

ABANDONED 381

Chapter 381

After Roxanne put her phone to the side, she proceeded to read the details about the research institute's recent use of herbs, and her head throbbed.

To be honest, she had already planned it all the night before; she was going to ask for a favor from Jonathan to introduce her to a few herb suppliers.

However, Queen Group had given them benefits earlier in the day. If Roxanne asked for another favor, it would seem as if she was greedy. As a matter of fact, she hesitated for a long while earlier in the call and ended up not saying anything about that to Jonathan.

Thus, she had no choice but to contact her seniors who she had met at the medical conference the other time.

Roxanne wondered if they still remembered her.

As the day before had been tiring, and as she had not gotten a good night's sleep the night before as well, Roxanne could not help but feel frustrated as she scrolled through her contact list.

Everything had been going smoothly at the research institute, and they had even completed several major projects under her lead.

However, in the blink of an eye, they had returned to step one. In fact, the situation was even worse than back then.

That was all thanks to Sonya.

At that, Roxanne could not help but feel fury.

I didn't do anything wrong, so why won't Sonya just let me go?

The intensity of that fury rose to its peak after Roxanne failed to get anyone to pick up the calls.

Furrowing her brows, she weakly massaged her temples. Once again, she was forced to acknowledge how weak and helpless she was.

Meanwhile, Frieda felt that she had been wronged. It was one thing for Alfred to berate her, but the elderly man even took back her power in Queen Group.

Even though Frieda had complained to Aubree about it, the more Frieda ruminated about the matter, the angrier she became. In the end, she barely slept that night.

The next morning after breakfast, Frieda rushed to Queen Group.

She dared not voice her protests to Alfred, but she certainly dared to convince her brother otherwise.

Just as Jonathan ended Roxanne's call, he heard a commotion outside.

"Ms. Queen, Mr. Queen is currently working. If you don't have an appointment-"

What is she doing here?

Jonathan rose to his feet as his head ached. Opening the office door, he said to his assistant, "You can leave first >>>

Then, he frowned at his sister before turning to walk back into his office in silence.

Frieda hurried after him. Upon entering his office, she sat down on the couch and began scanning the area.

Even though Jonathan had chided her the day before, he still doted on his sister. Despite the solemn look on his face, he poured a cup of coffee for her and sat down opposite her. In a patient voice, he asked, "So why are you here so early in the morning?"

Smiling, Frieda took the cup of coffee from him before huffing. "Why can't I come without any reason? I'm part of the Queen family too!"

Jonathan replied in exasperation, "You were never this early even when you were working back then."

At those words, Frieda fell awkwardly silent for a while. She then sipped on her coffee with faked nonchalance to hide her guilty feelings.

Jonathan could read what was on her mind, but he said nothing out loud. Instead, he stood up and grabbed some documents before reading them in the armchair beside her while he waited for her to confess her reason for coming to his office.

A beat later, Frieda squeezed out, "Jonathan, can you talk to Grandpa on my behalf and ask him to let me stay in Queen Group?"

Just as she said that, Jonathan paused in his reading and grimaced. "Give me a reason to do that."

A surge of upset rose in Frieda when she saw the grimness of her brother's expression.

I've already humbled myself, but he's still acting like this. It's as if I've done something terrible!

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"Do you still think you've done nothing wrong?"

Jonathan could figure out what she was thinking with just one glance. With a cold look, he put down the documents in his hands and gravely looked at the young woman in front of him.

Frieda frowned. "I didn't do anything wrong. The one targeting Roxanne was Mrs. Farwell, not me. I was just working on her instructions."

"Mrs. Farwell told you herself not to supply any herbs to Dr. Jarvis' research institute?" Jonathan sternly questioned, causing Frieda to jump in fright.

She tensed for a second, but she was quick to relax again. Then, she steeled herself and replied, "Even if Mrs. Farwell didn't tell me that, I know what she wants. Furthermore, we're in a good relationship with Farwell Group. Shouldn't we help Mrs. Farwell?"

