

ABANDONED 1231

Chapter 1231

A few moments later, Roxanne organized her thoughts and explained, "It's just standard procedure for acupuncture. If he wants to perform it on me, he can't do it with my clothes on."

Upon hearing that, Lucian furrowed his eyebrows slightly as a look of dissatisfaction flashed past his eyes. Now that | think about it, Jack did need to remove her clothes to perform acupuncture on her. Still, it was disturbing!

His jealous expression amused her. "Setting that aside, Jack's behavior is still very suspicious," Lucian concluded stubbornly. That rendered Roxanne speechless.

While she didn't want to believe Jack was acting maliciously, she had to admit that, from an objective point of view, he was pretty suspicious.

Lucian frowned at her and informed her coldly, "I plan to investigate this matter in the afternoon. Will you join me?" Nodding, Roxanne was about to accept his invitation when the children pounced into her embrace.

Thus, instead of replying to him, she stared at the children, puzzled.

"Mommy!" Benny peered at his mother caringly. "Are you going out in the afternoon?"

The children overheard the adults' conversation because they had been somewhat intentionally playing around the two. When they heard Lucian was about to investigate his love rival, they were enthused to lend a helping hand.

Roxanne smiled at them. "I may need to visit the research institute later. Is it okay if you three are alone at home in the afternoon?"

The moment she ended her sentence, Benny shook his head. Perplexed, she asked, "What's the matter?"

He grabbed her hand. "You've just recovered, Mommy. Even though you're not in the hospital right now, you should still rest at home for a couple of days."

Then he glanced at his brother.

In response, Archie added, "We were really scared when we saw you like that yesterday! Mommy, please, we don't want to witness that again!"

Estella nodded vigorously. "You need to rest properly, Ms. Jarvis. |..." As she inadvertently recalled Roxanne's comatose state yesterday, her eyes reddened. "I don't want you to get sick anymore, Ms. Jarvis!"

Roxanne's heart ached when she saw the children's anxious countenances.

"Since the children are so worried about you, you should rest at home for a few days," Lucian spoke up. "I have said it before, but my goal isn't to prove Jack did something bad. | merely want to catch the perpetrator who hurt you. You can just relax."

She didn't expect he would say something like that in front of the children and blushed. Then, she reflexively turned to them to see their reaction.

Thoughtfully, the children pretended not to hear anything.

Upon seeing their lack of unusual reaction, Roxanne sighed in her mind. "In that case, I'll tell Dr. Galloway to grant you entry into the research institute in the afternoon."

Lucian nodded.

Since it was already noon, she asked him to stay for lunch.

Once lunch was over, he left.

Estella stared at her father with hope. "Can I stay, Daddy?"

When he turned to face her, he saw her grabbing onto the hem of Roxanne's shirt tightly.

It was apparent the girl was unwilling to part with Roxanne so soon after what happened yesterday.

Hence, he furrowed his eyebrows and said, "Ask Ms. Jarvis. If she's willing to let you stay, you can."

Chapter 1232

Lucian's reply took Roxanne by surprise. | didn't expect Lucian would allow Essie to stay or even ask me to decide if she could. Immediately upon receiving her father's approval, Estella turned to Roxanne. "Ms. Jarvis..." The boys approached them. "Please let Essie stay, Mommy!"

Roxanne hesitated for a moment when she saw the anticipation in the boys' eyes. In the end, she found herself unable to say no. "Fine. If Essie wants to stay, she can."

Delight colored the children's countenances as they cheered.

Roxanne couldn't help but grin upon seeing that.

As Lucian's expression softened, he shifted his sight toward her.

Upon detecting his gaze, she suddenly tensed up. Even her expression was slightly frozen.

"Since you don't mind, I'll be counting on you to take care of Essie for the next few days, Ms. Jarvis," Lucian uttered. In response, Roxanne pursed her lips and smile.

Before he left, he informed, "I'll arrive at the research institute at two in the afternoon."

She nodded. "I'll let Dr. Galloway know and ask him to head over there earlier."

When their conversation ended, Lucian turned and left.

Roxanne and the children watched his car disappear from their sight before returning to the mansion. It was nearly two in the afternoon, so she swiftly gave Colby a call.

Meanwhile, Colby had just left the surveillance room.

