

Mission To Remarry Chapter 1301-1326

Chapter 1301

Once Cory shook off his tail, he messaged Aubree while driving.

Cory: Our cooperation is over. I'm going to get money from Mr. Farwell now. Good luck, Ms. Pearson.

With that sent, he switched off his phone.

Given how fearful Aubree was of Lucian, Cory had no doubt she was going to call him fervently.

All Cory wanted was money; he would not waste his time playing games with Aubree.

When Aubree received Cory's message, she cursed at her subordinates as she tried to dial Cory's number again and again.

Lucian had already told her that he was going to call off the engagement. If he were to find out what she had done previously, she would be dead meat.

Aubree was gripped with regret. She realized she should have given Cory that fifty million.

Alas, Cory seemed to have figured out that Aubree would regret her decision, as his phone remained switched off the entire time.

Her failed attempts stoked the anger in her, and she threw her phone onto the ground. Then, a wave of terror crashed into her.

That mad man Cory's capable of doing anything for money! He must be on his way to Lucian's place. What do I do now?

Aubree was at a loss. After a while of being rooted to her spot, she stumbled into her car and asked the driver to send her to the Pearson residence.

She had to discuss the matter with her parents.

The Pearson family would be doomed if Lucian were to find out what she had done.

Sure enough, Cory could do anything for the sake of money.

He drove straight to the Farwell Group office building, but when he arrived and looked up at the skyscraper, he gulped guiltily.

As Aubree had said, the three of them were in the same boat.

Choosing to betray Aubree was akin to betraying himself.

However, he had no other choice. He needed the money.

Without money, those lunatics will kill me! No matter what I do, I'm screwed. I can only take the risk.

Cory steeled himself and dialed Lucian's number, something he had taken much effort to find out.

Meanwhile, when Lucian heard his private phone ringing and saw the unfamiliar number on the screen, he frowned before picking up the call.

"Mr. Farwell, I'm Cory Zaythrone. Do you still remember me?" came the voice from the other end of the line.

Lucian recognized the voice almost instantaneously.

The private detective had not been someone important back then, so Lucian had only sent one of his ordinary subordinates to tail the private detective.

However, his subordinate ended up losing the detective in days, and Lucian regretted his decision to assign someone normal to him.

He was surprised that the private detective had come to him.

Cory chuckled dryly and said, "You have a good memory, Mr. Farwell. I'm sure time is precious for you, so I won't beat around the bush. I want some money, but I won't be asking for a free lunch. I have some leads on the things you've been looking into, and I think you might like to hear me out."

The look in Lucian's eyes darkened.

So this private detective knew something about the kids' bacterial infection.

"Okay. How much do you want?" Lucian asked.

The guilt in Cory's chest grew. "It's up to you after you hear what I have to say, but it'll be best if you can give me more than twenty million."

Cory was certain that he had to have grown nerves of steel overnight.

Not only did he help Aubree hurt Lucian's children, but he was even asking for money from Lucian now.

Lucian was silent for a moment.

When Lucian finally spoke again, Cory found himself shuddering.

"Where are you? Let's talk in person," Lucian replied, neither agreeing nor disagreeing with it.

Chapter 1302

"I'm right outside of Farwell Group," Cory quickly said.

Lucian inclined his head and gestured for Cayden to pick Cory up. At the same time, he said to Cayden, "My assistant will be coming for you."

Cory made a sound of agreement and waited for Lucian to hang up before nervously getting out of his car.

In no time, Cayden appeared at the entrance.

Cory walked over to him and followed him into the elevator.

Soon, the elevator came to a halt on the highest floor.

Cayden led him to Lucian's office, knocked on the door, and gestured for Cory to enter by himself.

Cory's legs seemed to have turned into jelly the moment the door opened, and he shakily asked Cayden, "Are you not going to come in with me?"

Cayden gave him a polite smile. "Mr. Farwell wishes to speak to you privately."

With that, a cold look returned to Cayden's face.

Cory hesitated for a long while, and yet, he had no choice but to muster the courage to continue with his plan. He was already there, after all.

He steeled himself and went in.

Lucian was sitting at the office desk, working.

When he saw Cory entering, he put down the documents and crossed his arms in front of him. After a curt inclination of his head, he said, "Please take a seat, Mr. Zaythrone."

The smile Cory had in response was an ugly one as he stiffly sat down in front of Lucian.

"You said you have information to sell to me. Do start," Lucian said, completely expressionless.

Even though there was no hint of anger on Lucian's face, Cory still felt a weight on his chest. "Before that, I'd like to ask for a guarantee from you, Mr. Farwell."

Lucian furrowed his brows and motioned for him to keep going.

"You know how things go for the people in our line of work. We take the money, and we do the deed. We're working for people, and we do what our client asks us to do, so it's not as if we have many choices sometimes."

Cory was trying to remove his responsibility from the equation.

Lucian gave him a smile. "Do tell me what it is, and I'll pass judgment on my own."

Cory was stumped by his answer, but since he was already there in Lucian's office, there was nothing else he could do about it.

"Why don't you tell me who your client is first?" Lucian stared at him. "Aubree Pearson?"

Cory broke out in a cold sweat immediately as he looked at Lucian in terror.

If he already knows it's Aubree, what else does he not know about? In that case, what use would my information be?

"I-It's her!" Cory hastily confessed. "She forced me to do this! I really don't know what she's trying to do! She only asked me where Ms. Jarvis and the kids were. I didn't think much about it when I told her where they were. Who knew she would bring a bottle over and pour its contents into the kids' bottles?"

Lucian's eyes darkened. "Are you talking about when Roxanne brought the kids to camp?"

He recalled what Roxanne had told him previously.

Back then, Roxanne had told him that Aubree was the one who put the bacteria into the children's cup.

However, Lucian did nothing about that because he could not find any evidence of Aubree's involvement.

If Aubree really was behind the bacteria incident, then she had to be behind the incident where Archie and Benny were chased by older children when they came to visit Estella as well.

Lucian chided himself when he realized how he had even planned to give Aubree another chance a while ago.

If he had let the wicked woman join the Farwell family, the woman would mess everything up.

“Do you have evidence of it?” Lucian asked.

Cory promptly took out the photos he had taken.

Chapter 1303

Lucian took it with a neutral look.

Cory did not intend to hide anything from Lucian. What he had given to Lucian was the camera he had used when he was working on Aubree’s case. Not only was there the evidence in it, but there were also the photos Aubree had asked him to take of Roxanne.

After handing the camera to Lucian, Cory began waiting fearfully.

Lucian went through the photos.

The first photo was the photo Cory had deliberately selected for him—the photo where Aubree was putting the bacteria into the children’s drink.

The background of the photo was the field where Roxanne had brought the children.

Even though there were only a few photos, Lucian could see the ruthlessness and caution in Aubree’s eyes.

Lucian narrowed his eyes. He guessed that Aubree had to have done more things than what these photos showed.

He went through the other photos.

Most of the photos were photos of Roxanne with Jack, as well as photos of him and Roxanne.

Even though Roxanne had accepted him, and even though the two of them were close, he still could not help but feel irritated at the sight of her photos with Jack.

Cory had taken the photos deliberately from an angle that would make Roxanne look as though she was being intimate with Jack.

The tension built up in the office.

Sensing the change in Lucian's mood, Cory craned his neck to look at the photos before explaining, "Mr. Farwell, please don't misunderstand the situation. I was only making it seem as if they were intimate. Ms. Jarvis has always been keeping a safe distance from him."

Cory was filled with regret as he said that, and his explanation earned a glare from Lucian.

Naturally, he realized that, but it still did not stop him from feeling jealous when he saw the photos.

What was I doing while Roxanne was spending her time with Jack? I was giving her the cold shoulder and mulling over if I should make Aubree Essie's stepmother.

Fury surged through him when he thought about that.

Suddenly, he saw a few familiar photos.

Lucian froze and lifted his head to look at Cory. "Did you send these photos to Aubree?"

Cory did not know what happened, but he nodded sheepishly. "I sent most of the photos here to Ms. Pearson."

The anger twisted even more inside Lucian.

The photos were the ones that Sonya had used to kick up a fuss.

Back then, Lucian had asked her who sent her the photos, but Sonya had told him they were from an unfamiliar number.

Now, it was clear to him that Aubree's scheming ways went further than what he could see.

"Mr. Farwell..." Cory was frightened by Lucian's cold fury. "Mr. Farwell, I was only doing my job! I don't know anything about what happened other than this! Aubree's a lunatic! She even asked me to kill Ms. Jarvis for her, but why would I do that? But she threatened to tell you that everything was my doing if I didn't do as she said. I had no choice but to flee from her..."

Lucian snapped, "What did you just say?"

That b*tch even wanted to kill Roxanne?

A shudder ran down Cory's spine. "Aubree went mad on the night Ms. Jarvis was hospitalized..."

He could not finish the sentence from the pure wrath Lucian was exuding.

The room plunged into a deathly silence.

Right as Cory was about to say something else, Lucian abruptly lifted his hand.

In the next second, the camera he had been holding shot past Cory's face and slammed onto the ground. The screen cracked.

Cory's knees went weak, and he nearly slid off his chair to kneel before Lucian.

Chapter 1304

An indeterminate time passed, and Cory finally regained his senses. "Mr. Farwell, I was wrong! I won't ever dare to do this again. Aubree forced me!" He begged for mercy in a panic and spoke without considering his word choices. "I don't want the money. Please let me go. I'll scram!"

He got up from the chair and wanted to escape the office as soon as possible because that place felt like hell to him due to the gloomy aura emitted by Lucian.

Cory didn't want to stay there for a second longer.

"Stop right there," Lucian uttered just as Cory reached the office door.

At the same time, Cayden moved and stood at the doorway, blocking Cory's path. Cayden gestured at the latter for him to retrace his steps.

Remorse washed over Cory as he was trapped inside the office by Lucian and Cayden.

If he could turn back time, he wouldn't have met with Lucian no matter what.

Realizing there was no longer hope for him to run away, Cory turned around and gazed at Lucian, having only the courage to do so while keeping a safe distance from him. "What else can I do for you, Mr. Farwell?"

Lucian got to his feet from behind the desk and glanced at Cory with a dark look. "I can give you the money."

