

Mission To Remarry Chapter 1523-1554

Chapter 1523

Roxanne frowned, evidently still unconvinced that was a good idea. "I'm not prepared for this..."

Lucian pulled her into his embrace, so they were in close proximity to one another. "You don't have to prepare anything. I'll take good care of you and the children."

With that, he sealed her lips with his to prevent her from refusing him.

After a long while, Roxanne, whose eyes were watery, finally struggled free from his arms when she felt she was on the verge of suffocation.

"I don't know what you have in mind, but I still think that..."

Lucian's gaze darkened. A hint of displeasure surged within him as he sensed she was still concerning herself with that. Nonetheless, he did not let his emotions show and kept a solemn facial expression.

"I don't want to make things difficult for you either, but the kids have been yearning to meet you even in their dreams. Aubree hasn't been caught, so I can never feel safe if you live here alone."

Lucian casually lied to Roxanne as she had not been informed of Aubree's escape.

She wavered when she heard him mentioning the children. The kids miss me. Well, I long to see them too. But... Judging by what Sonya thinks of us, she must already be highly dissatisfied with letting the children stay there. If I also move there, I'm afraid she will immediately chase us out.

At that thought, Roxanne took two steps backward and shook her head bitterly. "We should just forget it. Or else we'll let the children stay with me. I'll spare as much time as possible to care for them."

"I know what you're worried about." He stared intently at her. "Since I've decided to let you stay there, I'll never let you and the kids suffer any grievances. I just need you to have faith in me."

Roxanne's eyes glinted. Looking at the man before her, she couldn't help but be reminded of how Sonya regarded her whenever their eyes met.

The displeasure in Sonya's eyes was apparent when she saw Roxanne at the manor the other day.

Nevertheless, Lucian had indeed stood up for her.

Roxanne was touched as she recalled his gesture.

He grabbed her arm and asked in an undertone, "Are you willing to believe in me?"

The doubt in her eyes gradually dissipated as the grin on her face widened. "We'll do as you say." This day will come sooner or later. Perhaps only by moving into the Farwell residence and interacting further with Sonya can I change her perception toward the kids and me.

Taking in the trusting look on her face, Lucian couldn't stop himself from gently kissing her eyes.

She felt a little uneasy at the thought that they were about to start living together. Thus, she pushed him away and pulled away while forcing herself to stay calm. "It's getting late. Let's hurry up and pack."

He stopped himself as he could sense her nervousness.

Working together, the two finished packing her belongings soon.

When they went downstairs, they noticed the kids had also neatly packed their toys. However, the three children couldn't close the box despite mustering all their strengths because it was overly stuffed.

With their flushed faces, they stared at Lucian and Roxanne pleadingly when the couple descended the stairs.

Roxanne was about to step forward to help, but Lucian had already stridden forward and closed the box without much effort.

The three kids cheered and jovially propped up the box. Then, they moved toward the exit while clumsily pushing a large suitcase.

Roxanne felt elated, taking in their jolly demeanor.

Before she knew it, Lucian had walked up to her and helped her carry the suitcase in her hand. "Let's go."

Chapter 1524

Meanwhile, at the Farwell residence, Catalina gazed at the two people seated on the couch with a troubled look.

Sonya questioned furiously, "Where's Lucian? I heard he allowed the two b*stards to stay in the manor. Is that true?"

Sitting at one side, Elias rubbed his temples. "Regardless of how dissatisfied you may be toward them, they are ultimately still three outsiders. There isn't any reason for you to direct your anger at them. Deal with Lucian alone if you must. The children are innocent."

Hearing his voice, Sonya managed to pull herself together. "If Roxanne hadn't seduced our son, why would he—"

"You're underestimating Lucian and giving Roxanne too much credit." Elias didn't know what to do with Sonya.

Both of them were his loved ones, so he decided not to interfere in the dispute between his son and wife.

Sonya was reluctant to listen to his reasonings, so she instructed Catalina, "Prepare a guest room for us. We'll be staying here for the time being."

Not daring to defy her, Catalina turned around and went upstairs to tidy the guest room while praying inwardly. I hope Ms. Jarvis won't face Sonya's wrath when she returns.

After cleaning the guest room, Catalina reported to Sonya and Elias warily.

"Let's go up and rest," Elias uttered in a deep voice.

Sonya was still fuming with anger. "I can't sleep. You can go upstairs first. I will wait for Lucian to come home and clarify things with him."

Elias sighed upon hearing that. Still, he didn't insist and got up to head upstairs.

Sonya sat on the couch. She sipped on her coffee as her chest heaved vigorously in rage.

Lucian did not make it a point to cover things up when he took Archie and Benny in.

Consequently, that matter became widespread among the elite circle in the following days.

When Sonya heard of that information from an outsider, she hastened over to Lucian's living place angrily wanting to chase Archie and Benny back to where they came from.

She sat in the living room until eleven o'clock at night before finally hearing some movements outside the house.

Sonya immediately fixed her eyes on the door while her facial expression grew tense.

Then, she saw a few bodyguards carrying suitcases into the house.

Lucian, Roxanne, and the kids trailed behind at a fair pace.

Seeing that, Sonya trembled in a fury. “W-What’s the meaning of this?”

She pointed at Roxanne and asked through gritted teeth, “Why are you here at our home so late into the night?”

Lucian didn’t expect his mother would be there. He furrowed his brows and shielded Roxanne behind him. “I told Roxanne to come here. From today onward, they will be staying here in the manor.”

Roxanne stepped forward from behind him and politely greeted Sonya, “Pardon me for the intrusion, Mrs. Farwell.”

“Do not address me like that!” Sonya bellowed. “Stop what you’re doing and send these suitcases back to where they came from!”

Upon hearing that, the bodyguards immediately turned to Lucian to seek the latter’s permission.

Lucian gestured. “Go on.”

The bodyguards continued carrying out their tasks after that.

Sonya’s face turned crimson from rage as she sensed the futility of her words. “Are you turning a deaf ear to my advice? How can you do something as significant as bringing them home without informing us? Do you still have any respect for me and your father?”

Lucian retorted, “Would you have agreed if I talked to you in advance?”

Sonya’s answer was apparent from her silent grimace.

“Why should I make a fool of myself if I had already anticipated your disagreement?”

He uttered firmly, “If you wish for me to inform you of my decisions beforehand, I might as well clear things up now. Since I made up my mind to let them stay here, I will bear the responsibility of caring for them. I’ve already made the necessary preparations. After Roxanne agrees to my marriage proposal, we will proceed with our wedding ceremony at once. I want to declare to everyone that she’s my wife.”

Chapter 1525

Lucian had never brought up the wedding plan to her.

Roxanne was dumbfounded. She glanced at Lucian beside her, as she didn't quite know how to react.

Lucian suddenly grabbed her hand tightly.

Roxanne froze for a second before she lowered her head and squeezed his hand.

Sonya was already upset by her son's words, so seeing the couple's intertwined hands sent a wave of dizziness through her.

"Essie, come over to me."

Since she couldn't convince her son, she turned her attention to Estella. "I'll bring you up to sleep."

Estella shook her head and grabbed the corner of Roxanne's shirt. "I want to be with Mommy."

Sonya took a deep breath as she tried to suppress her anger. "Do you not want Grandma and Grandpa anymore?"

Estella felt a little aggrieved upon hearing that. She observed Lucian's and Roxanne's expressions carefully before saying, "Can't I have it all? Mommy, Daddy, Grandpa, and Grandma."

Everyone felt their hearts lurch when Estella's childish voice rang out.

Sonya's extended hand froze mid-air for a moment before she withdrew it. Knitting her eyebrows, she chose to keep silent.

Lucian stared at her intently. "Mom, you shouldn't say such words to Essie since you know her condition. Essie will always be your granddaughter, and we won't stop her from seeing you. Why do you have to force her like this?"

Knowing that she was at fault for the matter, Sonya cast a worried glance at Estella before snorting. "Since I can't persuade you on this matter, you can go and tell your father yourself."

With that, she looked away and hurried up the stairs huffily.

Catalina walked out after Sonya left. She smiled at Roxanne. "Ms. Jarvis, you're finally back."

Then, she turned to Lucian and stated, "Mr. Farwell, Mrs. Farwell said they are going to stay here for some time."

Lucian nodded indifferently. "I understand. You should go and prepare a guest room for Roxanne."

Catalina cast a troubled look at Lucian and Roxanne as she said, "We've recently done a thorough cleaning of the house, so all the mattresses in the guest rooms are at the dry cleaners. Mr. and Mrs. Farwell are using the only spare mattress now. How about I go and buy one now?"

Roxanne was perplexed, realizing there were no available guest rooms. "You don't need to go out now since it's so late. Why don't I sleep with the children for the night?"

The three children said in unison, "Mommy, there's no space in Essie's room anymore!"

Archie and Benny had been staying in Estella's room since they moved into the manor. They would sleep late every night since they spent a long time playing.

Roxanne was at a loss as to what to do. "Why don't I head back home first? I'll come back another day..."

Lucian immediately asked in his deep voice, "It's so late. How are you getting back home?"

Roxanne did not want to bother anyone. Lucian's voice rang out as she was about to say she was going back on her own.

"I don't feel at ease with you going back by yourself. Rather than making this so troublesome, why don't you stay in my room for the night?"

The truth was Roxanne was afraid he would say that.

She only agreed to move in to spend more time with Sonya and change the latter's opinion of her.

However, she didn't expect Sonya to be so peeved about her moving to the Farwell residence.

If Sonya found out Roxanne was staying in Lucian's room, she would be beyond furious.

Also, he had been wearing his heart on the sleeve these past few days. If they really stayed in the same room the whole night, Roxanne was afraid he might do something.

Chapter 1526 Getting Used To It

Lucian suddenly leaned in to whisper in Roxanne's ear, "I have a couch in my room. You can sleep on the bed, and I will sleep on the couch. You can relax now, right?"

His hot breath tickled Roxanne's ear. Roxanne could feel her ears burning as she glanced at Catalina and the kids, who were standing at the side.

It's good that they didn't seem to hear anything.

"Mommy, you haven't made breakfast for us in a long time..."

Benny stared at her with a pitiful expression as he wanted her to stay desperately.

Meanwhile, Estella clutched the corner of her shirt, not letting her leave.

Although Archie didn't say anything, he looked at her longingly.

Roxanne's heart ached as she looked at the kids. In the end, she agreed to stay.

After seeing that she had agreed to stay, Lucian immediately told the kids, "It's getting late. Your mommy must be very tired, so we should let her rest soon. You guys should go to bed soon."

With that, he pulled Roxanne up the stairs, leaving the kids with Catalina.

Roxanne only managed to shoot the children a smile before she was dragged up the stairs.

Lucian's bedroom was the same as six years ago, with his grey interior. It felt slightly dull and monotonous with all the grey furniture.

Roxanne stood at the entrance, feeling nervous suddenly.

"I instructed them to stick to the model interior design because I was too lazy to put in the effort during renovations. We can make changes gradually if you don't like it."

Lucian's deep voice sounded beside her ears.

Roxanne was moved upon hearing that.

However, Lucian didn't give her time to process her thoughts as he brought her into the room.

Lucian took a blanket from the bed and placed it on the couch the moment he entered the room like he was proving the words he said just now. He behaved like a gentleman.

Roxanne couldn't act too prudish now that he did that.

Moreover, she had slept in this room six years ago.

“I’ll go to the study to do some work. You should rest early.”

Lucian knew it would still be too awkward for her, so he took the initiative to give her some space.

Roxanne shot him an appreciative grin. “Don’t stay up too late.”

Lucian nodded and left the room.

After resting for a while, Roxanne entered the bathroom.

She instantly noticed what Lucian had prepared in the bathroom. There were two sets of toiletries, and he even prepared feminine hygiene products for her.

A wave of emotion rippled through her heart when he thought of how Lucian must have felt when preparing them.

After showering, she walked out of the bathroom to find a set of brand-new pajamas on the bed.

Lucian must have specially prepared this too.

It was an extremely soft grey silk nightgown, accentuating her fair-skinned complexion. Roxanne didn’t give much thought to it as she immediately changed into it and lay in bed.

She was exhausted from working overtime and moving house in one day.

Although she hadn’t slept on this bed since six years ago, she could still fall asleep the moment her head touched the pillow.

She was about to fall asleep when she heard the door slowly open.

Roxanne opened her eyes to see Lucian walking into the room.

His steps were light as he was trying not to wake her up.

“You’re back,” Roxanne said instinctively. She was rather touched by his sweet gesture.

Chapter 1527 Agrees To Move In

Lucian stopped in his tracks upon hearing Roxanne’s voice. He made a turn and walked toward the bed.

His gaze turned dark as he regarded the groggy woman with her exposed shoulders.

Roxanne mumbled blearily, "What's wrong? You should go and shower so that you can rest soon."

Lucian's breathing got heavier as he gazed at her innocent demeanor. However, he was trying his best to suppress his desire.

