

## **ABANDONED 1711**

### Chapter 1711 Not Much Time

"You're Old Mr. Lomax?" Roxanne finally snapped out of her shock and compared the person in front of her with the picture taken in his younger days.

Peregrine nodded and asked caringly, "How's your body doing?"

Respectfully, she sat with a straightened back. "Thank you for asking. My body's doing fine right now. I'm sorry for greeting you in such an impertinent manner."

Then she tried to leave the bed.

In response, Peregrine waved his hand. "It's fine. You're a patient. There's no need for you to mind your etiquette."

He turned to Lucian. "How did Ms. Jarvis wake up? Did an expert create the antidote?"

Pressing on Roxanne's shoulder to make her sit on the bed, Lucian replied in a deep voice, "I successfully took some from Jack.

However, the dosage | obtained wasn't enough to expel all traces of poison in her body. I'm afraid your help is still necessary, Old Mr.

Lomax."

Peregrine nodded. "Of course."

Obviously, he was going to do his best to treat Roxanne. It was why he came, after all.

"Jonathan said you've already figured out some of the poison's composition. Is that true?" inquired Lucian somewhat impatiently. As long as they knew what the poison was made of, it would be easy to synthesize an antidote.

Peregrine nodded and informed the two of his analysis.

Since Lucian knew nothing about medicine, he could only guess that the medicinal herbs Peregrine listed were rare.

As Roxanne listened to Peregrine, a look of awe settled in her eyes.

When the old man finished speaking, she couldn't help but exclaim with admiration, "You really do live up to your title as Merania's King of Medicine! While these medicinal herbs aren't particularly rare, people seldom use them because they are often ignored. | think only you could've thought of them, Old Mr. Lomax!"

If he hadn't mentioned the names of those herbs, she would've forgotten that some of them even existed. Peregrine shook his head. "Don't celebrate yet. This is only one part of the solution. If we want to develop the antidote, we must find all the medicinal herbs."

| believe the rest of the medicinal herbs are recorded in the Damaris family's ancient medicine books, but even | have no clue what they are. Staring at Roxanne with anticipation, he said, "I recall you are Harvey's student. In that case, your medicinal skills should be topnotch. Since you've woken up, you can help me devise a solution together."

Roxanne felt a little embarrassed to be praised by him. "I'm just an amateur compared to you. However, since it concerns my life and death, of course, I'll do my best."

Her tone grew more resolute and professional. "If you don't mind, can you tell me what you've discovered over the past few days? I'm running out of time."

Upon seeing how fast she got into the groove, Peregrine nodded with delight as he became even more impressed by her. | must say, she's the only one who has seemed the most like a doctor over the past few days! Furthermore, even though she has been poisoned, she remains composed. Her future will be unbelievably bright!

Soon, the two began discussing the composition of the poison. Occasionally, Jonathan would voice his opinion.

Meanwhile, Lucian could only listen to the conversation at the side. | should've found some time to learn a thing or two about medicine!

## Chapter 1712 Developing The Cure

"| believe I've seen the other medicinal herbs in the Damaris family's ancient medicine books before." In the end, Peregrine couldn't recall the rest of the medicinal herbs.

Hesitantly, Roxanne said, "Give me some time. | believe | can figure them out based on the leads you've provided."

When he realized she had read those ancient medicine books too, he was shocked but didn't show it on his face. "The other medicinal herbs aren't as important as the key component. | doubt Jack would've made it that easy for us to figure out."

As long as they couldn't ascertain that crucial ingredient, they wouldn't be able to develop the antidote.

Carefully, Jonathan voiced his speculation. "I don't think it's just a matter of figuring out the medicinal herbs. Perhaps Jack was so sure we wouldn't be able to create the cure because he used an unconventional method to synthesize the poison. That may be why it's so difficult to discern the poison's raw materials." It would explain why someone as skilled as Peregrine and Roxanne still couldn't make heads or tails of the poison after so long.

Silence ensued. The atmosphere in the room turned gloomy. Both Peregrine and Roxanne were deep in thought with a frown.

Even though they were in deep water, none of them intend to give up. "Will this help?" Lucian presented a bottle sitting at the side to the rest. The other three glanced at the bottle, puzzled.

