

Mission To Remarry

Chapter 1051 Be Good

“Archie! Benny!” Estella finally broke into a smile. Archie and Benny were also excited to be reunited with Estella. The children sat together and observed each other as though it was their first meeting.

A while later, Archie frowned and asked, “Didn’t Mr. Farwell take good care of you? You seemed to have lost some weight.” Estella’s cheeks were obviously not as chubby as before.

Upon hearing that, Estella gave her own cheeks a pinch and smiled adorably. She tilted her head in contemplation before responding with a slight whisper, “I guess it’s because I was in low spirits.”

The boys stared at her anxiously. “Did Mr. Farwell bully you?” Estella’s mood had improved considerably when the boys appeared, and she found herself unable to contain her joyful grin.

She stuck her tongue out mischievously. “It’s because I didn’t get to see Ms. Jarvis and you both.” Daddy made me angry, so he dared not upset me further!

Archie and Benny relaxed at her answer. Benny couldn’t resist asking in concern, “Ms. Ward told us Mr. Farwell wants to transfer you to another school. Is that true?”

Estella gave a slight nod, followed by a shake of her head. “Yes, I’ve been transferred to a new school, but I only stayed there for one day.”

The boys were confused.

Estella puffed her cheeks and added, “I don’t like that school. I want to be with you both.”

Archie and Benny couldn’t bear to see her disappointment, so they quickly comforted her, “We want to be with you, too!”

Benny raised his arm in a rush to console her, only for his sleeves to roll down and expose the wound on his arm.

Estella immediately spotted the scar. She frowned in concern and demanded, “What is this? What happened?”

Benny flashed a guilty smile. “I fell down accidentally. Mommy has already tended to it.”

He slowly rolled down his sleeve and put his hand back down.

Estella pouted unhappily when she heard him mention Roxanne.

It has been a long time since I last saw Ms. Jarvis.

Benny belatedly realized he had said the wrong thing and cast a look in Archie's direction, silently asking him for help.

Archie had no idea how to salvage the situation.

Roxanne didn't want to see Estella, and no amount of persuasion would make her change her mind.

When the boys were racking their brains to figure out a way to change the topic, Estella suddenly perked up. "Why don't you take me with you?" she suggested.

Before Archie and Benny realized what she meant, she inched nearer to them and tugged at their sleeves, pleading, "Could I please come with you to your house so I can meet Ms. Jarvis?"

The boys couldn't bring themselves to say no as she was staring at them imploringly.

They agreed readily. "Sure. However, you must be obedient!"

Estella bobbed her head obediently.

After the three kids played in the room for some time, Estella glanced at the clock and urged, "Let's go. Daddy is going to come back anytime soon!"

Hearing that, Archie and Benny got to their feet hastily.

It would be hard for them to bring Estella with them once Lucian came home.

The kids sneaked out of Estella's room quietly.

Benny was the first to head downstairs to divert Catalina's attention.

"Ms. Catalina, I'd like some water." He gazed at Catalina and blinked innocently.

Catalina felt her heart melt, and she quickly turned around to pour him a cup of water without hesitation.

Chapter 1052 Below Minimum Temperature

Archie took the chance to sprint out of the mansion with Estella in tow. They then hid in a corner and waited for Benny to leave. Inside the mansion, Catalina had just poured a cup of water for Benny and assumed he was about to go upstairs.

To her surprise, Benny gave her a polite bow. "Thank you, Ms. Catalina. I shall take my leave now." Catalina frowned in puzzlement. "What about Archie?" They both came together, so she couldn't understand why they would leave separately.

Benny pursed his lips guiltily. "Archie left a while ago. He and I snuck in here without telling Mommy, and we were busted. She's probably giving him an earful right now."

Catalina nodded understandingly. She found their antics amusing. I can't believe they came this far just to visit a friend. Ms. Jarvis must be beside herself with worry.

She suddenly recalled what happened previously and offered, "I'll ask someone to give you a ride home." Benny waved his hands anxiously. "N-No need for that. My mommy is waiting for me outside," he stammered out a lie.

Catalina didn't ponder over his words and nodded. "Be careful." Benny bobbed his head obediently and trotted out of the mansion. Once he was outside, he quickly ran toward Archie and Estella.

Archie waved at them. "Let's go!" The other two agreed and trailed dutifully behind him.

After they exited the manor, Archie and Benny were especially vigilant. They had Estella with them, so it would be bad for them to encounter the older children they previously met.

Fortunately, they didn't come across those kids throughout their journey and successfully arrived at the junction.

After finishing her tasks, Catalina belatedly remembered that she had forgotten to invite the boys to stay for lunch. She assumed they had arrived home by now.

Without thinking much, she went upstairs to get Estella. However, there was no response even after she knocked on the door for some time.

"Ms. Estella? Can I come in now?" Catalina asked worriedly. She carefully pushed the door open to realize that the room was empty. There was no one in sight.

Catalina's heart sank to the bottom of her stomach. "Ms. Estella?" she raised her voice.

