

Mission To Remarry

Chapter 1101 What Is Going On

When the two women arrived at the club, Jonathan had already sobered up a little. He tensed up when he saw Aubree entering the room with his sister.

Jonathan vaguely recalled Lucian making a call in his drunken stupor earlier, but he thought Lucian had made a call of regret to Roxanne with the courage of his drunken state.

Even if it was not a call to Roxanne, Lucian should have called Cayden instead.

Alas, Lucian had called Aubree.

So all that talk earlier was a waste of my breath! Lucian has really given up on Roxanne.

"Lucian, how do you feel?"

Aubree instantly went to Lucian's side the moment she stepped into the room, and she began studying the man with concern.

Lucian had drunk more than Jonathan, and by then, he was already out of his mind.

His only reaction to Aubree's voice was a small nod and a slight furrow of his brows.

"Aubree, you should bring Lucian back first. Leave my brother to me," Frieda suggested.

Aubree agreed to it with no hesitance. Nonetheless, she had trouble lifting Lucian into an upright position.

Just as she was about to head outside to ask for help from the server, Cayden suddenly came toward her.

"Ms. Pearson, where is Mr. Farwell? He called me earlier and told me to send you both home."

As it turned out, Lucian had contacted Cayden right after calling Aubree.

Even when he was drunk, he still could not let his guard down around Aubree.

The sight of Cayden made Aubree narrow her eyes. As she shifted her body to make way for Cayden, she said, "He's inside. Help him out of the room, will you?"

Cayden nodded and hurried inside. He first brought Lucian into the car. Then he helped Frieda support Jonathan into Frieda's car.

Before leaving, Cayden said worriedly, "Ms. Queen, are you sure you're fine by yourself?"

Frieda waved her hand nonchalantly. "Don't worry. Jonathan's not one to kick up a fuss after he gets drunk. He'll just sleep like a pig later. Go ahead and take care of Lucian."

It was only then Cayden returned to Aubree's car.

Aubree was seated in the back seat, and beside her was the drunk and unconscious Lucian.

Shortly after, Cayden started the car and drove toward the Farwell residence.

While they were on their way to their destination, Aubree glanced at the man beside her from the corner of her eyes.

Even though they had been engaged for six years, it was her first time sitting beside Lucian in this way.

In the past, Lucian had avoided her as if she was a plague.

Right as Aubree was reveling in her feelings of pleasant surprise, the car abruptly

lurched forward.

Lucian was already in an awkward position, and after the lurch, he was even closer to Aubree.

A glint danced across Aubree's eyes when she saw how much closer she and Lucian was. Then she glanced at Cayden.

When she realized he was not paying attention to the back seat, Aubree carefully reached out to tug Lucian's sleeve and pull him closer to her.

Now, Lucian Farwell was leaning against her.

Aubree was simultaneously excited and nervous.

Right then, Cayden stopped the car at a red light and instinctively glanced at the rearview mirror.

His heart skipped a beat when he saw how Lucian was intimately leaning against Aubree.

What's going on?

Cayden already sensed something off when he saw Aubree at the room entrance earlier.

I recall that Mr. Farwell doesn't like Aubree and is doing his best in courting Roxanne. Why is he suddenly so close with Aubree, then? Why did he ask Aubree to send him back when he was drunk?

Seemingly sensing his gaze, Aubree lifted her head to look at Cayden.

Cayden shuddered and quietly looked away.

Chapter 1102 A Rare Opportunity

By the time they arrived at the Farwell residence, Lucian still had not woken up.

Cayden took Lucian by the arm and helped him into the mansion.

As they went up the stairs, Cayden accidentally staggered a little, and Aubree reprimanded him immediately. "Watch it!"

Knowing that it was his fault, he did not say anything.

Meanwhile, Estella was wide awake and waiting inside her room as she hoped to talk to her father.

When she heard Aubree's voice, she seemed to sense something as though she was telepathic. She went to open the bedroom door and peeked out cautiously.

As soon as she did so, she saw Lucian being helped up the stairs by Cayden.

She ran over worriedly and tugged at Lucian's sleeve cautiously. "Daddy?"

Aubree was in buoyant spirits after what happened in the car.

Seeing how concerned the little girl looked, she smiled and said reassuringly, "Your daddy had too much to drink, but you don't have to worry. I'll take good care of him."

However, Estella did not even bother to spare her a glance. Instead, she fixed her gaze on Cayden, waiting for him to explain.

The smile on Aubree's face froze as she followed Estella's gaze and looked toward Cayden.

He felt a sense of helplessness with both of them staring at him.

In the end, however, he was considerate of Estella's feelings and smiled as he repeated what Aubree had said. "Ms. Estella, Mr. Farwell just had too much to drink. He'll be as right as rain after a good night's rest. It's getting late, so you should quickly go to bed."

Estella pressed her lips together and shook her head, stubbornly following close behind

them.

The last time Daddy got sick, he didn't allow me to take care of him. This time, I'll look after him no matter what they say!

Watching the little girl follow them into Lucian's bedroom, Aubree's brows drew together almost imperceptibly. She said to Cayden, "I'll stay here. You can take her to her room." He seemed somewhat hesitant upon hearing that.

Mr. Farwell was the one who told me to come over. If she does something to him while I'm gone, how will I explain it to him tomorrow?

Estella was also uncooperative. She held onto the hem of Lucian's shirt tightly and uttered a firm refusal in her piping voice. "I don't want to! I want to stay with Daddy!"

Aubree clenched her jaw upon seeing that neither of them would do as she said.

However, she quickly shifted her expression and crouched in front of Estella with a bright smile.

"Be a good girl, Essie. Your daddy is already asleep, so there's nothing you can do here. You should go and rest."

Raising her gaze and looking at Lucian, Estella saw that the latter was fast asleep indeed.

Here, Cayden piped up, "Ms. Estella, it's getting late. I'll take you to your room."

Although Estella still felt reluctant to do so after hearing that, she still nodded obediently.

As she left, she turned around and glanced at Lucian every couple of steps to check that he had not woken up before slowly following Cayden back to her room.

Finally, only Lucian and Aubree were left in the former's bedroom.

Her gaze reflected the myriad of thoughts in her mind as she looked at the person sleeping soundly on the bed.

We're the only ones in the room now. That's a rare opportunity. As long as I play my cards right, the position of Mrs. Farwell will be mine by tomorrow morning. Regardless of how unwilling Lucian will be, he'll have no choice but to give in. It's just that I'll have to take some risks if I want to do that. If he wakes up midway, my plan will backfire.

Aubree weighed the pros and cons of the matter for a long time. In the end, she could not withstand the temptation of being Lucian's wife and slowly approached the side of the bed.

"Lucian, it must feel uncomfortable to sleep like this. Let me help to wipe you down."

Chapter 1103 What A Nuisance

Naturally, Lucian could not hear her voice, and Aubree only said it once. After she spoke, she went to get a towel, dampened it, then used it to wipe his face.

Despite being as careful as she could, she was not as gentle in her ministrations as she had never done something like that before.

Lucian knitted his brows in discomfort and subconsciously moved to avoid her hand.

Seeing that, she stopped what she was doing and leaned close to his ear. She whispered, "It also doesn't feel nice sleeping in those clothes, right? I'll help you take them off."

After saying that, she stretched out her hands carefully and undid the buttons on his shirt, one after another.

When she reached the third button, he frowned and grabbed her wrist.

Her heart skipped a beat, and her eyes gleamed with anticipation. She thought that

something was about to happen between them.

To her dismay, Lucian pushed her hand away in displeasure and mumbled, "Don't touch me!"

Then, he released her hand and turned on his side with his back toward her.

The look on Aubree's face changed instantly. Nonetheless, she forced herself to calm down and reached out tentatively to nudge Lucian lightly.

"Lucian, are you awake? Lucian?"

However, he had fallen back into a deep slumber and did not respond.

Even so, she dared not resume her attempt to undress him.

After pondering for a moment, she mustered her courage and walked to the other side to stand before him. She lifted his arm, intending to lie down next to him and create the false impression that he had pulled her into his arms.

Just as she did that, the sound of footsteps came from the direction of the door, and she froze abruptly.

Cayden had not closed the door when he left earlier. Hence, he saw Aubree pulling Lucian's arm as soon as he walked to the door. He had no idea what she was trying to do.

Upon a closer look, he also noticed that someone appeared to have unbuttoned Lucian's shirt.

He furrowed his brows and looked at Aubree warily. "Ms. Pearson, why are you still here?"

She was momentarily overcome with guilt. However, she quickly composed herself and let go of Lucian's hand. With a smile, she explained, "I was worried there'd be no one to take care of him if everyone left."

"What were you doing just now?" Cayden pressed suspiciously.

A faint flush crept across her cheeks as she suppressed the guilt within her. "Lucian didn't look like he was sleeping comfortably. That's why I wanted to help him turn to the other side. Now that you're here, you can do it."

Cayden stepped forward with a neutral expression and helped Lucian turn over.

However, as soon as he did that, Lucian shifted back to his original position.

Clearly, he had turned over by himself earlier and was not sleeping in an awkward position as she had claimed.

Cayden shot Aubree a puzzled look, and the latter smiled sheepishly.

"I'll take care of Mr. Farwell. You can go and get some rest first," he said, politely hinting for her to leave.

Needless to say, she was reluctant to give in just like that. "Lucian called and asked me to come over, so how can I abandon him like this? I think it's best if I take care of him."

Hearing that, Cayden's gaze flitted toward Lucian, who was still fast asleep. He could guess the latter's thoughts on the situation.

Mr. Farwell did indeed ask her to come over. However, now that I think about it, he only just broke up with Roxanne and probably doesn't plan on progressing his relationship with Aubree so quickly, right?

With that thought in mind, he added, "Mr. Farwell needs to get changed and wash up. Since you can't help with those, I should take over. You can rest in the guest room. I'll inform you once he's awake."

His response annoyed Aubree.

If it wasn't for Cayden, things might have progressed to the point of no return tonight. What a nuisance he is!

Nonetheless, she could not argue with him and had no choice but to agree coldly. "I'll go and rest in the guest room, then. Remember to let me know when Lucian wakes up."

Chapter 1104 You Stayed With Me All Night

Aubree spent the night in the same guest room she stayed in during her previous visit.

As she entered the room, she could not help but recall what she had done last time.

For a moment, I even thought of using the same method to teach that little b*tch another lesson to see if she dares to be disobedient again!

However, it was only a fleeting thought because, ultimately, she was still afraid Lucian would find out about it.

