

ABANDONED 241

Chapter 241 Aubree only wanted to know if Lucian had come here for Roxanne.

Although she had a rough idea, she still wanted to hear it from Lucian.

However, she never thought she would go over the line.

Looking at Lucian's icy cold expression, Aubree panicked and apologized while keeping her composure, "I'm sorry.

You must have your reason to stay here." After that, she asked tentatively, "When do you plan to leave? Maybe we can leave together if our timing matches?" Lucian lifted his gaze and glanced at Cayden. "Mr. Farwell, I've bought the plane tickets," Cayden said reverently.

Luckily, a first-class seat was left when Cayden received the instruction to buy a plane ticket.

"All right. Pack up my luggage and prepare to leave." Lucian rose to his feet.

He stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling window with a hand in his pocket and looked down.

He thought he could catch up with the two if he left right away and wondered how Roxanne would react when she saw him.

A look of suspicion flashed in Aubree's eyes when she heard that.

I've just arrived, and Lucian is leaving now? Aubree was sure that Roxanne wasn't planning to leave earlier.

Did I overthink it? Is Lucian really here for a business trip?

At that thought, Aubree plucked up her courage and asked, "Are you planning to leave now? Let's go back together if you're not in a rush."

I can settle my things quickly.

Just wait for me for a while." Lucian acted as though he didn't hear Aubree's invitation.

He said coldly, "I have done my job, so I have no reason to stay here any longer."

Maybe you should get back to work since you're busy.

Don't loiter around here." After he said that, he retracted his gaze from her.

Aubree stood at the entrance in a daze and took a while to register what was happening.

With tightly clenched fists, Aubree turned around and strode away after she saw that Lucian had no intention of continuing their conversation.

After Aubree left, she saw two housekeepers opening Roxanne's hotel room.

Her heart sank when she saw that, and she walked over quickly.

"Where's the guest in this room?" "She has checked out," the housekeeper replied.

Checked out? Aubree looked as if she got struck by lightning.

Earlier, Lucian had said he was going to leave too.

Aubree had wondered why he was leaving so abruptly.

It turned out that it was because Roxanne had left.

She had tried so hard to find out the answer from Lucian.

However, she got the answer from the housekeepers instead.

Lucian had gone on a business trip to Bellridge abruptly and had stayed in this kind of hotel.

Moreover, he had been staying right next to Roxanne's room.

And now, he even asked Cayden to buy him a plane ticket as soon as Roxanne left.

This was all because he was following Roxanne.

Suddenly, Aubree felt her vision going dark, and she couldn't calm down for a long while.

Although she had speculated this earlier, she still couldn't accept the reality when she heard it herself.

Aubree recovered from the shock after a while.

The first thing she did was check the flight schedule back to Horington through her phone.

According to the time when Roxanne and Lucian left the hotel, she reckoned they must have bought the earliest flight ticket.

However, the tickets for the earliest flight were sold out by the time she opened the site.

Aubree's face was ashen as soon as she saw there were no tickets left.

With gritted teeth, she put her phone back in her pocket.

At this moment, Lucian opened the door and walked out of his room.

Aubree opened her mouth and was about to speak.

Lucian raised his eyes and glanced in Aubree's direction.

But as if he didn't see her, he quickly withdrew his gaze.

Aubree couldn't speak up even after the two entered the elevator.

Chapter 242 An hour later, on a plane to Horington, Roxanne frowned slightly when she saw the man boarding the plane. She thought Lucian didn't really mean it.

After all, they bought the tickets in a hurry.

Besides, when she had bought the tickets, she saw only three remaining tickets.

After Larry and Roxanne bought their tickets, there was only one ticket left.

Therefore, little did she know that Lucian would buy the last ticket coincidentally.

A trace of regret flashed across her eyes the moment Roxanne saw the man getting closer and closer to her.

Just now, she planned to go back by herself, so she only bought a ticket for herself first.

Since she and Larry bought their tickets separately, they didn't get to sit together, and the seat for the person who had the last ticket was right beside hers.

Initially, Roxanne didn't expect that Lucian's seat would be beside hers, so the thought of changing seats with another person didn't cross her mind.

