

Leaving The Country After Divorce

Chapter 1561-1592

Chapter 1561 Being Too Kind To You

Roxanne knitted her brows upon noticing the severity of the situation.

She no longer appeared as relaxed as she did yesterday. The research institute can't sit here and do nothing. Patients can't afford to wait any longer.

"I'm going to the research institute now." She got up and went upstairs to change her clothes.

Lucian decided to keep mum as he knew it was impossible to stop her.

When she came downstairs, he said, "I'll not go with you this time. I've explained the situation clearly, so you should know how to negotiate with him."

Roxanne appreciated Lucian's trust in her abilities. She responded with a grin. "Okay. I'll look into it myself."

Lucian nodded and added, "Call me if you need my help."

Roxanne hummed in acknowledgment before leaving the mansion.

Upon her arrival at the research institute, Roxanne spotted Linda anxiously waiting outside her office with her face filled with distress.

As soon as Linda saw Roxanne, she greeted her with eagerness, as if the savior had arrived. "Dr. Jarvis, what are we going to do now? The factory has been calling to inquire."

The factory was ready for production, and they were just waiting for their registration qualifications and the necessary medicinal herbs.

However, they had received neither of them, leaving the project hanging.

Roxanne comforted her with a smile. "I'll talk to Mr. Damaris now. Don't worry."

Linda nodded and stepped aside.

After walking into her office, Roxanne's expression slightly darkened. She then picked up the office phone and gave Jack a call.

Jack deliberately took his time answering the call. “Ms. Jarvis, what’s the matter?”

Roxanne said calmly, “Please let me know when you’re available, Mr. Damaris. I wish to talk to you.”

Upon hearing her address him as Mr. Damaris, his face darkened, and his tone became increasingly cold and sarcastic. “What else is there to discuss between us, Ms. Jarvis? Didn’t we already make it clear during our last meeting? There are only two options available for Damaris Group and the research institute—either terminate the collaboration or increase Damaris Group’s share.”

Roxanne lowered her eyes. “You’re just pressuring me to accept the second option, Mr. Damaris.”

As soon as she finished speaking, she heard Jack snort coldly. “You reap what you sow, Ms. Jarvis. I wanted to have a heart-to-heart with you and reach a middle ground on the matter, but it seemed you’d decided to follow Mr. Farwell’s lead. While he might be a sharp businessman, he’s a fish out of water in the pharmaceutical industry.”

Roxanne’s expression changed, revealing a flicker of aversion towards Jack.

“Let’s not drag anyone else into the discussion, Mr. Damaris. This is between you and me,” Roxanne said, attempting to divert to another topic. “May I know when it would be convenient for you to discuss the matter?”

Jack retorted, “Oh? Did Mr. Farwell come up with another brilliant idea?”

Roxanne pursed her lips before responding, “No one else is involved in this. It’ll just be the two of us. I’m sure you’re aware that the ones who will bear the brunt of the postponement of the product lunch are the patients who rely on it.”

Jack finally agreed after hearing it would be just the two of them. “You’re right, Ms. Jarvis. I don’t want the patients to suffer. Let’s meet at noon today!”

“Very well, I’ll come and meet you,” Roxanne replied.

Jack let out a baffling chuckle. “Of course. By right, you should have come to me the last time too. I’ve been too kind to you.”

This statement unequivocally restored the two to their status as business partners.

Nevertheless, Jack pulled an attitude and sounded condescending.

Chapter 1562 A Changed Man

It didn’t take long for Jack to send Roxanne the address of the meeting place.

She took a glance at the message and noticed that the place he had chosen was the cafe where they had a fight previously.

I guess he's trying to use the chance to humiliate me, huh?

If this had happened in the past, Roxanne would have rejected to meet with him without hesitation.

However, since she was at her wit's end, she could only make the appointment on time.

When she arrived, Jack was already seated in the cafe, casually fiddling with the aroma lamp at the side.

He showed no response even when he saw Roxanne enter the cafe.

Roxanne lowered her eyes and greeted him, "Mr. Damaris."

Looking as if he had just noticed her, Jack turned his head and flashed her a polite smile. "Ms. Jarvis, you're here. I didn't notice you. Come, have a seat."

Roxanne gave a slight nod before sitting down beside Jack calmly, only to see him still messing about with the aroma lamp nonchalantly.

Sensing her gaze, Jack explained in a low voice, "The fragrance in the lamp has a calming effect. In order to avoid getting into a fight with you like last time, I'm trying to make it burn faster."

His confident tone made it seem as if the aroma lamp would really have an effect.

Roxanne retracted her gaze and pursed her lips. Smiling, she said, "If you have the same goal as me, Mr. Damaris, we would naturally not quarrel."

Jack fiddled with the aroma lamp for a while more before finally stopping when he was satisfied. Turning to look at Roxanne, he asked, "Oh? What is your goal, then, Ms. Jarvis?"

Roxanne answered seriously, "The original purpose of developing this medicine focuses on the patients' benefits and is aimed to reduce the burden on patients."

Acting as though he had heard a joke, Jack snickered. "In that case, why would you care so much about the profit share, then? Isn't it good enough for you to have the medicine on the market?"

Jack thought that Roxanne would say something to refute him, but unexpectedly, the woman simply nodded in agreement before saying, "Well, that's what I thought at first."

As long as the medicine can be successfully listed, I don't care if all the profits go to you."

At that, Jack frowned lightly while a flash of surprise flitted across his eyes.

Roxanne continued, "That being said, it was all thanks to you that I realized that as the person in charge of the research institute, I am not only a doctor, but I am also responsible for the lives of the employees. Mr. Damaris, I'm sure you're aware of just how hard the research and development process for the medicine is this time. If the research institute failed to rake in any profits, I'm afraid the employees will be very disappointed in me. It will be difficult for the research institute to retain its employees in the long run."

This was the warning that Jack gave her during their last meal together.

It was also something Lucian had taught her over time.

I have to protect the interests of not only the patients but also the employees.

Hearing her reason, Jack burst out chuckling while nodding his head. Clapping his hands, he started, "Your words ring true, Ms. Jarvis, but what you just said must have been taught to you by Mr. Farwell, right?"

Seeing the disdain glinting in his eyes and the contemptuous expression on his face, Roxanne felt her heart go cold.

She recalled the time when she first met Jack at the medical consultation. Her impression of the man was that he was a very qualified heir to a prestigious family of traditional medicine. She felt that he was gentle, courteous, and an all-around gentleman.

When everyone doubted me, Jack was the one who stood up for me and chose to believe me. But now, it seems like he has changed into a different man. He's ignoring the patient's lives for the sake of profit.

Chapter 1563 Begging For It

Roxanne explained, "I told you before that this has nothing to do with him. He doesn't even know that I'm here today."

Tamping down the odd feeling surging within her, she tried her best to remain calm as she stared at the man before her. "Mr. Damaris, the reason why you're doing this is to increase the share of profits for Damaris Group, right? But unfortunately, it's impossible for me to agree to a fifty percent share. Since that's the case, why don't we meet each other halfway?"

Jack sneered. "For your sake, I hope it's true that Mr. Farwell has no idea about our meeting today. Otherwise, should he suddenly appear halfway through our conversation, I don't think we'd have anything more to talk about."

Not wanting to hear Lucian's name coming out of Jack's mouth again, she cut in, "Just tell me what the lowest share you can accept is, Mr. Damaris?"

Jack answered without hesitation, "As I have already mentioned a long time ago, even if Damaris Group does not take the lion's share, the least would be a fifty-fifty share with the research institute."

Showing no sign of relenting, Roxanne pressed on, "We can pay three times the price for the medicinal herbs provided by Damaris Group. As for the sales channels, we can also find another company to cooperate with. This meant that our cooperation with Damaris Group is only in the initial phase. What happens later is simply a pure trading relationship. So tell me, Mr. Damaris, why should I split the profits fifty-fifty with you?"

To that, Jack said, "Because right now, you're the one who's begging me."

He was certain that he was the one holding all the cards at the moment, and he reckoned Roxanne had no other choice but to oblige.

Roxanne stated, "Thirty percent. That's the best we can do."

When Jack heard that, his expression darkened, and his tone was mixed with sarcasm when he said, "In that case, I don't think there's a need for us to talk today, Ms. Jarvis."

The last time we met, she proposed that Damaris Group get a twenty-eight percent share of profits. That was why we ended our meal on a sour note. And now, she has the gall to propose a mere two percent increase? If that's the case, we could've just negotiated this on the phone.

Roxanne pursed her lips and kept silent, her eyes shining with a look of determination as if saying that it was impossible for them to give in anymore.

Time ticked by.

When Jack realized Roxanne was not budging, his expression changed, and he critiqued, "That's the best you can do? Well then, I guess you don't really take the lives of those patients seriously, huh?"

Although Roxanne looked as calm as ever, her heart was actually lurching. In the end, she decided to take one final gamble.

"If you can't accept this, then we have no choice but to change our medicinal herb supplier. To tell you the truth, the research institute has already found a supplier."

However, I still think that the medicinal herbs produced by Damaris Group are of higher quality when compared to other companies. The reason why I'm still trying to negotiate a deal with you is so that the patients can buy better medicines for less money."

What she was implying was that if Jack refused to take the deal, the research institute would have to turn to another company that would take it.

A look of bafflement flitted across Jack's eyes.

The quality requirements for this kind of medicine are very strict, so how is it possible for Roxanne to have found another supplier already? Hmm... But now that I think about it, Lucian was also present during our previous negotiation. Although Farwell Group has never dabbled in the field of medicine, they are not without connections in this area. If Lucian offered his help, it is not impossible for the research institute to find another supplier in a short time.

With that thought in mind, the look in Jack's eyes turned solemn, but he was quick to hide it.

Just like that, the two of them were in a stalemate as they kept their silence to see who would yield first.

Time passed, and Jack was the first to lose his patience.

He muttered, "Since your resolve is firm, and the medicine is also of great importance to Damaris Group, let's each take a step back. Damaris Group will take forty percent while the research institute will take sixty percent of the share of profits."

Chapter 1564 Taught You Well

Seeing that Jack had finally capitulated, Roxanne inwardly heaved a sigh of relief and continued to lower Damaris Group's profit split. "Damaris Group will take thirty-five percent."

From the moment he spoke first, he had already lost.

He remarked with a scowl, "You really know how to conduct business, Ms. Jarvis. I'm impressed."

Roxanne replied calmly, "I merely stated the facts. Besides, in the future, we'll be purchasing the medicinal herbs by ourselves, so Damaris Group won't suffer any losses either."

"Seems like Mr. Farwell has taught you well." Jack sneered.

Instead of continuing that topic, she added, "Oh, right, the collaboration between the research institute and Damaris Group isn't long-term. Thus, the profit split is only applied to this project. Any collaborations between the two entities in the future will be discussed if and when it happens."

Jack's smile slowly turned cold as he could no longer control his expression. "As expected from you, Mrs. Farwell. You really are an expert in conducting business."

The fact that he kept bringing Lucian up ticked Roxanne off. Her countenance darkened as she spat, "If you want to chat with Mr. Farwell that badly, I don't mind calling him over."

"I just wanted to point out that you've changed a lot after getting together with Mr. Farwell, Ms. Jarvis." Staring at her meaningfully, Jack commented, "To me, you're supposed to be just a doctor. When did you become so opportunistic?"

He was basically hinting at her that Lucian was merely using her for his own benefit.

Upon understanding the meaning behind his words, Roxanne was amused. I wonder if Jack can still say the same thing if he learns Lucian told me to agree to the fifty percent split and use the opportunity to learn medicine from the Damaris family.

As he observed the change in her expression, he narrowed his eyes. I feel like the thoughts running through her mind right now are things I don't want to hear.

His expression turned frigid as he realized that. Then, he silently glanced at the aroma lamp with an icy look.

When he faced her again, he nonchalantly changed the topic. "How are you planning to set the price for this batch of medicine, Ms. Jarvis?"

Roxanne contemplated that matter before.

Just as she was going to reply to him, he spoke again while gazing at her intently. "There are medicines like this overseas, too. Even though their effectiveness is worse than ours, their price range from seven hundred to one thousand each. The more expensive ones could sell for more than ten thousand."