Now that she had hope, she would never be able to forgive herself if she lost it due to another mistake she made.

As Aubree lay in bed, the scene from earlier in Lucian's bedroom kept playing through her head.

I was so close to becoming Mrs. Farwell! If only Cayden hadn't appeared!

Aubree stayed up all night, waiting for Cayden to come over and inform her that Lucian had woken up.

She never expected to wait until the sun was high in the sky, and he still had not come over.

The memory of Cayden's attitude toward her the night before made Aubree grit her teeth. She got up from the bed and freshened up briefly before knocking on Lucian's bedroom door.

"Lucian, are you awake? It's me, Aubree."

Soon, she heard footsteps inside.

Cayden opened the door and greeted the person standing outside politely. "Ms. Pearson, Mr. Farwell has not yet woken up. If you're up, you can go back first."

Aubree responded with a frown, "In that case, I'll wait for Lucian to wake up before going back. Otherwise, I'll be worried."

"There'll be a meeting at the company in a bit. It'll be almost time for Mr. Farwell to head to the company when he wakes up," Cayden lied with a straight face.

In other words, he was telling Aubree not to bother because his boss did not have time to spend with her.

However, she did not seem to catch his hint as she proceeded inside the bedroom.

As Cayden had mentioned, Lucian was still sound asleep on the bed.

His brows were furrowed, possibly due to the hangover.

"Lucian?" Aubree called twice, carefully.

Seeing no response from him, she gingerly reached out, wanting to smooth the lines between his brows as gently as possible.

However, before her hand could touch his face, he suddenly opened his eyes. They were bloodshot from the hangover, and his voice was also incredibly raspy.

"What are you doing?"

Lucian regarded the person before him with wariness and indifference as he had just woken up and had not recalled the events of the night before at that moment.

Aubree's hand froze mid-air, and she could not help but feel somewhat guilty when she

met his guarded look. "I... I noticed that you were frowning, so I thought of helping you—"

"That won't be necessary," he interrupted in a cold tone before she could finish speaking.

After saying that, he placed his weight on the bed and slowly sat up.

He had a splitting headache, and the memories of the previous night were slowly coming back to him.

I drank with Jonathan in the club and then... I got drunk and called Aubree to come over.

Lucian pinched the area between his brows as he recalled that, and his expression gradually relaxed. "You stayed here with me all night?" he asked.

Despite having a slightly stiff appearance, Aubree still kept a smile on her face as she replied, "I couldn't help worrying about you since it's unusual for you to take the initiative to ask me to take care of you."

She initially thought that if she said that, Lucian would at least show some care for her.

However, she never anticipated him just asking, "Where's Cayden?"

That made Aubree choke a little as she turned sideways so that he could see the door.

Cayden stepped forward respectfully. "Mr. Farwell."

Lucian was merely confirming that he did not spend the night alone with Aubree, so seeing his assistant in the room put his mind at ease. He nodded and said nothing more.

"Mr. Farwell, it's time for Ms. Estella to go to school," Cayden carefully said after checking the time.

He had been assisting Lucian with company matters as of late and was unaware that Estella had transferred schools.

Chapter 1105 Forget Roxanne As Soon As Possible

Lucian knitted his brows when the subject of Estella attending school was brought up, and he shifted his gaze to Aubree.

"Why don't you allow me to send her there since it's inconvenient for you to do it now?"

Cayden took the initiative to volunteer.

In the past, his boss would always get him to pick up Estella from kindergarten when he had matters to attend to, so Cayden thought it would be the same this time.

However, as soon as he was done speaking, he noticed that Lucian's gaze had fallen on Aubree, who was standing to the side, and a feeling of dread crept into his chest.

Sure enough, his boss' voice rang out in the next second. "That won't be necessary.

Essie has transferred to another school, and you don't know where the new school is."

Hearing that, Cayden widened his eyes in shock.

Transferred to another school? How could Ms. Estella casually switch schools, given her condition? And without me knowing it, too?

"Aubree," Lucian called her in a gentle tone.

The way he addressed her filled her heart with joy. "What's the matter?" she inquired.

Lucian hesitated for a moment but still spoke in the end. "Please send Essie to her new school."

Since I've already decided to cut ties with Roxanne, Essie should also get a fresh start.

Let's start by getting familiar with the new kindergarten.

Even though Aubree was over the moon, she did not forget to show her concern for the little girl.

"Essie doesn't seem to like the new school. Do you really have to let her go there? I don't think it's necessary to go to kindergarten. Why don't you homeschool her? That works too."

However, Lucian opposed it in a deep voice, "Given Essie's current condition, she needs to interact more with people so that she can adjust to the new environment sooner."

Aubree did not dare to continue persuading him, so she merely nodded. "I'll go and wake her up then."

With that, she bade goodbye to Cayden, then turned and left the room.

Cayden hesitated for a long time, but in the end, he could not help but remark, "Mr. Farwell, are you sure you want Ms. Pearson to send Ms. Estella to school? I can also do that if you provide me the address."

"It's fine. Let her do it," answered Lucian.

Mother is right. Since I've decided to keep the engagement going, Essie has to learn to get along with Aubree.

After saying that, he got out of bed.

Cayden quickly dissuaded him, "Mr. Farwell, you should rest for a while longer. You don't look so good."

Despite being by Lucian's side for so many years, it was his first time seeing his boss so drunk.

Lucian frowned as he walked into the bathroom and looked in the mirror.

His reflection stared back at him, a pallid man with pale lips and bloodshot eyes.

A flash of self-mockery flitted across his eyes as he took in his appearance.

I can't believe I got so drunk because of a woman.

"You don't have anything important scheduled for the day, so please rest for a while longer," Cayden attempted to persuade his boss again as he trailed behind him.

Lucian looked away from the mirror. "No need. We'll keep to the schedule as planned."

I need to focus on my work right now so that I can get Roxanne out of my head as soon as possible.

Cayden felt he could no longer convince his boss after several rejections from him, so he could only acquiesce in silence and head downstairs to wait for him.

When he came out of Lucian's room, he saw Aubree still standing in front of Estella's bedroom.

The little girl seemed to be still asleep. Aubree was cautiously knocking on the door, but her side profile made it hard for him to observe her expression.

However, Cayden could not help but feel bad for Estella when he thought of how the little girl detested Aubree.

Chapter 1106 She Would Reject It Even More

Estella had stayed up late waiting for her father to reach home the night before.

Moreover, she had taken to lazing around in bed in the mornings lately as she did not need to attend school for the time being.

Early that morning, however, she was awoken by a persistent knocking on the door.

Estella got up blearily and made her way to the door grumpily.

She scrunched her brows begrudgingly as she took in the person standing at the doorstep.

"You're finally awake, Essie. Why don't I help you wash up and prepare for school?" Aubree was all smiles.

Estella pursed her lips and shook her head.

She refused to let Aubree send her to school as she'd spanked her previously.

Aubree patiently coaxed, "It was my fault for being so irrational in the past. I promise to be nice and never force you to do anything you don't want to, okay?"

She intended to bypass Estella and make her way to the bedroom.

Aubree had barely taken a step before Estella moved into position and blocked her passage.

The smile on Aubree's face froze.

"Come now. We'll be late if we tarry any further. I heard from your Grandma that you only went to your new school for one day. Now that school has reopened, you should leave a positive impression on your teachers and classmates."

Estella recoiled even further at Aubree's words.

She did not want to go to school, let alone allow Aubree to accompany her there.

"Don't you want to make new friends?" Aubree patiently inquired.

Estella once again shook her head stubbornly. "No!"

Aubree's eyes lit up.

This was the first time Estella had spoken to her when they were alone.

She used to avoid her and would refuse to utter a word in her presence.

Does this mean that our relationship has improved since she is willing to talk to me?

Aubree was encouraged at the possibility and her tone softened even more.

"I know you dislike being in crowded places and new environments, but this is part and parcel of life. I'll wait for you outside your classroom if you feel scared."

Estella eyed Aubree dubiously as she seemed to have undergone a complete transformation.

Hadn't she any clue I'd detest it all the more if she followed me to kindergarten?

Aubree extended her hand to pat Estella's head and seemed to have more to say.

The astute Estella nimbly evaded her touch by taking a step backward.

Aubree's hand hung in mid-air awkwardly.

Then, Estella scrutinized her expression.

Aubree would always become upset whenever she avoided contact with her.

As such, she was taken aback when the person before her didn't seem affected by the least.

It was a peculiar sight indeed.

Although Aubree's attitude had improved vastly, Estella was convinced that she was merely putting on an act based on her past experiences.

Estella's standoffishness was off-putting, but Aubree was willing to overlook it.

At the end of the day, Lucian's acknowledgment took precedence over Estella's rejection.

Hence, Aubree had no choice but to think of another way to persuade Estella since time was running out.

"I also believe it's better that you study at home, but your daddy thinks otherwise. You

wouldn't want him to worry about you not going to school while he's still recovering from his hangover, would you?"

Chapter 1107 Each With Their Own Thoughts

Estella's resolve wavered at the mention of Lucian.

She had seen how drunk Lucian was the night before and surmised he must have drunk a lot.

I wonder what Daddy was up to.

Aubree delighted at the indecision in Estella's eyes and continued, "If you don't want to attend school, I can help put in a word or two when your daddy's feeling better."

It was only then that Estella relented and allowed her entry into the room.

Aubree got to her feet to let Estella get dressed while she picked out the clothes she would wear to school.

Once the clothes were selected, she assisted Estella to brush her teeth.

Estella gradually began to let her guard down.

Aubree used to threaten her whenever they spent time together.

Estella supposed Aubree wouldn't try anything since she didn't seem inclined to do so this time.

Moreover, Aubree brought up Lucian in their conversation.

Estella was docile and compliant to her demands as she did not want to trouble Lucian.

Nonetheless, her expression was still sullen.

She truly abhorred the idea of going to a new school.

The boys wouldn't be there, and she disliked her classmates and teachers.

Estella was led downstairs to have breakfast after she reluctantly changed her clothes.

Lucian was already seated at the dining table while Cayden stood respectfully beside him.

He raised his eyes at the sight of Estella and Aubree descending the stairs.

"Daddy."

Estella released Aubree's hand and trotted over to Lucian. She rested her arms on his lap and gazed into his eyes.

Lucian's head was still aching. Therefore, he resorted to patting Estella's head without saying a word.

Estella had planned to tell him of her desire not to go to school but hesitated at his obvious state of discomfort. "Daddy, are you in pain?"

