

ABANDONED 921

Chapter 921 An Apology

Upon sensing Lucian's anger, Roxanne blinked and avoided his gaze guiltily. "If it isn't because of this matter, then what else are you here for, Mr. Farwell?" she asked.

Lucian glanced at her gloomily. He only visited her as per Jonathan's suggestion—to provide help during a crisis.

However, her icy attitude toward him made him unwilling to tell her the truth. The study was filled with dreadful silence immediately. Roxanne's heart became heavier.

After a while, she could no longer bear the deafening silence. She lowered her gaze and said, "If there's nothing else, let's head out. The kids have been waiting for a long while."

Having said that, Roxanne walked around Lucian to leave. Shortly after taking a step, however, her wrist was grabbed by the man's large hand.

Roxanne had no choice but to stop and frown at Lucian. What is wrong with him? He won't tell me what's the matter, and he won't let me leave as well. What does he want?

Roxanne really didn't know what he was thinking about, so she swung her arm impatiently in an attempt to free herself from his grip.

"According to my intel, the fire that happened at the research institute destroyed the medicinal herbs you took from Herbscape Group," Lucian said in a deep voice after spending a long while regulating his fury.

Hearing that, Roxanne stopped struggling as the suspicion in her heart rose again.

How can he be so clear about what had happened if it wasn't his doing? However, since he has explained his side of the story, can't openly express my doubts.

Roxanne lowered her gaze to hide her thoughts and asked faintly, "So what if that's true? What does it have to do with you, Mr. Farwell?"

A thought occurred to her as she spoke, and she raised her head to glance at the man. "Are you trying to help Herbscape Group get the batch of medicinal herbs back?"

Although she wasn't sure why he would do that, it seemed like something he would do. As soon as she was done speaking, she felt the temperature in the study drop instantly. Roxanne's heart sank to rock bottom as she thought she had guessed Lucian's intention.

Yet, Lucian merely stared at her expressionlessly while various complex emotions filled his eyes. His grip on her wrist tightened and loosened occasionally.

He didn't know what he did to make the woman feel so paranoid when dealing with him.

Within their few minutes of interaction, she had already expressed her suspicions toward him many times.

It took Lucian all his willpower to control his strength and stop himself from breaking her wrist out of anger. Feeling the increased pressure on her wrist, Roxanne lowered her head and looked at it.

She wondered if it was just her imagination, but she felt like he was going to break her wrist in the next second. This further affirmed her suspicion of Lucian's intention.

"Mr. Farwell, if you're just here to talk about this matter, then all I can do is apologize." Although Roxanne apologized to Lucian, she didn't express any fear. "Those medicinal herbs were already burned to ashes. There's nothing I can do about it even if you want them back. If you really want them back, I can ask someone to gather those ashes from the storage room. That way, you might still be able to extract some medicinal herbs from those ashes."

Her sarcastic remarks had Lucian furrowing his brows and tightening his grip uncontrollably.

Chapter 922 This Is Who You Always Are

As Roxanne felt the pain in her wrist, she inhaled sharply and lifted her eyes to stare at Lucian warily. The latter's expression was so dark that it was frightening.

After a long while, he inched toward her abruptly. She wanted to back away. Yet, he was gripping her wrist, which made it hard for her to move.

For a moment, the distance between them was so close they could almost feel each other's breath. Subconsciously, Roxanne slowed down her breathing and clenched her fists that were hanging by her sides. She felt Lucian's intense gaze on her as he stared at every inch of her body while tightening his grip on her wrist. Just when she thought he was going to do something to her, he let go of her wrist unexpectedly.

Roxanne was taken aback by his action.

"Herbscape Group still has some stock in another city for those medicinal herbs. can get someone to send them to you as soon as possible if you need them." Lucian spoke in a deep and awkward tone.

Indeed, he almost lost control when Roxanne ignited his rage.

However, he recalled his purpose of coming over and also Jonathan's words this morning. Hence, he resisted acting impulsively. Doubts filled Roxanne's eyes when she heard his statement, for what he said didn't match his attitude at all.

