

Mission To Remarry Chapter 1501-1522

Chapter 1501

As she stepped out of the hotel, Aubree's mind drew a blank. She had no idea what to do next.

There was no way she could return to the mansion on the outskirts, as Lucian would definitely have it watched.

The same could be said of the hotel.

Feeling desperate, she gave Frieda a call.

The latter, who was already sound asleep, was woken up by the ringing of her phone.

Just as she was about to end the call by reflex, she was jolted awake by a glimpse of the caller ID. It was then that a glint of annoyance flashed across her eyes.

Aubree! When is she going to stop bugging me?

Upon regaining her composure, she answered, "Aubree, is there anything I can do for you?"

"Where are you now? Come to the hotel. I'm downstairs waiting for you. Remember, don't let anyone find out!"

The tension in Aubree's voice couldn't be any more obvious.

Her tone caused Frieda's heart to inexplicably sink. Before she even replied, she had already gotten out of bed.

"What's wrong? Did something happen? Why do you want to see me?" she asked while getting dressed.

Aubree answered flatly, "They have evidence against me and have probably called the police too. That's why I've gone into hiding. If you lead anyone to me, I'll drag you down to hell with me!"

Frieda froze as panic began to fill her eyes.

Aubree is on the run from the police. Should I help her now? What if I lead them to her?

While she was hesitating, Aubree's voice rang out again. "If you don't show up, the first thing I'll do when I'm caught is to expose your crimes. When that happens, I can't

guarantee what my tongue will let slip. If you cross me, I'll definitely make you suffer for it!"

Faced with the blatant threat, Frieda lost her temper and snapped, "You better not cross the line!"

Aubree snorted in response. "You chose this path back then. It's too late for regrets now. You have twenty minutes. If I don't see you, you're going down with me!"

With that, Aubree ended the call.

As the call-end tone rang out from her phone, the furious Frieda glowered insidiously.

It was then that Cory's words began to echo in her mind.

If I had known this was going to happen, I would've worked with him that night!

Unfortunately, it was too late for regrets now.

Frieda had no choice but to get herself ready and slip out of her room stealthily.

To avoid her family's notice, she didn't even drive her car. Instead, she flagged down a taxi by the street to send her to the hotel.

She knew the location well since she was the one who made the hotel reservation on Aubree's behalf.

By the time she arrived, twenty minutes had passed. There was also no sign of Aubree anywhere.

A sense of dread began to swell within her, and she scanned the surroundings anxiously.

"I'm here!"

Aubree's voice rang out from an inconspicuous alley.

Given a fright, Frieda took a few seconds to regain her composure before walking over.

"What's your plan?" She gave Aubree a wary look.

The last thing Aubree had was a plan. "Anything will do as long as I can escape!"

Frieda suggested unreservedly, "Fleeing overseas is your only option. If you stay in the country, the Farwell family will get you even if the police don't."

Chapter 1502

"Oversees?" Aubree seethed insidiously. "If I leave, won't that b*tch, Roxenne, get what she wants? How can I do that before I have my revenge against her?"

Sensing the insidious aura Aubree was exuding, the tense Friede carefully persuaded the former, "If you don't go and end up being captured by the police or the Ferwell family, you will fall into even worse circumstances than you're currently in. When that happens, you can kiss vengeance goodbye!"

Friede didn't dare infuriate Aubree given the latter's state of mind. Worried that Aubree would go mad, Friede tried her best to calm her down.

After all, it was also in her interest if Aubree were to flee overseas.

With that thought in mind, Friede suggested, "If you're worried about money, I can prepare it for you. Even though it isn't much, I can spare ten to twenty million now that I have returned to the Queen family."

Penic struck Aubree when she heard of the fate that awaited her. Nevertheless, she was reluctant to let Roxenne go just like that.

Gritting her teeth, she replied, "There has to be another way!"

Meanwhile, Lucien was looking displeased in his study at the Ferwell residence.

"Let it go. The police will think of something. You should grab her first," Roxenne advised Lucien softly despite the anxiety she felt after learning of Aubree's refusal to meet.

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However, Lucien furrowed his brows as a murderous intent began to swell within him.

If Aubree does to cause any more trouble, I'll definitely...

Although she couldn't tell what was on his mind, Roxanne could feel the sudden tension in the room. She got up to hold his arm and lead him to the couch. Thereafter, she brought the food that was served to him.

Staring at Roxanne, Lucien cast aside his frustrations and relished the attention she was showering him.

Just as both of them were sharing a quiet meal, a knock on the door was heard.

Cotelino's voice subsequently rang out. "Mr. and Mrs. Forwell are here."

Roxanne stopped what she was doing in response to Cotelino's words. Looking at Lucien, she spoke hesitantly. "You should go down. I'll wait for you here."

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Roxanne finally relented because she found no real reason to protest.

Upon descending the staircase together, they saw the two figures sitting on the couch.

Sonya was evidently outraged, her chest heaving vigorously. Elies, with an equally grave expression, was trying his best to calm her down.

Further infuriated by the unexpected sight of Roxanne, Sonya jumped to her feet.

"Why are both of you together at this hour?"

When Elies saw Roxanne, he nodded to greet her.

Roxenne reciprocated with a polite nod before returning her gaze to the furious Sonya.

Just as she was about to reply, Lucien preempted her, "There's nothing wrong with us being together. Instead, I'm more curious as to what both of you are doing here at this hour."

Sonya turned toward Elias, hoping that he would say something.

When he saw the look in his wife's eye, Elias explained in resignation, "Why did you call the police so late at night? The police chief just informed me about it. What's going on?"

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When he saw the look in his wife's eye, Elias explained in resignation, "Why did you call the police so late at night? The police chief just informed me about it. What's going on?"

Chapter 1503

Sonya fixed Roxanne with a cold-eyed stare, clearly suspecting that Lucien had caused a commotion because of her.

Lucien stepped between his mother and Roxanne protectively, then led the latter downstairs and made her sit in the armchair while he stood beside her.

"I wouldn't have bothered the police at such a late hour, but I caught a woman named Ophelia Smith trying to pour lubricant over the brakes on Roxanne's car this afternoon. Had I not discovered what she was doing, I'm afraid Roxanne and the children could be dead by now."

Sonya's expression changed. "What? Didn't that person know Estella would be riding in that car too?"

Lucian's tone turned grave as he replied, "She knew, of course. After all, the mastermind behind it all is Aubree."

"What did you say?" Sonya was so enraged that she lost her balance and staggered backward into Elias.

He immediately helped her to the couch, then asked, "What's going on? How can you be sure that it was Aubree's doing? Hasn't she learned her lesson after her family's fall from grace?"

Lucian nodded indifferently. "I'm also curious why she's still so incorrigible after her family's downfall and keeps pestering Roxanne and the children."

His response confirmed to his parents that Aubree had orchestrated the whole thing.

Nodding, Elias said, "If that's the case, she deserves to be arrested. In fact, she should've been arrested after what happened previously."

However, Sonya was still a little doubtful. "Aubree's—"

"I'm sure you've seen the photos of her in a robe at a hotel. Isn't that enough to tell you what sort of person she is? Now that the situation has already come to a head, do you still think she couldn't have done such things? How long are you going to let her hoodwink you?" Lucian's voice grew a few notches colder, and a hint of anger flashed in his eyes as he looked at his mother.

Sonya looked away, recalling how she felt when she had seen those photos. He's right. Aubree's a liar. But...

Narrowing his eyes, Lucian suddenly said, "If you still don't believe it, you can always call and ask her to come over so that you can confront her face-to-face."

Roxanne caught on almost at once. Aubree is backed into a corner now. If Sonya calls her, she'll surely see Sonya as a lifeline and come to meet Sonya!

As the realization dawned on her, Roxanne could not help feeling somewhat nervous. She desperately hoped that Sonya would agree and lure Aubree out naturally.

Sonya looked uncertain as she gazed at Lucian, then at the woman behind him.

"If you're worried, why don't you just call and ask?" Elias urged her. Only then did Sonya take her phone from her handbag, pull up Aubree's number, and make the call.

Meanwhile, Aubree was fretting like a cat on a hot tin roof, unable to come up with a single solution. When she saw Sonya's call, she instantly fell back to her habit of thinking of Sonya as her lifesaver and hurriedly answered it.

"Mrs. Farwell, you've got to help me!" she cried out in a tearful voice.

