Leaving The Country After Divorce
Chapter 1235-1267

Chapter 1235

Lucian remained at the research institute for the entire afternoon.

After he left the building in the evening, he glanced at the time. A brief hesitation flashed past his eyes before he called Cayden and asked him to grab the medicine in his possession for examination. Then he drove to Roxanne's place.

Meanwhile, the children were playing with each other at home.

Roxanne was preparing their dinner absentmindedly.

It was because she felt a little regretful after Lucian left.

After all, he was investigating a matter involving her, and she wanted to be a part of it.

Furthermore, that was the main reason she left the hospital in the first place.

However, she simply couldn't leave the house because the children refused to let her go.

To make matters worse, she still hadn't gotten a single text or call from Lucian for the whole afternoon.

Hence, she had no idea if he unearthed anything.

Just as Roxanne was getting distracted, she heard the children's voice in the living room.

The children suddenly heard the doorbell ringing while they were playing and opened the door.

When they saw who it was, they gleefully greeted, "Mr. Fairwell!"

Even though Lucian was in a rather foul mood, he still smiled a little when he met their bright eyes.

As he lifted his sight from the children, he noticed Roxanne wasn't in the living room.

Hence, he asked the boys, "Where's your mommy?"

They pointed at the kitchen in unison.

Right as Lucian was going to step into the kitchen, Benny mysteriously grabbed the hem of his shirt and gestured for him to bend down.

Lucian did as the boy wished and positioned his ear next to Benny.

"Mommy has been absentminded for the entire afternoon thinking about something," Benny whispered.

Upon hearing that, Lucian smiled and patted the boy's head. "Thank you for telling me."

Then he stepped into the kitchen.

The children might not know why Roxanne was distracted, but he did. Roxanne's undoubtedly curious about my investigation progress. In that case, it seems like I arrived in the nick of time.

Right as Roxanne returned to her senses and turned around to check out the commotion in the living room, she saw him arriving at the kitchen entrance.

As they stared at each other, she couldn't help but recall what he had said before he left and blushed uncontrollably.

"Why are you suddenly here?" She was used to them not meeting each other often.

Therefore, when Lucian visited her for the second time on the same day, she felt a little awkward.

Composedly, he answered, "I'm here to visit Essie and tell you what I discovered during the afternoon."

Upon hearing that, she ignored her awkwardness and inquired, "How did the investigation go?"

As Lucian watched Roxanne fret about the matter, he felt his mood lifted. Then, an urge to tease her surfaced in his heart.

"I'm hungry." He raised his eyebrow and stared at the dinner she was preparing.

She was stunned for a few moments before she understood what he meant. Though, she appeared hesitant. While I want to develop my relationship with him naturally, this may be progressing a little too fast…

"The only thing I ate since yesterday afternoon was a sandwich. I don't have the energy to talk much." Lucian's voice rang in the kitchen again.

Feeling apologetic toward him and eager to learn the results of his investigation, Roxanne eventually agreed to his request. "I'm preparing dinner right now. If you don't mind, you can stay and eat with us. We can talk after our meal."

Chapter 1236

Upon obtaining the answer he desired, Lucian raised his eyebrow. "I shall graciously accept your invitation, then."

When Roxanne heard that, she still felt a little awkward, even though she was the one who asked him to join her for dinner.

It was a rare harmonious moment between them.

To her surprise, Lucian proceeded to ask, "Do you need any help?"

That rendered Roxanne speechless for a few seconds.

After snapping back to reality, she shook her head awkwardly. "No need. You can help me watch over the children instead."

A hint of disappointment was visible on his face, though he still nodded in agreement.

She thought he would enter the living room to do that, but he just leaned against the kitchen entrance and gazed at her. His action confused her.

Upon noticing her confusion, Lucian explained, "I can watch them from here. Besides, you're eager to learn the results of my investigation, no? I can reveal a little bit to you first while you prepare dinner."

Despite still feeling uncomfortable, Roxanne quietly returned to preparing dinner because she was interested in the investigation.

As he watched her busy about, he slowly recalled what she was like six years ago. She was like that in the past, working in the kitchen countless times to prepare my meals. However, I never cherished her effort. It makes me feel guilty now that I'm thinking back on it, but it also strengthens my determination to get back with her!

The children waited for the adults for a long while in the living room before they approached the kitchen with curiosity.

"Daddy?" "Mommy?" they uttered in unison on their way to their destination.

Then, when they saw the scene in the room, they kept quiet so as not to disturb their parents.

It was as if they were staring at a painting of Lucian, strapping as always, and Roxanne, busying in the kitchen.

In response, Archie shushed his siblings before they all sneaked back into the living room.

Upon hearing the children's movements, Lucian glanced behind him.

He grinned when he saw them before shifting his attention back to Roxanne.

However, because he was gazing at her, Roxanne felt slightly tense and moved much slower than usual.

Hence, dinner took a little longer to be ready.

Just as she was about to serve a dish, Lucian abruptly did it for her.

Roxanne froze for a few moments as complicated emotions swelled in her heart. If Lucian had treated me like this even once six years ago, perhaps I wouldn't have left… Well, it's too late to think about that now.

"What's the matter?" he questioned with a frown after he set a dish down on the dining table, returned to the kitchen to grab another, and saw Roxanne rooted to the spot.

His voice pulled her out of her thoughts. Then, she suppressed her emotions and grinned at him as though nothing had happened. "It's nothing. I was just wondering about the results of your investigation."

Lucian noticed something was off with her tone. "Are you feeling unwell?"

Roxanne's eyelashes trembled as she nodded vaguely. "Maybe I'm feeling a little dizzy after sleeping too long yesterday. I'll be fine after I adjust my routine."

Then she returned to making dinner rather hastily.

Chapter 1237

Sensing that she was out of sorts, Lucian felt like probing further. However, he swallowed his words at the last moment when he thought of their previous interaction.

Even when the table had been set up, neither of them said a word.

As for the three children, who were already seated at the table, the sight of their parents busying themselves brought glee to their faces.

The delight they exuded gradually softened Roxanne's heart.

Even though Roxanne had calmed down after dinner, the results of the investigations from the afternoon were still on her mind. "Mr. Farwell, are you ready to talk about it?"

Filled with curiosity, the children inquired with their childish voices, "Talk about what?"

Roxanne flashed a smile at them. "It relates to the research institute and has nothing to do with you. Go out and play now."

In response, the children looked toward Lucian for verification.

The latter affirmed in a serious tone, "Go on now."

Only then did they slowly make their way out of the mansion.

Both of them settled down on the couch with coffee by their respective sides.

"How is the investigation coming along? Is there any progress?" With her brows slightly knitted, Roxanne was filled with concern. "Is it related to Mr. Damaris…"

Refusing to believe that Jack was capable of something like that, she was anxious for an answer.

However, her mention of Jack caused Lucian's eyes to narrow.

He still couldn't shake the scene from the surveillance cameras of her happily chatting with Jack.

Even now, she's still worried about him.

Lucian felt an uncontrollable fit of rage welling up inside him.

However, the thought of her busy silhouette in the kitchen earlier helped him suppress his anger with remorse.

After a slight pause, Lucian began to speak. "As of now, there's no concrete evidence of any kind that points to Jack."

Even though his words triggered a sigh of relief from Roxanne, he continued speaking before she could declare that Jack wasn't involved.

"That itself makes him more of a suspect."

Roxanne knitted her brows in shock. "What makes you say that?"

When Lucian sensed how protective she was over Jack, his tone took a turn. "I've checked the surveillance feeds but didn't find anything incriminating in them. However,

Jack is the one who has spent the most time in the lab other than you. A few minutes before the incident, he went out to take a call. Wasn't it too much of a coincidence?"

Furthermore, his suspicions were intensified by the deep understanding Jack had on poisons.

Thinking back to what happened the previous day, Roxanne began to waver.

Although it was true that Jack coincidentally left the lab then, she still couldn't accept casting suspicion upon the very person who had invited her to join the project.

Moreover, she felt that Lucian was being influenced by his personal emotions in making the accusation.

Holding that thought, Roxanne sighed under her breath. "If you're accusing Mr. Damaris without any corroborating evidence, I would advise you to be more rational in your investigation, Mr. Farwell."

As they lock gazes with each other, Lucian's displeasure couldn't be any more obvious.

Nevertheless, Roxanne maintained eye contact without any intention of backing down.

After a long while, Lucian finally retracted his gaze and got to his feet, all while desperately suppressing the anger within him. "I have sent the drugs you used that day for tests. We'll talk about the results once they're out. As for your advice, I'll keep that in mind."

With that, Lucian turned and left before Roxanne could respond.

After watching the video from the surveillance cameras and seeing how protective she was of Jack, Lucian couldn't predict what he would do if he continued the conversation.

Losing his composure in front of her was something he swore not to repeat.

Chapter 1238

Roxanne's eyes brimmed with helplessness as she watched Lucian's leaving silhouette.

Meanwhile, the three children were playing happily outside when they saw Lucian emerge with a scowl on his face. The sight instantly caused their smiles to freeze.

"Daddy…" Estella warily grabbed hold of Lucian's sleeve. "Did you argue with Ms. Jarvis again?"

Given how hard it was for Lucian and Roxanne to mend ties, she didn't want to see them on bad terms again.

Archie and Benny, too, gave him a look of concern.

Made aware of his glowering expression, Lucian quickly regained his composure and tousled the children's hair. "It's nothing. We just have different opinions about work."

Since Roxanne had often used the same excuse every time they quarreled, his words served to deepen the children's suspicions.

Cognizant of what was going through their minds, Lucian comforted them, "I'll come and see you again tomorrow."

That was his way of promising that he would return.

Only then were the children's concerns eased as they bid him goodbye.

Over the next few days, Lucian would have dinner at Roxanne's house under the pretext of visiting Estella.

Whenever Roxanne wanted to turn him down, he would then claim that there was progress in the investigations to report.

Consequently, the former had no choice but to accommodate him.

…

Throughout that period, Estella stayed in Roxanne's house and had entirely forgotten about the new kindergarten.

Pamela, who still felt guilty over the bullying incident, didn't dare call Lucian to inquire about her absence. Hence, she had no choice but to contact Aubree instead.

"Ms. Pearson, is Essie not feeling well the last few days?"

Aubree was puzzled by the question. "What? Why did you say that?"

A sense of hope began to swell within her.

If Estella was really sick, she could pretend to visit the former just to approach Lucian.

However, Pamela was equally clueless. "She hasn't come to school recently, so I thought she was sick, isn't she?"

The words caused Aubree's face to darken.

Over the last few days, she had been scheming on how to break Roxanne and Lucian up. Although she had contacted him a few times, he would quickly brush her off. Thus, she had no idea what was going on with Estella.

Little did she expect the latter to have missed kindergarten for a few days.

Based on Lucian's previous attitude, sending Essie to the new kindergarten was his way of declaring that his relationship with Roxanne has ended. Now that Essie isn't going there anymore, does it mean that he has changed his mind?

The thought filled Aubree with frustration.

Meanwhile, when Pamela didn't receive a response, she carefully called out, "Ms. Pearson?"

Regaining her senses, Aubree desperately suppressed her anger despite wearing a scowl on her face. "Essie is feeling under the weather. I'm sorry that I forgot to inform you about it."

Pamela didn't think too much about it. "That's a relief. I thought—"

She subsequently let out an awkward chuckle before changing her words mid-sentence. "In that case, she should take her time to recuperate at home. There's no rush to come back to school."

After grunting in acknowledgment, Aubree ended the call before Pamela could say anything else.

She was afraid that she would lose her temper if the conversation were to drag on any longer.

After all, the scene of Estella crying her eyes out when she saw Roxanne hadn't slipped Aubree's mind.

Roxanne must be the reason that little b*tch didn't go to school!

Chapter 1239

No matter how she thought about it, Aubree just couldn't calm down.

It wasn't until she gave Cory a call that she found out about Roxanne's discharge from the hospital.

Without a doubt, the news further unsettled her.

After much contemplation, she steeled herself and gave Lucian a call.

However, she had to wait for a long while before she heard an answer in a frosty voice. "What is it?"

Despite gritting her teeth, she maintained a caring tone. "Lucian, I just received a call from Ms. Yaxley saying that Essie has missed school recently. Is she not feeling well?"

