

ABANDONED 281

Chapter 281

Roxanne was about to tell Lucian she could manage to pull herself up when he hugged her even more tightly.

"Don't move. Otherwise, it will be difficult for me to climb up." His voice sounded a little hoarse.

Roxanne felt a brief surge of strange emotion in her chest as she listened to his voice. She stayed still afterward and allowed him to carry her out of the hole.

She broke away from his embrace right after they safely escaped the pit.

"Mrs-Ms. Jarvis, you are so kind to Ms. Estella." Cayden could not help but say wistfully.

He had been utterly shocked when he saw Roxanne hugging Estella at the bottom of the pit earlier.

Cayden was already surprised that Roxanne was willing to venture deep into the forest in the middle of the night to search for Estella. Unexpectedly, Roxanne even located Estella before

them in the wilderness.

If it weren't for Roxanne, they wouldn't have known how long they needed to search.

Roxanne pursed her lips and smiled. "This is my obligation."

Lucian gazed at her and piped up, "It's not your fault."

Roxanne was dazed for a few seconds before she made sense of his words. When she realized that he was comforting her, she did not know how to react.

"Essie ran out in anger after she quarreled with Aubree. I am to be blamed for this matter. Essie is a wilful child. I did not stop Aubree in time and took proper care of Essie," Lucian explained somberly. Roxanne felt a little less guilty after listening to him. She pursed her lips and expressed her gratitude to Lucian, "Thank you."

Lucian bent down to pick up the torchlight on the ground and said with all seriousness, "I should thank you instead. Thank you for locating Essie."

If Roxanne had not found Estella first, they might not have been able to discover this pit the latter had fallen into,

They had walked in that direction earlier because they coincidentally noticed the light originating from Roxanne's torchlight.

Roxanne glanced at Estella, who was now resting in Cayden's arms. "I wonder how Essie is. She was here for so long. She must be scared out of her wits. She couldn't stop crying just now." Roxanne's heart ached when she was reminded of the way Estella bawled her eyes out earlier.

Lucian was in low spirits as well. "We can only check her condition when we return."

Holding Estella in his arms, Cayden uttered sympathetically, "Ms. Estella doesn't seem to have sustained any serious external injuries. I'm just afraid that..."

Estella suffered from psychological illness to begin with. Cayden was fearful that the unfortunate incident would traumatize her and aggravate her existing condition.

Lucian and Roxanne could guess the rest of Cayden's unfinished sentence. Their faces darkened at that possibility.

Along the way back, everyone kept quiet as a heavy atmosphere lingered in the air.

After arriving at the hotel, Lucian informed the good news of locating Estella in the WhatsApp group before contacting his mother. Then, he instructed Cayden to handle the checkout procedure while he brought Estella, Roxanne, Archie, and Benny back to the city and headed straight to the hospital.

Inside the car, Archie and Benny eyed Estella concernedly. "Mommy, will Essie be fine?"

Roxanne patted their heads and comforted them, "She'll be fine. Don't worry."

Archie and Benny looked up at their mother and said with their hearts aching, "Mommy, you're losing your voice."

She smiled at them without saying a word.

Roxanne could not care less about losing her voice as long as she could find Estella.

Sitting in the passenger seat, Lucian gazed intently at Roxanne and the little girl in her arms through the rearview mirror with an unfathomable look on his face.

Soon, the car came to a halt outside the entrance of the hospital.

Cayden got out of the car, received Estella from Roxanne, and hurried into the hospital.

Chapter 282

Roxanne was only able to heave a sigh of relief after the doctor confirmed that Estella was fine.

However, as Lucian was still worried, he decided to admit the little girl to the hospital for one night just to be safe.

As it was getting late, Roxanne said, "Since Essie is all right, I'll take the kids back to rest first. Call me if you need me."

She turned to leave after she finished speaking.

However, when she walked past Lucian, the man grabbed her wrist, causing her to draw a sharp breath.

"Please examine her too," Lucian said to the doctor.