Before Jonathan could speak, Frieda continued, "Jonathan, remember that Roxanne left without a word; she only left behind divorce papers. Mrs. Farwell hasn't settled the score with her yet. Aren't we, the people who know what happened, stand on the same side as the Farwells? You should be avenging Lucian with how close you are to him!"

Jonathan returned the question to her in a cold tone. "Did Lucian tell you this? Does Lucian need either you or me to avenge him?"

As far as Jonathan knew, not only did Lucian not need them to avenge him, but he was even defending Roxanne even more than others. Therefore, how could Lucian possibly let them target Roxanne? With that in mind, Jonathan began thinking about how Lucian might not know that Sonya was targeting Roxanne. Otherwise, there was no way Lucian would not do anything until now. Meanwhile, Frieda was still going on with her excuses. "Regardless of everything, what Roxanne did back then was a fact. Mrs. Farwell would never forgive her and Aubree"

"Stop!" Jonathan sternly interrupted her upon returning to his senses. "You know well whether you're doing this for Mrs. Farwell or for yourself! Frieda Queen, ask yourself this-what has Dr. Jarvis done wrong to our family? If not for her, Grandpa wouldn't even have recovered so well. She's the Queen family's savior! It's one thing for you to target her verbally, but you still refuse to admit that you've done wrong even after doing something ludicrous like this!"

It was the first time Frieda had seen her brother so livid, and for a while, she was frightened into silence.

Jonathan then knitted his brows. "I don't know where your prejudice against Dr. Jarvis came from, but from now on, I don't want to hear you doing foolish things like these anymore, let alone hear you using Farwell Group as your excuse!"

It was then Frieda recollected herself and parted her lips to defend herself.

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It was then Frieda recollected herself and parted her lips to defend herself.

However, before she could say anything, the man in front of her stood up and returned to his seat behind his desk.

"You can go back if you have nothing else to say. I have work to do. Also, it's best that you stay home for the time being. I'm afraid you don't have enough self-discipline." Jonathan knew that he would not be able to convince her to change her mind, so he did not want to waste his breath anymore.

With that said, he threw himself into his work and did not spare another glance at Frieda anymore.

Even so, Frieda was reluctant to give in. When she saw that he was no longer looking at her, she kept trying to make noises to attract her brother's attention.

Yet, he did not raise his head to look at her even after a while.

Scoffing in annoyance, Frieda grabbed her bag and rose to her feet. She then stormed out of the office, her heels clacking. Still irked, Frieda slammed the door behind her when she went out. Jonathan only briefly furrowed his brows at the loud noise before continuing with his work.

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The speculation Jonathan made in the morning plagued his mind for the entire day.

When he went off work at night, he called Lucian.

The man on the other end of the line was swift to answer the call. "Is something the matter, Jonathan?"

Jonathan briefly chuckled. "It's been a while since we met. Are you free tonight for a drink?"

Lucian creased his forehead when he heard that-he knew Jonathan had something to say to him, so he lowered his voice and agreed to it.

After ending the call, Lucian instructed Cayden to pick Estella up from the kindergarten before he drove to a private club he frequented.

Just as he entered the establishment, the server came over. "Mr. Farwell, Mr. Queen has been waiting for you."

Lucian nodded slightly and followed the server upstairs into a private room.

Even though Jonathan had invited Lucian out for a drink, there was only a bottle of beer on the table. The rest that was on the table were plates of delectable dishes.

Jonathan was lost in his thoughts on the couch. When he saw Lucian entering the room, he slowly straightened up and smiled. "I wanted to buy you a drink, but today's a busy day, and I haven't gotten to eat yet, so it's mealtime instead."

Nodding, Lucian asked the server to leave.

In seconds, only the two of them were left in the room.

Taking a seat beside Jonathan, Lucian asked, "Did something happen? Speak your mind."

However, Jonathan was stumped.

He remembered the way Lucian treated Roxanne, but he had forgotten that it had been a while since he saw the two people interact.

In other words, he did not know if their relationship had changed after a while.

If things were the same as what his sister told him-if Lucian was silently agreeing to it as well-would his current actions be pointless?

