ABANDONED 1701

Chapter 1701 I Can Save Myself

"Madilyn. She's worried about me and kept asking how I'm doing," Roxanne replied with a smile.

Lucian nodded and asked casually as he sat down beside the bed, "I noticed that one of the doctors was out when | arrived. Did he tell you where he was going?"

The smile on Roxanne's face was frozen in place when she heard that. She wasn't expecting Lucian to even notice such details, let alone ask about it.

After taking a few seconds to regain her composure, Roxanne replied as calmly as possible, "I'm not sure. I'll be fine as long as there are people around. It doesn't matter if one or two of them step away for a bit.

She then let out a helpless sigh and added, "I've already regained consciousness, so you don't need to have so many of them standing by. You should let them head back and get some rest."

Lucian seemed to be in deep thought as he retrieved an apple from the grocery bag and slowly peeled it.

Knowing Roxanne, she wouldn't ask for desserts immediately after recovering, let alone have me buy them from a store so far away. | know she probably needed some time alone, but | can't seem to figure out why... Hmm... Her reaction and that of the experts outside the ward all seem rather suspicious. She must've told them something while | was out earlier. Given the situation at hand, her poisoning is the only possible thing they could've been talking about.

The look in Lucian's eyes turned gloomy at the thought of that.

He stopped peeling the apple and stared solemnly at Roxanne as he asked, 'Is it true that the poison has been completely removed from your body?"

Roxanne let out a helpless chuckle after a brief pause. "You noticed?" She knew she wouldn't be able to hide it from Lucian for long, but she didn't think he would find out so soon.

"| was planning to tell you after | had found a way to neutralize the poison. I'm sorry | lied to you after promising to not keep secrets from you just earlier," she continued with an apologetic look on her face.

Lucian frowned as the flames of anger began to burn within his eyes. "Did Jack pull some kind of trick on us? Did he give youa fake antidote or something?"

Roxanne shook her head. "The antidote is real. It's just that..." Lucian's tone grew increasingly colder as he pressed on, "It's just what?" Since Lucian had already found out about her lies, Roxanne decided to not hide anything from him.

"The dosage he gave was incomplete. | would need at least four to five times more of what he gave me in order to completely rid my body of that poison. | had a discussion with the experts earlier. We now have a lead and might be on to something, so you don't have to worry too much about it."

Lucian's eyes were clearly filled with anxiousness when he looked at her, but he soon regained his composure and said calmly, "Oh, I'm not worried. | could just go deal with him again if necessary."

If submitting to Jack will save her life, then | shall gladly do it!

Roxanne felt touched when she heard that.

She reached out to caress his cheek as she said reassuringly, "That won't be necessary. I'm confident in my ability to save myself. | mean, | did develop a drug that even the Damaris family couldn't!

Jack had shown her some of the Damaris family's books on ancient medicine while they were still on good terms. Those books contained lots of information on all sorts of rare and special medicinal herbs.

Roxanne had a feeling that the key to the antidote could be found within those books. Fortunately for her, she had put in the effort to memorize everything in those books.

Once the blood test results were out, | should be able to use that information to figure out the poison's contents and synthesize an antidote myself!

Chapter 1702 The Kids Will Get Worried

As Lucian was already prepared for the worst, he nodded after hearing what she said. "All right; | trust you. You're the best doctor | know, so you should be able to handle Jack's poison with ease." Roxanne wasn't expecting Lucian to be convinced so easily, so she was caught off guard when she heard him say that.

"However, you must promise me that you will be honest with me if you ever run into any further issues along the way," Lucian added as he continued peeling the apple.

Having been snapped out of her dazed state, Roxanne nodded obediently in response. "All right."

She then looked Lucian in the eye and said affectionately, "Thanks for believing in me, Honey."

The ward fell into complete silence for a few seconds.

"W-What did you just call me?" Lucian asked with a look of joy and surprise in his eyes.

Roxanne didn't know what came over her just now, but she couldn't bring herself to say it again with him staring at her like that. Her face burned bright red as she looked away to avoid his gaze.

Naturally, Lucian wasn't about to let her off the hook so easily. He quickly put the apple down and pressed on, "What did you just call me? Say it again!"

The sexual tension in the ward intensified as he continued to tease her. Roxanne was about to hide under the blanket when her phone started ringing on the side.

Realizing that it was the ringtone she had chosen for her kids, Roxanne pushed Lucian back as she said, "Our kids are calling! Hurry up and answer the phone!"

She hadn't contacted them for a few days, so she figured they must have been worried sick.

Although Lucian had already told them that Roxanne was away on a business trip, Archie and Benny were very smart, so it was only natural that they would get worried about her.

Lucian had no choice but to stop teasing her and answer the phone. Even so, he kept his scorching gaze on her as he held the phone up to her ear.

