

ABANDONED 1901

Chapter 1901 His True Self

After listening to Jonathan recount his past, Madilyn was silent for a long time. Her heart was heavy, and she wished to say something encouraging or comforting. However, she felt as though she could not find the right words.

In today's society, all adults have some form of psychiatric disorder to some extent, most of which stem from our childhoods. That's why there's the saying, "A beautiful childhood can heal for a lifetime, but it takes a lifetime to recover from a bad one."

In the end, Jonathan was the one who gave a faint smile, seemingly feeling a weight off his shoulders.

The sight of his smile stunned her. She felt as though she was watching a child smile for the first time. It was so pure and innocent.

What's more, he looks drop-dead gorgeous when he smiles! She stared at him blankly for a few seconds, and she felt her cheeks getting warmer.

"Is something wrong with me? Why are you looking at me like that?" he asked bluntly.

She quickly withdrew her gaze, hardly knowing where to look. Shaking her head, she replied, "No, no. Nothing is wrong with you. Anyway, you feel better after sharing all that, don't you?"

He nodded, his eyes looking much brighter. "You're right. That was my first time saying all that out loud. Thank you so much for listening to everything | had to say.

Without meaning to, he stretched out his hand, subconsciously moving to grab something.

Just like that, Madilyn suddenly felt him hold her hand. Although she was stunned, she did not immediately pull away. Her face was soon flushed bright red.

"I've made up my mind, Madilyn. I'm going to go on a vacation and confront my thoughts until | work through it all!"

Seemingly affected by his raw emotions, she remained motionless, allowing him to continue holding her hand.

| can understand where he's coming from. He has many achievements under his belt and is managing many businesses, but in truth, all that isn't what his heart truly desires. That's the most significant difference between him and Lucian. Humans need

passion and interest. Otherwise, they won't be happy regardless of how much they've accomplished.

Finally, she found the words she wanted to say to him. "Jonathan, I'm always here to support you no matter what. Just keep trying, and if you need me, just give me a holler."

It was Jonathan's turn to stare at her in surprise. Then, he finally released her hand, childlike joy spreading across his face. Madilyn slowly retracted her hand and let out a sigh of relief inwardly. I'd be so embarrassed if he continued holding my hand! "Once Lucian's wedding is over, I'm planning to travel within the country before taking my time with finding what | like to do. If | still feel like

managing a company, I'll continue doing that. Now that the company is on the right track, things are actually not as hectic anymore.”

Perhaps due to her supportive response, he started opening up, and she paid full attention as he spoke of his plans. unreservedly.

“Madilyn, you have a passion for medicine, don't you? That's why you've been able to hold this position and bravely shoulder the responsibilities of a hospital director. That's something | truly admire about you.”

His words of praise had been long-awaited, and she gave a knowing smile.

“If | happen to be on leave at the same time, | can accompany you on your search for the life you long for,” she said cautiously, revealing her innermost thoughts.

Jonathan's eyes lit up immediately, and he quickly urged, “You should apply for time off from Roxanne! She's your best friend and will surely be understanding. | didn't expect Lucian to agree to it too. Give it a shot!”

“Okay. I'll try later. In any case, you have lots of places you want to visit. I'm looking forward to going to Xendale the most, so be sure to let me know when you're heading there,” she replied, a sense of anticipation suddenly blossoming in her heart.

Just look at him now. He's no longer giving off his usual stern aura but is a little more childlike. This is actually his true self!

Chapter 1902

Chapter 1902 An Angel From Heaven

Soon, there were only three days left before the wedding.

Roxanne had thought that this time around, she would be very calm. After all, they had been married once before and had registered this marriage, so they were practically an old married couple.

Little did she expect to feel a surge of emotions when she saw the wedding dress Estella had designed. It's simply too beautiful! My daughter's talent in fashion design is remarkable!

The dress was not a pure white color but a very light shade of gray. Under the sunlight, it had a grand yet elegant charm. It featured a mermaid tail-inspired design with a train adorned in embellishments that sparkled like stars. Instead of a mermaid's

tail, it looked more like a swan's tail. As for the material, it was light and comfortable.

When Roxanne put the dress on and looked at herself in the mirror, she could hardly believe her eyes. It gave a hint of pure, goddess-like air to her aura!

