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Lucian was a light sleeper. When he heard the series of soft rustling sounds, he opened his eyes and saw that the patient on the bed had already woken up. She placed her palm on her forehead, seemingly checking her own temperature. "How are you feeling? Do you still have a high fever?" Lucian got up and walked toward the bed. Roxanne froze in her movements before slowly propping herself up. In a courteous tone, she said, "I feel much better now. Thank you, and sorry for the trouble caused tonight." Seeing how she was acting distant from him, Lucian's face fell. However, he quickly hid his displeasure upon recalling that she was unwell. "You didn't have dinner just now. Are you hungry?" he asked in a caring tone. As soon as he brought that up, Roxanne realized that she was starving. Apart from the few bites she had at lunch, she practically ate nothing the entire day due to a low appetite caused by her fever. Then again, she was reluctant to owe him any more favors. Just when she was about to say no to him, her empty stomach growled. In an instant, Roxanne's cheeks flushed. She kept a calm composure and replied, "I don't feel like eating anything this late."

Lucian furrowed his brows and left the ward at once. Upon hearing the door shut behind her, Roxanne turned, only to realize that the man had disappeared. Ten minutes later, he returned with a piping hot bowl of oatmeal. "There isn't much option at this hour. I can only make you this using the microwave at the hospital. Hope you don't mind it." Roxanne was taken aback by his action. By the time she snapped back to her senses, he had already adjusted her bed and placed the oatineal in front of her. "Thank you." She got up and took a mouthful of it. Considering all that he has done for me, it would be very impolite of me to decline him once more Lucian waited till she started eating before returning to his seat. "The doctor advised you to be hospitalized for further observation, just in case your condition worsens. You should go for another check-up tomorrow morning. If all is well, then you can be discharged," he uttered in a low voice Roxanne glanced at him and nodded. "I feel okay now. Thank you for taking care of me tonight. It's getting pretty late, so you'd better go home and take a rest since you have to work tomorrow."

He was chagrined to hear that she was not so subtly chasing him away. "I'm not so irresponsible to leave you here alone overnight," he snapped coldly. Frowning, Roxanne insisted, "I'm fine, and I don't need special care anymore. It's unnecessary for you to stay back. You can't get a good rest here, anyway." She did not want to owe him anything more than she already did. Her voice sounded awkwardly loud in the quiet hospital ward at midnight. Dead silence filled the room upon her words. However, the man did not seem to have any intention of leaving. She dug her fingernails into her palms as she explained in a slightly friendlier tone of voice, "We aren't in any

relationship. Hence, there's no reason for you to take special care of me, Mr. Farwell. I actually feel burdened when you do that." Upon saying so, she gave the man sitting opposite her a solemn look. Never in a million years would Lucian have thought that caring for her would create a rift between them. He was utterly displeased. Yet, there was no way he could just leave the woman alone. After moments of pin-drop silence, he managed to suppress his anger. "Don't you misunderstand. I just think that Essie will be mad at me if she finds out that I left you here and went back on my own," he said indifferently.

In other words, he was implying that she was not the reason why he insisted on staying. Though Roxanne was a little apprehensive, she could not refute him. Left with no choice, she acquiesced to his decision. However, none of them had anything to say to each other, resulting in a very awkward situation in the ward.

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When Roxanne finished eating her oatmeal, Lucian automatically adjusted her bed for her and put the bowl away. away. For a long time, both of them just stared at each other without exchanging a word. The silence between them spoke volumes. Roxanne had rested for the whole day, so it was difficult for her to fall asleep again. Even so, she shut her eyes, not wanting to interact with Lucian. He, on the other hand, was exhausted after a long day. Sleepiness gradually descended upon him, and in the blink of an eye, he dozed off. Minutes later, soft rhythmic breathing was the only sound that could be heard in the ward. Roxanne slowly opened her eyes and cast a look in his direction. His jacket had been placed over her blanket, leaving him with only a thin shirt on. He folded his arms across his chest, seemingly having a rough time resting. Roxanne hesitated for a bit before she decided to get up and approach him quietly. Grabbing his jacket from the bed, she gently draped it over him. A turmoil of emotions crept up on her when she saw his handsome face close up.

It's still the same gorgeous face from six years ago, but I'm no longer the infatuated girl I was back then. I don't know how he sees me now, and neither do I want to find out about it. I just want to lead a peaceful life with my two little munchkins, Suddenly. Roxanne felt a sense of relief rise within her. She strode across the room to switch off the lights, then went back to bed. As soon as she closed her eyes, a million thoughts ran past her head, giving her a hard time falling asleep. Ironically, the soft sounds from the bed earlier had awakened Lucian, who was a light sleeper. When he heard her footsteps coming toward him, he chose to keep his eyes shut and pretended to be asleep. A moment later, she stopped in front of him, and he was able to pick up the faint fragrance that lingered upon her body. Owing to his proximity, the scent made his heart skip a beat, and his breathing became uneven. Somehow, he had a feeling that her gaze was fixated on him. Hence, he could only continue with his act until he heard

noises coming from the bed." He slowly opened his bleary cyes to look at her, and his gaze never left the bed for the rest of the night "That nighi, none of them had a good rest. The next morning, Roxanne was woken up by a ruckus outside of the ward.

