

## The Secret 141

### Chapter 141 Getting Involved Again

The next morning, Roxanne sent the children to school by themselves because Lucian didn't show up.

When Pippa saw Roxanne alone, she was shocked. "Millisecond. Jarvis, where is Mr. Farwell today?"

Roxanne was briefly surprised by the comment.

She hadn't expected Pippa to notice that Lucian had been taking the children to school with her for the past two days, let alone ask about her absence.

Since she gave the impression that she and Lucian were close, Roxanne was stumped for an answer.

Nonetheless, Estella took the notebook from her and wrote: I'm living with Mrs. Jarvis now!

She then picked it up with a vibrant smile on her face.

When Pippa saw how cheerful Estella was now in contrast to her listless expression from two days ago, she couldn't help but smile and stroke Estella's hair. "I see."

Afterwards, she looked at Roxanne again and her jaw dropped at how much Estella liked Roxanne and her children.

Roxanne let out a sigh of relief in her mind when she saw that Estella responded on her behalf. After handing over the children, she commented, "Thank you for taking care of them."

With that, she said goodbye to the children before leaving.

Due to how busy she was taking care of Estella and managing the affairs of the research institute, she didn't get to visit Alfred even though it was time for her next treatment.

With that thought in mind, Roxanne turned her car around and headed for the Queen's residence after confirming with Jonathan that it was a good time for her to visit.

Meanwhile, Jonathan was already waiting at home.

He gave Roxanne a warm welcome the moment he entered. "Dr. Jarvis, I was just about to call you because you hadn't made contact."

Roxanne smiled apologetically. "Something came up in the last two days. How is old Mr. Queen?"

In truth, Jonathan was just making idle talk and he didn't mean to blame her. In response to her question, his eyes sparkled with admiration. "Thanks to his incredible medical skills, Grandpa's condition has improved significantly. Otherwise, he would already be bothering you."

Relieved to know that Alfred was okay, Roxanne carried her first-aid kit up the stairs.

Following behind her, Jonathan frowned as he accidentally caught a glimpse of her hand holding her kit. "You got hurt?"

Roxanne didn't think about it. "I accidentally scalded myself when I spilled soup on him. It's not a bother at all."

After a momentary pause, she added, "Don't worry, it won't affect Old Mr. Queen's treatment."

#### Chapter 142 Not What I Meant To Say

In the end, Roxanne's thanks never left her mouth.

Jonathan was also stunned. Scowling at Frieda, he chided her: "Frieda, what are you babbling about?"

With a shrug, Frieda replied nonchalantly, "I'm serious. Even though someone broke up with Lucian without saying a word back then, she's still tough enough to hold on to him now. Don't you already know that Aubree is with Lucian? What is the difference between her and a third party?"

As she spoke, Frieda gave Roxanne a contemptuous look.

I just can't stand her, and she'll never earn my respect even if I heal Grandpa.

Although she didn't name names, it was clear that she was talking about Roxanne.

As a grim expression gradually descended on Roxanne's face, she coldly said, "Mrs. Queen, instead of making snide remarks, you better learn some manners before you go around patronizing others.

With a drastic change in her expression, Frieda glanced at Roxanne. "How dare you accuse me of being rude!"

Roxanne met her gaze with an emotionless face. What do my business with Lucian have to do with you? This is my personal matter and you have no right to interfere. As a lady from a prominent family, don't you think it's improper for you to poke your nose into other people's affairs?

Roxanne's admonition left Frieda speechless.

She was worried that she would be labeled uneducated if she continued the argument.

Retrieving her gaze, Roxanne warned, "To me, you are nothing more than a stranger. At most, you're just a member of my patient's family. Therefore, you better not ask me about my personal matters!"

With that, Roxanne said goodbye to Jonathan and left before Frieda could react.

Seeing Roxanne's departing silhouette, Frieda clenched her teeth in anger, for she had seen how Aubree stayed by Lucian's side through the years.

If it weren't for her, Lucian would have married Aubree by now. And now that she's back, she's managed to get Lucian's attention again. I don't know what gives him the nerve to even put on such airs! Aubree has treated Grandpa very well over the years and is in no way inferior to her. How dare this homewrecker accuse me of being rude!

