

## **ABANDONED 641**

Chapter 641 “I’ll send Ms. Jarvis back,” came Jack’s voice from the side. Roxanne froze, and she quickly said, “It’s fine.”

Even though they were close enough to be considered friends, Roxanne did not think that they were that close enough for Jack to send her home.

She rejected Larry's offer because she felt that it would be inconvenient to do so.

However, she rejected Jack because she felt that they were not close enough for him to send her back. Naturally, Jack could see the difference between Larry and him. Still, despite knowing that, he was disappointed.

“There’s no need for you to be this courteous with me, Ms. Jarvis. We’ll be working together in the near future. I just wish for us to get closer so that we can work better together.” Then he tamped down the rising strange feelings in him. “Also, I’m about to go back to my place, and your house is on my way. It won’t be

troublesome at all.” A crease appeared between Roxanne’s brows.

Every excuse she could think of to reject Jack had been dismissed by him before she could even voice it. Even though she still felt that it was inappropriate for him to give her a ride, she simply could not come up with any reason to reject his offer.

Larry didn’t think much of it as he chimed in, “In that case, just accept Mr. Damaris’ offer, Roxanne.”

Without a doubt, Larry would rather have Jack send Roxanne back than have Roxanne take a cab home.

Since they both had said that, Roxanne had no choice but to agree to it. “Sorry for the trouble, then, Mr. Damaris.” Jack let out a sigh inwardly and gave her a reassuring smile in response. “It’s nothing but a small matter.”

The three of them then waited for the two drivers to come by the hotel entrance as they talked about the collaboration. In the middle of their conversation, various

footsteps could be heard from behind them.

They guessed that a group of people had just finished their meal and were coming out of the hotel together. Hence, the trio stepped aside to open up a path for the people behind them without turning around.

“Slow down, Jessica!”

The few young women behind them were supporting a drunk Jessica with worried looks on their faces.

After leaving the event earlier, Jessica had downed countless glasses of wine and became drunk. She was angry the more she thought about what had happened earlier.

It took her friends a long while of persuasion to convince her to stop. Then, they tried to support her out of the hotel to return home.

Jessica was truly drunk out of her mind. As the women supported her out, she continued to mumble under her breath, “Roxanne Jarvis, huh? Just you wait! Jack’s mine...” Just as the few young women were about to respond to that, they lifted their heads to see Roxanne and the two men.

Jessica was still cursing away.

“Jessica, stop it!” one of the young women said.

However, Jessica shoved that young woman’s hand away and snapped, “Don’t touch me! You’re on Jarvis’ side, aren’t you? How dare you defend her?”

The young woman who was shoved aside glanced at Roxanne. Then, Jessica began swearing in her face, and the young woman's eyes reddened in panic.

When Jessica looked at the spot where her friend was looking, she saw Roxanne and the other two. It took her a while before she

realized that the woman in the trio was Roxanne.

“Roxanne!” Jessica stumbled over to the other woman.

Roxanne furrowed her brows, and her expression darkened.

She had hoped to avoid unnecessary trouble by pretending that she did not hear

Jessica.

Moreover, Jessica was someone Jack knew; Jack would be placed in a tight spot if she were to start a fight with Jessica.

Yet, who would have known that Jessica would notice her, let alone storm over to her?

Chapter 642 “Jessica, what are you doing?” Jack stood in front of Roxanne grimly.

Jessica was drunk, and she had lost most of her inhibition and rationality. Therefore, when she saw Jack defending Roxanne, she became even more enraged.

Despite that, Jessica was still gentle with Jack. “Move aside, Jack! This has nothing to do with you.” In fact, she still tried to squeeze out a smile for him.

Jack frowned. “Jessica, we’re in a public space, so please mind your behavior. Go back soon if you’re drunk!”

With that, his eyes flitted toward Jessica's friends, a sign of him wanting them to take Jessica away.

They immediately understood what he meant and carefully came over.

However, just as they were about to reach Jessica, Jessica spotted them.

"Get lost, all of you!" Jessica shouted hysterically before turning to look at the spot behind Jack. "Come out here, Roxanne! What are you scared of?"

Roxanne met her gaze with a frown. "Ms. Hightower, sober up. I'm only friends with Mr. Damaris."

Even if they did have a relationship, Jessica had no right to intervene in it.

After all, the only thing between Jessica and Jack was that Jessica had a crush on the latter.

