

ABANDONED 711

Chapter 711 Have Dinner Together

The children were no longer in the mood to continue playing. Roxanne had left anyway, so there was no need for them to carry on with the game.

At the side, Lucian watched as they dragged their feet over to the carpet and plopped down listlessly. Twitching his lips in amusement, he lifted his eyes and glanced upstairs. Then, he headed up the stairs.

After all, he had to talk to Roxanne about the misunderstanding earlier and clarify things.

The children initially thought their battle plan this time was a total flop, but they spotted Lucian voluntarily going upstairs when they looked over their shoulders.

Without a shadow of a doubt, he was going to look for Roxanne. When they saw that, a spark of hope flared within them. Upstairs, Roxanne shut herself in the bedroom, feeling exceedingly conflicted.

She didn't know what was wrong with her earlier. Just a while ago, was irritated by Lucian's domineering attitude. Yet, was still bewitched by the tenderness in his eyes during the game.

Recalling her emotions earlier, she couldn't help feeling scornful of herself.

Perhaps it was because I'd never seen such an expression on him in the many years I'd loved him, so my past feelings for him made an appearance in those few minutes just now...

While she was spacing out, footsteps suddenly rang out outside the door. They clearly didn't belong to the children, so it could only be Lucian. Upon perceiving that, Roxanne felt all the more conflicted. Why did he come upstairs?

Before she could brace herself mentally, a knock sounded on her bedroom door. On the heels of that, Lucian's baritone voice penetrated the door. He sounded a touch muffled through the door. "Are you in there? Let's talk."

Despite having guessed that the man came upstairs to seek her out, Roxanne was still stunned for a few seconds when she heard him say so in person. She didn't quite know how to respond to that.

haven't yet decided how should face him...

A few knocks sounded again. "If you're reluctant to allow me in, we can talk like this." Right after saying that, the man outside the door started speaking without waiting for her response.

"I was indeed too impulsive earlier, but I think you should understand my feelings. You might not believe me when I say this, but to me, your willingness to accept flowers from another man was no different from accepting another man for real. Thus, I actually planned to remove myself and Essie from your life."

The instant those words drifted into Roxanne's ears, her brows creased deeply. Mixed emotions brewed in her eyes. If it were six years ago, she would never believe that he would utter such words. She never expected that he would comprise time and again for my sake. She was inexorably moved. Lifting her eyes, she stared in

the direction of the door blankly.

"Right now, perhaps I feel the same as you did six years ago," Lucian admitted with a soundless sigh. Undeniably, it was easier to articulate some things with a door between them, since they didn't need to face each other directly.

At the mention of her past self six years ago, Roxanne's gaze flickered.

"If you need time to calm down, don't mind going home first and leaving Essie here. Please also send her to kindergarten tomorrow. I'll come and pick her up at night."

Once again, Lucian's voice rang out at the door. Frowning slightly, Roxanne got up and walked over to the door. By the time she opened the door, the man had already reached the landing.

“Stay and have dinner together, Mr. Farwell,” she couldn’t help offering as she gazed at him. When her voice fell, even she herself was stunned for a moment.

Chapter 712 Exceptional Acting Skills

Lucian, who was standing on the landing, frowned imperceptibly upon hearing that. He turned around and looked at Roxanne by the bedroom door in puzzlement.

Roxanne had her eyes lowered and her brows knitted together slightly as though regretting her offer earlier. Clocking that, Lucian smirked cryptically. “You don’t need to force yourself, Ms. Jarvis. won’t change my mind because of a meal.”

After he had said that, he tilted his head at her. Then, he spun on his heel and headed down the stairs again.

Roxanne lifted her eyes when she heard movement. Sighing inwardly, she repeated, “Let’s have dinner together. Essie would definitely be sad if you were to leave.”

That remark was meant for both Lucian and herself. Since he mentioned her past self six years ago, she couldn’t help recalling how she felt when she left six years ago at the sight of his lonely figure.

Although her pain then was courtesy of him, she was still soft-hearted and didn’t want others to experience the same sorrow she did at that time.