Cory was shocked. He couldn't believe his ears. Am I really able to acquire money from Lucian? I'm not dreaming, right?

Immediately afterward, Lucian's voice rang again. "But not now."

Reality slapped Cory across his face.

Having worked in that industry for so long, he was already a worldly-wise person.

He fathomed Lucian had a task for him after Lucian finished his sentence.

Moreover, that task wouldn't be simple.

However, Cory was left with no alternative.

Instead of having Lucian force him to take on the job, he figured he might as well seize that opportunity to get on Lucian's good side by doing him that favor.

Cory flashed a subservient smile. "Mr. Farwell, how can I be of help? I'll definitely put forth my best effort!"

Lucian strode past him and looked at Cayden, who was standing at the doorway. "Bring Mr. Zaythron to the reception room to rest."

Cayden nodded politely.

Cory's heart jumped to his throat when he was on his way to the reception room. The tension even caused him to feel a little breathless.

Meanwhile, Aubree had finally returned to the Pearson residence.

Her legs were still a little weak when she got out of the car. She nearly fell to the ground.

"Aubree!"

Inside the mansion, Gina was sitting in the living room in uneasiness. Her facial expression brightened when she saw Aubree returning. "Where did you go? You haven't eaten anything in the past few days and were reluctant to leave your bedroom. When you stepped out of your room, you disappeared without updating us on your whereabouts. Do you know how worried I was about you?"

Samuel, standing next to Gina, also looked concerned.

"Just forget about the engagement since it has been called off. Lucian will always remember the kindness your grandfather had shown him, so the Pearson family's status remains," Gina comforted her daughter.

Although they were also dissatisfied with the cancellation of the engagement, Gina and Samuel thought their daughter's health was ultimately more important.

"Mom, Dad, things may be different for the Pearson family soon," Aubree stammered.

The rest of Gina's words stuck in her throat. She turned her head around and exchanged glances with Samuel. Only then did she confirm her ears weren't playing tricks on her.

Colors drained from her face again as apprehension filled her eyes. "What happened? Why are you saying that all of a sudden?"

Gina sized up Aubree's appearance as she spoke. A sense of foreboding crept into Gina's heart. "Be honest with us. What have you done?"

Aubree's lips trembled uncontrollably. "I-I messed up! Lucian will never let me off the hook! Mom, Dad, please help me. Only you two can save me now!"

Chapter 1305

Gina panicked at the sight of her daughter's demeanor. She instinctively turned to look at Samuel.

Samuel remained relatively rational, but he was wearing a grimace. "What did you do?"

Hearing her father's question, Aubree lowered her gaze guiltily, her eyelids twitching uncontrollably.

Even as the situation progressed to that stage, she was still trying to figure out ways to describe her doings with reduced severity.

After contemplating for a few moments, she uttered warily, "I-I contaminated the water Essie drank with bacteria."

Samuel's and Gina's faces darkened as soon as they heard that.

They had always known Aubree despised Estella and had been mistreating her.

However, since Lucian didn't find out about that, they turned a blind eye to Aubree's misconduct.

Unexpectedly, Aubree's foolishness knew no boundaries.

Noticing the changes in her parents' mood, Aubree quickly added, "I didn't do that on purpose. I was just trying to teach the b*tch, Roxanne, a lesson. I wanted those two

b*stards to be infected, but I-I didn't expect Essie's cup to be next to theirs. I got carried away—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Samuel slapped her forcefully. "You fool!"

Aubree covered her face, lowered her head, and stayed silent for a long while.

Samuel panted heavily. He recollected himself for a few seconds before asking again, "Is that all?"

Aubree's eyes flickered. "I did the same thing to Essie once in the past, but I suppose Lucian doesn't know I am the culprit. He doesn't have any evidence!"

Samuel bellowed, "Aren't you aware of Lucian's capability? He'll find out all the information he needs once you expose yourself!"

Aubree became even more agitated. "What should we do? Lucian cares a lot about Essie. He'll never forgive me if he knows I tried to harm her." Moreover, I even set Roxanne up on multiple occasions. Judging by their current relationship, Lucian will undoubtedly turn my life into a living hell by considering all the horrible things I've done when taking revenge on me!

At that thought, she grasped the hem of her mother's clothes hysterically. "Mom, you have to save me. I was wrong!"

Gina merely felt weak all over.

She understood her daughter more than anyone else, so she knew Aubree must've committed more wrongdoings than she had let on.

Still, Aubree's act of harming Estella alone was sufficient to convince Lucian to unleash his wrath on the Pearson family.

Gina gazed at Samuel, hoping he could figure out a solution.

"You fool! I can't believe I gave birth to a daughter as senseless as you!"

Samuel paced around the mansion anxiously.

After some time, he finally stopped in his tracks and instructed Gina, "Contact Sonya. We can only rely on her to help speak up for us in front of Lucian."

Gina was already deeply shaken up. She merely executed his orders blindly after hearing his words.

Right after she took out her phone to dial Sonya's number, Aubree's phone suddenly rang.

The three of them simultaneously shifted their gazes to the ringing phone.

Due to the fire at the factory earlier, her phone screen had been cracked into a mess.

Nonetheless, they could still see the caller ID displayed on the screen.

It was a call from Lucian.

Aubree shuddered when she caught sight of the name. She frantically tossed away the device. "Lucian must be calling me to settle the score! We cannot answer the call. We mustn't..."

"Do you think he'll be out of ways to deal with you if you don't pick up the call?" Samuel roared.

Frightened, Aubree answered the phone with trembling hands.

On the other end of the call, Lucian wasn't expecting her to speak, either. He simply uttered coldly, "I'll be waiting for you at the Farwell residence at two o'clock in the afternoon."

With that, he hung up the phone right away.

Chapter 1306

It was two in the afternoon, and there were still two more hours to go.

Not wanting to waste any more time, Gina gave Sonya a call.

The latter answered immediately. "Gina, what is it?"

From Sonya's calm voice, it was obvious that she had no clue about what had happened.

Despite forcing herself to calm down, Gina couldn't stop her voice from quivering. "Are you free? Aubree would like to speak to you."

Gina's tone puzzled Sonya. "Did something happen? Is it about the engagement? Don't worry. I'll talk to Lucian about it."

The mention of Lucian's name caused the three Pearsons to feel self-conscious.

Finally, Gina steeled herself to reply, "You'll know when you arrive."

With that, she ended the call, confident that Sonya would come over.

Just as expected, Sonya arrived at the Pearson residence half an hour later.

When she saw the three gloomy Pearsons in the living room, Sonya's heart sank. "What happened? Why do you all look as if you're at a funeral?"

No sooner had Sonya spoken than Aubree came over and hugged Sonya's leg.

Stunned by the latter's abrupt action, Sonya was about to speak when Aubree preempted her with a voice brimming with despair.

"I'm sorry, Mrs. Farwell! You have to help me. I'll never do it again!"

Aubree's words elicited Sonya's sympathy. "Tell me what happened, and I'll see if there's anything I can do."

In a choking voice, Aubree explained, "Remember when I told you about Essie getting an infection from the camping trip Roxanne took her on? I was the one behind it!"

Sonya's face darkened instantly. "What in the world happened?"

"I didn't do it on purpose! I just wanted to teach Roxanne and her two boys a lesson, but the bacteria somehow got into Essie's cup and infected her."

Aubree shamelessly tried to defend herself, "I really didn't expect it to turn out that way. That's why I didn't dare tell you about—"

Before she finished, Sonya slapped her across the face.

This slap was even harder than the one Samuel had given her earlier.

Sonya was outraged to learn that the daughter-in-law she favored had actually harmed her granddaughter.

Aubree's confession had also reminded Sonya of the time when she whacked Estella on the backside.

I must have been blind to believe Aubree when she claimed that she did it for Essie's own good!

"Mrs. Farwell..." Dazed by the strike, Aubree took a few seconds to regain her senses before giving Sonya a hopeless look.

Showing no mercy, Sonya shoved Aubree's hand away. "Shut up! How could you have lied to me all these years and even harmed my granddaughter? Why did it take me so long to realize how vicious you are? Aubree, I'm really disappointed in you!"

The Pearsons' faces fell in response to Sonya's reaction.

Nonetheless, Gina still held some hope. "Sonya, we have been friends for so many—"

"Don't you dare say my name!"

The aura Sonya exuded was so intimidating that it seemed to suffocate the Pearsons.

Right then, Sonya had a sudden realization as she looked down at Aubree. "What about the car accident?"

Now that she thought about it, there were plenty of reasons for her to be suspicious.

Aubree lowered her head and didn't dare reply.

Sensing how rapidly the situation was deteriorating, Gina and Samuel dropped to their knees in desperation.

"Mrs. Farwell, please forgive us this one time. I guarantee we'll never show our faces in front of the Farwells—"

"Leave your pleas to Lucian and Essie," Sonya cut her off ruthlessly.

Chapter 1307

When their appeal fell on deaf ears, the Pearsons were filled with despair.

Sonya gave them the side-eye. "How dare you lie to me all these years? And now, you still have the cheek to beg for my forgiveness?"

The three of them hung their heads, not daring to utter a single word.

After a brief yet deathly silence, Sonya turned to leave. "You guys better pray hard!"

Samuel finally got back up to his feet a long while later. As he stared at his daughter, who was still kneeling, a pained look flashed across his eyes. "You should leave the country."

Aubree raised her head the moment she heard those words.

"That's the only way out." Samuel let out a long sigh. "You can save yourself by leaving. Otherwise, we'll lose both you and our wealth!"

A look of hesitation filled Aubree's eyes.

Leave the country... Would Lucian really let me off? More importantly, would he even give me the chance?

As concerns filled her mind, Aubree just couldn't agree to her father's proposal.

In the blink of an eye, it was already one thirty.

The three of them left home on time.

Given that Lucian was already outraged by Aubree's actions, they wouldn't look repentant if they were to be late.

Meanwhile, Roxanne was oblivious to what had happened between the Pearson and Farwell families.

She had caught a cold the day before. Archie and Benny had taken the day off from the kindergarten to stay home to accompany her.

As always, the children were extremely concerned about her. They made sure that she took her medication and had enough water.

