

# Leaving The Country After Divorce

## Chapter 1601-1624

### Chapter 1601 Come Back So Late

Estella came out after washing her face and saw Archie and Benny standing still in the living room. "Has Grandma left?" she asked in a baffled tone.

Archie and Benny returned to their senses and composed themselves. However, they still looked dejected when they nodded at her.

Seeing the expressions on her brothers' faces, Estella approached them with a straight face. "Did Grandma say something harsh to your guys again?"

Estella could tell Archie and Benny were unhappy.

Archie smiled at her and said, "No. She merely told me to take good care of you." He then changed the topic. "It's late. Why aren't Daddy and Mommy back yet?"

Estella got distracted and stared at the main entrance the moment Archie mentioned their parents.

When Catalina was done preparing dinner, she noticed the kids weren't as cheerful and lively as usual. At that moment, they were all sitting on the couch listlessly and staring at the main entrance.

"Mr. Archie, Mr. Benny, Ms. Estella, dinner is ready. Are you guys hungry? Would you guys like to eat first?" Catalina asked softly when she saw how moody the kids were.

The kids shook their heads in unison.

"We're not hungry. We'll wait for Daddy and Mommy to have dinner together!" Archie said.

Catalina didn't try to persuade them anymore when she heard that. She sat down and waited with them, at the same time hoping that Lucian and Roxanne would return soon.

At around seven that evening, they finally heard some noises coming from outside the mansion.

Catalina quickly glanced at the kids.

The three children rose to their feet and ran toward the entrance to open the door.

They saw Lucian opening the door to the passenger seat after getting out of the car.

Roxanne alighted from the vehicle, and the couple shared a kiss.

When Roxanne turned around and saw the kids staring back at her from the entrance, she immediately halted in her tracks.

Although that wasn't the first time the kids saw them kissing, she was still slightly embarrassed.

She turned and glanced at Lucian reproachfully.

Seeing that, Lucian smiled innocently and said, "I didn't see them there..."

Usually, the kids would have waited for them inside. Neither of them expected the kids to come out of the house that evening.

"Why are you guys so eager to see us today?" Lucian knew Roxanne was embarrassed, so he quickly stepped forward and stood in front of her.

The kids were all feeling dejected and aggrieved. They had wanted to seek comfort from their parents.

When they finally saw their parents, however, they couldn't bear to make them worry.

Both Estella and Benny didn't know how to answer Lucian's question, so they turned to look at Archie.

Archie steeled himself and said, "Daddy, why did you and Mommy come back so late? We've been waiting for so long!"

Lucian patted their heads and replied, "We've been busy the past couple of days. We'll bring you guys out when we're free."

The kids couldn't help but recall what had happened that afternoon. Although they weren't in the mood, they pulled themselves together and hummed in acknowledgment.

Sensing something was wrong, Lucian frowned and asked, "What's the matter? Don't you guys want to go out and have fun? Are you guys feeling unwell?"

Roxanne noticed their strange behaviors as well, and she approached them caringly.

Not knowing what to say in response, the kids exchanged glances with each other.

## **Chapter 1602 The Kids Had Lied To Him**

Catalina took a glance at the three children as he approached Lucian and explained, "Mrs. Farwell came this afternoon and took Ms. Estella, Mr. Benny, and Mr. Archie out to play. They must be exhausted from all the fun they had."

Initially, the boys did not plan to talk about it. Since Catalina brought it up, they had no choice but to nod in agreement.

The news left Roxanne totally flabbergasted.

Sonya took them out to play? She has never liked Archie and Benny. If she wanted anyone to have fun, it would have been Essie only! Why did she include the boys too? Moreover, the boys obviously don't look happy.

Frowning, she wanted to pursue the matter further but hesitated. I'd put Lucian in a difficult spot if I continued to ask about Sonya.

At that thought, Roxanne changed the topic. She tousled the kids' hair and said, "If you're feeling tired, go have your dinner now and go to bed early."

She led the children to the dining table after washing their hands.

She was so surprised to see a table spread with all the children's favorite food.

Contrary to Roxanne's bafflement, Lucian seemed unfazed. "Where did Grandma bring you guys this afternoon? Did you have fun?" He was more interested in the kids' outing.

The two boys exchanged glances when they heard the questions.

Benny pressed his lips and refused to give a reply.

Archie, on the other hand, turned his head and was met with Lucian's gaze. In the end, he replied, "Grandma took us to the amusement park and bought us ice cream. It was so yummy!"

Lucian looked at him in an attempt to determine if he was telling the truth.

Archie plastered a smile on his face even though he felt aggrieved deep down.

He wanted to tell Lucian that Sonya had left them at the amusement park, but that would undoubtedly prompt his parents to confront his grandmother.

Considering how hard it was for the family to be together, Archie was reluctant to see the adults having a fallout over them.

We feel blissful for as long as we get to stay with Daddy and Mommy, and we don't care whether Grandma likes us.

“Just the amusement park?” Lucian asked further.

Archie was dumbfounded for several seconds. He did not expect Lucian to follow up with another question. He nodded diffidently.

“What did you do there? You boys and Essie enjoy completely different rides. I bet it was hard for Grandma to look after all of you.” Lucian was so persistent.

Immediately, Archie and Benny looked at each other again.

Archie had no clue how to answer Lucian because all they did was take a stroll through the maze at the very beginning, and then spent the rest of the time waiting for Estella.

Lucian stared at the three of them and noticed all sorts of uncomfortable expressions on their faces.

“Um...” Archie steeled himself and turned his head, avoiding Lucian’s piercing gaze. “Grandma requested help from the staff to accompany Benny and me. We went to see the pirates and the dwarves, while Grandma brought Essie to see the princesses.”

Those were the characters they saw when walking around. The boys remembered the names, but they had no idea what the rides were all about.

Luckily, Lucian did not ask for any details.

Truth be told, he could tell that the kids had lied to him.

Otherwise, the person who volunteered to speak would not have been Archie.

The boys had very distinctive characteristics. If they were happy, Benny would be the first one to tell him everything even before he had a chance to ask.

The fact that Benny had been silent and had made Archie bite the bullet for the team, Lucian knew that Benny was hiding something.

## **Chapter 1603 You Do Not Need To Worry**

The looks on the kids’ faces made Roxanne suspect something was amiss. However, she held herself back from investigating more, especially in Lucian’s presence.

After dinner, she intended to take the children outside, but Lucian had other plans. “I wonder how are things with Jonathan. How about you call him and find that out?”

Upon deliberation, Roxanne decided to prioritize the matter of the medicinal herb supplier and dialed Jonathan’s number.

I can still probe the little ones for more information during bedtime.

With that, she headed to the study to make the phone call.

Jonathan was caught off guard when he received the call, thinking that Lucian wanted Roxanne to urge him to hasten the process. He started giving her a detailed explanation. At the end of the conversation, he asked about her relationship with Lucian, and they chatted for a long while.

Meanwhile, the children sensed that something was off and said in the sweetest voice, "Daddy, we're heading to the garden to play."

Afterward, they left quietly.

Lucian furrowed his brows and stalked them from behind.

When the trio turned their heads and realized that their father was following them, their faces sank at once.

"Tell me what happened in the afternoon." Lucian stared at them solemnly.

Archie and Benny hung their heads low, unwilling to speak.

Estella was not aware of the full story, but since Lucian kept probing, she took the initiative to give him a summary.

"Grandma took us to the amusement park first, then she brought me to the mall. Archie and Benny came back by themselves."

She knew it was very dangerous for her brothers to return home on their own and felt bad when she said it.

Lucian's expression changed when he heard that. He gazed at the boys and asked, "Was that all? Why didn't Grandma bring you two along?"

The boys cast a glance at their sister and replied softly, "We didn't want to join them, so we came home by ourselves."

Lucian's frown deepened when he saw them averting their eyes. "Head back into the house first, Essie. I need to talk to your brothers."

Estella strode toward the living room obediently, leaving her father and brothers in the garden.

"Can you tell me now? I promise to keep it among us three." Lucian bent down and assured his sons patiently.

The more gentle and casual his approach, the more aggrieved the two boys felt. Above all else, they were extremely worried.

Lucian caressed their heads. "Mommy and I will be very concerned about you if you insist on not saying anything. Do you boys want us to be worried all the time?"

The boys pursed their lips in response.

Then Archie looked Lucian in the eye as he stretched out his finger and asked for a pinky promise. "Daddy, could you promise us you won't argue with Grandma about this?"

Mom did something to the boys! Lucian's expression turned dark as a disturbing thought crept up on him. He quickly hooked his finger with Archie's.

It was then that Benny blurted everything.

"Grandma brought us to the amusement park and let us play alone. We thought she would come back and get us, but she didn't show up even though we waited for her for a very long time. In the end, we came home by ourselves."

Seconds later, he added softly, "Daddy, you promised not to be angry at Grandma. See, Archie and I are fine. You don't need to worry about us."

Archie nodded and chimed in, "Most importantly, Essie is all right. Benny and I can take care of ourselves since we're used to traveling around on our own."

## **Chapter 1604 Where Are You Going**

Lucian felt so sorry for the boys when he heard that.

The place where Archie and Benny had traveled to alone was their current residence.

He recalled an incident where the boys had nearly been beaten up by some older children when they came looking for Estella. That made him resent Sonya even more.

They are only so young! Even if Mom doesn't want to acknowledge them as her grandchildren, they're still Essie's best friends. How could she be so cruel as to dump them at the amusement park? Thank God nothing untoward happened, but what if it did? How would I face Roxanne?