"Mommy!"

The kids' adorable voices could be heard the moment the call got through.

"Yes, it's me. Have you kids been behaving yourselves lately?" Roxanne replied with a smile.

Feeling glad that they could finally speak to Roxanne, the kids started telling her what they had been doing lately. "Yeah, we have! We even helped Ms. Catalina do the dishes!"

"| helped too!"

"| helped Ms. Catalina with the laundry!"

The look in Roxanne's eyes grew gentle when she heard their adorable voices. "Really? I'm glad to hear that!" Their tone grew a little depressed as they asked, "When will you come home, Mommy? We really miss you!" Unsure of what to say, Roxanne simply stared at Lucian in silence.

"Daddy said you would be coming home tonight. Is that true?" Archie pressed on.

Roxanne fell silent for a few seconds before replying with a smile, "Yeah, that's right. I'm already at the airport, so I'll be arriving in Horington later tonight. Behave yourselves and wait for me at home, okay? I'll buy you all some gifts on my way back."

"Okay, Mommy! We'll wait till you're back home before we go to bed!" Roxanne then changed the topic by asking them how they had been doing lately.

The kids then told her everything that had happened throughout the past few days, and they continued chatting happily until it was time for lunch.

After reluctantly ending the call, Roxanne's expression grew depressed as she stared at the black screen of her phone.

"| want to make a trip back tonight. The kids will get worried if | don't show up," she said while looking up at Lucian.

Chapter 1703 Bringing The Kids Over

"You've only just recovered, and you have yet to make a full recovery," Lucian replied with a disapproving frown. "| know what I'm doing. At least | can get off the bed and walk around now," Roxanne explained patiently.

After arguing for a bit, Lucian gave in and said, "You can't leave the hospital. If you must see them, I'll have Cayden bring them over."

"If you do that, they'll find out about me being sick," Roxanne protested with a hesitant look in her eyes. She didn't want the kids to worry about her at all.

"We'll tell them you caught a cold after getting off the plane, so | had you sent to a hospital for treatment. They're still kids, so | don't think they'd be able to find out the truth," Lucian suggested after giving it some thought.

Roxanne still felt it wasn't a good idea, but decided to go along with it anyway.

Lucian then stepped aside and gave Cayden a call.

Having dropped off Madilyn and Elektra, Cayden had just arrived at the hospital when he got Lucian's call.

"| have sent Ms. Lane and Ms. Xander home safely, Mr. Farwell," Cayden reported immediately after answering the phone. "Got it. | need you to head over to the manor and bring the kids over," Lucian replied.

Cayden froze. "| thought you wanted to keep this a secret from the kids?"

Wouldn't they find out what happened if | bring them over to the hospital?

"| want you to go pick them up tonight. If they ask any questions, just tell them that Roxanne is being treated at a hospital because she had a fever after getting off the plane," Lucian replied.

As Lucian had already come up with an excuse, Cayden knew better than to say any further.

He then waited till it was nighttime before heading over to the manor as instructed.

The three kids came rushing over the moment his car pulled up in the courtyard.

The excited smiles on their faces faded the moment they saw Cayden step out of the car. "Oh, it's you, Mr. Lawson..."

Cayden felt his heart ache when he saw how disappointed they were. "Come on, I'll bring you kids to see your mommy and daddy."

Their eyes lit up when they heard that, but the look of joy was soon replaced with concern when they recalled what Roxanne said. "Mommy told us to wait for her at home."

Archie stared at Cayden as he asked, "Did something happen to our mommy, Mr. Lawson?"

Why else would Mommy not answer our calls and send Mr. Lawson over to pick us up? Benny and Estella, too, grew worried after hearing what Archie said. Cayden felt bad for lying to them, but he knew he had no choice but to do so.

"It's not that serious. Mrs. Farwell had a fever on the way back, so Mr. Farwell brought her to the hospital for an examination. It's nothing to worry about!"

Seeing as the kids were still doubtful of his words, Cayden added, "If you are still worried, then come with me to the hospital and see for yourselves. Mrs. Farwell wouldn't have sent me over to pick you kids up if something serious had happened to her, right?"

The kids then decided to believe him for the time being and got into the car after saying goodbye to Catalina. The atmosphere in the car was particularly gloomy as all three of the kids were in a subdued mood throughout the drive. Cayden, too, let out a helpless sigh as he didn't know how he could comfort them.

These kids have no idea that they nearly lost their mother forever...

Chapter 1704 Accompany You The car slowly came to a halt in front of the hospital.

Cayden got out of the car and whirled around to get the kids out, only to see they were already standing outside, staring up at him with eagerness shining in their eyes, waiting for him to take them inside.

