never occurred to Estella that Tammy would strike at her again. Standing rooted on the spot, she was unable to react.

In the meantime, Archie and Benny had been keeping their eyes on them.

Nobody was aware when Tammy suddenly gave Estella a hefty shove a while ago. The realization only dawned on Archie and Benny when Estella fell to the floor.

Now that Tammy was going to shove Estella again, they could not hold back any longer.

"Enough of that! How could you bully her!" Archie stood in her way swiftly, glowering at her with a look of sheer grimness.

Tammy was stunned at his sudden emergence in front of Estella.

Archie stated sternly, "Didn't your mother teach you to apologize after making a mistake? Since you'd shoved her just now, you must apologize to her!"

Irrked by Tammy's domineeringness, the young boy exuded an imposing aura surprisingly.

An intimidated Tammy looked around apprehensively, hoping the other kids would back her up. Moments later, when nobody stepped forward to do so, she could only retort guiltily, "I-I..." Nevertheless, she was at a loss for words to speak up for herself.

At the sight of Tammy blushing crimson, Benny advanced toward her resignedly. "You shouldn't hurt anyone as you like. It's bad behavior! We're not supposed to fight among ourselves. Apologize to her, okay? Benny's voice was not as authoritative as Archie's, but there was still an unmissable hint of sternness in his tone.

On the verge of tears, Tammy flashed him a glance timidly.

Seeing that, Benny blinked a few times and relented. "Don't cry. You'll look ugly if you cry. Bad kids tend to look ugly, too. Not to mention, only bad kids hurt others. If you don't wish to be one of them, apologize to her sincerely. You'll automatically be a good kid again after she forgives you!"

Tammy sniffled hard, restraining herself from bursting into tears. No way! I don't want to be an ugly girl! But bad kids tend to look ugly...

After much hesitation, she snuffled and apologized to Estella, "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have pushed you just now. Could you please forgive me?"

Estella looked at Tammy for quite a while before nodding.

Benny grinned blissfully. "That's right! We're all classmates and should get along well with each other!"

Tammy nodded awkwardly at Estella's willingness to forgive her.

The other kids shared the same sentiments as Benny and echoed his words. Meanwhile, Archie turned to look at Estella. "Are you all right? Did you get hurt just now?" Hiding her injured hand behind her back, Estella put up a front and shook her head.

The next moment, Benny leaned closer and stared at her suspiciously. "I saw you knock onto the desk just now. How's it possible that you're not hurt at all? Let me have a look!" Without any waste of time, he grabbed hold of Estella's injured hand. The latter shrunk away, trying to pull her hand out.

Nevertheless, the tiny red patch on the back of her hand was utterly visible against her fair skin.

When the unsightly redness came into view, Archie questioned her again, "Do you really not feel any pain?"

Wearing a look of earnestness, Estella shook her head. Even so, her eyes were red-rimmed.

Archie and Benny furrowed their brows in unison. The part of her skin has turned relatively red! How's it possible that it's not painful? It has even started to swell. There might be a bruise later! "We'll bring you to see our teacher now and let the school nurse attend to it." Archie sounded determined.

Estella wanted to withdraw her hand, but Benny gripped it. He dragged her and went after Archie, heading straight for the staffroom.

At the sight of the wound on Estella's hand, their teacher asked about the event that had transpired earlier before leading them to the school nurse's room in a hurry.

Estella's injury was not severe, but the school nurse did not dare to dawdle. After spraying some medicine onto her wound, she massaged it for a while gently.

When it was done, she looked at the two boys waiting aside. Impressed by their good looks, she asked their teacher, "Are these two boys your new students? I've never seen them before. Look at how adorable they are! I bet girls will fall head over heels for them when they grow up! Look, this little girl resembles them too. Could they be siblings?"

Hearing that, Archie and Benny exchanged gazes intuitively and turned to look at Estella alongside them simultaneously.

The duo was not surprised. After all, Estella was their paternal sister. It was nothing unusual for paternal siblings to look alike. Furthermore, people tended to comment that their eyes did not resemble their mother's.

Estella also gazed at the two boys and could not help wondering, Do we look alike?

After the school nurse attended to Estella's injury, their teacher left together with them.

