

## **ABANDONED 721**

### Chapter 721 Ruining Her Reputation

Meanwhile, the news naturally didn't escape Jessica's attention.

At the sight of Roxanne's name on the list, a gloomy expression appeared on her face.

That woman is not only working with Jack but also has her name listed so close to the top. Jessica couldn't help but recall the distance between Roxanne and Jack's seats the other night. What has she done to deserve it?

After staring at Roxanne's name for a long time, an insidious look flashed across her eyes.

I'll reveal her true colors for everyone to see since she is nothing more than a pretty face. I have no idea what she has done to Jack for him to think so highly of her, and I can't believe how big-headed she has become. When I finally expose her, she'll no longer be able to show her face in the local medical industry anymore. When that happens, Jack will never be able to be together with her regardless of how much he likes that pretty face of hers!

Just imagining how Roxanne was ridiculed by the public was enough to spark a sense of elation within Jessica.

Now that she had figured out her plan, the grim-looking Jessica made a few calls.

In the afternoon, Stephen's expression drastically darkened at the sight of Jessica's empty seat.

After all, he had gone all out to obtain an opportunity to seek Lucian's forgiveness.

Little did he expect that after all that he had done, his plans were foiled by his own daughter.

Regardless of how much effort he put in, it would be all for naught if Jessica refused to apologize.

At that moment, given how late his daughter was to lunch, it was clear that she had no intention of showing any remorse.

Just as Stephen's frustration began to set in, the sound of footsteps could be heard from upstairs, followed by Jessica emerging from the corner of the stairs.

The sight of her elicited a sigh of relief from Stephen. Subsequently, his tone was very much eased when he spoke. "Have you given the matter told you some thought?"

His words caused Jessica's expression to darken momentarily before recovering its usual calm. Smiling obediently, she replied, "Since that's what you want, have no choice even if it's against my wishes. So, instead of delaying it any further, can you help me ask Ms. Jarvis if she's free tonight?"

The relieved Stephen answered, "All right. I'll check with her."

From his perspective, apologizing to Roxanne and obtaining her forgiveness as soon as possible was the best possible outcome. Only then would Lucian let Hightower Group go.

After lunch, Stephen sent Jack a message to check if he and Roxanne were available that night in front of his daughter.

When Jack received the message, a sense of dread crept into him.

However, since it was Jessica, he didn't give it much thought. In the worst-case scenario of her trying to repeat her tantrum, he would be there to keep the situation under control.

Holding that thought, Jack relayed the message to Roxanne who swiftly agreed to the meeting.

Once he received her confirmation, Jack replied to Stephen immediately and fixed the time and place.

After being told of the appointment, an icy glint flashed across Jessica's eyes.

“Remember to mind your attitude in the evening.” Worried that his daughter would behave rashly again, the concerned Stephen reminded, “Ms. Jarvis has powerful patrons. Hence, she’s not someone we can afford to offend.”

Unfortunately, her father’s words had only served to intensify Jessica’s contempt for Roxanne and fanned the flames of her desire to ruin the latter’s reputation.

When evening arrived, Jessica headed out early.

Thinking that she was really going to apologize to Roxanne, the naive Stephen watched her get into the car and left.

#### Chapter 722 Do You Feel Pressured

Meanwhile, Roxanne had delegated Madilyn to pick the children up to Madilyn as she promptly headed to the meeting. No sooner had she stepped out the door than she saw Jack’s car at the entrance.

At the sight of her, he alighted from the car and took a look behind her. Feeling slightly disappointed, he inquired, “Are the children still at school?”

Roxanne nodded. “I got a friend of mine to pick them up. Is there a reason why you want to see them, Mr. Damaris?”

Jack casually nodded. “I’ve brought them some gifts. But since they’re not around, let’s just forget it. I’ll personally hand them over the next time see the boys.”

The fact that he had prepared presents for them surprised Roxanne, for she didn’t expect him to be so attentive.