Cayden internally sighed at the kids' eagerness. Suppressing the upset rising within him, he patted the children's heads comfortingly. "Let's head inside."

The kids nodded obediently and followed him into the building.

Before entering the elevator, Cayden sent a message to Lucian, informing his boss of their arrival.

The elevator dinged at the top floor. When the doors slid open, they saw Lucian waiting for them outside. "Daddy!"

The children excitedly dashed out of the elevator and clung onto Lucian's legs.

Lucian gently ruffled the kids' heads before nodding at Cayden. "Thank you for the trouble. You can take a break tomorrow." Cayden complied respectfully before shutting the elevator doors. He left, giving the family some time and space. "Daddy, where's Mommy?" Archie urged as he nervously tugged on the hem of Lucian's shirt.

Lucian dropped his gaze to him. "She's in her room."

He turned around and led them toward Roxanne's room.

The children trailed after him closely.

When they saw their mother lying on the bed, tears started flowing down their cheeks.

"Mommy, what happened? Are you okay? We're so worried about you!"

Their parents didn't come home for the past few days. Their mother didn't even pick up her phone. They had been obedient and didn't cause any trouble, but the truth was, they were sick with worry.

The brave front they held up finally crumbled when they saw Roxanne's pallor.

Roxanne didn't expect the kids to be so worried. Her heart ached at their tears. She tried to push herself up to get down from the bed.

However, the kids hurriedly raced to her side when they saw her intention. "Mommy, lie back down."

Roxanne couldn't do anything but wipe their tears away. "Don't cry. I'm fine. | was just too tired and slightly feverish for the past two days. I'll be fine after two days' rest."

She paused a beat before smiling at them. "Look at me. I'm fine!"

Despite her assurance, Estella's tears didn't stop falling. "But... Mommy, you don't look so good..." she sobbed.

Just like the last time when you fell unconscious.

Just recalling the memory flooded Estella with fear. Her grip on Roxanne's sleeve tightened.

The rims of Roxanne's eyes turned red. She felt bad about worrying them. "I truly am fine. Have you forgotten that I'm the most amazing doctor? | can cure all kinds of sickness, much less a fever."

She held their tiny hands and pulled them to her forehead. "Feel that? It's not hot anymore."

The kids gently rubbed her forehead and nodded while tears continuously rolled down their cheeks.

Roxanne consoled with a smile, "Be good and wait for me at home. I'll rest in the hospital for two more days, then go back and accompany you."

Benny shook his head. "We want to stay at the hospital with you, Mommy!" Estella nodded her head firmly, agreeing with Benny's suggestion.

"| want to stay with Mommy too!"

Archie didn't say anything and merely stared at her as he continued crying.

Roxanne patted each child's head and declined, "You can't. My fever is gone but not my cold. You'll contract it if you stay here. | don't have the energy to treat you now."

The children pressed their lips into a firm line—an expression of their displeasure. They stood by the bed and stared at her. Their eyes conveyed their desire to stay.

Chapter 1705 Almost Lose Them

Guilt surged within Roxanne when she caught the children's worried gaze. However, she silently averted her gaze.

"| had your dad bring you here because | didn't want you to continue worrying about me. Now that you see I'm fine, you can be assured of my well-being. I'll worry about your health again if you catch my cold."

Despite her explanation, Benny was still unwilling to leave. Archie gave in and said, "We'll head back then. Take good care of yourself, Mommy." Hearing their brother's words, Benny and Estella couldn't voice their disagreement despite their unwillingness.

Roxanne let out a relieved sigh when they finally conceded. She nodded with a smile. "Got it. I'll take good care of myself so that | can go home to you as soon as | can."

"You must pick up our call!" Archie demanded with a grim look on his face.

Roxanne knew the kids were worried sick for getting out of touch with her for the past two days. Her guilt clawed at her at that knowledge, so she agreed to Archie's demand.

With her promise, the children finally relented and released Roxanne's hand reluctantly.

Roxanne didn't dare to meet their gazes and hurriedly turned her gaze to Lucian. "Lucian, you can send them back now." She was scared tears would flow from her eyes if she continued locking gaze with them.

Guilt slammed upon her since she should stay by the children's side seeing they were so upset.

Guilt slommed upon her since she should stoy by the children's side seeing they were so upset.

However, she couldn't dischorge from the hospitol. Thus she could only hove Lucion toke core of them on her beholf. Feor gripped Lucion os he wotched the kids being with Roxonne. He recolled how close she wos to losing them.

However, he quickly snopped out of his floshbock ond collected his feelings of Roxonne's cue. He nodded of the children ond promised, 'I'll toke good core of your mother. Going bock obediently is the biggest help you con give to your mommy ond me."