“Mommy, | designed the wedding dress with the grey color gradually lightening into white, just like how the ugly duckling slowly turns into a swan,” Estella explained in her cute, piping voice. She had merely wanted to express the essence of that fairy

tale she remembered hearing in the dress. As it turned out, it perfectly represented everything Roxanne had experienced throughout the years.

Perhaps because she could relate to the inspiration of the dress, Roxanne felt she truly suited the dress the more she looked at it.

“You're incredible, Essie. I love this wedding dress to pieces. There's no doubt you're a genius, and you'll surely become an amazing fashion designer who's famous across the globe!” she exclaimed. She even had the vague urge to flatter her daughter. Estella was overjoyed to see Roxanne so happy, and the former rushed to brag to Archie and Benny.

Hearing the commotion while inside the study, Lucian hurried out to see what was happening.

Something arrested his gaze instantly, and he was stunned for a good seven to eight seconds.

“Gorgeous. Simply breathtaking. You look perfect! Darling, seeing you in that wedding dress makes me want to marry you a few more times!” he said sincerely.

However, his words earned him a frosty glance from Roxanne. She demanded huffily, “What do you mean a few more times? It's already the second time. How many more times are you planning on stirring up trouble?”

Lucian rushed forward, carefully avoiding the wedding gown's train. Gazing at her tenderly, he leaned forward and surprised her with an unexpected kiss.

“That was a slip of the tongue. There won't be a next time. This time is forever,” he murmured with a somewhat seductive look in his eyes.

However, Roxanne had a certain level of immunity to it by now. Still feigning annoyance, she chided, “You've smudged my lipstick!”

Just then, Archie and Benny also hurried downstairs. Seeing Roxanne looking so ethereal in the wedding dress, they scrambled to compliment her.

“Mommy, you look like an angel who accidentally fell into the mortal world! Daddy's so lucky that he gets to marry an angel!” “You're beautiful, Mommy! Essie must've gotten the wedding gown from the gods! Now, that's what I call impressive!”

They did not forget to commend Estella, which made her beam with pride.

Roxanne was also over the moon upon hearing their praise.

Meanwhile, Lucian was staring at them in stunned silence. I didn't think these two rascals would be better at this than me!

As they were chatting, Elias and Sonya came in with big bags containing the things needed for a traditional wedding. The wedding would have a mixture of modern and traditional elements because they wanted to ensure Roxanne had everything she

wanted and would have no regrets.

Upon seeing how beautiful Roxanne looked in her wedding dress, Elias complimented that she looked pretty, then praised Estella for doing a good job.

His words stunned Sonya for a few seconds, and she could not help muttering while shooting him a glare, "She looks a million times prettier than when | got married to you."

Elias looked back at her innocently.

Then, Sonya smiled and said, "However, it's also because Roxanne has maintained such a good figure. She'll be the envy of many if she wears that out. It's just too beautiful"

Chapter 1903 Not Qualified To Participate

In the detention center of Baxrich at Horington, Elektra was calm as she mentally calculated the days that had passed. It'll be Roxanne's wedding day soon.

Roxanne, now that I'm here, | have no grudges against you. Thank you for making me understand the true meaning of love at the very last moment.

Love was considered the most expensive luxury item to humans. It did not matter whether one had an attractive figure or powerful status for one might not even get the chance to experience love.

Elektra was finally aware that Lucian was not the right person for her.

It didn't matter even if one ended with the wrong person. One should just continue to look for the right person instead.

Roxanne, | wish you a happy marriage from the bottom of my heart! | hope you will allow me to make things right in the future. Lucian and | would've remained as best friends if it weren't for my obsession with him.

Aprison warden suddenly yelled, "Elektra, step out! The lawyer wants to see you!"

Her family had paid a lawyer handsomely to come up with ideas to ensure she could receive a suspended sentence instead.

However, Elektra was unbothered. She would rather stay in the detention center for some time.

That way, she could feel the filth in her heart slowly fade away.

At the same time, on a small battered fishing boat at the port of Horington, Christina glared at her bodyguard and hissed, "When will Mr. Goldstein come to take me back? | don't want to stay in hiding anymore! Is everything all right on my parents' side?"

The bodyguard was calm as he glanced at her. He was used to her arrogance and demands.

"Please wait a little longer. Mr. Goldstein is trying to come up with an appropriate arrangement to come over. He'll take you away if he arrives here without problems. As for your parents, everything is going well. It seems like Mr. Farwell isn't bothering them too much."