However, by the time he came to those thoughts, he had already made the call to Lucian. Thus, he had no choice but to attend the appointment.

While he was waiting for Lucian, Jonathan had been mulling over that matter. He was unsure if he should talk to Lucian about it.

Hence, Jonathan's mind felt even more muddled when he heard Lucian's question. Left without a choice, he decided to play a fool and nonchalantly took some of the food with his fork before exclaiming, "I haven't eaten the whole day, and I'm starving! Let's dig in first and chat after."

Upon seeing Jonathan's abrupt actions, Lucian only deepened his frown.

Giving him a forkful of the food, Jonathan chirped, "Lucian, I don't think you've eaten yet too, right? Hurry and try this."

The man beside him was silent for a long while.

At that, Jonathan could not help but feel remorseful.

I shouldn't have called him so quickly. If I didn't do that, I wouldn't be making myself suffer in this way now.

After a moment of silence, Lucian decided not to continue the topic and ate with Jonathan.

While they dug in, Jonathan would occasionally talk about business matters in an attempt to divert Lucian's attention,

However, the more he tried to do that, the more Lucian could sense that something was amiss with Jonathan,

Just as they were done with their meal, and right as Jonathan was trying to find an excuse to leave, he heard Lucian speak up. "You haven't talked about the reason you've invited me here. What is it that you're having so much difficulty saying?"

Jonathan stiffened before forcing himself to sit back on the couch. After a while of contemplation, he tentatively uttered, "I just wanted to ask if you've been in contact with Ms. Jarvis recently."

Ms. Jarvis? As in Roxanne Jarvis?

Lucian frowned upon hearing his question.

He had not contacted that woman since their meeting at the café.

The last time he heard anything about Roxanne was when Estella said that Roxanne was planning to move abroad.

At that thought, the temperature around Lucian dropped.

In the meantime, Cayden was just done cleaning up and had just laid down on the bed when he heard his phone ring. It was the ringtone he had set for Lucian, so Cayden instantly shot upright and picked up the call. "Mr. Farwell, what can I do for you?"

"Find out who has been contacting the major herb suppliers in Horington under Farwell Group's name and who is the one who isn't letting Horington's herb suppliers work with VR Research Institute," Lucian instructed.

Cayden hastily agreed to work on that.

After the call ended, confusion belatedly crashed into Cayden.

Although Farwell Group had various kinds of businesses, they did not venture deep into the medical industry. So why is Mr. Farwell suddenly asking me to look into this? Why is someone from Farwell Group contacting herb suppliers?

Despite the strangeness of the situation, Cayden still worked on it right away.

After all, it was something concerning Farwell Group, and Cayden was Lucian's assistant; it was nothing difficult for Cayden to investigate.

Not long after, he found out what had happened.

Again, Cayden was taken aback.

Isn't VR Research Institute Ms. Jarvis' research institute? Moreover, the person Mr. Farwell asked me to look into turns out to be Mrs. Farwell?

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The atmosphere in the room turned tense.

Jonathan discreetly shuddered and pondered if he should continue.

"Why are you asking about that?" Lucian glanced at him.

Jonathan cleared his throat before replying with his much nonchalance as he could muster, "When she came to give Grandpa a checkup yesterday, I suddenly recalled that you were on good terms with her, so I wanted to ask you about it. If you rarely talk to her, then..."

Then I'm not going to bother myself with the matter anymore.

Before Jonathan could finish his sentence, the other man's eyes darkened,

Jonathan was certain that Lucian would decipher what was going on soon. Hence, he halted and gave Lucian a confused look. "What's the matter, Lucian?"

"Do you want to court her?" Lucian's brows were tightly knitted, and Jonathan could see the traces of annoyance in them.

His question rendered Jonathan dumbfounded and speechless.

What have I said to make him think this way?

Indeed, Roxanne was a nice woman, but Jonathan knew well about her relationship with Lucian. Even though that relationship was now in the past, he was still not going to do something that would make him an unloyal friend. -

Furthermore, Roxanne's rejection when Alfred tried to match-make them had been obvious. How could he possibly shamelessly court her still?