He stepped closer to the kids ond potted their heads before bending down and corrying Estello into his orms. He reoched his empty hand out to Archie and Benny.

Benny took his hond with teors still flowing while Archie held his brother's hond.

The kids cost 0 longing glonce over their shoulders ot Roxonne.

Roxonne woved ot them with o smile. She could feel the prick of teors ot the bock of her eyes. It was such o close shove and | would've lost them.

Wotching Lucion ond the kids leoving through the door, Roxonne's goze grew determined.

| will do oll | con to cure myself for the kids' soke. They finolly got o complete fomily ofter going through so much. | won't ever let their situation revert to the post.

Guilt slammed upon her since she should stay by the children's side seeing they were so upset. However, she couldn't discharge from the hospital. Thus she could only have Lucian take care of them on her behalf. Fear gripped Lucian as he watched the kids being with Roxanne. He recalled how close she was to losing them.

However, he quickly snapped out of his flashback and collected his feelings at Roxanne's cue. He nodded at the children and promised, "I'll take good care of your mother. Going back obediently is the biggest help you can give to your mommy and me."

He stepped closer to the kids and patted their heads before bending down and carrying Estella into his arms. He reached his empty hand out to Archie and Benny.

Benny took his hand with tears still flowing while Archie held his brother's hand.

The kids cast a longing glance over their shoulders at Roxanne.

Roxanne waved at them with a smile. She could feel the prick of tears at the back of her eyes. It was such a close shave and | would've lost them.

Watching Lucian and the kids leaving through the door, Roxanne's gaze grew determined.

| will do all | can to cure myself for the kids' sake. They finally got a complete family after going through so much. | won't ever let their situation revert to the past.

In the meantime, Lucian shut the backseat door after the children got in the car. He got in the driver seat and pulled away from the hospital toward the manor.

In the meontime, Lucion shut the bockseot door ofter the children got in the cor. He got in the driver seot ond pulled owoy from the hospitol toword the monor.

On the woy there, the kids couldn't stop crying. The otmosphere in the cor wos tense.

Lucion's heort oched for the children when he cought their red, puffy eyes through the reorview mirror.

"| promise you I'll toke good core of your mommy," he swore.

Benny sniffled before sobbing, "I trust you, Doddy. Every time Mommy got sick, you would toke good core of her." When Mommy wos sick before, Doddy would stoy by Mommy's side, ond Mommy would get better every time. I'm sure this time is no different.

Guilt clenched Lucion's stomoch of Benny's trust. His lips curled into o foint smile before onswering, "Thot's for sure." If they knew, they olmost lost Roxonne becouse of me. | wonder if they would still trust me like this.

The children were clueless obout his thoughts. They merely pleoded with him to toke core of their mother well. Lucion ogreed with o heovy heort.

Lucion glimpsed ot the reorview mirror ogoin when the kids' voices hod gotten softer.

Exhoustion from oll the crying finolly set in. Benny ond Estello were sound osleep with their heods leoning ogoinst eoch onother.

In the meantime, Lucian shut the backseat door after the children got in the car. He got in the driver seat and pulled away from the hospital toward the manor.

On the way there, the kids couldn't stop crying. The atmosphere in the car was tense.

Lucian's heart ached for the children when he caught their red, puffy eyes through the rearview mirror.

"| promise you I'll take good care of your mommy," he swore.

Benny sniffled before sobbing, "I trust you, Daddy. Every time Mommy got sick, you would take good care of her."

When Mommy was sick before, Daddy would stay by Mommy's side, and Mommy would get better every time. I'm sure this time is no different.

Guilt clenched Lucian's stomach at Benny's trust. His lips curled into a faint smile before answering, "That's for sure." If they knew, they almost lost Roxanne because of me. | wonder if they would still trust me like this.

The children were clueless about his thoughts. They merely pleaded with him to take care of their mother well. Lucian agreed with a heavy heart.

Lucian glimpsed at the rearview mirror again when the kids' voices had gotten softer.

Exhaustion from all the crying finally set in. Benny and Estella were sound asleep with their heads leaning against each another.

Chapter 1706 Sick For A While

Lucian glanced at the passenger seat and was met with Archie's wide-awake eyes.

Shocked, Lucian questioned, "You're still awake?"

thought all of them had fallen asleep.

Archie's eyes were red and puffy too. Yet, he still kept a solemn look on his face.

"Daddy, Mommy has been sick for many days already, right?"

Lucian's expression grew tense at his question. He wasn't sure if he should tell his son the truth.

Archie is the most mature of the three. Explaining the situation to Archie first is the best option if | want to tell them the truth. They were still crying until a while ago, though. | don't think it's the right time to tell them yet.

After a few minutes of silence, Lucian decided to keep it from them. "No, that's not it. Don't think too much. Your mother just got a cold and a fever. She'll be better soon."

