

## **ABANDONED 291**

### Chapter 291 Tell Me Why

Hearing that, Estella started applying the medicine to Roxanne's wound meticulously.

Beside them, Lucian said, "After I redressed her wound last night, she wanted to bring the medicine to you. If I hadn't stopped her, she would've come last night."

The little girl's gesture moved Roxanne. Glancing at Estella, who was bandaging her wrist, she said gratefully, "Thank you, Essie."

Estella lifted her head and flashed a faint smile.

Archie and Benny watched as Estella applied the medicine to Roxanne's wrist. They were about to speak, but Lucian's stern voice caused them to frown in displeasure.

After Estella went missing yesterday, they got so worried and didn't bother expressing their emotions to Lucian.

Now that Estella was safe and sound, Archie and Benny felt that her disappearance was somewhat his fault.

He knew Essie hated that evil woman but allowed her to get close to Essie! Mommy didn't bring Essie with her as the woman was there. That bad woman also bullied Mommy previously! It was all your fault. With that thought in mind, the boys didn't bother being nice to Lucian.

Sensing the strange ambiance, Lucian lowered his head and saw the boys glaring at him as though he were a ferocious beast.

The boys pouted when they realized he was looking at them. "Mr. Farwell, you brought Essie here to deliver the medicine to Mommy. The medicine is here, and Essie has applied it to Mommy's wound. Is that all?"

Lucian's brows snapped together as he let out a noncommittal grunt.

"Please leave now!" Archie and Benny lifted their heads to look at Lucian, as he was taller than them. Despite their young age, they looked intimidating.

That was the first time Lucian had ever been asked to leave by the kids. His brows twitched, but he said nothing.

I could be imagining it, but the boys seem incredibly hostile today, even though they are usually hostile to me. Hearing their rude demand, Roxanne turned at her shoulder and told them, "Archie, Benny, don't be rude."

The boys huffed, "We're being polite! We said, please."

Roxanne felt her head throbbing, as she didn't know they would retort her words.

Lucian asked, "Are you kicking me out?"

Archie and Benny nodded vehemently.

Instead of flying into a rage, Lucian added patiently, "Can I know why?"

The boys were taken aback by his question.

They shared a look before Archie answered, "Because you're going to marry another woman soon. If you spend too much time with Mommy, it may cause an unwanted misunderstanding. We don't want Mommy to suffer anymore."

Silence ensued in the living room following his words.

Lucian swept his gaze over Archie and Benny before his gaze landed on Roxanne, who was sitting on the couch.

Something must've happened without my knowledge for the boys to say that to me. Did Aubree cause trouble for her? Why are the boys this emotional about my marriage?

Sensing his gaze, Roxanne looked down to hide the anxiety in her eyes.

She had no idea why Archie and Benny resented Lucian this much. Their reaction was bigger than hers when they learned of Lucian and Aubree's marriage.

Is it because he's their father? Is this why he is this important to them?

#### Chapter 292 A Clean Break

"You guys are right. All right, then. I'll get going first. See you all," Lucian said after a pause, pursing his lips.

Since he had unilaterally called off his engagement with Aubree, and the news was not made public yet, Lucian thought he should only let them know later.

Archie and Benny were surprised and disappointed when Lucian actually agreed so readily.

So, he's really getting married to that woman. Does this mean he doesn't want us anymore?

The disgruntlement evoked by this thought was apparent on the children's faces, and they replied curtly, "Goodbye, Mr. Farwell."

Lucian was puzzled by their sudden change of attitude. The man wondered if he had done anything wrong to upset them, aside from his engagement with Aubree.

Earlier on, he had found Archie and Benny strangely distant, so he had decided to leave them alone. Yet when he actually did so, the two boys suddenly seemed disturbed by his departure. Seriously... What's the matter? I can't think of a reason for their behavior.