The word "profit" was scribbled all over his face.

However, as if she didn't hear him at all, she uttered, "One hundred and twenty."

Jack's expression froze as a look of disbelief flashed past his eyes. Moments later, he inquired with a complicated expression, "One pill will cost one hundred and twenty?"

Furrowing her eyebrows, Roxanne uttered, "One box."

“What?” He was bewildered. “Did you not do any market research at all? Or did I not explain myself clearly earlier? The market price for medicines like this is at least triple your price!”

As he thought about the number she proposed again, he sneered. “Even if we don’t compare your price to the market’s, there’s no way you’ll break even with that amount! Do you know how expensive Damaris Group’s medicinal herbs are? Do you think your research institute can conduct the research without cost? It seems like I’ve overestimated Mr. Farwell. His teachings are clearly inadequate. I can’t believe how naïve you are.”

Chapter 1565 Proof

Of course, Roxanne did her research before setting the price.

Because of that, she became even more aware of the pressure the patients faced.

If the medicine cost too much, many people wouldn’t be able to afford it and could only wait for their doom.

That was a tragedy she didn’t want to see occurring again.

“Yes, my price is low. However, as I said before, I’ll buy Damaris Group’s medicinal herbs. Once the production of the medicine has matured, the cost of manufacture will drop greatly. Additionally, if the patients are able to afford the medicine, they’ll continue to buy them. This way, Damaris Group won’t suffer any losses. The only downside is that the profit will be a little low,” stated Roxanne confidently.

However, Jack just stared at Roxanne as though she was an idiot. “What makes you think people will trust that the medicine is legitimate and buy them if you set the price this low?”

Pursing her lips, she insisted, “Someone will buy them! Once they do and realize it works, thousands more will follow suit!” Moreover, when the medicine hits the market, it’ll have Damaris Group’s brand on it. The company has garnered an excellent reputation over the past century, so people will believe in the product when they see Damaris Group’s name. That’s why I won’t give up on Damaris Group that easily.

Upon seeing how stubborn she was, he was too lazy to argue with her. “You should at least set the price at three hundred per box.”

“As doctors, we must consider the issue from the patient’s perspective. Three hundred is still too expensive for them. I disagree with that price,” refuted Roxanne.

In response, Jack used her own words to question her. "Didn't you say you wanted to guarantee the employee's benefits? How are you going to achieve that with such a low price? Do you think everyone's as benevolent as you?"

Upon hearing that, Roxanne wavered as her expression shifted slightly. That is something I failed to consider.

Tightening her fist, she insisted, "I'll explain the situation to them. I believe they'll understand me."

Most of the research institute's employees were personally hired by Harvey, and she believed her teacher had a good eye when it came to people.

Additionally, she was confident that long-term profits would be guaranteed.

Lastly, she was sure that if people spread the good word about the medicine, she could use it to assure the public that other medicines developed by the research institute in the future would be trustworthy.

"Then tell them yourself." Jack stood up from the couch coldly and looked down at her. "I came to negotiate with the utmost sincerity. I even accepted your condition that Damaris Group would only take thirty-five percent of the profit. However, I didn't expect you to be this stubborn!"

Roxanne responded by staring at him quietly.

"Even if you successfully convinced the employees in the research institute to accept your pricing, my people won't agree to it. Therefore, if you insist on selling each box at one hundred and twenty, then I rather let this medicine rot in the warehouse!" His tone was resolute, expressing his disinterest in further negotiation.

Just as he ended his sentence, he turned around and headed to the exit.

Still, she refused to give up. "Do your words reflect Old Mr. Damaris' attitude, Mr. Damaris?"

I don't believe Old Mr. Damaris shares the same opinion as him!

Without even turning his head, Jack answered, "My grandfather has gotten senile, so I'm in charge of Damaris Group now. Contact me when you've changed your mind."

He left as soon as he finished his sentence.

Roxanne stared at the exit for a long time before giving up and looking away.

Chapter 1566 Solve

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To her surprise, Jeck wes very dissetisfied with the price she offered end even denied her the opportunity to negotiete.

"How is it, Dr. Jervis? When will Demeris Group resume the supply of medicinel herbs?"
Linde approeched Roxenne the moment the letter stepped into the reseerch institute.

Roxenne forced e smile end seid to Linde in resignation, "I'm not meking eny heedwey for the moment. Pleese deley the registretion process es long es you cen. As for the factory... If they ere impetient, you cen offer them more money."

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The result of the discussion was slightly out of her expectations.

She was under the assumption that as the heir of the Damaris family, Jack would prioritize a patient's survival regardless of how much he cared about making a profit. Also, she assumed he could accept the marketing strategy of increasing sales by reducing the financial gain margin.

To her surprise, Jack was very dissatisfied with the price she offered and even denied her the opportunity to negotiate.

"How is it, Dr. Jarvis? When will Damaris Group resume the supply of medicinal herbs?"
Linda approached Roxanne the moment the latter stepped into the research institute.

Roxanne forced a smile and said to Linda in resignation, "I'm not making any headway for the moment. Please delay the registration process as long as you can. As for the factory... If they are impatient, you can offer them more money."

Linda had served Roxanne for many years, so she could tell Roxanne was caught in a tight spot at that moment by taking in her facial expression.

"I got it. I'll handle these issues. However, our employees in charge of developing this medicine are getting restless."

Upon hearing that, Roxanne slightly knitted her brows in anxiety.

Most researchers at the research institute hoped that the success of inventing that medicine could help them make a living. Now that the medicine had been developed, and they could finally be rewarded after the drug was marketed, the process was unfortunately stuck at the final phase.

Roxanne sat in the cafe for some time before returning to the research institute.

At that instant, Roxanne couldn't help but doubt herself. Is Jack right? Am I too naive to assume the simplicity of this matter? Not everyone can regard a patient's survival with utmost importance like me, after all.

After contemplating for a long while, Roxanne decided to stand firm on her original intention, so she said to Linda in an undertone, "Pay their bonuses in advance using my name."

Linda suddenly recalled something and asked, "Some time ago, Mr. Demeris also announced his will to provide the employees with incentives from his own pocket. When he backs in the money—"

"Refund the amount to him," Roxanne interjected without hesitation. This is the most critical moment during our negotiation. I cannot allow Jack to have too many interactions with my employees. If he knows we haven't found a backup supplier for our medicinal herbs, he might even refuse to accept a thirty-five percent share!

Linda hummed in agreement and turned around to execute Roxanne's orders.

Roxanne stayed in her office alone and mulled over the discussion with Jack in the afternoon.

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She repeatedly picked up her phone and placed it back down as she hesitated to seek guidance from Lucian. However, she gave up on that thought ultimately after some careful ponderation.

She had decided to face Jack on her own because she wanted to assess how much she had learned from Lucian throughout that period.

Roxanne felt Lucian must've believed in her capabilities, too, for allowing her to engage in the discussion alone.

Only half a day had passed since my meeting with Jack turned south. I think I should give myself more time. It's not entirely impossible for me to resolve this issue on my own.

With that thought in her mind, Roxanne picked up the telephone on the office desk. Then, she started contacting the medicinal herb suppliers that she had previously worked with and found their herbs' quality acceptable.

Unfortunately, the suppliers flinched when they listened to her stringent requirements for the medicinal herbs' standards. They even doubted the existence of the top-quality herbs mentioned by Roxanne.

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Chapter 1567 No Need Be Hasty

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Roxenne couldn't figure out eny solution even es evening errived. At thet moment, Lucien celled.

She recomposed herself before enswearing the phone.

"Are you getting off work now?" His voice wes filled with concern.

Heering his voice, Roxenne felt unbidden grievences surge within her. Still, she forced e chuckle es she didn't went to let her emotions show.

"Not yet, but there's nothing much to do today, so I can get off work anytime. What's the matter?"

Lucien frowned slightly as he sensed something amiss about her tone. "I'll go and pick you up, then. Let's fetch the kids from school together."

Roxanne subconsciously relaxed when she heard he was coming. A hint of anticipation crept into her heart as a genuine smile spread across her countenance. "Okay. I'll wait for you."

The two stopped talking and hung up the phone. Roxanne was worried he might discover her downheartedness when they met later, so she tried her best to pull herself together.

Roxanne couldn't help but feel a little discouraged after failing to establish contact with any satisfactory medicinal herb supplier after making calls for the entire afternoon.

She had contacted almost all of the medicinal herb suppliers that had previously collaborated with the research institute.

If I can't find an up-to-par partner, my only choice will be to put more effort into sealing the deal with Jack. In that case, the research institute will be in a disadvantageous position.

Roxanne couldn't figure out any solution even as evening arrived. At that moment, Lucien called.

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Linde entered her office. "Dr. Jervis, aren't you leaving yet? Is the matter regarding the supply of medicinal herbs very challenging to deal with? Can I help in any way?"

Roxanne's face wasn't as pale and tense as before after she talked to Lucien on the phone.

She was further touched after listening to Linde's kind words.

Beaming at Linde, she said gratefully, "That's not necessary. You won't be able to provide me with much assistance since you just returned from overseas and lack connections. I'll have to trouble you to pay more attention to the operations of the factory, though."

Linde hummed in agreement before bidding Roxanne farewell. Then, she got off work first while Roxanne stayed in her office.

Roxanne finally got up and left when Lucien called and informed her that he had arrived at the research institute's entrance.

When she exited the building, she saw Lucien leaning against the car and looking down at his phone, seemingly focused on his work.

Roxanne grinned at the sight of him concentrating on his phone. She hastily approached him, making minimal noise in the process as she planned to scare him.

However, Lucien exposed her mischief and caught her red-handed.

He pinched her chin, planted a kiss on her lips, and chirped, "I saw you the moment you walked through the doorway."

Linde entered her office. "Dr. Jervis, aren't you leaving yet? Is the matter regarding the supply of medicinal herbs very challenging to deal with? Can I help in any way?"

Roxanne's face wasn't as pale and tense as before after she talked to Lucien on the phone.

She was further touched after listening to Linde's kind words.

Beaming at Linde, she said gratefully, "That's not necessary. You won't be able to provide me with much assistance since you just returned from overseas and lack connections. I'll have to trouble you to pay more attention to the operations of the factory, though."

Lindo hummed in agreement before bidding Roxonne farewell. Then, she got off work first while Roxonne stayed in her office.

Roxonne finally got up and left when Lucian called and informed her that he had arrived at the research institute's entrance.

When she exited the building, she saw Lucian leaning against the car and looking down at his phone, seemingly focused on his work.

Roxonne grinned at the sight of him concentrating on his phone. She hostilely approached him, making minimal noise in the process as she planned to scare him.

However, Lucian exposed her mischief and caught her red-handed.

He pinched her chin, planted a kiss on her lips, and chirped, "I saw you the moment you walked through the doorway."

Linda entered her office. "Dr. Jarvis, aren't you leaving yet? Is the matter regarding the supply of medicinal herbs very challenging to deal with? Can I help in any way?"

With that, he kept his phone and gentlemanly helped her open the car door.

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Roxanne blushed slightly. She scanned her surroundings and breathed a sigh of relief after noticing no one was looking in their direction before getting into the car.

Lucian walked around the vehicle to open the car door on the other side. "How was the discussion with Jack? I noticed you seemed a little moody."

Roxanne's gaze darkened at the mention of her meeting with Jack. She replied evasively, "We've already finalized the profit division, but we need to debate further regarding the issue of the medicine's pricing."

Lucian glanced up at her via the rearview mirror.

He saw her gazing downward and subconsciously placing her intertwined hands on her knees.

It was apparent to him that she wasn't being honest, as that was her habitual gesture when telling a lie.

He didn't need to probe further to know that the negotiation in the afternoon didn't go well.

Nevertheless, sensing her reluctance to elaborate, Lucian decided to have faith in her and give her more time to tackle that problem.

Then, he started the car engine. Instead of inquiring further, he uttered in a deep voice, "Back-and-forth is an unavoidable part of doing business, so there's no need to be hasty."

Roxanne nodded.

With that, he kept his phone and gentlemanly helped her open the car door.

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Roxanna nodded.

