

ABANDONED 191

Chapter 191

Lucian was a light sleeper. When he heard the series of soft rustling sounds, he opened his eyes and saw that the patient on the bed had already woken up.

She placed her palm on her forehead, seemingly checking her own temperature.

“How are you feeling? Do you still have a high fever?” Lucian got up and walked toward the bed.

Roxanne froze in her movements before slowly propping herself up. In a courteous tone, she said, “I feel much better now. Thank you, and sorry for the trouble caused tonight.”

Seeing how she was acting distant from him, Lucian’s face fell. However, he quickly hid his displeasure upon recalling that she was unwell. “You didn’t have dinner just now. Are you hungry?” he asked in a caring tone.

As soon as he brought that up, Roxanne realized that she was starving.

Apart from the few bites she had at lunch, she practically ate nothing the entire day due to a low appetite caused by her fever.

Then again, she was reluctant to owe him any more favors.

Just when she was about to say no to him, her empty stomach growled.

In an instant, Roxanne's cheeks flushed. She kept a calm composure and replied, "I don't feel like eating anything this late."

Lucian furrowed his brows and left the ward at once.

Upon hearing the door shut behind her, Roxanne turned, only to realize that the man had disappeared.

Ten minutes later, he returned with a piping hot bowl of oatmeal.

"There isn't much option at this hour. I can only make you this using the microwave at the hospital.

Hope you don't mind it."

Roxanne was taken aback by his action.

By the time she snapped back to her senses, he had already adjusted her bed and placed the oatmeal in front of her.

"Thank you." She got up and took a mouthful of it.

Considering all that he has done for me, it would be very impolite of me to decline him once more

Lucian waited till she started eating before returning to his seat. "The doctor advised you to be

hospitalized for further observation, just in case your condition worsens. You should go for another

check-up tomorrow morning. If all is well, then you can be discharged," he uttered in a low voice

Roxanne glanced at him and nodded. "I feel okay now. Thank you for taking care of me tonight. It's getting pretty late, so you'd better go home and take a rest since you have to work tomorrow."

He was chagrined to hear that she was not so subtly chasing him away. "I'm not so irresponsible to leave you here alone overnight," he snapped coldly.

Frowning, Roxanne insisted, "I'm fine, and I don't need special care anymore. It's unnecessary for you to stay back. You can't get a good rest here, anyway."

She did not want to owe him anything more than she already did.

Her voice sounded awkwardly loud in the quiet hospital ward at midnight.

Dead silence filled the room upon her words.

However, the man did not seem to have any intention of leaving.

She dug her fingernails into her palms as she explained in a slightly friendlier tone of voice, "We aren't in any relationship. Hence, there's no reason for you to take special care of me, Mr. Farwell. I actually feel burdened when you do that."

Upon saying so, she gave the man sitting opposite her a solemn look.

Never in a million years would Lucian have thought that caring for her would create a rift between them.

He was utterly displeased.

Yet, there was no way he could just leave the woman alone.

After moments of pin-drop silence, he managed to suppress his anger. "Don't you misunderstand. I just

think that Essie will be mad at me if she finds out that I left you here and went back on my own," he

said indifferently.

In other words, he was implying that she was not the reason why he insisted on staying.

Though Roxanne was a little apprehensive, she could not refute him. Left with no choice, she acquiesced to his decision.

However, none of them had anything to say to each other, resulting in a very awkward situation in the

ward.

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When Roxanne finished eating her oatmeal, Lucian automatically adjusted her bed for her and put the

bowl away.

away.

For a long time, both of them just stared at each other without exchanging a word. The silence between them spoke volumes.

Roxanne had rested for the whole day, so it was difficult for her to fall asleep again. Even so, she shut her eyes, not wanting to interact with Lucian.

He, on the other hand, was exhausted after a long day. Sleepiness gradually descended upon him, and in the blink of an eye, he dozed off.

Minutes later, soft rhythmic breathing was the only sound that could be heard in the ward.

Roxanne slowly opened her eyes and cast a look in his direction.

His jacket had been placed over her blanket, leaving him with only a thin shirt on. He folded his arms across his chest, seemingly having a rough time resting.

Roxanne hesitated for a bit before she decided to get up and approach him quietly. Grabbing his jacket from the bed, she gently draped it over him.

A turmoil of emotions crept up on her when she saw his handsome face close up.