Lucian eventually gave up on trying to explain their shift in attitude and reached for Estella's hand instead. But when the girl saw Lucian nearing, she frowned and leaped to the ground from the couch. The girl had been listening to their conversation all that while, so she knew Lucian was about to bring her home.

The man looked at his daughter, who had just dashed off about three meters away from him, in resignation.

I should've expected that. Essie is so clingy to Roxanne, so there's no way she wants to leave. Besides, she's still traumatized by what happened. I bet sending the medication here today is just an excuse for her to come see Roxanne.

"Come on, Essie. It's time to go home. We'll come to see Ms. Jarvis some other day," Lucian coaxed with his gaze still pinned on the girl.

He had learned from the incident yesterday that he should not be too hard on her, or else she might end up doing something rash again. Yet despite his gentle entreaties, the girl still refused to go with him. "No!" she cried out stubbornly.

I want to stay with Ms. Jarvis! She's the best.

To the little girl, Roxanne was the person she could depend on because the woman had saved her from the pit when she was crying in desperation.

If I have to have a mommy, it must be Ms. Jarvis! I don't want anyone else to be my mommy!

As Lucian guessed, it was all because of Roxanne.

Ever since Estella met Roxanne, she had constantly reminded Lucian of Roxanne's importance in her heart.

In fact, it seemed to him that Roxanne meant much more to the girl compared to himself-her very own father who had taken care of her for so many years.

When Archie and Benny saw this, they felt sorry for Estella. They knew she was behaving like that because of what had happened the other day. Yet the brothers could not invite her to stay because Roxanne had yet to utter a word.

It was then that they regretted chasing Lucian off. If they had not rushed him off, Estella could have stayed longer.

For a moment, the ambiance in the quiet living room became awkwardly tense, with Lucian and Estella reaching an impasse.

"Essie, I still have to go to work tomorrow. What about I send you to Grandpa and Grandma?" Lucian suggested tenderly, rubbing his brows.

Again, his proposal was met with an outright rejection as Estella ran over to Roxanne and clung to her hand. She was trying to show with her actions that she wanted to stay with her.

Her sudden embrace softened Roxanne's heart. Yet when Roxanne looked back at Lucian again, she told herself she had to let the girl go.

As Archie and Benny said, he will be engaged to another woman soon. I should stay away from him. It's time we have a clean break.

Chapter 293 Do Not Waste Time

"No! I want Ms. Jarvis!" the girl implored, staring at Roxanne with her eyes wide open before glaring at Lucian.

Judging from how intractable the girl was, Lucian was certain that she would not follow him home. So he eventually gave in and turned to Roxanne instead.

When Roxanne met his eyes, a frown stitched on her brows for she knew what he was about to say.

"You see, Essie really likes being around you. To be honest, she is much better when she's with you. Her condition deteriorated because of what happened yesterday, so I was wondering if you could take care of her for a while since she wants to stay by your side," he asked earnestly with his gaze directed at the woman on the couch.

His words lit up Estella's eyes. When she heard that her father had relented, she gazed at Roxanne with anticipation glistering in her eyes as she waited for her answer. But the excitement in her eyes slowly faded when she spotted the reluctance on Roxanne's face after a few seconds of silence.

Her heart sank, yet she still looked at Roxanne importunately.

She refused to believe Roxanne would turn her down.

Roxanne looked at the girl apologetically, caressing her hair. "I'm so sorry, but I have a lot to do these few days. I have been putting aside a project my professor assigned to me for personal reasons, so I really have to get back to the research institute tomorrow. I'll have to stay back to make up for the lost time, so I won't even have time to take care of Archie and Benny..."

Roxanne did not say explicitly that she did not have time for Estella and that she had to turn the girl down, but what she said amounted to a rejection.

Estella was dejected.

Lucian frowned and looked at the girl helplessly.

"As you said, what Essie needs now is someone who can take good care of her, and that is not something I can promise. Keeping her here will only hinder her recovery, so, Mr. Farwell, I guess you know what's best for her," Roxanne continued.