She searched the room frantically but to no avail. Just as she was about to call the bodyguards to search the surroundings downstairs, an idea dawned on her.

Benny's actions seemed weird. Did Ms. Estella leave with them both? The thought of that possibility startled Catalina.

I let Mr. Farwell down by failing to look after Ms. Estella when he entrusted her to me this morning before leaving for work. She managed to slip away while I was on duty.

Feeling both guilty and remorseful, Catalina instantly contacted Lucian. Meanwhile, Lucian was listening to Cayden reporting the work progress in his office.

When he received Catalina's call, he assumed Estella was throwing a tantrum again.

"Mr. Farwell, Ms. Estella left with Archie and Benny," Catalina told him apologetically.

A scowl appeared on Lucian's face when he learned about that.

Cayden became aware that the temperature in the office had dropped below the minimum.

He regarded his employer's expression warily. I wonder what happened to Ms. Estella.

A while later, he sensed the temperature rising back to normal.

Lucian said, "Got it. I'll pick her up there later." His voice was deep as usual.

With that, he ended the call.

Cayden was confused as he had no idea what just happened.

Why did Mr. Farwell's mood fluctuate?

Chapter 1053 Heart Softened

Mere moments after Catalina hung up, Sonya arrived at the Farwell residence. "Mrs. Farwell." Both Lucian and Estella weren't around, so she didn't know how to deal with Sonya.

Sonya gave a curt nod and glanced around the living room. "Where is Essie?" Catalina was at a loss for words. She could tell Lucian that the boys had taken Estella away, but she was too afraid to tell Sonya the truth.

After all, she knew that Sonya disliked Roxanne. "Uh, Ms. Estella..." Catalina hesitated. Sonya grew impatient. "Where is she? Is she upstairs? I'll go take a look myself."

With that, she strode upstairs. Catalina dared not stay anything and could only watch as Sonya headed upstairs to Estella's room. A while later, Sonya stormed downstairs wearing an unhappy scowl.

"I thought Essie is supposed to be homeschooled. Why isn't she around on a weekend?" she demanded. Giving Catalina a dubious look, she asked, "Did Lucian take her out?"

She pulled out her phone to call Lucian. Knowing it was impossible to hide the truth, Catalina revealed honestly, "Archie and Benny came earlier. I think... Ms. Estella left with them."

Sonya's expression turned as dark as thunder. "Who told you to let them in?"

I didn't tell Lucian to bring Essie back so she could meet the boys! It's pretty obvious where they would take her.

Sonya's voice was shrill and demanding.

When Catalina heard Sonya's question, she was filled with guilt since she had let the boys in secretly. She hung her head in shame silently.

Sonya glared at her. "I can't believe you failed to take care of her!"

With that, she stormed out of the manor.

I brought her back the first time, so I can do it again!

After witnessing Sonya's departure from the manor, Catalina hesitated briefly before dialing Lucian's number once again.

Back in Farwell Group's CEO's office, Cayden was still reporting the work progress to Lucian. It was his first time seeing Lucian answering so many calls at work.

"Mrs. Farwell came earlier. She learned that Ms. Estella was taken away and might be..." Catalina trailed off helplessly.

Lucian's brows furrowed. "Got it."

He ended the call and told Cayden, "Send the rest to my email."

Before Cayden could react, he noticed Lucian rising to his feet and hurrying toward the elevator.

Lucian's expression was grim as he exited the elevator and got into his car. He then proceeded to drive to Roxanne's house.

Previously, Estella couldn't stop wailing when his mother forcibly dragged her out of Roxanne's house.

He was worried that if Estella experienced another traumatic event, she would regress back to her old self.

She might even completely isolate herself from the outside world.

Lucian's expression darkened when the thought of that possibility crossed his mind. He stepped on the gas pedal.

At the same time, the kids' car rolled to a stop outside the mansion.

It had been a while since Estella had seen Roxanne, so the little girl was a bit anxious. She trailed behind the boys, wondering if Roxanne would still like her.

The boys had no idea what was on her mind and dragged her into the mansion.

Roxanne had just arrived home after working overtime.

She was about to head upstairs to see Archie and Benny. Right then, the mansion's door creaked open, and in walked the three kids, holding hands.

Roxanne thought she was hallucinating when she saw Estella at her house.

"Ms. Jarvis..." Estella greeted softly. Nevertheless, the little girl was too afraid to approach her.

Roxanne snapped out of her reverie. The sight of Estella's shy demeanor made her heart soften.

Chapter 1054 Mindful of Your Words

Upon realizing Roxanne didn't feel any animosity towards her, Estella leaped into her arms happily. Smiling, Roxanne wrapped her arms around Estella and asked gently, "Why are you with Archie and Benny?"

Hearing her question, Archie and Benny exchanged a sheepish glance before directing their gaze toward Estella.

Should we let Essie tell Mommy we sneaked her out, or should we tell her ourselves? It has been a while since Mommy and Essie last met. She won't get mad at Essie!

Estella didn't disappoint them, for she quickly revealed, "Archie and Benny came to visit me. I wanted to visit you, so I asked them to bring me here!" Her voice sounded smug.