The little ones were so worried about Ms. Jarvis. They have been asking to come see her since the break of dawn," Lysa said helplessly. Archie's anxious voice rang out. "How is Mommy? Is she still sleeping?" "Yes. You should go in later." Lucian's voice sounded hoarse. He had not gotten much rest. By the time he dozed off, the children had already barged into the ward, asking to see Roxanne. Seeing that she was sleeping soundly, he brought them all outside and shut the door behind him. Archie noticed how haggard Lucian was, so even though he was frowning, he obliged obediently. Meanwhile, Benny was peering through the small crack left by the closed door in hopes that he could get a glimpse of Roxanne, but to no avail. With that, he sulked. Lysa was holding Estella, who was equally worried about the beautiful Roxanne. Her big eyes kept staring at the door as if it would open for her if she continued doing so. Anyhow, the children stood outside and waited in the hallway guietly when their father reminded them again that Roxanne was still sleeping. As a result, peace was restored in the hospital. A warm and fuzzy feeling crept up on Roxanne when she realized how worried the children were. She was utterly touched by their concern and wanted to open the door to welcome them.

As soon as she sat herself up on the bed, she locked gazes with the man through the small window on the door. Her heart thumped uncontrollably when their eyes met. Right when she was still debating how to respond to him, the man averted his gaze. Turning to the kids, he announced, "You may enter now." Afterward, he opened the door for them. The little ones all had a twinkle in their eyes when they saw Roxanne sitting on the bed. Without a second thought, all of them dashed toward her.

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"How are you feeling. Mommy? Are you still down with a fever?" Archie and Benny ran to the bed at once, unable to hide their worry from their faces. Roxanne chuckled as she shook her head. "No I feel much better now." The two boys were not convinced. They stretched out their hands, wanting to check her forehead for themselves. Seeing so, Roxanne bent down and let them touch her forehead. Then she caught sight of the small figure standing behind Archie and Benny. With tears in her eyes, the little girl was biting her lip concern written all over her face. She was rather timid when compared to the two boys. Roxanne's heart melted when she saw that. She smiled at Estella and asked, "Essie, do you want to confirm if I'm okay?" Estella stiffened for a second before nodding her head vigorously. The next moment, she let go of Lysa's hand and zoomed toward Roxanne. The woman had her body bent over as she grabbed Estella's outstretched hand and put it on her forehead. Shortly after, Estella retracted her hand before finally breaking out into a smile. "You were all scared, weren't you? I'm sorry for making all of you worried about me." Roxanne patted each of them lovingly as she recalled their panic-stricken faces upon seeing how she was rushed to the hospital yesterday Benny nodded his head vigorously. "Archie and I will be obedient boys from now on. Mommy please don't overwork yourself, okay?" With a sullen expression, Archie said nothing. Yet, one could tell that he concurred with his brother on this matter.

Roxanne chuckled before replying, "Sure. I'll take good care of myself Lysa placed a thermal lunch box on the bedside table and said, "Have you had breakfast? brought some for you both. Hurry up and eat it while it's still hot Then she proceeded to take out two bowls to serve them soup and some side dishes. In response, Roxanne nodded. Thank you so much." Seeing that Lysa had already prepared the food for him. Lucian could not bring himself to decline her kind gesture even though he had no appetite to eat Simultaneously, the two of them reached for the bowls, which had been placed side by side. Their fingers then accidentally brushed against each other. Roxanne froze, and she subconsciously looked up at the man who was coincidentally gazing in her direction too Her heart thumped rapidly as they locked eyes with each other. Instantly, she snapped back to her senses and quickly repressed her feelings. She then picked up her bowl as though nothing had happened. "Mr. Farwell, thanks for spending a night here to take care of Ms. Jarvis." Lysa broke the silence. "I'm happy to do that." Lucian said with a nod. He took a quick glance at Roxanne before adding "After all, Essie loves her so much and she has been so wonderful to her. I should do what I can to return the favor to Ms. Jarvis. He tried to justify his actions again, stating that he only did it for Estella Roxanne had heard similar words just last night, so she did not show any reaction when he spoke this time. Conversely. Lysa was taken aback Their interaction with each other last night suggested positive progress. I thought that...