Lucian shuddered at that thought.

"We're clever boys, and we met a very kind taxi driver. He didn't want to accept our money for the ride." Knowing that Lucian was enraged, Archie attempted to assure him in a cute voice.

Lucian knew well that his sons were trying to defend his mother. He pulled them into his arms.

“I’m sorry for not taking good care of you. Grandma was too much! If she takes you out again, call me immediately, and I’ll see to it.”

The boys quieted down and bobbed their heads obediently as Lucian comforted them with his warm embrace.

He patted their backs and praised, “Both of you did very well today for protecting yourselves and not revealing this matter to Mommy. This is now a secret among us. Don’t tell Mommy, okay? Mommy’s very tired these days.”

The boys smiled gleefully upon hearing those nice words. “We know what to do, and we won’t worry Mommy about this.”

Lucian inclined his head and released them from his arms. “Go play with your sister now. I need to head out for a bit.”

His words brought a frown to the boys’ faces. They grabbed his sleeve and reminded him, “Daddy, don’t be mad at Grandma. You promised us just now!”

Lucian did not expect the kids to be so sensitive. “Oh, I’m not going to Grandma’s. There’s something at the office that I need to deal with.”

As an experienced businessman, coming up with an excuse to pacify the little ones was a piece of cake for him.

Archie and Benny scrutinized him for a bit before releasing their grips on his arm. “Okay, then…”

Lucian flashed them a smile and walked toward the living room.

Right then, Roxanne had just finished her phone call with Jonathan and returned to keep Estella company.

She was surprised to see him getting ready to head out. “What happened? Where are you going at this hour?”

Lucian replied, “I need to take care of some matters. I’ll be right back real soon.”

Then he swiftly strode toward the gate and out of the mansion before she had a chance to ask more questions.

Roxanne observed his hasty moves and felt something did not add up. Shortly after, Archie and Benny walked in, and she shifted her focus to them.

“How did your outing go this afternoon? Did Grandma give you a hard time?”

Finally, Roxanne could put forth those questions to the boys in Lucian’s absence.

“Nope. We had a ton of fun today!” the boys exclaimed. Having been able to share the incident with Lucian and get it completely off their chests earlier, they no longer feel upset about it.

Then Roxanne tried to verify the information with Estella.

Estella had been crying the entire afternoon. She did not have an enjoyable time at all.

However, she went along with it and nodded her head cooperatively before squirming into her mother’s arms.

Roxanne knitted her brows together and looked at them skeptically.

## **Chapter 1605 Interrogation**

Meanwhile, Lucian pulled his car into the driveway of the Farwell main residence.

The butler was quick to welcome him politely. “Mr. Farewell.”

“Where’s my mom?” Lucian asked in an icy tone.

The butler answered, “Mrs. Farwell has just finished her dinner, and she’s now enjoying coffee in the living room.”

Lucian nodded and gestured to the butler not to trail behind him as he went inside.

He walked in to see his mother seated on the couch and sipping coffee while watching television.

“What brings you here?”

Sonya turned around when she heard footsteps approaching from the door.

The moment she saw Lucian, a strange look flashed across her eyes. She knew the boys must have complained about her to their father.

Lucian stormed toward her, grabbed the remote control, and turned off the television.

Sonya’s face darkened instantly. “So, are you here to interrogate me?”

“Why did you leave Archie and Benny at the amusement park this afternoon?” Lucian asked expressionlessly.



Frowning, Sonya defended herself assertively, "It's a safe place! No one can enter the amusement park without a ticket. With plenty of staff everywhere, nothing can happen. The boys and Essie have completely different interests. Do you expect me to clone myself to accompany each of them?"

Lucian was not pleased with her attitude. "You said that only because they returned home safe and sound."

Sonya stiffened, not knowing how to reply to that.

Lucian looked at her sternly. "The kids are so young. How could you leave them alone? Have you forgotten what it was like when Essie went missing?"

"How are these two incidents the same? Essie is a child of the Farwell family. Who are those two?"

"They are children of the Farwell family, too!" Lucian bellowed. "If something bad were to happen to them today, how should I explain myself to Roxanne?"

Sonya snorted. "Aren't they back in one piece now? All I did was let them play at the amusement park. How would I know they would go back by themselves?"

In other words, Sonya was putting the blame on the boys.

Lucian could not believe his ears. He roared, "What makes you think that you're without any fault? How is your action any different from those traffickers?"

Sonya grimaced. "How could you say that about me? I'm your mother!"

They continued quarreling.

Hearing the commotion, Elias came downstairs.

He asked for the full story when he saw the two locking horns fiercely.

When he learned that his wife had left two young boys to fend for themselves at the amusement park, he was astonished beyond words.

"I know you dislike Roxanne, but you shouldn't have taken your anger out on the two innocent children! How do we even explain to Roxanne if something really happens to the boys? How would you explain this to the public? You keep insisting that you're doing this for the sake of the Farwell family, but have you really considered the interest of the family before committing such an awful act?"

Sonya got so furious after both father and son lashed out at her. "Why are you speaking up for that woman?"

"I'm not taking any sides. If it was Roxanne who left the children alone, I'd do the same and kick her out of the house!" Elias stated firmly and righteously.

Sonya knitted her brows in disbelief when she heard him. "You want to get rid of me?"

Faced with an unreasonable wife, Elias was filled with rage.

Lucian did not intend to get involved in their relentless arguments. "I've made it clear to the children that you need to obtain my consent before taking them out in the future," he warned coldly.

With that, he turned around and stormed off the mansion, leaving a troubled Elias with his willful wife.

## **Chapter 1606 There Will Be A Solution**

Roxanne could not get anything out of the kids.

Worried that she would ask them more questions, Archie and Benny said that they wanted to play.

Roxanne put an end to her inquiries and began playing with them.

Soon, the four of them were playing together happily.

Roxanne was still fooling around with the children when Lucian came back.

"Has the matter been resolved?" she asked worriedly when she saw his grim expression.

The children also quieted down sensibly.

Lucian nodded in response. He looked at Archie and Benny and felt apologetic when he recalled his mother's words.

"Come and play with us, Daddy!"

The boys could read their father's mind. They came up to clasp his hands with a smile.

Lucian froze briefly before reaching out to hold their hands and allowing them to lead him to Roxanne.

The two then played with the children for a while longer.

Seeing the joy on the boys' faces lessened the guilt within Lucian.

After playing with the children for some time and noticing that it was getting late, Roxanne urged them to get some rest.

The couple gazed upon the sleeping faces of the children with sorrow in their eyes.

“You go ahead and get some rest first. I want to make a few more calls,” Roxanne said to Lucian after they left the room.

The latter frowned slightly when he heard that. “It’s already so late. What calls do you want to make?”

Roxanne sighed softly as melancholy once more appeared on her features. “I want to try to contact Professor Lambert and see if he can help get in touch with sources abroad.”

Even though the sadness in her eyes crushed his heart, he could only nod his head as it was her job and not his place to say anything.

Roxanne went to the study and called Harvey, who answered quickly.

Upon learning that she had developed a new type of medicine, the professor was very proud of her and agreed to help her right away.

However, the quality of Damaris Group’s medicinal herbs was rare, and the biggest supplier of traditional medicine was still Chanaea.

Because of that, there was a certain level of difficulty in finding substitutes abroad. He could only try his best.

Roxanne thanked him gratefully.

They then gave each other a brief update on their lives before ending the call.

It was already almost ten at night when Roxanne returned to the bedroom.

Lucian had already showered and was leaning partially against the headboard of the bed with a laptop on his lap, staring at something intently.

When he saw her enter, he set the laptop down and looked at her. “How did it go?”

Roxanne frowned slightly, her eyes still tinged with sadness. “Professor Lambert said that he would help think of a way, but... we should still focus on the domestic market.”

Lucian, who had gotten out of bed and walked over to her, gave her a peck on the lips and comforted her in a deep voice, “There’ll be a solution. I’m here.”

Roxanne pursed her lips to form a smile and the two kissed each other tenderly.

Her cheeks turned pink when she noticed his increasingly heavy breathing, and she pushed him away a little. "I'm going to take a shower. You should get some rest."

Lucian quirked a brow. "I'll go with you."

Roxanne gave him a puzzled look. "Haven't you showered already..."

Lucian had already grabbed her hand and walked into the bathroom, taking off all his clothes while doing so. "I'll take another shower with you and help you unwind."

As he spoke, he turned on the shower, then leaned in for another kiss.

Roxanne was about to say something, but he had already sealed her lips.

## **Chapter 1607 In A Good Mood**

They fooled around in the bathroom, and when Lucian finally slowed down, Roxanne was so tired that she was about to faint.

Lucian carried her to the bed, and they continued going at it until the wee hours of the morning.

Roxanne woke up feeling as though her body was on the verge of crumbling down.

The space beside her was empty. She had no idea where Lucian had gone to.

As she endured the pain and got up, the thought of sleeping in different rooms came to her mind once more.

"You're up?"

Lucian suddenly opened the door and came in.

That shocked her so much that her waist gave way, and she nearly toppled onto the ground.

He strode over and pulled her into his arms before she fell.

Roxanne was clad in a low-necked nightgown, which he had helped her change into yesterday.

Her movement caused her collar to open slightly, revealing her cleavage along with the marks that Lucian had left the previous night.

Just one look was enough to make him react.

At first, Roxanne was relieved when he caught her, but she then felt something hard pressing against her from behind, and memories of the previous night's events flooded her mind.