Chapter 1568 Being Intimate In Public

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The two of them got out of the car and stood at the front gate as they waited for the kids.

It wasn't long before they sensed the glances from the other parents falling on them.

"Isn't that Mr. Ferwell? Huh, I can't believe he's with his ex-wife!"

"Who are you calling 'ex-wife'? They're about to get back together, so you need to watch what you say!"

"I've always felt that Ms. Jarvis had an air of sophistication about her. She and Mr. Farwell are a match made in heaven!"

As the crowd continued to gossip about them, Roxanne felt a little uncomfortable and stepped behind Lucien, lowering her head to avoid their gazes.

Having noticed her response, Lucien reached out and wrapped an arm around her waist.

As though to declare their relationship to everyone, he then pulled her into his embrace.

Roxanne's face burned bright red when she realized people were staring at them. "Let go of me! There are lots of people watching! The kids will also be coming out soon!" she exclaimed while struggling a little in his arms.

Being seen by the parents is bad enough as it is. I don't know what I'd do if the kids see us like this! The embarrassment would probably kill me on the spot!

However, Lucien ignored her protests and tightened his grip on her instead. Class had just ended at the kindergarten when Lucian's car pulled up outside the front gate.

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After a few more failed attempts at breaking free, Roxenne had no choice but to give up on struggling.

Even so, she still maintained an awkward position in his embrace to put a little bit of distance between them.

As the gossiping from the parents reached her ears, Roxenne wished the ground would just open up and swallow her whole.

I shouldn't have agreed to come pick the kids up with Lucien!

A woman in the crowd noticed her reaction and reminded the others softly, "Hey, cut it out! She heard us!"

Roxenne instinctively glanced in the direction of that woman's voice when she heard what she said.

That woman let out a nervous chuckle when she met Roxenne's gaze.

Roxenne flashed the woman a thankful smile and maintained her awkward posture as she continued waiting for the kids.

She began struggling again when she saw the first group of children appear at the school gate with their teacher.

This time, Lucien let her have her way and let go of her waist before holding her hand instead.

While holding hands was considered normal for couples, she still felt a little embarrassed.

We're not a young couple anymore, and yet, we're being so intimate in public...

"What, I can't even hold your hand?" Lucien asked in displeasure when he noticed her frown.

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The next thing she knew, Lucian adjusted his grip and interlocked fingers with her.

Roxanne heard the parents around them inhaling sharply, but there was nothing she could do except pretend she didn't hear a thing.

Fortunately, the three kids' class was one of the first to come walking out. The children stood in a neat line while marching toward the school gates under their teacher's guidance.

"Daddy! Mommy!" the kids exclaimed happily when they saw their parents standing in front of the crowd.

Everyone around them went wide-eyed with shock when they heard the way the kids addressed Lucian and Roxanne.

Even the parents, who had already picked up their kids, stood around and watched nosily, reluctant to leave.

They had been seeing the news about Lucian and Roxanne on television every night, but this was the first time the two had made an appearance together after the recent news report.

On top of that, the two of them were being very intimate with each other in public.

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Chapter 1569 They Did Not Need Tutoring

Roxanne felt quite uneasy when the kids called them "Daddy" and "Mommy" in front of so many people.

This was the first time she had made her relationship with Lucian public in front of the parents and teachers at the kindergarten.

Regardless of whether they had remarried or not, everyone around them already saw her as a member of the Farwell family.

Before Roxanne knew it, the kids had squeezed their way through the crowd and wrapped their arms around her and Lucian's legs.

"Daddy! Mommy! Why have you two come to pick us up together today?" Benny asked curiously.

Roxanne simply kept quiet and turned toward Lucian.

"I happened to get off work early, and your mommy didn't have to work overtime today, so we came here together. What's wrong? Do you kids not like it?" he said casually and naturally, as if they had already been a loving family for decades.

"We love it!" the three kids replied in unison.

"Mommy, could you and Daddy come pick us up together every day from now onward?" Estella asked in an adorable voice.

Roxanne had wanted to tell her that she would come as long as she had the time to but changed her mind when she saw the expectant look in Estella's eyes. "All right. I'll try my best to."

Pippa was smiling happily when she saw the sweet and harmonious family of five.

Despite what the public is saying about them, the changes in Estella's condition all this while prove they're the most suitable for each other.

Roxanne left with the kids after saying goodbye to Pippa, who simply smiled and waved at her as usual.

"I made some preparations. We can start the basic lessons once we get back," Lucian told Archie and Benny all of a sudden on the drive home.

It took Roxanne a few seconds to realize he was talking about teaching them to use a computer.

Oh? He even made preparations in advance? I didn't expect him to take it so seriously!

As Roxanne turned around and saw the pleading look in Archie and Benny's eyes, she could tell that the two geniuses obviously didn't want to start learning from the beginning.

Roxanne then let out a chuckle and told Lucian, "Come on, let's not rush things now. They just finished a day of school, so we should let them get some rest. The lessons can wait until the weekend."

Noticing that Roxanne was helping them out, Archie and Benny quickly played along. "We're tired, Daddy! We need some rest!"

Naturally, Lucian wasn't going to force anything on them. "All right, then. Make sure to get ready for your classes on the weekend," he replied with a nod.

Archie and Benny dreaded those classes, but they smiled obediently and nodded anyway. "Okay, Daddy! We'll be prepared!"

As Estella was sitting very close to them, she could clearly see that they were reluctant to take those lessons. Although she was confused by their reactions, she knew better than to ask them about it.

Fearing that Lucian would talk about teaching them to use the computer again, the kids immediately ran back to their bedroom after dinner.

Having noticed how much the kids resented the topic, Lucian asked in amusement, "Do they hate computers, or is it too early for me to teach them this stuff?"

Roxanne glanced in the direction of the stairs and saw that the kids were already nowhere in sight.

"They don't need you to teach them at all."

She then shifted her gaze back toward Lucian as she continued, "Archie and Benny grew up in my mentor's research institute. They displayed amazing talent for information technology at a very young age, and that's especially the case for Benny. One of my colleagues at the research institute had been teaching them how to use a computer after noticing their talent, so Benny excels in this area."

Chapter 1570 Pulling A Prank

The serious look on Roxanne's face got Lucian wondering just how skilled Archie and Benny were with computers.

Meanwhile, in the bedroom, Estella stared curiously at Archie and Benny as she asked, "Do you two not want Daddy to teach you?"

As Archie and Benny had no reason to keep secrets from her, they nodded honestly in response.

Estella frowned in confusion. "Do you two not like computers? Daddy's really amazing, you know? You two will become professional hackers if he teaches you!"

Lucian used to tutor her personally back then, but he had to stop because she started losing focus due to her condition. He never continued those lessons after that.

If Daddy had continued teaching me, I would definitely be the best hacker out there right now! At least, that's what Daddy told me!

Archie and Benny exchanged glances as they whispered in her ear, "We'll let you in on a little secret here. The truth is, we're already very skilled with computers, so we don't want to start learning everything from the beginning."

Estella's face was filled with disbelief when she heard that.

I'm better at using a computer than the other kids my age only because Daddy personally taught me. Who could've taught Archie and Benny?

Noticing the look of doubt on her face, Benny pulled out his computer and demonstrated his skills with it.

"Watch closely!"

Despite what he said, he actually hadn't thought of how he would showcase his skills.

The look of doubt in Estella's eyes intensified when she saw him staring blankly at the computer screen.

"I can teach you if you don't want Daddy to, Benny," she said with a serious expression.

I may not be as skilled as Daddy when it comes to such things, but I should be good enough to teach Benny!

She was about to take the computer out of Benny's hands when he came up with a bright idea.

"Wait! I know what I can do!"

Archie and Estella stared at him in confusion as he booted up the computer and typed rapidly on the keyboard.

A few seconds later, a string of codes began running on the screen.

Archie and Estella kept their eyes on the screen as they waited eagerly to see what would happen.

Benny's eyes were filled with excitement as well.

I'm the second-best hacker in the world, but I haven't tried hacking into the system of Daddy's company. People say his company has a really skilled team of technicians in the IT department. They should be off work by now, so I'll try pulling a little prank on them!

At around eight in the evening, the computer screens of all the employees at Farwell Group went black for a few seconds. The next thing they knew, a video clip of three kids dancing hand-in-hand with their buttocks bare appeared on the screens.

"What the... Who has the audacity to hack into Farwell Group's computer system?" someone exclaimed in shock after realizing that it was the work of a hacker.

Most importantly, Farwell Group had the best cyber security in the industry, so they couldn't imagine anyone being able to hack into it.

On top of all that, the hacker had gone through so much trouble invading their system just to pull a childish prank on them.

Angered and frustrated, the employees who were working overtime in the IT department got all riled up and typed away furiously on their keyboards.

However, the look of disbelief on their faces only intensified as time went by.

This hacker merely planted a tiny virus in our system, and yet, we can't seem to bring it down no matter how hard we try!

Chapter 1571 A Similar Situation

Cayden rushed over to the office when he received a call from the manager of the IT department at nine in the evening.

He went wide-eyed with shock when he saw the clip of the three kids dancing with their bottoms bare on the screen.

Naturally, he wouldn't be able to solve an issue that even their technicians couldn't.

Cayden was about to call the police about the attack when one of the employees said, "Wait a minute... This situation feels kind of familiar..."

Everyone shifted their gaze toward him upon hearing that.

The employee scratched his head nervously as he continued, "If I recall correctly, Pearson Group received a similar attack back then. Their screens also had a clip of a child dancing. Mr. Farwell sent me over to resolve the issue—"

He was halfway through his sentence when his supervisor smacked his head and cut him off, "If you know what this is, then hurry up and take care of it!"

"I wasn't able to fix it that time. In the end, it was Mr. Farwell himself who resolved the issue and repaired Pearson Group's security system," the employee explained.

Everyone exchanged nervous glances when they heard that.

Farwell Group is paying us a really high salary to work here. What good are we if we can't handle a simple virus like this and end up troubling Mr. Farwell to fix it for us? But...

The technicians could only let out helpless sighs as they stared at the dancing kids on the screen.

They knew they were unable to resolve the issue on their own. Fearing that the virus would corrupt the files in their system, they had no choice but to call for help.

"You guys continue working on this while I contact Mr. Farwell," Cayden said, making a prompt decision.

As he wasn't a part of the IT department, there wasn't much he could do in that situation except swallow his pride and give Lucian a call.

Meanwhile, in the Farwell residence, Lucian was about to take his family out for a walk after dinner when he received a call from Cayden.

The look on his face grew solemn when he heard that the IT department needed him to resolve the firewall hack. "Got it, I'll head over right away."

"What's wrong?" Roxanne asked in confusion.

"Something happened at work. I need to head over and have a look," Lucian replied.

He then threw on his coat and walked out the front door.

The three kids exchanged glances when they saw the serious look on his face.

C-Could that be due to the virus I planted? Shouldn't everyone be off work by now, though? That virus I planted was a very simple one, so they shouldn't need to trouble Daddy with it, right?

Benny reassured himself as the three of them sat on the couch and watched television.

As nobody said a word, the entire living room fell silent all of a sudden.

Roxanne, too, was feeling a little depressed as she recalled the negotiation with Jack earlier that day.

Meanwhile, Lucian rushed over to Farwell Group as quickly as he could.

He couldn't help but feel an odd sense of familiarity when he saw the three kids dancing on screen.

That was especially the case when he noticed the three kids were two boys and a girl.

Upon realizing that the boys looked similar to each other, he thought of the three kids at home and what Roxanne told him earlier.

As Lucian grew increasingly confused, the supervisor approached him and said cautiously, "Mr. Farwell, this situation is similar to the one at Pearson Group back then."

Lucian shot him a glance before sitting down at one of the workstations. With an expressionless look on his face, he typed in a command on the keyboard.

A few seconds later, a string of codes appeared on screen.

The employees gathered around out of curiosity, only to gasp in awe as Lucian easily took care of the virus in a matter of minutes.

Chapter 1572 Is The Company Doing All Right

Just as the crowd thought Lucian would stop, they saw him typing another string of code to trace the hacker's IP address.

After he was done, he stood and faced the members of the IT department, who lowered their heads in guilt.