It's still the same gorgeous face from six years ago, but I'm no longer the infatuated girl I was back

then. I don't know how he sees me now, and neither do I want to find out about it. I just want to lead a peaceful life with my two little munchkins,

Suddenly, Roxanne felt a sense of relief rise within her. She strode across the room to switch off the lights, then went back to bed.

As soon as she closed her eyes, a million thoughts ran past her head, giving her a hard time falling asleep.

Ironically, the soft sounds from the bed earlier had awakened Lucian, who was a light sleeper. When he heard her footsteps coming toward him, he chose to keep his eyes shut and pretended to be asleep.

A moment later, she stopped in front of him, and he was able to pick up the faint fragrance that lingered upon her body.

Owing to his proximity, the scent made his heart skip a beat, and his breathing became uneven.

Somehow, he had a feeling that her gaze was fixated on him. Hence, he could only continue with his act until he heard noises coming from the bed.'

He slowly opened his bleary eyes to look at her, and his gaze never left the bed for the rest of the night.

"That night, none of them had a good rest.

The next morning, Roxanne was woken up by a ruckus outside of the ward.

“The little ones were so worried about Ms. Jarvis. They have been asking to come see her since the break of dawn,” Lysa said helplessly.

Archie’s anxious voice rang out. “How is Mommy? Is she still sleeping?”

“Yes. You should go in later.” Lucian’s voice sounded hoarse.

He had not gotten much rest. By the time he dozed off, the children had already barged into the ward, asking to see Roxanne. Seeing that she was sleeping soundly, he brought them all outside and shut the door behind him.

Archie noticed how haggard Lucian was, so even though he was frowning, he obliged obediently.

Meanwhile, Benny was peering through the small crack left by the closed door in hopes that he could get a glimpse of Roxanne, but to no avail. With that, he sulked.

Lysa was holding Estella, who was equally worried about the beautiful Roxanne. Her big eyes kept staring at the door as if it would open for her if she continued doing so.

Anyhow, the children stood outside and waited in the hallway quietly when their father reminded them

again that Roxanne was still sleeping.

As a result, peace was restored in the hospital.

A warm and fuzzy feeling crept up on Roxanne when she realized how worried the children were. She was utterly touched by their concern and wanted to open the door to welcome them.

As soon as she sat herself up on the bed, she locked gazes with the man through the small window on the door.

Her heart thumped uncontrollably when their eyes met.

Right when she was still debating how to respond to him, the man averted his gaze. Turning to the kids, he announced, "You may enter now."

Afterward, he opened the door for them.

The little ones all had a twinkle in their eyes when they saw Roxanne sitting on the bed. Without a second thought, all of them dashed toward her.

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"How are you feeling, Mommy? Are you still down with a fever?" Archie and Benny ran to the bed at once, unable to hide their worry from their faces.

Roxanne chuckled as she shook her head. "No. I feel much better now."

The two boys were not convinced. They stretched out their hands, wanting to check her forehead for themselves.

Seeing so, Roxanne bent down and let them touch her forehead.

Then, she caught sight of the small figure standing behind Archie and Benny. With tears in her eyes, the little girl was biting her lip, concern written all over her face.

She was rather timid when compared to the two boys.

Roxanne's heart melted when she saw that. She smiled at Estella and asked, "Essie, do you want to confirm if I'm okay?"

Estella stiffened for a second before nodding her head vigorously. The next moment, she let go of Lysa's hand and zoomed toward Roxanne.

The woman had her body bent over as she grabbed Estella's outstretched hand and put it on her forehead.

Shortly after, Estella retracted her hand before finally breaking out into a smile.

"You were all scared, weren't you? I'm sorry for making all of you worried about me." Roxanne patted

each of them lovingly as she recalled their panic–stricken faces upon seeing how she was rushed to the hospital yesterday.

Benny nodded his head vigorously. “Archie and I will be obedient boys from now on. Mommy, please don’t overwork yourself, okay?”

With a sullen expression, Archie said nothing. Yet, one could tell that he concurred with his brother on this matter.

Roxanne chuckled before replying, “Sure, I’ll take good care of myself.”

Lysa placed a thermal lunch box on the bedside table and said, “Have you had breakfast? I brought some for you both. Hurry up and eat it while it’s still hot.”

Then, she proceeded to take out two bowls to serve them soup and some side dishes.

In response, Roxanne nodded. “Thank you so much.”