Still, those words were not hers to say.

"Friends?" Jessica laughed mockingly. "You have plenty of friends, don't you? It's already so late, but Mr. Morrison and Jack are still keeping you company. | knew it. You're a minx who's going after two men at once. You're smug, aren't you?"

The moment those words were out of her mouth, the expressions of the trio darkened.

"Jessica Hightower," Jack bellowed. "Mind your words. You and | have no romantic relationship to speak of. Ms. Jarvis is only a business partner and a friend to us. What nonsense are you spouting?"

Jessica was stunned by his words, and she

said aggrievedly, "Jack, what are you talking about? | like you!"

Then she moved closer to Jack and stretched out her arms to hug him.

Realizing what she was trying to do, Jack creased his forehead and instinctively pushed her away. Jessica stumbled and stood transfixed for a long while.

Roxanne's frown deepened. She wanted to support Jessica, but Larry grabbed her arm. "Roxanne, you can't always be kind to others."

The icy tone that Larry had was one that Roxanne had never heard before.

Roxanne halted in her tracks. When she thought about the animosity the other woman had toward her, she chose to remain in her spot.

"You're drunk!" Jack shouted, trying to keep his anger to himself as he stared at the stunned woman supporting herself by the wall. "Go home now, and I'll pretend that this never happened."

Realizing how grave the situation was,

Jessica's friends quickly stepped forward to grab Jessica.

"Jessica, Mr. Damaris is angry. Let's hurry off now."

"Mr. Damaris, Dr. Jarvis, we're really sorry. Jessica's drunk, so please don't hold her accountable for this."

The words of persuasion and the apologetic speech sounded at the same time.

The young women then hurriedly tried to support Jessica again.

However, before they could even touch her, Jessica clumsily straightened up with the help of the wall.

The women sighed in relief, thinking that Jessica had sobered up. “Jessica—”

“It's all because of you!” Jessica glared at Roxanne. “You b\*tch! If not for you, Jack wouldn't treat me like this!”

## Chapter 643

As soon as she Said that, and before the people could react, Jessica lunged toward Roxanne.

Jack had pushed her closer to Roxanne just now, so there was no one between the two.

By the time Larry turned around upon hearing the commotion, Jessica was already a hair's breadth away from Roxanne.

“Roxanne, watch out!” Larry cried out, barely managing to pull Roxanne behind him.

At the same time, Jack walked over and gripped Jessica's arm. “Are you done?”

Jessica ended up lunging toward an empty spot and was even berated by Jack. Her anger reached its peak, and she burst into tears. As she bawled, she pointed at Roxanne and continued cursing.

There were people walking out of the hotel, and when they noticed the commotion, they stopped in their tracks to watch the drama.

Roxanne stood behind Larry, her heart still

racing. She noticed that there were more and more people gathering around them, and she knew that she had to step forward and end the scene.

If things were to continue, Roxanne could not imagine what rumors would spread

tomorrow.

With that thought in mind, Roxanne took in a deep breath to recollect herself before stepping out from behind Larry. "How dare you come out? This is all because of you. You seduced Jack!" Jessica shrieked.

Jack furrowed his brows and tightened his grip on her arm.

It was his first time encountering something like this, and he frankly had no idea how he should clear things up. Right as he was overwhelmed by his dilemma, Roxanne's calm voice sounded.

"Ms. Hightower, I've already told you that we're only business partners. At most, we're friends. If I was really seducing Mr. Damaris, Mr. Morrison wouldn't be standing here now."

Roxanne pinched her palm to calm herself down. "Moreover, even if I'm in a relationship with Mr. Damaris, you have no reason to act like a madwoman here. I mean, who are you to chide me?"

Her last question hit the bullseye. "I..." Tears stained Jessica's face, and she failed to continue her sentence.

In the end, she grabbed the hem of Jack's shirt desperately and mumbled despairingly, "Jack, I like you. How can you do this to me?"

Nevertheless, regardless of how polite Jack was, he could no longer keep up with the courteous demeanor in the face of a

drunk, troublesome woman.

He only swallowed and frowned in silence as he held himself back to the best of his ability while Jessica continued to cling to him.

Right then, a group of men in suits came out of the hotel.

The man walking in the front of the group had been chatting with the people when he turned to see that the hotel entrance was blocked by a crowd. Instantly, his

expression turned cold, and he turned to question the hotel manager, "What are those people doing? Why are they blocking the hotel entrance so late at night?"