Hearing that, Sonya felt her heart lurch as she realized everything Lucian had said was true. Nonetheless, she still harbored a trace of pity for Aubree in her heart. She asked, "Was it really you who put Ophelia Smith up to it?"

Aubree sobbed, "I know it was my fault, Mrs. Farwell. I lost all rationale for a while. Please help me. I won't do it ever again!"

Chapter 1504

Although Aubree did not admit to it directly, her apology could be considered an indirect confirmation that she had instigated Ophelia's actions.

Utterly disappointed, Sonya said flatly, "How could I have trusted someone as heartless as you all these years?"

Hearing the indifference in her voice, Aubree quickly explained, "I swear that's the only thing I lied to you about, and it was because I was too madly in love with Lucian! You understand that, don't you? I promise I'll never do it again."

Sonya was infuriated by her words. "That's the only thing you lied about? You don't think that's enough, do you? You nearly killed my granddaughter!"

Although they were only speaking over the phone, a shiver ran down Aubree's spine. She began sobbing even harder. "I was wrong! I'll even prostrate myself and apologize to Essie if you want. Please forgive me this time! Have you forgotten? You said you'd only acknowledge me as your daughter-in-law. I won't marry Lucian anymore, so please ask him to show me mercy."

Sonya was already fuming over the fact that Aubree had deceived her. However, seeing that the latter had dared to bring up what she had said in the past, she was absolutely livid. "Get over here and apologize to Essie, then!"

All of a sudden, Aubree fell silent. Get on my hands and knees before that little kid and apologize? How can I do that? Besides, won't Lucian know if I go back there? Where will I run then?

The silence caused Sonya's voice to turn even icier as she said, "I'm giving you one last chance. Come back and explain everything clearly to my face. If you don't even have the guts to meet me, there's nothing left for us to say."

Aubree clenched her jaw and ended the call without uttering a single word.

"What happened, Aubree?" Frieda, who had been watching Aubree on the phone, felt uneasy. The outcome that'd be the most favorable for me is if Aubree were to leave the country and flee as far away as possible. If Sonya agrees to help Aubree, however, my plan will fail, and Aubree will end up remaining in the country and continuing to be a nuisance to me!

Aubree clutched her phone so tightly that her hand shook. "That old hag! She's in cahoots with that b*tch! She wants me to go back. Does she take me for a fool?" After saying that, she gritted her teeth and turned to Frieda. "You mentioned going abroad. How do we go about that?"

Still looking a little troubled, Frieda replied, "I can get the money ready, but if you're to leave with things as they are now, it'll be quite difficult to send you off without the Farwells finding out."

Feeling defeated, Aubree slumped against the wall. "I'm done for..."

"The Pearsons used to have many friends among the other prestigious families. Is there really no one who could help you? Try and think again," Frieda urged, visibly anxious.

"Let me think..." Aubree mumbled.

Back in the Farwell residence living room, Sonya remained shaken for a long while. It's only now that I'm finally seeing Aubree's true colors.

"How could I have been so blind? How could I have trusted someone like that?" She shook her head in deep regret. I even entertained the thought that Aubree would probably turn over a new leaf after what happened to her family and would be a suitable candidate for my daughter-in-law. Now, I've no choice but to admit I fell for the same person's trickery twice!

Lucian had expected her response, and he did not press for details. He merely asked, "How did it go? Is she willing to meet with you?"

Chapter 1505

Not wanting to say anything further, Sonya simply shook her head with a gloomy expression.

The fact that she had been tricked by someone like Aubree was humiliating enough.

She was not about to admit it in front of Roxanne.

Lucian and Roxanne exchanged solemn glances when they saw her response.

“What do you plan on having the police do to her?” Elias asked.

“They will handle her accordingly based on what she did. However, we don’t know where Aubree is right now, so we’ll need to find her before we even worry about that,” Lucian replied coldly.

Sonya frowned the moment she heard that. “Why didn’t you tell me about this sooner? I wouldn’t have taken that tone with her if you had told me about it!”

Had I known about this sooner, I would’ve pretended to care about Aubree and tricked her into coming back!

Of course, Lucian knew what Sonya had in mind. “She’s extremely cautious. I only told you to call her to test her out, so I wasn’t expecting much to begin with.”

Realizing that Sonya was about to get mad again, Elias quickly stood up and pulled her into his arms. “Your mother and I will leave you two alone now that we know what’s going on. Just give me a call if you ever need anything. As for Aubree, I’ll have our men continue searching for her.”

“I’ll go see Gina and Samuel again and tell them to talk some sense into Aubree. Hopefully, they’ll be able to convince her to surrender,” Sonya said coldly after forcefully suppressing her anger.

Feeling relieved that she was finally starting to understand, Lucian flashed her a smile and nodded in acknowledgment.

“You two should get some rest too,” Elias reminded them after walking Sonya to the door.

Lucian arched an eyebrow at him in response. “Got it. Be careful on the road.”

Sonya waited until they were inside the car before expressing her guilt and regret.

“How could I have missed all the signs? I can’t believe Aubree is so cruel and heartless! Our poor granddaughter suffers a lot as is, and yet, Aubree still targeted her anyway...”

Elias turned to look at her after slowly starting the car. “That’s why I told you not to interfere with Lucian’s affairs.”

Sonya frowned and was about to say something in response, but Elias retracted his gaze as he continued, "Why do you think Lucian chose not to marry her after all these years? Why do you think Essie still refuses to accept her?"

Sonya opened her mouth, but she couldn't find the words to say in response to his questions.

The answers are obvious... Lucian still can't bring himself to let go of Roxanne, and Essie has seen right through Aubree's pretense long ago. My poor granddaughter suffered so much at Aubree's hands for so long, and yet she couldn't even tell anyone about it. I've always been trying to get Essie to spend time with Aubree, so it's only natural for her to dislike me. I feel so bad for her...

"Why did Lucian want you to call Aubree just now?" Elias pressed on when he received no response from her.

Having been snapped out of her train of thought, Sonya replied reluctantly, "He just wanted me to see Aubree's true intentions. Tell me, have I been making a complete fool out of myself this whole time?"

"Lucian is the only one who can decide who he marries. If you interfere, then he might end up marrying someone like Aubree. Do you really want to put the Farwell family in the hands of a woman like that?" Elias asked.

Sonya simply snorted and kept quiet after that.

Chapter 1506

Roxanne glanced at the time after Sonya and Elias left. "It's getting late. I should be heading back now. I can't rest easy knowing that the kids are home alone."

"I'll send you home," Lucian said with a frown.

It was indeed rather late, and Aubree's whereabouts were still unknown. It was possible that she would pop out of nowhere and try to take Roxanne's life. Lucian didn't feel safe letting Roxanne go home by herself.

Roxanne knew he was worried about her safety, so she chose not to turn his offer down. "Thanks."

After getting into the car, the two of them talked about Aubree as Lucian drove slowly toward Roxanne's house.

"I wonder where Aubree is right now. I can't rest easy until she's behind bars..." Roxanne mumbled with a worried look in her eyes while gazing at the scenery outside.

Lucian slowed the car down a little as he reassured her, "We have solid evidence against her, so the police won't let her get away with it. In the meantime, I will also do everything I can to find her. Until she is caught, I will have my men protect you and the kids in secret."

Roxanne felt somewhat at ease when she recalled that Lucian had averted the recent crisis in time. "Thanks."

She also couldn't help but question her own ability to ensure the safety of her kids.

Lucian's eyes dimmed when he saw the look of self-blame on her face. "I should be apologizing to you. Aubree wouldn't have targeted you and the kids if it weren't for me. I failed to protect you all before due to my negligence."

Roxanne frowned and was about to say something when Lucian continued, "From now on, I will increase the level of security around you and the kids. I'll also try to come up with more ways to keep you all safe."

"I just hope we can catch Aubree as soon as possible. Hopefully, she'll repent her ways and change for the better after she's behind bars," Roxanne said.

Lucian nodded, and the two of them continued chatting away.

It was already eleven by the time they arrived at Roxanne's house.

After spending the entire day working at the research institute and going through a roller-coaster of emotions in the evening, Roxanne was extremely exhausted.

As Lucian was driving really slowly, she got even sleepier along the drive and was barely awake when she got out of the car.

"It's really late. Be careful on your drive home," she reminded him while struggling to keep her eyes open.