Nevertheless, Lucian was gloomily looking at his friend as a myriad of thoughts flashed through his mind.

As far as he knew, even though Roxanne infuriated him a lot, she was quite the charming woman in many ways. Therefore, it was not surprising for his friend to be interested in her.

Moreover, with the way Jonathan had been acting the entire time... He had been hesitant to speak ever since Lucian entered the room, so evidently Jonathan thought of the matter as a tough topic. That was why Lucian had figured out what Jonathan was going to talk about the moment Jonathan mentioned Roxanne.

Nevertheless, the fury that came out of nowhere began simmering in him at the thought of that possibility, and it made the temperature around him drop,

A tense silence ensued.

It took Jonathan a while before he could recollect himself after Lucian's shocking question. Then,

he quickly waved his hands to deny it. "Why would you think that? I just noticed that Dr. Jarvis has lost much weight and since you were so protective of her back then... I wanted to ask if the two of you have..."

With that, Jonathan tentatively looked at Lucian and cautiously separated his hands as a gesture of breaking up.

In other words, he was asking Lucian if the latter was no longer interested in Roxanne.

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Hearing that made Lucian's expression turn colder. "I was protective of her?"

Jonathan nodded in affirmation. "I could see it when Dr. Jarvis was treating my grandpa and during my grandpa's birthday celebration. We're friends of many years; how can I not know you well?"

Lucian curled his lips mockingly.

To outsiders, he was exceptionally protective of Roxanne.

Yet, who would have guessed that Roxanne would avoid him and even flee overseas just to hide from him?

The moment Jonathan sensed the change in Lucian's demeanor, his headache returned.

He could not say that Lucian had nothing to do with that—that Lucian was still concerned about Roxanne. Yet, despite all that he had said, he had not heard a single word of concern from Lucian. In fact, Lucian seemed aloof and in a bad mood as if someone had owed him their life savings.

At the same time, Jonathan could not say that Lucian cared not for Roxanne. After all, he had never seen his friend undergo as many mood fluctuations as this for a woman before. Not only did Lucian not interrupt him, but he actually continued the topic Jonathan raised.

So should I talk about that matter with him?

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A beat later, Jonathan took in a deep breath and steeled himself before asking, "So, how are things between the two of you? If you're not planning to get involved with her anymore, I'll think of her as just a normal doctor the next time she gives my grandpa a checkup, and I won't be as courteous anymore."

Seconds later, Lucian uttered, "Just treat her the same as you always do."

She's going to be overseas soon, anyway; she's not going to have many chances to give Old Mr. Queen checkups anymore.

Hearing that, Jonathan let out a relieved sigh quietly because his words meant that Lucian was still interested in Roxanne.

After learning that, Jonathan began trying to steer the topic toward what troubles Roxanne had been encountering the past few days.

"Ahem. Also, when Dr. Jarvis came to give my grandpa a checkup yesterday, she mentioned their research institute has encountered some troubles again," Jonathan started, trying to keep the change in the topic as smooth as possible.

Just as those words were out of his mouth, Lucian turned to look at him. "What happened?"

Jonathan explained, "Dr. Jarvis came to treat my grandpa because all the herb suppliers in Horington refused to work with their research institute. That's why she came to the Queen family to get a contract that would be announced to the public about us selling herbs to their research institute at half price. After that, she succeeded in treating my grandpa, so I signed the contract with her as promised. With Queen Group as the pioneer, most of the herb suppliers began collaborating with the research institute again. However, for the past few days..."

Jonathan trailed off and glanced at his friend's expression. It was then he saw the frown on Lucian's face.

A pause later, Jonathan continued, "The same thing happened again. All the herb suppliers in Horington have received a notice that warned them against working with Dr. Jarvis' research institute. So, the only business partner that Dr. Jarvis has left is Queen Group."

Wrath appeared on Lucian's face. "Who did this?"

Jonathan kept quiet for a while before deciding not to give Lucian the answer right away. Instead, he patted Lucian's shoulders and replied mysteriously, "This is all I can tell you. I'm sure that looking into this matter is no difficult feat for you, so it's best that you look into this yourself."