Christina narrowed her eyes as she felt anger bubbling inside her.

How wretched! | can't believe such a perfect plan ended up failing! Lucian had many things to care for, so why was he so fixated on such a small detail?

| heard that Elektra turned herself in. How in the world did Roxanne bewitch her to do that? Ha! Is Elektra trying to turn over a new leaf? What a joke! A failure like her would never have the chance to do such a thing. It would be impossible!

But when | think about it, perhaps what Elektra did was a smart move. Such a strategic retreat could protect the Lane family. Otherwise, she would've ended up as | did before.

Christina's expression turned gloomy. It did not take long for her to start complaining about the dark and humid environment again.

It's no different from a mouse living in the sewers.

“Oh, right. Were you able to contact the person | told you about?” Christina suddenly asked.

The bodyguard hesitated momentarily before nodding and said, “We did, but the other party rejected the proposal.”

“What do you mean they rejected it?”

Christina was not one to give up. If Elektra failed, she could always find someone else to partner with to destroy Roxanne.

There could only be one winner between her and Roxanne, and she was determined to be the one who won.

She had chosen Lucian's competitor, Shawn Crawford from the north, to be her new partner. However, she did not expect to fail in getting him to work with her.

“Mr. Crawford asked his assistant to pass a message. He said that you shouldn't bother to try anything else. He would never collaborate with you. He even mentioned...” The bodyguard averted her gaze and hesitated to continue.

“Tell me. What else did he say?” Christina's brows knitted into a frown. She did not expect that Shawn would be so ungrateful.

If only Mr. Goldstein had revealed his identity to Shawn. Shawn would definitely agree in a heartbeat. After all, Mr. Goldstein can provide many business opportunities in Hawen for the Crawford family.

“Mr. Crawford also mentioned that if you continued to pester him, he would lock you up and send you to Lucian. He said you are not qualified to participate in his competition with Lucian.”

Christina's eyes widened when she heard that. Her face contorted in anger as she cursed, “Who the heck do the Crawford family think they are? They can't even be compared to Mr. Goldstein. Only he can go head-to-head with Lucian. D*mn it...”

Chapter 1904 Spoil Him Just This Once After hearing that Estella had designed a fairytale wedding gown for Roxanne, Madilyn hurried over after work to visit Roxanne. She was filled with envy and jealousy as she stared at the gown.

“If we weren't best friends, | would've taken a pair of scissors and ripped your wedding gown into shreds! How can it look so beautiful?”

Although Madilyn was Roxanne's best friend, the way she complimented the gown was rather odd.

Roxanne giggled and tried to comfort her, “When it's your turn to get married, Estella would have honed her skills and perfected her designs by then. When the time comes, I'll have her design a gown for you!”

“True. As her godmother, | can't just have obligations and no rights.”

Madilyn grinned. She sighed inwardly when she thought of her best friend's transformation throughout her journey to get where she was.

“How is Mdm. Xander? Is she getting better?” Roxanne asked.

“Of course, she is. She's been eating and sleeping well recently and even gained some weight! Her mental state is also getting better. Plus, she's decided not to return to Xendale. She wants to make Horington her home instead.”

After saving Lorraine, Roxanne could feel that she had also somewhat protected her best friend's mental well-being. At present, Madilyn was slowly getting back to her old self. Her eyes sparkled as she laughed and joked around.

“If she's going to stay here, you'll have to look for a man soon. How's it going lately? | heard Jonathan took some time off from work. Did he look for you?” Roxanne asked out of habit.

She thought Madilyn was going to complain about him again.

However, she did not expect to see her best friend's face blushed in embarrassment. Madilyn's couldn't hide the happiness in her eyes.

“He's recently been driving back and forth to accompany my mom to go sightseeing in Horington. | actually came to ask if | could take the rest of the month off. The wedding isn't until two or three days later, and | promise to save one day off of my vacation to attend it!”

Roxanne was surprised to hear that. “Wow, what a fast development. It looks like you can't control yourself any longer.” She paused to chuckle. “Sure. You're the director. As long as you make the necessary arrangements, you can take time off whenever you want. Do you even need to ask me about this?”

Indeed, Roxanne had never stipulated that Madilyn could not take time off. Madilyn herself had been the one to follow the rules and would not even take a day off. In fact, she would work overtime instead.