He stayed up for the entire night scrubbing all traces of his misdeed.

After learning Lucian would investigate the matter during the morning from Roxanne's call, he inspected all the surveillance footage again.

He only dragged his exhausted body out of the surveillance room after he found no problems with the footage.

To his surprise, he received another call from Roxanne just as he left.

She said, "Mr. Farwell will be heading over there at two in the afternoon. So, you may need to reach there a little earlier." Colby's heart sank when he heard that. | know it's only a matter of time before Lucian comes, but | didn't expect it to be so soon! Still, he agreed to her request. "Got it. I'm at the research institute right now, so he's free to visit whenever he wants."

It was almost two when he ended the call.

Hence, he immediately returned to the surveillance room to recheck the surveillance footage.

Just as he did that in suspense, he heard someone knocking on the door.

"Mr. Farwell has arrived, Dr. Galloway," the receptionist informed while Lucian stood next to her. Colby's expression shifted drastically before he forced himself to calm down as quickly as possible.

A few seconds later, he turned to the entrance with a polite smile. "You should've called me when you arrived, Mr. Farwell. | could've welcomed you at the building entrance."

Lucian's line of sight landed on the surveillance footage on the screen and inquired, "What is this, Dr. Galloway?"

"| couldn't help but feel something was amiss about what happened yesterday. Thus, | decided to check the surveillance footage in hopes of finding anything fishy. Since you're also planning to investigate yesterday's incident, how about we examine the footage together?"

Silently, Lucian gazed at him for a few seconds.

Meanwhile, Colby felt his heart pounding. Yet, he had to stifle his anxiety and pretend as though nothing was going on.

Chapter 1233

After a while, Lucian shifted his icy look away from Colby, to which the latter responded with a calm sigh of relief.

Then, Colby reflexively stepped away and allowed Lucian to take his seat while he stood at the side.

Both of them then watched yesterday's surveillance footage, starting with the experiment Roxanne was performing with Jack. In the footage, they saw Roxanne joking around with Jack.

Colby was also in the footage, but he was a few steps behind Roxanne and Jack with an expression completely different from theirs.

Overall, it seemed as though Colby was the only one focusing on the experiment while the other two were not involved in any work.

Lucian always thought Roxanne was way too intimate with Jack.

However, it was the first time he saw the two of them interacting with each other without his presence. They don't look like business partners at all! It's completely different from how Roxanne describes their relationship.

The longer he watched the footage, the colder his expression became. Even the surrounding temperature was dropping.

He was further enraged when he saw Jack and Roxanne only needed to exchange a glance to know what each other was doing. When did the two of them start having this tacit agreement in whatever they do? If someone who doesn't know the true nature of their relationship sees this, they'll think they're a couple!

His fury reached its peak after he saw Jack attempting to wipe Roxanne's sweat away with tissue paper.

On the side, Colby was confident if Roxanne hadn't dodged Jack's attempt, Lucian would've probably smashed the screen into pieces.

As he continued watching the footage, he grew tenser.

Even though he had ensured his doctored surveillance footage was flawless, he was still worried because Lucian was the one inspecting the footage with him.

Lucian's presence alone gave him a lot of pressure. When the screen displayed the footage he modified, it took him everything he got to remain composed. Carefully, Colby observed Lucian's expression.

Lucian merely furrowed his eyebrows. It was difficult for anyone to tell what he felt from his expressionless countenance, but that didn't stop Colby from getting cold feet.

It wasn't until the surveillance footage showed Jack carrying Roxanne out of the laboratory that Lucian suddenly moved. Fear flashed past Colby's eyes.

In response, he bit his lower lip hard, so much so that he could taste blood in his mouth, to steady his nerves.

"Replay that section of the footage again," Lucian ordered imposingly as he glanced at him.

Colby shuddered slightly in response and did as Lucian asked.

It was the part right after the poison gas leaked into the room, and the laboratory was thrown into chaos. Holding his breath, Colby blinked as he watched the footage again.

From his perspective, he didn't see anything odd.

However, he was concerned Lucian had discovered something was out of place. Why would Lucian ask him to roll back the footage otherwise?

Therefore, he steeled himself and asked, "Did you see anything odd in the footage, Mr. Farwell?"