Regardless of everything, Sonya was an elder to him. Moreover, this was, at the end of the day, Lucian's family matter. If he continued, he would be crossing the line.

Jonathan thought that Lucian would look into the matter the next day at work or when they separated their ways later.

To his surprise, though, just as he was done telling Lucian about it, the latter ignored the fact that Jonathan was still right beside him and instantly took out his phone to make a call.

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Cayden took quite some time before he could reel in from the shock. The first thing he did after that was to report to Lucian.

Meanwhile, Lucian did not speak after ending the call with Cayden. Jonathan was no fool, so he

quietly ate the food that had turned cold.

When Lucian's phone lit up again, Jonathan whipped his head toward it.

Lucian answered the call swiftly.

"Mr. Farwell, I have the findings," Cayden started cautiously.

"Who did this?" Lucian asked in a deep voice.

Cayden hesitantly replied, "It's... Mrs. Farwell."

Lucian lowered his gaze when he heard that, but no surprise crossed his face.

Ever since Jonathan told him about the matter, he could somewhat guess who was behind it. Instructing Cayden to look into it was just to make sure his speculation was right. "Understood." Lucian then expressionlessly ended the call.

The temperature in the room had almost dropped below zero by then.

Jonathan opened his mouth to say something, but Lucian's voice came first.

"When did you find out about this?"

Jonathan tensed for a moment before answering honestly, "Yesterday."

Just as he replied to Lucian, the temperature in the room dropped even more.

Jonathan quickly explained, "Queen Group was affected too, so I was busy dealing with Queen Group's trouble. Also, I didn't know how I should tell you about it, so it dragged on until today. Don't worry. The herbs Queen Group supplied to Dr. Jarvis and the others should be enough."

Lucian lowered his gaze, suppressing the upset feelings.

After all, he was ultimately at fault for something like this to happen.

He knew that his mother disliked Roxanne, and he had seen the two's confrontation in the café himself. He should have realized that his mother would have laid a finger on Roxanne,

He should have sent men to keep a close eye on both of them to stop his mother from doing anything and to protect Roxanne.

However, Lucian had been too busy with his company. Whenever he came back from his office, he would stay at Estella's side at all times, resulting in him neglecting Roxanne.

Furthermore, he never expected his mother to have made a move so quickly.

"Also, I didn't know you had no idea about this," Jonathan slowly added.

He thought that Lucian would somewhat know about that since Sonya had done it by using Farwell Group's power.

If not for Frieda's words earlier in the morning, Jonathan would have never thought about telling Lucian about it.

At that, Lucian's expression darkened even more!

That woman must have known that this has something to do with Farwell Group. Maybe she thinks that I know about this as well. She's already avoiding me before this. Now, I wonder what she thinks of me. "I've been busy in the company," was the simple answer Lucian gave to Jonathan.

The latter nodded in understanding. True. Mrs. Farwell would have hidden this from Lucian.

With that thought in mind, Jonathan could not help but feel apologetic. "I should have told you about this yesterday if I knew you didn't know about it."

There was no change in Lucian's expression as he said, "Only the two of us will know about this; my mother won't know that you told me this."

If Lucian were to put himself in Jonathan's shoes, he would be able to understand why the latter took so long to tell him about this.

Their families were on good terms. By telling Lucian about it, Jonathan would essentially be making enemies with Lucian's mother.

Jonathan drew his brows together. "That's not the point. If not for seeing the way you treat Dr. Jarvis myself, I wouldn't have come all the way here to tell you about this."

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"Still, what are you going to do now that you've learned about this?" Jonathan hesitantly asked as he curiously stared at Lucian.

Jonathan was certain that his friend was interested in Roxanne.

However, whether or not Lucian was going to stand up against Sonya for Roxanne was something Jonathan was unsure about.

Lucian frowned as frustration washed over him. A beat later, he finally uttered, "I'll think of a way to deal with Farwell Group. Will you be able to assist with Roxanne's side?"

Jonathan was baffled to hear that.

Think of a way? What does that even mean? Is he going to go up against Mrs. Farwell or not?