The manager glanced at the man who spoke and explained weakly, "Someone's drunk and causing a scene by the entrance. We've sent our staff members to deal with it, but..."

The patrons that the hotel served were rich and powerful, so none of the staff members dared to resort to force, and their efforts to persuade Jessica to stop fell short.

The manager hesitated for a beat before suggesting tentatively, "Mr. Farwell, if you don't mind, you can exit through our employee's lane. It'll be faster."

Lucian glanced at the faraway crowd and drew his brows together in disdain.

Chapter 644 "Mr. Farwell, then shall we..." one started to ask Lucian's opinion. Lucian was silent as he turned and headed toward the employee's lane that the manager was talking about.

Just as he took two steps forward, he heard a hysterical woman's voice saying. "Roxanne Jarvis, this is all your fault! If not for you, Jack wouldn't ignore me!"

Lucian stopped in his tracks.

At that, the others around him quickly stopped as well before casting him a look of confusion.

Only Cayden knew what Lucian was thinking about, and he quickly said. "Mr. Farwell, I'll go ahead and take a look." Lucian inclined his head with a dark look in his eyes.



After receiving his employer's approval, Cayden strode toward the entrance of the hotel.

In the meantime, the others waited in their spots with Lucian, puzzled.

Wasn't Mr. Farwell repulsed by the scene at the entrance just now? Why is he suddenly interested in it? A moment later, Lucian returned from the hotel entrance and whispered something to Lucian.

In the next second, Lucian's expression visibly darkened.

In fact, even the temperature around him lowered.

The people held their breaths.

"That'll be it for today. Let's go on our separate ways now," Lucian said to the people beside him after taking an expressionless glance at the crowd at the hotel entrance.

Then he strode over to the doorway. The people looked at each other, unsure if they should actually leave or not. "My apologies. Mr. Farwell has something to deal with, so we'll continue this another day," Cayden insisted politely.

The people hesitated for a brief moment as Cayden stared at them. Finally, they decided to leave via the employee's lane with the manager.

Once the people were gone, Cayden sighed in relief and turned to walk toward the hotel entrance.

How can something so coincidental happen?

Cayden had lost count of how many times the hotel Lucian was at for social gatherings coincided with Roxanne's.

Furthermore, a drunk woman was stirring up trouble with Roxanne this time.

| wonder how the scene is going to unfold once Mr. Farwell reaches them.

Once again, Jessica's words put Roxanne in the spotlight.

A headache began forming in Roxanne's head, for she had no idea what explanation she could possibly give.

Perhaps to those who knew nothing about the situation, she was a wretched woman who seduced men shamelessly. At that thought, Roxanne looked up at the expressions of the people in the crowd around them. The crowd was a small one, but everyone had dubious looks on their faces.

Perhaps it was because they felt that they were above the commotion-causing group. The crowd looked away when Roxanne's gaze landed on them.

Roxanne could not decipher what they were thinking about, and she felt even more helpless than before.

"Ms. Hightower..." Although she knew that it would be no easy feat to convince a drunkard, Roxanne still wanted to try to defend herself.

However, just as she called out to Jessica, she heard a commotion from the crowd around her. Hence, she trailed off and instinctively turned toward the direction of the noise.

It was then she was greeted by a tall figure striding toward her.

Everyone turned to look at that man, who had his hair slicked back to reveal his sharp features.

The man's brows were knitted, and his thin lips were pressed tightly into a straight line, which made his irritation visible to all. Moreover, he was wearing a tailor-made suit which accentuated his figure and made him look noble.

Chapter 645 The man's domineering presence silenced the crowd. Someone in the crowd finally came back to their senses when Lucian walked past them and whispered, "It's Mr. Farwell!"

Upon hearing those words, the crowd erupted into an uproar. They did not even care about their reputation anymore as they stared at Lucian's back.

Although they were all from prestigious families in Horington, they were ants in comparison to Lucian. Moreover, they could barely have the chance to see Lucian in person.

Therefore, now that they had the chance to do that, they couldn't help staring at him to their hearts' content. Lucian's face was an eye candy for all.

Roxanne could only stay rooted to her spot in the middle of the crowd as she watched the man amble toward her. The look on her face had frozen, and she did not know what kind of reaction she should have at that moment. It seems that I have had ill luck recently. Not only is a drunkard seeking trouble with me at work, but Lucian's here at such horrendous timing. And it's right after Lucian said those things to me.