The look in Lucian's eyes remained grim as he watched that section of the footage until the last second. There's nothing odd, which is precisely the problem. Aside from Jack, Roxanne, and Colby, no one else approached the lab table. In that case, the only suspects are Jack and Colby, yet they didn't act suspiciously in the footage at all!

Chapter 1234

Colby was getting very nervous because Lucian still hadn't replied to him yet.

Meanwhile, he kept telling himself the reason Lucian wasn't speaking was that the latter hadn't spotted anything fishy. As long as | didn't mess up while doctoring the footage, Lucian's biggest suspect will only be Jack!

When his train of thought ended there, he suddenly gained confidence, and he relaxed. After an unknown amount of time passed, Lucian left his seat without any facial expression. Promptly, Colby asked, "Where do you want to check next, Mr. Farwell?"

Lucian was still thinking about the footage he watched.

Hence, when he heard Colby's question, he said, "We'll take a look at the research facility."

"All right!" Colby was relieved to hear that. Based on his expression, I'm pretty sure he didn't notice anything. I've successfully fooled him with the footage. As for the research facility, I've already swapped out all the medicine on the research table. There's no way I'll be exposed!

As he thought about that, he cheerfully brought Lucian to the research facility.

On the way there, Lucian passed by many researchers. All of them were so taken aback by his imposing demeanor that they didn't have the nerve to greet him.

Soon, the duo arrived at the research facility. Without Colby's guide, Lucian strode straight toward the research table Roxanne used yesterday.

After sweeping his gaze across the table, he noticed all the medicine on the furniture was brand new. Frigidly, he questioned, "Who changed them?"

Hearing that, Colby promptly explained, "Dr. Jarvis and Mr. Damaris almost finished using them yesterday. Additionally, we weren't sure if the medicine contributed to Dr. Jarvis' condition after what happened. Thus, we replaced all of them with new ones to prevent the same tragedy from occurring."

It was a logical explanation that he was confident even Lucian couldn't argue with.

After all, while Roxanne's experiment couldn't continue, other research still needed to be conducted at the research institute. Furthermore, the employees there needed to deal with those potentially harmful medicines.

All of that meant Lucian had one less lead to follow.

As Colby put a few bottles of medicine in front of Lucian, he said, "These are the medicine Dr. Jarvis and Mr. Damaris used yesterday. | wonder if it's because this batch of drugs is from a different manufacturer than the pre-test one."

Upon hearing that, Lucian turned to him with a puzzled look. "While it's still the same type of medicine, different manufacturers make the same stuff differently. Thus, the results of experiments may be different. In the past, whenever we started using another manufacturer's products, we would conduct a pre- test again. It seems like there was an oversight this time."

Lucian glanced at the bottles and ordered, "Bring these medicines to my car." It seems like I've gotten a new lead. I'm going to have these medicines inspected first.

Speedily, Colby ordered the staff members to do as Lucian asked.

"Is there anything else, Mr. Farwell?" he asked hypocritically.

Dissatisfied, Lucian informed, "That's all for now. Try to recover the original medicines on the lab table." Colby panicked a little. "That's..." | may be exposed if those original bottles are recovered.

Sensing his hesitation, Lucian peered at him frigidly. "It's only been one night. Are you telling me those bottles have been destroyed?"

Colby shuddered. "N-Not yet. I'll try to retrieve them as soon as | can."

Chapter 1235

Lucian remained at the research institute for the entire afternoon.

After he left the building in the evening, he glanced at the time. A brief hesitation flashed past his eyes before he called Cayden and asked him to grab the medicine in his possession for examination. Then he drove to Roxanne's place.

Meanwhile, the children were playing with each other at home.

Roxanne was preparing their dinner absentmindedly.

It was because she felt a little regretful after Lucian left.

After all, he was investigating a matter involving her, and she wanted to be a part of it. Furthermore, that was the main reason she left the hospital in the first place.

However, she simply couldn't leave the house because the children refused to let her go.

To make matters worse, she still hadn't gotten a single text or call from Lucian for the whole afternoon. Hence, she had no idea if he unearthed anything.

Just as Roxanne was getting distracted, she heard the children's voice in the living room.

The children suddenly heard the doorbell ringing while they were playing and opened the door. When they saw who it was, they gleefully greeted, "Mr. Fairwell!"