Yet, after staring at him for a long while, she noticed nothing odd in his expression at all.

Therefore, she had no choice but to believe him. She replied coldly, "Thank you, Mr. Farwell. But we don't need it."

In truth, they really needed the medicinal herbs. But Colby had told her that he would figure it out.

Besides, Roxanne had no reason to accept Lucian's inexplicable act of kindness.

The atmosphere around Lucian immediately became gloomy when he heard her rejection.

Without hesitation, Roxanne pulled herself away from him before he could reach out to her and increased the distance between them.

" don't know why you want to help the research institute so suddenly. But, considering your business strategies, think it's best if we avoid getting involved with you."

With that, Roxanne raised her head and looked at Lucian as if she was insinuating something. "After all, can't be certain about the method you'll use to deal with us if something bad happens during our collaboration."

She was referring to Lucian's retort against her words earlier.

If Lucian really wanted to take action against the research institute, it wouldn't be as simple as starting a fire. Lucian's expression darkened when he caught the meaning behind her words. "What kind of person do you think am?" Roxanne avoided his gaze and responded nonchalantly, "I'm not thinking anything. This is who you always were."

Herbscape Group was a huge pharmaceutical company. Yet, it was destroyed within days after Farwell Group took action against it.

Lucian's business strategies were truly horrifying. Moreover, Roxanne was just working in a small research institute. There was no way she would risk the research institute just to go against Lucian.

Lucian narrowed his eyes dangerously. "Herbscape Group backed out on the contract first, and they play an important role in my project. What's the issue with me using my way to get my project back on track? As for your tiny research institute, is there even a worthy reason for me to take action against it?"

Roxanne remained unfazed. "Maybe there isn't any reason right now, but we can never guarantee what will happen in the future."

Besides, she hadn't found out who was the mastermind behind the fire that happened at the research institute. Thus, she couldn't put her trust in Lucian so soon.

Chapter 923 Pick Me Up

Lucian stared at Roxanne with a grim expression. Even if she did not say it out explicitly, he could tell that she was still being suspicious of him.

Realizing that, Lucian's expression darkened terribly, while the tone of his voice became colder. "Since you are refusing my offer, Ms. Jarvis, won't insist upon it anymore."

With that, he turned around and left the study. As she watched his retreating figure, Roxanne's eyes glinted with an unfathomable emotion. Confusion filled her heart at that moment.

Lucian's words still left her wondering why he had decided to come all the way to see her in the first place. She wouldn't believe his claim that he was merely here to provide the medicinal herbs.

However, Lucian did not mention anything else besides that.

Roxanne mulled over it in the study alone, but she could not find an answer to her doubts.

After quite some time, she finally decided to leave the room.

Meanwhile, the children had finished their dinner and were playing in the living room.

"Ms. Jarvis!"

When Estella noticed Roxanne coming out, she came to her side and clung to the latter's leg, acting coyly.

Roxanne was taken aback by Estella's action. It was surprising for her to see the little girl still there, which meant Lucian hadn't left the house yet.

At that thought, she glanced around the living room.

Sure enough, she noticed him sitting on the couch.

He didn't even bother looking up at her as if he had never heard anything at all.

Frowning slightly, Roxanne lowered her gaze toward Estella as she forced a smile at the little girl while caressing her hair. Sensing something was amiss, Estella stared at Roxanne's face incessantly with her bright, doe-like eyes.

Roxanne knew the children were sensitive toward her emotions. In an attempt to avoid their sight, she turned her head, but it was already too late.

"Are you in a bad mood, Ms. Jarvis?" Estella asked, tugging at Roxanne's dress cautiously.

Upon hearing those words, Archie and Benny came over and stared at their mother.

Seeing the three children staring at her made Roxanne feel a little embarrassed.

As she recalled the conversation between Lucian and her, she felt her current emotion was all his fault.

With that thought in mind, Roxanne could not help but glance at the man who was sitting on the couch.