Although what she said was true, it was partially an excuse for her to convince Lucian to bring the girl home.

She genuinely hoped that Estella could bounce back from her sickness, and to do that, professional intervention by professional psychologists was imperative.

Lucian could not think of anything else he could say to help Estella. He pursed his lips, looking at the girl. "Well, I guess you have to say goodbye to Ms. Jarvis, then, Essie." Estella could not believe what Roxanne had just said. Her teary eyes were opened wide in disbelief as she pinned her gaze on the woman and held on to the hem of her shirt. Roxanne quickly looked away. It pained her to see the girl in such a state.

She knew she could not bring herself to say no to the girl if she maintained eye contact.

"Ms. Jarvis..." Estella's voice quivered, but Roxanne hardened her heart and refused to turn back.

Archie and Benny felt so wretched when they saw how desperate Estella was. "Mommy, why don't we just let Essie stay? She looks so-"

"Aunt Madilyn will be taking care of both of you these two days, so make sure you guys behave," Roxanne interrupted, trying to prove her point that she would be busy. The boys clammed up immediately.

Then, Roxanne pulled Estella's hand away and addressed Lucian, "It's late. You guys should go home. You still have to go to work tomorrow."

When Lucian heard that, he nodded lightly and got up without taking another look at Estella-he could not stand the sight of how disappointed she was.

## Chapter 294 Did She Cry Her Heart Out

Estella's gaze was glued to Roxanne's back, tears rolling down her cheeks uncontrollably.

Archie and Benny were equally miserable. They did not expect Roxanne to be so heartless. When they saw that the girl was crying, they went over and consoled her.

"Don't cry, Essie. Mommy is really busy these few days. You can always come over and play once Mommy is free again," Benny cajoled with a smile, yet his attempt was futile.

When Archie saw that Estella was still sobbing, he took out a handkerchief to wipe away her tears as he comforted her, "We can still play together at the kindergarten, Essie. Mommy really likes you because you're a good girl, so don't cry. You'll look ugly if you keep crying, and Mommy doesn't like that."

Estella stopped and looked at the boy with doubt in her eyes.

"Yeah! Archie's right," Benny quickly chimed in with a nod. "Mommy doesn't like kids who cry."

It was not until then that Estella finally held back her tears with much effort.

An inexplicable glint shone in Lucian's eyes when he saw how deeply Archie and Benny cared for Estella. "Thank you for saying that," he said to the boys as he walked toward them.

The two children initially wanted to ignore him, but when they remembered how they were partially at fault for making Estella cry because they hurried Lucian home, they evaded the man's gaze with guilt. "We're just telling her the truth."

They knew that Roxanne loved Estella, but like themselves, she distanced herself from Estella because of Lucian.

Instead of answering the boys, Lucian smiled at them and held Estella's hand.



This time, the girl did not run away.

"Say goodbye to Archie and Benny, Essie," he said to her softly.

The girl did as she was told and waved at them, still trying to swallow her tears. "Goodbye, Archie. Goodbye, Benny. I'll come again."

"We can't wait to see you again too! Bye!" the two kids replied, forcing a smile.

After sending Estella off at the door and watching the car disappear out of their sight, the boys went back up to Roxanne. They found her staring blankly into the air in the study.

She could not stop thinking about how downcast Estella was when she turned her down.

Regret ate her up from the inside after the girl left. She had said so herself that the children were innocent. But over and over again, she had hurt Estella because of what happened between her and Lucian. Roxanne was so deep in her thoughts thinking about Estella that she did not even realize the boys were already back.

"Mommy?" Archie and Benny whispered carefully as they went closer to her. The look on her face was telling how remorseful she felt.

When Roxanne knew she had let her mind wander off, she cracked a stiff smile and stroked their heads. "Is Essie gone?"

The boys nodded firmly. "Was she crying her heart out when she left?" she asked out of guilt after some time.