The second he finished, Archie immediately asked, "But Mommy never went on such a long business trip before."

Lucian's expression didn't falter as he said, "That was because she was worried no one would take care of you, your brother, and your sister if she was gone for too long. Now that you have me, she can put her heart in her stomach."

Amask of concentration overtook Archie's face at Lucian's answer. Amosk of concentration overtook Archie's foce ot Lucion's onswer.

He's right. Mommy wouldn't go on long business trips before becouse she knew we would be woiting for her ot home. Now that we're living with Doddy, Mommy con be more of eose. But... | still feel something doesn't odd up.

Lucion gozed oheod os he drove but occosionolly would shoot glonces to check on the kids in the bockseot. He wos fighting in his mind obout whether to tell them the truth.

Suddenly, Archie's voice broke the silence. He muttered with o frown, "Our heorts felt heovy the lost time Mommy fointed. It's the some this time."

We shouldn't hove that feeling if Mommy only has o cold and fever. Besides, we felt it o few doys ogo. I'm sure Mommy's condition is not just o simple fever.

However, he noted his fother's ovoidonce of telling him the truth, so being the thoughiful child thot he wos, he didn't continue hounding his fother obout it. "No motter whot's wrong with Mommy. | trust thot you'll toke good core of her os long os you're there. We hove foith in you, Doddy."

His words were o copy of whot Benny soid eorlier.

When Mommy wos sick before, Mommy olwoys got better in the end under Doddy's core. | trust that this time will not be ony different.

Amask of concentration overtook Archie's face at Lucian's answer.

He's right. Mommy wouldn't go on long business trips before because she knew we would be waiting for her at home. Now that we're living with Daddy, Mommy can be more at ease. But... | still feel something doesn't add up.

Lucian gazed ahead as he drove but occasionally would shoot glances to check on the kids in the backseat. He was fighting in his mind about whether to tell them the truth.

Suddenly, Archie's voice broke the silence. He muttered with a frown, "Our hearts felt heavy the last time Mommy fainted. It's the same this time."

We shouldn't have that feeling if Mommy only has a cold and fever. Besides, we felt it a few days ago. I'm sure Mommy's condition is not just a simple fever.

However, he noted his father's avoidance of telling him the truth, so being the thoughiful child that he was, he didn't continue hounding his father about it. "No matter what's wrong with Mommy. | trust that you'll take good care of her as long as you're there. We have faith in you, Daddy.

His words were a copy of what Benny said earlier.

When Mommy was sick before, Mommy always got better in the end under Daddy's care. | trust that this time will not be any different.

Lucian couldn't get a word out of his mouth at Archie's absolute trust. Lucion couldn't get o word out of his mouth ot Archie's obsolute trust.

Archie didn't mind Lucion's silence. Insteod, he soid, "Doddy, oll you hove to focus on is coring for Mommy. Leove Benny ond Essie to me! I'll wotch over them! You con't let onything hoppen to Mommy, okoy?"

Archie's voice crocked ot the end.

Lucion glimpsed of the reorview mirror ogoin ond sow the unshed teor in the corner of his eyes. His heort clenched ogoin.

"Got it. | won't let onything hoppen to your mother. I'll protect her even if | hove to give up my life."

Archie shook his heod fervently. "No! | wont both Doddy ond Mommy to be sofe ond sound! We wont Mommy to come bock, but Doddy, you con't leove us too!"

His words moved Lucion's heort. Lucion comforted, "All right. I'll come bock with your mother. Don't be scored."

Archie finolly nodded os he cried.

Lucion sent them bock to the Monor. When the children woke up, they were still feeling o bit down.

As he wos worried obout them, he wotched them wosh up ond return to their rooms before leoving the house.

Lucian couldn't get a word out of his mouth at Archie's absolute trust.

Archie didn't mind Lucian's silence. Instead, he said, "Daddy, all you have to focus on is caring for Mommy. Leave Benny and Essie to me! I'll watch over them! You can't let anything happen to Mommy, okay?"

Archie's voice cracked at the end. Lucian glimpsed at the rearview mirror again and saw the unshed tear in the corner of his eyes. His heart clenched again. "Got it. | won't let anything happen to your mother. I'll protect her even if | have to give up my life."

Archie shook his head fervently. "No! | want both Daddy and Mommy to be safe and sound! We want Mommy to come back, but Daddy, you can't leave us too!"

His words moved Lucian's heart. Lucian comforted, "All right. I'll come back with your mother. Don't be scared." Archie finally nodded as he cried. Lucian sent them back to the Manor. When the children woke up, they were still feeling a bit down.

As he was worried about them, he watched them wash up and return to their rooms before leaving the house.

