

# Leaving The Country After Divorce

## Chapter 1268-1300

### Chapter 1268

Colby kept his head bowed, his pupils darting around incessantly.

Now that things have come to this, I won't be able to keep the truth under wraps no matter what I say. Besides, Lucian has already discovered there's a problem with that bottle of distilled water. Does he have other evidence in hand?

As his brain whirled, Lucian's voice rang out once more. "Did you think you could get away with it by privately asking the purchasing staff to help you sneak the medicine in?"

The instant those words fell, Colby snapped his eyes up and gaped at the man in shock.

He knows! He really knows everything!

Lucian held his gaze expressionlessly. "Are you still planning to deny it at this point? Or are you only going to confess to your crimes when the police have arrived?"

Behind him, Roxanne had stepped out at some point in time and regarded Colby blankly.

When Colby met her gaze, his lips twitched. An intense struggle transpired within him.

A long time passed before he ultimately admitted, "Indeed, it was me. Everything was my doing!"

The very moment Roxanne heard his confession with her own ears, her legs went weak.

She instinctively shot her hand out and grabbed onto Lucian's arm, digging her nails into her palm to retain her composure. With her eyes pinned on Colby, she questioned, "Why did you do such a thing? I don't think I've wronged you in any way in all the years we've worked together. Even this project is a collaborative effort between us both."

I still remember how pleasant it was to collaborate with him while abroad. Likewise, it's still vivid in my mind that I only gained a foothold in the research institute because of him back when I first returned to the country.

But turning her gaze back to the man with a blank expression in front of her, she inevitably wondered whether the Colby she knew had ever existed.

Colby stared at her fixedly, the self-deprecation in his eyes intensifying. "Why did I do so? Do you really not know? Roxanne, do you know that your reaction now makes me feel that everything I've done has been nothing but a joke?"

Roxanne's brows knitted together, bafflement written clear in her eyes.

A feverish light came into Colby's eyes, and he revealed the entirety of the thoughts hidden deep within him.

"If you want a reason, blame it on the fact that you're too outstanding and eye-catching. Why must you be so striking? It makes me look like a rat in the drain, only worthy of looking up at you all day long. But what about you? You weren't even willing to look down and spare me a glance! Am I that contemptible to you? Admittedly, Jack, Jonathan, and Lucian are far more impressive than me. However, have any of them been by your side as long as I have? What gives? You just couldn't see me!"

Hearing that, Roxanne was stunned, and her expression turned panicked.

Huh, he likes me? When did this start? Indeed, I've never noticed his feelings for me. Looking back, we first got acquainted when I went abroad to lick my wounds after being hurt by Lucian. At that time, not only was I pregnant, but I was still in love with Lucian. I hadn't the presence of mind to take note of other men. Moreover, the only impression I have of him is merely that of a lab partner who was very much in sync with me. After returning to the country, I was wholly focused on the research institute. When everything at the research institute had finally gotten on track, Lucian reappeared in my life. At the end of the day, the space in my heart belongs to Lucian when he's there and remains empty when he's absent. I've never thought of allowing another man in...

## Chapter 1269

From Roxanne's expression, Colby understood everything. He chuckled bitterly in a self-deprecating manner.

Roxanne lifted her eyes to him. "And so, you came up with this idea?"

Even then, she wasn't willing to believe that the gentle and elegant man who had helped her tremendously would do such a thing.

Alas, her skepticism when things had come to that merely made Colby feel all the more insulted. "If I hadn't done all this, would you have noticed me? Do you know how much I've given up all these years just to have you see me? Do you think I'm really only capable of being your second, considering my capabilities?"

Every single word out of his mouth hit Roxanne squarely in the chest.

Only then did she realize how much she had overlooked all these years.

I'm already the top traditional medicine practitioner in Chanaea, and he's about on par with me. In fact, Professor Lambert even praised him once. He has the capability of branching out and handling things on his own. Yet, he has always been my partner. I always thought that Professor Lambert specifically arranged for us to be together because he trusted us. Never had I imagined such a reason behind it all.

"Do you think this incident is the only thing I did?" Colby's voice rang out once more.

Shocked, Roxanne swung her gaze to him.

Meeting her gaze in derision, Colby suddenly burst into laughter. "Haha! It turns out that you don't even know what I've done! You only investigated the incident this time because Lucian told you about his suspicions, huh? Sure enough, you never notice me, no matter what I do!"

"No, that's not it! I just... I just trusted you too much," Roxanne explained on reflex.

No sooner had she said that than Colby interjected coldly, "I'd rather you don't trust me so much! I don't want you to look at me with the same expression all the time. You smile at them and cry because of them, but when it comes to me, you're forever acting professionally. Am I not even worthy of being your friend? Do you look down on me that much, Roxanne?"

A frown marred Roxanne's countenance. For a moment, she didn't quite know how to respond to his accusations.

Some time passed before she awkwardly asked, "Other than this, what else did you do?"

By then, Colby had already put away all expression from his face.

At that question, his lips turned up. "I'm not going to tell you that. Anyway, I'm going to leave this place soon. You've never seen me all these years, so this time, I've got to leave you thinking about me. Go and investigate yourself!"

Roxanne balled her fists, her expression as grim as ever. "Don't do this, Dr. Galloway—"

Before she had finished speaking, Colby cut her off sharply. "Don't call me Dr. Galloway! I almost killed you! Aren't you the least bit angry? Why must you still address me so formally?"

Frowning, Roxanne went silent for a long time before murmuring, "Why must you do this, Colby? You could've just talked to me directly. Why did you have to use such a method?"

When Colby heard that she had finally changed her address toward him, his expression eased for a second. Yet in the next heartbeat, he had steeled himself again.

Thereafter, he no longer responded no matter what Roxanne said.

“Colby Galloway, you should never have made a move against her!”

Seeing that Roxanne had ceased speaking, Lucian stalked over to Colby.

Before Colby even knew what was happening, a hard punch had landed on his stomach.

“I’m only giving you one punch because you’ve taken care of Roxanne for such a long time. If you dare do anything dumb again when you get out, I don’t mind sending you to meet your maker!”

Lucian’s voice was frightfully chilly.

## Chapter 1271

Since Colby had been arrested, the research institute would end up without a leader at the helm if Roxanne were to leave.

Thus, she could only stay for the time being and seek out another trustworthy researcher. She told him about the subsequent project arrangements and had him take Colby’s place temporarily.

Worried, Lucian kept watch beside her.

By the time Roxanne was done giving her instructions, it was already evening, time for everyone to get off work.

Getting to her feet, she left with Lucian.

No sooner had they reached the entrance of the research institute than a Rolls-Royce suddenly screeched to a stop before them with great fanfare.

Roxanne found the car in front of her a tad familiar, but she couldn’t remember whose vehicle it was at that very moment.

Before she could figure out the answer, the driver’s door had already swung open. Jack alighted from the car with a concerned expression on his face.

“Mr. Damaris?”

At the sight of him, a myriad of emotions brewed within Roxanne.

Prior to Colby's detention, she had little trust in Jack. Therefore, she hadn't contacted him recently.

Seeing him right then, she felt both apologetic and surprised.

Beside her, Lucian expressionlessly inclined his head at Jack in greeting.

On the contrary, Jack grinned at the man amicably. "Thank you for intervening in this matter and clearing up my name, Mr. Farwell!"

When Lucian heard that, his expression darkened a shade.

Meanwhile, puzzlement inundated Roxanne. "You already know about it?"

How did he catch wind of it so fast? It's only been half a day since Colby was taken into custody.

In response, Jack chortled. "Don't forget that your research institute is pretty well-known in Horington. Furthermore, it has a collaboration with Damaris Group. After the arrest in the morning, news of it circulated in the afternoon."

After saying that, he pinned a meaningful look on Lucian before adding, "Of course, someone in particular also played a pivotal role in that."

Following his gaze, Roxanne looked at the man beside her. Surprise showed in her eyes.

He has been with me all this time, yet I have no inkling when he spread the news!

"Anyway, I'm really curious about one thing. How did you manage to catch him, Mr. Farwell?" Jack asked sincerely.

Ever since the day Roxanne was poisoned, he had harbored suspicions against Colby.

Alas, there was no substantial evidence. He wanted to seek Roxanne out for help, but Lucian stood in his way.

Lucian suspected him to a great extent, so there was no way the former would lend him a hand.

As such, he could only investigate by himself. Regretfully, he didn't find any evidence even after delving into the incident for days.

In the face of Jack's question, Lucian acted as though he didn't hear it, saying nary a word.

At the side, Roxanne sensed that the atmosphere between them was somewhat tense, so she interjected with the narration of events that morning.

Jack quirked a brow after hearing about Lucian's tactic. "I didn't expect you to be so ingenious, Mr. Farwell. On top of that, it sounds as though it didn't require much effort. I'm truly impressed!"

Despite the compliment, there wasn't a hint of admiration in Jack's eyes.

Discerning the implication behind his remark, Roxanne threw Lucian a look in exasperation.

Upon noticing that he had no intention of speaking, she had no choice but to apologize on his behalf. "Sorry for misunderstanding you previously. Please don't take any offense, Mr. Damaris."

Jack cast Lucian an unfathomable glance before turning his gaze back to her. "It's only natural that you suspected me. After all, Dr. Galloway and I were the only ones around you back then. But I never expected you to stop contacting me for such a long time, Ms. Jarvis. I was exceedingly worried about your condition."

## Chapter 1272

Following Jack's words, even greater guilt swamped Roxanne.

"I'm sorry. I've been so busy investigating the incident that day that I forgot to contact you."

Biting the bullet, she apologized to the man.

Fortunately, Jack didn't continue pursuing the matter. He merely looked her up and down with a smile, seemingly to ascertain that she had recovered.

"I've recovered fully now. Sorry for worrying you these past few days, Mr. Damaris," Roxanne murmured.

"I'm glad to hear that. I went to the hospital to visit you the night you passed out, but Mr. Farwell said I'd disrupt your rest and didn't allow me in," Jack commented in what appeared to be an offhanded manner.

Hearing that, Roxanne turned to the man beside her.

Lucian met her gaze calmly. "I told you about it. It was indeed late at that time. Mr. Damaris must have had the same concerns as me, for he didn't insist on going in."

That was to say, he had already told Roxanne about the matter.

Jack's expression changed drastically.

Considering his personality, I thought he wouldn't tell her that I'd been over to visit her. Unexpectedly, he'd informed her about it. Moreover... her reaction isn't what I'd anticipated.

He studied Roxanne's expression, but there was nothing else other than contrition toward him.

There wasn't a hint of censure toward Lucian.

At that, he retracted his gaze in slight chagrin, only to collide with Lucian's scrutinizing look.

As their eyes held, the tension between them grew by leaps and bounds.

Perceptively sensing something off with the atmosphere between them, Roxanne furtively tugged at the hem of Lucian's shirt, signaling for him to put his hostility away.

When all was said and done, Jack didn't do anything wrong. They were the ones who misunderstood him in the first place.

"I was discharged from the hospital the next morning, and Mr. Farwell told me about it. Thank you for giving me first-aid treatment at the research institute, Mr. Damaris. Otherwise, I might not have recovered so quickly. I apologize for not contacting you timely after being discharged."

She gazed at the man in front of her with all the sincerity in the world while putting in a good word for Lucian surreptitiously, hoping that the tension between them would ease.

Regretfully, neither of them seemed to appreciate it.

Lucian snorted disdainfully.

Jack, on the other hand, glanced at Lucian before shifting his gaze to Roxanne with helplessness written all over his face. "It looks like Mr. Farwell still has some misunderstanding toward me."

Roxanne's brows knitted together imperceptibly, and she threw a look at the man beside her, wishing that he would say something.

After all, Jack was a crucial collaboration partner at the current stage. Hence, she would inevitably have to face him on a daily basis in the near future.

If she were to really get together with Lucian, the man would need to try accepting this collaboration partner of hers.

She didn't want her work to be affected again because of his jealousy after they had made their relationship official.