Archie and Benny nodded again.

She wanted to treat Estella well and make her happy, but she ended up making her cry again.

"Don't worry, Mommy. She stopped crying after we talked to her," the children said with a smile, knowing that Roxanne would beat herself up.

Roxanne smiled in relief, pulling them into her arms. "Thank you. What would I do without both of you?"

"Essie said that she likes you a lot, Mommy. She also said she'll come again soon," they replied, hugging her back.

Roxanne felt comforted when she knew that the boys had taken care of everything.

#### Chapter 295 Take It Easy

Over at the Pearson residence, Aubree had been depressed ever since Lucian chased her out the other day.

In the past, Sonya would always take her side and defend her, but she did not that day because there was nothing she could do to change anything.

Aubree despaired when she recalled Sonya's inaction.

She was not dumb. After years of waiting for Lucian, she knew in her heart that he was not keen on marrying her. Yet she had always wanted to try her luck believing that Sonya would help her.

She had always thought that Lucian would marry her one day as long as she waited for him.

However, her hope was crushed when Roxanne returned to the country and Lucian expressed his intention to break off their engagement.

After having some time to herself to cool her head off for a day, Aubree still decided to take the chance again by paying Sonya a visit.

Sonya was not expecting her to come by that day when she saw her at the door. But after a short pause, she invited Aubree in, as she always did.

"I'm sorry I didn't let you know in advance. I hope I'm not disturbing," Aubree said apologetically.

Since Sonya felt bad for Aubree after Lucian wanted to nullify their engagement, and she actually liked Aubree as a person, she smiled warmly at her and replied, "Don't worry about it. You're almost like a daughter to me, so you can visit anytime. You don't have to be so courteous. Just make yourself at home."

A rueful grin crept up on Aubree's lips. "You know... you used to call me your 'daughter-in-law,' but not anymore."

Tears welled up in Aubree's eyes as she spoke.

She paused to wipe away the tears in her eyes as she tried to compose herself. "Mrs. Farwell, I came today to apologize to you in person. I made a lot of mistakes when I was here, and all of you put up with them because of what my family did for Lucian. Now that he wants nothing to do with me, I just hope things end well between us. I just want to say sorry for everything I did. I hope you can forgive me." Aubree even used her puppy dog eyes on Sonya and played the victim. "I hope you understand that I did everything with the best intention for everyone. I took myself as Lucian's wife when I was here, so all the decisions I made were for the family. There were times when my kindness was misunderstood, but I still want you to know that I didn't mean any of it in a bad way. Even if we don't end up becoming a family, I still hope you can forgive me."

It broke Sonya's heart to see the young lady like that.

Over the years, she had treated Aubree as her future daughter-in-law. Despite what Aubree said, Sonya was actually pretty satisfied with everything she did.

Personally, she was also taken aback when Lucian suddenly decided to call off the engagement, so every word Aubree said to her tugged at her heartstring when she was reminded of the time Aubree had spent with the family.

Sonya sat down beside her and held her shoulders. "Take it easy, Aubree. Things are not set in stone yet."

The young woman smiled helplessly. "Mrs. Farwell, I know Lucian. Since he already made it clear that he is not interested in the engagement, there is not the slightest chance of going back. It's okay. You can still come and visit me if you feel lonely. You're like a mother to me."

Sonya felt even more touched when Aubree said that. She thought for a bit and assured her again, "Don't worry. No one knows about the breaking of the engagement yet, so there's still room for discussion. I'll talk to Lucian once he gets over his emotion."

Although Aubree felt delighted that she had gotten what she came for, she still put up a pitiful look and nodded reluctantly.

Chapter 296 She Bets He Does Not Know

The pathetic look on Aubree's face faded the moment she came out of the Farwell residence. Her expression was bitter and spiteful as she got into the car.

Noticing her change in expression, Charles chose his words wisely. "Where to, Ms. Pearson?"