Currently, she was at the window seat, and the man had walked up to her, blocking her only escape route.

If she stood up and requested to have her seat changed, her intention to avoid him would become obvious.

While she was still hesitating, the man had already sat down beside her.

Her forehead furrowed, Roxanne snapped out of her reverie and stayed in her seat as that was the only choice she had.

Before Lucian got on the plane, he was still wondering where Roxanne would be seated.

To his pleasant surprise, the moment he boarded the plane, he saw the woman next to his seat.

Noticing her reluctance to sit with him, Lucian smirked meaningfully and uttered, "As I said, I also bought a ticket for this flight. Unfortunately, you and Mr. Morrison didn't even want to wait for me, Ms. Jarvis." Roxanne turned her head away from him and gazed at the scenery outside the window, ignoring him.

Since she couldn't escape, she planned to treat this man as though he was a stranger and fly back to Horington uneventfully.

However, the person beside her didn't see eye to eye with her on that.

"I'm a bit curious, Ms. Jarvis. Why did you leave in a hurry? I didn't hear you mentioning going back to Horington when we had breakfast." Lucian's voice rang from the side, his tone unfathomable. Scowling, Roxanne turned over and answered him coldly with another question, "Mr. Farwell, I'm also curious why would you leave your fiancée behind in Bellridge and go back to Horington by yourself?"

- At the mention of his fiancée, Lucian's gaze darkened.

She pretended that she hadn't noticed the change in his expression as she continued, "Mr. Farwell, you're going to get married soon. You should spend more time with your fiancée at this critical juncture."

When Lucian was about to reply to her, the woman next to him took out a small blanket and covered herself with it up to her face.

She then turned her back to him and lay down.

Through the blanket, her muffled voice sounded.

"I'm tired. I need to rest. Mr. Farwell, please be quiet." With that, she closed her eyes, and Lucian could only see the back of her head.

In the end, Lucian stopped striking up a conversation with her as he stared quietly at the woman beside him.

Judging from the time Roxanne left and the words she had said just now, Lucian was sure that her abrupt departure had something to do with Aubree.

However, he couldn't figure out how Roxanne viewed his relationship with Aubree.

If I'm really just a stranger to Roxanne, why is she so hostile toward my rumored fiancée? Roxanne had no idea what he was ruminating about as she continued to pretend to be asleep.

She originally wanted to "sleep" all the way to Horington in order to avoid the person next to her.

To her dismay, even with her back to him, she could feel that the man's prickly gaze was on her, making her unable to doze off.

Chapter 243 Along while had passed, but the man's gaze was still fixed on her.

Irritated, Roxanne knitted her brows and raised her hand to pull the blanket up again to have her entire face covered, attempting to reduce the sense of oppression she felt due to the man's unrelenting gaze. However, since she still had her eyes closed, she failed to tug the blanket up when she raised her hand.

Instead, the blanket fell.

Sensing that the weight on her had slid off, Roxanne froze for a moment as she wondered if she should open her eyes and pick up the blanket.

But when she thought of her current situation, she feared that the atmosphere would get even more awkward if she let the man know that she had been playing possum.

On the other hand, without the blanket, she would feel even more uneasy due to his piercing stare.

While she was still at a loss, the person seated next to her moved, causing Roxanne to tense up immediately.

She had no idea what he was about to do.

Moments later, a familiar scent wafted into her nose.

With all her might, she forced herself to calm down and not let her eyelids tremble.

Soon, the blanket that had fallen off was draped over her again.

Lucian's movements were gentle.

It was as though he was worried he would wake her up.

After draping the blanket over her body, he even arranged the blanket nicely for her.

Roxanne assumed that he would back off after that, but to her surprise, he did not.

Even when she had her eyes closed, she could still feel his gaze lingering on her face.

What is he looking at? Just as she couldn't help but open her eyes, Lucian averted his gaze.

With that, the pressure Roxanne felt disappeared instantly, and she heaved a sigh of relief, and what followed was a sense of gloominess.

For some reason, she recalled the day when she was down with fever.

When I was fast asleep that day, Lucian probably had taken care of me like how he did just now.

This is something I wouldn't even dare to imagine in the past, but I didn't expect it would happen to me so easily today.

