

Mission To Remarry

Chapter 1127-1158

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.

Chapter 1128

Estella looked at her father, who was already at the door and turned to look at Aubree, who was still standing by the couch.

A few moments passed, and the little girl finally begrudgingly got out of her chair and jogged to keep up with Lucian

Aubree let out a relieved sigh and caught up to them as well.

"Daddy," Estella mumbled. She gave her father a puppy-eyed look and tugged at the corner of his shirt in a bid to curry favor with her father.

Lucian lowered his gaze to meet Estelia's. He lifted his hand and patted her head. "I'm really busy lately. Please don't throw a tantrum at me."

Estella pursed her lips in disapproval, refusing to believe what he said.

She knew as a matter of fact that Lucian was in a bad mood because he had quarreled with Roxanne.

Estella was flabbergasted that Lucian was still trying to lie to her, despite the fact that even she knew the real reason her father was upset.

Why are adults so weird? Why doesn't Daddy just make up with Ms. Jarvis?

Of course, Lucian had no idea what was on Estella's mind. He averted his gaze after he was done talking and turned to look at Aubree, who was standing right behind Estella.

As Aubree's attention had always been on him, she flashed him a smile the moment his gaze landed on her.

"What's the matter?"

Lucian furrowed his brows and asked in a low voice, "Have you asked your parents? What did they say?"

Aubree was overjoyed to hear him. However, she gave nothing away and replied, "I talked to them when I got back home yesterday. They said that since you're busy, we could arrange to have a meal together at your convenience."

She sounded like a considerable and genteel woman.

Aubree carefully gauged Lucian's reaction after she was done talking.

If he was serious about setting a date for their wedding, he wouldn't have a reason to delay having a meal together with her parents.

Moreover, Lucian was the one who brought up the topic today.

Thinking that Lucian was contemplating on setting a date right away, Aubree was brimming with hope.

However, moments passed by, and she couldn't seem to get a response from him.

Aubree's heart sank, but she had to put up an understanding front and said, "I know you've been busy lately. There's no need to rush to have a meal together. We can always do it after you're done dealing with your matters."

Lucian finally responded and nodded impassively.

Aubree gritted her teeth.

It was clear as day that Lucian was still on the fence about their marriage.

The deafening silence was Lucian trying to tell Aubree to let him off the hook.

"It's getting late. You should send Estella to school," he uttered in a swift attempt to change the topic of

conversation.

Aubree didn't feel right to press on and forced a smile. "All right. I'll go pick her up later so that you don't need to make another trip."

A hint of hesitation fled across Lucian's eyes.

However, when he thought about how he'd just got himself out of having a meal with her parents, Lucian felt bad for rejecting her goodwill yet again.

Hence, he agreed and said, "Essie will be in your care then."

Aubree's lips pursed into a thin smile. She wanted to leave after bidding goodbye to Lucian.

However, the little girl refused to let go of Lucian's shirt

"Essie, we're going to be late if we don't leave now," Aubree egged her on with a strained smile.

The little girl pouted and cast a glance at Lucian stubbornly.

Lucian suddenly recalled something and held Estella's hand. "Let's go. I'm sending you."

The little girl finally relented and followed her father out of the mansion.

Aubree heaved a sigh of relief and jogged to keep up with them.

Chapter 1129

After sending Estella into the car, Lucian left.

Aubree started the engine and slowly drove toward Estella's kindergarten.

On her way there, she tried to tell the girl not to take what she had said the day before to heart.

However, no matter what she said, it was as if Estella could not hear her-the girl just kept fidgeting with her fingers.

Aubree gritted her teeth at that. It took her a long time before she managed to stop herself from actually hitting Estella.

After sending Estella to the kindergarten, she dared not linger around, fearing that her urge to hit the girl would reveal itself if she were to stay there a second longer.

On the other side, Roxanne sent Archie and Benny to the kindergarten early in the morning.

She found out that Lucian was not going to send Estella there anymore, so there was no need for her to stay away from the kindergarten anymore.

Furthermore, she knew that the boys were feeling awful lately.

If she sends them to kindergarten herself, the boys would be in a better mood.

Upon reaching the entrance, Roxanne suddenly recalled something. In a worried tone, she said to the boys, "You can't sneak off to look for Essie even if you miss her. If you really want to meet her, you have to tell me about it."

Roxanne would not know what to do if the boys sneaked off to look for Estella again.

Lucian clearly wanted to cut ties with me based on the way he left. Well, it's what I wanted all along too. I don't want Lucian to think that I'm regretting this.

The boys obediently answered, "Got it, Mommy."

Roxanne then patted their heads apologetically before asking them to enter with Pippa.

After watching the boys disappear from her line of sight, Roxanne turned and went back into her car. At the same time, she let out a sigh of relief.

She had been wracked with worry since waking up about whether or not the boys were going to ask her what happened after she called Lucian.

Archie and Benny knew her too well; they would figure out her lies swiftly.

If they really interrogated her about the matter, Roxanne would not know how to answer them.

Fortunately, it seemed like Archie and Benny had forgotten about the matter after Jack's appearance the day before.

Even after stopping the car at the research institute's entrance, Roxanne was still feeling conflicted.

That was why it took her a while to register the two minivans parked before the research institute.

"Dr. Jarvis."

Colby was with a few researchers, and he was instructing the workers to transport the medicinal herbs.

His expression changed when he saw Roxanne, but he soon schooled his expression to a neutral look before walking over to her nonchalantly.

Roxanne pursed her lips and smiled at him before casting a confused look at the busying workers. "These

are..."

With a smile, Colby explained, "I heard that these are a batch of medicinal herbs given to us by Mr. Damaris. Mr. Damaris said that he has already told you about it."

Roxanne froze for a second before finally recalling the conversation she had with Jack.

Jack did mention that he was going to send a batch of medicinal herbs to the research institute when he came to deliver me the book about ancient medicine yesterday.

However, Archie and Benny threw a tantrum then, so Roxanne did not manage to find out more about the batch of herbs.

I never thought that he would give me such a large batch.

“Dr. Jarvis, our research institute could get enough supply of medicinal herbs all thanks to your good relationship with Mr. Damaris,” Colby politely said when he noticed that Roxanne was in a daze.

As he spoke, his gaze was fixed on her face, seemingly trying to catch her changing her expression.

Chapter 1130

Hearing that, Roxanne instinctively furrowed her brows as her tone turned indifferent.

“Oh, no, no. Mr. Damaris is only a business partner. He has provided us with the medicinal herbs in time to ensure that the research continues according to schedule.”

Colby’s words had reminded Roxanne of her boys, and certain thoughts crossed her mind.

How will the boys believe me if even Colby has mistaken my relationship with Jack? Also, I simply can’t think of why others will mistake the nature of my relationship with Jack.

Colby flashed her an unfazed smile. “You don’t need to be in a hurry to deny it, Dr. Jarvis. After all, it’s normal for Mr. Damaris to be impressed by someone as skillful as you, Dr. Jarvis.”

Then, as if fearing Roxanne would not know about what they knew, he beamed and said, “I’m afraid you don’t know about this, but everyone in the research institute has been talking about your relationship with Mr. Damaris.”

Roxanne stiffened. “What are you talking about?”

Colby shrugged. “Mr. Damaris is always by your side when he visits the research institute, and he’s so considerate of our establishment. It will be difficult for us to not assume that the two of you aren’t romantically involved.”

Roxanne parted her lips but soon realized she had no way to refute that. Thus, the only thing she said was, “Dr. Galloway, if you ever hear anyone talking about this again,

please explain to them that Mr. Damaris and I are only friends. There isn't anything else between us."

Colby inclined his head. "I will."

Then, he added, "Still, this matter won't die down just because they hear an explanation or two from me. If you don't wish for others to mistake your relationship with Mr. Damaris, it's best to keep a distance from him."

Roxanne nodded. "Thank you for the reminder. I will pay attention to that."

After that, Colby said nothing else and led his men to take stock of the medicine.

Unbeknownst to Roxanne, a peculiar look flashed across Colby's eyes.

Jack had been going to the research institute almost every day.

Every time he was there, the two of them would take almost half a day to talk about the progression of the research.

Indeed, the other employees at the research institute had been talking about them, but Colby's earlier words mostly stemmed from his worries about their relationship.

Only after hearing Roxanne's denial did Colby finally feel relieved.

In contrast, Roxanne only felt more and more frustrated after what Colby had said.

In the afternoon, Jack came to the research institute as usual to discuss the research's progress.

"How's the research? Was the batch of medicinal herbs I sent in the morning enough? If not, I can get another batch," Jack said to her in front of other researchers.

Roxanne did not know whether it was a trick of his mind or not, but she felt as if everyone around her was watching them right after Jack said that.

However, when she lifted her head to survey her surroundings, she only saw them busying away with the research.

At that, Roxanne began jeering at herself.

At the end of the day, she was only worrying about that because she was feeling guilty after hearing Colby's

words.

Speaking of which, I'm always by Colby's side too, so why is Jack the only one they think I'm romantically

involved with?

Then, the thought of her two sons popped into her head again, and Roxanne pressed her lips tightly together.

"Dr. Jarvis?" Jack called out, puzzled when he noticed her expression. "What are you thinking about?"

Roxanne snapped back to her sense and gave him a quick smile. "Nothing."

"These medicinal herbs..."

Right as Jack was about to say something, Roxanne cut him off by saying, "Why don't we talk outside? Let's not disturb the people's concentration in their experiments."

Chapter 1131

Jack froze for a few seconds before coming to some kind of realization and agreeing to it.

The two of them then went out of the research institute.

A look of delight danced across Colby's face when he saw them leave.

Ever since Jack came for Roxanne, Colby had been keeping his focus on the two.

Therefore, he saw the look of struggle on Roxanne's face.

Evidently, what he had said in the morning was effective.

Meanwhile, Roxanne came to a stop in her tracks at the entrance of the institute with mixed feelings still surging in her heart. In the meantime, Jack stopped behind her.

"Sorry." Roxanne had calmed herself down on their way out and realized that she had been a little too carried away earlier.

Jack raised a brow and teased, "What's the matter? Why are you apologizing to me all of a sudden? You couldn't have secretly done something terrible to the project, could you, Ms. Jarvis?"

Roxanne shook her head immediately. "Of course not."

I've done so much for this project. Why would I do anything bad to it?

Jack chuckled. "I'm just joking. Still, I have no clue as to what could possibly make you apologize to me other than this."

Roxanne lowered her gaze. "I just think that my attitude earlier wasn't too good."

"I don't think it's a big deal. I don't mind any kind of attitude from you as long as your research goes well."

Jack was making it clear that they only had a professional relationship.

However, Roxanne only felt even guiltier upon hearing his words.

Jack shares the same thought as I do-he's only doing so much for the research institute to ensure that the project goes well. But here I am, getting suspicious about Jack's intentions because of some stupid gossip.

"So, Ms. Jarvis, was there something you wanted to tell me by asking me to come here?" Jack queried.

His words pulled her out of her thoughts, and she found herself unable to string a sentence in response.

Originally, she had wanted to tell Jack that they should keep a distance from each other.

Yet, she had to swallow those words after what Jack said.

When Jack heard nothing from her, he lifted a brow questioningly.

Finally, Roxanne quietly said, "Let me thank you on behalf of the research institute for the batch of medicinal herbs this morning, Mr. Damaris."

Jack stood transfixed for a moment before a smile appeared on his lips. "Did you ask me to come out here to say this?"

Roxanne guiltily averted her gaze before nodding.

At that, Jack deliberately fell silent for a few seconds before suggesting, "Since you would like to thank me, Ms. Jarvis, why don't you... thank me by making me some homemade food?"

Roxanne's lashes fluttered, and she inhaled sharply.

Jack's earlier words had made her think that she had mistaken him, but now, his request seemed a little too intimate.