Aubree glanced at him coldly from the rearview mirror. "The office."

Just as Charles was about to pull off, Aubree grunted in annoyance. "You know what? Just go home!"

She was not in the mood to deal with the bunch of irritating people at the company.

Aubree had come to Sonya hoping Sonya would talk to Lucian immediately just as she always did whenever Aubree shed a few tears. Yet Aubree's trip proved to be fruitless when Sonya simply said she would discuss the matter with Lucian only when he had blown off some steam.

What she had promised to do was just not enough because, by the time Lucian cooled down, the news about him calling off the engagement would be made public.

That can never happen!

Resentment burned in Aubree's heart.

Roxanne Jarvis! It's all your fault! Ever since you came back, all Lucian and Essie can think about is you! I don't care if Essie wants to stay with you, but you can't have Lucian too! I will not let him take your side!

Her current predicament reminded her of how things were six years ago. Back then, Lucian would give Roxanne the cold shoulder because of her, but things had taken a one-hundred-and-eighty degree change after Roxanne returned. It was as if they had switched positions.

D\*mn it! Something must have happened over the past six years.

Just as Aubree was caught in a bout of anger, Gina called, and Aubree picked up with a straight face.

"How did it go? Did you talk to Mrs. Farwell?" Gina asked the moment the call got through.

Aubree's face fell. "Yeah. I talked to her, but it didn't make any difference. I'd rather take things in my own hand!"

"Oh, what are you thinking of doing? It seems to me that Lucian has his mind fixed on marrying that woman. I don't think there's anything we can do to change that," Gina answered, slightly surprised by what her daughter said.

True. Aubree gritted her teeth.

There's nothing I can do if he's hellbent on marrying her. Pearson Group is nothing compared to Farwell Group. We're nothing but a small grasshopper compared to them. I don't have what it takes to change his mind.

"Well, since Essie is the reason why Lucian wants to end the engagement, why not we start with that girl?" Gina suggested.

Aubree suddenly had a stroke of genius when her mother gave such a brilliant suggestion.

"Aubree?" Gina was still waiting for an answer.

Aubree snapped back and quickly replied, "We'll talk after I reach home. Bye."

Then she hung up the phone and turned to Charles. "Go to the office and get someone to run a check on Roxanne Jarvis. I want a detailed account of what she's been up to in the past few years. Also, I want to know who the father of her two sons is."

What Gina had just said reminded Aubree that she actually knew so little about the two boys. She did not even know who their father was.

I bet Lucian doesn't know either. Roxanne would not have time to think about Lucian if I were to bring that man back from abroad. Likewise, Lucian will be disgusted by her when he finds out that she's already been taken by another man. Ha, Roxanne Jarvis! You're not getting Lucian if I'm not.

When Charles saw how Aubree's face contorted with malice, he said hastily, "Understood."

## Chapter 297 One Good Thing After Another

Unbeknownst to Roxanne, Aubree had begun to plot against her. She was too occupied with the research she had to do.

Her busyness was not entirely an excuse to send Estella home.

If the children had not insisted that she took a day off because of her injured wrist, she would not have taken a break from her research work.

Early the next morning, Roxanne was awakened by a call from her teammate. After a brief conversation, she rushed over to the research institute without even having the time to have a bite of breakfast.

The beginning and end phases of a research project were usually the hardest parts. At the start of the project, Roxanne had dedicated so much time to it that she would spend days at the research facility. Since they were then at the final stage of the project, things were picking up again.

Colby, who was still assisting Roxanne on the project, was alarmed when he saw the injury on her wrist while they were conducting an experiment. "Dr. Jarvis... Your hand..."

Roxanne was so engrossed in her work she had forgotten about her injury. It was not until she trailed Colby's gaze that she was reminded of it, and she smiled faintly, saying, "It's no big deal. It's just a scratch from an activity at my kids' kindergarten."