Even though Lucian was in a rather foul mood, he still smiled a little when he met their bright eyes. As he lifted his sight from the children, he noticed Roxanne wasn't in the living room.

Hence, he asked the boys, "Where's your mommy?"

They pointed at the kitchen in unison.

Right as Lucian was going to step into the kitchen, Benny mysteriously grabbed the hem of his shirt and gestured for him to bend down.

Lucian did as the boy wished and positioned his ear next to Benny.

"Mommy has been absentminded for the entire afternoon thinking about something," Benny whispered. Upon hearing that, Lucian smiled and patted the boy's head. "Thank you for telling me."

Then he stepped into the kitchen.

The children might not know why Roxanne was distracted, but he did. Roxanne's undoubtedly curious about my investigation progress. In that case, it seems like | arrived in the nick of time.

Right as Roxanne returned to her senses and turned around to check out the commotion in the living room, she saw him arriving at the kitchen entrance.

As they stared at each other, she couldn't help but recall what he had said before he left and blushed uncontrollably.

"Why are you suddenly here?" She was used to them not meeting each other often.

Therefore, when Lucian visited her for the second time on the same day, she felt a little awkward.

Composedly, he answered, "I'm here to visit Essie and tell you what | discovered during the afternoon."

Upon hearing that, she ignored her awkwardness and inquired, "How did the investigation go?"

As Lucian watched Roxanne fret about the matter, he felt his mood lifted. Then, an urge to tease her surfaced in his heart.

"I'm hungry." He raised his eyebrow and stared at the dinner she was preparing.

She was stunned for a few moments before she understood what he meant. Though, she appeared hesitant. While | want to develop my relationship with him naturally, this may be progressing a little too fast...

"The only thing | ate since yesterday afternoon was a sandwich. | don't have the energy to talk much." Lucian's voice rang in the kitchen again.

Feeling apologetic toward him and eager to learn the results of his investigation, Roxanne eventually agreed to his request. "I'm preparing dinner right now. If you don't mind, you can stay and eat with us. We can talk after our meal."

Chapter 1236

Upon obtaining the answer he desired, Lucian raised his eyebrow. "I shall graciously accept your invitation, then."

When Roxanne heard that, she still felt a little awkward, even though she was the one who asked him to join her for dinner. It was a rare harmonious moment between them.

To her surprise, Lucian proceeded to ask, "Do you need any help?"

That rendered Roxanne speechless for a few seconds.

After snapping back to reality, she shook her head awkwardly. "No need. You can help me watch over the children instead." A hint of disappointment was visible on his face, though he still nodded in agreement.

She thought he would enter the living room to do that, but he just leaned against the kitchen entrance and gazed at her. His action confused her.

Upon noticing her confusion, Lucian explained, "I can watch them from here. Besides, you're eager to learn the results of my investigation, no? | can reveal a little bit to you first while you prepare dinner."

Despite still feeling uncomfortable, Roxanne quietly returned to preparing dinner because she was interested in the investigation.

As he watched her busy about, he slowly recalled what she was like six years ago. She was like that in the past, working in the kitchen countless times to prepare my meals. However, | never cherished her effort. It makes me feel guilty now that I'm thinking back on it, but it also strengthens my determination to get back with her!

The children waited for the adults for a long while in the living room before they approached the kitchen with curiosity. "Daddy?" "Mommy?" they uttered in unison on their way to their destination.

Then, when they saw the scene in the room, they kept quiet so as not to disturb their parents.

It was as if they were staring at a painting of Lucian, strapping as always, and Roxanne, busying in the kitchen.

In response, Archie shushed his siblings before they all sneaked back into the living room.

Upon hearing the children's movements, Lucian glanced behind him.

He grinned when he saw them before shifting his attention back to Roxanne.

However, because he was gazing at her, Roxanne felt slightly tense and moved much slower than usual.

Hence, dinner took a little longer to be ready. Just as she was about to serve a dish, Lucian abruptly did it for her.

Roxanne froze for a few moments as complicated emotions swelled in her heart. If Lucian had treated me like this even once six years ago, perhaps | wouldn't have left... Well, it's too late to think about that now.

"What's the matter?" he questioned with a frown after he set a dish down on the dining table, returned to the kitchen to grab another, and saw Roxanne rooted to the spot.