Seemingly sensing the difficult situation he had put her in, he smiled and added, "There is no rush. If I'm going to eat what you've made, I'll certainly want to try a dish you've mastered Please prepare for it and get me to try it once you're ready"

In a way, Jack was giving her the chance to digest his words.

However, Roxanne's head remained hanging as various emotions flashed past her eyes.

Alas, she was the one who mentioned how grateful she was for Jack's help. Thus, the request he made was something she would not be able to reject after that.

Furthermore, the request was not something urgent. That meant that he might change his mind over time.

With those thoughts in mind, Roxanne agreed to it. "Okay."

Chapter 1132

The two of them were preoccupied with their conversation, so they did not notice Cory's figure appearing around the corner across the street.

As Cory looked at the photo he just took, he grinned.

Even though Roxanne was not standing close to Jack earlier, the angle he took the photo made it seem as if the two of them were hugging.

After going through the photos he had taken, he finally chose two and sent them to Aubree.

In the meantime, Aubree was strolling on the streets with Frieda because the Pearson residence was not close to Estella's kindergarten, and Aubree did not wish to travel so far.

Furthermore, she had something to talk to Frieda about.

"Are you saying it's highly likely that Lucian broke up with Roxanne because of Jack?"

Frieda had been listening to Aubree the entire time, but she was still confused.

"Although Jack's an excellent man, he still isn't as good as Lucian. Is there really a need for Lucian to give up on her just because of Jack?" Aubree hummed in rumination.

"That's what I've been doubtful about, so I've sent Cory to look into this."

Right as the two were chatting away, Aubree's phone suddenly buzzed.

At that, Aubree halted and took out her phone to glance at the screen.

She had received two photos from Cory.

In the photos, Roxanne was with Jack, and it looked like they were in an intimate embrace.

“Are they dating?” Frieda blurted out in surprise when she saw the photo.

Her misunderstanding was not surprising. Anyone would share the same thoughts like her upon seeing those photos.

Even Aubree stiffened for a few seconds before coldly saying, “No, I don’t think so.”

With that, she showed Frieda the photos Cory took in the past.

However, the more photos Frieda saw, the more confounded she was. “If they aren’t a thing, aren’t they spending a little too much time together? Moreover, some of their actions in these photos look intimate...

Right then, a thought entered Aubree’s mind, and she curled her lips mockingly. “If even you are mistaking the nature of their relationship, I’m sure others would be even more stunned by these photos.”

“What do you mean?” Frieda was a little confused.

A ruthless look crept onto Aubree’s face. “Regardless of whether they’ve separated because of Jack, I can use these photos to make Jack the wedge I’m going to drive between Roxanne and Lucian!”

As long as everyone thinks that Roxanne is in a relationship with Jack, Lucian will never go back to her.

Frieda vaguely guessed what Aubree had in mind, but she dared not confirm it until she heard Aubree’s

words.

Promptly, she tensed up.

Even though Aubree had yet to take any action, Frieda knew that the plan would be a risky one.

“Aubree,” Frieda nervously started. “Are you really planning to send these photos out?”

Then, in an even softer voice, she said, “I just hope you remember how the Hightower family came to its end back then...”

If Lucian had truly cut ties with Roxanne, Aubree's plan would be a good move.

However, if Lucian had a tinge of regret about Roxanne, the photos would catch his attention and make him look into the matter.

If he ended up tracking them down, Frieda was afraid that her family and Aubree's would end up like the Hightower family-gone in a night.

Aubree furrowed her brows in irritation. "Obviously not. Why would I be that stupid?"

Therefore, she was not going to be the one to initiate it.

Chapter 1133

"In that case....

Frieda was puzzled. "When are we going to use these photos?"

Aubree's eyes narrowed. "I'm still waiting for the right opportunity. In fact, I called you here today to discuss

this matter."

The right opportunity.

Frieda knitted her brows when she realized the meaning behind Aubree's words.

She was of the opinion that the photos were not enough to prove anything. She wanted to create a scenario where Roxanne had nothing to defend herself with.

However, the plan was easier said than done.

If only they were on good terms with either Roxanne or Jack, the chances of success would be higher.

Unfortunately, there was bad blood between both of them and Roxanne, and neither was familiar with Jack.

Under such circumstances, Frieda, too, drew a blank.

"Have you managed to come up with any ideas?" Aubree began to grow impatient.

Her relationship with Estella had improved due to Frieda's suggestion. She figured that the latter might be able to give her some useful ideas.

Unfortunately, all she got was silence after waiting for a long time.

Frieda looked troubled. "Given our relationship with them, it would be difficult not to leave any tracks. If you insist on carrying on, we'll have no choice but to create an accident."

Especially one that involves Roxanne. Once Jack shows his concern for her, it will be enough for us to make a big fuss out of it.

Aubree rejected the idea outright. "It wasn't easy to change Lucian's impression of me. He would definitely cancel our engagement if he were to find out I was behind it."

"I failed to take that into account," Frieda admitted with a grim look on her face.

"Do we have no choice but to wait for them to develop feelings for each other with the passage of time?" Aubree wondered aloud.

Frieda's eyes lit up. "Not necessarily!"

Aubree gave her a baffled look.

"We can't create an accident to hurt them, but we can increase the time they spend together. Sooner or later, it won't come as a surprise if they end up as a couple, will it?" Frieda said.

In other words, the plan is to discreetly matchmake them. Even if Lucian finds out, it will be easy to explain it away, making this a low-risk scheme.

Nodding thoughtfully, Aubree reassured Frieda, "I would have felt so lost if it wasn't for you. Frieda, don't you worry. After all that you have done for me, I'll definitely make it worth your while once I become Mrs. Farwell."

Frieda forced a smile. "That's the least I can do for my best friend!"

Now that she had a plan, Aubree's mind began to wander as both of them continued to shop.

When the sky began to darken, Frieda checked the time and reminded Aubree, "Aren't you supposed to pick

Essie up from school? You're going to be late if you don't leave now."

She had assumed the latter had lost track of time.

However, Aubree surprised her by replying matter-of-factly, "What's the hurry? Even if I'm late, the teacher will wait with her. It's not like she'll be lost."

Her response confused Frieda again.

We're obviously not far from Essie's kindergarten, so what is Aubree up to now?

Aubree didn't bother to explain herself. It wasn't until they shopped for a while longer that she finally decided to drive nonchalantly to the kindergarten.

Chapter 1134

Meanwhile, Estella and Pamela were the only ones left at the kindergarten entrance.

"Essie, who's coming to pick you up today? Were you always picked up so late in your previous kindergarten?" Pamela patiently clarified the matter with Estella, for it was the first time she had encountered such a situation.

Estella pursed her lips in silence as if she didn't hear Pamela at all.

It was never her desire to come to the new kindergarten, and now that she was left to wait for a long time, she couldn't help but feel depressed.

Just when Pamela was wondering whether to give Lucian a call, a car gradually rolled up beside them.

Aubree alighted from it with an anxious expression on her face.

"I'm sorry for being late, Ms. Yaxley. Traffic was really bad." After speaking to Pamela, she gave Estella an apologetic look. "I'm sorry to have made you wait, Essie. I'll definitely come earlier next time!"

Estella continued to pout in silence.

Seeing that, Pamela defused the situation with a smile. "It's normal for kids to throw a tantrum after waiting for such a long time. She'll be fine after a while."

Aubree nodded in acknowledgment. She pulled Estella to her side, then bade Pamela goodbye and ushered Estella into the car.

Throughout the journey, Aubree kept apologizing to Estella.

"I'm really sorry. I stay far away from your kindergarten, and I also didn't expect to encounter such heavy traffic."

With her head hung low, Estella ignored Aubree while fiddling with her fingers.

When they arrived at the Farwell residence, Lucian was about to give Aubree a call.

The sight of her car coming to a halt elicited a frown from him.

“Lucian, I’m sorry I was late picking up Essie. I was stuck in traffic.”

Aubree had already gotten into character, complete with a remorseful expression and reddened eyes.

Lucian suppressed his urge to demand an explanation from her.

“This is all my fault. Essie never liked her new kindergarten, and I had to make things worse by letting her wait. It’s no surprise that she’s mad at me,” Aubree blamed herself.

Behind her, Estella looked up to glance at her. Despite the minute change in her face, she didn’t say a word at

all

All this while, she had felt that Aubree was just putting on an act. But now, she was no longer as certain.

Ms. Pearson was speaking in that tone inside the car. If this was all just an act, why would she bother to pretend in front of me?

As Lucian watched how Aubree blamed herself, his expression changed.

“Why don’t I find a place to stay that’s nearer to Essie’s kindergarten? Otherwise, it would be troublesome if I got caught in traffic again...” Aubree added while discreetly observing Lucian’s expression.

The sight of his furrowed brows filled Aubree with secret delight. She could see that the time was right to pile on the pressure. “I’ll get my mom to look for a place for me once I get back.”

A

“There’s no such need,” Lucian said in a deep voice. “You can move into the manor for the time being. It will be more convenient for you to pick Essie up and watch over her here.”

Aubree feigned hesitation. “Wouldn’t Essie feel uncomfortable if I were to move in? I feel that we should take it slow when it comes to improving our relationship.”

"Since it's just a matter of time for us to live together, we might as well let her get used to it earlier." Lucian then turned around and instructed Catalina, "Prepare the guest room for Ms. Pearson."

Aubree was naturally delighted by the turn of events.

Just as I expected. Lucian's attitude toward me will soften as long as I demonstrate through my actions that I have Essie's best interest at heart. From the looks of it, my days in the Farwell residence won't be as painful

anymore.

Chapter 1135

Archie and Benny didn't see Estella for another day and didn't hear from her.

Even though the three of them had previously agreed to get Lucian and Roxanne to reconcile, they had no visibility on Lucian's situation without any feedback from Estella.

It was evident that Roxanne had no desire to patch things up with Lucian.

The boys couldn't help but worry about the current state of affairs.

After dinner, both of them returned to their room earlier than usual.

"Archie, why don't we go and see Daddy?" Benny suggested. "If he knows that we're his sons, I'm sure he will come and see Mommy."

Even though Archie was anxious for his parents to reconcile, he rejected his brother's suggestion without any hesitation, "Mommy must have her reasons for hiding the truth from Daddy. If we were to reveal it to him, we would definitely hurt Mommy's feelings."

Benny cupped his glum-looking face with his hands. "What should we do, then? We also have no idea what's going on at Essie's side."

Just as they were discussing, a sudden knock was heard at the door.

It was then followed by Roxanne's voice.

"Archie, Benny, are you asleep? Can I come in?"

The boys held their tongues instantly as they got up to open the door.

Upon entering the room, Roxanne gave both of them a look of concern. "What's going on with the two of you? Are you mad because of what happened yesterday?"

Usually, they would have stayed back and accompanied her at the table after dinner.

If they went up straight, it was clear that something was bothering them.

The boys exchanged glances.

Both of them had been discussing how to get Lucian and Roxanne to reconcile, a topic that they could never share with their mother.

For a moment, neither of them said a word.

Assuming she had guessed right, Roxanne felt utterly helpless.

“Do you dislike Mr. Damaris because you think something is going on between the two of us?”

After all, even the staff at the research institute had such a misconception. It wouldn't be a surprise for the boys to think the same way.

While Archie pursed his lips in silence, Benny nodded without a second thought.

“I don't like it when you see Mr. Damaris every day, accept his flowers, and invite him to dinner!”

Upon hearing Benny's innocent comment, Roxanne couldn't help but feel bad for Jack.

He was only concerned about the project, yet he had become the subject of everyone's misunderstanding on

her account

In fact, her attitude toward him had even sparked intense hostility from the children.

“There's nothing going on between Mr. Damaris and me. I simply did all that out of courtesy,” she explained patiently.

With a frown on his face, Benny questioned further, “In that case, why are you rude to Mr. Farwell?”