Colby was relieved to hear that it was not anything major. But still, he took over most parts of the experiment that he thought would be too physically demanding for Roxanne while she stood aside and gave him verbal instructions.

Their team dynamic was good, and they went on to carry out experiments for almost a week until they finally achieved the results they wanted.

The whole group in the lab was boisterous, and Roxanne was unequivocally glad that they got the results they intended.

Although she was already a practitioner of her own when she was abroad, most of the projects she participated in were under her professor. She was just a nominal independent researcher most of the time, but things were different this time.

That was the first ever research that she had directed on her own.

"Are you free tonight, Dr. Jarvis?" Colby inquired with a big smile as he walked toward her from the research facility.

The hesitation and the wariness in Roxanne's eyes when she heard the question elicited a laugh on Colby's face.

"What's with that look? I bet you forgot that you promised you'll treat all of us to a celebratory meal if the experiment goes well. Everyone is waiting for you to fulfill that promise," he teased.

A smile broke out on Roxanne's face. "Ah, all right. I'm sorry. I forgot about it. Tell everyone to meet at The Waterfront at eight tonight, then."

Colby nodded and went back into the research facility after that.

Not long after he entered, a burst of cheer came from the inside.

It seemed that everyone was overjoyed.

To them, that was a day worth celebrating because one good thing happened after another. First, they scored a major breakthrough when they completed such a formidable project. Second, Roxanne had agreed to treat everyone to a celebration feast.

After Roxanne went back to her office, she asked her assistant to make a reservation for a private dining room at The Waterfront before calling Madilyn to request her help to take care of Archie and Benny that night.

Roxanne had promised the two boys the night before that she would go and pick them up after the project ended. They were elated and even mentioned Estella when they heard the news.

Roxanne suddenly felt a pang of guilt in her heart the moment she was reminded of the girl.

She was certain that her sons must have informed Estella of her return that night. She's gonna be heartbroken now that I can't go home tonight.

"By the way, Maddy, help me say sorry to Estella if you see her tonight. Tell her I still have something to do over here," Roxanne added when she thought of the girl.



Madilyn was clueless about why Roxanne wanted to apologize, but she just agreed with a smile without probing further.

## Chapter 298 Let Me Send You Home

At eight that night, Roxanne and everyone from the research institute went to The Waterfront together.

After they were seated in the private room, they proposed a toast to Roxanne.

"Dr. Jarvis is a valuable addition to our research institute. Not only did she solve a huge medicinal problem, but she also initiated many projects. We are where we are today because of her!"

"I can't agree more. To be honest, I thought we would not be able to see this project through, yet we survived thanks to her caliber and courage. She's both a charming and a capable person!" Roxanne smiled widely at the compliments. She rose to her feet and looked at them.

"Thank you. I'm just doing my part. Thank you for believing in me and cooperating as a team."

When she first returned to the country, she was mostly unaware of the situation in the local research field. In fact, she had braced herself for the worst. She did not expect researchers to be that friendly and that everything would turn out so smoothly.

"Well, your fame precedes you, Dr. Jarvis. Dr. Galloway said a lot of good things about you before you came, and we were all impressed. Everything he said about you proved to be true in the end when we finally got to meet you," one of the teammates replied.

Colby's expression changed when he heard that, but he quickly composed himself and feigned nonchalance, raising his glass to Roxanne. "I was simply saying the truth." With that said, he lifted his glass and finished everything in one go.

Roxanne felt Colby was not himself at that time, but because she could not pinpoint what was it that puzzled her, and since everyone was busy proposing a toast, the thought just slipped her mind.

Meanwhile, Colby had been glancing at her from the corner of his eyes. When he saw that she did not seem bothered by what had happened earlier, he heaved a sigh of relief.

It was true that he had feelings for Roxanne, yet he knew that she was way out of his league. He only wished to hide his feelings from her until the day he became a man worthy of protecting her. The clock almost struck ten when their gathering finally ended.

