

ABANDONED 311

Chapter 311 Come Out And Apologize

Slowly, the car stopped in the parking lot near the commercial area.

Aubree held Sonya's arm closely as they left the parking lot.

While shopping around, Aubree didn't mention Lucian at all. It was as if she had let go of their marriage.

It was already nearing noon when they came out of the shopping mall with many bags in their hands.

"I booked a table at a restaurant with good reviews on the internet. I think you'll like it," Aubree proposed smilingly.

Although Sonya didn't verbally respond, Aubree took it as an affirmation.

Since the restaurant wasn't around the commercial area, they headed toward the parking lot to get their car.

Shockingly, a car emerged and sped toward them as soon as they arrived at the parking lot entrance.

They were startled for a while and quickly stepped aside to make way.

Initially, they thought the car would leave the parking lot in seconds. However, before they could steady themselves, the car turned around and sped toward them.

As they had retreated to a corner, they had no way to avoid it.

Sonya was traumatized, and the bags fell from her hands to the floor.

Meanwhile, Aubree also gaped in shock.

Sonya instinctively closed her eyes as the car sped toward them at lightning speed.

Suddenly, Aubree's cracked voice rang in her ears. "Mrs. Farwell, watch out!"

The next moment, Aubree grabbed her arm and pushed her away.

Sonya didn't have time to react to it and stumbled a few steps before she steadied herself.

Her mind had gone blank, and thus she couldn't process what had happened earlier.

When someone shrieked in pain, she finally came to her senses and opened her eyes.

The car barely screeched to a halt and had already turned sideways.

Beside the car, the pale-faced Aubree lay on the floor with a hand on her shoulder. One could tell that she likely suffered great pain.

"Aubree!" Sonya hastily came up to Aubree to check up on her. "Does it hurt? I'll call an ambulance now!"

With a grim expression, Aubree smiled at Sonya and replied, "I'm relieved because you're fine. Anyway, there's no need to call an ambulance. I think... my injury isn't serious. Don't worry." With that, Aubree held Sonya's arm to try to get up.

Nonetheless, she didn't realize she couldn't move her injured arm. She collapsed once she wanted to stand up, and her face turned paler.

Sonya carefully helped her up. Looking at her injured arm, Sonya said heartbreakingly, "I think your bone might be broken. Alas, it all happened because of me. The car wouldn't have hit you if you didn't save me."

Holding her injured arm, Aubree almost couldn't speak due to the pain. Then, she glanced sideways at the car and mustered up her energy to ask, "Hey, you've hit someone. Why haven't you come out and apologize?"

Since the parking lot was quiet, her weak voice echoed throughout the area.

Sonya came to her senses once Aubree finished and gazed at the driver's seat. Just as she wanted to say something, the driver slowly started the car.

Instantly, a glint of fear flashed across her face.

However, the car turned around, sped toward the entrance of the parking lot to flee the scene, and disappeared before Sonya could react to it.

When Sonya wanted to call the police, Aubree held the former's arm and murmured, "Mrs. Farwell, is my arm broken?"

Aubree's eyes were bloodshot, probably because she was in pain.

Therefore, Sonya ignored the hit-and-run driver and supported Aubree into the car to drive her to the hospital.

Chapter 312 Pack Your Things

When they were on the way to the hospital, Sonya quickly called Lucian.

Soon, Lucian answered the phone and asked, "Mom, did something come up?"

"Please contact the hospital for me. We almost got into a serious car accident just now. Aubree's arm got injured when she saved me."

Lucian agreed to it right away.

After that, Sonya called Gina and Samuel to inform them about what happened to Aubree.

They nervously asked her for the hospital's name before ending the call.

Lucian was always efficient. A doctor was already waiting at the entrance when Sonya and Aubree arrived at the hospital.

"Mrs. Farwell, Ms. Pearson, please come with me." After briefly checking up on Aubree's injury, the doctor led them to his department upstairs.

With a pale face, Aubree supported her arm for the doctor to examine.

Despite the pain, she thought it was worth it because she did it for Sonya.