She knew the hospital's goal was not to make money. After paying the employees their salaries with the monthly profit, the hospital would not have much money left.

Hence, Madilyn had recently developed a more expensive medical checkup plan targeted explicitly toward the rich so that the hospital would make some money.

However, instead of gaining profit, the hospital had to buy new equipment to accommodate the services provided for the new plan.

“It's settled then. I'll take three days off and accompany my mom to go traveling,” Madilyn said proudly.

Roxanne immediately exposed her intentions. "I think you're taking time off to spend it with someone else instead. But that's good too. You need to seize the opportunity and make the first move. That's the Madilyn | know!"

With smiles on their faces, the two chatted for a while.

Madilyn left after greeting Lucian when the latter returned.

Roxanne told her husband about Jonathan's recent activities as she knew he was worried about Jonathan.

“That's good, then. He's been busy for so many years. It's time he let loose and have fun! Madilyn is a nice lady and this is good for him.”

Lucian felt relieved.

"Oh, right. Didn't you say you want to pick someone up in the middle of the night? He must be someone important for you to make such a big deal of it. Who is it? Can't you ask Cayden to pick them up instead?" Roxanne suddenly asked.

Lucian tilted his head and replied, “Who else would it be? Of course, it's James. Don't we have a favor to ask him? I'll spoil him just this once.”

Chapter 1905 How Fascinating

Roxanne accompanied Lucian to the airport.

The duo was surprised to see James as they almost could not recognize him.

His pale and soft face was now sun-kissed, his complexion was a shade darker. His eyes were dull as he stared at the couple. It was a strange change that seemed like he had suffered some hiccups in life and gained worldly wisdom.

James grinned. “Hi, Lucian and Roxanne. What are you doing here? It's the middle of the night. I'm sorry to have troubled you.”

Lucian was calm as he glanced at James and said, “Did something happen to you at Alendor?”

His gaze was sharp. He could figure out that the smile on James' lips was forced. It looked like the latter had something on his mind.

James nodded, but the words that came out of his mouth were a different story. “It's nothing much. I'll tell you about it later.”

“Congratulations, Lucian and Roxanne. The wedding is coming soon! It wasn't easy to get a plane ticket from Alendor. | even had to go through a layover. So don't blame me for only returning now.”

“It's fine. You're just in time for the wedding. We're happy to see you back home.” Roxanne smiled. She held out her hand, wanting to help with James' luggage, but he waved his hand to reject her.

“Let's get in the car,” Lucian said curtly. The three of them got in the car and left the airport. In the car, James confessed why he had asked Lucian to pick him up at the airport.

He did not wish to return home because he knew he would receive a nagging from his family. He planned to stay at Lucian's place temporarily, to which Roxanne immediately agreed.

After all, his presence would not affect their daily activities much. The guest room on the third floor was still vacant too. “But, of course, the first thing I'd like to do is see Essie. | want to see how she is doing.” James had put in much effort and tried various psychological treatment methods to cure Estella, but he failed.

Estella's illness faced a considerable change when Roxanne's identity as her mother was revealed. That was what James wanted to study her condition.

He wanted to know how a parent-child relationship could affect the cause and cure of psychological illnesses. “You'll be surprised to see how much she's changed,” Lucian replied with a smile.

James nodded. “That's good, then. Also, | can't wait to meet with those two geniuses. If possible, I'd like to make them my research objects.”

“Hmph! What are you trying to do by making all three of our children your lab rats?” The trio chatted as they made their home. James was exhausted after his journey, so the couple told him to rest early. When they retired to their room, Lucian frowned and said, “It looks like something happened to James.”

Roxanne had also noticed James' unusual behavior.

She nodded and suggested for Lucian to find a chance to sit down and have a talk with James.

She did not want James to end up like Jonathan, who obviously felt he was under lots of pressure but was unwilling to share his burdens. Sooner or later, he would face a mental breakdown if he kept everything to himself.

The three children woke up early the following day and did some exercise in the garden.

It was an exercise regime that Lucian and Roxanne had formulated. They had to do it every day. After all, one could only do the things they liked better if they had a healthy body.

James woke up to the children laughing. He got up and groggily poured himself a cup of water before going toward the balcony and looking down at the figures in the garden.

That was his hobby—people watching. Estella was running and jumping around as she played with her two brothers, often bursting into laughter at their antics. Asmile made its way onto James' lips as he watched the children.