Everyone was in a positive mood after the meal because not only did they eat their fill, but they also had a great time with Roxanne.

As for Roxanne, because she had received toast after toast during dinner, she ended up feeling tipsy.

The alcohol made her swoon as she walked out of the private room.

"Let me send you back," Colby said worriedly, looking at her.

A mild pain spread in her head, and she frowned. "I'm good. You don't have to. All of you should just go home. It's late. Bye!"

Then she turned and walked toward the entrance without waiting for Colby's reply.

When she was out, she realized the sky was pouring, and many people from the hotel were stranded at the entrance waiting for the rain to stop.

Because Roxanne did not have an umbrella and she could not drive, she had no choice but to wait at the entrance together with everyone else while she looked for a driver.

Yet it seemed that everyone there was also looking to hire drivers, so Roxanne ended up waiting for a long time.

Just as she was contemplating canceling her request for a driver and asking Madilyn to pick her up, a familiar voice rang out from beside her.

"Mr. Farwell, it's raining outside. I have an umbrella, so I'll just wait for you at the hotel entrance." It was Cayden. He was standing not far away from Roxanne with a black umbrella in his hand as he spoke respectfully over the phone.

It so happened that he looked up when Roxanne turned toward him, and their eyes met. "Ms. Jarvis!" he greeted while he was still on the phone.

A brief silence came from the other end of the call.

Roxanne's face fell. She knew for sure that Lucian had heard that.

#### Chapter 299 Feeling Uneasy

Her change in color did not go unnoticed by Cayden, but the man could not understand the reason behind it. When he saw that Lucian had ended the call, he quickly walked over.

"Do you have an umbrella? Where's your car? I can send you home first before Mr. Farwell comes. He's going to take a while."

Cayden gestured to open the umbrella in his hand, but Roxanne stopped him.

"It's okay. Someone's picking me up."

Cayden nodded and just stood beside her quietly after that.

Seeing that the man was not going anywhere, Roxanne looked at the rain and hesitated as she distanced herself from him.

The rain is abating. I should go before he comes down.

"Mr. Farwell! I thought you-" Cayden exclaimed.

Just as she took the first step into the rain, Lucian was already behind her.

Although Roxanne did not know why Cayden did not finish his sentence, she was too nervous to turn around to check out what was happening.

When she felt cold air engulfing her, she fled into the rain without a second thought.

Suddenly, the rain stopped hitting her head. A black umbrella sheltered her, and a strong grip caught her hand, pulling her right back to the hotel entrance. "Are you crazy?" Lucian reprimanded.

He knew that Roxanne would try to avoid him when he was on the call with Cayden, so he said goodbye to his partners and left in a hurry.

As he expected, she was indeed trying to run away.

Lucian felt insulted when she would rather walk in the rain than spend time with him.

When Roxanne knew there was no getting away, she took a deep breath and looked up at him calmly.

"Hi, Mr. Farwell. What a coincidence."

Lucian did not know she was drunk at first, but the moment he smelled her breath, a frown appeared on his brows.

"Did you drink?"

"Yeah... I was having dinner with my colleagues."

"I'll send you home," Lucian said, his hand still holding hers.

Roxanne tried to break free, but she could not. A look of displeasure crept up her face. "No, thanks. Someone's coming for me. I can go back on my own. Let me go, Mr. Farwell. Please."

"Who are you waiting for? Your driver? I doubt you're getting one so soon, though," Lucian argued candidly, looking at the people around them.

Words eluded her, and she quickly thought of something else. "I called for one earlier. People are watching, Mr. Farwell. I don't want to cause a scene."

Lucian's face looked gloomier than before, and he let her go.

Roxanne nodded at him and walked into the rain.

Behind her, Lucian ran over in big steps with the umbrella tilting toward her.

"Your wound is not healed yet. Let me take you there!" he shouted in the rain.

Roxanne did not turn back but hastened her steps.

"Slowly! It's slippery," Lucian reminded at the back.