If Roxanne was awake at this moment, she would definitely notice something was wrong and avoid such a situation deftly.

Nonetheless, not only did she not notice anything then, but she was also looking up at him without much thought, revealing her bare neck.

Not getting a reply from Lucian, Roxanne decided to snuggle back into her blanket.

Suddenly, Lucian leaned down to plant a kiss on her face.

Roxanne froze for a few seconds. Her drowsiness vanished instantly when she realized what he was doing.

He was already on his way to the bathroom when she turned to look at him, leaving her hanging. She was wide awake now, as any semblance of drowsiness had vanished after his kiss.

Compared to what Lucian had done to her these past few days, this kiss actually means nothing to her.

Nevertheless, it held significant meaning to her, probably because she was lying on the bed she had laid in six years ago.

Roxanne was still wide awake when Lucian walked out of the bathroom.

She instinctively turned to look at him when she heard the door of the bathroom opening.

His hair was still dripping wet as he donned grey pajamas. They looked like they were wearing a set of couple pajamas.

Upon realizing that, Roxanne's face flushed crimson, and she naturally pulled up her blanket to hide her clothes.

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

Seeing that, Roxanne was stunned, but she tried to keep her composure and smiled at him.

“Are you still not sleeping yet?” Lucian’s gaze was gentle.

Roxanne nodded slightly, then she glanced away guiltily when she saw his exposed torso. “I can’t seem to sleep.”

Lucian chuckled and asked her matter-of-factly, “Then, you can come and dry my hair for me.”

A crease appeared between Roxanne’s brows. After a moment of hesitation, she pulled the blanket away and got up.

Lucian already took the hair dryer and walked over to the bed.

Roxanne sat beside him and started drying his hair with the hair dryer.

A look of surprise flashed across Roxanne’s eyes when Lucian’s hair felt cool to the touch.

It was a serene and soothing atmosphere since the two didn’t start a conversation with one another. There was only the sound of the hair dryer in the room.

“It’s done.”

After a while, Roxanne reached out to touch his hair to check whether it was dry.

Lucian quickly grabbed ahold of it before she could do so, and his touch scorched her skin.

Roxanne instinctively tried to retract her hand. Her other hand naturally switched off the hair dryer. She stood rooted to the spot under Lucian’s penetrating gaze. Lucian stared intently at her, stating, “You could have rejected me if you wanted to just now.”

Roxanne furrowed her brows when she heard that.

In reality, she had already predicted what would have happened if she agreed to stay in Lucian’s room.

However, she still agreed to stay in his room.

Chapter 1528 Wakes Up Late

She could have also rejected Lucian’s request to help him dry his hair.

However, his tone was so natural, as if it was normal for her to do so.

We are sleeping in the same room. He prepared couple pajamas for us, and I dried his hair using the hair dryer...

For some reason, Roxanne couldn't find any reason to reject him.

Lucian had prepared everything too perfectly.

With that, everything happened naturally without obstructions.

...

The next morning, Roxanne felt as though her body was on the verge of crumbling down.

She looked at the time and realized it was eight in the morning. It's one hour later than the alarm that I set.

Roxanne endured the pain in her joints as she took out her phone to look at the alarm.

She noticed her alarm had already gone off. Lucian had obviously turned off the alarm for her while she was sleeping.

Roxanne sat up on the bed. The aching pain in her waist made her scowl.

They had been too wild last night...

Catalina's voice rang out from outside the room just as she was about to get out of bed. "Ms. Jarvis, are you awake?"

Roxanne put her hand to her forehead. Any adult will know what we did last night since I woke up late.

She answered, "What's wrong?"

Cotolino responded, "Mr. Forwell told me to wake you up at eight. Breakfast is ready. You can head downstairs to eat now!"

Roxanne agreed and washed up quickly, despite her aching body.

After a while, she walked out of the bedroom to find Cotolino waiting for her outside the entrance.

"Where's Lucian?" Roxanne asked in confusion.

Knowing Lucian, he would have personally woken her up in the morning.

Cotolino answered helplessly, "Mr. Elias woke up early in the morning and informed Mr. Farwell that there was work to be handled in the office. Mr. Farwell couldn't refuse him, so he left."

Mr. Elias woke up already?

Roxanne furrowed her brows. "Where is he now?"

Cotolino replied, "He's downstairs."

As they were talking, the two reached the stairs.

Roxanne could hear the children playing downstairs, and she couldn't help but feel slightly uneasy.

Will Elias have a negative impression of the children if he is downstairs and the kids are playing so vociferously?

Roxanne instantly quickened her pace at that thought.

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Suddenly, she heard Benny say in a childish voice, "Grandpa, you did it wrongly here! You should put it like this! You should look at the instructions!"

Elias' voice followed right after. "Oh, I see. I have never done this before, so I'm not very familiar with it. I understand it now."

Upon hearing their conversation, Roxanne was befuddled and she quickened her footsteps.

When she finally made her way downstairs, the scene of Elias playing Lego with the three kids greeted her.

When Roxanne saw Benny hugging Elias, it sent her into a panic. She quickly called out, "Archie, Benny!"

Even though they heard Roxanne's voice, the children still had no intention of leaving Elias. Instead, they just turned to smile and greet her.

"Mommy! You woke up so late! I had no one to play with me! Luckily, Grandpa was up!"

Roxanne's cheeks turned pink when she heard the children say this in front of Elias. She tried to make up an excuse. "I woke up a long time ago, but I was on a call upstairs!"

Then, she turned to greet Elias meekly, "Mr. Farwell, good morning."

Elias smiled and nodded at her.

Chapter 1529 Meager Amount Of Money

Roxanne was touched when she saw how kind Elias was to her but swiftly put her guard up in case she lost her composure.

"Did you not get a good night's sleep yesterday? You look pale?" Elias asked out of concern.

Roxanne stiffened as she recalled yesterday night's events. "I'm still getting used to this place since I just returned. I didn't manage to get a good night's sleep yesterday, plus, work has been busy. I'll be fine in the next two days."

Elias nodded his head in acknowledgment. "Work is important, but your health matters too, Young Lady."

With that, he lowered his head and gave Estella, Benny, and Archie a look. "Come and eat. Stop playing."

The kids obediently nodded their heads. "Okay, Grandpa!"

Elias smiled in delight when he heard the kids calling him Grandpa.

Even though Sonya was always complaining about Archie and Benny to him, he thought they were cute and likable.

Roxanne heaved a sigh of relief when she saw how fond Elias was of Archie and Benny.

"Who said you can call him Grandpa?"

Sonya suddenly came down the stairs and glared at them petulantly.

The faces of Roxanne, Archie, and Benny clouded over.

Sonyo wouldn't even spare them a glance as she made her way down and toward Elias.

"You should set some boundaries no matter how fond you are of the kids. Grandpa Forwell is still on option. But how could you allow them to call you Grandpa? Only Essie is entitled to that. We only have one granddaughter in the Forwell family, and that's Essie."

She made it clear that she was displeased with Elias condoning such behavior.

However, Roxanne knew that she was actually reprimanding Archie and Benny for crossing the line.

She clenched her fists when she saw how disappointed her two kids looked, and she wanted to object.

Nevertheless, she held back when she recalled the reason she had agreed to stay, and instead, she simply pulled Archie and Benny over to her side.

Elias, on the other hand, defended Archie and Benny, saying, "They're still young. You're being too hard on them. It's just a form of address. They can call me whatever they want."

Sonya stared at him in disbelief. "What do you mean it's just a form of address? You know very well what this means!"

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Elias effectively ended the conversation as he sat down at the dining table, saying, "The food is getting cold. Come and eat."

Sonya had to swallow her frustration as she sat down beside him with a scowl.

When she noticed Roxanne, Archie, and Benny sitting across from her, she couldn't help but mutter to herself, "Why are we treating them like family when they clearly aren't? They're just going to fight over our inheritance when they grow up."

Sonya had lost her composure and was acting out during the meal, displaying her anger as if she was afraid no one knew she was upset.

Roxanne couldn't help but speak up in response. "Rest assured, Mrs. Farwell, that the three of us won't spend a single cent of the Farwells' money while we're here. If you don't mind, I can transfer the money over to you right away."

Sonya felt as if she was being ridiculed and responded, "Do we look like we care about such a meager amount of money?"

Roxanne met her gaze and said, "I know you're not that petty, so just treat us like your guests while we're here. I'm pretty sure this is not how you would normally treat your guests."

Chapter 1530 Can We Call You Grandpa

Despite her attempt to tone down her tone, Roxanne's voice remained cold and harsh when it came to matters related to Archie and Benny.

Sonya was left speechless, her fork hanging mid-air as she paused to process what was said. Finally, she spoke up, "Well, I hope you'll look after your sons and ensure they don't address Elias however they want."

Benny looked at Roxanne before turning to Sonya and defending his mother without any hesitation. "But Grandpa is very happy when we address him as such. We can address you in another way since you don't like us calling you Grandma."

Sonya turned red with anger at Benny's remark, knowing he was right.

The dinner table was suddenly heavy with tension.

Roxanne was taken aback by Benny's comment but acknowledged that he was right. After all, Elias and Sonya were their grandparents in reality.

Instead of calling Benny out for ridiculing his grandmother, she gave Elias an apologetic look.

Elias nodded reassuringly, "Let's calm down and enjoy our meal. We're adults, so we shouldn't let kids' words get the best of us."

After that, Elias served some food to Sonya's plate to calm her down. "Relax. After breakfast, I'll take you out shopping. Didn't you mention that you liked a particular bag lost time?"

A combination of different emotions played across Sonya's face as she stared at the food Elias served her.

"Hmph. You're taking their side," she grumbled. "I can't eat this meal anymore. You can continue eating if you like."

She then shot Roxanne a cold glare before heading upstairs.

After a while, Sonya came back downstairs dressed in different clothes and quickly left the house.

"I apologize for interrupting your meal, Mr. Farwell," Roxanne said apologetically.

Elias waved her away and turned to Catalina. "Send someone to look after Sonya. Buy her anything she wants and keep me informed of her whereabouts at all times."

Catalina nodded and immediately assigned tasks to the staff.

"Don't mind her. She's just stubborn. She'll treat you well eventually when she comes around. Just look at how she treated Aubree in the past six years."

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"Don't mind her. She's just stubborn. She'll treat you well eventually when she comes around. Just look at how she treated Aubree in the past six years."

After making sure Sonya was taken care of, Elias spoke up for her.

Roxanne acknowledged Elias' words with a nod. "I understand."

She just didn't know when Sonya would see them in a different light.

“Gran...” Benny stopped mid-sentence and gave it some thought before asking in cautious tones. “Grandpa Farwell, can we still address you as Grandpa?”

Even though he had ridiculed Sonya brazenly just now, he couldn't help but feel guilty now that she had left in anger.

Roxanne's heart ached for Benny when she heard his tone and turned to Elias nervously as well, worried that he would say no.

However, Elias seemed to be taken aback by Benny's question. He stared at him for a few seconds before replying with a smile. “Of course, you can. I've always wanted a grandson. You two make up for my regret as you are so well-behaved.”

Roxanne heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing his words and shot Elias a grateful look.

“Grandpa!” Archie and Benny called out in delight upon receiving Elias' affirmative answer.

Chapter 1531 The Reason

After finishing his breakfast, Elias smiled at them before getting up to leave, probably to meet Sonya.

The three children were not done eating. Hence, Roxanne stayed back and accompanied them.

Roxanne attempted to communicate with her kids and said, “In the future, try your best not to argue with Mrs. Farwell and do your best to make her like you.”

However, she soon realized that she might be asking too much of her children.

After all, even she couldn't bear listening to Sonya's overbearing remarks sometimes. How could she expect her children to put up with it?

“We understand.” Archie nodded. “Don't worry, Mommy. Benny just thought that Mrs. Farwell had gone overboard just now and couldn't help himself. Besides, he was right.”

Benny nodded matter-of-factly when he saw that Archie was siding with him. “Since Mrs. Farwell doesn't like us addressing her as Grandma, we won't do it!”

Estella nodded seriously as well, showing her support for her brothers.

Seeing how determined her children were, Roxanne couldn't help but smile before turning to look at Estella seriously.

“Essie, your brothers are allowed to not address her like that, but not you.”

The little girl nodded obediently.

Roxanne knew that her boys had done nothing wrong. So, she said nothing and continued to have breakfast with them.

Lucion's call came in right then.

Roxanne took out her phone and looked at the caller ID before instinctively glancing at her children.

The three of them knew what Roxanne was getting at and continued to eat breakfast silently as if they could hear nothing.

Noticing their reaction, Roxanne didn't have the heart to keep it from them and took the call right before them.

"You're up?"

Lucion's voice was laced with concern and a hint of a smile.

Roxanne's face went crimson. However, realizing that her children were right in front of her, she tried to stay cool and said, "We're having our breakfast."

Lucion let out a soft sigh. "I'm sorry. I had wanted to accompany you in the morning, but there's an urgent task at work, and I had no other choice but to come over here first."