The moment she finished, Aubree felt her heart tense up as if she was afraid of hearing Lucian say that Estella was at Roxanne's.

Furrowing his brows in brief silence, Lucian replied, "Essie is at my mom's. You don't have to bother. As for the teacher, just inform her that Essie is sick."

Due to the bad blood between Aubree and Roxanne, Lucian didn't plan on letting the former know where Estella really was.

In addition, Lucian was certain of his feelings for Roxanne after the poisoning incident.

That was the reason he felt the need to draw the line with Aubree.

However, Aubree doubted the truth in his words.

Given how important I am to Sonya, I'm sure she would invite me over if Essie was by her side. After all, it's a great opportunity for me to bond with the little girl. Since that didn't happen, I'm not buying Lucian's story.

Coming to that conclusion, Aubree felt her heart sink. At the same time, she replied in a skeptical tone, "Really? I'm surprised that I didn't hear about something this important."

With no intention of continuing the conversation, Lucian remarked, "I still have a meeting to attend. If there's nothing else, I'm ending the call now."

With that, he hung up on Aubree before she could react.

Upon hearing the call end tone, Aubree's face lost all color.

That little b*tch must be at Roxanne's. I can't think of any other reason Lucian would lie to me.

Amidst her fury, a sudden knock on the door was heard.

Aubree stood up to get it despite looking upset.

When she saw who it was, she didn't bother hiding her displeasure.

"Aubree, what happened? Why do you look so angry?"

Worried that Aubree would do something impulsive, Frieda came over to check on her. Concern filled her mind the moment she saw the look on Aubree's face.

Aubree seethed as she spoke. "That little b*tch has gone to Roxanne's house again!"

The news shocked Frieda. "Isn't she supposed to be in the hospital?"

She clearly remembered Jonathan telling her that Roxanne's poisoning was extremely serious. Hence, she was surprised at how fast Roxanne was discharged."

Aubree slammed the door to vent her frustration. "That b*tch is da*n lucky. Why didn't she die from the poison?"

Frieda still couldn't believe what happened. "Have you asked Mr. Zaythrone about it? Given Roxanne's critical condition, the poison in her body would still take time to dissipate even after she woke up. How did she manage to leave the hospital so soon?"

The frustrated Aubree, annoyed by Frieda's incessant questioning, gave the latter the side-eye. "How would I know? Cory is nothing but a coward. Ever since I told him that I was trying to kill Roxanne, he stopped contacting me. If I hadn't asked him about it, he would probably not have told me!"

Unsettled by the tantrum Aubree was throwing, Frieda felt the need to calm the former down. "Um… How did you know that Essie is at Roxanne's place?"

The question only served to infuriate Aubree further. "Lucian told me about it!"

The answer shocked Frieda. "Really? There's no way he would tell you something like that."

Her words caused Aubree to glare at her, cowing her into silence.

Knowing Lucian, she felt that once he had decided to leave Estella with Roxanne, he would definitely not allow Aubree anywhere near his daughter.

Therefore, she found it hard to believe that Lucian would tell Aubree the truth.

With a scowl on her face, Aubree explained, "He didn't say it. Instead, he mentioned that Essie was with Mrs. Farwell, who didn't bring up the matter with me. It's evident that he's lying!"

Frieda found the situation to be equally suspicious.

Nonetheless, fearful that the hasty Aubree would make a mistake, she advised, "Why don't you give Mrs. Farwell a call? Essie might really be there."

When the scowl on Aubree's face deepened, Frieda quickly changed her tact.

"If Lucian has lied to you, you should also tell Mrs. Farwell about it. Doesn't she deserve to know since Lucian sending Essie to Roxanne's side is a serious matter?"

Knitting her brows, Aubree began to waver upon hearing Frieda's words.

She's right. I can still complain to Sonya.

With that thought in mind, Aubree gave Sonya a call.

The latter answered quickly. "What's the matter, Aubree?"

Upon regaining her composure, she spoke in a concerned tone. "Mrs. Farwell, Essie's teacher just called and told me that Essie has been absent from school for the last few days. Lucian mentioned that she's with you. I was wondering if she's not feeling well?"

Sonya's brows furrowed at once. "Isn't Essie with the two of you?"

Even though the answer was expected, Aubree still felt disheartened to hear Sonya say it. Nevertheless, she pretended to be understanding. "I've been busy recently and didn't have time to see Essie. I might have heard wrongly, so I'll call Lucian to check."

With that, she made some idle chatter with Sonya before ending the call.

She was afraid of losing her temper if they were to continue the conversation.

"Aubree—"

Standing opposite her, Frieda felt tense when she saw the grave look on Aubree's face.

Before she could finish her sentence, she saw Aubree smash her phone to the ground in rage. "It's that b*tch again. Lucian must have sent Essie to her!"

Panic descended upon Frieda. "How is that possible? Even if she has really been discharged from the hospital, she must still be very weak. If she can't even take care of herself, why would Lucian send Essie to her?"

It would have been better for Frieda not to have spoken. Now that she had mentioned it, Aubree immediately recalled how worried Estella was for Roxanne.

Instead of thinking of it as Lucian's idea, I think that little b*tch requested it herself. Who knows, she might be taking care of Roxanne this very minute!

The thought filled Aubree with rage. "Instead of guessing, we'll know what that little b*tch is up to by seeing for ourselves!"

No sooner has Aubree spoken than she stormed out of the house. Frieda didn't even have time to react.

All this while, I have treated that little snitch very well and catered to her every whim, and yet, she clings on to someone else. When I become Mrs. Farwell one day, I'll definitely skin her alive!

Chapter 1241

"Aubree!"

Frieda only came back to her senses after Aubree left in a huff.

A loud slam sounded downstairs.

Frieda hurried over to the balcony to see Aubree marching into her car and driving away swiftly.

The sight caused Frieda to ball up her fists in frustration.

I came here today to convince Aubree not to act recklessly! Instead of achieving that, I have actually given her the idea of settling scores with Roxanne. If she heads there alone, she'll surely cause a commotion!

Frieda quickly ran down the stairs and went after Aubree's car, which was heading for Roxanne's house.

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On the other hand, Roxanne and the children had no idea about what happened back in Aubree's house.

Roxanne was preparing lunch for the children in the kitchen.

"Mommy, will Mr. Farwell have lunch with us today?" Benny asked eagerly at the door of the kitchen.

The children noticed Lucian's dedication as he showed up every day, but they still felt uncertain.

Hearing that, Roxanne paused in her tracks. She belatedly became aware that Lucian and the children had grown close recently.

They were so close that the kids assumed that it was normal for Lucian to have dinner there.

"Can you ask Mr. Farwell to bring me a small cake?" Benny changed his question.

Roxanne regained her composure and flashed a smile. "I don't know. You can call Mr. Farwell and ask him about it."

Benny's eyes lit up. He ran away excitedly and got his smartwatch to call Lucian.

Archie and Estella waited aside eagerly.

Before Benny could find Lucian's phone number, the doorbell rang.

Lucian was the only visitor recently, so the kids didn't think much and assumed he arrived ahead of time.

"Mr. Farwell!"

Benny placed his smartwatch down, and the kids ran to the door to open it.

When the door opened, the kids' smiles froze on their faces.

Aubree looked down and swept her gaze over the kids. She went cold with fury upon noticing Estella standing behind Archie and Benny.

"Essie, come home with me."

She extended her hand with a forced smile, giving Estella an opportunity before she lost it.

A chill ran down Estella's spine when she noticed Aubree's expression. The young girl recoiled in fear, hiding behind Archie and Benny.

Aubree's hand paused mid-air, and her expression turned grim.

A long while later, she retracted her hand and glared at the kids. "Where is Roxanne?"

The kids stared at her warily. "Mommy isn't at home. Don't come here anymore."

They stepped back, ready to close the door.

Realizing their intention, Aubree pushed the door open forcefully and strode into the house.

The kids wanted to stop her, but they were too powerless to do so, and could only watch as she strode into the living room.

"Roxanne, you b*tch. Come out now!" Aubree screeched loudly.

Aubree did a thorough scan of the living room, but when she discovered that there was no one else present, she proceeded toward the rooms in search of Roxanne.

In the kitchen, Roxanne heard the commotion outside. Her heart sank as she walked out of the kitchen to see what happened.

Once she came outside, she saw the kids standing in a circle around a furious Aubree, who was obviously here to cause a ruckus.

Chapter 1242

"B*tch!"

When Aubree spotted Roxanne, she marched up to her with her arm raised, ready to deliver a tight slap.

Roxanne's brows furrowed at the sight. Before she could lift her hand to block the oncoming attack, Aubree suddenly stumbled and nearly collapsed to the ground.

The kids' shrill voices rang out, "Don't you dare bully Mommy!"

Roxanne was taken aback and lowered her head in surprise. Without anyone noticing, the children had quickly run to stand in a line between her and Aubree, forming a protective barrier.

It was clear that Aubree had stumbled because of their actions.

With a scowl, Aubree regained her balance. She cast her gaze downward, fixing her eyes on the three young children who had positioned themselves between her and Roxanne.

"Who are you to stop me? B*stards, stay away from me! Otherwise, don't blame me for taking action!" she warned.

Before she could walk past them, Estella reached out to grab the corner of her clothes. Glaring at her, the little girl declared, "Don't you dare bully Ms. Jarvis!"

Aubree gritted her teeth in anger. "Let go of me, you ingrate! I have treated you well, haven't I? How could you side with this b*tch?"

Naturally, Estella held onto her clothing firmly, refusing to let go. Instead, she held on even tighter.

Feeling a stab of anger, Aubree reached out to push Estella away. "Scram! I'll teach you a lesson after dealing with that b*tch!"

Estella was completely taken aback by her unexpected shove, and if it hadn't been for Archie and Benny immediately coming to her aid and providing her with the necessary support, she might have stumbled and fallen to the ground.

Roxanne had reached her breaking point with Aubree's threatening behavior toward the children. She firmly stated, "This is my home and I won't tolerate any more trouble from you. I've already warned you to leave, so I suggest you do so now."

Aubree let out a derisive snort and spun around to face Roxanne. "You've got some nerve to demand me to leave, huh?" she spat. "Have you completely forgotten the promise you made to keep away from Lucian and Essie? What happened to that?"

Roxanne stiffened, not knowing how to reply.

Aubree's haughtiness grew as she saw Roxanne remain silent. "So why aren't you responding? Are you tongue-tied? Don't think that Lucian has fallen in love with you because he brought you to the hospital while you were unconscious. I can assure you that he would have done the same thing for any other person in the same situation!"

Roxanne's lashes trembled at her words.

"Mommy." Archie yanked gently at the corner of Roxanne's clothes. He assured her, "Don't listen to her. Mr. Farwell treats you really well!"

Roxanne pursed her lips, but she said naught a word.

Aubree snapped, "Shut up! You know nothing, bast*rd. If your mother hadn't clung to Lucian, he wouldn't have given her so much as a glance!"

"That's not true!" Furious, Benny stood before Roxanne in a protective manner.

Their actions merely served to increase Aubree's fury. She stormed forward angrily, ready to punish them for disrespecting her.

Without hesitation, Roxanne stepped forward and pulled the kids behind her. "This is between us. The children have nothing to do with this!"

Aubree was extremely dissatisfied that her scheme had fallen through. In frustration, she lashed out at Roxanne. "This has nothing to do with them? What did they say earlier? Don't forget that Lucian is engaged to me. Why would he be so kind to you? That was just because you had no shame and clung to him!"

Roxanne's face turned as dark as thunder. "I have no idea what you're talking about. Please leave now. Otherwise, don't blame me for taking action!"

"You dare hit me?" Aubree screamed, flailing her arms around. "Come, try me! If you dare to lay a hand on me, I'll definitely let Lucian see what a shrew you are!"

Her provocation caused Roxanne to ball her hands into fists by her sides.

The kids were right in front of them, so she didn't want to cause a huge ruckus.

However, Aubree paid no attention to the children as she continued, "Since they are here, they should also learn what a b*tch you are. Lucian is engaged to me, but you wouldn't let go of him! Did you forget that you had the boys out of wedlock? You don't have the right to be with Lucian!"

