

ABANDONED 161

Chapter 161

Roxanne smiled apologetically. "I'm sorry, but I'm not in the mood for that recently."

Although she rejected him pleasantly, the rich gentleman was slightly disappointed. However, he turned around and left without forcing his way through.

Finally, she had once again gotten the peace and quiet she longed for.

Just as she was about to gather her emotions, she suddenly heard a familiar voice calling out to her.

"Roxanne? Is that you?"

Hearing that, Roxanne raised her gaze in the direction of the voice. She then saw a charming man in a grey tuxedo staring at her in bewilderment.

As soon as their eyes met, Roxanne's eyes lit up. In a surprised tone, she uttered, "Larry? What a coincidence!"

Larry Morrison was a senior she met abroad. Internationally speaking, he was one of the elites of the younger generation.

Back then, Larry had helped Roxanne a lot when she had just gone abroad. Therefore, they shared a

pretty good relationship.

When she returned to the country, she was too busy with matters concerning the research institute, so she never had a chance to reach out to him.

Upon seeing that he had not mistaken someone else for her, Larry put on a bright smile and went up to Roxanne. "It's been a long time."

Roxanne smiled and nodded. "Indeed. When did you come back to the country? Why didn't you contact me?"

Larry sized her up and said, "I've been back for a fortnight now. I did think of reaching out to you, but I was afraid that I might disturb you. After not seeing you for so long, you seem to have lost weight. Have you been busy with work in Chanaea?"

Roxanne simply smiled and answered, "You can say so."

Although she was busy with the research institute, her workload was nothing compared to when she was abroad. I'm sure I've lost weight because of those three little ones at home. Sull, I shouldn't reveal my personal matters to Larry.

Larry looked at her worriedly and said, "I know you're a workaholic, but you ought to look after yourself.

Don't tire yourself out."

Roxanne merely nodded in response.

"By the way, why are you here? Are you already working with Queen Group despite only returning to the country recently?" Larry asked with a smile.

Roxanne was stunned for a moment upon hearing that. When she remembered who those guests at the banquet were, she smiled and shook her head. "I've only returned to the country recently, so how could I've done that? I was invited because I just happened to have cured Old Mr. Queen's illness.

However, I guess it's also right to say that I'm working with the Queen family. They're our research institute's medicine supplier."

Larry was astonished. "I've heard about how bad Old Mr. Queen's condition was, and a lot of renowned doctors had failed to cure him. When I heard he was cured, I wondered who the amazing doctor was!

Who would've thought it was you?"

Roxanne pressed her lips into a smile. "I was just lucky. It just happens to fall into my area of specialty."

Larry arched a brow and said, "Stop being so humble, will you? I don't know about the others, but I

know your capabilities like the back of my hand. However, knowing that you're the one who cured Old

Mr. Queen, I'm still very impressed."

"You flatter me too much, Larry." Roxanne laughed.,

The two of them chatted happily about Alfred's illness and each other's medical fields.

Nearby, Lucian saw a man approach Roxanne and left just moments earlier. His gaze darkened when

he saw her talking happily with another man. He was so displeased that everyone nearby could feel the

icy aura he was exuding.

Naturally, Jonathan noticed what was going on, and he could tell why Lucian was displeased. "Lucian,

would you like to go over there and see what's going on?" he asked.

Chapter 162 Their Relationship

After seeing them interacting with each other a few times, Jonathan seemed to have figured something out. At the very least, he had noticed that Lucian's attitude toward Roxanne was far from what he expected.

Jonathan watched as Lucian's gaze followed Roxanne and Larry, his eyes narrowing slightly whenever Larry made Roxanne laugh. It was clear that Lucian was not pleased with the situation, and his discomfort was palpable.

Deciding to probe further, Jonathan casually approached Lucian. "Lucian, it seems like you know Dr. Jarvis quite well. How long have you two known each other?"

Lucian's expression tightened momentarily before he composed himself. "We've known each other for a while. Our paths have crossed professionally on several occasions."

Jonathan nodded thoughtfully. "I see. She seems very accomplished and well-regarded in her field. It's no wonder she's made such an impression on you."

Lucian's jaw clenched slightly at Jonathan's observation, but he merely nodded in response. "Yes, she's very talented."

Jonathan decided to push a little further. "And what about Dr. Morrison? They seem to have a close relationship. Do you know much about him?"