After all, Sonya's feelings of guilt and gratitude were written all over her face.

After the incident that day, Aubree believed Sonya would unconditionally side with her.

During the check-up, Lucian, Gina, and Samuel also arrived.

"Mom, are you all right?" Lucian scanned Sonya from head to toe as soon as he saw her standing near the door.

Sonya still felt unsettled and worried about Aubree. With a gloomy look, she shook her head and replied, "Since Aubree pushed me away, I'm safe. However, Aubree got injured."

Once Sonya finished, Aubree's grumbling was heard, probably because the doctor touched her wound during the check-up.

Sonya couldn't help but feel heartbroken as if she was experiencing the pain.

Meanwhile, Gina and Samuel were like cats on a hot tin roof because they hadn't seen their daughter. Upon hearing Aubree's grumble, Gina couldn't help but ask Sonya, "What happened?"

Sonya's face looked gloomier once she recalled the incident in the parking lot. "When Aubree and I were walking to the parking lot, a car seemingly lost control and was about to hit us. Aubree managed to push me away but was hit by it."

Before Gina and Samuel wanted to dwell on it, Lucian interrupted, "Where is the driver?"

Sonya frowned and replied, "He fled the scene."

Everyone was shocked to hear that.

Feeling furious, Gina stood at the door with her hands on her waist. "How could the driver run away after hitting someone? Did you report it to the police? He must be arrested and punished!" To her surprise, Sonya shook her head in embarrassment.

She was too occupied with admitting Aubree to the hospital and didn't have time to report to the police.

In the meantime, Lucian frowned and glanced at Gina and Samuel with a glint of suspicion.

He could tell that they knew nothing about the incident. Besides, Gina was infuriated and yelled that the authorities had to arrest the driver.

After a while, Lucian looked away and said in a deep voice, "Leave it to me. No worries."

Whether the driver did it intentionally or not, he would not let him off the hook.

Then, Lucian nodded at the elders and walked to a corner to call Cayden. After asking him to report the incident to the police, Lucian also instructed him to get some men to investigate it. Cayden agreed to do it without hesitation.

Aubree's check-up had completed after Lucian finished assigning everything.

As soon as the doctor asked them to come in, Gina and Samuel rushed into the room, followed by Sonya.

Lucian leisurely followed them while having doubts about the incident.

Deep down, he couldn't help but think it was too much of a coincidence.

Chapter 313 Do Not Mind It

Upon entering the consultation room, Lucian saw Aubree's exposed shoulder, along with a bandage around her shoulder.

Gina and Sonya were standing next to Aubree, staring at the doctor. "Doctor, how's Aubree's injury? Is it serious?"

The doctor took a glance at Lucian, who had just arrived at the door. Then, he turned back to explain to the ladies. "Apart from fracturing a bone in her arm, Ms. Pearson is all right. She just needs to rest for a period of time and let it heal. By the way, there's quite a bit of abrasion on her shoulder, and some wounds are slightly deep. I'm afraid some scars will remain on the affected area."

Everyone was stunned at his words.

Gina was the first to recollect herself. She hung her head low and gazed at her daughter's bandaged shoulder in disbelief. "Is the injured area big?"

The doctor nodded.

Aubree, on the other hand, sat quietly on the chair. Despite her unfazed expression, she was filled with frustration.

She indeed had intended to put on a ruse to garner sympathy. Never in a million years would she have thought that a severe mishap would befall her.

During the check-up, the doctor had already informed her about it. She also witnessed her open wounds before they were swathed in gauze. It was a downright ghastly sight!

With things having come to this, there was no way she could turn back time and change the outcome.

The only thing Aubree regretted was letting the doctor cover up her wounds too fast. She was hoping that Sonya could see the lacerations suffered with her own eyes. This was so that Sonya would feel extremely terrible about it.

Although Sonya did not get to see Aubree's wounds, she was stricken with guilt when she heard what the doctor said. "Don't you have a way to ensure that no scars are left behind? Please do so, regardless of the cost."