When Jonathan saw the anger on Frieda's face, he shot her a look before chasing after Roxanne.

"Dr. Jarvis!

Roxanne stopped and turned at her voice. She was greeted by the sight of him running towards her.

#### Chapter 143 Picking Up The Children

After watching Roxanne walk away, Jonathan returned to the mansion.

Frieda, who was drinking coffee on the sofa with a frown, gave him a sidelong glance before recovering her gaze.

Jonathan's expression darkened as she caught her reaction. "Why are you behaving this way? What has Dr. Jarvis done to you to be so hostile to her? Don't forget that she is Grandpa's savior!"

Frieda looked at Jonathan and rebutted: "Savior? It's not that we didn't offer him anything. We're just getting what each of us needs."

Filled with disgust, she further asked, "Jonathan, why are you defending her? Has she also cheated on you? In response to your asking how she has offended me, I should ask if she has gotten into your head.

Jonathan stared at her. "Stop talking nonsense. Whatever is going on between Dr. Jarvis and Lucian is between the two of them. We have no right to question her. You better not mention it again!

Sensing Jonathan's anger, Frieda kept her mouth shut despite the outrage she felt inside of her.

Although Roxanne had no intention of taking Frieda's words seriously, she couldn't help but feel affected by them. Therefore, she still felt discouraged when she returned to the research institute.

After making her rounds and realizing there wasn't much to do, she decided to go home and rest so she could collect her thoughts.

Just as she was about to leave, someone knocked on her door.

Opening it, she saw that he was one of the renowned professors from the research institute.

"Dr. Jarvis, thank God you're still here. We have found a problem with our formulation during our experiments. We've been trying all morning, but we can't seem to figure out what's wrong. Can you take a look at it for us?"

With a solemn expression, Roxanne changed into her lab coat and followed him back into the lab.

After reviewing it, she realized that the problem was really serious. Since it was related to a major project at the institute, she plunged into the research without delay.

Before she knew it, it was already night and she had forgotten about the children at school.

"Dr. Jarvis, your phone is ringing," someone meekly reminded him.

Coming to her senses, Roxanne took her phone from her lab pocket to check. When she saw the caller ID on the screen, her eyebrows couldn't help but knit together.

Ever since she started taking care of Estella, she had removed Lucian's number from her blacklist.

Why are you calling me at this hour?

"What is it?" Roxanne answered after a brief hesitation.

Chapter 144 Why We

come to look? Looking at her phone, Roxanne hesitated briefly before putting it away and continuing her investigation.

Since she needed more time to work, she was glad that Lucian could take the task off of her.

Meanwhile, the three children were sitting on a bench in the kindergarten field with their backpacks on their backs. Accustomed to the fact that Roxanne was late due to work, the children sat upright and chatted with Pippa from time to time.

Sitting between the two brothers, Estella began to feel anxious. However, after a while, she began to slowly drift away until she cupped her chin in her hands and listened intently to her conversation.

Even when Lucian arrived, none of them noticed her presence.

When she saw the three of them sitting together, Lucian felt his heart warm. Subconsciously, she quickened her pace and ran towards them.

"Mister. Goodbye," Pippa said when she saw him.

Only then did the children look up and react with disappointment upon seeing him.

At the drastic change in the boys' expressions, Lucian raised an eyebrow but didn't comment. Instead, he informed Pippa: "Sorry, I was busy with work. I'll also pick up Archie and Benny.

Knowing that the three children had always been together for the last few days, Pippa asked no more. After handing them over, she said goodbye and went to her house.

Despite that, the children continued to sit on the bench without moving.

Lucian looked at them amused. "Do you still feel like sitting here for a while?"

Benny shook his head reflexively, because he didn't want to stay here. The air was cold, while the bench was hard. Besides, his bag was heavy and he could already hear his stomach growling.

Archie looked at Lucian with a serious expression. "Where are mommy? Why are you the one who picks us up?"

Estella also looked at her father and waited for her answer.

"She's still busy at the research institute, and it would be too late by the time she's done. I came first to invite you all to dinner," Lucian summarized. "Besides, I'm sure all of you are hungry. Come with me."

However, Archie remained undecided.

As for Benny, he was hungry and also excited to finally have the opportunity to spend time with his father.