When Roxanne heard that, she rejected it at once. "There's no need for that. I know my condition

not injured and I just want to go home and rest."

Lucian refused to let go of her.

Having no choice, the woman walked toward the doctor and rolled up her sleeves, revealing an abrasion on her wrist which Lucian was grabbing a moment ago.

She had sustained a scrape from pulling Estella back earlier on but did not want the little ones to worry about her. Besides, she was intending to treat the wound herself after getting back. She had been bearing with the pain and did not expect the man to notice it.

Lucian's expression darkened when he saw the abrasion on Roxanne's wrist.

Archie and Benny were even more worried as they exclaimed, "Mommy, you're injured!"

Roxanne flashed a comforting smile at the children while replying, "It's just a scrape. I'm all right."

After the doctor treated Roxanne's wound briefly, the group of them left the emergency ward.

Cayden proceeded to settle the admission procedures for Estella.

As Roxanne was still worried about the little girl, she headed to the ward with Lucian.

After Estella was placed on the bed, she woke up and turned around slowly.

Archie and Benny were the first ones to notice it. They rushed to the bed at once. Looking at her excitedly, they exclaimed, "You're awake! Are you okay? Are you feeling unwell?"

Estella was still feeling groggy. She blinked a few times before she looked at the boys and shook her head.

Even though the two boys sensed something amiss, they ignored the feeling, as they were just too happy that Estella was awake. They continued talking to her by the bed.

Roxanne watched from the side for a while before stepping forward to caress Estella's face.

Estella responded with a smile while reaching out to touch the bandage on the woman's wrist.

Noticing the worried expression on the little girl's face, Roxanne said comfortingly, "It's just a scrape. It doesn't hurt at all."

After saying that, she asked in concern, "Essie, are you hungry? What do you feel like having? I'll get you something to eat."

Estella tilted her head and thought for a moment before shaking her head.

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Roxanne's gaze darkened. She turned around to look at Lucian.

Lucian had a grim expression on his face as well as he looked at Estella.

Both of them realized that the girl had not spoken a single word since she woke up. Although Roxanne and the two boys had been talking to her, she did not reply. Obviously, the incident had affected her.

"It's getting late. You guys should go back first," Lucian said.

Roxanne hesitated as a crease appeared between her brows.

She had intended to take the two boys home before knowing about Estella's condition.

However, after being aware of the situation, she found it difficult to leave.

When Estella heard her father asking Roxanne to leave, she grabbed the corner of the woman's shirt with a reluctant expression on her face.

"I'll stay here with you." Roxanne held the girl's hand. Then she turned to Lucian and said, "I'll stay here and accompany Essie. She should be hungry. Can you get someone to bring her some food?" Lucian agreed and instructed Cayden to get something for all of them to eat.

Chapter 283

Meanwhile, having been chased away by Lucian in the afternoon, Aubree arrived at the Farwell

residence to look for Sonya.

Sonya thought that there was news of Estella when she saw her and asked anxiously, "Why are you back? Has Essie been found?"

Aubree shook her head dejectedly.

Sonya chided, "Why are you here if Essie hasn't been found? Why aren't you helping to search for her?"

Even though she had always favored Aubree, the woman had indeed gone overboard this time.

Aubree answered remorsefully, "Mrs. Farwell, I'd love to help, but—"

"But what?" Sonya asked furiously.

Aubree looked at Sonya with teary eyes, and with a pitiful expression, she replied, "But Lucian blamed me for not taking good care of Essie and asked me to leave. I didn't want to stay and be a burden to him because he was already anxious enough."

In fact, Sonya had only heard about the incident from Aubree briefly over the phone, learning that Estella had run out because Aubree did not take good care of her. However, she did not know much about the details.

As such, she did not understand why her son would flare up at Aubree because of that. "What exactly happened? Why did Essie suddenly run away?"