The doctor was put in a difficult spot. "Actually, there's one solution. However, it may require Ms. Pearson to bear some hardships."

"What is it?" Gina asked hastily.

"Ms. Pearson can consider going through a skin transplant surgery once her wounds are healed. I can refer you to a hospital that guarantees a perfect outcome," the doctor suggested.

Gina sulked when she heard that. "What's the point? The surgery will only cover up the scars. What about the areas where the skin is replaced? Won't there be scars too? My daughter was perfectly well until this happened, leaving so many scars on her body-"

Aubree's brows snapped together upon noticing that her mother got all worked up and started to argue with the doctor. Hence, she cut Gina off, "It's okay, Mom. It's just a few scars. Anyway, they aren't located on my face. I'll just have to wear clothes with sleeves more often. It's not a big deal."

Thereafter, Aubree's gaze swept across Sonya's face.

The latter's guilt turned more and more intense as she realized how understanding Aubree was. "Aubree got hurt because she wanted to save me. Don't you worry; I'll bear all the consequences."

It suddenly dawned on Gina that Aubree had a hidden agenda. Immediately, she played along by putting on a sorrowful expression and lamented, "I'm not too worried about the scars. What bothers me the most is how other people will view Aubree. She's not getting any younger. With those scars on her body... Will she be able to get married? Will her future partner accept her?" Gina's eyes gradually turned red as she got emotional.

At that moment, Aubree was relieved. She pretended to comfort her mother. "Don't worry, Mom. I believe that the person who truly loves me won't mind these scars. It's just like..."

Then, Aubree instinctively glanced at Sonya and displayed a dejected expression.

Even though she did not finish her sentence, the others knew exactly what she wanted to say.

It's just like my unrequited love for Lucian over the years. I don't mind that he has never paid any attention to me.

Sonya was moved to tears. She turned and stared at her son. Then, she said to him earnestly, "I caused Aubree to get injured. During her recovery, you ought to take good care of her on my behalf in order to repay Aubree for her kindness."

Chapter 315 That Was Not What I Meant

When he was done with all the paperwork, Lucian strode toward the ward.

He received a call from Cayden the moment he was about to open the door.

So, he stopped in his tracks and answered, "What is it? Is the driver caught?"

With a grim expression, Cayden reported some updates. "Mr. Farwell, we've checked all the footage from nearby surveillance cameras, but to no avail. That driver hid very well. We have a hard time trying to identify his face. We caught a few suspects, but we couldn't put the finger on anyone."

Lucian's eyes dimmed when he heard that. "What about the police?"

According to Mom, the incident happened right under the noses of the public. How is it possible that they have no clue about the culprit?

Cayden said solemnly, "It's the same with the police. A few suspects have been arrested for further interrogation. Anyhow, I don't think it's any of them."

"I see. Keep investigating," Lucian uttered briefly, to which Cayden obeyed hastily.

After hanging up, Lucian had a serious look on his face.

The incident happened in public, and yet no one is able to catch the culprit red-handed. If what Cayden said was true, the person must have orchestrated the plan extremely well in order to keep it under wraps. Then, something fishy must be going on behind the scenes.

Just as he was in deep thought, the door to the ward opened, and Sonya walked out of the room. She complained the moment she saw him standing outside, "What took you so long? I came out to look for you. Hurry up and get inside."

Lucian gathered his thoughts and followed his mother into the room.

Aubree was resting on the bed with the Walkers couple by her side.

Her injuries were undoubtedly quite severe. Though they had been treated and bandaged, she was still suffering from throbbing pain to the point where her face turned pale.

She had been leading a life of luxury and never experienced any serious injuries.

This time, she truly had given her all to obtain the ultimate trust from Sonya.

When Lucian walked in, Aubree dismissed her thoughts and plastered a faint smile on her face. "You're back, Lucian."

Lucian looked at her and nodded.

Right before Aubree could say anything, he queried, "Did you see the face of the driver who hit you?"

Aubree was startled by his question. She tried to stay calm and answer casually, "Mrs. Farwell and I were panic-stricken at that time. All we could think of was to protect ourselves first. There was no time for us to take a look at the driver."