Hearing her offer, Lucian paused in his tracks. The look in his eyes darkened as his heart clenched painfully. He could surmise the reason she was allowing him to stay, and precisely because of that, he hated his past self more than he already did.

“I’ll consider your feelings for me in all seriousness. But hope that you can give me a bit more time.”
Roxanne relented once more.

When Lucian turned around to face her, his expression had already reverted to its usual indifference. "Thank you." Roxanne flashed him a smile as mixed feelings surged within her heart. Subsequently, the two of them went downstairs, one after another.

Downstairs, the children were playing with Legos distractedly. As soon as they heard movement from upstairs, they instantly sprang to their feet and sprinted to the landing. They gazed at Lucian and Roxanne eagerly, curious to know the progress of their conversation.

Failing to perceive anything even after a while, Benny snapped and asked candidly, "Are you mad, Mommy?"

Roxanne stilled for a few seconds. As the children's actions earlier occurred to her, she queried in return, "Did you guys do it on purpose?"

The children's expressions stiffened for a heartbeat when they heard her question.

Fortunately, they all had exceptional acting skills. Their expressions quickly turned innocent, and they regarded their mother in perplexity. "Did we do something wrong?"

"Did bump into you by accident just now? I'm sorry, Mommy. was just too competitive," Archie confessed without prompting. Roxanne eyed them suspiciously for several seconds before frowning in exasperation.

Oh well, they're all smarter than the last. Even if they had really done something, might not necessarily be able to tell. Besides, they're all looking as innocent as ever that can't even bear to doubt them.

Hence, she had no choice but to put away her suspicions. Patting them on the head, she assured softly, "I'm not mad. I'm just a bit tired."

The children skeptically shifted their gazes to Lucian at the side.

Lucian nodded at them flippantly.

The children finally breathed a sigh of relief, knowing that the two adults must have made up.

In the blink of an eye, smiles bloomed on their faces once more.

Lucian and Roxanne played with them for a while longer. This time, the kids didn't dare have any tricks up their sleeves, but they still enjoyed themselves immensely.

When evening fell, Roxanne corralled the trio who were playing madly and had them help her prepare dinner together.

Naturally, the children were all more than glad to do so.

Chapter 713 The Man Sleeping Soundly

The children weren't much help in the kitchen, but with them around, Roxanne's turbulent emotions slowly subsided. When she came out after cooking dinner, she immediately spotted Lucian sitting on the couch.

He seemed to be rather tired, for he had already dozed off while they were preparing dinner. His head tipped slightly to the side, and he half-leaned against the couch. Even while asleep, he was still as elegant as ever.

Seeing that, Roxanne instinctively gentled her movements to not make too much noise and made a shushing gesture at the children.

The children followed her gaze. The instant they laid eyes on the sleeping man, a glimmer of bemusement flashed across Archie and Benny's faces.

Daddy would usually settle work matters whenever he was free. But today, he actually fell asleep. Has he been too exhausted from work recently?

The brothers looked at Estella in confusion. When Estella's eyes fell on the man asleep on the couch, the smile on her face gradually faded. Her eyes brimmed with worry.

Meeting the boys' gazes, she explained softly, "Daddy hasn't been sleeping well these days. He keeps having insomnia, but he has a lot of work during the day. So, things have been pretty bad."

While Lucian had never mentioned that to her, she overheard his conversation with Catalina. Learning that her father had been having trouble sleeping, she had been exceedingly worried.

Subsequently, she seemingly remembered something. She whirled around and gazed at Roxanne expectantly. Roxanne was a tad puzzled upon noticing her gaze.

"Aren't you an impressive doctor, Ms. Jarvis? Can you please help Daddy?" Estella cautiously grasped the hem of the woman's shirt. The worried look on the girl's face made Roxanne's heart ache.

If he's suffering from insomnia due to physical reasons, it's indeed a piece of cake for me to treat him. But then, physical contact will be inevitable during the treatment process.

She felt rather conflicted as she recalled what happened when they were playing in the afternoon. "Daddy's condition has persisted for several days." Estella gave Roxanne's shirt another tug and looked at her with a beseeching look in her eyes.