Feeling touched that Roxanne was still concerned about him even when she was so tired, Lucian reached out and gently caressed her face.

"What's wrong?" Roxanne asked, staring at him in confusion.

"I think I might have been traumatized by the incident earlier this evening. I don't feel like letting you out of my sight," Lucian replied.

Roxanne let out a chuckle when she heard that. "Come on, stop joking!"

She couldn't seem to believe that Lucian would get traumatized by anything.

The next thing she knew, Lucian had pulled her into his embrace.

Unlike their hug outside the study, Lucian was being somewhat cautious when he hugged her this time.

“How much longer are you going to make me wait?”

Roxanne was about to hug him back, but she paused when she heard what he asked and nervously pulled her arms back.

Lucian tightened his hug when he noticed her response. “Are you regretting it?”

Chapter 1507

Roxanne had a hesitant look in her eyes as she asked, “I want to know what you think of Archie and Benny. Tell me honestly, did you only choose to accept them because of me?”

“You know me. Except for Essie, I have no patience for kids in general. But things are different with Archie and Benny. I’m not sure if it’s because they have your blood running through their veins, but I felt an odd sense of closeness with them the moment I first saw them,” Lucian replied without any hesitation.

He then released his grip on Roxanne as he continued, “I was prepared to accept them the moment I first saw them. It’s just as I said in the announcement. From now on, I will treat them as our children, which is no different from how I treat Essie.”

Roxanne felt a wave of melancholy sweep over her when she heard that.

Lucian said he felt a sense of closeness with them because they’re my children, but in reality, they’re his children too... Who would’ve thought being related by blood would have such a strong effect on people? Lucian has been proving his words with the way he treats Archie and Benny. If Sonya can genuinely accept Archie and Benny into the family, then I will tell Lucian the truth about their identities. I will let him know that Archie and Benny are our children!

Lucian had his arm around her waist as he observed the changes in her expression.

While he couldn’t tell what she was thinking, the firm yet gentle look in her eyes caused his heart to skip a beat.

As Lucian slowly moved his hand up to her face, Roxanne went along with his movement and got closer to him.

The sexual tension between them increased as the two of them got closer to each other.

Their lips were about to touch when a childish voice called out to Roxanne from above.

“Mommy! You’re back—”

Archie quickly held a hand over Benny’s mouth to stop him from interrupting the kiss.

He then grabbed Benny by the arm and tried to sneak back into the room so they could pretend nothing had ever happened.

However, Roxanne had heard him and tensed up all of a sudden.

Lucian frowned slightly as he tried to move in for a kiss, but Roxanne turned to the side at the last second, so he only managed to kiss her on the cheek.

She then pushed him aside and shot him a glare in response.

Lucian looked up at the balcony on the second floor and called out to the three kids who were about to sneak away, “It’s really late. Why are you three still awake at this hour?”

Roxanne had wanted to stop him, but it was too late.

The kids stopped in their tracks when they heard his voice.

After exchanging glances with each other, Benny decided to step forward and wave at them from the balcony.

“I didn’t mean to stay up, Daddy! I just thought I’d greet Mommy since I heard her coming home. I didn’t know you two came back together!”

I would’ve hidden in my room and pretended to be asleep if I had known!

Of course, Lucian wasn’t going to punish Benny or anything. He just wanted to show Roxanne that the kids knew everything.

Chapter 1508

“It’s really late. You should go to bed. Don’t go anywhere for the next few days,” Lucian reminded them.

The kids nodded profusely in response.

“Okay! We’ll be going to bed now!” Archie said as he casually led Benny and Estella back inside.

Lucian said nothing further after watching the three of them leave the balcony.

Roxanne, on the other hand, was burning bright red.

Lucian and I were just hugging the last time they caught us together. This time, they nearly caught us kissing!

Roxanne shot Lucian another glare at the thought of that.

"It's really late. I thought they had all gone to bed," Lucian replied with an innocent look on his face.

Roxanne felt speechless when she saw how calm he was about it. "As you said, it's very late. I need to go to bed now. You should head home too, Mr. Farwell!"

Lucian had an affectionate look in his eyes when he saw her get flustered.

Roxanne had just walked past him when he reached out and grabbed her by the wrist.

He spun her around and gave her a quick kiss on the lips.

"Take good care of yourself. My phone will be switched on at all times, so just give me a call if anything happens," he said before letting go of her.

Having been caught off guard by his sudden kiss, Roxanne only regained her composure a few seconds later.

Whatever negative emotions she had were gone when she heard his deep and seductive voice. "You too. Stay safe on the drive home, and let me know when you have arrived."

Lucian nodded with a smile and waited until she entered the mansion before getting into his car.

Roxanne watched as his car disappeared into the distance before returning to her room.

She had just opened her bedroom door when she saw the three kids sitting on her bed.

The kids turned around excitedly when they heard the door opening.

Benny sounded a little disappointed when he asked, "Why did you come upstairs so soon, Mommy?"

Roxanne knew what he was implying with that question of his, but she ignored it and responded by asking, "I'm the one asking the questions here. Why are you three still awake this late at night?"

Unsure of what to say, the kids exchanged glances in silence.

Eventually, Estella decided to speak up and replied with a pitiful look on her face, “I couldn’t sleep because you weren’t home yet, so I had Archie and Benny keep me company.”

She then hopped off the bed and hugged Roxanne’s thigh as she continued, “It’s all my fault, Mommy. Please don’t blame Archie and Benny!”

Roxanne had always had a soft spot for Estella to begin with, and that spot only grew softer ever since she found out about Estella’s identity.

She patted Estella on the head and shifted her gaze toward Archie and Benny. “Oh, well... I have something to tell you kids anyway.”

The kids immediately sat up straight with serious looks on their faces.

Not wanting to scare them, Roxanne tried her best to sound as calm as possible when she said, “I need you kids to behave yourselves and bring your smartwatches with you when you go to kindergarten. Also, stay with Ms. Ward after class is over. Do not leave the kindergarten until you see me. Is that understood?”

The kids were pretty smart, so they knew something had happened after the incident earlier that evening even if Roxanne didn’t tell them.

While they were still too young to be of any help, the best they could do was not make Roxanne and Lucian worry.

“Okay!” The kids nodded obediently in unison.

Chapter 1509

“So? Have you come up with a plan, Aubree?”

As time ticked past, Frieda grew increasingly anxious.

Aubree recalled something right then and clenched her jaw forcefully. “Have you investigated the man from that night?”

Frieda’s eyes turned as wide as saucers. “You’re going to ask for his help? Didn’t you say he’s in cahoots with Roxanne? What if he betrays you?”

Determination flashed across Aubree’s eyes. “That’s the only way! The man gave off an unusual aura, so I’m sure he’s a powerful man!”

“But... why would someone like him work for Roxanne?” Frieda was filled with confusion.

“Did you investigate or not?” Aubree snapped, her patience wearing thin.

Frieda gave a hesitant nod. “I checked the surveillance footage and tracked down his house.”

“Bring me there!” Aubree said without hesitation.

Seeing that she was so determined, Frieda had no choice but to do as told.

They hailed a taxi by the roadside, and Frieda gave the driver the address of their destination. The vehicle slowly pulled away from the motel entrance.

Soon, the taxi rolled to a stop in front of a mansion.

“This is it but I’m not sure if he usually stays here,” Frieda said.

Aubree had no time to ponder her next move. She hastily flung open the car door and stepped out.

The mansion was brightly lit. It was obvious it was occupied.

Aubree heaved a sigh of relief. However, her respite was brief. A moment later, her face twisted into a grimace and her gaze grew icy cold as she remembered why she was there.

Frieda stepped forward and rang the doorbell.

Soon, someone answered the intercom. “Who is it?”

Frieda turned to look at Aubree standing beside her.

“I’m looking for the owner of this mansion. Tell him that a woman with the surname Pearson is here to talk to him. He’ll know who I am,” Aubree responded coolly.

The person on the other end grunted in acknowledgment.

A brief silence later, he said, “The door is open. Come on in.”

Following that, the door to the mansion opened with a click.

Aubree strode in, her face devoid of expression. As soon as she stepped into the mansion, she saw the man lounging on the couch.

“Ms. Pearson, why are you here late at night? Don’t tell me you can’t forget what happened that night,” the man said flippantly even though Frieda had come with Aubree.