Afterward, he shifted his attention to Roxanne's health and asked, "How are you feeling? Do you feel unwell anywhere?"

Roxanne decided to keep her condition from him and begrudgingly said, "No. I'm all right."

How could she say that her back almost broke in front of her children?

Lucion appeared to be quite disappointed by the answer. "Really? It seems like I've got to work harder."

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Roxanne immediately lowered the volume of her speaker and steered the topic. "If you have nothing else, I think that's it for now. The kids are not done eating yet."

Sensing her undertones, Lucian let out a chortle. "I just want to know what you think after last night, and I'm wondering if you will run back home when I'm not around."

Last night, he restrained himself in every possible way because he was afraid of scaring Roxanne and making her retreat into her shell.

He continued to worry after arriving at the office this morning. Hence, he quickly called her after the meeting was done.

Roxanne appeared hesitant when answering him. "... I do want to go back, but it's not because of what happened last night."

The first part of her reply made him furrow his brows. However, he was relieved after hearing that it was not because of last night. Perplexed, he asked, "Why, then?"

Roxanne cast a glance at Archie and Benny. She got up and headed toward the living room. In a low voice, she explained, "Mrs. Farwell doesn't like Archie and Benny, and my presence is only going to make matters worse. I just hope that they can get along well. So, I don't think it's appropriate for me to continue staying at the manor."

Chapter 1532 I Am Right

Upon hearing the woman's concerns, Lucian's eyes softened, and he reassured her in a deep, comforting voice, "You don't need to worry about that. I've discussed this with them. They will leave soon."

Roxanne was taken aback by his reply. "When? What did you say to them?"

Lucian didn't answer her questions and merely replied, "They've always stayed at the Farwell main residence. So it will be more convenient for them if they go back there. Staying together with us is only going to make things difficult for them."

Noticing his reluctance to answer her question, Roxanne decided against pressing on. However, she felt something didn't quite add up and said, "But, I'm the outsider. If you ask them to go back because of me—"

"We're going to be a family if you agree to my proposal," Lucian interjected. "As for my mom and dad, you don't need to worry about them holding grudges against you. I'll deal with that."

Roxanne backed down when he brought up the proposal again. "I believe that you will..."

Then, she lifted her gaze to look at the time and said sheepishly, "It's getting late. I should head to the research institute now. You should continue with your work too."

Lucian didn't want to force a reply out of her and hummed a response, waiting for her to hang up.

Roxanne let out a relieved sigh after watching the phone screen go dark. After greeting Cotoh and telling her to take good care of the children, she changed into her work clothes and headed to the research institute.

After the discussion and research session with Jock yesterday, they were only one step away from the final formulation of the new drug.

They only needed one more day to finalize it.

Roxanne threw the unpleasant incident in the morning to the back of her mind at the thought of her work.

She realized that Jock had already been waiting when she arrived at the research institute.

"Mr. Domoris."

Jock's attitude toward her had taken a roller coaster recently. However, Roxanne decided to treat him as no more than a work partner.

Since the collaboration was led by Damaris Group this time, Jack was actually her superior now.

Hence, Roxanne felt guilty that she was caught getting late to work by her boss.

Jack's eyes darkened at the sight of the faint hickey on her neck. However, he suppressed his fury and greeted Roxanne with a smile.

"You must be tired from the overtime work these days, Ms. Jarvis, so it's good for you to get some rest. Since you're already here, let's get on with the final step. I really hope we can succeed this time."

Roxanne let out a relieved sigh after watching the phone screen go dark. After greeting Catalina and telling her to take good care of the children, she changed into her work clothes and headed to the research institute.

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"You must be tired from the overtime work these days, Ms. Jarvis, so it's good for you to get some rest. Since you're already here, let's get on with the final step. I really hope we can succeed this time."

Roxanne nodded and regained her composure. She changed into her lab coat and walked into the laboratory.

The two of them worked separately, and after working for one whole morning, Roxanne finally had a breakthrough.

“I think... I’ve done it.”

It was not easy for them to succeed. Adding on top of the fact that there had been many failures along the way, Roxanne was especially careful this time.

Jack heard her and quickly went to her direction.

The two of them tested the efficacy of the medicine.

Upon testing it on lab mice, it was found that Roxanne’s new medicine managed to reduce the activity of the cancer cells in them!

“We did it!”

Jack grabbed Roxanne’s shoulder and tapped on it. “I knew my judgment was right. I knew you could do it!”

At the same time, he vowed to make Roxanne his woman.

A medical genius like Roxanne was born for the Damaris family, and she could only realize her true potential if she married him.

Hence, Jack knew he would never give her up, no matter what it took.

Chapter 1533 Lobbying

Roxanne was rather offended by his sudden body contact, and the smile on her face became dark. She lowered her eyes and stepped back, slowly moving away from his hand.

Jack frowned for a moment when he felt her uneasiness. He quickly removed his hand and pretended nothing had happened.

“The research institute played a huge part in successfully developing the new medication. How about this? Lunch is on me today, plus everyone will receive a cash reward from me this month!” Jack’s words made it sound like he was closely related to the research institute.

Roxanne felt he was slightly crossing the line and wanted to decline him. But the employees were already cheering. Thus, she thought it would not be nice to spoil the atmosphere.

"Mr. Damaris is so generous!"

"Thank you, Mr. Damaris. We will definitely work harder from now onwards!"

One by one, the research institute staff began to offer Jack words of flattery.

Roxanne felt slightly annoyed as she watched their admiration for Jack.

"Well, I hope everyone will give me the honor. Let's carpool and set off now, shall we?" Jack grinned from ear to ear, looking all enthusiastic.

He then reached out and wanted to hold Roxanne's arm. "If you don't mind, Ms. Jarvis, you can take my car!"

Roxanne turned sideways, avoiding his hand. She had an awkward smile on her face. "I think we should first discuss our profit-sharing model."

Jock arched his brow, seemingly uninterested in what she said. "What's the hurry? This isn't our first collaboration, don't you trust me? Please don't worry for I'll ensure the research institute gets what it deserves. Let's not talk about work on such a joyous occasion. We should relax and take a break!"

While he was speaking, a few employees had begun to make their way out.

Roxanne was unhappy, but she could only agree. "All right, let's go then. I'll drive my car so that I can help to fetch some people."

With that, she called a few staff who did not drive and left with them.

Jock watched Roxanne's retreating figure and then lowered his eyes. His gaze turned grim as he looked at his hand, which she had rejected twice.

It was noon when the group reached the hotel where Jock made reservations.

"Mr. Damaris is such a rich and generous man. He actually reserved the best hotel in Harington for our celebration," one of the employees complimented with a smile.

Jock was walking alongside Roxanne when he heard the compliment. He smiled and waved a dismissive hand. "All of you are important contributors. It's only fitting that I choose the best. Enjoy yourselves, and don't stand on ceremony with me."

Jack arched his brow, seemingly uninterested in what she said. "What's the hurry? This isn't our first collaboration, don't you trust me? Please don't worry for I'll ensure the research institute gets what it deserves. Let's not talk about work on such a joyous occasion. We should relax and take a break!"

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Jack arranged for a feast at the top level of the hotel. Delicious food and wine were served, and soothing live music enhanced the atmosphere.

Several staff were excited as it was their first time having a meal in such a luxurious place.

Throughout the meal, people came to give Jack a toast to thank him for the treat. After toasting Jack, they turned to Roxanne, wanting to give her a toast too.

Roxanne rejected all offers, saying that she was not feeling well.

"Enjoy yourselves, everyone. Today's celebration is the first, and for sure, not the last. There'll be plenty of opportunities for us to collaborate. I promise our subsequent celebrations will be grander with each successful collaboration!" Jack raised his wine glass and said to everyone.

Sounds of cheers erupted as soon as Jack finished speaking.

Roxanne should be ecstatic about the successful development of the new medication. But as she sat and watched how Jack acted like he was the protagonist of the success story, she could not bring herself to feel happy.

The way Jack behaved did not look like he was celebrating. He was trying to win over everyone's hearts.

Outsiders might get the impression that Jack was the person in charge of the research institute.

Chapter 1534 Could Not Wait Any Longer

"What's wrong? I notice that you did not drink any wine."

Jack suddenly looked at the person beside him and asked concernedly, "Are you unwell? What's the matter? Would you like me to take a look?"

As he spoke, his hand reached out to take Roxenne's wrist.

Roxenne pursed her lips and put on a weak smile. "There's no need. I'm a little tired as I did not sleep well last night. Please carry on and have fun with them. I'll take a rest for a while."

She calmly retreated and avoided contact with Jack. She gave a light nod before turning around to leave.

Displeasure hit Jack as he stared at her back.

The hickey on her neck was the answer to why she did not sleep well last night! I can't wait any longer! I must make a move quickly!

After leaving the banquet, Roxenne headed to the nearby cafe for coffee and relaxation.

But at the thought of Jack's recent attitude, she felt annoyed again.

Just then, a message came from Lucien asking about her. How are you feeling? Go home and rest if you are tired. The research institute matters can be settled some other time.

Roxenne felt warm when she saw his care and concern. But she could not help being grouchy in her reply as she was upset with Jack's behavior. So, you know I'll be tired today, huh... But it's okay. The medication was successfully developed, and we're celebrating outside now.

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Lucian frowned slightly as he saw Roxanne's reply. He texted back. Is Jack there too?

Roxanne became more frustrated when Jack was mentioned. He's the one who initiated the celebration. I couldn't reject him as the staff in the research institute were in high spirits.

Roxanne's reply clearly showed her displeasure toward Jack, though she did not directly say so.

Lucian, however, was concerned about something else. Did you drink?

Roxanne pulled a face and replied. They're drinking, but I'm not in the mood.

As soon as she sent the message, Lucian called.

Roxanne answered it.

"What's the matter? Are you unwell? Do you want me to go over and fetch you?"
Lucian's voice was warm and caring.

Roxanne sighed softly. "I was a bit uncomfortable in the morning, but I'm much better now."

Hearing that, Lucian furrowed his brows puzzledly. "What's wrong then? Is it because of my mother? What did she say to you again?"

Not wanting Lucian to misunderstand, Roxanne hurriedly explained, "It's not that. It's because of Jack..."

Roxanne could not help feeling upset as she brought up the topic.

She could not do anything much to an outsider who was getting close to her employees. She felt a loss of authority as the person in charge of the research institute. This made her look bad as a leader.

Lucien became unhappy when he heard Jack was upsetting Roxanne. "What is Jack up to now? Don't be bothered by him. I can see that he's caring toward you, but it remains to be seen whether he has ulterior motives."

Roxanne still felt discouraged. She hesitantly asked Lucien, "Am I incompetent at managing staff? It seemed like the research institute became a mess after Colby left."

She was doing some self-reflection while drinking coffee earlier.

The truth was she was a relatively new member of the research institute; thus, she did not know the employees well. Furthermore, she focused solely on her research and neglected her relations with her colleagues.

In the past, Colby helped her maintain relations with the employees. After Colby was caught, she started drifting apart from them.

That was the reason why Jack was able to win their hearts so easily.

Lucien's expression turned solemn when he heard that. "Why did you say so?"

Roxanne felt a bit embarrassed to speak her thoughts. But she managed to find the courage to do so, as Lucien was the audience.

"I felt that during this period, the employees hit it off better with Jack than me. The situation looks like he's the person in charge instead of me."

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Chapter 1535 What Do You Think

Needless to say, Lucien instantly noticed the discontent and guilt laced in Roxanne's voice.

"Jack even said he'd issue bonuses to my staff in his name. I had already considered doing it myself, but he beat me to the announcement. After that, I was just too embarrassed to turn him down... Will the staff think that Jack treats them better than I do? Then again, our research institute is only collaborating with Demeris Group..." the latter muttered.

She hadn't been able to shake off the nagging feeling that something was off, so she had no choice but to discuss it with Lucien.

After hearing Roxanne's worries, the man softened his gaze and comforted her, "You haven't done anything wrong. He's the one who has crossed the line. Your talent and passion lie in the medical field, so there's no need to worry about the management aspect. Feel free to come to me if you ever need any assistance. I'll be your advisor."

"What should I do now, then?" Roxanne asked, knowing she could rely on Lucien.

Naturally, the man was more than happy to help. "Have you guys ironed out the profit-sharing agreement?"

"I told him we should talk about that first, but he turned it down," Roxanne replied as she shook her head.

"In that case, you should find an opportunity to draft a detailed profit-sharing contract. Make sure all the terms and conditions are clearly stated. If you're still worried, I can check the draft when you're done."

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"In that case, you should find an opportunity to draft a detailed profit-sharing contract. Make sure all the terms and conditions are clearly stated. If you're still worried, I can check the draft when you're done."

"Sure. I'll let him know as soon as possible," Roxanne piped up, sounding much more relaxed now that she had Lucian's advice and support. "I'm sorry I have to trouble you again."

Lucian chuckled. "It's an honor to serve you."