Even though they were still a distance away from each other, Roxanne could sense the man's. on her and the tinge of anger in that gaze.

gaze

Roxanne wanted to turn in an attempt to flee when the thought of escaping never even occurred. to her when Jessica was swearing at her.

However, Lucian's mere gaze was enough to make her feel like running away. Yet, the man's gaze was like a nail that pinned her to her spot and forced her to stay.

Roxanne quietly clenched her fists to calm herself down.

“Jack, I really love you. Apart from being a better doctor, what else does Roxanne have that’s better than what I have?” Jessica was still babbling away. However, Jack was no longer focused on her; he was staring at Roxanne with a complicated look.

The last time he sent Roxanne back, he had witnessed the interaction between Roxanne and Lucian and found the air between the two to be strange.

As Roxanne was still going to work with the Damaris family, Jack had taken the effort to look into her history. Unexpectedly, he had found out about what had happened to Roxanne and Lucian six years ago.

Back then, Jack had thought about how Lucian was a fool.

However, now that he was seeing the two in the same space again, he found himself thinking differently.

Lucian, you've already abandoned her, so why do you insist on clinging to her now?

Similarly, Larry had a frown on his face, as he was worried on behalf of Roxanne.

Time seemed to have slowed down.

After what felt like eons, Lucian came to a stop right beside Roxanne, his shoulders almost touching hers.

“Ms. Jarvis, you've rejected me so firmly, but surprisingly, you’re so sweet to another man. It’s already so late at night, but you're fine with tolerating his admirer shouting in your face.”

Those words were whispered into Roxanne’s ear. When Lucian’s hot breath tickled her ear, she froze. By the time she realized what he was doing, the man had already turned around to face the crowd with her. His words made Roxanne’s heart lurch, for she had no idea what he was about to do.

The moment the crowd saw that the two were standing with each other, they stopped focusing on Jessica.

## Chapter 646

“Roxanne told me that she’d be discussing with Mr. Morrison and Mr. Damaris about their collaboration, but I never thought that the discussion would take so long.”

Lucian sounded casual as he spoke to Jack and Larry, and even the way he called Roxanne’s name was intimate.

It truly sounded as if Roxanne was his woman and that she had only gone out for a business talk with them after gaining Lucian’s approval.

The moment Lucian said that, the people’s eyes widened. Many knew that Lucian was engaged to a woman, and they knew that his fiancée was the daughter of the Pearson family. However, Lucian’s attitude made them begin to wonder about his relationship with Roxanne.

When they thought about Lucian’s status and the woman’s divine looks, it did not seem all too surprising that they were in a relationship.

The people inhaled sharply, thinking that they had learned something shocking; they were ready to seal their lips and say nothing about that to anyone.

Roxanne was anxious when she saw the changes in their expressions. She wanted to part her lips to say something to refute Lucian’s words, but there was nothing she could say.

After all, Lucian did not actually utter anything concrete.

It was just misleading.

If she were to speak without thinking, the man might twist her words.

When she thought about what might happen, Roxanne bit her lower lip in defeat.

Like the others, Larry's and Jack's expressions also changed when they heard Lucian's words.

However, they had to admit that Lucian's appearance and the words he said were the best way to get Roxanne out of the mess.

After sharing a look, they nodded at Lucian. "The upcoming collaboration is important, and there were quite a number of people at the event. That's why we didn't notice the time."

In other words, they were telling the crowd that the three of them had not been alone earlier. The crowd, naturally, dared not question Lucian. Only the drunk Jessica was still slurring her protests.

"Why did you have to sit so close to each other if you were talking about work? So what if she's a great doctor? What right does she have to sit with you? At the end of the day, it's all because of her pretty face!"

As she spoke, she stumbled over to Roxanne, her finger still pointing at Roxanne's face.

Jack's attention was fully on Roxanne and Lucian. Even though he could hear Jessica's voice, he did not realize when she had walked away from his side.

By the time Jessica reappeared in his line of sight, she was already in between him and Roxanne.

Jack scrunched up his brows and tried to stop her.

However, it would not be appropriate for him to be the one to make the move now.

Hence, he had no choice but to remain still in his position as he watched Jessica ram herself onto a wall.

Larry had even less right to do anything.

Jessica's friends, on the other hand, were panicking, but Lucian's dominating presence stopped them from mustering the courage to pull Jessica back. So, they, too, could only watch as the scene unfolded.