Even though Roxanne had an umbrella over her, she was still shivering in the rain because it was pouring cats and dogs. Her thin clothing was not enough to keep her warm. Besides, because Lucian was just right behind her, she kept telling herself to walk faster. "Well, I'll walk slowly if you stop following me," she said.

Behind her, the man's footsteps gradually came to a complete halt.

Without his umbrella, the rain pounded on Roxanne's body mercilessly as she dragged herself to the parking lot. She then sat in the back seat of her own car and waited for the driver.

Her mind was a mess. She wondered if God was playing a prank on her. The more she wanted to avoid Lucian, the more she ran into him.

Most importantly, the way he treated her made her feel uneasy.

### Chapter 300 Mommy Is Down With A Fever

When Roxanne finally got home, Madilyn had already brought Archie and Benny home, and the two kids were playing in the living room.

Seeing that Roxanne was drenched, they ran over with worry written all over their faces. "Mommy! Did you walk in the rain?"

Roxanne was exhausted, but she still patted them on their heads and replied, "I forgot my umbrella, so I got wet when I was running over to my car. I'll be okay."

After asking Lysa to tend to the children, Roxanne went upstairs to take a shower and changed into a new set of clothes.

Then, she came back down again to play with the boys before hitting the hay herself.

Since she had overextended herself in the past two days, Roxanne felt completely drained when she finally lay on her bed. She fell asleep right away, but in the middle of the night, she was awakened by a fever.

In a daze, she got out of bed to pour herself a glass of water, but her legs gave way the moment she stood up, and she fell right back onto the mattress.

A frown appeared on her brows as she slowly regained consciousness. I think I'm running a fever...

Since it was already midnight, she did not want to wake anyone up. I'll just sleep it off. It'll get better tomorrow.

With that thought, she fell back into a slumber.

When morning came, Archie and Benny rose early because they felt excited.

Lysa and Madilyn had been sending them to school because Roxanne had been busy for the past few days. When Roxanne was finally home again, they looked forward to her bringing them to school. However, they were disappointed when she did not appear even after breakfast.

Seeing that they were almost running late, they ran upstairs and knocked on her door, but no one answered.

The children ran back downstairs to call for Lysa. "Ms. Lane, Mommy is not responding to us. Could you come and have a look?"

Lysa was frightened when she heard that, so she quickly made her way up and opened the door with a key.

Once she opened it, Archie and Benny rushed into the room only to see Roxanne lying weakly in her bed.

Her eyes were shut, her cheeks were hot and red, and her lips were parched. It was obvious she was down with a high fever.

"Mommy!" the kids cried out. When Roxanne still did not respond, Lysa went forward.

She touched Roxanne's forehead, and her face darkened.

This is way worse than the last time she was sick. What should I do now? It doesn't seem like she will wake up anytime soon, and we can't send her to the hospital either... Lysa was on pins and needles.

When Archie saw this, he took a quick glance at the clock and said to Lysa, "Ms. Lane, could you help Benny and me apply for a leave of absence today? We'll take care of Mommy at home." Lysa nodded immediately and went to make a call to Pippa. Then she took a wet towel and put it on Roxanne's forehead to help cool her down.

As for the boys, they stayed by their mother's side for a long time until she finally came back to her senses.

Roxanne felt that she had fallen into a deep, deep sleep. She could not wake herself up although she wanted to. It was the voices of her children that eventually plucked her out of her reverie. "Mommy!" the children cried out and went closer to her the instant they saw her moving.

Roxanne was stunned at first, but she gradually registered her surroundings and wanted to sit up. "Sorry, I didn't mean to sleep in."

She was still thinking about sending Archie and Benny to school when the children pushed her back into bed.

"Mommy, you're sick. We've already asked for leave to stay at home to look after you today," they said in all seriousness.

It was only then that Roxanne realized how sick she was.

Roxanne felt touched that the children cared so much for her.