Lucian's dark eyes met her gaze instantly, much to her surprise.

As their gazes met, Roxanne somehow felt a sense of guilt within her. She then retracted her gaze nonchalantly. Furrowing his brows, Lucian got up and said, "It's getting late. We should go home now."

Upon hearing Lucian's words, Estella tightened her grip on Roxanne's dress and looked at her father hesitantly. "B-But..."

It looks like Ms. Jarvis is in a foul mood. just want to comfort her. However, Lucian was unfazed by Estella's reaction, merely looking at them emotionlessly.

Roxanne glanced at the man, who was standing not far away from them, before turning her attention back to Estella again. Unable to bear hurting the little girl, she ruffled Estella's hair.

"Be a good girl, Essie. Go home with your Daddy and get some rest. Archie, Benny, and I will come to pick you up tomorrow." The thought of going camping tomorrow with them made Estella feel slightly better.

Suddenly, she thought of something and quickly glanced at Lucian, who still remained expressionless. However, he did not mention anything about the camping trip.

When Estella saw her father hadn't refused the trip tomorrow, she breathed a sigh of relief. She then let go of Roxanne's dress hem reluctantly.

thought Daddy and Ms. Jarvis had a fight again, and he won't allow me to join her camping trip! "Ms. Jarvis, you'll come pick me up early tomorrow, right? Before leaving, Estella reminded Roxanne once again.

Roxanne smiled as she nodded at Estella.

Chapter 924 Preparations

Roxanne led Archie and Benny back into the living room after watching Lucian's car leave. Both boys looked at Roxanne with concerned expressions on their faces.

Mommy has been in a bad mood for the past few days. She was in an even fouler mood right after she came out of the study. I'm curious about what Daddy said to Mommy just now.

Benny had never been good at hiding his emotions, so he immediately asked, “Mommy, what did you say to Mr. Farwell?” Upon hearing his question, Roxanne’s eyes darkened as she lowered her gaze toward him.

Both Archie and Benny merely stared at her, as if they were hinting at the fact that she couldn't fool them.

As she met their gazes, Roxanne could only sigh helplessly and replied evasively, “We talked about some work stuff.” However, Benny continued to probe relentlessly, “But you seemed really upset, Mommy.”

In the past, they had never seen Roxanne acting like that because of work-related matters.

It was as if she was being cautious of something.

Archie and Benny exchanged glances, their eyes filled with confusion.

What did Daddy actually do to make Mommy so wary of him?

Roxanne knew her explanation wouldn't fool those two, so she could only explain the matter to them briefly, “Mr. Farwell wanted to work with me, but refused his offer.”

Both boys still didn’t get the answer they wanted to hear. Instead, they furrowed their brows and wanted to probe further.

However, Roxanne wasn’t keen on explaining further. She simply added, “It’s inevitable to have conflicts regarding work-related matters. This is perfectly normal. You don’t have to worry too much.”

It sounded like the same thing Lucian had told Estella.

Even if they didn’t believe her words, both Archie and Benny had to admit that what Roxanne said was the truth. Nevertheless, the boys had no idea whether it was simply work-related or not.

Knowing their mother was unwilling to say anything further, Archie and Benny kept quiet obediently.

Roxanne patted their heads and changed the topic immediately. "We're going camping tomorrow, but we haven't prepared much yet. Let's hurry up and get ready for our trip tomorrow, okay?"

Fortunately, the mention of their camping trip immediately diverted Archie and Benny's attention.

They hadn't been camping outside ever since they returned from abroad. Furthermore, with Estella joining them, the boys were very much looking forward to it.

After Roxanne brought Archie and Benny upstairs, they began packing their own stuff for the trip. Since the boys had gone on camping trips with Roxanne when they were abroad, they knew exactly what to bring.

Soon, all three of them were finally done packing up.

After carefully going through everything they packed, Roxanne kept having the feeling that something was missing. "wonder if Essie prepared everything yet..." Archie mumbled to himself. Roxanne snapped back to her senses and realized what she had forgotten.