Sensing her gaze on him, Lucian merely spared Jack an indifferent look.

At his attitude, a pounding headache assailed Roxanne.

Oh God, I can already foresee their interaction in the future!

"I came over to inquire about Dr. Galloway's matter and ascertain your recovery. Now that things have been made clear, I won't tarry any further. I've still got something to handle at Damaris Group, so I'll be leaving first."

Subsequently, Jack excused himself.

Jolted out of her thoughts, Roxanne nodded smilingly. "See you, Mr. Damaris. I can continue doing research in two days. I'll contact you then."

Jack acquiesced noncommittally before speeding away.

Roxanne watched as his car disappeared from her line of sight before turning to the man beside her with exasperation etched across her features.

## Chapter 1273

Mild disgruntlement stained Lucian's face. "Why did he come?"

"The experiment Dr. Galloway tampered with was under Damaris Group's project. Naturally, Mr. Damaris needed to come over and check on the situation," Roxanne explained patiently.

Right after saying that, she frowned and chided, "Your attitude was horrible. Not only did you misunderstand him for such a long time previously, but you were even hostile with him earlier. Shouldn't you have apologized to him?"

Lucian's expression darkened frightfully, but in her presence, he still kept a leash on his temper. "That's impossible."

Jack must have some other motive to have come over. It was certainly not as simple as checking on the situation. It'd be more apt to say that he came to provoke me!

Roxanne was entirely oblivious to the silent battle that had ensued between the two men's gazes earlier. Consequently, she found his resolute refusal pretty unreasonable.

"Where exactly did your hostility toward Mr. Damaris come from? Back at the hospital, it was because you suspected him of being the culprit who tampered with the experiment.



But now, it has been proven that the matter had nothing to do with him. In fact, he was also a victim. Why do you still have such prejudice toward him now?"

When she had finished saying that, something abruptly occurred to her, and she added, "Even if you were rivals with him in the past, it has all ended now. That aside, you won. Why—"

Without waiting for her to complete her sentence, Lucian interrupted with a frown, "It has nothing to do with that matter."

Words eluded Roxanne, and she was wholly perplexed.

She racked her brain relentlessly, but there seemed to be only one possible answer.

Could it be that... he's still jealous?

At that thought, she eyed the grim-faced man beside her in disbelief.

Lucian's brows were scrunched together deeply, and he didn't appear inclined to explain things.

"You think that Mr. Damaris has feelings for me?" Roxanne ventured.

Lucian met her gaze without answering that, but the look in his eyes affirmed her conjecture.

Unbidden, panic flooded Roxanne. "How could that be? Mr. Damaris and I are only collaboration partners. If he truly has designs on me—"

"Didn't you fail to perceive Colby's interest in you?" Lucian was displeased by her adamant defense of Jack.

Speaking of that, Roxanne couldn't help feeling guilty.

Indeed, it'd never crossed my mind at first that Colby would have romantic feelings toward me. But Jack... Well, I can't think of any reason he'd take a fancy to me.

Glimpsing her skepticism, Lucian elaborated solemnly, "He treated you to meals and even gave you flowers. Additionally, he tried to win Archie and Benny over."

He methodically recounted everything Jack had done.

All that left Roxanne without a retort.

Indeed, Jack did all that. But then, they can be justified.

Still, she tried to convince herself otherwise.

Unfortunately, Lucian gave her no chance of doing so, continuing, "If I remember correctly, you accepted all the flowers he gave you."

When his words drifted into Roxanne's ears, she hadn't yet dispelled all her doubts. A sense of guilt inexplicably rose within her.

Lucian didn't stop there, his voice persisting. "Contrarily, you were exceedingly reluctant to accept the flowers I gave you. Was it because you didn't like them?"

At his repeated questioning, Roxanne could only bite the bullet and nod in response, pretending that she disliked roses.

She relented because the man seemingly wanted to speak further, and she was afraid that he would give her flowers every day as before.

"Never mind if you don't want to apologize to Mr. Damaris. There's nothing between us, so don't overthink things."

Only then did Lucian cease talking about that subject.

Roxanne secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

## Chapter 1274

Meanwhile, Aubree recuperated at the hospital for two whole days before the condition of her arm finally took a turn for the better.

Learning that her daughter had been injured, Gina rushed to the hospital early in the morning.

"What's going on here? How's your injury? Are you feeling better? And why didn't you tell me earlier?"

At the sight of Aubree in a hospital gown, anguish marred Gina's features.

Aubree shook her head woodenly, her voice hoarse. "I'm fine. My injury has already healed, so it wouldn't do me any good to tell you."

In the past two days, she had been helpless to do anything because of her injured arm. When she was awake, she spent most of the time in tears.

It was precisely for that reason that she didn't want her parents to come over.

Only when Gina heard her voice did she notice that her daughter had seemingly been crying. On a closer look, she saw that Aubree's face was horribly puffy.

In a flash, her heart sank. "What happened? Why did you cry so much? And who picked on you?"

At the mention of that, tears inexorably welled up in Aubree's eyes once more.

Before her mother, the grievances within her surged to the forefront.

"Hey, what happened that you can't tell me? Don't bottle it up!"

Gina anxiously sat down beside the hospital bed.

At long last, Aubree snapped and threw herself into her mother's arms, wailing, "Mom, Lucian... Lucian wants to call off our engagement!"

The instant Gina heard that, her expression froze. She gaped at her daughter in her arms. "What did you just say?"

In a choked voice, Aubree repeated her utterance.

It wasn't until then that Gina believed her ears. Sheer shock deluged her.

Huh, Lucian wants to call off the engagement? That makes no sense! No matter how opposed he is to this marriage agreement, it still lasted for six whole years! Why would he cancel it at this juncture?

All of a sudden, a light bulb went off in her head. She stared down at Aubree. "Answer me honestly. How exactly did you get injured? Did you go and pick trouble with Roxanne again?"

Aubree merely sobbed without saying anything.

However, Gina had already gotten the answer. Her brows creased at once. "How foolish of you!"

Lucian had already permitted her to take care of Essie, and she was only a step away from being the mistress of the Farwell family! Why couldn't she put up with that woman? She just had to go and pick trouble with her at this time!

"She's a total b\*tch! Lucian stayed at the hospital the whole night to take care of her. That aside, he even sent Essie over to her place again! If I hadn't gone over to seek her out, he might have just married her behind our backs!"

Aubree's voice brimmed with recrimination.

Following that revelation, another wave of shock crashed over Gina.

What? He actually hasn't given up on that woman?

In her arms, Aubree continued crying her heart out.

Ultimately, Gina couldn't bear to lecture her. Patting her on the back, she coaxed, "Don't cry anymore. As long as news of it hasn't yet spread, there's still hope."

Upon hearing that, Aubree lifted her head with tears pouring down her face, a glimmer of hope in her eyes. "But... you didn't see Lucian's attitude. What else can I do?"

Gina gritted her teeth. "If all else fails, seek Mrs. Farwell out while they're not together yet! If she were to learn about it, she'd undoubtedly stop them!"

At her suggestion, Aubree's eyes flickered. In all honesty, she wasn't willing to believe in Sonya anymore.

I've sought her out countless times, but in the end, Lucian still wants to break off our engagement!

"Even if she can't change Lucian's mind, she can help us get rid of Roxanne at the very least!" Gina added softly when she glimpsed her daughter's hesitation.

A long while later, Aubree's eyes glinted coldly, and her tears gradually ceased.

## Chapter 1275

On that very night, Aubree went to the Farwell main residence in her injured state.

Right then, Sonya had just finished dinner and was taking a stroll in the back garden. She was all smiles when she saw that Aubree had come to visit her. "You're here, Aubree? What has been keeping you so busy these few days that you haven't been over to keep me company?"

Aubree merely pursed her lips and lowered her head without answering the woman.

Seeing that, Sonya walked over to her in puzzlement. "What's wrong? Did Lucian pick on you again?"

Aubree bobbed her head before shaking it in the next second, sniffing softly.

As soon as Sonya heard the sniffles, her heart sank. Taking Aubree's arm, she led the younger woman into the living room and ordered the butler to serve coffee.

"Elias isn't here tonight. What happened? Feel free to tell me everything!"

This time, Aubree lifted her head and glanced at the woman.

Earlier, it was dark outside, and she had been keeping her head hung low, so Sonya hadn't seen her face.

Now that Aubree had raised her head, Sonya noticed that her face seemed slightly puffy, making it evident that she had been crying and badly at that.

"Why did you cry so much? Did Lucian bully you? Tell me, and I'll seek justice for you!"

Sitting down beside her in distress, Sonya wrapped an arm around her and pulled her close. Her voice brimmed with vexation as she continued, "This is too much! How could he bully you to such a degree when he's going to marry you soon? Isn't it only going to be worse after you've married into the family? Don't worry. I'll definitely help you lecture him!"

When the subject of marriage came up, grief swamped Aubree. The tears pouring down her face became genuine. "Mrs. Farwell... there's no need to go to such trouble..."

Frowning, Sonya regarded her in mystification.

Aubree buried her head in the crook of Sonya's neck, weeping so violently that she trembled all over. Even her voice shook. "Lucian has already... He has already called off our engagement! Just pretend that the entire matter never existed! Even if I can't become your daughter-in-law, I'll still take good care of you in the future!"

In a heartbeat, Sonya's face went as black as thunder. "Don't cry anymore! Tell me what exactly happened! How could he make an arbitrary decision when it's such a major issue?"

The marriage agreement between the Farwell and Pearson families has persisted for many years. On top of that, I've repeatedly made my stance clear that Aubree is my approved daughter-in-law. How could he cancel the engagement without asking for my opinion? Does he really think that this matter is his business alone?

In a stammering voice, Aubree recounted the series of events that happened yesterday.

"I only wanted to go and pick Essie up, but Ms. Jarvis adamantly refused to let me do so. She even called me a shrew. Naturally, I lost my temper."

At that point, she cautiously lifted her eyes and stole a peek at Sonya's expression.

Only when she ascertained that the latter didn't suspect anything that she continued, "A minor conflict broke out between us. Admittedly, I might have been a bit harsh in my speech, but she was the one who started insulting me first. Worse still, she hit me. Look, I still can't exert strength on my arm even now."

Sonya glanced at Aubree's arm, her eyes blazing with fury.

She once injured her arm while saving me. The previous time, her arm was also hurt for the second time because of Roxanne! And now, the woman actually dared to make a move against her again! This isn't just a matter of getting physical with Aubree. Instead, she's also challenging me!

As her thoughts developed in that direction, her expression turned icy. "What audacity! Is Roxanne trying to walk all over me?"

After roaring that, she fixed a firm look on Aubree. "Don't worry, for I'll certainly seek justice for you!"

## Chapter 1276

Immediately, Sonya whipped out her phone and gave Lucian a call.

At that very moment, Lucian had just left Roxanne's house after dinner.

The instant he saw that it was a call from his mother, his heart sank. The tenderness on his face was all but gone, replaced by a layer of frost.

"Where are you right now? Make a trip back to the Farwell main residence this instant! I have something to say to you!"

As soon as the call was connected, Sonya's voice blasted out before Lucian could even utter a single word.

His brows knitted together, and he glanced back at Roxanne's house, which was brightly lit. It was as though he could still hear the sounds of her playing with Archie and Benny.

Snapping back to reality, he agreed somberly, "Got it. I'll come over at once."

In truth, he could more or less guess the purpose of his mother's call.

Well, she must have learned about my decision to call off the engagement and wants to speak up for Aubree. This time, I'm not going to give in to her anymore. No matter what, I'll stay firm and sever all ties with Aubree!

With that in mind, he drove off in the dark night and headed toward the Farwell main residence.

Meanwhile, Aubree watched tearfully as Sonya hung up the phone, a forlorn look on her face.

"You don't have to do this, Mrs. Farwell. Lucian has already made up his mind, and I respect his decision. I only came over and sought you out because I was feeling too heartbroken and wanted to have a good cry. You don't need to bother about me."