Thus, he explained, "This is the bottle that contained the antidote. Perhaps some residues of the antidote remain inside and can come in handy."

After he fed Roxanne the antidote, he kept the bottle. He didn't give it too much thought back then, but he was glad he did it since it might provide a lead to the clueless doctors. "You kept the bottle? Why didn't you take it out earlier?" admonished Peregrine, though he was relieved to hear that.

That revelation visibly lightened Roxanne's mood. "Lucian's not proficient in pharmacology, Old Mr. Lomax. There's no need to snap at him."

Then she beamed gratefully at Lucian. “Thank you for being scrupulous! These few drops of the antidote may be immensely helpful!”

Jonathan added, “It's difficult to figure out the composition of the poison and the antidote in such a short period. However, we may find new leads if we can grasp part of the antidote's and poison's formula!” We may be able to identify the poison's formulae based on the partial formula of the antidote!

That idea excited Roxanne and Peregrine.

With a serious expression, Peregrine urged, “Let's not dawdle! Since we have the antidote, we can analyze it right now!” Roxanne nodded. “The analytical equipment in the hospital is inadequate, so I'll head to the research institute right away.” As she spoke, she attempted to leave the bed.

Lucian frowned as he watched her ignoring her condition. “You shouldn't be moving around right now.” The more time passes since Roxanne consumes the antidote, the more ill she looks. Considering Jack's threat earlier, if Roxanne tries to act recklessly again, the poison may kick in before tonight! If that happens, even if they figure out the poison's formula, it may be too late for her!

“I'll go, Roxanne. | know a bit about pharmacology,” proposed Jonathan.

## Chapter 1713 Lower Head

A troubled look surfaced on Roxanne's countenance. “Are you even still familiar with the lab equipment?” I'm certain Jonathan has been the person in charge of Queen Group for the past few years. It's likely been a long while since he touched anything related to Queen Group's research on medicinal herbs. I'm not willing to take risks at this critical moment.

Embarrassed, Jonathan rubbed his nose. “How about I ask a trustworthy employee in my company to do it?”

She shook her head. “No, | still want to do it myself. | can't trust others to pull it off. You understand me, don't you?”

Upon hearing that, he nodded. “I do. It concerns your life, after all. Naturally, you want to be meticulous about it. However...” He carefully glanced at Lucian. Based on his expression alone, | can tell he won't let her go.

“Jack was confident no one could crack his formulae, which means he must've done something special when synthesizing it! I've been working with him for a long time, so only | know how to figure it out!” Turning to Lucian, she pleaded sincerely, “If we submit to him tonight, there'll be a next time. We can't allow him to keep acting arrogantly like that! We must end this today!”

Of course, Lucian understood her reasoning. However, he cared more about keeping her alive.

After staying silent for a long while, Peregrine spoke up. “Before we create the antidote, you should stay on the bed and avoid wearing yourself down.”

In response, a dejected look swirled in Roxanne's eyes. "But..." Is there even anyone who can see through Jack's trick except me? No, | must go. There's not much time left.

"If you insist on tiring yourself, you may trigger the poison ahead of time. When that happens, there won't be enough time to save you, even if you ask Jack for the antidote." A serious expression formed on his face. "You should know you mustn't move when your blood vessels are hardening!"

Lucian was astonished to hear that. Roxanne knew what would happen if she forced herself to leave the bed, yet she still wanted to follow through with her plan.

Upon pressing Roxanne's shoulder with his hand, he stared at her with a resolute look. No matter what, | won't let her leave the bed!

In response, she lowered her head in guilt. "I just think | can develop the antidote before the poison activates. That way—"

His cold voice interrupted her. "Did it occur to you that you're gambling with your life right now?"

Resignedly, she raised her head to meet his eyes. "I don't want us to live under Jack's thumb." I'm primarily worried about Lucian. He was always an outstanding mon, never submitting to anyone else. However, because of me, he's witting to sacrifice his marriage. For six years, he never made any compromises on his marriage, yet... Just thinking about that makes me feel like I'm dragging him down. | can't help but blame myself, and | don't want to see him defer to anyone for any reason. At the same time, | don't want any involvement with that two-faced Jock anymore!