Aubree looked down and sounded as if she was on the verge of bursting into tears as she replied, "When I reached the hotel, I found out that Lucian and Roxanne were staying in the same room as there were not enough rooms. I wanted to check if the hotel could make any alternate arrangements."

The woman paused and glanced up briefly to look at Sonya's reaction before lowering her head and continuing, "So I told him that I would check with the reception if there were any rooms that were freed up. After I entered the elevator, Essie suddenly followed me inside. I had no idea what she wanted and did not expect her to dash out of the elevator the moment the doors opened. I was stunned for a moment and wasn't able to react in time..."

Sonya's expression darkened. She had guessed that her granddaughter did not want to leave Roxanne.

What spell did that woman cast on Essie? Even if they are mother and daughter, Roxanne has not taken care of Essie ever since she was born. Why is Essie so attached to her? Besides... When Sonya recalled

Aubree's words from before, she furrowed her brows and asked, "Lucian and Roxanne were staying in the same room?"

Aubree nodded, looking aggrieved, and replied, "There wasn't anything I could say since the hotel didn't have any spare rooms, but it wasn't very appropriate for them to stay together. That's why I wanted to check with the front desk if it was possible to make alternate arrangements. I

didn't expect Essie to be so mad over that. It's my fault for my lack of consideration."

Sonva invited Aubree into the living room and said with a grim expression, "It's not your fault. You did the right thing. The two of you are getting engaged soon. Lucian shouldn't have stayed with Roxanne in the same room!"

"But if that did not happen, Essie wouldn't have run away..." Aubree said between tears. "It's already so late and there still isn't any news yet. I'm really worried that something would happen to Essie. She's still so young... If something bad happens to her, I will never be able to forgive

myself!"

At the mention of her granddaughter, Sonya felt her heart sink. However, instead of blaming Aubree for it like before, she started comforting the woman instead. "Don't worry. Lucian is looking for her. Essie will be fine."

Aubree sobbed while replying, "Essie is missing because I didn't take good care of her. I'm scared that Lucian wouldn't forgive me for that. He was so furious earlier on that I thought..."

She had thought that Lucian would hit her, just like before, but the man did not.

However, Aubree did not assume that it was because he wasn't as angry as before. Instead, she knew that it was probably because he could no longer be bothered with her.

Sonya frowned and replied, "That won't happen. It's not even your fault this time. He'll realize it after he calms down."

Chapter 284 I Did Not Take Care Of Her

After the meal, Lucian told Cayden to send Archie and Benny back home to rest while he stayed in the ward with Roxanne so they could both keep Estella company.

Roxanne couldn't bear to leave the little girl alone in the ward. Estella was still afraid and refused to release her grip on the corner of Roxanne's clothes. Roxanne felt guilty at the sight of Estella's pale face. She caressed Estella's cheek and apologized, "I shouldn't have rejected you this afternoon. I'm really sorry." Estella shook her head silently.

The guilt in Roxanne's heart remained, and she looked downcast.

Regret had overwhelmed her when she learned of Estella's disappearance.

Now that she knew that Estella was emotionally affected by the incident, she got so heavy-hearted that she could barely breathe.

"It has nothing to do with you." Lucian's brows knitted together when he heard her blaming herself.

Roxanne forced out a smile and glanced at him without a word.

She had experienced losing her child, so there was no way Lucian could understand her feelings.

As she didn't seem reassured by his words, Lucian fell silent for a few moments before saying, "If you say so, then it's all my fault."

Hearing that, Roxanne shot him a confused look.

Estella pursed her lips and glared at Lucian.

Lucian met their gazes solemnly and walked toward the bed. He stopped beside Estella and said, "I should've stopped Essie in time. It was my fault; I didn't take good care of her." Seemingly displeased, Estella whipped her head away. Her cheeks were puffed up, and she refused to meet his gaze.

Lucian's brows snapped together. "I knew Essie was upset. I should've said no to Aubree's suggestion. If I had done that, Essie wouldn't have run away recklessly."