If I'm not mistaken, this should be the very first time Estella's going on a camping trip. Judging by Lucian's personality, he probably doesn't know much about camping. don't know if he will prepare anything for Estella. should prepare more for her in case that happens.

With that thought in mind, Roxanne started putting away some of the things they had already packed, leaving some empty space in their storage box.

"Mommy?" Benny looked at Roxanne with a puzzled expression.

Roxanne smiled as she asked, "Why don't we prepare some stuff for Essie too?"

Hearing that, Archie and Benny did not have any objections and proceeded to pack some stuff.

As Estella had stayed at their place for some time, the boys seemed to know her preferences well. It wasn't long before they had filled the empty space with snacks and toys that Estella liked.

It was then Roxanne finally felt they had finished packing. With Lysa's help, she packed everything into the trunk before heading upstairs and urging the boys to get some rest.

Chapter 925 Coaxing Roxanne

On the way to the Farwell residence, Estella puffed up her cheeks as she sat in the backseat. She stared at her father through the rearview mirror.

"Daddy, did you make Ms. Jarvis angry again?" Lucian frowned slightly when he heard Estella's soft and adorable voice. Estella caught on to the change in Lucian's expression and knew that she had guessed correctly. She snorted angrily.

She had thought that Lucian wanted to bring her to meet Roxanne. However, it turned out he had gone to create trouble for Roxanne instead.

"won't listen to you anymore, Daddy!" Estella said gloomily. Lucian's frown deepened. He patiently explained, "It's because of work."

It's this excuse again! Estella looked at the rearview mirror unhappily and said, "You only know how to lie to little kids, Daddy."

Lucian's eye twitched in anger when he heard that. Estella continued listing out her grievances. "You also said that to me the previous time! Earlier tonight, you tricked me into bringing you to Ms. Jarvis too..."

However, when we arrived at Ms. Jarvis' house, you secretly made her angry! Estella vowed that she would never believe her father again.

Taking advantage of the pause in traffic due to the red traffic light, Lucian raised a hand to massage his temples which were throbbing with pain. "I'm telling the truth. There's no need for me to lie to you."

“When we were eating, Ms. Jarvis’ mood wasn’t that bad! She only became like this after talking to you, Daddy!” Estella’s claim appeared to be reasonable and substantiated with evidence. Lucian was unable to refute her. He could only remain silent even though he felt a little exasperated.

Strictly speaking, it was Roxanne who found something to be unhappy about. Yet, unaware of the truth, Estella placed the blame on him.

Essie...

Estella frowned in an attempt to look fierce. “Daddy, you promised that you would let Ms. Jarvis become my mommy!” Lucian remained silent.

“If things continue like this, when will Ms. Jarvis become my mommy?” Estella’s voice was full of worry.

Lucian’s expression softened when he heard her words. “I’m also thinking of a plan, but this isn’t a choice I can make alone.” Roxanne was on her guard against him. That made him frustrated, but he could not do anything to change the situation.

No matter how he tried to explain, Roxanne was unwilling to listen to him.

Estella was also somewhat frustrated with her father.

He promised that he'll try to be with Ms. Jarvis, but he always makes her angry. If this continues, when can Ms. Jarvis become part of our family?

The little girl grew a little anxious when she thought about it. “You can’t continue being like this, Daddy!”

Lucian frowned and kept quiet.

The matter was not something that he could decide by himself.

Without waiting for a reply, Estella said with a pitiful expression on her face, "Daddy, you have to coax Ms. Jarvis." Since Daddy didn't allow me to coax Ms. Jarvis earlier, he has to do it himself!

Lucian frowned again as he found Estella's demand unreasonable.

It's Roxanne who found fault with me in the first place. How can I coax her? What if the more I try to coax her, the more she thinks that I have ulterior motives?

As Lucian thought about it, he grew gloomier.

Estella could sense the change in his mood, and a wronged expression appeared on her small face. However, she did not dare to continue speaking as she knew her father was angry.

