

Leaving The Country After Divorce

Chapter 1465-1496

Chapter 1465

Roxanne's heart was lodged in her throat as she made her way to the hospital. She floored the accelerator, on the verge of breaking the speed limit.

Archie and Benny might be independent since young, but it was the first time one of them had gotten hurt.

Roxanne felt a surge of anxiety wash over her.

Upon arrival, Roxanne parked her car hastily and strode into the hospital.

Pippa was considerate enough to text her the ward number after Benny was admitted to the hospital.

Thus, Roxanne found them without any difficulty.

"Mommy!"

Archie firmly grasped her hand, squeezing it with such force that it caused her pain.

Estella also clutched at the corner of her shirt.

Roxanne patted their heads comfortingly before turning to Pippa. "Ms. Ward, what happened?"

Pippa answered apologetically, "We're not sure yet. The doctor at the infirmary said it might be a bruised cartilage. Benny is taking an X-ray inside."

Roxanne felt a stab of pain in her heart after she heard the news.

"Ms. Jarvis, we're really sorry. It was our fault that Benny got hurt as we didn't take good care of him," Jeffrey apologized profusely. "We had hoped that the sports day would help to strengthen the bond between the children, and we never anticipated that this would happen. I promise the children will no longer be allowed to participate in any activities that could put them at risk."

Roxanne gazed at the kids, seeking their confirmation.

After Aubree had previously poisoned the children, she was extremely vigilant when it came to the wellbeing of the kids. She made sure to take every precaution possible and to be very mindful of their safety.

Estella's eyes were red. The little girl was so overwhelmed that she couldn't utter a word.

Archie remained composed as he nodded and clarified, "It was a game of hopping on one foot. Benny's turn was behind us. I'm not sure why he suddenly stumbled and fell."

Hearing his confirmation, Roxanne relaxed and turned to Jeffrey. "You don't have to blame yourself. It's normal for children to get bumps and bruises when they play around. As long as they're not seriously hurt, everything should be okay."

Right after she spoke, the doctor led Benny out.

Upon spotting her, Benny, who had managed to put an end to his weeping only moments ago, was overcome with emotion again. He burst into tears and leaped into her arms.

He sobbed, "Mommy, it hurts!"

Roxanne glanced at his wounded arm.

He had a long, noticeable scrape that extended from his wrist to his palm. His hand was already beginning to swell up in response to the injury.

Benny's wrist was stiff. Roxanne couldn't tell if it was due to the pain or some other cause.

Feeling bad for him, she gave him a comforting hug. "Don't be afraid. I'm here, so you won't feel the pain soon. Be a good boy, okay?"

She then brought him to see the doctor. "Doctor, how is he doing? Can I see the X-ray?"

Naturally, the doctor gave her the X-ray and explained, "He has a soft tissue injury. Children are not good at enduring pain, so I believe this injury will cause him to experience a long period of discomfort."

Roxanne observed the X-ray carefully and furrowed her brows.

It was a serious injury, so she could imagine how abrupt Benny's fall had been.

As she was a doctor herself, she had taught Archie and Benny from a young age how to minimize their risk of harm in the event that they ever encountered any difficulties.

Benny shouldn't have forgotten her teachings unless it was a sudden situation.

Suspicion flashed across her eyes.

"I would suggest that he remain in the hospital for a few days of observation. If he is recovering satisfactorily, he can then be discharged," the doctor added.

"I don't want to stay in the hospital!" Benny wailed by her ear.

Roxanne patted Benny's head and told the doctor, "No need. I'm a doctor, so I can take care of him myself. Thank you."

Chapter 1466

After getting the doctor's permission, Roxanne brought the children back.

Meanwhile, Elias and Sonya were waiting outside the kindergarten after school hours, but they saw no signs of Estella.

Soon, most of the children had been picked up, but there were still no signs of their granddaughter.

The two of them wanted to ask the teacher about what was going on, but they belatedly realized that they rarely sent and picked up Estella, so they did not even know which class the girl was in.

"There's no sign of Essie around. I thought he said we could pick her up," Sonya grumbled.

Elias had a grimace on his face, and he immediately called Lucian to question, "Did you talk to Roxanne about this? We're at the kindergarten entrance, but we don't see Essie anywhere."

Lucian was confused when he heard that. "Give me a second. I'm going to call Roxanne. She agreed to this yesterday, so maybe something popped up."

Elias said nothing to that, and Lucian called Roxanne after ending the call with Elias.

Roxanne was treating Benny's wound, so it took her a while before she could answer the call.

"Where's Essie?" came Lucian's voice. "Did something happen?"

It was only then Roxanne recalled that Elias and his wife were supposed to pick Estella up that afternoon.

Lowering her gaze to look at the girl, Roxanne then apologetically said to Lucian, "Something happened on my side, so I picked Essie up first. Please ask if your parents mind picking her up from my place. I can't leave at the moment."

Estella seemed to have heard Roxanne's words, for her already-worried expression became even more obvious.

Roxanne reached out to pat her head reassuringly.

Lucian furrowed his brows and asked, "What happened?"

Perhaps his voice had a certain soothing quality to it as Roxanne did not realize she let some of her weariness seep into her tone.

"Benny was hurt this afternoon, and Archie and Essie accompanied him to the hospital. I wasn't thinking clearly in my hurry, so I ended up taking Essie back as well."

A solemn look appeared on Lucian's face. "Is it bad? Do you need me there?"

Roxanne's heart melted a little at that, but she chuckled and rejected him. "No, it's fine. Do remember that I'm a doctor, so I can treat him. I just need to trouble you to talk to your parents. If they want to come over, I'll be waiting for them."

Lucian was worried, but he did not insist after hearing her reassurance.

After ending the call with her, he called his father to explain the situation.

Elias uttered no words of protest when he heard that it was because one of the boys was hurt. He was understanding, in fact. "I'm sure she's very busy if he's hurt. Let's not disturb her, then. We'll go another day."

Lucian thanked his father on behalf of Roxanne and the children.

"How can this be so coincidental?" Sonya was upset. "She must have done this on purpose. She's just lying to us; she doesn't want us to take Essie away. In fact, she must be thinking of marrying into the Farwell family as Essie's biological mother!"

After hanging up, Elias turned to look at his wife in exasperation. "We'll know whether the kid is injured or not when we see him. Why would she make such a flimsy lie?"

"Who knows? You're not even intending to go to her place. You must be on her side!" With that, Sonya whipped her head to the side, not wanting to look at him anymore.

Chapter 1467

Elias knitted his brows when he saw his wife acting in that way. "I don't remember any conflicts between the two of you six years ago. Why are you so biased against her?"

"Are you saying that I'm unreasonable?" Sonya snapped, turning around to glare at him.

The resignation on Elias' face deepened. "I'm only stating facts. Why are you taking this so personally?"

"Then we'll go to her place to check it out right now! We'll see if the kid really is hurt! Didn't she ask us to pick Essie up from her house? We'll go right now!"

Elias knew that she was only saying that because she was furious, so he just drove them back to the Farwell main residence.

Sonya was even more irked when she realized where they were heading, and she kept grumbling on their way back.

Elias pretended not to hear anything she said.

He was already relenting much by accompanying her to pick Estella up from the kindergarten.

As Farwell Group's chairman, he simply could not do something ludicrous like kicking up a fuss in another person's house with her.

Even if his wife said it was for the Farwell family's sake, Elias still thought that they had no need to do something that extreme.

Meanwhile, after Lucian conveyed the message to his father, he found himself fretting about Benny's injury. Thus, he went to Roxanne's place.

At the same time, Benny was staring at his mother and muttering, "Mommy, was that call from Mr. Farwell?"

As Roxanne treated his wound, she answered, "Mhm. I forgot that Essie was supposed to go home with her grandparents today."

Benny did not care about that; he only cared about whether or not his father was coming. "Will Mr. Farwell be coming?"

He was hurt, and he wanted his father to give him words of encouragement.

However, Roxanne halted in her tracks and hesitantly started, "Mr. Farwell is a busy man..."

Before she could finish her sentence, the sound of the doorbell rang out.

Thinking that it was Elias and Sonya, Roxanne rose to her feet and went over to open the door.

However, upon registering the face of the man by the entrance, she blinked in surprise.

“Why are you here? Didn’t you say...”

Lucian had been in a hurry to come, so he was only wearing a plain dress shirt and a tie. In a quiet voice, he said, “They said they’ll come and pick Essie up another day and asked you to take good care of Benny.”

Shock flashed across Roxanne’s eyes when she heard that.

“Where’s Benny? How is he? Is it bad?”

As if he had arrived at his own house, he easily navigated his way inside.

By the time Roxanne came back to her senses, the man was already in the living room.

Benny immediately forgot about his pain when he heard his father’s voice. He cried out, “I’m here!”

To access his wound easier, Roxanne had asked the boy to sit at the dining table.

She was only in the middle of applying medicine to his wound when Lucian arrived, so the boy still had iodine on his wrist.

Archie and Estella then walked over to Lucian as well.

When Lucian followed the two children into the dining room, he was greeted by the sight of Benny with reddened eyes.

His forehead creased.

It was his first time seeing the boy cry, and it even seemed like the boy had been bawling.

He guessed that it must have hurt quite a bit.

“I heard that you were injured. Does it hurt a lot?” Lucian said in heartache as he walked over to look at Benny’s injured wrist.

As he did not know the extent of Benny’s injury, he dared not simply touch the boy.

Nevertheless, Benny flashed him a smile and said, “It doesn’t hurt anymore! I’m really tough!”

"I wonder who was the one who started crying when he saw me," Roxanne mercilessly pointed out as she entered the dining room.

Chapter 1468

Benny frowned and corrected himself, "It only hurts a little!"

To emphasize his point, he even made a gesture of a pinching hand with his thumb and index finger.

Seeing how insistent the kid was, Roxanne couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Lucian, too, smiled and patted Benny on his head. "You're a tough boy, Benny."

Upon hearing his father's compliment, Benny held his head high and beamed with pride.

Archie, on the contrary, felt a twinge of envy for his brother and glanced at his mother.

Argh. I wonder when Mommy will accept Daddy's proposal. That way, I'll also have a chance of being praised by Daddy in the future...

"How's his injury? Is it serious?" Lucian asked as he turned to Roxanne, who was still treating Benny's wound.

"I've developed a medicine recently to treat bruises, and it's pretty effective," she explained. "In the meantime, however, Benny will have to take extra care of his wrist. He can't be as reckless as before."

That was a reminder Benny had long heard from his mother, but even so, he couldn't hold back from putting on a sad face in front of his father.

Lucian gently caressed the boy's face and smiled. "There, there. Remember to be extra careful during this time. That way, you'll recover faster."

Having been comforted by his father, Benny nodded obediently in response.

A glint of exasperation flashed across Roxanne's eyes when she realized her son was acting cute.

The nerve of this kid... He hasn't known Lucian that long, yet he's already clinging to him.

"By the way, I'll bring more medicine over in a while. Take some with you when you leave," Roxanne suddenly added.

Lucian promptly nodded without saying anything.

After tending to Benny's injury, Roxanne still had a lot on her mind, so she told the kids to run along and play.

Soon, only she and Lucian were left in the dining room.

"What's the matter?" the latter asked as soon he saw how distracted the woman was.

Roxanne furrowed her brows. "I had agreed to let them take Essie home, but in the end, I still took her back to mine. Will your parents think I'm not a woman of my word?"

Mrs. Farwell's already prejudiced against me, and even though Lucian hasn't said anything, I'm pretty sure this visit was her idea. I'm so worried that my mistake might ruin Mr. Farwell's impression of me...

Naturally, Lucian understood her worries. "No. I've already explained things to my father. He won't mind any of this."

Despite the reassurance, Roxanne still found it impossible to dismiss all her concerns. As she turned to look at the three children playing outside, she unconsciously heaved a sigh.

Lucian instantly walked up and pulled her into his embrace. "Don't worry. I'm still here. No matter what happens, I'll always protect you and the kids."

Feeling the comforting warmth from Lucian's arms, Roxanne began to feel more at ease.

All of a sudden, the sound of Lucian's phone ringing broke the peaceful silence in the dining room.

Lucian glanced at his phone screen, only to realize it was a call from the head of the kindergarten, Jeffrey.

Ah, yes. I instructed Jeffrey earlier to look into how Benny had gotten injured. I guess he's calling to tell me the results of the investigation.