Seeing that Lysa had already prepared the food for him, Lucian could not bring himself to decline her kind gesture even though he had no appetite to eat.

Simultaneously, the two of them reached for the bowls, which had been placed side by side. Their

fingers then accidentally brushed against each other.

Roxanne froze, and she subconsciously looked up at the man, who was coincidentally gazing in her direction too.

Her heart thumped rapidly as they locked eyes with each other. Instantly, she snapped back to her senses and quickly repressed her feelings. She then picked up her bowl as though nothing had happened.

“Mr. Farwell, thanks for spending a night here to take care of Ms. Jarvis.” Lysa broke the silence.

“I’m happy to do that,” Lucian said with a nod.

He took a quick glance at Roxanne before adding, “After all, Essie loves her so much, and she has been so wonderful to her. I should do what I can to return the favor to Ms. Jarvis.”

He tried to justify his actions again, stating that he only did it for Estella.

Roxanne had heard similar words just last night, so she did not show any reaction when he spoke this time.

Conversely, Lysa was taken aback.

Their interaction with each other last night suggested positive progress. I thought that...

Suspecting that she had interpreted the situation wrongly, Lysa responded wryly, "Oh, I see..."

When Archie learned that Lucian had stayed by Roxanne's side the entire night, he pursed his lips, turned around to look at the man, and inclined his head. "Thank you, Mr. Farwell, for taking care of my mommy," he uttered in a rather formal manner.

He shared the same thoughts as his mother. Since this guy has disappointed Mommy, we should keep our distance from him. However, he did help Mommy a lot this time, so I must thank him in principle.

Benny followed suit and gave the man a courteous bob of his head.

Lucian's forehead creased in response to the boys' distant attitude. He simply nodded to acknowledge them.

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After breakfast. Roxanne thought that the time was still early, so she could possibly make it to the research institute in time.

"My fever has subsided. Lysa, could you please arrange for my discharge? I need to get some work done."

Her work progress at the research institute had been impacted due to the surgery she did for Larry

Therefore, Roxanne did not want to create a backlog of work and fall behind even further.

Lysa hesitated. "Ms. Jarvis, I think you should stay and observe your condition for one more day. I

know how swamped with work you've been recently. You didn't fall sick yesterday for no apparent

reason. It's because of fatigue! Now that your temperature is kept at bay, you can't wait to bury yourself

in work again. I'm really afraid that your body can't cope with it and will collapse for the second time."

Though Lysa had not been serving Roxanne for a long time, she had witnessed enough of how the

latter overworked herself day in and day out.

One would easily assume that Roxanne had superpowers if she had not fallen ill yesterday. She never

once grumbled that she was tired nor complained about her hectic routine of juggling a career and

raising her children. I

The more time Lysa spent with the family, the more she felt sorry for the single mother of two.

She treated Roxanne like her own daughter, and it broke her heart to see the younger woman fall sick.

"It's okay. I'm used to it already. Moreover, yesterday was just a little accident." Roxanne removed the

blanket and insisted on getting off the bed.

The expression of the man standing not too far away from her turned grim when he heard that.

He recalled the contents of her amazing resume. How did she attain all those achievements within six short years? What kind of life did she lead when she was abroad? What has she gone through to get to where she is today?

Lysa was still very concerned. She had not been present when the doctor gave his diagnosis, so she was clueless about Roxanne's actual condition.

While Lysa was still debating what to do, Roxanne had already gotten up from the bed. Fretting, the former hurriedly turned to Lucian and gave him a pleading look, hoping that he would offer some help in persuading Roxanne to stay.

Somehow, she just felt that Roxanne would listen to him.

Lucian's frown became more pronounced as he strode toward the bed and stared at the stubborn woman. "The doctor said that you must go through a check-up before he will approve your discharge."

With that said, he glanced at Lysa and instructed, "Please get the doctor here."

Finally, Lysa heaved a sigh of relief and did as he had requested.

Roxanne's brow snapped together disapprovingly. "This is really unnecessary. I know myself, and I

know my body well.”

As a doctor, she was well aware of her own body’s condition.

It was just a fever. I have recovered, and I can definitely be discharged.

Lucian retorted, “If you did, why would you have collapsed at home and gotten so weak that you couldn’t even get down from your bed?”

Roxanne was rendered speechless at his comeback.

Upon hearing Lucian’s words, Archie and Benny chimed in, “Mommy, let’s get the doctor to perform a check-up thoroughly.”