Although all Roxanne had was a slight fever, they forbade her from getting out of bed.

In the morning, Lucian and Estella had dropped by for a visit and only left when they learned it wasn't serious.

Just as Roxanne was about to take a nap so that her boys could also rest, her phone suddenly rang.

When she saw that it was Lucian on the line, she answered it, thinking that he was just checking in on her.

"Do you feel better now?"

Just as expected, Lucian's concerned voice rang out.

Roxanne's heart was immediately warmed. "It's just a minor fever. I feel fine. You guys are just overreacting."

For her sake, the three children had taken leave from school, whereas Lucian had almost dropped whatever he was doing in the office to care for her.

In the end, it was Roxanne who convinced him that there was no such need.

Lucian sounded solemn over the line. "Come to the manor if you can. I'll get Cayden to pick you up."

Roxanne was stunned by his request. She could sense the gravity of the situation. "What happened?"

She reckoned Lucian wouldn't want her to be out and about unless it was something serious, as she was sick.

Lucian furrowed his brows. He didn't know how to break it to her. "It's better to talk about it in person. Cayden should be arriving anytime now."

Without asking any further questions, Roxanne agreed, "I'll go and get ready."

Lucian added, "Bring Archie and Benny along."

Since they were Aubree's initial targets, she has to apologize to them in person.

Even though Roxanne was baffled, she could tell from Lucian's tone that it was something serious.

"All right."

Just as she ended the call, the boys came in with a glass of water.

After taking it from their hands and drinking a mouthful, Roxanne said, "Mr. Farwell wants me to bring both of you to his place, so go get ready. Mr. Lawson will be picking us up soon."

Chapter 1308

The boys were elated to learn that they would be going over to Lucian's place.

They figured their father was worried about their mother and wanted to care for her there.

But why does he want Mommy to go over? If he's really worried about her, won't it be easier for him to come here?

They emerged from Roxanne's bedroom, puzzled by the arrangement.

Before the boys could come to a conclusion, Cayden was already knocking on their door.

Roxanne, who was ready, went down to get the door.

"Ms. Jarvis, Mr. Farwell has requested that I take you and the children to the manor," Cayden informed cordially.

Roxanne nodded in acknowledgment. "I know. He called me just now. The children will be down soon, so please bear with us for a moment."

As soon as she said that, the boys came running down the stairs.

Cayden ushered all of them into the car.

During the journey, Roxanne couldn't resist asking, "Do you know why Lucian called us over?"

Cayden shook his head after a momentary hesitation. "You'll find out when you're there."

Although he was aware of the reason, it would be inappropriate for him to talk about it before his employer did.

Roxanne frowned slightly. The curiosity within her began to swell.

Cayden obviously knows something but refuses to talk.

The more secretive Cayden was, the more Roxanne found it strange.

Archie and Benny were unsettled by the mysterious atmosphere as well.

It wasn't until twenty minutes later that the car gradually stopped in front of the Farwell residence.

When Cayden led the three in, Lucian was already waiting in the living room.

Behind him stood a man with exquisite features and an ordinary build. However, the man seemed to appear ill at ease.

At the sight of Roxanne, the man greeted her sincerely, "How do you do, Ms. Jarvis?"

Wondering if it was just her imagination, Roxanne could feel as if the man seemed to need her help.

She gave Lucian a puzzled look. "Who might this be?"

The moment she made eye contact with Lucian, Roxanne was stunned a second time. The conflicted look she saw in his eyes somehow overwhelmed her.

"What happened? Why are you—"

She wanted to ask Lucian why he was looking at her that way.

"This is Cory Zaythron. He's a private investigator," Lucian interrupted her.

Roxanne remained as puzzled as before. She had never heard of that name, but the man clearly knew her.

Sensing her confusion, Lucian elaborated, "He's been watching you all this while."

The revelation caused Roxanne's eyes to glisten in shock.

She gave the man another look and felt a sudden chill down her spine.

Someone has been following me all this while, and yet I was oblivious to it! Why is he doing this? What did he do while tailing me?

Roxanne wanted to probe further.

Before she could do so, a small figure suddenly ran down from upstairs. "Aunt Roxanne! Archie! Benny!"

Estella had been looking for her father upon waking up. Little did she expect to find Roxanne and the boys there too. Visibly delighted, she hurried up to them with a childish skip.

Roxanne had no choice but to swallow her words before flashing a smile at Estella.

"Aunt Roxanne, are you feeling better? What brings you here all of a sudden?"

While giving her a concerned look, Estella tiptoed to try to feel Roxanne's forehead.

Roxanne leaned forward so that Estella could reach her. "The fever is gone."

Only after Estella felt it herself did she relax.

Meanwhile, while watching the heartwarming scene of Roxanne interacting with the three children, Lucian was enraged by the thought of what he had learned in the afternoon.

If it weren't for Aubree, things would have been like this long ago!

Chapter 1309

After reassuring Estella, Roxanne walked up to Lucian with Archie and Benny.

"Mr. Farwell, why was this man following Mommy?"

Archie, the most vigilant of them, had been scrutinizing Cory while Roxanne was chatting with Estella.

Hearing that, Roxanne turned to look at Cory with a frown.

She had a hunch that the reason Lucian requested their presence was tied to that man.

The only thing she couldn't figure out was why he wanted Archie and Benny to be there.

She looked at Lucian with concern. "Shall we let the children go upstairs to play?"

Lucian shook his head solemnly. "This matter involves them too."

The three children deserve Aubree's apology the most.

Hearing that, Roxanne and the children were taken aback.

They're just children. What could've happened for Lucian to put on such a grave look on his face?

Right then, something struck her. She turned to Lucian and asked hesitantly, "Is it—"

"Have a seat and wait." Lucian gestured for them to sit.

Roxanne had no choice but to save her questions for later.

The children sat beside Lucian but not before saving the seat next to him for Roxanne.

Despite that, Roxanne still chose a seat where the children were between Lucian and her.

Not knowing what was going to happen, she tried to avoid looking too high profile.

Once seated, Roxanne began to contemplate on the matter.

The only thing I can think of that relates to the three of them is Essie getting an infection during the camping trip. Is the result of the investigations out?

Roxanne then recalled Lucian's introduction of Cory.

Since he has been following me, does that mean he saw what happened that day?

With that possibility in mind, Roxanne gave Cory an anxious look.

Is the culprit who I think it is? Aubree?

Just as she pulled the children into her embrace and wanted to ask Lucian about it, a commotion was heard at the door.

Everyone turned to see what was going on and was greeted by the sight of Catalina ushering Sonya in.

From the sullen look on Sonya's face, it was clear that she had flown into a rage not too long ago.

And the sight of Roxanne and her boys only caused Sonya's scowl to deepen.

"Essie, come to Grandma."

She looked in Estella's direction. Her eyes were filled with guilt.

Estella pursed her lips and tightened her grip on Roxanne's sleeves, refusing to go over.

Sonya's face contorted when she saw Estella's reaction. She looked as though she was about to lose her temper.

However, at the thought of something, Sonya calmed herself down again.

She gave Roxanne a look of displeasure and didn't force Estella in the end. Instead, she turned her attention to her son.

"I just came back from the Pearson residence. They should be here any minute."

Roxanne's expression changed when she heard that.

Just as expected, the Pearsons must be the ones behind it!

At the same moment, Lucian gave his mother an inquisitive look.

Sonya's brows furrowed. "They were pleading for mercy from me, but I ignored them and told them to speak to you instead."

With that, she took her seat in the armchair beside Lucian.

For harming her granddaughter and lying to her, Sonya wanted to witness with her own eyes how the Pearsons would explain themselves in front of her son.

Moreover, she wanted to make sure Aubree apologized to Estella.

Chapter 1310

At two sharp, the miserable-looking Pearsons arrived at the manor entrance.

Although Samuel's appearance was still considered acceptable, Gina and Aubree looked as if someone had died. After they cried in a panic the entire journey, their hair had become nothing but a mess.

"Go in and apologize!"

Samuel shot his daughter a glare, and Aubree nodded without hesitation.

After all, they had no other choice given the current situation.

The three of them entered the mansion with their hearts hanging in their throats.

The moment she stepped in, Aubree saw Roxanne sitting with Lucian. It went without saying that the three children had filled the space between both of them.

An insidious glint flashed across Aubree's eyes.

Even at her closest to Lucian, she had never shared a couch with him.

He would always be seated in a single seater.

And now, right before her eyes, they looked exactly like a family.

As rage began to boil within her, Aubree caught a glimpse of Cory from the corner of her eye.

In that instant, she felt weak and almost dropped to her knees.

Prior to her entrance, she had still hoped that Lucian had discovered something else instead.

However, the sight of Cory dampened those hopes and drowned her in despair.

"Lucian, what's with the crowd—"

Samuel had wanted to pretend as if nothing had happened but held his tongue upon noticing Sonya's presence.

Gina, on the other hand, felt her limbs go cold and looked as if she was about to faint at any moment.

"Ms. Pearson, I'm sure you recognize the man behind me."

Lucian's frosty voice rang out.

At his cue, Cory came forward and stood in front of Aubree.

The Pearsons turned pale upon noticing that Lucian had changed the way he addressed Aubree.

Ms. Pearson... Lucian must have decided to sever ties with our family!

“Speak! I don’t remember you to be deaf!”

Lucian had kept his temper in check due to the presence of the children. Nevertheless, his icy tone still struck fear into the hearts of others.

Even the children moved toward Roxanne when they, too, sensed his anger.

Roxanne responded by giving their heads a reassuring stroke before turning her attention to Aubree, who was wearing a frosty expression.

Ever since I returned to the country, this woman has been trying to harm me time and again. I don’t mind her attacking the research institute or me, but she has crossed the line by choosing to hurt my children. In fact, she has done so more than once!

Roxanne was filled with the urge to pay Aubree back for what she had done to the children.

Meanwhile, Aubree couldn’t help but tremble under Lucian’s gaze.

A long while passed before she finally found her voice. “I... I do.”

Lucian narrowed his eyes in displeasure. “Is that all?”

His question sent a shiver down her spine.

She might have had the courage to confess her misdeeds to Sonya, but it didn’t mean that she dared to do the same in front of Lucian, who would never let her off.