His voice pulled her out of her thoughts. Then, she suppressed her emotions and grinned at him as though nothing had happened. "It's nothing. | was just wondering about the results of your investigation."

Lucian noticed something was off with her tone. "Are you feeling unwell?"

Roxanne's eyelashes trembled as she nodded vaguely. "Maybe I'm feeling a little dizzy after sleeping too long yesterday. I'll be fine after | adjust my routine."

Then she returned to making dinner rather hastily.

Chapter 1237

Sensing that she was out of sorts, Lucian felt like probing further. However, he swallowed his words at the last moment when he thought of their previous interaction.

Even when the table had been set up, neither of them said a word.

As for the three children, who were already seated at the table, the sight of their parents busying themselves brought glee to their faces.

The delight they exuded gradually softened Roxanne's heart.

Even though Roxanne had calmed down after dinner, the results of the investigations from the afternoon were still on her mind. "Mr. Farwell, are you ready to talk about it?"

Filled with curiosity, the children inquired with their childish voices, "Talk about what?"

Roxanne flashed a smile at them. "It relates to the research institute and has nothing to do with you. Go out and play now." In response, the children looked toward Lucian for verification.

The latter affirmed in a serious tone, "Go on now."

Only then did they slowly make their way out of the mansion.

Both of them settled down on the couch with coffee by their respective sides.

"How is the investigation coming along? Is there any progress?" With her brows slightly knitted, Roxanne was filled with concern. "Is it related to Mr. Damaris..."

Refusing to believe that Jack was capable of something like that, she was anxious for an answer.

However, her mention of Jack caused Lucian's eyes to narrow.

He still couldn't shake the scene from the surveillance cameras of her happily chatting with Jack.

Even now, she's still worried about him.

Lucian felt an uncontrollable fit of rage welling up inside him.

However, the thought of her busy silhouette in the kitchen earlier helped him suppress his anger with remorse.

After a slight pause, Lucian began to speak. "As of now, there's no concrete evidence of any kind that points to Jack."

Even though his words triggered a sigh of relief from Roxanne, he continued speaking before she could declare that Jack wasn't involved.

"That itself makes him more of a suspect." Roxanne knitted her brows in shock. "What makes you say that?"

When Lucian sensed how protective she was over Jack, his tone took a turn. "I've checked the surveillance feeds but didn't find anything incriminating in them. However, Jack is the one who has spent the most time in the lab other than you. A few minutes before the incident, he went out to take a call. Wasn't it too much of a coincidence?"

Furthermore, his suspicions were intensified by the deep understanding Jack had on poisons.

Thinking back to what happened the previous day, Roxanne began to waver.

Although it was true that Jack coincidentally left the lab then, she still couldn't accept casting suspicion upon the very person who had invited her to join the project.

Moreover, she felt that Lucian was being influenced by his personal emotions in making the accusation.

Holding that thought, Roxanne sighed under her breath. "If you're accusing Mr. Damaris without any corroborating evidence, I would advise you to be more rational in your investigation, Mr. Farwell."

As they lock gazes with each other, Lucian's displeasure couldn't be any more obvious. Nevertheless, Roxanne maintained eye contact without any intention of backing down.

After a long while, Lucian finally retracted his gaze and got to his feet, all while desperately suppressing the anger within him. "I have sent the drugs you used that day for tests. We'll talk about the results once they're out. As for your advice, I'll keep that in mind."

With that, Lucian turned and left before Roxanne could respond.

After watching the video from the surveillance cameras and seeing how protective she was of Jack, Lucian couldn't predict what he would do if he continued the conversation.

Losing his composure in front of her was something he swore not to repeat.

Chapter 1238

Roxanne's eyes brimmed with helplessness as she watched Lucian's leaving silhouette.

Meanwhile, the three children were playing happily outside when they saw Lucian emerge with a scowl on his face. The sight instantly caused their smiles to freeze.

"Daddy..." Estella warily grabbed hold of Lucian's sleeve. "Did you argue with Ms. Jarvis again?" Given how hard it was for Lucian and Roxanne to mend ties, she didn't want to see them on bad terms again. Archie and Benny, too, gave him a look of concern.

Made aware of his glowering expression, Lucian quickly regained his composure and tousled the children's hair. "It's nothing. We just have different opinions about work.

Since Roxanne had often used the same excuse every time they quarreled, his words served to deepen the children's suspicions.