However, when he didn't hear Archie's response, he too fell silent and waited for his brother to express his thoughts.

When it came to Estella, she had no objections, since she was used to eating with Lucian. Despite that, she remained seated as she didn't see any movement from the boys.

Noting the expectant look in Benny's eyes, Archie paused for a moment before indicating his agreement by rising from the bench.

#### Chapter 145 I Dislike You For Leaving Us

Feeling hungry, Benny took his gaze back from the decorations the moment he heard Lucian mention food. He counted on his fingers. "I would like spare ribs, fried fish, drumsticks... These are all our favorite foods!"

Afterwards, Lucian directed his attention to Archie, who initially wasn't interested in responding.

However, since Benny had responded on his behalf, Archie had no choice but to agree silently.

After ordering the food to the children's liking, Lucian was at a loss for what to talk to them about, causing an awkward silence to fall over the table.

Once the plates arrived, Lucian motioned for the waiter to place them in front of the children.

It was only then that Archie uttered in a cordial but distant tone, "Thank you, Mr. Farwell."

"Do not mention it". Lucian nodded in acknowledgment. His tone sounded awkward since he had rarely spent time interacting with them.

During dinner, he served them food even though he didn't feed them like Roxanne did.

However, the children devoured his food.

"Is the food right for your taste?" Finally, Lucian thought of what to ask after struggling to find a topic.

Benny raised his head and rubbed his stomach before giving the question some thought. In the end, he replied with a serious tone, "It's delicious, but not as good as mom's cooking."

Lucian arched an eyebrow in surprise. "Does your mommy cook often?"

Without thinking twice, Benny replied candidly, "Mmm-hmm. She will cook for us when she is not busy. But when she is overwhelmed by work, she won't even have time to eat."

At that moment, a worried expression appeared on his face, because he was sure that she hadn't eaten yet.

Meanwhile, Estella's eyes lit up with envy. She also wanted to have Roxanne's food every day.

Oblivious to what was going through his mind, Lucian remained curious about Archie and Benny's daily life. "In that case, how do you manage when your mommy is busy?"

The moment the words were out of his mouth, Lucian immediately regretted it.

If Roxanne is busy, her father would naturally be the one to take care of them. There is no way the three of them lived alone abroad.

With that thought in mind, Lucian couldn't help but think of Roxanne.

#### Chapter 146 Disappointment

Meanwhile, Benny, who had something to say, swallowed his words after his brother's tirade.

I almost forgot that dad is a villain, and we were supposed to ignore him!

Lucian frowned as he sensed the unhappiness in the boys. Realizing that he had asked an inappropriate question, he apologized: "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to bring up your painful past.

Despite opening his mouth, he didn't get any words out after that, because he didn't know how else to comfort them.

Archie lowered his head and pretended to focus on his food. "Everything's fine. We have gotten used to it, anyway," he said.

At that moment, the atmosphere at the table became tense.

Unable to contain himself after eating in silence, Benny looked at Lucian with teary eyes. "Mister. Bye, do you like children?

Lucian was stunned by the look on Benny's face.

Benny continued his soliloquy. "I suppose so, since I can see that you treat Essie very well. Since you don't hate kids, why don't you like us then?

As he spoke, Benny looked at Lucian with puppy dog eyes.

You clearly don't hate children, so why did you abandon us, daddy?

He was about to vocalize the question in his mind.

Startled by his brother's words, Archie was well aware of what the former wanted to ask. Therefore, he preempted the question by serving her some food. "Didn't you say you were hungry? Take, eat.

Despite the sadness inside him, he didn't want to show it in front of Lucian.

Besides, he knew that Roxanne didn't want Lucian to know her identity.

Having been reminded by his brother, Benny pouted and continued to eat the food on his plate. However, he no longer took extras.

In the end, Lucian had no answers to Benny's questions. In fact, he was intrigued by the actual genesis of the questions.

Subsequently, the tension at the table escalated without anyone saying another word until dinner was over.

When Estella, who didn't speak anyway, saw the gloomy mood her brothers were in, she felt equally sad.

As the only adult at the table, Lucian tried to liven things up with new topics, but failed when the brothers simply refused to talk.