Lucian's eyes darkened at the mention of Larry. "Dr. Morrison is a well-respected colleague of Roxanne's from her time abroad. They worked together on several projects."

Jonathan couldn't help but notice the tension in Lucian's voice. "It must be nice for her to have someone familiar to work with now that she's back."

Lucian's expression remained stoic, but there was a flicker of something in his eyes. "Yes, it's good for her to have support."

Seeing that he had hit a nerve, Jonathan decided to ease off. "Well, it's great to see such talented individuals coming together for the benefit of the medical community. I'm sure their collaboration will yield excellent results."

Lucian nodded curtly, clearly not interested in continuing the conversation. "Indeed."

As the evening progressed, Lucian couldn't shake off the feeling of unease. He found himself watching Roxanne and Larry more closely, his mind racing with thoughts he couldn't quite control.

Roxanne, meanwhile, was oblivious to the tension building in Lucian. She was enjoying catching up with Larry, their conversation flowing easily as they reminisced about their time abroad and discussed their current projects.

At one point, Larry leaned in slightly, his tone more serious. "Roxanne, I wanted to ask you something. Have you thought about collaborating on a research project together? I believe our combined expertise could make a significant impact."

Roxanne's eyes lit up at the suggestion. "That sounds like a wonderful idea, Larry. I'd love to work on a project with you. What did you have in mind?"

Larry smiled, clearly pleased with her enthusiasm. "I have a few ideas, but let's sit down and discuss them in detail. I think we could come up with something truly groundbreaking."

As they continued to talk, Lucian's patience wore thin. He decided he couldn't stand by any longer. With a determined stride, he made his way over to where Roxanne and Larry were standing.

"Roxanne," he interrupted, his voice firm. "May I have a word with you?"

Roxanne looked up, surprised by the interruption. "Of course, Lucian. Excuse me, Larry."

Larry nodded, watching with mild curiosity as Roxanne followed Lucian a short distance away.

Lucian's expression was serious as he looked down at her. "I need to talk to you about something important."

Roxanne's brow furrowed in concern. "What is it, Lucian?"

He hesitated for a moment, searching for the right words. "I've noticed the way you and Dr. Morrison interact. It's clear that you have a close relationship."

Roxanne's eyes widened slightly. "Yes, we do. We've been friends and colleagues for years. Why do you ask?"

Lucian took a deep breath. "I just want to make sure you're aware of how others might perceive it. It's important to maintain a professional image, especially in our field."

Roxanne frowned, sensing that there was more to his concern. "Are you worried about my reputation, Lucian? Or is there something else you're not telling me?"

Lucian's gaze softened slightly, but he remained firm. "I care about your reputation, Roxanne. But more than that, I care about you. I don't want to see you get hurt or misunderstood."

Roxanne's expression softened as she realized the depth of his concern. "I appreciate that, Lucian. But you don't have to worry about Larry and me. We're just friends, and our professional relationship is strictly that."

Lucian nodded, though he still felt a lingering unease. "I trust you, Roxanne. I just want you to be careful."

She smiled gently, reaching out to squeeze his hand reassuringly. "I will, Lucian. Thank you for looking out for me."

As they returned to the group, Lucian couldn't help but feel a sense of relief. He knew that his feelings for Roxanne were growing stronger, and he hoped that one day she would understand just how much she meant to him.

Chapter 163

In an instant, the atmosphere between the four stilled as the eyes of the entire crowd fell on her.

Roxanne frowned with discomfort. She did not want to interact with Lucian more than was necessary.

Instead, she turned to Jonathan. "What brings you here, Mr. Queen?"

Jonathan chuckled after a startled pause. "It doesn't seem very polite to have invited you and then not pay attention to you, so I thought I'd come and have a chat."

In the ensuing silence of his proclamation, he shot Lucian a meaningful look.

The latter appeared indifferent. It was evident that he had no intention of clarifying the matter.

Jonathan had no choice but to take the blame.

Roxanne smiled faintly. "I don't mind. In fact, I happened to have run into Larry here. As we rarely see each other, we have our own catching up to do. Though I appreciate your kindness, there's no need for you to entertain me."

Jonathan choked at her subtle dismissal. He was trying to find another excuse to stay for a chat when the sound of a pair of approaching heels drew his attention to it.