In the end, Roxanne couldn't bring herself to turn Estella down. After wavering for a brief moment, she agreed with a smile, "Okay. We'll eat first and let your daddy sleep for a while. When we've finished eating, I'll check him over."

Upon receiving her agreement, Estella nodded obediently. "Thank you, Ms. Jarvis." Beaming, Roxanne stroked her head. Then, she had dinner with the three children while the food was still hot. Knowing that Lucian was catching up on sleep, the children were particularly thoughtful. They were extra careful as they ate,

almost making no noise.

After dinner, they all stared at Roxanne in anticipation, hoping she would treat Lucian as soon as possible. Exasperation flooded Roxanne when she saw the look on their faces. "Go and play first. can't concentrate with you all eyeballing me."

Despite feeling somewhat reluctant, the children still went to the backyard docilely, thinking that it was indeed inappropriate for them to be a hindrance at the side while she was treating Lucian.

Roxanne sighed with relief as she watched the kids leave. Considering her level of expertise, she didn't really need to concentrate if she was merely treating insomnia.

In truth, she just didn't want them to see her having any physical contact with the man. With them looking on, she couldn't help remembering her various intimate interactions with him previously.

Only when the children had gone so far that their voices couldn't be heard anymore did she stroll over to the couch and look down at the man who was still sleeping soundly.

Chapter 714 You Have Been Having Insomnia

In the afternoon, they had a row and later played with the children, so Roxanne didn't pay much attention to Lucian's countenance. But as she scrutinized his face at that moment, she discovered that his insomnia in the past few days might have been pretty severe, for there were distinct dark circles under his eyes. Besides, it was rare for him to sleep so soundly.

Even during the few times when we slept together six years ago, he had always been a light sleeper, so much so that he'd immediately jolt awake whenever I drew close to him. Then, he'd get off the bed and leave.

Recalling her experience six years ago, she sighed inwardly as she regarded the man sleeping soundly in front of her. "Mr. Farwell?" Roxanne called out to him softly, hoping to wake him up so as to facilitate the treatment process.

Regretfully, there was absolutely no reaction from Lucian. After hesitating for a few seconds, Roxanne gingerly reached out and rested her hand on his wrist, which lay limp at the side.

No sooner had her fingers come into contact with his pulse than she noticed him frowning, as though he was on the verge of waking up.

The instant she saw that, her heart jolted, and she reflexively tightened her fingers around his wrist. In the next heartbeat, she realized what she had done and hastily wanted to retract her hand. Alas, it was already too late.

While sleeping, Lucian groggily sensed someone approaching him. Just when he was about to open his eyes for a look, he felt a hand grasping his wrist. He instinctively grabbed the hand and pulled the person into his arms.

“Uh...” Caught off guard, Roxanne was yanked into his embrace. She groaned unconsciously before reaching out to break free from his hold. “It’s me, Lucian! Let go of me!”

Lucian frowned slightly when he heard that voice, finding it rather familiar. Lifting his eyes, he was greeted by the sight of Roxanne sitting on his lap uneasily, struggling in a panic.

He was already irritated as he was awakened when he finally managed to fall asleep after having had insomnia for several days in a row.

Thus, his gaze darkened when he saw her showing aversion to him. At the same time, his grip on her tightened, rendering her immobile.

“What are you doing?” Roxanne’s brows promptly scrunched together. Sensing a dangerous aura from the man, she wanted to escape, but she was no match for the man’s strength.

Just as she was about to say something else, his strong arms locked onto her shoulders and forced her to turn around. In an instant, she was faced with the man’s grim expression while sitting on his lap.

“Don’t misunderstand. Essie said you’ve been having insomnia recently and begged me to—” Roxanne attempted to explain things, flustered.

Unexpectedly, Lucian's frown deepened before she had even finished speaking. "Keep quiet." He was suffering from a terrible headache due to insufficient sleep. For that reason, he frowned irritably at the noisy woman before him and reached out to cover her mouth.