Seeing Roxanne become wary of Jack suits me just fine. It sure beats seeing them getting closer and closer. After all, I'm the only one she needs.

"However, I'd still like to manage the company myself. Can you teach me if you have the time?" Roxanne asked cautiously.

Lucian has been single-handedly managing Farwell Group all these years, so there's no doubt his management skills are top-notch. It'd certainly be a weight off my shoulders if he's willing to guide me.

To Roxanne's delight, Lucian agreed to it without hesitation. "I'll do my best! Additionally, your secretary can also learn a thing or two from Cayden. You didn't have many managerial opportunities while overseas, and I don't think she has any experience, either. Therefore, it'd be good for her to learn from Cayden and help relieve some of your burdens."

Roxenne nodded her head in agreement. "Yes. I'll talk to her about it."

The couple then went on to chat about the contract details when a commotion suddenly broke out at the door. With that, Roxenne promptly ended the conversation with Lucian and hung up her phone.

The next second, Jack appeared in the cafe, reeking of alcohol.

"How are you feeling?" he asked as he strode in and sat near Roxenne.

After glancing at the closed door and the tipsy Jack, Roxenne immediately put her guard up. "I'm much better now. Thanks for your concern, Mr. Demeris."

In response, Jack smiled and casually undid his two collar buttons, his gaze shifting from the erome lamp in the room to Roxenne.

Feeling flustered by being stared at so intensely, the latter forced herself to stay calm and changed the topic to something work-related. "I'd like to confirm the terms of our cooperation now, Mr. Demeris. What do you think?"

Unfortunately, Jack refused to play along. "I've had a bit to drink tonight, so discussing such important matters wouldn't be appropriate. Besides, didn't I say tonight is for us to relax and have fun? Let's talk about work another time!"

Roxanne nodded her head in agreement. "Yes. I'll talk to her about it."

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Chapter 1536 Detached

Roxenne furrowed her brows.

In the past, Jack and I had only ever talked about work or medical matters when we hung out together, so what's with this change? Argh. I don't want to talk about anything else but our collaboration!

"In that case, let's go over the content first. We can draw up the contract another day," Roxenne suggested, still with a polite smile on her face.

In Jack's drunken haze, he frowned and slammed his hand down on the table. "Is that all we can talk about between us?"

As Roxenne met Jack's gaze in silence, alarm bells began ringing in her head. "We're partners, aren't we? Shouldn't we be talking about work?"

"Are you saying we can only be coworkers, Ms. Jervis?" Jack retorted as his eyes glowed with anger.

Even though it was an ambiguous question, it didn't take long before Roxenne guessed what the man was getting at. That, however, left her utterly perplexed.

Huh? All this while, I've treated Jack like a colleague, so why would he develop such feelings for me?

Just as Roxenne began to doubt her judgment, Jack's voice rang out, albeit with a note of bitterness.

"Since I first saw you at the medical consultation, I've had a lot of admiration for you. Not only was I in awe of your medical skills, but I was also touched by how much you cared for the young and old. Whenever we met, I always asked myself how great it'd be if I could have an incredible woman like yourself by my side. It'd be even better if I could shower you with love."

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Upon hearing that and seeing the fondness in Jack's eyes, Roxanne reeled in shock.

I can't believe Jack has romantic feelings for me! When did that happen? Why have I never noticed that before?

After stealing another peek at the closed door, Roxanne turned her attention back to the drunk man. "You've had too much to drink, Mr. Damaris. I'll pretend not to have heard any of this."

"I'm not drunk. I meant every word I said!" Jack said affectionately.

Alas, when he tried to grab Roxanne's hand, the latter dodged him by taking her cup of coffee and pretending to sip from it.

Needless to say, Jack was dismayed. "I was attracted to your professionalism and gentleness toward all living things, and I've always thought that we made a great match. Think about it. Aren't I the best person to discuss medical-related matters with?"

By then, Roxanne was so stunned that she couldn't stop her hand from trembling.

No wonder it feels like Jack's attitude has been getting increasingly strange. I can't believe it's because of this...

"I know you have two kids, so you have more factors to consider when choosing a partner," Jack continued sincerely. "Trust me. You have nothing to worry about because I adore them. As long as you're willing to be with me, I'll love them as my own! E-Even if they're your children with Lucien, I wouldn't mind one bit!"

After hearing Jack mention Archie and Benny's parentage, Roxanne tightened her grip around her cup and glanced at him.

The next second, however, she quickly regained her composure. Wait a minute... He brought that up only because he had read the public statement issued by Farwell Group a while back. Okay. I feel better knowing that...

With that, Roxanne set her cup down and stared calmly at the man before her. When she finally spoke, her voice was cold and detached. "I appreciate your kindness, Mr. Damaris. However, I've only ever regarded you as a great coworker and business partner. I'm afraid I can't reciprocate your feelings. If you wish to continue our partnership, please don't bring this matter up again."

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Chapter 1537 We Did Not Make Any Progress

A cold look flashed past Jack's eyes when he heard her reject him firmly, but he was quick to suppress it.

"I'm serious about this, Roxanne. We need to date each other if we want to truly maximize our potential. Don't you want to develop your career in the medical field?" Jack pleaded earnestly with an expectant look in his eyes.

However, his ambitious confession only scared Roxanne even more. "I do want to develop my career, but not like this! You've had too much to drink, Mr. Damaris. Let's end this conversation here."

Roxanne was about to get up and leave when Jack let out a wry chuckle. "I knew it... I knew you would reject me, Roxanne. I just didn't think you'd do so without at least giving me a chance. Is being with me really that bad? I don't even know how Lucian is better than me."

Roxanne closed her eyes and calmed herself down before replying coldly, "This has nothing to do with Lucian. I simply don't have feelings for you. Still, I would like to thank you for not resorting to nasty methods like Colby did."

She then walked right out of the door without looking back.

Jack narrowed his eyes as he watched her disappear from sight. He then grabbed a handful of coffee beans and stuffed them into his mouth. The look in his eyes cleared up a little as he chewed on the coffee beans.

A cold look flashed past Jack's eyes when he heard her reject him firmly, but he was quick to suppress it.

"I'm serious about this, Roxanne. We need to date each other if we want to truly maximize our potential. Don't you want to develop your career in the medical field?" Jack pleaded earnestly with an expectant look in his eyes.

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I thought this would be all I needed to do to make Roxanne a part of my family, but it seems I was wrong. Roxanne won't comply unless I use force. I can't believe she actually thanked me for not using nasty methods like Colby! I gave you a chance to make a choice, Roxanne, so don't blame me for what I might do in the future!

Jack had an icy-cold look on his face as he stared at the steaming pot of coffee on the table.

Roxanne waved goodbye at the staff, who had yet to leave, as she walked out of the cafe.

I don't know how I'll face Jack after saying all of those things to him! Our partnership is still ongoing, so I can't turn my back on him just yet.

After making her way downstairs with a worried frown on her face, Roxanne noticed a Bentley with a familiar-looking license plate parked nearby.

The window slowly rolled down as she shifted her gaze toward it, and Lucian's face came into view a few seconds later.

"What are you doing here?"

Feeling relieved, Roxanne quickly made her way over.

Lucian got out of the car and opened the door for her like a chivalrous gentleman. "I knew you came here to see Jack, so I have to make a move as well," he replied in the most matter-of-fact tone possible.

Hed this conversetion teken plect in the pest, Roxenne would've told Lucien that he wes overreecting.

However, efter heering whet Jeck seid eerlier, she felt that he hed come et just the right time.

"I'm gled to see that you weren't lying when you told me you didn't drink," Lucien seid es he closed her cer door end mede his wey over to the driver's seet.

Roxenne recalled what happened earlier when he started the car, but she didn't feel like talking about it.

Lucien had noticed something off about her the moment she stepped out the door earlier.

Realizing that his words didn't exactly cheer her up, Lucien's expression gradually grew solemn as he asked, "What happened? Did your conversation with Jack turn unpleasant?"

The look on Roxanne's face changed the moment she heard him mention Jack. Unsure of what to tell him, she decided to brush it off as casually as possible.

"He refused to talk about work, so we didn't make any progress with the negotiation."

Had this conversation taken place in the past, Roxanne would've told Lucien that he was overreacting.

However, after hearing what Jack said earlier, she felt that he had come at just the right time.

"I'm glad to see that you weren't lying when you told me you didn't drink," Lucien said as he closed her car door and made his way over to the driver's seat.

Roxanne recalled what happened earlier when he started the car, but she didn't feel like talking about it.

Lucien had noticed something off about her the moment she stepped out the door earlier.

Realizing that his words didn't exactly cheer her up, Lucien's expression gradually grew solemn as he asked, "What happened? Did your conversation with Jack turn unpleasant?"

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"He refused to talk about work, so we didn't make any progress with the negotiation."

Chapter 1538 Do Not Take It To Heart

Lucien arched an eyebrow slightly in response.

He knew Roxanne was hiding something from him when she paused briefly.

"Why would he refuse to talk about work? Isn't it better to finalize the contract that would bring him profits as soon as possible?" Lucien asked calmly in an attempt to go with the flow.

Roxenne lowered her gaze as she replied, "He had been drinking and felt he was in no condition to discuss business."

Jack has been drinking?

Lucien narrowed his eyes as he said, "Most deals are closed over drinks. Jack is the heir of the Demeris family, so I'm sure he must've closed plenty of deals over drinks by now. He must have had some other reason for refusing to discuss business with you."

Roxenne's eyes went wide as she recalled what happened earlier. She couldn't bring herself to tell him that their negotiation failed because she turned down Jack's confession.

While she did not have feelings for Jack, she believed that the confession was a private thing, so she didn't want to reveal it to Lucien.

Roxenne eyed him cautiously as she said, "Maybe he didn't want to discuss business while he was in a celebratory mood earlier. I'll go see him again tomorrow at Demeris Group. Would you have time to come with me?"

Lucian arched an eyebrow slightly in response.

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While she did not have feelings for Jack, she believed that a confession was a private thing, so she didn't want to reveal it to Lucian.

Roxanne eyed him cautiously as she said, "Maybe he didn't want to discuss business while he was in a celebratory mood earlier. I'll go see him again tomorrow at Damaris Group. Would you have time to come with me?"

She didn't know how she would face Jack after what happened earlier.

Besides, she also needed Lucian to help check the details of the contract.

Naturally, Lucian wouldn't say no to her request.

While he was displeased with her hiding the truth from him, he was willing to forget about that since she wanted him to go meet Jack with her.

With that, the topic of their conversation shifted toward the contract that they would be signing with Jack tomorrow.

As Elias and Sonya had yet to return to the Farwell residence, the three kids were huddled around Catalina and telling her their stories from kindergarten.

Catalina couldn't stop laughing as the kids presented those stories in a really humorous and adorable manner.

The three kids quickly turned around when they saw Lucian and Roxanne come in through the front door.

"Mommy! Daddy!"

Roxanne's lips curled into a relieved smile as she bent over to hug them. "Have you kids been good today?"

The three kids nodded profusely in response. "Yeah, we have!"

"They have all been behaving themselves very well today. They even helped me out with the chores!" Catalina added with a smile.

Roxanne couldn't help but wonder if she was worrying too much about them since they arrived a week before she did.

"Let's go have dinner," Lucien said in a deep voice.

"Don't we need to wait for your parents?" Roxanne asked in confusion.

"My dad texted me earlier and said he'd be eating out with my mom, so we can go ahead and eat," Lucien replied while showing her his phone.

Roxenne breathed a sigh of relief when she saw the text from Elias.

She also had a feeling that Elias was trying to help them out. He knew that the atmosphere would be incredibly tense if they had dinner with Sonya around, so he brought her out to let them dine in peace.

Roxenne felt thankful when she realized he was doing it for her and the kids.

Lucien wrapped an arm around her shoulder and said with a reassuring look in his eyes, "They'll move out in a few days. Don't take anything that my mom says to heart, okay? Just let me know if she gives you any trouble, and I'll talk to her myself."

Roxenne pursed her lips and smiled in response. "I know. You'll have a lot to deal with, though."

"My attitude toward you in the past is why things are tense between you two. I'm the cause of my mom's misunderstanding, so I should be the one to fix it," Lucien said solemnly.

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Chapter 1539 Feel Safer

Roxenne felt touched when she heard that.

The atmosphere was heartwarming as they had dinner without Sonya around.

That was the first time Lucian didn't need to leave in a hurry after dinner, so the kids could chat with both their parents until it was late at night.

While the kids were having a great time, Roxenne wasn't in the mood to play with them, and Lucian still had some work to do.

They two tucked the kids in before returning to the study and the bedroom respectively.

They did it so naturally that it felt as though they had been living together for a long time.

The bedroom was still empty by the time Roxenne stepped out of the shower, so she figured he was still working in the study.

Seeing as it was quite late, Roxenne figured she would advise him to get some rest.

She was about to step out the door when her phone started ringing on the nightstand.