"You..." Jessica staggered toward Roxanne until the latter was only a few steps away. "You minx! What kind of medical skills can you possibly have with that look of yours? Y-Your looks are everything!"

Roxanne had faced many similar questions like that before, but their questions had been looks in their eyes; none had ever voiced them out loud like that, let alone in a situation like this.

Even if she wanted to defend herself, she could not prove that her medical skills were not as lousy as Jessica said they were with just words.

Chapter 647 Everyone heard Jessica clearly. Of course, they did not know much about the medical field. Hence, they merely nodded at Jessica's remarks.

After all, they had the perception that accomplished doctors would typically be in their fifties. People would not normally associate a young and beautiful woman like Roxanne with being an accomplished doctor in the medical field.

Jessica's hand edged closer and closer to Roxanne's face. The latter's face turned cold. She was ready to swat off Jessica's hand at any moment right then.

However, before Roxanne could do so, a large hand struck first and immobilized Jessica's hand.

The man clutching her hand had evidently exerted a considerable amount of force, so much so that Jessica lost her balance and staggered a few steps back and missed Roxanne's face.

"You could consult Dr. Lambert if you have any doubts about her medical skills, or you could also ask Old Mr. Queen. I believe he will have an answer for you." Lucian threw a scornful look at the tipsy woman before him. "Also, if you can't control yourself after having a few drinks, you'd better not attend these functions."

Before Jessica could respond, Lucian eyed the crowd and fixed his gaze on Cayden as he ordered, "Get someone to send Ms. Hightower home."

Cayden hastily agreed.

Lucian's grip hurt Jessica's wrist, and she slowly snapped out of her daze. Her blurry vision slowly became focused as she started to recognize the man before her.

"M-Mr. Farwell?" Her voice turned shaky as she registered the face in front of her.

Lucian looked daggers at her. Noticing that she was finally sobering up, he swung her off to one side with a disdained look on his face. "I'm glad that you've finally sobered up, Ms. Hightower. | think it's best that you refrain from drinking from now on."

Jessica felt her legs going jelly at the realization. She staggered a few steps backward before she could finally steady herself. Despite Lucian's rough treatment, Jessica dared not utter another word as she lowered her head, still reeling in from the shock.

When Cayden finally brought along some people as Lucian instructed, he hesitated as he waited for Lucian's orders for his next course of action.

Lucian glanced at the woman beside him.

However, it did not seem that Roxanne wanted anything to do with the mess.

Seeing as the misunderstanding had been resolved, Roxanne wanted to just put it all behind her.

She said, "It's great that you're sober now, Ms. Hightower. I'd like to excuse myself if there is nothing else.



Then, she looked around the crowd and stated, "It's only a misunderstanding. I'd appreciate it if all of you would move on and refrain from spreading gossip."

Lucian furrowed his brows in disagreement when he noticed that she was trying to play down the situation. However, he said nothing and went along with her as he shot a warning glare at the crowd.

The crowd agreed not to spread the rumor as they met Lucian's admonishing stare.

Roxanne flashed a grateful smile at the crowd. When she lowered her gaze, however, there was an unmistakable weary look in her eyes.

She had drunk her fair share of alcohol just now. As a result, she was feeling dizzy. After going through the drama, Roxanne was utterly drained.

Lucian noticed her tired look, and his eyes darkened. He turned to Cayden and said, "Send Ms. Hightower home, and let Mr. Hightower know that she is sent home on my order."

Jessica was slow to make sense of Lucian's remarks.

However, the same could not be said for everyone else. They reckoned that life for Jessica would not be easy after this shenanigan that she had pulled.

If Jessica's father, Stephen Hightower, knew that his daughter had offended Lucian, there was a slim chance that she would ever get to show her face in the public after this.

Chapter 648 Soon, Cayden sent Jessica away.

Only after getting out of the hotel did Jessica finally make sense of what was happening. She struggled to break free, but it was all too late.

After Jessica left, Lucian scanned the crowd.

Everyone felt chills running down their backs as they met his gaze. They dared not linger and hastily left afterward. Instantly, only a few people were left at the entrance of the hotel.

"Thank you for helping me out of the situation, Mr. Farwell," Roxanne said.

She lowered her gaze and tried to calm herself as she muttered her thanks to Lucian, consciously keeping her distance from the man. Then she turned around to head back to Larry's side.