She had never thought that the man, who wouldn't even spare her a glance in the past, would take care of her so thoughtfully and meticulously.

It had happened six years ago, she would have been so glad that she would smile in her dream.

But now that she had been through all those, she did not feel happy at all.

On the contrary, she only felt troubled.

There are things that come too late in life.

It's so late that I don't even need them anymore.

Roxanne scoffed inwardly as that thought crossed her mind.

Sitting at the side, Lucian had been staring at Roxanne for a long while.

Similarly, his heart was troubled.

Six years ago, Roxanne went missing, and he spent a lot of time and effort to find her.

At long last, she was found, but she was no longer looking at him the way she used to be six years ago.

Lucian couldn't even decipher how he felt when he met her again for the first time.

He was both surprised and furious, but the strongest feeling he had at that moment was regret.

He regretted he didn't stop her back then, which caused her to avoid him like the plague.

Their seats were now next to one another, but she pretended to be asleep to avoid sparing him a glance.

Lucian frowned as he cast a complicated look at the woman beside him.

She probably didn't know what she looked like when she was asleep, much less know how different she was now from it.

Even when he was putting the blanket on her just now, Roxanne obviously went stiff momentarily.

Needless to say, he noticed all the signs, but since she wanted to do that, Lucian wouldn't expose her.

Sensing that Lucian was staring at her again, Roxanne furrowed her brows slightly.

She groped for the edge of the blanket and pulled it over her head, no longer caring if he would notice that she was faking being asleep.

With that, Lucian's burning gaze was blocked.

Chapter 244 It wasn't until the plane landed that Roxanne removed the blanket on her and sat up calmly with a pair of clear eyes.

Lucian turned his head over and glanced at her.

He was not surprised to see that she didn't look groggy at all.

A hint of self-deprecation surged in his heart, but in the end, he didn't say a word.

Even with how reserved he was now, Roxanne wanted to avoid him.

If he crossed the line again, he was worried that she would hide at a place where he couldn't reach just like six years ago.

It had been difficult to find her, so Lucian did not want to scare her away.

The person sitting next to her didn't bulge.

Roxanne frowned, but she didn't urge him to move aside.

When almost of the people got off the plane, Lucian rose to his feet placidly.

The two then got off the plane one after the other.

Meanwhile, Larry and Cayden were already waiting for them outside.

While they were on the plane just now, Larry saw Lucian sitting next to Roxanne, but the plane had taken off, so he couldn't do anything about it.

Upon seeing Lucian, Larry merely greeted the former out of courtesy, then turned to look at Roxanne.

"You don't have a car.

"I'll send you back." Roxanne replied with a smile, "Thanks, Larry."

As she spoke, she completely ignored the man beside her and strode over to Larry's side.

Seeing the woman, who had been giving him the cold shoulder, smile at another man, Lucian was naturally displeased and extended his hand to grab her wrist.

The smile on Roxanne's face gradually faded as she turned around to face Lucian.

"Mr. Farwell, what else do you want?" Lucian gazed into her eyes, but he couldn't find any traces of amicability in them.

What he found were only distance and distress.

Realizing that she didn't want to communicate with him at all, Lucian tightened his grip on her unthinkingly.

"Let me send you." Upon hearing that, Roxanne forced a smile placidly.

"No need.

Mr. Farwell, you're a busy man.

I'd better not waste your time.

Besides, I'm closer to Larry than you, Mr. Farwell.

I won't feel burdened if Larry sends me home." Lucian's expression turned gloomy instantly.

Although Roxanne had repeatedly emphasized that they were just strangers to one another, it was the first time she said in front of him that she was closer to another man.

Turning a blind eye to the change in his expression, Roxanne looked at the hand gripping hers, then glanced around and noticed that they had attracted the attention of numerous onlookers.

"Mr. Farwell, thank you for your kind offer.

If there's nothing else, let go of me now.

Otherwise, rumors of us dating will spread.

I don't want Ms. Pearson to misunderstand our relationship." At the mention of Aubree, Lucian loosened his grip on Roxanne.

Because of Aubree, his mother had had serious conversations with him, and it even caused trouble for Roxanne.

Lucian didn't want to bring any trouble to her life because of himself.