He stood up and came to Aubree.

“What are you talking about?” Hatred filled Aubree’s eyes. “How dare you mention that night? If it wasn’t for—ugh! I want to tear you into pieces for what you’ve done!”

Shawn arched a brow in amusement. “If it wasn’t for what? If I’m not mistaken, that must be the reason for your visit, Ms. Pearson. Am I right?”

Aubree glared at him. “I need your help to leave the country!”

Shawn let out a derisive snort. “It appears that you have come to seek my help. Ms. Pearson, you may have been in a position of authority for an extended period of time, so I must remind you that this is not the appropriate way to request help.”

As he spoke, he swept his gaze over Frieda.

The Farwell family and the Pearson family have called off the engagement, but Ms. Queen is still friends with Ms. Pearson. How interesting.

Frieda met his gaze, and suddenly a vivid image flashed through her mind.

A few years ago, Jonathan had brought her along to attend a national business conference, and she had met this man there.

Although the man wasn’t as popular as Lucian, there were still people who would flatter him. She knew he could easily help Aubree.

Chapter 1510

Aubree clenched her fists by her sides, her nails digging into her palms.

“Who said I’m asking for your help? Don’t you realize that I’m threatening you?”

“Threatening me?” The amused look in Shawn’s eyes intensified. “I don’t think you’re capable enough to threaten me with your current status.”

Aubree gritted her teeth. “If you refuse to help me, I’ll make a police report! You’ll be sent to jail for what you did to me that night!”

The lighthearted smirk that had been on Shawn’s face moments earlier had vanished. His voice was low and menacing as he spoke. “If I was scared of the consequences, I wouldn’t have done what I did that night. Do you have anything to back up your claims? Anything that could possibly be used against me?”

Aubree’s lashes trembled imperceptibly when she heard that.

Evidence? I was planning on using him, so I didn't leave any traces behind.

Seeing her reaction, Shawn continued, "If you have nothing, I'd advise you to behave yourself. My interest in you was not due to any romantic inclination, but because of your prior relationship with Lucian. Had it not been for this connection, I doubt I would have found you particularly attractive."

He held her chin with such force that her face contorted in pain. "If you want my help, you will ask me politely. Don't give me any attitude, or you will regret coming here tonight."

With that, Shawn tossed her aside in disgust.

Frieda's heart sank when she saw his attitude doing one-eighty. She glanced at Aubree before suggesting tentatively, "Aubree, perhaps you should talk to him while I go and check on the status of the situation."

Without waiting for a reply, she rushed out hastily, afraid of inviting unwanted trouble.

The butler entered his room at the same time.

Aubree and Shawn were the only ones left in the living room.

Aubree was sprawled on the ground, looking wretched as Shawn towered above her and looked at her as if she was nothing but a worthless piece of trash. "Will you speak nicely now?" he asked, his voice dripping with disdain.

A while later, Aubree struggled to her feet and hung her head low. She gritted her teeth and forced herself to speak softly. "I'm willing to do anything as long as you agree to help me."

Shawn was filled with a sense of satisfaction as he watched the former influential socialite submit to him. "You were discarded by Lucian like a piece of trash, but even so, your body is acceptable..."

He sounded her out by inching nearer to her.

Aubree dug her nails into her palms fiercely. Her body tensed up when she heard him call her trash, and his insults stung her soul like a thousand tiny needles.

However, she reminded herself to stay put to achieve her goal.

Shawn was pleased to see the submissive side of her.

Nonchalantly, he asked, "Something serious must've happened for you to endure all my insults, Ms. Pearson. If you are unwilling to divulge the details to me, how can I be of help?"

As he stopped coming closer to her, Aubree allowed her grip to loosen and replied, "I suspect Lucian has called the police to arrest me because of that b*tch. Please help me by sending me out of the country!"

She bit the inside of her mouth and pretended to be weak by pleading, "I'm sorry for my attitude earlier. I promise I'll do whatever you say as long as I can escape the country safely!"

"That b*tch?" Shawn repeated the way she addressed Roxanne in amusement.

Aubree's eyes widened in surprise as she considered the possibility that he was working together with Roxanne. She was afraid that she might've provoked him.

Her heart sank to the pit of her stomach.

Chapter 1511

"As a matter of fact, I still don't know why Lucian called off your engagement," Shawn stated his doubts as he fixed his gaze on her.

Hearing that, Aubree allowed herself to relax. Hope flashed across her eyes as she asked, "Is there nothing going on between you and Roxanne?"

Surprised, Shawn retorted, "Why would you think there's something going on between us?"

Aubree let out a deep breath of relief before unleashing her pent-up emotions and bitter resentment toward Roxanne. "If it wasn't for that b*tch, I would have been Mrs. Farwell by now! I'll never forgive her for what she did!"

Shawn noticed the change in her gaze and fell silent for a few moments. A strange smile played on his lips as he said, "I can help you."

Aubree's heart skipped a beat as she met his gaze in delight.

She might be wrong, but there seemed to be a calculative look in Shawn's eyes.

Shawn had grown weary of attempting to disguise his intentions. He declared frankly, "You can count on me to provide you with the means to depart this country, but you must listen to me once you have reached your destination. It may be somewhat challenging, so I can't guarantee you'll be able to comply."

Aubree desperately wanted a way out of her current situation. When presented with an opportunity to escape, she was more than eager to make it happen. Without hesitation, she agreed, "Sure! I'm willing to do anything as long as you can help me!"

With that, they reached an agreement.

Shawn changed his tone and spoke amicably. "I will see to it that someone is able to safely transport you out of the country. I hope you won't let me down."

"Thank you so much." After Aubree got what she came here for, her eyes gleamed with a newfound feeling of determination and vengeance.

Frieda had been hiding outside for some time, dreading the notion of confronting the two mad individuals who were in the mansion. Despite her trepidation, she was not brave enough to go off by herself and eventually made the difficult decision to enter the mansion.

"Aubree, how did it go?" she asked carefully after making her way inside.

Aubree's expression gave away the results, and upon seeing it, she felt a sense of relief wash over her.

"Why did you leave?" Aubree gave her an icy glare.

When I was in trouble, she escaped and abandoned me to face that lunatic alone. If I wasn't about to depart from the country, I would have given her a stern reprimand for her behavior.

Frieda noticed Aubree's displeasure and attempted to placate her with a smile. "I left to look into the situation," she explained. "The Farwells have already made a police report, but I'm sure that with this gentleman's help, you won't have anything to worry about anymore."

I can't believe the Farwells called the police!

A grim look spread across Aubree's face when she heard that.

Why is Lucian so heartless? My family is in tatters, but he still won't stop! It's all the b*tch's fault. She must've told him something! Roxanne Jarvis, I must teach you a lesson when I return!

Her hatred was so intense that Frieda felt a chill go down her spine. "Aubree, you're going to leave soon, so it's best to let it go. Why—"

"Shut up! You know nothing," Aubree interjected. "I'll be back! I won't let that b*tch off easily."

Frieda opened her mouth in an attempt to convince Aubree to reconsider her decision, but before she had the chance to do so, Shawn came downstairs after relaying his orders to his subordinate.

He didn't even spare Frieda a glance as he looked straight at Aubree. "We have no time to spare. I have a subordinate waiting outside for you, Ms. Pearson. You can depart now."

Without further delay, Aubree rose to her feet and strode out of the mansion.

Seeing that Aubree was prepared to leave, Frieda dared not stay behind and hastily followed her out the door. Outside, she watched as Aubree was ushered into a sleek, black car by a mysterious man wearing an equally dark outfit. Without a moment's hesitation, the driver started the car and quickly pulled away, leaving Frieda behind.

Chapter 1512

For the next two days, the police failed to make progress.

Farwell Group had mobilized all its forces but failed to locate Aubree in Horington.

Cayden arrived at Lucian's office with a dark expression. "Mr. Farwell."

"Have you found Aubree?" Lucian's voice was icy cold when he mentioned Aubree's name.

Cayden felt a chill travel down his spine as he sensed the fury radiating from Lucian. "We have yet to find her whereabouts, and the police haven't given us any updates."

Inside the study, the temperature dropped so low that it was almost subzero.

An ominous black thundercloud of temper settled over Lucian as he asked, "What about Samuel and Gina? Did Aubree contact them?"

Cayden replied carefully, "No. I've looked into it, and they stopped contacting Aubree after her photos were leaked."