“Since you have gotten them the presents, it’s only right you hand them to the boys yourself.” Roxanne pursed her lips into a smile upon regaining her senses.

With that, she turned around and headed toward her car. She had barely taken a step when Jack’s voice rang out from behind her.

“ think you shouldn't drive, as it'll be hard to avoid drinking tonight. If you drive there, you'll just end up having to collect your car tomorrow.”

His words caused Roxanne to stop as a conflicted expression emerged on her face. She still remembered the tantrum Jessica had thrown when she got drunk because Jack was too close to her.

Therefore, if Jessica were to see her arrive in Jack's car, the former would change her mind at the last minute even if her desire to apologize was sincere.

Cognizant of her concerns, Jack reassured her, “What happened the last time was my fault. That said, since there's nothing going on between the two of us, you shouldn't overthink the matter. If she repeats her accusations from the other day, I'll clear the air.”

Sensing from his tone that he felt responsible, Roxanne knitted her brows. “It's not your fault, Mr. Damaris. There's no need to blame yourself.”

No sooner had she spoken than she glanced at her watch and realized it was time to go. If they were to delay any further, they would likely be late for the appointment.

Cognizant of the situation, Roxanne stopped hesitating and walked up to Jack's side.

After declining his suggestion for her to sit in the front passenger seat, she opened the back seat door and got in.

Despite the frown on his face, Jack reminded himself of her concerns and didn't persist and returned to the car.

Soon, the car gradually started driving from Roxanne's home.

“By the way, why was the list of partners announced so suddenly?” Along the journey to the restaurant, Roxanne couldn't help but ask.

With his hand on the wheel, Jack replied in a deep voice, “Well, it wasn’t. The Damaris family has been making preparations for a long time and has gotten in touch with the media. Also, since the aim of our project is to provide a public service, they naturally deserve to know. Therefore, announcing the name list is our way of being transparent to them, on top of showing everyone how important the project is to the Damaris family.”

Roxanne couldn't help but feel amazed by the explanation.

When Larry mentioned earlier that commencement events were to be held soon, she didn’t take him seriously. It turned out that the Damaris family had indeed liaised with the media.

Nevertheless, the turn of events didn’t come as such a surprise after hearing Jack’s reasoning.

“Actually, had wanted to inform you yesterday but was called away by Grandpa.” Showing concern, Jack inquired, “Do you feel pressured due to the sudden announcement?”

As a fellow doctor, Roxanne—finding no reason to hide her thoughts from him—responded with a nod. “A little, but the pressure will serve as my future motivation.”

## Chapter 723 Shocking News

Although he was initially surprised by Roxanne’s words, Jack quickly found it reasonable after giving it some thought. After all, from the first day he met her, he knew that she wasn’t someone to shy away from a challenge.

With that thought in mind, he gave the lady sitting in the backseat a look of admiration through the rearview mirror. When he saw the resolve written all over Roxanne’s face, Jack couldn't help but feel moved by it.

Finally, they made their way through the heavy traffic and managed to arrive at the restaurant right on the dot.

They expected Jessica to have arrived; however, the latter was nowhere to be seen.

As the empty table caused both of them to exchange glances, a sense of dread descended upon the two of them concurrently. "I'll call and check," Jack suggested with a cocked brow once they took their seats.

Nodding in acknowledgment, Roxanne could feel an inexplicable sense of trepidation creeping into her.

"Jack, have you arrived?"

Jessica's voice rang out the moment the call connected.

With the phone on speaker, Jack grunted in response before asking, "Where are you?"

At that moment, Jessica—sitting languidly in the café next door—replied with an apologetic tone, "I'm really sorry. Please wait a

few more minutes for me, as I'm currently stuck in traffic. thought was going to be early when left home but.

Her explanation caused Jack and Roxanne to glance at each other. Although they were skeptical about it, they couldn't find any fault with the excuse since it was indeed peak hour.