Luckily, I followed them back. Otherwise, there is no telling when I'll get to meet Ms. Jarvis! Roxanne stiffened when she heard Estella's answer.

Essie ran away from home with Archie and Benny. If Lucian finds out about it, how should I explain it to him? He'll most probably assume the boys persuaded Essie to follow them back to my house.

With that thought in mind, she released her hold on Estella slowly. Panic flashed across Estella's face. "Ms. Jarvis, don't get mad!" Roxanne patted her head comfortingly and explained, "I have to inform your dad that you're here. Otherwise, he'll be concerned."

Estella muttered reluctantly, "I don't want Daddy..."

Daddy was the one who refused to let me see Ms. Jarvis, Archie, and Benny! Upon seeing Estella's reaction at the mention of her dad, Roxanne felt troubled.

She could finally understand Sonya and Aubree's feelings. Estella had a much stronger attachment to her than she did to Lucian. Therefore, it was understandable that they did not want the little girl to continue getting in touch with Roxanne.

Roxanne even came to the conclusion that they were correct, as Estella would soon be someone else's daughter. As a mother herself, she wouldn't want her child to have a close relationship with another woman.

However, Roxanne couldn't bring herself to ignore Estella, especially when the latter was pouting pitifully. "Be good. I'll talk to your daddy nicely," she said and forced out a smile.

Roxanne stood up to make a call to Lucian.

She had just scrolled through her contacts and found Lucian's number when the doorbell rang.

Hearing that, Roxanne paused in her tracks.

Estella clung to Roxanne's leg like a frightened little animal and hid behind her.

She thought Lucian was here to bring her back home.

Roxanne gave her head a reassuring pat and went to answer the door.

The sight of the newcomer caused them to blanch in shock.

Estella was so flustered that she grasped the edge of Roxanne's clothes tightly, desperately wanting to conceal herself completely behind Roxanne.

Archie and Benny pursed their lips and went to join Roxanne at the door.

Sonya's lips twisted mockingly as she observed their actions. She then directed her gaze toward Roxanne. "Catalina informed me that your boys had sneaked Essie out of the house, so I came here to verify if it was true. Turns out Essie is indeed at your house."

Roxanne furrowed her brows and refuted, "Archie and Benny simply brought Essie back here so that they could play together. They are just children, so please be mindful of your words."

Claiming that the kids "sneaked" Estella out of her house was too serious an accusation.

Sonya pinned her with a withering stare. "Why? Did I say anything wrong?"

Chapter 1055 Rude

Sonya turned her attention to Estella, who was hiding behind Roxanne. "Essie, come on. I'll bring you home." Estella had a firm grip on the edge of Roxanne's clothing. When she heard Sonya's words, she recoiled in fear.

I've just met Ms. Jarvis, so I don't want to go home yet. Besides, Grandma looks really scary. I just didn't want to attend the new kindergarten, that's all, but she wants to discipline me like the cruel Ms. Pearson!

Estella was overwhelmed by fear as she remembered Sonya's expression from that day.

Sonya realized that Estella was frightened of her, so she apologized softly, "I'm here to apologize, Essie. I must have scared you that day, haven't I? I promise it won't happen again. You're my precious princess, Essie."

She reached out and tried to pry away Estella's hand that was gripping Roxanne's clothes. It was frustrating to see her granddaughter preferring another woman over her.

At once, Archie and Benny dashed forward to stand in front of Roxanne and protect Estella. This time, they wouldn't let Sonya bring Estella away no matter what.

"Won't you control your kids?" Sonya shot an irritated glare at Roxanne. "They first sneaked Essie out of the Farwell residence, and now they are trying to prevent me from bringing her back. Why? Do they consider Essie to be their real sister?"

Conflicting emotions welled up in the boys' hearts when they heard that. We don't know who Essie's mommy is, but we are indeed her half-siblings.

With that thought in mind, they grew increasingly determined to protect her.

Roxanne was also reminded of the kids' relationship, but she didn't know how to reply to Sonya.

As Roxanne remained silent, Sonya took a step forward and attempted to push the boys out of her way.

Instinctively, Roxanne reached out to protect her children by gripping Sonya's wrist.

Both women were at a standstill for a moment before Sonya withdrew her hand with a scowl. She stated coldly, "Like mother, like son. It's no wonder they are so mischievous, given that you are their mother."

Roxanne believed that she had raised both boys well, so she felt a stab of anger upon hearing Sonya's criticism.

"Mrs. Farwell, you can criticize me all you like, but isn't it rude of you to vent your anger on the kids?"

Sonya valued her pride the most, and Roxanne's words had hit her sore spot. "What did you just say?" she shrieked.

Unfazed, Roxanne said, "You claim to feel sorry for Essie, but have you ever considered why Essie is afraid of you if you truly love her? It's because your supposed love is just fulfilling your own ego!"

Sonya was practically quivering in rage. She looked at her granddaughter, wanting to refute Roxanne's statement with facts.

However, Estella merely cowered behind Roxanne silently. Her behavior seemed to verify Roxanne's statement instead of supporting Sonya.