However, Roxanne surmised that he relented because he cared about his relationship with Aubree.

Roxanne couldn't help but feel a hint of irony in her heart.

Since he cares so much about Aubree, why did he pester me now and again?

Not wishing to dwell on that matter, Roxanne shook off his hand and walked over to Larry.

"Let's go." Larry bobbed his head before nodding to Lucian out of courtesy and leading Roxanne out.

As Lucian watched the two leave side by side, the temperature around him turned colder.

All the while, Cayden stood silently at the side.

When he saw that Roxanne had entered Larry's car, Cayden turned around to look at his employer, feeling nervous.

It wasn't until Larry's car left that Cayden spoke tentatively.

"Mr. Farwell, we should go too..." Lucian hummed a response, his gaze darkening.

Chapter 245 On the way back, Cayden gingerly peeked at Lucian through the rearview mirror as the former was in the front passenger seat.

Throughout the ride, Lucian's brows remained deeply furrowed.

The tension in the car was so thick that one could cut it with a knife.

Cayden had been Lucian's subordinate for a long time, and the former had never seen his employer so vexed before.

For a moment, Cayden felt puzzled, as he was not sure what kind of feelings Lucian had for Roxanne.

Could he have feelings for Ms. Jarvis...

But Mr. Farwell is engaged to Ms. Pearson, and he has never denied that to the public

On the other hand, if he doesn't like Roxanne...

Ever since Roxanne's return, Cayden clearly felt that Lucian had changed.

The way Lucian treated Ms. Pearson was utterly different from the way he treated Roxanne.

When Lucian was with Aubree, he would fulfill every request she had, but he seemed to be emotionless with her.

Meanwhile, when Lucian was with Roxanne, he would have mood swings.

For example, he flew into a rage because he saw her having a close relationship with another man.

Besides, Lucian's protectiveness and possessiveness for Roxanne were almost all over his face.

If this isn't love, does it mean that he's just refusing to accept the fact that she left without saying goodbyesix years ago? The longer Cayden pondered it, the more confused he felt.

Meanwhile, Roxanne and Larry were sitting in the backseat of Larry's car.

As she recalled Lucian's gloomy expression just now, she felt mixed feelings welling up within her, and she keptmum for a long time.

After being in contact with Lucian and Roxanne for two days, Larry had a vague guess in his heart.

Besides, he also noticed Lucian's expression just now, so Larry couldn't help but ask, "What's going on between you and Mr. Farwell?" Since Roxanne still hadn't pulled herself out of her reverie, she was stunned for a moment and stared at Larry in puzzlement upon hearing his words.

Seeing her bewildered look, Larry explained, "I don't know if you've noticed that Mr. Farwell treats you very differently.

At least, he treats you better than Aubree." Previously, at Alfred's birthday banquet, Larry had seen Lucian leave Aubree behind and held Roxanne's hand to lead her out of the venue.

At that time, Larry had caught sight of Aubree's darkened expression.

Besides, Lucian had immediately hung up on Aubree just because Roxanne almost fell that morning.

If all these signs can't confirm that Roxanne is someone special to Lucian...When I took her away from Lucian just now, the grimness on Lucian's face said it all.

"Larry, what do you mean?" Roxanne knew what Larry was trying to say, but she still feigned ignorance.

Initially, she expected that Larry would follow her lead and drop the matter, but she was wrong.

Larry pointed it out directly.

"Do you think what kind of feelings Mr. Farwell has for you?" The sudden question caused her heart to skip a beat.

Her pupils contracting, she replied in a self-mocking tone, "I don't know.

At first, I thought he would hate me because of what happened six years ago.

But since I met him again, his actions made me a little confused." Larry spoke solemnly.

"Have it ever crossed your mind that he probably likes you?"

As soon as he said that, Roxanne raised her gaze to look at him in shock.

Larry's expression remained solemn.

"Larry, don't simply make assumptions without evidence." Roxanne averted her eyes apprehensively.

"No matter what kind of feelings he has for me, we are just friendly strangers now.

There's nothing more than that.

Besides, he is about to get engaged to Aubree." Ever since she met Lucian again, she had several guesses about how Lucian felt about her, but she had never thought of the possibility of him liking her. Besides, she also had a feeling that it was not a romantic interest.