Even though Roxanne's house was close, traffic did hold them back for almost half an hour. As a result, Jessica would naturally take longer since Hightower residence was even further away. Having considered it, Jack replied grimly, "All right then. There's no need to rush. Just drive safe."

Despite the contempt that flashed across Jessica's eyes, she didn't let it affect her cordial tone. "As I'll probably be stuck here for a while, there's no need to wait for me. I'll get the restaurant staff to serve you first."

Just when Jack wanted to decline, the waiter arrived with the food. Having no other choice but to accept it implicitly, he responded, "We'll be waiting for you."

With a hum of acknowledgment, Jessica ended the call before going on to make another.

Oblivious to what she was up to, Jack and Roxanne assumed that she was really held up by traffic.

All they did was stare at the food in front of them with neither showing any intention to dig in.

Firstly, Jessica had not shown up. Secondly, both of them felt that something was amiss.

In spite of that, when Roxanne scanned the surroundings and didn't notice anything out of the ordinary, she had no choice but to suppress the suspicion that arose within her.

Subsequently, both of them discussed the partnership while waiting for Jessica to show up.

However, unknown to them, a camera flash repeatedly lit up from amongst the trees outside the window.

Back at the café Jessica was in, she had just finished a cup of coffee when the screen on her phone started blinking. After throwing it a glance, she picked it up to answer.

"I've gotten the pictures," said a voice succinctly.

His words elicited a cocked brow from Jessica as she replied in glee, "In that case, I'll be waiting for your shocking exposé tomorrow."

"Me too," the man responded in a solemn tone.

With that, Jessica ended the call.

Chapter 724 Please Do Not Take Offence

Subsequently, she got to her feet and regained her composure before heading to the restaurant next door.

“I'm sorry to have kept you waiting.”

Upon entering the restaurant, Jessica gave her two guests an apologetic look.

Her arrival brought a sense of relief to Roxanne and Jack who responded with a faint smile. “It’s all right. Please take a seat.”

Nodding in acknowledgment, Jessica sat down beside them. However, at the sight of the untouched food on the table, she looked at them in surprise. “Didn’t ask you to start first? Why did you wait for me? I’m really sorry that the food is now cold.”

Since Roxanne didn’t know Jessica that well, she simply broke into a cordial smile.

As for Jack, he gave her a perfunctory reply. “Since you're the host, it’s right that we wait for you.”

He had barely spoken when silence descended upon the table.

At a loss as to what to do, Roxanne gave Jack an awkward look, for she intended to leave early if possible. When Jessica wasn’t around, she and Jack could still talk about the partnership.

Now that the former had arrived, they would have to stop.

Thus, Roxanne had no desire to continue wasting time there.

When Jack’s eyes met hers, he easily guessed what was on her mind. Taking the initiative to break the silence, he said, “Jessica, didn’t you mention that this meal...”

Jolted back to her senses, Jessica threw Roxanne a knowing glance. “Ah, I’m sorry. I was befuddled after getting stuck in the traffic for so long. The fact that I’m supposed to apologize to Ms. Jarvis over dinner almost slipped my mind.”

Jessica then got to her feet and raised her glass at Roxanne. “I had too much to drink the other night, Ms. Jarvis. Therefore, I hope that you’ll excuse my behavior. This toast is a symbol of my apology!”

No sooner had she spoken than she downed her glass of wine in a single gulp. After that, she showed her empty glass to them and even paused in front of Roxanne to hint at her.

Her gesture elicited a conflicted look in Roxanne’s eyes, as it was evident that Jessica was pressuring her into reciprocating with a drink.

However, she would only drink when it was absolutely necessary. On top of that, Jessica was supposed to apologize instead of putting her in another difficult position. “Ms. Jarvis, are you unwilling to forgive me?” With a slight knit of her brows, Jessica was filled with remorse. “I understand why

you wouldn’t want to do so, considering how outrageous my behavior was. For throwing a tantrum at you in front of so many, I was even grounded by my father the moment I got home. Subsequently, I used the last few days to reflect upon my actions.”