When Lucian heard no response from Jonathan, he added, "It's fine if it's inconvenient for you. I'll think of a way myself. For now, I can't go up against my mother in public."

With the kind of person his mother was, the more he went up against her for Roxanne, the more irked his mother would be with Roxanne, and the more she would target Roxanne.

Furthermore, regardless of everything, she was his mother.

Lucian had to be more or less considerate of her status.

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Jonathan belatedly came back to his senses at that. After a moment of rumination, he voiced, "I'll definitely help out. Currently, only Queen Group is working with Dr. Jarvis' research institute. Although I can make sure that they get the herbs they need for now, I won't be able to do this long-term. Dr. Jarvis will need to work with more herb suppliers, and with Queen Group's influence in Horington, it won't be too difficult for me to convince several herb suppliers to do so. However.." He trailed off, giving Lucian a long lolok.

Seeing that, Lucian knitted his brows even more. "What's the matter?"

"Things will go far smoother if you back me up," Jonathan responded as he arched a brow. "I'll just be looking for a few better herb suppliers. No one will say a word to Mrs. Farwell.

Lucian inclined his head. "Thank you, then. Also if it's possible, try to keep her in the country."

Lucian knew Roxanne well—he knew she would not just leave the research institute to rot and head overseas.

If Jonathan was going to help out, Roxanne would certainly do her best to work with him.

"No problem!"

Only after agreeing to it did Jonathan realize what Lucian had just said, and he knitted his brows in shock. "Wait. What do you mean? Dr. Jarvis is going overseas? She isn't planning to stay in the country?" Lucian nodded.

Jonathan was still in disbelief. "How did you know about that? I thought you haven't contacted her for a while. You don't even know something has happened to her research institute! What if it's just a misunderstanding on your part? It hasn't been long since Dr. Jarvis came back to the country."

As far as Jonathan knew, Roxanne had stayed abroad for six years, and she was back in the country to lead a research institute. She had put so much effort into the research institute, so Jonathan could not believe that she would leave so easily.

Lucian's lips curled into a mocking smile. "It's the truth. Not a misunderstanding. She told Essie about it."

He, too, had been stupefied upon learning about it, but that was the reality he had to accept.

"Then you..." Jonathan cast Lucian a hesitant look.

What is Lucian going to do if Dr. Jarvis leaves the country?

Lucian gave him a dark look. "That's why I'm asking you to try to keep her in the country."

At that, Jonathan snapped back to his senses and let out a sigh inwardly. He then chuckled and teased, "I knew you won't let her go so easily."

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However, Jonathan had been harboring a thought ever since he learned that Roxanne was Lucian's ex-wife who had left without a word, and he could not help but ask it at that moment. "What relationship does Dr. Jarvis have with Essie? I've never seen Essie so reliant on anyone."

Even though Jonathan did not say it out loud, Lucian could guess what Jonathan was trying to ask. Hence, he mildly replied, "Essie's her daughter."

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Jonathan had long guessed that, but hearing it from Lucian was another matter. A while to come back to his senses after hearing Lucian's response. The time Roxanne left and Estella's age, along with how close Estella was with Roxanne, made Jonathan suspect that Estella was Roxanne's daughter. However, it seemed Roxanne treated Estella like any ordinary child whenever they interacted, so Jonathan dared not jump to any conclusions about that. Thus, he was perplexed to hear Lucian's confession.

So Dr. Jarvis doesn't know about this? She gave birth to the girl, but she has no idea about that?

Jonathan simply could not wrap his head around the matter, so he hesitantly asked, "Dr. Jarvis doesn't know about this, does sh

Lucian nodded in affirmation. "It seems like something has happened midway, so both Essie and Roxanne don't know about this."

The more Jonathan thought about it, the more absurd he found it to be. "Why don't you tell them both then?"

If Dr. Jarvis finds out that Essie's her daughter, she might choose to marry Lucian again for the sake of Essie. Things won't be this complicated. At his question, Lucian's gaze darkened. "It's because she has two sons."

Initially, it was because of her two boys and also because he thought Roxanne knew that Estella was her daughter.