After observing Lucian's reaction, he mustered up the courage to express his suspicion. "I think Aubree has fled. She must have sensed something was wrong, as she hasn't spoken to Ophelia in days."

Lucian had the same suspicion, too. He remained unfazed after hearing Cayden's words.

The study fell silent in an instant.

Anxiety crept up Cayden's heart, as he wasn't sure what to do.

Fortunately, Lucian soon broke the silence. "Continue to keep an eye on the Pearsons and the search for Aubree. If she has managed to escape, she'd better not come back. If she does, our men must be the first to discover her whereabouts."

Cayden exhaled sharply and gave a curt nod. "Understood!"

As Lucian was done relaying his orders, Cayden reported the remaining information to him and turned to leave.

The soft click of the door latch echoed through the study. Lucian slowly rose from his chair and made his way to the window where he stood in deep contemplation.

Aubree's whereabouts remain unknown. The fact that she is still missing is a cause of great concern. Roxanne and the children are in a precarious situation. I have considered assigning more bodyguards to ensure their safety, yet this still leaves me with lingering concerns. I wish more than anything that I could keep Roxanne close to me all the time, but unfortunately, she is a free spirit who cannot be controlled. I must figure out another way...

Right then, the shrill sound of the phone ringing on his desk startled him.

Lucian went over and realized it was a call from Jonathan. He answered it without hesitation.

"Lucian, how are things going? Have you found Aubree?"

Jonathan was aware of the situation and had been keeping tabs on it.

Lucian's brows were knitted together as he replied in frustration, "No. I suspect she has escaped, but I told them to continue finding her."

Jonathan was baffled. "Farwell Group and the police are working hard to find her. Even if she has wings, it is impossible for her to fly out of the country! Is she in some sort of shelter or an area full of homeless people?"

He was highly doubtful that Aubree would be able to manage an escape on her own, considering her family was no longer influential. The only feasible explanation for her disappearance was that she had managed to elude detection by hiding away like a small rodent.

"My men did a thorough search all over Horington in all the possible places," Lucian revealed darkly.

Jonathan's mood grew heavy. "That woman is unusually persistent. Remind Roxanne to be careful. I'll also join in the search."

Lucian wasn't in the mood to continue their conversation, so he agreed and ended the call.

Chapter 1513

Jonathan's expression darkened after the call ended. He strode out of the room and stopped outside Frieda's door.

Ever since Aubree left, Frieda had been cooping up in her room due to her guilty conscience.

When she heard someone knocking on the door, she was so nervous that she nearly fell out of her bed.

"Frieda, it's me. Open the door." Jonathan spoke in a firm tone that left no room for negotiation.

However, Frieda did not have the guts to face him. Faking a weak voice, she answered, "I'm not feeling well. Can we talk another time..."

"If you don't open the door now, I'll get the key and open it myself." Jonathan was adamant about speaking to his sister right then.

Frieda had no choice but to get up and open the door. "Jonathan, what's so urgent that you have to talk to me immediately?"

Looking at the woman with a scrutinizing gaze, Jonathan said, "Two million five hundred thousand was found missing from the company's accounts during the time you were there. What did you spend the money on?"

Initially, he had assumed that his sister had used the money to buy luxury products.

Since it wasn't a huge sum of money, he had turned a blind eye to it.

However, Jonathan could not help but feel uneasy when he thought about Frieda's abnormal behavior over the past few days, considering everything that had happened.

Frieda's heart skipped a beat after she heard her brother's question. She lowered her head in a fluster in an attempt to mask her feelings of guilt.

"That money... Um... I used it to buy a bag."

Knowing Frieda extremely well, Jonathan noticed something amiss about her at once. At that moment, his heart sank. "Bag? Where's the bag?"

Frieda's voice grew increasingly soft as she replied, "It's a preorder and will take some time to arrive."

"Show me the receipt, then. You should have it, right?" Jonathan pressed further.

Frieda remained silent after hearing that.

As she had lied about buying the bag, there was no way she could produce a receipt.

"Did you give that money to Aubree?" Jonathan exposed his sister without beating around the bush.

A shiver ran down Frieda's spine before she replied, "I gave Aubree some money out of pity. I can't bear to see her in such a miserable state. After all, our families used to be quite close. I—"

Before the woman could finish her sentence, she was interrupted by Jonathan, who was simmering with anger. "How many times have I told you not to contact her anymore? Not only did you not listen to me, but you even gave her our family's money!"

Jonathan was so enraged that Frieda felt overwhelmed by the intense pressure he was emitting. She looked at the ground at once, avoiding her brother's eyes that were blazing with fury.

Suddenly, Jonathan extended his arm and pushed her into the room before slamming the door shut.

A wave of fear washed over Frieda as the thunderous sound echoed in the air.

"Tell me honestly! Are you involved in Aubree's disappearance?" Jonathan asked in a low voice.

Judging by the look in his eyes, he was almost certain that his sister had played a part in it.

Frieda gritted her teeth in terror. Trying her best not to expose herself, she took a deep breath and replied, "I don't know what you're talking about. I did give her some money, but it was long before she disappeared."

Jonathan narrowed his eyes. "Long before she disappeared? I don't remember sharing with you the time of her disappearance."

Frieda lifted her head abruptly, her eyes filled with panic. Even so, she bit the bullet and shook her head while saying, "I don't know. I don't know anything..."

"Where is she now? Has she really escaped?"

Taking a pause, Jonathan softened his tone and continued, "If you know where she is, you need to tell me now. If she has already fled Horington, we will have to keep an eye on all major routes into the city and make sure that she never comes back. If she returns, we can arrest her immediately. That way, you will no longer have to contact her, and I can stop worrying about the Queen family being implicated by her."

Chapter 1514

We can make sure that she never comes back, and if she returns, we can arrest her immediately.

That sounded rather tempting to Frieda.

If that were the case, she would finally be able to escape the clutches of Aubree.

Frieda's expression changed visibly.

Jonathan could tell that she was wavering. He seized the opportunity and asked again, "Has she already fled Horington?"

Frieda lowered her head and nodded in silence.

When Jonathan saw that, a trace of anger flashed across his face, but he quickly suppressed the rage rising in him.

"Given Aubree's capabilities, there was no way she could have escaped under the surveillance of both the Farwell family and the police. Even with your help, it was still an impossible feat. How exactly did she manage to do it?"

Frieda hesitated for a second before answering with a pleading look in her eyes, "Jonathan, if I tell you, can you promise me not to tell anyone else?"

Jonathan remained unmoved as he fixed his gaze on his sister.

"Lucian can't know that I didn't inform him that Aubree ran away. He's not going to let me off! Who knows, maybe our entire family would also be affected..."

Panic was written all over Frieda's face as she tugged at Jonathan's sleeves.

Jonathan's gaze softened when Frieda expressed worry about their family's situation. However, instead of giving her a direct answer, he merely said, "So tell me, how did she manage to escape?"

Frieda took her brother's silence as his tacit agreement and said softly, "She had help from a man. If I'm not wrong, he's the one who was with her at the hotel that day. He seems to be a rather powerful person. He sent Aubree out of Horington on the night of the incident."

Jonathan could feel anger flooding his veins, but he managed to keep a poker face when Frieda looked toward him.

"That's all I know. I have nothing else to tell you even if you continue asking me," the woman said.

Jonathan furrowed his brows and asked, "When is she coming back?"

Frieda shook her head. "I have no idea. I left the room when both of them were talking. When I returned, Aubree was already getting into the car and leaving."

After saying that, she asked Jonathan hopefully, "Didn't you say that you will prevent her from returning?"

When Jonathan was sure that his sister had told him everything she knew, he finally unleashed the fury he had been suppressing all this while.

"Are you finally worried that she might come back? You should have taken my words seriously in the first place!"

Frieda's eyes brimmed with grievance and nervousness when she saw the sudden change in her brother's attitude.

"Why did you help her? Were you involved in all those things that she had done previously?" Jonathan asked sternly, suddenly recalling some things.

Frieda let go of his sleeves guiltily. Learning her lesson, she decided not to tell him anything else. "No. That's really all. I had no idea what she wanted me to help her with when she came to see me. I didn't expect..."

She sounded as if Aubree had also deceived her.

Jonathan eyed his sister suspiciously for some time while she kept her head bowed.