Not only did they revere Lucian because he was their boss but also because of his impressive skills.

They had no choice but to submit to his questioning.

"Farwell Group didn't pay you all a high salary to do nothing." Lucian was dissatisfied. "This is the second time it has happened already, yet none of you solved the problem or figured out who the hacker is!"

The crowd exchanged glances silently.

Right then, someone steeled themselves and explained, "The hacker's far better than us, Mr. Farwell. We suspect—"

Lucian snorted meaningfully, cutting him off.

The crowd turned to Lucian in puzzlement.

While they weren't paying attention, he returned to the seat and looked at the culprit's IP address on the screen.

He appeared shocked but proud at the same time.

His expression confused the crowd, prompting them to wonder if their eyes were playing tricks on them.

Upon closing the window, Lucian uttered, "If none of you can't even win against two children, then it's time to self-reflect."

Two children? Is Mr. Farwell mocking us?

Lucian was too lazy to explain the situation to the others. He turned to Cayden and ordered, "Cancel the bonus for everyone in the IT department this month."

With that, he left.

The employees of the IT department lamented in their minds. Everything was going fine with our overtime work until a hacker suddenly penetrated our system and caused us to lose our bonus! What is this terrible luck?

Yet, none dared to voice their thoughts because Lucian had solved the problem they were supposed to.

By the time Lucian left the IT department with Cayden, it was nearly ten at night.

Just as he arrived at the company entrance, he stopped, lifted his head, and stared at the night sky.

When Cayden saw Lucian stop moving, he thought the latter was angry and spoke carefully. "Please don't get angry, Mr. Farwell. They—"

Before he could finish his sentence, he heard Lucian say, "I want to use the small helicopter from the last time later. Make the appropriate arrangements for me."

Cayden was about to ask Lucian more questions, but the latter stepped past him and got into the car.

Seeing that, he swallowed the questions at the tip of his tongue and made calls to fulfill Lucian's request.

Lucian drove all the way back to the Farwell residence.

Upon entering the building, he saw Roxanne and the children were still in the same spots as when he left.

He didn't notice how anxious the children were until after he discovered the hacker's IP address.

When the children saw his return, they shuddered and quickly approached him with ingratiating smiles. "You're back, Daddy? Is the company doing all right?"

Furrowing his brows, Lucian pretended to stare at them with a serious look. "None of you have anything to tell me?"

The moment he ended his sentence, the children promptly exchanged silent glances while looking dejected.

Chapter 1573 Prank

Upon noticing the serious atmosphere around her family, Roxanne approached them in confusion.

At the sight of their savior, the children quickly hid behind her.

"What's the matter?" Reflexively, she shielded them and gazed at Lucian with worry.

Lucian looked at her and then at the children, feeling amused and exasperated. "You should ask them. Even though they're still young, they're quite bold"

In response, Roxanne turned to look at the children.

"We were wrong, Mommy..." Benny apologized as he gripped the hem of Roxanne's shirt. "Can you ask Daddy not to get angry?"

"We were just goofing around," Estella chimed in. "We didn't expect to trouble Daddy..."

"We're sorry, Daddy. We won't do it again," Archie said sensibly.

Confused by the children's apologies, Roxanne turned to Lucian.

Lucian approached the children and pinched their cheeks. "If I hadn't gone to the company, Mr. Lawson would've called the police."

Upon hearing that, they felt even more guilty. "We know we were wrong, Daddy. Please don't be mad at us!"

"It's my fault! I wanted to hack into the company's system. If you want to blame someone, blame it on me!" Benny came forward. "I just wanted to prove to Essie that I'm really good with computers."

Then he grumbled, "Besides, I only infected the system with a simple virus I created as a prank. I didn't expect..." I didn't expect the employees in Daddy's company would fail to deal with it and have to ask Daddy for help!

His complaint amused Lucian even further. "It's all right. I don't blame any of you. I was just surprised by how talented you all are."

A smile settled on Benny's countenance when he heard his father's praise.

"It's evident that we can skip the basics. This week, I'll be testing all three of you. Then, based on the results, I'll draw up your future curriculum," Lucian added.

Without hesitation, the children agreed. They were aware that his skills were above theirs.

Finally understanding what had transpired, Roxanne reprimanded, "You three went too far. How could you hack Daddy's company's system as a prank?" Then she turned to Lucian anxiously. "Did the company lose any important documents?"

Lucian smiled at her comfortingly. "No. The boys were mindful of their actions and only played a prank on my employees, but their computer skills surprised Cayden and almost prompted him to call the police until he was reminded to contact me first."

Hugging his mother's leg, Benny said cheekily, "It was really just a prank!"

Lucian's assurance and the children's cheeky acting extinguished Roxanne's desire to admonish the children. She reminded them in a severe tone, "I know all of you are talented at operating computers, but it's not a tool for pranks. They should only be used for beneficial purposes."

The children nodded obediently and apologetically.

Seeing that Roxanne was somewhat angry, Lucian hugged her in front of the children. "They're still young. Besides, they've learned to be more mindful today. I'll teach them the rest in the future."

Chapter 1574 Bedtime Story

Roxanne blushed with embarrassment as Lucian acted intimately with her in front of the children.

Upon witnessing their father defending them, the children said to their mother confidently, "That's right! We're still children, so you can't get angry at us, Mommy."

Then, when they saw their parents hugging, they tactfully turned around and closed their eyes.

"It's getting late." Roxanne struggled out of Lucian's embrace frantically. "The children still need to attend school tomorrow and rest soon!"

Lucian released her and said, "I'll bring them to their bedroom. There's something else I want to talk to them about."

The children's faces fell even though they already had a feeling their father wouldn't forgive them that easily.

Thinking Lucian would talk to them about that incident, Roxanne nodded and watched him bring the children upstairs.

After bathing the children, he watched them lie on their beds.

"Are you still angry at us, Daddy?" Benny hid half of his face under the blanket. "Will you forgive me if I tell you about the hole in the company's system?"

When hacking into the company's system, he discovered a hole in its advanced firewall, so he inserted a secret program into the virus.

After the virus was cracked, the program would activate and patch the hole in the system.

Lucian patted the boy's head. "I'm aware of it, and I know you all patched it."

Benny sighed in relief. "Then are you still angry?"

Lucian shook his head. "I was never angry at any of you. I just wanted to tell you all a story."

The children's eyes lit up. "Daddy's going to tell us a bedtime story?"

His nod spurred the children to tuck themselves into their blankets obediently and close their eyes. "We're ready! You can tell us the story now, Daddy!"

They were excited because it would be their first time listening to Lucian telling them a bedtime story.

Lucian began, "Once upon a time, there was a man called Jack—"

"Is this the story about Jack the Poet?" Archie opened his eyes and stared at his father with curiosity.

Grinning, Lucian nodded.

Benny lifted his eyelids, too. "I know this story! Mommy told us before!"

"Then do you know the moral of the story?" Lucian asked.

Upon hearing that, Benny turned to his brother.

Archie furrowed his brows and thought about the question quietly for a moment before answering, "The moral of the story is that we should study and don't waste our talent. Otherwise, we'll end up like Jack."

Benny nodded seriously.

They have pretty good comprehension. Lucian smiled. "I'm happy that you two know the moral of the story."

"We know what we did wrong, Daddy! We promise we'll study hard in the future! You can monitor us!" the boys apologized in unison.

Their attitude was a lot more genuine compared to earlier.

Lucian caressed their heads and tucked them in. "All right, it's getting late. You all should rest early. I'll leave after you've fallen asleep."

The children nodded obediently and closed their eyes.

As he promised, he only left after they fell asleep.

Chapter 1575 In The Wild

Roxanne had been sitting in the living room, waiting for Lucian to return while feeling bothered and worrying about the children.

When she saw Lucian descending the stairs, she asked caringly, "Are they asleep?"

Lucian went over to the couch and sat beside her.

He took in the tired expression on her countenance and pulled her into his embrace.

"I'm fine. Just feeling a little worn out." Roxanne forced a smile.

Instead of panicking, like when the children were around, she nestled in his arms.

Lucian kissed her forehead, held her hand, and stood up. "When I returned from the company earlier, I noticed the weather was good today. I want to bring you out for a ride."

Roxanne frowned. "I..."

She wanted to say she wasn't in the mood for it.

However, Lucian didn't give her a chance to object as he dragged her to the entrance.

Afraid they would wake the children up, they quietly stepped out and closed the door.

Even though they were in their own house, they were acting like thieves.

When Roxanne realized that, she thought it was funny and stopped feeling gloomy.

"The children were already asleep when I came out earlier. Don't wake them up. I only want to bring you out tonight," said Lucian, seemingly detecting her feelings.

At that moment, it was past ten at night.

Roxanne shuddered when the night breeze blew past her.

The next second, a warm coat landed on her shoulders.

She turned back and noticed the regret on Lucian's face. "I should've grabbed more clothes for you since it's nighttime."

Just as he concluded his sentence, he spun back.

Roxanne grabbed him. "I'm fine like this. What about you? Are you cold?"

Lucian held her hand and planted a kiss on the back. "I'm good."

Hesitation flashed past her eyes when she saw the thin shirt on his body.

Before she could utter another word, he forcefully pulled her into his embrace.

"That's better." He sounded satisfied as he brought her to the vehicle.

The car moved slowly toward the outskirts of the city.

Roxanne's face was still flushed as she admired the view outside the window.

When she noticed the gradual lack of cars passing them by and an increase in the density of trees, she wondered out loud, “Where are we going?” Why do we look like we’re going to a mountain?

Lucian replied plainly, “We’re going to the mountain.”

“Why are we going there so late at night? We can just ride around our neighborhood.”

As she spoke, she noticed a weird expression forming on his face.

“There are too many people around there. It’s not convenient. I’m afraid people will call the cops if they see what we’ll be doing.” Lucian cocked an eyebrow and glanced at her mysteriously.

As his vague but suggestive words repeated in Roxanne’s mind, she felt her cheeks burning. Is he planning to do that in the wild?

At that thought, she wrapped her coat tighter around her body. “How about we just head back? It’s so cold outside right now.”

She didn’t want to say no outright because she feared her guess was wrong. She could only subtly express her desire to return.

However, Lucian was unwilling to do as she asked. “It took a long time for me to find this spot. Since we’re already here, we might as well take a look first. If you don’t like it, we can return right away.”

Chapter 1576 I Thought

Roxanne stared at the desolate environment outside the window in panic and disbelief.

“I don’t think this is a good idea, Lucian. Let’s just head home now.” She sounded upset as she wrapped the coat around her tightly.

Lucian couldn’t help but chuckle when he saw the panic on her face. “What’s so bad about this idea? Do you know what I’m going to do?”

Roxanne’s eyes darted around. “Aren’t you planning to—”

Before she could finish, she noticed the car was slowing down.

Lucian glanced at her before alighting from the vehicle.

With no other choice, Roxanne swallowed her words and looked outside.

Her panic transformed into confusion when she saw the scene outside the window.

"Everything's prepared, Mr. Farwell," reported Cayden as he respectfully stood beside the car.

Lucian nodded, walked to the passenger seat, and opened the door with a teasing smile. "This really can't be done near our home. Now that you've seen what I have in mind, do you still want to go back?"

In the distance was a helipad brightly lit by a few searchlights.

Several helicopters of varying sizes were sitting neatly on the helipad. One of the helicopters was the one used to pick them up from their home last time.

Roxanne remained dumbfounded for a long while before she returned to her senses. "So, what you said earlier... You meant you wanted us to fly in a helicopter?"

Raising his eyebrow, Lucian answered, "What did you think I was talking about? The only reason I could fly around the city last time for a short period was that the government approved it for an emergency situation."

Roxanne blushed and glared at him with embarrassment. "Why didn't you say that earlier? I thought..."

"I don't mind if that's what you want."

"No way!" Roxanne's eyes widened.

Her embarrassed and frustrated look made him smile as he grabbed her wrist. "Come on out. I'm taking you to relax."

Roxanne got out of the car with Lucian's assistance, and Cayden greeted respectfully, "Mrs. Farwell."