"There you are, Lucian." Aubree's voice rang out. "Your mother has been looking for you. You should go see what she wants."

Jonathan had no choice but to hold back the excuse he had conceived.

Lucian frowned but did not leave immediately. The woman behind him had already arrived by his side, staring daggers at Roxanne as she approached.

Roxanne felt nauseated at the sight of the couple standing together. "It appears that you have something to do. Don't let me bother you."

With that, she whispered something to Larry, and the pair of them turned to leave.

Standing beside Lucian, Aubree constantly reminded him that Sonya wanted him, preventing him from dissuading Roxanne from leaving.

“Mrs. Farwell seems to be in a hurry. I’d better come with you.” Aubree felt her heart turning cold upon noticing his gaze lingering on the woman in the distance. In a panic, her reminders increased both in urgency and in pitch.

Already irritable, Lucian turned to give her such a cold glare that Aubree’s voice sputtered to a halt.

The next second, the man stalked past her indifferently without even designing to give her another glance.

Aubree was stunned for a few seconds before she regained her composure and marched quickly in his wake with gritted teeth.

Meanwhile, Roxanne and Larry found a quiet corner to sit at.

Larry could not stop himself from asking, “What’s going on between you and Mr. Farwell, Roxanne?”

Roxanne smiled. “There’s nothing going on. We met by chance.”

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However, Larry's gaze appeared doubtful. "Really? I thought you two were planning to get back together."

The hostility emanating from Lucian earlier was fresh in his mind.

Roxanne did not expect him to have such a misleading sense of intuition. "How could that be?" she exclaimed sarcastically. "Weren't you paying attention? His fiancée was next to him."

Larry was about to ask another question, but Roxanne made her refusal to discuss the subject plain by changing it bluntly. "Let's talk about something else. Where were we?"

She was referring to their topic of conversation before Jonathan's arrival.

Obliging her wishes, Larry did not ask any further. He resumed their conversation about medicine from where they left off.

As both were leaders in the field, they soon left private matters behind and were engaged in an exciting discourse.

Roxanne was initially resigned to a dreary evening spent at the birthday banquet, but Larry's appearance made her attendance worthwhile after all.

However, she was beginning to grow anxious when the banquet did not show any signs of ending despite it being already ten at night.

The three children at home, especially Essie, were waiting up for her. The little girl had only been able to fall asleep for the past few nights under coaxing. She might have difficulty falling asleep if Roxanne was not there with her.

At that alarming thought, Roxanne hurriedly ended the conversation with Larry before rising to say goodbye to Alfred.

Chapter 164

Jonathan's parents and Sonya were with Alfred. After Lucian learned that he had been summoned for no apparent reason, he was just about to leave when Roxanne and Larry appeared in single file.

"If there's nothing else, Mr. Queen, I'd like to return as the children are waiting for me." Roxanne politely bid him farewell.

Henrietta was a little surprised. "Leaving so soon? It's only halfway through the dinner party. Stay a little longer!"

Roxanne smiled apologetically, "Maybe another time. I'm worried about the children at home."

Everyone present knew that she had two children. Thus, they decided to oblige her insistence.

Alfred beckoned Jonathan over. "I'm worried about Dr. Jarvis returning home alone this time of night.

Give her a ride."

The next moment, Jonathan turned to examine Lucian's expression.

Taking his lack of displeasure as a sign of consent, Jonathan was about to obey his grandfather when

Larry's voice rang out. "Don't bother yourself. I have to get home early to attend an online seminar

that's starting soon. I can drop Roxanne off on my way home."

Jonathan felt a tangible drop in the air pressure around him when Larry spoke. Clearing his throat, he

was about to reclaim his errand when another cold voice cut across him.

"I don't mind sending Ms. Jarvis home on your behalf, Mr. Morrison, seeing as you are so busy with

work." As if addressing the crowd was not enough, Lucian then slowed down his speech to ensure that

every word of his was caught. "Just as well, too. I can drop by Ms. Jarvis' to see my daughter."

Everybody present was stunned in an instant, with Sonya and Aubree appearing crestfallen.

They had made arrangements for Lucian to attend the banquet with Aubree in an endeavor to spend

romantic time together.

Moreover, their public appearance would imply that their wedding was imminent to the guests present.

Lucian's declaration of sending Roxanne home, and the mention of his daughter, felt like a slap to their faces.