Roxanne's expression turned dark. "Are you done!"

Aubree looked at her with a cold stare, ready to continue her tirade, but Roxanne stepped forward, her face emotionless.

Fear crept up Aubree's throat as she furrowed her brows.

The realization that she was afraid of Roxanne made her furious. "Hit me if you dare!" she hollered.

Right after she said that, a cushion was thrown in her face.

Aubree stopped talking abruptly. Her face was grim as she faced the direction from which the cushion had been thrown.

Even Roxanne was startled at the turn of events.

"Evil woman! Wicked witch! Don't you dare bully Mommy!"

They were unaware that the children had approached the couch to throw cushions at Aubree.

The children weren't strong enough, so even though they threw a few cushions, only one managed to hit their target..

Even so, Aubree was already heaving in rage. "B*stards!"

"Wicked witch! Leave our house now. We might be young, but we're not afraid of you!"

The children glared at her without fear.

Slowly, Aubree's face contorted in fury. "I almost forgot how you poured water over me before. How dare you provoke me again today?"

She then glowered at Estella. "You ingrate! I must punish all of you today!"

"Come at us! We're not afraid of you!" The kids stuck their tongues out cheekily. "We think you're the one who's clinging to Mr. Farwell!"

Those words hurt Aubree's sore spot. She immediately marched over to them. "You little b*stards! I swear I'll teach you a lesson today!"

The children ran away, not showing any fear toward her threat.

Naturally, Roxanne wouldn't allow her to hurt the children.

Before Aubree could walk past her, Roxanne blocked her path coldly.

"Get out of my way!" Aubree snarled. "You failed to teach them, so let me discipline them on your behalf!"

Roxanne refused to budge. "They are my children, and I don't need your help to discipline them. Besides, I don't think they did anything wrong."

Aubree snorted icily. "Well, it's understandable that they are this rude since they have a homewrecker as a mother."

She had barely finished speaking when a tight slap landed on her cheek.

Shocked filled Aubree's eyes as she held her cheek. "H-How dare you hit me?"

"Why not?" Roxanne retorted frostily.

She then gave Aubree another slap as if to prove her words.

Before Aubree had a chance to process the initial shock of being slapped, she was slapped again. She was livid.

"Good job, Mommy!" the kids cheered and clapped excitedly behind her.

We have had enough of the wicked woman who keeps causing trouble for Mommy. It is great to see her getting slapped twice!

Chapter 1245

Before Frieda could react, Roxanne had already jabbed the needle into Aubree's shoulder.

Upon hearing Aubree's agonized scream, Frieda returned to her senses and tried to stand between the two women despite her fear.

Immediately after she took the first step forward, and before she was able to say anything, a needle was inserted into her wrist.

An excruciating pain shot through her body at once, and Frieda's mind went blank. Instinctively, she held her wrist and squatted down. She was in so much pain that tears streamed down her face continuously.

"You shouldn't interfere. This is between Ms. Pearson and me," Roxanne said coldly before going around Frieda and squatting next to Aubree expressionlessly.

Without Frieda's support, Aubree was hardly able to stand up straight and was resisting the urge to roll on the ground as waves of pain washed over her.

Seeing that Roxanne was not about to let her off, the woman bellowed anxiously, "B*tch! Kill me if you can! Otherwise, I will definitely not let you off…"

Before she could finish her words, a volley of pain tore through her other shoulder.

Battling against the intense agony, Aubree held her arm and fell to the ground, her forehead covered in cold sweat.

Roxanne squatted next to her expressionlessly. There was no hint of emotion in her eyes as she watched the two women struggle in pain.

"I'm just teaching you a small lesson so that you know how easy it is for me to kill you guys. Not only that, but I also have countless ways to turn your life into a living hell. Try me if you're not afraid!"

After saying that, Roxanne cast a cold glance at the women and stood up. "My house is too small for important people like the two of you, so get lost right now. If you can't stand up, I don't mind helping you."

As Roxanne spoke, she casually held up an unstained silver needle and flashed it in front of Frieda and Aubree.

When the two women saw the needle, their pain intensified, and their faces paled even further.

"Just you wait…"

Resentment filled Aubree's eyes. Her hands, which had already gone numb, were clenched into fists and were trembling uncontrollably.

To prevent Aubree from saying anything that might further provoke Roxanne, Frieda endured her pain and stood up. After walking toward Aubree, she bent over and said, "Aubree, let's go back first…"

While Frieda helped Aubree up, she felt another pang of pain in her arm. Both women were sweating profusely as all color drained from their faces.

Not wanting to stay even a second longer, after getting Aubree to stand on her feet, Frieda quickly dragged her out of the house.

"B*tch! That wretched woman!" Aubree mumbled bitterly as she walked away reluctantly.

"I'm going to kill her! I will kill her!"

The two women attracted numerous scrutinizing gazes as they staggered out of the area outside the mansion.

Aubree glared back at those people but received more fingers pointing at her instead.

"Ha! Just from the looks of it, it's obvious that she has been caught having an affair with someone's husband. There are so many mistresses these days!"

When Aubree heard that comment, her expression darkened at once. "What nonsense are you spouting? Do you know who I am? How dare you make such accusations about me! I won't let this slide!"

Noticing that the person whom Aubree was scolding had halted in her tracks and was about to walk over to them, Frieda quickly grabbed Aubree's arm and said, "Aubree, just bear with it a little longer. What if things blow up and word gets to Lucian?"

When Aubree heard that, she threw a furious glare at the passerby once more before walking away with Frieda.

Chapter 1246

The two of them lowered their heads and clenched their teeth as they continued walking outside while trying their best to ignore the judgmental gazes.

Suddenly, the sound of car brakes screeching to a halt pierced their ears before a car stopped in front of them.

The next moment, they heard the slam of a car door.

Frieda and Aubree looked up cautiously and saw Jonathan standing before them, his face contorted with rage.

"What did the two of you do? Why are you in such a mess?"

Jonathan noticed the miserable state the women were in as he sized them up and swept his gaze across the nosy passersby who were whispering among themselves.

Intimidated by the man's threatening aura, the crowd dispersed at once.

Jonathan frowned and looked at the two women in confusion. "Did you two find fault with Dr. Jarvis?"

Ever since that day when he saw his sister with Aubree at the hospital, Jonathan had been worrying that she might do something foolish and had gotten someone to keep an eye on her.

Over the past few days, even though Frieda had been visiting Aubree rather frequently, they did not seem to be up to anything. As such, Jonathan chose to turn a blind eye.

However, earlier that afternoon, his subordinate suddenly called to tell him that Frieda and Aubree went to Roxanne's house.

Jonathan had a bad feeling in his heart when he received the news. Hence, he quickly ended his meeting and headed to the mansion.

However, he was still one step too late!

Frieda's arm was still hurting as she met her brother's eyes. Feeling frustrated and aggrieved, she said, "We just wanted to tell her not to bother Lucian again. What's wrong with that? After all, Lucian and Aubree are engaged to each other!"

Filled with embarrassment, Aubree glanced at Jonathan for a brief second before gritting her teeth and looking away.

She clearly remembered that Jonathan had always been on Roxanne's side.

He must be secretly gloating after seeing the pathetic state I'm in!

Jonathan could hardly believe that Frieda had the audacity to talk back to him. Almost choking on his rage, he yelled, "Shut up! This is Lucian's family matter. What has it got to do with you? What did the two of you do to Dr. Jarvis? Out with it!"

Frieda was trembling with fury when she heard that. "Dr. Jarvis, Dr. Jarvis! All you care about is Dr. Jarvis! Can't you see that Aubree and I are both injured? You asked me not to get involved with it, but you are the one who seemed to be deeply involved. Since it is Lucian's family affairs, why are you doing so much? Anyone who didn't know better would think that you're in love with Roxanne!"

Simmering with anger, Jonathan raised his hand.

"Are you going to hit me as well?"

Tears of anger welled up in Frieda's eyes as she said, "Just kill me! Otherwise, I will do anything I can to stop Lucian and Roxanne from being together!

Jonathan's hand shook slightly in midair when he noticed his sister's bloodshot eyes. In the end, he retracted his hand and was about to speak when Aubree suddenly collapsed against Frieda.

"Aubree!" Frieda got a shock. She wanted to hold the woman, but as her arm was aching badly, she could only look toward her brother.

The man hesitated for a second before extending his arm and supporting Aubree.

"It's all your fault! Why did you have to say all those things when Aubree was already feeling terrible because of Roxanne?" In a fit of anger, Frieda pushed all the blame onto Jonathan.

"Keep quiet!" Jonathan could not be bothered to continue arguing with his sister. "Get into the car. I'll send both of you to the hospital. Don't let me catch you harassing Dr. Jarvis again!"

After saying that, he put Aubree in his car while Frieda let out a cold snort before getting into the car with a gloomy look on her face.

Both Jonathan and Frieda were preoccupied with their own thoughts, and neither of them noticed the slight change in Aubree's expression.

Aubree was in a terrible mood from what happened earlier, and her shoulder was hurting badly. As such, she was sick of hearing the argument between the siblings and pretended to faint.

She was glad that she had managed to shut them up using that tactic.

Chapter 1247

Jonathan sent the two to the hospital, handled the ward admission procedure, and asked someone to take care of them before he left.

He feared he would lose his temper if he stayed there with Frieda.

Before leaving, he still felt worried, so he ordered his subordinates, "Keep a close eye on her during this period. Contact me first thing when you notice anything unusual about her."

Naturally, the subordinates promised without hesitation.

Jonathan turned around and took one last glance at the ward before letting out a heavy sigh. With that, he strode out of the hospital.

After getting into the car, Jonathan pondered whether he should pay Roxanne a visit.

After all, judging by Aubree's and his sister's appearance, he figured the trio had gotten into a fight. Frieda and Aubree were already terribly injured. He could not help but wonder if Roxanne was injured as well.

After mulling over it for some time, Jonathan dismissed the idea. Instead, he called Lucian.

Rightfully, if Roxanne was really injured, the person who should be with her at that moment was Lucian.

The call was connected instantly. "What's up?"

Jonathan opened his mouth, but he did not know what to say.

I can't possibly tell him about my sister and Aubree getting into a fight with Roxanne after they went to her to cause trouble and that he should check on Roxanne. If I tell him that, he might not let Frieda off.

Though Jonathan thought Frieda was a fool, she was still his family member. He still had to protect her.

At that thought, Jonathan mulled over it for a few seconds before saying, "Aubree and my sister went to see Dr. Jarvis today, but I don't know what they said to her. Do you want to go over to check on her?"

He had merely mentioned the two girls visited Roxanne's home but not a single word about their scuffle.

However, Lucian's expression darkened instantly. "Why did they go there?"

Roxanne has just returned from the brink of death, and there's finally an improvement in their relationship. And now, Aubree's gone looking for her without my knowledge?

Jonathan shook his head, still unwilling to tell Lucian the truth. "I don't know, either. It's just that… they're both slightly injured. And I have no idea what Dr. Jarvis' situation is now."

Lucian's expression turned grimmer when he heard about that.

They even fought!

"Lucian, you should hurry over and check on her. I'm sure Dr. Jarvis is hoping to see you now," Jonathan advised sincerely.

Lucian responded, "Got it."

With that, he hung up right away.

Seeing it was already noon, Cayden walked over to the office to ask what Lucian wanted to eat. "Mr. Farwell, what do you—" The moment he stepped in, he was shocked by the gloomy atmosphere.

"Postpone everything I have in my schedule today," instructed Lucian coldly.

Cayden gave it some thought, realizing there was nothing important planned that day that needed Lucian to show up. Hence, he acknowledged the latter's request.

Just as Cayden was about to ask for a reason, Lucian had already grabbed his coat and left the office with a stern look.

A guess slowly surfaced in Cayden's mind.

Cayden could not think of anyone else who could make Lucian put on such an expression apart from Roxanne.

I wonder what happened this time.

As soon as Lucian exited the company, he started his car engine and sped toward Roxanne's place.

He had experienced the pain of almost losing her. Hence, he was not going to let her leave him again.

If Roxanne distances herself from me because of Aubree's provocation, I won't show that woman any mercy, no matter what my mother says.