He knew Estella hated Aubree but didn't reject her advance, so it was his fault.

Estella whipped her head around and shot him a satisfied look.

It was clear to Roxanne that he was trying to console her, and she had to admit that he should be shouldering most of the responsibility.

Estella was his daughter, but he had failed to take care of her and had caused her to suffer.

Recalling Lucian's negligence when he took care of Estella previously, Roxanne felt that he was indeed a careless father.

I wonder how much Essie has suffered over the years.

Lucian didn't know what she was thinking. He heaved a sigh of relief when he noticed her guilty expression fading a little.

Before he could say anything else to divert their attention, his phone rang suddenly.

He glanced at his phone and saw that it was a call from his mother.

A deep line appeared in the middle of Lucian's brow as he answered the call.

"How's Essie doing?" Sonya asked anxiously. After learning that Estella had been admitted to the hospital, she wanted to visit Estella and also defend Aubree. Glancing at the bed, Lucian responded, "She has regained consciousness. She's fine, so you should go to bed. I'll bring her back home tomorrow morning." Sonya was about to insist when Lucian added, "Essie is traumatized. She needs to sleep now. You should leave her to rest."

Sonya had no choice but to cave in.

After the call ended, Roxanne and Lucian stopped talking about Estella's disappearance as if they had reached a tacit agreement. Roxanne started chatting with Estella gently.

Alas, no matter what Roxanne said, Estella refused to say a word and would only nod or shake her head.

Roxanne was exhausted by the time she managed to put Estella to bed after reading the little girl a bedtime story.

Estella gripped the corner of her clothes and refused to let go, so Roxanne got herself a chair and fell asleep on the edge of the bed.

Chapter 285 Recuperate Back At Home

The following day, Roxanne woke up and realized there was a coat draped over her body.

Lucian had placed his coat over her after she fell asleep last night.

Roxanne sat up and glanced around the ward, but Lucian was nowhere to be seen.

Strangely, she felt empty inside.

Roxanne was in a daze when the door to the ward was opened. Turning at her shoulder, she saw Lucian tiptoeing in, wearing nothing but a shirt. He looked really worn out.

When their gazes met, Lucian's gaze turned dark. His voice was hoarse as he asked, "You're up?"

Roxanne nodded in response. After a brief hesitation, she got up and placed the coat over Estella. The little girl was still sleeping soundly.

Lucian's gaze softened when he saw what she did. He went up to her and glanced at her bandaged wrist. "How are you feeling? Do you need to redress your wound?" he asked with concern. Roxanne shook her head calmly. "No need for that. I can change it myself at home. The medicine in the hospital could be more inefficient than my own medicine."

As she sounded confident, Lucian arched a brow. He then recalled her job and previous experience before giving her a noncommittal nod.

After that, an awkward silence ensued in the ward.

"If there's nothing else—"

Roxanne was about to bid him goodbye when Estella's soft voice rang out. "Ms. Jarvis..."

The little girl sounded as though she was on the verge of breaking into tears.

An instant heartache overcame Roxanne as she turned around hastily to look at Estella.

Perhaps Estella had dreamed of last night's event, for tears were streaming down her cheeks even though she was still asleep. Her little face was all scrunched up pitifully.

"I'm here," Roxanne assured her as she carefully wiped the tears away from Estella's cheeks.

Estella woke up crying. At the sight of Roxanne sitting beside her, she leaped into Roxanne's arms and started sobbing.

Her sobs were muffled compared to her sobs back when she was trapped in the hole. However, Roxanne still felt her heart clench at her pitiful whimpers.

She must be so scared to wake up from a nightmare this morning.

Roxanne comforted Estella for a long time before the little girl quashed her sobs. Her eyes were red as she stared at Roxanne wordlessly.

Lucian's expression had turned dark when he heard Estella calling Roxanne in her sleep a while ago.

After chatting with Estella briefly, Lucian summoned the doctor to check her condition.

The doctor confirmed she was all right, and Lucian left to handle the discharge procedures.