After all, she could still how much Lucian liked Aubree six years ago.

This is not the way Lucian behaves when he has feelings for the person.

Upon seeing her denying the claim, Larry knitted his brows slightly and kept his silence.

Chapter 246 The car rolled to a stop at Roxanne's doorstep.

Thinking about the little ones at home, Roxanne reluctantly gathered her thoughts, beamed at Larry, and said, "Thanks for the trouble." He nodded and saw her out of the car.

He then said in a deep voice, "Please consider what I have said."

She froze for a moment and inclined her head warily.

After she watched him leave, she adjusted her emotions before turning over to open the door.

Just as it opened, she heard the commotion in the living room.

The children were having fun with Madilyn.

Hearing their voices made Roxanne feel inexplicably better.

The smile on her face grew wider.

"Mommy!"

Archie saw her first.

He immediately broke away from the play and ran to hug her on her legs.

Benny was still playing around with Madilyn.

They paused and rushed over after hearing Archie's excited exclamations.

The children clung to her legs, one on the left and the other on the right.

Roxanne laughed and patted them, "Have you been good?" Archie and Benny nodded vigorously and exclaimed, "We have been very good!"

Madilyn smirked and teased, "You have caused such a ruckus! Also, you guys were clamoring to get my phone just now." They looked at her grumpily, "Mommy wasn't home yet, we wanted to call her!" Madilyn made a silly face at them.

When they asked for her phone earlier on, she knew what they wanted.

At the same time, she heard the sound outside the house and knew that Roxanne was back.

She became playful and wanted to tease them.

Roxanne's heart melted as she observed their squabble, "Just a night and you miss me so much?"

They nodded their heads firmly and replied, "Last night we couldn't sleep because you weren't around!" Madilyn pinched their little faces and said, "Didn't I read you to sleep?" Archie, whose face was pinched, pouted and whined.

"Aunt Madilyn's voice was not soothing at all, she chased away our sleepiness."

He made it sound like a big deal.

Madilyn raised her eyebrows and burst out laughing.

Roxanne couldn't help but chuckle, all of her depressed emotions were put behind the back of her head.

The four of them bantered for a while, and Roxanne grinned at Madilyn, "I can't thank you enough for these past two days."

"They must have been naughty." This is especially true when they were with Madilyn.

Even Archie, who was always calm would also pep up.

Madilyn glared at her and chided, "What's with the formality? I am their godmother so taking care of them will only be natural, right? I'd secretly love to kidnap them home too!" In response, Archie and Benny shook their heads solemnly and said, "Even if you were to kidnap us, we will still find our way home!" She smacked their foreheads lightly and remarked, "As expected of your sons, these two are just as witty." The two children went over to her and held her hands innocently, "But we will also take a good care of you."

"Aunt Madilyn is the second best in the world!" Without having to ask, it was easy to know who was the best in the world to them.

Roxanne's smile grew wider.

As night fell, she suggested, "Let's eat out tonight! What would you want to have?" Benny raised his arm and answered, "BBQ!" Despite being raised overseas, Archie and Benny couldn't get enough of it after Madilyn brought them over a few times. Roxanne smiled and agreed, fetching the three of them out for a meal.

Chapter 247 After Lucian came back from Bellridge, he went straight to the Farwell Group. By the time he finished all the piled-upwork, it was already evening.

When he was back at the manor, he saw Estella lying on the table in the living room, drawing with such concentration.

At the sight of Lucian, she put down her crayon and walked toward him with short strides.

Lucian leaned over and patted her head, "Do you miss Daddy?"

She nodded.

He started smiling when he saw her response.

He then stood up and called for Catalina to enquire on Estella's daily needs for the past two days.

He was relieved when he heard that she has been good.

After greeting Lucian, Estella skittered back to the table and continued drawing.

He went over and took a look, and saw five characters in her drawing.

Two boys were being held by a long-haired woman who was wearing a dress, and a little girl was being held by a tall man in blackshirt.

With just a glance, Lucian knew who she was drawing.

Reminiscing the past two days with Roxanne, his eyes darkened.

Her desire to leave him was written all over her face.