His words caused her to blush again. "Thank you for your efforts." Lucian is such a scoundrel! I forgot Cayden was around earlier. He must've heard everything we said... Oh god, how am I going to face him in the future?

"You can go home now. Expect a bonus this month," said Lucian to Cayden.

Cayden gave a reply and left because he didn't want to be their third wheel.

Soon, only the couple was left on the mountain.

Lucian brought her to a helicopter, then pressed something to open the hatch door.

He held her hand again and led her inside.

Roxanne examined the surrounding with curiosity.

The helicopter was bigger and better decorated than the one from before. The original seat had been replaced by a couch, and the floor was covered in soft carpet. There was even an elegant table inside with red wine and a few snacks sitting on top.

"I only made this decision before coming home, so Cayden had to set this up in a hurry." Lucian's voice rang out next to Roxanne's ear before the door closed.

Dim lights illuminated the interior, creating a rather ambiguous environment.

Chapter 1577 Stay With You

"Sit." Lucian held Roxanne's hand and gestured for her to sit on the couch.

After she sat down, Lucian stepped into the cockpit.

Roxanne raised her head and watched him operate the aircraft. Moments later, the helicopter slowly ascended into the sky.

"You know how to pilot a helicopter?" she asked, astonished.

Lucian chuckled. "Truth be told, there are very few things in this world I don't know how to do."

Roxanne was stunned for a few seconds. He's not wrong, considering he was born into an extremely affluent family. He has too much energy and money to develop any interests and hobbies he has. It's a shame he didn't show any of it in our previous marriage.

Having guessed what was on her mind, Lucian glanced back and said, "I only learned how to fly a helicopter two years ago. As for the rest of my skills, I'll show them to you in the future."

Roxanne flashed him a small smile.

As the helicopter flew high into the sky, Lucian suggested, "Look outside the window."

Roxanne looked out and saw the moon and stars that were magnified before her eyes, making her feel as though she could touch them just by stretching her hand out.

As she watched the celestial objects in the sky slowly pass her by, she gradually relaxed and felt satisfied.

Retracting her gaze, she commented, "It's so beautiful."

Lucian was delighted that she enjoyed the trip. “Do you want to look at the sea?”

Roxanne nodded at first, but shortly after, she asked in hesitation, “Can I? It’s so late already.”

“It’s pretty close, and the helicopter’s fast. We’ll be there in a few minutes.” Lucian was aware of her love for the sea. He speedily turned the aircraft around and flew toward the ocean.

Roxanne lay next to the window in anticipation and gazed at the mountains below.

Minutes later, the sea appeared in front of her.

As the waves rolled by, the stars and the moon reflected on the sea looked as if they were floating on the surface.

Roxanne was dumbstruck by the beauty of the scene.

Suddenly, Lucian appeared next to her. “Do you like it?”

Roxanne nodded subconsciously. Just as she was going to answer his question, she recalled something and pointed at the pilot’s seat. “Why have you come here? The helicopter—”

He hugged her from behind comfortingly. “I’ve set it to autopilot.”

Still, Roxanne couldn’t help but feel nervous as her body tensed up.

Upon detecting her tension, Lucian kissed the back of her ear and chuckled. “As long as I can stay with you, I don’t mind if we fall.”

Immediately, she covered his mouth. “Don’t say nonsense like that! We won’t fall. The kids are still so young!”

Lucian intentionally buried his head in the nape of her neck with regrets. “Then will you die with me once they grow up?”

He was only half-joking.

Roxanne loosened her grip and stared at him with a probing look. “What’s the matter with you? Why did you ask that question all of a sudden?”

Chapter 1578 Reward

Lucian wrapped his arms around her even more tightly. "Nothing. The view just reminded me that you still haven't agreed to my marriage proposal." If Roxanne refuses to accept my proposal, I don't think it's a bad idea if we just die here together right now.

When he brought up that topic, Roxanne couldn't help but recall that the ring was still in her possession. He said I should wear the ring if I agree, but...

Embarrassed, she turned away, looked at the rolling waves beneath her, and argued, "Is that ceremony that important? If you're taking it that seriously, we should be sleeping in separate rooms right now."

Her words stumped him, spurring him to reflect on his behavior.

However, after contemplating it for a long while, he didn't think he did anything wrong.

Instead, his thoughts aroused him. Unable to hold himself back anymore, he kissed her neck and started touching her inappropriately. "Those are two different things. Only we know how we're sleeping behind closed doors. I want everyone to know that you're mine."

Upon detecting the change in his demeanor, Roxanne blushed. "You should go back to the cockpit lest something really happens!"

Lucian refused to give up that easily. "Look at how beautiful the scenery is..."

Swiftly, Roxanne grabbed his hands and asked, "Didn't you say you took me out on this trip for me to relax?"

Lucian let out a sigh and got rid of the indecent idea in his mind. He merely gazed at the sea while hugging her. "You still haven't answered my question."

After calming herself down, Roxanne lowered her eyes and replied, "I already did. It's just that only the two of us know."

That answer brought a satisfied smile to Lucian's face.

Roxanne could still feel his rock-hard member pressing against her back. She was so nervous that she didn't dare to move.

It wasn't until he returned to the cockpit and flew the helicopter back that she sighed in relief. However, she started worrying about her waist. I don't think I can avoid it tonight. If I had known this would happen, I wouldn't have left with him. Also, is it just me, or is he flying this thing really fast now?

After landing the aircraft on the helipad, he went over to her and asked, "Are you feeling better?"

Feeling touched, Roxanne smiled with glinting eyes. "Much better. Thank you."

She didn't expect Lucian to care so much about her bad mood that he would deliberately bring her out on a helicopter ride at night.

"That's all you have to say?" Lucian frowned.

Roxanne was confused. She was about to alight from the helicopter when she saw the hatch door had opened when Lucian grabbed her wrist and embraced her from behind. "I don't get a reward?"

Thinking that he had calmed down, Roxanne planted a kiss on the edge of his lips.

Just as she was going to leave, Lucian wrapped his arm around her waist and deepened the kiss.

As Roxanne struggled to breathe, thanks to his overbearing kiss, she detected movements at his crotch.

Lucian's hoarse voice traveled into her ear. "I don't want to wait anymore. How about we give it a try in the helicopter? No one will see us."

Pushing his chest away, she rejected, "No! Let's hurry back home!"

Instead of forcing her, he took her back to the car and drove her home.

Chapter 1579 Breakfast

The couple spent a romantic, intimate night together.

Roxanne woke up the next day with her body aching. I wonder if I should sleep in the guest room from now on...

Lucian entered the room right then and looked at her with concern. "Feeling horrible?"

Roxanne bit her lip in embarrassment. "All thanks to you."

Lucian sat beside her with a smile and massaged her waist. He didn't plan to apologize for his actions. "You should rest for a little longer before leaving the bed. Essie woke up early in the morning to prepare breakfast for you. She should be here soon to call you."

Roxanne's expression froze. Afraid her child would see her in that state, she endured the pain and tried to leave the bed.

"Mommy!" Estella's voice rang out outside of the room.

Roxanne paused and twisted her back by accident, causing her face to contort in pain.

“What’s wrong, Mommy?” When the girl saw her mother’s expression, she dashed into the room and attempted to hug her mother’s waist.

However, she was stopped by her father. “Mommy accidentally sprained her waist, so don’t touch her. Are you here to invite Mommy to breakfast?”

Estella nodded.

Fearing that Lucian would say something he shouldn’t to the girl if he kept going, Roxanne quickly said, “I’ll head downstairs soon. Wait for me in the dining room, all right?”

Estella was still visibly worried about her mother’s waist.

Roxanne shot a glare at Lucian and patted the girl’s head. “I’m fine. It was just an accident. It’s all right now.”

Then she stood up and took two steps away from the bed, which eased the girl’s worry.

The moment Estella left the room, Roxanne dropped her act. I already didn’t have much rest. This man has no self-control...

Lucian brought Roxanne to the bathroom apologetically to clean up. When he tried to do inappropriate stuff again, she kicked him out.

They dawdled for a while before heading downstairs.

Just as Roxanne arrived in the dining room, she saw a glass of milk and a sandwich on the table.

It was a simple sandwich, but it was pretty tricky for a five-year-old to pull off.

“Ms. Estella has been learning and practicing making breakfast for the past few days, Mrs. Farwell. It’s only until today that she’s willing to present her handiwork to you because she’s satisfied with it,” said Catalina to the family.

Upon hearing that, Roxanne turned to Estella.

The girl looked at her with anticipation and sparkling eyes.

Roxanne felt touched and took a bite of the sandwich before beaming at Estella. “It’s delicious! Good job, Essie!”

"You're better at making delicious food, Mommy!" said Estella when she heard her mother's compliments.

The girl's reaction made Roxanne laugh. "Why did you decide to make breakfast for me?"

Glancing at her brothers, Estella said, "I've been wanting to do it, but we made you angry again yesterday, so..."

The boys chimed in, "We know what we did wrong, Mommy! We promise we won't pull pranks anymore and will continue to learn from Daddy!"

Roxanne nodded gladly. "I'm glad you all do! I believe one day you'll all improve so much that you'll become the world's greatest hackers!"

At the side, Lucian concurred, "They do have the talent."

Chapter 1580 Do Not Contact Me

After breakfast, Lucian sent the three children to kindergarten while Roxanne went to the research institute.

"Dr. Jarvis, any news from Damaris Group?" Linda had been waiting for her in front of her office early in the morning.

Roxanne halted in his tracks when she heard the name Damaris Group. She recollected herself and replied, "We still need more time. What's wrong? Is there any problem with the factory?"

Linda looked helpless. "We used up the last batch of medicinal herbs yesterday afternoon, so now the factory is at a standstill. The person in charge contacted me last night, and we talked all night about the issue of stoppage pay for the workers."

As a result of that, Linda did not sleep well all night.

Roxanne knitted her brows. She knew she had to tackle the problem, as it had worsened.

"All right. How much do they want? Proceed with the payment first. I'll solve this problem as soon as possible."

As soon as she finished speaking, she picked up her pace and entered the office.

She glanced at the call log on her phone and noticed Jack's number was second on the list.

She gritted her teeth, mustered her courage, and called him back.

However, he hung up directly.

A few moments later, Roxanne received a text message: Ms. Jarvis, don't contact me if you haven't figured out the pricing issue. Call me only when you've figured it out.

Upon reading the message, Roxanne felt a wave of disappointment wash over her. She put her phone down and picked up a directory, searching for medicinal herb suppliers she had not contacted before.

As she flipped through the pages, she was overwhelmed with emotions.

Never in a million years did she expect Jack, who was once an elegant and refined young gentleman, to be a profit-driven businessman.

Now that their motive for this medicine was completely at odds with each other, they would most likely not cooperate again.

Realization hit Roxanne like a ton of bricks, and she immediately grabbed the phone to call the suppliers she missed yesterday.

However, she failed to find a supplier she was satisfied with.

Just then, she heard Linda's voice from outside the door. "Dr. Jarvis, the factory is requesting an additional one million for the stoppage fee..."

Despite the painful sting in her heart, Roxanne had to accept it for the moment.

She hung up the phone, strode out of the office, and said to Linda, "Gather all the research team leaders in the conference room."

Linda nodded and called the team leaders over.

Ten minutes later, all the leaders appeared in the conference room.

"As you all know, our research institute is in a difficult situation," Roxanne began in a friendly yet authoritative tone. "Do any of you have any suggestions on finding a new medicinal herb supplier?"

The leaders exchanged glances before one of them spoke up. "Dr. Jarvis, I'm confused. We have a good relationship with Damaris Group, so why did they stop supplying us with medicinal herbs?"

Another leader chimed in, "We know Damaris Group has the best medicinal herbs. Is there really no way to persuade them to continue supplying us?"

Faced with the employees' skeptical looks, Roxanne felt uncomfortable but ultimately decided to come clean. "Our original plan with Damaris Group didn't pan out, and we're now in need of a new supplier for medicinal herbs."

As soon as the words left her mouth, silence fell over the room as everyone exchanged uncertain glances.

Chapter 1581 I Agree With You

"As far as I know, Mr. Damaris' vision for this project was to give patients a fighting chance. I don't think there's anything wrong with that." Despite her efforts to explain, some team leaders continued to whisper among themselves, casting suspicious looks in her direction.