Outside the hospital, Estella held Roxanne's hand. She couldn't bear to part with her.

Roxanne patted her head. "You should recuperate back at home. Just give me a call whenever you miss me, all right?"

Estella nodded, but she showed no signs of wanting to release Roxanne's hand.

Roxanne couldn't bring herself to ask Estella to release her hand.

Estella was traumatized by yesterday's events, so she wanted nothing more than to shower her love on Estella.

Seeing how stubborn Estella was, Lucian felt heartbroken. He knew Roxanne couldn't keep Estella company forever, so he bent down and took Estella's wrist. "Essie, let go of Ms. Jarvis. We need to head back home. Your grandpa and grandma are worried about you."

Pursing her lips, Estella released her grip on Roxanne's hand reluctantly.

Roxanne was slightly distracted. Essie looks disappointed. She had the same disappointed expression when I rejected her last afternoon.

"Ms. Jarvis, goodbye." Estella bade goodbye to Roxanne softly with her head hung low.

Roxanne was taken aback. This was the first time Estella had spoken out loud since last night, except for the words that she had mumbled in her sleep earlier.

She spoke out loud to bid me goodbye.

Roxanne felt her heart turn soft. Flashing a smile, she bade Estella goodbye and left in a hurry. She was afraid she would be reluctant to leave if she were to spare Estella another look.

Chapter 286 Your Attitude

Lucian brought Estella back to the Farwell residence after Roxanne left.

When they arrived, Sonya and Elias were already waiting in the living room. Aubree was sitting beside them with a woeful expression.

Seeing them, Aubree immediately got to her feet to welcome them. "Lucian, is Essie all right?"

She then got down on her knees to check on Estella's condition.

Estella retreated and hid behind Lucian. She grabbed the edge of Lucian's shirt and refused to look at Aubree.

Aubree remained patient and reached out to take Estella's hand. "Essie, I'm really sorry for upsetting you. I was just "

Slap! Estella slapped her hand away abruptly.

I hate this evil Ms. Pearson! She's the reason Ms. Jarvis stays away from me!

Aubree refused to give up yet. She came closer to Estella as Sonya and Elias were watching her actions.

I can't let Essie show them that we're not close to each other!

She stretched her hand out again. "Essie, don't be afraid. I just want to check on your injury."

Without waiting for a reply, she grabbed Estella's hand to pull her closer.

Flustered, Estella burst into noisy tears.

Everyone stared at them.

Lucian had no idea that Estella hated Aubree this much. He also didn't know that Aubree was bold enough to come close to Estella despite knowing that Estella hated her.

His expression turned as dark as thunder when he saw Estella crying and shaking uncontrollably. He immediately demanded, "Aren't you going to get lost?"

Shocked, Aubree released her grasp on Estella. Displeasure rose in her heart when she realized tears were streaming down Estella's cheeks. However, she acted as though she felt guilty and said, "It was all my fault. I knew Essie hadn't forgiven me, but... I was worried about her. I should've considered her feelings."

Having said that, she shot Lucian a cautious look. "I'm really sorry. I had no idea Essie hated me to this extent. It was all my fault. I should leave lest I affect her emotions."

Turning to Sonya, she said, "Mrs. Farwell, I'll take my leave now. I'll be back to visit Essie another day."

"Lucian, what are you doing?" Sonya had seen how her son had lashed out at Aubree and how Aubree had apologized to Estella repeatedly. She felt bad for Aubree and pulled the latter away. Patting Aubree's hand, she said, "Stay right here. I know you mean well."

Aubree's lashes trembled as she came back to stand beside Sonya. She looked as though she was close to tears.

Sonya glared at Lucian. "Aubree has been blaming herself for Essie's disappearance. She didn't sleep the whole night and kept us company. Now that she's apologizing to Essie, how could you treat her this way?"

Lucian frowned as his gaze turned wintry. "She should be blaming herself."