Roxanne was at a loss for words.

It's true that I treat Jack differently from Lucian, but that's because...

“You treat Mr. Damaris cordially, and yet you don't like him. Does that mean you're rude to Mr. Farwell because you like him?” Benny asked innocently.

Roxanne was stunned yet again.

Their question was exactly the same as Estella's from that fateful night.

Through the eyes of the children, the world was as simple as black and white.

Just like that particular night, Roxanne was stumped for an explanation. All she could do was deny it adamantly. "I don't like him too."

"But I like Mr. Farwell!" Benny lowered his head in disappointment. "And I like Essie too..."

Chapter 1136

"Mommy, please don't dislike Mr. Farwell." Devastated by Roxanne's response, Benny tugged her sleeve pitifully. "Even though Mr. Farwell has made you mad, he still cares a lot about you. Every time you were sick, he would always be by your side."

His words triggered a flicker in Roxanne's eyes and tugged at her heartstrings.

It was true that ever since her return, Lucian had always been by her side when she wasn't feeling well.

Prior to that, Roxanne had never had anyone care for her other than the children doing their clumsy best.

I can't deny that Lucian has given me a sense of security, but...

Oblivious to what was going through his mother's mind, Benny mumbled, "Mr. Farwell treats you very well, and he doesn't let us tell-"

It was then Benny felt a sudden poke from Archie.

Biting his tongue, he quickly tried to change the subject. "No matter what, Mr. Farwell is the best. Can you stop quarreling with him already?"

However, Roxanne's brows were already knitted. "What did you mean just now? What else did Mr. Farwell do?"

Benny lowered his head, brimming with guilt.

The look on his face ended up intriguing Roxanne further.

At that moment, Archie knew that it was too late to salvage Benny's slip of the tongue. Trying to hide it any further would only intensify Roxanne's suspicions.

With that thought in mind, Archie spoke candidly. "It was Mr. Farwell who took care of you when you were drunk."

His words inadvertently caused Roxanne to recall the events of that night.

Back then, she had assumed that she was dreaming. Little did she expect the entire incident to turn out to be real.

The thing is, when did he leave?

"Mommy, Benny is right. Can you stop fighting with Mr. Farwell already?" Archie casually changed the subject. "We really like playing with Essie. Every time both of you quarrel, we won't be able to see her"

The mention of Estella caused Roxanne to set her thoughts aside as she gave Archie an apologetic look.

Can what's going on between Lucian and me be described as a quarrel? It could be in the past, but given Lucian's stance, it's clear that he wants to sever ties with me

It was a fact that Roxanne had no illusion about but didn't know how to explain to the boys.

"I'm sorry, I didn't want things to turn out this way too, but not everything is as simple as you think."

The pale-looking Roxanne eked out an explanation a short while later.

Archie responded with a sensible nod. "I can understand where you're coming from, Mommy. It's just that can you convince Mr. Farwell to allow Essie to return to the kindergarten?"

A conflicted look spread across Roxanne's face. "Darling, Mr. Farwell is Essie's father, and he has his reasons for transferring Essie to another kindergarten."

Archie countered, "He doesn't want Essie to see us because both of you are fighting."

Roxanne was surprised that Archie not only knew the reason but also dared to speak out about it.

"I feel that Essie shouldn't have been placed in a new environment so abruptly. If Mr. Farwell doesn't want her

to see us, we're willing to transfer out instead." Archie's childish voice rang out again.

Chapter 1137

Roxanne was surprised by her son's words.

She knew they had always been very sensible and had always taken good care of Estella.

However, what she didn't expect was that they had been thinking about this even more than she did.

Benny chimed in sweetly, "Mommy, please talk to Mr. Farwell about this. We're worried that Essie might get bullied, and we won't be there to protect her."

Roxanne felt her chest tighten at the mention of Estella being bullied.

She recalled the incident when Estella had been bullied by her classmates when Archie and Benny first entered the classroom.

Back then, the boys had stepped forward to protect Estella and helped her to smoothen things over with her classmates.

However, now that Estella was in a new kindergarten, she no longer had any playmates she was familiar with. Roxanne was worried that if Archie and Benny weren't beside Estella, the past would repeat itself.

There's a possibility that it would be just like what the boys said. Estella would be ostracized by the other kids.

Thinking about this, Roxanne relented and said, "All right, I'll have a chat with Mr. Farwell regarding this soon. That being said, you guys need to prepare yourselves to transfer to another kindergarten."

The boys' eyes lit up.

Mommy's willing to talk to Daddy! It doesn't matter what they'll be talking about. At the very least, this will end the silent war they're waging against each other. Besides, we're the ones who brought up the idea of transferring kindergartens, anyway. This way, we'll be able to keep Essie's condition from deteriorating further.

With that thought in mind, the boys agreed to it without hesitation.

Roxanne flashed a smile and tousled the boys' hair. "It's getting late now. Get some rest."

Since they had achieved their goals, the boys nodded at her obediently in response.

As Roxanne walked out of the boys' room, words from their conversation earlier kept replaying in her mind, making her feel slightly guilty.

She had always thought that matters between adults should be kept between adults and children should not be involved in them.

However, because of her relationship with Lucian, all three children had their lives affected in some way or the other.

The case was especially true for Estella, whose condition kept relapsing.

At the end of the day, Roxanne reckoned this was all because of her determination not being strong enough

All she wanted at first was to avoid Lucian, but somewhere down the line, she got involved with him again

instead.

She wanted nothing more than to take care of Estella, but because of her relationship with Lucian, she had no choice but to treat the little girl indifferently.

Now that she thought about it, Archie's and Benny's words reminded her of something

Since I'm involved with Essie now, and her condition is affected because of me, I should be firm with my decision. No matter what my relationship with Lucian is, I should prioritize Essie's condition. At the very least, I should make sure her condition is stabilized. This way, I will not have any regrets.

Roxanne headed back to her room and hesitantly drew up Lucian's number from her phone.

She hadn't contacted him ever since they fought that day.

Naturally, Lucian did not take the initiative to contact her either.

Roxanne tapped into his contact detail and hesitated.

Even though all she needed to do was to tap her finger down on her screen, she couldn't bring herself to do it.

After all, their interaction last time had ended on really bad terms.

Roxanne had no idea how to start the conversation with him.

After hesitating for a while more, she glanced at the time and saw that it was near midnight.

Lucian should already be asleep at this time, right?

Taking that into account, Roxanne eventually put her phone away.

Now that I think about it, there's no need for me to go through Lucian in order to know about Essie's condition. I can always find out which kindergarten Essie goes to and go check on her during her recess. It'll be even better

if I can see that she's getting along well with the other children so that I won't be so worried.

That was the last thought that surfaced in Roxanne's mind as she fell asleep.

Chapter 1138

Perhaps she was concerned about Estella's matters because she got up early the next morning despite going to bed late the previous night.

Going downstairs, she saw that Archie and Benny were already waiting for her.

Seeing the two boys, Roxanne couldn't help but be reminded of the phone call she almost dialed out last night.

Benny's face lit up with anticipation when he saw his mother. "Mommy! Have you given Mr. Farwell a call?"

Roxanne's eyes dimmed, and she flashed a small smile at her son before saying apologetically. "I haven't. I was thinking of visiting Essie at the kindergarten first."

After saying that, she thought of something and added, "Do you know which kindergarten Essie is in now?"

She reckoned Archie and Benny must have already found out which kindergarten Estella transferred to, given how concerned they were for her.

Seeing that his mother had taken the initiative to ask him that, Benny nodded calmly.

In truth, he had already found out which kindergarten Estella went to the day after her transfer.

Relief washed over Roxanne when she saw Benny nodding

Here I was worrying about how I'm going to find out about Essie's new kindergarten when the sight of Benny reminded me of just how capable he is. Luckily, he already knows which kindergarten Essie goes to.

"Send the address of Essie's kindergarten to me later," Roxanne said to Benny

“Mommy, are you going to visit Essie?”

Roxanne nodded noncommittally. “Well, aren’t you guys worried about Essie getting bullied? I’m going to check up on her on your behalf”

Hearing that, Benny hurriedly asked, “Can Archie and I tag along?”

Roxanne shook her head. “You guys need to go to class. Don’t worry. I’ll tell you about her condition when I get home.”

She thought it would be too much of a fanfare for all three of them to go.

Naturally, the boys could not help feeling a little disappointed to hear that.

Benny was going to persuade his mother again when Archie stopped him.

He said sweetly, “We’ll leave it to you to console her, Mommy. And please tell her we’ll visit her next time.”

He knew it was already good enough for his mother to go see Estella and that they shouldn’t ask for anything

more.

Roxanne let out a relieved sigh before flashing a smile at the boys. Nodding, she said, “All right. I’ll pass your message to her.”

After breakfast, Benny sent the address he had found to his mother.

Roxanne then took the kids to the kindergarten before going to the research institute to give Colby a heads- up and then to Estella’s new kindergarten.

Perhaps Lucian was trying to stop the kids from seeing each other again. Estella’s new kindergarten was a lot further away than her previous kindergarten. In fact, it was in the opposite direction of Farwell Group.

After driving for half an hour, Roxanne finally arrived at the kindergarten entrance.

Sensing the graceful aura she exuded and the fact that she could say Estella’s name, the security guard let her in without thinking too much about it.

Estella’s new kindergarten had a small class system, with only a dozen children in the class.

When Roxanne arrived, the kids were in their recess.

Through the window of the classroom, she noticed that the situation inside seemed to be rather chaotic.

A dozen children could be seen running around in the classroom, and in the corner, a child was bawling their eyes out, all while Pamela was trying her best to coax them.

After sweeping a glance, Roxanne realized that Estella was nowhere to be seen.

It wasn't after she searched for a while more that she was able to see Estella in the middle of the crowd.

At that moment, Estella was surrounded by the children who were running around. It looked as if they were inviting her to play together.

Chapter 1139

Roxanne heaved a sigh of relief.

She could see that although Estella was a bit out of place, the other children approached her enthusiastically and played with her.

Yet before she could feel totally at ease, she saw Estella letting out a yelp.

The children who were skipping around also halted their actions one by one.

Feeling her heart tighten, Roxanne instinctively looked in Pamela's direction

Something was obviously wrong with Estella, and Pamela could probably see that from where she was standing

However, there was a child who wouldn't stop crying next to Pamela. Although she did notice a small commotion over here, she was occupied with coaxing the child beside her

Left with no choice, Roxanne turned back to Estella and observed her worriedly.

The girl hung her head low as she massaged her hand on her lap.

Roxanne could only see Estella's actions vaguely from her spot, but she could guess that the latter was hurt.

Upon realizing that, Roxanne felt a little distressed. Nevertheless, she did not overthink it and assured the other kids had just hurt Estella accidentally.

Sadly, the actual situation in the classroom was different from her assumption.

An aggrieved Estella rubbed her injured hand with pursed lips, looking evidently upset.

Because of her behavior on the first day of school, her classmates deemed her a weirdo.

Estella couldn't be bothered to play with them as well, so she barely spoke in the past two days

As a result, her classmates started calling her a mute and a weirdo. They tried all sorts of antics in an attempt to make her speak and regarded her as a joke.

The more they did that, the more resistant Estella felt toward them.

She did not expect them to treat her even worse on this day.

Right after class ended, a group of children surrounded Estella and began singing a rhyme they made up while moving around her in circles.

When Estella tried to cover her ears, a little girl stepped on her hand.

"Wow, she really is a mute!" exclaimed the girl upon seeing how Estella remained silent even when she was hurt.

The other kids immediately chimed in in agreement.

Estella hung her head low and couldn't help but feel sad.

I miss Archie and Benny. If they were here, they would definitely protect me

"Hey, say something. It's not like we're going to do anything bad to you," another girl said, even giving Estella a

shove.

Caught off guard, Estella staggered and wobbled for a while before regaining her balance.