Pausing briefly, Jessica pursed her lips in a self-deprecating manner and turned to look at Jack. “I don’t deny having feelings for Jack, but who he fancies is none of my business. Also, I shouldn’t have forced my feelings upon him and put both of you in a difficult spot. It doesn’t matter whether both of you forgive me or not. I just want to let you know that I’m truly sorry for my actions.”

Jessica’s brimming sincerity ignited a glint in Roxanne’s eyes.

In truth, she wasn’t bothered at all by what happened that day. Now that Jessica had apologized, it was only appropriate for her to provide a response.

Holding that thought, Roxanne raised her glass in the end. “Ms. Hightower, it’s not as serious as you make it out to be. To be honest, I didn’t take offense over what happened that day. Therefore, you shouldn’t too.”

The moment she finished, Roxanne flashed a flat smile before downing a glass of wine.

No sooner had she done so that her brows instantly furrowed.

Chapter 725 Why Did You Not Pick Us Up

“What's wrong?”

Noticing the grim look on her face, Jack frowned and inquired.

However, Roxanne just waved at him before throwing Jessica a glance.

Did Jessica do this on purpose? Why did she choose such a strong wine for dinner?

Nevertheless, when Roxanne didn't notice anything amiss after drinking it, she wondered if she had been overthinking what was going on.

After downing two glasses of wine, the three of them fell into another awkward silence.

After all, the reason they were gathered was just to hear Jessica's apology.

Cognizant of the tension, Jessica exchanged pleasantries briefly before getting up to take her leave.

Once she was gone, Jack turned toward Roxanne. “Are you hungry? Do you want to eat someplace else?” Both of them barely ate and the food was already cold.

Nonetheless, Roxanne, feeling a little woozy, wondered what sort of wine had Jessica ordered. Although she only had a small glass, the after-effects were extremely strong.

In response to Jack's question, she shook her head with a frown. "It's fine. should head back earlier anyway, as the children should be home by now. can't let them wait up for me."

Naturally, Jack didn't insist and got up to leave with her.

When they went down the stairs upon leaving the restaurant, Roxanne accidentally slipped and almost fell down.

Fortunately, Jack noticed it and turned around to catch her in the nick of time.

"Thank you," Roxanne murmured before retracting her hand.

Jack flashed a smile. "No problem."

After they got into the car one after the other, Jack—who didn't drink—decided to drive Roxanne home to not trouble the driver. On the way home, a black sedan followed them from a safe distance.

With his attention entirely focused on Roxanne, Jack didn't notice the car at all.

As the traffic jam had cleared, it took them less than ten minutes to reach Roxanne's home.

"It's getting late, so forgive me for not inviting you in," Roxanne explained in a cursory tone.

Jack gave her a casual nod. "You should hurry back in. As for Archie and Benny's presents, I'll hand them over the next time see them."

After acknowledging him with a smile, Roxanne alighted and headed home.

It wasn't until he saw her go back in that Jack drove leisurely back to the Damaris residence.

“Mommy!” The moment Roxanne stepped through the door, the two boys beamed and rushed up to her side.

She tousled their hair with a smile before changing out of her shoes.

Meanwhile, they gave her a puzzled look. “Why didn’t you pick us up tonight?”

After the interaction from the day before, the boys and Estella assumed that Roxanne would pick them up as usual. Thus, the sight of Madilyn surprised them.

While Estella was visibly disappointed, the boys were worried that their mother had a new tiff with their father.

Consequently, Roxanne was baffled to see the children’s anxious looks. “I had a last-minute appointment tonight. What’s wrong?”

Upon exchanging glances, the boys observed Roxanne for a while. Only after they determined she wasn’t lying did relief descend upon them. Smiling gleefully, they replied, “Nothing. We’re just curious. That’s all.”

Roxanne grinned apologetically. “I’m sorry didn’t inform you ahead of time. Going forward, I’ll try my best to pick you up on time, all right?”