Chapter 1248

Meanwhile, at Roxanne's mansion, the three children sat on the couch with gloomy faces while staring in the direction of Roxanne's room on the second floor.

"Mommy must be very angry. It's all the two women's fault! I won't forgive them if they come looking for Mommy for trouble again." Benny sounded furious.

With his cheeks puffed up, Archie agreed, "Hear, hear! We must protect Mommy."

However, Estella seemed to be more worried than the two boys. "Mommy has just recovered, and they've come here to bully her. The doctor says Mommy can't get too emotionally agitated…"

Worry was written all over her face.

Archie and Benny did not find it strange that Estella was addressing Roxanne as Mommy. They just felt that was how it should have been.

Still, the boys, too, started to worry after hearing her words.

After all, Roxanne had locked herself in the room after teaching Aubree and Frieda a lesson. And with what Estella said, they feared something might actually happen to Roxanne again.

With that thought in mind, Benny hopped off the couch, saying, "I'm going upstairs to have a look!"

Archie and Estella, too, followed suit.

With that, the three children scampered up the stairs.

Standing before Roxanne's room door, the children knocked and called out for Roxanne with all their might.

Alas, there was no response, even after waiting for some time.

Estella panicked. She banged on the door, suppressing her urge to yell the word "mommy" as she cried, "Ms. Jarvis!"

No matter how hard she tried to keep herself together, her voice began to break.

Roxanne, who was in the room, was feeling a rush of mixed emotions. She did not have the energy to deal with the children outside the door.

In fact, she had already told them she needed some time alone before heading upstairs.

Roxanne had absolutely no strength to respond to their cries.

It was not until she heard Estella's sobs that she pulled herself together to answer, "Are you kids hungry? I'll order some food for you. Sorry, I really don't have the energy to cook today."

The children sighed in relief when they finally heard her voice.

With reddened eyes, Archie took a glance at his siblings before turning around. "It's all right. We can wait for you, Mommy. We're just glad you're all right."

At that, he held Benny's and Estella's hands, and said sweetly, "We head downstairs to wait for you. We can eat together when you're feeling better."

Roxanne nodded in silence. She did not even care if the children could see her response.

Thankfully, there was silence at the door again.

With that, Roxanne leaned against the pillow at the headboard, her emotions in a jumbled mess.

Whether or not Roxanne wanted to admit it, Aubree's words earlier had affected her to a certain extent.

Homewrecker… Never in Roxanne's wildest dreams did she imagine anyone using such a word on her. It stung.

Even if Roxanne had countered Aubree's questions, she still felt insulted now that she thought about it.

Am I really a homewrecker who ruined someone else's marriage? But Lucian had all the time to marry Aubree during the past six years. Why drag until now?

Roxanne kept questioning and convincing herself that she was nothing like the word Aubree used.

Just as she was still unsure of what to make of it, the doorbell suddenly rang downstairs.

Roxanne instantly snapped back to her senses. She then walked over to the window and looked outside.

Standing at the mansion's entrance was Lucian. He wore a gray shirt and a serious expression as he kept ringing the doorbell.

Chapter 1249

At the sight of Lucian, Roxanne felt her heart lurch, and her eyes reddened.

When no one came to open the door after many knocks, Lucian yelled, "Roxanne, open the door!"

Biting her lip, Roxanne picked up her phone and dialed his number.

Lucian suddenly stopped ringing the doorbell and answered the call with a frown. "Where are you? Is no one home?"

Roxanne held back her tears and forced herself to sound calm. "I'd like to be alone for some time. Please go home first."

Lucian immediately understood the meaning behind her words. "You're at home, aren't you? No, I won't go home. Please open the door. Let's talk this out."

It was at that moment Roxanne's tears finally rolled down her cheeks.

Without saying anything else, she ended the call and walked away from the window. However, she felt troubled when she sat back on her bed.

Watching his screen turn black, Lucian frowned and stopped ringing the doorbell. Instead, he banged on it, calling out Roxanne's name at the same time. "Roxanne, open the door! Let's talk! I won't go home if you don't see me!"

The children, who were in the living room, were discussing ways to cheer Roxanne up when they heard the yells at the door. Their eyes lit up instantly.

"Daddy! It's Daddy!" Estella's face was full of tears, but her tone was filled with joy.

With that, she leaped off the couch and ran over to open the door.

Upon seeing the children, Lucian knitted his brows. He could not hide the worry in his eyes. "Where's she?"

The children knew who Lucian was referring to.

Hence, Estella pointed in the second floor's direction and choked, "U-Upstairs. Daddy, go up and check on her!"

Lucian's gaze turned dark as he noticed their reddened eyes. He then calmly glanced in the direction of Roxanne's room before entering the living room.

Archie, Benny, and Estella quickly followed behind him.

"Two bad women came looking for Mommy just now!" Benny could not help but complain.

Hearing how grumpy they sounded, Lucian responded with a deep voice, "I know. That's why I rushed over."

At the end of the sentence, Lucian squatted and stared into their eyes. "Can you tell me what those women said to your Mommy?"

Benny's eyes flickered.

Roxanne never let the children get involved in her matters with Lucian.

However, Aubree and Frieda had gone overboard this time.

Clenching his fists, Benny mulled it over shortly and decided to tell Lucian everything.

Before Benny could open her mouth, Archie had already piped up, "They said Mommy's a homewrecker who ruined your engagement. They forced her to stay away from you and Essie. They even tried to hit Essie. When Mommy stopped them, they hit her."

With just a few sentences, Archie recounted everything clearly and coherently.

Surprisingly, he missed out on one part of the story, such as the part where Aubree and Frieda failed to hit Roxanne. Instead, Roxanne was the one who gave them a terrible beating.

Lucian's expression instantly darkened.

Aubree Pearson! How dare you attack someone I care about?

"Mr. Farwell, is Mommy really a homewrecker?" Benny gazed at Lucian with eyes filled with tears

Chapter 1250

The child's innocent question only made Lucian feel more horrible.

The word "homewrecker" was a cruel term.

However, Lucian was the reason behind Aubree's guts to call Roxanne that.

Realizing that, Lucian felt a suffocating pain in his heart, followed by an overwhelming guilt.

When there was no answer from Lucian after some time, Benny started to panic. "Mommy's not a homewrecker!"

Lucian snapped back to reality and patted his head with a heavy feeling. "How could your mommy be a homewrecker? She's—"

Lucian stopped talking and said no more.

Surprisingly, the children did not press on.

The answer about Roxanne not being a homewrecker was enough to make them relieved.

Lucian got up from among them, informing, "I'm going upstairs to have a look. Stay here and wait for me, okay?"

The children nodded fervently and watched Lucian head upstairs.

When he reached Roxanne's room door, he knocked on it, but there was no response inside.

"Roxanne, it's me. Open up. I want to talk to you."

It was Lucian's first time calling out her name so gently when she was conscious.

Roxanne, who heard his tone from the room, felt as if her heart were crumbling.

"I'm sorry. I heard about what happened from the children. Aubree and Frieda came looking for you and even caused you a lot of trouble. It's my fault for not protecting you and the children well."

His voice was full of remorse.

Clenching her fists, Roxanne suppressed her wavering heart and walked to the door. "Go home. I'm really tired today. I want to get some rest," she replied while trying hard to hide her crying voice.

He breathed, "Open the door, please. I just want to talk to you. Once I'm done, I'll leave. I promise I won't disturb your rest."

Roxanne wiped her tears away, but she did not know how to face him. "Just say it right there. I'm listening."

Immediately, the person outside the door fell silent.

Neither of them spoke as they stood frozen by the door.

After an unknown period of time, Lucian's voice rang out again.

"I know you blame me for it. Be it six years ago or now, I was the root of the problem between us."

Roxanne's eyelashes quivered while she stared at the door in front of her. It was as if she could see the person standing out there.

She had a feeling what Lucian was going to say next was something she would never imagine hearing.

"Six years ago, I didn't realize my true feelings in time, which made you leave in disappointment." Lucian's tone sounded grim and determined at the same time. "Now that you've come back to me, I won't ever let you leave. I won't spare anyone who hurt you. I'll definitely give you an answer regarding Aubree's matter."

Thinking back to how Lucian had been treating her recently, Roxanne felt her heart waver.

It was as if there was a voice in her heart telling her to trust Lucian again and to give him another chance.

If things did not work out, she could just go somewhere far away, like how she did six years ago.

After all, she had already come back from the brink of death. A little pain was nothing.

Hence, she opened the door mindlessly.

Lucian, who was still apologizing outside, stopped the moment the door opened. He then stared intensely at the door.

Chapter 1251

"Roxanne." Lucian had never felt happier when he saw her come out.

Roxanne should be very clear about what it means to open the door after everything I have said.

Roxanne was plagued with a myriad of feelings. She raised her eyes and glanced faintly at him. Her voice carried a hint of exhaustion. "Didn't you say you wanted to have a talk with me? You can start now." After her words fell, Lucian still kept silent.

Lucian stared morosely at her. A long while passed before he reached out his hands to touch her eyes.

Roxanne closed her eyes instinctively, and she felt Lucian's callused fingers brush past her eyes.

"Did you cry?" Instantly, Lucian's joy was replaced by remorse and pity. His voice did not sound as calm as usual.

Roxanne's eyelids trembled. Her eyes slowly opened, but she avoided his gaze uncomfortably. "I'm just too tired. I thought about the past and I couldn't help but…" Just as she said that, she was pulled into a warm embrace.

Roxanne froze momentarily. After she regained her senses, she struggled instinctively. "What are you doing? Let go of me!" However, Lucian was unmoved. His grip around her tightened as if he wanted to enshroud her into him.

His embrace made it difficult for Roxanne to breathe. She kept pushing him away. "Don't be like this. The kids are still downstairs." Lucian uttered, "I'm sorry." His warm breath was near her ear. "I'm sorry for everything you've been through all these years. I can't make up for it, no matter what I do." Roxanne was stunned momentarily when she heard his words, and she gradually quietened down.

Lucian's grip finally loosened as he seemed to have sensed her discomfort. However, he continued, "Please give me a chance to redeem myself. Let me protect you in the future. I won't let you shed another tear. I'll also treat Archie and Benny like my biological children. I won't let them go even if their biological father comes looking for them!" Roxanne felt that his words were like a sledgehammer hitting her heart forcefully, making it hard for her to breathe properly.

She did not realize how long she had been waiting for these words until she heard Lucian say them.

Over the years, Roxanne had raised Archie and Benny alone, wary that Lucian would discover their identity.

In truth, she did it mainly out of her fear that he would take them away from her.

However, Lucian had reassured her that they would live together peacefully and that he would protect all of them.

Roxanne had longed for a shoulder to cry on since she had stayed strong for a very long time. She raised her hand slowly, wanting to hug Lucian back.

However, Roxanne caught the glimpse of the stairs from the corner of her eyes when she raised her hand.

She saw three tiny heads shrinking their head back at the corner of the stairs.

Roxanne froze immediately. After a brief pause, she regained her composure and pushed Lucian away hurriedly. "Let go of me first. The children are watching!" Lucian's brow furrowed. With Roxanne in his arms, he turned back to look.

Estella, Benny, and Archie were standing at the corner of the stairs together. They stuck out their tongue meekly when they met Lucian's gaze.

"Essie, it's all because of you! Mommy is looking over here. Why are you not hiding?" Benny complained, lowering his head.

Estella, who was mentioned, blinked twice. She looked all innocent.

Chapter 1252

Benny could not help but chuckle after complaining.

His laughter influenced the other two children to chuckle uncontrollably as well.

The children came upstairs to take a look as they were worried about Roxanne.

However, they did not expect to see the scene of Lucian hugging Roxanne when they went up.

Hence, the children paused in their steps and hid in the corner to watch secretly.

They were all a little taken aback to see that Roxanne was attempting to return Lucian's hug. Their eyes were wide with expectation, and they did not notice when Roxanne was looking back at them.

Although the children were caught peeking, they were much happier than any other day.

Becoming a family shouldn't be a far-fetched dream from how Mommy and Daddy have gone further than reconciling."

Let go of me now…" Roxanne's face flushed, and her voice was brimming with guilt from being seen by her children.

Lucian then let go of her slowly, but one of his arms was still on her waist. He looked solemnly at the children, who had ruined his mood.