Roxanne could not bear to see her boys getting all anxious because of her. At last, she swallowed her rejection and obliged.

Soon, Lysa returned to the ward with the doctor.

After a series of examinations, the doctor scanned the group and located the man who had admitted Roxanne to the hospital. “There appears to be nothing wrong with her, so the patient can be discharged. However, she must pay attention to her health and get sufficient rest from now on.

Remember, health is wealth.”

Lucian nodded. Then, he cast a look at Roxanne.

After meeting his gaze, Roxanne felt somewhat guilty and lowered her eyes. “Thanks, doctor. I’ll take note of this,” she muttered.

With that, the doctor listed a few other usual reminders and left the room.

Upon confirming that all was well with Roxanne, Lysa was put at ease and went ahead to settle the discharge procedures.

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It was not even eight o’clock when they came out of the hospital.

Roxanne stretched her stiff body lazily. She was so glad to be breathing some fresh air again after being confined to bed for one day and two nights.

Archie and Benny trailed closely behind her just in case anything else happened to their mother.

“Ms. Jarvis, why don’t you head home first to get some rest? Maybe just take the morning off?” Lysa tried her utmost to convince Roxanne not to dive into work right away.

The latter grinned and assured her, “I’m perfectly fine, so don’t worry about me. After the surgery I did

the day before yesterday, I rushed to the kindergarten in my sweaty clothes because I didn't have the time to get changed. Most likely, I caught a cold then, which developed into a fever. I promise to be more careful next time."

Subsequently, she bent down and tousled the children's hair. "I need to finish up my work at the research institute. Can Ms. Lane take you to your kindergarten today? I'll inform Ms. Ward that you'll be late."

The children looked at her with concern.

If possible, they wished that Roxanne could take a break and rest.

However, they were well aware that their mother was a workaholic who would not delay her work.

They struggled with it a little before nodding reluctantly.

Roxanne turned to Lysa and said, "I'll leave you to bring the kids to the kindergarten, but I'll inform Ms.

Ward accordingly."

Lysa agreed.

Then, Roxanne approached Lucian, who was already waiting by the main entrance. "I just wanted to thank you for last night. I took care of Essie last time, and with you returning the favor now, we no

longer owe each other anything," she said in a calm manner.

Despite the unfazed look on his face, his emotions were anything but that.

Moments later, he broke the silence with a laconic reply. "Sure." His thoughts were unfathomable.

Right when Roxanne was about to turn and leave, a little hand grabbed her by the hem of her dress.

"Ms. Jarvis!" Estella could not comprehend the words Roxanne said to Lucian. She was completely baffled about who owed what and to whom. It all sounded like a strange, foreign language to her, so she hurried over and grabbed Roxanne's dress.

The woman halted her steps and turned to the little girl. "What's wrong, Essie?"

"I like Ms. Jarvis." Tears glistened in Estella's eyes as she pouted unhappily, feeling rather aggrieved

Her sad face caused Roxanne's heart to soften. She quickly gave the little girl a tight hug and

comforted her, "I like you too, Essie. Thanks for coming to visit me."

Her warm embrace magically made Estella feel slightly better.

Despite that, she was still reluctant to part as she stared at Roxanne's retreating back.

Roxanne walked Lysa and the boys to the junction to hail a cab.

Lysa had taken a cab to the hospital in the morning, whereas Roxanne had been driven there by Lucian last night. Hence, they were without their own transport.

Unfortunately, they could not escape the madness of rush hour. Not one vacant cab came by even after they had waited for a while.

While Roxanne was debating if she should trouble Colby to make a trip to the hospital and fetch her, Lucian's voice rang out beside her.

"It's hard to get a cab at this hour. Let me drive all of you to where you need to be."

Roxanne was startled by his sudden appearance. I thought he has left already. Why is he still here?

She turned around and was met by Estella's puppy dog eyes, seemingly waiting for her to accept the offer. It was then she understood.

Although she had a soft spot for the little girl, she did not want to have anything to do with that man anymore. With a frown, she rejected him once more. "It's okay. I've troubled you enough recently, Mr. Farwell. I'm sure that you need to get to the office as soon as possible, so please go ahead, and don't worry about us. We will manage on our own."

The instant she ended her sentence, she saw Lucian knit his brows, looking annoyed.

Did I say anything that upset him? Puzzled, Roxanne dared not speak further.