It looks like she's completely cured. How fascinating. It's much harder to cure a psychological illness than a physiological one. The chances of success are super low.

He gulped down his water before he washed up and went down to greet the children.

Chapter 1906 Mid-Twenties

James was having fun with the children when Roxanne and Lucian woke up.

Estella was incredibly close to him. After all, James had been gentle and patient when he tried to help her with her illness back then.

Hence, she was able to open up to James easily.

Archie and Benny were easily approachable. The way they addressed James as “Mr. Lann” was sweet and cute. Unbeknown to them, they were being targeted as research objects by James.

Seeing the three children's accomplishments, James could not help but admit that they were indeed geniuses.

He knew Lucian for many years but never thought the latter was much of a genius. However, those three children were much more talented than Lucian. Naturally, Roxanne's genes were indeed excellent.

Estella showed James the clothes she had designed, shocking him when she showed him Snuggly's market shares and sales records.

“Lucian, your family members are naturals at being businessmen. First, it was Roxanne's Flora Verba Group, and now there's Essie's Snuggly. Are you planning on taking over every industry?”

Lucian dragged James away to enjoy some coffee and chat casually, preparing to discreetly talk about business before suggesting that James take over as the CEO of Flora Verba Group.

“Many things have happened over the past few months. I'm sure you've heard about them, right?” Lucian asked. James nodded. He had indeed heard of what happened.

He knew everything from Aubree's craziness to Jack's poisoning incident to Elektra's recent mess-up.

Although he was not in Horington, his family or Jonathan would notify him about the incidents happening in the city. Among all those incidents, the one he least expected was Elektra's decision to turn herself in.

However, it was not that unexpected if he gave it some thought. He knew that Elektra had feelings for Lucian.

“Forget it. I'm still not suited to go about things in roundabout manner. In short, don't leave this time. Do you think you'd want to be the CEO of Flora Verba Group? You can help take charge of the company temporarily.”

Lucian's gaze fell onto James' face as he carefully observed any reactions the latter would have. James was taken aback when he heard Lucian's question. He did not expect Lucian to offer such a vital position in the company to a psychologist like him.

He smiled and replied, “Lucian, are you planning on dragging me back into the business world? Are you letting me use Flora Verba Group to practice my skills?”

It was evident that James did not know the latest valuation of Flora Verba Group. The last time he heard about it, Flora Verba Group was worth over ten billion. Compared to the businesses worth two to three hundred billion under the Lann family, Flora Verba Group was just a tiny company that could be used for training.

“I doubt you can consider this as training. After all, the market value of Flora Verba Group has increased to sixty billion. Plus, the products are trending one after the other.” Lucian smiled wickedly.

“Come on. You can't be serious. Did it increase that fast? It's... only been two months.” James was taken aback as he fell into deep thought. Lucian did not press for an answer either as he waited in silence.

Roxanne noticed the tense atmosphere when she made her way over. She guessed that they might have gone down to business.

“Lucian, I've been worried about something lately. I noticed that I was improving at using Cerulean Needle Technique, but I've yet to find someone suitable to pass on my medical knowledge and the ancient medicine books I acquired. What should I do?”

Roxanne regretted her words the moment they left her mouth. She felt the act she and Lucian were putting on was absurd. However, it unexpectedly had a wonderful outcome. James' eyes lit up when he heard what Roxanne said. His hesitance soon turned into determination.

“Roxanne, are you looking for someone to learn medical skills from you? Are you going to teach them personally?” he asked eagerly.

“Yes. My mentor said it was time for me to start looking for disciples. He also said that I should look for someone with the right qualifications and start training them from a young age to pass down my skills to them.”

Roxanne was telling the truth. She had already been exposed to the world of medicine many years ago.

“Roxanne, um... Will someone in their mid-twenties do?” James asked.

Chapter 1907 Be Friends With Madilyn

Hence, James agreed to Lucian's proposal.

He became the CEO of Flora Verba Group and Roxanne's apprentice, slowly climbing the stairs of success.

This is a win-win situation. In other words, it was a situation where he won twice.

Seeing how happy James was, Lucian and Roxanne exchanged glances and smiled. They had finally settled that matter. That afternoon, James left after lunch.

He went to look for Jonathan and agreed to visit Elektra together after the latter returned from his vacation.

At the detention center, Elektra was rather confused to see that Jonathan and James had come to visit her.