Hearing Roxanne’s promise, there was a glint in the boys’ eyes and they jumped in joy.

## Chapter 726 Cannot Forgive You

The next morning, while Roxanne was having breakfast with the children before sending them to school, the doorbell suddenly rang.

The ring caused Roxanne and the boys to exchange glances as the same thought popped into their minds—Lucian and Estella were there.

After all, both of them usually dropped by at that hour. Without a second thought, Roxanne got up and opened the door. She was subsequently greeted by the sight of her best friend looking all anxious.

“Did something happen?” A sinking feeling crept into her heart. The frowning Madilyn stretched her head to look at the children— who were busy eating—before pulling Roxanne out the door.

Cognizant that it was something the children weren’t supposed to know, Roxanne followed the former to the yard. “What’s wrong?”

“Did you see the news in the morning?” Madilyn sounded exceptionally grim. Hearing that, Roxanne shook her head in response as she was clueless.

As Lysa was held back by something at home and couldn’t come to work for the week, she had woken up early in the morning to prepare breakfast and watch the children eat.

Consequently, she didn’t have time to read the morning news at all. Nevertheless, Roxanne could tell from Madilyn’s expression that something grave had happened.

Knitting her brows, Madilyn didn’t even know how to break the news. “What on earth happened?” Madilyn’s reaction told Roxanne that it was something related to her. She repeated with a frown, “If you don’t tell me, I’ll go in and read it myself.”

Just when she turned around to go back in, Madilyn grabbed her hand to stop her.

“News of you going on a date late at night with Jack has splashed across the headlines. They accuse both of you of being close and suspect that strings were pulled for you to be included as one of the Damaris family’s partners.”

Madilyn—who greatly resented the news—spoke in a swift but incoherent manner. In spite of that, Roxanne face darkened, as she had caught the gist of it.

My date with Jack...

The only thing that came to mind was the dinner the night before. However, there were three of us. How did it end up becoming a date?

In the midst of racking her brain, an image suddenly flashed across her mind. Last night, Jessica didn't show up for a long time even though both of us had arrived...

"Whatever it is, you had better not send the boys to school. I'll take them instead, as I'm worried that you would be swarmed by reporters there. Also, don't leave home as far as possible," Madilyn instructed with a solemn expression on her face. Roxanne was well aware of the gravity of the situation.

Even though she was certain of her innocence, the media wasn't going to let her off the hook easily. In addition, Roxanne didn't

want her affairs to burden her children, causing them an unnecessary emotional burden.

With that in mind, she nodded without hesitation before expressing her gratitude. "Thank God you came all the way here to tell

me.

However, Madilyn ranted, "Why are they slandering such a good doctor like you? Once find out who's responsible, I'll definitely give them a piece of my mind!"

While Roxanne was trying to calm Madilyn down with a smile, Jessica's face emerged again in her mind, for she couldn't think of anyone else.

However, Roxanne had no clue whether someone else was behind Jessica. Realizing it was getting late, both of them went back into the house.

As for the boys, their faces drooped in disappointment upon learning that Madilyn was taking them to school.

Since telling them the truth wasn't an option, Roxanne apologized, "I'm sorry. There's just something need to deal with urgently. Once I'm done, I'll definitely send you to school every day."

Noticing the gloomy look on Roxanne's face, the brothers—in spite of their dejection—acknowledged her promise obediently.

Chapter 727 Suppressing The News After watching Madilyn leave with the children, Roxanne went upstairs into the study and checked the news on her phone.

The moment she went on Twitter, she saw the top trending topics. Pretty Doctor Pulled Strings To Advance Her Career. Jack Damaris Goes On A Late-night Date With A Pretty Doctor. Jack Damaris' Love Life Exposed...

One by one, the topics were either related to her relationship with Jack or casting doubt on her credentials as a partner in the Damaris family's project.

Just looking at those topics gave Roxanne a headache.

Upon randomly clicking on one of them, she saw that it had almost a million views.