If Aubree hadn't made Essie angry and had taken good care of her, Essie wouldn't have run away and suffered badly.

Lucian's gaze turned colder when he thought of the injuries Roxanne and Estella had sustained last night.

Chapter 287 Making It Up

As he kept blaming Aubree, Sonya scowled in displeasure. "Aubree feels guilty over her actions. She came back to apologize to us last night. How could you be this harsh to her?"

She then glanced at Estella, who was hiding behind Lucian.

Estella was sobbing silently.

Feeling bad for her, Sonya urged softly, "Essie, stop crying. Tell me, did you get hurt?"

Estella adored her grandmother, so she nodded wordlessly in response to Sonya's question.

"If you knew where we found Essie, you wouldn't have asked her that." Lucian pinned Sonya with a withering look.

Sonya was baffled.

They only got to talk on the phone hastily yesterday, so she didn't get to ask about the details.

Lucian shot Aubree an icy look and said, "Essie ran into the mountains near the botanical garden and fell into a hole. There was where we found her. She was there the whole night. Do you seriously think she didn't get hurt?"

His words were meant for both Sonya and Aubree. He hoped Aubree would leave tactfully after hearing what he had to say.

Sonya blanched in horror after hearing what Estella had gone through. She bent down and pulled Estella into her arms. "Oh, you must've suffered a lot, Essie. Let me give you a hug. Don't wander off in the future, okay?"

Estella allowed Sonya to hug her but couldn't stop sobbing no matter how Sonya consoled her.

After a while, Sonya noticed Aubree was near to tears. Feeling sorry for Aubree, she said, "Aubree means well. She wanted to change to a bigger room for you and Essie. She didn't know that Essie would get this upset. Now that Essie is safe and sound, you should stop blaming her."

Lucian's brows knitted together, and he said naught a word.

"Besides, Aubree told me you were with that woman. What is going on? You're getting engaged soon. Everyone in Horington knows that you're getting engaged to Aubree. What if words get out? How do you think Aubree will feel?" As her son seemed unfazed, Sonya felt her heart sink. "Don't tell me you're planning on marrying Roxanne? I've made myself clear. I won't accept her, ever! She has to bear some sort of responsibility over Essie's disappearance, too!"

Right after she said that, she felt Estella's chest heaving in her arms.

Sonya shot Estella a worried look. The little girl was crying until she was gasping for air. She was also struggling to free herself from Sonya's embrace.

It was pretty apparent that the little girl was upset that Sonya had chided Roxanne.

Comprehension dawned, and Sonya scowled unhappily. "I don't know what's so great about her. Why does Essie love her so much? She can't even bear to hear me chiding her! If she knew what had happened, I wonder if she'll still feel the same way!"

If Essie was an adult, I would've told her how Roxanne had dumped her when she was a kid!

Realizing Sonya intended to spill the truth, Lucian cut in, "This has nothing to do with Roxanne! If Roxanne hadn't entered the mountains late at night to search for Essie, she would have had to spend the night in the mountains!"

That didn't occur to Sonya, and she was struck silent. A few seconds later, she said grudgingly, "She ought to do that!"

Roxanne abandoned Essie when she was just a baby. She's just making it up to Essie!

Chapter 288 I Waited For Years

After learning that it was Roxanne who had found Estella, Sonya stopped reprimanding her. She focused on consoling Estella, who was still crying in her arms.

A while later, Estella exhausted her energy and finally stopped crying.

"Good girl, Essie." Sonya patted her back. "Ms. Pearson adores you. She accidentally angered you, so can you forgive her?"

Hearing Aubree's name, Estella scrunched up her brow and turned around. She stretched her hands toward Lucian.

Lucian picked her up and answered on her behalf, "Essie refuses to forgive her. Even if Essie does forgive her, I will never forgive her!"

With that said, Lucian glared at Aubree. "This has dragged on for long enough. I shall make myself clear once again. I will never marry you. From today onward, we no longer have anything to do with each other. You have no reason to show up before Essie anymore!"