Roxenne turned around and made her way over to pick up the phone.

Seeing Jeck's name on the caller ID reminded her of what he said earlier, so she wasn't sure if she should answer his call.

However, it didn't seem like Jeck was going to hang up anytime soon as the phone simply continued ringing. Roxenne forcefully suppressed her reluctance and answered the call, "What is it, Mr. Demeris? It's really late now."

Roxanne felt touched when she heard that.

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However, it didn't seem like Jack was going to hang up anytime soon as the phone simply continued ringing. Roxanne forcefully suppressed her reluctance and answered the call, "What is it, Mr. Damaris? It's really late now."

"Sorry, am I disturbing you? I didn't want to call you this late at night, but I felt the need to apologize for what happened earlier," Jack said apologetically.

Roxanne frowned in confusion when she heard that.

What's with Jack's sudden change in attitude?

Not wanting to make things awkward, she replied with a soft chuckle, "It's fine. You had a little too much to drink earlier, so I'll just pretend I didn't hear that."

Jack breathed a sigh of relief. "That's good to hear. I wasn't planning on saying that after I found out about your relationship with Mr. Farwell. Since we have been working together for a long time, I figured I'd just treat you as a business partner. However, I got a little too carried away today, and it just slipped. I'm sorry I lost my composure earlier. I didn't scare you, did I?"

Why does it sound like he's confessing to me again?

Roxanne frowned at the thought of that and said coldly, "No. You just said some things that you shouldn't have, that's all. If you truly are sorry, then please stop bringing this up in the future."

The look in Jack's eyes grew cold when he heard that, but he maintained a cautious tone as he said, "All right, I'll keep that in mind. By the way, you mentioned a couple of

times about our profit-sharing model. It's true that we should get that settled as soon as possible. I can't believe I got so carried away that I forgot about it."

Roxenne felt a little better when he mentioned work. "In that case, how about we meet up to discuss that tomorrow, Mr. Demeris?"

Since Jack had wanted to see her anyway, he agreed to her request without any hesitation whatsoever. "Sure thing. I'll go see you at the research institute tomorrow."

Roxenne agreed to it after giving it some thought.

The two then chose a time to meet before ending the call.

Lucien happened to come in at the time, so he saw her putting her phone down. "Who were you talking to this late at night?" he asked with a frown.

"Mr. Demeris called to make an appointment to discuss the contract tomorrow. I was planning on meeting him at Demeris Group at first, but since he's partially responsible for this delay, we chose to meet at the research institute instead," Roxenne replied evasively.

Given what happened between them, Roxenne figured it would be safer to meet him in her own territory instead.

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Given what happened between them, Roxanne figured it would be safer to meet him in her own territory instead.

Chapter 1540 Loyal

Since he would be joining her in meeting Jack tomorrow, Lucien didn't bother asking her too much about it. The two then went to bed in each other's arms.

Roxenne felt it was a little inappropriate at first, but felt it was nothing compared to what they did yesterday night. With that in mind, she lay obediently in his arms and fell asleep shortly after.

The two of them got up early the next morning, and Lucien drove her to the research institute.

While waiting for Jack to show up, they went through the terms of the contract together.

With Lucien's guidance, Roxenne was able to be more confident about the details of the contract.

Jack arrived at Roxenne's office at around nine in the morning.

The look on his face turned gloomy when he saw Roxenne sitting on a single-cushion couch while Lucien sat on a longer one next to hers. Lucien was in a relaxed posture and seemed to be discussing something with Roxenne.

Although the two of them were sitting on separate couches, their interactions looked very intimate.

"Hello, Mr. Demeris," Roxenne greeted him with a smile when she noticed him standing there.

With Lucien around, she was able to relax and interact with Jack more naturally. Since he would be joining her in meeting Jack tomorrow, Lucien didn't bother asking her too much about it. The two then went to bed in each other's arms.

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Although the two of them were sitting on separate couches, their interactions looked very intimate.

“Hello, Mr. Damaris,” Roxanne greeted him with a smile when she noticed him standing there.

With Lucian around, she was able to relax and interact with Jack more naturally.

After taking a second to regain his composure, Jack flashed her a smile before shifting his gaze toward Lucian.

“What a coincidence, Mr. Farwell. I didn’t know you would be here too. Ms. Jarvis and I have some business to discuss, though. If possible, could you perhaps—”

Jack was trying to politely ask Lucian to leave, but Lucian cut him off with a warning gaze before he could finish his sentence.

“No, it’s not possible. I don’t think there’s anything between you and Roxanne that I shouldn’t know.”

Jack’s expression tensed up instantly. “It’s about a partnership between Damaris Group and this research institute.”

“In that case, there’s no need for me to leave. Farwell Group is not involved in the medical field, so knowing the details of your partnership won’t result in any conflicts of interest. Besides, you should have faith in Roxanne’s integrity,” Lucian replied nonchalantly.

Jack’s face clouded over when he realized Lucian wasn’t going to leave. “Will you be contributing anything to this conversation, then?”

Lucian arched an eyebrow in response before shifting his gaze toward Roxanne.

Roxanne let out a helpless sigh when she noticed the rising tension between Lucian and Jack, but she was not about to take Jack’s side in this situation.

“I’m sorry I didn’t tell you this in advance. I’m not that knowledgeable when it comes to business, so Mr. Farwell is here as my consultant.”

She then turned toward Lucian to see if he was satisfied with her reply.

Feeling satisfied, Lucian gave her a nod in response.

Jack frowned slightly and let out a sarcastic chuckle. "You're willing to lower yourself and become Ms. Jarvis's consultant? Now I see why she's so loyal to you, Mr. Farwell!"

"It is an honor for me to be Roxanne's consultant," Lucien replied. It was unclear if he genuinely meant that, though.

Not wanting the two to start fighting over her, Roxanne changed the topic by saying, "All right, let's just get down to business. It'll be lunchtime if we waste any more time chit-chatting."

Jack nodded and sat down on the single-cushion couch in front of her.

He looked like he meant business as he crossed his arms and said, "Since you wanted to see me so urgently, I'm assuming Mr. Farwell has given you some bright ideas. In that case, why don't you go ahead and speak your mind?"

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Chapter 1541 Demand

Roxanne subconsciously glanced at Lucien.

He nodded at her.

She completely relaxed after receiving his affirmation. Then, she shared the result of their initial discussion earlier.

"This is my two cents. Demeris Group provided us with the medicinal herbs and distribution channel for this collaboration. However, technology-wise, the credits belong almost entirely to the research institute. I can even say that the research institute is the real owner of this core technology in developing this new medicine. For this reason and considering our experiences working together with other groups, the profit should be divided into a twenty-eighty split. Our research institute will take the larger portion of the earnings."

She was the person in charge of the research institute, after all. Although Roxanne wasn't sufficiently familiar with that aspect, she still commanded an extraordinary presence.

A hint of admiration glinted in Lucien's eyes as he listened to her speech and took in her serious demeanor.

On the other hand, Jeck thought his ears were playing tricks on him. He forced himself to keep up his elegant facade. "Excuse me. I didn't hear you clearly. Ms. Jarvis, you were saying—"

She reiterated calmly, "The research institute will take eighty percent of the profit from the sales of this medicine while Demeris Group owns the remaining twenty percent."

Jeck couldn't help but chuckle. "Are you kidding me, Ms. Jarvis? Is that all the profit you're willing to share with us after Demeris Group contributed so much to this project?" Roxanne subconsciously glanced at Lucian.

He nodded at her.

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Jack couldn't help but chuckle. "Are you kidding me, Ms. Jarvis? Is that all the profit you're willing to share with us after Damaris Group contributed so much to this project?"

Roxanne's eyes shone with determination. "The Damaris family is a century-old prestigious family in the traditional medicine business, so you must be well aware of the rules in the pharmaceutical field. In fact, coming up with the core technology is the most important part of medical research and development. In the context of contribution, I'm confident our research institute poured in much more effort than Damaris Group."

Jack turned to glance at Lucian and swiftly wrapped his mind around the situation.

Evidently, that was the result of their discussion earlier.

"You're such a humorous person, Ms. Jarvis. I came up with the idea in the first place. Besides, Damaris Group had been providing the medicinal herbs used by the research institution for free. Now that you've invented the medicine, you're turning your back on us, letting us take only a small part of the profit. If that's the case, I'm afraid Damaris Group will have to cease this collaboration with you."

His face darkened, and his tone was filled with the indifference of a businessman.

Jack's reaction was within their anticipation.

Roxanne spoke in a gentler manner after sensing his fury. "Naturally, Damaris Group's cooperation is crucial in the success of inventing this medicine. If you aren't satisfied with my initial offer, I can proffer you another five percent, totaling Damaris Group's profit margin to twenty-five percent. That is the maximum extent of my sincerity."

He sneered out loud. "Aren't you generous, Ms. Jervis, offering me another five percent without hesitation? Do you think I'll agree to this?"

She replied, "There's nothing I can do if you aren't willing to accept the deal. I will compensate Damaris Group with three times the market price for all the medicinal herbs you have provided the research institute. As for the distribution channel, I'll figure out an alternative."

She was implying her readiness to end their collaboration as Jack had suggested.

Jack laughed in exasperation. "There isn't any price on the market that can match the demand for the Demeris family's medicinal herbs, as the herbs are only available for the Demeris family's internal use. I think you're oversimplifying this matter, Ms. Jarvis."

Roxanne frowned. "In that case, you can proffer a price you think is fair, and I'll accept it without any objection."

She felt a little uneasy after saying that, as Jack might very likely make a significant demand on the division of profit following her statement.

"I think you haven't gotten a clear picture of the circumstances, Mr. Demeris," Lucien piped up.

At the same time, he slightly leaned his body in Roxanne and Jack's direction while shifting his cold gaze onto Jack.

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Chapter 1542 Nothing Left To Discuss

“Roxanne is equipped with the technology, while the medicinal herbs provided by the Damaris family were only used to produce one batch of medicine. If you aren't satisfied with the profit division, that's fine. The financial gain from this batch of medicine manufactured using the medicinal herbs contributed by the Damaris family can be split according to your wish. Still, the research institute also has the right to only sign the contract with you for this batch of medicine only.”

At that point, Lucian talked slower. “And that means after this batch of medicines is completely sold, Roxanne can still look for another medicinal herbs supplier to collaborate with her because she has the manufacturing technology. But what about Damaris Group? Are you able to find another research institute that can produce this medicine?”

His words blatantly expressed the research institute's dominance in that deal with Damaris Group.

In short, Damaris Group wasn't Roxanne's only choice.

In comparison, Damaris Group could only rely on Roxanne to produce the medicine.

Hence, the research institute should've been the leading party in that cooperation from the beginning.

As for Damaris Group, it became Jack's decision whether to choose a long-term, steady yield or a high amount of short-term profit.

Jack didn't expect Lucian to make that move. He met the latter's eyes impassively while speaking to Roxanne.

“Ms. Jarvis, are you sure you wish to discuss the terms of this collaboration with Damaris Group on a pure business paradigm? In your opinion, is Damaris Group just an existence you can toss aside after you achieve your goal?”

She glanced at Lucian and he nodded at her. Subsequently, Roxanne braced herself and pursed her lips in silence, considering that a response to Jack's question.

Lucian uttered righteously, “There are no friends when doing business. You should understand that concept better than Roxanne, Mr. Damaris. Profit division has always been the most crucial and demanding battle in the business field. Aren't you attempting to appeal to Roxanne's emotions with friendship and unscrupulously forcing her to concede now?”

Jack's negotiating skills were significantly inferior to Lucian's. As a result, Jack's face became contorted in anger.

A long silence later, he said stiffly, “I cannot accept this profit division arrangement!”

Lucian chimed in, "Perhaps I should let you see the profit division arrangement used by Farwell Group when we are in control of the technological aspect of a deal. Maybe you'll feel contented with the current offer after seeing the numbers."

In other words, if Lucian were to take charge of the profit division matter entirely, the Damaris family's financial gain would only be reduced further.

The friendly facade on Jack's countenance completely dissipated as he stared at them grimly.

"If you can accept my offer, we'll sign the agreement now. If you aren't, our research institute is willing to hire a professional third party to evaluate Damaris Group's contributions in the early phase and compensate you at ten times the price." Roxanne nudged the agreement toward him.

Without taking one look at the contract, Jack tore it in half and tossed it back on the table.

Roxanne was taken aback by his reaction.

In the past, Jack had always shown his gentlemanly side to her. Not to mention, he was the heir to a prestigious family in the traditional medicine business, so she was under the assumption he would prioritize keeping up a polite and gentle appearance.

Little did she anticipate he would do something as impulsive as that.

The atmosphere inside the office abruptly turned tense.

Jack said, "If I remember correctly, we agreed to share the patent and split the profit equally when we first decided to work together on this project. Now that you're casually altering the terms, I don't think there is room for further discussion."