After a brief catching-up, James asked why she was unwilling to find a way to lessen the sentence to a suspended sentence.

That way, she would at least not be locked up even though she would not be allowed to leave Horington. She would only have to report herself to a police station occasionally.

Elektra shook her head before she smiled.

“Thank you for coming to see me. | have to admit that | was stupid in the past. | never noticed that there were many things that | should appreciate, such as my friends, family, and career.

“| understand how you feel. There was a certain time when | was filled with destructive thoughts. Back then, | wanted nothing more but to be locked up and hide away. That way, | could be more at peace,” Jonathan suddenly said.

He paused to grin before continuing, “Luckily, | was able to walk out of the darkness and tried other methods to cope with my condition.”

“Haha, it seems like your thoughts still tie you down. You should take me for example. | feel that living a happy life or having a simpler job are not too bad. Of course, there has to be passion in whatever we do!”

James was aware of Jonathan's repressed emotions. Back then, when he tried to help Jonathan out, the latter was determined that he had no mental illnesses.

Most adults would more or less have some sort of psychological problems. Unfortunately, there were not many that would admit to having it.

The three of them talked for almost half an hour. Their visit ended with Elektra informing them that she would be released within three months.

After leaving the detention center, James felt relieved when he noticed that Jonathan looked more relaxed. “When will you introduce me to Ms. Xander? How far have things progressed?” James

asked in a mocking tone. To his surprise, Jonathan panicked as he replied, “M-Madilyn and | are just friends.”

“Is that so? That's also fine. | want to be friends with Madilyn too. What do you think?” James teased.

Jonathan fell deep in thought.

He wanted to reject James.

It felt as if he was worried that something would be stolen from him.

“No problem. I'll introduce Madilyn to you when she's free. Do you have a girlfriend?” James chuckled at Jonathan's question.

Instead of replying, he decided to conduct a small test as he asked in response, “Jonathan, what do you think of Flora Verba Group's future?”

“Undoubtedly, they'll become the strongest cosmeceutical company in the country. Their market share will steadily increase, and they'll impact foreign brands greatly and replace them eventually. Elektra's simple use of word-of-mouth is the most authentic and effective strategy to promote products. In short, this company is successful in commercialization. The most important thing, of course, is still the team led by Roxanne. No one can rival their research and development capabilities.”

As expected. It's like a reflex for Jonathan to be serious and professional when talking about business. However, he's as clumsy as a child when it comes to matters concerning one's love life.

James found it amusing.

Chapter 1908 Good Timing

Flora Verba Group published an announcement on their official website stating that James would take over the company as CEO.

Paired with a picture of James, the announcement instantly triggered excited discussions all over the internet, causing James to have inexplicably gained more fans.

“Mr. Lann is so handsome!” “With such a good-looking CEO, | don't even need to chase after celebrities!” “Buy products from Flora Verba Group and support the handsome CEO!”

As some of James' past achievements were exposed, countless women have been posting memes and sharing posts on the internet. His popularity increased faster than expected.

Roxanne and Lucian were dumbfounded. Not only did they get a CEO, but they also got a spokesperson for their brand. However, they did not dwell too much on it as their wedding was the next day.

Elias and Sonya were swamped. Many people were coming from the branch families of the Farwell family. Most of them lived overseas and were all flying back for the joyous occasion.

As for Lucian, the number of connections he had accumulated over the years was rather terrifying. He had asked the hotels operating under their company to stop their businesses and specifically cater to the wedding guests. To be more precise, many people in Horington could feel the joy and delight that the wedding brought.

Lucian had talked to various media outlets beforehand. He did not wish for the wedding to attract too much attention. Hence, most information was suppressed and not spread across the internet.

At night, the couple followed the master of ceremony for the traditional wedding to rehearse for the next day.

Naturally, the wedding would be held at the manor they had just bought. The real estate agent knew of the manor's importance. He worked overtime and rushed the workers to complete it in time for the ceremony.

The couple was exhausted when they returned to the mansion. Suddenly, Sonya rushed toward them with a grim expression. She hesitated momentarily before saying, "Lucian, Roxanne, there's something important | need to tell both of you."

Roxanne turned to look at Lucian, who nodded in response to Sonya. The two of them were prepared to face any hurdles they may face before the wedding.