In her desperation, Aubree threw herself at Lucian. “Lucian, listen to me. Everything I did was for your sake. I love you. You can’t treat me this way!”

Before she could even get close, Cayden grabbed her and shoved her back toward Gina’s side.

He didn’t hold back his strength after tolerating her all this while.

Stung by the pain in her arm and the dejection welling up inside her, Aubree burst into tears.

Chapter 1311

“Since you have trouble recalling, I’ll let Mr. Zaythron remind you of them.” All Lucian felt when he saw her tears was disgust. “If he gets anything wrong, you’re welcome to correct him.”

With that, he gave Cory a look to signal for him to begin.

Acknowledging the cue, Cory cleared his throat and spoke. “Ms. Pearson hired me to keep an eye on Ms. Jarvis. She—”

He had barely begun when Aubree lunged at him suddenly.

“Shut up! I don’t know you! You’re a madman! I don’t know what you’re talking about. Go to hell!”

Even though her outburst caught him off guard, the physical strength between them was just too great.

The moment he regained his senses, Cory easily pushed her away from him. “Stop raving like a lunatic, you shrew!”

Upon crashing to the ground, Aubree snarled, “You’ll suffer divine retribution for this! Do you think the Farwells will let you off just because you snitched on me?”

Cory paid Aubree no heed as he turned to face Lucian and Roxanne with an ingratiating look.

“Ms. Jarvis, I’m sorry, but I was just doing my job. It was Aubree who forced me to do it. But other than taking a few pictures, I definitely didn’t do anything to harm you.”

As she watched Aubree go wild, a look of realization flashed across Roxanne’s eyes.

This was the first time she had seen her lose her composure, for the latter had always appeared aloof.

Soon, a look of conviction formed in Roxanne’s eyes.

For harming the children, Aubree deserves to be punished!

She threw Cory a cold glance. “What did you capture with your camera?”

Cory was surprised by Roxanne’s quick reaction. He said, “When you took the children camping, I saw Aubree put something into their cups. Also, I was the one who took all those pictures of you and Mr. Damaris on her instructions...”

One by one, Cory listed out Aubree's misdeeds while Aubree unleashed a constant tirade on him.

When he finally finished, Aubree shouted, "I didn't! That wasn't my intention. Lucian, you have to believe me!"

Cory looked at her disdainfully.

When he first worked with her, she had always put on airs and didn't show him any respect.

And here I was, thinking that she was someone capable. But in the end, she still has to grovel at Lucian's feet, begging for forgiveness.

Having had enough of the pathetic Aubree, Cory ruthlessly put the final nail in her coffin. "I have evidence of everything she did in my camera. As for the pictures with Mr. Damaris, I have more pictures of the scene from a different angle. They clearly show that Ms. Jarvis wasn't sharing an intimate moment with him at all."

When Cory's final words rolled off his tongue, Aubree's voice gradually faded away.

All that could be heard from her were sobs of dejection.

"What do you have to say for yourself?" Lucian's eyes were brimming with contempt. He was simply disgusted by the sight of Aubree.

When she raised her head and saw him sitting with Roxanne, Aubree could feel madness take over her mind.

"I didn't do anything! Roxanne framed me!"

Since I've lost everything, I'm going to drag her down with me!

Aubree's eyes were burning with rage as she stared at Roxanne, who was seated on the couch.

Chapter 1312

"Roxanne, you b*tch! Why are you doing this to me? I'm the one Lucian loved in the first place. It's all your fault! He left me because you keep pestering him. You deserve to die! I won't forgive you. Who do you think you are, taking Lucian away from me like this? He's going to see your true colors one day. You're just a piece of trash who's been bedded by thousands of men." Aubree pointed at Roxanne. Her hysterical screams echoed in the mansion hall.

"I won't let you talk about Mommy like that! You evil woman! I hate you! I hate you so much!"

Estella suddenly lost control of her emotions and burst into tears. As she cried, she picked up the things around her and threw them at Aubree.

Roxanne hurriedly pulled Estella into her embrace. She was racked with guilt.

I should've brought the children upstairs. This kind of situation is too overwhelming for them, especially Essie. She's already emotionally unstable to begin with.

Estella cried so hard that she could barely breathe properly. "I don't want the evil lady here! She scolds me and even pinches my arms and legs! Mommy! I want Mommy!"

All Roxanne could feel was her heart aching. She could not even process what Estella was saying. "Calm down, Essie. I'm here. Don't cry. I'll help you chase the evil lady away..."

Lucian's and Sonya's expressions changed when they heard Estella's words.

Samuel cast Aubree a cold glare.

Aubree had lost her mind and was still lashing out verbally.

Samuel shifted his gaze from Lucian to Sonya before he slapped Aubree across the face. "Shut up, you idiot!"

This time, Samuel did not go easy on her, which left Aubree dizzy from the slap.

It took her some time to return to her senses. Still, she continued screaming, "How could you hit me? You're on that b*tch's side, too, aren't you?"

Samuel landed another slap on her cheek, which sounded loud and clear.

After two slaps, Aubree's cheeks had swelled.

Samuel turned around to apologize to Lucian and Sonya.

"I'm terribly sorry, Mr. and Mrs. Farwell. Aubree has made a terrible mistake. I'll teach her a lesson when I get home. Please be merciful and not hold a grudge against her..."

Sonya was trembling with anger when she found out how Aubree had been secretly treating her granddaughter.

Likewise, a dark look appeared on Lucian's face. "We're not the ones you should be apologizing to!"

Hearing that, Samuel turned to Roxanne and the children.

When Samuel was about to part his lips, Lucian's voice rang out again. "You're not the one who made the mistake. What are you apologizing for?" The coldness in his tone was palpable.

Samuel froze when he heard that.

Several seconds later, he turned around and snapped at Aubree, "Damn it! Apologize to Ms. Jarvis and the children now!"

Aubree's pupils darted around out of fear and madness.

Eventually, the madness got the better of her.

She got to her feet stumblingly, murmuring, "Fine. I'll apologize. I'll apologize now."

Thinking she was actually going to apologize, Samuel let her walk in front of him without stopping her.

In the next second, Aubree suddenly dashed forward, holding the ashtray Estella had thrown at her earlier.

"Roxanne, you b*tch! Go to hell!"

Aubree looked like an utter maniac.

At that moment, even the boys who were usually brave were scared senseless, and they watched Aubree charge at them in fear.

Chapter 1313

Estella's cries became sharper, and her eyes were filled with terror as she gripped Roxanne's shoulder tightly.

Roxanne instinctively pulled Estella into her embrace and turned around, wanting to take the attack on the latter's behalf.

However, only a muffled thud was heard.

The pain that was supposed to follow did not happen.

It took Roxanne several seconds before she slowly lifted her head to glance in the direction where Aubree was coming from.

To Roxanne's surprise, Aubree's hand that held the ashtray earlier was held by Lucian while the ashtray had dropped to the ground.

Various emotions could be seen flashing across Aubree's face.

First, there was the mad look on Aubree's face for the urge to kill Roxanne. Another was her terror for Lucian.

"You crazy woman!"

Lucian's grip on Aubree's wrist was so tight that it could almost crush her bones.

It was only then that Aubree snapped back to her senses. Suppressing the pain in her wrist, she apologized frantically, "I-I don't know what's wrong with me. Forgive me, Lucian. Lucian—"

Before she could even finish, Lucian shoved her away.

Aubree stumbled a few steps back and slumped to the ground pathetically. "I swear I won't do it again. Please forgive me..." she pleaded, ignoring the pain in her body.

"Forgive you? So you can get another chance to attack the people I care about? Aubree Pearson, you deserve to die for everything you did." Lucian's voice was horrifyingly cold.

Shuddering, Aubree backed away with the help of her hands. At the same time, her gaze fell on Sonya. "Mrs. Farwell, please help me..."

Aubree knew how much Sonya liked her.

Seeing Aubree still had the guts to beg her for help, Sonya rose to her feet and barked, "I don't know a vicious woman like you!" She cast her granddaughter a worried look before turning back to Aubree. "I always thought Essie didn't like you because you two didn't spend enough time together. Never did I imagine you to have treated her that way behind our backs. You're unbelievable, Aubree!"

The thought of how much Estella had suffered over the years made Sonya's heart ache.

How dare this b*tch still beg me for mercy? How shameless!

"From today onward, the marriage contract between the Farwell and Pearson families is off. After all, I've already repaid Old Mr. Pearson's favor long ago," announced Lucian. He then cast the Pearsons an icy glance. "In the future, Pearson Group is an enemy of Farwell Group!"

Samuel could not bear it any longer.

He marched forward, wanting to grab Lucian's arm.

This time, Cayden was quick to react as he blocked Samuel's path.

Given no choice, Samuel stood in his spot and looked at Lucian earnestly. "Please don't do this, Lucian. Back then, my father—"

He wanted to try bringing up the favor his father had done for Lucian.

"Old Mr. Pearson's favor had exhausted long ago when Aubree went looking for Roxanne for trouble! I said this before. I won't let her off the hook if she dares to harass my person again." Lucian cast Samuel a hostile glare.

Samuel's heart sank, and his eyes dimmed with despair.

Lucian turned around to look at Estella, who was still crying, and Roxanne, who was patiently comforting the little girl. The sight only spiked his anger more.

The nerve of her to hurt the people I care about!

Turning around, he marched over to Aubree and glanced at her condescendingly. "Since you won't apologize to them, I've got no choice but to resolve this with my methods."

Chapter 1314

His methods?

The Pearsons exchanged nervous glances as a terrible fear grew in their hearts.

With a grim voice, Lucian called for Cayden. Just as he was about to give his orders, Roxanne's voice sounded behind him.

"Lucian, forget about it." Still hugging Estella tightly, Roxanne put a lid on her hatred. "Let the police handle this. I have the report of the bacteria she used on the children. The dosage is lethal for kids. She'll be spending the rest of her life in prison for attempted murder."

Roxanne could not stop her hatred from festering at the thought of Aubree almost murdering the children.

Even so, she could still think rationally.

Aubree's actions were outrageous, but it was not worth dirtying Lucian's hands to punish her.

Lucian frowned and fell silent for a moment before ordering Cayden, "Contact the lawyer and tell him to send Ms. Pearson to where she belongs as soon as possible."