Roxanne replied with a frown, "You've also mentioned you would allow me access to medical books as a reference. I agreed to share the patent because of that. However, I didn't see any related medical book from you, and I ended up inventing this technology on my own. Naturally, I have no reason to share the patent with you."

Chapter 1543 Refused To Collaborate

Jack was stumped for words upon hearing that.

A short pause later, he stood up from the couch and said, "If that's the case, there's nothing left for us to discuss."

After saying that, Jack turned around and strode out of the office, slamming the door shut behind him.

Roxanne's eyes were filled with shock as the thunderous boom rang in her ears.

"Did that startle you?" Lucian said while walking to her side.

Upon hearing his voice, Roxanne gradually returned to her senses and said in an emotional voice, "I'm fine. I just did not expect to see that side of Jack."

Roxanne's response made Lucian's admiration for her grow. The man wrapped an arm around her shoulders and pulled her into his arms.

Letting out a sigh, Roxanne said, "Are all businessmen that two-faced?"

Lucian stroked her back reassuringly and replied, "Would you be scared if I'm like that too?"

Roxanne fell silent while trying to imagine the tactics that Lucian would employ in the business arena.

After a while, it dawned on her that she already knew Lucian's way of doing things like the back of her hand and had long accepted it.

"Honestly, I wouldn't be surprised at all." Roxanne smiled.

Lucian did not seem pleased with that answer. "Is that really who you think I am?" he asked.

Roxanne pulled away from his embrace and met his eyes before explaining, "I just think you were very attractive when you analyzed the situation for me just now. It felt like your true self."

If not for Lucian's ruthless ways and sharp business acumen, the Farwell family wouldn't be enjoying their current success.

However, not only was Roxanne not afraid, but she was also hoping to learn from Lucian.

Besides, what shocked her most about Jack was the savage way in which he tore apart the agreement and the vehemence of his reaction.

She trusted that Lucian would never act in the same way.

After hearing the woman's heartfelt praise for him, Lucian pulled her toward him and planted a gentle kiss on the back of her hand. "I think you're really adorable when you're being serious," he said in a deep voice.

Roxanne smiled faintly and continued to express her true thoughts. "Actually, I was quite scared that Jack would turn violent when he was ripping up the agreement just now, but when I remembered that you're also here, I didn't feel that scared anymore."

Looking at the woman with a deep gaze, Lucian promised solemnly, "I will always protect you."

The two of them looked at each other and smiled.

Seconds later, Roxanne started feeling troubled over the discussion with Jack earlier that had gone south.

"I have already made a compromise, but it seemed like that was still not enough for the Damaris family. It's highly likely that they wouldn't want to proceed with the collaboration..."

It would be a problem for the research institute if that were really the case.

Moreover, Roxanne had started doubting herself after Jack's questioning earlier.

With a sense of unease, she asked Lucian nervously, "Did I really burn bridges by doing what I did just now? But it was Jack who had come up with the idea previously."

The man stroked Roxanne's head and said reassuringly, "The two of you had never agreed on that. It's clear that Jack had wanted to take advantage of you right from the start. Otherwise, he wouldn't have suggested an equal split of profits in the first place."

It was a standard practice in the industry that the party who owned the technology would hold the majority share.

It was impossible for Jack to be unaware of it.

He had simply intended to exploit Roxanne, knowing that she was inexperienced in the area.

After hearing that, Roxanne finally knew how clueless she was. With understanding dawning on her, she said, "So that means he might be trying to obtain confidential information when he stepped past me and tried to establish rapport with the employees previously..."

Chapter 1544 Pure Intentions

Roxanne could not help but feel relieved at that realization.

She was glad that she had kept her guard up against Jack the whole time. Also...

“Luckily, I had asked for your advice earlier. Otherwise, it’s very likely that I would have fallen into Jack’s trap.”

The woman flashed a grateful smile at Lucian, who could not be happier that she had finally seen Jack’s true colors.

“You can consult me anytime you want. I won’t charge you for it,” Lucian said with a suggestive look in his eyes.

A blush spread across Roxanne’s cheeks when she realized what he meant, and she pushed him away at once.

Looking at the woman’s shy expression, Lucian smiled. Not wanting to embarrass her further, he changed the topic to something more serious.

“It could be a good thing if Damaris Group really decides not to go ahead with the collaboration. Although it’s true that their herbs are of a higher quality than what the others have in the market right now, those are, after all, still normal herbs without any special medicinal properties. Even without the Damaris family, the research institute can still acquire good-quality herbs at a higher price from other medicinal herb companies to manufacture the drug. That way, the issue regarding the supply of herbs would be solved.”

The moment Lucian started discussing serious matters, Roxanne breathed a sigh of relief and listened attentively.

“As for sales channels, that’s even less of a problem. Most medicinal herb companies have online sales platforms and a regular customer base. As long as you have a good product, people would naturally buy it. If you are still worried, I can get Farwell Group’s technology department to build a specialized online medical sales platform for you.”

Roxanne was moved upon hearing that.

It was well known that Farwell Group’s technology team was one of the best in the world. Roxanne felt that it would be a waste of talent to get them to create the sales platform for her.

She smiled at Lucian appreciatively and replied, “Got it. If Damaris Group refuses to accept our proposal, I will just look for another company to collaborate with.”

Lucian spoke again after that. “However, if the collaboration with the Damaris family fails, all the hard work that you’ve put into establishing a good relationship with them might go to waste.”

Taking a pause, he continued in a solemn tone, “I know that the reason you started joining those medical consultations was because of your interest in the Damaris family’s

ancient medical arts. If your relationship with them falls apart, all your efforts would come to naught.”

At the mention of her original intention for approaching the Damaris family, Roxanne fell into a slight daze. “But before that, I’ve always thought that their intentions were pure and that they truly cared about advancing medical treatment and care for patients...”

She had just recognized that the Damaris family was not as altruistic as she had thought in the face of profit. In fact, their business was way more commercialized than she had expected.

Rubbing the back of Roxanne’s hand, Lucian said casually, “If you think it’s a pity, you can always make a further compromise. You would just be making less money. You can treat it as paying tuition fees to the Damaris family. Just let me know if you need extra funding for the research.”

Even though Roxanne was still feeling upset over the fact that the Damaris family was not who she had imagined them to be, she could not help but be amused by the man’s words.

“What do you take me for? I’m indeed very curious about the Damaris family’s ancient medical arts, but I’ve also found out that their medical skills are not omnipotent in this period of time. Truth is, all of us possess different capabilities. If I really don’t get to learn from them, I can further advance my own skills, which might be even better.”

Roxanne looked up at Lucian and continued with a serious expression, “Besides, I’m responsible for the benefits of the staff at the research institute. I have to make sure that they get what they deserve for their hard work and not shortchange them because of my personal motives.”

Chapter 1545 Just Like The First Time

After another round of discussions, both of them decided that they could give in more.

Roxanne then sent Jack a message, indicating to him that she was willing to give up three more percent. If Damaris Group found it unacceptable, they would have no choice but to cancel the collaboration.

However, she didn’t receive a response despite waiting for a long time.

Since it was noon and there was nothing much to do, Lucian decided to take Roxanne out for lunch.

Seemingly to make up for the disappointment last time, Lucian made reservations for Horington’s best restaurant, where he ordered the couple’s set on purpose.

Upon their arrival, both of them were ushered to their table by two members of the staff.

“Sir, I’m sorry, but we have run out of the drinks for the couple’s set. May I know if you would like to switch to a different one or have a refund?” the waitress asked upon confirming their orders.

Roxanne was surprised to learn that Lucian had ordered the couple’s set. She hadn’t expected him to do something as childish as that.

Nonetheless, Lucian handed her the menu with an emotionless face. “Why don’t you choose your own drink? Feel free to order more food, as I don’t think the food included in the set is enough.”

Roxanne was too shy to maintain eye contact with him, so she pretended to calmly skim through the menu upon receiving it.

The waitress couldn’t help but comment, “Both of you look like a good match. You must have a wonderful relationship.”

While Lucian simply smile in response, the embarrassed Roxanne kept her head down in silence.

When the waitress saw their reaction, a sudden realization struck her.

Oh my God, it’s Mr. Farwell and his ex-wife! They were the talk of the internet some time ago. Both of them look so much better in real life compared to their photos. Mr. Farwell is so handsome when he smiles, while his ex-wife is such a gentle person. And here they are, ordering a couple’s menu. If it wasn’t for Aubree Pearson, both of them wouldn’t have divorced all those years ago.

“I’m done ordering.”

Oblivious to what was going through the waitress’ mind, Roxanne broke into a friendly smile when she saw the strange look on the former’s face.

After taking the menu back in her hands, the waitress tried hard to maintain her composure as she turned around in awe.

The ex-wife is so elegant and dazzling when she smiles. I’m surprised that someone so stunning actually exists!

Roxanne felt a little strange when she noticed the waitress walking away awkwardly. Nevertheless, she didn’t think much of it as she turned her attention to Lucian.

“Weren’t we supposed to have a casual lunch? Why—”

Lucian's eyes glistened with affection. "I didn't really know where to go, but after checking Instagram, I decided to take you here since this place seems to be popular with couples."

Roxanne was touched by the look in his eyes.

Even though their children had grown up, she was still mesmerized by the man she was staring at. It felt just like how she had fallen in love with him the very first time.

"It's my fault that we missed out a lot six years ago. I want to try my best to make it up to you."

In a deep voice, Lucian explained, "Even though I promised to pursue you again earlier, the amount of effort I've put in was pathetic. Come to think of it now, the reason you refused my marriage proposal might be because of my inadequate actions. Therefore, all I can do now is work harder."

As Roxanne's eyes sparkled at his words, she felt the sudden urge to correct him.

However, after giving it some thought, she figured that the real reason she rejected the marriage proposal was obvious to both of them.

Cognizant that Lucian was just saying all that to excuse his behavior, Roxanne didn't expose him...

Chapter 1546 I Will Not Forget Your Presents

During lunch, Lucian worked hard to prove himself. He kept showering Roxanne with cringy sweet nothings, causing her to relish in the attention while feeling embarrassed at the same time.

Once they were done with their food, the waitress brought them some desserts. "These are on the house. We wish both of you a long and loving relationship!"

Seeing that, Roxanne thanked her.

Out of coincidence, there were three portions of the desserts.

"I wonder what the children are doing right now. Essie loves tiramisu."

Roxanne couldn't help but think of her three kids.

Lucian replied, "They're probably having their afternoon break right now. If you're worried about them, we can drop by the kindergarten to check and bring them these desserts."

The thought of being able to see the children filled Roxanne with delight. "You took the words out of my mouth."

With that, both of them got the service staff to pack the desserts before heading off to the kindergarten.

As they had given Pippa advance notice, they arrived to see her entering the break room with the children in tow.

"Daddy, Mommy!"

Although the three kids were thrilled to see their parents, they kept their voices down in consideration of the other children who were napping.

Smiling at the sight of the children, Roxanne took her leave from Pippa before bringing the children back to their car.

"Mommy, what brings you here?"

Estella's eyes lit up the moment she saw the tiramisu.

As Roxanne opened it up for her attentively, she gave the latter's hair a tousle. "While we were out having lunch, the restaurant gave us these complimentary desserts. We decided to bring them to you since these are your favorite. Once you've finished, you can go back to your nap."

Meanwhile, Lucian had unpacked the desserts for Archie and Benny.

Then, the three children wolfed the tiramisu down happily.

After giving Roxanne and Lucian a look each, Benny narrowed his eyes thoughtfully. "You have a good eye, Daddy. The cake is delicious!"

Lucian cocked a brow slightly. "We'll buy it more often since you like it so much."

"Thanks, Daddy!" Benny expressed his gratitude in his childish voice.

As both of them chatted happily, Roxanne didn't even get the chance to join in.

"Do you still have any classes in the afternoon?" Lucian asked despite knowing the answer.

His father's intention wasn't lost upon Archie. "Mmm-hmm. There's a group activity in the afternoon which Ms. Ward says that we can't miss."

Clueless as to where Lucian was going with the question, Roxanne was about to inquire when the former lamented, "I wanted to take all of you to the movies. But now, it's a shame you have an activity to attend instead."

His words jolted Roxanne into wondering if she had made a mistake.

Since when did I agree to go to the movies with him?

"I have to—" She planned to return to the office in the afternoon.

With a face brimming with anticipation, Estella gave Roxanne's sleeve a tug. "Mommy, I want some new clothes. Remember to get me some!"

Faced with Estella's twinkling eyes, Roxanne couldn't bring herself to say no.

"Daddy, Archie's and my computers need upgrading too!"

Benny's eyes glistened mischievously as he seized upon the opportunity to commit daylight robbery.

Lucian couldn't help but smile. "I know. I won't forget your presents."

Thereafter, the children gave Roxanne looks that brimmed with anticipation.

Roxanne was left with no choice but to agree. "Remember to watch yourselves during the event. There will be no presents for you if you get hurt."

Her agreement filled the children with jubilation.

Chapter 1547 Dreaming Of Her

After the children finished their desserts, Roxanne led them back into the kindergarten.