At the sight of her sniveling, Sonya was both irate and anguished. "What are you saying? I've said that you're the only person worthy to be the mistress of the Farwell family! When Lucian arrives, I'll definitely teach him a lesson on your behalf!"

Aubree had her head lowered as she sniffled, a fleeting gleam of ruthlessness flashing across her eyes.

She was all too aware that her tactic was despicable beyond words.

However, she didn't mind using the same method time and again as long as it was effective.

Lucian is mine, and no one can steal him away!

Almost a whole hour passed before there was movement at the gates of the mansion.

At the same time, all the consolation on Sonya's face disappeared into thin air. Instead, rage contorted her features.

Aubree, on the other hand, sat at the side with her head hung low in guilt.

Soon, footsteps sounded at the door. On the heels of that, Lucian's figure appeared in both their lines of sight.

"Where were you just now?"

The look in Sonya's eyes was recriminatory.

Meeting her gaze, Lucian countered placidly, "Is there a need to ask when you already know the answer?"

Regardless of whether it was from the Farwell residence or Farwell Group, it wouldn't have taken that long to get to the Farwell main residence.

As Lucian had expected, Aubree was there.

Therefore, he had no doubt that his mother had learned about his decision to break off the engagement and his relationship with Roxanne.

She merely called him over that day to use it as a pretext to kick up a fuss.

The stark contrast between his unfazed attitude and Aubree, who was sobbing at the side, spiked Sonya's temper.

"What kind of attitude is this? How dare you cancel the engagement with the Pearson family behind your father and my backs to mess around with Roxanne? Who allowed you to do that?"

In her wrath, she slammed the cup in her hand on the coffee table, her ladylike temperament all but gone.

Aubree, who had her head hung low, jumped in fright. A few seconds passed before she snapped back to her senses and continued sobbing woefully.

Unfortunately for them, Lucian remained unmoved. "I'm the one who has a marriage agreement with the Pearson family. Why would I need both of your approvals to cancel it?"

After he had said that, something occurred to him, and he scowled at his mother. "Furthermore, Dad has never intervened in this matter. From the very beginning, it has been your doing alone! There's no need to drag him into this anymore. Even if he were to return today, my stance would remain the same!"

## Chapter 1277

Sonya was promptly stunned by Lucian's resolute demurral.

When she registered the meaning of his words, her fury blazed even hotter. "Your attitude is a blatant disregard of Aubree waiting for you for the past six years! Instead, you're getting together with that woman who abandoned her husband and daughter! Have you ever considered Essie's feelings? And have you ever given any thought to the Farwell family's reputation? If news were to get out that the CEO of Farwell Group married a woman with two kids, how would others perceive the Farwell family? And if they were to learn that Roxanne is the mistress of the Farwell family who left without a word six years ago, what would they think of us?"

All the while, she shot daggers at her son.

I'll never allow the Farwell family to have such a scandal!

When Lucian heard his mother insulting Roxanne, a flash of displeasure flitted across his eyes.

Yet, in consideration of the fact that the woman in front of him was his own mother, he kept his temper in check and merely retorted coldly, "I don't care!"



Sonya was so livid that the veins at her temples throbbed. "How could you say that? You're messing with the reputation of the Farwell family!"

At that accusation, Lucian quirked a brow.

So what if I am? I can afford to risk it. Even if the Farwell family were affected by this matter, I've got the confidence to fix everything! But then, there's no need to tell her that. Judging from her worked-up state right now, she'll probably keel over upon hearing that.

As he listened to his mother's nagging, he chillingly swept a gaze over Aubree at the side.

I wonder what else this woman has said to her.

Seemingly noticing that he had glanced at Aubree, Sonya finally turned the subject back to the latter.

"Aubree merely went to pick Essie up out of the kindness of her heart. What did she do wrong? Her arm was injured in the past, yet Roxanne showed her no mercy!"

She was so incensed that she even wanted to rush forward and grab Aubree's arm unceremoniously to show Lucian the latter's injury.

Nonetheless, the last shred of her sanity remained, and she curbed that impulse. She continued questioning her son, demanding, "Have you forgotten how she got injured?"

By then, a trace of impatience colored Lucian's voice. "I haven't forgotten."

Hearing that, Sonya wanted to carry on along those lines, but his subsequent remark stopped her short.

"However, I'm still investigating that matter. The reason for her injury still needs to be verified. She might not necessarily have sustained it from saving you."

Lucian's gaze fell on Aubree once again, his gaze scrutinizing.

Aubree sensed his eyes on her, and her heart abruptly clenched. She dug her nails into her palms hard to keep her tears flowing.

Meanwhile, Sonya gaped at her son incredulously. "How could it be fake when I witnessed it with my own eyes? Don't ever say such a thing again!"

"Why can't it be fake? Can you guarantee that every single word she says to you is true?" Lucian riposted impassively.

The moment his words rang out, both Sonya's and Aubree's expressions changed.

Sonya went silent for a few seconds, her gaze flickering for a fleeting second.

At the end of the day, she didn't trust Aubree completely.

As such, she couldn't answer her son in the affirmative.

In the end, she forcefully changed the subject. "If you insist on calling off the engagement with Aubree, give me a reason I can accept! Otherwise, I'll never agree to it!"

As Aubree heard the wavering in her voice, she lifted her eyes and cast her gaze over, stunned. Tears stained her face, rendering her utterly pitiful.

## Chapter 1279

As Lucian drove back to the Farwell residence, he was still in a foul mood.

Mom really trusts Aubree too much! It's so bad that she belittled Roxanne in such a manner!

Even until he arrived back at the manor, his expression remained as black as thunder.

Roxanne's message came in when he alighted from the car.

The moment he saw her name on the screen, his expression eased. He tapped on the notification and took a look at the message.

It read: The kids are clamoring to go to the amusement park to have fun. When are you free?

Through the words alone, Lucian could sense her reluctance when she sent that message.

She probably only sent it because the kids were pestering her, and she had no other choice.

Even so, his mood improved by leaps and bounds. He was even gripped by the urge to tease her.

Lifting his hand, he tapped the screen a few times and replied: Does this count as you asking me out?

Right then, Roxanne was surrounded by Archie, Benny, and Estella.

“Has Mr. Farwell said anything yet, Mommy?”

“Is Mr. Farwell going to the amusement park with us? We want to go with him!”

Archie and Benny gazed at her earnestly.

Estella, on the other hand, had climbed onto the couch. Clinging onto Roxanne’s shoulders, she fixed her eyes on the phone screen in curiosity.

Meanwhile, Roxanne wore a conflicted expression on her face.

Gah! I’ve got no idea what they were thinking to suddenly make a fuss about going to the amusement park. On top of that, they kept saying that they wanted to go with Lucian and bugged me to ask the man. Worse still, they refused to sleep before receiving an answer from him!

Left with no other recourse, she could only text Lucian.

That was the first time she took the initiative to do so after they parted ways on a sour note.

For a moment, she felt very much uneasy, and anxiety lingered within her.

They waited for an indeterminate time before her phone finally lit up with a reply from Lucian.

All three children’s eyes likewise lit up. They all crowded over to have a look at the message.

Without giving it much thought, Roxanne tapped on the chat interface.

The instant she saw Lucian’s reply, her face flushed bright red even as she frantically locked her phone screen.

The children were distinctly disappointed that they didn’t get to read their father’s answer.

“What did Mr. Farwell say, Mommy? Why can’t we have a look?” Benny couldn’t resist asking.

Roxanne guiltily flashed them all a smile. “It’s nothing...”

“Is Daddy going with us, then?” Estella pressed in a sweet voice.

Roxanne mulled over Lucian’s reply, the blush on her face intensifying. “He... Well, I’ll ask him again.”

After saying that, she turned away from the children and texted the man where they couldn't see: The kids had me ask you that! Are you going or not?

At her reply, Lucian arched a brow and chuckled. He sent her a voice message. "If you're asking me out, I naturally won't decline."

Seeing that it was a voice message, Roxanne felt the onset of a headache as she glanced at the children surrounding her.

A while later, she carefully converted it into text. Skimming her eyes over his reply, she nodded at the children. "He said okay."

Immediately, all three children jumped for joy.

Forcibly feigning calmness, Roxanne ordered them upstairs to rest while she returned to her room helplessly.

She proceeded to stare at the voice message. In the end, she couldn't help playing it.

With a tap from the tip of her finger, Lucian's deep voice rang out in the room.

She merely listened to it once before she tossed her phone to the side, her face flaming.

I've already told him that it was the kids' request! How could he be so shameless?

## **Chapter 1280**

Soon, the weekend arrived. Roxanne was woken up by the sound of the kids knocking at her door.

The moment she opened the door, she saw the three little ones all dressed up and looking at her excitedly.

As Roxanne was still half asleep, she could not remember their plan for the day and was puzzled as to what was going on.

"Mommy, we are going to the amusement park today!" Benny reminded in his childish voice, noticing that his mother was in a daze.

Only then did Roxanne finally snap out of her trance. Feeling slightly frustrated with herself, she asked, "What time is it now?"

Benny looked at his smartwatch and answered, "It's already seven in the morning. Mr. Farwell told us that he will be reaching soon!"

When Roxanne heard that, she looked down at her nightgown, and with a look of exasperation on her face, she instructed Archie and Benny, "I'm going to wash up now. Can the two of you prepare breakfast?"

The boys smiled at their mother and replied, "Mr. Farwell is taking us out for breakfast!"

Roxanne was speechless for a moment. Then, she hurried back to her room to get ready.

Perhaps it was because of what Lucian said the other day about this being a date, but Roxanne spent a long time putting on her makeup. Unfortunately, she was still not able to get her desired look.

In the end, she decided to go with a lightly made-up face before changing into a lace blouse and faded jeans, making sure that they were comfortable enough for her to move around in.

After she was ready, the woman headed downstairs and saw that Lucian had already arrived. He and the little ones were sitting on the couch together while discussing the day's itinerary.

"Cream puffs! I want to eat cream puffs!" Benny's eyes lit up.

Roxanne heard the boy exclaiming happily as she descended the stairs. My son is indeed a glutton...

Just then, Estella's sweet voice sounded. "Ms. Jarvis!"

Following that, everyone turned to look at Roxanne.

The woman stiffened when she met their eyes and instinctively looked toward Lucian.

"Hey, gorgeous," Lucian said, staring intently into Roxanne's eyes.

When Roxanne heard the man's compliment, a blush spread across her cheeks.

While sizing the man up curiously, she noticed that his hair was not styled in its usual slicked-back manner. There were a few loose strands of hair covering his forehead, giving him a more youthful look. Attire-wise, he was wearing a dark green windbreaker that looked casual yet elegant at the same time.

As Roxanne had never seen Lucian appearing so casual before, she got lost in her thoughts for a moment.

"How do I look today?"

Noticing that the woman was checking him out, Lucian stood up from the couch and walked toward her to give her a full view of his body.

Roxanne had almost reached the bottom of the stairs and was standing at eye level with Lucian.

The woman only realized what she had done when both of them locked eyes. She felt her cheeks burning and jerked back slightly before shifting her gaze away.

Lucian, who was determined to hear Roxanne's reply, did not budge and stood at the bottom of the stairs with a smile on his face.

Having no other choice, Roxanne lowered her eyes and said, "You haven't changed much."

To her, he was still as mesmerizing as he was six years ago.

Lucian's eyes dimmed slightly when he heard her answer. In an ambiguous tone, he said, "My looks might not have changed, but I did change in other ways that you can't see."

After saying that, he held Roxanne's hand in front of the kids.

Hearing the man's words, Roxanne felt a surge of emotion in her heart, but before she could react, Lucian had already grabbed her hand.

Feeling conscious of the children's presence, she instinctively tried to shake off Lucian's hand, but his grip was so tight that it was impossible for her to do so.

## **Chapter 1281**

The kids saw the intimate gesture between the two adults and exchanged cheeky glances with each other.

However, when the couple was walking toward them, they pretended not to notice and continued talking about the rides that they were going to take at the amusement park later.

A while later, everyone got into the car, looking forward to the rest of the day.