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While holding Estella's hand, Lucian stared at the woman, who had an indifferent expression on her face at a near distance away. In a slightly sarcastic voice, he retorted, "Even if we're strangers, you don't need to avoid me like the plague, Ms. Jarvis. I'm going to send Essie to the kindergarten anyway, and I'll drive past your research institute from the kindergarten to Farwell Group. That's the reason I offered to give you a ride. What's your concern, Ms. Jarvis?"

In other words, he was implying that Roxanne was overthinking things.

Estella wanted to be with Roxanne for a while longer, so she gazed at the latter pitifully upon hearing that, "Ms. Jarvis."

Unbidden, Roxanne's heart melted.

Furthermore, she had no refutation to Lucian's words.

They merely had nothing to do with each other, so her repeated demurrals of such innocuous things made her appear rather petty.

At that thought, she relented and said to Lysa, "You may go back first. I'll take them to kindergarten."

Lysa murmured in acknowledgment and handed Archie and Benny to Roxanne.

Archie and Benny were still prejudiced against Lucian, so they were a touch hesitant, knowing that they were riding with the man again.

Estella, on the other hand, had already dropped her father's hand and went over to clutch Roxanne's dress. It was clear that she wanted to sit with Roxanne.

Patting her head, Roxanne ordered Archie and Benny, "Get in."

Only after hearing that did they slowly climb into the car.

Roxanne went in after them with Estella in her arms, sitting in the back seat with Archie and Benny.

Lucian closed the car door for them and slipped into the passenger seat.

Then, the car started slowly and drove toward the kindergarten.

Silence reigned in the car. Roxanne had nothing to say to Lucian, and the children were inexplicably quiet as well.

Throughout the entire drive, the atmosphere was exceedingly depressing.

As the car gradually drove away, camera flashed relentlessly in the bushes in front of the hospital.

It was almost nine o'clock when they arrived at the kindergarten.

Roxanne alighted from the car and led the three children to the kindergarten gates.

As they were really late then, the kindergarten gates were already closed.

Roxanne gave Pippa a call to explain the situation briefly. Pippa then came out and brought the three children into the compound.

Watching as their figures disappeared from her line of sight, Roxanne turned back hesitantly.

By the side of the road, Lucian's car was still parked in the same spot silently, waiting for her.

According to Lucian's remarks earlier, he would drive her somewhere near the research institute on his way to the office.

However, without the children's presence, she really didn't know how to remain in such a cramped space with the man alone.

Anyhow, the research institute was very near to the kindergarten. Part of the reason she chose that particular kindergarten back then was because of its distance from the research institute, which made it convenient for her to drive her children to and fro.

Even by foot, it would only take about half an hour.

While she was contemplating whether or not she should just walk, the car window slowly rolled down, revealing the man's impatient profile.

Roxanne was promptly taken aback.

"Aren't you in a hurry to go to the research institute? Why are you still dawdling?" Lucian could guess her intentions, so he was in a foul mood. Consequently, his tone wasn't all that amicable. either.

Upon hearing that, Roxanne pursed her lips. A moment later, she flashed him a polite smile and stepped forward, saying, "The research institute is just around the corner, so I'll walk there."

Suppressing the chagrin within him, Lucian replied coolly, "If Essie were to learn that I had you walk over, she'd throw a fit at me when she returns."

At that, Roxanne was startled.

As long as neither of us speaks of it, how would she learn about it?

Nonetheless, seeing as the man seemingly wouldn't leave unless she got into the car, she still climbed into the back seat after a moment's hesitation.

That afternoon, Aubree found her employees looking strangely at her when she was doing the rounds at the office.

One of the female employees who are closer to her came over and teased, "Ms. Pearson. Mr. Farwell is so nice to you that we're all green with envy!"

Aubree was inexorably stunned to hear that. In the next instant, she forced a casual smile and inquired airily, "Really? How could you tell?"

Following that, the smile on the female employee's face grew all the more ingratiating. "Everyone knows that Mr. Farwell took care of you at the hospital for the entire night. Yet, you still came to work on time today. Verily, you're our role model!"

Aubree's expression stiffened slightly. "What are you talking about?"

Lucian took care of me at the hospital for the entire night? I've been perfectly fine these two days, so I hadn't been to the hospital.

The female employee presumed that she was embarrassed, so she took out her phone straight away and showed her a news report. "Don't be shy. It's already in the news, so the entire world knows about

it now.'