Jack Damaris dates one of the doctors of the Damaris family's new project. Their suspected relationship was exposed... Inserted underneath the title were a few blurry photographs.

The first one showed Roxanne sitting opposite Jack in the restaurant. Both of them looked like they were chatting, while the table in front of them was filled with food.

The second picture showed them at the staircase of the restaurant entrance. Jack turned around to hold Roxanne's hand and they looked intimate.

Finally, the last picture was Jack dropping Roxanne off at her home.

After going through them, a sense of gloominess hung over Roxanne.

Even though our photos were taken throughout the night, Jack and were completely oblivious to the fact. As for the comments below, they could only be described as colorful.

A: Is she that Dr. Jarvis on the list? knew there was something strange about her. How can someone so young be such a skilled doctor?

B: Just as expected, she's on the list because of her looks! Having said that, Dr. Jarvis is really pretty. If I were in the same position, I would have included her on the list too!

C: What a beautiful couple! The first comment that doubted her capabilities instantly disheartened Roxanne.

Even though she was expecting it the moment the name list was released, she never imagined it would happen in such a manner.

Due to the exposé, the doubt cast upon her credentials was the most discussed matter.

Finally, she received a call from Jack while she was still surfing Twitter.

It took her a few seconds to regain her senses before answering it.

"I'm sorry. I just saw the news online." Jack was extremely apologetic over the phone. "Don't worry. I'll take responsibility by removing all the fake news."

Despite his reassurances, the frowning Roxanne still had her concerns. Nonetheless, she replied, "Thank you."

After a momentary silence, Jack continued, "About what happened last night, I'll demand an explanation from the Hightower family. Given Jessica's strange behavior, she must definitely have something to do with this."

Surprised by his point, Roxanne hesitated for a few seconds before stopping him. "Let's just let it slide since we don't have any evidence. What matters now is clarifying the rumors online."

Even though Roxanne shared his suspicions, she knew Jessica would unlikely admit to it in the absence of any proof. Therefore, confronting her was a futile endeavor.

Furthermore, now that the news had exploded, all Roxanne could get from the mastermind was an apology even if she found them. That was of no help to her current predicament.

Over the line, Roxanne's dissuasion prompted Jack to realize his hastiness. Upon calming down and seeing her perspective, he replied in a deep voice, "You're right. I was too consumed by my emotions. Let me think of a way to suppress the controversy first."

After Roxanne hummed in agreement, Jack ended the call quickly. Watching her phone screen fade to black, Roxanne took a deep breath.

With Jack taking action, she too, couldn't sit idly by and allow the matter to go out of hand.

## Chapter 728 Is The Hightower Family Involved

Initially, Roxanne wanted to put out a statement. However, since her Twitter account was mostly used to surf for news, it essentially had no content. Therefore, whatever she had to say would likely not reach anyone.

After further contemplation, she decided to give Colby a call and got him to use the research institute's account to put out her clarification.

Although the account wasn't particularly popular, it was still a much better option than using hers. "What happened?" Colby had gone to the research institute early and only learned of the controversy when Roxanne gave him a call.

When he saw the pictures of Roxanne and Jack interacting with each other, he felt a faint squeeze in his heart. Sighing in resignation, Roxanne clarified, "I can't really give you a good explanation but what happened last night was a misunderstanding. Both of us were not alone at the dinner."

Even though her assurances failed to cheer Colby up, he remained hopeful and persuaded himself to have faith in Roxanne.

After all, if don't trust her, one can't expect the netizens who are ridiculing her to do the same. Moreover, Roxanne has no reason to lie about the matter.

Holding that thought, the relieved Colby answered in a grim voice, "I understand. I'll put the statement out." Roxanne grunted in acknowledgment before ending the call.

Half an hour later, both Jack's and the research institute's statements were released at almost the same time and quickly became a trending topic.

However, instead of convincing anyone, the response triggered was entirely hostile and filled with skepticism. In fact, on Jack's Twitter account, netizens even began to cast doubt on the Damaris family.