She pushed him away almost without hesitation and glared at him. "Are you a beast?"

As soon as she said that, another burst of pain from her waist caused her to grimace.

Lucian looked at her innocently. "But you were clinging to me later on. You—"

"That's enough!" Roxanne snapped, blushing.

With that, she turned on her heels and entered the bathroom.

Lucian's eyes crinkled at the edges. He walked over to her and wrapped his arms around her waist, massaging it with his large hands.

Despite Roxanne's refusal, she had to endure his ministrations in the bathroom for a long time.

When they finally came out of the bathroom, she had every intention to ignore him.

"Jonathan is waiting for you downstairs," Lucian said suddenly.

Roxanne was momentarily stunned. "Why didn't you say something so important earlier?" she said somewhat angrily, her face flush.

Lucian shot her a look in response.

Her temper was quickly subdued by his piercing gaze. She could only change her clothes quickly, tidy up, and head downstairs to see Jonathan, with Lucian following behind dotingly.

Jonathan had already drank his second cup of coffee when he saw the couple descending the stairs.

"Sorry to keep you waiting, Mr. Queen."

Roxanne looked at him apologetically.

Jonathan looked at her and then at the visibly defeated Lucian behind him with a confounded expression.

However, he understood almost immediately when Roxanne sat down in front of him and he saw the marks peeping out of her collar. He shot Lucian a suggestive look before saying to her, "Don't be so courteous to me, Roxanne. Just call me Jonathan as Lucian does!"

Roxanne could not help but be taken aback by his words and felt that the form of address was a little inappropriate.

Since my return to the country, Jonathan has helped me a lot, but we aren't that close...

"Jonathan grew up with me, so there's no need to be so courteous with him."

Lucian sat down beside her and held her hand as though it was the most natural thing to do.

In front of Jonathan, Roxanne was still a little embarrassed to grasp his hand. She struggled against him but he wouldn't let go, so she could only let him be.

Jonathan sighed inwardly when he saw how intimate his friend and Roxanne were.

All the hard work and plans I devised weren't in vain. They got together in the end. Also... judging by the satisfied look on Lucian's face, I'm sure they can't keep their hands off each other. No wonder he seemed to be in a good mood when he came down to welcome me just now.

At the thought that his painstaking efforts were not in vain, Jonathan felt that it did not matter that he had to wait for so long earlier.

## **Chapter 1608 Sign The Contract**

"So... Jonathan, why are you here? Have you found other medicinal herb suppliers that we can work with?"

After a brief moment of hesitation, Roxanne decided to change the way she addressed Jonathan.

The smile on Jonathan's face grew wider as he nodded and replied, "Most of the medicinal herbs suppliers have readily agreed to collaborate with the research institute, all thanks to the hard work you have poured into establishing a good reputation for it."

Hearing that, Roxanne turned to look at Lucian before looking back at Jonathan.

As she had only been with the research institute for a short period of time, she knew that the suppliers had agreed to work with them partly because it was Jonathan who had asked them and partly because he had mentioned Farwell Group's name.

Lucian was holding Roxanne's hand and had his other hand on her back the entire time as if he was worried that Jonathan did not know that the woman belonged to him.

Roxanne tried her best to ignore Lucian's hand while confirming the details with Jonathan.

"How did you find those suppliers?"

The woman had spent the past few days calling every single medicinal herb supplier she knew but was unable to find any suitable ones.

With an unfathomable smile on his face, Jonathan replied, "Queen Group is considered a leader of medicinal herbs in the country. Naturally, our network is wider than yours. I mostly approached direct suppliers from the countries of origin of the herbs. For those herbs that I wasn't able to find direct suppliers, I contacted the distributors instead."

Roxanne nodded in understanding.

"But"—Jonathan shot a glance at Lucian—" you get what you pay for. Although the herbs are guaranteed to be of superior quality, they cost a lot more as well."

Jonathan had only gone ahead to talk to those suppliers based on Lucian's assurance that cost was not an issue.

He knew that Lucian would step in if Roxanne could not afford those herbs.

As Roxanne was still basking in excitement after hearing the good news, she did not notice Jonathan looking at Lucian.

"Money isn't an issue. I was going to buy the medicinal herbs from Damaris Group at three times the original price but was rejected by them. I don't think it can get more expensive than that, right?"

"You were going to purchase the herbs from Damaris Group at three times the original price?" Jonathan widened his eyes in shock.

Does the research institute have that much money?

Roxanne smiled in embarrassment. "I only made that offer because I was confident that we would make good returns on the medicine in the future. I thought it wouldn't be an issue incurring more upfront costs."

Jonathan let out a dry laugh and nodded. "You're right, Roxanne. The new suppliers will definitely charge you less than what you were ready to pay for."

Roxanne breathed a sigh of relief and replied, "I can accept anything lower than that."

She proceeded to confirm a few details about some of the more important herbs with Jonathan, who explained to her patiently.

Roxanne felt completely reassured after her conversation with Jonathan. "I have no more questions. Could you check with them when is the earliest we can sign the contract? We can't afford to wait any longer."

Jonathan looked toward Lucian nervously, directing the question at him.

Roxanne furrowed her brows in confusion when she noticed the interaction between the two men.

A moment later, Lucian said in a deep voice, "Those suppliers requested to sign with Queen Group. They will supply the medicinal herbs to Queen Group, who will then supply the herbs to the research institute. Also, they requested that Farwell Group be the guarantor."

## **Chapter 1609 Unexpected Collaboration**

With that, the two men looked at Roxanne cautiously.

Ultimately, the herbs were for the research institute, and they were not sure what she would think about the involvement of the Queen and Farwell families.

Noticing their expressions, Roxanne replied with amusement, "I don't have any issue with that. We wouldn't be able to secure the suppliers without the help from both of you anyway."

Any solution was a good solution as long as it could help the research institute.

Hearing that, both men heaved a sigh of relief.

"Let's hold a press conference in the afternoon, then!" Jonathan said.

Roxanne was stunned. "What's the press conference for?"

Jonathan replied helplessly, "An opportunity to collaborate with Farwell Group doesn't come by every day. Obviously, those medicinal herb suppliers would want everyone to know about it. However, they won't be attending the press conference. It will only be the three of us."

Lucian lowered his gaze to look at the woman and said, "If you don't like that, we can do it in a different way. Farwell Group can issue an official statement directly."

After all, the point was to let the public know about their collaboration with Farwell Group.



After giving it some thought, Roxanne decided to compromise. "What time in the afternoon? I need to get ready."

Jonathan replied, "It will start at two in the afternoon tentatively. However, if the timing doesn't suit the two of you, I can let the media know that we are postponing it."

"No need. We will be there on time. Thanks for making the arrangements," Roxanne said.

Jonathan flashed a casual smile. "All I did was make a few calls. The new medicine that you have developed is going to save millions of lives. There aren't many good doctors around these days, and you are definitely one of them!"

"Thanks." Roxanne smiled at his praise.

With a straight face, Jonathan said, "I mean it. It's not flattery, and I'm not saying it just because it's you!"

Roxanne's eyes were filled with gratitude, and the atmosphere in the room suddenly became serious.

The next moment, Jonathan chuckled and stood up. "All right, I shall make a move first. See you guys later and don't be late."

After saying that, he pointed at Roxanne's neck and reminded her gingerly, "Uh... Remember to wear a high-collar outfit..."

He did not want the focus of the press conference to be the couple's relationship.

If that happened, the suppliers would probably feel offended.

Roxanne followed Jonathan's gaze.

Even though she wasn't able to see anything from her angle, she quickly realized what the man was referring to. A blush of embarrassment spread across her cheeks as she glared at Lucian.

Lucian turned toward Jonathan with a darkened expression and said, "Aren't you leaving? Why are you talking so much? If you have anything to say, say it at the press conference later!"

Jonathan smiled sheepishly and left after saying goodbye to them.

Soon, Lucian and Roxanne were the only ones left in the room.

Roxanne glared at Lucian in annoyance before she stood up and walked toward the mirror to check out the hickey on her neck.

As if he had done it on purpose, the hickey was planted on the spot between her neck and shoulder, a position where her collar could barely cover and just a slight movement from her would expose it.

Roxanne recalled the look in Jonathan's eyes when she was walking down the stairs earlier, and it suddenly occurred to her that he must have already seen it then!

At that realization, the woman instantly blushed.

Just then, she saw Lucian's reflection in the mirror. She did not notice him walking over.

With her face flushed red, Roxanne was about to scold Lucian when the man spoke first.

Smiling affectionately at Roxanne, he said, "Never have I imagined that we will get to collaborate one day. I look forward to working with you, Dr. Jarvis."

## **Chapter 1610 Not As Husband And Wife**

Roxanne was annoyed with him leaving the hickey in such a visible spot, but at the same time, she was also grateful that he helped solve the trouble at the research institute. For a moment, she did not know how to respond.

Lucian was unbothered. He walked up to hug her from behind. After glancing at the hickey on her neck, he kissed the same spot again.

Roxanne avoided him, her face red. "You knew about it long ago, did you?"

Lucian looked at the spot with disappointment. "I should have left it on your neck."

Hearing that, Roxanne got even more frustrated. "I won't be able to conceal it even if I want to!"

Lucian shrugged and responded, "I want everyone to know you're mine."

Before Roxanne could throw a fit, he rested his head on her shoulder and whispered in her ear, "I have no choice but to resort to this method since you refuse to accept my proposal..."

He sounded quite aggrieved.

