

## Leaving The Country After Divorce Chapter 554

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Lucian's heart wrenched again the moment he saw her smile. He would rather she looked at him indifferently, as she always did, because her affection only reminded him of how things had been between them six years ago. Back then, he had been her world, yet he had taken her for granted. He did not appreciate her and had killed her love for him instead when she left in Brokenness.

In the end, their intimacy reminded him that things had ended up as they were because of him. At that thought, Lucian smiled ruefully and averted his gaze. Have some water. It'll make you feel better. Roxanne did not respond for a long while. Just as he was about to check on her again, he felt a weight on his chest. Lucian, the play. Was it really an accident? She asked, her voice fading away as she fell back asleep. Lucian loosened his arms when he realized she had dozed off. He hesitated for a while and put the glass of water on the table.

He figured Roksan might end up not sleeping well if he kept waking her up, so he tucked her and Estella in before going out of the room quietly. Back at the bar counter downstairs, Lucian sat down in front of the half emptied bottle of red wine that Roxanne had opened. I wonder how she felt when she quaffed all this. Lucian recalled the questions she had asked back in the room, and a sense of selfpity rose in his heart. He knew better than anyone else if what had happened during the play was an accident. It was just that he could not control himself when he saw her sleeping deeply.

But what bothered him was the fact that he did not have the courage to come clean with her. Lucian could not believe that there were actually things that he did not dare to admit. When Roxanne woke up the next morning, she felt a stabbing pain in her head. She turned her head and saw the glass of water and hangover pills on the table. Then memories of what had happened the night before came flooding back, and her eyes widened like saucers. I couldn't sleep, so I went downstairs to have some wine, and I ended up drunk. Then he carried me upstairs.

I even said some nonsense to him before he left, and he said, no, stop. I'm not going there. Roxanne wondered if Lucian would be bothered by her action, just as he had been six years ago. A self-mocking smile touched her lips when she thought of that.

When Estella saw Roxanne sitting beside her in the bed, she snuggled into her embrace and mumbled her name as she woke up.

Ms. Jarvis, morning, Roxanne greeted gently, looking at the girl in her arms. I dreamed that Daddy came yesterday, she said, still not fully awake. Roxanne's body stiffened.

Well, he really came. Roxanne hoped Estella did not hear what she had blurted out to Lucian.

The night before. Because if Estella did, Roxanne would not know how to face the girl anymore. What else did you dream about? Roxanne asked tentatively, trying to elicit more information. Estella frowned and thought hard until she finally shook her head. 1s Nothing else? It's weird. It was a super short dream. Roxanne. A silent sigh of relief.

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Estella remained in Roxanne's arms for a while. When she was finally awake, she pulled herself from Roxanne's embrace and looked up. Estella frowned when she noticed that Roxanne looked pale. Ms. Jarvis, are you okay? You don't look so good. Roxanne touched her face, surprisedly, wondering what the girl spotted as she had not looked at herself in the mirror since she woke up.

She had no idea how bad she looked at that moment. Oh, I drank a lot yesterday, and I even slept late. There's no way I look refreshed after so little sleep. Before Roxanne could reply, the girl wrinkled her nose and sniffed the air. Why do I smell alcohol? Roxanne smiled at her. I went down to have some wine yesterday because I couldn't sleep. That's probably why I look tired. I'm actually having a slight headache too. Upon hearing this, Stella reached out and touched her forehead carefully. The smile on Roxanne's face grew wider when she saw how much the child cared for her.

After some time, Estella slowly retracted her hand and glanced at the water and medication on the nightstand. Although she had no idea what those were for, she passed them to Roxanne nonetheless. An inexplicable feeling rose in Roxanne's heart when she saw that glass of water.

It reminded her of what she had said to Lucian the night before. Seeing that Roxanne did not take the water from her, Estella held it out closer to her, but the woman pushed it away because she did not feel like having it.

Her rejection confused the girl, who then tilted her head. It's cold. I'd like some warm water. Besides, I don't need that medication anymore, Roxanne said, forcing a smile. Since Roxanne had said so, Estella simply nodded quietly and put the pills back. Then she grabbed the glass carefully and got off the bed to get some warm water for Roxanne.

When she returned, Roxanne took the glass from her, had two sips, and then brought the girl to wash up in the bathroom. By the time they came out, Archie and Benny were already waiting for them in the room. Mommy, did you drink yesterday? The boys

asked. They smelled alcohol the moment they entered the room, and the pills on the nightstand confirmed their thought. Roxanne nodded.

There was no point trying to hide it from the boys. I couldn't sleep because of the bed, so I went down to have some.

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I know you didn't mean it. I just need some time to recover from the shock. Roxanne comforted Benny with a smile. The boy gazed at her doubtfully for some time. When he was finally convinced that she meant what she said, he nodded slowly, pursed his lips and gave her a hug. Let's have breakfast. It's getting late, Roxanne said, caressing his head. All the children nodded, and the four of them went downstairs together.