"I already told you last time that Essie can't handle stress, but you kept forcing her to act against her wishes. I doubt that you love her," Roxanne stated firmly.

She piled on the pressure, not giving Sonya any room to maneuver.

Sonya flew into a fit of anger. "You know nothing! Who are you to question me? Essie is a Farwell, so it's up to us to decide how we want to raise her. That has nothing to do with you!"

Chapter 1056 It Is Clear

Roxanne felt that this was unjust for Estella. "Just because Essie is a Farwell, does that mean she should be treated this way and not be allowed to befriend people she likes?"

Sonya sneered, "If you're talking about your sons, then she isn't allowed to befriend them." A flash of disappointment crossed Archie and Benny's faces when they heard that.

Does Grandma hate us that much? She won't even allow us to be friends with Essie. Roxanne was upset, too. "Mrs. Farwell, the children have nothing to do with our grudge."

Roxanne knew that the elderly lady's hatred for Archie and Benny must have stemmed from her, for they rarely interacted with Sonya.

With that thought in mind, she cast the boys an apologetic look. Though the boys had no idea about their own background, their biological grandmother ended up despising them because of her.

For one split second, Roxanne had the urge to reveal Archie and Benny's identities to Sonya so she would stop insulting her boys.

Sonya was not interested in arguing with Roxanne. Her attention was focused on Estella as she coaxed, "Come on, Essie. Let's go home."

Frightened by their argument, Estella shook her head vigorously in response to Sonya's words, her eyes reddened in fear. No! I don't want to leave. I want to stay and play with Archie and Benny!

A fresh swell of rage rose within Sonya when she realized Estella wasn't going to listen to her. Initially, she wanted to apologize to Estella for yelling at her previously.

Alas, she never imagined that Estella would choose Roxanne over her! Blind with rage, Sonya stepped forward with an ugly scowl, intending to push Roxanne away.

Roxanne held the kids' hands and retreated warily. Sonya was about to make a move when a car honked outside the mansion.

Roxanne instinctively glanced toward the source of the noise and saw Lucian alighting from his car. He strode over to them.

From afar, he was giving off an intimidating air.

Roxanne's heart sank at the sight. If Lucian insists on taking Essie with him, I can't stop him.

Feeling helpless, she abandoned her defensive attitude and allowed herself to relax.

Sensing the change in Roxanne's attitude, Sonya stopped warily and turned over her shoulder.

The sight of her son gave her confidence. "Lucian, I'm glad you're here. You must be here to pick Essie up, right?"

Roxanne cast her gaze downward, unsure of how to face him.

Lucian frowned slightly and said nothing.

Sonya shook her head in disbelief and added, "I can't believe those boys. They must have said something to Essie to make her follow them willingly. I'm not happy about this at all. I think it would be best if Essie stayed with me."

Estella's eyes widened in shock when she heard that. She promptly burst into tears.

Instantly, all eyes were upon her.

"No!" Estella wailed so hard that she couldn't even open her eyes wide. "I want Ms. Jarvis..."

She wanted Roxanne, so it was obvious what she didn't want.

Despite being humiliated, Sonya had to make an effort to restrain her anger in her son's presence. To try and comfort Estella, she coaxed, "Come on, stop crying. I'll buy you a present if you follow me home. Anything you want, I promise."

Estella wrapped her arms around Roxanne's leg tightly and said nothing. She merely shook her head vigorously while bawling.

Chapter 1057 Could She Stay a While Longer

There were several instances where Roxanne wanted to speak, but she decided to keep silent after remembering what Sonya said. The fact that Lucian was at the scene as well did not help.

On the other hand, Archie and Benny were incredibly anxious. "Stop it, Mrs. Farwell! Essie is crying her eyes out!" exclaimed Benny, who was on the brink of bursting into tears himself.

Pursing his lips, Archie quietly walked to the middle of Benny and Estella to hold their hands. Lucian stood opposite the four with a deadpan expression, only half a step behind Sonya.

Seeing how protective the two boys were of Estella and how Roxanne remained silent, Lucian frowned once again. "Even if you don't want me, you should have no problem going with your father, right?" Sonya thought she was being quite reasonable, but as soon as she finished her sentence, she heard her son's indifferent voice.

“Stay out of this. I’ll take Essie back,” uttered Lucian. When Roxanne heard that, she reluctantly shut her mouth. Then, she glanced coldly at Roxanne and Lucian before turning around to walk away.

She had something to say but would rather not do it in front of Roxanne, lest she got humiliated right before the younger woman.

Well aware of what was on his mother’s mind, Lucian quickly followed her.

“Were you aware that the two little ones went to the manor?” questioned Sonya as she looked suspiciously at her son.

To that, Lucian answered straightforwardly, “I was working overtime at the office, so I had no idea.”

“Then why are you here?” Sonya did not believe her son, but then she suddenly thought of something.

“Did Catalina tell you that I came over?” questioned Sonya displeasely.