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After breakfast. Roxanne thought that the time was still early, so she could possibly make it to the research institute in time "My fever has subsided. Lysa, could you please arrange for my discharge? I need to get some work done." Her work progress at the research institute had been impacted due to the surgery she did for Larry Therefore, Roxanne did not want to create a backlog of work and fall behind even further. Lysa hesitated. "Ms. Jarvis, I think you should stay and observe your condition for one more day. I know how swamped with work you've been recently. You didn't fall sick yesterday for no apparent reason. It's because of fatigue! Now that your temperature is kept at bay, you can't wait to bury yourself in work again. I'm really afraid that your body can't cope with it and will collapse for the second time. Though Lysa had not been serving Roxanne for a long time, she had witnessed enough of how the latter overworked

herself day in and day out. One would easily assume that Roxanne had superpowers if she had not fallen ill yesterday. She never once grumbled that she was tired nor complained about her hectic routine of juggling a career and raising her children. I The more time Lysa spent with the family, the more she felt sorry for the single mother of two She treated Roxanne like her own daughter, and it broke her heart to see the younger woman fall sick "It's okay. I'm used to it already. Moreover, yesterday was just a little accident. Roxanne removed the blanket and insisted on getting off the bed The expression of the man standing not too far away from her turned grim when he heard that. He recalled the contents of her amazing resume. How did she attain all those achievements within six short years? What kind of life did she lead when she was abroad? What has she gone through to get to where she is today?

Lysa was still very concerned. She had not been present when the doctor gave his diagnosis, so she was clueless about Roxanne's actual condition While Lysa was still debating what to do, Roxanne had already gotten up from the bed. Fretting the former hurriedly turned to Lucian and gave him a pleading look hoping that he would offer some help in persuading Roxanne to stay Somehow, she just felt that Roxanne would listen to him. Lucian's frown became more pronounced as he strode toward the bed and stared at the stubborn woman. The doctor said that you must go through a check-up before he will approve your discharge." With that said, he glanced at Lysa and instructed, "Please get the doctor here." Finally, Lysa heaved a sigh of relief and did as he had requested. Roxanne's brow snapped together disapprovingly. "This is really unnecessary. I know myself and I know my body well." As a doctor, she was well aware of her own body's condition. It was just a fever. I have recovered, and I can definitely be discharged. Lucian retorted, "If you did, why would you have collapsed at home and gotten so weak that you couldn't even get down from your bed?" Roxanne was rendered speechless at his comeback Upon hearing Lucian's words, Archie and Benny chimed in "Mommy, let's get the doctor to perform a check-up thoroughly Roxanne could not bear to see her boys getting all anxious because of her. At last she swallowed her rejection and obliged. Soon Lysa returned to the ward with the doctor.

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It was not even eight o'clock when they came out of the hospital.

Roxanne stretched her stiff body lazily. She was so glad to be breathing some fresh air again after being confined to bed for one day and two nights.

Archie and Benny trailed closely behind her just in case anything else happened to their mother.

"Ms. Jarvis, why don't you head home first to get some rest? Maybe just take the morning off?" Lysa tried her utmost to convince Roxanne not to dive into work right away.

The latter grinned and assured her, "I'm perfectly fine, so don't worry about me. After the surgery I did the day before yesterday, I rushed to the kindergarten in my sweaty clothes because I didn't have the time to get changed. Most likely, I caught a cold then, which developed into a fever. I promise to be more careful next time."

Subsequently, she bent down and tousled the children's hair. "I need to finish up my work at the research institute. Can Ms. Lane take you to your kindergarten today? I'll inform Ms. Ward that you'll be late."

The children looked at her with concern.

If possible, they wished that Roxanne could take a break and rest.

However, they were well aware that their mother was a workaholic who would not delay her work.

They struggled with it a little before nodding reluctantly.

Roxanne turned to Lysa and said, "I'll leave you to bring the kids to the kindergarten, but I'll inform Ms. Ward accordingly."

Lysa agreed.

Then, Roxanne approached Lucian, who was already waiting by the main entrance. "I just wanted to thank you for last night. I took care of Essie last time, and with you returning the favor now, we no longer owe each other anything," she said in a calm manner.

Despite the unfazed look on his face, his emotions were anything but that.

Moments later, he broke the silence with a laconic reply. "Sure." His thoughts were unfathomable.

Right when Roxanne was about to turn and leave, a little hand grabbed her by the hem of her dress.

*"M*s. Jarvis!" Estella could not comprehend the words Roxanne said to Lucian. She was completely baffled about who owed what and to whom. It all sounded like a strange, foreign language to her, so she hurried over and grabbed Roxanne's dress.

The woman halted her steps and turned to the little girl. "What's wrong, Essie?"

"I like Ms. Jarvis." Tears glistened in Estella's eyes as she pouted unhappily, feeling rather aggrieved

Her sad face caused Roxanne's heart to soften. She quickly gave the little girl a tight hug and comforted her, "I like you too, Essie. Thanks for coming to visit me."