While speaking, her face turned ghastly as if she had recalled a terrifying memory.

Sonya chimed in, "Yes, everything happened so quickly. We were scared to death! Who would be bothered to check the driver out at that critical moment? By the time we gathered ourselves, he had already sped off."

Lucian nodded.

He was just trying his luck despite knowing that he could hardly get any useful information from the duo.

"Are you suspecting me as the mastermind who put up this show?" Aubree asked in a contemptuous tone while gazing at him, feeling aggrieved.

Without waiting for a response from Lucian, Sonya turned sullen and reprimanded her son, "Do you even know how dangerous it was? Is Aubree out of her mind to bring this upon herself? Moreover, she was the one who thought about asking the driver to get out of his car to apologize. If she was behind all these, why would she want the driver to expose his face?"

Lucian could not help feeling a headache coming. "Don't get all stressed out. That's not what I meant. I was just asking."

Sonya felt very strongly about Aubree being misunderstood. She continued, "You can doubt and accuse me of what had happened. However, you cannot make any dubious assumption about Aubree!" After personally experiencing a scary episode, Sonya had complete trust in Aubree.

Lucian nodded indifferently. Yet, his gut feeling was telling him that something felt very off.

Chapter 316 Troublesome

Sonya and the others continued to keep Aubree company in the ward.

Aubree was actually tired of her presence. She only used Sonya to get close to Lucian. Now that the man had agreed to stay back for her, she started getting impatient that the seniors kept lingering around in the room, having no intention to leave. Despite so, she still put on a pleasant expression, pretending to be a goody two shoes.

"Aubree, you're the patient. Therefore, you should just stay in bed these two days and get Lucian to run errands for you."

Sonya stroked the cast on Aubree's arm.

She had enough of Sonya's never-ending words of concern. With a fake smile, she replied, "Thanks for the thoughts, Mrs. Farwell. I'll take note of it, but..."

Aubree unintentionally swept her glance across the man at the door. Then, she bit her lip and muttered pitifully, "I'm already very thankful that Lucian is here with me. I can't trouble him any more than this."

Sonya scanned the room for his son, only to realize that he was still standing far away from Aubree. Fuming, she lashed out at him, "Why are you standing at the corner? Aubree is a girl, and girls can be shy at times. Bear this in mind when you take care of her these few days. Be more proactive. Don't make a girl open her mouth to ask for help."

Lucian merely frowned without saying a word.

Seeing so, Aubree put on a sad face and tried to speak up for Lucian. "Mrs. Farwell, Lucian is always very busy at work. After knocking off, he should enjoy his free time and get some rest. Please don't insist that he come over. I can take care of myself. You don't have to worry about me."

Sonya's expression lightened up a little when she saw how understanding Aubree was.

Moments later, the latter seemed to feel uncomfortable after lying down for some time. She instinctively lifted her arm and tried to prop herself up, forgetting completely that her arm was in a cast. The second she exerted force, she gasped in pain.

"Be careful, Aubree!" Gina noticed her daughter's action and rushed over to assist her. Her heart ached upon seeing so.

"I'm fine, Mom. I'm just not used to the cast. See, I can prop myself up with only one arm. It just takes time to adjust." Aubree smiled and consoled her mother. Subsequently, she caressed her broken arm. Her eyes constantly darted on Sonya, who was already very much moved by her sensibility.

Now that Sonya saw how inconvenient Aubree's movement was, her heart wrenched even more. "Don't try to act strong in front of me. Just let Lucian take care of you, okay? He has said yes, anyway. You don't need to feel sorry about it. I bet you'll feel bored at the hospital, so I'll visit you whenever I'm free."

Aubree was pleasantly surprised at how Sonya was doting on her. She stole a quick glance at Lucian to check on his response.

Lucian knew his mother's temperament very well. Regardless of what he would say, she had already made up her mind to make him stay at the hospital to care for Aubree. Hence, he did not want to waste time arguing with Sonya and concluded the matter with what she wanted to hear. "I'm not swamped with work these few days, so I can come over. After all, you were hurt because of my mother. I should do my part to thank you."