Cayden could not be happier to hear that. "All right."

When Aubree heard Roxanne's words, her eyes darted from left to right.

I'm going to spend the rest of my life in prison? No! I don't want that!

"You b*tch! I won't let you off even if I die! Just wait! I'll make you join me in hell!"

Aubree had a malicious expression on her face as she stared at Roxanne, looking like a devil who had just escaped from the pits of hell.

Unfazed, Roxanne merely covered Archie's and Benny's eyes.

The fury in Lucian's heart grew more intense.

Samuel hurried over to Aubree and finally restrained her after exerting much strength. After that, he shot Gina a look, implying that the latter needed to help him out.

Snapping out of it, Gina scurried over to cover Aubree's mouth.

However, Aubree seemed to have lost her mind as she bit Gina's hand. Regardless, the latter dared not remove her hand.

"It's our fault for not educating her well. Please, Mr. and Mrs. Farwell. Aubree's still young. We promise to keep a strict eye on her and not let her get near Ms. Jarvis and the kids. Please give her a chance!" Samuel pleaded earnestly.

Sonya had known them for a long time and even watched Aubree grow up.

She had only wanted to teach Aubree a lesson and cut ties with their family over that matter.

Never did she expect the punishment to become so severe.

Sonya's heart began to waver as she gazed at the pathetic-looking trio.

However, Lucian did not give her the chance to speak. Narrowing his eyes, he asked, "Should I escort all three of you out?"

Samuel did not dare to say anything else. In the end, he and Gina carried Aubree out and fled the scene.

When the Pearsons finally left, the mansion plunged into silence. All that could be heard were Estella's sobs.

Feeling heartbroken, Roxanne patted Estella on the back and said gently, "Don't be scared, Essie. The evil lady's gone. Don't cry, okay?"

It was at that moment Archie and Benny finally snapped out of their daze. They hopped off the couch and surrounded Roxanne and Estella.

"Don't cry, Essie. Mr. Farwell has given that evil lady a proper lesson."

"She won't show up ever again. There won't be anyone who'll bully you again. Mommy, Benny, and I will protect you from now on!"

The boys took turns assuring her.

When Estella heard that Aubree was gone, she stopped sobbing and peeked out from under Roxanne's arms.

Suddenly, Sonya approached and regarded her from above. "Come here, Essie. Let me hug you."

Chapter 1315

Estella, who had yet to calm down, almost burst into tears at the sight of Sonya.

Seeing that, Roxanne quickly hugged Estella tightly. She then stood up to look at Sonya. "Mrs. Farwell, please don't agitate her. Essie's still emotionally unstable."

At the same time, Lucian walked over with a frown.

He thought his mother had finally gotten a clear view of the situation after witnessing the way she had treated Aubree earlier.

To his surprise, Sonya had gone looking for Roxanne for trouble after chasing Aubree away.

"I'm just worried about my granddaughter. How is this agitating her emotions?"

It had been an emotional day for Sonya. She failed to keep her emotions in check, which made her sound displeased when she uttered those words.

When she finished saying that, she reached out to pull Estella out of Roxanne's arms. "Come here, Essie. Let me see if there are any injuries on your body."

Panicking, Estella crawled up Roxanne's shoulders. "Ahh! I want Mommy! I don't want Grandma! No!"

Unfortunately, the way Estella addressed Roxanne only made Sonya scowl more. "Don't simply address her that way! She's not your mommy!"

Estella only continued crying, oblivious to the words Sonya was yelling.

Lucian, on the other hand, heard everything clearly.

He stood beside Roxanne and the children with a hostile expression. "Mom, what are you trying to do to Essie when she's already in such a state? Are Aubree's words not enough to make you reflect on yourself?"

Sonya was taken aback by her son's words. A long moment passed before she said awkwardly, "I'm just worried about Essie."

Rubbing his temples, Lucian suppressed his anger and said, "Do you really? If you really cared about her, why would you keep pushing her to Aubree?"

For the past five years, Estella had suffered a lot because of Sonya's favor for Aubree.

His words eluded Sonya of words.

She looked at Estella with remorse, saying, "I'm sorry, Essie. I just really want to make it up to you." Then she glowered at Roxanne. "I can avoid touching Essie for the time being, but Roxanne has to leave the Farwell residence. Nothing good has happened to our family ever since she appeared. I bet she'll only be satisfied when she wreaks havoc in our family."

Essie wouldn't have suffered so much if Roxanne hadn't ditched her without a word back then.

When Estella heard her grandmother talking about Roxanne that way, tears streamed down her face again. "I want Mommy! Don't leave, Mommy!"

Estella was sobbing so hard that Roxanne did not notice the way she was addressing her.

Even if Roxanne did, she would still follow Estella's wishes.

Roxanne was moved yet pained to see Estella being so protective of her.

However, the same could not be said for Sonya, who was livid. "Don't you dare think you can actually be Lucian's wife just because Essie called you her mommy. There are

tons of people out there who dream about being in this position. Aubree's gone now, but there'll soon be another one. In any case, it'll never be you."

Even so, Roxanne ignored her and coaxed Estella softly.

Just then, Lucian stepped forward and stood between Roxanne and Sonya, growling, "Only she can be my wife! If you don't agree, I'll gladly give up my position as the CEO of Farwell Group!"

Both Sonya and Roxanne were dumbfounded by his words.

Sonya knew how much Lucian liked Roxanne, but she had never imagined he would give up Farwell Group for Roxanne.

Roxanne, too, was stupefied.

She had never thought that Lucian would go to such lengths for her.

Chapter 1316

After a prolonged moment of silence, Sonya said with a gloomy look on her face, "You're going to go that far for her, huh? Fine! I'll leave so I won't get in the way of your happy little family!"

She turned around and was about to leave when Lucian called out to her, "You should stay in the manor for today. I have something to announce once Essie feels better."

Sonya paused in her tracks and shot him a confused glance. "What is it?"

This is the first time Lucian has asked me to stay over at the manor, so whatever it is he wants to announce must be very important. Wait a minute... He said he was fine with giving up his position as CEO of Farwell Group earlier... Is that what he's going to announce? This is all Roxanne's fault! Lucian wouldn't have made such irrational decisions if it weren't for her!

Sonya turned toward Roxanne and shot her a vicious glare.

Roxanne simply ignored her gaze and continued comforting Estella.

"You'd better think this through, Lucian. Ask yourself if that woman is worth you giving up Farwell Group!" Sonya warned Lucian with a furious look in her eyes.

Lucian could tell from Sonya's behavior that she was starting to get scared.

"Just because I have something to announce doesn't necessarily mean it's about Farwell Group, so you have nothing to worry about."

Sonya paused and looked suspiciously at them for a few seconds before going up the stairs.

Realizing that Aubree and Sonya were gone from the living room, Estella slowly stopped sobbing and looked up at Roxanne with tears in her eyes.

Roxanne felt her heart ache when she met Estella's eyes. "Don't worry, Essie. I'll be sure to protect you."

Essie must've suffered a lot while she was under Aubree's care... Just thinking about what she said earlier makes me hate her even more! Essie couldn't even talk at the time! How could she do that to her?

She was snapped out of her train of thought when Lucian whispered in her ear, "I'm sorry."

Roxanne looked up at him in confusion.

Lucian was plagued with guilt when he looked at them and recalled what Estella had said while she was crying earlier.

He walked up to Estella and flashed her an apologetic look. "I'm sorry I didn't take good care of you."

Estella simply sniffled and shook her head profusely in response.

"You've disliked Aubree for the past six years. I can't believe I never realized the actual reason behind it..." Lucian continued with a look of regret in his eyes.

Estella reached out and caressed his cheek as she said, "It's not your fault, Daddy! She's the bad person here! She's the worst!"

I had wanted to tell Daddy about it through text before, but Ms. Pearson lied to me and said Daddy would never kick her out. She even threatened to hit me even harder if I tried to tell Daddy, so I had no choice but to put up with her. Now I realize she was lying all along! Not only would Daddy kick her out, but he would also punish her severely!

Lucian gave Estella a kiss on the back of her hand before shifting his gaze toward Roxanne. "I'm sorry," he said apologetically.

Roxanne frowned in confusion, as she didn't know what he was apologizing to her for.

Even so, she couldn't help but comfort him when she saw how guilty he felt.

"You are indeed at fault for placing Essie in Aubree's care for six years. However, the fact that Essie likes you so much indicates that you provide her with a strong sense of

security, so you must've been a good father. Whatever happened is in the past. You've already punished Aubree for what she did, so that's enough to make up for your mistakes."

Chapter 1317

Noticing that Lucian still had a look of guilt in his eyes, Roxanne pursed her lips and held his hand as she added, "Nothing like that will happen to Essie ever again."

"We'll do our best to protect Essie too!" Archie and Benny chimed in.

The look in Lucian's eyes softened up a little after he heard that, much to Roxanne's relief.

"Maybe I should bring Essie over to my place for the day. She has been through quite a lot today," she suggested.

Roxanne could tell that Estella was still unable to accept Sonya, so she was worried that Lucian's decision to have Sonya stay over at the manor would affect Estella's emotional state.

Estella wrapped her arms tightly around Roxanne's neck upon hearing that as she wanted to stay with her.

However, Lucian did not approve of Roxanne's suggestion. "Take her to the bedroom and get some rest. Essie won't pay too much attention to anything else with you around."

Roxanne was a little hesitant to do so, but Estella nodded profusely in agreement.

I'm not afraid of anyone as long as Aunt Roxanne is with me!

Roxanne couldn't bring herself to say no when she saw the expectant look in Estella's eyes. Eventually, she gave in and brought the three kids over to Estella's bedroom.

Lucian, Cayden, and Cory were the only ones remaining in the living room.

Having witnessed Lucian unleash his wrath upon Aubree earlier, Cory was exceptionally cautious when approaching Lucian. "M-Mr. Farwell..."

Whatever warmth Lucian had in his eyes had disappeared when he turned around and asked, "How much do you want?"

"T-Thirty million will suffice!" Cory replied nervously while holding up three fingers.

Lucian turned around and instructed Cayden, "Go ahead and pay him three hundred thousand. I do not want to hear anything about him in Chanaea starting tomorrow!"