Roxanne knitted her brows slightly but was quick to regain her composure. She reached up to pat his head. With a soft voice, she coaxed him, "Does it matter if I agree or not? What difference does it make?"

Lucian caught her hand and kissed it. "It's not the same."

He gazed into her eyes deeply before releasing her hand from his grip. "We should get ready. It's getting late."

Roxanne heaved a sigh of relief as she was grateful Lucian did not say anything more after that. Lucian held her hand and walked her out.

"Mommy! Daddy!" The three children had a good night's sleep on the weekend. As they were walking downstairs, they noticed Lucian and Roxanne holding hands.

Roxanne quickly lifted her other hand to cover the hickey on her neck.

Lucian remained calm. "We're going out this afternoon. You guys stay home. Call me if Grandpa and Grandma come over."

The little ones obediently inclined their heads in acknowledgment.

Lucian went out with Roxanne and headed straight to Neon Boutique.

It took Roxanne a while to realize Lucian had brought her there for a makeover.

"Do we really need to make such a big deal out of this?"

The press conference in the afternoon only required them to sign a contract in front of reporters. All Lucian needed to do was put on a suit for the occasion.

Yet, he clearly had a different idea in mind.

Instead of loosening his grip on her hand, Lucian led her into the store upon hearing her words. "I'm not just doing this for you. I need to prepare too."

Roxanne looked at his back, wondering what else the man needed to prepare for. He's already looking like Prince Charming.

"This is the first time we will officially appear together in front of the media. Though we're not appearing as husband and wife, it's still worth paying attention to." Lucian meant every word he said.

To him, the press conference in the afternoon was not just about the contract. It was also an opportunity to announce their relationship to the world!

Every time he thought of how Jack had been eyeing her with obvious interest, Lucian felt a twinge of jealousy.

Knowing what Lucian had in mind, Roxanne decided to do as he said.

The Farwells had long been loyal customers of Neon Boutique, and that was why they could enjoy VIP privileges in the store. The head of Neon Boutique headquarters in Horington even took the trouble to style them personally.

“Mr. Farwell, you...” While styling, the person in charge chatted with Lucian as he was familiar with Lucian. He would occasionally turn his attention to Roxanne as he spoke.

Roxanne and Lucian knew what he wanted to ask even before he finished his sentence. It was obvious he was eager to find out if they were ready to go public.

Lucian glanced at him and asked, “What do you think?”

The ambiguous answer he gave made the person in charge think he had misunderstood them. “I see. Got it. I’ll make you guys look good. Don’t worry!”

## Chapter 1611 Too Flashy

A hint of amusement flashed across Lucian’s eyes when he saw how Roxanne wanted to deny it but was hesitant to speak. In a deep voice, he instructed the head of Neon Boutique, “Keep it simple. She doesn’t like anything too extravagant.”

The person nodded repeatedly and even praised Roxanne, “Mrs. Farwell is a natural beauty. She’s gorgeous even without makeup. You two are simply a perfect match, Mr. Farwell!”

Roxanne did not let the remark get to her. He probably praised Aubree the same way when she came for styling a few months ago.

The head of Neon Boutique took two hours to style Roxanne and Lucian.

He fixed Roxanne’s cascading locks behind her ear with a gleaming pearl hairpin and gifted her a pair of pearl earrings. In addition to presenting her with subtle yet sophisticated makeup, he also attired her in a snowy white slim-fitted blazer with a corresponding skirt in the same tone, endowing her with a delicate and refined appearance.

As for Lucian, he deftly combed his hair backward, accentuating his flawlessly chiseled facial features. He then dressed him in a sleek black suit that complemented Roxanne’s attire and adorned his sleeves with exquisite pearl cufflinks, echoing the elegance of Roxanne’s earrings.

At first glance, the two looked like a couple.

Seeing their outfits, Roxanne could not help but hesitate. "Lucian, I think..."

She wanted to say it was inappropriate for them to appear like a couple, but Lucian was satisfied with their looks. He even told the person in charge he would buy all the garments and accessories worn today.

Roxanne was taken aback when she saw the bill of the entire ensemble, together with their styling, amounted to nearly a million.

Confronted with such a staggering amount, she had to bite back her initial disbelief. Any last-minute alterations would undoubtedly cost them even more. Just because Lucian has money doesn't mean we should spend it like there's no tomorrow.

It was one in the afternoon when they left Neon Boutique.

They only had an hour left until the press conference.

Jonathan, who had called to hurry them along, was relieved when he learned they were on their way.

During their journey to the conference, Roxanne briefly hesitated and considered removing her earrings.

"Are you so afraid of others knowing about our relationship?" Lucian expressed his dissatisfaction.

Roxanne paused. "I just feel they're too flashy..."

"The media has been speculating about our relationship since the last statement was released. If we're seen together, it's practically an official announcement. So, what difference do our outfits make?" Lucian said with his eyes fixed on the road ahead.

He only said so because he was afraid Roxanne would refuse to wear the same outfit as him.

It was a spur-of-the-moment decision, as Lucian saw the opportunity to make their relationship official and decided to seize it.

Roxanne hesitated for a moment before responding softly, "I don't mean to upset you. I just feel the signing ceremony is a work occasion." She continued nudging Lucian. "Besides, even if I don't wear the earrings, our clothes are already matching."

As Roxanne took a gentler approach to make him understand her concern, Lucian reached out and held her hands.

The thought of Farwell Group and Queen Group conducting a joint press conference still gave Roxanne butterflies in her stomach.

Throughout the drive to the venue, Roxanne kept asking Lucian for guidance on the details to pay attention to during the joint conference.

Lucian, noticing her anxiety, did his best to ease her anxiety and reassure her.

When they arrived, a swarm of journalists had already surrounded Jonathan.

As soon as Lucian and Roxanne stepped out of the car, the journalists quickly turned their attention toward them and rushed in their direction.

## **Chapter 1612 More Capable Than Aubree**

Roxanne was stunned by the scene.

Lucian immediately shielded her behind him as he stared at the reporters expressionlessly.

“Mr. Farwell, how goes things in your relationship with Ms. Jarvis? Are you two about to remarry?”

“Dr. Jarvis, why did you leave Mr. Farwell back then?”

One after another, questions flooded Roxanne’s ears.

Roxanne drew her brows together, unhappy to hear the questions.

The focus of the press conference that day was their collaboration, yet the reporters kept bombarding them with questions about their personal life.

Seemingly reading her mind, Lucian said coldly, “Sorry, but we’re only going to talk about work matters today. There will be a Q&A session later, so I won’t be answering anything right now.”

With that, he led Roxanne forward.

Right then, Jonathan rushed over, and the two men kept Roxanne protected between them as they went to the table up ahead.

The three of them took their seats as the lights flashed below the stage.

The press conference was broadcasted live on the internet as well.

When the netizens saw Roxanne appearing with Lucian, the chatroom went into an uproar.

One netizen wrote: Dr. Jarvis is a beauty! She's my waifu, and Mr. Farwell's my husbando!

Someone replied: Keep dreaming! Mr. Farwell and Dr. Jarvis are the ultimate couple! They're even wearing matching outfits! What kind of otherworldly love do they have?

Another commented: Dr. Jarvis is as attractive and capable as Mr. Farwell if she can work with him! Who'd get sick of a power couple like them?

The people were chatting away, but all they had were praises for Roxanne.

When they saw Roxanne and Lucian signing the contract, they sang even more compliments about them.

At that moment, Sonya, who had found out that Farwell Group would be working with Roxanne's research institute that afternoon from Elias and said she did not care about it, was tuning in to the live broadcast.

When she saw the matching outfit her son had worn with Roxanne, her expression darkened.

"Is he working or what? Does he even know what all these people are talking about? Is there even anyone who cares about the collaboration?"

Elias glanced at the broadcast and agreed with them. "It's not as if they're wrong. Roxanne's indeed much more capable than Aubree."

Sonya shot him a glare in response. "Roxanne must be the one who made Lucian wear that! She must have pestered Lucian until he agreed to the collaboration too!"

How else would Roxanne's tiny research institute get the chance to work with Farwell Group?

Elias disagreed. "Even if you don't believe Roxanne, you should have trust in Lucian. He's not one to prioritize his heart over his mind. The clothes..." Upon deliberation, he continued confidently, "I'd say it was Lucian who suggested wearing matching outfits instead."

Elias had been working in the corporate world for so many years. He could easily spot Roxanne's uneasiness.

Even though she seemed as though she was unbothered by everything, he noticed that she would look at her clothes awkwardly every once in a while.

He guessed that she must be troubled by the clothes she was wearing.

Elias smiled and shook his head.

I have to admit that my son has crossed the line by doing this.

Uncomfortable to hear Elias siding with Roxanne and see the netizens complimenting Roxanne, Sonya forcibly changed the topic.

“Stop watching. Elektra and her family will be reaching soon. Hurry up and tidy up a little before we welcome them in. It’s been years since we last saw them. I wonder how Elektra is doing now.”

The Lane family was a family friend of the Farwell family. They were a leading figure in luxury goods and migrated to Epea a few years ago.

Elektra Lane was the Lane family’s only daughter, and she was two years older than Lucian. The two of them were considered childhood friends.

## **Chapter 1613 Nothing To Do With Damaris Group**

Meanwhile, Hector saw the live broadcast on the internet as well.

When he saw Lucian announce that Farwell Group would be working with Roxanne’s research institute and that Queen Group would be supplying medicinal herbs to the research institute, he was dumbfounded.

He switched on the television and told someone to summon Jack.

“What’s the matter, Grandpa?”