Cognizant of what was going through their minds, Lucian comforted them, "I'll come and see you again tomorrow."

That was his way of promising that he would return.

Only then were the children's concerns eased as they bid him goodbye.

Over the next few days, Lucian would have dinner at Roxanne's house under the pretext of visiting Estella.

Whenever Roxanne wanted to turn him down, he would then claim that there was progress in the investigations to report.

Consequently, the former had no choice but to accommodate him.

Throughout that period, Estella stayed in Roxanne's house and had entirely forgotten about the new kindergarten.

Pamela, who still felt guilty over the bullying incident, didn't dare call Lucian to inquire about her absence. Hence, she had no choice but to contact Aubree instead.

"Ms. Pearson, is Essie not feeling well the last few days?"

Aubree was puzzled by the question. "What? Why did you say that?"

A sense of hope began to swell within her.

If Estella was really sick, she could pretend to visit the former just to approach Lucian.

However, Pamela was equally clueless. "She hasn't come to school recently, so | thought she was sick, isn't she?" The words caused Aubree's face to darken.

Over the last few days, she had been scheming on how to break Roxanne and Lucian up. Although she had contacted him a few times, he would quickly brush her off. Thus, she had no idea what was going on with Estella.

Little did she expect the latter to have missed kindergarten for a few days.

Based on Lucian's previous attitude, sending Essie to the new kindergarten was his way of declaring that his relationship with Roxanne has ended. Now that Essie isn't going there anymore, does it mean that he has changed his mind?

The thought filled Aubree with frustration.

Meanwhile, when Pamela didn't receive a response, she carefully called out, "Ms. Pearson?"

Regaining her senses, Aubree desperately suppressed her anger despite wearing a scowl on her face. "Essie is feeling under the weather. I'm sorry that | forgot to inform you about it."

Pamela didn't think too much about it. "That's a relief. | thought—"

She subsequently let out an awkward chuckle before changing her words mid-sentence. "In that case, she should take her time to recuperate at home. There's no rush to come back to school."

After grunting in acknowledgment, Aubree ended the call before Pamela could say anything else. She was afraid that she would lose her temper if the conversation were to drag on any longer. After all, the scene of Estella crying her eyes out when she saw Roxanne hadn't slipped Aubree's mind.

Roxanne must be the reason that little b*tch didn't go to school!

Chapter 1239

No matter how she thought about it, Aubree just couldn't calm down.

It wasn't until she gave Cory a call that she found out about Roxanne's discharge from the hospital. Without a doubt, the news further unsettled her.

After much contemplation, she steeled herself and gave Lucian a call.

However, she had to wait for a long while before she heard an answer in a frosty voice. "What is it?"

Despite gritting her teeth, she maintained a caring tone. “Lucian, I just received a call from Ms. Yaxley saying that Essie has missed school recently. Is she not feeling well?”

The moment she finished, Aubree felt her heart tense up as if she was afraid of hearing Lucian say that Estella was at Roxanne’s.

Furrowing his brows in brief silence, Lucian replied, “Essie is at my mom’s. You don’t have to bother. As for the teacher, just inform her that Essie is sick.”

Due to the bad blood between Aubree and Roxanne, Lucian didn’t plan on letting the former know where Estella really was. In addition, Lucian was certain of his feelings for Roxanne after the poisoning incident.

That was the reason he felt the need to draw the line with Aubree.

However, Aubree doubted the truth in his words.

Given how important I am to Sonya, I’m sure she would invite me over if Essie was by her side. After all, it’s a great opportunity for me to bond with the little girl. Since that didn’t happen, I’m not buying Lucian’s story.

Coming to that conclusion, Aubree felt her heart sink. At the same time, she replied in a skeptical tone, “Really? I’m surprised that I didn’t hear about something this important.”

With no intention of continuing the conversation, Lucian remarked, “I still have a meeting to attend. If there’s nothing else, I’m ending the call now.”

With that, he hung up on Aubree before she could react.

Upon hearing the call end tone, Aubree’s face lost all color.

That little b*tch must be at Roxanne’s. I can’t think of any other reason Lucian would lie to me. Amidst her fury, a sudden knock on the door was heard.

Aubree stood up to get it despite looking upset.

When she saw who it was, she didn’t bother hiding her displeasure.