But she always had a soft spot for Estella.

After noticing that she had finished her drawing, he took out two figurines from the study and set before her.

These were bought together with the Lego for Archie and Benny.

Estella tilted her head, looking puzzled.

"I bought gifts for Archie and Benny during my work trip.

Please help daddy to pass them to the boys tomorrow, okay?" He said softly.

"And thank them for taking care of you in the kindergarten."

Upon hearing that there were presents for Archie and Benny, her eyes sparkled and she nodded excitedly.

The next day, Roxanne sent the children to school early in the morning to avoid meeting Lucian.

Even if he tried to stop her at the gate of the kindergarten, Lucian knew she might just ignore him.

Therefore, he still dropped Estella to school at the usual time.

Estella seemed disappointed when she did not see the sight of Roxanne.

However, she brightened up in anticipation after looking at the two figurines in her hands.

** She walked into the classroom and saw Archie and Benny were already on their seats.

She beamed and approached them, "Good morning, Archie and Benny." Both of them had always been taking care of Estella, as instructed by their mother. When they saw her coming, they also waved and smiled at her.

She made an effort to stand on tiptoe and set the two boxes on their tables, looking at them in anticipation.

"What is this?" They could recognize almost instantly the global limited edition figurines, but were perplexed by her actions so they had to ask.

Her eyes crinkled with smiles and she uttered sweetly, "They are from daddy!"

Upon knowing who the sender was, they frowned.

Although they liked the gifts, they dared not keep them.

Estella had lived with them for a period of time.

She had seen a variety of figurines in their rooms, so she knew how much they would like the gift.

Yet it seemed to take them forever to receive the gift.

She nudged them and urged, "You like these, don't you?" They tried putting up a stern face to deny her statement, but looking at the figurines, they just couldn't say it out loud. Eventually, they relented and said, "It's too expensive.

Mommy won't let us take it." Estella didn't expect them to reject her.

They also brought up their mother.

She pouted, lowered her eyes and stood pitifully before them, looking as if she would start crying at any moment.

Seeing that, they exchanged a look and said hastily, "Since it is from Essie, we will take it.

Please help us thank Uncle Lucian." Only then did Estella start to smile again.

Chapter 248 Roxanne continued her work at the research institute the second day after she returned from Bellridge.

When she was away for the past two days, she asked Colby to help with everything.

As a result, he was exhausted.

Once they finished their work that night, Roxanne and Colby walked out together.

Colby teased, "Dr. Jarvis, don't you have any plans to thank me for helping out during your day off?" Hearing that, Roxanne chuckled lightly.

"Of course.

Let's have dinner together since we're both free tonight." On the contrary, Colby had asked her out to eat together countless times in the past, but she always turned him down.

Besides, he knew she only thought of him as a colleague, so he didn't push her anymore after that.

When she brought it up, he understood that she only suggested it to thank him for his help.

Immediately, he agreed.

"All right.

I'll take you up on your offer." Both of them went to get their cars.

After Roxanne got into her car, she sent Lysa a message, telling the latter to fetch Archie and Benny.

Once she had done that, she drove in front of Colby's car and led the way.

She couldn't think of a good place to eat, so she went to the restaurant she had been to with Larry the last time.

Roxanne parked her car after she reached the entrance of the restaurant.

Once Colby arrived, both of them walked into the restaurant.

Since they didn't make a reservation, it took a while until they managed to order their food.

Colby started small talk as they waited for their food to be served.

"I heard you turned Mr. Lynch down during the medical conference when he wanted to accept you as his student." She smiled.

"Having Professor Lambert as my teacher is already enough for me.

Besides, my research approach differs from that of Mr. Lynch's, so it's for the best." As both of them chatted about what happened at the medical conference, Roxanne's phone vibrated.

She took it out and looked at it.

There was a message from the parents' group chat.

Since Archie and Benny started attending school, Pippa had added her to the group chat.

However, the group had always been quiet, so she wondered what had happened that day.

She clicked into the group chat and saw that it was a message from Pippa.

It wrote: Dear parents, the school will hold a tree-planting welfare activity to allow the kids to experience the fun of planting saplings.

It's going to be an overnight trip.