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Only after saying that did she belatedly remember to show some concern for her employer's health.

She sheepishly asked, "Oh yes, what happened to you last night? Weren't you just fine in the afternoon? Why did you suddenly go to the hospital at night?"

Aubree merely cast a swift glance at the content on the phone screen. When she glimpsed the headline that read: Mr. Farwell accompanied his fiancée to the hospital in the middle of the night and took care of her for the entire night, the puzzlement within her grew. At the employee's question, she fibbed, "Oh, perhaps I ate something bad last night. I'm fine now. Go back to work."

The female employee uttered a few more platitudes in feigned concern before going back to her workstation.

Aubree returned to her office with a grim expression on her face. She immediately logged on to Twitter and searched for news related to Lucian.

As soon as she entered his name, a news report popped out. It read: Mr. Farwell accompanies his fiancée to the hospital, proving their relationship intimate.

The other headlines that popped out underneath were pretty much similar.

She proceeded to click on the first link, and the comments had already exceeded a million.

The most popular one among the news report was one posted by a renowned entertainment page in the industry.

The news report read: Last night, Mr. Farwell personally drove his fiancée to the hospital and carried her in a bridal carry the entire way. What an attentive boyfriend! At eight o'clock in the morning today, the two of them got into Mr. Farwell's car, accompanied by Mr. Farwell's daughter. His fiancée has a close relationship with the little girl, so it seems that wedding bells are near.

Two photos were attached beneath it.

The first photo had a night backdrop, and it was of Lucian carrying a woman in, striding toward the hospital entrance.

Meanwhile, the second photo was taken at the hospital entrance, with Lucian standing in front of the car while the woman climbed into the car with a child in her arms.

Judging from the clothes and figure, the woman in the two photos was obviously the same person. Merely looking at those two photos alone indeed gave off the impression that the people in the photo

were very close. In fact, the second photo seemed like a family of three.

However, as the fiancée in question, Aubree had no knowledge of the entire matter.

Not only had Lucian been avoiding her because of the news report previously, but the woman in the photos was also someone else entirely.

She zoomed in on the photos and scrutinized them multiple times before a familiar figure slowly emerged in her mind.

Argh! It's that b*tch, Roxanne, again!

After all, both the woman's profile and figure in the photos were a complete match with Roxanne.

At that realization, Aubree's expression abruptly darkened.

The so-called attentiveness shown by Lucian toward his fiancée was a misunderstanding from the beginning to the end! It wasn't me whom he took care of the entire night, but that batch, Roxanne!

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On the contrary the employees outside were convinced by that news report and gossiped about Aubree.

"Previously, it was rumored that Mr. Farwell had been dragging his feet on fulfilling the marriage

contract because he was unwilling to marry Ms. Pearson. Unexpectedly, he's such an attentive person in secret."

"Mr. Farwell is so handsome and attentive! I, too, want such a boyfriend!"

And so, similar sentiments rang out, one after another.

When Aubree heard all that, her expression changed time and again. Her fingernails almost punctured her palms before she managed to suppress the blazing wrath within her. "Don't talk about irrelevant things during working hours. Go about your work seriously!"

After saying that, she swept a chilly gaze over the employees who were whispering among themselves earlier. Then, she spun on her heel and strode away without a backward glance.

Truly, she couldn't bring herself to stay there anymore. The more they talked about it, the greater her fury.

Having left the office, she sped home directly.

In the Pearson residence, Gina and Samuel sat in the living room. Both of them were stunned when they suddenly caught sight of their daughter stalking in huffily.

“What’s wrong, Aubree? Who offended you at the office that,”

Samuel thought it was a work issue and was about to give his daughter some advice when Aubree cut him off coldly. “Work schmerk! All you talk about is work! If you’re so eager to have the company do well, shouldn’t you be enthusiastic about marrying me into the Farwell family? But why do you have no idea about Lucian’s movements?”

At her remark, Gina and Samuel’s hearts sank.

Frowning, Gina questioned, “It’s about Lucian? Didn’t Sonya already circulate the news of you both getting married? What more is there to worry about?”

No sooner had she said that than Aubree stalked over to them on her high heels and tossed her phone onto the couch. “See for yourselves!”

At that, the couple exchanged a look before picking up the phone in puzzlement.

The instant they saw the content on the screen, both their faces darkened.