However, Lucian held her hand right after she turned around.

Roxanne paused in her tracks and instinctively wanted to shrug him off, yet she did not have the courage to turn around and tell him off. She simply stood there stiffly.

"You've always been insincere with your thanks, Ms. Jarvis," Lucian said in an enigmatic tone.

Then, he lifted his head to regard Jack and Larry who were standing not far from them. When he parted his lips, however, he did not sound as amiable as when he was defending Roxanne.

"Mr. Damaris, Mr. Morrison, the both of you couldn't even handle a drunken woman, and as a result, your business partner here has suffered a scare. I'm afraid this is hardly ideal as far as business collaborations go," Lucian said.

When Cayden reported the matter to him earlier, he had only mentioned that Roxanne was being put on the spot, and Lucian had come to her aid without hesitation.

He was upset to discover that Jack and Larry were actually present as well.

Larry glanced at Roxanne's stiffened face. He approached her and said to Lucian, "It all happened too fast. We had no time to respond. Thank goodness, Roxanne is not hurt."

A guilty look flitted across Larry's eyes.

Owing to his amicable personality, he had only thought about defending Roxanne when Jessica tried to admonish her. It never occurred to him to come up with a more aggressive retaliation.

Larry knew he could have done better.

Lucian gave him a sardonic look and turned to look at Jack. He wanted to see what kind of explanation the latter would come up with.

Jack's eyes darkened. He did not fumble for an explanation. Instead, he said, "I am to be blamed

for this. This happened because of me. I will take care of the rest. Dr. Jarvis' name will not be tarnished because of this misunderstanding."

Lucian pursed his lips into a thin, hard line. Then he regarded Roxanne with a frown. These two men were the ones whom he had witnessed to be quite close to Roxanne. In fact, Lucian felt threatened by their presence.

However, seeing as these two men could not even protect Roxanne from being slandered, Lucian vowed that he would never hand her over to any of them.

Roxanne was his and his only.

The tension among the four of them was palpable right then.

Of course, Roxanne felt the air going still as well. She lifted her head to look at the three men. She could not help but frown as she noticed the tense expression on their faces. Hence, she took the initiative to break the silence.

"Please let go of me, Mr. Farwell. I'm not going to run away."

With that, Roxanne wriggled her wrist out of his grip.

Lucian cocked an eyebrow and let go of her.

He had only gripped her hand because he did not wish to see her standing beside another man. Given the situation, it would not seem right, no matter where she stood.

Lucian reckoned that Roxanne must have realized the same as well.

He was right. Roxanne did notice that something was off. She hesitated for a moment and made no move. Then she looked at Jack and asked, "Mr. Damaris, is the car not here

yet?"

It was getting late. She should be heading home.

Chapter 649 Roxanne could feel the air growing still right then. Needless to say, it was because of Lucian.

Roxanne clenched her fist and told herself repeatedly not to turn around and watch. She wanted to pretend that Lucian was not there at all.

His question had made her squirm uneasily. At the thought of his out-of-place confession. Roxanne was worried that he might make more unreasonable demands.

Meanwhile, Jack frowned when he saw that the driver was running late. "Let me make a call," Jack said as he took out his phone.

The next moment, Lucian's voice rang out. "Since Mr. Damaris' driver is going to take some time, I could send you home if you don't mind, Ms. Jarvis.\*\*

Roxanne tensed up once again and turned around immediately to reject his offer. "That won't be necessary. I've already made the arrangement with Mr. Damaris. Feel free to leave first if you're in a rush. Mr. Farwell!"

Then Roxanne scurried to Jack's side.

She did not wish to be alone with Lucian, afraid that he might say anything that would cripple her defenses, or worse, entrap her again.

Roxanne had not seen Lucian's trick coming in the morning, and that served as a lesson for her to be warier of him.

Noticing that Roxanne was about to run away and scurry off to another man's side, Lucian reached out to grip her hand once again. "Didn't you say you won't run away. Ms. Jarvis?"

Roxanne paused in her tracks and lowered her gaze. After she straightened out her rambling thoughts, she turned around and met Lucian's gaze calmly. "Mr. Farwell, I'm grateful for your kind gesture. But I don't wish to trouble you further since it's already quite late. I'll just head back in Mr. Damaris' car."

Having said that, Roxanne noticed that Lucian was staring at some place behind her. She did not know what he was staring at. However, the two men behind Roxanne were already staring right back at Lucian.