Lucian glanced at Estella through the rearview mirror and changed the conversation topic. "What do you need to prepare for your camping trip tomorrow?" He rarely attended such events, much less brought a kid along with him to attend such events.

Lucian did not know what to prepare for Estella's camping trip.

Chapter 926 Vivid Expressions Estella was still feeling a little upset, but her attention was diverted by the mention of the camping trip.

"Food and water..." Lucian furrowed his brows as he thought about it. "Ms. Jarvis will probably prepare those. Apart from that, what do you need?"

Estella was thoroughly distracted by the idea of camping. However, she had never attended team-bonding activities like camping before.

Furthermore, the Farwell family did not have the practice of bringing their children out camping. Thus, Estella was even more clueless when it came to the topic of camping.

A moment later, a cunning emotion flashed across her eyes. She suggested carefully, "Why don't we ask Ms. Jarvis?"

Lucian stared at her through the rearview mirror and pretended that he had not heard her. "When we get back home, you should rest early."

Estella knew that it was Lucian's way of rejecting her suggestion. She quietened down unhappily. Soon, they arrived at the Farwell residence. Lucian got down from the car and opened the door for Estella. He then reached out to carry her.

Yet, Estella ignored his outstretched hands and hopped down by herself. She trudged back to the mansion with her head lowered.

When Catalina heard the doorbell, she opened the door and came out to ask them if they had eaten. However, she saw Estella sitting on the couch angrily.

Catalina looked at Lucian in confusion.

"We have eaten," Lucian said in a low voice as he glanced at the dishes on the table.

Catalina nodded her head. "Then I'll get them to clear the dishes."

Thereafter, she could not help but express her concern for Estella. "What's wrong with Ms. Estella?"

Lucian sidestepped the question. "Estella will be going camping tomorrow. Please prepare the necessary items for her." Catalina looked troubled. "Mr. Farwell, Ms. Estella..."

When Estella got mad, she would not allow other people to touch her things.

Naturally, Catalina would not be able to help Estella pack the items she needed for the camping trip.

Lucian turned to look at Estella, who was huddled on the couch. He frowned and said, "Forget it. I'll help her." Catalina heaved a sigh of relief and looked on with worry as Lucian walked to Estella.

"It's late. Pack your things and rest early."

Lucian lowered his eyes to look at his fuming daughter.

Estella shot Lucian a glare before looking away huffily.

Lucian raised an eyebrow and reached out to pick Estella up in his arms.

Not a match for her father, Estella could only allow him to carry her back to her room.

The entire journey there, Estella pursed her lips and continued seething with anger. Lucian did not speak to her after they arrived either. Instead, he typed away on his phone busily.

He did not know what to prepare for the camping trip and could only search online.

Lucian finished reading the online resources before packing Estella's bag for the trip.

A moment later, he helped Estella pack a small suitcase full of things to bring for the camping trip. "What else do you need to bring?"

Lucian only turned to look at Estella after he had finished packing her bag for her.

Estella looked at the suitcase with both anger and expectation. She had no experience in camping, so she nodded without thinking.

Lucian thought that she was satisfied with it and zipped up the suitcase before placing it at the door.

“Rest early. You have to be up early tomorrow. Didn’t you ask Ms. Jarvis to fetch you tomorrow?” Lucian said before leaving. He did not appear to care about Estella’s anger.

After speaking to her, he did not stay any longer and turned around to leave.

When Estella saw her father leaving without showing more concern for her, the angry expression on her face crumbled in an instant.

Chapter 927 Gave Him A Tight Hug “Daddy!” Estella shouted anxiously when Lucian was about to shut the door. Lucian held the door and asked, “Yes, Essie?”

The little girl looked aggrieved. She had thought Lucian would give in to her demand after she expressed her frustration and anger.

Yet, Lucian did not even bother to entertain her! Estella was not used to being treated like that. Lucian arched his brows. “Go to bed early if there’s nothing you want to say.

When he was about to close the door again, the girl asked in a piping voice, “Will you come with us tomorrow?”