"When did you guys come up?" The children exchanged glances. Finally, Archie said, "We were here when you were hugging Mommy!" Roxanne's face got progressively redder when she heard his response.

Lucian frowned. "Remember to hide really far away when you see things like this in the future." The children responded obediently, "Okay! We will make sure not to be seen by Mommy next time!" Lucian's face darkened, and he did not say anything.

Roxanne's brow furrowed, and she looked at them in embarrassment and anger. "Don't sprout nonsense. We were just…" She struggled for a while to think of a good reason. However, Roxanne was teased by her children.

"Mommy's face is so red!" When she heard that, Roxanne held her tongue and instinctively raised her hand over her face. Indeed, her face was burning.

A flash of panic filled her eyes. She got away from Lucian quickly after realizing that she was still held by him.

This time, Lucian did not stop her. Roxanne surreptitiously breathed a sigh of relief.

Archie noticed Roxanne's face had turned crimson red, and he changed the topic. "Mommy, can you cook us lunch since you're feeling better now? We're starving!" Benny and Estella, who was at the side, nodded in agreement. They stared fixedly at Roxanne.

Roxanne's mood improved considerably when she saw that the children were no longer pestering her over what happened earlier. "I'll make lunch now. You can eat some snacks or fruits to fill your stomach if you're really hungry." Roxanne did not dare to look at Lucian after her words fell. She walked away from him in a rush and headed downstairs.

When Roxanne walked to the stairs, Lucian's voice rang again.

"I haven't eaten lunch yet. If it's possible, can you make something for me too?" After saying that, Lucian added another sentence as if he was afraid that Roxanne would turn him down. "I can order takeout if it's not convenient." After Lucian spoke, the children asked innocently in a childish voice, "Mr. Farwell, what are you going to order? We want to eat the same food as you!" Lucian began talking about the takeouts Cayden often got for him.

The children were enticed since the selection of food sounded so good.

Roxanne listened helplessly to their happy conversation. "I have already prepared the ingredients. I can cook something up quickly. There's no need to order takeout."

Chapter 1253

Estella, Benny, and Archie rejoiced in silence after hearing what Roxanne had to say. They then turned to stare at Lucian.

Lucian smiled. "What a shame. I'll take you guys there to eat next time."

The kids jumped for joy upon hearing that.

Roxanne felt warm and fuzzy as she watched the scene before her. She didn't say anything anymore and went downstairs to prepare dinner. Next, Lucian took the three kids and followed closely behind.

Estella, Archie, and Benny surrounded Lucian and looked at him with faces full of anticipation in the living room.

"Mr. Farwell, when can you become our daddy?"

Benny stared fixedly at Lucian.

Lucian caressed his head gently. "Soon. Don't worry. I won't let anyone else have the chance to become your father."

Hearing that, Benny gave a small cheer.

Immediately, Estella chipped in, "Daddy, you must keep your promise this time!"

Lucian once promised Estella he would make Roxanne her mother, but Lucian had a fallout with Roxanne. In the end, Aubree was the one who ended up looking after her.

The incident had left a lingering fear in her heart.

Lucian turned to face Estella apologetically. "I will. It was all my fault last time. But I've thought things through now, so it won't happen again."

Estella puffed her cheeks and stared at her father with a hint of resentment in her eyes.

"Mr. Farwell."

Archie stood at a corner and spoke in a serious tone. "Ms. Pearson and Ms. Queen will apologize to Mommy, right? Will they come and mess with Mommy again?"

In fact, he had wanted to ask when Lucian would call off his engagement with Aubree but decided to hint at it instead.

After all, they were father and son so Lucian caught on to his meaning immediately. He replied grimly, "I won't let them off the hook this time. Don't worry, guys. I'll take care of things on my end."

Archie nodded and turned to look in the direction of the kitchen.

Lucian followed his gaze to see Roxanne busying herself there. and his gaze softened.

"Go play on your own for a bit. I'll go and help your Mommy prepare dinner.'

With that, Lucian stood up and was about to make his way to the kitchen when he paused in his footsteps. "You guys can stay here. The kitchen is rather smoky."

The kids nodded and gave him a knowing smile, indicating that they would let Lucian spend some alone time with Roxanne this time around.

Lucian then turned around and went into the kitchen.

On the other hand, Roxanne's mind was occupied with the series of events as she cooked.

Lucian's words had caught her completely off guard.

She couldn't help but regret her actions now that she thought about it. How can I forgive him so easily?

She cut the vegetables angrily and forcefully upon the thought.

Just as she was lost in her thoughts, Lucian's voice sounded from behind her.

"What are you thinking about?"

Lucian stared at her, feeling baffled.

She didn't even notice I was standing behind her. I wonder what is on her mind right now.

Roxanne's hands slipped as she was jolted back to her senses.

"Be careful!"

Lucian quickly reached out and grabbed her hand, effectively stopping her from accidentally chopping her fingers off. He then guided her hand to put the knife down.

The both of them stood in silence as they recovered from the shock.

Chapter 1254

"Let me help you."

Lucian picked up the kitchen knife as he returned to his senses.

Seeing Lucian holding a kitchen knife in his hand felt weird as he looked like a nobleman in his expensive tailored shirt and trousers.

Err… he looks out of place.

Roxanne was at a loss for words as she watched on.

She had wanted to treat Lucian coldly when he told her to make way but was too stunned to do so.

Lucian clumsily sliced through the vegetables as he wasn't used to doing all this.

He managed to double the amount of time Roxanne would have normally spent on cutting the vegetables.

Roxanne quickly returned to her senses just as Lucian was about to carry on with preparing dinner. "Please leave the rest to me."

Lucian stepped aside and watched Roxanne as he knew he wasn't good at cooking.

Roxanne felt awkward being watched, so her actions were rather stiff.

"Are you regretting your actions just now?" Lucian suddenly spoke up.

Roxanne paused as his question completely caught her off guard. The surprise almost caused her to flip the pan.

Lucian reached out and grabbed her hand before things could get any worse. "Did you regret letting me off the hook so easily?"

Roxanne was at a loss for words as his questions hit the nail on the head.

She tensed up as he spoke and thought that they were going to part ways on a sour note again.

However, Lucian tightened his grip on her wrist. "I won't let you regret your decision ever."

Roxanne turned off the stove with mixed feelings, but couldn't bring herself to turn around since Lucian was standing behind her.

"I've promised you I would give you an explanation. It was my fault you lost faith in me as I allowed this to drag on ."

His warm breath tickled the back of her ear. She secretly felt glad that her back was facing him, or else he would have seen the hesitation on her face.

"You've finally forgiven me after so long. I can't go down the wrong path anymore."

As he said that, Lucian let go of her hand. "Don't worry. I'll give you an explanation for the things that happened today."

Roxanne could tell that he was being serious. She asked nervously, "What are you going to do?"

Lucian kept quiet and dialed Aubree's number instead.

It was time he called off his engagement with Aubree.

After a moment of silence, Roxanne turned around to check on him and immediately saw his phone screen.

A wave of nervousness crashed through her when she saw the number he dialed.

Nevertheless, nobody picked up the phone on the other end.

Lucian hung up after a while, feeling frustrated.

His gaze softened again when he turned to Roxanne.

"I'll talk to her and give you an explanation. You were never a homewrecker, to begin with."

Lucian continued in a determined tone, "My wife has always been you, and you alone all along."

Roxanne's eyes fluttered and her heart skipped a beat. She lowered her gaze in a wave of panic as she didn't know how to face him. However, Lucian grabbed her chin and forced her to meet his eyes.

Chapter 1255

"Trust me."

Following Lucian's gentle murmur, a soft kiss fell on Roxanne's lips.

Roxanne instinctively held her breath and gazed at the man before her dazedly.

Her eyes flickered when she thought of his words earlier, and she finally let down her guard.

Although Lucian wanted to deepen the kiss, he could only test the waters carefully as he wasn't sure about Roxanne's feelings. Sensing that, Roxanne slowly closed her eyes.

The next second, Lucian pulled her into his arms and engulfed her in a heated kiss.

After a long time, Roxanne began to run out of breath. She pushed at Lucian's chest, and only then did he let go of her reluctantly.

Lucian panted heavily with furrowed brows, his eyes as deep as the ocean. As he stared at Roxanne, it seemed as if he was going to devour her.

Upon meeting his eyes, Roxanne felt her heart skip a beat. She averted her gaze in a panic and forced herself to stay calm. "Let's eat. The kids must be starving."

Then, she dished up the food nonchalantly to bring them to the dining table and, at the same time, escape from Lucian.

The emotions churning in Lucian's eyes were so passionate that she somehow felt scared.

Just as Roxanne passed by Lucian, his low, hoarse voice sounded beside her ear. "This time, don't try to pretend as if nothing happened. It's been so long since Essie wanted you to be her mommy. Don't you think of running away."

Roxanne paused for a millisecond, but she quickened her footsteps the next moment and left the kitchen.

There was no one in the living room.

Archie, Benny, and Estella had tactfully gone to the courtyard to avoid disturbing their parents.

After placing the dishes on the table, Roxanne stood in place for a while to calm herself down before walking to the door to call the kids.

"Mommy, where's Mr. Farwell?"

The trio sat by the dining table and looked around curiously. Lucian's plate and cutlery were set on the table, but the man was nowhere to be seen.

Roxanne glanced at the kitchen out of reflex and flashed them a sheepish smile. "He's still in the kitchen. He'll be here soon."

As if hearing their conversation, Lucian came out of the kitchen right after Roxanne's words fell.

Hearing footsteps behind her, Roxanne turned around.

When she saw Lucian's unkempt shirt, the feelings she had barely managed to suppress were stirred up again. Even her face started to flush uncontrollably.

On the other hand, Lucian strolled over with an unbothered expression even under their stares.

"Sorry to keep you waiting."

Lucian sat across Roxanne and smiled apologetically at the kids.

In return, the trio exchanged glances before telling Lucian it was okay.

Except for Roxanne, everyone at the table was in a great mood.

During the meal, they kept placing food on each other's plates.

Roxanne did that repeatedly for the three children out of habit. When she finally turned her attention back to her own plate, she discovered it was full of her favorite food.

Across her, Lucian retracted his hand leisurely. From the looks of it, he was going to get her more.

Roxanne felt her heart flutter, but she immediately stopped him. "That's enough. I can't eat so much."

Lucian listened to her and finally halted his actions.

Meanwhile, Archie, Benny, and Estella stared at the two adults.

As Roxanne was still not used to this kind of atmosphere, she looked a little helpless.

"How is your mommy's cooking? Is it good?"

Lucian's cheerful voice broke the awkwardness.

The kids instantly understood what he meant and looked away from Roxanne. "Yes!" they answered sweetly.

Taking that opportunity, Lucian began chatting with them.

Roxanne heaved a silent sigh of relief. At the sight of the pile of food on her plate, she was suddenly overcome with a bittersweet feeling.

Chapter 1256

After lunch, Roxanne noticed Lucian seemed to make a phone call. In no time, the mansion's doorbell rang.

Roxanne opened the door and saw Jonathan standing outside with a smile.

He quickly swept his gaze over her and was relieved to find that she was unhurt. Breaking into a grin, he said, "Dr. Jarvis, I'm here to pick up Lucian. Where is he?"

Earlier, Lucian had called Jonathan and asked the latter to pick him up. There were things they had to discuss face-to-face.

Jonathan could more or less guess what Lucian wanted to talk about, so he did not reject the request. Right after hanging up, he rushed over.

As if worried that Roxanne would be suspicious, Jonathan added casually, "It's about work. We have to talk at the company, and since I was nearby, I dropped by to pick him up."

Roxanne found Jonathan's expression a bit strange, but she did not probe.

After all, Jonathan had said that it was about work, so it should have nothing much to do with her.

Roxanne stepped aside and let Jonathan in. "He's inside. Go on in and call him."

Without hesitation, Jonathan took a step forward to head into the house.

At that moment, Lucian appeared with the three kids trailing behind him.

Upon spotting Jonathan, the trio greeted him in unison. "Hello, Mr. Queen!"

Jonathan was delighted to see the kids looking genuinely happy. "Hello, little ones. I came in such a hurry that I forgot to buy you gifts. I'll make it up to you next time, all right?"