Aubree turned pale. Clenching her fists to restrain herself, she was dangerously close to losing her temper.

"Your daughter?" Larry was puzzled. What does Lucian's daughter have to do with Roxanne?

Lucian was indifferent to the reaction he had caused. "My daughter has been staying at Ms. Jarvis for the past two days. Is there a problem with me stopping by to see her?"

He did not lower his voice, and his words reached the ears of the surrounding guests.

A chorus of discussion and gossip erupted after a short silence.

Aubree did not expect Lucian to be that blatant. Her face turned ashen as she listened to the discussion around her. Clenching her jaw, she lowered her head to avoid the guests' curious eyes.

The elders of the Queen family were also very surprised.

They were aware of what Estella meant to Lucian. Therefore, they were surprised to learn how Lucian

and Roxanne were close to the extent of having Estella entrusted in her care.

It sounds as if Estella has been living with Roxanne for a while.

That was news to Jonathan, too. As shocked as he was, he felt he should have seen it coming. Upon

second thought, he decided to remain silent.

In an instant, the atmosphere among the crowd became very strange.

Equally shocked, Roxanne bit her lip in secret anxiety as she tried to calm herself down.

While the crowd was more surprised that Estella was living with her, Roxanne was more concerned

about the fact that Lucian had announced it so outrightly.

What's going on here?

Racking her brains for something to say, she intended to defuse the palpable tension in the air.

Before she could, somebody grabbed her wrist.

"Weren't you in a hurry? Let's get going!"

Lucian's cold voice sounded in her ears before the grip on her wrist tightened.

Roxanne regained her senses abruptly and was forced to abandon her notion. She only had time to

utter a hasty goodbye to Alfred before being dragged away by Lucian.

Chapter 165

Grabbed by the wrist, Roxanne was almost forcibly pulled out of the banquet in plain sight of the crowd.

She tried to break free several times, but the man's grip was tight enough to dissuade such an attempt.

It was not until they arrived outside that the grip on her wrist slackened.

Roxanne pulled away with a grimace and took several steps back to distance herself from him. "Thank you for your kindness, but I can drive home on my own. There's no need to bother you, Mr. Farwell, to see me personally home. Your mother and fiancée are still inside. You should get back in there and accompany them."

At that, she started toward the manor's gate while avoiding him.

Initially planning to slip out and return on her own, Roxanne did not expect the situation to escalate to such a degree. She still could not believe that Lucian was capable of such a feat

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Roxanne's mind was a mess. All she wanted was some quiet to herself.

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As soon as she strode past Lucian, he caught her wrist again in a grip even tighter than before.

Roxanne stopped in her tracks. Suppressing the turmoil in her heart, she looked at the figure beside

her with as much calm as she could muster. "Is there anything else, Mr. Farwell?"

Frowning, Lucian found only apathy in her eyes. A trace of displeasure crossed his heart at the thought

of her smile when she was conversing with Larry. "As I said, I want to see my daughter. Dropping you

off happens to be en route for me. I want my daughter to sleep early, so please stop wasting time and

get in the car."

"I drove here," Roxanne insisted. "And Catalina is watching them at home. You can go ahead, Mr.

Farwell."

His stern face darkened further at her repeated rejections while his eyes filled with anger at her

defiance. "You had a couple of drinks earlier tonight, if I recall correctly. Are you planning to be charged

with driving under the influence?"

Roxanne frowned instead of answering immediately.

Before she could respond, Lucian grabbed her wrist and took her to the side of the car.

Roxanne could not break free nor refute his reason,

He wants to see his daughter, so he's not going out of his way to send me home. I would look like a churlish, self-indulgent idiot if I refused him again. Besides, he is right. I did have two drinks at the banquet.

Cayden was already holding the car door for them when the couple arrived, though Roxanne was still somewhat reluctant.

"Weren't you in a hurry to go home?" Lucian demanded. "Or was that an excuse for not wanting to stay at the banquet?"

Roxanne had no choice but to get in without further delay.

Lucian followed closely behind and sat beside her. She silently moved to the window to distance herself from him, wearing an uncomfortable glower as she did so.

The journey back was spent in complete silence as neither of them spoke a word. Cayden tried his best

to diminish his presence by making his movements as noiseless as possible.

The car was dead silent,

Lucian's eyes darkened at the sight of the woman's profile through the reflection on the car window.