"Make sure this stays between us. Don't you dare ask Grandpa or Mom and Dad for help. I don't want them to collapse from anger!" After an extended silence, Jonathan

continued coldly, "It's best for you to stay at home during this period. You're not allowed to step out of the house without my permission!"

Without giving Frieda a chance to reply, Jonathan turned around and strode out of the room after saying that.

"Keep an eye on her. Don't let her leave the house without my permission!"

Even with the door slammed shut, Frieda could hear her brother speaking to the housekeeper. She felt as if a pail of ice-cold water had been dumped on her.

Chapter 1515

After much contemplation, Jonathan still thought he had to talk to Lucian face-to-face after learning the truth.

Otherwise, the Queen family might meet the same fate as the Pearson family if the Farwells learned about it from Aubree.

Jonathan quickly called Lucian and invited him for drinks.

Lucian, who had no place to vent his anger for the past two days, agreed without hesitation.

The two of them agreed to meet at the club they often went to.

When Lucian arrived, Jonathan had already ordered the drinks and was drinking by himself in the private room. He looked pretty angry too.

"What's wrong? Did something happen to the Queen family again?"

Lucian took a seat next to him and poured himself a drink.

Jonathan was thinking of how to tell Lucian the truth. His mind was a mess.

Only when he heard Lucian's voice did he return to his senses and stop drinking.

After a while, he decided to finish the drink in his hand before he smiled bitterly and said, "Lucian, didn't you say that you suspect Aubree ran away? Well, now I can certainly tell you that it's true. She indeed ran away."

Lucian stopped drinking when he heard that and turned to look at Jonathan. "What did you say?"

Helplessness was written all over Jonathan's face as he replied, "If it's possible, I, too, wish that I didn't know about it, but..."

The two of them grew up together. Even if Jonathan did not finish his sentence, Lucian could already guess what Jonathan was going to say.

If the Farwell family could not find out the truth, it was even more impossible for Jonathan to find out about it.

The only possibility was that the person who knew the truth was beside him.

Frieda!

A cold glint flashed across Lucian's eyes when he thought of Frieda. However, he was still considerate of his friend and did not express his displeasure.

Jonathan had helped Lucian and Roxanne a lot with their relationship.

He believed Jonathan would keep watch over Frieda.

Lucian was willing to be considerate of Jonathan. As long as the latter chose not to say anything, Lucian would pretend not to know.

"Who sent her away?" Lucian changed the topic as he refilled their glasses.

Jonathan raised his glass gratefully. He sounded doubtful as he answered, "I know that the person was the man Aubree met during the hotel's opening. The next morning, that man had also taken inappropriate photos of Aubree. I have no idea why he would help her."

Lucian scrunched up his eyebrows, and his expression turned grim. "What exactly are that man's intentions? He first put Aubree in the spotlight, but now he's helping her by doing this. And he's able to avoid getting caught by the Farwell family and the police..."

This person is dangerous the more I think about it. I must quickly find him!

Jonathan also had the same thought. "I also want to know Aubree's whereabouts. We'll find her as long as we find that man. I'm somewhat related to this matter. I can't sit by and do nothing."

Lucian slightly nodded before taking a sip of his drink and said, "It's not a bad thing if Aubree did leave Horington. Since she dared to leave, she should never think of returning. I won't let her get another chance at harming them!"

Jonathan was fully aware of who Lucian referred to as "them."

When Jonathan thought of how his sister had been hanging out with Aubree, he said apologetically, "I'm sorry. If I had found out about it sooner—"

"It has nothing to do with you. If Aubree doesn't return, we'll just let this matter go. However, if she dares to return, we'll just wait for the truth to be revealed."

While he did promise that he would be considerate of Jonathan, his patience was limited.

Jonathan sighed inwardly and did not say anything else.

Chapter 1516

Roxanne had wanted to personally send and pick up the three children to and from the kindergarten. She thought she would be more relieved if she did that.

However, she did not expect to be so busy on the first night and ended up asking Linda to pick them up in her stead.

Half an hour later, she received a call from Archie.

Roxanne thought Linda had not arrived, so she quickly answered the phone.

Roxanne could hear Archie's wary tone from the other end of the call. "Mommy, can we go home with Ms. Linda?"

Roxanne was momentarily stunned when she heard that. However, she quickly returned to her senses and remembered that she had told them not to follow anyone else home.

She did not expect the children to be that vigilant.

"Yes, you can. I was the one who asked Ms. Linda to pick you up. You should head home first," she replied softly.

Archie agreed in a childish voice and hung up.

Roxanne placed her phone aside and felt guilt well up in her heart.

Something big has happened, and Aubree's whereabouts are still unknown. I should've stayed home and taken care of them.

However, the research for the new medication was an urgent matter. She had no time to lose.

She pondered over it before dialing Lucian's number.

The call connected quickly. "Roxanne, what's wrong?"

Roxanne lowered her head and asked, "Can I ask you for a favor? Can you please take care of the children for a few days?"

Lucian is their father. It makes sense for him to take care of the children if I'm busy. Plus, only Lucian can ensure their safety.

Surprise flashed across Lucian's face. His lips curved upward into a smile as he replied, "Of course. I'm happy that you can trust me."

Roxanne was moved when she heard him agree to it so quickly. "Sorry to trouble you."

Lucian asked, "Where are they right now? Have they gone home?"

Roxanne checked the time before replying, "I asked Linda to pick them up. They should be home by now. If it's convenient for you, can you please take them to the manor?"

Roxanne felt bad if Lucian had to travel to and fro between her home and the manor daily.

Lucian did not answer her directly. "I got it. I'll head over right now. You should come back soon. Don't overwork yourself."

Roxanne glanced at the progress of her experiment and gave a response guiltily.

She hung up and quickly continued the experiment.

After hanging up, Lucian finished his work and prepared to leave Farwell Group.

When he exited his office, he met Cayden, who was waiting for the elevator.

"Mr. Farwell," Cayden greeted respectfully.

Lucian nodded in response, asking, "Which restaurant did you often buy food for me from?"

Cayden was caught off guard by Lucian's question.

He did not even realize that the elevator had arrived. Only when Lucian entered the elevator did he return to his senses and follow behind Lucian. "Mr. Farwell, if you want their food, I'll call them immediately to send it to the manor."

Lucian frowned and ordered, "Have them send the food to Durwest Garden. Also, send me the address to the restaurant."

Cayden nodded. Mr. Farwell must be bringing food to visit Mrs. Farwell.

He tactfully confirmed Lucian's order with him before calling the restaurant. He then sent the restaurant's address to Lucian.

The elevator stopped at the ground floor.

After they exited the elevator, Cayden asked, "Mr. Farwell, do you want me to send you there?"

With a wave of his hand, Lucian rejected Cayden's offer and headed outside.

Chapter 1517

It was past eight in the evening when Roxanne arrived home.

When she entered, she saw the three children sitting on the couch, tuning to the financial news channel. Lucian was sitting cross-legged beside them.

The four of them were focused on the television.

"You're back?"

Lucian was the first to get up when he heard the sound at the door. "There's food on the table. I just heated it. You should change and come down for dinner."

Only then did the three children shift their focus and run toward her with round bellies. "Mommy, the food that Daddy ordered is delicious!"

Roxanne looked amused when she saw how full they were from eating before she shifted her gaze to the CEO before her who seemed to be asking for credit.

"What did you—"

"I didn't want to make you worry. You should know I can take good care of them."

Roxanne was taken aback. She looked at how serious Lucian was and felt her heart skip a beat. "I know. That's why I asked you to look after them."

The three children stared at their parents and slowly backed away in understanding to minimize their presence.

Roxanne noticed the change in the atmosphere and quickly regained her composure. She lowered her head and walked past Lucian.

Lucian did not stop her either.

Roxanne was tired after having dinner. She suggested Lucian take the children home with him.

"It's getting late. You should bring them to the manor."

Hearing that, the three children stared at them in confusion.

Roxanne patiently explained to Archie and Benny, "I'm quite busy these days, and I'm afraid I won't be able to take good care of you. How about the two of you stay at Essie's place for some time?"

"No! We want to be with you, Mommy!" Archie was the first to reject the idea. Determination was written all over his face. "We want to protect you!"

Roxanne was moved when she heard that. She smiled and reached over to ruffle his hair.