When she returned to the car and saw Lucian's nonchalant expression, she couldn't resist asking, "Since when did I agree to go to the movies with you in the afternoon?"

Throwing her a glance, Lucian replied matter-of-factly, "I'm sorry that I took the liberty to decide on your behalf. Otherwise, you wouldn't have agreed."

Having her exact thoughts read, Roxanne averted her gaze.

She could roughly guess that from Lucian's perspective, the entire day was meant to be a date.

However, it just felt too sudden for her.

When she didn't say anything in reply, Lucian's eyes darkened. "We can watch it another day if you're upset about it. As for the children's gifts, I'll get them in the afternoon."

Detecting the disappointment in his voice, Roxanne quickly shook her head with a smile. "It's not that. I just thought that I should've dressed up for the occasion."

No sooner had the words left her mouth than Lucian gave her an affectionate look. "That's not necessary. You always look gorgeous to me."

His romantic words caused Roxanne's cheeks to blush.

"Even the waitress couldn't stop gawking at you earlier," Lucian teased as he started driving.

Roxanne retorted, "You're the one she was ogling at. I didn't even put on any makeup today."

On working days, she would wear little to no makeup and dress as simply as possible.

If it wasn't for Lucian, she would probably not be allowed into the restaurant earlier.

In response to her complaint, Lucian teased her back, "Are you jealous, Ms. Jarvis?"

Looking out the window, Roxanne caught her breath when she heard the words.

When she remained silent, the smiling Lucian stopped pulling her leg and continued driving instead.

"The movie is in the evening, so let's go shopping for the children's gifts first."

Roxanne nodded in agreement.

After parking their car, both of them took the elevator into the mall.

As they walked into the building, Roxanne couldn't help but recall how Lucian coaxed her into buying matching outfits together with Estella the last time.

Just as Lucian was about to get her opinion about something, he noticed the distracted look on her face and asked, "What's on your mind?"

Regaining her senses, Roxanne broke into a melancholic smile. "The last time we were here. Essie and I bought matching outfits. Back then—"

"Back then, I was aware of your relationship with her, and Essie wanted a mother. However, I didn't tell her about it because I assumed that you had abandoned her. All I

could do was help her fulfill her wish, and fortunately, you were kind enough to play along.”

Lucian spoke in a regretful tone as he finished her sentence candidly.

The mention of Estella's history triggered a sense of sorrow in Roxanne. “There's no way I could ever cast her aside. Throughout the years, I've been yearning for her even in my dreams.”

Furrowing her brows, she raised her gaze to look at Lucian. “I wonder who it was that was so cruel to break us, mother and daughter, apart. This same person caused me to believe that Essie died the day she was born!”

When he saw the pain and hatred in Roxanne's eyes, Lucian pulled her into his embrace as he consoled her, “I was under the wrong impression all this while. Now that I know the truth, I'll do my best to find that person!”

Finally, Roxanne managed to calm down when she sensed Lucian's steady breath.

Chapter 1548 Which One Do You Want

“If I knew this place would remind you of the past, I would have brought you to a different mall.”

Lucian's eyes brimmed with regret.

Once Roxanne calmed down, she slowly came out of his embrace while wearing a smile. “I was just a little sad but am fine now. Now that Essie and I have been reunited, I'll make up for everything that I failed to give her!”

Nodding slightly, Lucian grabbed her hand and clasped her fingers so tightly that she couldn't leave. “Me too. I'll double my efforts in making it up to all of you.”

The conviction in his eyes moved Roxanne and broadened the smile on her face.

As there was still time to spare before the movie, both of them went window-shopping level by level.

When they arrived at the entrance of a men's boutique, Roxanne stopped subconsciously when she saw the outfits inside.

Noticing that it was a men's boutique upon trailing her gaze, Lucian suddenly felt upset.

“Who are you buying them for?”

I know all the men in her life, while I'm standing right beside her. So, who is she intending to buy an outfit for?

As his voice jolted her back to her senses, Roxanne turned to look at him.

The moment their eyes met, Lucian saw bliss gradually take over the regret in her eyes. Moved by the sight, he felt a growing sense of affection melt away his initial displeasure.

With a slight curl to her lips, Roxanne explained softly, "Do you know that six years ago, I would imagine you wearing those clothes each time I pass by a men's boutique while shopping?"

Roxanne gushed like a schoolgirl when she brought the matter up.

Throwing the mannequin in the shop window a glance, she spoke confidently. "I feel that you'll look better than the mannequin in that outfit!"

Watching how Roxanne was reminiscing about the past, Lucian suddenly felt as if he was lost in time, causing him to tighten his grip on her hand.

Stung by the sudden pain, Roxanne knitted her brows quizzically.

Just when she was about to ask Lucian what happened, he drag her inside the boutique.

"Hello, how may I help you? Feel free to let me know what you're looking for, and I'll do my best to provide recommendations."

When the sales attendant saw the distinguished couple walk in, she welcomed them warmly.

Realizing that Lucian was holding her hand tightly in public, the embarrassed Roxanne tried to struggle free, but the former would have none of it.

"You have a good figure, so there's no need to be particular about the cut. These are our most popular designs this season. You're welcome to try them on if you like."

The sales attendant showed off the outfits politely.

However, Lucian turned to Roxanne and asked in a deep voice, "Which one do you want me to try?"

His words briefly stunned the sales attendant. Holding her tongue prudently, she walked to Roxanne's side upon learning who the decision maker was.

"You're really blessed to have a husband who takes your fashion advice. It's clear that you have a keen eye for both men and clothes alike!"

The sales attendant's flattery naturally pleased Lucian.

As for Roxanne, she was still lost in a daze.

Is Lucian... trying to make it up to me because of what I said earlier?

She had no doubt he would keep his word but was still surprised by the granularity of his actions, where a casual yet melancholic mention elicited a response from him.

"Bring me what the mannequins are wearing in my size. I want to try them," Lucian answered on the tongue-tied Roxanne's behalf.

Chapter 1549 Gifts

Only then did Roxanne return to her senses.

The sales attendant smiled and said, "I don't think that's necessary. You have the same figure as the mannequin. If you don't mind, you can just try on those clothes."

In response, Lucian turned around to seek Roxanne's opinion as though he were seeking his wife's approval.

Seeing that, the sales attendant followed suit and waited for Roxanne's response respectfully.

Roxanne only realized what was going on seconds later. When she did, she flashed a faint smile and nodded.

The sales attendant then quickly went to fetch the clothes and ask another sales attendant to bring Lucian to the fitting room before leading Roxanne to browse the rest of the outfits in the store. As they were browsing, the sales attendant introduced all the premium suits to Roxanne and paid attention to the time Roxanne took to inspect each suit.

Soon, Lucian came walking out of the fitting room in a gray shirt and a black suit. Needless to say, he looked dashing.

Before he even checked himself out in the mirror, he went straight to Roxanne and asked, "How does this look? Does it suit me?"

At that moment, Roxanne was still browsing around with the sales attendant. She then turned around the second she heard Lucian's voice.

At that very second, Roxanne was mesmerized. Although it has been so many years, it seems like Lucian hasn't changed one bit. In fact, he looks even more attractive now. I can't take my eyes off him...

"Is it not as good as you expected it to be?" With a frown and a helpless expression on his face, Lucian turned around to ask the staff to bring him something else.

Only then did Roxanne snap back to her senses and praised with a smile, "You look even more handsome than I imagined. The clothes suit you."

The sales attendant next to her chimed in, "Sir, the suit fits you like a glove!"

Upon getting praised by Roxanne, Lucian nodded in satisfaction and said to the staff, "Please wrap this up. I'm going to try on the others."

In other words, he wanted to try on all the clothes the sales attendant had brought over to him.

"Are you going on a shopping spree?" Roxanne was surprised by those words. Lucian's closet is filled to the brim! Why is he buying so many?

"Didn't you say you wanted to see me in these? I'll try on all of them," Lucian answered matter-of-factly.

Roxanne merely stared at the person in front of her blankly because she was so touched that she was at a loss for words.

The sales attendant then brought a few more suits forward and said to Lucian, "When I was browsing with your lady just now, she seemed to have an interest in these few pieces."

Roxanne turned toward the sales attendant when she heard that. Well, those few pieces really caught my attention just now. I didn't say anything though, did I? How did the sales attendant know?

Upon noticing Roxanne's confusion, the sales attendant smiled sweetly and uttered, "You spent more time looking at these few pieces just now."

As soon as those words fell, Lucian spoke before Roxanne could respond. He said, "You're a talented sales person!"

With that, Lucian nodded at the staff and said, "Please wrap all of these up."

Realizing that they were dealing with a big customer, the two sales attendants were over the moon. However, they kept their emotions to themselves.

Roxanne couldn't help but feel troubled when she saw the bags of clothes.

Lucian saw the odd look on her face and asked caringly, "What's the matter? Don't you like them?"

Roxanne shook her head and approached him before whispering awkwardly, "All these clothes are beyond my budget..."

In response, Lucian lifted his brow in confusion. As soon as he figured out what she meant, he smiled and replied, "These clothes are mine. Why would I want you to pay?"

Roxanne then frowned and protested, "I want to buy them for you, though..."

Chapter 1550 Not Enough

Just as she finished talking, Roxanne turned to cast the sales attendant nearby an embarrassed glance.

Naturally, the sales attendant heard what Roxanne said, but she merely smiled politely at her without saying a word.

Lucian had an affectionate look in his eyes when he saw Roxanne getting anxious.

A few moments later, the staff approached them with the wrapped-up clothes.

Lucian took the bags and said to Roxanne, "I'll pay for these. You'll just have to pay for the suit I'm wearing, Roxanne."

With that, he smiled and waited for Roxanne's reply.

Six years ago, Roxanne regretted not buying clothes for Lucian. Since he was giving her a chance to make it up to him, she readily agreed.

Lucian wanted to continue trying on the other clothes, but Roxanne immediately stopped him. "That's enough..."

Roxanne then glanced at the sales attendant embarrassingly before whispering, "You'll still have to wear the ones in the bags. We can check them out by then."

Lucian seemed dissatisfied after not being able to try on the clothes for Roxanne there and then. He only nodded after plunging into silent contemplation for a moment.

The couple then went to the counter.

After exiting the men's boutique, Lucian wanted to take Roxanne to shop for her clothes.

"You've already bought so many for me..." Roxanne rejected his offer hastily. I don't know when did Lucian shop for me, but when I arrived at the Farwell residence, half of the clothes in the closet happened to be mine! Those clothes are new, and they seem expensive.

Roxanne was accustomed to performing experiments in her white coat. Hence, she wasn't used to wearing colorful and fancy clothes.

"I don't need that many. I only need a couple of gowns in the closet," she said.

In response, Lucian hugged her from behind and whispered into her ear, "You don't need much now, but I think you're going to need more as Mrs. Farwell."

It was safe to say that Lucian could only use gifts to make up for the damage he had done six years ago. Also, that was the only way he could show the public his love for Roxanne.

Furthermore, having her wear all the clothes he bought for her was a way to show the world she was his woman.

Sensing his insistence, Roxanne couldn't bring herself to refuse him again. I've only worn a few pieces of clothing in the closet. If he were to buy me more, it would really be a waste of money.

Lucian held her hand and brought her upstairs to shop for her clothes without leaving her any room for argument. Comparably, it was a lot easier when it came to buying clothes for Roxanne.

Lucian merely glanced at the clothing in the store and made his decision decisively. He didn't even need Roxanne to try on the clothes he picked out for her. Instead, he told the staff to wrap up all the new arrivals and send them to his car.

Since they still had time on their hands, they continued shopping for the kids.

It was easy to shop for Archie and Benny. Again, Lucian bought the latest Apple and added on all sorts of accessories.

Estella's clothes, on the other hand, were handpicked by Roxanne.

Initially, Lucian thought it would be enough to buy Estella a couple of pieces of clothing.

However, Roxanne felt she needed to make it up to Estella for those years she missed out on her life. Since I can buy things for her now, I should do whatever needs to be done to make her happy. Besides, Essie would have fewer clothes than me if we were to only buy a couple of pieces for her. How could I let that happen?

Chapter 1551 Watching Us

Roxanne and Lucian practically went into all the stores in the mall.

Meanwhile, Shawn was sitting at a table by the window in a restaurant neither Roxanne nor Lucian paid attention to. With a meaningful look in his eyes, Shawn was watching the couple intently. If I remember correctly, the woman next to Lucian is the legendary Roxanne Jarvis. Isn't she Lucian's ex-wife?

Suddenly, a man approached Shawn respectfully and sat down opposite him. Shawn turned toward the man and asked in a deep voice, "What have you found? Who exactly is that woman?"

Shawn's assistant whipped out a document and handed it to Shawn.

"Based on the investigation, Lucian's ex-wife suddenly left him six years ago. She only returned to the country recently, but shortly after her return, she had already gotten entangled with Lucian. Besides, it seems like Lucian has been pestering her," the assistant reported.