B3232: Why are the Damaris family's selection criteria for the partners so lenient? How can one be included in such an important project or even end up on the name list by pulling some strings? Do you take us for fools?

Love212: Is being pretty all that's needed to be selected? In that case, even I am qualified. Many similar comments populated the feed, to the extent Jack ended up arguing with the netizens in the comments section. After skimming through the comments, Roxanne sent Jack a message: Don't worry about me. I'll deal with this myself.

At the other end, the sullen-looking Jack was busy responding to the barrage of insults. Subsequently, he was baffled when he received Roxanne's sudden message. He responded: was the one who caused this, so how can I sit idly by and do nothing?

Smiling wryly, Roxanne replied: Just let me be the lightning rod of their disparagement. At the rate you're going, the Damaris family will be dragged into the matter. When that happens, I'll be the one to blame.

Upon reading her message, the frowning Jack furrowed went through the comments online.

It was then that he realized his presence had shifted the netizens' focus from Roxanne to the Damaris family.

If he were to continue on his path, the Damaris family's reputation— built over a century—would be ruined.

Cognizant of what was at stake, Jack weighed his options before deciding to remain silent. In spite of that, he still couldn't just sit around and do nothing. Jack: In that case, I'll investigate if the Hightower family was behind this.

Roxanne responded with her agreement.

Meanwhile, when the netizens realized Jack had left, they swarmed toward the research institute's Twitter account and demanded for Roxanne to give an explanation.

Naturally, Colby couldn't tolerate the slander against Roxanne. Faced with their relentless skepticism about her medical skills, he posted a list of all the major projects that the research institute had completed under Roxanne's leadership.

Unfortunately, most of the netizens were laymen who were not bothered about such details.

In fact, even those who could see through the situation had their voices drowned swiftly.

Chapter 729 Silence Is Acquiescence

Meanwhile, Jessica had switched on the morning news early that morning at the Hightower residence, waiting to see Roxanne embarrass herself.

As she had anticipated, Roxanne was condemned all over the internet as soon as the news was reported.

However, Jessica had not expected Jack to defend Roxanne, nor did she anticipate that the Damaris family would be dragged down too.

Feeling somewhat guilty over the situation, she hurriedly arranged for people to cause trouble at Roxanne's research institute.

As a result, when Roxanne checked the news once more at noon that day, she saw the footage of a large crowd of reporters and people demanding explanations blocking the entrance of her research institute.

She tensed up when she saw the scene on the screen, and without any hesitation, she immediately got up and rushed to the research institute.

Their target is me. can't allow this matter to affect the institute's employees.

Half an hour later, Roxanne appeared at the entrance of the research institute.

The minute the reporters and the crowd present noticed her, they turned around and rushed toward her. "You must be Ms. Jarvis, right? Do you have anything to say about the criticism on the internet?"

"What exactly is your relationship with Mr. Damaris? Are the rumors on the internet true that you joined the project through connections?"

Roxanne stepped out of the car to find herself surrounded by people, and all she could see were black microphones. Some people even shoved their microphones to her face and kept leaning toward her.

Despite having prepared herself mentally, Roxanne was still a little overwhelmed by the situation and could only lean her back against the car door to stabilize herself.

Just as she was about to speak, a reporter immediately interrupted her, "Other than you, we've heard a lot about every doctor on the list. How would you evaluate your medical skills?"

Since Roxanne was more or less accustomed to the doubt over her medical abilities, she immediately responded, "The Twitter account of our research institute has posted all the medical projects I've participated in during this period. You can check out the account if you have any questions about my medical skills.

She intended to add something after that but was interrupted once more. "Even so, your accomplishments are still much inferior to those of the other doctors on the list. Do you acknowledge that?"

The question brought a frown to Roxanne's face.

Many of those on the list were more experienced than her in the medical field, so she naturally could not deny the reporter's words.

Nonetheless, if she acknowledged it, not only would it mean that she had tacitly admitted that her qualifications were far from enough to work with the Damaris family, but it would also prove that the web rumors were true.