Lucian did not answer the question directly, however. “Not only does Essie have a sensitive personality, but she also hasn’t been doing well recently. It won’t take much to trigger a relapse.”

“Do you think that was what I was trying to do?” After listening to Lucian, Sonya got upset. “I’m Essie’s grandmother. Why wouldn’t I want the best for her?” Roxanne was the one who heartlessly abandoned Essie, so what right does she have now to take the girl under her wing? Besides, Essie will be Aubree’s daughter sooner or later. There’s no point in letting the girl get close to an outsider.

At that point, Lucian felt as if he was about to have a headache. “If you really want the best for her, just go back now.”

Sonya did not expect that instead of siding with her, her son would try to drive her away. “Did you forget how Roxanne treated Essie? The girl may not have any idea, but are you just as oblivious?”

Knitting his eyebrows, Lucian chose to keep silent.

Sonya would rather not waste more time arguing with her son, so she stated, “I’ll go back now, but if I don’t see Essie when I return to the manor tomorrow, there’s nothing you can say to stop me from taking her back to the Farwell main residence.”

With that, Sonya shot another cold glance at Roxanne before turning around to leave.

Lucian then took a few seconds to recollect himself before heading for the mansion door.

“Mr. Farwell,” greeted Roxanne distantly, for she had no idea why Lucian came over.

At first, she thought he wanted to help Sonya take Estella away, but after witnessing how he convinced Sonya to leave, she was utterly baffled.

In response to Roxanne’s greeting, Lucian simply glanced indifferently at her before shifting his attention to Estella, who had reduced her bawling to sniveling after Sonya left.

“Sorry, Mr. Farwell,” voiced Archie suddenly.

When Lucian heard that, he looked at Archie with a raised eyebrow since he knew what the boy was apologizing for.

What Archie said next was also well within his expectation. “We know we shouldn’t have taken Essie away secretly, but we missed her a lot. Do you think you could let her stay a while longer?”

Chapter 1058 Who Are You

Even though Roxanne and Lucian knew what Archie would say, they were still moved when they heard the boy actually put his thoughts into words.

After looking down at Archie, Roxanne silently shifted her gaze to Lucian. If possible, I, too, wish Essie could stay a moment longer, at least until she calms down.

Unfortunately, she knew she had no right to make such a request. Only after keeping quiet for a few seconds did Lucian turn to meet Roxanne’s gaze.

Clenching her fists, Roxanne then looked away and pretended to be calm. “What do you think, Ms. Jarvis?” inquired Lucian in his deep voice.

Roxanne reluctantly replied, “I have no say in the matter since Essie is your child, Mr. Farwell. However, I do hope that you’ll respect her wishes.”

Since Roxanne did not intend to request him to let Estella stay, Lucian nodded understandingly in response and turned to Estella. “Then you should come home with me.”

Estella had just stopped crying, but after hearing her father’s words, her face began to scrunch up again.

Seeing how the girl was about to burst into tears once again, Benny and Archie got upset at Lucian. Daddy knew Essie isn't in a good mood, but he's still forcing her.

"Essie doesn't want to go back," protested Benny, confronting his father with determination.

Lucian was somewhat surprised by the boy's sudden statement.

Then, Archie also stepped forward to shield Estella with his body.

Even though he did not utter a word, his intention was crystal clear.

Instead of saying anything in response, Lucian simply looked silently at Roxanne, who was frowning slightly as soon as she noticed his gaze. The woman also wanted to say something for Estella's sake, but in the face of Lucian's attitude, she couldn't bring herself to say anything. Also, she was well aware she didn't have a say in the matter.

He probably would've listened to me back when he was still pursuing me, but now that he's already with Aubree... With that thought in mind, Roxanne was quickly filled with nothing but frustration.

"Archie, Benny, you guys go upstairs first and let Mr. Farwell talk to Essie," Roxanne persuaded the boys, who never expected her to say that.

Estella, on the other hand, thought that Roxanne did not want her around anymore, so she began bawling again while grabbing the woman's sleeve tightly, refusing to let go.

When the scene descended into chaos once again, Roxanne furrowed her eyebrows helplessly.

Lucian, however, remained standing with a deadpan expression at the door, staring at Estella and waiting for her to come to him.

It took quite a while before Roxanne finally found her voice. "Mr. Farwell..."

Even though Roxanne didn't have the right to say anything, she could no longer remain silent when Estella was bawling.

As Roxanne spoke, she reciprocated Estella's grip on her hand and found out that the little girl's palm was already sweating.

Heartbroken, Roxanne stated, "I know what you guys are thinking, but some things require time, especially considering Essie's condition."

Then, Lucian spoke straightforwardly, his words striking the sore spot in Roxanne's heart. "And who are you to concern yourself with Essie like that?"

The desire in Roxanne to speak up immediately dissipated when she heard Lucian. Her lips parted, but no words came out of her mouth; all she could do was tighten her grip on Estella's hand to comfort the girl.

Then, Lucian shifted his attention to Estella. "Come home with me. Mr. Lann will be coming over in the evening."

Since Estella had been so emotionally unstable recently, Lucian decided to summon James for professional help.