A sparkle of mischief glimmered in Shawn's eyes when he heard those words, and he stared morosely at Roxanne, who was nearby. "Her? She isn't too shabby, but there are plenty of beautiful girls around Lucian. Why is Lucian pestering her?"

Indeed, Lucian didn't seem like a man who would be all over a girl.

"Ms. Jarvis is Harvey Lambert's finest disciple. After she returned to the country, she became a person in charge at one of Harvey's research institutes and took up quite a few projects. Besides, she stole the limelight during the Damaris family's medical consultation. She has great accomplishments in the medical field," the assistant elaborated.

As soon as those words fell, Shawn narrowed his eyes and cast Roxanne a scrutinizing gaze. It sounds like this woman is definitely more capable than Aubree.

With that in mind, Shawn licked his lips excitedly and looked at Roxanne curiously. I wonder what this woman tastes like. Wait... She has a few kids with Lucian, right? I'm not interested in going after something Lucian has used.

Shawn retracted his gaze from Roxanne and asked his assistant, "What else?"

The assistant hesitated for a moment before answering in an uncertain tone, "I heard that Ms. Jarvis' research institute is currently working with Damaris Group. They seem to have jointly developed a special drug for cancer treatment, which has already achieved significant results. I can't be sure because the information is confidential.

However, if what I heard is true, the drug is going to be the world's first. Hence, they're going to get filthy rich."

Just as he ended his sentence, the assistant saw his superior smiling meaningfully.

In response, the assistant cast Shawn a confused look.

Shawn's eyes were filled with mockery when he said, "I was wondering if Mr. Farwell would really fall head over heels for a woman. But now, that's clearly not the case. Mr. Farwell is just taking advantage of that woman so that he can take control of the new drug. With Farwell Group's current capability, they'll surely monopolize the market for the new drug. By then, I'm sure the company is going to make a fortune!"

Realization dawned on the assistant after he heard what Shawn said. That's the difference between me and the rich men. These men are all dating to make money! No wonder I'm still not one of them.

Shawn retracted his gaze after he watched Lucian and Roxanne exit the children's clothing store and enter the elevator. "I've seen enough. Let's go. It's time to make our moves," he said to his assistant.

The assistant instantly knew what Shawn meant and hummed an acknowledgment.

The two men then left the restaurant, one after another.

At the same time, Roxanne was frowning and trying hard to recall what happened when she was shopping moments prior.

Lucian saw the strange look on her face, so he asked caringly, "Are you feeling exhausted?"

Roxanne shook her head and cast Lucian an uneasy look. "I felt someone was watching us earlier."

Chapter 1552 A Movie Date

Lucian slightly furrowed his brows and glanced at his phone. Nothing seems to be going on.

"Are you sure?" he asked Roxanne.

Roxanne hesitated before shaking her head. "Maybe it was just my imagination. Now that I think about it, I don't think anything weird has happened."

Lucian embraced her and reassured her in a deep voice, "If you feel something is wrong, tell me. Don't be afraid. I'm with you, and I'll never let anything bad happen to you."

In response, Roxanne smiled and leaned against his chest.

Soon, the elevator arrived at the top floor of the mall, and Lucian brought Roxanne into the movie theater.

Roxanne thought they had to go to the counter to get their tickets. However, she saw Lucian walking straight toward the entrance of the movie hall and said something to the usher before turning back to wait for her.

She froze for a few seconds before she followed behind him. "Don't we need to get tickets?"

The usher nearby smiled and explained, "This gentleman has already booked an entire movie hall for the evening. Please inform us whenever you wish to start watching the movie."

Once again, Roxanne was stunned.

Before she could regain her senses, Lucian had already led her into the movie hall.

Obviously, they were the only ones in the hall.

The moment they sat down, the staff started serving them drinks and snacks. One of them even asked the couple if they were ready to start watching the movie.

Instead of answering the question, Lucian glanced at Roxanne and signaled to the staff to ask her for her opinion.

In an instant, Roxanne felt as though she had just teleported back to the men's boutique.

Fortunately for her, the staff wasn't as enthusiastic and talkative as the sales attendant in the boutique.

In an awkward tone, she said, "Please start the movie now."

The staff nodded and left the movie hall.

Moments later, the screen in the movie hall lit up, and the movie started playing.

Before noon, Roxanne didn't even know they were going to a movie, let alone what movie Lucian would take her to see.

Therefore, she was filled with anticipation when she saw the movie's opening sequence.

Meanwhile, Lucian was staring at her intently to find out if she liked it.

Apparently, it was a romance film with a medical theme.

Although Roxanne appreciated Lucian's gesture for picking such a film, she couldn't help but feel less interested after seeing the theme of the movie.

"If you don't like it, I can get them to change the movie."

Lucian's voice sounded beside her ears.

"That's not necessary. Let's just watch it." Roxanne returned to her senses and smiled. It has been such a wonderful date. I wouldn't want to ruin it for Lucian.

At the same time, she was also keeping something else from him to protect his feelings. Now that he has reserved the entire movie hall, it lacks the atmosphere of a proper movie date.

The movie started, and Roxanne was watching the movie and talking to Lucian about the scenes that involved medical knowledge.

Naturally, Lucian was listening to her intently.

Roxanne didn't know if the scenes were too foolish or if she was influenced by how Lucian was listening attentively to her explanations, but she felt annoyed as the movie went on. What is all this? Why is the movie spreading false medical information? Are they trying to fool the public?

Frustrated, Roxanne gave up explaining and clarifying the scenes. Instead, she just munched on the popcorn. Although the movie is bad, the popcorn is amazing!

After the movie, they went to their car and drove home. When they were on their way home, Lucian asked in a puzzled tone, "Did the movie show a lot of mistakes? If needed, I can either pull it from release or pay the director to shoot the movie all over again."

Chapter 1553 Did Daddy Take Care Of You

Roxanne was merely annoyed while watching the film earlier. Now that they exited the movie theater, she thought she was blowing things out of proportion earlier.

"No, it's just that my occupational disease is acting up. It's good enough that the plot of the movie was well-defined. There's no need to dwell on such minor details."

Lucian, however, still seemed a little apologetic. "I thought you'd like such genres. I'll change to something else next time."

As if a sudden thought popped into her head, Roxanne teased, "Then let's watch something related to trade wars next time. I look forward to Mr. Farwell giving me a lesson too."

Lucian's eyes darkened upon seeing how she had taken the initiative to joke with him. Without hesitation, he agreed, "Sure. I'll accompany you as long as you want."

His decisiveness left Roxanne feeling somewhat guilty. "Well, forget it. Once is enough for such an unpleasant experience. Let's change to something unrelated to our profession next time..."

At that, Lucian lifted his gaze and glanced at her through the rearview mirror.

As their eyes met, they shared a smile.

It was already nine at night when they arrived back at the manor.

The two headed inside the mansion with multiple bags in their hands.

Meanwhile, the three kids, who had been home since Cayden sent them back earlier, had their minds focused on their gifts and waited patiently for the entire night.

The moment Lucian and Roxanne stepped into the house, the kids flocked toward them excitedly.

"Daddy! Mommy!"

With Lucian carrying almost all of the bags, Roxanne, with her empty hands, bent down and rubbed the kids' heads adoringly with a smile. "Have you all been good at home? Did you all listen to Ms. Catalina?"

The kids exclaimed in unison, "Of course, we are! We even helped Ms. Catalina prepare meals!"

The smile on Roxanne's face grew wider when she heard those words.

"Mommy, where are the presents for us?"

Benny stared at Roxanne expectantly, to which she lifted her head and directed her gaze toward Lucian.

In response, he gave Benny's chubby cheeks a pinch before he gestured with his chin and remarked, "They're on the couch. Go and open them yourselves."

Sounds of cheers erupted among the three kids, and they scampered toward the couch at once.

Within seconds, the stuff on the couch turned into a mess because of the kids' rummaging.

Roxanne had no choice but to go over and help them out.

"Yay! It's the latest Apple!"

Benny's eyes were sparkling as he shared his joy with Archie enthusiastically.

At that point, Archie had also found his present. It was the same as Benny's but in a different color.

Like Benny, Archie was also immensely thrilled. Not forgetting to express his gratitude, he turned behind to look at Lucian and said, "Thank you, Daddy and Mommy!"

Lucian nodded lightly. "I'm glad that you all like it."

"Wow! So many dresses! I love them!" Estella's soft and adorable voice rang out from one side.

With an eyebrow quirked, Lucian looked at Estella and said, "Mommy specially picked them for you."

Estella endearingly wrapped her arms around Roxanne's neck and planted her lips on the latter's cheek. "Thank you, Mommy! I love Mommy the most!"

Estella's sweet and lovely behavior instantly made Roxanne's heart melt into mush. "I love you too, Essie."

"Mommy, did Daddy take good care of you today?" Estella asked with a straight face, almost as though she was ready to reprimand Lucian right away if Roxanne gave no as her answer.

To that, Roxanne and Lucian exchanged glances.

The man was undoubtedly amused. This little girl is now trying to poke her nose in my matters, huh?

Nonetheless, after thinking carefully about it, Lucian figured that Estella was on Roxanne's side and ultimately did not say anything. Instead, he even put on a cooperative posture.

"He has been taking great care of me."

The imposing presence of the father and daughter duo left Roxanne torn between amusement and exasperation. Without a choice, she could only coax Estella first while she reproachfully glared at Lucian.

Chapter 1554 Glad That You Know

Lucian met Roxanne's gaze calmly. An accusatory look danced past his eyes, almost like he wanted to tell on her.

Roxanne retracted her gaze in annoyance and leaned over to carry Estella up. "Come on. I'll bring you upstairs to try on the dresses."

Estella reached out and held onto Roxanne tightly.

Just as the two turned and strode toward the stairs, a commotion resounded from upstairs.

"You guys better be careful. Don't break or drop anything." Sonya's slightly displeased voice rang in everyone's ears.

Puzzled, Roxanne lifted her gaze, only to find several housekeepers moving many bags down under Catalina's instructions while Sonya followed behind, with displeasure written all over her face.

When Sonya saw Lucian, Roxanne, and the kids downstairs, her expression darkened even more.

Roxanne carefully put Estella back on the couch, then whipped her head around to look at Lucian with a questioning look, seemingly asking him what the situation was about.

Lucian shifted his gaze onto Sonya and asked, "Mom, why are you moving back at such a late time? Can't you move back tomorrow?"

Sonya responded with a cold snort. "I bet you can't wait for me to move out! I'm just an eyesore to all of you here!"

After saying all that, she swept her gaze across the bags of gifts on the couch. As she spotted several bags with familiar brand packaging, she immediately shot Roxanne a ferocious glare.

All these are new clothing! Lucian must've paid for everything! This woman bears to let my son fork out so much money when they aren't even married. Wouldn't things only become worse in the future?

Sonya's burning gaze was so intense Roxanne could sense it, but her voice stuck in her throat.

Fortunately, Lucian stood up for her and explained, "Roxanne bought me many clothes. I'm gifting her a few pieces in return."

A tinge of guilt rose within Roxanne when she heard the man's explanation.

I only bought him the shirt that he's wearing right now. How did he make it sound like I've bought him everything here?

Of course, Sonya did not believe her son's words, but she did not say more and merely let out a derisive snort as she did not want to waste her breath arguing with him. "It's not like I've followed behind the two of you. How will I know who fork out money to buy all this stuff? You two can say whatever pleases you, isn't it?"

Finishing her sentence, she returned her gaze to the housekeepers and ordered, "Hurry up. You all will hold up Mr. and Mrs. Farwell's rest time if this drags on any longer."

As much as Sonya had used "Mrs. Farwell" to address her, Roxanne could tell that the former was merely trying to be sarcastic.

At the same time, she was also attributing her moving out to Roxanne.

As that realization dawned upon Roxanne, her expression changed drastically. Then again, considering that Sonya was about to move out, she did not make a scene and instead went up to Sonya and attempted to grab the bag from her.

"Mrs. Farwell, let me carry it for you."

Sonya avoided her hand in exaggeration. "How will I dare trouble you to do something like this? Lucian will probably throw me out of the Farwell main residence if I were to do that."

Roxanne's body stiffened almost instantly.

Sensing Sonya's hostility, the three kids quickly rushed to Roxanne to protect her.

Sonya threw a quick look at Estella and snickered coldly. "Estella doesn't even acknowledge me as her grandmother now. I wonder if I still have a say in this household!"

Unable to hold it in anymore, Roxanne said, "Don't say that, Mrs. Farwell. As long as I haven't gotten your approval, I will remain an outsider to the Farwell family. So, there's no doubt you have the final say in this household. If there is anyone who doesn't have a say here, that person will definitely be me."

"Glad you know that! Don't you dare assume I'm leaving because I'm afraid of you!"

Roxanne pursed her lips without saying another word.

With his brows tightly scrunched together, Lucian went up to pat her shoulders affectionately before following Sonya out.