Sonya was pleased with his answer. "See, Lucian has said so. So don't make excuses anymore."

Aubree grinned and said earnestly, "Thank you."

Despite her words, she knew better.

Although Lucian verbally agreed to stay with me in the ward, he did emphasize that he obliged because I saved his mother. In other words, I've got nothing to do with him. Does he really want to keep a distance from me so badly?

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Chapter 317 Stepping Into The Farwell Family

"Speaking of which, it just so happened that Aubree and I have yet to have our lunch. Go and ask someone to order some food." Sonya glanced at her son.

Lucian observed his mother's expression and realized she had something to say, something that she didn't want him listening to. Instead of pointing it out, he nodded and left the ward. Once the door was closed, Sonya held Aubree's hand.

Aubree was a bit confused. "What's the meaning of this, Mrs. Farwell?"

She didn't understand why Sonya sent Lucian away first instead of just speaking her mind. Did... Did she realize all of this was just a trick?

When she thought about that, she panicked a little as her smile became more forced.

"Now that Lucian has left, I will speak directly to you about some matters." Sonya's tone sounded much more casual.

Aubree nodded obediently. "Go ahead."

"You can probably understand what I'm trying to do. It's not that it has to be Lucian who takes care of you. Even a nurse can do a better job than him. I asked him to take care of you because I want you two to use the opportunity to resolve any misunderstandings between you two. After all, both of you were in love for years, and he isn't a cold-hearted person."

Upon hearing that, Aubree was stunned for a second before taking a deep breath and smiling. "I know. Thank you for your kindness, Mrs. Farwell. I'll use this opportunity to do so."

Sonya nodded. "However... Lucian grew up in a life of luxury, so he may not know how to care for someone that well. Therefore, it may be difficult for you during this period." In response, Aubree shook her head and smiled at Sonya. "I don't think it'll be difficult since I'm easy to take care of. As long as I can

stay with Lucian, I'll be very happy." She didn't need Lucian to take very good care of her. I just need him to stop meeting that b*tch!

Sonya didn't know what Aubree was thinking, which was why she was touched by how much the younger woman loved her son. "Good girl. Aside from you, I don't know who else deserves the position of Mrs. Farwell in the future."

"You flatter me, Mrs. Farwell." Aubree lowered her eyes shyly. "I just hope that Lucian won't resent me because of those misunderstandings. As for other things... I don't have the nerve to think about it." Sonya sighed. What a good girl. Why can't my son see this? Why does he only think about that Roxanne? Thankfully, I'm still around. I'll never let that woman step into the Farwell family!

It was as though a storm was brewing in Aubree's heart as she lowered her head. It seems like Sonya has made her decision about who's going to be her daughter-in-law. With Lucian trapped by my side, there's no way he'll have time to meet with that b*tch. If Charles and the others work harder, we'll be able to figure out the biological father of those bastard children. If that happens, Roxanne will be doomed! Both women were about to speak to each other further when they heard a set of footsteps outside of the ward.

Sonya cleared her throat, adjusted her mood, and asked about Aubree's injury.

Aubree played along as well.

It was pretty obvious to Lucian what happened between the two of them soon after he entered the ward and glanced at them.

Clearly, they spoke of something else when he left.

However, because they didn't want him to know, he wasn't going to question them about it either. He strolled to the side of the bed and put the lunchbox on the table.

Chapter 318 Consideration

As though she was fulfilling what she said before, after Sonya ate lunch, she left.

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"I'm feeling a little tired, so I'll return to rest now. Lucian will stay and take care of you." Then she turned to her son. "The company shouldn't have any important matters during this period." Lucian nodded indifferently.

"I'll leave Aubree in your care. Take good care of her." She further reminded him of Aubree's condition again before leaving.

Seeing Sonya leaving, Gina and her husband left as well.

The only people left in the ward were Aubree and Lucian.

The atmosphere was awkward.