They usually watched financial news reports and rarely paid attention to entertainment news.

Therefore, it was the first time they saw the news of Lucian taking care of his fiancée last night.

Naturally, they knew that their daughter was at home the whole of last night. Besides, they could also

tell that the silhouette in the photo wasn't of her at all.

"Who was the woman in the photo?" Gina asked with a frown.

Aubree's chest heaved violently. She swept an icy gaze over the phone screen without saying a single word.

Receiving no response after a long time, Gina pressed, "Who was that woman? Was it that won with the last name Jarvis?"

Other than Roxanne, she couldn't think of anyone else.

At the mention of Roxanne, Aubree replied through gritted teeth, "It was that b*tch all right!"

Never mind that she embarrassed me during the banquet back then, but my impending marriage with Lucian is already public knowledge now, yet she's still clinging on to him shamelessly! Fortunately, the photos taken by the media are blurry, and not many can tell that it wasn't me. Otherwise, I'd be a laughingstock again!

At that thought, her face flushed bright red with fury. Her hands hanging by her sides balled into fists, her nails embedding into her palms.

Although Gina had long since harbored that guess, her expression still turned as dark as night when she heard that confirmation from her daughter.

She thought that the marriage between the two families would be a guaranteed thing after news of Lucian and Aubree's impending marriage leaked out.

Never had she thought that things would still be variable.

I never knew that Lucian and that woman are so close!

"Don't panic. Since everyone is saying that it was you, we'll just feign ignorance," Gina ordered, lifting her eyes after a long moment.

Aubree naturally wouldn't take the initiative to humiliate herself, so she agreed with a frosty expression.

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Aubree, Gina, and Samuel discussed for a long time before coming to a consensus to have Sonya resolve the matter.

After all, Sonya was the most supportive of Aubree marrying into the Farwell family, and Lucian would still obey her to a certain degree.

In consideration of that, Gina asked Sonya out right away.

“You’re here as well, Aubree? What would you like to eat? It’s my treat today.” Sonya didn’t notice anything amiss, taking her seat across from them with a smile.

Aubree’s smile was a tad forced. “Thank you, Mrs. Farwell, but I don’t have much appetite today.”

After saying that, she despondently lowered her head and placed both hands on her knees, twining her fingers together.

Seeing that, Sonya queried in concern, “Are you not in a good mood? What happened?”

However, Aubree merely pursed her lips and shook her head.

At that, Sonya looked at Gina in bafflement.

Gina’s smile was likewise forced. She took out her phone and logged on to Twitter. This time, she didn’t even have to search before she spotted the news report on the trending list. She tapped on it right away and handed the phone to Sonya. “Look at this headline.”

Sonya’s heart clenched at both their expressions, but still, she reached out and took it.

A smile bloomed on her face when she saw the contents of the news report. “I just knew that they make the perfect couple. Lucian will definitely treat Aubree all the better after getting married.”

She vaguely found it strange when she again glimpsed the expressions of the two women across from

her, but she couldn't fathom the reason.

Sure enough, she didn't even realize that the woman in the photo wasn't Aubree.

Suppressing the chagrin within her, Gina glanced at her daughter beside her before commenting with a conflicted expression, "But... Aubree wasn't sick at all last night. She was at home the whole night."

The moment Sonya heard that, the smile on her face gradually faded.

Aubree was at home last night. In other words, the woman in the photo wasn't her. Then, who else could it be?

She stared at the photo on the screen intently, a vague conjecture surfacing within her.

Scree

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It was uncertain whether her presumption helped things along, but as she looked at the woman in the photo, the more she felt that it was Roxanne,

Forcing a smile, Gina put on an understanding expression and ventured, "I was afraid that there's a misunderstanding, so I'd like to ask whether Lucian has a cousin or something. Otherwise, this is really

quite unacceptable.”

At that, Aubree finally lifted her head and waited for Sonya’s answer with an aggrieved yet hopeful expression.

At the sight of her prospective daughter-in-law suffering such a grievance, a wealth of guilt swamped Sonya when she glanced at the photo of her son carrying another woman once more. She couldn’t bring herself to tell Aubree about the identity of the woman in the photo.

A long while later, she enunciated, “No matter what, news of the wedding has been circulated. Now that such a scandal has broken out, our family is indeed at fault. Don’t worry, Aubree. I’ll definitely talk to Lucian. Such a thing will never happen again in the future!”