I don't want to speak to these mean kids!

"Why did you transfer here if you don't like this place? Do you think we like you?"

"Go to a special needs kindergarten if you're mute. Why did you even come here?"

"I heard she has no mommy. No wonder she's so weird."

The kids chattered on while standing around Estella, throwing insults at her.

Estella had ignored them with her lips tightly pursed.

Yet at the mention of her mother, she suddenly lifted her head with anger written all over her face.

“I have a mommy!”

Her sudden outburst stunned the children, but they soon regained their senses and retorted at her more aggressively.

“That’s not your mommy. She’s your stepmom! I heard stepmoms are the meanest.”

“Your mommy probably abandoned you because you don’t speak. Who would like a mute?”

The topic of mother was a sensitive matter to Estella. When she heard the other kids claiming she was abandoned, her face started to turn sour.

Chapter 1140

“You’re speaking nonsense!”

Estella got up from the floor and furiously pushed the kid who had last spoke.

Amused at her courage to fight back, the other kids began running their mouths off even more.

The girl whom Estella pushed stepped forward and shoved her in return.

“Did I say anything wrong? You’re just a mute! If we hadn’t played with you today, would you have spoken on your own? Adults hate kids who can’t speak, Little Mute!” After saying that, the girl raised her arm in fury and yelled, “How dare you push me! Not even my mommy and daddy have ever hit me.”

Estella was no match for that girl in terms of strength. Not only that, there were lots of kids watching them from the side.

Despite her anger, Estella couldn’t help but feel scared at the sight of the girl lifting her arm. In her helplessness, she glanced at Pamela.

If Ms. Ward was here, she would surely come here and help me

Unfortunately, Pamela was busy dealing with the wailing kid, and she couldn’t see what was going on since Estella was encircled by the children.

As the girl's hand was about to fall on Estella, the latter closed her eyes out of reflex. At that moment, she missed Archie and Benny dearly.

"What are you doing?"

Just as despair filled Estella, Roxanne pushed the classroom door open and strode in.

She had been watching from the outside for quite a while and finally realized Estella was being bullied.

She had thought that the teacher would intervene and help Estella, but it seemed that Pamela was unaware of what was going on at all.

Seeing that Estella was about to get hit, Roxanne barged in in a panic and hurried over to the group of children

At the sudden arrival of an adult, the children were shocked.

The girl who had her arm raised stepped backward in fright. She swiftly hid her hand behind her back, glancing at Roxanne nervously.

These kids were the best at pretending to be nice and obedient in front of adults.

"Miss, you've misunderstood. She pushed me first..." the girl mumbled with an aggrieved expression.

Roxanne was bewildered to see the girl acting so innocently. If she hadn't witnessed the entire situation. earlier, she would have been fooled.

Nevertheless, she wasn't in the mood to scold the girl. She crouched down instead and pulled Estella into her

arms.

Estella was clearly terrified, as she couldn't stop trembling.

"Don't be scared, Essie. You're okay now," Roxanne comforted Estella while stroking her head.

Upon hearing her voice, Estella looked up cautiously

Her face crumpled when she saw that it was Roxanne. She sniffled loudly, tears welling up in her big eyes.

Chapter 1140

Having been triggered by the children's words earlier, Estella wrapped her arm around Roxanne's neck and choked out, "Mommy..."

That word made Roxanne's heart skip a beat, and she subconsciously tightened her hold around Estella.

She knew very well that she did not deserve that title, but she could more or less guess what the children had been talking about earlier from the way their mouths moved.

One of the biggest reasons they bullied Estella was that they thought she didn't have a mother.

That thought pained Roxanne. In the end, she did not refute Estella's way of addressing her.

Chapter 1141

The children got more fearful when they heard Estella calling Roxanne "mommy." On top of that, the latter did not show any rejection.

This lady must've seen how we bullied Essie just now.

Roxanne patted Estella's head before lowering her gaze to glance at the surrounding children.

"Apologize to Essie!"

Her fierce expression made them hang their heads low in guilt.

However, the girl who attacked Essie summoned her courage and feigned innocence. "It's not like that. It was Essie who pushed me first. That's why-"

Hearing the little girl lying straight in her face only brought Roxanne's anger to a new height. "Why would Essie push you out of nowhere?"

When she finished, she suddenly remembered something and reached out to hold Estella's hand.

The moment Roxanne saw the red mark on Estella's hand, her anger spiked even more. "Did Essie do this to herself, too?"

The children exchanged glances, for they never expected Roxanne to have witnessed them stepping on Estella's hand

Now that her actions had been exposed, the girl who attacked Estella flew into a rage out of humiliation. "Hmph! That's her fault for not talking to us! She was the one who ignored us first!"

Roxanne had thought of letting the children off the hook. They were, after all, just children.

However, when she saw the children had no intentions of apologizing and even put the blame on Estella, she slightly regretted not bringing Archie and Benny along with her

If I had brought them along, they would've taught these kids a good lesson. Well, looks like I have no choice but to bully the weak.

Glaring at the children who showed no remorse, Roxanne fumed, "Just because Essie doesn't talk to you doesn't mean you can bully her. Are you going to attack me to make yourselves feel better now that I'm criticizing you like this? And does that mean I can bully you since you talked back to me?"

Roxanne's words shocked the girl, and she took a step back timidly. "You're an adult. Adults can't-"

"Can't bully the weak? What gives you the right to gang up on others, then? Is that what your parents taught you?" Roxanne cut the girl off expressionlessly. She caressed Estella's head and asked in a gentler tone, "Essie, how did they bully you just now?"

Knowing she was standing up for her, Estella wrapped her arms around Roxanne's neck and said, "T-They said Mommy doesn't want me They called me Little Mute and even stepped on my hand. *

As soon as Roxanne heard that, her temper flared and the surrounding air grew colder

When Estella finished recounting the incident, Roxanne's gaze drifted to the children again.

Meeting her eyes, the children tensed up and fear flooded their hearts

After placing Estella aside, Roxanne stepped forward to the children who bullied Estella earlier

M Miss

The children sounded frightened

Just as those words left their mouths, Roxanne shoved them to the ground.

Although she exerted little strength, it was enough to teach them a lesson.

"That's how you bullied Essie earlier. I'll give you another chance. Are you going to apologize to Essie?" She articulated each word clearly.

Roxanne was very close to the children as she spoke, and her tone was laced with oppression.

Chapter 1142

The children had been pampered since they were little and had never been threatened like that.

They were frightened out of their wits when Roxanne shoved them to the ground unreasonably and looked as if she planned to continue teaching them a lesson

"Y-Yes. We'll apologize..." A girl spoke up first, sounding as if she was on the verge of tears.

Immediately after that, the sound of the children apologizing filled the air.

Only then did Roxanne sigh helplessly and carry Estella into her arms again.

Never did Roxanne expect such spitefulness from a group of children, let alone see them gang up to bully the

weak

Meanwhile, Pamela, who had just finished comforting the crying child, got to her feet, only to find the other

side in total chaos.

"What's going on? Miss, who are you? Parents aren't allowed to enter during class
"Pamela walked over in annoyance and stood between Roxanne and the children.

The moment Pamela noticed Estella was in Roxanne's arms, her heart sank.

After all, Estella was like a princess in the class who could never be bullied. Yet, she was currently being carried by a stranger.

I can't bear the consequences if something happens.

"Please put the child down. I'm the teacher of this class. You can talk to me if something's the matter." Pamela gave Roxanne a cautious glance.

Roxanne frowned, feeling a little displeased with Pamela.

Estella was bullied so terribly, yet this teacher didn't notice anything. She's only here now to show her concern.

Sensing Roxanne's dissatisfaction and extraordinary temperament, Pamela felt as if she had accidentally offended a mighty being. She said carefully, "Uh... Are you Essie's relative?"

Hearing that, Roxanne froze and glanced at Estella, who was in her arms.

Estella was shocked by Roxanne's fierceness earlier and had not recovered from it. She hugged Roxanne's arm and said nothing.

Seeing that, Roxanne shifted her gaze to the children in front of her again.

Earlier, she had given a tacit confirmation that she was Estella's mother. It was inappropriate for her to deny it

ΠΟΥ

At that thought, Roxanne decided to continue with the act. "I'm Essie's mother."

A suspicious look crept onto Pamela's face when she heard those words.

Even so, Roxanne did not give Pamela the chance to voice her doubts in front of the children. She said, "I'd like to talk to you about what happened just now. Let's talk outside"

Pamela hesitated for a few seconds, but she still agreed and asked the teaching assistant to watch over the children before exiting the classroom with Roxanne.

"Essie doesn't have a mother, so who exactly are you?" Pamela knew Roxanne was lying. She was on high alert "Ms Pearson has always been the one dropping Essie off, and she's Essie's future stepmother. Who on earth are you?"

Roxanne never expected Pamela to know so much, so she had no idea what to say in response.

Her silence only made Pamela more suspicious.

Pamela subconsciously eyed Estella, who was in Roxanne's arms, only to find the girl looking pale and on the verge of tears from the shock she had experienced earlier.

Not daring to delay the situation anymore, Pamela warned, "I'm going to call the police if you don't explain yourself."

She took out her phone, about to make the call.

Roxanne knitted her brows and steeled herself to say, "I'm Essie's aunt."

Pamela immediately stopped what she was doing and scrutinized Roxanne.

Chapter 1143

Now that Pamela had taken a good look at Roxanne, she realized there were indeed some similarities between Estella and her.

Despite that, she still chose to be careful and confirm with Estella. "Essie, is she your aunt?"

Estella only wrapped her arms around Roxanne's neck with her back facing Pamela. Not a single word came from her mouth.

Roxanne had no choice but to pat the girl's head to attract her attention. "Essie, your teacher's talking to you."

Only when Estella heard Roxanne's voice did she slowly turn around.

Flashing Estella a smile, Pamela repeated her question.

To their horror, Estella pursed her lips and shook her head, clearly looking upset.

Both Roxanne and Pamela were stunned by Estella's response

Roxanne knew Estella was mad because she had denied being her mother. However, she could not explain the situation to Pamela either.

Pamela thought that Roxanne, the woman who claimed to have a different identity, was extremely suspicious.

She picked up her phone again with a wary look written all over her face.

Seeing that, Roxanne quickly said, "I can explain this. Please believe me. If I'm a bad person, why would Essie be staying in my arms so obediently?"

Again, doubts filled Pamela's mind when she heard that.

True. Essie's really quiet in this woman's arms.

Estella had been rejecting the teachers' touch.

The same applied to Aubree too. Estella would do everything she could to avoid her.

Pamela could not help but wonder what kind of relationship Roxanne had with Essie that made the latter behave so obediently

Pamela's confusion was clearly written on her face.

"Miss, even if I believe you're not a bad person, the fact that you made the children in this class cry remains. This isn't a small matter. You need to at least give me an explanation. That way, I can answer their parents when they ask me about it."

Roxanne glanced through the window and saw the children she frightened earlier crying while the teaching assistant was busy trying to calm everyone down.

She turned around and smiled at Pamela apologetically. "I'm really Essie's aunt. I can give her father a call if you don't believe me."

Roxanne never wanted to get Lucian involved in the first place, but all the children there were from rich families. If their parents decided to take out their anger on her, only the Farwell family would have the power to make them give in.

Moreover, Roxanne had only made them cry only because she was protecting Estella.

What Roxanne did not expect was that Pamela actually wanted her to make that call.

"As a teacher, I have to be responsible for the children. So... Pamela's intention was clear enough."

That made Roxanne choke a little. She stared at Pamela for some time before taking out her phone reluctantly.

Never in her wildest dreams did she imagine having to make the call now without having any time to prepare herself. After all, she had given up on the notion after much hesitation last night.

Most importantly, she was secretly there to check on Estella.

Roxanne gripped her phone, her heart pounding with nervousness.