"Mr. Farwell, I've already gotten my men to conduct a thorough investigation. Not only did we examine Benny's shoes and the venue, but we also checked the surveillance footage. There's no problem at all," Jeffrey said cautiously. "Benny was just careless..."

At that, the man quickly made a U-turn and shifted the blame onto himself and the kindergarten. "It's all our fault for not putting enough safety measures in place! I take full responsibility for it. Don't worry. I've reminded our teachers to pay extra attention in the future! Accidents like this won't happen again!"

Chapter 1469

Meanwhile, Ophelia stepped out of the kindergarten with a grim expression.

Thank goodness I handled the matter fast enough! Who'd have thought Mr. Bauer would launch an investigation as soon as he returned? Gosh. I almost blew my cover! Then again, this must mean that little b*stard's injury was pretty bad...

With that thought in mind, Ophelia curled her lips into a smirk.

That b*tch Roxanne has ruined my chances of a happy and comfortable life! She deserves this little payback from me. Ha!

Naturally, Ophelia needed to inform Aubree about the incident, so she quickly got into her car and dialed the latter's number.

Fortunately, the call got through after just a few rings.

"How did it go? Did you succeed?" Aubree asked urgently.

Argh. Life has been incredibly tough on me lately. I need some good news to cheer me up!

"I greased the shoes of that Benny boy, and he fell really hard!" Ophelia said with a smug chortle. "Mr. Bauer even made a big fuss out of it when he returned, so I'm sure that little b*stard was injured pretty badly!"

Upon hearing that, Aubree felt both gleeful and relieved. "Well done! I'm so thankful for your help. I wouldn't have known who else to turn to if you hadn't agreed."

"Don't mention it. Remember how much you helped me back then? I'm only too happy to be able to return the favor."

Aubree, however, wasn't willing to leave things just like that.

So what if I'm not as rich as before or no longer own many luxury items? Compared to me, Ophelia is still from a lower-class background. She's helped me, and it's only fair that I reward her.

After looking around and searching high and low in her room, Aubree spoke up again. "Oh, come on. You took such a huge risk to help me. How can I not thank you? Anyway, I have a handbag that would suit you well."

In other words, Aubree wanted to reward Ophelia with the handbag, and the latter quickly caught on to it.

Having long gotten used to Aubree's condescending tone, Ophelia pretended to turn her down. "I told you there's no need for that! You've already helped me a lot in the past."

That said, the woman truly wanted the handbag.

She had been with Aubree for so many years that she knew better than anyone else how rich and generous the latter was.

Even the tiniest amount of money from Aubree would be a lifetime of wealth to Ophelia.

Aubree may be down and out now, but she's still far more powerful and wealthier than me. As for the handbag she just mentioned, I'm sure it's one I'd never be able to afford in my entire life! Of course, I want it!

Thankfully Aubree was also very persistent in giving it away. "Are you looking down on me because the Pearson family isn't what it used to be?" she grumbled as her face darkened. "I can still afford to gift a handbag!"

Stunned by Aubree's outburst, Ophelia trembled and hastily explained, "No, that's not what I meant—"

"In that case, meet me at Orange Moon tonight. I'll bring the handbag along!" Aubree interrupted before ending the call.

As it turned out, Orange Moon was a bar that Aubree had recently been a loyal patron of.

It was a far cry from the high-end venues she used to frequent, but it was enough to impress someone like Ophelia.

Once she hung up the phone, Aubree began putting on her makeup and picking out her clothes. After what seemed like forever, she finally grabbed the handbag and left the house.

With how put-together Aubree was, there was no way anyone could tell from her outward appearance that the Pearson family had met its downfall.

Chapter 1470

Since Aubree only told her where to meet that night but didn't give her a specific time, Ophelia could only head there earlier to wait at the entrance.

It wasn't until after eight o'clock that she finally saw Aubree.

"It's been a while," Aubree began as she waltzed toward Ophelia while giving the woman a once-over.

When Aubree saw that Ophelia wasn't doing any better than herself, relief washed over her as the smug gleam in her eyes intensified.

Seemingly unfazed, Ophelia took a sidelong glance at the bag in Aubree's hand and smiled. "Indeed. Seems like you're the same as always and haven't changed at all."

What she said was the truth. Aubree was dressed to the nines, carrying a bag costing hundreds of thousands that she wouldn't mind giving away.

If Aubree hadn't told her about the dire situation in the Pearson family, Ophelia would have never guessed the woman was now living a miserable life.

Hearing the compliment, Aubree curled her lips in satisfaction and handed the bag to Ophelia before saying, "Here you go. It's the gift I promised you. I only used the bag two or three times, so it's almost brand new."

Ophelia's eyes lit up as she took the bag carefully.

Soon after, the two women went into a bar with Aubree in the lead. After booking a booth in the corner, they ordered two bottles of wine.

Upon settling down, the two started drinking while chatting.

"You did well this time. Have you tied up all the loose ends?" Aubree asked, her tone tinged with concern.

Ophelia flashed a smile. "Don't worry. I made sure not to leave any traces. Jeffrey didn't notice anything wrong, and he simply thought that it was the little b*stard himself who was careless."

"That's good to hear." Aubree instantly felt more at ease.

Subsequently, a cold gleam settled in her eyes, and she added, "But doing this one time won't be enough to alleviate the hatred in my heart!"

In her mind, Benny's fall injury was just the tip of the iceberg of her revenge plan.

She would need a lot more to finally feel satisfied.

In fact, it would be for the best if those brats could suffer more. Only then will Roxanne be able to experience what it's like to live in despair.

Seeing how infuriated she was, Ophelia reassured her, "As long as I am still working in the kindergarten, there will still be a chance to make a move. I was too hasty this time, but I'll definitely make those b*stards pay the next time."

Aubree raised her head to observe Ophelia when she heard those words and noticed that the latter was filled with as much hatred as she was.

Pleased with what she saw, she filled up a glass of wine and passed it over to Ophelia.

“I only have you to help me now. Don’t worry. I’ll remember everything you did for me, and as for the position I promised you at Pearson Group, I’ll keep that in mind as well. The moment the Pearson family makes a comeback, you shall become my right-hand woman!”

Seeing how confident Aubree was and the fact that she was still looking as glamorous as always, Ophelia became certain that the Pearson family was simply having a stroke of bad luck.

Filled with the hope that Aubree would make good on her promises, Ophelia raised her glass in a toast.

As they drank, they discussed what they would do with the three little brats.

When they came out of the bar, Ophelia was no longer able to stand straight. Even so, she still gave her word to Aubree, promising, “I’ll definitely help you. I’ll put those three b*stards and that wench in their rightful places.”

Seeing how the woman was still declaring her loyalty to her when drunk, a disdainful glint flashed across Aubree’s eyes.

The only reason I helped her back then was because it didn’t cost me anything. I never would have guessed that I would obtain such an obedient dog in the process. Regardless, all that money I spent on her was wasted as she’s still as gullible as ever.

Chapter 1471

Because of Benny’s injury, Roxanne took a leave of absence for all three of her children and stayed at home to take care of Benny for the time being.

Fortunately, the ointment she had developed was very effective, and when she applied it to Benny, his wound healed up rather quickly.

In the past two days, Lucian would often come to visit the kids.

While Roxanne was busy taking care of Benny, she was also worrying about the projects at the research institute.

In the end, she found out that, except for the project with the Damaris family, all the other projects were progressing smoothly.

Due to the previous incident, the project with the Damaris family had to be handled by Roxanne and Roxanne only. As such, the project was stalled the moment she left.

Since she was preoccupied with taking care of Benny, it took Roxanne a few days to realize that she had forgotten to give Jack a heads-up on the situation.

Just when she was about to make a call to Jack to apologize, the man himself called her first.

Upon seeing the caller ID, Roxanne answered the call immediately. With an apologetic tone, she greeted, "Mr. Damaris."

In response, Jack's cold voice rang out. "It's been a long time, Ms. Jarvis. I wonder how your drug research is going? Since we're partners, shouldn't you take the initiative to report this matter to me?"

His tone was filled with a sense of superiority as if he was commanding Roxanne to do her job.

Although she felt uncomfortable at being chided, Roxanne was aware that she was in the wrong. As such, she decided to apologize. "I'm sorry, Mr. Damaris. I had some matters to take care of at home, so the research was temporarily delayed."

When Jack heard this, his expression darkened, and his tone became even more displeased. "The same thing happened last time, and now, you're giving me a similar excuse again? How many times are you going to delay the research progress because of your personal affairs, Ms. Jarvis?"

I bet the progress was delayed because she's out frolicking with Lucian again.

Frowning, Roxanne explained, "Benny's hand was injured, so I had to stay at home to look after him for a few days. Because of this, I had neither the time nor the heart to concern myself with matters happening at the research institute."

Making up her mind, she added, "Of course, I'm well aware that I am the one at fault for delaying the research progress. Mr. Damaris, if you're willing to put your trust in me, I'll do my best to catch up with the progress when I get back. That being said, I have no complaints as well if you don't want to wait any longer and wish to change a partner. I am also willing to compensate for the delay in accordance with Damaris Group's requirements."

Although the project with Damaris Group is important, it is nothing when compared to my son's well-being.

Jack's anger gradually dissipated when he heard that the matter Roxanne had to deal with involved her son. Subsequently, he started to panic when he realized she was proposing to cancel the cooperation.

Easing his tone, he said, "My apologies. I was reprimanding an employee earlier, and my temper got the better of me. I hope you won't mind that my tone was a bit harsh."

Roxanne was as serious as ever when she asked, "So what are your plans, Mr. Damaris? I'll give my full cooperation."

Jack replied, "Naturally, I'd like to keep cooperating with your research institute. After all, you are the best traditional medicine practitioner that I approve of in Chanaea."

After saying that, he complained, "Why didn't you tell me that Benny was hurt? If I had known about this, I would have given you a few days off, and we wouldn't be having this awkward conversation. Anyway, how is Benny faring? I'll pay him a visit next time."

Chapter 1472

Roxanne felt Jack's tone sounded a little peculiar.

Moreover, she also knew the kids weren't fond of him, so she rejected him on the spot, "That's not needed. Benny's injury has almost recovered. Thank you for your concern, Mr. Damaris."

Jack replied, "It's better to take more precautions since he's just a child. I have a special ointment passed down in the Damaris family. I'll bring it over in a while to visit him."

Sensing his insistence, Roxanne couldn't bring herself to refuse him again, so she had no choice but to agree.

After hanging up the phone, Roxanne summoned the children and informed them about Jack's visit.

"Mommy, can you ask him not to come?" Benny was reluctant to meet with Jack.

Roxanne felt helpless, listening to Benny's words.

"I did turn him down, but he was determined to come. He has your best interest at heart, so don't blatantly show your dislike toward him later."

With that, she turned to Estella. "And you, Essie. Do not repeat what you did previously. I'll ask him to leave as soon as possible."

Estella nodded reluctantly.

Although Roxanne had punished Estella by asking the latter to stand in a corner, the little girl didn't feel she had done anything wrong.

Roxanne could tell the children were unhappy with that arrangement. She let out a sigh of resignation. I don't know what to do with these kids.

Not long after, Jack showed up at the mansion's entrance.

Roxanne opened the door and welcomed him into the house.

"Hello, Mr. Damaris," the three kids greeted him politely but none-too-enthusiastically.

Seemingly ignorant to their indifference, Jack strode up to Benny. "I heard that you were injured. Let me take a look."

He reached out and grasped Benny's wrist after saying that.

Benny was averse to Jack. Although the wound on his wrist had almost recovered, he feigned agony when Jack touched him and swiftly retracted his arm.

"Does it hurt a lot?" Jack gazed at the kid scrutinizingly.

Benny nodded as if he was indeed in pain. "It hurts even with the slightest touch." Daddy is better, after all. He didn't touch my wrist when he visited me the other day.

Jack sized up Benny for a few more seconds before standing up and handing Roxanne the small tube of ointment in his hand.

"This is a special medicine passed down in the Damaris family. Apply this on Benny's arm, and the injury will recover in no time."

Roxanne received the medicine and courteously expressed her gratitude, "Thank you, Mr. Damaris."

Jack bobbed his head in response. Then, he casually swept his eyes across the three children.

The kids had gathered around Roxanne and were eyeing him warily.

They're regarding me with that look in their eyes again!

A hint of displeasure surged within Jack.

He couldn't be sure if Archie and Benny were Lucian's children, but it was evident that the boys were on Lucian's side.