"| rather submit to Jack than let you die," uttered Lucian as he grasped her hand.

## Chapter 1714 A Despicable Man

Roxanne had no choice but to abandon the idea of visiting the research institute due to Lucian's insistence and come up with another one.

"Ms. Xander's medical skills are great." Knitting his eyebrows, Lucian proposed, "Maybe you can ask her to go to the research institute in your stead. Then you can tell her what to do on the phone." If | remember correctly, Madilyn has always worked in the medical industry. She even treated Roxanne with a few experts during the past few days. Her skills are clearly extraordinary.

Hesitation flashed past Roxanne's eyes. "Madilyn..." She may have excellent medical skills, but she's not very good when it comes to pharmacology.

After a brief contemplation, she concluded that there was no other way and nodded. "I'll call her right now and ask her to head to the research institute." At most, I'll ask her to carry out the test before | read the results through a video call.

Promptly, she called Madilyn, and the latter answered. "I was just about to visit you, Roxanne! How are you doing right now?"

Roxanne went straight to the point. "Go to the research institute right now, Madilyn. Mr. Queen will send the antidote over later. Please help me analyze the antidote's components there. It doesn't have to be thorough. Just do as much as you can."

Upon hearing that, Madilyn felt her heart drop. Still, despite not knowing what had happened, she immediately stood and said, "I'll head out right now. Contact me if anything comes up."

"Call me once you reach the research institute."

Then Roxanne hung up the phone and turned to Jonathan. "Please deliver the antidote to the research institute." He grabbed the bottle and assured her, "I'll reach there as fast as I can. We'll definitely develop a cure!"

In response, she smiled at him weakly.

Without delay, he dashed out of the room, then the building, and drove speedily toward the research institute. When he arrived at his destination, he saw Madilyn waiting at the entrance with Linda.

Roxanne had also called Linda for help.

"What's the situation right now, Mr. Queen? Why do we suddenly need to study the antidote's components?" After grabbing the bottle, Madilyn strode toward the laboratory.

Jonathan disclosed, "The antidote Jack provided yesterday didn't have enough dosage to remove the poison from Roxanne's body completely. So, we still need to synthesize our own antidote to save her."

That shocked Madilyn. "What? How can Jack do such a thing? That's so vile!"

"Yep. He's a despicable man!"

Worry bubbled in Madilyn's heart. If that's the case, then Roxanne...

Linda couldn't believe her ears. Earlier, when Roxanne called me, she only asked me to lend Madilyn a hand. I didn't expect the situation to be this dire!

Despite her apprehension, she cheered herself and the other two up. "Dr. Jarvis will be fine! She's a distinguished doctor. Even Dr. Lambert claimed she's his most outstanding student!"

At the same time, she prayed for Roxanne's safety in her heart.

When the trio arrived at the laboratory, Madilyn cleared her mind and called Roxanne.

Chapter 1715 What To Do Concurrently, in the ward, Roxanne and Peregrine discussed the methods to analyze the antidote's content.

"A single test won't be sufficient. However, we only have a limited amount of the antidote left. We need to come up with the most efficient and effective way to examine it," suggested Roxanne.

Her voice sounded weak due to her feeble body and her speaking too long.

Peregrine was worried about that problem, too.

After the two came up with a few possible solutions, Madilyn called.

Roxanne answered the call and heard, "I've arrived, Roxanne. What do you need me to do?"

Her tone sounds somber. Jonathan probably told her about what was going on with me. However, I don't have the time to comfort her right now. Without delay, she informed Madilyn of Peregrine's and her plan.

Madilyn listened attentively and voiced her opinion when she noticed something illogical.

Eventually, they came up with three tests to conduct on the antidote that wouldn't waste it and would ascertain its components effectively.

Although, Madilyn couldn't help but blurt, "Still, there's no guarantee it'll have the medicinal herbs you need." Grinning, Roxanne comforted, "With how things have turned out, we can only do our best. I'll be counting on you." With that, Madilyn began conducting the tests in silence.

Meanwhile, Jonathan held his phone for Roxanne and Peregrine to watch Madilyn's movements through a video call. It was just in case Madilyn got something wrong.