Lucian detected the concern in Estella's eyes, and he comforted her with a smile. "Don't worry. It's just a bit of a headache."

Estella pouted her lips and asked out of curiosity, "Daddy, why did you drink so much last night?"

Lucian's eyes darkened and he didn't immediately come up with an answer.

Estella directed her questing gaze to Cayden.

He is always accompanying Daddy whenever he drinks for work.

Cayden was at a loss.

How could he bring himself to refuse the innocently adorable Estella?

Nevertheless, the truth was he had no clue what happened to Lucian as well.

Lucian had finished drinking by the time he got there last night.

Estella's question reminded Aubree of Lucian's inebriated state the night before.

Her heart clenched as she eyed him steadily.
It must have been a personal matter since Cayden was not privy to it.
Furthermore, Lucian had been with Jonathan.
Aubree felt a hint of displeasure as she thought of what Frieda had told her about Jonathan's opinions toward Lucian and Roxanne.
Even so, Lucian still entrusted her to send Estella to school, which undeniably meant he would give up on Roxanne after their conversation last night.
She concluded that there was no point getting worked up about nothing.
Everyone in the dining hall was preoccupied with their own thoughts.
Lucian's deep voice sounded after a long moment as he tried to avoid answering Estella. "I went out with Mr. Queen yesterday and accidentally drank too much. I'm sorry for making you worry."
Estella did not appear convinced as her gaze lingered on Lucian longer than usual.
She had a gut feeling that he was not telling her the whole truth.

Chapter 1108 I Am His Fiancee

"Finish your meal. Ms. Pearson will send you to the kindergarten later."
Without giving the child an opportunity to ask further questions, Lucian retracted his gaze from her.
Though Estella was puzzled, she did not dare ask any further at the sight of her father's scowl. Instead, she ate her breakfast obediently.
By the time she finished her breakfast, she was running late.
Aubree greeted Lucian before picking the child up for school.
Lucian frowned as he gazed at the pair's departing silhouettes before calling, "Wait a minute."
Aubree froze abruptly in her tracks at the sound of his voice. Her heart clenched.
Lucian isn't having second thoughts, is he?
Despite her fears, Aubree maintained her cheery smile. "Is there anything else, Lucian?"
With her hand held by Aubree, Estella gazed with her bright and clear eyes up at her father, also under the impression that her father had changed his mind and consented to allow her to skip school.
Lucian hesitated for a moment as he met their gaze.
After several seconds, his brow relaxed as if he had come to a decision.
"Don't resist your teacher and your new classmates like you did the last time, Essie. I will be in touch with your teacher from time to time to find out how you're doing in school."
The child puffed her cheeks reluctantly. "I understand."
Aubree heaved a huge but secret sigh of relief. The smile on her face also became more genuine.
"I will speak to her teacher soon. Is there anything else? If not, I'll be heading off with Essie. She's running late."
Lucian nodded indifferently.
With a smile, Aubree led the child away.
Upon getting in the car, Estella sat warily in the back seat and kept her lips pursed, refusing to utter a word.
Aubree tried to speak in an effort to build a rapport with the child.

"Do you remember what your new teacher looks like, Essie? I've never met them."
Estella nodded quietly.

Aubree was pleasantly surprised to see the child reacting to her words.

"Do you have any friends you like in your new class, Essie?"

Estella shook her head.

With only the two boys in her mind when she came to school, she never noticed the other students.

However, she remembered that she had been startled.

The other students must think that I'm a weirdo. That's fine. I don't plan to stay long in that kindergarten, anyway. I will be back to be with the boys when Daddy and Mommy get back together!

Throughout the journey, Aubree kept casting about for new conversational topics to engage the child, who uncharacteristically responded to all of them.

As a result, she was in a splendid mood.

Upon arriving at the kindergarten entrance, Aubree led the child out of the car.

She was about to ask Estella to point out her new teacher when the teacher recognized Estella first.

"You're here, Essie!"

The teacher approached them with a smile, greeted Estella, and turned to the adult beside her. "And you are?"

Aubree smiled as she inclined her head at the teacher. "Hello, I am Lucian's fiancée, Aubree."

The teacher's employment at the prestigious institution was a testament to her qualifications.

The marriage between the Farwell family and the Pearson family was common knowledge in Horington.

Naturally, the teachers in the kindergarten would know about it.

Thus, she could guess without another word from Aubree that the second half of her sentence was to proclaim that she was Estella's future mother.

With that in mind, the teacher's attitude became much more respectful. "Hello, Ms. Pearson. I am Pamela Yaxley. You could call me Ms. Yaxley."

Chapter 1109 No Trouble

Unlike Pippa's disdainful attitude toward Aubree, Pamela was respectful.

In response, Aubree discarded her haughty attitude and nodded courteously at Pamela while pushing Estella toward her teacher.

At the recollection of the child's prior performance in class, Pamela could not help but feel slightly worried.

Though it was indeed an honor for her to have the heiress of the Farwell family in her class, she would not escape the consequences if any misfortune should befall the child under her care.

Aubree seemed to have seen through her concerns and smiled at her. "Essie's condition is rather unusual as she is sensitive to a change in environment. Please take care of her, Ms. Yaxley. I'll treat you to a meal one of these days."

Then, she lowered her gaze to Estella. "Say hello to your teacher, Essie."

Aubree was trying her luck when she did that.

Earlier, in the car, the child had only been nodding or shaking her head in response to her words.

She was unsure if the child would heed her and greet the teacher.

If she defied me in public...

At the thought of that possibility, Aubree regretted her action at once and wished she had never uttered those words.

However, the child's voice sounded the next second. "Hello, Ms. Yaxley."

The child even bowed politely as she spoke.

Aubree and Pamela were stunned by the child's response and only regained their composure a moment later.

"It seems that you got through to Essie. She has made remarkable progress."

Pamela smiled as she delivered her compliment.

Aubree was even more pleased that Estella did not disappoint her. "Essie has always been a good child. She just needs time to get used to a new environment."

Pamela nodded vigorously. "Don't you worry, I will take good care of Essie and have her adjust to the new environment as soon as possible."

Aubree smiled. "I trust that Essie will be in good hands."

At that, she reached out to stroke Estella's hair.

Under the impression that the child had warmed up to her, she thought she would be allowed to caress the latter's hair.

Unexpectedly, her outstretched hand missed its mark.

Aubree's expression froze, and upon recalling that Pamela was still standing before her, she recovered quickly to say with a smile, "Be good in school, Essie. Listen to Ms. Yaxley. Do you understand?"

Estella nodded rather reluctantly.

Without another word, Aubree nodded at Pamela once more before turning to depart.

The pair had conversed for such a long time that only Pamela and Estella remained at the kindergarten entrance when Aubree left.

Leading Estella by the hand, Pamela had the unnerving feeling that she had taken a hot potato upon herself.

Desirous of his praise, Aubree hurriedly called Lucian right after leaving the kindergarten.

Meanwhile, Lucian was seated in the car with Cayden at the wheel on their way to Farwell Group.

Lucian frowned when he saw Aubree was calling as he thought something had happened to Estella.

As soon as he picked up, he heard Aubree's smile in her voice.

"I'd dropped Essie off, Lucian. Ms. Yaxley took her in. You don't have to worry."

Lucian heaved a sigh of relief. "All right, thank you for the trouble," he answered in a low voice.

Aubree's voice lowered. She sounded embarrassed. "No trouble at all. It's my duty. In the future... I'll continue to pick and send Essie to school."

Both of them knew perfectly well what she meant in the silence of her unspoken words.

Chapter 1110 What Is Going On

Frowning, Lucian fell silent for several seconds.

Within several short seconds, the smile slid off Aubree's face.

Until Lucian's voice sounded once more.

"Judging by Essie's demeanor this morning, the relationship between you seemed to have improved by a lot."

Aubree froze for several seconds at his words before she registered what he said.

It was true that the child had been receptive toward her that morning.

Aside from rejecting her touch, Estella had responded to almost everything she had said.

It was a big improvement compared to before.

"I was the one at fault back then," Aubree replied with a laugh. "I wasn't patient enough with Essie. Now that I'm a little more patient, Essie can sense it and responds accordingly."

"That's good," Lucian answered solemnly. "Enjoy each other's company."

Smiling, Aubree assured him she would.

Without discussing it any further, Lucian ended the call on the pretext of work.

Though he had already decided to proceed with the engagement, he did not have anything to say to Aubree.

Meanwhile, Aubree hung up, but the smile remained on her face. She asked Frieda out for dinner.

After Frieda hung up, she packed up before heading out of the Queen residence.

As she emerged from the bedroom, she ran into Jonathan, who had just gotten out of bed and was in a foul mood for having too much to drink the night before.

In addition to being reminded of Lucian's words the night before upon waking up, he became irritable, and his expression turned from bad to worse.

"Where are you off to this early in the morning?" Jonathan asked with a frown when he saw Frieda smiling from ear to ear.

Frieda looked pleased with herself. "Aubree invited me out for a meal. You wouldn't know as you had too much to drink yesterday, but Lucian had Aubree pick him up and even had her send Essie to school this morning."

Jonathan was stunned by those words.

He had the vague recollection of Lucian asking Aubree to pick him up.

However, he did not expect his friend to hand Estella over to Aubree's care so quickly.

Frieda became even more pleased at her brother's dumbfounded expression.

"I'd told you long ago that Aubree would become Mrs. Farwell, but you didn't listen and insisted on helping Roxanne. Do you believe me now?"

Jonathan nodded halfheartedly. "Whoever it is, it's still the Farwell family's business."

Frieda was about to say something scathing, but he rudely interrupted her.

"Drive safely. Also, think before you do anything. Don't let yourself be used as a pawn as you did back then."

Without another word, Jonathan walked down the stairs.

Gazing at his back disappear down the stairs, Frieda stamped her feet in anger.

Though their elders treated them equally in the Queen residence, Jonathan had always been held in higher regard for official business matters.

It had been challenging to be on the right side this time, but Jonathan did not allow me to brag about it.

After being rooted to the spot for a long time, Frieda regained her composure and

strode downstairs noisily in her heels.

She even glared at Jonathan on her way past the dining table, where he was having breakfast.

However, Jonathan was too preoccupied with deciphering what Lucian was thinking to notice her glare.

When she noticed that he did not react, Frieda became even more annoyed when she left the house.

Her expression did not recover even after arriving at the restaurant where she had agreed to meet Aubree.

"What's going on?"

Being in a good mood, Aubree asked with genuine concern upon noticing her friend's gloomy expression.