She was wearing a smile when she spoke to the man at the dinner party earlier. In my presence, she's wearing such an expression instead.

The more he pondered the matter, the more it stung. Unable to bear the silence any longer, he cleared his throat. "Who is that Mr. Morrison to you? He mentioned that you know each other well."

Roxanne froze for a moment at the sudden question before glancing at him coldly. "I don't think it's any of your business."

She withdrew her gaze indifferently before turning to look out the window, with obvious intent not to speak again.

The car lapsed once more into silence.

The chill emanating from Lucian was almost tangible.

Cayden wished he was anywhere else but in that car. He even breathed carefully for fear of attracting the attention of his two passengers.

Chapter 166

At long last, the car arrived at the gate of Roxanne's house.

Almost eagerly. Cayden stepped on the brakes before stumbling out of the car to open the door for the couple seated at the back. Only upon seeing their figures enter the villa did he finally breathe a long sigh of relief.

For some reason, the atmosphere is never pleasant whenever Mr. Farwell spends time with Ms. Jarvis.

"Mommy! You're back!"

As soon as Roxanne walked through the door, the three children greeted her with lovely smiles.

It was the first time they saw Roxanne's outfit. "You look so pretty tonight, Mommy," Benny said sweetly.

Roxanne's mood improved when she saw the three children, and she beamed at his compliment.

"Thank you, my dear."

Archie was about to add something when he saw another figure entering through the door.

Though the corners of his mouth turned downward after he recognized the figure, he still politely greeted his guest, albeit somewhat distantly. "Hello, Mr. Farwell."

The sound of his brother's voice drew Benny's attention to the person behind his mother. A look of anticipation flashed in his eyes as he greeted the man obediently.

Lucian nodded curtly to the two boys.

Despite his claims of coming for Estella, Lucian's gaze merely swept over the girl before landing on Roxanne again.

Archie and Benny smelled the alcohol by that point and looked at their mother with concern. "Have you been drinking, Mommy? Does your head hurt?"

Roxanne smiled warmly. "Not at all. I've only had a little."

Despite her assurance, the two boys remained uneasy.

Archie ran to the medical kit for the hangover pills while Benny thoughtfully poured a glass of water and placed it on the coffee table. Estella quickly joined in and helped Roxanne to the couch,

With the meticulous care provided by the three children, Roxanne forgot all about the negativity she had encountered earlier that evening.

As he watched his mother gulp down the hangover pills, Archie hesitated for a moment before turning

to the man who was still standing at the door. "Did you drink as well?"

Lucian raised his brow slightly. "A little."

Archie looked at the tablets in his hand and then at the man at the door. He walked over hesitantly.

"Would you like one?"

Lucian's deep gaze warmed slightly as he leaned over to accept the boy's offer. "Thank you."

Archie merely pursed his lips without responding.

He then returned to Roxanne's side after putting the hangover pills back. Roxanne was busy fretting

over the children, caressing the heads of each one in turn. "What have you three been up to tonight?"

Excited to answer the question, Benny grabbed Roxanne's arm to help her up. The latter rose to her

feet curiously and followed him to the carpet.

In its center stood a fairytale castle nearly one meter tall, made of Lego.

Benny ran over proudly. "We finished building the castle!"

Archie and Estella shared in his excitement.

Roxanne examined it for several minutes, her eyes full of surprise.

When Estella arrived under her care, it occurred to Roxanne that the little girl may not enjoy her sons'

toys. That was why she decided to get them something they could work on together. The Lego set was only purchased a week ago.

Despite the project containing a total of over twenty thousand pieces of Lego bricks, the children finished it remarkably quickly.

“You kids are amazing!” Roxanne exclaimed, grinning,

The children glowed at her praise.

Estella ran to the side of the model as fast as her short legs could carry her and pointed to a small room on the left side of the castle with a stubby finger. She then turned to look at Roxanne with bright eyes that were full of anticipation.

Chapter 167

Roxanne was a little confused by the little girl’s actions.

The boys had been interacting with Estella long enough that they knew what she meant by observing her expressions and gestures. On the other hand, it remained an elusive task for Roxanne

Estella was becoming anxious at Roxanne’s prolonged confusion. Once more, she pointed to the room and then to herself while pouting.

Roxanne was more bewildered than ever.

“Essie means to tell you that she assembled that part, Mommy,” Archie explained.