Aubree dug her nails into her palm as displeasure filled her heart.

It was because Lucian treated her more coldly than he did in the past. He didn't even want to look at her.

It's all because of that b*tch! She disrupted my years' worth of work and caused Lucian and me to grow apart!

Then, as she tried to find things to talk about, his voice entered her ears.

"If you need anything, just call me. I'll stay outside." He glanced at her coldly and prepared to spend time on the couch outside.

Because of his mother's order, he transferred Aubree to the best ward in the hospital. There were two rooms in the ward. The one inside was where the patient was staying in. It had a bed, a drawer, and a few chairs for the patient's visiting family members to sit on. Plenty of electrical appliances and ornaments were found inside the room. The decorations gave the room a cozy feeling. There was a couch and a long table outside that room. It looked more like a living room, and it was decorated as though it was a hotel room.

While there would be a wall separating Lucian and Aubree if he went outside, it wouldn't hinder his ability to take care of her.

However, from Aubree's perspective, she thought he simply didn't want to look at her any longer.

Realizing that, displeasure flashed across her eyes. She put on a pitiful facade and called for Lucian-who had already arrived at the exit-in a small volume, "Are you still blaming me, Lucian..." He stopped and turned back to glance at her indifferently.

Upon meeting his line of sight, she bit her lip, lowered her head, and apologized, "I really did do everything I could for Essie. If there was something she wanted, and I could give it to her, I did my best to do so. Yet Essie still disliked me for reasons I still don't know."

When she finished, she looked at him self-deprecatingly. "Additionally, problems kept popping up lately. Even though the past six years had been relatively peaceful, for some reason, trouble kept finding Essie because of me. I've reflected on my actions, and I realize I haven't been patient enough with her. It's my fault. If you blame me, I won't retort it either. And if you want to cancel the engagement, I have no reason to change your mind. I hope you won't treat me this coldly for the sake of our years of friendship."

She said all that with a genuine tone. Lucian's eyes darkened as he listened to her words with furrowed eyebrows.

As she saw his attitude mellowing, Aubree's expression became even more sincere. "After all, we've been friends for many years. Even if we can't become husband and wife, I still don't want to lose you as a friend. If Essie doesn't like me, then I won't visit her as often. I just hope you'll treat me like how you did before since I've never mistreated you..."

Silence filled the room when she finished.

She stared at him carefully.

Moments later, Lucian spoke. "I'll think about it."

In the end, he still chose to sit outside.

Chapter 319 Cold

Because of Sonya's order, Lucian spent his time in Aubree's ward after he got off work for the next few days.

As for Sonya herself, she visited Aubree on time every day. Although, it would be more appropriate to say she was there to check if Lucian was taking care of Aubree.

"How is he taking care of you?" Sonya asked with a caring smile since Lucian was still at work.

Aubree lowered her eyes shyly. "Quite well."

Seeing her like that made Sonya relax. Sonya comforted, "I told you that Lucian isn't a cold-hearted person. Both of you share a relationship that has lasted for years, after all. He'll always see you." Aubree pursed her lips and smiled, though she felt a pang of irony in her heart.

Lucian's attitude toward her did change for the better, but it was only because she said she hoped they could both still be friends.

And so, he treated her as nothing more than a normal friend.

However, she wasn't satisfied with that.

What she really wanted was to be his wife.

On the other side, Roxanne's job at the research institute had been going smoothly.

As the collaboration had been underway for quite a while, the research institute staff were eventually able to keep up with her pace. Additionally, with Colby's help, work was no longer as busy as it initially was. It was the morning during the weekend. Archie and Benny played with Lego bricks after breakfast.

Their mother was sick not too long ago, and every time they played with Lego bricks, they would think about their little sister. So, they weren't very enthusiastic while playing with those bricks. The model that they had finished halfway through still hadn't been completed yet.

Currently, they were sitting on the carpet. The speed at which they were playing with Lego bricks was a lot slower.

Roxanne sat on the couch and stared at the children. She could see that they weren't energetic, and she could guess why, but she didn't know how to comfort them.