At the side, Linda clenched her fists nervously and prayed in her heart. There must be a medicinal herb within it that Dr. Jarvis needs! Considering how many people she has saved, I'm sure Lady Luck will smile at her!

"You can start the next test. I'll check the report later," uttered Roxanne upon noticing the conclusion of the analysis.

Just as she ended her sentence, she coughed twice. The pain was radiating from her body.

Still, she endured the agony and continued to watch Madilyn work.

Upon seeing her like that, Peregrine turned toward the instruments monitoring her status next to the bed.

When he saw the numbers on the screen, he peered at Roxanne with a complicated look. Her body's deteriorating fast because

the antidote has run its course. Based on the values I'm seeing, she must be in excruciating pain right now. Yet, she's still holding herself together to keep going. Her willpower is really a rare sight. Although, I'm not sure how much longer she can hold on.

Similarly, Lucian had noticed the rapid decline of Roxanne's condition. He could feel his heart sinking.

However, he was aware of the importance of her work. Thus, he stood quietly at the side while his hatred for Jack burned brighter. That despicable man! How dare he make Roxanne suffer! Once she's recovered, I'll pay him back by a thousandfold!

The trio in the laboratory didn't have time to look at the screen, but they could still tell Roxanne's condition had worsened through her voice alone.

As her voice grew weaker, the trio became more despondent. Madilyn's hands were even trembling.

Upon noticing her friend's expression, Roxanne lifted her spirit and comforted Madilyn with a smile. "Calm down, Madilyn. Just make sure you don't make any mistakes. I can still keep going."

Lowering her eyes, Madilyn nodded wordlessly and did her best to compose herself while holding back the lump in her throat.

Chapter 1716 Heartwrenching

Eventually, noon arrived.

Noticing that, Lucian asked Cayden to buy them lunch.

However, Peregrine and Roxanne were too absorbed in their work to eat.

“You should eat something.” Lucian persuaded resignedly, “Even if you don't, Old Mr. Lomax should still do so.”

In response, Roxanne reluctantly turned her attention to Peregrine for a few seconds. “I heard from Lucian that you've been staying up all night for the past few days, Old. Mr. Lomax. I bet you must be tired. You should eat something. I can still keep my eyes on the screen.”

I am feeling quite tired. Peregrine sighed. “I suppose my body isn't as vigorous as it used to be. Very well, then. I'll eat while you keep watch.” Then, he started eating at the side.

She nodded and returned to the screen to watch Madilyn work.

Furrowing his eyebrows, Lucian wanted to advise Roxanne to eat since she didn't seem to do that. However, he swallowed his words when he thought about how she was saving herself.

Hence, he grabbed the lunchbox from Cayden, plopped down next to the bed, and fed her.

Roxanne was so focused that it took her a few seconds to realize she was eating.

She flashed an apologetic smile at him after detecting the heart-wrenching look in his eyes.

“It's fine if you work. Although, you still need to eat,” remarked Lucian with resignation.

Without hesitation, she shifted her sight back to the screen and saw Madilyn had inserted the rest of the fluid into the testing instrument, waiting for the result.

When the test was over, Roxanne recommended, “It's noon already, so all of you should get some rest. Linda, please help buy lunch for Madilyn and Mr. Queen.”

Linda promptly agreed and left.

The other two took a breather.

As Peregrine ate his lunch, he witnessed how Lucian cared for Roxanne and commented, “Your relationship with him sure is splendid.”

Roxanne was slightly taken aback by that. Then, she realized she was still being fed lunch by Lucian like a child.

Upon detecting the delight in the old man's eyes, she lowered hers with embarrassment and grabbed the lunchbox from Lucian.

Lucian went along with her wish, placing the lunchbox and the cutleries on the table.

Again, Peregrine expressed his thoughts. “The Farwell boy is much more caring than his cold appearance suggests.”

Roxanne could feel her cheeks burning as she beamed at Lucian. If it were six years ago, I wouldn't have expected Lucian to care for me like this. Now that I finally have what I've dreamed of, I must hold on to it tightly. There's no way I'll lose what's most precious to me because of Jack!