After some time, Lucian averted his gaze and said, 'Is it truly that much trouble? I've given you many rides, Ms. Jarvis. Isn't it a little too late to say that you're troubling me? Or are you saying that you feel more comfortable with Mr. Damaris, Ms. Jarvis?"

Roxanne stared at the man incredulously. First, it was Larry, and now it's Jack. What the hell does he want?

If any other man were to say that, Roxanne would surely think that the man was jealous.

However, the man standing before her was no other man.

Lucian would never be jealous because of her.

Besides, she was not in that kind of relationship with Jack.

Roxanne could understand it if it came from the drunken Jessica's mouth. However, to hear it coming out of Lucian was an insult.

Even if she were not to dwell on his dubious confession, Roxanne could not believe that the man who had just proclaimed his love for her would say something like this to deny her efforts.

"It just so happens that my place is along his way. Please don't misunderstand, Mr. Farwell." Roxanne said as she tried her best to suppress the boiling rage inside of her. "How are you different from Ms. Hightower if you say such things?"

Roxanne could feel the grip on her wrist tighten right after she said that.

The pain made her wince. However, she gritted her teeth and continued, "I have worked very hard to secure this collaboration with Mr. Damaris. You can always come up with a myriad of ways to humiliate me if you must. But please don't belittle or deny my effort in this matter!"

## Chapter 650

Roxanne leveled a stare at Lucian as if she was questioning him about the reason he was accusing her like so many others who did not know any better.

Lucian was momentarily stumped.

He was angry at himself for saying things that he should not have said. His tone was gentler when he spoke again. "That's not what I meant."

Lucian simply did not wish to see her leave with another man.

However, his clarification was to no avail. Roxanne's face stiffened as she rebutted, "What could you possibly mean to say then. Mr. Farwell?"

Lucian frowned and cast a glance at Jack before saying, "After the commotion just now, my efforts to defend you would be in vain if you should be spotted to leave with Mr. Damaris."

Then, his gaze drifted from Jack back to Roxanne as he said in a low voice, "I know you might not feel very grateful for my help just now, but I don't wish to see my efforts going down the drain either. Do consider my stand in the matter, Ms. Jarvis."

Roxanne was taken aback. His words had managed to sway her. Lucian had a point. So many people had witnessed the drama just now, and they all had heard what Jessica said.

If Lucian had not stopped Jessica, Roxanne knew she would have been labeled as the woman who had only secured the collaboration with Jack because of her pretty face, and the slander would have tarnished the Damaris family's reputation as well.

It had taken much effort on Lucian's part to clear her name, but it would all have been for nothing if Jack was spotted sending her home.

People who were eager to slander her name would jump at the chance and accuse her of being involved with Jack. Roxanne knew that the tide of public opinion would turn against her.

Hence, she gave up on her initial plan. Roxanne turned to Jack and said apologetically, "Mr. Farwell is right. It's not appropriate for you to send me back, Mr. Damaris. I will hail a cab home."

Jack could find no words to refute Lucian's claim, for he knew that it was a perfectly sound argument.

Larry eyed the two men and said gently. "It's late. Let me send you home."

Lucian then said derisively, "Do you really think there's a difference between you and Mr. Damaris sending her home?"

Larry frowned in response.

Although he was reluctant to admit it, Lucian was right. Both he and Jack were the pillars of the collaboration project with the Damaris family. Any one of them sending her home would incite gesticulation as to the reason Roxanne could participate in it. Larry went silent, as he could find no words to refute Lucian.

Roxanne flashed Larry a grateful smile and said, "It's all right, Larry. I was not planning to trouble you either."

Then she turned around to face Lucian once again. Just when she was about to say something. Lucian interjected, "I have nothing to do with the collaboration project. Nobody can slander your name if I'm the one to send you home. Besides, Archie and Benny are still waiting for you at home. I suppose you don't wish to keep them waiting for long, yes?"

Despite still feeling offended by what Lucian had said, Roxanne could not find a better way out of the situation. She hated to admit it, but Lucian always knew her weakness and would use it against her.

"Since Mr. Farwell has put it that way, let him send you home, Roxanne," Larry said.

Roxanne went silent for a few seconds before she relented. "Thank you, Mr. Farwell.

Lucian pursed his lips and bade goodbye to the other two men impassively before leaving with Roxanne.