Feel free to send me a private message if you have any special inquiries.

The rest of the messages were from a few parents.

There weren't any particular inquiries, but most of them asked about the venue, the time of departure, and what to bring.

Pippa answered all of their questions.

The trip was on the coming weekend, and the kindergarten would be responsible for arranging the accommodation.

Every student had to be accompanied by a parent, and they only needed to bring some daily necessities and a change of clothes.

Each student has to be accompanied by a parent, huh...

Roxanne thought about Estella.

I guess Lucian or Aubree will accompany her.

She didn't want to meet either of them.

However, if she participated in that activity, they would undoubtedly meet.

All the parents of the students in the kindergarten were wealthy, so they knew who Aubree and Lucian were.

Besides, some of them might've attended Alfred's birthday banquet.

Thave no idea what the other parents would say and spread around if I get entangled with Aubree and Lucian during the outing.

With that thought in mind, Roxanne couldn't help but feel a headache coming.

Colby sat in front of her and asked about the medical conference.

However, when he didn't get any response from her after some time, he glanced at her out of.

concern and noticed that she was staring at her phone in a daze.

"What's wrong?" Colby asked.

Slowly, she regained her senses and forcefully suppressed the worry in her heart.

"It's nothing.

It's just some activity at the kids' kindergarten," she replied, shaking her head and smiling.

Seeing that Roxanne had no intention of saying anything else, he didn't press on.

Chapter 249 After dinner, Roxanne and Colby went separate ways, returning to their own homes.

When Roxanne arrived home. Lysa had fetched the two kids back.

They were playing with Legos on the carpet.

Archive and Benny immediately surrounded Roxanne when they saw her enter.

Roxanne patted their heads and asked concernedly, "Have you two taken your meals?"

They nodded obediently and blinked their eyes at her.

"Mommy, Ms. Ward said she's bringing us to plant trees this weekend." Roxanne was slightly taken aback at the mention of that matter.

She gazed downward and beamed at her children.

"Yes. I know that." With that, she pretended to be nonchalant and entered the living room.

Archie and Benny trailed behind their mother and followed her to the side of the carpet.

She crouched down and fiddled with the partially-built Lego pieces as a conflicted look spread across her face.

She pondered the whole journey on her way back.

In the end, she was left with the same conclusion.

She might run into Lucian or Aubree if she participated in the activity.

That was such a coincidence.

All the while, she had been racking her brains, thinking of ways to avoid Lucian and Aubree.

Yet, the kindergarten decided to host an activity at that time.

"Mommy, will you go with us?" The two kids gazed at Roxanne in anticipation.

That was their first time joining such a group activity.

The idea sounded very interesting to Archie and Benny.

Catching sight of their hopeful, gleaming eyes, Roxanne hesitated and could not bring herself to refuse them directly.

She merely said, 'Til ask Aunt Madilyn to accompany you two.

Will that be all right?" That was the only way she could think of.

Hearing their mother's words, Archie and Benny were obviously a little disappointed.

"Do you not want to go with us, Mommy?" Roxanne's heart softened slightly.

"No, it's not that. It's just... I have to work overtime during the weekend. I'm afraid I do not have the time to accompany you two."

Archie and Benny stared at her for some time.

Roxanne did not know if they figured out she was lying.

-Meeting their eyes, she felt guilty and sorry.

That was the first time the kids participated in a group activity involving the students' parents since they started school, so the event was supposed to be memorable and significant. Undoubtedly, Archie and Benny wished Roxanne could go with them.

However, she could not tell them she was avoiding Lucian and Aubree.

After all, that was a matter between the adults.

"Okay." A few moments later, Archie and Benny nodded in disappointment.

Roxanne let out a sigh of relief inwardly before taking out her phone to call Madilyn.

The latter picked up only after a long while.

"Roxanne, what's the matter? Is there a problem?" Madilyn sounded exhausted.

Roxanne frowned.

She asked in concern, "Are you still busy?" Madilyn heaved a long sigh and uttered weakly, "I don't want to talk about that."

A severely ill patient was just admitted here, and the patient requires close monitoring around the clock.

"I doubt I'll have any time to spare this weekend." Upon hearing that, Roxanne swallowed her unspoken words to request Madilyn's help.