Because of his actions, Roxanne's voice screeched to an abrupt halt. She remained frozen in his arms for a long while, not daring to move a single muscle for fear that he would do something intimate again.

When she fell silent, Lucian's expression eased considerably. He then closed his eyes for a while before he awakened fully. As soon as he spotted Roxanne, who remained completely still in his arms, his gaze glinted darkly.

Perhaps because of his inherently devilish nature, her expression had him gripped by the desire to tease her.

That aside, she was seemingly frightened by him and hadn't yet noticed that he was already fully awake.

As realization dawned upon him, a fleeting smile flashed across his eyes. He slowly leaned toward the woman in his embrace.

Chapter 715 Acted On Reflex

Terrified by Lucian's sudden movement to the point that she didn't dare move, Roxanne reacted like a petrified cat when the man drew close to her. She desperately tried to break free, but he effortlessly seized her hands and locked them behind her back. No matter how hard she struggled, she couldn't break free.

"Wake up, Lucian!" Her eyes brimmed with panic as the distance between their lips diminished. Even her voice had grown a touch tense. Unfortunately, Lucian remained unmoved and continued leaning closer to her.

Only when the distance between them was so negligible that they could sense each other's breathing and Roxanne was so nervous that her heart almost stopped pounding did she sense the man finally drawing to a stop.

Heaving a sigh of relief, she cautiously turned her face and studied his expression to ascertain whether he had awakened. The moment she did so, she met the man's clear gaze.

"Sorry. was still half-awake earlier." Masking the mirth in his eyes, Lucian put on an apologetic expression. As he said that, he released his grip on her hands and allowed her to leave his embrace.

In all honesty, he wanted to continue teasing her. But after seeing her reaction, he felt that he should quit while he was ahead.

Before Roxanne could even lambast him, he had already apologized. For a moment, her expression froze. She couldn't quite decide between throwing a fit and forgiving him.

She was stunned for some time before she realized that she should leave the man's arms before all else. With that thought in mind, she bit her lip and lowered her eyes as she got ready to stand up.

Unexpectedly, she had been too apprehensive earlier and didn't dare budge an inch. Adding to the fact that she had been restrained for too long, her legs had already gone numb by the time she tried to get up.

Before she could regain her feet, she swayed and toppled forward, falling right into Lucian's arms.

Never having expected such a delightful surprise, Lucian calmly opened his arms and allowed her to fall straight into his embrace.

"How dare you!" Roxanne panickily struggled to pull away and glared at the man who appeared all nonchalant before her. She wanted to reprimand him, but she didn't know where to start.

After all, she was the one who accidentally fell earlier. Furthermore, she basically deserved it when he restrained her in his arms because she took the initiative to approach him first.

She could already imagine the arguments the man would use to riposte her before she had even started with her accusations.

Thinking about his possible reaction, she lowered her eyes and zipped her mouth in frustration. Getting to her feet while clutching at the back of the couch carefully, she remained standing there for a few seconds to get herself steady. At the same time, her brain whirred at warp speed, hoping to forget the whole blunder just now.

“ hadn't been sleeping too well in the past two days. I'd finally managed to fall into a deep sleep earlier, so likely acted on reflex when you touched me without warning. I'm sorry,” Lucian uttered airily.

Following his explanation, Roxanne appeared to have even lesser reason to blow up at him.

In a nutshell, Lucian was trying to brush off his faux pas earlier by claiming that she had disrupted his sleep.

They both stared at each other for a long time before Lucian decided to spare the woman before him, thanks to his good mood. Arching a brow, he inquired, “So, why did you suddenly approach me, Ms. Jarvis?”

Since Roxanne was still feeling irate inwardly, her tone wasn't all that pleasant. “Essie asked me to help treat your insomnia. But seeing that you were sleeping so soundly earlier, don't think that's necessary anymore.”

After saying that, she made to whirl around and leave, not in the mood to see his face anymore. She spun on her heel and walked a distance away, but the man behind her remained unusually silent. Finding it a tad strange, she glanced back over her shoulder in puzzlement, only to meet the man's dark gaze.