Jack had been confidently waiting for Roxanne to relent to him, so he did not think much of Hector’s summon.

However, the second he entered the room, he saw the live broadcast on the television screen, and he paled.

“Answer me. How is our collaboration with Dr. Jarvis going so far?” Hector asked, clinging to the last bit of hope.

By then, Roxanne and Lucian were already signing the contract as shown on the screen.

Knowing that he could not keep the matters under wrap anymore, Jack tried to keep a lighthearted tone as he said, “As you can see, not too well.”



Hector slammed his cane against the floor. "What do you mean by not too well? It's not going too well to the point Dr. Jarvis decided to turn to another company for her supply of medicinal herbs?"

A while ago, Hector had heard that Roxanne's research institute had developed a new kind of drug that could be released to the market soon.

Hector had even thought about heading to the research institute in person to find out what the new drug was like, but Jack stopped him.

Hector did not dwell on Jack's actions at that time.

After all, Damaris Group had been doing better and better under Jack's lead. Hector believed that Jack's collaboration with Roxanne would go equally smoothly.

Yet, his wait lasted for half a month.

Hector had never thought that not only would he not hear the good news about Damaris Group's collaboration with Roxanne, but he would also hear the announcement of Roxanne's collaboration with another company.

At the sight of Hector's fury and the matching outfits and close proximity of Roxanne and Lucian, Jack was filled with rage.

He had never expected Roxanne to actually look for another company, let alone through the Farwell family.

Not only did he not get what he wanted, but he even gifted his idea to Farwell Group.

"I want an explanation! What is going on?" Hector roared and stomped the ground when he heard no reply from Jack.

Jack came back to his senses and lowered his gaze in silent contemplation for a while.

"Grandpa, I've tried my best to score a collaboration with her, but you have no idea how Dr. Jarvis, with Lucian's guidance, refused to relent when it came to the profits. She had been putting us in tough spots, and it was impossible for us to negotiate anything with her."

Hector snapped, "Why didn't you come to me when this happened?"

Jack quietly raked his gaze over Hector in disdain, but he maintained a respectful look. "Dr. Jarvis told me she needed time to mull over this after our last negotiation. I never thought she would immediately work with another company instead. It's true that Dr. Jarvis is an excellent doctor, but she's not a good business partner. She doesn't even have integrity."

In other words, Jack was putting the blame on her.

“Shut up!” Hector threw the cup on the table in his wrath. “Why didn’t you come to seek my help when you weren’t able to come to an agreement on the profits? I’m old, not dead!”

If Roxanne were to work with Damaris Group for her newly developed drug, Damaris Group would be able to reach a new high in their reputation.

Alas, that had nothing to do with Damaris Group anymore.

## **Chapter 1614 The Reputation Of The Damaris Family**

Jack was still unperturbed despite Hector’s wrath. He said, “Grandpa, Dr. Jarvis was insistent about selling the new drug for a hundred and twenty per box. I’m afraid no one will accept that price because that will not be a profiting deal.”

When Hector heard that, his vision went dark, and he nearly passed out from his anger.

He did not expect the heir he handpicked to put such importance on profits.

“Is the Damaris family short of that small amount of money?” the elderly man asked as he held his chest and gasped for air.

Jack lowered his head and fell silent, but anyone could still tell what he was thinking about. He felt that the company would end up making losses, so it was not worth working with Roxanne.

A surge of disappointment washed over Hector as he looked at his grandson. “I chose you as the Damaris family’s heir because I thought you’d understand that the Damaris family’s reputation of a hundred years was made with the kindness of physicians, not the wealth of physicians.”

Jack answered gloomily, “I understand.”

Hector glared at him again. “You do not! How many years has it been since the Damaris family develop a drug that can change many people’s lives? We were close to developing a good drug by working with Roxanne, but you messed it up!”

At that point, the press conference had reached its end. Roxanne and the other two men had gone past the crowd of reporters with the bodyguards escorting them.

The collaboration had been set in stone.

Knowing that there was no way to turn the tables anymore, Hector gave up. He waved his hand dismissively and muttered, “Forget it. I think you’ve lost track of your initial

aspiration. Set aside your task in managing Damaris Group and work in pro bono medical consultations instead to get back your original aspiration. I'll get someone else to manage Damaris Group for now."

Jack's heart lurched when he heard that, and he snapped his head upward to stare at Hector in disbelief.

Damaris Group has come so far today because of my hard work, but now Grandpa is kicking me aside just like this? How can I just accept this? I haven't even reached my goal yet!

Suppressing the emotions bubbling in his chest, Jack lowered his head and apologized to Hector. "Grandpa, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have made this decision on my own, but I'm sure there's a way to reverse this situation with Dr. Jarvis. Let me have another talk with her."

Hector shook his head in disappointment. "It's too late now. Didn't you see that? The whole world now knows that Dr. Jarvis is working with Farwell Group and Queen Group."

The Damaris family no longer had anything to do with the new drug her research institute developed.

All Hector could hope now was for the public not to know about how the Damaris family could not continue working with Roxanne because of conflicts in profit.

If the news about that were to spread, the Damaris family's reputation might suffer.

"Close to a hundred types of medicinal herbs are involved in the new drug. There's no way Roxanne could find replacements for all of them. There must be at least a type that she hasn't found a source for yet, so she'll still have to work with Damaris Group!"

Jack still refused to give up.

Hector did not see a point in wasting his breath on his grandson, so he waved his hand tiredly and uttered, "I'm old now. I can't lord over you anymore. Despite being the heir of a family of doctors, you see more value in money than in helping others. One day, you will end up falling from grace because of this."

With that, Hector went upstairs.

Jack's face clouded over.

He's right. He's old now, so he can't even tell wrong from right. The Damaris family is now on the pedestal of the medical field, worshipped by so many, but what use is that? It's nothing but a title at the end of the day, and we even have to spend much money

and time to maintain that name of ours with all those pro bono medical consultations. Eventually, the Damaris family will go bankrupt. The reputation of being kind isn't something the Damaris family needs anymore. What the Damaris family needs is money. We need to make a profit!

## Chapter 1615 A Pleasure To Work With You

The news of the three organizations working together spread like wildfire.

In a mansion in the suburbs, Frieda was seated rigidly on the couch as she stared at Shawn's back.

The man was elegantly brewing coffee by the coffee machine.

A moment later, he brought the fresh coffee to her with a smile. "This is all thanks to you, Ms. Queen. It's a pleasure to work with you."

Frieda was momentarily struck dazed by his smile, but when she heard his words of thanks, she quickly flashed him a smile of her own and answered, "It's nothing. I only mentioned it to my brother. That's all."

Frieda was the one who recommended the trading company that Jonathan contacted for Roxanne.

That company belonged to Shawn and was recommended to Frieda by Shawn himself before getting recommended to Jonathan.

Jonathan had been having trouble with finding a supplier back then, so when Frieda recommended the company to him, he only looked into it to make sure that the company was capable enough for the collaboration. He did not go deep into his research, and he even praised Frieda for the recommendation.

Frieda gazed at Shawn in gratitude before saying, "I should be the one thanking you. With your recommendation, my brother is not that biased against me anymore."

Shawn gave her another smile before sipping his coffee. His line of thought was different from Frieda's.

He had thought that Frieda's close relationship with Aubree meant that Jonathan would be suspicious when Frieda recommended to him the company.

However, it seemed that Jonathan did not have his guard up around his younger sister.

With just a snap of his fingers, his company was now working with Queen Group.

In other words, he had established a relationship with the Farwell family.

With that, anything he wanted to do would be much easier.

Shawn narrowed his eyes in satisfaction before putting down his cup and turning to Frieda. "What would you like for lunch?"

He shifted the topic to a more private one.

Frieda froze for a few seconds before a blush crept onto her face. "I-I'm fine with anything. Something simple would do."

Shawn smiled and nodded. "I'll make the arrangements, then."

He then took out his phone to make a call.

Once he was done making the arrangements, he led Frieda to the car, and they headed to the city center.

One had to admit that Shawn was a master at flirting.

It was a simple lunch, but somehow, he could make it seem romantic.

Frieda knew that there was nothing between the two of them, but still, she felt as if they were on a date.

Shawn was delighted to see her flustered.

He enjoyed the feeling of courting women.

Women who easily responded to flirtations like Frieda made him feel accomplished.

Furthermore, once he won over Frieda's heart, he would have even more ease in carrying out his plans in the future.

"Oh, yes. I can't do nothing after you've helped me out so much," Shawn started. "Other than the amount we've agreed on with Queen Group, I'll give you ten percent of the profits every month. What do you think?"

Frieda was even more elated to hear that, but she kept her expression composed as she inclined her head.

Shawn smiled in satisfaction before pretending to sound regretful as he said, "I like your character, but I have some work matters to attend to, so I'll have to be away for a period of time."

Frieda stiffened.

If he leaves, my plan will fall through!

Right as she was gripped by disappointment, Shawn continued, "This is the key to the mansion. I hope you can help me keep an eye on my mansion while I'm away. Also, I hope I won't be a nuisance if I contact you."

He made it seem as though there were some romantic feelings between the two of them.

Frieda froze for a few seconds before a joyous look appeared on her face as her heart skipped a beat.

"I will. Don't you worry."

## **Chapter 1616 Speak To Her**

Upon leaving the Damaris residence, Jack drove back to Damaris Group.

On the way back, he replayed the live stream of the press conference.

The sight of how loving Roxanne and Lucian were filled him with frustration.