"I have bodyguards by my side. Plus, I'm an adult. I can take care of myself. I'll be distracted and worried if the three of you are here. You don't want me to be exhausted either, right?"

With how she worded it, the children had no choice but to agree despite their unwillingness.

Lucian helped the three children get into the car before he turned to look at Roxanne. "Will you be fine on your own?"

Roxanne smiled. "Don't I still have the bodyguards you assigned for me? Plus, Aubree won't appear for the next few days. I don't think it'll be dangerous."

"There are a lot of guest rooms at the manor," Lucian hinted.

Naturally, Roxanne could understand what he meant. However, she still had some concerns, so she shook her head and replied, "It's fine. It's closer to the research institute from here."

After saying that, she abruptly changed the topic, afraid Lucian might try to persuade her again. "It's getting late. The children still need to go to kindergarten tomorrow. You should hurry and bring them home."

Lucian knew it was impossible to persuade her, so he kept quiet.

After all, the children would be going home with him. He would find other ways to make her agree.

With that thought in mind, he reminded her to rest early before getting into the car.

"Bye, Mommy." The children wound down the window and said goodbye to Roxanne reluctantly.

Roxanne smiled and waved goodbye as she watched them leave.

After driving for a while, Lucian looked at the three children through the rearview mirror and asked, "Do you want Mommy to come with us?"

The children's eyes lit up, and they nodded fervently.

"I want that too, but that'll have to depend on your performance." Lucian raised his eyebrows in satisfaction.

Chapter 1518

The three children stayed at the Farwell residence for the next few days.

Lucian used that as an excuse to video call Roxanne every night. He would report to her about how the children were doing and also expressed his concern for her health.

The children were obedient every time they appeared on the screen.

It was already the weekend. It had been four whole days since the children had last met Roxanne, and they were throwing tantrums about wanting to see her.

Lucian had an idea.

It was noon. Catalina was about to prepare lunch when she saw Lucian and the children preparing to go out. She said, "Mr. Farwell, are you going out to meet Mrs. Farwell? Why don't you wait for me to finish preparing lunch so you can bring some for her? Isn't she busy these days? Please remind her not to overwork herself."

Before Lucian could speak, the children had already run toward the kitchen.

"Ms. Catalina, we'll help you!"

With that, they each took a stool and stood beside Catalina.

A smile appeared on Catalina's lips when she saw the three adorable children. "Okay. I'll teach you."

The four of them started to prepare lunch in the kitchen.

Lucian watched them for a while and felt his heart skip a beat. He could not help but go to the kitchen and join in.

“Mr. Farwell?”

Catalina was filled with surprise when she saw Lucian walk into the kitchen.

However, she quickly understood that he was doing it for Roxanne and grinned as she guided them to prepare lunch.

The lunch preparation was chaotic, but the final product was considered acceptable with Catalina’s help.

Catalina helped them pack the food. She then watched them leave with lunch boxes in their hands as she smiled from ear to ear.

It was lunchtime when the four of them arrived at the research institute.

The children stared at Lucian with wide eyes as he gave Roxanne a call.

Not long after, Roxanne appeared at the entrance of the research institute and made her way toward them.

“Why did you change cars?” Roxanne asked casually when she got in the car and noticed its spacious space.

As soon as she said that, the children mysteriously took out a bag. Lucian pressed a button, and soon, a divider fell onto the seat in front of them.

Roxanne was confused.

“Tadah! Mommy, we prepared you lunch!”

Benny struggled to put the bag on the divider. His eyes sparkled in anticipation as he stared at Roxanne.

Roxanne was filled with surprise when she heard what Benny said. She could not help but turn to look at the person beside her.

I’ve already seen how he washes dishes, but it’s hard to imagine him cooking in the kitchen.

Lucian had been so clumsy when making a cake the last time, much less cook.

Lucian sensed her gaze and turned to look out the window calmly.

Roxanne thought it was funny, but she was also excited to know what food they had prepared. She reached over to open the bag and took out the lunchboxes one by one.

Lucian turned around and looked at the opened lunchboxes. A glint of disgust flashed across his eyes.

“Forget it. I should bring you all to a restaurant instead.”

He had always thought he could achieve anything.

However, when faced with the food in front of him, he had to admit that he had zero talent for cooking.

With that, he got ready to start the car.

However, a smile appeared on Roxanne’s lips. Surprise was written on her face as she said, “You guys made all these? You’re awesome!”

Lucian stopped his actions and narrowed his eyes as he stared at her when he heard her say that.

“You don’t need to force yourself. These dishes don’t look appetizing. You can try my cooking again when I’ve made improvements. It’s better if you don’t eat it. You’re tired these days. We should go and eat something good.”

Chapter 1519

Roxanne glanced at the children.

They instantly understood her intention and secretly glanced at the food Lucian had prepared.

“It’s fine. I think you all did quite well. There’s a well-balanced amount of vegetables and meat, especially the chicken salad. I’ve been craving something crisp and refreshing for days!”

With that, Roxanne picked up her fork to taste the chicken salad. She scrunched her eyebrows at the sourness.

Lucian noticed her response and tasted the chicken salad himself. He immediately frowned and said, “I put too much vinegar.”

As soon as he said that, he reached over again to start the engine.

Roxanne quickly stopped him by grabbing his arm. “No, it’s fine. I’ve been wanting to eat something sour for the past few days. It tastes just right for me.”

She then put on an act and asked the children, “Did you guys make this? My babies are so precious. You could even guess my cravings.”

The children were amused by Roxanne and wanted to laugh but had to hold it in. "It was Daddy!"

Roxanne pretended to be surprised as she looked at Lucian.

Naturally, Lucian could tell that they were acting. Displeased, he said, "Didn't I tell you not to force yourself? If it's not good, then it's not good."

Roxanne helplessly stopped her act and breathed, "Although it can't be considered delicious, it's not that bad either. Besides, it's the thought that counts. The food will taste delicious no matter what. If I was the one who made all this food and sent it to you personally, would you not have eaten it?"

Her words rendered him speechless.

Roxanne placed a fork in his hand before putting some food on the children's plates.

"Mm! Benny, the food you made is too salty!"

"Essie's food is too spicy!"

Benny and Estella ate a few mouthfuls of food and began complaining about each other. In the end, they came to a conclusion. "Archie's food is the best! Daddy's chicken salad too!"

Lucian's chicken salad had been chosen as one of the two foods that were edible.

Roxanne's lips curved upward into a smile as she watched the children arguing playfully.

Lucian finally accepted the food on the table. When he heard what the children said, he placed some stir-fried potatoes on Roxanne's plate.

Archie had not eaten much of it, yet half of the stir-fried potatoes were gone.

The children could not protest when they saw their father playing favoritism so openly. They had no choice but to silently eat the sour chicken salad.

Roxanne thought it was funny to see Lucian bully the three children.

"Just eat some of these today. I'll do my best to improve my cooking next time," Lucian said in a deep voice.

Roxanne did not think today's meal was a waste, but she still smiled and nodded when she heard what he said.

It was almost time for Roxanne to return to the research institute after they finished lunch.

Roxanne accompanied them a little longer, but in the end, she still had to return to continue her experiment.

"I'm working overtime this afternoon. You guys should go back first."

She opened the door and got out of the car.

Just as she closed the door, she heard the sound of the door opening and closing. She turned around and saw Lucian walking toward her.

"What's wrong?" she asked in confusion.

Lucian frowned as he looked at her. "How long more will you be busy?"

Roxanne had been working overtime continuously for more than half a month. Lucian was afraid she might exhaust herself.

Roxanne knew he was worried about her. She smiled and comforted him, "There are some leads in the experiment now. It'll be over soon. Don't worry. I can take care of myself."

Lucian's expression darkened as he looked at her much slimmer figure. The thought of wanting to acquire Damaris Group's pharmaceutical company arose once more in his mind.

Chapter 1520

Roxanne noticed his expression darkening and assumed it was because he did not enjoy the lunch earlier, so helplessly, she continued to reassure him.

"It made me very happy that you guys put a lot of effort into helping me prepare lunch. Thank you for that."

However, as soon as her words fell, Lucian put his arms around her waist and kissed her on the lips.

His actions promptly took Roxanne aback, and she instinctively glanced at the car just in time to see the heads of the three children poking out of the window.

"Mommy! We want a kiss too!"

The children's initial guilty expression changed after she noticed them, and they happily swung open the car door and got out.