Realizing that it was a trap, Roxanne was unsure of how to respond at that moment.

However, the crowd took her silence as a sign of acquiescence, creating an uproar among them once more. One after another, questions flooded Roxanne's ears.

Just as she was feeling helpless, there was a sudden commotion outside of the crowd.

The crowd seemed to be attracted to something as they fell silent and looked in the direction of the commotion.

Roxanne had no idea what was happening outside the crowd from where she was standing in the heart of it. She only knew that their attention had shifted away from her, giving her a moment of reprieve to think of a way to deal with it.

“Mr. Farwell?” Just as she was trying to come up with a solution, she suddenly heard an exclamation of surprise. Roxanne froze when she heard that, and she could not help but question if her ears were playing tricks on her.

How could a man as busy as Lucian show up here at this time of day?

#### Chapter 730 What Makes You Say That

As the hubbub got closer, Lucian soon entered Roxanne’s field of vision, spotting a stern expression. Roxanne stared at the man before her in astonishment. “Why are you here?”

His formal outfit suggested that he was just in a meeting, yet his tie appeared loose as though it had been tugged slightly. Upon hearing her query, Lucian’s expression turned icy. “If you can come, why can’t?”

After saying that, he shot her a look while suppressing his anger before turning to face the reporters behind him, his cold eyes swept across their faces. “If you have any questions, can answer on her behalf.”

The crowd shuddered at his gaze, and everyone turned to look at one another. No one dared to say a word for some time. Given Lucian’s status, if they said something wrong that day, they might lose their jobs.

No one wanted to face that kind of repercussion. Lucian frowned and grabbed the wrist of the woman behind him before glancing at the crowd in front of him. “If there are no questions, I’m taking her away.”

Without waiting for a reaction, he held Roxanne's hand and pulled her out of the crowd. The previously clamoring crowd fell silent as the two passed by and was even compelled by Lucian's powerful aura to make way for them.

Coming out of the crowd, Roxanne had not had time to breathe a sigh of relief when she looked at the person in front of her, and her anxiety only increased further.

"Get in." Lucian brought her all the way to his car and said in a terrifyingly chilly voice as he opened the passenger door. Roxanne pursed her lips slightly but stood still. "I drove here, so I can just drive myself back in a bit."

Although flustered, she still kept her composure. The rumors about Jack and me haven't been clarified and will only become more outrageous if I get into Lucian's car in front of those reporters.

Her rejection further enraged Lucian. Earlier that day, as soon as he came out of the conference room, he was stopped by Cayden, who stammered out the news about Roxanne and Jack to him.

Lucian already had a suspicion about the two's relationship, so when he saw the photos circulating on the internet, he merely felt irony.

Yet, the next moment, he saw the scene where Roxanne appeared at the entrance of the research institute and was surrounded by people.

Even though rage surged up within him, he still rushed over. Even so, this woman repeatedly rejects my kindness!

Roxanne noticed the man's increasingly cold expression and softened her voice a little. "I don't want to be misunderstood anymore. Go now. Otherwise, even you will be dragged into this mess."

Upon hearing the tone of her voice, a look of suspicion flashed in Lucian's eyes before he lifted his gaze to glance at the crowd not far away.

Everyone was blatantly staring at them, but when they saw him looking over, they quickly withdrew their gazes and dispersed as though nothing had happened.

Only then did Lucian shift his gaze to the woman before him and ask with a frown, "What makes you say that?"

Roxanne looked up to meet his gaze and noticed that the sense of trust was more prevalent despite the doubt in his eyes.

She knew very well what his suspicions were.

While everyone else was suspicious of the reason she could participate in the project, he merely doubted her relationship with Jack.

At the thought, other than the bitterness within her, Roxanne also found it a little funny that even after her many explanations, Lucian persisted in his thoughts about her relationship with Jack.

Even though he did help me, bet he's still irritated by those photos.