Pamela grew more suspicious the longer she waited.

Given no choice, Roxanne could only pluck up her courage and dial Lucian's number.

To her surprise, the call was declined after the second ring.

Roxanne glanced at Pamela when the automated message sounded.

"Please put Essie down. I'll get the security guards to handle this."

Pamela's barely existent trust for Roxanne had shattered.

Chapter 1144

Roxanne felt utterly helpless.

She knew Lucian was mad at her, but she never expected him to reject her call.

Upon hearing Pamela's words, Roxanne had no choice but to put Estella down resignedly.

After she put her down, Estella hurriedly clung to her leg, unwilling to let go no matter what anyone said.

"Essie, come here." Pamela crouched down and opened her arms.

However, Estella kept her eyes fixed on Roxanne as if she had heard nothing.

The entire situation left Pamela in an awkward position. At the same time, she began to wonder what Roxanne's relationship with Estella was.

Seeing that, Roxanne patted Estella's head. "Be a good girl and go to your teacher, Essie."

Estella shook her head fervently and showed Roxanne her injured hand again. She whined, "My hand. It

hurts

Roxanne's heart ached when she saw the red mark on the back of Estella's hand. She stroked it gently and said to Pamela, "Please help Essie to apply some medication later. Her hand was stepped on earlier."

Of course, Pamela was unaware of that incident.

When she heard Roxanne's words, she quickly approached to examine Essie's hand.

The second she saw the mark on the back of Estella's hand, her heart sank. "Essie, what happened? Who bullied you?"

Pamela was horrified. After all, she, as a teacher, had absolutely no idea the daughter of Farwell Group had been injured in her class

Still, Estella pursed her lips and said nothing.

Seeing that, Roxanne had no choice but to explain, "It's the children from just now. I've already taught them a lesson, but please look after Essie more in the future. At the very least, don't let her get bullied. She's not very

sociable"

Pamela nodded vigorously, feeling more certain that the woman in front of her had some sort of relationship with Estella

Regardless, because of Roxanne's ever-changing answer, Pamela decided to ask Estella, "Essie, can you tell me who this lady is to you?"

Worried Estella might ignore her like how she did earlier, Pamela added, "If you don't tell me, I have no choice but to get the police."

Sure enough, the idea of getting the police triggered a response from Estella. "Mommy!"

Pamela felt as if she was about to break into a cold sweat.

One moment, the lady claims to be her mommy. In the next, she's her aunt. And now, Essie's telling me the lady's her mommy.

After some time, Pamela got to her feet abruptly and took out her phone again.

Thinking Pamela was going to make a police report, Roxanne did not stop her. After all, she knew her identity was suspicious, and she had no proof to confirm it.

The call finally connected after some time. However, the words that came out of Pamela's mouth were "Mr

Farwell."

Upon hearing that, Roxanne froze to the spot.

She was already mentally unprepared when she had to call Lucian earlier.

And now Pamela had directly given Lucian a call without a word of warning.

Furthermore, Roxanne never expected Lucian to answer it so quickly.

He hung up on me just now...

Lucian said something into the phone, to which Pamela explained, "A lady suddenly came to the kindergarten looking for Essie, and Essie seems to be close to her. The

problem is that this lady claimed to be Essie's mother at first and aunt the next. I couldn't confirm her real identity, so I'm calling you to get your verification."

Cold sweat trickled down Roxanne's back when she heard Pamela even recounting the incident where she had claimed to be Estella's mother.

Chapter 1145

"May I know your last name?" Pamela suddenly looked at her.

"Jarvis," Roxanne replied in a hoarse voice.

Once Pamela heard the answer, she breathed a sigh of relief and hurriedly notified Lucian.

I've never heard of the Farwell family having any relationship with a family with the surname Jarvis. Thus, this woman will certainly not be any relative of Essie. Luckily, I call Mr. Farwell in time to confirm it

However, the person on the other end of the line fell silent after she told him Roxanne's last name

It made her a little worried, and she wondered if she had done anything wrong.

"Get her to wait. I'm heading over right now."

When Pamela was about to apologize, Lucian's deep voice suddenly rang out.

She looked at the woman before her in confusion and hastily agreed.

Roxanne noticed Pamela's gaze and felt her heart drop.

After hanging up the phone, Pamela looked at Roxanne solemnly and said, "Mr. Farwell said he'll be here soon. Please leave Estella to me."

Lucian's tone on the phone just now somehow made Pamela subconsciously think that Roxanne was an enemy of the Farwell family.

Roxanne, however, only heard the first half of Pamela's sentence. She was stunned in place and didn't respond at all.

Pamela got a little anxious and reached out to pull Estella over, but the little girl wrapped her arms around Roxanne's legs and refused to let go.

"Essie, come over here. Your daddy will be here soon," Pamela tried to convince Estella

"Ms. Jarvis. "Estella looked at Roxanne pitifully when Pamela tugged at her

The way Estella addressed Roxanne made Pamela even more distressed. Oh, my What exactly is the relationship between this woman and Essie?

Out of anxiousness, Pamela increased her strength gradually

Only then did Roxanne return to her senses and reach out to hold Pamela's wrist. In a gentle voice, she said, "Don't worry I won't do anything to Essie. If you are worried, you may call the security over."

Pamela seemed somewhat hesitant upon hearing that Estella seems to rely on this woman very much. But Mr. Farwell's tone on the phone just now... and this woman's identity is still a mystery

"I believe Mr. Farwell didn't tell you to take Essie away from me just now. Did he?" Roxanne smiled at Pamela helplessly

Pamela withdrew her hands slowly upon hearing that. Indeed, if this woman were dangerous to Essie, Mr. Farwell would have asked me to protect Essie immediately

With that thought in mind, Pamela did nothing more but ask in puzzlement, "What exactly is your relationship with Essie?"

Roxanne flashed her a faint smile. "You will know when Mr. Farwell arrives."

After all, Pamela only recognized Lucian's statement at that moment.

If Lucian refused to admit it, everything Roxanne said would only be a waste of time.

It might even deepen Pamela's suspicions in her.

"Mr. Farwell will take some time to get here. Could you please bring me a medical kit? I want to treat the back of Essie's hand," Roxanne requested.

Hearing that, Pamela left to get the medical kit, but it suddenly occurred to her that she still had no idea who the person in front of her was, and she retracted her leg.

Roxanne could roughly guess what was on Pamela's mind. Saying nothing, she held Estella's injured hand and rubbed it carefully.

Chapter 1146

Twenty minutes later, Lucian's car slowly pulled up in front of the kindergarten.

The man's expression remained deadpan as he descended from the car and slammed the door forcefully. Then, he strode toward Estella's classroom with a storm brewing in his eyes.

Roxanne Jarvis! What is she doing here in Essie's classroom? Didn't she say she won't interfere with Essie's affairs anymore?

Lucian was furious at the thought of the last unpleasant separation and also Pamela's words earlier.

Meanwhile, Roxanne followed Pamela to the office and waited for Lucian's arrival.

The red mark on Estella's hand didn't go away. Seeing that, Pamela requested someone to send a medical kit

over.

Holding Estella in her arms, Roxanne applied the medication to the injured area and rubbed it gently for better absorption.

In the meantime, Pamela was watching them cautiously at the side.

Pin-drop silence ensued in the office.

Just then, someone knocked on the door of the office.

Several people in the office snapped back to their senses and looked at the door in unison.

Pamela went to open the door.

Roxanne, on the other hand, tensed up. Her hand rubbing the medication on Estella's injured area also froze.

"Mr. Farwell, you're here." Pamela's heart skipped a beat when she saw the person at the door. After greeting him respectfully, she led him inside.

Feeling her heart in her throat, Roxanne lowered her head and dared not to look at the door.

The office was so quiet that everyone could hear the footsteps clearly.

Hearing the sound of footsteps approaching her, Roxanne had no choice but to lift her head and look over.

Not far away, Lucian stood there with a sneer and stared at her silently.

As their eyes met, Roxanne's ears reddened. She stiffly carried Estella and stood up. "Mr. Farwell."

Pamela was dumbfounded by how Roxanne addressed Lucian. She became increasingly puzzled about the relationship between the duo and even forgot to explain the current situation to Lucian.

Fortunately, the man had no plan to ask her and only stared intently at the woman opposite him.

"What do you mean by this, Ms. Jarvis? Have you forgotten what you said? Why did you show up at my daughter's kindergarten?" He asked in a mocking tone.

Roxanne lowered her gaze and happened to see Estella's injured hand.

The scene of Estella being bullied earlier resurfaced in her mind.

At that instant, confidence imbued her, and she retorted furiously, "I'm the one who should ask that question, Mr Farwell. You yourself know that Essie's situation is not suitable for the new environment, yet you still insist on transferring her to another school. Look at what happened to Essie now. Is this how you have been taking care of her all these years, Mr. Farwell?"

Her words made Lucian confused. He knitted his brows and looked at the little one in Roxanne's embrace.

Estella had one of her hands around Roxanne's neck and let the injured hand hang by her side, revealing the injury.

In no time, Lucian spotted the red mark on his girl's hand, and his expression darkened.

Essie had injured the same hand when someone bullied her in the previous kindergarten. So what Roxanne is trying to say now is that Essie has been bullied by the others again this time.

Realizing that, Lucian shifted his gaze to Pamela and asked coldly, "What happened?"

Pamela didn't expect him to throw such a question at her and panicked. After calming herself down, she answered, "Mr. Farwell, this was what happened. Essie had a conflict with the other children just now. The children are being too impulsive, so..."

Chapter 1147

Pamela had not been paying attention to Estella, and she dared not tell any lies in the face of Lucian's gaze.

Thus, half-way through her speech, she turned to cast a pleading look at Roxanne.

Roxanne had planned to talk to Lucian about it anyway, so when her eyes met with Pamela's, she continued where Pamela trailed off.

"The kids crowded around Essie and said something to her. They even stepped on Essie's hand. Essie resisted, but they pushed her down again. I only intervened when I couldn't bear to watch it anymore."

Roxanne could somewhat guess what the children had said to Estella, but she did not want to rub salt into the girl's wound.

As Roxanne gave Lucian the explanation, Lucian's expression turned colder.

At the same time, the more Roxanne said, the angrier she became. She questioned, "The intense way the kids bullied Essie means that this has been going on for more than a day or two. Do you really not know anything about this, Mr. Farwell?"

Why did he put Essie in a school like this? Is it because he has decided to get together with Aubree and is planning to have another child with her? Is that why he's neglecting her?

The thought of that possibility made Roxanne's heart sink, and in her heartache, she tightened her grip around Estella.

Lucian did not speak, but he strode toward her.

Instinctively, Roxanne wanted to move backward, but the couch was right behind her, and she could not do

that

In no time, Lucian was right in front of her. Roxanne tensed.

Right as she was about to question him as to what he was trying to do, Lucian reached out to hold Estella's injured hand.

After checking Estella's injury, Lucian turned around and fixed his gaze on Pamela again. "Is this how your kindergarten looks after the children?"

Pamela's heart lurched.

She had always thought that Estella was not the kind of child to cause trouble, so she never put too much

attention to her.

She did not expect other children to still be so hostile toward Estella despite her having done nothing to them.

Now, trouble had come, and Lucian had found out about it. Pamela could not even summon the courage to defend herself.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Farwell. This is an oversight on my pa-"

Before she could finish her sentence, Lucian interrupted her.

"The conflict between Essie and the kids isn't something that happened recently, but you've only found out about it today. If the kindergarten can't even handle the troubles in the children's relationships, I don't see the point in letting my daughter stay here any longer!"

At that, Pamela panicked "Mr. Farwell, this is genuinely an oversight on my part. I'll take note of this in the future Please don't put me in a tight spot like this"

Then, she gave Roxanne another pleading look.

Even though Roxanne was upset about Pamela's negligence, she found Lucian's words absurd.