Cory was frozen in shock when he heard that.

Wait a minute... Did I hear that right? Three hundred thousand? That's a hundred times lesser than what I asked for! Paying thirty million is a piece of cake for someone as wealthy as Lucian, so why isn't he willing to pay me the full amount?

Cayden then stuffed a check worth three hundred thousand into Cory's coat pocket.

"You nearly helped Aubree get rid of Ms. Estella, so be grateful that you're even getting paid at all. In fact, you should consider yourself lucky that Mr. Farwell didn't have you killed. Now, take this money and get lost!"

Having snapped out of his dazed state, Cory shifted his gaze between the check and Lucian's icy-cold expression.

"P-Please forgive me, Mr. Farwell! I have a huge gambling debt! They'll kill me if I don't pay up! Please help me!"

As though he didn't hear a word Cory said, Lucian simply stared silently at him with no emotion whatsoever.

Cayden grabbed Cory by the arm and began dragging him toward the door. "Shut up, or I'll take this check back as well!"

Cory struggled with all of his might, but he couldn't break free from Cayden's vice-like grip. Cayden opened the front door and tossed him out like a bag of trash.

Cory's face went completely pale as he watched the mansion door close in front of him.

This is all Aubree's fault! I wouldn't be in this position if it weren't for her!

"I've taken care of him, Mr. Farwell. The guys from Marsingfill will be informed of his location tomorrow," Cayden said as he made his way over to Lucian.

Lucian simply nodded without saying anything.

Cayden glanced at the back garden as he continued cautiously, "Mr. Farwell, about the decorations in the back garden..."

The look on Lucian's face changed slightly when he heard Cayden mention the back garden. After a brief pause, he turned around and made his way toward the back garden.

Chapter 1318

The expensive plants had all been replaced with some unimpressive flowers, and the walls were decorated with strips of colorful lights.

Unsure if Lucian was satisfied with the decoration, Cayden explained, "I kept the decoration simple as per your instructions, Mr. Farwell."

The look in Lucian's eyes slowly grew gentle as he scanned the back garden. "This will do. Did you bring the item I asked for?"

Cayden quickly whipped out an exquisite velvet box and handed it over to him.

The cold look on Lucian's face vanished completely when he opened the box and saw its content.

Exhausted from crying, Estella fell asleep while lying in Roxanne's arms.

Roxanne didn't get any sleep throughout the entire afternoon. The incident with Aubree left her feeling a little tired as well, so she decided to take a nap on Estella's bed.

Seeing as Roxanne and Estella were fast asleep, Archie and Benny left the room to avoid disturbing them.

Upon arriving at the balcony, they saw Lucian and Cayden discussing something in the back garden.

They couldn't hear what the two were saying, but they could see Cayden handing Lucian a tiny box.

As the boys got on their tiptoes to get a better look, they saw something shiny inside the box.

Benny's eyes lit up as he asked excitedly, "Is Daddy going to propose to Mommy?"

After all, it was obvious that the item inside the box was a ring.

Archie was a little surprised as well, but he frowned in confusion moments later.

That evil woman just caused a huge scene not long ago, though. Is Daddy really going to propose to Mommy so soon? Now that I think about it, Daddy probably wanted Grandma to stay over so she could witness his proposal.

Archie's confusion was soon replaced by excitement and anticipation.

The boys were tempted to wake Roxanne up and bring her to Lucian right away, but they held themselves back when they recalled her having a mild fever earlier that morning.

They had no choice but to wait in anticipation for Roxanne to wake up later that evening.

Fortunately for them, Roxanne wasn't asleep for too long.

She groggily climbed out of bed at around eight in the evening, only to realize that Estella was no longer lying in her arms.

As she glanced around the room, she saw her sitting on the carpet with Archie and Benny. The three of them were huddled together and seemed to be whispering among themselves.

Archie was the first to notice Roxanne waking up, so he quickly called out to her, "Mommy! You're finally awake!"

The kids then stood up and made their way over to the bed.

"What were you three whispering about?" Roxanne shifted her gaze toward Estella. "And when did you wake up, Essie? How come I didn't notice?"

Estella narrowed her eyes and broke into a smile as she replied, "I wasn't really tired because I took a nap at noon, so I got up after a while."

Roxanne had wanted to ask how she was feeling, but she held her tongue when she saw the smile on Estella's face.

Seeing as she was already feeling a lot better, Roxanne decided not to bring it up and simply patted her on the head.

"We're hungry, Mommy! Let's go downstairs and have dinner!" Benny exclaimed while tugging at her arm.

Roxanne gasped in shock when she checked the time and saw that it was already eight.

Oh my goodness! Why didn't anyone wake me up?

"You kids must be starving. I'm sorry I overslept," Roxanne said as she got out of bed and brought the kids downstairs.

There were a few dishes on the dining table, but no one was around.

Roxanne felt a little bad for sleeping past dinner time.

Everyone else must've eaten dinner because they couldn't wait for me any longer. I feel so bad... Good thing they reserved some food for us.

Chapter 1319

Roxanne was a little worried that Estella would be unhappy that Lucian wasn't around to dine with them.

To her surprise, however, Estella was smiling happily as she munched away on her food. It was as though she didn't even mind if Lucian was there.

Roxanne felt her heart ache when she saw that.

Is Lucian really so busy that he barely has time to spend with his daughter? That probably explains why Estella is recovering so slowly...

Roxanne was about to bring the kids back upstairs after dinner when Catalina entered the living room and said, "Mr. Farwell is waiting for you in the back garden, Ms. Jarvis."

Having witnessed the incident earlier that afternoon, Catalina was tempted to address Roxanne as "Mrs. Farwell."

However, she chose not to, as she figured it would make her uncomfortable.

Roxanne paused and stared at the kids after hearing that.

What does Lucian want to see me for? Would it be convenient to bring the kids with me?

"We want to go too, Mommy!" Benny exclaimed while tugging at Roxanne's arm.

Estella chimed in as well, "I want to go too, Aunt Roxanne!"

Archie simply stood there without saying a word, but the look in his eyes gave his intention away.

Unable to bring herself to say no to them, Roxanne asked Catalina, "He didn't say anything about bringing the kids along, right?"

Catalina shook her head after giving it some thought and stepped aside to make way for them.

Roxanne then held Benny's and Estella's hands while Archie walked to the front.

The four of them walked out of the mansion and made their way toward the back garden.

Roxanne frowned in confusion when she saw that the place was in total darkness.

Huh? Didn't Lucian say he was waiting here for me?

"Lucian?" she called out to him.

A second later, the entire garden was illuminated by a light that gradually grew brighter.

Roxanne's eyes went wide with surprise when she saw the traditional medicine in the back garden.

Noble dendrobium, jasmine, golden-and-silver honeysuckle...

Roxanne could name almost every plant in the back garden. She also knew that they weren't worth a lot of money, but they were essential ingredients in traditional medicine.

The fact that such plants were found in the back garden of the Farwell residence came as a huge surprise for her.

What is Lucian playing at?

"This garden used to be filled with expensive roses and peonies, but you didn't like them. After giving it some thought, I decided to have someone replace them all with plants related to traditional medicine instead," Lucian said.

Roxanne glanced in the direction of his voice and saw him walking along a tiny path as he made his way toward her.

For some reason, Roxanne felt exceptionally nervous when she saw him approaching. She even thought about turning around and running off.

As though the kids had read her mind, they grabbed hold of her arms and held her in place.

All Roxanne could do was watch as Lucian walked right up to her.

He stared affectionately into her eyes as he said, "I caused you a lot of suffering six years ago because I failed to acknowledge my true feelings for you. After you left me, I realized I couldn't live without you."

He kept his gaze fixated on Roxanne as he retrieved the ring from his back pocket and slowly knelt before her.

"I know I rushed things a little too much lately, which caused you a lot of problems as a result. Would you be willing to give me another chance by marrying me again?"

Chapter 1320

Roxanne was stunned to see the man in front of her getting down on one knee.

Am I dreaming? Lucian is... proposing to me? Why would he do such a thing? He skipped this part when we got married six years ago.

At that instant, Roxanne felt a little lightheaded. She could not believe what was happening right before her eyes.

She instinctively wanted to flee but was held back by the three children as soon as she took a step backward.

"Mommy, Mr. Farwell means it. Please say yes. He's been preparing for this moment for quite some time. We saw him getting ready since afternoon," Benny blurted.

Roxanne's resolve began to waver after hearing that.

What the children witnessed was only Lucian's preparation in the afternoon. Little did they know how much time he had invested in turning all the flowers in the garden into traditional medicinal herbs.

I wonder how much time Lucian spent getting everything ready.

"Come on, Aunt Roxanne, say yes to Daddy! I want us to become a family," urged Estella.

One by one, the kids started persuading her to answer in the affirmative.

Meanwhile, Lucian was staring at her, the look in his deep, dark eyes as determined as ever.

"I've pondered a lot during your absence in the past six years. Now that you're back in my life, I swear I'll never disappoint you again. I'll protect you and also take care of our children. Please trust me once more, Roxanne."

His hand that was holding the ring didn't move once as he spoke, not even an inch.

"Mommy, Mr. Farwell is the only person we want to be our Daddy!" exclaimed Archie and Benny simultaneously.

Roxanne's eyes darted from side to side as she started having second thoughts.

She was wondering whether Lucian's proposal was merely a gesture to make up for their marriage six years ago.

No matter how hard she tried to let go of her past, it kept coming back to haunt her, for she was deeply hurt by that horrible marriage.

There was no way she could forget what was already etched in her heart.

In fact, just the word “marriage” would make her shake in her boots, especially when it came from the person kneeling before her—the culprit of her failed marriage.

Roxanne truly wanted to have more faith in Lucian.

After all, he had been treating her with utmost sincerity since their reunion.

Unfortunately, the sufferings she went through six years ago were still buried deep within her heart, hindering her from reaching out to accept the proposal ring.

To Roxanne, the ring was an absolute burden, but the children’s constant urging prompted her to consider their feelings and needs.

Indeed, the two kids needed a father figure in their lives, and their biological father was standing right in front of them!