“Aubree, what happened? Why do you look so angry?”

Worried that Aubree would do something impulsive, Frieda came over to check on her. Concern filled her mind the moment she saw the look on Aubree’s face.

Aubree seethed as she spoke. “That little b*tch has gone to Roxanne’s house again!”

The news shocked Frieda. “Isn’t she supposed to be in the hospital?”

She clearly remembered Jonathan telling her that Roxanne’s poisoning was extremely serious. Hence, she was surprised at how fast Roxanne was discharged.”

Aubree slammed the door to vent her frustration. “That b*tch is da*n lucky. Why didn’t she die from the poison?”

Frieda still couldn’t believe what happened. “Have you asked Mr. Zaythron about it? Given Roxanne’s critical condition, the poison in her body would still take time to dissipate even after she woke up. How did she manage to leave the hospital so soon?”

The frustrated Aubree, annoyed by Frieda's incessant questioning, gave the latter the side-eye. "How would I know? Cory is nothing but a coward. Ever since I told him that I was trying to kill Roxanne, he stopped contacting me. If I hadn't asked him about it, he would probably not have told me!"

Unsettled by the tantrum Aubree was throwing, Frieda felt the need to calm the former down. "Um... How did you know that Essie is at Roxanne's place?"

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The question only served to infuriate Aubree further. "Lucian told me about it!" The answer shocked Frieda. "Really? There's no way he would tell you something like that." Her words caused Aubree to glare at her, cowing her into silence.

Knowing Lucian, she felt that once he had decided to leave Estella with Roxanne, he would definitely not allow Aubree anywhere near his daughter.

Therefore, she found it hard to believe that Lucian would tell Aubree the truth.

With a scowl on her face, Aubree explained, "He didn't say it. Instead, he mentioned that Essie was with Mrs. Farwell, who didn't bring up the matter with me. It's evident that he's lying!"

Frieda found the situation to be equally suspicious.

Nonetheless, fearful that the hasty Aubree would make a mistake, she advised, "Why don't you give Mrs. Farwell a call? Essie might really be there."

When the scowl on Aubree's face deepened, Frieda quickly changed her tact.

"If Lucian has lied to you, you should also tell Mrs. Farwell about it. Doesn't she deserve to know since Lucian sending Essie to Roxanne's side is a serious matter?"

Knitting her brows, Aubree began to waver upon hearing Frieda's words. She's right. I can still complain to Sonya.

With that thought in mind, Aubree gave Sonya a call.

The latter answered quickly. "What's the matter, Aubree?"

Upon regaining her composure, she spoke in a concerned tone. "Mrs. Farwell, Essie's teacher just called and told me that Essie has been absent from school for the last few days. Lucian mentioned that she's with you. I was wondering if she's not feeling well?"

Sonya's brows furrowed at once. "Isn't Essie with the two of you?"

Even though the answer was expected, Aubree still felt disheartened to hear Sonya say it. Nevertheless, she pretended to be understanding. "I've been busy recently and didn't have time to see Essie. I might have heard wrongly, so I'll call Lucian to check."

With that, she made some idle chatter with Sonya before ending the call. She was afraid of losing her temper if they were to continue the conversation.

"Aubree—"

Standing opposite her, Frieda felt tense when she saw the grave look on Aubree's face.

Before she could finish her sentence, she saw Aubree smash her phone to the ground in rage. “It’s that b*tch again. Lucian must have sent Essie to her!”

Panic descended upon Frieda. “How is that possible? Even if she has really been discharged from the hospital, she must still be very weak. If she can’t even take care of herself, why would Lucian send Essie to her?”

It would have been better for Frieda not to have spoken. Now that she had mentioned it, Aubree immediately recalled how worried Estella was for Roxanne.

Instead of thinking of it as Lucian’s idea, | think that little b*tch requested it herself. Who knows, she might be taking care of Roxanne this very minute!

The thought filled Aubree with rage. “Instead of guessing, we’ll know what that little b*tch is up to by seeing for ourselves!” No sooner has Aubree spoken than she stormed out of the house. Frieda didn’t even have time to react.

All this while, | have treated that little snitch very well and catered to her every whim, and yet, she clings on to someone else. When | become Mrs. Farwell one day, I’ll definitely skin her alive!