“I'm fairly certain he won't forgive me if I fail to save you today, based on what I've observed of you two so far.” The edges of Peregrine's lips curved upward as he put aside the lunchbox.

Then he turned to Cayden. “Please send me to the research institute. I want to monitor the progress there.”

In response, Cayden glanced at Lucian to seek his approval.

Instead of saying anything, Lucian hinted at Roxanne to make the decision.

“Regardless of how this ends, only my life's on the line. Lucian's simply worried about me. That's why he looks a little unfriendly. Please don't mind him.” She first defended Lucian before speaking to Peregrine gratefully. “With that said, I thank you in advance for your effort. I'll feel much more at ease with you there.”

## Chapter 1717 Incomparable

Lucian nodded, which Cayden took as a sign to drive Peregrine to the research institute. Only Roxanne and Lucian were left in the ward.

After Peregrine left, Roxanne spoke to Madilyn. “Old Mr. Lomax is heading there right now. Just follow his instructions when he arrives.”

At the moment, the trio was speedily devouring the lunch Linda bought. Upon hearing Roxanne's words, Madilyn nodded and inquired, “Are you doing all right, Roxanne?”

Even though it's only been a few hours, her face is already as pale as a sheet of paper. Not to mention how feeble her voice sounds. Madilyn couldn't help but get worried, despite not being able to know her friend's latest status through the screen.

Smiling, Roxanne assured, “Everything's fine. I'm still holding on. Nothing will happen to me.” As she spoke, she grimaced due to the pain.

Spotting that, Madilyn became even more concerned but knew there was no point in speaking about it further. What's most important right now is figuring out the antidote's composition, using it to deduce the poison's key component, and developing the antidote.

With a heavy expression, she nodded. “I swear | won't let anything happen to you. I'll figure out the components that make up the antidote!”

“Thanks for your help.” Roxanne beamed gratefully.



“I'm Archie's and Benny's godmother! Even if not for you, I'd still do it for them! If you keep acting courteous, I'm going to be mad!” Madilyn intentionally pretended to be enraged to lighten the mood.

The moment she ended her sentence, smiles formed on their faces.

“Even if an antidote can't be synthesized in the end, | won't let anything happen to you,” stated Lucian resolutely.

He was preparing for the worst because Roxanne's deteriorating condition wasn't inspiring him to put all his hope in her. Hearing that, Roxanne met his eyes and assured softly but tenaciously, “I won't let you submit to someone else. | will save myself today!”

The couple's conversation touched the people in the laboratory.

Lucian doesn't seem like someone who has ever conceded, considering his status. Yet, Jack managed to push him to this state. It's obvious how much he loves Roxanne. It's hard not to feel pity for the two. They didn't do anything wrong. Roxanne was only poisoned because someone else was jealous of her talents.

Calmly, Lucian uttered, “I don't care about that. I'll find a way to get back at him even if | surrender. | only want you to stay by my side.”

Roxanne was moved and began to relent. Indeed, that's such a minor issue now when | may lose my life soon. As long as | can keep on living, we'll find a way to get our revenge.

Peering apologetically at him, she speculated, “Well, | don't think he'll forgive you easily if you meet him again after what happened.”

He hugged her comfortingly. “It doesn't matter what he wants me to do. As long as | can save you, I'll do it. Nothing is more important than your life.”

Laying in his embrace, she eased up. “That'll be our only option if things come to that. However, it hasn't come to that point yet. We still have hope.”

## Chapter 1718 Wary

The couple continued to hug each other lovingly.

The people on the other side of the screen were emotionally moved by that scene. None of them dared to make a peep. Suddenly, Jonathan's phone rang.

In response, he stepped out of the laboratory and peered at the screen.

It was from Frieda.

He knew Frieda disliked Roxanne, and she only helped track Peregrine down because he asked her to.

Why is she calling me right now? Frowning, he hesitated for a few moments before answering the call.

“Are you at the hospital right now, Jonathan?” Frieda inquired the moment the call connected.

When Shawn didn't hear anything about or couldn't reach Peregrine for a few days after the latter reached Horington, he asked her to call Jonathan to ask about the situation.

When Jonathan heard her bringing up the hospital, he was rather confused. “What do you want to ask about?” “How's Dr. Jarvis' situation right now? Has she woken up yet?” asked Frieda.