Comprehension dawned on Roxanne’s face at last. Smiling so broadly that her eyes were crinkled,

she gushed, “That’s a lot of bricks, Estella! Great job!”

Estella’s eyes sparkled at the compliment from the beautiful woman she held in such high regard. As

she turned to look at her father, her little face shone with similar excitement.

The four of them got along well together. Lucian knew what it meant when he suddenly met the

expectant look of his daughter, though he could not think of any words of praise of his own except to

give her an approving nod. “Well done, Essie.”

Estella smiled so broadly that her dimples deepened.

Lucian’s eyes darkened a little at his daughter’s delight. He could feel a confused torrent of emotions

welling up within him.

It is obvious that Essie is happier with Roxanne. I’ve never seen her smile this much.

Despite spending all night completing a Lego palace, Benny was not satisfied. He grabbed his mother’s

hand cooly. "This castle was too simple, Mommy. Could you get us something more difficult?"

Roxanne glanced at Estella hesitantly. She was just about to suggest that the two boys accommodate

Estella when Benny added, "Essie is also very good at Lego. She's going to catch up to Archie and

me!"

Roxanne stared at Archie in disbelief, who nodded vigorously in allestation.

Meanwhile, Estella patted her chest confidently, her face full of anticipation.

Roxanne did not need any more convincing. "All righi. I'll get you a new set tomorrow."

Exhilaration shone on the faces of the three children. Archie and Benny delved at once into detailed

and long-winded specifics of the model they wanted.

Standing by the door, Lucian watched the four of them enjoying themselves. He remained silent for a

long time.

It was close to midnight when he spoke again. After suggesting that the children be tucked in, Lucian

bid them farewell.

Roxanne was only too glad about his departure; she only put up with his presence for Estella's sake.

After the door shut behind him, she took Estella to the door to watch him leave.

Lucian seethed throughout his journey home.

Upon arriving, he furrowed his brows at the sight of a figure seated on his couch.

“So you still remembered to come home, huh?” Sonya reprimanded in displeasure.

Intending to take the opportunity to have Lucian come to terms with his marriage with Aubree, Sonya was scandalized to witness her son offer Roxanne a ride home in plain sight. Their intimacy also irritated her.

Though Sonya could not conceal her displeasure after her son’s abrupt departure, she managed to hold on until the banquet ended before rushing over immediately.

Initially, she thought that Lucian would have been back at so late an hour. She did not expect to wait for over another hour before seeing him.

What did the two of them do at Roxanne’s house for over an hour?

Sonya’s face contorted with rage at that thought.

Lucian felt a similar dislike for his mother’s behavior that night. “What can I do for you this late at night, Mom?” he asked coldly.

Sonya's scowl deepened. "Can't your mother drop by in her free time? Are you aware of how embarrassed Aubree was after you left? Outrageous behavior!"

Aubree again.

Lucian's coldness bordered on hostility by that point. "I've told you before. Stay out of my business. I can handle them myself. If there is nothing else, you can see yourself out."

Without another word, he went upstairs.

Chapter 168

Meanwhile, Aubree had returned to the Pearson residence with her parents,

The three retained a grim expression all along their way back.

Upon stepping foot into the house, Aubree kicked off the heels on her feet.

Gina had wanted to comfort her, but before she could, the latter already strode upstairs with a sullen look on her face.

What followed next was an ear-shattering door slam.

Looks like she's really mad.

Upstairs, Aubree clenched her fists tightly after slamming the door shut. She was trembling in rage as

the voices of the crowd at the dinner party rang in her ears.

You'd think that her marriage with Mr. Farwell is finally happening given how arrogant she is, but who knew...

Didn't the Pearson family rely on the Farwell family to get to where they are today? Just look at Mr.

Farwell; I'm sure the Pearsons will have a hard time in the future!

Alas, it was all for nothing after waiting for that long. Hah! What a joke!

Ever since Lucian took Roxanne with him and left in front of everybody, those guests started treating

Aubree in a different way- from politeness at the beginning to mockery and disdain. They could not be

bothered with her feelings and would even gossip about her while she was present at the scene.

Within a few minutes, she had turned from the future Mrs. Farwell, whom everybody was envious of in

Horington, to the crowd's laughing stock!

Displeasure built up within her at the thought of her initial motive of attending the dinner party.