A frown marred Lucian’s face when he heard that, but he did not answer immediately. Estella lowered her head and fidgeted with her fingers. “It’s the weekend tomorrow. You can spend time with us, right?”

Though Lucian and Roxanne had had a falling out, Estella believed they would reconcile should they go camping together tomorrow.

She remembered how Roxanne used to avoid them, but having been on a trip together improved their relationship. That was why Estella believed the camping trip would also do the trick.

Lucian could roughly guess what was on her mind. His heart softened when he noticed a mix of excitement and grievance on her face.

However, when Roxanne popped into his mind, he instantly subdued his feelings. That woman is always suspicious of me, so I'm sure they won't enjoy the trip if tag along.

With that thought in mind, Lucian decided to turn down her invitation. "I have to work tomorrow, Essie. I'll join you guys in the next one, okay?"

Estella pouted in disappointment, even though she had anticipated the outcome.

Lucian consoled her patiently, "Things cropped up at work, and I have to attend to all these matters. I would join you if I could." He then walked up to the girl and stroked the back of her head.

Estella looked at him with her puppy eyes, trying to gain his sympathy.

Lucian did not let the girl get to him. "I know you want me to reconcile with Ms. Jarvis on this camping trip. I would do so had I had the time. The thing is, I'm really busy with work."

After hearing his explanation, Estella knew she could not push it anymore. She inclined her head to acknowledge her understanding of his situation.

"Be a good girl and listen to Ms. Jarvis tomorrow. Take good care of yourself, and don't cause any trouble, okay?" Lucian reminded her in a mellow voice.

Estella bobbed her head in agreement, even though she still felt a tinge of disappointment. Since things aren't working out as I wished, I don't know when Daddy and Ms. Jarvis will ever reconcile.

Lucian, who had no idea what was running through Estella's mind, thought she was still mad at him. He inched closer and sat by her bed.

The girl looked at her father in puzzlement.

"I'll leave only after you fall sleep," Lucian said in a deep voice.

Estella's eyes lit up instantly as she knew his heart had softened. She sat up and gave her father a tight hug.

At that point, Lucian finally figured out what she was thinking. Though she attempted to persuade him to go on the trip once more, he kept mum.

Estella eventually gave up as she failed to get a response from him. Left with no choice, she crawled back to the bed and hid beneath her blanket.

When her breathing became even, Lucian got up and walked out of the room. After closing the door, Lucian stood outside, looking conflicted.

Not only was he taken aback by how attached Estella was to Roxanne, but he was also surprised by how his daughter was always on that woman's side. If in the future they find out they're related by blood, think Essie would kick me to the curb and forget about me.

Chapter 928 Leaving In A Hurry The next day, Estella got out of bed and waited outside Lucian's room. She still wanted to convince him to go camping with them.

When Lucian opened the door and was about to leave the room, he noticed the girl was standing right before him. Needless to say, Lucian knew her motive.

Instead of giving her a chance to speak, he said, "Come. Let's go and have breakfast. Ms. Jarvis should be arriving shortly."

The girl shook her head, but before she could say something, Lucian interrupted again. "I need to go to the office now. You must obey Ms. Jarvis, okay? Call me if you need anything."

Before Estella could open her mouth and speak, he immediately walked past her and went downstairs. Meanwhile, Catalina was preparing breakfast for them in the dining area.

When she saw him walking to the door, she asked in concern, "Breakfast's ready, Mr. Farwell. Would you like to eat some before leaving?"

Lucian continued walking. "I have to leave now. Remember to open the door for Ms. Jarvis later. She'll be picking up Essie."

Catalina knitted her brows. She wanted him to stay for breakfast, but he had already put on his shoes and seemed in a hurry to leave the house.

She looked at his back and wondered if he was running away from something or someone. Otherwise, he wouldn't be leaving the house in such a hurry.

While she was still trying to process her thoughts, Estella came downstairs.

Catalina immediately came to her senses. She walked the girl to the dining table and had breakfast with her.

Before they could take more than a couple of bites, the video intercom started ringing.