The kids nodded obediently and turned to Lucian with puppy eyes.

"Mr. Farwell, are you leaving already?" Benny asked, reluctant to part with Lucian.

Lucian stroked Benny's head and told him, "I have some things to attend to. I'll see you tomorrow."

Archie, Benny, and Estella all looked unwilling to say goodbye just yet.

Although they practically ate with Lucian and Roxanne every day over the past few days, this day was different.

They wished they could just stick to the couple's side from this day on, but to their disappointment, Lucian was leaving so soon.

Lucian rubbed the children's heads one by one to make them feel better. Next, he strode toward Roxanne.

Since Jonathan and the kids were there, Roxanne couldn't help but feel nervous. She had no idea what Lucian was going to do.

Fortunately, Lucian only approached her and told her, "Wait for me. I'll make it clear to you."

As Roxanne took in Lucian's deep voice, she looked at him in confusion.

However, Lucian had already spun on his heels and walked to Jonathan's side by then. Without pausing, he headed outside.

Jonathan hurriedly bid goodbye to Roxanne and the children. "We'll get going then. See you."

The children waved at him politely.

Turning around, Jonathan swiftly caught up to Lucian.

The two men got into Jonathan's car without even sparing a glance at Lucian's vehicle.

While Roxanne watched them leave with the kids by her side, questions started to pop up in her mind.

Jonathan had said they were going to the company to talk about work.

Yet before Jonathan came, Lucian never mentioned anything about it.

Aside from that, what Lucian said before he left made Roxanne nervous for some reason.

Make it clear to me? What is he referring to? Is it about Aubree and Frieda's commotion earlier today, or…

When an idea occurred to Roxanne, she snapped back to her senses. Anticipation began to grow in her heart.

Chapter 1257

"Lucian, how's Dr. Jarvis?" Jonathan gingerly asked after they had driven for some distance.

It was bad enough that one could cut the tension in the car with a knife, but it was even worse to see a grim-faced Lucian in the rearview mirror. Naturally, Jonathan couldn't help but wonder if he had imagined the earlier interaction.

I remember Lucian being perfectly normal with Roxanne and the kids just now. Why has he done a one-eighty since getting into the car?

Alas, Lucian merely shot Jonathan a cold stare and asked, "Where are Aubree and your sister?"

"I sent them to the hospital," Jonathan replied, sheepishly touching his nose as he did.

"Take me there."

Left with no other choice, Jonathan sighed inwardly and nodded.

D*mn it. I wonder if he'll take his anger out on our family when he sees Frieda later…

After a few seconds of silence, Jonathan composed himself and brought the focus back to Roxanne and Lucian. "By the way, Dr. Jarvis wasn't hurt, was she?"

Lucian shook his head, his expression somber. "No, she wasn't. I checked."

Then again, so what if she wasn't injured? Seeing her cry made my heart ache even more!

"Aubree must've gone after her because of you. Did Dr. Jarvis say anything?" Jonathan probed before getting the nagging feeling that something was off. "Wait a minute… You didn't piss Dr. Jarvis off again, did you?"

Lucian's gaze darkened when he noticed the difference in his friend's tone. "No. I won't do that again."

Jonathan, however, was perplexed by that answer.

"I don't think I can ever forget the previous incident," Lucian added somberly. "After having experienced the pain of almost losing her, all I want to do now is make her happy."

Seeing Aubree pick on Roxanne only reminded me of how much the latter suffered from her mood fluctuations after she regained consciousness. I don't want to put her through that kind of ordeal again!

Upon hearing his friend's words, Jonathan felt a wave of relief wash over him. "That's more like it. If you had realized this sooner, perhaps there wouldn't be so many problems."

"That's why I won't let anyone who has hurt her off the hook!"

With that, Jonathan's heart lurched.

Ah, sh*t. Why did Frieda have to do all those stupid things? I've warned her time and time again to stay out of Lucian's private matters, yet she still had to tag along with Aubree. Look what she's done now! Who knows if Grandpa can take the stress if Lucian unleashes his anger on our family? That's what scares me the most!

Plagued by worry, Jonathan gradually slowed down his driving.

Alas, despite doing his best to buy more time, they eventually still arrived at the hospital.

Having resigned himself to fate, Jonathan stepped out of the car and led the way.

The two men strode into the hospital, and it wasn't long before they got to Aubree's ward.

The subordinates tasked with looking after Aubree and Frieda immediately greeted Jonathan, "Hello, Mr. Queen."

"Has she woken up?"

As soon as Jonathan's question left his mouth, he heard what sounded like an argument coming from the ward.

Knowing it could only be his half-witted sister talking to Aubree, he quickly cleared his throat.

As much as he was mad at Frieda, she was still his sister and a part of the Queen family. There was no way he could leave her in the lurch.

Besides, if she were to spout any more nonsense, not even he might be able to protect her!

Chapter 1258

The two women in the ward seemed to have heard the noise outside and quickly quietened down.

Seconds later, Frieda got up and opened the door.

Upon seeing the men, she panicked so much that she had to clench her fists tight to calm herself down.

"Lucian, have you come to visit Aubree? Her injuries are pretty bad. I blame—"

Unfortunately, before she could finish her sentence, Jonathan interrupted, "Shut up! This is for Lucian and Aubree to discuss between themselves. I want you to come here right now!"

Stunned by her brother's sudden outburst, Frieda glared at him and was about to retort when she saw Lucian's cold-eyed stare.

After feeling a chill run down her spine, Frieda promptly swallowed her words and walked out with her head hung low.

Lucian, on the other hand, said nothing and entered the ward.

With that, Frieda stood outside, dazed and frozen from Lucian's terrifying stare.

Meanwhile, Aubree wiped her scowl away and recomposed herself as soon as she heard the commotion. By the time Lucian walked in, she had plastered a look of surprise and hurt on her face. "Lucian, what brings you here?"

Even though she stiffened at the sight of Lucian's expression, she still managed to keep her smile and quickly added, "Come on. Take a seat."

Instead, Lucian stood by the bed and stared her down. "Who told you to look for Roxanne?"

A glint flashed across Aubree's eyes as she calmly shared her sob story.

"You said Essie was at Mrs. Farwell's, so I swung by to visit her. However, when I was told that wasn't the case, I figured you must've sent Essie to Ms. Jarvis. I was worried Mrs. Farwell might storm Ms. Jarvis' place and overwhelm her. That's why I decided to make the trip myself…"

The next second, Aubree looked down at her injured arm and choked out, "I believe I was very polite and reasonable. After all, I only wanted to take Essie home before Mrs. Farwell showed up. However, Ms. Jarvis ignored my pleas and attacked me without warning. Look at my arm! It's so severely injured that I still can't move it… Have I offended Ms. Jarvis in any way? Why must she be so cruel toward me?"

Even as she spoke, Aubree stole glimpses of Lucian to gauge his reaction.

Alas, no matter how miserable she made herself seem, the man remained stern and cold. One thing was for sure—the atmosphere around him was growing increasingly tense by the second.

Having sensed Aubree's lingering gaze, Lucian suddenly frowned and turned to her.

After seeing the disgust and hatred in the latter's eyes, Aubree felt her hair stand on end as she became panic-stricken.

"L-Lucian…" she stuttered. "Are you mad that I looked for Ms. Jarvis? I promise never to show up in front of her again! She has just recovered, so I understand her emotions might be all over the place. In any case, this is a small injury. I can overlook it—"

"Shut up!" Lucian bellowed. He already knew the truth, but hearing Aubree twist the facts and picturing a teary-eyed Roxanne only further stoked his rage.

Aubree trembled and instantly held her tongue, eyes wild with fear as she stared at the man before her.

"Aubree Pearson, I'm sure you've been acting a lot in front of my mother and me all these years. Haven't you had enough?" Lucian snapped, his face devoid of warmth.

Chapter 1259

"Lucian, what are you talking about—" Of course, Aubree would never admit to what she did, so she had no choice but to continue playing coy.

However, Lucian did not let her finish her sentence. "We're both at fault for letting our joke of an engagement drag on for six years. Now, it's time to end it! After you get discharged, I'll announce the end of the relationship between our families. I'm only doing this for Old Mr. Pearson's sake, so play along if you know what's good for you!"

We're calling it off? Aubree widened her eyes in shock and took quite a while before regaining her senses. It took me six years to finally get Lucian to give me another chance. I can't believe my dream shattered when I'm this close to realizing it! How can he be so cruel to me? No! I won't allow this to happen! I've worked so hard for six years, so there's no way I'm going to let him get his way!

Ignoring the injury on her arm, Aubree gritted her teeth and reached out to grab the hem of Lucian's shirt. Her arm trembled uncontrollably in pain as she begged, "Lucian, give me another chance. I know I was wrong; I won't make the same mistake again!"

Lucian simply looked coldly at Aubree as she continued pitifully, "I promise I'll do whatever you want. You can ask me to do anything! I won't see Ms. Jarvis! Just please forgive me! I've waited so many years for you, Lucian. Does that mean nothing to you?"

"If you really cared about the engagement, you wouldn't have been foolish enough to cross the line time and again!" stated Lucian impatiently.

Aubree's eyes turned red as she explained, "I was just… I was just jealous! She went away for six years, but you were still so good to her when she returned. I waited six years for you, yet you couldn't even spare me a glance—"

Before Aubree could finish her sentence, Lucian coldly shook off the hand clinging to the hem of his shirt.

After crying out in pain, Aubree tried to keep Lucian by her side even though she was already breaking out in a cold sweat.

Lucian took two steps backward indifferently. "If you really do understand that you were wrong, then stay away from them. Otherwise, I'll disregard the years we had together. I'm only showing you mercy today for Old Mr. Pearson's sake!"

With that, Lucian turned around and walked out, leaving Aubree to stare at his back.

"Lucian!" cried Aubree at the top of her lungs, yet the man showed no sign of slowing down.

Aubree burst into tears as she watched the door close before her. At that moment, there was nothing but hysteria in her eyes. It's over. It's all over. The six years I spent to maintain the engagement…

Meanwhile, Fried froze for a few seconds atthe door before being forcefully dragged back to her ward by Jonathan.

Frieda's arm had not recovered completely, so when her brother yanked it, she hissed in pain.

"Are you out of your mind? I'm your sister, and I'm still hurt! How could you treat me like this?" questioned Frieda furiously after struggling to regain her balance.

Looking daggers at his sister, Jonathan responded, "I thought you forgot that you were still a Queen. Look at the foolish things you did! Do you even care about our family?"

Frieda was stricken with fear when she remembered the look Lucian gave her but continued to put on a brave face. "What makes you think I don't care about our family? Who do you think will reap the benefits after I help Aubree become Mrs. Farwell?"

"Idiot!" exclaimed Jonathan, convinced that his sister would be the death of him.

Chapter 1260

However, Frieda was only just getting started. "If it weren't for Roxanne, Lucian and Aubree would've gotten married long ago!"

At that point, Jonathan wanted nothing more than to slap some sense into his sister. "Can you still not see the truth? Even if Dr. Jarvis didn't return, there was no way Lucian would marry Aubree!"

When Frieda heard that, she began to doubt herself. "How's that possible? I remember how he used to…"

Having witnessed how obsessed Lucian was with Aubree six years ago, Frieda was convinced Roxanne was the reason Lucian and Aubree did not end up together.

"You shut your mouth! If Lucian really loved Aubree, why didn't he marry her? Dr. Jarvis has always been the one he loves!" rebuked Jonathan.

"That's impossible!" Suddenly, Frieda did not sound as confident as she did before.

"Then how about you tell me why Lucian refused to marry Aubree if he loved her so much?" questioned Jonathan with furrowed eyebrows.

Frieda trembled as she continued to doubt herself. "But… Even if Lucian didn't love Aubree, they were engaged! Besides, Roxanne's had a child with another man. It's impossible that she'd be worthy of someone like Lucian!"

"Lucian has already decided to call off the engagement!" roared Jonathan.

Immediately after hearing that, Frieda dropped her jaw because she could not believe her ears. "How can that be? It's been six years, so why would Lucian suddenly decide to call off the engagement?" If he wanted to do that, why didn't he say anything about it earlier?