Lucian took them to a diner for breakfast before heading to the amusement park.

As they had arrived during peak hour, the amusement park was extremely crowded.

While navigating their way past the other patrons, Roxanne could not help but be reminded of their previous trip to the hot spring resort, where Benny got lost. Suddenly, she was filled with apprehension.

Sensing the woman's unease, Lucian squeezed her hand and said, "If you are worried, I can get them to clear the area."

Upon hearing that, Roxanne returned to her senses and shook her head. With a faint smile on her face, she replied, "It's okay. The kids won't have as much fun if you do that."

Benny knew that his mother was worried about him and lifted his arm to show her the smartwatch on his wrist.

"Mommy, it's all right. We are all wearing smartwatches. If you can't find us, you can always give us a call!"

Archie and Estella chimed in and said, "Yup! We will stick close to you."

Roxanne smiled after hearing the kids' assurances. Stroking their heads affectionately, she said, "I just want you guys to have fun."

With that, the little ones headed to their first attraction.

Roxanne accompanied them on a few kiddy rides, but the kids were still not satisfied.

"Mommy, let's take the roller coaster!" Benny's eyes sparkled with anticipation as he watched the roller coaster whizz past him.

Roxanne hesitated before replying, "You are too young to be on a roller coaster. Let's go for something else instead."

After she finished saying that, Lucian reminded in a deep voice, "I saw a roller coaster for children just now. They can try that."

Just as Roxanne was about to agree, Benny rejected that proposition. "That's not exciting at all! We want to try this one!"

Roxanne was at a loss as to what to do.

The children were indeed below the age limit for roller coaster rides.

Even if Lucian somehow managed to get them on, Roxanne would still be worried.

While she was pondering over a way to convince the kids to give up the idea, Archie suddenly spoke.

"Mommy, if we are not allowed to take the ride, can you and Mr. Farwell go for it on our behalf instead? Then we can treat it as we have already tried it!"

Benny and Estella nodded in agreement.

Hearing that, Roxanne subconsciously glanced at the man beside her.

She did not mind doing that if it would make the kids happy, but... Lucian did not seem like the sort of person who would be interested in amusement park rides.

In fact, she was unable to imagine him on a roller coaster.

"Mr. Farwell!"

"Daddy!"

The little ones started coaxing the man when they realized that their target should be Lucian instead.

Roxanne did not want to put Lucian in a tight spot and was about to reject the suggestion on his behalf when Lucian suddenly said to the kids with a serious expression, "No problem. But the three of you have to be good and wait here. Don't run about or go off with strangers, okay?"

Hearing the man's positive reply, the children jumped for joy and replied sweetly, "We will wait here patiently!"

Then, they started urging Roxanne and Lucian to join the line for the ride.

Since Lucian had already agreed, Roxanne could only keep quiet and allow Lucian to take her hand and lead her toward the queue.

## Chapter 1282

"If you're reluctant to do it, I'll help you explain it to the kids," Roxanne said worriedly.

They were stuck in a crowd, and she could see that Lucian was uncomfortable.

Lucian turned to look at the three children waiting for them close by, and his gaze softened. "It's all right. As long as they like it."

His gaze then shifted toward Roxanne. "As for you, remember to hold tight onto me if you get scared later."

Roxanne was startled when her eyes met with his mischievous ones. She lowered her head as mixed feelings surged within her heart.



Throughout the years, she had brought Archie and Benny to an amusement park many times.

The two children had mentioned wanting to go on a roller coaster countless times but were never able to.

Before that day, they had never mentioned wanting her to represent them to go on the roller coaster either.

Perhaps they thought that I would be afraid.

It was not until today, with Lucian's appearance, that they dared to ask her such a request. They had looked at her with anticipation too, not a hint of worry in their eyes.

Maybe they thought Lucian would protect me on their behalf.

Even I myself think so too.

Roxanne looked up and flashed Lucian a grin. "Thanks."

As she said that, a gust of wind blew and messed up her hair. Lucian reached out to smooth the messy locks and said, "I should be the one to thank you for giving me another chance."

The two stood out because of their good looks and impressive aura. The people around them subconsciously kept a distance but could not help stealing glances at them.

Upon witnessing that scene, someone could not control their impulsiveness and took a photo of them. However, that person had forgotten to turn off the flash of their phone.

The bright light flashed Roxanne in the eyes and snapped her back to her senses. She then turned in the direction of the person taking their photo.

That woman smiled awkwardly and said, "Sorry. The two of you looked so cute together. Can I please save this picture? That is if you don't mind..."

Roxanne could not bear to reject the woman's request after hearing how sincere she was, but she was not the only one in the picture.

She turned to Lucian, seeking his opinion on the matter.

In response, Lucian turned to glance at the woman who took their photo.

That woman was facing Roxanne, so she could only see Lucian's side profile.

When Lucian looked over, she was amazed by his handsomeness. In the next second, she was also overwhelmed by his aura and got so nervous that she almost wanted to delete the photo.

“Send me a copy of it.”

Lucian took out his phone and added the woman on WhatsApp.

Both the person who took the photo and Roxanne were dumbfounded.

The woman was stunned momentarily before she returned to her senses. Her hands were shaking in excitement as she handed her phone to Lucian.

Who would've thought I could add this handsome man on WhatsApp because I secretly took a photo?

After adding each other on WhatsApp, the woman followed Lucian's instructions and sent the photo to him.

Lucian opened the photo to take a look and seemed to be satisfied with it. He then tapped on his phone a few more times.

Soon, that woman received a new message. She had just received a bank transfer of ten thousand.

“Um... You don't need to pay me. I only took the photo on a whim. It wasn't a good shot either.”

The woman who took the photo felt uneasy.

Lucian said, “Your photography skills are not bad. You can delete the photo in your phone now.”

He put away his phone after saying that.

The woman had no choice but to turn to Roxanne for help.

She felt uneasy as she could not accept the money she felt she did not deserve.

Roxanne felt her head ache as she said, “Take it and delete the photo on your phone. Treat it as us buying the photo from you.”

## **Chapter 1283**

In the end, the woman accepted the money under Roxanne's reassurance. She also deleted Lucian's WhatsApp in front of Roxanne.

Lucian raised his eyebrows but kept quiet.

It was not until they got on the roller coaster that Roxanne realized the woman was afraid Roxanne would mind it if she did not delete Lucian's WhatsApp.

Just as she was lost in her thoughts, the staff had helped them with their seatbelts and done a double check.

The roller coaster then started to move.

"Good luck, Mommy!"

"Good luck, Ms. Jarvis!"

The three children's shouts of good luck could be heard outside the fence.

Roxanne turned to smile at the children as she slowly relaxed.

As the roller coaster gained speed, it went higher up the slope. It was only then that Roxanne started to feel scared.

They were also seated in the first row.

The people behind them were shouting their lungs out. Roxanne felt her throat tighten in fear, and her breath caught in her throat.

Just as she felt she was about to suffocate, Lucian reached over and gripped her hand tightly.

Roxanne slowly relaxed as soon as she felt his presence and breathed in and out at a steady pace.

She instinctively turned to look at the person beside her.

People behind them screamed, and some were even cursing, yet Lucian remained calm and expressionless. If it weren't for the rise and fall of his chest, Roxanne would have thought the person beside her was not real.

Roxanne could not help but laugh after seeing his calm demeanor. She felt herself relax and started to scream alongside the people behind her at the thrill of the ride.

Lucian loosened his grip on her hand. A smile slowly made its way onto his lips as he heard her scream without holding back.

As the roller coaster came to a stop, Roxanne felt breathless from all the screaming. When she stood up, her vision turned black momentarily, and she almost fell forward.

Luckily, Lucian was able to reach out and grab her in time before she made a fool out of herself.

He held onto her as they walked out of the fenced area and made their way toward the three children waiting at the ride's exit.

The kids hurried over when they saw Lucian and Roxanne come out.

Noticing Roxanne's condition, they were worried. "Mommy, are you okay?"

Roxanne slowly caught her breath and smiled before nodding. "I'm fine."

She then turned to look at the expressionless person beside her and could not help but chuckle. "I want to go on it a few more times!"

The children did not know what Roxanne was laughing about and assumed that the roller coaster was very enjoyable.

Benny balled his hands into fists. "When I grow up, I'll go on the roller coaster many times!"

Archie held onto Benny's hand and said, "I'll go with you!"

Estella joined in on the fun. "I want to go too!"

Archie and Benny replied in unison, "Sure, but you have to sit at the back!"

The children could not stop chattering among themselves. A smile appeared on Roxanne's lips at how innocent they were.

Lucian glanced at the three children before shifting his gaze to Roxanne.

Although Roxanne had said she was fine, her physiological reactions betrayed her as she still looked pale and uncomfortable.

"I'll go get us something to drink. Don't go anywhere," Lucian said in a deep voice.

The children nodded obediently at him in response.

Roxanne also subconsciously nodded.

It was not until Lucian had left that she realized he was treating her like a kid.

She could not help but laugh at the realization.

Although the children did not understand why Roxanne was smiling, they followed suit and grinned.

They smiled and laughed together as they talked about the roller coaster.

## Chapter 1284

Lucian returned from buying some water to see the children laughing and surrounding a smiling Roxanne.

Lucian's expression softened at the scene.

The children happily waved their hands to beckon Lucian over when they saw him return.

Lucian hurried toward them and handed the drinks he had just bought to each of them as he listened to Roxanne and the children talk.

"Were you scared just now?" Roxanne suddenly turned to look at him and asked.

The children's gazes also fell onto him.

Lucian shrugged and raised his eyebrows. "I went parachuting before. That was scarier than the roller coaster."

Surprise flashed across Roxanne's eyes upon hearing that.

With Lucian's personality, I thought he would never do something thrilling like that.

Archie's and Benny's eyes lit up in excitement as they enthusiastically grabbed onto the hem of Lucian's shirt. "Mr. Farwell, bring us along the next time you go!"

Lucian lowered his gaze and smiled at Archie and Benny. He agreed without any hesitation, "All right. I'll take you when you're of suitable age."

Upon hearing that, the two boys cheered.

Roxanne felt emotional as she watched Archie and Benny interact with Lucian.

Indeed, the kids need their father.

She had always known Archie and Benny were bold and liked to try different activities.

However, the two had always taken her feelings into account and were afraid that she might be scared, so they had never voiced these kinds of requests.

Yet they were able to let themselves loose in front of Lucian.

Perhaps they will grow up happier with Lucian around.

Just as she felt her emotions overwhelm her, a small hand tugged on the hem of her blouse.

Roxanne snapped back to her senses and looked down.

Estella was looking up and staring unblinkingly at Roxanne with her big round eyes.

“Essie, what’s wrong?” Roxanne asked as she bent down.

Estella wrapped her arms around Roxanne’s neck endearingly and softly whispered in her ear, “Ms. Jarvis, can I call you Mommy?”

Her voice was soft and timid because her request had been rejected before.

Upon hearing the question, Roxanne instinctively turned to look at Lucian, who was talking with Archie and Benny.

The three of them did not seem to notice what was happening.

Estella hurried to explain when she saw Roxanne was silent. “I just think that we look like a family! Besides, Ms. Jarvis, didn’t you already agree to let Daddy pursue you? We’ll definitely be a family in the future!”

Hope and anticipation was written all over her face.

Roxanne was touched by Estella’s words.

She had indeed accepted Lucian’s pursuit.

However, she could not be too sure about the future.

If I agree to Essie’s request, I don’t know how I’ll face her if I disappoint her in the future.

Roxanne was hesitant as she pondered over it.

“Ms. Jarvis...” Estella thought she was going to be rejected again. Her eyes grew red, and it looked like she was about to cry.

Roxanne could not bear to reject the young girl when she heard the latter’s broken voice. Hence, she tried to persuade Estella to call her a different name. “Your daddy and I...”

She wanted to say they were not married yet but realized that it was easy to cause misunderstandings if she did say that. Hesitating for a moment, she decided to skip the explanation. "If you really want to call me a different name, how about you call me Aunt Roxanne?"