That reason alone was sufficient to invoke Jack's distaste toward the boys.

"I need to bring the kids out in a short while, so if there's nothing else, Mr. Damaris..." Roxanne hinted at Jack for him to take his leave.

Fortunately, he didn't insist on staying. "Take good care of Benny. There's no hurry regarding the tasks at the research institute."

Roxanne pursed her lips and smiled. "Thank you. Don't worry. I'll make sure to finish the development of the new medicine within the given time frame."

The two didn't chat further as Jack swiftly left afterward.

Roxanne felt slightly suspicious as she watched his car disappear from her sight.

Jack's sole purpose for making that trip was clearly to confirm whether Benny was truly injured.

She could not shake off the feeling that Jack seemed to have changed in some aspects compared to when they first met.

Chapter 1473

Due to Benny's injury, the three kids didn't attend their classes at the kindergarten for the time being.

As a result, Ophelia didn't have the chance to make her move.

Aubree repeatedly received disappointing updates from Ophelia when she contacted the latter on multiple occasions.

Exasperated, Aubree invited Ophelia out once more.

"Aubree, there's nothing I can do either. Who would've expected that b*tch to stop the other two kids from attending school after that little b*stard got hurt!" Ophelia uttered helplessly.

She thought she could still target Archie and Estella while Benny recuperated at home due to his injury.

To her surprise, she received news that all three children had applied for leave the following day.

Aubree clenched her fists. Hatred filled her eyes as she spoke. "That b*tch!"

The two women grimaced, stumped at the development.

While vexed, Ophelia carefully observed the changes in Aubree's countenance, fearing the latter might get sick and tired of her.

After a long while, Aubree piped up, "You should resign."

Upon hearing that, Ophelia furrowed her brows and hastily said, "Be patient, Aubree. They'll have to return to school sooner or later. I'll have my chances when that happens."

She thought Aubree was giving up on her.

If that were the case, the position Aubree promised to secure for her at Pearson Group would become nothing but a dream.

However, Aubree merely glanced at her impatiently. "I suspect they are starting to mistrust you. I'm afraid they will find out about our plan if you continue staying there, so there's no need to take this risk."

Ophelia's tense facial expression significantly relaxed after she heard that. Still, she remained cautious. "In that case, what should I—"

Aubree said, "I have a plan. You will resign for now and look for a place to lay low. I'll contact you afterward."

Ophelia agreed.

When she returned to the kindergarten, she met with Jeffrey to discuss her resignation.

Jeffrey was puzzled by Ophelia's decision to quit after working there for just a few days. "Is this because you think our kindergarten is not offering you optimal pay and benefits? Please voice out if you have any requests. I believe you're also aware of how important the class you're handling is, so we desperately need manpower currently."

Ophelia wore a troubled look. "That's exactly why I wish to resign."

He frowned. "What do you mean?"

Ophelia replied, "You mentioned it yourself. The three kids in our class are the children of the Farwell family. I'm genuinely terrified now that one of them got hurt. I doubt my ability to take care of them, and I'm also afraid of facing the Farwell family's wrath should the kids get injured again."

To sum it up, Ophelia was too timid.

She stood firm on leaving even after he persuaded her for some time.

Having no other choice, Jeffrey could only accept her notice to quit.

After exiting the kindergarten, Ophelia used the money Aubree gave her to check into a hotel while waiting for the latter to contact her.

When they had their meal earlier, Aubree merely told Ophelia she had a plan but didn't specify the details.

Meanwhile, Aubree returned to the mansion in the suburb.

Disdain filled her eyes when she took in the mansion's run-down appearance.

I will regain my previous lifestyle one day! Whoever wishes to live in this hellhole can feel free to do so! Roxanne, you b*tch, I will never let you off! Since you're keeping those children so well-protected, I am left with no alternative but to target you. I will make sure you regret snatching what belongs to me!

A vicious look crept over Aubree's face when she thought of her plan.

"Just you wait, Roxanne! I'll let you experience the suffering I've endured. You will pay dearly for what you've done to me!"

Chapter 1474

Meanwhile, Frieda could not help but feel uneasy as she had not received any news from Aubree for several days.

She knew Aubree would not let the matter slide without a fight.

Frieda also believed that she was the only person Aubree could rely on.

She would not have had any problem with Aubree asking her for money, but the biggest issue was that she had not heard from Aubree in the last couple of days.

Frieda was worried that Aubree might become desperate and drag her down with her!

With each passing day without any news from Aubree, she grew increasingly restless.

In the afternoon, Frieda did not wait for the end of the workday before packing her bag and leaving Queen Group in haste, driving toward the suburbs.

She had to go and check on Aubree personally. Otherwise, she would not feel at peace!

After arriving at the entrance of the suburban mansion, Frieda stood hesitantly outside the gate.

The crazy look on Gina's face was still fresh in her memory.

Frieda was worried that Gina might confront her aggressively if she barged into the mansion and bumped into that woman again.

After giving it some thought, she gave Aubree a call.

It did not take long before Aubree answered the call. "What's up, Frieda?"

Aubree's voice was calm, almost unaffected. It was as if she was not bothered by anything at all.

Frieda was bewildered by her friend's demeanor, but she dared not express it. She said, "Aubree, I'm here to see you. I'm downstairs at your house now. Your mom..."

Hearing the anxiety in her voice, Aubree chuckled lightly. "Come on in. They're not at home."

These days, Samuel and Gina had been reaching out to others, seeking help and hoping that someone would lend them a helping hand.

Little did they know that the entire Horington knew they had offended the Farwell family. Who would dare to go against the Farwells to help them?

Frieda heaved a sigh of relief when she learned that Gina was away. After entering the villa, she proceeded directly to Aubree's bedroom.

Aubree's room remained tidy, even though she had fallen on hard times. It looked almost the same as her previous bedroom.

"Well, well, well. Look who's here. What brings you here today?" Aubree looked at the person in front of her with a hint of mockery in her eyes.

A hint of guilt flashed across Frieda's eyes. Panicked, she fished a card out of her bag and handed it to Aubree. "I was worried you might not have enough money. There's five hundred thousand in this card. Feel free to use it first."

She had come all the way here to give Aubree money. That was the only intention she had in mind.

Yet, after seeing how carefree and cheerful Aubree was, Frieda felt a little uneasy.

Aubree seemed to be in a much better mood than before, and there was no sign of her previous resentment.

Frieda was afraid she had already done something behind her back, but she dared not ask directly.

She did not want to risk provoking Aubree and making her go crazy.

After a brief consideration, Frieda continued trying to please her. "I think you must be bored being alone. There's a new bar in town. Shall we go have a drink tonight?"

Aubree sized her up for a bit before agreeing without uttering anything.

Since it would take time for her to carry out her plan, she might as well have some fun first.

As the sky gradually darkened, Frieda drove Aubree into the city, taking numerous turns before arriving at a narrow alley where the new bar was situated.

The dispute between the Pearsons and the Farwells had caused a big fuss, and this bar happened to be opened by someone in their social circle.

Thus, Frieda deliberately chose a secluded booth to avoid being seen hanging out with Aubree.

Once they were seated, Frieda began to pour alcohol for Aubree, hoping to get her drunk and then coax some information out of her.

Chapter 1475

The two of them drank non-stop, one shot after another.

Little did they know someone had been monitoring them from the minute they stepped into the bar.

Upon noticing that the two women had almost finished their drinks, a man leisurely got up, walked downstairs, and sat beside them while holding a glass of wine.

"Excuse me, ladies. Mind if I join you for a drink?" The man slid into the seat next to Aubree, his movements intentionally brushing against her body.

Due to Frieda's persistent pouring, Aubree was already inebriated by that time. Thus, not only was her guard down, but she even leaned onto the newcomer's chest.

Frieda, on the other hand, was more cautious. "Do we know you?" she asked.

The man flashed a calm smile and reached out to clink glasses with the glass in front of Frieda. "Perhaps not yet, but we'll get there eventually."

He turned to Aubree, giving her a flirtatious grin. "Looks like this young lady is quite fond of me."

After downing half of the wine in his glass, he poured the remaining into Aubree's mouth.

Aubree, who was already not in the right state of mind, gripped his wrist, pulled the glass closer to her, and gulped the wine.

"Aubree!" Frieda was getting anxious.

Although she was wary of Aubree, it did not mean she could allow a man to take advantage of someone she was once close with!

She got up, wanting to pull Aubree over to her side.

Before she could do that, the man grabbed her wrist with a smirk and uttered in an icy tone, "The lady accepted my drink, so she's mine tonight. Since she didn't turn me down, you better not ruin my fun!"

Frieda suddenly became alert. "Who are you? Let go of Aubree!"

After pushing Frieda, causing her to fall on the couch, the man gently lifted Aubree's body onto his shoulder in a fireman's carry and walked to the door.

Frieda was both shocked and scared. Getting up from the couch, she tried to catch up to the man.

Unfortunately, she found it challenging to navigate through the crowded bar as she had sprained her ankle when the man shoved her to the couch just now.

In the blink of an eye, the man and Aubree disappeared from her view.

Frieda immediately went into panic mode. If something awful happens to Aubree tonight...

Frieda's concern grew as she worried that her well-intentioned actions could backfire and cause Aubree to spiral into a state of insanity once again. If that happened, the latter might just drag Frieda down with her.

The thought of that possibility made Frieda grit her teeth and bear the pain in her foot as she searched through the crowd for any sign of them.

Despite her best efforts, Frieda was unable to locate Aubree and the man, leaving her feeling helpless and uneasy. However, as she scanned the room, her eyes fell upon a familiar figure standing in the corner.

The person was holding a mobile phone aimed in the direction of the door and seemed to be taking photos.

Frieda walked up to the person. "Cory!"

Cory paused for a moment and put down his phone. His once delicate face had become gaunt and unrecognizable. "Ms. Queen, long time no see."

Frieda looked at him sternly, and her eyes filled with caution. "What are you doing here? Whose photos are you taking?"

If her memory served her correctly, her brother had explicitly informed her that Lucian had sent the private detective packing. Moreover, he had allegedly gotten into some serious trouble at the casino and was supposed to be dead by now. What is he doing here? Did he snap photos of me drinking with Aubree just now?

Chapter 1476

Cory's face was clouded over with disdain. "Obviously, I'm taking a picture of my lovely ex-boss. Aubree was the one who made me who I am today. How can I possibly forgive her so easily?"

As he spoke, an ominous aura radiated from him as if he were a devil from hell. There was an imminent chill in the air that seemed to come from his sheer hatred toward Aubree.

Frieda couldn't help but shudder at his demeanor.

"Have you gone insane? The Pearson family is already in ruins. How are you still not satisfied yet?"

Cory snickered. "I won't be satisfied until she truly gets what she deserves. Besides, she did this to herself!"

He narrowed his eyes and began scrutinizing the people in front of him.

"You don't have to play pretend around me, Ms. Queen. Don't you want to shut her up for good too? In fact, you're probably still getting threatened by her, right?"

Frieda's eyelids quivered as she forced herself to look away. "I don't know what you're talking about."

She might have done her best to play it off, but she had faltered for a little bit too long for Cory to miss it.

He scoffed, "You have no idea what sort of life I've been living for the past few days. Aubree's the one I'm after right now, so you better not get in my way. If not, I'm not afraid to drag you down with me. I only have one life left to live, and if anyone pisses me off, I'll make sure they pay."

Frieda felt a chill run down her spine and found herself at a loss for words.

Cory simply glared at her before tucking his phone in his pocket and walking out of the bar.

As she watched his retreating figure, she began to feel something wasn't right.

Eventually, she noticed he was limping. One of his legs was injured.

Her brother's words suddenly popped into her head.

It seems Cory was really captured by those people at the casino.

She had never experienced it herself, but she knew how ruthless those people could be.

She couldn't bear to imagine the torture Cory must have gone through with them.

However, she was curious about how he had managed to escape.

No wonder he hates Aubree so much.

The sight of a man in his prime getting reduced to such a state truly shocked her. She was taken aback but also terrified.

The three of them had been on the same boat once. Aubree and Cory had fallen so far from grace that she couldn't help but wonder if she would be next.

No! I can't become like them!

Frieda rushed to get her bag and hurried out of the bar.

She had to quickly come up with a plan to get rid of the bloodsucker named Aubree.

After walking out of the bar, Cory continued limping with difficulty into a small alley. He was drenched in sweat even after such a simple task.