Once he finished dinner, he sent the children back to Roxanne's house.

Chapter 147

Lucian guessed that Roxanne was angry that the children were upset. Thus, she apologetically promised, "I didn't know that before. Now that I do, you can be sure I won't bring this up in front of them again."

After looking at the children, who were playing with Lego, Roxanne suddenly felt how rushed it was for Lucian to tell the children about her father. With nothing more to say to him, she motioned for him to leave. It's getting late, Mr. Farwell. Why don't you go home first? Thank you for taking the trouble to pick up the children on my behalf today."

After a brief hesitation, Lucian nodded before leaving.

On the ride home, he felt extremely restless, but could not identify what he was.

When he arrived, he took off his tie in frustration and sat on the sofa for a while. Even then, he continued to feel disturbed.

Subsequently, he took out a bottle of wine from the cabinet, sitting by the window to drink alone.

After two drinks, images of what had happened at dinner gradually emerged in his mind.

The children gave her angry but pitiful looks as they demanded to know why she didn't like them.

With his faces and tone in his mind, Lucian couldn't help but feel a sharp pain in his heart.

After Lucian left, Roxanne played with the children for a while before sending them off to bed.

Having tucked Estella in, Roxanne reflected for a moment before knocking on the children's door.

Meanwhile, both of them couldn't sleep as they were still disturbed from the previous event.

"Mommy, what is it?" Archie asked curiously when he opened the door and saw her.

Roxanne ruffled his hair. "I just want to have a talk with you two. Let's go in."

Archie nodded before climbing back on the bed. He looked exceptionally adorable in his cow print pajamas as his loose fringe billowed before his eyes.

When his heart softened, Roxanne closed the door and settled in next to the bed. She asked softly, "Did Mr. Farwell ask you about your dad at dinner?"

The boys nodded in unison.

Archie added in his shrill voice, "We told him we don't have a dad and also the fact that we don't like our dad."

Roxanne felt her heart stop in response. She could sense a slight sadness in the boy's tone.

Chapter 148 Making Up For It

Feeling bad for making the boys sad, Lucian didn't show up for the next few days. Instead, he would occasionally send a message to see how Estella was doing.

As for Roxanne, she stepped up her surveillance after what happened and was secretly relieved that he didn't show up.

When she saw that the messages from him were not related to the boys, she responded to everyone accordingly.

From the frequent messages she sent, she Roxanne could see how much she cared for Estella.

Since he cares so much about her, why hasn't he shown up? Isn't he worried about leaving her with me just like that? I really have no idea what's going through that mind of yours.

Luckily, Estella was adorable. She not only had exquisite features, but she was also exceptionally obedient.

Every time she got close to Roxanne, she reminded Roxanne of her daughter that she had lost. If she managed to grow up safely, she would be Essie's age.

With that thought in mind, Roxanne treated Estella as if she were one of her family. Deep down, she felt that being nice to the latter was her way of making up for her lost daughter.

After spending a lot of time together, Archie and Benny began to see Estella as their own sister. Whether they were at home or in kindergarten, they would constantly protect her.

Meanwhile, Estella smiled the whole time during her stay with Roxanne.

When Roxanne saw how happy Estella was, she could feel her heartstrings being tugged at.

At the rate they were advancing, Estella's condition quickly stabilized. In other words, she could go home soon.

Holding that thought, Roxanne began to feel reluctant to part with Estella.

Over the weekend, Roxanne planned to take them out for the day, since they haven't been out since Estella started staying with them.

"Mommy!" Archie and Benny eagerly approached her. "Let's take Essie to the aquarium!"

Hearing that, Roxanne looked in Estella's direction to ask her opinion.

The latter nodded obediently.

As long as I can stay with Mrs. Jarvis, Archie and Benny, it doesn't matter where I go.

With that, Roxanne had the children pack their bags before heading to the aquarium together.

Since Lucian was often busy with work, he rarely took Estella out. As for Archie and Benny, it was the first time for both of them to visit an aquarium in the country.

The moment the children entered the aquarium, they were captivated by the smorgasbord of marine life in it. From time to time, they would stop to interact with the fish.

Roxanne would wait patiently and take pictures of them. In addition, she would also give an explanation of the fish that she recognized.