CHAPTER 1111

"Let's not talk about it."

Frieda took a sip of water irritably as she threw her purse aside.

Aubree raised her eyebrows with a smile. "Let me guess. Did you quarrel with your brother?"

Frieda's expression shifted slightly in silent admission.

Aubree's smile became wider at the sight. She produced an exquisite box from her purse.

"Don't waste your energy on him. Take a look at this."

Frieda froze for a moment, puzzled, before receiving the box from her and opening it for a glimpse.

The box contained a necklace by her favorite designer that haunted her dreams.

"Aubree, I..." Frieda gazed in shock at the person before her

Aubree surveyed the other with her chin in her hand. "It's a thank-you gift. The idea you gave me worked out well."

Frieda's gloom was swept away in an instant. Putting the box away, she asked about Aubree's situation, "How are things between you and Essie?"

Aubree was all smiles upon recollecting the incident that morning. "Not bad. The kid isn't ignoring me anymore."

She shrugged with a chuckle before continuing, "It would have been better for her if she had behaved this sooner don't you think? I might have been nicer to her."

Frieda did not dare ask how she used to treat Estella, so she merely said with a smile, "As long as your relationship with Lucian has improved."

"The most important thing is Lucian has acknowledged the improvement in my relationship with Essie," Aubree said, casually mentioning the most important news.

Frieda was surprised at those words. "Why did you say that?"

Aubree recounted the exchange with Lucian over the phone earlier that morning.

Frieda nodded eagerly. "If that's the case, your marriage with Lucian is secured."

Aubree nodded impassively. "So, you need not be angry anymore. When I marry Lucian, I'll put in a good word to Old Mr. Queen for you, and he will bring you back to power."

Frieda smiled and raised her glass of water. "In the absence of wine, this will have to do. Congratulations in advance, Aubree."

The pair clinked their glasses, then their breakfast in high spirits.

In the meantime, Archie and Benny climbed out of bed early that morning, though without the same fervent excitement as they used to at the thought of returning to school.

With Daddy and Mommy's quarrel in such a state, Daddy will no longer let Essie come to our kindergarten.

At that thought, the boys descended the stairs in low spirits.

Upon arriving downstairs, they noticed their mother was already seated at the table.

"You're up, boys. I was just about to come up and wake you."

Roxanne smiled at the children and began to set the table.

The children's mood improved somewhat at the sight of their mother.

"Must we stay in this school, Mommy?" Benny asked instinctively after taking his seat at the dining table.

Roxanne's hands froze at those words as she smiled helplessly at the child. "Are you not doing well at your current kindergarten?"

Benny lowered his head. "We want to be with Essie."

Roxanne's heart twinged bitterly.

She understood how the children felt.

When Lucian came earlier, she wondered if she could convince him to have Estella transfer back to her old school.

Unexpectedly, her intention backfired.

Not only had she failed to have the child return, but she had also incurred Lucian's ire to such an extent that he took her away.

CHAPTER 1112

"I'll send you guys to school later" Roxanne spoke up hesitantly while they were having their meal.

"Mommy, are you done with work?" Archie and Benny's eyes lit up when they heard that

Although Estella was no longer in the same kindergarten as theirs, they were still delighted that Roxanne could send them to school.

Roxanne had been avoiding Lucian and Estella lately, so Lysa was the one who sent them to school.

Archie and Benny were envious when they saw the other parents send their children to school.

Faced with her boys' questions, Roxanne couldn't help but feel a little guilty. "Yeah. It's almost done."

The two little ones cheered and ate their breakfast obediently.

After breakfast, they carried their backpacks and waited at the door without having to be reminded by Roxanne.

Roxanne, however, was a little hesitant.

She still had some work to handle that morning, but as much as she didn't want to admit it, she wanted to try her luck and see if Lucian would change his mind and send Estella back to the kindergarten.

Even if the chance was slim, she didn't want to miss it.

"Mommy, we're going to be late," Archie and Benny couldn't help but urge after waiting for some time.

Only then did Roxanne return to her senses and smile at them apologetically. "Let's go."

Having said that, she suppressed the hesitation in her heart, picked up her bag, and walked over to the boys.

When they arrived at the kindergarten's entrance, Roxanne alighted from the car and walked Archie and Benny to Pippa.

"Ms. Jarvis, it's been a while, Pippa greeted Roxanne with a smile.

Then, she lowered her head to look at Archie and Benny. The sight of the two boys caused sorrow to fill her heart.

She had gotten used to seeing them with Estella.

Recently, the sight of the boys would remind Pippa of Estella, and she couldn't help wondering how Estella was doing in a new environment.

Roxanne hummed gently in response. "I've been busy with work lately. Thank you for taking good care of Archie and Benny, Ms. Ward."

Both the ladies were a little distracted and didn't chat for long. Pippa then brought Archie and Benny into the school.

On the other hand, Roxanne remained standing at the school entrance for a long time. Judging from the look on Ms. Ward's face just now, I can tell Essie didn't come.

To avoid missing out on the opportunity to meet Estella, Roxanne continued to wait in front of the school. However, there was still no sign of Estella even until the school's gate closed.

Only then did she give up and return to the car in disappointment.

Just then, Colby called her and urged, "Dr. Jarvis, when will you arrive?"

Roxanne had been doing research on the medicinal herbs from Herbscape Group all by herself.

Thus, no one dared to touch the medicinal herbs without her guidance.

Ignoring the disappointment in her heart, Roxanne replied, "Sorry. Something came up just now. I'll be there

soon.”

Colby sensed something off from her tone and felt a little worried. “What’s wrong? Do you need help?”

“No, thank you. It was already settled,” Roxanne answered, her voice sounding dejected.

Colby could tell she was unwilling to speak further, so he stopped pursuing the matter and hung up tactfully.

Roxanne glanced around the school once again. Still, there was no sign of Estella.

A few moments later, she withdrew her gaze, laughed self-deprecatingly, and started the car engine to head to the research institute.

She had forgotten the fact that Lucian had always been famous for his decisiveness and determination.

Since he had decided to cut ties with her, there was no way he would go against his words.

CHAPTER 1113

In the kindergarten, Archie and Benny sat in their seats quietly while the other children were playing games. with Pippa

They could sense something was off when Roxanne said she would send them to school that morning.

It wasn’t until Roxanne handed them over to Pippa that they noticed Roxanne glancing at the crowd from time to time as if she was looking for someone.

When Pippa led them into the school, they looked back and saw Roxanne still looking around

Although Archie and Benny said nothing, they knew Roxanne was looking for Lucian and Estella.

Mommy must feel terrible after the fight with Daddy that day.

At the thought of Roxanne’s sadness and disappointment, Archie and Benny’s moods were gloomy, too.

“Archie, Benny, what’s wrong?”

Seeing the listless look on the boys' faces, Pippa walked over to comfort them, "Are you missing Estella?"

At the mention of Estella, Archie and Benny's faces immediately fell. I wonder how Essie is doing.

"Don't worry. Mr. Farwell will take good care of her." Naturally, Pippa didn't have the guts to call and ask Lucian. Thus, she could only reassure the two little ones as best as she could.

Knowing Pippa was comforting them, Archie and Benny flashed her a smile. "Don't worry about us, Ms. Ward. We're fine. Just leave us alone for a while."

Pippa didn't know what else she could do besides comforting them by caressing their heads. Then, she got up and returned to the other children.

The sight of the children playing happily only served to worsen Benny's already foul mood. "Archie, what do you think Essie is doing now? Daddy should have sent her to school, right?"

Archie, pressing his lips together, had the same concern as Benny

He still remembered how Estella was bullied by her classmates when they had just joined the kindergarten.

Back then, she was still having trouble getting along with the other children despite the fact that she had been studying in the kindergarten for some time.

After she had finally adapted to the environment, however, Lucian transferred her to another kindergarten.

Archie was worried that the kids in the new school would bully Estella. What should we do if Essie is bullied again? We're no longer by her side now....

Benny knitted his brows and suggested with a straight face, "Why don't we go look for Essie secretly? We have to at least find out how she's doing at her new school."

Archie was worried about Estella, too. However, upon contemplation, he put on a solemn expression and shook his head. "No. We can't do that again."

"Why? Aren't you worried about Essie?" Benny was confused.

Archie regarded his brother seriously and asked, "Have you forgotten what Grandma said about us last time?"

Sonya had pointed at Archie and Benny and scolded them for taking Estella away the other day. Her tone was harsh, her words insulting

Most importantly, Roxanne was dragged into the mess because of what they had done.

At the thought of what had happened that day, Benny was dispirited. He sprawled on the table languidly. "Then what should we do? What if someone bullies Essie?"

Archie patted Benny on his shoulder and reassured him, "Essie has promised us that she will try her best to make Daddy reconcile with Mommy, so her emotions should be stable for now. If someone bullies her, I believe she will tell Daddy about it."

After finishing his sentence, the little boy narrowed his eyes and said viciously. "Worse comes to worst, we will seek revenge for her in the future."

CHAPTER 1114

Feeling a lot better after hearing what Archie said, Benny nodded profusely in response.

The two of them then went silent after that.

The silence was broken when an adorable voice called out to them from behind, "Archie! Benny!"

Upon turning around, they saw a little girl with pigtails leaning against their desk.

"When will Essie come back?" she asked nervously.

Although she and Estella were pretty close, she knew nothing about Estella transferring to another school. Since Estella was often seen being around Archie and Benny, she figured she would try asking them about it.

Her question made Archie and Benny, whose mood had just improved, feel depressed again.

Even so, they couldn't bring themselves to burst the little girl's bubble when they saw the expectant look in her eyes. "She should be back soon," they replied.

The girl's eyes instantly lit up with joy. "I knew Essie would come back! Ms. Ward said Essie wouldn't be coming back anymore, but I didn't believe her! I'm so smart!"

The little girl then happily returned to the crowd while Archie and Benny exchanged glances.

"We need to have Mommy and Daddy get back together as soon as possible!" Archie said with a serious look on his face.

Of course, Benny understood what they had to do.

"What did Daddy tell Mommy the other day? She looked really upset! As for Daddy, he..."

Benny felt his heart ache as he recalled Lucian's expression when he left the other day.

It's like Daddy won't be coming to see us anymore! Mommy and Daddy have gotten into fights in the past, but things have never gotten this bad before!

Archie shook his head as he didn't understand the situation either.

We tried asking Mommy many times about what happened that day, but our efforts were all in vain. Even though Mommy answered all of our questions, it was obvious that she was lying to us. What happened? What is Mommy so afraid to tell us about?