He had been hanging on the brink of death when he got captured by the casino workers, and it was through sheer luck and desperation that he had even gotten out alive.

Sadly, his leg would never fully recover.

It was exhausting for him to walk even a short distance.

He had to take a break to regain his strength.

He took his phone out and stared at the picture of Aubree on it with an evil glint in his eyes.

If it wasn't for her, he would never have gotten into such trouble.

He had been reduced to that ghastly state, and he would make sure Aubree paid for that.

He wanted to drag her down to hell with him.

After he typed something on his phone, a notification that reads "Message sent" popped up on his screen.

He snorted triumphantly and tucked his phone back into his pocket before limping further into the dark alley.

Chapter 1477

At that moment in the Farwell residence, Lucian had just finished his work and was about to give Roxanne a call.

Since Estella was now staying at Roxanne's house, Lucian kept using it as an excuse to call her whenever he had time.

He had just picked up his phone when a message from an unfamiliar number popped up.

Lucian frowned and opened it.

A few pictures began loading on the screen.

They were taken in a bar, and the dim lighting made it hard to make out most of the details.

However, right in the middle of the picture was Aubree all cozied up against a random man as she sipped from his glass.

The pictures after that were all of them leaving together.

Lucian's eyes gleamed with disdain.

The Pearson family was now in near shambles, but Aubree somehow still had the nerve to go out and party as if nothing had ever happened.

Who could guarantee that she hadn't done the same in the six years that she had been with him?

He saved the pictures and forwarded them all to his mother without explaining anything. He felt the pictures already spoke for themselves and Sonya would understand him well enough.

After that, Lucian finally called Roxanne like he had been meaning to and began talking about Estella to cover up the real reason he called.

Early the next morning, Aubree woke up in a hotel room. Her hangover made her head hurt, and she felt sluggish.

When she opened her eyes, the unfamiliar surroundings that slowly swam into view caused her to frown in confusion.

She was about to get up and try to find out where she was when she realized with a shock that she was naked. Apart from that, her back and waist were also screaming in pain.

Her eyes widened in surprise and she pulled the blanket aside, only to find bruises and marks all over her body.

It was clearer than day what had happened last night.

She gripped the blanket so tightly she could feel her nails digging through the fabric as she sat in a panic.

She couldn't remember anything, not even the face of the man she had slept with last night.

The door suddenly opened right as her panic was beginning to eat her alive.

She pulled the blanket up and wrapped it around herself tightly as she stared at the doorway defiantly, trying to act composed.

A tall man walked into the room.

His handsome face lit up with an ambiguous smile when he saw that Aubree was awake. "I should have been there next to you. What a shame that I had to miss such a beautiful moment."

As he spoke, he walked toward the bed and stood right next to Aubree. He narrowed his almond eyes in satisfaction, staring at Aubree admiringly as if he were reminiscing the events of last night.

“It’s you!”

Aubree had a sinking gut feeling that the man in front of her was the one she had slept with last night.

She gripped the blanket again, wishing she could disappear inside of it. “Who are you? Who sent you here?”

The man simply continued staring at her and licked his lips greedily as his eyes glinted coldly.

“You don’t have to be so on edge around me, Ms. Pearson. I’m not someone who can be ordered around so easily. What if I was just craving your beauty?”

Aubree stared at him with wide eyes, her expression full of distrust. “I don’t care what you are! Get out right now and forget everything that happened last night or you won’t live to see another day!”

The man shrugged almost regretfully and leaned down. The collar of his black button-up opened slightly and as he lowered his head toward Aubree, his toned chest began to show slightly. His entire being radiated with nonchalance.

Even Aubree couldn’t take her eyes off of him.

Chapter 1478

“I would say I’m pretty easy on the eyes. Getting to sleep with me isn’t that much of a loss for you.” He tucked a finger under her chin and lifted it so that she was looking right at him. “You truly are a delicacy. I hope you won’t forget me anytime soon.”

As he spoke, his hand began to slide down Aubree’s neck, and he started to bend down until he was hovering right over her.

She snapped back to her senses and pushed his hand away with a scowl on her face. “Get out! Don’t make me repeat myself!”

The man chuckled amusedly at her angry look and actually began to walk out.

Soon enough, Aubree was left alone in the hotel room

She began to look around her, trying to recall what had happened last night.

No matter how much she tried to make sense of her surroundings, she just couldn't remember what happened.

She had assumed that someone had been hired to assault her.

However, that man didn't look like someone who could be hired. In fact, he looked more like the one who would be doing the hiring.

Aubree felt a little more relieved at that. Maybe it really was just a drunk mistake.

No matter what had actually transpired, she couldn't stay here any longer.

Gritting her teeth against the pain radiating from her waist, she got out of bed and was about to put her clothes back on when she heard the door swing open again.

The man had returned.

Aubree screamed in shock and quickly wrapped the hotel robe around her, glaring at him in rage.

He innocently held up the bag he was holding. "You must be exhausted after everything that happened last night, Ms. Pearson. I went to buy some breakfast for you." Then, with a smirk, he continued, "I already saw everything you have to offer last night. Don't bother covering up around me."

Aubree's face was bright red with shame and anger. "Stop looking at me!"

He obediently turned around.

Just a moment later, he turned back around and nonchalantly placed her breakfast on the table before beckoning for her to come and eat.

Aubree only had time to properly tie the robe around herself. Still, she felt much more confident now that she was actually dressed.

"How do you know who I am?" she asked, looking at him cautiously.

He rose an eyebrow. "It's not that hard to figure out. Is there a single person in Horington who doesn't know about you and Mr. Farwell?"

Aubree's face contorted when the man mentioned her past relationship. "Shut up!"

The man shrugged, unfazed, before laying her breakfast out for her.

Aubree sat down with a frigid expression and began eating.

The fact was that whatever happened last night couldn't be undone, and that man had already told her that he knew about her and Lucian's relationship.

She suspected that the worst-case scenario was that he wanted to take advantage of her when she was at her lowest.

If this had happened in the past, she would never have let him get away with it.

Now, however, she was beginning to think that he could be put to good use.

All it would take was just her body to win him over, and at this point in her life, there was nothing she wasn't willing to sell out.

The mysterious man's aura and the hotel room she was in both boasted his financial state.

Even if the Pearson family could no longer rise from the ashes again, she could still use this man to show Roxanne who she was messing with.

Her expression softened, and she even began to form some semblance of a smile when she looked up at the man.

"What are you looking at?" she asked warily, noticing how the man would look at her occasionally from his phone.

He frowned and said helplessly, "It's company stuff. Imagine bothering me this early without even a good morning to be heard."

He started tapping on his phone again as he spoke.

Chapter 1479

Aubree was still feeling ill at ease when she saw the way he behaved.

The man glanced at her calmly. True enough, he was chatting on WhatsApp.

When she saw that, she had no choice but to stop questioning him.

After breakfast, the man, being the gentleman he was, offered to send her back.

Aubree turned him down without any hesitation. "It's fine. I can go back on my own."

She reckoned if he saw the dire straits that the Pearson family was in, he would never look at her again, let alone help her in the future.

Thankfully, he did not insist on sending her back.

Aubree called for a cab when she came out of the hotel. Before leaving, she checked the rearview mirror to see if the man was following her.

When she was certain that he was not following her, she told the driver her address in the suburbs.

The man stood at the entrance of the hotel, and the smile on his face had gone awry.

Right then, his phone rang. It was a message from his assistant that read: Mr. Crawford, the photos have already been distributed to the various media in Horington. Very soon, they will spread around.

Shawn Crawford smiled with satisfaction before replying: All right.

Lucian had appeared out of nowhere a few years ago and outshone all the youths in the business world.

Shawn did not like the feeling that someone was better than him, so he decided to go abroad to develop his career. Since he had only returned home two days ago, he had no idea about the cancellation of the engagement between Lucian and Aubree.

The moment he returned home, he had gone drinking at the bar with some friends. That was where he bumped into Aubree and Frieda.

Without hesitation, Shawn took advantage of Aubree.

Having been suppressed by Lucian for so long, Shawn could not wait to embarrass him.

If the world found out that Lucian's fiancée was such a promiscuous woman, there was no way he could face the world.

Shawn found it hilarious when he recalled how gullible Aubree was. Not only did she believe him, but she even attempted to make use of him.

This woman is so dumb! I wonder what Lucian sees in her!

That very afternoon, one photo began spreading like wildfire all over the internet.

It was a photo of Aubree in her nightgown. Her hair was messy, and her neck was covered with hickeys. One look and anyone could tell that they were freshly planted.

Instantly, the internet was in an uproar.

The moment Shawn knew about it, he kept his eyes on the comments online.

He had thought that people would accuse Lucian of being weak and incapable and that he could not even keep a close watch on his fiancée.

Yet he did not expect the netizens to scold Aubree alone.

They were very supportive of Lucian instead.

One netizen commented: No wonder Mr. Farwell says there is something wrong with her character. She claims that she has been waiting for Mr. Farwell for six years. Yet, shortly after the cancellation of their engagement, she sleeps with another man!

Another wrote: Tsk! What a hussy! She has finally shown her true colors! She's not fit to be with Mr. Farwell!

Someone posted: Looks like Mr. Farwell and his original spouse are indeed a match made in heaven! Aubree Pearson is not good enough for Mr. Farwell at all!

Shawn was perplexed as he read the online comments.

Their engagement has been called off? When did that happen? How come I didn't hear anything about it?

He closed the social media app and searched for Kai Jackson's phone number. Kai was one of his closest friends in Chanaea.

The call was answered very quickly. "Yo! I can't believe a busy man like you has the time to call me. I heard you came back. When shall we meet up for a meal?"

Shawn was not in the mood for small talk with his friend. Instead, he went straight to the point. "What's going on between Lucian and his fiancée?"

Chapter 1480

"Fiancée?" Kai shot back a question with a meaningful look. "Which fiancée are you talking about? During your absence, a lot of things have happened in Mr. Farwell's life!"

Shawn's heart sank slightly when he heard that. "What do you mean? Isn't Aubree Pearson his fiancée?"

Kai laughed out loud when he heard that. "That was eight hundred years ago! Back then, I noticed that Lucian had been treating Aubree with indifference. I found it strange that the Farwell and Pearson families have managed to hold on to the engagement for many years."

Shawn did not respond. Instead, he continued to listen to his friend's rambling.

"The Farwell family called off the engagement two years ago. Lucian even implied that Aubree has a poor character. It turns out that his ex-wife is back in the country with two children. Right now, the Pearson family is being made bankrupt by the Farwell family, and Lucian is getting it on with his ex-wife again!"

Kai was very animated when he was gossiping. It was as if he could not wait to get involved in the drama.

Back then, who would have thought that Lucian's love life would have so many ups and downs?

Shawn was also very shocked when he heard that.

As far as he knew, Lucian had always been a cold person. He did not expect Lucian to do something like that.

Shawn was very disappointed when he realized that everything he had planned the night before had gone to waste. "I can't believe they call off their engagement. Such a pity. Then again, that woman is not too bad at all."

This time, Kai was the one who was startled. "Which woman are you talking about?"

Please don't tell me that my good buddy has slept with Lucian's ex-wife the moment he comes back.

Shawn tutted. "Of course, I'm referring to Aubree. Who else can it be? I thought they were still engaged!"

Everything had happened too abruptly the previous night.

He had noticed Frieda with Aubree and automatically assumed that the three families were still as close as before. There was no time for him to find out about the real situation.

However, all was not lost. That woman was really something.

The only annoying part was he ended up sleeping with Lucian's garbage.

Kai let out a sigh of relief. "Given the position the Pearson family is in now, you will have no issue paying for one night for her company." Just as he finished talking, he suddenly realized something. "Were you the one who posted that photo online?"

Shawn admitted nonchalantly, "Yes. Unfortunately, I couldn't achieve my goal."

Having been friends with him for several years, Kai naturally knew what he meant.

Shawn had been suppressed by Lucian all the while. All Shawn wanted to do was embarrass Lucian.

As usual, his scheme did not go as planned.

Kai sighed because he felt sorry for his friend. "The moment you return home, you pull off such a stunt. It looks like you intend to fight it out with Lucian this time."

There was undisguised ambition in Shawn's eyes. Yet, his voice gave the impression that he did not care.

"I just want to assert my dominance. That's all. Even though my plan has failed, it's fine. I'm not in a hurry to compete against him. Lucian has made much progress in Horington all these years. It will take more than a day for me to defeat him. I'll have to take my time and consider my moves."