Estella pouted. She did not seem too willing to call Roxanne that.

However, when she realized this was Roxanne's compromise, she could only nod and say, "Okay."

## Chapter 1285

Lucian, Roxanne, and the three children had fun at the amusement park for the rest of the day.

For dinner, Lucian brought them to a nearby high-end restaurant.

"I want to sit with Aunt Roxanne!"

When they were about to be seated, Estella held onto Roxanne's blouse tightly while wearing a prideful expression.

Upon hearing how Estella addressed Roxanne, Lucian, Archie, and Benny were taken aback and instinctively glanced at Roxanne.

Roxanne was hesitant to meet Lucian's gaze as she said, "Essie wanted to call me that, so I agreed to it. If you don't like it, then—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Lucian cut in with raised eyebrows, "Personally, I feel there's a much closer term of address, but if that's what you want, let her address you that way for now."

Lucian then ushered Archie and Benny to their seats.

Since Estella wanted to sit with Roxanne, Archie and Benny expressed through their actions that they wanted to sit with Lucian.

In the end, Roxanne and Lucian sat opposite each other, with the children by their sides.

The three children were happy with the arrangement. Lucian glanced up and felt satisfied when he noticed that he could look at Roxanne with this seating.

Lucian had called ahead to order their meal, which consisted of the restaurant's signature dishes.

In a thoughtful gesture, he even ordered ice cream for the children.

The design of the ice cream was unique. The waiter did a little magic, and the ice cream turned different in a blink of an eye.

The children clapped their hands in surprise and excitement.

It was a habit for Roxanne to put the children's plates in front of her and cut their steaks into bite-sized pieces.

Unexpectedly, when she looked up, she saw Lucian was already doing that job for her.

Lucian's head was bowed as he cut the steaks. There was no sign of impatience written on his face.

As though sensing her looking at him, he met her gaze. "Do you need me to help you too?"

With that, he shifted his gaze to the untouched steak on her plate.

Roxanne was stunned momentarily. She then shook her head in embarrassment and said, "I can do it myself."

Without saying anything further, Lucian returned to cutting the steaks before placing them back onto the children's plates.

Dinner was a heartwarming affair.

In a corner they did not pay attention to, Sonya stared intently at the five of them harmoniously interacting with one another, and her expression darkened.

Even if she had known earlier that Lucian and Roxanne would get back together, she did not expect their relationship to have progressed that far.

Any stranger would think that the five of them were a family.

Sonya huffed in anger when she saw Lucian personally cut steak for the two bastards.

I raised him until he became an adult, yet he's never cut steak for me! How dare he go and serve someone else's sons? Just what in the world is he thinking? That Roxanne doesn't look like a good person and already has two bastards, so why is my son dead set on being with her?

As Sonya watched the five of them get ready to leave after finishing dinner, she frowned and looked away, trying hard to suppress her anger.



Although her seat was close to the door, no one paid much attention to her table since it was hidden by many houseplants.

It was so hidden that Roxanne and the others did not notice her even though they passed by her to get to the door.

“Thank you, Aunt Roxanne!” Estella thanked Roxanne after the latter gave her candy when they were at the door.

Behind the houseplants, Sonya almost rushed out impulsively when she heard how Estella addressed Roxanne.

## Chapter 1286

They got in the car after walking out of the restaurant. Lucian sat idly in the car for some time without starting the engine.

Roxanne gave him a puzzled look.

The moment she raised her head to look at him, she made eye contact with him.

Roxanne was momentarily stunned. For some strange reason, she felt slightly nervous.

After a moment, disappointment showed on Lucian’s face. “If only it’s pouring rain right now.”

His words took Roxanne by surprise.

The children looked at Lucian curiously. “But we won’t be able to go home if there’s a rainstorm!”

Lucian smiled in response. He didn’t say anything else and started the car.

The kids were still perplexed because their father didn’t give them a response.

Roxanne, on the other hand, immediately understood Lucian’s intentions after the children mentioned this.

In other words, he was telling her that he didn’t want to go home that night.

Her face flushed crimson, and she didn’t dare to look at him. “It’s getting late. Let’s go back now. The kids must be tired.”

The children blinked in confusion upon hearing Roxanne’s words. They could feel that the adults were insinuating something they couldn’t understand. Nevertheless, they didn’t say anything.

On the way home, Roxanne couldn't fathom if Lucian was deliberately driving slowly in an effort to put the kids to sleep.

Roxanne lowered her head and stared into space blankly as she was also slightly tired.

By the time she snapped back to reality, they had arrived at her house.

Roxanne turned back to wake Archie and Benny so that they could get out of the car.

"Aunt Roxanne."

Estella would be going home with Lucian now, so she was slightly reluctant to part with Roxanne.

Roxanne gave her head a reassuring pat and uttered, "You have stayed here for a long period. It's time to go home."

Estella was still a little unwilling.

At the thought of something, Roxanne looked at Lucian hesitantly.

Before she could say anything, Lucian's voice rang out. "I have let Cayden handle the transfer procedures for Essie. She will return to her previous kindergarten from next week onward."

Everyone's eyes lit up when they heard his words.

Archie and Benny hugged Estella excitedly. "That's amazing! We can go to the kindergarten together again!"

A smile spread across Estella's face too.

Roxanne felt as if a weight had been lifted from her shoulders. She smiled at Estella and said, "You can meet Archie and Benny in the kindergarten from now on. If you want to, you can come here occasionally and live with me for a few days."

The delight of transferring kindergartens replaced Estella's reluctance of leaving Roxanne. She nodded her head obediently after hearing Roxanne's words. "Then, you have to go fetch Archie and Benny from the kindergarten, Aunt Roxanne!"

Roxanne assented with a laugh.

Lucian started the car engine.

"Bye, Mr. Farwell." The two boys waved at him.

Lucian nodded and turned to look at Roxanne, waiting for her to say something.

Roxanne still felt shy because of what he had said earlier.

Meeting his eyes and with a blush, she mumbled, "Goodbye."

Lucian lifted his brow. He was obviously displeased.

Roxanne frowned in embarrassment and hesitated for a moment before saying, "See you on Monday."

If she wasn't mistaken, they would have to meet as they would be picking up their kids on Monday.

Lucian smiled in satisfaction. "See you on Monday."

With that, he hit the gas and drove toward the Farwell residence.

Only after Lucian had driven far away did Roxanne turn around and return to the mansion with Archie and Benny.

## Chapter 1287

Roxanne wanted to send them upstairs to rest when the doorbell suddenly rang.

Archie and Benny thought it was Lucian returning with Estella. They ran to open the door excitedly despite Roxanne stopping them.

When they saw the person standing before them at the door, they were taken aback.

"Where's Roxanne?"

Sonya glanced at the children in disdain.

Archie and Benny were disappointed when they were suddenly met with their grandmother's overt dislike after just having a great time with Lucian. The smile on their faces gradually faded, replaced by a wary expression.

Sonya didn't expect them to reply. She turned to look at the living room after asking the question and immediately saw Roxanne, who was walking over.

As soon as Roxanne heard Sonya's voice inside the house, she hurried outside out of concern for her children.

"Mrs. Farwell, it's late. Is something the matter?"

She proceeded to shield the kids behind her back calmly before meeting Sonya's eyes coolly.

Sonya sized her up. "Let's go in and talk."

A crease appeared between Roxanne's brows. After a moment of hesitation, she stood aside for Sonya to come in.

It's just Sonya by herself. She will, at most, utter a few unpleasant words.

If she were to be with Lucian, she would have to face Sonya sooner or later.

When the kids saw that Roxanne had let Sonya in, they felt slightly nervous and worried that Sonya would bully her, just like Aubree and Frieda had.

Roxanne watched Sonya sit on the couch and squatted down to look at Archie and Benny. "You guys head on upstairs and get some rest. I have some words to say to her."

Archie grabbed his mother's hand with concern. "We want to accompany you!"

Benny nodded fervently.

Roxanne felt warmth in her heart when she saw how worried the kids were. She gave them reassuring pats on their heads. "Don't worry. We're only talking. Nothing will happen. You guys have played the entire day and must be tired. Go upstairs and wash up."

The two boys were still slightly reluctant.

Feeling helpless, Roxanne turned to glance at Sonya.

Seeing that Sonya was not looking at them, she promised the kids, "Even if we fight, she's no match for me. You guys know that."

The boys recalled Roxanne defending herself against two people and finally nodded.

Before they headed upstairs, the kids greeted Sonya politely, "Good night, Mrs. Farwell."

Sonya snorted and pretended as if she didn't hear or see them.

The kids felt disappointed but didn't say anything. They turned around and headed upstairs.

Roxanne walked into the living room after that. She brewed Sonya and herself a cup of coffee and sat on the couch beside her.

"It's just the two of us now. You don't have to pretend anymore. I'm not falling for it!"

Sonya glanced at the cup of coffee Roxanne had placed in front of her. She had no intention of hiding her disdain for Roxanne.

Roxanne replied calmly, "It's basic courtesy. Even if it's Ms. Pearson here, I'll do the same. If you don't like it, you don't have to drink it."

Sonya trembled with rage upon seeing Roxanne's nonchalant demeanor. She pushed the cup of coffee away and looked at Roxanne coldly. "Tell me, what does it take for you to stay away from my son? Is it money that you're after? No matter the request, I'll satisfy you if I can do it."

## Chapter 1288

Roxanne felt a strange sense of familiarity upon hearing Sonya's words.

She found Sonya's actions hilarious when she suddenly thought about how similar the latter's words sounded to those TV dramas and novels.

Unaware of it, Sonya continued, "Six years ago, you were the one who decided to leave Lucian. No one forced you to do so. Do you think the Farwell residence is somewhere you can come and go as you please?"

Roxanne tried to suppress her emotions and thoughts when Sonya brought up what had happened six years ago. "You've got the wrong idea. It's not something I can decide on my own, whether it was my leaving six years ago or how far I have progressed with Lucian now."

Sonya didn't expect Roxanne's retort, and she grew displeased.

Roxanne continued to state matter-of-factly, "Even though you guys were aware of Lucian's feelings for Aubree six years ago, you forced me to stand in the way of their relationship because your family needed a joyous event to bring Lucian's grandfather good luck. I had no choice but to leave after suffering from Lucian's cold treatment for three years."

She was admitting that the reason for her leaving six years ago was because of the Farwell family.

This was what Roxanne had always believed in.

Except for the infant girl who passed away, she didn't feel sorry for anyone for leaving six years ago.

"I was crestfallen when I left six years ago. I only came back for work. It wasn't my intention to progress so far with my relationship with Lucian." Roxanne stared at Sonya. "If you can't accept me, you should tell Lucian. I have no say in this."

Sonya was angered by her words.

"Lucian was with Aubree for six years. You ruined their relationship, yet you don't feel an ounce of guilt. Instead, you're blaming the Farwell family? If you didn't wish for this to happen, why did you come back? Why must you come back to Horington to work? Can't you find a job anywhere else?"

She was being unreasonable.

Roxanne frowned, but she remained calm as she retorted, "This is not up to me either. You can go and ask my professor."

Sonya widened her eyes in anger. "I don't care what you're trying to achieve here! You listen very carefully. As long as I'm alive, I'll never let you become a part of the Farwell family! Also, Lucian is my son! I know him best. You didn't even get him to fall in love with you for three years. Why do you think he will like you after six years? Besides, you have two illegitimate children!"

No matter what Sonya said, Roxanne remained calm and indifferent, as if she wasn't taking Sonya's words seriously.

However, she wouldn't allow Sonya to talk about Archie and Benny like that. Her expression darkened instantly.

"Mrs. Farwell, please consider your age. What's the point of dragging two children around when you're settling adult matters between us adults? You keep saying that you're thinking of the reputation of the Farwell family, but don't you think you have disgraced the family by saying that about two innocent children?"

Sonya noticed Roxanne's change in expression and felt pleased.