"Is this about Mommy punishing Essie?" Benny suggested.

"No," Archie replied with a frown.

Mommy wouldn't have kept it from us if it were that simple. Come on, think! What could it be?

Neither Archie nor Benny had any idea what the reason was.

Suddenly, Benny thought of something and sat up straight in his chair. "C-Could it be about Mr. Damaris?"

Daddy had gotten into several fights with Mommy because of Mr. Damaris. Mommy and Mr. Damaris have gotten a lot closer ever since. Maybe Daddy is angry at Mommy because of this. Yeah, that has got to be it!

Archie's eyes lit up when he heard that. Hmm... Benny does make a good point!

"Let's go talk to Mommy about this! We'll tell her to stay away from Mr. Damaris because we don't like him!"

Benny's suggestion reflected his pure way of thinking.

Archie, on the other hand, was able to see things from Roxanne's perspective. "But Mommy is only in contact

with Mr. Damaris because of work."

He then turned toward Benny as he continued with a frown, "We both saw how hard Mommy worked to secure this job opportunity."

Asking Mommy to give up on this job opportunity simply because we don't like Mr. Damaris would be unfair to

her

Benny felt his heart clench when he recalled how busy Roxanne had been back then.

"But it's possible that Daddy and Mommy are fighting because of Mr. Damaris!"

Benny was still on the fence about this.

He couldn't choose between Roxanne's career and Lucian.

CHAPTER 1115

The two of them continued discussing that matter throughout the rest of the day.

Being the more emotional of the two, Benny simply wanted Jack to leave so Roxanne and Lucian would get back together

Archie, on the other hand, was more rational and didn't want to affect Roxanne's career.

However, neither of them was able to arrive at a conclusion even when school was over.

"Archie! Benny! Look who's there!"

Pippa spotted Roxanne waiting at the front gate the moment they stepped out the classroom door.

Archie and Benny were so absorbed in their thoughts that they didn't even notice Roxanne standing there until Pippa mentioned it.

As they glanced at the gate, they saw that Roxanne looked absent-minded as well.

The look on Roxanne's face made Archie and Benny more determined to help Lucian and Roxanne get back together.

"Mommy!" Benny called out to Roxanne while running toward her.

Having been snapped out of her train of thought, Roxanne patted him on the head before instinctively scanning the crowd.

Despite having confirmed Lucian's feelings toward her earlier that morning, Roxanne still found herself coming over when school was over that evening.

She refused to give up, but sure enough, she still saw no sign of Estella anywhere.

As Archie was walking a little slower, he clearly saw Roxanne searching the crowd for Estella.

Huh. I don't get it. Why would Mommy keep fighting with Daddy if she cares about Essie so much?

"Let's go home, Mommy!" Benny said softly when Archie walked up to them.

Roxanne flashed him a smile and nodded in response, but her legs refused to move.

Maybe I should wait just a little while longer.

Realizing her hesitation, Archie reached out to hold her hand and said, "Essie didn't come to school today, Mommy."

Naturally, that meant no one would be coming to pick her up.

Roxanne froze in surprise when she realized Archie had seen right through her thoughts.

"Come on, let's go home!" Archie added while giving her hand a light tug.

Having accepted reality for what it was, Roxanne replied with a wry smile, "All right, let's go." She then walked hand in hand with Archie and Benny as they made their way toward her car. It wasn't until they entered the car that Benny realized Roxanne was looking for Estella earlier.

After discussing it with Archie the entire day and witnessing Roxanne searching for Estella, Benny couldn't help but ask, "Mommy, could you give Mr. Farwell a call and ask him how Essie is doing?"

That question caught Roxanne completely off guard and caused her to tighten her grip on the steering wheel "Mommy?"

Roxanne had wanted to tell them that it wasn't convenient for her to call Lucian, but she couldn't bring herself to say that when she saw how worried they were about Estella.

After hesitating for a bit, Roxanne replied, "I'll give him a call tonight and tell you boys about it tomorrow."

“Okay!” Seeing how Roxanne had agreed to it so easily, Benny assumed the conflict between her and Lucian wasn’t that serious.

As he leaned back against his seat, however, Archie jabbed at his arm and gave him a look.

Because of how well they knew each other, that look was all Benny needed to understand what Archie was trying to say.

Mommy’s lying! She’s not going to actually make that phone call!

Benny pursed his lips in disappointment when the sudden realization dawned upon him.

He then remained silent throughout the rest of the ride home

Chapter 1116

Roxanne and the kids had just entered the mansion when she saw Jack sitting in the living room.

“Ah, you’re all home!” Jack greeted them with a smile.

“Mr. Damaris came over this afternoon. I had him wait in the living room since he’s a friend of yours, Ms. Jarvis,” Lysa said as she came out of the kitchen.

Roxanne nodded in response and motioned for Archie and Benny to go and wash their hands.

However, they refused to budge and stood there staring at Jack.

We were just talking about Mr. Damaris today! Who would’ve thought we’d bump into him so soon?

Benny’s eyes were filled with resentment as he glared at Jack.

Naturally, Jack was well aware of Benny’s hostility, but he pretended to not notice it.

“What brings you here today, Mr. Damaris?” Roxanne asked in confusion.

Jack lifted his chin slightly and gestured at her to look at the single-seater couch on the right.

Roxanne saw a medium-sized basket on the couch, but she couldn’t make out what was inside.

"What is this?" she asked with a frown.

Jack arched an eyebrow as he replied, "I told you about this before, didn't I? Our family would grant you access to our ancient medicine books if you become our business partner. My grandfather had me bring these over. Said they might be of help to you, Dr. Jarvis."

Roxanne's eyes lit up when she heard that those were the Damaris family's ancient medicine books. She quickly walked up to the couch and opened the basket.

Sure enough, it was filled with all the ancient medicine books that she had wanted really badly before.

"Thank you very much, Mr. Damaris! These are just what I needed!" Roxanne said in a cheerful tone.

Jack flashed her a faint smile in response.

"It's my grandfather you should be thanking. Of course, you can thank me tomorrow if you'd like."

Noticing the confused look on Roxanne's face, he continued, "Your research institute is running out of medicinal herbs, right? I just purchased a new batch. They should be arriving tomorrow."

The smile on Roxanne's face faded slightly when she heard that. "You're being far too kind, Mr. Damaris. I don't know how I'll ever be able to repay you."

Jack was about to say something when Benny called out to Roxanne from the bathroom, "Mommy! We've run out of soap!"

Archie and Benny had been listening in on the conversation from outside the bathroom.

Roxanne was still upset about Essie on the way home, but she suddenly sounded all happy after seeing Jack.

Given how quickly her mood had changed because of Jack, it was only natural that Archie and Benny would get the wrong idea.

Benny got so upset that he had to interrupt their conversation.

Of course, Roxanne didn't give it much thought at the time. She flashed Jack a polite smile and excused herself to fetch the kids a bar of soap.

Upon entering the bathroom, however, she saw a brand new bar of soap on the sink.

Roxanne froze and stared at her two sons in confusion.

Benny reached out and tugged at the hem of Roxanne's shirt, silently telling his mother that he wanted her to stop talking to Jack.

Roxanne was overjoyed to receive the books and the herbs, so she got carried away talking to Jack.

It wasn't until she saw Benny's actions that she recalled how much they disliked Jack.

"Mr. Damaris is only here to give me something. He'll be leaving very soon. I can't kick him out now because that would be rude," she said with an awkward look on her face.

Benny tugged even harder on her shirt and shook his head profusely. "No!"

Roxanne didn't have time to comfort him any further, so she just gave him a pat on the head and said, "Mr. Damaris is still waiting for me outside, so I need to get back to him now. Behave yourselves, okay?"

She then stepped out of the bathroom and made her way back to the living room.

Chapter 1117

Archie and Benny stayed in the bathroom for a little while longer before heading out.

Roxanne was still chatting with Jack at the time.

She had wanted to get him to leave as soon as possible, but Jack started talking about the ancient medicine books halfway through the conversation.

Due to Roxanne's incredible passion for medicine, she couldn't help but get carried away talking about it again.

It wasn't until Lysa told them dinner was ready that she snapped out of it.

"Would you like to stay for dinner, Mr. Damaris?" Roxanne asked out of courtesy.

Jack arched an eyebrow when he saw Archie and Benny standing next to the kitchen.

They were both glaring daggers at him and looked like they would tear him to pieces if he accepted *her* invitation.

Because they were still kids, they just looked adorable no matter how fierce their expressions were.

Jack couldn't help but smile in amusement as he drawled suspensefully, "Thank you for the invitation, Ms. Jarvis. —"

He was halfway through his sentence when Benny cut him off, "I don't feel like eating anymore, Mommy! I want to give Daddy a call!"

Instead of finishing his sentence, Jack deliberately paused and gave Roxanne a confused look.

Roxanne was caught completely off guard by Benny's words and began to panic.

After taking a few seconds to regain her composure, she said apologetically, "I'm sorry, I—"

Jack nodded understandingly and interrupted her, "It's all right. I think the kids might be feeling unwell. You should go take a look at them."

Roxanne flashed him a grateful smile before walking toward Archie and Benny.

"Are you boys feeling unwell? Come on, let's go upstairs so I can have a look at you," she said while leading them up the stairs.

As they trailed behind their mother, Archie and Benny turned around and shot Jack another cautious glance.

Jack simply responded by glancing back at them with a nonchalant smile.

The smile on Roxanne's face faded the moment they got upstairs.

She then stared at Archie and Benny with a stern expression, only to let out a helpless sigh when she saw the defiant looks on their faces.

"Archie, Benny, Mr. Damaris is a guest, remember? You two need to be polite to him."

"But you said Mr. Damaris was going to leave soon! Why did you have him stay for dinner?" Benny asked with a displeased frown.

I've *never* seen Mommy treat *Daddy* this *well* before!

"I only did that out of basic courtesy. Besides, you two heard our conversation. We were just talking about medicine, that's all," Roxanne replied.

She knew that Archie and Benny disliked Jack, but she wasn't expecting them to make it that obvious.

Roxanne felt her head ache at the mere thought of what Benny said earlier.

"Also, I only promised you two to call Mr. Farwell. I didn't say anything about him being your daddy, so don't go making stuff up now."

While Jack wouldn't associate those words with Lucian, things could get problematic if these two say it in front of *Lucian*, especially considering the current state of our relationship!

Benny threw a tantrum when he saw Roxanne defending Jack. "I don't care! I want Mr. Farwell to be my daddy!"