There was also something else that Shawn did not mention.

It was only a matter of time before he would defeat Lucian. The whole world would know that Lucian was nothing but a loser!

I, Shawn Crawford, am the true business genius!

Kai smiled respectfully. "I'm on your side. Make sure you show Lucian who you really are."

Shawn chuckled and said nothing.

Chapter 1481

Meanwhile, Lucian also saw the scandal on the Internet.
Meanwhile, Lucian also saw the scandal on the Internet.

He could not help but frown with suspicion when he saw the way Aubree looked in the photo.

The day before, Lucian had received a few photos, but those were showing Aubree flirting with a man in the bar.

However, the photo in front of him was taken from a very intimate angle. He doubted anyone would have the capability to sneak into the hotel room and take a shot like that.

There was only one possibility left. The photo was taken by the man who had fooled around with Aubree that night at the bar.

Who is he? What is his intention for posting such a photo?

At that moment, Lucian had no answer. Furthermore, the matter had nothing to do with him, so he was not too concerned.

Perhaps that was the handiwork of the enemies of the Pearson family who wanted to add fuel to the fire.

Likewise, Roxanne was not interested in that scandal too.

Shortly after Benny recovered from his injury, she sent the three children to kindergarten. She, on the other hand, went back to work at the research institute. It was a very busy time for her.

As for those online comments, she had no time to read them.

During lunchtime, she received a phone call from Madilyn.

The instant she answered the call, she heard her best friend's excited voice. "Roxanne, go online now! Aubree is famous again. The internet is going wild!"

Previously, Lucian had bribed the entertainment media outlets, so there had not been many scandals or news about any celebrities these days. The netizens were getting bored.

Aubree's photo was definitely what they needed at that moment. It was no less popular than the love stories of top celebrities.

Roxanne could not help but frown when she heard what her best friend said. "What happened? I have been very busy for the past two days and didn't take much notice of the news on the internet."

Madilyn became even more agitated when she realized Roxanne knew nothing about the matter. "You didn't know? Aubree slept with God-knows-who. Now, the photo has been circulating all over the internet. The netizens are calling her a hussy!"

Because of the way Aubree had made life so difficult for Roxanne in the past, it was only natural that Madilyn would laugh at Aubree's downfall.

"Is it?" Roxanne was a little surprised. "Why would she—"

"Why would she sleep with another man so soon? Is that what you want to ask?"

Madilyn finished Roxanne's sentence as if she could read her mind.

There was no response from Roxanne. In other words, Madilyn was right.

As for as Roxanne was concerned, she thought that Aubree's feelings for Lucian were true even though she had done lots of wicked deeds in the past.

Yet, she had slept with another man not long after Lucian called off the engagement.

Roxanne could not help but feel that Aubree was a liar.

Madilyn gloated and sneered, "Don't ask me how I guess what you are thinking. Lots of netizens are asking the same questions! They come up with the conclusion that Aubree is a promiscuous woman! That's her true nature! She was just very good at hiding it in the past! That's all!"

Roxanne frowned when she heard that. When she thought of the things Aubree had done to the three children, she did not say anything in response.

"What goes around comes around!"

Madilyn was happy to vent her frustration. She was about to continue when Roxanne cut her off.

"Madilyn, I still have work to do. Talk to you later."

With that, she ended the call.

Roxanne did not wish to hear about Aubree anymore. Now that she had gotten what she deserved, anything that happened to her had nothing to do with Roxanne anymore.

Right now, the only thing she worried about was her work.

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Chapter 1482

“B*tch!”

Meanwhile, in the mansion in the suburb, Aubree was reading the comments all over the internet. A crazed look was on her face as she shrieked, “B*stards! I will never, ever, let you guys get away with this!”

I was wrong about that man! He said he knew me, so I thought he had nothing to do with Roxanne.

But in hindsight, who else besides Roxanne would do something so wretched? Besides that b*tch, who else would benefit from me becoming a joke? Roxanne must be taking her revenge on me! It has to be her!

Aubree wanted to kill Roxanne. Her gaze hardened with unparalleled hatred.

Anger clouded Aubree’s mind as she grabbed her handbag and stormed toward the door. The only thing on her mind was take revenge against Roxanne.

Just as she flung the door open, she was halted by her father.

Samuel’s venomous glare burned into her skin. “Have you no shame? How dare you still think about going out at a time like this? Do you think it’s not embarrassing enough?”

With each word he spoke, Samuel took another step closer to Aubree, closing the gap between them.

Traumatized by all his beatings, Aubree instinctively flinched and moved away at each step he took until she was backed to the wall.

“What’s with this photo? Which lowly man did you defile yourself with?” Samuel interrogated with a stern voice.

Fixating his scorching gaze on her, he commanded, "Tell him to get his ass here this instant! I want him to take responsibility for what he has done to you!"

When Aubree heard what Samuel said, she was so exasperated that she laughed.

"Who do you think took the photo? Do you think he'll take responsibility if he didn't think twice about uploading those photos online? He wants me to be scorned by everyone! He wants everyone to think that I'm a promiscuous woman no one in their right mind will marry!"

Seeing the undisguised satire behind Aubree's eyes, Samuel was so livid that his eyes turned bloodshot. Without missing a beat, he slapped Aubree across the cheek, causing her to fall to the ground. "You wretch! Don't you know how to behave well for even one day?"

Cupping her throbbing cheek with her hand, Aubree screamed to defend herself, "I've been framed! It's all Roxanne's fault! That b*tch plotted against me! Why don't you take it out on her instead?"

Samuel laid another heavy hand on her other cheek. "Shut the hell up! How many times do I have to tell you not to provoke Roxanne? Why won't you ever listen?"

Seeing her own father defending Roxanne, Aubree trembled in anger. "I didn't provoke her! She provoked me first this time! Don't you see that everyone online is scolding your own daughter? Are you blind?"

Samuel raised his hand, wanting to give Aubree another slap. Yet when he saw his handprints on her swollen cheeks, he clenched his fist and lowered his arm back to his side. His eyes were swirling with a mixture of disappointment as he looked at her.

"The Pearson family is in this situation because of you! Yet, you still don't know how to repent from your ways and still blame everything on Roxanne! Right now, you should be thinking about how to get Lucian to forgive you so that the Pearson family can hold our heads up in public again!"

Aubree's face was etched with stubbornness. "Lucian is blaming us because of that b*tch! As long as that wretched woman is gone, everything will be okay again!"

Samuel was so enraged that he almost got a heart attack. Leaning against the bedframe for support, he took a few deep breaths to calm himself down. After a good few minutes, he straightened himself and pointed at the door. "Out. Out! Get lost! From this day onward, whatever you do has nothing to do with the Pearson family!"

Struggling onto her feet, Aubree shot him a glare. "I will make that b*tch pay for what she has done! That's a promise!"

With that, she strode out the front door without turning back.

Samuel's eyes darkened when he heard the front door being slammed. Staggering briefly before steadying himself, he heaved a heavy sigh. Exhaustion and bitterness could be seen in his pained expression.

He had put in so much effort for the Pearson family to be redeemed someday. He had been holding onto the hope that the sun would shine on them again.

Alas, everything is ruined now.

Chapter 1483

Outside the mansion, Aubree got into the car. As she was driving, she dialed Frieda's number.

Frieda had already seen the news on the internet. With the news trending all over, it was no surprise that Frieda had come across the discussions and comments about the incident.

Ever since she saw the photo, Frieda had been feeling uneasy.

She was the one who was out drinking with Aubree last night. Not only so, but Aubree was taken away by the man right under her nose.

I didn't expect that man to pull a stunt like this! If Aubree finds out, she'll never let me off the hook!

Just as Frieda was getting fearful, she received the expected phone call from Aubree.

Frieda's heart almost jumped out of her throat. Staring at her ringing phone, she lost all the courage to pick up the call.

Only after the phone stopped ringing did Frieda heave a breath she did not know she was holding.

However, before she could recover from the shock, Aubree started calling her again.

Frieda could no longer ignore the call. "Aubree..." she answered, unable to hide the guilt in her voice.

"What the hell happened last night?" Aubree's voice was filled with frustration.

Terrified, Frieda did not dare to tell the truth. Instead, she tried to test the waters. "Don't you remember? You left with a guy."

Aubree was on the brink of losing her mind. "If I remember, why the f*ck am I still asking you? Who is that man?"

Upon finding out that Aubree had forgotten everything, Frieda sighed in relief. "I don't know. We both had too much to drink last night. I went to the toilet. By the time I came back, I saw you leaving with a guy. I called out to you, but you didn't stop. I tried to chase after you but the bar was too crowded, so I lost you in the end." Having said that, she immediately apologized, "I'm so sorry, Aubree. I didn't know that something like this would happen. If I had known, I wouldn't have brought you out drinking. It's all my fault."

If Aubree found out that Frieda had watched her being taken away by the man, she would have plotted to kill Frieda.

Naturally, Frieda did not dare to admit the truth.

When Aubree heard Frieda's answer, she huffed, "I'm heading to the bar now. You're coming with me. We have to find the guy!"

"Now?" Frieda's heart began to race. She was very reluctant to go with Aubree.

"It has to be a trap set by Roxanne against me! Once I get my hands on that guy, I will make him reveal that b*tch's true colors to the entire world!"

Aubree gritted her teeth. A murderous glint flashed across her eyes.

In her mind, Roxanne had made her lose everything. She wanted to settle the accounts one at a time.

Frieda was hesitant. When she heard that Aubree wanted to cause Roxanne trouble, she was even more reluctant to take part.

However, Aubree did not even give Frieda a chance to refuse. "I'll be waiting for you at the entrance of the bar. If you don't show up, I'll make sure you suffer the same fate I did!"

With that, Aubree hung up the phone right away.

Biting her lip in frustration, Frieda eventually dragged herself to the bar.

By the time she arrived at the entrance of the bar, Aubree was already waiting for her.

When Frieda saw the two swollen hand marks on each side of Aubree's cheeks, she could not help but shudder.

Feeling Frieda's sympathetic gaze on her, Aubree roared in fury, "What are you looking at? It's all that b*tch's fault!"

Frieda averted her eyes awkwardly, not daring to go against Aubree's command. She quickly changed the topic. "Let's go inside. I've already informed the person in charge."

Aubree snorted before following Frieda inside the bar with a grim expression. As she strode into the bar, a hostile aura surrounded her.

"Two little shits! I will not let them get away with this!"

Chapter 1484

Meanwhile, in the Farwell residence, Sonya felt nauseous upon seeing the photo being shared all over the internet.

In the past, Aubree had told Sonya time and time again that she was in love with Lucian.

It had only been a few days since the two families had called off the engagement. Sonya was surprised and disgusted when she saw that Aubree had already checked into a room with another man.

Aubree even went as far as making love with him as if nothing has happened! She must have done so willingly! This time, someone took a photo and made it viral. Who knows whether or not she had been unfaithful during all those years of her engagement with Lucian? Her so-called "love" for Lucian was nothing but a lie!

At the thought of herself being tricked by Aubree, Sonya could not help but feel humiliated.

All of a sudden, the support Sonya had shown Aubree all those years seemed like a waste of time.

If she had allowed someone like Aubree to be married into the Farwell family, people would have thought she was a fool.

Just as her blood began to boil, Sonya received a call from Gina.

Sonya rejected the call without hesitation.

"What a wretched woman! How dare she call me at a time like this? How shameless!"

Not wanting to see anything related to the Pearsons, Sonya tossed her phone aside out of fury. Out of sight, out of mind. From this day onward, I will no longer be associated with the Pearsons! Whatever happens to that family will be none of my concern!

"You've finally realized the things Aubree has done now, haven't you?"

Just then, Elias came down the stairs. It only took him one second to figure out what was going on based on Sonya's expression. "Do you still think that everything Aubree had done in the past was because Lucian refused to marry her?"

Sonya was already feeling awful. When she heard his question, her face reddened in anger and embarrassment. "How would I know that she's such a good actress? She lied to me for so many years. Serves her right to have such an ending today!"

"I've told you not to interfere too much in Lucian's private life, especially when it comes to romance. He's a grown man. He can handle his own affairs," Elias advised her sincerely.

No matter what Sonya's intention was, Elias truly believed that they, as parents, should not meddle with their children's life.

Begrudgingly, Sonya retorted, "I just want the best for him. Do you think I'd have cared if it was anyone else?"