"Roxanne's father, Grant, and her stepmother, Winnie, suddenly showed up at the Farwell main residence to look for Elias and me. We were shocked to see them. Elias is trying to stall them, so | came here to ask what the two of you plan to do."

Roxanne was dumbfounded. She had not heard the terms "father" and "stepmother" in years.

The images of Grant's pissed-off look and Winnie's mocks and insults after she was forced to go through a divorce by Lucian from back then instantly flashed through her mind.

How dare they show up at the Farwell main residence?

Roxanne's expression darkened, and an icy glint flashed across her eyes.

Lucian noticed his wife's reaction and understood what he had to do. He turned to his mother and said, "You should appease them and send them to the hotel as wedding guests. I'll deal with this later."

Sonya nodded and glanced at her daughter-in-law. It was apparent that Roxanne defied Grant and Winnie. A simple glance at Roxanne was enough for Sonya to know what she should do.

"Mom, you don't have to be too courteous with them. After all, they've never treated me as their biological daughter. Just do as you see fit. It'll be better if they don't attend the wedding tomorrow."

D*mn it! What a good timing! Wanting to reunite with their daughter the day before her wedding? It's so obvious what they're thinking.

Roxanne no longer believed she would have a normal family relationship with them. People like them were not worthy of any of her time or kindness.

After Sonya left, Lucian wrapped his arms around Roxanne and pulled her into his arms to comfort her. “You don't need to reunite with them. Don't let those people ruin your mood,” he said. Roxanne nodded, but she still felt unsettled.

They must have an ulterior motive for showing up uninvited. Roxanne was worried they might come up with some unreasonable demands and make things difficult for the Farwell family.

Hence, she said, “Lucian, don't bother to do anything if my father asks you for betrothal money, gifts, or something of the sort. They are not qualified to have a say in our wedding.”

Chapter 1909 Help Out

Meanwhile, inside a standard suite at Crescent Valley Hotel, Grant and Winnie were busy answering phone calls and replying to text messages.

Due to bankruptcy and hiding from debts, Grant was blacklisted and had to follow certain restrictions. Initially, he couldn't even enter such a high-end hotel.

Fortunately, the hotel was owned by his son-in-law, so he didn't need to do registration.

Of course, that was also because his creditors gave him a chance.

With his current abilities, he could never repay the debts amounting to tens of millions in his lifetime.

Hence, after hearing that his daughter was about to get married with the CEO of Farwell Group, the creditors allowed him more time to figure out how to get the money.

Many even started to treat him more politely. After all, if Grant could become in-laws with the Farwell family, he would be guaranteed a lifetime of wealth and prosperity. Winnie's relatives also kept congratulating her, as if their social status had also upgraded with Roxanne's marriage with Lucian.

“That goes without saying. The Farwell family's hospitality is superb. They even arranged accommodation for us to stay in a five- star hotel. Don't worry. The few million | owe you is really just an insignificant amount now. I've always said that I, Grant Jarvis, will make a comeback one day!”

“Yes, yes. That's right, dear cousin. Quit congratulating us. | heard your daughter also married a rich guy. Still, she can't compare with Roxanne. It can't be helped. Perhaps this is fate.”

“Okay. Let's talk another time. We still need to prepare for the wedding tomorrow. Our son-in-law will be here soon. We're swamped at the moment.”

Dealing with the various phone calls, the couple lied without feeling the slightest hint of embarrassment. When the streams of incoming call and text messages finally stopped, Grant and Winnie grinned from ear to ear.

“Grant, | heard Roxanne founded that Flora Verba Group herself. It seems like even if the Farwell family doesn't shower us with benefits, Roxanne should still help to support our family, right?”

Winnie was genuinely surprised to learn such useful information through conversations with her relatives. “Really? Are you talking about Flora Verba Group that's worth billions?” Grant became excited at once.

Initially, he was worried about not being able to get any money from the Farwell family after taking in Elias and Sonya's cold demeanors.

However, after hearing that her daughter owned such a large corporation, he was instantly overjoyed. A company worth billions! No matter how few shares Roxanne owns, the money would still be more than enough for us to spend for a lifetime. The tens of millions | owe is nothing more than a trivial matter now.

“That's right. It really is Flora Verba Group. Not only that, but Roxanne also seems to own a research institute, a hospital, and a pharmaceutical company. | didn't expect her to be so successful! The Jarvis family will be considered a prestigious family from now on.”