His words stunned everyone else.

It took Sonya a few seconds to regain her composure. She grabbed Lucian's arm and demanded, "Lucian, do you know what you're talking about? News about your engagement has been released. How are we going to face the public if you refuse to marry Aubree?"

Without batting an eyelid, Lucian responded, "That has nothing to do with me. It was you who released the news without seeking my agreement. I've stated my disapproval, but you insisted on doing so." Sonya's face turned ugly. Lucian had obviously made up his mind.

She knew what her son wanted but had always assumed she had control over him.

Alas, she forgot he was all grown up now. In fact, he was in charge of Farwell Group now.

He was obedient all the while only because he wanted to be a filial son to her.

"But..." Sonya trailed off before coming up with another excuse. "But we agreed to your marriage to repay Old Mr. Pearson's favor. How are you going to explain to him if you want to call it off?" Lucian furrowed his brows. "We've repaid the Pearson family's favor by giving them what they wanted all these years. That's enough. Farwell Group will still help the Pearson family in the corporate world as long as they don't break the law."

Aubree gaped in disbelief.

It was pretty clear that Lucian had come up with that plan a long time ago.

When did he start scheming? Was it after he rejected me previously? Or did he start after that b*tch Roxanne came back?

She was panicking when Lucian glanced at her, his face devoid of expression. "Ms. Pearson, please leave my house if you have nothing else to say."

Aubree froze in shock. She promptly apologized, "Lucian, I was wrong. I know my mistake now. I promise I'll give Essie what she wants. It won't happen again. Please don't be mad at me!" Nevertheless, Lucian ignored her pleas.

Aubree's heart sank in dejection. She tried to grab his sleeves, but he avoided her grasp.

"I've waited for you many years, Lucian..." Aubree's hands froze midair. "I'll change. I promise I will. Please don't do this to me!"

As Lucian remained silent, she shot Sonya a beseeching look.

Sonya shook her head grimly. "You should head back home for now."

Lucian didn't show any signs of fury, but she knew that was precisely the sign he was smoldering with anger.

Besides, it seemed that he had thought about it thoroughly before informing them of his decision.

It was useless to say anything now, so she wanted to wait until he calmed down.

Chapter 289 I Will Take You There

Lucian was resolute. Aubree had no choice but to leave with her head hung low.

Elias and Sonya stayed back for a while to spend time with Estella.

No matter how hard they tried, Estella remained disinterested. The little girl refused to write any words even though Sonya gave her a pen and paper. She would only nod or shake her head at any questions they posed.

Sonya felt bad for Estella, as she knew the little girl was traumatized by last night's events.

The only thing she could do was to spend more time with Estella.

When night arrived, Sonya got to her feet reluctantly. "Should I bring Essie back so I can take care of her? You're busy, and I'm afraid you can't take care of her well."

Lucian rejected her offer outright. "No, thanks."

After what happened last night, he refused to let Estella go anywhere.

As he refused to give in, Sonya said nothing else. She talked to Estella briefly before leaving with her husband.

After they left, Lucian redressed Estella's wound and led her upstairs so she could go to bed.

Estella stared at her wound silently and showed no response to his words.

Frowning, Lucas asked, "Does your wound hurt?"

Estella lifted her head and shook her head.

"What's wrong? Tell me," Lucian said patiently.

Pursing her lips, Estella pointed at the medicine on the table and took the pen to write "Ms. Jarvis" on the paper.

Her action tugged at Lucian's heartstrings. "Do you want to give the medicine to Ms. Jarvis?"

Estella bobbed her head firmly.

The medicine in our house is efficient. Ms. Jarvis suffers from the same injury as mine, so she should be able to use the same medicine I just used! I miss her so much. Lucian glanced at the time and ruffled her hair. "It's late. Ms. Jarvis must be asleep. We'll pay her a visit tomorrow, okay?"

Estella hesitated before nodding obediently.

Ms. Jarvis must be tired, as she had to search for me. She needs to rest.