She had wanted to make Roxanne acknowledge her own status. Little did she expect that Lucian would

actually embarrass her in front of so many people.

I'm sure after tonight, Horington's high society will definitely spread rumors about how the engagement

between Lucian and me has fallen through! My efforts have all become futile because of that woman!

With that thought in mind, her expression turned downright vicious, and she swept across the table in rage, sending everything flying to the ground.

It's all that b*tch's fault! If not for her, things wouldn't have come to where it is today! I won't let her off that easily!

Downstairs, Gina and Samuel could clearly hear the commotion coming from Aubree's room.

"It's too much!" Gina could not help but grumble, "What did Lucian mean by that? He left Aubree behind while so many people were watching. How are the others going to think of us?"

Samuel's face turned red with rage. "He obviously doesn't give a d*mn about us!"

While the couple was fuming and the racket in the room continued, Roxanne was clueless about the incident between the two families.

As she had consumed some alcohol at the dinner party, coupled with her interaction with Lucian along the way back, she was feeling worn out and thus headed to bed early after playing with the kids for a short while.

In the early morning, Estella's motions jolted Roxanne awake. She groggily got up to carry her and lay

for a while longer before she felt much more awake.

By the time she headed downstairs after helping Estella wash up, Catalina had already finished preparing breakfast. Archie And Benny were already seated downstairs as well.

At the sight of Roxanne coming down while holding hands with Estella, the two kids stared at her as they asked earnestly, “Mommy, do you have a headache?”

Along with Estella, Roxanne sat beside the two boys and shook her head, smiling: “Thanks to you boys for bringing me the pills last night, my head doesn’t hurt at all.”

Archie and Benny heaved a sigh of relief when they heard those words.

Following that, Roxanne had breakfast with the three children.

Right then, the doorbell rang.

Roxanne got up to open the door, and a frown crept up her face as she asked, “It’s so early. Is anything the matter?”.

A tall and slender Lucian stood in front of the door and tilted his body slightly to reveal a line of bodyguards behind him. Every one of them was carrying a large box.

Seeing those bodyguards grasping onto the boxes lightly without any expression, Roxanne was overwhelmed with puzzlement. "This is..."

Lucian responded, "Lego. I heard the kids saying they wanted to play with it yesterday, so I got my assistant to buy some for them in the middle of the night. There are also some challenging puzzles inside. I think they will like it."

Roxanne was promptly at a loss.

She then shifted her gaze back to those cold-looking, muscular bodyguards. Somehow, she thought the vibe they gave off did not match what they were holding in their hands.

"Let them send the boxes in first." Lucian gestured for the bodyguards to head inside the house.

Roxanne hesitated for a few seconds before she moved aside for those men to put the boxes down.

Concurrently, when the three children in the dining area heard the noises, they immediately ran out.

Archie and Benny's eyes lit up as they stood next to the boxes, staring at them intently.

On the other hand, Estella twirled around Lucian once before she went up to her brothers and followed what they were doing.

Wonderstruck by what was before him, Benny pestered Roxanne to open the boxes for them.

He had never expected that there would be Lego right in the house that morning when he had only asked for it the night before.

Moreover, there were also limited edition puzzles that he had wanted but dared not ask Roxanne to buy as they were too expensive. And to his surprise, they were inside those boxes too!

Even Archie could no longer contain his excitement.

“Are these for us?” Benny looked at the man at the door, his eyes gleaming with joy.

Lucian nodded quietly in response.

As soon as Benny received the man’s affirmation, he cheered in a sweet voice and smiled brightly.

“Thank you, Mr. Farwell!”

Archie, in contrast, was slightly more reserved. He curled the corners of his lips upward as he thanked the man.

“I’m happy to know that you guys love it,” Lucian said with a nod.

Their interaction caused Roxanne’s forehead to crease as worry began to surge inside her.

Lucian thought she did not like him giving presents to the kids without informing her

beforehand, so he casually mentioned, “Estclla loves these toys too. The three of you can play together.”

In other words, he was implying that those gifts were for her daughter, and Archie and Benny were merely basking in her glory.

Hearing him say that, Roxanne had no choice but to acquiesce to leaving those toys behind.

Having completed his mission, Lucian did not stay for longer and hurried to the office.

Roxanne briefly put away the boxes and headed for the research institute after leaving the kids in Pippa’s care at the school.

As soon as she entered the office, her phone rang.