“When did you start caring about her?” He knitted his eyebrows. “Don't tell me you already changed your attitude toward her just because | told you off.”

A look of disdain flashed past her eyes as she grumbled, “Isn't it normal for me to ask about her since | helped her find the King of Medicine? Even if | don't care about her, | still need to check on him. He hasn't contacted me for days.”

She seems only interested in Old Mr. Lomax's situation. In that case, | don't think | need to be so suspicious of her. “You don't need to worry about that. Old Mr. Lomax is doing fine. Since you're the one who invited him here, he's considered our guest. I'll take good care of him. Everyone respects him a lot.”

Still, she questioned, “What do you mean by that? How's Dr. Jarvis' condition? It's been so many days, yet the King of Medicine still hasn't treated her yet?”

Thinking about Roxanne's condition, he gloomily replied, “Old Mr. Lomax isn't omnipotent. Everyone's still figuring out how to treat Roxanne.”

Dissatisfied by the answer, Frieda interrogated, “What happened? Are you still wary of me even after | have helped out?”

If she couldn't get an answer, she wouldn't be able to placate Shawn.

Jonathan was stumped for a moment.

Considering Roxanne is currently in her worst-case scenario, | doubt anything can worsen the situation. Besides, if | tell Frieda about what's going on, she may be able to meet that man again. Who knows, perhaps he'll have new ideas. When his train of thought ended there, he disclosed, “Old Mr. Lomax couldn't wake Dr. Jarvis up, so Lucian met with Jack to obtain the antidote. However, the antidote could only keep Dr. Jarvis alive for a little longer. It'll lose its effectiveness tonight, so Old Mr. Lomax is doing research to come up with the cure with us right now.”

“What?” exclaimed Frieda. “I can't believe Jack concocted a devious plan like that! How loathsome!” Sighing, Jonathan agreed, “Who could've imagined the heir to the Damaris family is such a vile man?”

Then he thought of something and reminded, “If news about this matter spread, the Damaris family's reputation will go down the drain with Jack as precedent. You better realize what you should and shouldn't do!”

Frieda was annoyed by Jonathan's lecture. Let's see what else he'll say when | become Mrs. Crawford!

“All right, all right. It's as if I've not done enough by bringing the King of Medicine here to help with the treatment. What else do you want from me?” Frieda started giving Jonathan an attitude when she thought she might become a part of the upper echelons of society.

Sensing her annoyance, Jonathan realized he, too, was giving her an attitude for no reason.

Though it was clear that Frieda had a dislike for Roxanne, Jonathan felt it was important to acknowledge that Frieda had helped them. | shouldn't have put her down like that.

At that thought, Jonathan toned down his voice. “I shouldn't have said that. You did Dr. Jarvis and Mr. Farwell a favor by bringing in Old Mr. Lomax. I'll tell Grandpa about it.”

Hearing that, Frieda was pleased with his response. “That's more like it.”

Jonathan heaved a helpless sigh. Being around his sister was like walking on eggshells, so he had to be cautious with his words and action.

“Hey, what are you doing out there?” Peregrine walked in and asked Jonathan when he saw him talking over the phone outside.

After ending his chat with Frieda, Jonathan hung up the phone. He walked over and greeted Peregrine. “I was talking to my sister over the phone. She called to see if everything was okay.”

Peregrine could not help but frown when he thought of Frieda. “Your sister is not on good terms with Roxanne, right?” Jonathan froze for a moment upon hearing that.

Peregrine only saw Frieda and Roxanne once, yet he could tell the two women did not get along.

Embarrassed, Jonathan bobbed his head in response. “Frieda is a little difficult to deal with, but she's changing for the better.”

Despite his lingering doubts, Peregrine remained silent and decided not to pursue the matter further. Why would Frieda invite me over if Frieda is not on good terms with Roxanne? Even the man named Shawn has never shown up.

Jonathan and Peregrine then entered the lab.

Madilyn, who had just finished her lunch, started operating the machines again.

Upon spotting Peregrine in the lab, she stopped working and greeted him, “You're here, Old. Mr. Lomax.”