As their eyes locked, her heart lurched. She turned back and went to the backyard without a backward glance.

Chapter 716 Did You Pick On Her

“Mommy!” Concerned about the interaction between the two adults in the house, the children hadn't been in the mood to play. The instant they caught sight of Roxanne coming out, they immediately swarmed over to her.

Roxanne smilingly patted them on the head, but her expression was somewhat distracted.

Clocking the look on the woman's face, Estella tilted her head in puzzlement. She cast her gaze behind Roxanne, but she didn't see any signs of Lucian.

"Did Daddy pick on you, Ms. Jarvis?" she queried cautiously.

The mention of the man in the house made Roxanne unconsciously frown. Feigning a nonchalant expression, she shook her head with a smile. "Nope."

Estella stared at her with suspicion written clear in her eyes. "Where is he, then?"

Roxanne turned and glanced in the direction of the living room before replying, "He has just awakened. Perhaps... he's still sitting on the couch."

Having said that, she hastily withdrew her gaze and wanted to change the subject. Alas, Estella didn't give her that chance. She persistently questioned, "Can you treat his insomnia, Ms. Jarvis?" Roxanne choked.

Because of Lucian's sudden awakening and what he did after that, she hadn't the time to take his pulse. She didn't even know why he was suffering from insomnia, let alone treat him.

Therefore, that question truly had her caught between a rock and a difficult place.

Seemingly aware that she wouldn't be able to answer that, Estella looked at her for a long while before declaring firmly, "He picked on you, Ms. Jarvis!"

Otherwise, she wouldn't be unable to answer my question at all. At the very least, she would have been able to either say yes or no. Her expression now makes it apparent that she didn't even have the chance to diagnose his problem. They must have had a row again!

At that thought, she pouted in chagrin. "Daddy is such a jerk!" Upon hearing that, Roxanne's wrath and embarrassment finally dissipated. She found the situation rather hilarious.

For some inexplicable reason, she's biased toward me, so much so that she's certain Lucian picked on me without asking any questions about whatever happened.

"Don't be angry, Ms. Jarvis. I'll avenge you!" Estella gingerly tugged at the hem of Roxanne's shirt.

Seeing her solemn expression, the smile on Roxanne's face turned genuine. "I'm not angry, and your daddy didn't pick on me either. Calm down, Essie."

While saying that, she stroked Estella's head soothingly.

Still, the little girl scrutinized her for a long moment.

To convince her, Roxanne bit the bullet and added, "I'll check him out later regarding his insomnia. It shouldn't be a big problem." Estella believed her half-dubiously upon hearing her remark.

Roxanne chatted with the children for some time. When she noticed it was getting late, she brought them back into the mansion. Unsurprisingly, Lucian was still sitting on the couch, but this time, he was dealing with work matters while wearing a frown. When he heard them coming in, he lifted his eyes and cast his gaze over.

"Daddy." For once, Estella voluntarily let go of Roxanne's hand and went over to her father.

Lucian regarded his daughter in mystification, wondering what she was up to.

Estella climbed onto the couch unhurriedly and leaned close to her father's ear. In a whisper, she demanded, "Did you pick on Ms. Jarvis earlier?"

After asking that, she pulled away from him. Sticking her hands on her hips, she shot daggers at her father as though interrogating a suspect.

Chapter 717 Not As Terrified As Before

Roxanne had no idea what Estella whispered next to Lucian's ear. All she knew was that the man looked at her meaningfully after Estella had spoken to him before denying in a low voice, "No."

No sooner had he said that than they both swung their gazes at her. Lucian wore a bizarrely innocent expression, while suspicion was written all over Estella's face.

The question Estella asked her when they were in the backyard earlier flashed across Roxanne's mind. Complemented by their expressions, she felt that she could surmise the situation to a tee.

At the thought of Estella's determination to avenge her, Roxanne was both amused and exasperated. After a few seconds of silence, she stepped forward and started, "Essie is exceedingly worried about you, so I'd best take a look at you. Besides, it's a problem if you keep having insomnia."