Chapter 1118

Roxanne froze in shock when she heard that.

She was well aware of how much Archie and Benny liked Lucian.

Similarly, they also knew that she hadn't been seeing Lucian ever since things went south between them.

As such, Roxanne was surprised to see them being so stubborn about this.

For a moment there, she even wondered if it would be better to let Archie and Benny go with Lucian instead.

However, she was quick to suppress that thought.

I've been working so hard all these years so I could live a comfortable life with Archie and Benny! All that hard work would be for nothing if I were to lose them!

After taking some time to think about it, Roxanne bent over and patted Benny on the head.

"Don't say such things ever again, okay? Mr. Farwell is Essie's daddy. As for you two... Well, you'll get to have your own daddy someday," she said with an apologetic look on her face.

Benny frowned and looked like he was about to say something in protest.

"I know you two don't like Mr. Damaris. Don't worry; he and I are strictly business partners. I won't make you two call him 'Daddy' or anything," Roxanne added with a smile.

But *I* only want *my* daddy!

Before Benny could voice his thought, however, Archie cut him off, "Understood, Mommy. One of our classmates came to us and asked about Essie today. Benny's just in a ba

d mood

because he's worried about Essie. Just give us some time to ourselves, and we'll be all right after a while."

Archie then shot Benny a warning glance, prompting the latter to keep quiet.

The look in Roxanne's eyes turned gloomy when she heard him mention Estella. "Mr. Farwell will take good care of Essie, so you two don't have to worry about her at all."

Archie nodded obediently in response. "I'll be sure to talk to him about this. You should head back downstairs, Mommy. Mr. Damaris is still waiting for you."

Had it not been for Archie's reminder, Roxanne would have completely forgotten about Jack.

"All right. You two stay here, okay? We'll have dinner together once Mr. Damaris leaves."

She then patted them on their heads before rushing downstairs.

Jack was casually reading one of the ancient medicine books on the couch.

He looked up when he heard her footsteps and asked, "How are the kids?"

Roxanne felt a little nervous as she replied, "N—Nothing much, really. They were just throwing a tantrum because they got into a fight with some kids at the kindergarten today."

Jack nodded and pretended to be unaware of their hostility toward him. "Yeah, kids are like that sometimes. You just have to be more attentive toward their emotions."

Roxanne forced a smile at him and said with a nod, "Thank you for the kind reminder, Mr. Damaris. I'll try to keep that in mind."

She was about to invite him to stay for dinner, but the words were stuck in her throat when she looked at the dishes on the table.

Of course, Jack noticed the subtle changes in her expression.

"Anyway, it's getting late. It's not often that my parents would come over to stay for a while, so I need to head back and have dinner with them. I'm afraid I won't be able to keep you company this time," he said with an ambiguous look in his eyes.

Roxanne was just inviting him to stay for dinner out of courtesy, but he made it sound like she wanted his companionship.

However, Roxanne's mind was in such a mess that she didn't realize how intimate his words sounded.

In fact, she even felt a little relieved as she said, "Oh, that's all right! There's nothing more important than spending time with your family, after all. You should get going, Mr. Damaris. Wouldn't want to keep your parents waiting now, would you?"

Chapter 1119

Jack

smilingly agreed, "I'll take my leave first. Look through these medical books and contact me anytime if you have questions."

Gratitude filled Roxanne's eyes. "I will."

Just like that, they walked toward the door one after another.

Before getting into the car, Jack whipped his head back and cast Roxanne a mysterious glance.

Noticing the man's gaze, Roxanne scrunched her brows in puzzlement.

"It's truly a pity to miss the opportunity to dine with you tonight, Ms. Jarvis."

Jack's face was plastered with disappointment.

Roxanne was visibly stunned for a brief moment but politely replied, "There'll be opportunities in the future. Besides, I still have to thank you for providing medicines for our research institute, Mr. Damaris."

Jack arched an eyebrow.

"If you want to thank me, how about you personally whip up a meal for me, Ms. Jarvis?"

Without waiting for Roxanne's reply, Jack added,

"I'm sick of those restaurants out there, and I thought you probably have impressive cooking skills. I wonder if I have the privilege to taste the dishes you make."

Roxanne couldn't say no since the man had put it that way. Thus, she could only agree. "If you wish, Mr. Damaris, I can cook for you. But I hope you won't be disappointed."

Jack raised his brows and chuckled.

"I won't be disappointed as long as you're the cook."

As his words fell, he turned and got into the car. "It's a deal then. You'll cook me a meal next time. It's late today, I'll head back first."

Roxanne nodded absentmindedly.

Is it *just me*, or does *his attitude* seem a *little weird just now*? We have always been *not hing* more than business partners. *Why would he suddenly request for me to cook him a meal*? Isn't that a *bit* too intimate?

After watching the car depart, Roxanne headed back into the mansion, overwhelmed with mixed feelings.

Meanwhile, Archie and Benny came downstairs after hearing the commotion.

Thinking about her promise to Jack just now, Roxanne could not help but feel a hint of guilt surge within her as she was aware of *how* repulsive the boys were toward Jack.

"The food's getting cold. Quick, come and eat."

She was attempting to divert the kids' attention.

Benny wore a sullen expression. "Mommy, how long more do you have to work with Mr. Damaris?"

Roxanne frowned in frustration. "That isn't something I can decide on."

Benny had wanted to say something more, but Roxanne quickly scooped some food for him and said, "That's enough. Hurry up and eat."

Knowing that Roxanne did not want to harp on the subject anymore, the boy reluctantly zipped his mouth. As much as Archie had tried to explain the situation to him and told him how his actions would put Roxanne in a tight spot, Benny still could not control himself.

Mommy hasn't had any contact with Daddy recently. In contrast, *she* meets Mr. *Damaris* almost every day. If *this*

goes on, who knows if Mommy will feel something for Mr. Damaris?

While those thoughts were running through Benny's mind, Roxanne was totally clueless about it.

For some reason, she was especially troubled that day.

For one, she was worried about Estella. And two, she felt something odd about Jack's behavior earlier.

That was why she was not in the mood to care about Archie and Benny's feelings.

As Roxanne finished the meal restlessly, she inevitably felt an unnerving feeling rise within her again as she recalled her promise to the boys that she would call Lucian to check on Estella's condition.

Fortunately, it seemed like Archie and Benny had forgotten about the matter after Jack's sudden appearance and thus did not urge her about it.

Roxanne secretly heaved a sigh of relief, pretended nothing had happened, and watched the boys fall asleep before returning to her room.

Chapter 1120

Aubree called Lucian when it was almost Estella's dismissal time and requested to pick the little girl up from

school.

Lucian did not give it too much thought and assented to it as he thought there wouldn't be a problem since the two were getting along fine earlier that morning.

Ever since

Estella got spooked out in class the other time, her classmates started to see her as a weirdo.

For the entire day, many of her classmates shot her a look of disgust.

Because of that, Estella did not want to play with them too.

The arduous day at school made her miss Archie and Benny even more, and she was extra dejected after

school.

When the little girl followed behind the teacher and saw the person waiting for her at the entrance, her face immediately fell.

"Essie!"

Aubree, not noticing the expression on the little girl's face, went up to her warmly.

Pamela politely greeted Aubree and took the initiative to share Estella's performance in school.

"Essie is a good girl in class today. It's just that she's not very familiar with the other children and so she isn't very enthusiastic during games. But I'm sure she'll do better after a few days."

Hearing that, Aubree bobbed her head in acknowledgment. "Thank you so much."

Pamela quickly plastered a smile on her face. "It's what I should do. The credit should go to her parents for bringing her up well."

Only after exchanging a few pleasantries with Pamela did Aubree recollect that she had yet to finish her task -to fetch Estella back home.

By then, the little girl was so hungry that her tummy had gone flat, and her gloomy mood became worse than before.

Aubree bade goodbye to Pamela apologetically and brought Estella into the car.

"Ms. Yaxley says you're not enthusiastic during games. Is it because you don't like the other kids in class?"

Estella's behavior that morning had probably given Aubree the illusion that she could converse with the little girl casually.

"I know you want to play with those two boys, but they can't possibly come over to accompany you. That's why you have to try to make new friends soon."

As soon as Aubree finished speaking, Estella blew her top off and lashed out, "I don't want to!"

Archie and Benny will come to visit me! I will still play with them in the future! I don't need new friends!

Aubree was taken aback by Estella's attitude. "I'm saying it for your own good. You will only get well if you make more friends."

"I am not sick!" Estella retorted.

It was only then Aubree realized she had said the wrong thing. "I don't mean it that way. I merely thought..."

She wanted to make things right again, yet did not know how to continue.

After all, that was exactly what she meant.

It was just that she had forgotten to cover it up.

"I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that. Can you forgive me, Essie?" Aubree carefully apologized after a short pause.

Sadly, Estella did not bother to give her any form of response.

Aubree was undoubtedly in deep regret.

It had not been easy for her to stop Estella from ignoring her. Yet now, their relationship had returned to square one because of her wrong choice of words.

On their way home, Aubree tried her best to salvage the situation. Despite her umpteen attempts at explaining herself, she failed to garner a response from the little girl again.

As the car slowly rolled up at the Farwell residence's entrance, Aubree felt an inexplicable sense of remorse surge within her.

She recalled how Lucian said himself just that morning that her relationship with Estella had improved.

Hence, she did not want him to see how things were between her and the little girl now.

Unfortunately, Estella had absolutely no intention of cooperating with her and strode into the house with her bag.

Lucian had just returned home from work as well. The minute he saw Estella walking in, he noticed the expression on her face.

"What's wrong?" Lucian asked concernedly as his brows knitted into one line.

Estella, however, only pursed her lips and glanced at him silently. Without spouting a word, she headed upstairs with her bag.

Chapter 1121

Aubree followed Estella closely into the room. Hesitantly, she muttered, "Lucian..."

She felt somewhat guilty when she noticed the young girl fuming at Lucian.

At the same time, she was relieved that Estella had not said a word to her father.

Lucian nodded at Aubree and said, "Sorry for troubling you to look after Essie."

Aubree was delighted by his words. She sputtered, "Not at all. I'm happy to do this. Essie's a lovely girl."

As for how she upset Estella in the car earlier, Aubree decided to sweep things under the rug if the young girl kept things to herself.

"Dinner's ready. Why don't you eat with us?" Lucian offered.

Aubree was over the moon. "Sure."

They entered the dining room one after another.

Catalina had already set the table for three.

Aubree said, "I'll go get Essie."

Despite her suggestion, she was not confident about coaxing Estella downstairs.