"Mr. Farwell, don't you think you should do some self-reflection when you blame the teacher for this? I refuse to believe that Essie acted perfectly normal at home these few days. Did you not notice anything amiss about her at all?" she refuted.

Pamela never thought that Roxanne would dare to speak to Lucian in a tone like that, so she was astounded.

She then belated realized that she was no longer in the spotlight. At that, she let out a relieved sigh under her breath before trying her best to keep a low profile.

Indeed, Lucian's attention was caught by Roxanne's words.

Yet, there was no explanation he could offer.

Aubree had been the one sending and picking Estella up from the kindergarten lately. In short, he barely came into contact with the teachers.

While he did notice Estella's low mood, he thought it was merely because she did not like the new kindergarten.

Never in his wildest dream did he expect something like this to happen.

Chapter 1148

The atmosphere in the office turned tense.

All of a sudden, someone knocked on the door.

Then, the head of the kindergarten entered, chuckling. He then greeted Lucian by saying, "Mr. Farwell, why didn't you tell me that you were coming? I would have come to welcome you myself!"

The moment the head of the kindergarten received news of Lucian's appearance, he rushed over to where Lucian was

The daughter of the Farwell family was currently enrolled in their kindergarten. Therefore, he had to find a way to get Farwell Group to invest in their kindergarten no matter what.

That way, their kindergarten would rise in the social ranks of Horington.

The head of the kindergarten came in preparation to curry favor with Lucian, so he was not expecting to be greeted by the confrontation the second he stepped into the office.

Almost immediately, he figured out that something must have happened to the Farwell family's daughter.

Upon realizing that, the head of the kindergarten's smile froze.

"What's the matter? Did Pam do something wrong?"

The head of the kindergarten was swift to come back to his senses, and before Lucian could say anything, he turned and began berating Pamela, "What's the matter with you? You only have that many kids in the class, but you still can't take good care of them?"

Pamela's heart took a dip, and she muttered, "Sir, Mr. Leishman's child was crying. Their family has invested a large sum of money into our kindergarten, so how can I just ignore the kid? All I did was checked on that child for a brief moment. I never thought that the kids would bully her."

The Leishman family was currently the largest investor in the kindergarten, and the head of the kindergarten had told her to keep a closer eye on the Leishmans' son.

Hence, a stumped look appeared on the head of the kindergarten's face.

Then, he soon realized that even Austin Leishman himself had to bow to Lucian if he were here.

After weighing the situation, it went without saying that he had to prioritize Lucian over Austin.

"Mr. Farwell, I have a clearer picture of what is going on now. You're right. This is our kindergarten's responsibility," the head of the kindergarten immediately apologized. "Don't worry. I will definitely make the children who bullied Ms. Estella apologize to her. Also, I'll assign two more teachers to Estella's class. That way, Ms. Estella will surely get the best care."

"You don't need to do that," Roxanne said with a frown. "I've already chided the children, and they've already apologized to Essie."

Then, turning to Lucian, she stiffly uttered, "However, I'll have to trouble you, Mr. Farwell, to not let the parents of those children come after me."

She had laid a finger on those children because she was an adult.

If their parents were to find out her true identity, they would certainly come after her.

Roxanne did not wish to be in more trouble.

However, the head of the kindergarten understood it wrongly. He thought that Roxanne was dissatisfied with the way he dealt with the situation and was hinting to him to get those parents to apologize in person

Hence, the head of the kindergarten hesitated.

He did not know about Roxanne's relationship with Estella, but the little girl was clearly reliant on Roxanne. Even though Lucian was there, the girl was still staying in her arms.

Therefore, the head of the kindergarten assumed that Roxanne was close to the Farwell family.

With that, the head of the kindergarten quickly said, "They definitely won't be finding trouble with you. I'll notify their parents right away and have them come here to apologize to Mr. Farwell and Ms. Estella in person!"

Roxanne tensed up as she realized that the head of the kindergarten must have mistaken her words. Subconsciously, she turned to Lucian, hoping that he would say something to clarify the situation.

The matter would be blown out of proportion if the parents came over.

However, Lucian continued to look at the head of the kindergarten without any expression. He had no intention to reject the latter's suggestion.

Chapter 1149

Seemingly sensing Roxanne's gaze, Lucian turned toward her.

Roxanne was stupefied when their eyes met. It took her a few seconds to come back to her senses and signal Lucian to stop the head of the kindergarten.

"I don't have much time. Tell them to hurry up." It was as if he did not understand the look she gave him.

What the he*I!

The head of the kindergarten was quick to agree to it and promptly went to call the parents.

Once the other man was out, Roxanne turned to look at Lucian disapprovingly. "You don't need to blow this out of proportion."

Those kids might take out their anger on Essie after getting scolded by their parents. The lesson I taught them was more than enough.

Lucian's eyes flitted toward the girl in Roxanne's arms before anger seeped into those eyes. "Those parents could not educate their children well and let their kids bully Essie, so it is normal for them to have to pay the price for it. The consequences await them will only be more severe if they don't apologize to us today."

There was no way he was going to let those parents who allowed their children bully others off so easily.

Roxanne parted her lips, but when she recalled that she was just an outsider, she closed her mouth again.

"What's the matter? Ms. Jarvis, you've already bullied those children, but you're unwilling to teach the adults a lesson?" Lucian questioned, shooting her a strange look.

Their eyes met for a brief second before Roxanne quickly lowered her gaze

"That isn't what I mean. This is your family matter, Mr. Farwell. It's best if you make the final decisions yourself."

She had only bullied the children because she was enraged, after all.

Lucian continued watching her grimly. Right as he was about to ask her why she was there, the head of the kindergarten suddenly came back inside.

"I've notified the parents about the matter. They said they'll rush over as quickly as they can. Please wait for them a little while, Mr. Farwell."

With that, he curiously turned to Roxanne and cautiously asked, "She is..."

Roxanne instinctively turned to Lucian.

Yet, Lucian was looking at her, waiting for her to introduce herself. There was even a look in his eyes that Roxanne could not decipher.

Despite his silence, Roxanne managed to understand what he wanted to say to her.

The man was asking her what identity she was going to take up after claiming to be Estella's mother earlier.

A long silence later, Roxanne squeezed out, "I am... Essie's aunt."

Then, she lowered her head guiltily

If the head of the kindergarten were to confirm her identity with Lucian, she was unsure if Lucian would actually go along with her words.

Fortunately, the head of the kindergarten did not ask more questions-he only nodded at her before returning the focus of the conversation to Estella

"Is Ms. Estella hurt? I'll get the doctor on duty to take a look at her right now."

At that, he took out his phone, about to make the call.

Roxanne rejected him. "No need. I've already treated her wounds."

Hearing that, the head of the kindergarten sighed in relief before thanking Roxanne profusely.

Roxanne fell silent after that.

The head of the kindergarten wanted to begin buttering Lucian up, but when he noticed the other man's gaze on Estella, he sheepishly clamped his mouth shut.

Pin-drop silence ensued in the office

After what seemed like forever, hurried footsteps sounded out in the corridor.

Then, a few women dressed to their nines entered the office in a haste. The moment they saw Lucian, they began offering their apologies.

"Ms. Farwell, I heard that my child has been insensible and injured Ms. Estella. I'm really sorry. We didn't educate our boy well enough. Please don't worry. We'll definitely give him a good round of scolding when we get home."

"Where's the boy? Get him here and have him apologize to Ms. Estella sincerely."

In no time, only the words of apologies filled the air in the office.

Chapter 1150

"Go back and teach your kids to behave."

After what seemed like an eternity, Lucian finally uttered, "I believe kids are not born spiteful. If this happens again, I will take that to mean everyone here holds a grudge against Farwell Group."

Although Lucian sounded understanding, his words carried an undertone of threat.

Everyone agreed unhesitatingly with Lucian.

However, as Lucian remained silent, no one dared to leave.

Roxanne spoke suddenly. "Essie is fine now. If there's nothing else, I'm heading back."

After she was done speaking, Roxanne wanted to return Estella to Lucian and was prepared to leave.

Nonetheless, Estella held onto Roxanne tightly and refused to let go of her.

Estella had not seen Roxanne for quite some time, so it was understandable why she was reluctant to leave the woman.

Moreover, Estella had spent a great deal of effort in order to bring about the meeting between her father and Roxanne. She definitely would not let the latter go this easily.

"Essie..."

Roxanne felt awkward with Estella holding tightly onto her as the other parents stared at her curiously.

Refusing to let go of Roxanne, Estella said stubbornly, "No! I don't want Daddy!"

Upon hearing Estella's words, everyone exchanged looks.

"Ahem..." Someone realized the awkwardness of the situation and found an excuse to leave the scene. "Mr. Farwell, I will educate my child properly when I return home. I still have a meeting to attend, so I have to get back to work now."

Lucian responded with an indifferent hum.

Upon seeing this, the rest of the crowd followed suit and left the office.

Everybody heaved a sigh of relief when they were out of the office.

They did not know how Roxanne was related to the Farwell family, but judging from the situation earlier, Estella had made Lucian look bad.

If it were another family in such a situation, perhaps they would have stayed to find out what was going on.

However, when it came to Lucian, nobody dared to do so.

The office became empty all of a sudden.

Roxanne felt something was different but continued to pacify Estella without looking at Lucian

"Essie, be a good girl. I have to get back to work. You should go to your daddy."

Estella shook her head forcefully.

Lucian felt bitter upon seeing that Roxanne was trying to avoid him again.

It was she who said Essie is none of her business anymore. Yet, she was the one who showed up at Essie's kindergarten

She was the one who went back on her own words, but now she's acting as though I forced her to do so.

With these thoughts on his mind, Lucian said icily, "Essie, come here. Don't stay in the way of Ms. Jarvis' work."

Estella turned a deaf ear to Lucian's words. She pitifully tugged at Roxanne's arm and held up her injured hand. "It hurts!"

Roxanne's heart ached when she looked at the red marks on Estella's hand, but she really had no idea how to face Lucian if she stayed.

After a short while, Roxanne gently blew some air onto Estella's injured hand. "All right, I have blown away all the pain now. It won't hurt anymore."

Seeing that Estella was still reluctant to let go of her, Roxanne softened her tone further. "I really have to get back to work, Essie. You be a good girl in school, and I will visit you in two days' time, okay?"

After speaking to Estella, Roxanne glanced sheepishly at Lucian.

This time around, she had shown up without informing him. She wondered if Lucian would sternly refuse to let her visit again.

Thankfully, Lucian seemed to understand the purpose behind her words and remained silent.

Estella looked skeptical. "You won't come back if you leave!"

Roxanne patted Estella's head and said, "I will come back. Didn't I come here on my own accord this time. around? I'm worried about you, so I'll visit you again in two days."

Chapter 1151

Estella stared intently at Roxanne for a very long time before she finally agreed to let go of the woman, though reluctantly.

"Ms. Jarvis, you must pinkie swear with me that you will visit me in two days!"

Smiling, Roxanne extended her hand and pinkie swore with Estella.

Lucian's face darkened as he saw how Roxanne and Estella interacted with each other.

After Roxanne was done placating Estella, she stood up once again to leave. "I should go now."

With that, she fled the office without waiting for Lucian to respond.

Not only was she worried that Lucian would ask about the reason she showed up at the kindergarten, but she was also terrified of hearing his sarcastic remarks.

Lucian stared at Roxanne as she left the office. He furrowed his brows

"Daddy, are you angry with Ms. Jarvis again?" Estella asked anxiously as she observed the change in her father's expression.

Estella's voice brought Lucian back to the present moment. He leaned over and caressed Estella's head. "I'm not angry with Ms. Jarvis, but I have something to attend to and have to go now. You be a good girl in school, okay?"

Estella held onto his sleeve. "Daddy, are you going to pick me up tonight?"