Back in the classroom, Estella followed behind Archie and Benny closely like a small tail attached to their backs.

Soon, they walked back to their seats and sat down.

Initially, Archie and Benny thought that their mission was accomplished. It never came to them that Estella would tag along with them wherever they went during class activities. My goodness! We can't seem to shrug her off! She even keeps stealing glances at us during class!

After a few times, Archie could not take it any longer. Furrowing his brows, he looked intently into Estella's eyes. "Why are you following us so closely?"

His tone was not harsh, but he sounded emotionless and aloof.

Intimidated by his abrupt query, Estella looked away hastily. Even so, she cast a look in his direction again seconds later.

Archie's forehead creased into a frown.

Undeniably, he had a soft spot for the adorable Estella. How nice would it be if she's not related to Daddy! If so, Benny and I would treat her like a little princess and protect her well. However, this Little Mute is Daddy's daughter with another woman. If we treat her well, we'll be betraying Mommy!

He wanted to get a grip of himself to pay no heed to the girl, but he was speechless when he saw the latter staring at them pitifully.

Just when he was about to ask Estella to stay away from them, he noticed that the latter started writing something in her notebook again. This round, she wrote: I want to be friends with both of you. Shortly after, she lifted her notebook, covering the lower half of her face and only revealing her bright eyes.

The Abandoned Wife Chapter 14-Roxanne was clueless about the incident at the kindergarten.

After leaving the kindergarten, she headed straight to the research institute set up in the country by her professor.

The moment she stepped into the building, she saw a charming man dressed in a suit approaching her.

“Welcome back, Roxanne. I’m excited to be your colleague again.”

Colby Galloway stood before her and extended his hand.

Roxanne nodded and shook his hand, quickly retracting it.

Previously, Colby was abroad. He was also in Harvey’s team and was involved in many types of research and development.

During that time, Colby had been her assistant. After all, he was a graduate of a famous school, and his capabilities were acknowledged by Roxanne and Harvey.

Though Roxanne’s attitude was impassive, Colby did not mind it. He smiled and offered, “Come on. I’ll bring you to the office.”

With that, he turned around and led the way, introducing the structure of the research institute and the key personnel along the way.

Upon reaching the office, Colby grinned at Roxanne, saying, “I’ve specially instructed someone to decorate this place. It’s based on your preferences in the past. Linda’s workplace is right outside.” Roxanne studied the area and responded with a satisfied nod. “That’s really thoughtful of you. Thank you so much.”

Colby was momentarily stunned. He then put on a gentle smile. Even his voice sounded warm. “It’s nothing much. You don’t have to be so polite with me.”

As he was saying that, he could not conceal his liking for her that poured out from his gaze.

Despite knowing she was a mother of two, it did not decrease his adoration for her.

After all, Roxanne was an excellent woman in every aspect. In fact, she was so excellent that her qualities could cover up her shortcomings.

However, Roxanne did not notice the gaze he was giving her.

After briefly scanning the office, she said to Colby, “My purpose for coming here today is to understand the operations of the research institute. Could you bring me around the facility?” Colby was still smiling brightly. “Okay.”

Roxanne nodded slightly and gestured for him to lead the way.

When Colby returned to his position in front of her, his smile turned bitter.

It was true that he liked Roxanne. Sadly, she only viewed him as an ordinary subordinate.

This is so... frustrating!

Soon, both of them left the office area and went straight to the main region of the research institute.

They arrived at the testing area. Several researchers wearing laboratory coats and masks could be seen busy working at their respective workbenches.

Roxanne did not want to disturb them. Hence, she asked Colby to briefly introduce all the projects and their progress.

By the afternoon, Roxanne already had a clear idea of the research institute's situation.

At the same time, she discovered an important problem.

When they were visiting the testing area earlier, there was a foundation work area where no work was being carried out.

Roxanne asked the researchers about it, only to find that the drugs they needed were finished, and they were still waiting for the research institute to distribute them.

Many other areas were facing the same situation.

Due to the delay in the distribution of drugs, the research of several projects had no choice but to be put on hold temporarily, leading to an increase in cost and time needed for the projects. Gradually, it led to a major loss to the research institute.