Upon arriving at Damaris Group, he quickly noticed the strange looks his staff was giving him.

Evidently, news of Roxanne forming a partnership with Farwell Group had become public knowledge.

"What are you looking at? Go back to your desks!" Jack barked.

The crowd gradually retracted their gazes as they returned to their stations.

Upon storming back into his office, Jack slammed the door behind him.

"Mr. Damaris..." Kevin entered warily. "With regard to the medicinal herbs that we have reserved for the research institute, should we continue to set them aside?"

Previously, Jack had ordered it to be done, for he was certain that Roxanne would change her mind and collaborate with him.

Little did he expect her to form a partnership with Farwell Group and Queen Group instead.

Upon a long deliberation, he answered coldly, "Leave them as it is. Call Ms. Jarvis and arrange a meeting. I would like to speak to her."

Even if Roxanne had come to an agreement with the other two companies, Jack didn't believe they would be able to send medicinal herbs over to the research institute on such short notice.

He still stood a chance as long as he could speak to her before she received the herbs.

Upon receiving the instructions, Kevin did as he was told.

Roxanne picked up the call without a moment's delay.

"Ms. Jarvis, I'm Mr. Damaris' assistant. I wonder if you have time to spare, as Mr. Damaris would like to have a chat with you."

The press conference had just ended, and Roxanne was on the way home with Lucian.

Kevin's proposal caused her to look at Lucian by reflex.

In response, Lucian nodded, indicating that it was up to her.

Retracting her gaze and pursing her lips, Roxanne flatly replied, "Please tell Mr. Damaris that my decision is firm and there's nothing for us to discuss. I have found new partners to work with. The only thing left to talk about is compensation. That is something you should speak to my lawyers about."

With that, Roxanne ended the call.

Satisfied with Roxanne's decisive response, Lucian held her hand with a smile.

Meanwhile, a grim look descended upon Kevin's face, causing Jack's expression to change drastically.

"What did she say? When does she have time?"

Kevin's voice began to quiver. "Ms. Jarvis mentioned that the only thing left to discuss is compensation. S-She wants us to talk to her lawyer about it."

Jack's eyes narrowed as his voice turned frosty. "Say that again."

Sensing his anger, Kevin steeled himself to repeat the statement despite the growing panic within him.

"That ungrateful b\*tch!"

Having been reprimanded by Hector and almost losing the Damaris family's controlling stake, Jack was further enraged by Roxanne's rejection.

Kevin was cowed into silence, for this was the first time he had ever seen Jack this angry throughout his long career.

Subsequently, a deathly silence fell upon the office.

It wasn't until a long while passed that Jack waved his hand at Kevin. "You're dismissed!"

Heaving a sigh of relief, Kevin turned and scurried away.

Inside the office, Jack—with an insidious look in his eyes—got up from his desk and retrieved an aroma lamp from his drawer.

"Roxanne, I have given you plenty of opportunities, but you have spurned them all. Don't blame me for my ruthless methods!"

## **Chapter 1617 Jealous Of Your Own Daughter**

After the press conference, Jonathan tactfully took his leave, for he didn't want to get in the way of the loving couple.

Lucian had planned to take Roxanne out to celebrate, but both of them decided to pick the children up from home instead.

After all, it had been a long time since the children had gone out with them due to their busy schedules.

"Daddy! Mommy!"

The moment they walked through the door, the children welcomed them excitedly.

Roxanne, in a good mood after resolving the matter, spread her arms with a smile but only ended up hugging Estella.

Archie and Benny were picked up by Lucian with one arm each.

As the two brothers were lifted into the air, they screamed in between their laughter, "We can fly!"

Lucian played along by swinging them through the air by their collar, while the brothers spread their arms to mimic the wings of a plane.

The three of them were enjoying themselves, but Roxanne was given a scare by the sight.

"Put them down. It's dangerous."



Lucian naturally did as he was told. Even though Archie and Benny didn't have enough, they ran up to Roxanne's side obediently, not wanting her to worry.

"We watched TV today! You looked so handsome, Daddy! Mommy, you looked gorgeous too!" Benny complimented them.

In response, Roxanne gave his hair a tousle.

Lucian suggested in a deep voice, "Come, let's all go for a night out."

The three of them jumped for joy at the news.

Roxanne and Lucian got the children changed into casual clothing before leaving home.

Lucian had made reservations at a high-end restaurant that was located on the top floor of the tallest building in the city center. The entire place was booked for their family alone.

As the five of them sat on the open-air rooftop, they listened to the soothing music in the background while admiring the city lights that looked like meteor showers raining on the ground.

"It's been a while since we last saw you, Mr. Farwell." The manager served them personally, after which, he made light conversation with his guests. "This must be Ms. Jarvis. She's really beautiful. No wonder you always come here alone despite our establishment being the best place for a date. With such a pretty partner, I'm sure no one else will ever catch your eye."

Roxanne, in a wonderful mood that day, couldn't help but tease Lucian by asking the manager, "Didn't he come here with Ms. Pearson? Otherwise, what was he doing here by himself?"

As if he had recalled something humorous, the manager waved his hand. "Come to think of it, it's true that Mr. Farwell didn't come here alone."

The answer caused the smile on Roxanne's face to freeze.

She had started out wanting to tease Lucian, but from the manager's reply, it seemed that she might end up embarrassing herself.

The manager added, "Mr. Farwell would always come with Ms. Farwell, who loves the desserts here. I'll bring you two more portions of it later. I'm sure the boys would enjoy them too."

The moment the manager finished, Roxanne's smile grew more awkward as she thanked him.

In an attempt to avoid eye contact with Lucian, she lowered her head to cut the children's steak for them.

Once the manager left, it was Lucian's turn to pull her leg in return. "What is it, Ms. Jarvis? Are you jealous of your own daughter?"

Roxanne stomped at his feet under the table.

"What does jealous mean, Mommy?" Estella gave Roxanne an innocent look.

Archie and Benny swiftly stuffed their sister's mouth with some salad so that she would keep her mouth shut.

Staring at how hard Roxanne was blushing, Lucian let out a soft chuckle.

## **Chapter 1618 Waiting For A Suitable Opportunity**

After dinner, the three children thoughtfully went aside to play.

Lucian had informed the manager in advance that the children would be coming along, so the latter had set up a play area that was filled with toys and games where the kids had a great time playing.

Meanwhile, Lucian and Roxanne admired the night view from the open-air rooftop.

"Thank you."

Roxanne turned to Lucian and gave him a grateful look.

He cocked his brow in response, and a mischievous glint flashed across his eyes. "Is that all?"

Roxanne racked her brains for a moment. "We'll have to give Mr. Queen a treat someday. As for you, I have not thought of what to get you as a gift."

She obviously knew that a word of thanks wouldn't be enough to satisfy him.

Lucian hugged her from behind, trapping her between himself and the railing, before handing her a glass of red wine.

Roxanne proceeded to take it from his hand.

"I don't need any gifts." Lucian's voice rang out beside her ear. "You have already given me what I wanted a long time ago." He clinked his glass against hers. "If you really want to thank me..."

He then whispered something into her ear.

Blushing all over, Roxanne turned around and pressed her wineglass against his lips as she protested, "I need to rest!"

If I hadn't known him well, I would have assumed that he spent the last few years gallivanting all over. Otherwise, how did he end up with such a dirty mind?

Having achieved his objective, Lucian took a sip from her wineglass and leaned in to feed her through his lips.

Roxanne was bedazzled by the sudden kiss.

"Go ahead and get some rest today. We have plenty of opportunities in the future." After giving her a kiss, he brushed his finger across her lips.

Upon regaining her senses, Roxanne wanted to return to their seats so as to put some distance between them.

However, Lucian put on his serious expression again. "That aside, when are you going to fulfill the promise you made to me?"

Roxanne hesitated. After a brief silence, she replied, "I was thinking of waiting for a suitable opportunity."

Even though the concern on her face was obvious to Lucian, he had no idea what she was worried about.

Unable to bring himself to pressure her, he pulled her into his embrace. "It's fine. I don't mind waiting."

After all, the air had been cleared after the press conference today.

With a grateful smile, Roxanne wrapped her arms around his waist.

Both of them were subsequently locked in a warm embrace underneath the moonlight.

Only when it was getting late did they head home together with the children.

After having a blast under the manager's watchful eye, the three of them fell asleep the moment they got into the car.

When she saw how adorable the sleeping children were and Lucian's serious expression while driving, Roxanne's face brimmed with bliss.

She was more than satisfied with the life she currently had.

The only outstanding matter was Sonya's inability to accept her and her sons.

It seems that I have to work harder to make it happen!

Soon, their car came to a stop at the door of the Farwell residence.

After carrying the children out of the car, Lucian and Roxanne carefully sent them back into their room.

All three of them were exhausted after the long day and didn't wake up at all.

Only after the children were settled in that the two adults returned to their room.

When Roxanne emerged from the shower and recalled Lucian's words from the rooftop, a sense of reluctance descended upon her.

After how Lucian had ravaged her the night before and their exhausting session in the afternoon, she could still feel the soreness in her hips.

However, if Lucian insists...

## **Chapter 1619 As Soon As Possible**

Just as she was concerned about her hips, Lucian emerged from the shower, causing her heart to skip a beat.

"You should get some rest. The last two days have been exhausting." Lucian came over and pecked her on her lips.

Before Roxanne could react, Lucian raised his brows slightly. "However, if you want it, I'm more than happy to satisfy you."

His words caused Roxanne's cheeks to burn as she tried to bury herself underneath the blanket.