Her warm embrace magically made Estella feel slightly better.

Despite that, she was still reluctant to part as she stared at Roxanne's retreating back.

Roxanne walked Lysa and the boys to the junction to hail a cab.

Lysa had taken a cab to the hospital in the morning, whereas Roxanne had been driven there by Lucian last night. Hence, they were without their own transport.

Unfortunately, they could not escape the madness of rush hour. Not one vacant cab came by even after they had waited for a while.

While Roxanne was debating if she should trouble Colby to make a trip to the hospital and fetch her, Lucian's voice rang out beside her.

"It's hard to get a cab at this hour. Let me drive all of you to where you need to be."

Roxanne was startled by his sudden appearance. I thought he has left already. Why is he still here?

She turned around and was met by Estella's puppy dog eyes, seemingly waiting for her to accept the offer. It was then she understood.

Although she had a soft spot for the little girl, she did not want to have anything to do with that man anymore. With a frown, she rejected him once more. "It's okay. I've troubled you enough recently, Mr. Farwell. I'm sure that you need to get to the office as soon as possible, so please go ahead, and don't worry about us. We will manage on our own."

The instant she ended her sentence, she saw Lucian knit his brows, looking annoyed.

Did I say anything that upset him? Puzzled, Roxanne dared not speak further.

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While holding Estella's hand, Lucian stared at the woman, who had an indifferent expression on her face at a near distance away. In a slightly sarcastic voice, he retorted, "Even if we're strangers. vou don't need to avoid me like the plague, Ms. Jarvis. I'm going to send Essie to the kindergarten anyway, and I'll drive past your research institute from the kindergarten to Farwell Group. That's the reason I offered to give you a ride. What's your concern, Ms. Jarvis?"

In other words, he was implying that Roxanne was overthinking things.

Estella wanted to be with Roxanne for a while longer, so she gazed at the latter pitifully upon hearing that, "Ms. Jarvis."

Unbidden, Roxanne's heart melted.

Furthermore, she had no refutation to Lucian's words.

They merely had nothing to do with each other, so her repeated demurral of such innocuous things made her appear rather petty.

At that thought, she relented and said to Lysa, "You may go back first. I'll take them to kindergarten."

Lysa murmured in acknowledgment and handed Archie and Benny to Roxanne.

Archie and Benny were still prejudiced against Lucian, so they were a touch hesitant, knowing that they were riding with the man again.

Estella, on the other hand, had already dropped her father's hand and went over to clutch Roxanne's dress. It was clear that she wanted to sit with Roxanne.

Patting her head, Roxanne ordered Archie and Benny, "Get in."

Only after hearing that did they slowly climb into the car.

Roxanne went in after them with Estella in her arms, sitting in the back seat with Archie and Benny.

Lucian closed the car door for them and slipped into the passenger seat.

Then, the car started slowly and drove toward the kindergarten.

Silence reigned in the car. Roxanne had nothing to say to Lucian, and the children were inexplicably quiet as well.

Throughout the entire drive, the atmosphere was exceedingly depressing.

As the car gradually drove away, camera flashed relentlessly in the bushes in front of the hospital.

It was almost nine o'clock when they arrived at the kindergarten.

Roxanne alighted from the car and led the three children to the kindergarten gates.

As they were really late then, the kindergarten gates were already closed.

Roxanne gave Pippa a call to explain the situation briefly. Pippa then came out and brought the three children into the compound.

Watching as their figures disappeared from her line of sight, Roxanne turned back hesitantly.

By the side of the road, Lucian's car was still parked in the same spot silently, waiting for her.

According to Lucian's remarks earlier, he would drive her somewhere near the research institute on his way to the office.

However, without the children's presence, she really didn't know how to remain in such a cramped space with the man alone.

Anyhow, the research institute was very near to the kindergarten. Part of the reason she chose that particular kindergarten back then was because of its distance from the research institute, which made it convenient for her to drive her children to and fro.

Even by foot, it would only take about half an hour.

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While she was contemplating whether or not she should just walk, the car window slowly rolled down, revealing the man's impatient profile.

Roxanne was promptly taken aback.

"Aren't you in a hurry to go to the research institute? Why are you still dawdling?" Lucian could guess her intentions, so he was in a foul mood. Consequently, his tone wasn't all that amicable. either.

Upon hearing that, Roxanne pursed her lips. A moment later, she flashed him a polite smile and stepped forward, saying, "The research institute is just around the corner, so I'll walk there."

Suppressing the chagrin within him, Lucian replied coolly, "If Essie were to learn that I had you walk over, she'd throw a fit at me when she returns."

At that, Roxanne was startled.

As long as neither of us speaks of it, how would she learn about it?

Nonetheless, seeing as the man seemingly wouldn't leave unless she got into the car, she still climbed into the back seat after a moment's hesitation.

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