However, Estella shook her head vigorously in response and cried so hard that she could barely breathe properly.

Chapter 1059 Please Let Estella Stay

"Ms. Jarvis has a lot on her hands, so don't cause her any more trouble." Lucian bent down to grab Estella's unoccupied hand.

Estella's strength was drained after bawling for a long time, so she let go of Roxanne's hand the moment Lucian took her in his arms.

The woman instinctively tightened her grip but eventually let the girl go when she remembered the man's harsh words. With Estella in his arms, Lucian patted her comfortingly on the back before turning around to leave.

"Daddy!" Suddenly, a childish voice cried out from behind and caused Lucian to stop dead in his tracks. Roxanne's expression changed as she regarded her son.

Benny's voice was loud when he called Lucian that, and his face had turned bright red, probably due to anxiety. The moment the word left his mouth, Benny regretted his action.

He knew he shouldn't have done that, but he had no idea how else to stop Lucian from leaving.

At that moment, Benny did not have to lift his head to look at his mother because he could already sense her shocked gaze.

Panicking, the boy then turned to his brother for help.

Archie, knitting his eyebrows, pretended to be calm even though he was flustered as well. "Mr. Farwell, you're Essie's father, yet you don't know what she needs? If a psychologist can actually help her, then why was she mute before she met us?"

Benny quickly chimed in, "If we had a daddy, we wouldn't like it if he forced us to do things we don't want to do!"

The boys' words were enough to make the two adults waver once again, and Lucian began pondering. Benny's not wrong. If a psychologist were the solution, Essie wouldn't have refused to talk. However, how can I allow Essie to continue relying on Roxanne since she wanted nothing more than to cut ties with me?

Roxanne, on the other hand, was still feeling apprehensive after Benny called Lucian "Daddy."

For a moment, she even thought the boy had found out about his true identity already.

The next second, she was filled with intense guilt when she heard what Benny had to say. Lucian is the boys' father, and he's standing right in front of them. I just didn't tell them because I was selfish.

Guilt-ridden, the woman glanced at Lucian because she was worried he would sense something.

However, as soon as she lifted her head, she unexpectedly met Lucian's stern gaze.

Roxanne wondered if her eyes were playing tricks on her when she noticed resentment in the man's eyes.

"Even if you need me to..." At that point, Roxanne could not help but speak up again. However, she glanced concernedly at Estella mid-sentence and decided to skip the rest. "We need to be patient with Essie's condition. If necessary, I'll cooperate with you, Mr. Farwell."

Roxanne knew the Farwell family wanted to distance Estella from her, so in order to make the process easier for Estella, she was willing to cooperate with the family to gradually cut down on the time she spent with the girl.

Even though Archie and Benny had no idea what the adults were talking about, they had an uneasy feeling.

Meanwhile, Estella was still crying since she was unsure what would happen to her.

"If possible, let Essie stay for today," Roxanne lowered her eyes and pleaded without much expectation.

The second Archie and Benny heard that, their eyes lit up.

The boys then stared expectantly at Lucian, whose face remained expressionless.

Only after a while did the man finally speak. "I'll leave her in your care then. Feel free to call me anytime should you have trouble handling her, and I'll come over to pick her up."

Chapter 1060 Refusing to Transfer Schools

Roxanne was dumbfounded since she did not expect Lucian to agree to their request so easily. She finally regained her senses when Estella came running toward her, sobbing after her father set her down on the floor.

“Ms. Jarvis...” The girl quickly wrapped her arms around Roxanne’s thigh. After caressing Estella’s head, Roxanne looked up at Lucian, who then nodded indifferently at her and glanced at the three children before heading to his car.

Only after watching Lucian drive away did Roxanne take the children into the living room. “You two look after Essie. I need to make a phone call,” instructed Roxanne.

Archie and Benny immediately nodded in response and did their best to comfort Estella while Roxanne hurried into a corner to call Jack, who did not take long to answer.

“What’s up, Ms. Jarvis?” inquired Jack.

“Sorry, but I’m afraid I’ll have to take another rain check,” replied Roxanne apologetically.

According to their schedule, the two were supposed to provide medical consultation at a nursing home that afternoon, but because of how upset Estella was, Roxanne could not leave.

In response, Jack chuckled unconcernedly. “It’s okay; we can handle things there without you. What I’m more worried about is you. Are you sick?”

As soon as Jack finished his sentence, he could vaguely hear crying from the other end of the line.

Are the boys the ones who are sick? Jack furrowed his eyebrows confusedly.

“I’m fine. I just... suddenly have a private matter to tend to,” answered Roxanne after glancing at the bawling Estella.

Jack did not overthink the situation and simply assumed that he guessed correctly. “I’ll let you get back to your private matter then.”

After Roxanne thanked Jack gratefully, the two ended the phone call without saying anything else.

Then, Roxanne hurried back to the children.

“Mommy, we couldn’t get Essie to stop crying.” Benny had disappointment written all over his face.

After patting the boy's head, Roxanne lowered herself to pick up Estella. "It's okay now, Essie. You have Archie, Benny, and me here."