She continued to provoke her, "Did I say anything wrong? How old are the two children? I think they're about five to six years old. You gave birth to them for another man after leaving the Farwell family for less than a year. You said you love Lucian! I think you only love his wealth! Now that you're back in the country, you behave as if Lucian did you wrong. Do you think you can trick me?"

## Chapter 1289

Sonya thought she had successfully provoked Roxanne. Little did she know that the more she talked, the more ridiculous Roxanne found her.

Sonya is able to overthink so much after I faked Archie's and Benny's ages. If she finds out who Archie and Benny are and recalls what she said today, I wonder how she will react.

Roxanne remained expressionless. "If you think so, then that's exactly it."

Sonya was downright infuriated by her nonchalant response. "If that's the case, leave Lucian and Essie alone! I know of your tactics to get close to Lucian!"

Roxanne gave her a confused look.

I don't even know my tactics.

Sonya bellowed, "You're making use of the fact that Essie likes you! Do you think you can become Essie's mother through this? Don't even think about it. It will never be you! You're only lucky you have two children similar to Essie's age. Once Aubree gives birth in the future, Essie will like her too!"

Sonya thought it was ironic when she heard what Estella called Roxanne at the restaurant. It also reminded her that Roxanne didn't know that Estella was her own daughter.

If Roxanne were to find out, she wouldn't have let Estella call her Aunt Roxanne.

Sonya planned to use this to drive Roxanne away from her son.

"The family will do whatever it takes to find Essie's mother. She will be the next Mrs. Farwell. It will never be you!"

Sonya sounded determined.

Roxanne furrowed her brows in surprise.

No matter what it takes? Does that mean that the Farwell family doesn't know who Essie's mother is? Does Lucian know?

Sonya was furious upon seeing Roxanne lost in thought. She suppressed her anger and enunciated, "While I'm still speaking to you nicely, you'd better be sensible. Take what you want and leave Horington. Otherwise, don't blame me for not considering that you were once my daughter-in-law!"

Roxanne snapped back to reality, and her lips curled into a wry smile. "Since when have you ever cared about that?"

Sonya had never treated her as her daughter-in-law.

It sounded like a joke to Roxanne.

Sonya stiffened, not knowing how to reply to this.

Roxanne took a sip of her coffee. She didn't even cast Sonya a glance as she uttered, "Also, you can't give me what I want. I will pretend as if we didn't have this conversation today. It's getting late. You should head back."

After a long moment, Sonya finally said stiffly, "You should know what's good for you!"

Roxanne opened the door for her calmly. "I won't be seeing you off."

It was so obvious she was chasing Sonya out of the house. It would be awkward if Sonya continued to stay.

After a moment of consideration, Sonya walked out of the mansion with a grim expression.

Roxanne immediately closed the door behind her.

She had wanted to have a proper discussion with Sonya, but she didn't realize that the latter would be this hostile toward her.

She had had no choice but to face her head on.

In fact, Sonya's statement that she was looking for Estella's mother left her with a deep impression.

She did not expect that the Farwell family still didn't know who Estella's mother was.

If the woman is unwilling to reveal herself, does that mean I can truly take care of Essie in her stead?

## **Chapter 1290**

Archie and Benny got up really early on Monday morning.

They had already prepared warm milk and sandwiches by the time Roxanne made her way down the stairs.

She chuckled in amusement when she saw how excited they were.

"Hurry up and eat your breakfast, Mommy! You need to send us to the kindergarten soon!" Benny said while handing her the glass of warm milk.



Roxanne nodded with a smile and joined them for breakfast before getting into the car with them.

Archie and Benny had been somewhat depressed since Estella transferred to another kindergarten.

Now that Estella had returned, Archie and Benny were excited about attending classes again.

Upon arriving at the kindergarten, Roxanne saw Estella standing next to Lucian while he spoke to Pippa and Jeffrey.

“Mr. Farwell! Essie!” Archie and Benny shouted excitedly from the car window.

Roxanne couldn’t help but smile as she brought them out of the car.

The boys hurried up to Estella and gave her a big hug from both sides.

“Welcome back, Essie!”

Estella had been a little nervous when she saw Pippa earlier, but the sight of Archie and Benny brought a huge smile to her face.

After saying hi to Estella, Archie and Benny turned around to greet Pippa and Lucian, “Good morning Ms. Ward! Good morning, Mr. Farwell!”

It had been a long time since Pippa had seen them smiling so happily.

Jeffrey, on the other hand, didn’t pay the boys much attention. He had read Roxanne’s files and knew that she was just a doctor. He couldn’t be bothered to try to butter her up.

Lucian patted them on the heads in response. He was about to ask them where Roxanne was when he looked up and saw her standing in front of him.

“Good morning, Ms. Jarvis!” Pippa greeted her warmly.

Roxanne nodded and responded with a smile, “Ms. Ward, Mr. Bauer, good morning.”

She then lowered her head and shifted her gaze to Estella.

Ever since Roxanne and Lucian fell apart, she had insisted on driving the boys to and from school herself in hopes of meeting Estella at the front gate, but she had never got a chance to see her.

As such, she was delighted to finally see Estella after so long.

"Aunt Roxanne!" Estella called out to Roxanne in front of Pippa and Jeffrey, causing the two to freeze in shock.

A few seconds later, Pippa regained her composure and glanced at Lucian. After making sure that he wasn't displeased with Estella's form of address, she flashed Roxanne a smile and said, "You and Essie sure are close!"

Noticing the innocent look in Estella's eyes, Roxanne figured it wasn't something worth hiding and gave her a pat on the head. "You need to be a good girl and listen to Ms. Ward, okay? Feel free to talk to Archie and Benny if you need anything."

Estella nodded obediently in response.

"We'll make sure to take good care of Essie! We won't let anyone bully her!" Archie and Benny said in unison.

Even though Roxanne didn't tell them anything, the boys knew that Estella must've been bullied in that new kindergarten. Frustrated that they couldn't get back at the bullies, they decided to do everything in their power to protect her instead.

Having realized how important Roxanne was, Jeffrey was quick to reassure her, "Don't worry, Ms. Jarvis! The environment here at our kindergarten is very good, so you may rest assured that no one will bully her!"

## Chapter 1291

Naturally, Roxanne noticed the sudden change in his attitude and knew the reason behind it. "I'm glad to hear that," she replied coldly.

Jeffrey's eyelids twitched slightly when he heard her cold response, but he forced himself to maintain a smile on his face.

"The kids miss Essie a lot, so no one is going to bully her." Pippa quickly stepped in to defuse the tension.

Roxanne flashed her a polite smile in response. "I'll be placing Essie in your care, Ms. Ward."

Since it was time for class to start, Pippa got ready to bring the kids inside.

Right then, Lucian recalled something and called out to her, "By the way, do not let Aubree pick Essie up from school if she shows up. In the event that I am unable to pick Essie up myself, Ms. Jarvis here will do it for me."

He then shot Roxanne a meaningful look after saying that.

Of course, Pippa understood what he was implying. She glanced at Roxanne in surprise.

I knew there was something off about the relationship between them, but I didn't think Ms. Jarvis would take Ms. Pearson's place in Mr. Farwell's heart!

Having come to a sudden realization, Pippa began to view Roxanne in a different light.

Roxanne did not expect Lucian to say something like that out of the blue, so she didn't know how to respond at all.

She was still trying to find the words when Estella tugged at the hem of her shirt and asked excitedly, "Is that true, Aunt Roxanne? Will you come to pick me up from now on?"

Everyone shifted their gaze to Roxanne upon hearing that.

Roxanne simply couldn't bring herself to say no when she saw the expectant look in Estella's eyes. "Yeah, that's right. If your daddy can't come to pick you up, then you can play with Archie and Benny instead!" she said with a nod.

All three of the kids cheered happily when they heard that.

"Similarly, if Ms. Jarvis can't make it, I will pick them up for her," Lucian chimed in.

The kids cheered even louder in response.

Unable to turn his offer down, Roxanne could only nod in silence.

Pippa looked at Lucian, then at Roxanne before nodding in acknowledgment. "Understood. I will be sure to keep that in mind."

Suddenly, Jeffrey thought of something and asked cautiously, "W-What if someone from your family comes over instead? Mrs. Farwell or Mr. Elias, for example."

Roxanne couldn't help but recall the argument between them the other day.

Although she had stood firm in her stance, that encounter still affected her somewhat.

Since Jeffrey had asked Lucian about Sonya, Roxanne got curious as to what Lucian's answer would be.

"Give me a call if they come to pick her up. Do not let Essie go with them without my permission," Lucian replied with a frown.

Jeffrey nodded profusely. "U-Understood, Mr. Farwell!"

For some inexplicable reason, Roxanne breathed a sigh of relief after hearing his answer.

While I am glad to hear that Lucian is opposing his mother because she dislikes me, I can't help but feel that I'm being a little selfish here...

"Class is starting. I'll be bringing the kids into the classroom now."

Pippa waved goodbye to them and brought the three kids into the classroom.

Jeffrey, too, excused himself and returned to his office.

By the time Roxanne came back to her senses, Lucian was the only one standing next to her at the kindergarten front gate.

"Why did you tell Ms. Ward and Mr. Bauer that just now?" she asked helplessly while trying her best to remain calm.

If Ms. Ward and Mr. Bauer know about us, then practically everyone in the kindergarten will! We aren't exactly a couple yet, so I don't want to attract too much attention!

## Chapter 1292

"Did I say anything wrong? I'm more than happy to help pick Archie and Benny up and look after them if you can't make it. Do you not want my help?" Lucian replied in the most matter-of-fact tone possible.

He then eyed Roxanne from head to toe as he continued, "If you don't want me to do that, I can have Cayden—"

Roxanne knew just how persistent he could get, so she quickly cut him off, "All right, I'll pick Essie up if you're too busy."

Satisfied with her answer, Lucian nodded slowly in response.

Looking at the time on her watch, Roxanne said, "Anyway, I need to get to work now. See you later in the evening."

She was worried about the research institute, as it had been without a leader for two days straight.

Roxanne was about to leave when Lucian called out to her with a displeased frown, "That's it? Are you just going to leave like that?"

She paused in her tracks and let out a helpless sigh in response.

Lucian seemed to have changed completely ever since I agreed to let him court me... For some reason, I just can't bring myself to say no to him...

Roxanne turned around and asked, "What else do you want me to do?"

Before she even realized what was going on, Lucian had walked up to her and given her a quick peck on the lips.

"That's more like it." Lucian gently rubbed her lips as he continued with a mysterious look in his eyes, "Go on, then."

It took Roxanne a good few seconds to come back to her senses.

Her face burned bright red when she realized he had kissed her in front of a kindergarten.

"You..."

She was about to warn him not to kiss her in public again, but she held her tongue as she didn't want him to think there would be a next time.

"What is it?" Lucian asked in confusion.

"Please mind your behavior!" Roxanne snapped at him and stormed off.

Although there weren't a lot of people around when Lucian kissed her, Roxanne refused to stick around in case someone had seen it.

Lucian followed behind her as the two made their way toward their respective cars.

Roxanne started her car and was about to drive to the research institute, but the engine failed a few seconds after she started it up.

With a frown on her face, she tried starting it a few more times, but to no avail.

She gave up on driving and decided to hail a cab instead.

As Lucian had yet to leave, he saw her get out of the car and quickly followed suit.

"What's wrong? I thought you were going to the research institute?"

"My car broke down. It has been breaking down often ever since it crashed into a tree the other day. I'll take a cab there. You can head on over to your office," Roxanne replied in frustration.

She was about to walk past Lucian and hail a passing cab from the street when Lucian said, "Let me take a look at your car. It might be something that I can easily fix."

Feeling a little relieved, Roxanne turned around and walked back to her car with Lucian.

Unfortunately, Lucian could not find anything wrong with her car even after inspecting it thoroughly. "I think you need to have a mechanic repair it for you."

"All right. I'll take a cab there myself. Thanks for trying to help."

## Chapter 1293

"Why would you choose a difficult option when a much easier one is right in front of you?" Lucian asked.

Roxanne paused in her tracks and stared at him in confusion.