Later on, he realized there had been a misunderstanding, but there was no opportunity for him to explain it anymore.

Now, Roxanne was avoiding him. If he were to tell her about this, he was sure that he would only be troubling her even more.

Jonathan knew that Roxanne had two children, but he had never seen them himself. Hence, he only muttered, "We don't know what Dr. Jarvis has gone through all these years. Honestly, I'm curious about where her kids are from."

Lucian lowered his gaze in silence.

The children's history was still a mystery to him.

At Lucian's silence, Jonathan realized that his friend did not want to continue the topic anymore. Furthermore, he had received confirmation for his guess, so he changed the topic. "Regardless of everything, Dr. Jarvis is Essie's biological mother, I definitely have to help out for Essie's sake, so be at ease and leave Dr. Jarvis' matter to me."

Lucian's tense expression relaxed a little, and he nodded at Jonathan. "Thank you."

Jonathan smiled. "If you want to thank me, you'll have to treat me to this meal."

Smiling in return, Lucian agreed to it.

It was getting late, and since the two were done discussing the main topic, they stood to leave.

When they arrived downstairs, the server came up to them to inquire about the bill. Jonathan raised a brow and replied, "Put it on Mr. Farwell's tab."

The server glanced at Lucian and saw the man nod. Then, the server bowed at the two respectfully before watching them leave.

Even after returning to the Queen residence, Jonathan still remembered his promise to Lucian about helping Roxanne out. He dared not procrastinate on it, and he made contact with several herb suppliers in Horington that were on good terms with Queen Group and were under Queen Group's protection that night. After he offered them benefits while also threatening them, they agreed to consider working with VR Research Institute.

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The next morning, Roxanne was in the research institute, troubled by the issue of business partners.

She had contacted everyone she could in the country in the past few days, but her efforts were to no avail.

Many did not have a wide network of connections in Horington. Even if they did, they were not going to fight against Farwell Group for her. Three days after, Roxanne was lost.

Right as she was in the middle of despairing, someone knocked on her office door.

Colby entered with Jonathan behind him.

"Dr. Jarvis, Mr. Queen has come," Colby informed her.

Hearing that, Roxanne raised her head in shock. When she saw the man behind Colby, she was momentarily taken aback.

Queen Group's herbs have already been delivered, so what is he doing here?

"Dr. Jarvis." Jonathan smiled at her before scanning her office.

He wanted to take the opportunity to find a photo of the children's father, but he only found a photo of Roxanne and the two boys on her desk.

Jonathan then looked back at her and sat down opposite her.

Colby already knew why Jonathan was there, so he also sat down on the couch without any hesitation.

"Mr. Queen, did... something happen?" Roxanne held her breath, worried that Jonathan was going to follow Queen Group's wishes.

Noticing her worries, Jonathan flashed her a reassuring smile. "Here's what happened. My grandpa chided me again after I went home yesterday. He told me that my compensation to you still isn't enough, so last night, I've been thinking about what else I can do for you."

Upon hearing him, Roxanne stiffened.

Nevertheless, Jonathan continued, "I'm in the medical industry too, so I know how much herbs the research institute would use. Queen Group's supply will only be of help for a short period of time, and our group's supply alone would not be enough for your work."

At that, Roxanne frowned and helplessly said, "You're right. I've also been seeking collaboration with other herb suppliers these few days, but I've been unable to find anyone for that. Mr. Queen, it seems like you have a plan?"

Jonathan bobbed his head. "I'll be honest with you. Although Queen Group isn't as powerful as

Farwell Group in Horington, we're still quite influential in the medical industry. Many herb suppliers in Horington have received Queen Group's help when they were just starting out, so these companies would more or less consider a collaboration with your establishment as long as I raise the topic with them."

Roxanne's heart skipped a beat at that, but she still hesitantly uttered, "Isn't this a little too risky for Queen Group? Queen Group has always been on good terms with Farwell Group, and I've seen the good relationship your family has with the Farwells. If Mrs. Farwell finds out that you've been doing this..."