Chapter 1707 Seeking Permission

Back at the hospital, Roxanne was still awake. Lucian quickened his pace when he saw the lights in her ward were still on. "Why are you still up?" He was worried when he saw Roxanne sitting on the bed in a daze.

Roxanne returned to her senses after she heard his voice and smiled. "I've slept too much for four days straight, so | can't fall asleep now."

Then, she asked about the kids, "Where are the kids? Are they asleep?" "I've tugged them in bed before coming here," Lucian replied.

Roxanne felt more at ease hearing that. Soon after, she started worrying about him. "You look pale. You should get a good rest at home."

People might think Lucian was the one who was sick after seeing his face.

Hearing that, Lucian ran his hand down his face instinctively. Then, he forced a smile. "I had the experience of being unable to sleep for days for work so it's no big deal."

He walked up and sat next to the bed. Then, he looked at Roxanne with a tender gaze. "Besides, how can | leave you all alone at the hospital? I'm sure the kids wouldn't let me do that."

Roxanne gave him a puzzled look. What has that got to do with the kids? With a smile, Lucian told her what the kids had told him in the car earlier. With o smile, Lucion told her whot the kids hod told him in the cor earlier.

Roxonne felt o worm sensotion in her heort ofter she knew how protective they were of her. "I wos ofroid they would be scored ofter knowing it. | never thought..."

As she spoke, she smiled ond glonced of Lucion. "They weren't scored becouse you were with them, ond thot's why they were confident."

Perhops this wos the power of poternol love. With thot, they looked ot eoch other ond grinned.

Roxonne mode room for him ond soid, "It's getting lote now. Come ond get some rest. You've got huge dork circles under your eyes!"

"There's no rush. Since you con't foll osleep, | wont to seek your permission for something," Lucion soid while he remoined seoted.

Roxonne got serious when she sow his dorkened expression. "Whot is it?" Lucion's brows furrowed slightly, thinking of how to deliver the news.

After o few minutes, he finolly broke the silence. "Jock's second demond is for your research institute to work with them ogoin. I've olreody drown up the stotement of uniloterol terminotion of the controct so that | con get the ontidate. | only need to release

With a smile, Lucian told her what the kids had told him in the car earlier.

Roxanne felt a warm sensation in her heart after she knew how protective they were of her. "I was afraid they would be scared after knowing it. | never thought..."

As she spoke, she smiled and glanced at Lucian. "They weren't scared because you were with them, and that's why they were confident."

Perhaps this was the power of paternal love. With that, they looked at each other and grinned.

Roxanne made room for him and said, "It's getting late now. Come and get some rest. You've got huge dark circles under your eyes!"

"There's no rush. Since you can't fall asleep, | want to seek your permission for something," Lucian said while he remained seated.

Roxanne got serious when she saw his darkened expression. "What is it?" Lucian's brows furrowed slightly, thinking of how to deliver the news.

After a few minutes, he finally broke the silence. "Jack's second demand is for your research institute to work with them again. I've already drawn up the statement of unilateral termination of the contract so that | can get the antidote. | only need to release

Roxanne interrupted before he could finish. "No way." Roxonne interrupted before he could finish. "No woy." Lucion stopped tolking ond looked ot her helplessly. "You don't hove to worry obout the funds. Forwell Group ond Queen Group

will poy you o lorge sum os the terminotion fee. You con use the money to increose employee benefits. It won't motter if you toke the money from the Domoris fomily."

Roxonne soid solemnly, "I'm the person in chorge of the research institute. If you wont to terminote the controct with us, I'll try to look for onother business portner. But I'll never consider working with the Domoris fomily!"

After knowing the mon thot Jock wos, Roxonne decided not to get involved with him in ony woy. She wouldn't let Jock threoten them with this ond let him hove his woy.

Lucion fell silent ofter seeing her firm ottitude ond hesitoted. "I know how you feel, but now is not the time for you to burn your bridges with Jock."

He knew if the research institute formed 0 colloborotion with the Domoris Group, Roxonne would still hold volue to Jock.

In thot cose, there would be hope for her to get the ontidote from Jock if they couldn't develop it.

Roxanne interrupted before he could finish. "No way."

Lucian stopped talking and looked at her helplessly. "You don't have to worry about the funds. Farwell Group and Queen Group will pay you a large sum as the termination fee. You can use the money to increase employee benefits. It won't matter if you take the money from the Damaris family."

Roxanne said solemnly, "I'm the person in charge of the research institute. If you want to terminate the contract with us, I'll try to look for another business partner. But I'll never consider working with the Damaris family!"

After knowing the man that Jack was, Roxanne decided not to get involved with him in any way. She wouldn't let Jack threaten them with this and let him have his way.