"I'm in no rush. How about I give you a ride instead?" Lucian continued with an eyebrow arched while getting out of her car.

Roxanne was a little hesitant when she heard that.

It would be difficult to get a cab at this hour, so Lucian sending me to work would make things a lot easier. But I'm not used to being so close to him just yet, nor am I able to shamelessly accept his help...

As though he had read her mind, Lucian added, "I don't mind charging you a fare if you're that particular about troubling me."

Roxanne tensed up, as she knew Lucian meant something else when he said that.

Sure enough, Lucian continued by saying, "I just need you to go somewhere with me."

"Where to?" Roxanne asked instinctively.

Instead of answering her question, Lucian simply opened the door to the passenger seat and motioned for her to get in.

As the two of them had been standing around for quite some time, they were starting to attract the attention of the people nearby.

Since it was getting late, Roxanne got into the car after a brief moment of hesitation.

Lucian then made his way to the driver's seat and slowly drove out of there.

Cayden let out a huge sigh as he watched Lucian's car disappear into the distance.

Ugh... It sure isn't easy being Mr. Farwell's assistant! Not only did I have to suppress my guilt and sabotage Ms. Jarvis' car in public, but now, I also have to clean up the mess myself and get her car towed to a repair shop...

After making a phone call, Cayden pressed his palms together and prayed that Roxanne wouldn't hold him accountable if she found out about it in the future.

I'm just carrying out the orders given by Mr. Farwell, so she should go after him instead!

Meanwhile, a huge commotion broke out in the classroom when Pippa brought the three kids inside.

"Essie!"

"It really is her!"

All the other kids squealed in excitement as they rushed forward and surrounded the three.

One of them had mentioned earlier that he had seen Estella at the front gate, but they didn't believe him at the time.

It wasn't until they saw Estella enter the classroom that they finally believed it.

They didn't really like Estella before, as she refused to speak to them, which led them to believe she didn't like them.

As Estella gradually opened up with the help of Archie and Benny, however, the kids slowly warmed up to her.

Eventually, they liked her so much that they actually missed her while she was gone.

Having been treated coldly while attending classes at the other kindergarten, Estella wasn't used to receiving such a warm welcome all of a sudden.

She decided to turn toward Archie and Benny for help, only to realize they had blended into the crowd.

As the kids all took turns giving Estella hugs, one of the boys got so excited that he kissed her on the cheek.

Archie and Benny leaped to their feet and yelled angrily, "Hey! Boys aren't allowed to kiss her! Hugs only!"

Estella was still stunned by the sudden kiss, but she instinctively nodded when she heard them defending her.

The boy then walked up to her and apologized, "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to kiss you. I just—"

After Estella snapped out of her dazed state, her lips curled into a smile when she saw the sincere looks on their faces. "It's okay! I've missed you guys too!"

At that, the kids smothered her with hugs again.

## Chapter 1294

Pippa chuckled and shook her head when she saw how excited the kids were.

They are rarely this happy, so why not let them have some fun?

She flashed a smile and watched them from the side, lest they get into any accidents.

Another teaching assistant from the same class approached her and whispered, "Ms. Ward, how is Mr. Farwell related to Archie and Benny's mother?"

Pippa froze in surprise. She recalled Lucian's words earlier and how Estella had addressed Roxanne this morning.

It was evident that there was more to their relationship than either of them was letting on although they had not been explicit about it.

In the event that a member of the Farwell family wished to pick up Estella, Lucian would need to be notified by phone, whereas Roxanne could collect her without prior authorization.

It could be said that Roxanne was much more important to Lucian than his family.

However, she wasn't sure if they were ready to go public with their relationship.

Pippa gave the teaching assistant a half-smile instead of answering her question.

The teaching assistant continued, "I saw Mr. Farwell and Ms. Jarvis doing that through the window earlier!"

Pippa shot her a baffled look.

The teaching assistant made a kissing gesture with her hands.

Her gesture elicited a surprised look in Pippa's eyes.

Pippa knew they were dating, but it was still shocking to learn that they had kissed at the kindergarten entrance.



"What about Mr. Farwell and Ms. Pearson's engagement?" the teaching assistant asked curiously.

Fearing that she might dwell on the matter, Pippa promptly clarified, "I suppose they broke up."

She wasn't sure about it, but Lucian had most probably broken up with Aubree judging from how he treated her.

"I previously thought Mr. Farwell and Ms. Pearson didn't seem like a real couple. Ms. Pearson was so rude to us, remember? She doesn't deserve to be with Mr. Farwell." The teaching assistant was pretty upset with Aubree. After learning that Lucian and Aubree were no longer together, she promptly vented her frustrations. "I don't think Essie likes Aubree, too. Did she do something to Essie behind Mr. Farwell's back?"

They both turned to look at Estella.

A long while later, the teaching assistant piped up, "Actually, Essie resembles Ms. Jarvis, doesn't she? She adores Ms. Jarvis. If I didn't know the truth, I'd have assumed she's Ms. Jarvis' daughter."

Pippa observed Estella for a while and nodded in agreement.

However, Estella was Lucian's daughter, and Roxanne had her own children. Naturally, they weren't related to each other by blood.

Pippa sighed softly. "I wish that's true. That way, Essie wouldn't have refused to talk for years."

When Estella started attending kindergarten, Pippa had concerns about her well-being.

Fortunately, Roxanne appeared in the little girl's life.

The teaching assistant agreed, "Yes. Perhaps fate brought Ms. Jarvis to Essie so she could be her savior. Look how happy Essie is now."

Their hearts melted at the adorable sight of Estella playing with her friends.

## Chapter 1295

Meanwhile, in Lucian's car, Roxanne couldn't help but glance at him through the rearview mirror.

Six years ago, she wouldn't miss the chance to spend time with Lucian. She would always stare at his face intently, hoping he could spare a glance at her. Alas, it had never happened.

Now, she finally got the chance to stare at him whenever she wanted.

All the while, she had thought her feelings for Lucian had faded over time.

Never in her wildest dreams did she expect to still be deeply and wildly in love with Lucian.

“How was it? Are you satisfied?” Lucian suddenly turned to look at her.

Roxanne stiffened and blurted out, “Not bad.”

Hearing that, Lucian chuckled in amusement.

Roxanne belatedly regained her composure and realized what she had just said. Her cheeks flushed a crimson red immediately.

Lucian wasn’t about to push her too much.

Sensing her anxiety, he changed the topic. “Thanks to you and the boys, Essie is doing so much better now.”

Roxanne relaxed subconsciously when she heard Estella’s name. Her eyes softened as she said, “I didn’t do anything. Essie is shy, so we should make an effort to befriend her. I should be grateful that she’s willing to open her heart to me.”

There was nothing more moving than being trusted by a young girl.

They chatted about Estella’s change throughout the journey.

Roxanne’s gaze soon drifted to the scenery outside the car window. She was taken aback by the unfamiliarity of her surroundings.

Glancing at her watch, she realized they should’ve arrived at the research institute from the kindergarten ages ago.

“Are you sure you’re going the right way?” she asked quickly, her voice full of concern. “This isn’t the route to the research institute.”

Lucian didn’t make a U-turn. Instead, he asked calmly, “Didn’t you agree to go someplace with me?”

Roxanne was reminded of the fare Lucian had mentioned earlier. Furrowing her brows, she protested, “You didn’t say that we’re heading there now.”

I was planning on heading back to the research institute.

Knowing what she was thinking, Lucian drawled, "You haven't visited the research institute in a while, but it's still functioning efficiently, right? This shows that the institute can operate smoothly even when you're not present. You needn't feel obligated to return today."

Roxanne could not refute his words.

Indeed, the research institute had been doing well despite her and Colby's absence.

After accepting a project, the researchers simply had to conduct their research as planned. In normal circumstances, nothing unexpected would occur.

She sighed inwardly and caved in. "Where are we going now?"

"Since you returned to the country, you've been occupied with work and looking after Archie and Benny. You can't be stressed all the time. I'll take you to a place where you can unwind."

Roxanne instinctively wanted to respond that she didn't feel stressed at all.

However, it was as though Lucian had expected her response, as he added, "I've been pretty busy with work at Farwell Group as well. I also had to investigate Colby's background. It's pretty exhausting, so I'd like to take a break."

Roxanne swallowed the words on the tip of her tongue.

If Lucian was merely concerned about her, she would think it was unnecessary to drive to someplace just to relax.

However, Lucian had used himself as an excuse, hinting to Roxanne that he was too busy investigating something. This left Roxanne feeling guilty, and she felt that it was her responsibility to unwind with him.

## Chapter 1296

Not long after, the car rolled to a stop before a beach.

Roxanne felt her heart relax at the sight of the vast ocean.

It had been some time since she had last come to the beach.

Six years ago, before their separation, she would visit the beach alone to find solace whenever Lucian hurt her feelings.

After giving birth to Archie and Benny, Roxanne would relax by spending time playing with them.

Every time she spent time playing with the children, she would eventually feel rejuvenated.

To her surprise, she felt the same way today at the sight of the endless sea before her.

"I recall you used to come to the beach frequently in the past." Lucian's voice echoed in her ear as he reminisced about old times. "After you left, I'd also come to the beach whenever I felt tired. It was a great feeling."

With that, he clasped her hand and led her to the beach.

It was a weekday, so there was no one in sight.

Roxanne hesitated briefly and allowed him to lead her to the beach.

They strolled along the beach while chatting about the events that had occurred over the past six years.

Roxanne shared the details of her life over the past six years with Lucian, excluding information about Archie and Benny. This was the first time she had spoken about it with such composure.

Lucian listened to her story quietly as guilt and anguish flashed across his eyes.

The more Roxanne talked, the more relaxed she felt. Eventually, she took off her shoes and strolled along the shoreline without them.

Seeing that, Lucian couldn't help but recall how she had gotten hurt previously.

"It was dark that night. I didn't see clearly and got hurt. This time, I'll be careful," Roxanne said cheerfully.

Right after she spoke, she spotted the sharp edge of a blue shell peeking out of the sand.

Roxanne's face lit up with excitement as she exclaimed, "Oh, how wonderful! The ocean never ceases to amaze me with its surprises!"

She dug the shell out and showed it to Lucian.

Lucian stared at her smile. "It's gorgeous."

Roxanne was engrossed in admiring the shell and didn't notice his pointed look. She felt proud to hear him agree with her.

Something occurred to Lucian right then, and he lowered his head to search the beach.

Roxanne looked up to see him furrowing his brows as he searched for something as though confronting a formidable enemy.

Curiosity swelled within her. "What are you looking for?"

Lucian replied honestly, "Shells. You seem to adore them, so I was thinking of collecting a few shells to make a bracelet for you."

Surprise flashed across Roxanne's eyes.

They had known each other for some time, but it was the first time Lucian had offered to make something for her.

He was a well-respected CEO, yet he thought of making a bracelet for her just like a high school student.

Roxanne would be lying if she said she wasn't shocked to hear that.

"Since you didn't appreciate the flowers I gave you before, I wonder if my handmade bracelet will be more to your liking," Lucian quipped.

Roxanne was touched, but in the end, she merely smiled and said, "How childish of you."

Lucian didn't feel guilty at all. He accepted her "compliment" and started searching for shells on the beach.

Roxanne hesitated for a while before joining him in his search.

As they combed the beach for shells, they playfully joked with each other like a pair of schoolchildren.

At the sight of a lovely seashell in the distance, Roxanne immediately made her way toward it without any hesitation.

As soon as she crouched down to pick up the shell, the waves suddenly became rough and rushed toward her.

## **Chapter 1297**

Getting soaked was not what Roxanne had anticipated, but even with her disheveled appearance and her hair hanging limply behind her ears, she still looked remarkably beautiful.

"Oh!"

Roxanne was caught off guard by the wave, and it took her a few seconds to regain her composure. By the time she did, the shells she had gathered in her palm had been swept away by the water. She couldn't even locate the shell she had originally spotted and wanted to pick up.

She felt both amused and helpless.

It had been a while since her last visit to the beach, yet she got soaked by the seawater, causing her to lose all the shells she had collected.