After all, the young girl was put out because of Aubree, and she might not listen to her instructions.

If she throws a tantrum in front of Lucian...

Amid her distress, Lucian piped up, "It's fine. She might be angry at me. She still doesn't like her new kindergarten. Let her calm down on her own."

After that, Lucian picked up his cutlery and began eating.

Aubree stopped in her tracks, though the tension in her heart gradually eased. Still, she did not forget to put on her loving stepmother's act.

"Essie's still so young. She shouldn't be starving herself. If she doesn't want to come downstairs, Catalina, could you put together a plate and bring it upstairs?"

Now it was Catalina's turn to stiffen in shock. She was pleasantly surprised at Aubree's thoughtfulness.

She quickly collected herself and began filling a new plate with some food. Then, she brought the food upstairs to Estella, leaving Lucian and Aubree alone in the dining room.

Silence fell over the room. It was absolutely stifling, yet Aubree quietly ate her dinner, as she dared not utter a single word.

She had no idea how much time had passed before Lucian's voice suddenly rang out. "How are Mr. and Mrs. Pearson?"

Aubree's heart skipped a beat. Elation bloomed in her chest.

In the past, she had always been the one scrambling to find a topic of conversation between herself and Lucian.

Now, however, Lucian took the lead and even asked after her parents.

Is this what I think it is?

The possibility filled her with hope, though Aubree suppressed her excitement and feigned composure.

"They've been well. It's just that my dad, well..."

Here, she trailed off and smiled wryly at Lucian before continuing, "You probably know how he had a huge argument with me after the whole issue with our engagement. He even kicked me out of the house. And he still hasn't let go of the topic after all this time. I've told him that you won't break off our engagement anymore, but he simply won't believe me."

As she spoke, Aubree carefully observed Lucian's expression.

She noticed his brows creasing slightly, and she inadvertently tensed as she awaited his answer.

I can't be obvious enough with my hint. I wonder how he'll reply to that...

Lucian was not a fool, and he immediately knew this was Aubree's roundabout way of asking about their marriage.

It was also a thinly veiled request for him to clear things up with her parents.

But...

Despite making up his mind to go along with the engagement, he still felt irritated when Aubree brought the topic up.

It took him a long time to suppress his annoyance. In a low voice, he replied, "If you're free, help me arrange a meal with your parents. I haven't met them in a while."

In a way, that remark answered Aubree's hopes.

As expected, Aubree agreed happily to his request. "Of course. I'll tell them about it tonight!"

Estella never appeared in the dining room, not even after Lucian and Aubree had finished their dinner

Aubree would not allow the young girl to throw a wrench in her plans, not after she had worked so hard to draw a promise out of Lucian regarding their engagement

After dinner, she offered, "Til head upstairs and check on Essie"

Lucian nodded indifferently in response.

She trudged upstairs, her heart in her throat

Catalina stayed with Estella in her bedroom and watched as the latter slowly ate her dinner.

When she spotted Aubree at the door, Catalina greeted her amiably, "Ms. Pearson"

Aubree nodded in acknowledgment and said, "You can head downstairs. I'd like to talk to Essie."

Catalina hesitated briefly but had no excuse to protest the young woman's wishes. Eventually, she left the

room.

Aubree and Estella found themselves alone.

Estella puffed her cheeks indignantly and slammed her fork on the table. She turned around and jumped on the bed, wrapping herself in the blankets. Then, she busied herself playing with her doll, seemingly intent on ignoring Aubree.

Her behavior caused Aubree's expression to fall. She hastily approached the girl and pleaded, "Essie, I didn't mean to say those things about you. Won't you stop being mad at me, hmm?"

In the past, Aubree would have lectured the girl for her tantrum.

However, Estella now held the key to her future, and Aubree had no choice but to worship the girl on a pedestal.

Estella kept her head lowered and ignored Aubree's pleas.

Aubree gritted her teeth and said, "Can you promise me not to tell your father about what I said to you in the car? Please? I promise I'll never say those things about you again."

Estella harrumphed softly at her words.

She had no plans to tell her father about Aubree's words in the first place.

Though she hated admitting it, Estella knew something was indeed wrong with her.

Still, even if she told her father about it, he would only say that Aubree should not have made those remarks.

Telling him would not achieve anything.

Meanwhile, Aubree took Estella's silence as an agreement and sighed in relief. "Well then, you should get some rest. I'll be here tomorrow to bring you to school."

Chapter 1122

After finishing that sentence, Aubree turned and headed for the door.

Still worried, Aubree stopped at the door and added, "I promise I'll take good care of you in the future. Be a good girl, okay?"

Only after she closed the bedroom door did Estella drop the doll in her hands. Tears welled in her eyes, blurring her vision.

I miss Ms. Jarvis, Archie, and Benny so much..

Downstairs, Lucian watched Aubree leave, though his thoughts remained on his sulking daughter. Concerned, he headed upstairs to check on Estella.

His daughter was brooding under her blanket when he arrived.

When she heard her bedroom door opening, she thought Aubree had returned and wrapped the blanket tighter around herself.

Lucian furrowed his brows in concern at her reaction. "Essie?"

Her father's voice coaxed Estella out of the cocoon of her blanket.

"What's with you today? Why are you so upset?" asked Lucian as he sat beside his daughter.

Estella sniffled and shot her father a pitiful look. "Daddy, I don't want my new school."

Frowning, Lucian said, "If you don't like your current kindergarten, I'll transfer you to a new one."

She clung to his sleeve and wailed, "No! I want to go back!"

"No," Lucian rejected her pleas coldly.

Realizing Estella was about to burst into tears, Lucian forced himself to soften his tone as he cajoled her, "Essie, don't throw a tantrum. I've made up my mind about this. I won't change it easily."

Estella said piteously with teary eyes, "I want to talk to Ms Jarvis, Archie, and Benny

Lucian could not bear to see his precious daughter crying, so he stroked her head and comforted her, "How about another day when I'm not busy?"

"Really?" Estella grabbed his sleeves and probed

If Daddy is willing to give Ms Jarvis a phone call, does that mean there are chances for them to reconcile?

Lucian nodded without a change in expression "Yes."

Essie would have come to accept Aubree by the time I finish my work. She won't bother me to make the phone call by then

Unaware of Lucian's thoughts, Estella broke into a smile as she thought her father would eventually call Roxanne

Afraid that Estella would mention Roxanne again, Lucian patted her head and said, "All right, get some rest. I have work to do"

Estella nodded obediently as she watched Lucian get up to leave.

Meanwhile, Aubree was driving to the Pearson residence with delight.

As soon as she walked through the door, Gina called out to her. "What took you so long? Did Lucian ask you to stay for a meal?"

Gina knew that Aubree went to pick up Estella from school.

At that moment, Aubree was in a great mood.

Upon hearing Gina's question, she was suddenly reminded of something and sat down beside her mother with a smile, holding the latter's arm.

Feeling puzzled, Gina asked, "What did you guys talk about to make you so happy?"

Aubree grinned and replied, "When are you free? Lucian wants to treat you to a meal."

“What?” A joyous smile formed on Gina’s face instantly.

They had waited for this moment for years. They had invited Lucian for a meal dozens of times throughout the years, but the latter turned down their offer each time.

Therefore, they could not believe that Lucian would take the initiative to meet them this time.

Aubree smiled proudly, extremely pleased with herself. “Lucian was the one who proposed it. I was taken aback too”

Astonishment flooded Gina once again. “What’s wrong with Lucian these days? Why the sudden change?”

As soon as she finished the sentence, she remembered something and pursued, “How’s your relationship with Estella now?”

Upon hearing Estella’s name, Aubree felt her head hurt.

“We were fine this morning, and even Lucian thought we were getting along quite well. However, when we got home from kindergarten...”

Gina’s heart sank at once. “What went wrong?”

Aubree told her what had happened in the car.

Panic seized Gina when she learned that Aubree had made Estella upset again

“Lucian must have believed that Estella has accepted you, which is why he’s treating us to a meal. This can’t go on. You have to fix your relationship with Estella.”

Aubree was also filled with frustration. The smile on her face faded away slowly when she heard her mother’s words. “I’m also thinking of a way.”

Frowning, Gina looked at Aubree and suggested, “Since Lucian has invited us for a meal, I don’t think he will oppose it if you want to stay at the Farwell residence.”

Aubree’s eyes lit up when she heard Gina’s suggestion.

I almost forgot about that! If I can stay in the manor, I can spend more time with Estella. By then, I won’t have to worry about not having the opportunity to strengthen our ties.

With that in mind, Aubree came up with an idea.

“Also...” Gina’s voice sounded again. “What happened between Lucian and Roxanne?”

Lucian's persistence toward Roxanne was evident to all of them.

Therefore, they were curious about his sudden change of mind.

Chapter 1123

Hearing her mother mention Roxanne, Aubree was a little irritated "Is she even worth mentioning?"

Since Lucian had decided to meet Aubree's parents officially, that meant they were only a step away from getting married

From her perspective, regretting this decision would not be one of Lucian's options.

However, that was not enough to soothe Gina's worries

"In any case, Roxanne is still Estella's biological mother. What if Lucian regrets it? There is nothing we can do if he chooses to go back on his word "

Aubree's heart sank when she heard that

I've come this far, and I won't allow Lucian to regret it again!

However, her concern did not go unnoticed Gina said faintly, "If you don't want Lucian to go back on his words, you must figure out what happened between them. If there is a misunderstanding between them, we will prevent them from clearing it up."

An icy glint flashed across Aubree's eyes. "Got it!"

Gina looked at her daughter as mixed feelings surged within her heart. "I hope you won't blame me for dampening your spirits. We've waited for six years, and we're not going to wait any longer."

Aubree smiled. "I should be thanking you for reminding me."

The two chatted about Lucian for a while before Aubree returned to her room.

After being blackmailed by Cory the last time, Cory left Aubree another new contact number that Lucian would not find out.

Deep down, Aubree still had her reservations.

However, her mother's reminder left her no choice but to risk it and give it a shot.

She gritted her teeth and tried making the call.

The person on the other end answered almost immediately.

"Ms. Pearson, can I help you?" Cory's lazy voice sounded over the phone.

Chapter 1124

Aubree couldn't help hesitating.

This man ripped me off! Is it wise to work with him again? However, he is the only person who can escape Lucian's investigation...

Cory was starting to get impatient on the other end of the line. "If there's nothing else, I'm hanging up. It's late, and we private detectives have to get some sleep too."