Knowing that he could not change her mind, Elias did not continue to press on the subject. "Then I believe you know now that Aubree is not the best candidate for the title Mrs. Farwell?"

Sonya's expression darkened as she understood what he was implying. "Just because Aubree is unfit doesn't mean that Roxanne is! She is still unfit to marry Lucian!" Sonya's eyes were filled with disdain. "Aubree might be sleeping around, but at least she didn't get pregnant! What about Roxanne? Her two children are about the same age as Essie. That means that she had slept with other men ever since she left the country! Now she plans to bring the two children into our family. If I agree to it, others will see our family as a joke!"

Even though Lucian had told the public that the children were his, the truth would be revealed eventually. Nothing could be hidden forever.

Sonya did not want to become a laughingstock when the time came.

Seeing that Sonya was persistent, Elias could only heave a heavy sigh. "Just think about it again, okay? We're not young anymore. Wouldn't it be nice if we just focus on our own lives? Why do you insist on meddling with their affairs? Even if what you fear becomes a reality in the future, you and I will no longer be in charge of the Farwell family. What's there to worry about?"

Having said that, he patted Sonya's shoulder gently before turning around and returning upstairs.

Chapter 1485

The backlash online came fast and furious but died down just as quickly, and it only took a few days before everyone's focus shifted to other news. Nonetheless, Aubree was not about to let the matter slide just like that. She was determined to make her saboteur pay!

She and Frieda spent a whole day at the bar watching the surveillance footage yet failed to find a shot of the culprit's face. They had no way of ascertaining the person's identity.

Still feeling annoyed after getting home, Aubree contacted Ophelia immediately. I may not be able to exact revenge on Roxanne right now because I don't know who that guy is, but I can always follow the original plan and teach Roxanne a lesson!

Ophelia had been waiting to hear from Aubree at the hotel for several days. She had also seen the comments online over the past couple of days. With Aubree's character, there's no way she'd let the person who leaked the photos get away with it. However, I still haven't heard from her after so many days. She's probably busy looking for the culprit and doesn't have time to talk to me.

Just as she was about to turn in for the night, she suddenly received a call from Aubree. Quickly answering her phone, she said, "What is it, Aubree? What can I do to help?"

In an icy tone, Aubree replied, "Go to Roxanne as we originally planned. That b*tch dared to plot against me, so I'll make her regret it!"

Ophelia was dumbfounded when she heard that. "Are you saying the backlash over the past two days was Roxanne's doing?"

"What's the matter? Don't you believe me? I've told you before. That b*tch is capable of all sorts of dirty tricks. She's trying to get back at me!" Aubree hissed through clenched teeth.

In truth, Ophelia did not know much about Roxanne. All she had heard from Aubree was that Roxanne had been responsible for ruining Aubree's life of luxury. I never thought she'd resort to such despicable measures!

As Aubree's best friend, naturally, she felt angry and agreed immediately, "Calm down. Don't let your anger affect your health. I'll go look for her at once."

Aubree took two deep breaths. Thinking about the trouble Roxanne was about to encounter, she finally felt a little more at ease.

After ending the call, Ophelia wasted no time setting off and headed straight for Roxanne's research institute, guessing that the latter would be working there at that hour. She spent a long time trying to find Roxanne's car in front of the research institute but to no avail. Ophelia decided to switch locations and go to Roxanne's house instead

but ended up getting stopped at the residential area entrance. She had no choice but to turn back home and look for another opportunity.

A Bentley slowly drove up right as she was leaving the residential area.

Lucian had gotten a clear look at her face and recognized that she was the children's teacher who had resigned just two days ago. What's she doing here? Benny's injury has almost completely healed, so it doesn't make sense that she'd come to check in on him.

He sensed something amiss yet did not want to alert the enemy, so he called Cayden and instructed him to have someone follow Ophelia, resolved to find out what she had up her sleeve.

After settling that, he drove the Bentley into the residential area and pulled up in front of Roxanne's house.

All three children were sitting in the living room, bored out of their minds. As always, Benny was the one who got up to see who it was when the doorbell rang, and his eyes lit up the moment he saw the person standing at the door. "Mr. Farwell!"

Archie's and Estella's expressions shifted slightly. Almost immediately, they jumped up from the couch and sprinted to the door with anticipation written all over their faces.

Chapter 1486

Benny opened the door, and Lucian immediately saw the three children waiting to greet him at the door.

"Daddy!"

"Mr. Farwell!"

They sounded aggrieved and gazed at him as though he was their savior.

Lucian could not resist ruffling their hair affectionately at the sight of their adorable pouting faces. Then he looked up and cast his gaze around the living room. "Where's your mommy?"

It's the weekend, so she should be home.

"Mommy's working overtime. She has already been working late the past few days. We've had to stay home alone, and it's so boring!" Benny whined, and Archie and Estella nodded in agreement.

Lucian's brows drew together slightly when he heard their complaints. No wonder she sounded so tired whenever I called her the last two days. I thought she was exhausted

from looking after these three little tykes and purposely came over to take them out for a treat. However, it turns out it's because she has been working.

Seeing how dispirited the children looked, he suggested, "Why don't I take you guys out to play? Where would you like to go?"

The trio perked up instantly at his words and began chattering away, discussing where they wanted to go.

"I want to watch a movie!" Estella was the first to raise her hand. I saw that there's a new fairy tale movie and I really want to watch it! But Mommy has been so busy lately.

"We want to go to the amusement park!" Archie and Benny said at the same time. The pair had been so bored recently and just wanted to go out and have fun. After hearing Estella's suggestion, however, they compromised and said, "All right, then. Let's go and watch a movie."

Grinning, Lucian pinched their cheeks gently and replied, "We'll go to both. We'll visit the amusement park first, then catch a movie on the way back."

"Really?" Benny asked, practically bursting with joy.

Lucian nodded. "We'll probably only be able to get movie tickets for tonight if we buy now anyway."

Archie was also excited for a brief moment. Then, something suddenly seemed to occur to him, and he asked hesitantly, "If we go out, what about Mommy?"

"I'll let her know," Lucian reassured him with a smile. And, if it's possible, I hope she'll join us.

After saying that, Lucian took out his phone in front of the children and called Roxanne immediately, but there was no answer. The same thing happened even after three or four tries.

He frowned. Taking in the children's cautiously expectant expressions, he said in a low voice, "In that case, I'll take you three out today first. We can take your mommy next time."

Archie, Benny, and Estella hesitated briefly before nodding. "Okay!"

After their discussion, Lucian sent Roxanne a text message informing her that he had taken the children out and asked her to give him a call when she was not busy. Then, he led the children out of the house and over to his car.

Lucian thought of something just before starting the car. Glancing at the kids in the rear passenger seat, he said, "Archie, Benny, you have to address me as 'Daddy' when we're outside, okay?"

He had already issued a public statement about the pair's relationship to him, so if anyone overheard them still addressing him "Mr. Farwell," he was worried it would invite unnecessary trouble.

Benny's eyes shone with joy, and he nodded emphatically. "Sure! I'll remember that."

Lucian turned toward Archie. A faint smile tugged at the corner of the latter's lips, and he nodded obediently. "Got it."

Chapter 1487

The kids were over the moon because that was the first time Lucian brought them out.

That was especially the case for Benny, as he was basically calling Lucian "Daddy" very naturally at that point.

Lucian let them have fun in the amusement park until the sky went dark before bringing them to the movie theater.

When they were watching the movie, Lucian's phone suddenly vibrated. He took a glance at it and saw that it was a call from Roxanne.

Lucian gently told the kids to wait for him and went out to answer his phone.

The moment the call went through, he heard Roxanne asking in an anxious tone, "Where are you? I just got home, and the kids are gone. Have they gone to look for you?"

In the mansion, Roxanne was opening door after door to make sure the kids weren't hiding in one of those rooms.

She had been busy working overtime for the past few days and neglected the kids.

However, she also noticed how sluggish the kids had been over the past few days.

She had planned to take the next day off and bring the kids out to have some fun. To her surprise, she got home that evening to find that the kids were all missing.

Upon recalling what the kids had done in the past, Roxanne was hoping that they had gone to look for Lucian. That was why she had called him right away.

Lucian's heart broke when he heard Roxanne's uneasy tone. Frowning helplessly, he answered, "I had time today, so I brought them out because they wanted to have some fun."

Roxanne let out a sigh of relief when she heard those words. "Why didn't you inform me? I was worried sick when I got home," she grumbled.

Tenderness filled Lucian's eyes when he heard Roxanne speaking in a softer tone. "I called you a few times, but you didn't answer your phone, so I sent you a text. Perhaps you missed it because you had your hands full," he said innocently.

Roxanne felt guilty when Lucian pointed out the fact that she had been busy. "Oh! Is it? Let me check."

With that, she checked her unanswered message and call log on her phone.

True enough, she had received a few missed calls and a text from Lucian.

Seeing that, Roxanne felt even more guilty. "Oh, you did! I was too busy and just saw your missed calls and text. I'm sorry for accusing you wrongly," she said sheepishly.

Lucian's eyes darkened. "It's all right. I brought the kids to watch a movie. After this, I'll send them home. If you're tired, I can grab some food on the way back."

"That's not necessary. I'm free, so I'll cook and wait for you guys to come back," Roxanne said apologetically.

Lucian grunted in acknowledgment. He was worried about leaving the kids in the movie hall, so he hung up the phone and went back in.

By then, the movie was finishing. The kids were so focused on the movie that they didn't even realize Lucian had returned.

After the movie ended, Benny turned to Lucian and called out casually, "Daddy."

Lucian froze for a moment before regaining his senses. With a smile, he said, "Okay. We should be heading back now. Your mommy is waiting."

The kids were thrilled when they heard that Roxanne was waiting for them at home. We've been having fun the entire day, and we get to see Mommy and eat the food she makes when we go back! That's the best news we can get! Furthermore, we spent the entire day with Daddy!

The warmth in Lucian's eyes was apparent when he saw how happy the kids were.

Lucian was most probably influenced by the kids' mood because even he was feeling excited when they were on their way home.

Chapter 1488

When the four of them arrived home, Roxanne was already done preparing dinner, and she was resting on the couch.

Upon hearing noises at the door, she woke up immediately and went to open the door.

"Mommy!"

The kids rushed toward her and hugged her legs.

Roxanne lowered her gaze and patted their heads with a smile on her face. "Did you guys have fun today?"

Benny nodded fervently before turning back to look at Lucian with his pair of bright eyes. "Yes! Daddy brought us to the amusement park, and we watched a movie!"

Roxanne smiled when she heard the joy in Benny's voice.

She only realized how Benny had addressed Lucian a few seconds later. When she did, the smile on her face froze.

Instead of asking Benny what was going on, she gave Lucian an inquisitive glance.

Noticing that, Lucian explained matter-of-factly, "I told them to address me so when we're in the public. After all, I've already made it known to the public. If others were to hear them addressing me another way, it would be troublesome."

A weird look flashed across Roxanne's eyes when she heard that. She patted the kids' heads and kept mum. It's a matter of time before they address Lucian as "Daddy." That's something I have to accept. I just hope the kids won't blame me after they find out about their backgrounds.

Archie sensed the awkward atmosphere and broke the silence by saying, "Mommy, I'm starving!"

Roxanne came back to her senses and answered, "Let's eat! Go and wash your hands, okay? I'll heat up the food."

The kids nodded obediently, took off their shoes, and entered the house.

Lucian washed his hands first and followed Roxanne into the kitchen.

His presence was just impossible to ignore, and it led to Roxanne recalling the kiss they had shared at that exact spot. Her body stiffened instantly.

“I’m sorry. I should’ve checked you before telling the kids to address me so.”

Lucian’s deep voice rang out from behind her.

Roxanne halted in her tracks and lowered her gaze to hide her awkwardness. She calmed herself down and uttered flatly, “It’s all right. You’re right. They should address you so in public.”

With that, Roxanne quickly changed the topic because she was afraid that Lucian would bring up Archie’s and Benny’s backgrounds. “The food is ready. Let’s eat.”

Lucian knew she was avoiding the topic, so he didn’t pursue the matter. Instead, he helped her bring the dishes out.

By then, the kids were already sitting at the dining table. They had even sat on one side so that their parents could sit next to each other on the opposite side of the table.

While Lucian had taken his seat in a calm manner, Roxanne hesitated for a moment before she eventually sat down next to him.