Roxanne was grateful for Jonathan to offer her a helping hand in the matter, but she had to put herself in his shoes as well.

If Sonya were to find out that Jonathan helped her out, and if their families' relationship turned tense because of that, Roxanne would not know how she could make it up to Jonathan.

However, Jonathan gave her a nonchalant smile. (Naturally, I've thought about that as well. Don't worry, Dr. Jarvis. The few herb suppliers I've contacted aren't small-scale businesses in Horington. Moreover, trust me when I say that Farwell Group won't learn about this. Even if they do, they might close their eyes to this."

With Lucian backing him up, even if Sonya did find out about something, it was unlikely that she would be able to do anything about it. However, Roxanne did not know that Lucian was involved. Thus, she was still ill at ease even after hearing Jonathan's response.

No one knew better than Roxanne the hostility Sonya had toward her.

She was already glad that Queen Group was continuing with their contract as she did not want to drag Queen Group into the mess.

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Jonathan could see that Roxanne was worried, and he could decipher what she was worried about, so he rephrased his words. "Queen Group won't have a falling out with Farwell Group because of

something trivial as this, and I won't risk Queen Group either. Naturally, I've made all the preparations before coming here to talk about this with you."

The hesitance on Roxanne's face slowly faded away as she stared at his confident expression. However, she still could not stop herself from asking, "But why are you helping me out? Is it just because I cured Old Mr. Queen's illness?"

When Jonathan thought about his conversation with Lucian the night before, the thoughts he had whilst he looked into Roxanne's eyes changed.

However, Roxanne only felt strange as she stared back at him.

Half a beat later, Jonathan slowly stated, "My grandpa had been bedbound for years, and it's all thanks to you, Dr. Jarvis, that he can recover to this point. Moreover, you've said before that my grandpa was already on the verge of death when you took over his case. Therefore, you're his savior. This is a great favor you've done to the Queen family, and my grandpa even thinks of you as one of the Queens. He has asked me to be extra considerate with you."

Roxanne was suddenly reminded of the way Alfred tried to match-make her and Jonathan.

Hence, upon hearing Jonathan's words, she began wondering if Alfred had yet to give up on that.

An apologetic look then crossed her face as she solemnly told Jonathan, "Please thank Old Mr. Queen for me. It's my duty as a doctor to treat and save patients. Also, it's not as if I've not received anything in return; the Queen family has paid for my service, so we don't owe each other anything. Old Mr. Queen has no need to keep this matter in mind anymore.

After a few seconds of silence, Roxanne continued in a grave voice, "Moreover, I already have two children. I've already given my clear rejection about the thing Old Mr. Queen mentioned last time. I'm sure you don't agree to it either." -

Right as those words were out of her mouth, the expressions of the two other people in the room changed.

An exasperated look appeared on Jonathan's face. Is it that easy to misunderstand my words? Even Lucian misunderstood my words when I talked about this with him last night. Now, Roxanne's doing the same.

In contrast, Colby's heart sunk, and his eyes widened.

He knew that Roxanne had gotten closer to Jonathan after Roxanne treated Jonathan's grandfather.

However, he had no idea that Alfred had borne such thoughts before.

Even though Roxanne had not voiced it out loud, Colby could guess that Alfred wanted to match make her with Jonathan.

It took Jonathan a while before he could dismiss the exasperation he felt. Amused, he then explained to Roxanne, "It has nothing to do with that. You've already rejected him, so how can my grandpa still insist on it? We just feel that the Queen family should have a friend like you after you saved my grandpa and after we learned about your personality."

Finally, Roxanne sighed in relief and smiled at him. "In that case, I'll have to go along with this, Mr. Queen. Regardless of whether the few herb suppliers you mentioned will work with us or not, I'm still grateful to the Queen family to lend us a helping hand. Please allow me to treat you to a meal another time."

Jonathan had an equally bright smile on his face. "Good to hear that. For that meal I'll be treated to, I'll definitely convince those herb suppliers. So, Dr. Jarvis, please wait for my good news!"

The two then chatted a little more about the herb suppliers before Jonathan rose to his feet to leave.