In other words, she was trying to tell him that she only decided to treat him for Estella's sake. When Lucian heard that, he quirked an eyebrow and glanced at his daughter beside him.

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Estella nodded emphatically with triumph etched across her features.

Clocking that, Lucian chuckled lightly and held his wrist out to Roxanne.

Roxanne lifted her hand and grasped his wrist. While diagnosing his condition, however, she couldn't quite ignore the warmth emanating from his wrist.

It should have only taken a minute or two at most, but it took quite a while because she kept getting distracted.

"Never mind if you really can't determine the cause. Perhaps I've been too busy with work these days. I'll be fine after resting for a few days," Lucian drawled insouciantly upon seeing that she couldn't diagnose his condition after some time had passed.

Roxanne happened to find the cause at that instant. Dropping her fingers from his wrist, she stated placidly, "Your liver is a bit inflamed, probably because of overwork. Take some medicine to reduce the inflammation. Alternatively, it'll also heal by itself after you rest for a few days."

Lucian inclined his head in acknowledgment. "It's getting late. You should bring Essie home earlier, Mr. Farwell." Roxanne began asking him to leave after glancing at the time.

Lucian didn't voice any objections either. He got up from the couch nonchalantly and looked down at Estella, who was still sitting on the couch with a reluctant expression on her face.

Although Estella had played with Archie, Benny, and Roxanne for the whole afternoon, she was still disinclined to leave. She gazed at Roxanne pitifully, hoping that the latter would allow her to stay.

"Be good, Essie. I've got work recently, so can't let you sleep over here. If you want to come over in the future, you can do so anytime." Roxanne patted her head apologetically.

At the side, Archie and Benny nodded as they seconded, "Bring Essie here often to play, Mr. Farwell!"

A strange feeling flittered deep within Roxanne's heart when she heard the two boys saying that out of the blue.

It seems that their attitudes toward Lucian had changed entirely after the hot spring vacation. still remember that they were even more averse to him than was in the past. If this were to continue, wouldn't be surprised if they were to learn about their identities one day.

The moment Roxanne realized the direction of her thoughts, her brows knitted together imperceptibly.

For some inexplicable reason, I'm not as terrified as before at the thought of them learning about their identities. Is it because of the changes in the man before me?

As that thought occurred to her, she instinctively lifted her eyes and stole a peek at the man standing in front of her.

Lucian nodded at her apathetically before gazing down at Archie and Benny. In a gentle voice, he murmured, "Thank you. I'll be sure to do that."

While they conversed, they wholly ignored Roxanne, the true owner of the house.

She was deluged with exasperation, but she couldn't be bothered to gainsay them anyway.

Chapter 718 Surprised She Is Willing To Apologize

Despite her reluctance, Estella knew that they would definitely be frequent visitors henceforth since her father was pursuing Roxanne. Thus, she obediently slid off the couch and sweetly bid Roxanne farewell before leaving with Lucian.

Only when Lucian's car had driven into the distance did Roxanne turn back around and return to the mansion with Archie and Benny.

The two boys spent the whole day playing and worrying about the adults' matters, so they started yawning incessantly now that things had settled down.

It was already pretty late, so Roxanne had them go in and rest while she went to the study.

As the top prestigious family in the medical field in the country, the Damaris family attracted much attention despite having gone into seclusion for many years.

Consequently, the research institute established this time promptly came to light as soon as it was completed.

When it came to the collaboration this time, the Damaris family didn't plan on keeping a low profile. Instead, they would be publicizing the list of their collaborators in the next few days.

By then, that list would not only represent the collaborators of the Damaris family, but it would also signify the Damaris family pointing out the top doctors in the country to the ordinary people in Chanaea.

As one of the members on that list, Roxanne had to work all the harder to improve her medical skills so that she wouldn't disappoint anyone.

While she was poring over medical books, her phone at the side rang all of a sudden. She glanced at it, only to see that it was a call from Jack. Hence, she answered the call without hesitation. "Is something the matter that you're calling at this hour, Mr. Damaris?"