Winnie's long-held dream of becoming a wealthy lady might finally come true.

It wasn't that she was particularly committed to Grant that she stayed by his side all those years, but the man had never dared to lower her living standards. Hence, even though they were hiding from debts, she didn't suffer too much either.

Nevertheless, being on the blacklisted as an insolvent person had somewhat affected their children.

Their son, Yosef, managed to score well in the university entrance exam but couldn't go to a good school. Consequently, he left Horington and cut ties with them after graduation.

Their daughter, Yuliana, was affected even more. She secured a position in a big company but was immediately fired because of Grant's situation. As a result, she could only work as a tour guide at South East Aplot and seldom returned to visit them.

Therefore, Grant and Winnie now pinned all their hopes on their eldest daughter, Roxanne. Deep down, Winnie knew she didn't have much of an emotional bond with Roxanne.

Nevertheless, they were still nominally a family. No matter what, Winnie figured Roxanne should help out the family to some extent since the latter was loaded now.

Chapter 1910 Deal Personally

“Grant, regardless of the Farwell family's response, we must request some betrothal money from them. We had to return the sum we received from them during Roxanne and Lucian's previous wedding before we even got to spend it. We can't be so generous this time!” Winnie instigated her husband, calculating inwardly the appropriate amount to ask for. A nominal sum doesn't necessarily have to be too

much. The betrothal gifts can also be in the form of properties, cars, or other valuable items.

Grant nodded. "Of course, I know that. Roxanne's mother passed away early, and I've raised her with great difficulty, after all. How can I not ask for any betrothal gift and let her marry into the Farwell family without receiving any perks?"

"Do you think asking for thirty million is too much?" Winnie's eyes shone with greediness.

"Not at all. I'm actually curious to know how much the Farwell family will offer us on their own accord. The more the better, anyway." Grant started making plans in his heart.

The two discussed further and finally decided to meet with Roxanne first.

The two were stumped when they realized they didn't have Roxanne's phone number. In the end, Winnie, someone with plenty of ideas, found Flora Verba Group's official website and dialed the company's number.

The call was answered connected to the customer service department. The customer service representative thought it was a product-related issue when she heard the other party was looking for the chairwoman. She intended to record the complaint and provide subsequent feedback.

Winnie eventually lost her patience and revealed her identity. "We are Ms. Jarvis' parents, and we don't have her phone number because we just arrived from out of town, so please give it to us."

"Respected guest, I'm afraid I cannot help with your request. Please verify your information and feel free to contact us again!" After the call was hung up, Winnie was infuriated and cursed for a while.

Noticing that method wasn't working, Grant contemplated briefly and decided to ask the hotel receptionist to contact Sonya and inform her that they had something to discuss with the latter.

Meanwhile, in the Farwell residence, Sonya was caught in a tight spot after receiving the call from the hotel receptionist and being told about Grant's request to meet with her and Elias.

"Elias, Roxanne told us not to entertain them, but would it be too ungracious of us to do that? The Farwell family's reputation may be tarnished if word about our unwillingness to receive our in-laws gets out." Sonya hesitated.

Although Roxanne's stance was firm, Sonya was worried that Roxanne might change her mind later and blame her instead. That wouldn't be a desirable outcome.

Elias furrowed his brows while considering the circumstances. Regardless of our disinclination to deal with them, we must still uphold our family's dignity and treat Grant with some respect. Otherwise, our behavior will make the Farwell family seem too petty.

Hence, after giving that matter some thought, Elias decided to consult his son.

When Lucian answered the call, Roxanne was right next to him. She was still adamant about ignoring her father and stepmother.

Lucian didn't say much and merely relayed his wife's intention. Ultimately, Roxanne also sensed it was a little inappropriate to make members of the Farwell family follow her decision.

As that was her problem, it would be best for her to resolve it personally, so she made up her mind to go to the hotel and clarify things with Grant and Winnie in person.

"I'll go with you." Lucian hurriedly went upstairs, brought a light jacket for Roxanne, and helped her put it on. On their way to the hotel, Lucian noticed Roxanne was in a foul mood.

He immediately comforted her, "Darling, there's no need to be angry. Take it easy. All you need to do is make things clear with people like them. It's not worth investing too much sentiment in this matter."

Sensing the warmth from Lucian's palm, Roxanne smiled and nodded, trying her best to contain her emotions.