Aubree’s gaze darkened slightly, but she nodded docilely.

Sonya hadn’t the temerity to tarry there, so she got up and left with huge strides after taking her leave from them both.

In the blink of an eye, Aubree’s expression darkened entirely.

After returning to the Pearson residence, she couldn’t help looking at that news report again, especially the comments.

One read: Wow, Mr. Farwell's bridal carry is perfect! His fiancée is so lucky!

Another read: While the resolution of the photo is horrible, I can still see that his fiancée's aura and figure are incredible! As expected of Mr. Farwell's woman!

And so it went.

Without exception, they were all lauding Lucian's attentiveness toward the woman in the photo and how they make a perfect match.

Seeing the comments increasingly steadily, Aubree pressed the lock screen hard. The screen went black at once.

A moment later, a muffled thud rang out in the room.

The phone that was initially in Aubree's hand lay on the floor, the screen cracked.

Chapter 200

Roxanne had just gotten off work when she heard the employees in the research institute discussing

Lucian and Aubree's marriage.

"Mr. Farwell is so attentive! He actually took care of his fiancée for the entire night. If it were my boyfriend, he would never do so."

“Most importantly, he’s handsome and rich. His fiancée is beautiful as well. She resembles Dr. Jarvis quite a bit, so she must be a beauty!”

Similar sentiments drifted into the air.

The group of researchers chatted as they walked. When they caught sight of Roxanne, they even bid her farewell. “See you tomorrow, Dr. Jarvis.”

Smiling, Roxanne answered them one by one.

However, she couldn’t help feeling puzzled upon hearing their discussion.

Lucian took care of his fiancée the whole of last night? But he had been with me the entire time last night. When did he meet up with Aubree?

Just when she found it strange, Colby came up to her from behind. “Are you free tonight? How about having dinner together?”

Abruptly snapping back to her senses, Roxanne flashed him an apologetic smile. “I still need to rush over to the kindergarten to pick my kids up, so I’m afraid I’ll have to take a rain check. Another day, perhaps. When the project concludes, I’ll treat everyone to a meal.”

When Colby heard that, a glimmer of disappointment flashed across his eyes, but he said nothing in the end. Talking about the project, he exited the research institute with her.

As Roxanne didn't drive to work, she could only hail a taxi by the roadside.

A moment later, Colby's car slowly came to a stop in front of her. "Did you not drive?"

In response, Roxanne shook her head.

"Where are you going? I'll give you a ride. I don't have anything to do tonight anyway, and it isn't easy to get a taxi here." Colby's smile was warm and gentle.

was warm

Roxanne hesitated for a second. She glanced at the time, only to see that it was indeed time Archie and Benny got off school. Thus, she didn't decline but opened the car door and got into the car.

No sooner had she settled into the car than she received a call from Harvey again, inquiring about the project's progress.

She explained things to him briefly and succinctly.

After hanging up the phone, she was just about to put her phone away when a push notification popped out.

The headline read: Mr. Farwell drove his fiancée to the hospital in the middle of the night and kept her company the entire night.

Seeing that, she inexorably recalled the situation last night and the employees' discussion earlier.

Unbidden, she tapped open the link.

Right after doing that, two blurry photos entered her line of sight.

The instant she saw the photos, she froze. She didn't even have to tap into them to tell that the woman in there was her.

The first photo was taken when she was delirious with a high fever, probably when Lucian carried her from the car to the hospital.

Even when she woke up in the hospital, she was still in the man's arms.

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However, she didn't expect them to look so close in the photo.

That aside, the man seemed to exert particular care when carrying her.

The second photo was taken when she got into the car with Estella in her arms, while Lucian stood at the side.

She had no idea where the person who snapped the photo hid that neither of them perceived his presence.

Besides, the paparazzo who published that news evidently couldn't distinguish between her and Aubree that such a misunderstanding transpired.

Fortunately, the photos were exceedingly blurry, so much so that only those closest to her could tell that the woman in them was her.

With her brows creased, Roxanne continued scrolling downward, only to see that the comments below were all envious of her because of Lucian's attentiveness toward her.

Little did they know that she didn't feel the least bit happy about it.

After looking through them for a while and ascertaining that no one realized that the woman in the photos wasn't Aubree, she put away her phone with mixed emotions.

Hoping to avoid unnecessary trouble, she didn't plan on clarifying things.

Instead, she merely found the entire misunderstanding rather amusing.