Jack massaged his brows, sounding a touch solemn. "Do you still remember the daughter of the Hightower family back then, Ms. Jarvis? mean, the woman who railed at you while in a drunken state."

Upon hearing that, Roxanne combed through her memories before she finally recalled the person in question.

Almost all her focus had been occupied by Lucian and the project recently, so she would have long since cast that woman to the back of her mind if Jack didn't mention her.

"Yes, remember her. Why?" she queried in puzzlement.

"It was because of this matter that my grandfather suddenly called me home this afternoon. He asked me to help contact you, claiming that Jessica Hightower would like to apologize to you in person. What do you think? If you don't want to go, can turn it down for you," Jack uttered.

Roxanne wavered for a long moment. According to what he said earlier, this is Old Mr. Damaris' wish. While think there's no need for us to meet, naturally have to show the old man some respect.

On the other end of the phone, Jack seemingly discerned her thoughts. In a deep voice, he added, "You don't need to worry about my grandfather. He won't doubt your capabilities because of such an irrelevant matter."

Roxanne smiled gratefully at his reassurance. Then, she answered calmly, "It's okay. If Ms. Hightower is sincere about apologizing, don't mind meeting her. Who knows, we can be friends."

Never having expected her to agree so readily, Jack was stunned for a few seconds. Subsequently, he warned with a frown, "Forget about making friends with her. I'm already surprised she's willing to apologize, considering her temperament. I'm afraid the meeting this time won't be that pleasant."

Roxanne had only interacted with Jessica once, so she didn't understand her all that well.

Her heart grew heavy when she heard Jack's remark, but still, she found it necessary to do Hector that favor. "Thank you for the warning, Mr. Damaris. I'll be careful when meeting her."

The Damaris family would be publicizing the list soon, so she didn't want to start any unnecessary trouble.

Jack grunted in acknowledgment. The two of them then bid each other good night before hanging up.

Chapter 719 Shut Up

After hanging up the phone, Jack texted Stephen directly, saying that Roxanne had agreed to a meeting. Without waiting for a reply, he turned off his phone and went to sleep.

As soon as Stephen woke up the next morning, he saw the message from Jack. Seeing the affirmative response from Roxanne, the heavy boulder that had been weighing on him in the past few days finally eased.

If I'm correct, Lucian is only attacking Hightower Group because my daughter offended Roxanne. As long as she can obtain her forgiveness, the Hightower family will likely be able to get out of the crisis this time.

Great relief suffused him at that thought. During breakfast, he initially wanted to lecture his pampered daughter as usual when she was late. But upon remembering that he still had something to ask of her, he swallowed the words on the tip of his tongue.

"I've already had Jack set up an appointment with the lady you offended a few days ago. Find a time to apologize to her in person," Stephen instructed tersely.

Hearing that, Jessica abruptly stilled and lifted her eyes to look at her father in utter disbelief. She didn't think that she had done anything wrong.

The Hightower and Damaris families were pretty close. For that reason, she had made the acquaintance of a number of young and talented individuals who enjoyed some prestige in the medical field.

However, she had never heard of Roxanne.

Despite Lucian backing Roxanne up that night, Jessica still questioned Roxanne's medical skills and her capability of securing a collaboration with the Damaris family.

She initially thought that her father would understand her. But never had she expected him to ground her after she was sent home that night.

In the past few days, hadn't even stepped foot out of the house. Now, he has brought this matter up again, but he actually wants me to apologize to her. What gives?

She expressed herself candidly. "No way. I didn't do anything wrong, so why should I apologize to her?"

When Stephen heard that, he was so livid that he slammed his fork down. Without allowing any room for negotiation, he ordered, "Regardless of whether you did anything wrong, you must apologize to her. If you don't do so, you'll no longer be my daughter from now on out!"

As he finished his sentence, he shot a glare at his daughter. Then, he got to his feet and went back upstairs. Jessica watched her father leave, her eyes brimming with grievance and shock.

This is the first time he ever blew up at me, and because of that woman named Roxanne to boot! What exactly is so great about her that everyone is siding with her?