When Roxanne saw the caller ID on the screen, her eyes lit up, and she immediately answered the call with a smile.

On the other end of the call, Harvey’s casual voice sounded. “Are you busy?”

Roxanne shook her head. “No. I just arrived at work. Is anything the matter? It’s been a long time since you called me.”

Since her return to the country, the two had barely contacted each other. Most of the time, Roxanne

would be the one calling him to report to him on the progress at the research institute. And because

Harvey was usually busy with research, his replies were normally curt.

This was the first time Harvey actually called her.

“Indeed, there’s something I need your help with.” Harvey went straight to the point. “There’s a project

that I need you to follow up with its research and development. I’ll forward you the details in a while.

Take a look at it.”

Having learned that it was about work matters, Roxanne agreed readily.

The two had a brief chat about that project before she concernedly tried to find out about Harvey’s

return. “When are you coming back? Let me pick you up.”

Harvey looked at his schedule and replied, “Probably not that soon. I’ll let you know before I return.

Roxanne acknowledged with a curt reply.

Chapter 170

Since Alfred’s treatment had come to an end, all that was required next was to prescribe him

medicauon regularly and remind him to take the pills on ume.

As such, there was no need for Roxanne to bicad over to the Qucon residence now and then. And non

that she had plenty of time, she spent almost the whole day at the research institute, either handling miscellaneous work or heading to the research facility and joining the other researchers in the research.

As Colby had been working as her assistant while she was overseas previously, he continued helping her. Needless to say, the two had a great rapport.

That particular day, the two walked out of the research facility earlier than usual as they had finally achieved a breakthrough in their research.

Colby suggested, "Since we've been so busy for the past few days, why don't we have a meal together to celebrate?"

Roxanne glanced at the time and apologized, "Let's do it another day. I still have to pick my kids up."

It did not seem proper for Colby to insist since Roxanne had given that reason. And so, the two left the research institute and went in separate ways.

Upon getting into the car, Roxanne's phone rang again. This time, it was a call from Larry.

"What is it, Larry?"

Lary's gentle voice rang out from the other end of the line. "Do you have time later? We haven't had time to meet up after coming back here. I wonder if I have the honor of having you join me for a meal, Dr. Jarvis?"

Just as Roxanne wanted to use the same excuse she had given Colby earlier, Larry interrupted, "I've booked a restaurant and am only waiting for you to come over."

Hearing that, she swallowed her words back.

It was true that she was in a rush to pick up the three children, but since Larry was so adamant about having a meal with her, she reckoned it would be inappropriate if she refused any further.

Besides, Larry had offered her a lot of help when she was abroad. No matter what, it did not seem right for her to leave the man all by himself.

"All right. Where are you? I'll head over now." Eventually, she accepted his invitation.

At once, Larry gave her the restaurant's name and location, almost as though he knew her answer beforehand.

Roxanne promptly agreed.

After concluding the call, she made another call to Catalina, asking the latter to help pick the

Tour

children up from the kindergarten. With that, she changed her route and headed toward the address

Larry provided her.

By the time she arrived, Larry had already waited for her for quite some time.

At the sight of Roxanne, he waved and beckoned her over. Hurrying over and sitting down in the seat

opposite his, she said apologetically, "Sorry for the wait."

Larry smiled. "No worries. Did I disturb you while you were at work earlier?"

Back when they were overseas, Roxanne would often forget about the time because of work. At times,

she would even stay up the entire night for work.

Roxanne giggled while shaking her head. "No. I just happened to have ended work earlier today."

Having said that, she beckoned the waiter and turned to Larry. "Let me treat you to a meal today since

I'm late. Besides, I returned earlier than you, so we'll treat this as a welcoming feast for you."

Larry readily agreed, "Well then, don't mind if I do."

After ordering some food, the two began chatting about work and gradually became engrossed in the conversation.

At that moment, the restaurant manager marched in, leading a group of people behind him.

Surrounded by men, Lucian had to tilt his head every so often to listen to them talk.

As he happened to turn in a direction, he spotted a familiar silhouette sitting at a table by the window.

His face instantly darkened when he took a second look at the two figures chatting happily.

“Mr. Farwell?” Baffled, someone in the group called him after noticing that he suddenly stopped in his tracks.

Lucian’s brows scrunched up as he slowly withdrew his gaze and followed the crowd into a private room.