I’ve been keeping this secret from the kids for so many years. Now that they finally have someone to call “Daddy,” how could I be so cruel and take that away from them? Moreover, they’ve directly expressed their love for Lucian...

After contemplating, she gave in. The pain from the heartbreak she suffered was no match for the guilt she felt toward her children.

When she moved her arm slightly and was about to accept the ring, a loud and clear barking cough rang out from a nearby corner.

Roxanne’s hand froze in mid-air as she looked in the direction of the sound and saw Sonya, who appeared out of nowhere.

Displeased, the older woman was glowering at her as well as Archie and Benny who were standing next to her.

With that, Roxanne slowly withdrew her outstretched arm.

No, now is not the right time yet. Back then, I selfishly ran away when I was pregnant, neglecting the kids’ feelings. If I were to let them reunite with the Farwell family, I should at least wait until everyone has accepted them without a qualm.

Chapter 1321

When Lucian saw that Roxanne was going to retreat, his gaze swept across Estella.

“Do you really have the heart to decline? Essie dreams about having a mother. Could you bear to keep her waiting? You’ve already been absent from her life for six long years!”

His words left Roxanne totally baffled.

She looked down at Estella in shock, wondering what Lucian meant.

Is it what I think it is?

The two kids had yet to realize what Lucian was talking about and simply looked at the two adults innocently.

Roxanne took a deep breath and forced herself to stay calm. Then, she turned to Lucian and asked, “What are you talking about? What do you mean when you said I’ve been absent from Essie’s life for six long years? I’m just...”

I was just an outsider to Essie. Why did he say that? The person who has missed out on watching Essie grow up should be her biological mother, no?

“Lucian, what has gotten into you?”

Sonya never wanted Roxanne to be a part of the Farwell family.

Furthermore, since Estella had just gone through an eventful afternoon, Sonya was afraid it would be too much for the little girl to take if she discovered the truth all within the same day.

Thus, she strode toward Lucian in frustration, trying to prevent him from saying further.

It was then that Cayden stepped forward and blocked her.

“Mrs. Farwell, Mr. Farwell is proposing right now. I think it’s best you leave them alone.”

Cayden’s tone was polite yet assertive. “Don’t you want Ms. Estella to grow up having a complete family?”

Sonya grimaced and shouted, “Get lost! Who do you think you are to meddle with the affairs of the Farwell family?”

Cayden kept his cool and insisted, “This is the instruction given to me by Mr. Farwell. All you need to do is to stay where you are and be a witness.”

Although Cayden dared not lay a finger on Sonya, he was more than capable to get in the woman’s way and keep her away from Lucian.

Left with no choice, the livid Sonya could only gaze at the duo from afar.

She could tell that Roxanne was planning to turn Lucian down just now.

However, things might change if Roxanne found out that Estella was her daughter.

Before Sonya even had the chance to do something else, Lucian revealed the truth with full confidence.

“Essie is your biological daughter. Six years ago, someone dropped her off at the gate of the Farwell residence without saying a word. I have done the paternity test, and I have the results to prove that she’s our daughter.”

Words eluded Roxanne as her body stiffened.

Essie is my daughter?

At that instant, all the moments she had spent with Estella ever since she returned to the country flashed across her mind like a slideshow.

Immediately, she teared up.

Now I know why a familiar feeling crept up on me the first time I met her, and there’s no wonder she’s so attached to me. Essie is my own flesh and blood, my little baby whom I thought was stillborn.

Roxanne was inundated with both joy and sorrow at the same time.

For a long while, she struggled to recollect herself.

Estella, who was holding Roxanne’s hand, was also in shock. She, too, could not believe her ears until Archie and Benny asked questions to clarify their relationship.

“Really? Essie is Mommy’s child? She’s our biological sister?”

Lucian nodded solemnly. Then, he turned to look at Roxanne and Estella.

“I’m sorry for keeping this secret from you all these while. I was just worried that if you reject me and we don’t end up together, both you and Essie would be downright disappointed. Essie, I’m so sorry for not telling you this earlier. Ms. Jarvis is the mother you’ve always wanted. It’s time you change the way you address her. She’s no longer your Aunt Roxanne.”

As soon as he finished his sentence, Estella burst out crying all of a sudden. She hugged Roxanne’s thigh tightly and bawled. “Mommy... Mommy...”

Chapter 1322

Estella's wails snapped Roxanne out of her trance, and the woman found her face covered in tears.

"Oh Essie, I've missed you. I miss you so much..."

She pulled Estella into her embrace and tightened her arms around the little girl, wishing they would never be separated again.

Not a day went by in the past six years without her missing the child she thought she had lost.

In fact, the thought of that child was the reason she was motivated to wake up from her previous coma.

Little did she know the child she had been missing dearly was right by her side all this while.

As she thought about everything Estella experienced in the past six years, she felt extremely guilty.

I've missed out on her life for so many years. Yet, since the day we met, she's been helping me recover from my hurt and pain.

"I'm so sorry... It's all my fault..." Roxanne could not help but apologize profusely.

Meanwhile, tears started to well up in Archie and Benny's eyes.

They always knew they had a sister, but they thought she was gone.

As such, they had been caring for and loving Roxanne on behalf of their little sister as well.

Now that they found out that Estella, whom they had been taking care of, was their biological sister all along, the two boys were over the moon.

"Hooray! Our sister is alive, and she's always been by our side!"

Benny wiped the tears off his face and looked at his brother, who also shed tears of joy. The latter then nodded vigorously at Benny.

Yes! This is great news!

Lucian's heart clenched in sorrow when he saw Roxanne and the kids sobbing uncontrollably.

"You didn't do anything wrong, Roxanne. It was entirely my fault. I should have told you the truth the moment I found out you had no clue about Essie's background, but I had too many reservations. If you need to blame someone, blame me."

I never knew she thought Essie was dead all these years.

Lucian tightened his grip on the ring.

He could not imagine how devastating it must have been for her when she was told the baby was stillborn.

I knew nothing! I even resented her for being so cruel to Essie when we finally reunited.

Meanwhile, Sonya, too, was dumbfounded. She had always assumed that Roxanne was a heartless person who abandoned her husband and child.

That woman thought Essie was dead? Then, how was Essie sent back to the Farwell residence?

Roxanne kept Estella locked in her arms and wept for what felt like an eternity before she gradually regained her composure and turned to Lucian who was still down on one knee.

"What took you so long to tell me? Do you have any idea how much I've missed her? I've always thought... my daughter was dead!"

Over the years, she had lost count of the times she woke up from her sleep crying whenever she thought about her stillborn child.

Guilt and self-reproach inundated Lucian as Roxanne questioned him.

Why? Why did I worry so much? Why did I have so many reservations? He was dying for an answer too.

If only I had told her about this earlier, could there be a different ending to our story?

Unfortunately, it was too late for such wishful thinking.

Truth be told, he had missed the best time to reveal the secret to Roxanne.

If she had found out earlier, would she cry less?

"This is wonderful, Mommy! Essie is our little sister!" Benny exclaimed, exhilarated as he hugged Roxanne's thigh after he was done crying.

Archie bobbed his head in delight, whereas the mother-and-daughter duo could not stop the tears from streaming down their faces.

Lucian stood up and immediately wrapped his arms around the two.

Chapter 1323

Roxanne felt Lucian's arms wrapped tightly around her, and her voice gradually grew weaker until only faint sobs were heard from her.

"Why... Why did you..."

Lucian was a man who had dominated the business world for many years, but in the face of Roxanne's tears and questioning, he had no idea how to respond. All he could do was apologize repeatedly.

"We want hugs too!" Archie and Benny exclaimed as they hopped around with joy.

Happiness was the only emotion left within them after all the crying.

To them, the hug they shared was a hug of joy and excitement.

Roxanne slowly recollected herself and felt slightly embarrassed when she heard the children's voices.

I can't believe I cried so hard in front of the kids...

She then looked at Estella's tear-streaked face as the little girl nestled in her arms and couldn't help breaking into a smile.

She's back! My little angel whom I thought I lost is back, and she's right in my arms!

Roxanne swore to herself that she would never abandon Estella ever again.

The grim look in Lucian's eyes eased away when he saw Roxanne smiling.

Noticing Archie and Benny's eagerness to give them a hug, Lucian bent over and embraced the two little boys as a look of tenderness surfaced in his eyes.

At that moment, Archie and Benny were filled with joy, for they found their sister and were hugged by their father.

All of a sudden, Lucian let go of them.

Just as the two boys were confused as to what was going on, a shiny thing appeared in their line of sight.

Upon taking a closer look, they realized it was the ring that Lucian had used to propose moments ago.

“Can you please do me a favor and put this ring on your Mommy’s finger?”

Lucian’s tone carried an unprecedented gentleness that Archie and Benny had never heard before.

The boys exchanged glances. Of course, they would be happy to help Lucian.

Since Estella could already change the way she addressed Roxanne, the boys wanted to address Lucian as “Daddy” too.

Benny carefully took his mother’s hand while Archie slowly slid the ring through her finger.

When their mission was completed, they looked up at Roxanne in anticipation.

However, Roxanne was busy trying to comfort Estella at the moment. Her mind was in such a mess that she didn’t have the time to pay attention to what the boys were doing though she had sensed something.

“Please stop crying, Essie. I will never leave you again. I promise,” said Roxanne, assuring the little girl. “From now on, I’ll protect you. I won’t let anyone bully our Essie. You’re my precious little baby.”

The woman patted Estella’s back as she spoke.

Estella was struggling to keep her emotions in check after going through such an eventful day.

When she heard Roxanne’s promise to her, she asked through sobs, “R-Really? You won’t leave me, Mommy?”

Roxanne felt her heart clench when she saw how red Estella’s eyes were from all the crying. She held out her hand without hesitation and said, “Let’s make a pinky promise! From now on, I promise to take you wherever I go!”

Archie and Benny’s eyes were filled with anticipation when they saw their mother’s action.

Lucian, too, felt uneasy, which was a first.

Roxanne caught sight of something shiny out of the corner of her eyes, but she did not pay much attention to it. She was focusing on Estella.

However, Estella fixed her gaze on Roxanne's hand.

A few seconds later, she smiled through her tears and exclaimed excitedly, "Mommy, did you say yes to Daddy? Then we're going to be a family! Mommy, you won't leave anymore!"