Lucian fell silent after seeing her firm attitude and hesitated. "| know how you feel, but now is not the time for you to burn your bridges with Jack."

He knew if the research institute formed a collaboration with the Damaris Group, Roxanne would still hold value to Jack.

In that case, there would be hope for her to get the antidote from Jack if they couldn't develop it.

Chapter 1708 Not Answering The Phone "I'll develop the antidote."

Roxanne sounded determined. "I'm sure he'll make excessive demands from us every time we ask for an antidote from him if we do as he says this time. Do you really want to agree to his demands?"

She was displeased. "Didn't you say you trust me? I'm sure | can do it!"

Naturally, Lucian knew Jack would make more excessive demands in the future. However, he had no choice but to accept it for Roxanne's sake.

When he saw Roxanne's determination, he gradually gained confidence in her.

The two gazed at each other for what seemed like forever before Lucian compromised, "Okay, | got it. We'll do as you say. I'll annul the statement, and we can continue to work together."

Asmile crept onto Roxanne's face after he gave in. Lucian finally stood up after they decided on what to do. Roxanne thought he was going onto the bed to rest, so she made space for him.

With a deep gaze, Lucian said, "I'm thankful foryour invitation, darling. But you just recovered, and the bed is too small. | don't want you to feel squeezed, so I'll take the couch."

Before Roxanne could respond, Lucian turned and walked to the couch by the door.

Roxanne belatedly realized what he had called her and started to blush.

Watching him lie down on the couch, she also slowly lay down.

Lucian turned off the light, and the ward was plunged into darkness.

The two kept their silence, each with their own thoughts.

Early the following day, Jack opened the social media app and looked up news about Farwell Group and the research institute.

According to his agreement with Lucian, the latter should have already released a statement about the termination of the contract on the internet at that hour.

He waited for an hour, but there was no sign of Farwell Group releasing the statement.

Jack couldn't help but think of the marriage that hadn't been announced so far, and his expression turned cold. "Lucian Farwell! How dare you?"

How dore you mess with me when Roxanne's life is in my hands!

At the thought of that, Jack gave Kevin an instruction with a darkened expression. "Give Lucian a call!" He wanted to know what Lucian was thinking.

Frightened by his gloomy aura, Kevin quickly took out the phone and called Lucian.

In the meantime, Lucian and Roxanne couldn't fall asleep all night. They opened their eyes and sat up when the sun had barely risen.

Roxanne continued to think about the composition of the antidote while Lucian finally had time to handle Farwell Group's affairs. Aloud ringing broke the silence and disrupted their concentration.

Lucian came back to his senses and glanced at the caller ID. His face darkened, and hesitation flashed across his eyes.

"Is it from Jack?"

Roxanne looked over and saw Lucian's change in expression. Immediately, she knew who had called.

Lucian scrunched his eyebrows in tacit vindication.

Upon seeing that, Roxanne put away her thoughts and said in a low voice, 'I'll call him back. | have something to tell him." Hearing that, Lucian hesitated for moment but eventually declined the call.

On the other end, Kevin looked perplexed when Lucian declined the call. "Mr. Damaris, Mr. Farwell is not picking up the call." "That jerk!" Jack was enraged. "How dare he mess with me! I'll never let him off the hook!"

Kevin lowered his head and kept his breath quiet after seeing his fury.

The atmosphere inside the office abruptly turned tense.

All of a sudden, Jack's phone rang.

He glanced at the screen and furrowed his brows when he saw the caller ID.

Chapter 1709 Not A Chance

Roxanne? Isn't she with Lucian now? Why is she colling me back instead of Lucian? Jack was skeptical and finally answered the call after a while.

"Ms. Jarvis, you're awake?"

On the other end, Roxanne's voice was full of anger.

"I've overestimated you, Jack. Being the Damaris family's heir and a doctor, | can't believe you used your knowledge to poison me! Don't you think you've failed the Damaris family's name?"

Hearing her reprimand, Jack's eyes flashed hostility as the corners of his lips slowly curled up. "You still have the time to criticize me. It seems that you are very energetic!"

"It's all thanks to you," Roxanne responded coldly. Narrowing his eyes, Jack sneered, "Since you know | did it, you should be clear that your life is in my hand. Watch your attitude!" Then, he questioned coldly, "Where's Lucian? Pass the phone to him!"

Roxanne rejected without hesitation, "He has nothing to say to you! This is between us. Jack, don't you dare threaten him with me again!"

She would never allow herself to be anyone's weakness.

Seeing her aggressive demeanor, Jack was so mad that he burst into laughter. "Very well. Why do you think you regained consciousness? Hasn't Lucian told you? He only got the antidote from me after agreeing to three conditions.