Lucian stayed silent for a while. Realizing Estella must have been frightened from the earlier incident, he then nodded and agreed. "Okay"

Upon hearing Lucian's words, Estella finally loosened her grip on her father and followed him out of the office.

Lucian handed Estella over to Pamela before turning to leave

After coming out from the kindergarten, Roxanne slowed down her pace. Her mind was in a tumult

She had known that Lucian would marry Aubree sooner or later.

However, she never expected that he would let Aubree take care of Estella this soon.

Based on what Pamela said, it seems that Aubree has a good relationship with her

Does this mean that Aubree's attitude toward Essie has changed too?

Perhaps Aubree will be a great mother in the future.

As Roxanne approached her car, she reached for the door handle.

Just as she extended her arm, someone behind her unexpectedly grabbed her by the wrist.

Roxanne immediately froze.

She could recognize to whom this hand belonged even though the person standing behind her did not speak a word

It was none other than Lucian.

Is he here to warn me?

With that thought in mind, Roxanne took a deep breath and summoned up the courage to turn around. "Mr. Farwell, is there anything else you need?"

Lucian was in a rush when he left the kindergarten. With deep furrows in his brows, he scowled at Roxanne.

This was the first time Roxanne had ever seen such an expression in his eyes. She felt nervous all of a sudden.

"I'm sorry I broke my promise. Archie and Benny were worried that Essie would be bullied by the other kids. That's why I came to the kindergarten to check on her. It was all on their behalf..."

Roxanne offered an explanation right away without waiting for Lucian to interrogate her.

Just as Roxanne was done speaking, Lucian tightened his grip on her wrist.

Roxanne grimaced with pain.

“Ms. Jarvis, are you laying the blame on the two kids again?”

Lucian continued to question Roxanne, “If it were the two of them who were worried about Essie, why didn’t they come here themselves? Please don’t use the excuse that they are only kids. They have been to my place. on their own many times before this.”

Roxanne was dumbfounded upon being grilled by Lucian.

After a long time, she added abruptly, “I was very worried too.”

With a sullen expression on his face, Lucian probed, “Is that all?”

Roxanne’s heart skipped a beat when she heard the tone of Lucian’s voice. She started to feel afraid of what he was going to say next.

“Since you are so worried about Essie, are you sure it’s enough for you to just take a look at her?”

Lucian stared morosely at Roxanne.

Chapter 1152

Roxanne shuddered in fright. “That’s enough!”

Lucian’s dangerous tone of voice terrified her

Nonetheless, he wasn’t about to let her off. “Wouldn’t becoming Essie’s mother make you feel more at ease?”

Her chest felt tight, and she had difficulty breathing upon his words.

This wasn’t the first time Lucian had asked her that question, but her answer remained the same.

This round was no different

She gritted her teeth and pulled away. “You’re overthinking things. I care for Essie because I feel bad for how much she relies on me. That’s it.”

Lucian closed in. “I wonder what Essie would think of this when she learns that you care for her only because you feel bad for her.”

Roxanne's heart fell when she heard him. She gritted her teeth and met his eyes. "I do like Essie, but that doesn't mean I must become her mother. After all, I don't intend on taking advantage of you, and I believe you don't, too."

Lucian's eyes darkened "How are you so sure that I don't?"

Her pupils constricted as her heart shook.

Is he saying what I think he's saying? If that's so. How could he say something like that? Isn't he getting married to Aubree soon?

The words Lucian had spoken to her when he was courting her flashed through her mind, and she suddenly thought of a possibility.

Up till now, Lucian was merely looking for a mother Estella would like.

That would mean Aubree might still be under consideration.

Roxanne's eyes turned cold at that thought.

"Don't say something so misleading. Mr. Farwell. I already have Archie and Benny. I don't have the energy to care for one more child. I'm sure Ms Pearson will do a great job caring for Essie if you insist on finding a mother she would like, even if it is for your sake."

Roxanne lowered her eyes and kept her emotions under control. "I've said everything I need to say. If there's nothing else, I will take my leave."

Lucian's eyes darkened. He reached out and grabbed her wrist with great force.

Roxanne turned to look at him. She was about to speak up when an ear-piercing honk sounded.

She turned toward the direction of the sound instinctively

A car rolled to a stop behind hers. The next thing she knew, Aubree stormed out of the vehicle with a grim expression

"Ms. Pearson's here." Roxanne looked away as she reminded Lucian of Aubree's arrival.

Lucian frowned, turned around, and gave Aubree a glance.

Roxanne quickly pulled away. She got into her car nonchalantly and was about to leave when Aubree called

out to her

“Ms. Jarvis, it’s been a long time. Don’t you have anything to say to me?”

Roxanne could tell from Aubree’s tone that she was angry.

Aubree approached Lucian with an awkward smile and fixed Roxanne with a murderous stare.

How dare she show up here?

Aubree was secretly glad she was on good terms with Pamela as Pamela was the one who notified her the moment Lucian met up with Roxanne.

Chapter 1153

A wave of fury crashed through Aubree upon the thought of Lucian and Roxanne being together.

Why does this woman keep showing up everywhere?

However, she forced a smile as she couldn’t express her disgust for Roxanne since Lucian was around.

On the other hand, Roxanne never thought Aubree would call out to her when she was about to leave.

It would have been rude of her if she ignored Aubree

With that thought in mind, Roxanne paused in her tracks, turned around, and greeted Aubree coldly, “It’s been a while, Ms Pearson”

Aubree smiled. “If I remember correctly, your kids don’t study here. So what brings you here today, Ms. Jarvis? Are you planning to transfer them to this kindergarten so they can attend school with Essie?”

Roxanne’s heart sank at that

She could tell what Aubree was hinting at even though she didn’t say it straight to her face.

Aubree was accusing her of using Archie and Benny to approach Lucian by transferring her two kids to the same kindergarten as Estella.

Roxanne denied her accusation without hesitation as soon as she realized what Aubree was getting at “You’re overthinking things, Ms. Pearson. Archie and Benny are doing

fine in school. I have no plans of transferring them over, nor do I have the time and effort to do so.”

Aubree chuckled casually and started to put on an act. “It’s okay. I can help if you ever want to transfer your kids over. Essie likes being friends with Archie and Benny. It’ll be good company for her.”

Roxanne’s lips twitched. “That won’t be necessary. I only came to check on Essie.”

“Essie is well taken care of. You have nothing to worry about, Ms. Jarvis.”

Aubree continued coldly. “You have nothing to do with Essie. Moreover, you are Lucian’s ex-wife. It will be in our best interest for you to keep your distance from Lucian and Essie as we are getting married soon,”

Lucian’s and Roxanne’s faces fell when Aubree mentioned their divorce.

Roxanne lowered her eyes and balled her hands into fists.

She was reminded of how she had brought her two kids up alone in a foreign country after the divorce.

At the moment, all her hardships in the past six years turned into hatred for Lucian and Aubree.

She wouldn’t have landed in such a huge mess if not for the two of them.

She couldn’t understand why she would want to worry herself about some kid Lucian had with another woman now that she was back.

A wave of sadness washed over her as she smiled bleakly upon that thought

Aubree, standing by Lucian’s side, was about to say something more to make her stand but was interrupted by Lucian.

“Are you done?”

Aubree gulped as she was jolted back to her senses. Only then did she realize she was being too arrogant just now

“I’m sorry, Lucian. I was worried since Ms. Yaxley told me she saw a suspicious individual barge into the

kindergarten and interact with Essie.”

She pushed the blame onto Pamela and Roxanne brazenly

Then, she turned to Roxanne and said kindly, "It's not that I'm stopping you from visiting Essie. I just hope that

you can let me know beforehand in the future so that I can give Ms. Yaxley a heads up."

Chapter 1154

Roxanne gave cold looks to the two people in front of her.

When Aubree met Roxanne's eyes, a strange sensation struck her, and she subconsciously clamped her mouth shut.

Lucian, on the other hand, scowled and looked at Roxanne gloomily

A long while later, Roxanne curled her lips self-deprecatingly. "Don't worry, Ms. Pearson, I get your point. I'll stay away from Essie from now on, but I hope you'll be able to take good care of Essie and not let something like this happen again."

Right after she made those utterances, she went into the car without giving them a chance to respond to her.

Lucian drew his brows tightly together as he watched her leave. Though he wished she would not take off so unhesitatingly, he could not bring himself to say anything to make her stay when he thought about the look she had on her face earlier.

Meanwhile, Aubree did not expect Roxanne to point out her fault in front of Lucian before leaving.

Her countenance slowly stiffened as she watched Roxanne's car disappear from her line of sight.

Then, she carefully turned to look at the man beside her. "Lucian..."

Lucian was upset, so he was visibly impatient when he spoke to her. "What else do you want to say? You were the one in charge of sending Essie to and from her school these days. Did her teacher not tell you. anything about Essie's situation in school?"

Overwhelmed with guilt, Aubree lowered her gaze

Ms. Yaxley did tell me that Essie seemed down recently, but I didn't put it to heart because I thought that was how Essie usually behaved. It never hit me that an incident like this would happen.

"If not for Roxanne finding out about it in time, what do you think would have happened to Essie this time?" Lucian questioned coldly

Aubree hastily tried to shrink from the blame. "Lucian, I really didn't know about these matters. You are well aware of Essie's condition. She's never quite excited. Moreover, something like that happened on her first day. of kindergarten When Ms. Yaxley told me about it, she only said that Essie wasn't enthusiastic in class, so! thought..."

In other words, she was blaming Pamela for not looking more into Estella's situation.

That innuendo of hers did not go unnoticed by Lucian, whose expression darkened instantly. "When were you planning to tell me about this if I hadn't asked?"

His sharp words had Aubree stumped for words. After a moment of silence, she tentatively uttered, "I shouldn't have neglected this, I should've told you about it right away"

Then, she quickly added, "Lucian, I really care about Essie. I was in a meeting earlier, but once I received Ms. Yaxley's message, I hurried over without wrapping up the meeting-"

Before she could finish her sentence, Lucian cut her off in annoyance. "If Essie is disturbing you from your work at Pearson Group, I'd say it's best that I stop troubling you with Essie's matters from now on."

Aubree froze.

Lucian was willing to continue with the engagement on one condition, and that was to get Estella to accept

her.

However, if he refused to let her get involved with Estella anymore, she would have no means to make the little girl accept her

In that case, her engagement with him would be broken off.

"Lucian, please give me one more chance! I won't let something like this happen again!" Aubree pleaded, reaching out to grab Lucian's arm.

However, he avoided her hands and uttered, "If this happens again, I'll announce to the public that the engagement between us has been called off."

Aubree's heart sank when those words entered her ears.

Nevertheless, she soon realized that Lucian was actually giving her another chance.

With that thought in mind, she let out a sigh of relief and nodded fervently.

Chapter 1155

"I'll be picking Essie up this evening. Go back to your meeting," Lucian said to Aubree in a frosty tone.

The woman dared not say anything else.

After all, it had been hard for her to get him to give her another chance, and she did not want to mess things up again.

Only after watching Lucian leave did Aubree plod back into her car.

However, she did not drive toward Pearson Group.

The meeting she mentioned earlier was only a lie to make Lucian think that Estella was important to her.

The Pearsons had come to one tacit conclusion-Aubree's most important task was to get Lucian to marry her as soon as possible.

Hence, her father had been taking care of everything in Pearson Group while she only went there once in a while. Most of her time was spent thinking of ways to get in Lucian's good graces.

Just as her hard work was finally coming to fruition, Roxanne's few sentences destroyed all the time and effort she had poured into the matter.

Enraged, Aubree wished she could skin Roxanne alive.

Alas, Lucian was present then, so she had no choice but to suppress her fury.

It did not help that he had given her such a stern warning that only served to fan the flames of anger in her heart.

I have to teach that b*tch a lesson!