Roxanne glanced at the calm-looking man in front of her before focusing on the children's expectant expressions. She crouched down and kissed each child individually, the shyness within her vanished because of them.

The children also obediently encircled her neck with their arms and kissed her on the cheek. "Don't forget to take good care of yourself, Mommy!"

Roxanne assented with a smile. After getting up and bidding farewell to Lucian, she turned and entered the research institute.

Although working overtime for two days did leave her feeling a little exhausted, seeing Lucian and the kids earlier had filled her with motivation once more.

Roxanne soon began to continue the morning's research.

However, shortly after she had been working, her phone vibrated.

She glanced at it and discovered that it was a call from Jack.

Roxanne put her experiment on hold to take the call, assuming he was calling for research-related matters.

Jack's voice rang out from the other end of the line. "My apologies, Ms. Jarvis. I've been caught up in other matters for the past two days. Are you very busy there?"

She smiled understandingly at his words. "You need not apologize to me, Mr. Damaris. Given that your family owns such a sizable business, it's understandable for you to be a little busy. I'm managing well with the research over here."

However, Jack still felt apologetic. "I happened to be free today, so if you don't mind, I can come to the research institute to help you."

Roxanne hesitated when she heard that.

"I'm sure you know that the Damaris family is knowledgeable in this aspect. I can spare you some detours and perhaps also offer some suggestions for improvement," he added persuasively.

She naturally hoped that she could develop a new drug with superior efficacy, so she had no reason to refuse after hearing what he said.

"In that case, I'll have to trouble you to come over, then."

Jack merely chuckled before ending the call.

Unbeknownst to Roxanne, Jack had arrived at the research institute a scant step behind Lucian and the children, nearly at the same time.

He had been waiting by the roadside for as long as she had been in Lucian's car and had even witnessed their kiss at the end.

Seeing how close their family was made his blood boil.

Although Roxanne had not initiated the kiss, he could tell by the smile on her face that she had already accepted Lucian's affections.

I cannot accept that! Roxanne is my perfect partner. She must be mine! If I allow her to be together with Lucian, all my previous efforts will be in vain!

Jack's expression darkened with malice at that thought.

After getting out of the car, he adjusted his expression before entering the research institute.

Hence, he was once again sporting an apologetic look by the time he saw Roxanne. "You've lost weight. It looks like you've been too busy of late."

The latter took a quick moment to glance down at herself. Then, with a nonchalant smile, she led him to the entrance of another laboratory.

"After what happened last time, I've redesigned the research facility and divided it into laboratories of varying sizes. I'm working in a compact one-person laboratory. If you don't mind, yours will be next to mine. That'll make it easier for us to communicate."

Chapter 1521

The two were busy until eight at night.

After exiting the laboratory, Jack checked the time and suggested, "It's late now. Let's have a meal together. We haven't seen each other in a while."

However, Roxanne declined apologetically as she was a little worn out, "Let's do that some other day. I'm too tired today."

"I'll send you back, then," he persisted.

At his words, she could not help but recall her previous speculation and felt a bit concerned. "I appreciate your offer, Mr. Damaris, but I drove here. I'll have problems getting to work tomorrow if you send me back, so it's best not to."

After saying that, she continued without giving him a chance to reply, "It's indeed a little late. Let's head out early."

Jack frowned in displeasure when he saw her turning on her heels and followed her to the entrance of the research institute.

Just as Roxanne was about to get in her car, he suddenly spoke. "Oh, by the way, if you have time tomorrow afternoon, come to Damaris Group. We haven't talked much about the profit distribution of the new drug. Now that the research has taken shape, it's time to put this issue on the agenda."

She naturally would not refuse his invitation, so she promptly nodded. "All right. I'll go there on time."

After bidding each other a simple farewell, they got in their respective cars.

Jack's scowl deepened as he watched her drive off slowly.

It's crystal clear how different her attitude is toward Lucian and me. She's wary of me. Lucian must've said something to her! There's no guarantee that she won't completely distance herself from me because of him at a later date. If that happens, we won't have the chance to cooperate again!

As that thought crossed his mind, he glanced maliciously at a box of customized sandalwood incense lying beside him. His mouth formed a sneer as he inhaled the distinct fragrance.

Even if Lucian's words are useful, so what? I've long made my move! Roxanne will never be able to get away from me!

...

On the way home, Roxanne contemplated Jack's behavior during this period of time. She had always thought it was a little odd, but she could not quite put her finger on it.

Even when her car had stopped in front of the mansion, she still could not figure it out.

Roxanne got out of the car absentmindedly, and just as she locked the door, she noticed that the mansion was brightly lit—even her room on the second level was still lit!

When she noticed that, she halted her footsteps abruptly, and a feeling of wariness swept over her.

She was sure she turned off the lights when she left.

Moreover, the children are at Lucian's, so there shouldn't be anyone at home. Even if he brought them back, no one would enter my room!

As Aubree's face appeared in her mind, she instinctively took out her phone, intending to call Lucian.

However, before she could do anything, the door to the mansion suddenly opened.

Archie poked his head out from behind the door.

Only after spotting her did he feel assured to open the door wide. "Why are you not coming in, Mommy."

Roxanne finally felt relieved and looked at the little boy helplessly. "Why are you all back?" she inquired.

Archie's eyes flitted around as he replied in his cute voice, "Daddy won't let us tell. You'll know when you come in and take a look."

She was perplexed by his enigmatic response, and as soon as she entered the house, she noticed the small boxes in the living room.

Benny and Estella were busy packing toys into the boxes.

Chapter 1522

"Mommy!"

Despite the children greeting her enthusiastically when they saw her coming in, they did not run up to welcome her like they usually did, as they were busy organizing their toys.

Roxanne was even more puzzled. "What are you guys doing? If the manor doesn't have enough toys, I can buy more for you. There's no need to take so much trouble to move them around."

Benny shook his head solemnly. "That's not it. It's because we won't be bringing these items back here again since we're moving in with Daddy."

Moving in with Lucian? What does that mean? Don't they already live with him? Why would they need to move their things again?

Roxanne could not help feeling uneasy and stood there at a loss.

I thought it was because the children had found out about their identities and wanted to...

"Daddy is packing up your things upstairs. Go up and have a look!" Benny urged her again.

She abruptly came back to her senses, and shock flashed across her eyes. "What?"

"Don't you want to live with us, Mommy?"

Estella stopped what she was doing and turned to face her mother with a pitiful yet hopeful gaze. "I want to live with you and Daddy. Please move there with us!"

Meeting the little girl's pitiful look, Roxanne could not bring herself to say no, so she could only go upstairs to find Lucian.

"You guys..."

She sighed internally before continuing, "Pack up your toys first. I'll go upstairs and have a look."

The children obediently agreed and continued to pack.

Meanwhile, Roxanne turned around and went upstairs with mixed feelings.

It's a huge deal to get me to move in with him; yet, he didn't even say anything to me and simply brought the kids over to move stuff. This is too much.

The door of her bedroom was open, and at a glance, she could see Lucian packing inside.

His movements were unexpectedly orderly.

However, her face instantly turned red when she saw what was in his hand. She swiftly entered and snatched her undergarment from him.

"Roxanne? You're back."

Lucian seemed to have just noticed her existence, though his expression remained calm as if the person holding her undergarment just now was not him.

While blushing and frowning, Roxanne put her undergarment aside and asked in embarrassment, "What are you doing?"

Lucian looked at her, then looked at the luggage that he had almost done packing. "The children miss you a lot, so I figured I might as well move you over to live with us. That way, I can be at ease too," he said frankly.

Roxanne continued frowning. "I wasn't asking you this."

"I'm sorry." Lucian changed his tune smoothly, "I told the children to pack their things without your approval."

Even though he said that, his face clearly showed no sign that he had realized his mistake, but at least he did apologize for it.

Seeing that, Roxanne had no choice but to accept the reality. She had no idea when it started, but her tolerance for Lucian was lowering infinitely.

Even though he did that, she was not very angry. She merely felt helpless. "I told you that I can take care of myself. Besides, with our current relationship, I'm afraid it's not wise for me to live in the manor."

Lucian frowned. "Why not?"

Roxanne explained, "The online discussion has finally just settled down—"

Before she could finish speaking, Lucian gave her a peck on her lips.

"I'll take care of it. No one would dare to spew nonsense."