He thought Roxanne wasn't aware of it, so he said arrogantly, "In order to get the antidote for you, Lucian has agreed to terminate the cooperation with your research institute. Moreover, he got married to another woman!"

Although he wasn't sure of the authenticity of the marriage certificate yet, he wanted to use it to provoke Roxanne. At first, he thought Roxanne would be enraged by this. To his surprise, she sounded calm on the other end of the line.

"I'm aware of all this. Just give up. I'm the person in charge of the research institute. Even if we terminate the contract with Farwell Group, we will not work with you."

As for Lucian's fake marriage, Roxanne didn't plan to expose it yet.

"You got a death wish?" Jack was livid. "Roxanne, do you think Lucian got the real antidote yesterday?"

Roxanne uttered firmly, "Of course, | know it's not real, but I'll develop the antidote with my own strength. My life will only be in my own hands!"

However, Jack felt as if he had heard a joke. He was dumbfounded at first, then broke into laughter.

"You will develop the antidote? Stop dreaming! Is the Damaris

family's secret technique a joke to you? There's not a chance even if you ask Harvey for help!"

Roxanne's expression turned solemn when she heard him belittling her professor. "I'm Professor Lambert's student. If | can develop the antidote to your poison, so can he. I'm not asking him for help because | don't want to worry him. You'd better be more respectful!"

"Since you are so confident, then give it a try. If you don't get the second bottle of antidote before tonight, you will die from poisoning. Don't come crying to beg me," Jack snorted coldly.

Without waiting for Roxanne to speak, he hung up right away.

He didn't believe that anyone other than him could make an antidote to his poison.

Chapter 1710 Shocked

Lucian's expression froze slightly when the phone was hung up. He had a lot to say.

On second thought, he swallowed all his unspoken words.

Right now, nov.elxo all he wanted was for Roxanne to concentrate and find a way to develop the antidote. Everything else did not matter.

At worst, he would beg Jack again.

Roxanne could sense his worry, so she comforted him softly, "The blood test results should be out soon. | will think of a way." The look on Lucian's face eased up a little after hearing that. "I have faith in you."

Once again, a blanket of silence fell over the room.

Lucian knew Roxanne was occupied with thinking about the antidote again, nov.elxo so he didn't disturb her. All of a sudden, someone knocked on the door.

Breaking out of her reverie, Roxanne looked at the door in confusion. She thought it was Madilyn.

Lucian stood up and opened the door.

He felt much more relaxed when he saw the person at the door.

"Lucian, Old Mr. Lomax might have found some composition of Jack's poison!"

Jonathan announced excitedly and then he thought of something, causing his expression to turn grim. "How is Roxanne doing? We aren't late, are we?"

He carefully observed Lucian's expression after he was done talking. Then, he began murmuring, "I don't think we're late, right? Otherwise, you wouldn't look like this."

As soon as those words fell, Roxanne's voice sounded from inside before Lucian could reply,

"Is that Jonathan?

She heard Jonathan's voice at the door for a long time and felt strange since he wasn't coming in.

Jonathan sighed in relief when he heard her voice. Taken aback, he asked, "You're awake, Roxanne? You two got the antidote?" He looked at Lucian in disbelief.

Lucian remained silent and nodded respectfully at Peregrine, who was right behind Jonathan. Then, he turned around and brought them into the ward.

Jonathan was overjoyed when he saw Roxanne sitting up on the bed.

"You're finally awake, Roxanne. We were so worried for the past few days! | thought... Forget it. Let's not talk about that. Everything is fine now that you have regained consciousness. How are you feeling? Do you feel unwell?"

Seeing his excitement, Roxanne couldn't help but chuckle, "I'm sorry | made you worry. | feel much better now."

Then, she looked curiously at the person behind Jonathan and asked hesitantly, "I heard you mention Old Mr. Lomax. Is he the person I'm thinking of?"

The two finally realized they hadn't introduced Peregrine to Roxanne.

Jonathan took half a step back and stood behind Peregrine as he said, "This is the King of Medicine of Merania, Peregrine Lomax, also known as Old Mr. Lomax. He came to treat you specially."

Peregrine Lomax? Upon hearing that, Roxanne reeled in shock.

"What do you mean by King of Medicine of Merania? nov.elxo | can't even find the antidote for the poison that young man made. I've failed my title!"

Peregrine stayed up for a few nights to browse through his medical books. He was beyond exhaustion. Coupled with the frustration of failing to find the antidote, his expression looked grim.

Lucian comforted, "Please don't feel bad, Old Mr. Lomax. Jack said he learned the method of developing this poison from the ancient medical books of the Damaris family. Understandably, you couldn't find the antidote."

Peregrine frowned slightly and suddenly exclaimed, nov.elxo "No wonder | couldn't find what | wanted even after going through all the medical books!"