The conference room was so quiet that she could hear one of the leaders whisper.

"If anyone has any concerns, please don't hesitate to voice them. I'm here to listen," Roxanne said courteously while looking at the team leader.

The team leader turned around and met her gaze. After a few seconds of silence, he expressed his doubts. "Ms. Jarvis, you were the only one who negotiated with Damaris Group, and we had been kept in the dark throughout the negotiation."

Roxanne lowered her gaze slightly and responded softly, "I'll explain everything if you wish to know what transpired."

She felt a little uneasy as she looked at the faces before her.

Undoubtedly, she had acted unilaterally and set the price without consulting her team.

After witnessing the change in Jack's behavior, Roxanne realized she could not tolerate how apathetic medical practitioners were toward patients.

Everyone fixed their gazes on her, waiting for her to explain.

Roxanne gathered her courage and said, "I proposed a price of a hundred twenty for the medicine, but Mr. Damaris insisted on three hundred."

A heavy silence settled in the room after she uttered those words.

Roxanne could see how serious they were, and it seemed they began to understand the picture.

"Sorry, but I want to know why you set that price." A team leader finally voiced out his doubt.

Roxanne tried to stay composed and explained, “I want patients to be able to afford the medicine. Doing so might incur losses in the short term, but the long-term benefits are worth it. By doing so, we’ll also improve the reputation of the research institute.”

In other words, she put the interests of patients and the research institute before her, while Jack only prioritized Damaris Group.

After explaining the situation, Roxanne smiled at everyone. “That’s my two cents. If my idea doesn’t sit well with you, and you want to bail, I won’t hold it against you. But I hope we can all keep the technology used to produce the medicine a secret.”

Once again, the room fell silent, causing Roxanne to clench her hand on the table. She could not shake off the unease in her.

“I agree with you.” Someone spoke up and threw his weight behind her.

Roxanne’s eyes lit up with delight.

The leader continued, “I appreciate your support. We’ve been putting our heart and soul into this research institute for so long, and what Dr. Jarvis did is also in the best interests of the organization. I hope her decision can take us to the next level.”

“I agree that Mr. Damaris’ pricing is a little steep,” another team leader said.

Everyone else then chimed in with their support for Roxanne.

Roxanne was pleasantly surprised. “Thank you for backing me up.”

Roxanne had thought they would side with Jack, considering how close they were to him.

All the team leaders had somber expressions on their faces. “Dr. Jarvis, we believe in your vision. We want the institute to succeed.”

Roxanne let out a sigh of relief and redirected the conversation back to the matter at hand. “So, does anyone have any leads on the medicinal herb suppliers we can reach out to?”

As it turned out, everyone present had been working at the research institute for many years and had some connections in the pharmaceutical industry.

They immediately started brainstorming and discussing the potential medicinal herb suppliers they had in mind.

Chapter 1582 A CEO Has To Eat

Nevertheless, none of them could reach a conclusion even after spending the whole afternoon on it.

One of the experienced team leaders heaved a sigh and stated, "Damaris Group produces one of the highest quality medicinal herbs in the world. It will be challenging to find herbs that can rival them. Moreover, we need these medicinal herbs in large quantities, which makes it even more difficult."

Everyone was at a loss for what to do, especially since he also could not come up with anything.

"If there's no other way, we can only make concessions on the pricing."

One of the team leaders had already thought about the worst possibility.

Everyone was in a state of despair in the conference room.

Roxanne's heart sank to rock bottom.

She had no choice but to conclude the meeting since it was already time for lunch.

"Let's stop here today. I hope you guys can keep this from the workers and let this information stay within us. There's no need to spread negativity in the research institute. I'll think of something in the meantime."

Everyone assented.

Suddenly thinking of something, Roxanne smiled at them. "The atmosphere in the research institute has been too tense recently. You guys can organize a team lunch and bring your respective teams out this afternoon. I'll settle the bills."

She wanted to lighten the atmosphere in the research institute.

Everyone understood her intentions and agreed to do it.

Roxanne watched them leave the conference room. As she was in no mood to eat, she sat in the room alone, trying to think of any way to resolve this crisis.

She considered calling Harvey because she knew he would be overjoyed that she had developed such a medicine.

Harvey was very reputable in the industry, so he might know medicinal herb suppliers who supplied high-quality medicinal herbs.

She took out her phone to call him when Lucian's call came in.

Roxanne recomposed herself before answering the phone.

"Have you eaten?"

Lucian's deep voice sounded beside her ear. It was extremely comforting.

Roxanne couldn't help but feel aggrieved upon hearing his voice. "I haven't eaten. I've been busy the whole afternoon, but I don't have any appetite."

"Come out. I'm outside the research institute."

Lucian seemed to have predicted her situation. His voice was warm and caring.

Roxanne's eyes lit up, and she walked out. "Why are you here? Aren't you working?"

Lucien replied affectionately, "Even a CEO has to eat. Also, I tired you out yesterday, so I have to make it up to you today, or else I'm afraid you will sleep in the guest room."

As the events of last night replayed in her mind, Roxanne's face gradually flushed bright red, and she instinctively scanned her surroundings.

She breathed a sigh of relief upon seeing no one near her and reproached, "Stop saying such nonsense. I'm almost out of the company!"

Lucien chuckled and didn't say anything. He didn't hang up the call either.

Roxanne immediately saw the familiar Bentley when she walked out of the research institute. The car window facing the research institute was lowered so everyone who came out of the institute could see Lucien inside the car.

Lucien saw her and hung up the phone before alighting from the vehicle.

Roxanne quickly walked over and got in the car with him.

"What do you want to eat?" Lucien asked her as he got in the car from the other side.

As he spoke, he sneaked a peek at her from the rearview mirror.

Her expression was the same as last night.

I'm right. The problem with Demeris Group is still unresolved, and it has taken a turn for the worse.

Lucian replied affectionately, "Even a CEO has to eat. Also, I tired you out yesterday, so I have to make it up to you today, or else I'm afraid you will sleep in the guest room."

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Chapter 1583 Too Idealistic

Roxanne was still thinking about the matter with medicinal herbs even after she got in the car, so she didn't hear Lucian's question.

Only when the car engine started did she regain her senses. "Where are we going?"

Lucian replied, "I don't know what you want to eat, so I'll choose some random place for us."

Roxanne nodded, as she was in no mood to think about this.

Soon, the car stopped next to a restaurant entrance.

Lucian got out of the car and opened the door for Roxanne. She was still in a daze, consumed by her worries. Her thoughts were clearly written on her face.

Seeing that, Lucian drew his brows together worriedly. He suppressed his worry for her and brought her into the restaurant.

The meal ended on an unappetizing note, as Roxanne had a poor appetite. She was plagued with anxiety, so she couldn't really taste the food.

She was done with her meal quickly, but at Lucian's insistence, she ate a few more mouthfuls.

"Is the collaboration with Damaris Group not going well?" Lucian asked after they finished their meal and got back into the car.

Roxanne froze for a few seconds. She didn't know whether she should tell him about the specifics of it, as she wanted to resolve this matter by herself.

However, she didn't mind relying on him if it was the last resort.

Do I really have no other choice now?

As she was still hesitating, Lucian responded, "Jack didn't accept your pricing and the negotiation failed. Now the Damaris family is rejecting to collaborate with you."

He sounded confident as if he had already investigated this matter.

Roxanne was surprised. "How do you know about this?"

Lucian replied, "There are only a few scenarios of how the collaboration between Jack and you will turn out. I have been a businessman for so long, so I could already tell what happened from your expression."

A look of dejection flashed across Roxanne's face. Lucian continued, "If it's me, I won't accept your pricing either."

"Is it really that low? However, if I set the price higher..."

Lucian did not attempt to console her as he always had previously. Instead, he simply stated, "To a businessman, if the profits are too low and it takes a long time to see any decent returns, it's not a wise investment."

Roxanne frowned. "But we should always consider patients first since we are in the medical industry, shouldn't we?" She lowered her head as she was filled with self-doubt. "Or am I thinking too much into this? Am I being too idealistic?"

Lucien gazed at her with a grim expression and didn't say anything.

She was indeed too idealistic, especially when it came to business matters.

When she threw herself into the business battle, she didn't think of herself as a businesswoman but simply as a person from the medical industry.

It was impossible for her to win against Jack.

However, she could still maintain her ideals since Lucien was on her side.

“But some of my experienced employees in the research institute are also on my side when we had a meeting just now.”

Roxanne looked at him hopefully as she wanted to get his affirmation.

Lucien replied, “As someone from the medical industry, there’s nothing wrong with your method. In fact, it’s very noble.”

In other words, she was still lacking in business negotiations.

Roxanne had been facing countless setbacks recently. Self-doubt filled her heart now that Lucien was also criticizing her too.

She couldn’t help but ask, “What will you do in my situation? Will you raise the price just as Jack wanted?”

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Lucian replied, “As someone from the medical industry, there’s nothing wrong with your method. In fact, it’s very noble.”

In other words, she was still lacking in business negotiations.

Roxanne had been facing countless setbacks recently. Self-doubt filled her heart now that Lucian was also criticizing her too.

She couldn’t help but ask, “What will you do in my situation? Will you raise the price just as Jack wanted?”

Chapter 1584 It Is Only Right

Lucian smiled faintly. "If I think lowering the price will benefit us, I'll definitely remain firm in that decision."

"But Jack can't accept it, and the collaboration will fall apart." Roxanne did not understand the situation.

That was exactly what she did, and Damaris Group unilaterally terminated the collaboration.

There was no change in Lucian's expression as he said, "I'll force him to work with me."

Roxanne frowned and studied him. "How?"

"By using public opinion. The Damaris family has been operating their business for more than a century. The public thinks they're benevolent, but they're unwilling to lower the price of the medicines. If this issue is made public, they will have no choice but to lower the price even if it's for the sake of their reputation."

Roxanne nodded in agreement, feeling as if she had learned something new. But...

Knowing well what was on her mind, Lucian instantly revealed why that method could not work. "But if we do that, the Damaris family's reputation will be affected. I'm not bothered by it, but it's not the case for you."

Roxanne nodded.

The Damaris family held a very important position in the medical industry. After all those years, Roxanne, too, felt that they were an incredible family.

Moreover, the pricing this time might just be Jack's idea.

Roxanne did not want to ruin the Damaris family's reputation because of that matter.

If she did that, the entire traditional medicine industry would be affected.

She felt utterly defeated. "I can't do that, but I've contacted all the suppliers I know. None of them can replace the Damaris family."

Lucian arched his brow slightly at her troubled expression. "Perhaps I can help."

Roxanne's eyes lit up a little, but there was also a hint of hesitation in them. "This is the research institute's problem. I can't keep asking you for help every time."

"But the matter can't wait, and you're out of ideas."

Roxanne parted her lips, but she could not say anything to counter his words.

Lucian added, "Anyway, I'm not helping for free."

"You want a share of profits?" Roxanne asked in confusion.

Lucian was taken aback by her words.

After some time, he smiled. "If it were someone else, I'd have seized the opportunity to gain something out of this favor."

Roxanne's heart raced.

If Lucian really wants a share of the profit, does that mean I'll have to discuss business with him in the future?

The thought of it gave her a headache.

"But since it's you I'm helping, I want something else," Lucian went on.

Roxanne felt relieved and puzzled at the same time.

Lucien leaned closer to her and murmured something before returning to his seat and waiting for her answer with a smile.

Roxanne's face flushed, and a hesitant look filled her eyes.

Without forcing her, Lucien slowly started the engine and drove toward the research institute.

It was not until they arrived at the entrance did he turn to look at her. "What do you think?"

Roxanne hesitated throughout the journey, but she still gave in and nodded resignedly in the end.

Upon getting that response from her, Lucien smiled. He immediately unbuckled his seatbelt and leaned over to give her a kiss.

Only when Roxanne ran out of breath and petted his shoulder did he reluctantly let her go.

"If the research institute cannot hold on during this period, just tell me. I can give you funds whenever you want," Lucien said hoarsely.