Seeing that Estella didn't press on, Lucian heaved a sigh of relief and led her upstairs so she could go to bed.

Lucian still remembered how afraid she was this morning. Thus, he decided to spend the night with her.

He was exhausted from staying up all night and promptly fell asleep after coaxing Estella to sleep.

The next morning, Estella woke him up by shaking his body repeatedly.

Opening his eyes groggily, he saw that Estella had already changed her outfit and was waiting for him to leave.

It took him a while before he realized Estella wanted to leave right away to give Roxanne the medicine.

"Okay. I'll take you there," Lucian promised her solemnly.

Climbing out of bed, he washed up and brought her downstairs.

Downstairs, Estella ran to the medical kit and found the medicine she had used last night. She placed the medicine beside her when she was having breakfast so they could leave after breakfast. Lucian sighed when he saw her action.

Perhaps this is their mother-and-daughter bond. They are both worried about each other. I'm worried about Roxanne, too. Those who had no idea what happened to her might think she was seriously wounded judging from Essie's reaction.

Chapter 290 Applying Medicine

Archie and Benny had already gotten up when Roxanne arrived home. They promptly asked about Estella.

The boys were delighted to learn that Estella could talk again.

As Roxanne's wrist was injured, the boys refused to let her do anything and stayed by her side the entire day.

The following day, Roxanne wanted to head to work at the research institute, but the boys insisted that she stay at home.

"Mommy, you're hurt. You should rest at home." Benny shot her an imploring look.

Archie chimed in, "We're afraid you'll fall ill, just like last time."

They could still remember how they had freaked out when Roxanne got sick previously.

Roxanne knew the kids were worried about her. As her wrist was hurt, it would be difficult for her to work. Hence, she bobbed her head in agreement.

After breakfast, the doorbell rang.

Roxanne got to her feet and answered the door.

She was taken aback by the unexpected visitors. "Why are you here?"

Clad in a casual coat, Lucian held Estella's hand. Estella was holding an exquisite bag with something inside.

Hearing her question, Lucian nodded and gestured to Essie. "Essie is worried and wants to deliver medicine to you."

Estella offered the bag she brought with her to Roxanne, affirming her father's words. "Ms. Jarvis, medicine."

Lucian was used to how fond Estella was of Roxanne, so he wasn't surprised to hear her talk.

Roxanne's heart melted when she heard Estella's adorable voice. She took the bag from the girl and patted her head. "Thank you, Essie."

Flashing an obedient smile, Estella stared at the house earnestly.

Roxanne hesitated briefly before turning sideways to let them in.

Archie and Benny were playing with Lego blocks on the floor after breakfast. They were delighted to see Estella and invited her to join them. When Essie used to stay with us, we loved playing with Lego blocks.

Perhaps she'll forget what happened yesterday if we play together! However, Estella shook her head and stared fixedly at Roxanne.

Roxanne didn't know what the little girl wanted, so she bent her body down, utterly baffled. "Essie, what do you want me to do?"

Estella touched her injured wrist carefully as a flash of concern appeared in her eyes.

Comprehension dawned on Roxanne. It turns out Essie is worried about my injury.

"It's not serious. The doctor has already dressed my wound," Roxanne assured her cheerfully.

However, Estella took the corner of her outfit and pulled her toward the couch.

Roxanne played along with her and sat down on the couch.

After she took a seat, Estella stretched her hand out. "Change the dressing."

Having said that, she took a bottle of medicine out of the bag Roxanne had placed on the coffee table a while ago.

Roxanne was momentarily stunned. Feeling touched, she gave her hand to Estella willingly. Content belongs to Nôvel(D)r/a/ma.Org.

After removing her bandage carefully, Estella pouted unhappily at the sight of her wound before blowing on it twice.

Roxanne chuckled. "Essie, are you going to apply the medicine for me? It's fine. It might hurt for children, but adults won't feel anything. Just apply the medicine for me."