Presuming that Roxanne should be at the research institute at that moment, Aubree headed straight for that place.

Roxanne was mentally and physically exhausted after leaving Estella's kindergarten

Initially, she planned to check on the little girl before returning to the research institute to continue her work.

However, she no longer had any energy to spare.

Roxanne did not know whether it was because Aubree's earlier words had upset her, but she found herself in a daze, unsure where to go.

As such, she ended up driving aimlessly around the city until the sky darkened, and it was time to pick Archie and Benny up. Only then did she finally head toward their kindergarten.

The moment she arrived, the boys were done with their classes.

They were already rushing toward her in excitement before she could even get out of the car.

At that sight, Roxanne stayed in the car and unlocked the car doors for them. Once they got in, she took their bags from them.

Seeing the expectant looks on the boys' faces made her heart sink

She knew they were that excited because they were aware that she went to visit Estella that day-they wanted to know how the little girl was doing.

If Estella were doing well, she would not hesitate to tell them about it

Unfortunately, what she had seen was the scenario the boys dreaded the most

Roxanne did not know how to break it to them.

"Mommy, how's Essie?" Benny asked when he heard nothing from her.

She lowered her gaze as a wave of resignation washed over her.

"Essie's... doing okay. Her teacher takes very good care of her."

That was the only thing Roxanne could think of to say to them.

Technically, it was not a lie. The teacher in Estella's class was sure to focus more on the little girl after that incident.

Regardless of whether or not Estella would get on well with her classmates, she would never be bullied.

anymore

Finding their mother's response strange, the boys worriedly asked, "Then did Essie see you?"

Roxanne nodded stiffly.

"Then, Mommy, did you tell her that we miss her a lot too?" Benny queried in his adorable voice.

Roxanne kept her eyes focused on the road, not daring to meet the boys' innocent gazes. "I did."

Chapter 1156

Upon returning to their mansion, Roxanne went to prepare dinner while the boys ran upstairs.

"Archie, was Mommy lying to us just now?" Benny could not help but ask his older brother right after he

closed the bedroom door.

Archie frowned, his countenance utterly taut. I sensed that there was something very weird about Mommy's tone and expression as well when she answered us just now. In fact, she even avoided our gazes on purpose. It's obvious that Mommy lied to us, but why? Could it be that Essie is having a tough time? Or could it be that Mommy didn't go to see Essie?

The boys could not stop thinking about those two possibilities.

"Should we visit Essie ourselves?" Benny anxiously put forth a suggestion when he did not get a response from his older brother after a long wait.

Archie shook his head. "Let's ask Mommy first. There must be a reason she lied to us."

Mommy has been acting very weirdly ever since we came home today. Could it be that she bumped into Daddy when she went to see Essie?

At the thought of that possibility, he cast a glance at Benny and decided against voicing his speculation after a few seconds of hesitation.

His younger brother was too impulsive in matters concerning Estella. Since he was worried about her as well, he was afraid that Benny would sway him should he divulge his conjecture.

In their bedroom, Archie and Benny discussed ways to get their mother to tell them the truth.

In the meantime, Aubree, beside herself with fury, was driving toward Roxanne's house.

Earlier in the afternoon, she had gone to the research institute. Not daring to raise a ruckus at that place lest she create more problems for herself, she opted to obtain Roxanne's whereabouts by asking around. By the time she managed to confirm that the latter was absent from the research institute, hours had passed.

It was almost time for kindergarten students to finish their classes, so Aubree rushed to the kindergarten, but she got there too late.

At that point, she was extremely exasperated because she had missed Roxanne twice in a row.

Aubree sped to Roxanne's house, slammed her car door behind her, and strode to the entrance of the mansion.

After pressing the doorbell twice, she soon heard footsteps within the house, followed closely by Roxanne's voice.

"Who is it?" Roxanne asked.

She could not fathom why she would have visitors so late at night.

Aubree took a deep breath and shouted, "It's me! Open up!"

When Roxanne heard her voice, she halted in her tracks abruptly and replied indifferently, "I'm sorry, Ms. Pearson, but I'm making dinner for my kids. I don't think I have the time to entertain you. Please go home!"

Considering how their encounter at the kindergarten entrance that day went badly, she was certain that the other woman had come to find fault with her.

That was why Roxanne was not planning on opening the door for her guest.

"To think that you still remembered that you have two children!" Standing on the other side of the door, Aubree cursed, "Don't you dare forget the fact that you and Lucian are already divorced and that you gave

birth to two b*stards! How dare you pester Lucian? Do you have no shame? With your current circumstances, do you think the Farwells will accept you into their family? Stop dreaming!"

Roxanne did not expect such maniacal behavior from Aubree. Her face darkened as she uttered, "I won't forget that. You may leave now."

She did not want things to turn ugly since her children were upstairs.

Much to her annoyance, however, Aubree, seemingly provoked, continued hurling a tirade of abuse. In fact, her voice was getting louder.

“Are you finally scared of me now? Is that why you’re asking me to leave? Well, too late! Who do you think you are? How dare you talk badly about me before Lucian, you b*tch!” Aubree roared.

Chapter 1157

Aubree was getting out of line. Afraid that Archie and Benny could hear her, Roxanne decided to open the door and confront her.

“Are you done, Ms. Pearson? If you are, please leave,” she uttered.

When Aubree saw that Roxanne had finally stepped out of the mansion, she became even more enraged. “How dare you come out! What is it? Are you hoping for Lucian to come over to help you?” she snarled at the sight of the latter’s face.

Annoyed, Roxanne frowned. “As I’ve said before, I’ll distance myself from them. I only went to the kindergarten today because I wanted to know how Essie was doing. If those kids didn’t bully her, I wouldn’t have met Mr. Farwell, and no one would’ve known I was there.”

Then, she enunciated a promise. “From now on, as long as Essie is well, I’ll stay out of your lives.”

“You’ve got to be kidding me!” Disdain was written all over Aubree’s face. “Do you think I would still believe your words? Where are those two b*stards? Get them to come out! I want to show them their mother’s true colors! They should know how you’ve seduced someone else’s fiancé!”

Roxanne’s expression turned grim when she heard her words. “Aubree Pearson, get out of here if you’re done making a scene, or else I’ll call the police!”

“Go on! I’d like to see if the police will side with me, Lucian’s fiancée, or you, the homewrecker!” Aubree sneered.

At that moment, Archie and Benny had just finished their discussion, and they could vaguely hear an argument going on downstairs.

It sounded like someone called Mommy a homewrecker...

Perplexed, the boys ran to the balcony and looked downward, only to find Aubree standing in front of the entrance of their mansion.

She was scolding their mother with sheer venom in her expression.

"Listen to me-you'll never get Lucian's attention no matter what you do! He didn't have feelings for you six years ago, and that hasn't changed since then! I'm the only woman who's worthy enough to be by his side!" Aubree fumed. "Besides, there's no way the Farwell family would accept those two b*stard children of yours!"

It was as though she uttered that reminder because she was afraid Roxanne had forgotten all about it.

Hearing her repeatedly call Archie and Benny with such a derogatory term infuriated Roxanne, who walked up to her with a frosty expression.

"What's the matter with you? Are you going to hit me?" Aubree mocked.

As soon as those words fell from her lips, a cute voice rang out from above. "Watch out, Mommy!"

In the next second, cold water poured down on Aubree, drenching her from head to toe.

The woman froze momentarily before she regained her senses a few moments later and looked up furiously.

On the balcony, Benny stood on a stool and made a face at her. "There's no way Mr. Farwell would fall for an evil woman like you!"

"You little b*stard! Get down here! I swear I'll teach you rascals a lesson!" Aubree yelled at Archie and Benny hysterically.

However, the boys were not the least bit intimidated by her. "This is what you get for scolding our mommy, you evil woman!"

Overwhelmed with rage, Aubree wanted to walk past Roxanne to storm upstairs.

Archie's and Benny's rash actions took Roxanne by surprise as well.

However, she could not deny that she was inexplicably exhilarated by it.

Despite that, she was worried that Aubree would try and harm the boys, considering how angry the latter looked. Therefore, she gave her a stiff apology on behalf of her children. "Ms. Pearson, they didn't do it on purpose. They're just kids, so please forgive them."

With that, Roxanne looked up and shot a glance at Archie and Benny, signaling them to go along with her. Pouring water on her to vent our anger is sufficient. We'll only end up on the losing end if we get into another

trouble.

However, Archie and Benny acted as though they did not notice her gaze. With arms akimbo, they uttered matter-of-factly, "We did it on purpose! Let's see if you still dare to scold Mommy!"

Chapter 1158

"B*stards!" Aubree wanted to dash into the house as if she had gone berserk.

Since things had already gone to that extent, Roxanne saw no point in backing down. Hence, she stood firm at the entrance and blocked Aubree's way. "Why are you so mad, Ms. Pearson? You were the one who came to our house today and made a violent outburst! Archie and Benny were just returning the favor."

All of a sudden, Aubree stood still. "It must've been your doing! You must've taught them to do this!" she roared in between pants.

With that, she lifted her hand and swung it toward Roxanne, who had been keeping her guard up.

The latter swiftly raised her hand and jabbed a finger at an acupuncture point on Aubree's arm.

Aubree instantly felt her arm going numb and weak.

Before she could come to her senses, she received a tight slap across her face.

Roxanne did not hold back in that slap. The impact was so strong that Aubree felt her mind going blank.

It took her a long while to snap out of it. When she finally did, she stared at Roxanne in disbelief. "You! How dare you hit me?"

"I just did what you were going to do to me," the latter answered with an icy expression.

As soon as Roxanne finished her sentence, she shoved Aubree aside.

Caught off guard, Aubree staggered two steps backward and almost rolled down the stairs before the entrance.

"This is a matter between us adults. Why did you have to involve my kids, Ms. Pearson? That's rather disgraceful of you, don't you think?" Roxanne paused and added expressionlessly, "Take that slap as a warning. If you dare to lay a finger on Archie and Benny, I'll make sure you regret your actions!"

As soon as Aubree stabilized herself, she made a lunge at Roxanne.

Roxanne lifted her leg slightly and kicked an acupuncture point on Aubree's knee.

Again, Aubree ended up staggering backward in pain.

"You're no match for me. If I want to make you suffer, I can do so easily." Roxanne was merely stating facts. "Please don't forget about my expertise, Ms. Pearson."

As a traditional medicine practitioner famous for her prowess in acupuncture, she was extremely familiar with all the acupuncture points on the human body as well as knowing how much pressure to exert on which acupuncture point in order to bring about the desired effects.

Although the knowledge could save the lives of others, it could also be used as a form of self-defense.

Aubree flushed with rage from having suffered twice at the hands of Roxanne, but she dared not retaliate recklessly.

"Why aren't you leaving yet?" Roxanne snapped.

Because of what she had done earlier, Aubree shuddered unconsciously at her shout.

Upon realizing her reaction, Aubree blushed crimson with embarrassment. She then acted tough, yelling, "Just you wait!"

With that, she gritted her teeth and left.

After getting into her car, however, she stared at the mansion from afar instead of driving off immediately.

By then, Roxanne had turned around and gone back into the mansion.

Archie and Benny were still on the balcony, making faces at her in a smug manner.

Their complacent behavior caused Aubree's features to twist into a fearsome expression of fury. Those two b*stards! They'd better pray that they won't ever fall into my hands. Otherwise, I swear I'll make their lives a living

hell!

She stayed outside the mansion for quite a while before flooring the accelerator and driving away.

In the mansion, Roxanne suppressed her anger and continued preparing dinner. Once she was done, she hollered at Archie and Benny to get them to come downstairs for dinner.

At that moment, the boys were already waiting at the landing.

They had fun taking revenge on Aubree earlier, but after watching her leave, they quickly realized that their action could very well upset Roxanne.

Hence, they had been waiting at the landing, expecting their mother to lecture them.