As if she felt a sense of security in Roxanne's arms, Estella finally opened her tear-filled eyes to look at the woman.

Roxanne quickly patted Estella on the back when she sensed a change in the girl's emotion, trying to calm her down so she wouldn't cry too hard.

"I d-don't want to transfer schools!" uttered Estella, choking on her tears.

Roxanne was relieved to hear Estella speak but quickly became distressed because of what the girl said.

Even though Roxanne knew what Estella wanted, there was nothing she could do about it.

"Ms. Jarvis... I want you, Ms. Jarvis..." voiced Estella as she continued to sob.

Immediately, Roxanne responded, "I'm here. I'm here with you."

The two boys then climbed up the couch and carefully tugged Estella's sleeve. "We're here too, so you don't have to cry anymore."

"I..." Roxanne could not bear to see Estella cry again, so she decided to tell a white lie to appease the girl. "I'll speak to your father about it."

"I want you to be my Mommy," added the teary-eyed Estella.

Gulping, Roxanne dared not promise Estella that.

However, her heart could not help but break a little every time she heard the girl sob.

Only after a while did Roxanne respond, "I'll always like you no matter what our relationship is. Would you dislike me if I couldn't be your mother, Essie?"

Chapter 1061 Something Is Off

Estella was clearly alarmed by what Roxanne said. She couldn't stop crying and shaking her head. Roxanne wiped the girl's tears away and uttered softly, "In that case, don't cry anymore." Archie and Benny helped do the same.

After Roxanne said she liked Estella, the two of them repeated their mother's sentiment. "It doesn't matter what our relationship is. We'll still like you, Essie!"

While that stopped Estella from sobbing further, she still felt quite upset. "But... if I change school, I won't be able to see you two anymore."

Benny promised, "Even if you do, we'll still visit you to play with you! If Mr. Farwell and the others forbid us from doing so, we'll just sneak our way in!"

Having listened to the conversation among the children, Roxanne thought, I don't think I'll let them meet each other again after this.

However, Estella seemed to be moved. Roxanne didn't want to burst their bubbles, so she agreed with her silence.

The three of them talked with Estella for a long while, and only then was her mood finally lifted again.

Benny recounted everything interesting that had happened in the kindergarten over the past two days.

When Roxanne finally saw Estella smiling from listening to Benny's story, she breathed a sigh of relief.

"You should keep her company for a while, Archie. I have something I need Benny's help with." She was still wondering why Benny had called Lucian Daddy and wanted to ask him about it.

The kids were in a happy mood at that moment, so none of them gave her statement much thought.

Benny merely thought his mother needed his aid to decoding something again, so he followed her upstairs enthusiastically.

It wasn't until he noticed that his mother was heading toward their bedroom instead of the study that he started to feel guilty.

After he entered the room, she closed the door.

"Mommy..." Benny lowered his head guiltily.

Seeing that, Roxanne felt something was amiss.

She knew the children too well. She could tell from a glance what he was feeling.

Suddenly, she panicked a little.

However, lest she misunderstood the boy, she asked, "Earlier, why did you suddenly call Mr. Farwell Daddy?"

Benny lowered his head and was at a loss for words.

He was great at computers, but not confrontations like those.

In the past, his brother would always help him navigate through situations like those, but at that moment, he was alone.

He knew his mother was smart. If he answered her question too slowly, she would get suspicious.

At that thought, he could only steel himself and utter, "I didn't call Mr. Farwell Daddy. I just wanted to say that he's Essie's Daddy and that he can't make her cry." He raised his head to look at Roxanne's countenance. "But I got a little too anxious and only remembered to say the words 'Daddy.'"

Roxanne knitted her eyebrows slightly, unsure of what to believe. The children were shocked by what happened earlier, and Benny's answer does make sense. However, I can't help but feel that something's off.

"Also..." Seeing that his mother was still skeptical of the matter, Benny had a brilliant idea and started acting pitifully. "When I saw Mr. Farwell hugging Essie, I thought Archie and I would be hugged the same way if our daddy was still alive!"

That hit a soft spot in Roxanne's heart. She put away her suspicions and stared at her boy apologetically.

Chapter 1062 Spill the Beans

"I'm sorry." Roxanne lowered her head. Upon hearing that, Benny knew Roxanne had bought his lie and let out a sigh of relief in secret. He lowered his guard even further when he heard his mother apologizing to him.

He tugged her sleeve obediently. "I don't blame you, Mommy!" Roxanne forced a smile, but she still felt remorseful. Benny tilted his head and blurted out his thoughts, "If you really feel sorry, make Mr. Farwell our daddy! Archie and I like him a lot!"

Roxanne's heart clenched when she heard that. It was the first time she had heard the boy express his opinion about Lucian to her. Is it because they're related by blood that they love him so much?

Roxanne felt the urge to tell Benny about his background, but then she thought about her relationship with Lucian. If Lucian learns that the boys are his children, he won't let them stay by my side.

At that thought, she pinched her palm silently and swallowed the words on the tip of her tongue.