During dinner, Roxanne was constantly spacing out because of how Benny had addressed Lucian. Besides, she had been kept busy at work for the past couple of days.

She only snapped out of her reverie when she saw a peeled prawn in her bowl.

“Have you been tiring yourself out for the past couple of days?” Lucian’s heart wrenched in pain.

Roxanne pulled herself together and smiled. “I’m fine. I’m just going to be busy for the time being.”

With that, she wanted to serve the kids some food.

However, she saw that the kids’ plates were already filled up, so she instantly shifted her gaze toward Lucian. At that moment, he was still peeling prawns, and he hadn’t had time to eat his dinner.

Roxanne felt touched by what she saw, so she thanked Lucian softly.

In response, Lucian served her another peeled prawn.

Chapter 1489

After dinner, the kids tactfully went upstairs and gave their parents some privacy.

Roxanne cleared the dining table, and when she was about to do the dishes, Lucian held her hand and pushed her to the side.

“Since you’re tired, go outside and get some rest.”

With that, Lucian rolled up his sleeves and started washing the dishes.

Although that wasn’t the first time Roxanne had seen Lucian do that, she was still surprised by what she saw. If Lucian had treated me this way six years ago, would we be a happy family by now?

Seeing that Roxanne was still there, Lucian started making small talk. “Where’s Lysa? Why is she not here?”

Roxanne snapped back to reality and answered, “She hasn’t been feeling well, so I told her to rest.”

“Then I’ll look for a housekeeper to help you guys at home.”

Roxanne shook her head in response. “There’s no need for that. I can’t trust anybody else now. Once I’m done with what I’m busy with, I’ll have the time to take care of the kids.”

While talking, Roxanne yawned.

Lucian turned back to look at her before picking up his pace to finish doing the dishes. With the dishes done, he brought her out of the kitchen.

Roxanne was feeling groggy, so she followed him to the couch and sat down.

Lucian massaged her temples and said, “Must you keep working with the Damaris family? Since you’re so overworked, perhaps you should cancel the collaboration. If you wish to make a living in Chanaea, I can help you.”

Roxanne’s tiredness subsided a little when Lucian was massaging her.

However, she couldn’t help but frown when she heard Lucian’s suggestion. With a straight face, she uttered, “We’ve already signed the contract. How can I just cancel it?”

“I’ll pay the termination fee for you,” Lucian answered in a deep voice.

“It’s not that simple. It’s important that I develop the drug. There’s too little anti-cancer medication in the local market. If I can develop a new drug, I’m certain I can save a lot of lives.” Roxanne smiled and shook her head. Prior to this, I was adamant about

working with the Damaris family because I wanted their ancient medicine books. Now, however, I think it's more important for me to treat more diseases and help more people.

With a solemn look in her eyes, she added, "I've been a doctor for so many years, and I've seen too many patients who were tortured to death by diseases, especially cancer. It's an utter nightmare. Patients are suffering every day, and there's no cure for them. They can't do anything but wait for their time to end. As they approach the later stages of the disease, their lives are basically hell. I want that to end because I've seen enough of it."

The look in Lucian's eyes softened up after he listened to Roxanne. "I understand how you feel."

"Although I'm exhausted, I think it's all going to be worth it." Roxanne let out a sigh.

Still massaging her temples, Lucian said, "I know you want to help people, but you need to take care of yourself as well. If you keep going on like this, you're going to get sick. If that happens, won't your research be in vain?"

Roxanne nodded, indicating that she knew what she was doing. "I'm a doctor, so I know my body well. Don't worry."

Lucian didn't respond to that. Instead, he just kept looking at her. I understand her feelings, but how can I not worry about her?

Chapter 1490

The two of them didn't continue talking after that, and Lucian had moved from massaging her temples to massaging her shoulders.

When he was moving his hands, he either intentionally or accidentally brushed his thumbs across her neck.

Roxanne was caught off guard, and her body froze when she suddenly felt as though an electric current had coursed through her.

In the next second, Lucian was already massaging her shoulders. "How are you feeling? Am I pressing too hard?" he asked softly.

Roxanne turned around to meet Lucian's gentle gaze. She was startled, so she immediately retracted her eyes and nodded. "It's fine."

Little did she know Lucian wasn't planning to let go of her just yet. "I don't know which acupuncture point can help you relax. How about you teach me?"

As he was talking, he loosened his grips.

In a flash, the atmosphere became ambiguous.

Roxanne feigned calmness and cleared her throat. "Why would you want to know that? It's not like you can massage yourself."

In a natural tone, Lucian answered, "Well, I can help you destress if you ever get this tired again."

Roxanne's eyes flickered, and she felt her heart skip a beat when she heard those words.

"Besides, I don't think I'll be massaging myself. If both of us ever have our hands full at the same time, one of us ought to take some time off. Otherwise, who's going to take care of the kids?" Lucian added.

In other words, he was suggesting Roxanne massage him the next time he needed it.

Lucian spoke so naturally that Roxanne could imagine the both of them massaging each other in the future.

In fact, she was even starting to feel it wasn't too late for Lucian to care for her.

When Roxanne realized what was going through her own mind, she snapped back to her senses, and she instinctively moved her body a little. However, she couldn't bear to move away because she had been overwhelmed by exhaustion lately. Besides, Lucian was using just the right amount of strength when he was massaging her.

After a moment of hesitation, Roxanne remained sitting still. "Some other day perhaps? I'm too tired today."

Needless to say, Lucian noticed her hesitation. As he was wondering what she was thinking, his grip loosened up slightly.

Feeling displeased, Roxanne held his wrist and said coyly, "Harder."

Lucian's eyes darkened when he saw Roxanne holding his wrist. It's obvious that she was rejecting me purely because she was tired. She's not rejecting me entirely.

Lucian was looking at her intently from behind. Although he could only see the back of her fair neck, he felt a lump forming in his throat.

Suddenly, he tightened his grip on her shoulders and held her tight.

Roxanne frowned slightly and turned around, wanting to question him.

All of a sudden, she felt his hot breaths on her ear. In the next second, he was already kissing the back of her neck.

Roxanne clenched her fists, which were placed on her knees, and she kept her body slightly sideways. Too afraid to move a muscle, she asked, "Lucian, what—"

The second she opened her mouth, she felt Lucian kissing and nibbling on her earlobe.

At that very moment, Roxanne felt her body heating up, and the exposed parts of her body turned pink.

Lucian grabbed her chin and turned the stunned Roxanne to an angle to allow himself to go in for a kiss.

Chapter 1491

What started off as a gentle kiss soon turned into an intense make-out session.

Feeling out of breath, Roxanne snapped back to her senses and looked upstairs. The kids are upstairs, and they might see us!

Roxanne anxiously pushed Lucian away.

Lucian loosened his grip slightly in response.

"Don't do—" Roxanne's mouth was invaded once again before she could finish her sentence.

Evidently, Lucian was merely giving her a second to catch her breath.

At that moment, Roxanne was on the verge of getting lifted from the couch.

As he was moving his hands, Roxanne suddenly felt his hands moving toward her breasts.

Roxanne panicked when she realized what Lucian wanted to do.

She was worried that the kids would catch them in action, and at the same time, she didn't know how to react to what was about to happen next.

In desperation, she quickly reached out her hand to squeeze Lucian's tendon on his arm.

Lucian froze immediately.

Roxanne then took the opportunity to shove him away and sat up on the couch. How I wish I can hide behind the couch!

Lucian's eyes darkened instantly, and he shot her a look of dissatisfaction.

"Don't do this. The kids are upstairs. What if they catch us in action?" Roxanne avoided his gaze, flustered. Before this, the kids had already caught us hugging.

Roxanne's heart was filled with guilt when she recalled what had happened the last time around.

Lucian's arm was numb, so he had to rest it on the couch. Upon hearing her explanation, he knitted his brows meaningfully and asked in a hoarse voice, "Are you saying that we could've carried on if they weren't around?"

Roxanne was about to help him get rid of the discomfort in his arm. After hearing that question, however, she retracted her hands.

Lucian looked at her with his eyes ablaze.

"I'm tired, and I want to go to bed." Roxanne averted his eyes and rose to her feet anxiously. After taking a few steps away from him, she urged, "It's getting late. You should head home as well!"

Lucian moved his arm, and Roxanne instinctively took another few steps backward. She was afraid that he would force himself on her.

Lucian couldn't help but feel helpless when he saw how wary Roxanne was. We used to live our lives as a married couple, and we even had kids of our own. Although we both have expressed our feelings toward each other, why has she not accepted me yet? Ever since we reunited, she had always been avoiding me, apart from the time when she was drunk.

Lucian didn't want to force her into doing anything, so he suppressed his urge and explained in a deep voice, "I'm not going to do anything to you. If you're tired, you can go upstairs and rest. I'll sit for a while more before I leave."

Roxanne was still feeling uneasy. "It's already quite late. Are you sure—"

Lucian waved his numb arm at her and said, "Don't worry. I'm not going to take advantage of you. It's just that my arm is still numb, so I can't drive."

It seemed as though she had squeezed his arm too hard in that moment of panic.

Feeling guilty, Roxanne pursed her lips and smiled. However, she still didn't dare to approach him. She merely nodded and said, "I'll head up, then. Let me know when you're leaving."

With that, she dashed off without turning back.

Lucian clenched his fists slightly as he watched Roxanne's retreating figure. At that moment, he felt as though he could still feel the tenderness of her skin in his palms. I wonder when she will ever let her guard down...

Chapter 1492

Roxanne was dog-tired. She would doze off almost immediately after getting into her bed for the past couple of nights.

That night, however, she couldn't fall asleep even after being in bed for quite a long while.

Instead of feeling sleepy, all she could think about was Lucian's desire-filled gaze.

Roxanne couldn't help but feel nervous when she knew that Lucian was still downstairs.

She only heaved a sigh of relief inwardly when she heard the sound of the door closing coming from downstairs.

After that, she went to the window and saw Lucian getting into his car. The car stayed motionless for a while before leaving the compound slowly.

Roxanne watched Lucian's car disappear from her sight before returning to bed and dozing off within seconds.

She didn't know whether Lucian's massage was the reason or not, but she felt more energized when she woke up in the morning.

Since it was a Sunday, Roxanne stayed home with the kids instead of going to the research institute. At the same time, she was allowing herself some time off.

Early the following morning, Roxanne sent the kids to school and rushed to the research institute. The sooner I develop the new drug, the sooner I get to accompany the kids.

Meanwhile, Ophelia received a call from Aubree.

"What's the matter with you? It has been days, and you still haven't made your move!" Aubree was livid because she had neither found the man nor heard the news about Roxanne getting taught a lesson.

"There's nothing I could do. That b*tch has been staying home, and I can't get into their residential area." Ophelia was feeling helpless as well. I was camping outside the research institute the entire day yesterday, but I didn't see Roxanne.

"Well, she has to be working today! If I don't hear good news from you today, you better just leave and go back to where you came from!" Aubree uttered coldly.

Upon hearing that, Ophelia immediately assured, "Don't worry. I'll get it done today!"

Aubree wasted no time disconnecting the call right after she heard those words.

Ophelia didn't dare to waste a second either, so she instantly took her coat and left.

She drove to Roxanne's research institute and found Roxanne's car after a long search.

Right when she was about to do something, she suddenly remembered something. There are surveillance cameras here! If I do something here, they're going to catch me.

Taking that into account, Ophelia abruptly paused in her tracks and pondered for a moment.

After some time, Ophelia turned around and walked toward the entrance of the kindergarten. Since it's Monday, those three b*stards have surely gone to the kindergarten. In that case, Roxanne will have to fetch them. When she's fetching them, the entrance will be crowded. If I were to do something then, no one would see me!

After Ophelia left, a few people were seen whispering to each other before tailing her.

Obviously, Roxanne had no idea what was going on outside. She was totally focused on the research.

In the evening, Linda saw that Roxanne was still in the laboratory, so she asked cautiously, "Dr. Jarvis, are you still busy? Do you need me to fetch the kids?"

That had been the norm ever since Roxanne had been busy researching.

Upon hearing those words, Roxanne looked at the time and realized it was almost time for classes in the kindergarten to be dismissed.

"It's all right. I'm finishing up."

Roxanne finished up her work for the day and got changed before she went to fetch the kids.

The events of the past two days had made her realize how little companionship the kids had.

Roxanne was eager to accompany them whenever she could.