Overjoyed, she wrapped her arms around Roxanne's neck and hugged the woman tightly.

Roxanne froze in shock.

When did I say yes?

As she glanced in the direction where the little girl was staring just now, she noticed the diamond ring that Lucian was holding was currently on her finger.

Roxanne remembered the strange sensation she had felt earlier and looked down at Archie and Benny, who were standing by her side.

The boys were smiling adorably.

Chapter 1324

Roxanne then turned to look at Lucian, who was gazing affectionately at her. The tender glow in his eyes hindered her from questioning and blaming him.

"Mommy, please say yes to Mr. Farwell!" Benny pleaded with his cute voice. He grabbed Roxanne's arm and swung it back and forth, his tiny face filled with anticipation.

Archie, who was usually reticent, piped up to express his opinion as well. "Mommy, since Essie is our biological sister, you should give her a complete family!"

Roxanne felt guilty when she heard the boys' words.

Archie is referring to himself, too. Ever since they were old enough to understand things, they've always wanted a daddy, but they never expressed their feelings because of me. Deep down, they must yearn for a complete family too! But...

Roxanne lifted her head and stared at Sonya, who was standing far away.

Sonya was standing in the corner where the light didn't reach, and half of her body was concealed within the darkness.

The light shone on her face as she looked at Estella, her eyes filled with sorrow and distress.

However, when she met Roxanne's eyes, her expression turned cold and indifferent yet again.

Roxanne looked away bitterly and regarded Archie and Benny, who were anxiously waiting for her answer. Guilt inundated her.

Her reckless decision years ago had turned the boys into monsters in the eyes of their biological grandmother.

Roxanne hoped Sonya would sincerely accept the two boys with open arms, and not only because they were part of the Farwell family.

"Mommy?" Archie and Benny called out anxiously when they noticed Roxanne remaining silent.

Roxanne returned to her senses. A look of conflict flashed across her eyes, but she quickly made up her mind.

She placed Estella back down and looked at the boys. "Bring Essie inside first."

Archie and Benny seemed to have sensed something and stubbornly refused to leave.

Roxanne ruffled their hair in reassurance. "Don't worry. I have already made a promise to Essie. We won't ever be apart again."

Archie gazed at his mother momentarily before turning to look at Benny and Estella. "Let's go inside."

Reluctance was written all over Benny and Estella's faces when they heard that.

However, among the three of them, Archie was the decision-maker.

In the end, Benny and Estella gave in after a few moments of wordless stalemate.

Estella puffed her cheeks unhappily and held out her hand. "Mommy, pinky promise! We didn't do it just now!"

Roxanne heaved a sigh of relief and smiled as she hooked her pinky finger with Estella's.

Only then did the children turn and enter the mansion.

Roxanne turned around and calmly looked at the man before her as she took off the ring on her finger.

Upon seeing what she was doing, the other three people in the garden, including Cayden, changed their expressions in unison.

Cayden was totally baffled. I don't understand. Now that things have come down to this, why is Mrs. Farwell still rejecting Mr. Farwell?

Sonya, on the other hand, let out a long sigh of relief.

Looks like Roxanne is still sensible enough to know that the Farwell family will not accept her!

Lucian watched as the woman took off the ring. His expression turned grim as bewilderment flashed across his eyes.

"Sorry, but I still need time to consider your proposal."

Roxanne smiled apologetically. "I'm happy that Essie is my child, and I'm grateful that you took great care of her, but this shouldn't be the reason we remarry."

Lucian fixed his gaze on the woman before him and felt a sense of relief wash over him.

Indeed, my proposal was too sudden. I didn't give her time to prepare herself mentally. Plus, I can't compensate for all the harm I caused her six years ago in just one day.

Chapter 1325

"Okay. I'll wait for you."

Lucian suppressed his disappointment and said, "You can take your time to think it over. There's no rush. I'm willing to wait for as long as you need."

He then glanced at the diamond ring in Roxanne's hand. "I hope you can keep the ring. Put it on when you've thought it through. I'll know your answer by then."

Roxanne was touched when she heard that. The guilt she felt grew more intense as she said, "Thank you."

She found it difficult to tell Lucian the reason she rejected him.

It wasn't because she did not believe him but because she felt she had wronged Archie and Benny.

Cayden heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Roxanne keep the ring.

Looks like Mr. Farwell still stands a chance, and a good chance at that!

However, Sonya's expression darkened.

I knew it! She's leaving my son hanging! I'd never let someone like her become a part of the Farwell family!

Just as Sonya was thinking about how to make Roxanne give up, the latter suddenly walked toward her.

She scrunched her eyebrows and stared at the younger woman unhappily. "Why did you come over here? So what if Lucian proposed to you? I'd never accept you as part of our family!"

Roxanne grinned. "Mrs. Farwell, I'm not expecting you to change your impression of me so easily either. I just hope you would treat Archie and Benny better for Essie's sake. After all, they're just children. If there's anything, please come after me instead."

Sonya looked at Roxanne suspiciously when she heard the latter's words.

What does she mean by that? Why do I have to treat those two b*stards better for Essie's sake? Just because she gave birth to Estella doesn't mean she can act all high and mighty before me!

Sonya's expression turned grim when her train of thought ended there. "I don't need you to tell me what I should or should not do!"

Helplessness flashed past Roxanne's eyes, but she did not say anything more as she turned around and entered the mansion.

Lucian followed after her.

Meanwhile, the children were worried about the result of their parents' discussion as they sat on the couch with frowns marring their countenances.

They looked toward Lucian and Roxanne in unison when they saw them walking in.

"Mommy!"

The children jumped down the couch in an orderly manner and ran toward Roxanne excitedly.

The light in their eyes dimmed when they noticed that the ring on Roxanne's finger was gone. They exchanged glances with each other wordlessly, refusing to be the first to talk.

In the end, Mommy still didn't say yes to Daddy...

Archie and Benny glanced at each other, their eyes filled with disappointment.

When can we change the way we address Mr. Farwell? We really want a daddy...

Taking note of the children's disappointment, Roxanne felt sorry for them but did not know how to explain it to them.

After a moment of silence, she changed the topic abruptly. "It's getting late. We should go home."

Initially, if things had gone according to Lucian's plan and the proposal had been a success, Roxanne would have stayed the night at the manor.

However, since she rejected him, she had no reason to stay any longer.

The children got even more upset when they heard that Roxanne wanted to leave.

Roxanne frowned as she stared at the children's expressions, troubled.

Just as she was wondering how she should persuade the kids, Lucian suddenly spoke up. "Let Essie go home with you tonight. You've just reunited with each other as mother and daughter, so I'm sure Essie is reluctant to part with you."

The children's eyes lit up when they heard that.

Estella looked up at Roxanne with wide eyes that were filled with hope.

Roxanne had the same thought, but she did not expect Lucian to suggest it first.

Smiling, she bent over to pick Estella up. "Of course, you will come home with me, Essie. I promised you we won't ever be apart again."

Chapter 1326

"I'll send you guys home."

Wearing a tender expression, Lucian stared at his four loved ones, who were visibly happy.

The children were over the moon when they heard that Lucian would be sending them home, so much so that they could not help but cheer out loud.

Initially, Roxanne was hesitant about Lucian's suggestion. However, when she saw how happy the children were and the man's affectionate gaze, she could not bring herself to turn him down.

Carrying Estella with one arm, she was about to reach out and take the boys' hands when Lucian bent down to pick them up.

"Wow! It's so tall!"

Excitement was written all over Benny's face when Lucian carried him.

Archie obediently stayed put in Lucian's arms, struggling to suppress his excitement.

Roxanne could not help but smile when she saw how exhilarated the boys were. She picked up her pace and trailed behind Lucian.

When Sonya entered the manor, Roxanne and the others were already gone.

"Where's Lucian?" she asked Catalina coldly.

Sonya was unhappy to witness Lucian's proposal to Roxanne and wanted to have a chat with her son.

A sense of relief washed over Catalina when she thought of the rare happy smiles etched across Lucian and Roxanne's faces when they left.

"Mr. Farwell just left, but I'm afraid I don't know where he went," she replied vaguely.

Sonya was no fool, and she wouldn't just let the matter go. As such, she narrowed her eyes and pressed on. "How about Roxanne?"

Catalina instantly felt uneasy. However, she had no choice but to speak the truth. "She went home."

Sonya's expression darkened when she heard that.

Roxanne is going home at this late hour. Do I even need to ask where my son went? He must've sent that woman home! She rejected his proposal, yet he's still treating her so well!

Sonya's rage boiled over when she thought of the possibility that Lucian had brought Estella along.

Why is the son that I raised so eager to please this woman? To make matters worse, it's a woman that rejected him twice!

That fact alone was enough for Sonya to forbid Roxanne from stepping foot into the Farwell residence again.

Deep down, Catalina heaved a sigh when she saw Sonya's grim, infuriated expression.

Sometimes, she wanted to help Lucian convince Sonya, but she was merely a servant, and she was aware that Sonya looked down on her.

Thus, nothing she said would be of any help.

Catalina was mindful not to add fuel to the fire as she carefully spoke. "Mrs. Farwell, it's getting late. Please rest early!"

Sonya shot her an icy glare. "Don't think I don't know you're Roxanne's accomplice!"

Catalina bowed her head and kept quiet.

After a while, she heard Sonya's heavy footsteps walking toward the entrance.

Catalina panicked and hurried over. "Mrs. Farwell, where are you going? Mr. Farwell instructed me to let you stay the night here since it's late."

Sonya stopped in her tracks and, without even looking over her shoulder, replied, "What? Are you worried that I'll go pick on Roxanne? It's so late. I don't care if she's not tired. I am!"

Catalina felt puzzled when she heard that.

Then where is she storming away to?

"How can I fall asleep watching my son jump into a trap?" Sonya huffed angrily.

With that, she marched out of the manor.

This time, Catalina did not get in her way.

She only wished Sonya would come around as soon as possible and realize that Lucian and Estella's happiness was of utmost importance.

Ever since Roxanne returned, Lucian, who was usually aloof and indifferent, started to express more of his emotions.

Estella's autistic condition was gradually improving as well.

This family needs Ms. Jarvis...