When she recalled Roxanne's interaction with Jack that night, her temper spiked.

Coupled with the fact that she was just lectured by her father, she lost all her appetite. With a dark expression on her face, she slammed her fork onto the table.

“Ms. Hightower—” the housekeeper murmured worriedly upon noticing that she hadn't eaten at all.

No sooner had she spoken than the person in front of her snapped her head back viciously. Jabbing a finger in her face, Jessica lambasted, “Even you want to control me now? Who do you think you are? Shut up!”

The housekeeper’s face flushed bright red at the severe censure. She went wholly silent.

Only when Jessica had finished lashing out and whirled around to stalk up the stairs did she dare to straighten up. She then cleared the dining table without daring to utter a single word.

Jessica returned to her bedroom, looking all grim. As she recalled her father’s words earlier, resentment glinted in her eyes.

He wants me to apologize to that b*tch? Hah, that’s impossible! But since he already made himself clear, I’m afraid I'd have to meet her anyway.

The mere thought of having to meet Roxanne again caused a wave of disgust to wash over her.

Chapter 720 List Of Partners

Roxanne assumed that the list of partners would only be announced by the Damaris family in a few days. Little did she expect to receive Larry's call the next morning, right after she woke up.

Hence, she answered the phone groggily. “Have you seen it? The Damaris family has released the list of partners.” Larry’s voice rang out the moment the call connected. His words jolted Roxanne awake. “Why so sudden?”

I'm not ready yet. Larry chuckled. "I'm as clueless as you are. However, heard that there'll be a commencement event in two days in the form of a press conference. Therefore, we had better be prepared, as reporters nowadays can be very demanding. Who knows what sort of questions will be thrown out by them, especially toward someone new like you who doesn't have any background."

The grateful Roxanne replied, "Thanks for giving me the heads-up, Larry. I'll make the necessary preparations."

Nonetheless, Larry quickly followed up. "Anyway, congratulations, Dr. Jarvis. Your reputation in this country has finally gained some traction."

Roxanne pursed her lips into a smile. "I hope that won't let everyone down." "I'm sure you won't," Larry reassured her. As the purpose of Larry's call was to compliment her, both of them exchange further pleasantries before ending it.

Subsequently, Roxanne, still having trouble accepting the fact, sat on her bed with her legs crossed while checking the morning news.

Just as expected, she saw the news relating to the Damaris family's project where the list of partners was also attached. On that list, her name was right below Larry's, followed by Daniel and other famous doctors within the country.

In spite of that, Roxanne—staring at the list—was still a bundle of nerves, for she had joined as someone new. Therefore, in the eyes of the public, she was someone without a track record in the medical field.

Even though she was used to being seen through colored lenses, the skepticism toward her this time would probably be amplified by a thousand times.

All of sudden, Roxanne didn't know how she was supposed to face the situation.

It was when she felt unsettled that her phone rang again.

Getting a grip on herself, Roxanne glanced down at her phone and saw Harvey's name on the caller ID.

“ heard that you have been appointed as one of the partners of the Damaris family?” Harvey, who was overseas all this while, seldom followed the local news.

If he hadn't seen the list announced today, he would be oblivious to what was going on.

Having not heard from her professor in a very long time, Roxanne's face lit up in joy. “You heard it already? had only wanted to tell you once everything is set.”

Harvey smiled as he sidestepped her reply. “Well done. Anyway, I've gone through the list and saw many local pioneers there. Compared to them, you and Larry are relatively more inexperienced.”

His comment struck a chord with Roxanne's insecurities, triggering a dejected expression to descend upon her face.

Given how well Harvey knew his student, he could imagine her reaction without even looking. Thus, he—with a smile—consoled her, “Having said that, you don't have to feel anxious about the matter, as have confidence in your capabilities. Besides, you're a student of the great Harvey Lambert. If anyone dares to doubt you, you can get them to see me.”

Harvey's words succeeded in reassuring Roxanne. “I understand. Thank you, Professor Lambert. won't disappoint you.”