All of a sudden, Roxanne felt something was amiss. She turned to him and said, "Why do I feel like I've become your sugar baby, and you're even supporting the entire research institute?"

Lucian shook his head to disagree with her statement. "You're my wife. It's only right for you to spend my money."

Roxanne blushed and said nothing. After all, she would never ask him for money.

Lucian leaned closer to her ear and murmured something before returning to his seat and waiting for her answer with a smile.

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Roxanne blushed and said nothing. After all, she would never ask him for money.

Chapter 1585 Did Roxanne Say Yes

After watching Roxanne enter the research institute, Lucian turned the car around and headed toward Queen Group.

Jonathan had just returned and was about to enter his office when Lucian arrived at Queen Group.

“Lucian, what brings you here to see me today?” Jonathan smiled when he saw Lucian. However, the smile on Lucian’s face took Jonathan by surprise. “Wait. Are you really Lucian? Or are you someone disguised as him?”

Lucian’s expression turned cold, and he stared at Jonathan speechlessly. “Yes, it’s me.”

Jonathan was certain he was seeing Lucian only when the latter schooled his expression. He opened the door and invited Lucian into the office.

“Why are you here out of the blue?” After pouring two cups of coffee for Lucian and himself, Jonathan sat on the couch. “Did you and Roxanne—”

Lucian glanced at him. “Roxanne needs your help.”

“Since you’ve asked, I’ll definitely help you,” Jonathan agreed to it in a heartbeat.

“I would like to trouble you to—”

“You don’t have to be so polite when it’s just us.” Jonathan was shocked. “If you speak like that, I’ll blame myself to death when I fail to help you out.”

“Find all the medicinal herb suppliers or farms in the country that can replace Damaris Group as soon as you can. I need you to strike a deal with them no matter what their price is.”

The smile on Jonathan’s face froze, and he let out a dry laugh. “That’s indeed a little troublesome.”

Lucian raised his brows slightly, looking a little threatening.

Seeing that, Jonathan quickly explained, “Lucian, you don’t know much about the pharmaceutical industry, so you don’t know just how good the quality of Damaris Group’s medicinal herbs is. The reason their business can operate for so long is that they live up to their reputation. It’s really hard to find suppliers that can produce medicinal herbs that are as good as Damaris Group’s.”

Lucian remained impassive.

Jonathan shuddered inwardly at the sight and quickly added, “Then again, it’s not entirely impossible to find one in the country. It’s just that the workload will be a little heavy.”

"Farwell Group has a project. Perhaps Queen Group can get involved in it," said Lucian suddenly.

He was making an exchange.

Naturally, Jonathan was interested in Farwell Group's projects. Nonetheless, he had to find out why Lucian was putting in so much effort to find such a company first.

"Did Roxenne's partnership with Demeris Group fail?" he asked cautiously.

Lucien nodded.

Seeing that, Jonathan instantly exclaimed, "That's great! You don't have to worry about Roxenne and Jack getting too close now."

Lucien took a sip of the coffee and said with a deep voice, "If you can help me find another medicinal herb supplier, I won't have to worry about other men, let alone Jack."

Jonathan froze.

It took him several minutes to return to his senses. He guessed, "Did Roxenne say yes?"

Lucien curled his lips, and his eyes twinkled. "Something like that, but we have to settle this first."

Jonathan sighed and exclaimed, "Finally! It's been so long. I can't believe you two are finally getting married." No wonder Lucien was smiling so brightly when he arrived just now. "Well, now that you've said that, I've got to settle this even if it's for Essie's sake. Just wait for my good news."

Lucien chuckled and lifted his cup.

In response, Jonathan clinked his cup with Lucien's.

They downed the coffee as though they were drinking alcohol.

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Chapter 1586 Afraid She Will Return

At the same time, Frieda was sitting uneasily in the office one floor below Jonathan's, thinking about the person she had seen earlier downstairs.

That should be Lucian if I'm right. Jonathan and Lucian have barely been in contact ever since Aubree left. Why is he here out of the blue? Did he find something? Did he manage to track down Aubree?

Frieda could no longer sit still. She hurriedly grabbed her bag and left the office.

The moment she reached downstairs, she got into her car and sped toward the man's house she and Aubree visited the last time.

The sky was already dark by the time she arrived.

At that moment, Shawn was leisurely watering the flowers.

He hesitated for a moment when he heard the butler's report, but he still let the butler bring the guest in.

"It's an honor to have you here, Ms. Queen."

Only when the butler brought Frieda in did Shawn put the watering can aside, wipe his hands, and sit on the couch.

Casting the rigid-looking Frieda a glance, he added, "Have a seat and tell me what you need."

Frieda sat down hesitantly, feeling a little timid as she stared at the man in front of her.

The way he treated Aubree last time left a lingering fear in Frieda's heart.

Moreover, Shawn was capable of sending Aubree out of the country without the Farwell family knowing. Clearly, his background was unfathomable. He was not someone Frieda could offend.

Despite Shawn's politeness, Frieda could not help but question herself.

I shouldn't have come, should I?

The butler poured them some coffee and placed one cup in front of her.

Only then did Frieda snap back to her senses.

Shawn sensed her fear for him, and a hint of unfathomable emotion flashed across his eyes. "I wonder what's so important that made you come here today?"

Frieda hesitated again at the mention of her purpose for visiting.

After taking a sip of the coffee, she mustered her courage and uttered warily, "I haven't been able to contact Aubree ever since she left for the past few days. I'm a little worried, so—"

"So, you're here to ask me about Aubree's whereabouts?" Shawn asked.

Frieda stopped talking. She forced a smile and bobbed her head, quickly adding, "It's okay if you can't tell me. I just want to know when she's coming back."

Shawn snorted meaningfully. "Do you want her to come back or the opposite?"

Frieda's expression stiffened when she heard that.

Studying her face, Shawn uttered nonchalantly, "Let me guess. I think you're afraid she'll return."

Without realizing it, Frieda slowed her breathing and stammered, "How could I? Aubree's my best friend—"

As if not hearing her words, Shawn put down his cup and said, "She'll be back, but not as Aubree."

Frieda frowned, her eyes filled with confusion.

Shawn explained flatly, "Don't worry. No one, not even you, will recognize her when she comes back."

Just as Frieda was about to let out a sigh of relief, she heard him say, "Unless she goes looking for you."

That sentence gave her a feeling that resembled a venomous snake wrapped around her neck. It was suffocating.

Is Aubree not planning on letting me off the hook when she returns?

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Chapter 1587 It Is Getting Late

"What's wrong? Are you afraid she'll look for you?" asked Shawn when he saw her expression.

Panic crossed Frieda's face. "No way. I'm just worried."

Shawn chuckled lightly. "About?"

Frieda looked around guiltily. "The police are keeping a close eye on every road to the Farwell residence. She'll definitely get caught if she comes back. I think... it's best if she doesn't come back."

Shawn snorted coldly. "No can do. I sent her abroad just for the day of her return."

Aubree's grudge against Roxanne was deep. She would surely be of great help to Shawn when she came back, including the woman currently in front of him.

He softened his tone and asked, "Aubree's wanted by the police, yet you still took the risk and came looking for me with her. Your relationship with her is amazing. I can't help but wonder if she has some dirt on you."

His words hit the bull's eye. Frieda's heart clenched as she gripped the hem of her skirt and forced a smile. "Don't make wild guesses without any proof. Aubree and I have always been close."

Shawn merely stared at her, examining her expression.

Moments later, he let out a mysterious smile as if he had confirmed something. "It was too abrupt of me. I just think your relationship with her is too good to be true."

With that, he stood up nonchalantly, walked to the wine cabinet, and returned with a bottle of wine and two glasses.

His actions filled Frieda with puzzlement and wariness.

After pouring two glasses of wine, Shawn pushed one of the glasses toward Frieda.

"I'm not used to having coffee with pretty girls. Let's have some wine instead."

As he spoke, there was an ambiguous smile on his face.

Frieda frowned and did not accept the drink. "I can't drink. I drove here."

Hearing that, Shawn spread out his hands in a gesture of disappointment. "What a pity. Looks like I've got to drink alone, then."

Feeling a little uneasy, Frieda picked up her bag and said, "It's getting late. I'll be taking my leave."

Before she could get to her feet, Shawn called out, "Are you here just to ask about Aubree? If that's the case, you can't blame me for suspecting the relationship between you two."

Hearing that, Friede had no choice but to sit back down.

"Nonetheless, I'm more than willing to be used by a pretty woman." Shawn had a pair of bright eyes that crinkled when he smiled.

He had used that same trick on many women. Even Friede was slightly mesmerized by him when she sat down.

"I don't understand why a sensible woman like you would end up being friends with a person like Aubree," he commented.

Friede lowered her guard and mumbled, "I didn't know she was that kind of person, either. It was too late by the time I found out."

Shawn caught the keyword in her words. "What's too late?"

Snapping out of it, Friede forced herself to stay calm and said, "I was already her close friend when I found out about it, so I can't just abandon her."

Shawn nodded thoughtfully and did not pursue it any further.

The two continued making small talk, but it was mostly Shawn who came up with topics for the conversation.

He stopped bringing up Aubree's name, which helped Friede relax more.

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Chapter 1588 He Is The Eldest Child

At the end of their conversation, Shawn walked her out the door. "I had a great time talking to you today. It's a pity we didn't have drinks together. When will you be free to have a meal with me, Ms. Queen?"

Frieda hesitated for a moment. Even so, ideas came to her mind when she recalled their pleasant conversation earlier. Shawn was attractive and had power comparable with the Farwell family.

Frieda had wanted to let Aubree marry Lucian so she could bask in Aubree's glory.

Now that she had a perfectly good opportunity presented to her, there was no reason for her not to climb up the social ladder.

With that thought in mind, she agreed and arranged a time with him.

As Shawn watched her leave, his expression darkened gradually.

The Queen family has a close relationship with the Farwell family. Frieda is definitely someone I can use. Based on my observation, Aubree must have some dirt on her. If I fail to restrain her with affection, I'll ask Aubree for Frieda's dirt. I'm going to have complete control over Frieda no matter what.

On her way home, Frieda kept thinking of the way Shawn treated her.

He's incredible for being able to send Aubree out of the country without the Farwell family or the police finding out about it. If I can actually win his heart... Aubree will become an insignificant insect I can get rid of easily.

The more she thought about it, the more relieved she felt. There was even a subtle smugness on her face when she stepped into the Queen residence.

"Where have you been?"

Recently, Jonathan had been closely monitoring her whereabouts. When he found out she had left the company in the afternoon, he had been waiting in the living room ever since he came home.

That was why he threw her that question as soon as she came back.

Upon hearing his voice, Frieda looked up and flashed him a casual smile. "Nowhere. I just wanted to take a stroll. I finally got the chance to go out after being locked up at home for the past few days."

Jonathan's scrutinizing gaze was filled with suspicion.

Frieda said in a childlike voice, "Don't be so paranoid, Jonathan. Aubree's gone. I can't find her even if I want to. I really went out to get some fresh air."

Only then did Jonathan force himself to believe her. Still, he reminded her, "Don't do anything stupid again. Be good and stay at home. Grandpa and I won't let you suffer."

Frieda nodded obediently, and he said nothing else.

"By the way, I think I saw Lucien this afternoon. What did he want with you?" asked Friede.

Jonathan had nothing to hide, so he simply answered, "He wants my help to contact a few medicinal herbs suppliers. It has nothing to do with you."

Friede felt much more relieved when she heard that, and the smile on her face grew wider.

At the mention of Lucien's request, Jonathan thought of the former's marriage and did not dare to delay the matter. "It's late. Rest early. I'm going to carry on with my work."

Friede hummed in agreement and went upstairs.

As soon as she returned to her room, her expression turned grim.

We're children of the Queen family. What gives Jonathan the right to tell me what I should do? Just because he's the eldest child and started working in the company sooner than me? Hmph! I'm going to make those elders regret it when I marry into a family more powerful than the Queen family.

Lucien and Roxenne's matter was constantly on Jonathan's mind, but he did not think much about it. After marching into the study, he began calling up all the medicinal herb suppliers the Queen family knew of.