Catalina remembered what Lucian said earlier and immediately opened the door.

Roxanne and the two boys were standing in front of the entrance.

Catalina greeted her politely, "Good morning, Ms. Jarvis."

Roxanne nodded in response before taking a sidelong glance at the living hall. It was as if she was looking for someone.

Realization finally dawned on Catalina. She looked at Roxanne and uttered, "Mr. Farwell left early this morning. He told me you'll be fetching Ms. Estella."

Upon hearing that, Roxanne heaved a silent sigh of relief. She had been overwhelmed by anxiety when approaching the Farwell residence, as she did not know how to face Lucian.

She was unsure if the man would join the trip as she did not ask about it yesterday, but she knew she might end up running away had he decided to go. Thank God he's not coming with us.

Estella ran to the door upon hearing Roxanne's voice. "Good morning, Ms. Jarvis." Roxanne leaned down and stroked her head. "Do you have everything prepared, Essie?" The girl nodded at first but shook her head a few seconds later.

Her reaction confused Roxanne.

"didn't prepare them. Daddy did," Estella explained in an adorable voice.

Lucian had prepared the camping gear for Estella and told her to go through the items, but she had not paid much attention to them.

Roxanne, too, did not seem to worry because she had everything packed. Nothing would go wrong even if the little girl missed bringing a thing or two.

"Have you taken your breakfast, Ms. Jarvis? Come join us if you've not eaten," Catalina invited her to the dining table.

Roxanne grinned. "No, thank you. I bought some snacks for breakfast. The kids can eat them during the journey to the campsite."

She then lowered her head to ask if Estella was happy with the breakfast arrangement. Estella nodded without thinking twice. "I'll have breakfast in the car too!" As a first-time camper, Estella was eager to have the full experience.

Catalina did not say anything after that. She went upstairs, brought down the camping gear Lucian had prepared for Estella, and bade them farewell.

Roxanne could not help but wonder what was in the suitcase when carrying it to the car trunk.

Somehow, she felt the camping gear Lucian prepared for Estella was particularly heavy. Is it me, or is the suitcase overloaded?

Chapter 929 Teach Them A Lesson

Roxanne helped the children into the car and drove slowly out of the manor. At the same time, a skinny man leaped down the big tree in front of the manor's entrance with a camera in his hand.

After watching Roxanne's car drive away, he casually entered his car in a corner and started the engine while unlocking his phone.

Half an hour later, Aubree, who had just awakened, habitually retrieved her phone and saw the text on her screen. It was from the private detective she sent to spy on Roxanne.

That got rid of her sleepiness instantly. She quickly sat up and opened the text. A few overhead-shot pictures came into view. In the pictures, Roxanne could be seen carrying a tiny suitcase out of the mansion with three children following behind her. The suitcase was pink, which obviously meant it was Estella's. However, it was hard to guess what was inside.

In the next picture, Roxanne and the children could be seen arriving beside the car. She had opened the trunk to reveal its contents.

Noting that, Aubree zoomed in on the pictures, unwilling to miss out on a single detail.

It was after some time that she spotted something that looked like a tent. As she scanned the other items, she realized the trunk was packed with camping equipment.

Frowning, Aubree texted for clarification: What are they doing?

The private detective replied while driving: think heard something about camping.

Agrim look spread across Aubree's face when she read his reply.

Looks like the bacterium incident didn't teach her a lesson. She still dares to be so close to Roxanne! The more she stared at the smiling faces in the picture, the darker her expression became. She texted: Follow them. Tell me their location once you know where they are.

The private detective quickly agreed to her orders.

Aubree's gaze was unusually cold as she studied the pictures over and over again.

Lucian was nowhere to be seen, but that did not mean he would not be hanging out with them. Perhaps he was going there separately.

Aubree had no doubt that Lucian valued Estella and had feelings for Roxanne.

The thought of the quintet enjoying themselves at the campsite filled her with crazed fury.