There was no way she could get back with Lucian. If his future wife isn't Aubree, maybe I wouldn't have needed to distance myself from Essie. However, that person just has to be Aubree, and I can tell how much she detests me. I've always said that children are innocent, yet their relationship has been affected by the matters of us adults. I can't help but feel guilty about this. Hmm, now that I think about it, I hadn't brought them to play outside ever since I came back here, aside from the times when they asked me to do it.

When her train of thought ended there, she managed to come up with a remedy and approached the children. "How about we play outside today, Darlings?"

Archie and Benny put down the Lego bricks in their hands and turned to their mother with sparkling, eager eyes. "Where to?"

Seeing how excited they were, Roxanne felt as though she had been healed.

However, she just thought of the idea, so she had no clue where to bring them to.

After checking the internet with her phone, she noticed there was a swimming pool nearby, so she suggested, "How about we go swimming? It's been a long while since you two went swimming."

It was a popular activity overseas. Additionally, she was worried their bodies might get weak, so she had already sent them to swimming lessons before. In fact, she would often take them to practice strengthening their bodies.

The boys hesitated. "You just recovered not too long ago, Mommy. What if you catch a cold?"

They were really worried about their mother after she fell ill twice.

Chapter 320 Children

Roxanne didn't know her falling ill affected Archie and Benny that much. For a few moments, she was at a loss for words. Thinking back, these two have been with me ever since they were born. In their eyes, I'm probably a superhero who always takes care of them and protects them. They had never seen me being that sick twice before. I suppose it's only natural that they are spooked.

The silence lasted for a while before she patted their heads with a complicated feeling. "I'm glad you two are concerned about me. Since both of you are afraid I'll catch a cold, I can just stay on land and watch you swim."

The boys glanced at each other, hesitated for a few seconds, and nodded obediently.

Roxanne smiled with relief. After she packed things up with the children, they went to the swimming pool by car.

Thinking that they might visit often, she registered to be a member there.

It was a swimming pool in the mansion district, so the environment inside was serene. The area was pretty big, too.

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Because it was the weekend, there were a lot of people inside. Nevertheless, it wasn't overly cramped, and the pool water was so clean that one could see the bottom.

The pool was split into two areas, the adult area and the children's area. Archie and Benny were pretty skilled at swimming, and there wasn't that kind of distinction overseas, so she let the boys swim with the adults.

The crowd's attention was immediately drawn to the two cute children swimming in the pool.

They were amazed by how well the boys could swim.

Roxanne sat at the side, eating snacks and drinking. She kept her eyes on the children as she snacked.

While she didn't plan to swim, she was at a swimming pool, so she still changed into a swimsuit. It wasn't very revealing, but it definitely did show her figure well.

She sat cross-legged, relaxed. A smile was seen on her face as she watched her boys swimming in the pool.

Her focus was placed entirely on the children. Suddenly, the voice of a greasy man entered her ears. "Hello, gorgeous. May I ask what's your name?"

When Roxanne returned to her senses, she subconsciously studied the man.

The man only wore a pair of swimming pants. He had an acceptable figure, but his expression was unsettling.

Sensing Roxanne's line of sight, the man narcissistically posed in different ways and introduced himself, "I'm the fitness instructor of a nearby gym. If you're interested, I can teach you a thing or two." She smiled distantly. "Thanks, but I'm not interested."

The man stared at her white, slender legs greedily and stubbornly continued, "If you're not interested in fitness, there's something else—"All rights © NôvelDrama.Org.

Before he could finish, a child's voice rang in his ears.

"Leave my mommy alone!"

When the boys saw a man suddenly standing next to their mother, they immediately got out of the swimming pool and ran toward her. Then they glared fiercely at the man, who was much taller and stronger than them.

The man's expression changed upon seeing the children. "You have children?"

Roxanne instinctively protected Archie and Benny, yet they insisted on standing in front of her.

The man studied the children for a while before staring at her again. "I don't mind that. Well, if you're interested..."

Her eyebrows furrowed when she heard that.