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Chapter 1589 A Heartwarming Sight

Roxanne had been in a meeting the entire afternoon. Yet, there were still no leads. She looked gloomy when she returned to the Farwell residence.

“Mommy, why didn’t you pick us up in the afternoon?”

Lucian had picked the children up that day, and they had been asking for Roxanne the entire evening.

The second she returned, Benny immediately went to meet her at the door. His disappointment was written all over his face.

Seeing that, Roxanne forced a smile at them. “I was busy in the afternoon. I’ll pick you up once I’m done with my work.”

Lucian, who was observing them by the side, raised his brow. “Are you guys upset that I picked all of you up alone? Or maybe you prefer Mr. Lawson more?”

Upon hearing that, the children hurriedly hugged his thighs. “No! We don’t want Mr. Lawson. We want you, Daddy!”

"Run along and play, then," said Lucian while patting their heads.

The children's gazes shifted from Roxanne to Lucian. They could tell the adults had something to talk about, so they tactfully dispersed.

Lucian approached Roxanne and caressed her face. "Still no leads?"

It was Roxanne's first time feeling so disheartened. She could not help but become clingy as she placed her forehead on his shoulder. "Yeah. I really don't know what to do. I'm so tired. I never knew negotiating businesses was so tiring."

Lucian pulled her into his arms and patted her back gently. "Don't worry. I've already asked Jonathan to contact all the medicinal herb suppliers in the country."

Roxanne smiled. "Thank you."

Lucian lowered his eyes to meet her gaze. "Just don't forget what you promised me."

When their eyes met, Roxanne could sense the sincerity and affection in his gaze. Immediately, she blushed and nodded with a smile.

Right then, Catalina had served dinner and called them to have their meal. The two ended their conversation and led the children to the dining table.

Alas, the thought of the medicines made Roxanne lose her appetite.

Noting that, Lucian frowned and put down his fork halfway through his meal.

Everyone cast him a confused look.

They watched him roll up his sleeves and enter the kitchen, leaving everyone bewildered.

Roxanne got up and said, "I'll go take a look."

She entered the kitchen, only to find Lucian busy cooking at the stove.

A guess surfaced in her mind. Still, she asked softly, "What are you doing?"

Lucian stopped what he was doing when he heard her voice and looked over. "Why are you here?"

"You left halfway through the meal, so I got worried," answered Roxanne while making his way to him.

She was curious about what he was going to do.

Lucien joked, "What are you worried about? That I'll burn down the kitchen?"

Roxenne was stunned, but she laughed out loud in the next second.

Lucien felt much more relieved seeing that He kissed her lips before explaining, "I noticed you didn't have much of an appetite, so I'm making you some salad. Salads are appetizing." When he finished explaining what he was doing, he turned around and carried on with his work. "By the way, my cooking skills aren't that great. I'm sure you know about it. I'll make sure to put less vinegar in it this time."

The thought of the dish he made in the past made Roxenne smile brighter.

They prepared the dish together while chatting softly. It was a heartwarming sight.

Not long after, Lucien brought the salad out. The three children, who had finished their meal, tactfully left the table to give the adults some privacy.

Roxenne was very kind by eating quite a large portion of the salad and even finishing the risotto.

After dinner, Lucien told her to get some rest while he stayed back to take care of the kids.

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Chapter 1590 Perfect Disguise

Three days went by.

Wearing an icy-cold expression, Jack questioned his assistant, Kevin, "Is there still no update from Roxanne?"

Sensing his displeasure, Kevin nodded apprehensively.

Jack's countenance turned a few shades darker after he took in Kevin's response. Roxanne must've taken the initiative to meet up with me the other day because the medicinal herbs at the research institute are depleting. They should've used up their stock by now after these few days. How can she remain so calm and not establish contact with me?

He sought confirmation from Kevin. "How's the situation at their research institute now?"

"The factory has ceased operation and requested considerable compensation from them. The production for the new medicine has been entirely halted."

"How long has it been?"

Kevin thought momentarily before answering, "It's been three days."

Three days.

Jack sat behind his desk while tapping the tabletop with his fingers. A pensive look spread across his face. Did Roxanne tell me the truth? Have they found another medicinal herb supplier to collaborate with?

He called to mind all the reputable medicinal herb suppliers. Still, he couldn't think of any supplier whose medicinal herbs' quality was comparable to Damaris Group's.

"Do you think they've found a medicinal herb supplier capable of replacing Damaris Group?" Jack shifted his gaze to Kevin.

The latter shook his head without hesitation. "That's not possible unless they extend their search overseas. To the best of my knowledge, there isn't a local company with a quality of medicinal herbs comparable to Damaris Group's."

His reply coincided with Jack's thoughts.

"In that case, how can they be so confident as not to initiate a follow-up discussion with us?" Or did Roxanne successfully secure a medicinal herb supplier from abroad with the Farwell family's help? But that's not possible either. Over a hundred medicinal herbs are required to manufacture this new medicine. Even if they managed to find a new supplier, there must be a few types of medicinal herbs that are exclusively owned by Damaris Group. Damaris Group is Roxanne's only viable partner!

With that thought in his mind, Jack gradually relaxed his tense expression and curled his lips into a confident smile.

Inside a dilapidated residential area in Hawen, Aubree carefully removed the bandages on her face.

Placed before her was a mirror.

She shut her eyes and was reluctant to open them for a long while.

Although that man had informed her before leaving the country that he would help her alter her appearance, she didn't expect that to happen so soon.

She was taken away by someone to undergo plastic surgery almost immediately after her plane landed.

She would have to face a countenance entirely different from her previous look when she opened her eyes.

I have to endure all of these because of that b*tch, Roxanne!

Aubree gnashed her teeth as intense hatred overwhelmed her.

It was only after an indeterminate time that she gradually opened her eyes. Aubree felt disgusted as she looked at her face in the mirror.

Her facial features now resembled those of a typical internet influencer she despised the most in the past.

She wasn't ugly, but her appearance was no longer distinctive, and no one would realize she was Aubree Pearson.

Nevertheless, that was the perfect disguise for her at that instant.

She touched her face while trying her best to convince herself to accept her current outward form.

She could only return to Horington to take her revenge with that face.

While she was absorbed in bitterness and resentment, someone abruptly knocked on the door.

“Ms. Pearson, are you in there?” A man’s voice sounded outside.

However, Aubree wasn’t in the mood to entertain him.

The knocks on the door grew louder. Evidently, the person outside was getting impatient. “My boss sent me here to deliver some things to you. Hurry up and open the door!”

Chapter 1591 One Million

After hearing those words, Aubree finally got up and opened the door.

With an arm outstretched, she rudely said, “Give me the things, and you can leave now.”

A lecherous-looking young man stood at the doorway, sizing her up.

His eyes lit up when he saw her face and figure.

Aubree narrowed her eyes and urged him in displeasure, “Are you deaf? Hurry up and give it to me!”

“Ms. Pearson, I think there are some details I need to confirm with you.”

He curled his lips into a malicious smile and waved the documents in his hand at her but showed no inclination to hand her the file.

Aubree’s facial expression turned grim. “We can speak here.” Someone as lowly as he is not qualified to enter my room.

That man’s eyes glinted coldly when he took in the apparent disdainful look on her face. The next second, he stepped forward and pulled the door open.

Naturally, Aubree’s strength was no match for him. She was almost dragged out of the room following the outward swing of the door.

“What are you doing?” She glared at that man.

He had already stridden past her and swaggered into the room.

"Ms. Pearson, I know you used to be the daughter of the Pearson family and look down on hooligans like us. However, you need to understand our statuses are almost the same now. You'll need my help to deal with plenty of matters now that you're living abroad."

Right after saying that, he sat down on her bed.

Aubree's room was pitifully small. Her room had only a bed, and not even a couch was available.

She became more exasperated when she saw he had the audacity to sit on her bed. "Get up!"

Unfazed, he took out some identification documents from the file and started elaborating while disregarding Aubree's furious remark, "From now on, you're no longer a member of the Pearson family. Your name is Christina Patel, and these are your identification documents and introduction to your background. You can go through the details when you're free."

Christina Patel. Aubree's expression stiffened. She strode up to that man, snatched the identification documents from him, and browsed through the content.

Her scowl intensified when she saw the picture and name on the ID card. Roxanne! This is all that b*tch's fault! Not only have I lost my face, but I'm also prohibited from using my name.

"B*tch! I'll never let you off!" Aubree's hand trembled continuously as she held the identification documents.

Suddenly, she felt something on her waist.

Aubree immediately snapped back to her senses and warily stepped away from the bed.

That man calmly got to his feet and approached her. "I've put in a lot of effort to secure these identification documents. There will be some loose ends to deal with subsequently. The money you previously paid is far from sufficient, so you'll have to fork out another sum."

Aubree furrowed her brows after listening to that. "Didn't we come to an agreement in the past?"

He clicked his tongue. "I didn't expect you to commit such severe crimes in Chanaea and that the process of handling your fake identity to be so significantly complicated."

When she heard the mention of her wrongdoings in Chanaea, her expression changed. She was no longer as tough as before. "How much more do you need?"

He held up a finger in response.

"One thousand?" she asked with a frown.

That man scoffed as if he had heard some kind of joke. "We're overseas at the moment. What can I do with that small amount of money? I'll need at least one million!"

Aubree widened her eyes. "You're ripping me off!" I've given them two million previously. I can't believe he's again asking for so much money from me! I don't have any cash left.

Chapter 1592 Betray Her Own Body

The man chuckled. "Goodness, I'm telling you the truth. In the end, we're just working for someone else. Why would I want to con you?"

Before Aubree could respond, the man, his voice colder, went on, "But even if I did con you, would you turn me in to the police? I doubt it. The police in Chanaea would come for you, and you'd be detained and sent back to your country."

Aubree's face turned ashen as he threatened her, but she knew she couldn't do anything about it.

After all, she was in a strange land where no one knew her.

To put it plainly, no one might even notice if she were to disappear or die here.

She didn't dare report him to the police.

"I don't have that much money," she replied through gritted teeth.

She had left the country with only five million.

After her plastic surgery, making a new ID for herself, and renting a place to stay, she only had a few hundred thousand left.

Moreover, she still had many things to settle on her end, and a few hundred thousand wouldn't be enough. There was no way she could come up with one million to pay the balance.

The man arched a brow at her words and gave her a once-over.

Aubree tensed up. Her eyes were filled with disgust as she watched him warily.

"You can pay with something else if you don't have the money." The man paused as his gaze landed on her face. "Your real face looks better, but this is acceptable as well. Plus, you used to be the daughter of a rich man. I've never slept with a rich man's daughter before."

He was making an obvious suggestion that she should pay with her body.

Aubree's face immediately darkened. "How dare you?"

"If you can't settle the balance, then we'll just have to take back the documents we used to create Christina. Please look for someone else if you want to return to your home country, Ms. Pearson!" the man replied confidently without putting pressure on her.

With that, he reached out for the ID in her hand.

Needless to say, Aubree refused to hand it over.

She had spent half of the money she brought to create this identity for herself. She would lose everything if they took it back, and she would have no more money to disguise herself.

"It's fine. You can keep it. It's just a few pieces of paper. The important stuff is on our computers. We can destroy it whenever we please," the man said arrogantly.

He was already all over her as he spoke.

Aubree's face shifted palpably as she balled her hands into fists. She looked as if she might slap the man at any moment.

The man wasn't afraid of her in the slightest. He placed a hand on her waist and slowly moved it over to her breasts.

"I've seen that photo of yours from Chanaea, Ms. Pearson. You're not some pure, chaste girl, so don't play the virgin card with me. Just let me sleep with you, and we won't owe each other anything."

Aubree felt numb as she stood there, rooted to the spot. The man pulled her into his embrace and started groping her.

He smiled in delight when he noticed she wasn't fighting him anymore. He carried her up, bridal style, and threw her onto the bed.

Tears streamed down Aubree's face when she heard him removing his clothes.

Back then, no trash would have dared to hit on her.

She used to be the girl who would kick their asses if they even dared to steal a glance at her.

But now, she was left with no choice; she couldn't even defend herself against a mere thug.

Nobody could help her. The only thing she could do now was to betray her own body.