Chapter 1493

Classes had ended. Roxanne parked her car by the side of the road.

After getting out of the car, she pulled herself together and quickly walked to the school gate to wait for the children to come out.

Parents arrived one after another.

Soon, Roxanne was drowned in the crowd.

Ophelia had been waiting at the corner of the street for a long time. After making sure that Roxanne could not see her, she tiptoed out quietly.

She continued observing the surroundings while approaching Roxanne's car furtively.

Besides wearing a hat and a mask, she even put on a pair of sunglasses in the evening.

Passersby could not help but cast curious glances at her.

Fortunately, everyone did not pay much attention to her as they were in a hurry to pick up their children.

Quickly, Ophelia stood right next to Roxanne's car.

She crouched by the car and ran her fingers through the tires as if she was checking her vehicle.

She then secretly took a small bottle of lubricant from her bag and reached for the disc brake of a wheel.

The disc brake was tucked away in a hidden spot, so Ophelia had to spend a lot of effort sticking the lubricant into the narrow space. At one point, she nearly had to lie on the ground.

Just as she was about to unscrew the cap of the lubricant and pour it on, she suddenly heard heavy footsteps approaching.

The sound of footsteps ceased as they reached her side.

Ophelia instantly froze right there, and her heart sank in dread.

Lucian's indifferent voice rang out from above her head. "Ms. Smith, are you busy with something?"

Ophelia clenched her fist, spewing the lubricant all over the chassis of the vehicle. Some even splashed on her face.

Ophelia subconsciously wanted to wipe the lubricant off, but before she could do it, someone grabbed her and yanked her out from below.

With a face covered in lubricant, Ophelia was overwhelmed with embarrassment and guilt. She lowered her head and said, "Ms. Smith? I think you got the wrong person..."

Before she could finish her sentence, the man extended his masculine palm and tore off her mask, exposing Ophelia's face in public.

"Hey, what are you doing? Don't take my things! I'm not Ms. Smith. You got the wrong person!" She panicked and tried to grab her mask and sunglasses, but she was no match for a few men who had already closed in around her.

In an attempt to hide her face, she raised her hand, but one of the men quickly grabbed her arm and forcefully pulled it away, leaving her immobilized.

The man said, "You're not? Does that mean I'm talking to a ghost right now?"

Looking at her struggling like a clown for a while, Lucian's eyes gradually darkened. "Take a look at what's on Ms. Smith's face!"

The bodyguards stepped forward to study her face and then got back to Lucian with an answer. "It's some kind of lubricant, Mr. Farwell."

Lucian's and Ophelia's faces changed simultaneously.

Struck dumb, Ophelia kept shaking her head, wanting to explain, but she was bereft of words.

She instantly recalled what had happened to Aubree when the latter had laid her finger on Roxanne.

She could not help but imagine the torture Lucian would inflict upon her now that she was in his grasp.

"Don't you know what the liquid is?" Lucian grabbed her chin so forcefully that it might crack in seconds.

Overwhelmed by the domineering aura he exuded, Ophelia could only widen her eyes in fear.

"Drink it, and tell me what this is!" Lucian raised his voice.

The bodyguard standing beside him handed him the bottle of lubricant.

Seeing Lucian approaching her with the lubricant, Ophelia collapsed and cried, "All right! All right! It's lubricant! It's lubricant!"

Chapter 1494

Meanwhile, Roxanne was walking to the car with the children when she saw Lucian interrogating Ophelia. "Lucian?"

Upon noticing the fury on the man's face, she quickly stood before the children and shot Lucian a look.

Lucian clenched his fists before releasing Ophelia and gesturing for the bodyguards to let her go.

Ophelia gasped with fear. She desperately wanted to run away but was so terrified that she could barely move.

"Daddy!" the three children greeted Lucian affectionately even though Roxanne got in their way.

When Roxanne realized the atmosphere had eased a bit, she released her grip on the children.

They noticed Ophelia, who seemed somewhat out of place, and greeted her respectfully, "Ms. Smith."

However, Ophelia was so consumed by panic that she could not hear their voices.

As the children received no response from Ophelia, they looked around at the adults in confusion.

"Daddy, why are you and Ms. Smith here?" Benny asked in his innocent, childlike voice.

The children had firmly remembered Lucian's earlier words about them calling him Mr. Farwell at home and Daddy outside.

Sensing their confusion, Roxanne looked at Lucian nervously, as she had no idea how to explain the situation to the children.

Lucian calmly intervened, "Ms. Smith is not feeling well, so I got someone to take her to the hospital."

Lucian spoke in a natural voice, concealing his hostility.

The bodyguards around them were able to read between the lines. They grabbed Ophelia's arms and carried her to a car nearby.

Without overthinking, Estella obediently nodded and said naively, "Daddy, make sure you help Ms. Smith get better soon, okay?"

Lucian bobbed his head non-committally in response.

The little ones looked at their father with anticipation and asked, "Are you having dinner with us tonight?"

"Not tonight. We'll have dinner together on another day," Lucian replied. He then instructed the bodyguards beside him, "Send them home. Take my car."

The bodyguards agreed and proceeded to escort the children to Lucian's car.

Roxanne, on the other hand, looked at her own car, then back at the man in front of her with a confused expression in her eyes.

"They'll take you to the car first. Daddy has something to tell Mommy," Lucian said to the children.

The three little ones inclined their heads in acknowledgment. Before leaving, Benny even gave Lucian a thumbs up.

As Lucian watched the children leave, the hostile energy surrounding him slowly dissipated, replaced by a faint smile.

Once the children left, Roxanne could not help but ask, "What just happened? I thought Ms. Smith had resigned. What did she..."

Lucian's expression turned serious once again. "She wanted to harm you by tampering with your car. We found that she was carrying a bottle of lubricant. So, for now, you shouldn't drive this car. I'll send it to the workshop and get someone to inspect it thoroughly."

Fury surged inside Lucian when he thought of what could have happened had Roxanne driven that car today.

Roxanne's face turned pale at the revelation. She glanced at her car with fear. If Lucian hadn't found out, the kids and I would have been in danger today.

Roxanne knitted her brows when she thought of the possible consequences that might have happened.

After glaring at Ophelia with disgust, she asked, "But why did she do that?"

Lucian's face turned cold. "That's what I want to know. Take the children home first. I'll keep you updated."

Chapter 1495

Roxanne knew that she would not be of any help even if she stuck around, so she did not insist on it and went into the car.

After watching them leave, Lucian led the remaining bodyguards into their respective cars.

Soon, the cars drove off.

Ophelia was blindfolded the entire way, and she found the silence in the car unnerving.

"I know I'm wrong now! I really do! Please spare me!" she begged as fear wrapped around her heart.

However, she received no answer from anyone.

A while later, the car slowed down, and Ophelia's heart lurched into her throat.

She was so anxious she could barely breathe. Various scenes from television shows kept flashing across her mind.

With the Farwell family's wealth and power, wiping her existence would be as easy as stepping on an ant.

The terror she felt reached its peak when someone came over with a rope.

After a sharp intake of breath, Ophelia passed out.

By the time she woke, she was already on the top floor of a building. Before her was a small helicopter.

"How was your sleep, Ms. Smith?" Lucian had a hand in his pocket as he looked down at her expressionlessly.

Ophelia shuddered. "W-What do you want?"

Lucian narrowed his eyes and asked coldly, "Who told you to do this?"

Ophelia parted her lips before clamping her mouth shut again. She fervently shook her head and said, "N-No one told me to do this. I was the one who wanted to do this."

If she were to reveal the mastermind behind this, Aubree was certainly going to come after her even if she survived Lucian.

"Is that so?" Lucian stepped on her hand, his expression still the same. "Then, tell me, what grudge do you have against Roxanne?"

That was a question Ophelia could not answer.

If not for Aubree, she would not even know a Roxanne Jarvis existed in this world.

"I heard you have quite a bad fear of heights. I wonder what you think of this height? It should be acceptable, right?"

With a look from Lucian, Ophelia was lifted and dragged to the side until the upper half of her body was held outside the railing.

"Ah!"

An intense wave of dizziness hit Ophelia. Even though she knew that someone was holding onto her from the back, she felt as if she was going to fall anytime. Moreover, she had been restrained, so she could not struggle at all. The only thing she could do was scream.

After what seemed like eons, she was finally thrown back onto the ground.

"Did that clear your mind? What grudge do you have against Roxanne?"

Lucian's voice was like the voice of a devil who had just crawled out of hell, and a chill ran down Ophelia's spine.

Ophelia collapsed on the ground, covered in sweat, as she said weakly, "I-I'll tell you everything. It's Aubree. It's Aubree Pearson who made me do this! I won't do this again..."

"Aubree Pearson," Lucian said through gritted teeth, the veins on his neck popping. "It's always her!"

This woman again! She nearly killed the children previously!

All of a sudden, a thought entered Lucian's head, and he grabbed Ophelia's collar. "Speak! Were you the one who hurt Benny the other time?"

Ophelia's upper body was lifted into the air, and his grip on her collar made it hard for her to breathe. "It was... It was all Aubree's orders. I-I won't do this again!"

If she had known early on what kind of devil she was going to cross, she would not have agreed to take on Aubree's task no matter how much money Aubree offered her.

"I'm sorry! I'll go to jail! Please have mercy on me!" Ophelia pleaded.

She would rather go to jail than be tormented by that man.

Chapter 1496

Lucian studied her with cold eyes for a few seconds before letting go of her collar.

Ophelia nearly fell right on her face. Thinking she had been spared, she started heaving breaths of relief.

"Tie her up there," came Lucian's ruthless voice from above her.

Ophelia's breath hitched.

Tie me up there? Up where?

Anxiously, she lifted her head, only to see the small helicopter in front of her.

At that very moment, Ophelia was certain that she was going to pass out again.

Alas, the bodyguards did not give her the chance to do that as they came over to drag her to the helicopter. Then they tied her under it.

Moments later, the rotor blades began spinning.

Ophelia had been restrained tightly, but she started struggling nevertheless.

"You better don't struggle. If you do, I can't guarantee that you won't fall off mid-flight," Lucian whispered in her ear.

"Horington has a nice view, but unfortunately, I can only bring you around the suburbs. Think of this as a reward for your honest words, Ms. Smith."

Right as he said that, Lucian raised his hand a little at the pilot, and the helicopter slowly ascended into the air.

The moment her body was in the air, Ophelia turned ashen and passed out.

Lucian watched the helicopter take off into the distance before turning to say, "Wait for her to return and keep a close eye on her."

The bodyguard inclined his head.

Lucian did not linger; he immediately turned to head downstairs.

Once Lucian was in the car, Cayden gave his employer a careful look. "Mr. Farwell, are we going back to the manor or..."

"We're going back," Lucian uttered after a moment of silence.

Cayden hummed in reply and started the car.

He could guess why Lucian was not looking for Roxanne.

Even he had trouble enduring the wrath seeping out of Lucian, let alone Roxanne and the children.

Ms. Smith really must have had a death wish!

The car soon came to a stop before the entrance of the Farwell residence. After giving some simple instructions to Cayden, Lucian got out of the car and went into the manor.

Catalina had made dinner, and when she saw her employer return, she walked over to him.

Yet, before she could say anything, she saw Lucian gesturing to her to stay quiet.

Catalina swallowed her words and watched as Lucian went up the stairs.

She could not help but worry about the expression she saw on Lucian's face when he entered the house earlier.

I wonder what happened for Mr. Farwell to be this furious.

Still, Catalina did not dare to ask him about it, so she called Roxanne.

I'm sure Mr. Farwell will say something if it's Mrs. Farwell asking.

Meanwhile, Roxanne had been waiting for Lucian's news. She would look at her phone every once in a while.

The second she received a call from the Farwell residence, she picked it up immediately.

"Mrs. Farwell," Catalina greeted cautiously.

Roxanne was momentarily stunned when she heard the way Catalina greeted her. For a moment, she thought she had gone back in time.

Before Roxanne could say anything, Catalina said, "Are you free right now? If you are, could you please call Mr. Farwell? He seemed really angry when he came back earlier, and he even skipped his dinner. I don't know what happened."

In the past, Catalina would have been helpless in the face of a situation like this. She would have had no choice but to let Lucian do as he pleased.

However, Roxanne was around now.

Roxanne was surprised to hear Catalina's words. "He's back?"

Catalina replied in confusion, "He is. What's the matter? Were you going to meet Mr. Farwell?"

Why does she sound surprised?