"In that case, I'll stop bothering you. You should prioritize the patient. Everything is fine on my end. It's just that the kids are missing you." Madilyn smiled.

"Okay. Tell them I'll go over and play with them another day."

They did not chat for long and hung up the call soon after.

Roxanne looked up at Archie and Benny beside her and sighed softly.

"Aunt Madilyn is busy. I'll accompany you two this weekend." She could not forbid the kids to join the activity simply because Lucian and Aubree might be there. Archie and Benny exchanged glances.

Overjoyed, they hugged Roxanne's arms and cheered affectionately, "You're the best, Mommy!" Roxanne smiled without saying a word.

She felt heavy-hearted at the thought of the inevitable meeting on the weekend.

Chapter 250 At the Farwell residence, Lucian frowned when he saw the message in the WhatsApp group after fetching Estella back home.

On the way back earlier, Estella had regarded him with a look as if she had something to say.

Lucian reckoned that had something to do with the tree-planting activity.

During mealtime, Lucian took the initiative and asked, "Is the kindergarten organizational a treeplanting activity?"

Estella nodded excitedly upon hearing her father mentioning that matter.

She had wanted to raise that topic to her father when they were inside that car just now.

However, when Estella was reminded of Lucian's usual reluctance to take part in such events hosted by the school, she did not know how she should propose that idea to her father so that he would agree to join. D Lucian grimaced at the sight of Estella's hopeful demeanor.

He could roughly figure out the reason behind her sudden change in behavior.

That was not the first time the kindergarten had organized such a parent-child bonding event.

In the past, due to Lucian's heavy workload, Estella's autism spectrum and unwillingness to interact with other children, Lucian had always chosen to avoid participating in those activities whenever possible. However, this time, perhaps because of Archie and Benny's influence, Estella had, for the first time, gained interest in those activities.

Amidst his wistful rumination on Archie and Benny's significant effect on Estella, a childish voice sounded beside Lucian's ears.

"I want to go." Estella gazed at her father in anticipation with her large eyes.

She had not seen Roxanne in a long time.

Estella was certain Roxanne would attend the event with Archie and Benny, so she would be able to meet with Roxanne then.

An astonished look flashed across Lucian's face when he heard Estella's voice.

Ever since Roxanne started avoiding him, Estella had been adamant about keeping quiet in front of Lucian.

To his surprise, Estella had made an exception because of this activity.

"Do you really want to join that badly?" Lucian furrowed his brows at her.

She nodded firmly.

At that sight, Lucian hesitated briefly.

After recalling his pending work that weekend, he said in a hoarse voice, "Let's go together next time, okay? I have to work this weekend, so I cannot accompany you." The lights in Estella's eyes dimmed.

She shook her head in refusal as she could not wait any longer to see Roxanne.

Lucian knitted his brows and coaxed further, "Archie and Benny aren't going anywhere.

They will still participate in the next activity.

You can play with them then." "No!" Estella declined and pouted.

Lucian's head hurt upon taking in Estella's stubbornness.

Previously, Estella had often stayed away from those activities, and Lucian thought those recreations were a waste of time too.

They had always shared a mutual perception on that matter.

Unexpectedly, she was so determined this time.

She clenched her tiny fists and stared intently at him, hoping he would change his mind.

Still, Lucian remained silent.

Tears gradually brimmed in her eyes.

Estella lowered her head and muttered aggrievedly, "Ms. Jarvis..."

She yearned to meet with Roxanne.

Hearing Estella's words, Lucian's face darkened instantaneously.

He had been too occupied lately, so he had not considered Roxanne would also participate in that activity.

However, at the thought of how Roxanne was evading him, Lucian highly doubted she would personally bring Archie and Benny to join the event.

He figured Roxanne might even disallow them to go altogether.

The screen of his phone lighted up.

Pippa sent a message in the WhatsApp group: No guardian has texted me in private thus far, so I assume everyone will be coming.

This activity will enhance the bond between children and their parents.

I'll take this opportunity to wish everyone a great time in advance.

The screen slowly dimmed afterward.

Lucian's resolution wavered.

He patted Estella's head and croaked, "I got it.