"Wait!" Aubree hastily stopped him from hanging up. "I need to talk to you,"

Cory arched a brow. "Oh? What else do you have to say? I did not owe you anything in your previous commission. If you have another request, you will have to pay extra."

Cory was apparently trying to rip Aubree off again.

Aubree clenched her fists tightly. "I've given you ten million! What you did previously isn't even worth that much!"

As soon as she finished saying that, she heard Cory sneering. "I'm afraid you've misunderstood. The ten

million you gave me is for my service fee and the price of buying the photos I've taken. Or do you think those photos are worthless?"

Aubree gritted her teeth. "How much more do you want?"

Without any hesitation, Cory named his price. "Ten million."

Another ten million!

Aubree flew into a rage. "Don't cross the line. We are in the same boat, remember?"

Cory shrugged nonchalantly and said. "That's why I ask for this much. Don't forget that Mr. Farwell's men are tailing me now. It's way harder to stalk him now."

After saying that, he turned to look around.

Lucian's men were still watching him in the shadows.

Although Lucian had decided to cut ties with Roxanne, in the end, Estella was also one of the victims who suffered previously.

Naturally, Lucian would not let the mastermind go easily.

Aubree could not refute Cory's words. After weighing the pros and cons, she clenched her teeth and agreed to the latter's request. "All right, but you must do a good job!"

Chapter 1125

Cory was in a good mood, knowing he had once again made a fortune. He then said, "Of course. Ms. Pearson, I'm sure you've come to me again because you believe in my capabilities. Now, tell me. What is it that you want me to investigate?"

Narrowing her eyes, Aubree said, "Investigate what happened between Roxanne and Lucian!"

Cory let out a meaningful chuckle when he heard what she said.

Aubree questioned coldly, "Why are you laughing?"

As if unaware of her anger, Cory muttered, "Since you've agreed to the price I proposed so readily, I have to show you something."

With that, he took out a phone from the bag beside him and typed away on the screen.

Soon, Aubree received a few messages on her phone.

"I believe what you're about to see won't disappoint you, Ms. Pearson." Cory sounded confident.

Aubree furrowed her brows and swiped open her phone, checking the messages he sent

The chat interface showed that Cory had sent her more than ten pictures.

Each picture was attached with the time it was taken.

Those were recent pictures of Roxanne and Jack hanging out together.

Judging from the date attached, the two had been meeting each other almost every day.

Moreover, they seemed intimate with each other in the pictures.

Aubree was hesitant. "What does this mean? Are you trying to suggest that Jack was why Lucian and Roxanne separated?"

On the other end of the line, Cory said in a mischievous tone, "Come to think of it, it's kind of amusing. The princess of the Farwell family stayed overnight at Ms. Jarvis' house. The next morning, Mr. Damaris came. After that, Mr. Farwell came in the afternoon as well. Then, he left with her daughter and never returned to Ms. Jarvis' place again."

There must be some correlation between these two incidents judging by the time they happened.

However, Aubree was still doubtful.

Roxanne and Jack meeting up frequently was no longer something new.

Before this, she had tried disclosing this matter to Lucian, but nothing significant happened.

Lucian indeed got furious, but he didn't cut off contact with Roxanne because of it.

However, Aubree couldn't think of anything other than this that would possibly cause Lucian and Roxanne's separation.

Consequently, she was filled with puzzlement.

A few moments later, Aubree broke the silence. "It shouldn't be this simple. Continue to investigate and find out why Lucian and Roxanne separated. Otherwise, you will not receive a penny from me!"

"Ms. Pearson, are you threatening me?" Cory's tone turned cold.

Roxanne was momentarily at a loss for words. After struggling to suppress her anger, she said, "My apologies. I shouldn't have said that. I'm counting on you."

Satisfied with her response, Cory scoffed, "That's better. Don't forget that we're not in a simple employer- employee relationship

He then hung up without giving her a chance to reply.

Aubree's face clouded over as she stared at the darkened phone screen.

I swear I won't show Cory any mercy once I've become Mrs. Farwell in the future.

She then remembered something and scrolled through the pictures Cory sent her.

A cold glint flashed across her eyes as she looked at the way Roxanne and Jack interacted with each other in the pictures.

Regardless of the reason behind Lucian and Roxanne's separation, Roxanne's relationship with Jack is still worthy of exploitation! It'd be even better if I can get something to actually happen between them...

However, she couldn't come up with a plan for the time being.

Hence, she needed to discuss with someone how to put her idea into action.

Chapter 1126

Remembering her task of bringing Estella to school tomorrow, Aubree set an alarm for six o'clock in the morning.

She felt extremely irritated when the alarm rang the next morning, disturbing her slumber.

Last night, she barely got any sleep as she couldn't stop thinking about Roxanne and Jack. She had only slept for three to four hours

Raising her hand to turn off the alarm, she closed her eyes, wanting to go back to sleep.

But I still need to gain Lucian's favor

After lazing around under the covers for a while, Aubree reluctantly climbed out of bed, suppressing her

anger.

She then went downstairs after washing up.

Gina was leisurely watering the flowers downstairs and was surprised to see her daughter up so early. "Why are you up so early?"

Still grumpy from lack of sleep, Aubree's expression was grim. "I have to send Essie to school."

Hearing that, Gina bobbed her head understandingly. "You should. You're suffering now in exchange for a bright and happy future after you marry Lucian. Hang in there."

Aubree was, of course, aware of this. Otherwise, she wouldn't have woken up this early in the morning.

"Did you look into what I told you last night?" Gina turned to look at her daughter after she finished watering the flowers.

At the thought of that matter, Aubree nodded with furrowed brows. "Yes, I asked someone to investigate it, but I'm not sure what's the reason."

She had been pondering about it all night long.

According to the information Cory had provided her, Roxanne's daily routine hardly changed during this period.

It won't make sense to say that Lucian gave up on Roxanne because of her relationship with Jack. Roxanne is already on friendly terms with Jack before she and Lucian had a fallout.

However, if that wasn't the case, Aubree couldn't think of another reason.

Seeing that her daughter had taken what she said into consideration, Gina stopped saying anything else.

After the two had a simple breakfast, Aubree drove to the Farwell residence.

When she arrived, Lucian was having breakfast with Estella.

The man frowned slightly when he saw Aubree. "Why are you here this early in the morning?"

Aubree said, beaming. "Farwell Group is quite far away from Essie's kindergarten, and it'd be quite inconvenient for you to make a trip there. So, I was thinking I'd do it instead."

With that, she flashed Estella an amicable smile.

Estella pursed her lips in silence as she remembered what had happened between them yesterday.

Lucian, on the other hand, pondered for a moment, feeling inexplicably awkward.

Estella stayed with Roxanne for some time before she transferred to the new kindergarten. Back then,

Roxanne would be the one sending Estella to school.

Now, however, Estella had transferred to another kindergarten, and the person who sent her to school had also changed.

A self-deprecating look flashed across Lucian's eyes when he realized what he was thinking.

I've already decided to cut ties with Roxanne. So why am I still thinking about her?

Aubree felt somewhat uneasy when she didn't get a response from Lucian after a long time, thinking he was giving her the cold shoulder again.

"If you have already asked someone else to send Essie, I'll-

Before she could finish her sentence, Lucian's deep voice sounded.

"You're here just in time. Have you had breakfast? If not, come join us."

When Aubree heard that, her eyes lit up suddenly. "It's fine. I got up very early, so I've already eaten."

After that, she pointed at the couch cautiously. "I'll sit on the couch and wait."

Chapter 1127

Lucian nodded, his expression giving nothing away as he continued to have breakfast with Estella.

Estella was reluctant to go to school, and she ate exceptionally slower than usual.

Her appetite plunged with Aubree's sudden visit, and it took a turn for the worse when the woman expressed her intention of sending Estella to school later.

Estella put down her fork gloomily.

Lucian did not make much of her demeanor and assumed that Estella was only acting out because she didn't want to go to school. In a low voice, he ordered, "Follow Ms. Pearson after you're done with breakfast."

Estella's face sank. She gave her father a puppy-eyed look.

However, before she could say anything, Aubree's voice rang. "Don't worry. It's still early. Essie can still have more food if she's not done yet."

Estella furrowed her brows and shot her a look.

Aubree was afraid that the little girl, if unhappy, might tell Lucian what happened yesterday. Hence, Aubree didn't give her a chance to speak.

Noticing that Estella was looking at her, Aubree immediately said, "Are you done, Essie? We can go now if you're done with your breakfast!"

Estella puffed her cheeks in exasperation, as Aubree interrupted her right when she was about to talk.

Aubree grew more and more apprehensive as she trained her eyes on Estella.

"I'll see you guys to the door."

Lucian was thinking that even though Aubree's relationship with Estella had recently improved, the little girl might still need to get herself used to Aubree taking care of her. He wanted to help the two of them get along.

Then, he put down his fork and started to clear the table.

Estella was alarmed when she noticed Lucian standing up. "I don't want to go to school!"

Lucian frowned. "If you don't go now, it's going to be more difficult for you to get used to getting along with

others."

Estella remained seated in her chair and turned her head away grumpily to avoid Lucian's gaze, making a physical proclamation of her protest.

The atmosphere between the father and daughter became very tense in the dining room.

Aubree hadn't expected that that would happen and took a few moments to fully grasp the situation.

"Lucian, Essie is still young. Don't force her. If she really doesn't feel like going to school, so be it. I know a friend who can do homeschooling-"

Lucian interrupted in a cold tone before she could finish, "No. We can't indulge her."

The thought of letting Estella be homeschooled did cross his mind as well.

However, when he thought about how Estella had been doing recently, Lucian was suddenly reminded of his initial intention of sending his daughter to kindergarten.

It was imperative for Estella to get along with others to improve her condition, and it would be best that others approach her.

Besides, it had taken her so much effort to improve her condition by this much. If she continued to stay cooped up in the house, Lucian was afraid that Estella might relapse.

That was definitely not something he wanted to witness.

“But...” Aubree pretended to take Estella’s side.

Naturally, she was hoping that the little girl would go to kindergarten. Otherwise, she would have lost her chance to show herself in front of Lucian.

However, there were times when concessions had to be made.

It was apparent that Lucian had already made up his mind. He turned around to head for the door, not caring whether Estella had tried to keep up.

At the sight of her father turning her back against her, Estella was aggrieved.

Even Ms. Pearson is saying that it’s all right if I don’t go to school. Why does Daddy insist that I go?

Moreover, it was obvious from Lucian’s body language that he would no longer pay heed to her if she didn’t keep up.