After stepping out of the testing area, Roxanne frowned and gave Colby a stern look. "The delay of drug distribution has caused many types of research to be put on hold. What's going on here? Didn't you find a way to solve this?"

The Abandoned Wife Chapter 15-Hearing her words, Colby stopped smiling and answered seriously, "I'm already looking for a solution for this problem."

Roxanne frowned as she looked at him, waiting for his next sentence.

"Recently, I've met with a medicinal ingredients supplier and have talked to them about a long-term collaboration. All that's left is to sign the contract. The agreed time to sign the contract would be tomorrow afternoon. The reason things did not go smoothly

previously is that the research institute was still in the construction phase. Many complicated and miscellaneous affairs had to be dealt with, and the employees were still getting used to the system. It was only recently that they had begun to adjust themselves. Moreover, Horington's medicinal ingredients are mostly monopolized by a few major suppliers, and the supply was not enough to cover their demand. On top of that, our research institute is fairly new to the industry, causing many suppliers to intentionally increase their prices. It cost us a lot of time to negotiate for a lower price. That was why things were delayed until now."

Colby gave her a brief summary of what had happened.

Though it sounded simple, he was just a researcher. Hence, he suffered a lot when he negotiated with the cunning suppliers.

Even if he did not reveal much detail, Roxanne could imagine how difficult things were.

As the person in charge of the research institute, he naturally had to manage everything. It was normal to face challenges everywhere.

In fact, she encountered some herself when she was abroad.

After she listened to Colby's explanation, Roxanne's expression relaxed. "Things must've been very difficult for you."

The corners of Colby's lips lifted. "Not really. It's my job, anyway."

"What's the name of this medicinal ingredients supplier?" Roxanne brought the conversation back to the topic of business again. "If it's possible, I'd like to go with you to the signing of the contract. Since I'm going to take over the future matters of the research institute, I think I should go over and have a few conversations with them."

Colby simply responded, "Sure. You could come along tomorrow."

Roxanne nodded.

After that, both of them returned to Roxanne's office. When she saw the person behind her had no intentions of leaving, she was perplexed. "Is there anything else?"

Colby smiled politely. "Actually, I have something to ask you. Are you free tonight? It's your first day at work, and I've arranged a dinner to welcome you. At the same time, you can get to know the people in the institute."

Hearing that, Roxanne relaxed her brows. "Thank you. Tonight's dinner is on me, then. We're going to be working closely together in the future. I should show my sincerity as the person in charge." Seeing that she had agreed to come, Colby did not haggle over such details. He nodded with a smile. "Okay. See you after work, then."

With that, he turned around, intending to leave.

Right then, Roxanne called out, "Could you please bring over all the documents I need to deal with later? I've got no urgent matters, anyway. I can use the time to take a look at them." "Sure. I'll get them now," he answered.

Soon, Colby brought all the documents to her office.

After placing them down, he excused himself politely and helped her to shut the door.

At last, Roxanne was the only person left in the office.

She pulled out her phone and dialed Madilyn's number. "Maddy, are you free tonight? Could you help me pick Archie and Benny up? I've got something to attend to tonight, and I might be home late." Madilyn did not question further and gave her a brief reply. "Okay."

After making the arrangements for the children, Roxanne started looking through the documents.

It was not until Colby knocked on her door that she stopped working.

It was time to get off work.

"Time goes by really fast..." Roxanne muttered, picking up her coat and walking out of the door. Colby grinned. "You're very focused when you work. It's normal to not notice time passing by." Both of them continued chatting along the way.

After exiting the research institute, they got into Colby's car and went straight to the restaurant.

After around ten minutes, Colby gestured for her to look ahead. "That's the one."

Roxanne lifted her gaze and spotted a vintage-looking building with exquisite carvings on the exterior. Moreover, it was located in front of a river. Hence, it looked really charming. The restaurant was named The Waterfront.

Colby parked the car, and they walked toward the entrance of The Waterfront.

Just as they were about to enter, a Rolls-Royce stopped slowly by the roadside in the dark.

Cayden got off the car and went to open the door to the passenger seat.

Lucian's slender figure appeared in the dark, and his dark, narrowed eyes were fixed on the entrance of The Waterfront.

When he was in the car earlier, he had distinctly seen a figure that resembled Roxanne's.