B*tch! The mother and daughter are both b*tches! If not for them, would've been Lucian's wife long ago. This is unacceptable. must teach these two a lesson!

As that thought crossed her mind, she subconsciously tightened her grip around her phone so hard that her hand trembled. Moments later, Aubree forcefully recomposed herself. Glancing at her phone, which was covered in sweat, she dialed a number, her face expressionless.

After giving her instructions to the other person, she hung up and exited the room.

Upon seeing Aubree descending the stairs, Gina, who was downstairs, called out to Aubree to have breakfast. However, the former seemed to be oblivious to Gina's voice as she walked straight out of the mansion.

An uneasy feeling crept into Gina's heart as she watched her daughter leave.

Meanwhile, Aubree started the car engine and drove toward the agreed location.

Along the way, her phone that was placed beside her lit up.

She glanced at it, only to find an address from the private detective.

The rage in her eyes intensified as soon as she read the address, and she slammed her foot on the gas pedal. In less than half an hour, Aubree suddenly stopped her car at a remote intersection.

After stepping out, she took a vial from a man at the intersection, returned to her vehicle, and drove off to the address sent to her phone earlier.

Chapter 930 Let Us Use Them

The camping location Roxanne had picked was in the suburbs near a mountain. It was a two-hour drive from the city, so they only arrived when it was close to noon.

When Roxanne got out of the car, she could not help but sigh in awe while scanning the surroundings. The two-hour drive was worth it.

Their camping location was on a lush field with tiny flowers growing all over the place. Roxanne had purposely chosen a wider area to set up their tent. There was also a little forest not far from their spot.

The vegetation in the forest was denser, and rabbits would hop out and encircle their visitors from time to time. On the other side was a tiny waterfall, and thanks to the moving water, the surrounding air was quite refreshing and cool.

The gurgling sound of water also created a serene vibe. It could not be a more suitable camping site. Happiness was written all over the children's faces.

"It's so beautiful!" Estella gazed at the scenery, forgetting all the unhappy events that happened that morning. Archie and Benny looked astounded as well.

Mommy always manages to find great places like this. It's way better than the places we've camped at in other countries. "Run along and play. I'll set the tent up."

With that, Roxanne took out the camping equipment from the car and began setting up the tent. Upon hearing that, Archie and Benny raised their hands. "We'll help you!"

After all, they had been on many camping trips with her; they were capable of helping her set up the equipment. Roxanne did not refuse their offer. She then handed them the tent's corners and let the boys help her fix them.

As someone with no experience and little strength, Estella could only watch them curiously from the side and give them words of encouragement.

Roxanne was amused by how intrigued Estella looked. Not long after, the tent was up. Roxanne then brought the children's suitcases over and took out their things.

She had packed some food, toys, and clothes for her and the boys. Her preparations were simple yet complete.

After arranging their items, Roxanne returned to the car to retrieve Estella's suitcase. Sure enough, Estella's suitcase was heavier than theirs.

Roxanne could not help but wonder what Lucian had packed for Estella. Feeling curious, the three children crowded around Roxanne as they watched her open the suitcase.

All of them were dumbfounded the moment they saw its contents. Even Roxanne was at a loss for words when she saw the batteries, flashlight, and other equipment.

I'm only taking them out to have fun, but he's packing for Estella as if they're going on an adventure.

"What's this?" asked Estella curiously.

She, too, realized the contents of her suitcase differed from the others.

Feeling speechless, Roxanne shifted her gaze from the professional equipment to the simple things she had prepared for the boys.

Meanwhile, Benny finally snapped out of his shock and exclaimed, "This is so cool!" Archie and Benny had fancied things like that since young, but it was their first time seeing it at a campsite. "Mommy, let's use them!" suggested the boys enthusiastically.

Roxanne looked at the boy's excited faces and then at the items in her hand. Though she hesitated for a moment, she still agreed to their request.

Naturally, they had no use for the flashlight for the time being.

Thus, Roxanne took out the batteries and made a simple stove using the things Lucian packed. She was planning to use it to prepare a barbeque for lunch.