As a result, the children had a lot of fun inside.

Chapter 149 Estella spoke again



After hanging up, Roxanne couldn't help but worry as she watched the three children play happily.

Because of what happened earlier, she was worried that Lucian would bring up Archie and Benny's background again.

Also, she didn't want Lucian to find out about Estella's current status and decided to take her back.

Soon, Lucian called again. "I have arrived. What attraction are you on?"

At the same time, the three children urged Roxanne to take them to a beluga whale show.

Therefore, Roxanne agreed to the children's requests and replied to Lucien: "We will wait for you at the beluga whale aquarium".

After hanging up, Roxanne went to the beluga whale aquarium with the kids. Meanwhile, Lucian and Cayden bought tickets before heading there as well.

Roxanne led the children to sit in the front row near the side. Soon, Lucian walked in and saw them instantly. She went to sit next to them.

Estella greeted Lucian happily upon seeing him, but she soon turned her attention back to the beluga whale performance.

On the other hand, Archie and Benny just nodded in her direction and didn't bother to say hello.

Lucian could see that Archie and Benny still didn't want to talk to him.

He knew it was because of what happened at dinner that night and he was frustrated.

Meanwhile, Roxanne also only greeted him briefly before turning her attention to the performance.

Seeing this, Lucian had no choice but to remain silent.

Aquarium staff stood below the stage and alternated between directing the beluga whales to jump out of the water or spinning them around. The beluga whales carried out the orders perfectly and they looked adorable.

The children looked on with sparkles in their eyes.

"Is there anyone in the audience who would like to come and play with our beluga whales?" The staff turned to face the audience.

The children raised their hands excitedly upon hearing the offer.

Benny stretched out his hand as high as he could and yelled, "Yo! Me!"

To his delight, the staff turned to them and said, "The two boys and one girl over there. I can see that you really like beluga whales. Why don't you come here and play with them?"

Hearing that, the children jumped for joy but didn't forget to seek Roxanne's permission.

Because Roxanne was concerned about the safety of the children, the staff added, "Can I ask the parents to come here with the children?"

Therefore, Roxanne and the children joined hands and went to the edge of the pool.

Then, they followed the instructions of the staff and played for a while with the beluga whales.

Soon, it was break time, but the four of them stayed by the pool.

The staff found the children's enthusiasm endearing and guided them to interact with the beluga whales.

Meanwhile, Roxanne watched from the side.

Chapter 150 He Was Always Related To Her

Roxanne could clearly hear Estella's childish voice through the splashing noise.

She couldn't help but be stunned for a moment, thinking that she had misheard. Then, she looked at Estella with a shocked expression.

Benny was also stunned and stopped what he was doing. He didn't even care that the water splashed on him.

However, Estella soon continued to play with the beluga whale. She didn't notice the shocked expressions from Roxanne and the others.

The staff finally allowed them to return to their seats as the next segment began.

Roxanne and the two children were still stunned. On the other hand, Estella took Roxanne's hand and sat down as if nothing strange had happened.

Lucian noted her stunned expressions and asked with a frown, "What's wrong?"

Roxanne finally came to her senses. She looked at Estella before whispering: "Estella... She seemed to have spoken just now."

Also, she is fluent in speaking and has a lovely voice.

Lucian looked at his daughter with a surprised expression and asked, "What did she say?"

Roxanne was surprised by her question. She was too surprised that Estella suddenly spoke and she couldn't remember what Estella said.

Archie intervened. "She said the beluga whale kissed her."

Next to Archie, Benny couldn't resist Archie's curiosity and asked, "Isn't she mute, Essie?"

They had always thought that Estella was mute. After all, they had never heard of her since they met her.

Lucian frowned and replied, "When did I say Essie was mute?"

Archie and Benny exchanged glances.

Roxanne asked confused, "Essie doesn't talk. You also prepared a notepad so she can write to communicate."

Lucian felt a bit helpless when they brought up this matter. “Estella was generally not willing to talk because of her autism. Even I only hear a few words from her from time to time. Fortunately, she is willing to write to communicate with us.”

Roxanne suddenly remembered what Estella was like when something triggered her autism. Her heart ached for Estella.

On the other hand, Lucian seemed conflicted.