A five person breakfast was ready on the table by the time they got down. It seemed that Lucian had taken the food in and laid them out on the dining table. He was scrolling his phone on the couch when they came down. His sleeves were rolled up, revealing a pair of lean and muscular forearms. When Roxanne saw that he was working, she held the children's hands and asked them to walk silently, but the man still noticed them in the end. He looked up at Roxanne and their gazes met.

What had happened the previous night instantly came back to Roxanne's mind. She hoped she could find traces of his thoughts on his face, but even after seconds of staring at him, she found no sign of any emotions in his eyes. It was as if his nonchalant gaze was telling her that everything that had happened the night before was but a dream. I know it was real. I saw the glass of water and hangover pills on the table this morning. I can't believe I ended up telling him how I felt six years ago. Ever since Roxanne woke up that morning, her mind had been a mess as she tried to guess how Lucian felt about what had gone down the night before. Yet the man's indifference was upsetting. It seemed to show Roxanne that her worry was redundant and that she had been overthinking. His unconcern made Roxanne feel pathetic, so she withdrew her gaze from him and continued walking down the staircase with the children. Daddy.

Estella exclaimed the moment she solution. The man quickly shifted his gaze toward Estella and nodded lightly, putting away his phone and standing up. Good morning, Mr. Farwell, Benny greeted. Both Roxanne and Lucian were stunned when they heard the boy. Lucian was expecting Roxanne and the two boys to ignore him completely because the children had always disliked him. So when Benny greeted him without Roxanne telling him to do so, lucian was completely caught off guard.

Likewise, Roxanne was also astonished by Benny's abrupt act of affection. Yet on second thought, the adults knew why there was a change in his attitude.

The boy must have come to like Lucian after the man found him. It was just that they were not expecting such a radical change overnight. After seconds of silence, Lucian smiled back at the boy, nodding. Good morning, everyone. Let's have breakfast. The food has been there for a while. The children nodded and hurried toward the dining room.

Behind them, Roxanne still felt heavyhearted and she walked in slowly. Her anxious gaze wandered aimlessly as she tried her best not to make any eye contact with Lucian. When she went past the bar counter, she could not help but sneak a quick glance at the bottle of wine, trying to see how much alcohol she had taken that made her so drunk. There's less than a third left. Wait. Roxanne furrowed her brows. I may be tipsy yesterday, but I can vaguely remember drinking only half of the bottle of wine.

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Daddy, you don't look so good to, Estella remarked sitting down beside Lucian. A glance was enough for her to spot the abnormality. Instinctively, Roxanne turned and looked at Lucian, but the man turned away so she could only see his side profile.

I had a late night yesterday. I had a lot of work to finish, he replied casually. The girl frowned and took a deep breath before rubbing her nose. I smell alcohol too. Lucian was quiet. He put some food on Estella's plate and had no intention of answering her. Luckily, the girl was distracted by the food. She dropped the matter altogether. On the contrary, Roxanne kept chewing on Estelle words. I only had half of the wine, but there's only that much left in the bottle today.

He must have come back down to drink last night. Here. She took a good look at Lucian. He really doesn't look well. What was he thinking when he slept? Mommy,archie's and Benny's voices stunned a pensive woman. Sit down, they continued. Roxanne quickly recollected her thoughts and went over to sit down beside them with an apologetic smile. How are you feeling, Ms. Jarvis? Lucian asked abruptly. Roxanne froze momentarily and glanced up at him. The children stared at the two as well.

They had no idea where Lucian's question came from, but they were left hanging because the man did not continue talking. Lucian fixed his eyes on Roxanne as he waited for an answer. The woman came back to her senses and flashed a confident smile. I had a bit of wine and slept well after that. I woke up with a slight headache, but it's all good now. Thanks for asking, Mr. Farewell.

The conversation ended with a nod from the man. Meanwhile, the children were still perplexed. What did they just say? So he knew she was drinking yesterday and they

both looked like they didn't sleep well. Something must have happened without us knowing.

The kids could not help but feel suspicious about what had happened the night before, but they could not get any more information out of their interaction because the two adults were being secretive. The children pouted in disgruntlement and dug in that morning. Everyone was distracted during the meal.

After breakfast, none of the children dared to suggest that they take a trip because they knew the adults did not have a good rest. Roxanne was so absorbed in her thoughts that she did not realize what the children were thinking. As for Lucian, he was used to following Roxanne's plan when it came to the children. After all, he knew that the children liked her better since he had worked. He sat back on the couch after breakfast and buried himself in work.

After breakfast, they all sat in the hotel room, each engaged in their own thoughts. Seeing that there was nothing they could do, the children started playing hide and seek. Estella joined in as well. To her, it did not matter where they were. She was fine with anything as long as she was with Archie and Benny. Besides, Lucian and Roxanne were around as well. That was enough for her. The children's boisterous laughter rang out in the room when Archie and Benny caught Estella, despite her trying her best to hide. Ms. Jarvis. The girl cried out, tugging Roxanne's shirt. Yes? What's the matter, SIE? Roxanne asked absent mindedly. Play with us. The girl looked at her in anticipation.