Peregrine nodded, gesturing for her to continue her work while he stood beside her and watched.

As time continued to tick away, a molecular formula began to appear on the screen.

Some ingredients the system suggested even got Peregrine thinking about what other ingredients they could go with. Meanwhile, on the other side of the phone, the experts brought in the results of the blood test. Roxanne looked at the thin paper and went deep in thought.

Peregrine and Roxanne examined the ingredients together, but they could not quite identify one specific medicinal herb.

The elderly man stared at the molecular formula on the screen and murmured, "It seems there's no need to neutralize the effect of the poisonous herbs that appeared in our analysis with that particular medicinal herb."

Clearly, someone had altered the molecular formula on the screen. It was unlikely for anyone to use that medicinal herb to dispel the poison.

Yet, Jack used it to concoct the antidote for Roxanne. Meanwhile, over at the Queen residence, Frieda began dressing up after ending the call with Jonathan.

After spending an hour doing her makeup and another thirty minutes trying on clothes, she headed off to the mansion in the suburbs to meet Shawn.

She could have clarified things with him over the phone, but she chose to meet him because she had an ulterior motive.

## Chapter 1720 This Is Not An Antidote

Time ticked by slowly.

As the sky grew darker, more components of the antidote were known. But alas, there was still no lead on the most crucial medicinal herb. Roxanne's condition was worsening.

At noon, she could still sit up by herself. However, at that moment, she had to lean against Lucian to sit up. She had to clench her jaw all the time to prevent herself from groaning due to the severe pain.

"We're running out of time. I'm contacting Jack now!"

The sight of her in pain made Lucian feel extremely anxious.

Roxanne grabbed his wrist with great difficulty and said, "Let's wait a little longer. I can still hold on for a little while." We still have hope as long as we're not at a critical moment.

Holding on to the last hope, Peregrine tapped on the molecular formula on the screen and said, "Let's do another test. I want to find out what this is!"

Without wasting any time, Madilyn poured the liquid onto the apparatus and did another test.

Before the results were out, Peregrine suddenly came to a realization and said in a deep voice, "I got it! The key is not the medicinal herb. It's a chemical added during the manufacturing process!"

The altered molecular formula was exactly the result of the medicinal herbs mixed with chemicals.

Upon hearing that, Madilyn, too, came to her senses and said to Roxanne excitedly, "Roxanne, did you hear that? Old Mr. Lomax has figured out the key ingredient. We can start creating the antidote right away!"

Creating the antidote was a piece of cake as long as they knew what the key component of the poison was. Roxanne heaved a sigh of relief and forced a smile. "That's great." Madilyn had been busy conducting tests the entire afternoon that she did not realize Roxanne's current condition.

The moment Madilyn noticed Roxanne's condition had worsened, the smile on her face gradually disappeared and was replaced with a look of worry.

“But we're running out of time. We've spent so much time figuring out the components of the poison...” Judging by Roxanne's condition, she might not be able to hold on until we've created the antidote.

Roxanne assured calmly, “Don't worry. We still have time. You'll definitely create it in time. Don't panic.” Madilyn's eyes were red with tears when she heard Roxanne's weak voice.

When she saw Peregrine still fumbling around for the formula of the antidote, her panic rose to new heights.

Moments later, Peregrine approached the phone screen and glanced at Roxanne with a grim look. “This isn't quite right.”

Roxanne felt her heart sink a little. “Why would you say that?”

Peregrine shook his head slowly. “Based on my medical experience, this formula can slow down the effect of the poison, but it doesn't get rid of it completely. It doesn't work that way no matter how much you consume.”

Just then, Roxanne thought of something, and she was shocked by Jack's viciousness.

With a frown, she asked, “Is it possible that this isn't an antidote at all? Instead, it only functions to slow down the effects of the poison?”

Jack wants to use this tactic to acquire Farwell Group and the research institute.

The thought of that sent a chill down Roxanne's spine.

She turned to look at Lucian and held his hand.

At first, she was open to the option of Lucian looking for Jack if they came to a dead end.

However, after realizing what Jack had been planning, she could not let Lucian meet Jack anymore.

Jack already knows we're trying to find the antidote. Who knows what he'll do to it when Lucian meets him?