“Mr. Farwell is going to marry someone else in the future, and there’s nothing I can do about it.” She patted his head comfortingly. “However, I can promise you that your future daddy will be someone you and your brother will like!”

Naturally, Benny was disappointed when his proposal was rejected by his mother. However, he found himself understanding his mother’s decision when he recalled her precarious relationship with his father.

He was determined to help his parents reconcile with each other. Unwilling to face Benny’s disappointed countenance, Roxanne stood up and grabbed his tiny hand. “Come on. Let’s head back to Essie.”

The boy bobbed his head and followed her downstairs. Archie and Estella were planning how to encourage their parents to make peace with each other.

When they heard footsteps, they swiftly separated from one another like frightened little animals and sat on the couch, acting as though nothing had happened.

Roxanne stared at them with amusement. “What secrets were you two talking about?” Calmly, Archie replied, “I was just telling Essie that Benny is very good with computers.”

Estella nodded in cooperation. “Mm-hmm! I’m great at it, too!”

Roxanne turned to the girl, surprised. No one would’ve expected someone as adorable and innocent-looking as her to be skilled at computers. I certainly didn’t. Then again, she is Lucian’s child. In that context, it’s not shocking to learn she has a very high IQ.

“What did you need Benny’s help with, Ms. Jarvis? If he can’t help you, maybe I can give it a try,” Estella offered.

Roxanne glanced at Benny before grinning at the other children. “It’s nothing much. I’m not that familiar with computers, so I asked him to teach me a thing or two about a problem I was having.”

Benny nodded in agreement.

While Estella didn’t think much about her lie, Archie had a good guess why his mother had asked his brother for help. He was slightly worried as he wondered how Benny had answered her questions.

He noticed his little brother’s expression appeared a bit odd. He didn’t spill the beans, did he?

He couldn’t help but panic.

When Benny sat by his side, he asked in a whisper, "Did you let it slip?"

He only relaxed when his brother assured him that didn't happen.

Chapter 1063 Make Them Reconcile

The brothers played with Estella until very late into the night because she would be leaving the next day. It was only when Roxanne went to the boys' bedroom to call for Estella that she reluctantly left.

Roxanne wondered what the children talked about when she noticed how spirited Estella appeared upon returning to her bedroom. "Ms. Jarvis," Estella called out in her piping voice abruptly while Roxanne was helping her take a bath.

Roxanne stopped what she was doing and looked at Estella in confusion. The girl stared at her with wide eyes and asked, "Can you really not be my mommy, Ms. Jarvis?"

Earlier, while she was still crying, she had already asked that question, and Roxanne had already answered no. Roxanne was surprised the girl would ask that again.

Afraid that her answer would cause Estella to cry once more, she contemplated the words she should use.

Estella, however, seemed to have known Roxanne's answer. She lowered her eyes and said aggrievedly, "I know you don't like Daddy because he keeps angering you, Ms. Jarvis, and I'm Daddy's daughter. You will definitely not want to become my mommy."

"That's not what I meant. It's just that... your daddy is already engaged to someone, so he has to marry that person in the future." The girl's eyes lit up. "This means you actually like Daddy!"

Hearing that rendered Roxanne speechless for a few moments. The children always have a false dichotomous perspective on everything. Just because I denied the claim that I disliked Lucian, she thought I actually liked him, and I couldn't be with him solely because of Aubree. If I rebut her again, it'll be the same as admitting I dislike Lucian and, consequently, her as well.

At that moment, she had no idea how to explain the situation properly to the girl.

Estella scrutinized Roxanne's expression.

When she saw the troubled look on the woman's face, a sly glint flashed past her eyes. She recalled the plan she had devised with the boys.

Ms. Jarvis and Daddy had a heated argument that they still haven't gotten over. We need to come up with a plan to make them reconcile quickly! "It's Daddy's fault for pissing you off, Ms. Jarvis. I'll teach Daddy a lesson on your behalf!"

Roxanne had no rebuttals to offer. It's like she's implying Lucian and I are already a thing.

"Essie..." She changed the topic resignedly. "It's getting late. Let's hurry so you can rest early."

Estella beamed, although it was difficult to tell if it was because she had fun talking about the matter or because Roxanne did not deny her conclusion.

In response to Roxanne's words, the girl nodded obediently.

Roxanne was a little absent-minded as she dried Estella with a towel because her mind was still distracted by the emotions the girl had elicited in her.

"I want to listen to Sleeping Beauty, Ms. Jarvis!" Proactively, Estella crawled up to the bed and stared at the woman with anticipation, as if stars were hiding in her eyes.

Sleeping Beauty... Roxanne's mind was thrown into further chaos as she inadvertently recalled the play from before.

However, she couldn't bear to reject the girl's request when she saw how excited the latter was.

As she narrated the fairy tale, the events that took place during the play repeated in her mind like a movie.

When she reached the kissing scene, she found it hard to continue the story.

Thankfully, the girl had already fallen asleep.

After releasing a sigh of relief, Roxanne lay beside Estella with a complicated feeling.