Soon, when the sound of the hair dryer came to a stop, Lucian pulled up the sheets from another side. Upon getting into bed, he pulled her into his arms and fell into a deep slumber.

That night, both of them had a good night's sleep.

When Roxanne woke up the next morning, she felt fully reinvigorated.

It was then that Lucian received a call from Jonathan.

As Lucian was still in the bathroom, Roxanne pondered a moment before deciding to pick up.

“Jonathan, what can I do for you so early in the morning?”

A look of surprise flashed across Jonathan’s face when he heard her voice. “Roxanne?”

Before she could react, he asked tactfully, “Is this a bad time? Where’s Lucian?”

Without thinking, Roxanne replied softly, “He’s showering. What is it?”

Showering?

As his imagination began to run wild, Jonathan quickly suppressed his thoughts and explained earnestly, “I just wanted to let you know that the first batch of medicinal herbs has arrived. I’m currently at the port. Do you want to come over to examine them?”

The news surprised Roxanne. “That’s quick.”

She had thought that it would take another two to three days.

Jonathan didn’t waste the opportunity to put in a good word for his good friend. “Lucian knew that you needed it urgently. That was why he bought the first batch under his own name before the contract was signed. He wanted to make sure you received the supplies as soon as possible.”

Roxanne was naturally touched by the gesture.

When Lucian coincidentally emerged from the bathroom, Roxanne intended to hand the phone over to him. However, he shook his head and put it on speaker instead.

Jonathan continued, “To be honest, Lucian expended much effort to get this batch of herbs for you. His feelings for you are true, Roxanne. You must treasure him. It’s rare to find a man as wonderful as he is!”

Roxanne almost burst into laughter at Jonathan’s exaggeration. However, Lucian’s presence caused her to quickly suppress the urge to do so.

Lucian, who couldn’t bear to hear another word of it, barked, “Get to the point.”

Jonathan paused abruptly before saying sheepishly, “I’ve already asked Roxanne if she wants to come down here. I’m currently waiting at the port.”

When Lucian turned to Roxanne, she related what Jonathan had told her earlier. “I’ll go over to check the goods. You send the children to kindergarten.”

Lucian had initially wanted to drive her to the port but decided against it when he thought about the children. "In that case, I'll pick you up in the evening."

Roxanne agreed with a smile.

After both of them had breakfast, Lucian dropped the children off at the kindergarten, while Roxanne headed to the port.

Jonathan, who had been waiting there, began complaining again the moment he saw her.

Both of them took stock of the medicinal herbs while making idle chatter with each other.

Once they were sure everything was in order, the next step was to send the herbs to the research institute. There, they would be used in small batches to ensure that the final product was consistent with what was produced by Damaris Group.

After sending the medicinal herbs over, Jonathan took his leave, as the rest of the processes were considered industrial secrets.

Upon his departure, Roxanne threw herself back into her work.

## **Chapter 1620 Acting Fast**

Linda urged Roxanne to have her lunch after being swamped with work the entire morning.

Since she was dealing with a huge shipment of medicinal herbs, Roxanne thought of having a quick bite nearby before resuming her work.

A series of honks sounded just as she left the premises.

However, she did not bother about the noises made and kept walking ahead, which resulted in the car honking at her repeatedly.

It took Roxanne a while to realize the honks were directed at her.

She turned around and saw a car parked not too far from the entrance to the research institute. The window was half-opened, revealing Jack's face.

"Ms. Jarvis." Jack grinned at her the moment she looked in his direction.

Frowning, Roxanne had no intention of approaching him. "I'm sorry, Mr. Damaris. It's a busy day at work. Please excuse me."

With that, she turned and headed toward the restaurant.

Suddenly, the honks rang out again as Jack maneuvered the vehicle to trail her from the back.

“Ms. Jarvis, let’s preserve our relationship even if there’s no business deal between us. Aren’t we friends? Can’t you spare me a few minutes?”

Jack’s voice and car honks rang out at the same time, making heads turn as people walked out from the research institute.

Roxanne dreaded the unnecessary attention. Hence, she stopped and said, “What is it that you want to tell me, Mr. Damaris? You can say it now.”

A cold glint flashed across Jack’s eyes when she conceded. He opened the car door and said, “Come on in. Let’s chat inside.”

Roxanne stood rooted to the spot and kept her guard up.

Jack smirked and said, “Are you worried that I might do something to you in broad daylight, Ms. Jarvis? Come on, we’re both people of status. Furthermore, I still have to be mindful of the Damaris family’s reputation.”

With that, he opened the car door wider to let her examine the interior.

He added, “I just can’t stand the heat outside. It’s much more comfortable to talk in the car. After all, I can’t finish what I want to say in a few words.”

Roxanne seized the opportunity and checked his car thoroughly. She did not take the passenger seat. Instead, she entered through the back door and sat by herself.

The air conditioner was switched on, so she had to close both the car door and window.

“You can speak now,” she requested indifferently.

Hiding the coldness in his eyes, Jack glanced at the aroma lamp underneath the passenger seat and put on a regretful expression.

“Ms. Jarvis, you acted really fast. I thought of looking for you in a couple of days, and perhaps we could still collaborate in one way or another. Little did I expect you would have signed a contract with Farwell Group and Queen Group already.”

A layer of resentment and displeasure laced his tone.

Knitting her brows, Roxanne stared at the pair of eyes looking back at her through the rearview mirror. "You might want to ask around and find out what hefty losses the research institute has suffered due to this incident, Mr. Damaris."

The factory had to shut down the production of medicines due to lack of supplies. Due to that reason, it demanded an exorbitant compensation from the research institute for delaying its production.

Lately, Lucian suggested producing the medicines in one of Farwell Group's factories for free, but Roxanne rejected his offer.

She felt that she had received tremendous help and support from Lucian. Therefore, she did not want to rely on him further.

An imperceptible trace of frustration flashed past Jack's eyes. "There's no need to be like that, Ms. Jarvis. It was only a matter of time before the research institute suffered losses. Honestly, up till now, I still don't agree with the price you set for the medicine."

Ironically, she no longer felt anything toward his belittling remarks. "Your acceptance or rejection has nothing to do with me, Mr. Damaris. This is because I'm not collaborating with Damaris Group. Should you want to insist on your pricing, please go ahead and launch a new medicine yourself."

## **Chapter 1621 You Can Leave**

Jack was vexed with the woman in his rearview mirror.

It has only been several days since I last met her. How did she become so sharp-tongued?

Jack's anger dissipated as his gaze swept past the aroma lamp hidden under the passenger seat. His eyes continued to gleam with hostility.

Soon, this mouth won't be able to utter a single word.

At that thought, Jack felt exhilarated.

"Don't you ever forget that it was my idea to develop this medicine, Ms. Jarvis. If it weren't for me, you wouldn't have gotten so far in the research."

He kept his composure and started engaging her in small talk to delay the time.

Roxanne thought the car smelled of essential oil but quickly dismissed the idea since she could not locate the source. She ended up assuming the faint fragrance was Jack's car perfume.



She nodded gently upon hearing Jack's comment. "That's true. If you hadn't mentioned anything about it, I wouldn't have had the courage to begin the research. Anyhow, I depended on my own strengths and capabilities to develop the medicine and bring the idea to fruition."

Initially, Roxanne was rather dubious about the whole matter too.

She debated multiple times if she should brand the medicine under the Damaris family name because Jack was the one who proposed it first.

However, Lucian rejected her idea without any hesitation.

He justified that Jack merely gave a passing comment and had not involved himself in any parts of the research process. The success of the medicine was solely owed to Roxanne's efforts.

He truly believed that Jack could have proposed that idea to anyone, but only Roxanne could have created the medicine.

If I were to listen to Jack and give him credit for the medicine developed, does it mean that I could also do the same and share a crazy idea with any Tom, Dick, and Harry, then request to be credited when the idea came true in the future? Obviously, this is absurd!

The medicine should be exclusively branded under Roxanne's name along with her research institute.

After Lucian knocked some sense into Roxanne, the latter became more confident and assertive when defending her idea in front of Jack.

That made Jack absolutely furious.

If it were not for the fact that the aroma lamp had not completely burned out, he would have opened the door and kicked Roxanne out of the car.

"Ms. Jarvis, you're truly... eloquent and full of wit. Why didn't I realize your talent in the past?" teased Jack.

Roxanne smiled but said nothing.

Then, a brief moment of silence filled the air.

Suddenly, Jack gazed at Roxanne and asked, "If I were to give in and sell the medicine at two hundred and seventy-one per box, would you be willing to work with Damaris Group?"

For some reason, Roxanne felt Jack's tone sounded a bit peculiar, as though he had a hidden agenda.

However, she could not pinpoint what it was. "No thanks. I'm sticking to my decision," she expressed her opinion without thinking twice.

Immediately, Jack's expression turned grim.

By then, the aroma lamp had already extinguished itself.

"Then, there's nothing else for us to talk about. You may leave now, Ms. Jarvis," Jack uttered coldly.

Roxanne nodded as she opened the door.

Before stepping out of the car, she could not help but leave him with a heartfelt reminder. "Mr. Damaris, I used to respect you a lot because you upheld the Damaris family's record of benevolence to good causes. I admired your superb medical skills and passion for saving lives. However, I didn't expect your ambition to be so different from mine. I thought that doctors should prioritize the needs of their patients, but all you cared about was making a profit."

She sighed softly before getting out of the car.

The livid Jack watched her leave with an expression of sullen resentment.