Lucian heard Roxanne gasp and recognized that she was close to the sea. He stood up and walked over to her. "Are you okay?"

Roxanne wiped the seawater from her face and shook her head, letting out a remorseful sigh. "I'm okay, but my shells have been washed away."

Her clothes were drenched and stuck to her body. As she moved, he could see her seductive curves clearly.

Lucian stared at her and felt a rush of blood in his nether regions, as he had been living a celibate lifestyle for six years.

However, he was more worried about her. In a low voice, he said, "Let's go back. We can come another day."

He was afraid she'd catch a cold if they continued to stay there.

Roxanne knew why he was concerned. Despite feeling disappointed, she nodded and walked to the shore.

"Be careful!"

Lucian's brows furrowed as he hurried over to her in huge strides.

Roxanne heard the waves crashing behind her, prompting her to quicken her pace. Unfortunately, her foot caught on a hidden rock, causing her to slip and fall backward.

The wave rolled over and nearly swallowed Roxanne whole.

Roxanne was taken by surprise when the waves crashed over her and threatened to engulf her. She desperately tried to stay afloat, flailing her arms and legs in a frantic attempt to regain her footing.

When she was about to suffocate, a large pair of arms held her hand and pulled her up from the ocean.

Roxanne spat out a mouthful of salty seawater and panted heavily.

Lucian fixed his gaze intently on her, displaying a look of anxiety that she had never seen on him before.

After the previous incident, he couldn't bear to see her in danger anymore.

Roxanne finally regained her composure and felt remorseful for causing him to worry due to her negligence. "I'm sorry I—"

Before she could finish, her lips were sealed.

Lucian's sudden kiss was so passionate. It was as if he wanted to devour her whole.

He released his grip on her hand, then encircled her waist, drawing her closer.

Roxanne was still in a state of shock. Her body was stiff and her eyes turned as wide as saucers.

I might be wrong, but Lucian's hands seem to be trembling.

Sensing her distraction, Lucian frowned and forced her to open her mouth so he could deepen their kiss.

Roxanne finally understood why he had initiated the kiss. Her eyelashes trembled as she closed her eyes and flung her arms around his neck.

They stood among the crashing waves, lost in the passionate kiss, not caring whether someone else would show up suddenly to interrupt their intimate session.

In the distance, a camera appeared briefly among the bushes, taking several snapshots of them before retreating back behind the foliage.

Roxanne felt short of breath and pushed Lucian twice, signaling him to stop.

Lucian reluctantly let go of her, his breath coming in heavy gasps. His eyes turned red as he struggled to keep his desire in check.

"I'm sorry. You must've been worried about me," Roxanne said softly as she avoided his intrusive gaze awkwardly.

## **Chapter 1298**

Lucian said nothing and merely stared at her darkly.

Suddenly, he bent down and swooped her up.

Shocked, Roxanne instinctively clung to his neck, afraid she would fall to the ground.

Her actions happened to play in Lucian's favor.  
The violence in his gaze faded a little as he strode to the shore.  
Roxanne's cheeks were flushed as she said, "Put me down. I can walk by myself now."  
She knew she had scared him.  
He scooped her up in his arms because he was fearful that something similar would happen once more.  
Ignoring her protests, Lucian carried her to his car and helped her settle into the passenger seat.  
He retrieved his suit jacket from the backseat and draped it over her shoulders before taking his place behind the wheel.  
Noticing he was still mad at her, Roxanne felt utterly helpless.  
"Didn't we come here to relax? That was just a tiny accident."  
Lucian's brows were still knitted together.  
Deep down, she let out a sigh and said cooly, "You promised to give me a handmade shell bracelet. Don't forget about it."  
Lucian turned over to look at her.  
"I won't go back on my word. I'll come back another day to find the shells. As for you..."  
He trailed off and gazed at her darkly for a few moments.  
"Go back and get some rest. You don't want to catch a cold."  
Roxanne was relieved. She pursed her lips and gave him a smile.  
Lucian started the engine and drove away.  
At the same time, Cory emerged from the bushes and patted the leaves away from his body. He lowered his head to check the photos he had taken earlier.  
Cory was pleased to discover he was still a good photographer as the photos turned out nicely.  
He transferred the photos to his phone and picked a few to send to Aubree.  
Aubree had been in a daze these few days after getting rejected by Lucian. She didn't even step out of her bedroom.  
"Aubree, come out and have something to eat. Perhaps there is still a chance to turn things around. Lucian won't be that cruel,"  
Gina coaxed outside. She couldn't bear to see her daughter torturing herself.  
Aubree ignored her outright.  
Upon discovering that Lucian intended to annul their engagement, Frieda had vanished without a trace, and Aubree had not heard from her since.  
Similarly, Cory had disappeared after Roxanne's hospital discharge, leaving Aubree clueless as to his whereabouts.  
None of them are reliable! Aubree was simmering in anger when her phone lit up.  
Furious, she grabbed her phone to see who it was.  
It was a text sent by an unknown number.  
She clicked into it and saw a few photos of Roxanne and Lucian together that were obviously taken without their knowledge.  
In the photos, Lucian and Roxanne were sharing a passionate kiss in the sea before Lucian swept her up in his arms and carried her away from the waves.  
Aubree grew increasingly disgusted and nearly broke her phone screen with her forceful grip.  
"B\*tch! You're nothing but a b\*tch, Roxanne!"



The public has yet to be informed of the annulment of our engagement. How dare the b\*tch do that in public? I can't let her get away with this! Gina heard the commotion outside and knocked on the door anxiously.

"Aubree, what happened? Open up!"

Aubree did nothing to assure her mother and angrily typed a reply to the unknown number who sent her the photos: Are you Cory? She couldn't think of anyone else who could take photos of Lucian covertly and send them to her.

She soon received a reply: It looks like you have been leading an uncomfortable life recently, Ms.Pearson.

## Chapter 1299

Aubree gritted her teeth in fury. She quickly typed: How dare you send these photos to me? She had paid him handsomely, yet he had disappeared without a trace when she needed his help the most.

Everything has been set in stone.

I can't believe he's shameless enough to come to me now! Cory could imagine her clenching her jaw in fury, but he wasn't bothered at all. He sent her another text: Of course.

Who else will pay me other than you? Back when Aubree had asked him to help kill Roxanne, Cory knew that she was a mad woman.

As soon as Roxanne was discharged from the hospital, Cory stopped contacting her and used the money she had given him to have fun in Marsingfill. He had planned on earning more money there.

Unfortunately, within a few days, his expectations were dashed, as he ended up losing all his money and accrued a hefty debt.

Cory remembered Aubree and decided to come back to scam more money from her.

Cory: Consider these photos my gift to you. Ms.Pearson, if you wish, we can continue our collaboration.

You know how capable I am, right? A crazed look took over Aubree's expression.

She replied: Collaboration? Sure! You want money, right? I have yet to change my mind about killing Roxanne that b\*tch.

If you agree, I can pay you any amount you want! As she remained stubborn, Cory became impatient and sent her photos of her poisoning the kids previously.

Aubree blanched in shock at the sight of the photos.

She replied hastily: What are these? Didn't you delete them? She had spent ten million on these photos and watched Cory delete them in front of her eyes.

Cory: Delete? Why would I delete these valuable photos? Do you think ten million can satisfy me? These photos are my cash cow! Aubree trembled in rage and muttered, "B\*tch! B\*stard! Die, all of you!"

Cory sent another text: I didn't want to burn my bridges, but since you're stubborn, don't blame me for doing this. I'll be honest with you. I owe a huge gambling debt.

If you won't help me repay my debt, I guess I'll have to ask for Mr. or Mrs. Farwell's help.

He was threatening Aubree and also mocking her for losing her position as the future Mrs. Farwell.

Aubree promptly lost control after reading the text.  
She threw her phone away without a second thought.  
Her phone crashed into the door with a thud before falling onto the carpet on the ground.  
Outside, Gina summoned a servant hastily.  
“Go get the keys to unlock this door!”  
Inside, the phone tumbled to the ground with the screen facing up.  
The screen was still lit as Cory’s texts arrived continuously.  
Aubree’s chest heaved in anger.  
A while later, she picked up her phone and ignored the cracked screen to type a reply:  
What do you want? Cory: I said, I want money.  
If you can offer me a satisfying reward, I can disappear.  
Otherwise...  
Aubree gripped her phone with such force that she nearly cracked the screen.  
What a b\*stard! Even if I pay him the money as requested, he will never delete those photos! He will keep these photos and ask me for more money when he is in need of money! Aubree knew she would be inviting trouble if she were to pay him the money as requested.  
Having fallen for his trick previously, she refused to repeat her mistake for the second time. It’s time to eliminate Cory!

## **Chapter 1300**

Cory had no idea what Aubree was thinking about, for his mind was preoccupied with the thoughts of money.  
He continued sending her messages of threat.  
All of a sudden, Aubree messaged: Okay. How much do you want? I’ll give you anything.  
Cory curled his lips in satisfaction and answered: You should’ve said that earlier. We’ve been working for a while now.  
Why did we have to fight for such a long time? Aubree replied impatiently: Cut the nonsense.  
How much do you want? Cory mulled over it for a while before messaging: Fifty million.  
I’m sure this is an amount you can afford, Ms. Pearson.  
Cory’s debt was worth twenty million.  
As for the remaining thirty million, he intended to use it for another gamble to see if he could rise from the ashes.  
If that failed, he could still use the photos to get more money from Aubree. Cory felt that his plan was perfect.  
Meanwhile, Aubree was enraged when she saw the number.  
Fifty million? Why not just tell me that he wants the entire Pearson Group instead? Does he really think I’ll be able to get fifty million with just a snap of my fingers? The amount Cory asked made Aubree even more certain about killing him.  
She asked: Where are you? I’m going to meet you in person for the exchange.  
This time, you have to delete the photos while I’m watching! Cory soon sent her an

address and added: Eleven in the morning tomorrow.

I'll be waiting for you to come.

Once he sent the message, he skillfully took out the sim card from his phone and tossed it into the sea before walking away from the coast.

Right then, Gina had finally gotten the keys and unlocked the door to Aubree's room.

As she rushed in, she asked, "What happened, Aubred? What was that earlier?"

Right as she said that, she noticed the phone with the shattered screen in Aubree's hand.

Anyone could figure out that Aubree had thrown the phone.

"Did someone say something to you?" Gina asked with concern.

Aubree was livid, so she fumed at Gina as well, "Nothing! I'm very mad right now, so stop talking to me!"

Gina was startled by her attitude, but at the end of the day, Aubree was still her daughter.

After a moment of recomposing herself, Gina continued to voice her concerns.

Aubree pushed her away and strode toward the door.

Since I'm meeting him tomorrow, I'll have to assign capable men on this so that Cory won't be able to escape.

"Aubree, where are you going?"

Gina was worried when she realized Aubree was leaving without having her meal.

Aubree continued her way out of the mansion without sparing her mother another glance.

The next morning, Cory waited for Aubree to come with the money at the abandoned factory they had previously met at.

When it was eleven, footsteps echoed in the factory.

Hearing them, Cory stood up and peeked around the corner.

Aubree was standing at the entrance by herself with a bank card in her hand, looking around for him.

"Cory? Where are you? Come out here! I have to see you delete the photos with my own two eyes!"

Right as Cory was about to respond to her, he spotted half of someone's body at the back of a pillar behind Aubrec, and that person was even holding a gun.

Once he spotted that person, he spotted the rest.

There were over dozens of people, excluding him and Aubree in the factory.

As Aubree walked further into the factory, the people slowly inched closer too.

Cory sneered.

"Ms. Pearson, how dare you pull dirty tricks like these? Have you forgotten what I work as?"

Right as he said that, he ran to the window on the second floor and leaped out of it without hesitation.

In the next moment, various voices reverberated in the factory.

"Over there! Get him!"

Cory started his car with steady hands and sped toward the path he had planned out.

By the time Aubree's men ran out of the factory and went back to start their cars, Cory was long gone.