Jonathan gave his sister a disappointed look before responding, "I told you long ago to stop getting involved in Lucian's personal affairs, but you just wouldn't listen! Look how it turned out! If this affects our family, I won't go easy on you even though you're my sister!"

Frieda was already buried in self-doubt when she heard her brother's harsh words. Looking incredulously at her sibling, she cried, "Jonathan!"

"I don't have a sister as stupid as you!" Jonathan was so upset that his head hurt. "From now on, you better do as you're told and stay in the hospital. If you get into trouble again, I'll inform Grandpa and have you kicked out of the family!"

Still refusing to believe that Lucian would call off the engagement with Aubree so easily, Frieda clenched her fists as her lips trembled uncontrollably.

"That's impossible. That's impossible…"

She was just about to rush out to confirm with Aubree when someone suddenly knocked on the door.

Following that was Lucian walking in with a blank expression.

Frieda's heart almost skipped a beat when her gaze met Lucian's. The woman instinctively took a few steps backward.

She refused to believe Lucian would actually call off the engagement, even after everything Jonathan had said.

However, the second Frieda saw Lucian's expression, she began to change her mind.

Frieda was filled with terror as she wondered what Lucian would do to her after all the things she had done with Aubree.

Lucian's gaze only stayed on Fried for a few seconds before he shifted his attention to Jonathan. "I'm done. We can go now."

Like his sister, Jonathan was also nervous then.

Despite his harsh words, he did not think he would be able to stomach watching Lucian teach Frieda a lesson.

Fortunately, that did not seem like Lucian's intention.

After sighing in relief internally, Jonathan nodded in response and strode out, leaving his sister behind.

"I'm so sorry, Lucian. I should've kept an eye on Frieda." In the end, Jonathan still decided to share the blame after walking out the door.

Chapter 1261

Frieda stood rooted to her spot as she looked at Jonathan and Lucian leave. She was stunned for a while before regaining her senses and hastening toward Aubree's ward.

She had to hear Aubree's answer in person.

Frieda was halted by Jonathan's subordinate, who was stationed outside the ward's entrance. "Ms. Queen, Mr. Queen forbade you from coming close."

She glared at him angrily. "Get lost! I'm just going in to say a few things. I'll come out the moment I'm done talking."

With that, she made to stride into the room.

Jonathan's subordinate was caught in a difficult position, standing before Frieda and blocking her way forward. Still, he didn't dare to lay a finger on her and could only watch as she pushed the door open and walked into the room.

"Aubree!"

Frieda impatiently wanted confirmation from Aubree right after she opened the door.

The next second, she caught herself when she witnessed Aubree crying hysterically. Then, she quietly left the ward.

There wasn't any need for her to probe further, as Aubree's demeanor cleared up her doubts.

Lucian had indeed called off their engagement.

Terror surged within Frieda as she realized that. She was scared out of her wits when she was reminded of all the things she had done alongside Aubree.

Meanwhile, after Lucian left the hospital, he asked Jonathan to send him back to Farwell Group.

Cayden knocked on Lucian's door and entered the office upon the latter's arrival.

At that moment, Lucian was still giving off a gloomy aura.

As a result, Cayden shuddered when he stepped into the room. "Mr. Farwell, the result of the investigation into the incident at the research institute is out."

Hearing that, Lucian looked at Cayden with a frown. "What's the result?"

"There's nothing wrong with the components, and the experiment was carried out by adhering to Ms. Jarvis' usual work protocol. Logically, that gas shouldn't have been produced," Cayden replied politely.

That meant someone had indeed tampered with the experiment.

Lucian's gaze darkened. He fell silent for a long while before suddenly getting up and exiting his office.

Cayden hastily followed him. "Mr. Farwell, where are we going now?"

Lucian uttered coldly, "Let's check out the research institute." I told Colby to find out all the medicines on the lab table which were used that day. I wonder how his progress is.

Cayden guessed Lucian might've found a lead, so he trailed behind the latter without saying a word.

After reaching downstairs, Cayden drove them to the research institute.

Coincidentally, Colby had just come out from the building.

Colby panicked momentarily when he saw the pair get out of the vehicle. However, he swiftly recollected himself and approached them nonchalantly. "Mr. Farwell."

Lucian nodded. "Did you find out all the medicines?"

A guilty look flashed across Colby's eyes. "I did, and I placed everything back on the table accordingly."

Lucian glanced at him dubiously in response. "You placed everything back? Didn't you mention it was dangerous?"

Colby lowered his head to force himself to stay calm. "I already reminded the research facility's personnel to avoid touching the medicines on that lab table, so there shouldn't be an issue."

Lucian nodded. "Bring me there and show me the medicines."

Colby grunted in acknowledgment before turning around and leading the two into the research facility.

Upon entering the building, they saw many researchers carrying out their duties.

The researchers offered simple greetings to Lucian and the others, then immersed themselves in their experiments again.

Colby led them to the lab counter and stood to one side. "These are all the medicines."

The arrangement on the lab table had been restored to its previous state, similar to the day when Roxanne did the experiment.

However, Colby used a different medicine to substitute the one he added to the flask the other day.

The two bottles had a slight difference in size. No one would notice that minor change in detail if that person weren't a researcher who spent a long time inside the laboratory.

Even Roxanne and Jack wouldn't notice he had switched the medicine as they were focused on carrying out the experiment that day.

Chapter 1262

The trio stayed quiet.

Cayden and Colby stood at one side, looking at Lucian examining the lab counter with different thoughts running through their minds. Colby was nervous to the extent of almost forgetting to breathe.

Given a choice, he wouldn't be willing to heed Lucian's order to restore the scene during the day of the experiment because that would easily expose his wrongdoing.

Still, if Colby had refused to follow Lucian's instruction, that would be no different from declaring his guilt to the latter.

After mulling his options over, he had no choice but to restore the arrangement of the medicines on the lab table, albeit with a slight alternation. He could only hope Lucian wouldn't notice anything suspicious.

Lucian was oblivious to Colby's train of thought. He was focused on inspecting the medicines on the lab table, meticulously checking every item.

While doing that, he recalled every detail he saw on the surveillance footage that day.

Lucian clearly remembered Roxanne had touched all of the bottles on the table.

All of a sudden, he fixated his gaze on a transparent bottle placed in the corner for a few seconds before turning around to speak to Colby. "Bring me to the surveillance room again."

Colby's pupils constricted as uneasiness filled him.

He had noticed Lucian staring at the bottle for a prolonged time. Why is that? Did he discover something?

Colby's hand, hanging by his sides, trembled uncontrollably when he considered that possibility.

However, under Lucian's watchful gaze, Colby could only tuck his hands into his white coat's pockets, feign calmness, and nod. "Okay."

After saying that, he spun on his heels and guided them to the surveillance room.

Lucian played the surveillance footage from that day and studied the video carefully again.

As he expected, when Roxanne was doing the experiment, she accidentally knocked over the transparent bottle at the side but hastily picked it up the next second.

Although the differences were insignificant, that bottle was not the same size as the one Colby had currently placed on the lab table.

Besides that, the quantities of the medicine inside the bottles were also dissimilar.

Lucian shifted his gaze onto the Colby onscreen, who was standing behind Roxanne.

He didn't believe Colby, who had spent so many years working at the research institute, would fail to distinguish between the two bottles of medicines.

Unless he did it on purpose.

"Mr. Farwell, did you notice anything?" Colby suppressed his anxiousness and asked warily, attempting to seize control of the situation.

Lucian glanced at him with an unfathomable look in his eyes. "Nothing for now. I'm afraid I'll have to trouble you to keep that particular table in that state, Dr. Galloway."

Hearing that, Colby took a deep breath. His facial expression relaxed imperceptibly. "Okay. I'll do my best."

Lucian bobbed his head. After that, he got up and left the surveillance room without taking another look at the surveillance footage.

Cayden followed closely behind him.

After exiting the research institute, Cayden started the car. "Mr. Farwell, are we returning to the company now, or is there any other place you wish to visit?"

Lucian glanced at the research institute's entrance while wearing a grimace.

Colby stood there reverently to see them off.

Looking away, Lucian replied, "Go back to the office. Also, I want to see all the recent purchase orders by the research facility by tonight."

Cayden agreed with alacrity, started the car, and drove toward Farwell Group.

At the research institute's entrance, Colby's legs turned to jelly after Lucian's car disappeared from his vision.

Lucian had displayed an ambiguous response earlier, causing Colby to be unable to ascertain whether Lucian had discovered he was the culprit.

And because of that, Colby felt all the more terrified.

Chapter 1263

Cayden had always been highly efficient at work. Besides, he only had to investigate the research institute's recent purchase orders.

That evening itself, he entered Farwell Group's CEO's office with the latest purchase order in hand.

"I've done as you asked, Mr. Farwell. Here, have a look."

Taking the order from Cayden, Lucian looked it over while listening to his report.

"A bottle of medicine on this order doesn't match the actual quantity purchased by the research institute. From my investigations, Colby was the one who privately arranged for the purchasing staff to buy it. He placed it with one of the other medicines and sneaked it into the research institute."

At that point, a conflicted expression showed on Cayden's face as he admitted, "However, I couldn't find out what medicine he smuggled in. He hid it so well that even the purchasing staff doesn't know the answer."

In a flash, Lucian's gaze darkened a shade.

Although we don't know the kind of medicine Colby privately bought, it's a fact that his behavior is suspicious enough. Furthermore, he appeared to be exceedingly apprehensive when I noticed something amiss with that bottle of medicine. He might think that he's hiding it very well, but still, I saw right through him.

Following that thought, he frowned slightly.

With all these leads, it's a veritable fact that Colby was the culprit. Indeed, I've misunderstood Jack. But then, how can his suspicious activities be explained?

A long while passed before he corralled his thoughts.

Anyway, the most important thing now is to have Colby pay the price for his actions!

"Got it. You may be dismissed."

Putting the purchase order away, Lucian got to his feet and headed out.

He had figured out a way to have Colby confess to his crime even without solid evidence.

However, he needed to seek Roxanne out and discuss it with her.

Cayden had no idea what his employer wanted to do, but still, he obediently left the office and watched as Lucian went into the elevator.

After stepping out of the office building, Lucian drove straight to Roxanne's house.

It happened to be dinnertime right then.

When Lucian arrived, Roxanne was preparing dinner for Archie, Benny, and Estella in the kitchen. As such, it was the children who opened the door for him.

"Mr. Farwell!"

"Daddy!"

At the sight of him, all three children wore expressions of joy.

Smiling, Lucian stroked their heads before sweeping his gaze around the living room. "Where's your mommy?"

Archie pointed in the direction of the kitchen. "In the kitchen."

Upon hearing that, Lucian inclined his head a fraction in acknowledgment. He excused himself before heading to the kitchen.

The three children looked at each other, but ultimately, they didn't follow. Nonetheless, they still fixated their gazes on the kitchen in curiosity.

When Lucian reached the kitchen door, he didn't go in directly or say anything. Instead, he merely stood there quietly and watched Roxanne bustle around.

As soon as Roxanne whirled around and spotted the man behind her, she inexorably jumped in fright. "When did you come? And why didn't you inform me beforehand?"

Gathering her wits about her, she inwardly breathed a sigh of relief and continued her work at hand.

Lucian's eyes brimmed with tenderness. "Just a while ago. The kids opened the door for me."

After saying that, he glanced at the ingredients she was preparing. "Did you count me in?"

Roxanne wanted to deny it, but the portion she prepared was evidently too much for her and the children to finish. Thus, she didn't answer but asked, "Are you not eating here tonight?"

At that, Lucian arched a brow. "From the look of things, you counted me in. How embarrassing that I've been eating for free these few days!"

Sensing that there was a hidden implication in his words, Roxanne stilled. She spun around and eyed him in puzzlement.

"Therefore, I brought you good news today. We'll talk about it after dinner later."

Lucian met her gaze calmly.

Chapter 1264

Glimpsing the grin on Lucian's face, Roxanne was stunned for a moment. Then, faint shades of crimson stained her cheeks.

She only snapped back to her senses after a while, upon which she guiltily turned back around and continued cooking.

Meanwhile, Lucian watched behind her with his arms crossed.

When she had finished cooking, he helped to carry the dishes out and lay the table.

Archie, Benny, and Estella, on the other hand, had long since seated themselves at the dining table in proper order.