## **Chapter 1622 Fallen Sick**

Afterward, Roxanne visited a nearby restaurant for lunch.

Perhaps she had wolfed down her food too fast or was exhausted from work, as Roxanne fell into a daze and nearly fainted at the entrance.

Luckily, one of the restaurant employees grabbed her in time and helped her to regain her footing. After saying thanks, Roxanne headed back to the research institute.

She felt rather unwell for the rest of the afternoon. Yet, she pushed herself to complete all the required tests on the medicinal herbs.

It was already nightfall when Linda came to check on her.

"Dr. Jarvis, is there anything else I can help you with?"

Linda followed the distinctive work culture from abroad and adhered strictly to the working hours. She would not take the initiative to work overtime if it was not necessary.

Before knocking off, she would usually check on Roxanne if she was still in the research institute. If the latter did not need her help, Linda would leave work first.

Roxanne shook her head and said, "Nope, I'm about to leave as well."

Right before walking away, Linda noticed Roxanne's pale face. "Are you suffering from work fatigue, Dr. Jarvis?"

Genuinely feeling a little unwell, Roxanne said, "Perhaps. It's a busy period for me, but things will be fine once the pharmaceutical manufacturing process is back on track."

Linda was getting worried. "If the medicinal herbs are all good to go, I can take care of the rest. You should rest at home for two days, Dr. Jarvis, for you don't look very good."

Upon hearing that, Roxanne hesitated for a few seconds. Yet, in the end, she rejected Linda's offer. "It's okay, I'm fine. Don't worry about me."

After putting away all the tools used for testing, Roxanne grabbed Linda's hand and ushered her to the door. "Come on, let's leave together. I'm ready to call it a day."

Linda said nothing and followed her out of the research institute.

As soon as they got out, Roxanne saw Lucian waiting for her by the car.

He hurried over the moment he saw her coming out.

Linda flashed him a polite smile before leaving.

"You're here? Why didn't you tell me earlier..."

Right after Linda left, Roxanne felt slightly lightheaded and swayed on her feet.

Frowning, Lucian quickly strode toward her and grabbed her by the arm. "What's wrong?"

At that moment, she knew she was unwell. Despite that, she tried to keep calm so as not to make Lucian worry. "It's nothing serious. I overworked myself lately, but I'll be fine after getting some rest."

Lucian scrutinized her intently.

Moments later, he said with a gloomy look on his face, "You don't look well."

Roxanne recalled Linda saying the same thing too.

Do I really look that terrible?

As she looked up, she was met with his gaze, and she could see how worried he was.

“It’s nothing. I’m a doctor myself, so I would know if I were sick.”

She sent Lucian a comforting smile and added, “It’s getting late. I bet the kindergarten has dismissed the children. Let’s go pick them up now.”

With that, she went ahead and walked to the car.

Lucian observed her from the back as his expression grew increasingly grim.

It was not his first time seeing her knackered and bushed due to work. Yet, he had never seen her so exhausted to that extent.

Not only did she look pale, but her lip color had also gotten a few shades darker. She looked completely drained of energy!

The only conclusion he could arrive at was that Roxanne had fallen ill.

She’s just trying to force herself to appear strong because the pharmaceutical manufacturing process is finally showing some positive progress.

At that thought, Lucian swiftly made his way to the driver’s seat and drove off.

“I’ll get Cayden to pick the kids up. Let’s go to the hospital.”

## **Chapter 1623 Emergency**

Roxanne resisted right away when she heard where he was taking her to.

“I’m fine. How could I be sick when I was perfectly okay when I left the house in the morning?”

As she spoke, she checked her pulse in front of Lucian in hopes of proving herself right.

She could tell she was unwell, but she did not take the symptoms seriously.

All she wanted was to assure Lucian.

Hence, she took her time to check her pulse thoroughly.

Lucian slowed the car down while watching her from the rearview mirror.

As time ticked away, the tension in the atmosphere became more and more palpable.

Roxanne’s fingers were still placed on her wrist as a solemn look appeared on her face.

Something is wrong with my pulse!

She tried to check further but to no avail, and it caused her to be perplexed.

“How are you? Any discomfort?” Lucian could not wait any longer.

Roxanne snapped back to her senses and gazed at him.

Judging by his tone, she knew how worried he was.

The man clenched his jaw tightly. How he wished he could fly her to the hospital immediately!

Seeing so, her worries gradually disappeared as a warm and fuzzy feeling crept up on her.

She gave him a comforting smile. “It’s not a big deal. I merely overworked myself. I’ll be fine after having some traditional medicine for two days.”

She did not want him to feel anxious.

Furthermore, Roxanne did not think that the hospital could identify the root cause.

With some extra time on hand, she was more inclined to study her condition on her own.

Since her symptoms were not serious, Roxanne thought she could take her time and check on her health.

Conversely, Lucian remained resolute. “It’s best you get a thorough check-up at the hospital. A doctor can’t treat himself, and there’s no guarantee you took your pulse correctly. There’s a hospital nearby owned by Queen Group. I’ll take you there.”

Roxanne knew how worried he was, so she stopped insisting. “If going to the hospital would make you feel better, let’s go then.”

Subsequently, she placed her fingers on her wrist discreetly, trying to figure out what was wrong with her pulse.

Lucian, on the other hand, accelerated all the way.

Unbeknownst to Roxanne, her face looked exceptionally pale.

As time went by, Lucian started to sense something was amiss.

Roxanne’s lips became darker and darker, to the extent that they turned purple!

No, this doesn't look like a regular illness. She seems to have been poisoned!

"I'm going to call Cayden and ask him to pick the kids up."

He tried to engage her in a conversation while driving. "Is there any message you want him to pass to the children?"

At that point, Roxanne's consciousness was slowly drifting away. Finally, she realized how serious her condition was.

She felt so weak, and her eyelids were getting heavier by the second.

"..."

Before she could utter one more word, her head fell toward the door, and she fainted.

"Roxanne!"

Lucian floored the accelerator as he struggled to reach her hand.

He was shocked to find out how icy-cold her hands were.

Lucian kept rubbing her hands to keep her warm.

"We're almost there, Roxanne. Everything will be fine. I won't let anything happen to you..." He did not know if the words spoken were meant to comfort Roxanne or himself.

Suddenly, he thought of something and quickly whipped out his phone. He called the hospital and requested that all the medical specialists from each department be on standby.

After hanging up, he still did not feel at ease. Immediately, he instructed his men to search for the best specialists in the world and bring them over by private jets.

As soon as Lucian arrived at the hospital, Roxanne was rushed into the emergency room by the doctors and nurses.

## **Chapter 1624 Nothing Out Of The Ordinary**

The hospital director was keeping Lucian company outside the emergency room, and he comforted Lucian by saying, "Mr. Farwell, all the best doctors in the city are here. Mrs. Farwell is going to be fine!"

Lucian ignored those words and kept staring at the light on top of the emergency room door.

At that moment, images of Roxanne's face growing increasingly pale kept playing in his mind, and he felt utterly helpless. I had to watch the woman I love fall unconscious, and there was nothing I could do. I don't even know what happened to her! This is the second time something like that has happened to her! The last time around, she almost couldn't wake up. What's going to happen this time? If something bad were to happen to her...

With that in mind, Lucian narrowed his eyes ferociously. If something happens to her, I'm going after Jack! If Jack hadn't made life difficult for her, Roxanne wouldn't have overworked herself! None of this would've happened!

As he was boiling with rage, his phone suddenly rang.

Lucian quickly composed himself. When he was about to reject the call, he saw it was a call from Pippa. Oh! I meant to call Cayden and tell him to fetch the kids. However, Roxanne fainted, and I forgot about that.

Lucian answered the call and uttered in a hoarse voice, "I'm sorry, Ms. Ward. Please look after the kids for a while more. I'll get Cayden to fetch them."

Naturally, Pippa readily agreed.

After hanging up the phone, Lucian called Cayden and instructed him to fetch the kids.

"Mr. Farwell, what if the kids ask about Mrs. Farwell?" After what happened the last time around, Cayden felt he needed to get Lucian's opinion. Even if I need to lie to the kids later, I can tell myself that Mr. Farwell ordered me to do so.

Lucian went silent for a moment and glanced at the red light. In a deep voice, he answered, "Tell them Roxanne is going on a business trip, and I need to send her."

Cayden hummed in agreement, hung up the phone, and rushed to the kindergarten.

Meanwhile, Lucian kept his phone and tried his best to stay calm while standing outside the emergency room expressionlessly.

After some time, the door to the emergency room was finally pushed open.

Lucian grabbed the doctor's arm and asked coldly, "How did it go? Is Roxanne awake?"

The doctor was frightened by Lucian's aura. Upon glancing at the hospital director, the doctor stammered, "N-Not yet... We were about to do something to save her, but we found nothing wrong with Mrs. Farwell after we examined her..."

In other words, the doctor hadn't done anything after keeping Roxanne inside for so long.

"All of you are trash! Why didn't you tell me earlier? If something happens to Roxanne, I'm going after all of you!" Lucian fumed.

The rest of the doctors who came out of the emergency room were all trembling with fright.

Right then, the hospital director stepped forward and consoled, "Mr. Farwell, I've already looked for the best doctors in the world as per your instructions. They're still on the plane and will be here early tomorrow morning at the latest."

"Tomorrow morning?" Lucian repeated.

The hospital director could not stop himself from shuddering and changed the topic by saying, "Mrs. Farwell has now been transferred to the ward on the top floor. Would you like to see her? Perhaps you can wake her up."