Dinner was a warm and cozy event.

After dinner, Lucian ordered the children to play in the living room while he went to the study upstairs with Roxanne.

"What's the good news?"

Sheer mystification deluged Roxanne. I wonder what exactly it is that he's acting so mysterious.

Lucian's expression turned solemn. "I think I've ferreted out the person who tampered with your experiment."

At his remark, Roxanne's expression likewise changed slightly, anxiety marring her features. "Who was it?"

Lucian stared at her, suddenly hesitant.

In the past, every time we discussed this subject, she had been reluctant to suspect Colby for no other reason than they had worked together for many years. I wonder if she'd be able to accept it if I were to tell her the truth.

For a fleeting second, he even contemplated giving up his initial plan and waiting until there was solid evidence before telling her about it.

"Was it truly Mr. Damaris?" Upon receiving no response from him after some time, Roxanne couldn't help making a wild guess.

Hearing that, Lucian put his thoughts away, his gaze darkening a shade. "You're that worried about him?"

During this time, we've hardly mentioned him. But no sooner had I said there was progress in the investigation than he popped into her mind. That aside, she sounds wholly incredulous.

Exasperated, Roxanne explained, "It's because you've been suspecting him all this while that I hazarded such a guess. So, who else could it be if not him?"

A frown marred Lucian's face. "That day, only the three of you were at the lab counter."

In other words, he was steering her into directing her suspicions onto Colby.

Immediately, the intimation of that dawned upon Roxanne. When she perceived the only person left other than her and Jack, shock flooded her. "You mean it was Colby?"

How could it be him? We've partnered together for so many years. If he hated me, he would've made a move ages ago! Even if he were jealous that I got to take the lead in this project, he had plenty of opportunities to sabotage things before this. Why would he pick this time and use such a cruel method?

Verily, Roxanne couldn't fathom it.

At the look on her face, Lucian's heart inexorably grew heavy. "At present, he's the prime suspect."

"Is there proof?" Roxanne furtively clutched at the hem of her shirt, still harboring a shred of hope within her.

In response, Lucian shook his head.

Utter relief suffused Roxanne. "If there's no proof, perhaps you misunderstood. Didn't you previously claim that it was Mr. Damaris—"

Before she had finished speaking, Lucian interrupted, "There's no proof now, but I've got a way to prove that it was him as long as you're willing to play along."

That promptly took Roxanne aback.

If someone else were to say that to her, she would only regard it as a baseless accusation.

However, the person in front of her was Lucian.

For him to make such a statement meant that he was nearly one-hundred percent certain of Colby's culpability.

"I know you can't accept it, but I think you're far more interested in knowing why he did such a thing. I'm also beyond curious about his reason for consigning you to death!"

Lucian pinned his eyes on her with a grim look in them.

Chapter 1265

When Roxanne met Lucian's gaze, the confidence in her eyes gradually started wavering.

A long moment passed before she dipped her eyes and agreed softly, "Okay, I'll do it. What do you need me to do?"

During those few seconds when their eyes held, she searched the depths of her heart.

Perhaps she didn't believe that Colby would do such a thing, but given a choice between him and Lucian, her heart would still be biased toward the man before her.

On top of that, the look in Lucian's eyes was incredibly resolute.

Following her agreement, Lucian's expression eased. He told her about his plan in a deep voice.

As Roxanne listened, she nodded thoughtfully.

"Will this really work? We don't have concrete evidence."

Truth be told, she was still a touch hesitant after listening to the man's plan.

Lucian's expression turned chilly. "As long as he was the one behind it, he would definitely feel guilty in such a situation. Even if not, he'll be afraid of dying!"

Upon hearing that, Roxanne fell silent for a few seconds. Yet in the end, she still relented.

She took out her phone and gave Colby a call, informing him that she would be making a trip to the research institute tomorrow.

On the other end of the phone, Colby readily agreed without a trace of oddity in his voice.

After she had hung up the phone, doubts again surfaced within her.

If it was truly his doing, how could he have hidden it so well? Could it be that… we've really misunderstood him?

As though discerning the misgivings within her, Lucian lifted his hand and placed it on hers. His voice was calm and steady. "Trust me. If it really wasn't him, you can also rest assured."

Pursing her lips, Roxanne bobbed her head.

That night, she didn't sleep a wink.

No matter what, she couldn't accept that a partner with whom she had worked together for many years turned out to be the culprit who almost killed her.

Her only hope was that she would obtain an answer tomorrow.

Early the following morning, Lucian was already seated in the living room when Roxanne went downstairs.

She hadn't slept well, so she was somewhat dazed. At the sight of him, she spaced out for a few seconds before asking in a murmur, "Are we going over right now?"

At her wan look, Lucian's gaze darkened. "We'll go over as soon as possible when you've had breakfast. We can't give him any breathing room."

If it was really Colby behind the incident, he's exceedingly meticulous. With just a bit of breathing room, it'll be enough time for him to do many things.

Roxanne nodded with a heavy heart. After eating some food, she bid Archie, Benny, and Estella farewell before getting into Lucian's car to head to the research institute.

By the time they arrived at the research institute, Colby was already there, busy with something or other.

The instant he saw Roxanne and Lucian appearing together, his expression stiffened for a heartbeat. "Dr. Jarvis, Mr. Farwell, why did you both come together? You should've told me in advance."

"Does Dr. Jarvis need to tell you before returning to the research institute to work?" Lucian retorted unceremoniously.

At once, Colby froze, the smile on his face stained with a hint of guilt.

Sighing inwardly, Roxanne said to Colby, "Please bring me to the lab for a look. I can't shake off the feeling that there was some problem with the experiment that day."

At that comment, even greater guilt swamped Colby.

He had come over early in the morning to go over everything on the laboratory counter and replace the medicine he switched with a bottle of the same size to prevent discovery.

Unexpectedly, Roxanne and Lucian had arrived before he could do so.

Worse still, Roxanne was requesting to reconduct the experiment.

Roxanne, Lucian, and Colby stood next to the lab counter.

"Dr. Galloway, Mr. Damaris isn't here today, so please conduct the experiment with me."

Done with all the preparations, Roxanne glanced over her shoulder at Colby, who was standing at the side.

Colby had a feeling that something was off about the experiment that day. He was downright reluctant deep within, but he could only bite the bullet and concur so that he wouldn't appear even more suspicious. Stepping forward, he walked over to Roxanne.

As Roxanne went about the experiment, she uttered, "You should be clear about the steps for this experiment, so I'm not going to repeat them. I merely want to see where exactly things went wrong."

Colby flashed her a forced smile. "Okay, I'll do my best."

Without looking at him, Roxanne vaguely muttered an acknowledgment.

She wasn't sure whether it was her mind playing tricks on her, but after that brief interaction, she found his reaction seemingly strange.

Consequently, she became very distracted throughout the experiment.

Finally, they came to the segment where the accident occurred.

Surprisingly, no smoke billowed out from the flask as it did the other day.

Roxanne stood at the side with her eyes lowered, rendering her expression indiscernible.

Just as Colby was about to speak, he glimpsed her suddenly turning and casting a glance in Lucian's direction.

When the couple looked at each other, helplessness showed on Roxanne's face.

Colby keenly perceived the expression of her emotions, and a wave of jealousy surged within him.

I'm standing right next to her, and I understand the experiment far better! So why? Why is she asking him for help? Come to think of it, they also came to the research institute together this morning. It seems that their relationship is much closer than I expected!

Belatedly, something occurred to him. Argh! I might have accidentally benefitted him!

At that realization, intense fury and envy instantly displaced the guilt within him. The leash he kept on his expression slipped as well.

When Roxanne turned back, she was greeted by his insidious expression.

"Dr. Galloway," she reflexively called out, her heart clenching.

In all the years they had been acquainted, she had only known him for always being gentle and elegant. That was the first time she had ever witnessed such a dark side to him.

In a flash, Colby jolted back to reality. The baleful expression on his face disappeared in the blink of an eye, a warm smile taking its place. "What's the matter?"

Roxanne's lips parted, but her heart was so heavy that no words came out.

While she was at a loss in facing such a veritable stranger, Lucian's voice rang out behind her.

"If you don't mind, I'd like to have a look."

Lucian casually inserted himself between the two of them, separating them both.

Naturally, Roxanne had no objections since that was part of their plan.

Contrarily, Colby's heart lurched. "The experiment has always been thus. There must have been a mistake somewhere along the way that day. Even if you take a look, you won't be able to find anything."

Acting as though he didn't hear the man, Lucian shifted his gaze to Roxanne beside him. "What is this? I don't think I saw you using it during the experiment."

Following his gaze, Roxanne caught sight of a transparent bottle on the counter. After scrutinizing it for a while, she answered, "Nothing important. It's just distilled water for supplementation."

"In that case, there shouldn't be any problem adding this in, yes? From the surveillance footage, the amount of liquid in this bottle seems to have dwindled, probably having been used in the experiment. But you didn't use it earlier."

As Lucian said that, he had already reached out and picked up the bottle.

Chapter 1267

Colby watched Lucian's actions intently, his breathing catching for a second.

Despite knowing that it wasn't the bottle of medicine from that day since he had personally replaced it with the bottle of distilled water, he still couldn't help breaking into a cold sweat.

He actually realized that someone had used that bottle of medicine! D*mn it! I didn't even notice that tiny detail!

"Dr. Galloway, I can add this in, right?"

Without warning, Lucian turned and looked at him.

Colby's pupils constricted. He dug his nails into his palms to force himself to remain calm. "Of course. It's only going to dilute the solution. Perhaps Mr. Damaris added it that day, but we didn't notice it."

While saying that, he took a step back to make room for the man.

Inclining his head, Lucian walked over and occupied the freed space. Uncorking the bottle, he slowly poured the liquid inside into the flask.

At the same time, a pill slipped out of his hand, which was in Colby's blind spot. After falling into the bottle, it dissolved upon contact with water, blending with the colorless and odorless distilled water before mixing with the liquid in the flask.

"All done."

He corked the bottle back and moved away. "Let's observe for a while longer and see whether there's any unusual reaction. Maybe it was a problem with the distilled water."

Colby couldn't shake off the feeling that something was amiss. Nonetheless, he steeled himself and returned to his place at the counter. His entire body tense, he stared at the flask that was still in the midst of reacting.

Shortly after, the same gas as that day gradually filled the flask.

For a moment, Colby's breath caught. He gaped at the gas in the flask before glancing at the distilled water at the side, his eyes brimming with disbelief.

How could this be? I personally placed the distilled water there. How could there be gas? Could it be that… someone switched the liquid inside?

As panic inundated him, Lucian's voice split the air hauntingly. "Does this bottle really contain distilled water, Dr. Galloway?"

Stiffly turning around, Colby trained his gaze on Roxanne beside him.

In her eyes, he could see the reflection of himself that appeared all tense and guilty.

Behind him, Lucian's scorching gaze bore into him as though wishing to see through him.

Abruptly shuddering, he whirled around and took off without an ounce of hesitation.

It wasn't until Roxanne had witnessed that scene that she truly believed Colby was the culprit behind everything.

Casting her mind back to the events that day after learning the truth, she realized that the man was all too suspicious.

It was after he had taken over the experiment the other day that a great amount of gas materialized. That aside, when we were going to check on the flask, he deftly hid behind us…

In that instant, turmoil brewed within her.

Verily, the fact that a partner who had worked with her for so long had almost killed her was a bitter pill for her to swallow.

"I've caught him, Mr. Farwell."

While she was wallowing in self-doubt, Cayden's voice drifted into her ear.

Promptly snapping back to her senses, Roxanne swung her gaze over, only to see Colby restrained by Cayden, his head hung so low that it almost touched his chest.

Colby initially wanted to flee. Unexpectedly, he ran right into Cayden, who had been keeping guard, just when he reached the gates of the research institute.

Even with his head lowered, he could sense Roxanne's questioning gaze on him.

His gaze grim, Lucian threw a look at the woman beside him. Aware that she couldn't accept the truth of the matter, he stepped forward and blocked her from seeing Colby.

"It was just an experiment, Dr. Galloway. Why did you leave in such a hurry?"

He fixated an icy gaze on the man restrained by Cayden, his voice dripping with sarcasm.